Clean Sweep Planned

Almost every home, business or farm contains hazardous products that can harm human health or the environment if improperly handled. They are products used in farming, cleaning, home improvements, automobile maintenance, lawn and garden care, hobbies, and a variety of other tasks. Because of the dangers they pose, these products require special awareness, handling, and disposal.

Residents of Washington County are encouraged to dispose of hazardous wastes at the 2003 FREE Clean Sweep Collection.

The Agricultural/Small Business Clean Sweep will be held on Friday, September 19 and the Household Clean Sweep will be on Saturday, September 20 at the County Vehicle Maintenance & Storage Facility located at 900 Lang Street in West Bend. Collection hours are from 8 AM - 12 PM both days. Pre-registration is required for farmers. If you are a small business with hazardous waste, and qualify as a Small Quantity Generator Program, you must obtain a chemical inventory form from the Land & Water Conservation Division. Businesses will receive a reduction of the regular disposal fees through the Clean Sweep Program. All necessary forms can be found online at www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd.

The Clean Sweep Collection is being funded by Washington County and grants from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Department of Natural Resources and the Great Lakes Protection Assistance Program. Similar efforts have taken place in 1992, 1996, 1999 and 2001.

This year’s coordinator, Stephanie Egner expects a large turn out and encourages agricultural/small business registration by September 12. “Washington County residents are becoming more and more aware of their responsibility to aid in the preservation, protection and enhancement of our natural resources,” explains Egner. If you would like to participate and need more information check out the LWCD website at www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd or call 335-4803.

Talking the hazard out of hazardous waste?

The best method of managing hazardous waste is to prevent its generation in the first place. This involves selecting the least toxic item “to do the job” and buying only the minimum amounts necessary. Buying in large quantities is not a bargain if half of it has to be discarded.

If the material is still usable check with friends and neighbors to see if they might be able to use it. Check with community groups such as Little League, Habitat for Humanity, etc. to see if they can use the product.

If the material is not usable or if such “outlets” are not available, it should be taken to a Clean Sweep Collection. This will ensure that your waste is recycled or, otherwise, managed, in an environmentally safe way.
New County Conservationist Heads Up Land & Water Conservation Division

Editors Note:
On May 14 County Conservationist Troy Kuphal left Washington County to become the Water Resource Manager for Marion County in Florida.

Blaine Delzer, a West Bend resident, has recently taken over as County Conservationist. According to Paul Mueller, Director of Planning and Parks Delzer was selected from a pool of over 40 applicants and brings a broad range of experience in local agribusiness and in land conservation.

Photo: On the left, Blaine assists with a hands-on activity at the County Fair which ran from July 23-27. Over 100,000 people visited the fair....studying the river and identifying the critters that call it home.

What led to your interest in the conservation field?
I have always enjoyed the outdoors....horseback riding, camping, fishing and hunting. My father was a Soil and Water Conservation Technician in Minnesota for 33 years. I grew up with a deep appreciation for the environment and a belief that we all have a responsibility to protect and preserve our natural resources for future generations. We farmed for many years....using contour strips, waterway diversions and retention areas. I guess I was just brought up as a conservation minded person.

What type of training has prepared you for the county conservationist position?
Well, as I mentioned, I grew up farming and was a self employed dairy hoof trimmer at the age of 17. I received a college degree from UW River Falls with a Ag major. Working as a resource conservationist in Barron County for 6+ years and doing technical drawing for an engineering firm....as well as serving as a field service rep for a canning company and agronomist for a Co-op and a local farm supply retailer......have given me a wide variety of experiences from which to draw on. These opportunities have helped me to understand how government, business, and farming works. Now is the time to bring it all together. I look forward to the challenge.

What are your goals for the department?
My immediate goal is to maintain the high level of service that Washington County citizens have come to expect-whether it be in the dissemination of information, education or technical services.
Have you noticed our name change?

In June we became a division of the Washington County Planning and Parks Department and are now known as the Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD.)

