

MEQUON *Nature Preserve*



DONATE

May Newsletter | 05.09.2018

Who goes there?

Since 2004, Mequon Nature Preserve Inc. staff and volunteers have spent countless hours monitoring for the presence of hundreds of species of animals, including birds, snakes, turtles, amphibians, fish, aquatic invertebrates, insects, bats and small mammals. Why invest so much time and energy looking for a crayfish or listening to frogs calling? It's simple: species diversity indicates habitat health.

Anyone could walk through the Preserve and observe the mosaic of prairies, wetlands, wet meadows, shrubby fields and hardwood forests. We could proclaim, "It's beautiful!" and easily conclude, "These are great habitats." Yet without the presence of a *variety* of animal species, the expansive land restoration project we call Mequon Nature Preserve could - ecologically speaking - be considered a failure. Thankfully, the wildlife monitoring programs at MNP demonstrate that the land restoration you support is a success!



The first confirmed wood frog at MNP was discovered earlier this year on April 25.

Here's a look at the data. During the first four years (2004-2007) of wildlife monitoring at MNP, 78 bird species, two crayfish species, no fish, six species of amphibians in small numbers, a single turtle species in one location, and one snake species were recorded.

Since then, two species of crayfish have increased to five, 12 species of fish have traveled up Trinity Creek to the Streich Family Wetlands, eight species of amphibians have multiplied and spread throughout the Preserve grounds, two turtle species have dispersed to three wetland systems, and one more species of snake has taken up residence at MNP. The most impressive

change in species diversity by far, though, has been the increase in bird species from 78 in the first few years to 177 species in the last five years. And of the many previously-listed animal types, birds are arguably the best indicator of habitat health for this simple reason: If a bird doesn't like a particular habitat, it can easily pick up and move! Snakes, turtles, and other slow-moving land animals continue to find us; but for now, the birds are telling us, "You are doing things right!"

Wrap-Up: Green & Easy Gardening with Melinda Myers

For the past four weeks, Mequon Nature Preserve has been delighted to host the Green & Easy Gardening Series with **Melinda Myers**, sponsored by **ATC and Grow Smart**. Incredibly, the information provided at each talk has managed to surpass the very high expectations of an experienced and educated audience, many of whom are master gardeners themselves. Remarked one attendee, "I'm getting so much new information from Melinda, I'm having a tough time keeping up!" Yet with this abundance of practicable guidance to improve their own green spaces, the majority of the audience has elected to come back every week so as not to miss a single topic.



Each night has been highlighted with a fun, hands-on component related to that evening's focus, so everyone there goes home with a small-scale demo of what was discussed. Last week, for example, participants all started their own micro-green planters and can expect to be enjoying fresh sprouts for their sandwiches or salads in just a few days.

To date, Melinda has talked about low-maintenance gardens, planting for pollinators, water efficient ways to garden and gardening to grow food. The final week, coming up on May 10, addresses strategies to bring a garden full circle, encouraging reuse and recycling, and culminating with a demo on mini worm composters that uses shredded paper. The MNP Bee Club is also on hand answering bee-related inquires and selling honey, and MNP staff is available to tell the restoration story of the 444 acres here.

It's not too late to join the fun! If you'd like to attend the final Green & Easy

installment this Thursday, **email MNP with the number of people in your group**. Bring your pen and paper to take good notes and your best gardening questions to have answered by Melinda.

The trees are coming!

MNP plants 3,000 - 4,000 tree seedlings and shrubs every year as one component of its restoration efforts. The weather in spring can make it tricky to plan for such an undertaking, and this year, with multiple, remarkably-timed snow storms, was no exception. Not only are there challenges in finding the right "window" to get the stock planted, but even before the plants reach MNP, suppliers need some cooperative weather for plant preparation as well.



En route to the Preserve this year is a native assortment of basswood, black cherry, paper birch and other broadleaf trees along with highbush cranberry, black elderberry and a few dogwood.

MNP is planning a planting day for Friday, May 11 and could use

the help of some **experienced tree planters** to get everything into the ground. If you are available to lend a hand, **contact Cory** to confirm the details. Please note that the date is, of course, weather-dependent.

Upcoming Events

All events are free unless noted and located at the PieperPower Education Center at 8200 W. County Line Rd, Mequon. Questions may be directed to center@mequonnaturepreserve.org or call Kelly at 262.242.8055.

Story Time with Ms. Joyce, Thursdays at 10:30am starting May 10

She's back for another entertaining season! Bring your little ones for a fun hour of nature-based stories and song. For more information, contact Joyce Tiber at joycetiber@gmail.com.

Melinda Myers Green & Easy gardening series, Thurs, May 10, 6:30pm

Topic: Managing Yard Waste-Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. (**RSVP** with number of people attending.)

MNP Bee Club, Tues, May 15, 6:30pm

Are you curious about bees and beekeeping? These monthly meetings are for beginners to experts, all are welcome. Focus this month on Varroa destructor mites with Brett Perry of the Milwaukee Waukesha Beekeepers Assoc.

***NEW* ED Book Club Hour, third Wed each month at 9:30am, starting May 16**

Join MNP head honcho Kristin Gies for an enjoyable hour discussing a different nature-based read of her recommendation each month. May's selection is *The Inner Life of Animals: Love, Grief, and Compassion* -

Surprising Observations of a Hidden World by Peter Wohlleben.

"Support MNP" Brat Fry, Fri, Jun 8, 4:00 pm - 6:00pm

Skip the hot stove tonight & cruise on over to **Metro Market** in Mequon to say hello to MNP staff. Your purchase supports MNP, and you won't want to miss the **Johnsonville Big Taste Grill!**

MNP Bee Club, Tues, Jun 19, 6:30pm

Monthly meetings for beginners to experts, all are welcome! This month, hear from Rich Schneider of **Capital Bee Supply** as he addresses strategies for spring hive management.

ED Book Club Hour, Wed, Jun 20, 9:30am

Join MNP's very well