The merger itself should have little effect on the type of services we provide. The goal was to give citizens a single agency where they can get the information and assistance they need. Over time it is expected that there will be a reduction in permit reviews currently requiring checks by both Land Use and Land & Water Conservation staff.

The bigger concern of all programs in County Government is budget reductions and the effects they will have on staffing and service levels.

Storm Drain Stenciling

Thanks to the following groups for their recent educational efforts…together they stenciled 774 storm drains throughout Washington County.

By painting the message "Dump No Waste, Drains to River" and distributing Clean Water Brochures volunteers estimate they reached at least 5,000 Washington County residents and business owners.

For information on how you can get involved call Education Coordinator, Sue Millin at 262-335-4807.

Slinger Cub Scouts - Pack 3731
West Bend East High School
West Bend West High School
Kewaskum High School
Hartford Union High School
West Bend Girl Scouts
Project Seek After School Program
4 Neighborhood Watch Programs

Maintaining Your Well

If your family gets drinking water from your own well, do you know if your water is safe to drink? What health risks could you and your family face? What can you do to maintain the health of your well?

1. Each month check visible parts of your system for problems such as:
   - Cracking or corrosion
   - Broken or missing well cap
   - Settling and cracking of surface seals

2. Have the well tested once a year for coliform bacteria, nitrates, and other contaminants

3. Keep accurate records in a safe place, including:
   - Construction contract or report
   - Maintenance records, such as disinfection or sediment removal
   - Any use of chemicals in the well
   - Water testing results

For more information visit the LWCD website at www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd
Citizen Monitors Make A Difference

Thanks to the following citizen monitors for sharing their time and talents collecting water quality data for the LWCD this year. The data secured may be found at http://clean-water.uwex.edu/wav/datagate.htm.

Mark & Sandy Tibbits
Dale & Joelyn Olen
Eve Haver & Family
The Mann Family
Ben Pencikowski
Mary Jo Hirsh
Stephanie Walters
Kathleen Zahn & Family
Danelle Anderson
Lee Gamble
Janet Meister
The Wojcieszak Family
Jessica Vandebom
West Bend West
Slinger HS

Amy Belle Elementary
Pam Pozorski
Raynelle & Steven Chimel
Hartford Ecology Club
Kewaskum Middle School
Julie & Stuart Bacon
Wayne & Fay Tess
Project Seek
WB Boys & Girls Club
Debbie Kutz
Jason Pokorny
West Bend East HS
Brad Hoffman
Stephanie Egner
Kettle Moraine Lutheran

If you are interested in participating call Sue Millin at 335-4807 or email sue.millin@co.washington.wi.us
This past school year the LWCD hosted the sixth annual Champions of the Environment Program with 24 schools & youth groups throughout the county participating.

With a 2003 theme of Dripper Goes Down Under, A Groundwater Adventure the Program incorporated five categories of competition, including environmental writing, poster, spokesperson, mixed media display and project.

The Champions Program is the culmination of a school year's worth of environmental studies.

At the time this publication goes to press the fate of our educational programming is unknown. We are experiencing serious budget shortfalls and like all County departments have been required to scale back our efforts.

The Champions of the Environment Program will be put on the back burner for the 2003-2004 school year.

Sue Millin, who served as the program coordinator, said that over 5,250 students from 30 Washington County schools have participated in the Champions Program since its inception in 1998. The Program has served as a model for other states and counties in Wisconsin.

MOTHER EARTH

Mother Earth wears a big beautiful dress of crystal clear water.
How precious is this to life. How fantastic is the moving water.
It flows so smoothly down the mountainside.
We need this vital recourse, yet we push it away.
The rain falls so quickly from the sky drip, drip, faster, faster and faster.
It never misses a beat.
When it falls it mixes with fumes from cars and factories.
It mixes with the rain like a cover of death.
Now the crystal clear water is polluted.
It falls from the sky and kills trees and plants.
It hurts farm crops and fish that are vital to earth's survival.
What have we done to this once beautiful clean water?
I'll tell you what we have done, we have poisoned our water, our crystal clear water.
We have made Mother Earth's dress dirty!
But we still have time to change all the wrong and make it right.
Mother Earth can provide alternative recourses.
We can use wind power to run factories.
We can use solar energy for the electrical needs of homes and businesses.
Simple things would make a difference, like car pooling to work or taking the bus.
Hey, you could even ride a bike.
All these actions would help turn Mother Earth's dress blue again.
We human beings are the only species on earth who is hurting this precious water.
We are the only ones who can change this problem we created.
We must keep hoping and working towards the day when Mother Earth's dress will shine like a sapphire again.

Katia Walter, Grades 6-8
First Place Environmental Writing
As the Water Flows
By Sarah Eliefson, Grade 9, West Bend

Groundwater, Groundwater what are you?
Why are you being taken for granted? Why?
Do you not sustain life, with your ever winding circle?
Why do we take you for granted?

Groundwater, why are you called groundwater?
because you are found in the cracks underground,
And in the spaces of soil and rock.
By do you fill the area called the saturated zone?

You are much more than ordinary water.
The whole world depends on you,
And your wondrous gift to quench thirst.
Supply water for the public and water for irrigation.
Without you, the United States would perish.

You are part of a never ending circle,
The Hydrologic Cycle.
You have the ability to change form.
From liquid vapor and then to ice or snow,
You know the way to go.

Yet why are you being abused?
For pollution is a terrible thing.
Which hurts your purpose and others.
Why are you being contaminated in the first place?
It is because of us, HUMANS!
We are the very killers and destroyers
Of your vital process.

We are to blame!
Why then can we not turn back time?
As save your Groundwater, my Groundwater.

Groundwater provides 1/2 of Wisconsin's drinking water!

Don't take it for granite!

Prevention = A water-filled future

You should never use a large amount of fertilizer in your use.

Prevent and conserve

You should never water on full water power or on a long.
A 1/2 inch garden hose wastes 500 gallons of water per hour when left running!
n was taken by Ali Owens, Katie Baumgartner and Ali and developed a workbook to educate young children about keeping our groundwater clean. Great job!!!
I Am Needed
By Bridget Heiking, Grade 8

Through the ground I come, from the heavens,
I bring life and prosperity to all that I reach,
replenishing the ground.

The roots call out to me,
the animals yearn for me,
I am needed.

I have come upon many a sight throughout my travels,
I have seen the starved and the homeless,
the rich and the greedy,
without hesitation I provide for them all,
offer all that I have to botanicals and beasts alike,
I am needed.

Yet you show me no gratitude,
no concern for my life,
polluting me springs and destroying my home,
dumping your toxins into my blood,
yet, I am needed.

I try to recover, to clean it away,
but wherever I go, your chemicals will follow,
killing the plants and the animals,
harming the creatures whom I once brought to life,
I am still needed.

You must help protect me,
to clean and filter my sources
do not turn away,
without me you’re doomed, none can exist,
I am needed.

Stop the polluting,
you’re not just hurting yourselves,
but all my plants and my creatures,
the life all around,
I am needed ... please help to save me.
W.A. Terdrop's Story
By Nicole Julien, Grade 8

Hello, my name is W.A. Terdrop, and I'm a droplet of ground water. I live underground in the cracks and spaces of soil, sand, and rocks. I'm very sick and in the H20 Hospital and feeling very miserable. Their thinking of pulling the plug, sniff. It is so horrible! How could you do this to me? You depend on me for so many things such as, agricultural use and even drinking water. I used to be fresh groundwater, until all the humans polluted me by using landfills to get rid of their garbage. Now, I'm sick and it all started like this. It was a bright sunny day and I was floating in my little saturated zone when I got sucked up a long metal tube. After that, I was shot out of a hose that was being used by a gardener. When I was shot out of that hose I landed on a big, bright, green thing. I believe it's called a leaf. It was soft and waxy. Then, I was suddenly moving and I noticed I was slipping off the big green leaf.

I was at the tip of the leaf and was holding on for dear life when I lost my grip. I fell off of the plant and got stuck in a small pool of water and waiting for the soil soaked it up. Next, I was being evaporated by the sun's rays were evaporating me. Then, I was in a cloud with all these other droplets. I was talking to them when we suddenly started falling and I guess I lost my friend somewhere in the large group of droplets. I didn't know what to do until I hit the ground. In a second, I was sucked into the ground and landed a smelly, slushy, rotten banana peel. Gross! I was flowing through all this garbage and that's when I started to feel very sick.

I landed in icky, nasty, smelly, and disgusting food. When I was through all the garbage, I noticed I had turned brown and slimy. At first I didn't even know it was I. I didn't feel like me, and certainly didn't look like me. It's all because of you why I feel miserable. After this horrifying experience I landed in a little pool of groundwater. Everyone tried to get away from me, but because we were so close together, I got some surrounding water drops sick. Then I was getting sucked up a long, metal tube and was emptied into a clear, glass cup. I tried to yell to the human that I was infected with germs. The human didn't hear me and ended up consuming me. I got the human very sick. I felt so bad. This type of incident could have been prevented. You could have used raw materials. Consumers could have also used phosphate-free detergents and other less polluting household products. Please, save the groundwater from pollution. It'll save you and the environment from getting polluted.

The Wonderful Life of GroundWater
By Amanda Daley, Grade 8

I open my eyes, I see a glow.
The light comes through like a rainbow.
I can't understand why there is light,
I live so far below.
Somebody from somewhere must have needed me,
like so long ago.
They dig me up for their needs,
to drink or water their seeds.
I had seen the light back in Turkey,
but they soon turned me oh so murky.
I had to leave and go away,
but now I've come back for today.
I travel from place to place,
I go from thick to thin,
I hydrate the dehydrated.
I help to feed the hungry.
Then, like so many times before,
I go back underground.
To move to another place of need,
Where it may be I do not know,
and now I know that I will flow.
Until I see another rainbow.
I shall be back,
I cannot lie.

WHAT LIES BENEATH
By Krista Orzechowski, Grade 9

From the time the earth was formed,
Water has been present.
Now it's time to be informed,
On what we find is pleasant.

Stored inside an aquifer,
Way beneath the ground,
Contamination may occur,
Never to be found.

Evaporated from the earth,
By the blazing sun,
We realize what water's worth,
When the cycle has begun.

Water becomes precipitation,
And soil it does slaughter,
As it moves to its new location,
And now it is groundwater!
Purple Loosestrife is a beautiful perennial. So straight and stately, this tall plant qualifies as the centerpiece of choice in many home gardens. On that, most gardeners would agree.

However, once the plant is established in the garden, controlling or eliminating it is very difficult. Just as there is no such thing as one dandelion in a lawn, inevitably there is no such thing as one purple loosestrife in a garden, certainly not after its first season.

Despite its popularity with unsuspecting and sometimes misinformed gardeners, purple loosestrife has been placed on the Department of Natural Resources noxious weed list and major efforts are underway to eradicate it.

Purple loosestrife favors damp soil. Once introduced to an area, it wastes no time multiplying, unceremoniously elbowing its way into the food chain at the expense of lesser plants. A few plants along a culvert or marsh edge this year can choke the waterway next year, quicker than a beaver can build a dam. Native animals and birds are forced to move on or die. Soil compositions are altered.

One plant can produce as many as three million seeds in a season. Small as specks of sand, the seeds can be windborne across wide areas or carried in a hundred different ways, including currents in waterways. The seeds also have the capacity to lie dormant for years. If that’s not enough, the plant can regenerate itself from the tiniest particle of root tissue in the soil. Definitely a tough customer!

For many years varieties of the plant were marketed by garden supply and seed shops. These “tame” varieties were thought to be sterile. However, research now confirms that when the seeds escape to the wild, they cross-pollinate with their wilder brethren and further strengthen the latter.

Biologists have recently stepped in and are now trying to control purple loosestrife. Because the plant favors wetlands, use of herbicides is out of the question. Purple loosestrife is definitely on the search and destroy agenda for many naturalists, conservationists and farmers in Washington County.

Under the direction of West Bend resident, Lee Kreuger, beetles were raised and released at five locations throughout the County this summer. Kreuger was assisted by the Master Gardener Group and several local schools. We thank them for their efforts.

Urban gardeners are being urged to replace their purple loosestrife with other, safer, native perennials. Good alternatives are the Spiked Gay Feather or Blazing Star. Somewhat similar in general appearance, these plant grow to about five feet and sport abundant flowers. And they won’t take over your garden!

For more information on purple loosestrife control call the LWCD at 262-335-4800.
Gypsy Moths

Predict next years’ damage

You can predict next year’s level of defoliation by gypsy moths by estimating the number of egg masses on your property. The best time to conduct a survey is in the autumn after the leaves have fallen.

To conduct a survey you will need:
- an 18 foot, 6 inch length of string attached to a stake
- binoculars
- a note pad and pencil
- a map of the area

1. Select a patch of trees that is typical of the area you are concerned about.

2. Set the stake and use the string to describe a circle with a radius of 18 foot, 6 inch.

3. Search the circle for all egg masses. Use the binoculars to look for egg masses high on the trees, especially the undersides of larger branches. Also check all items on the ground such as picnic tables and woodpiles.

4. Write down the number of egg masses and the location

5. Move at least 150 feet away from your first circle and take another survey. Space out your survey circles throughout the area you are concerned about.

6. Calculate the average number of egg masses you found in each of your survey circles. An average of greater than 13 egg masses in a residential area or 25 in a woodlot or forest indicates a high likelihood of gypsy moth causing defoliation in this area. Examine your map to see if there is any pattern to the number of egg masses found. If the number of egg masses increases in one direction, you may want to take more surveys in that direction to determine the extent of the land that could be damaged by gypsy moth next summer.

7. Call your city, village or township that you live to report serious infestations.

For more information call the LWCD hotline at 335-4809.

Readers Survey...

Thanks to all the readers who took the time to respond to the survey we included in the last newsletter. We heard back from farmers, elected officials, urban residents and educators.

Ninety percent of the people who responded have been reading the Conservation News for 3-6 years and say that they read all or most of each issue.

The feedback we received was helpful and we now know for sure that our readers value the time and effort put into this service. Ninety percent claimed to like the newsletter exactly as it is...and that the quarterly issues work well.

Unfortunately, we will not have the funds to take the publication to press every four months. We are hoping to bring it to you twice a year and plan to address the suggested topics as space allows.

Conservation News is a biannual newsletter for Washington County residents. Its purpose is to increase awareness and promote action to protect our land and water resources. Viewpoints of authors do not necessarily reflect those of the Land & Water Conservation Committee or the Washington County Board of Supervisors. The Committee and Land & Water Conservation staff encourage responses from our readers.

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Maurice Strupp/Chairman, Paul Beistle, John Stern,
Mary Krumbiegel, Mark McCune, Herbert Tennis,
Allen Peil

Land & Water Conservation/Natural Resources
Blaine Delzer, Paul Sebo, Fay Fitts, Matt Zoschke,
Stephanie Egner, Scott Schmidt, Dan Lynch,
Mary Jo Crass

Education Coordinator and Editor
Sue Millin

You must be part of the change you wish to see in the world...Mahatma Gandhi
Where in the County?

WHERE IS THIS?
Write your answer on a 3x5 card along with your name, address & phone number.

MAIL TO:
Where in the County? Washington County Land & Water Division
333 E. Washington St, Suite 3200
West Bend, WI 53095.

WIN:
One correct entry will be drawn to win a butterfly house.

Tim Herman of Kewaskum is the lucky winner of a rustic cedar blue bird house....for his correct identification of the Shalom Wildlife Sanctuary Sign on Hwy 144, just north of Shalom Drive. The Sanctuary is run by Dave and Lana Fechter and is currently running great Fall tours. Check it out.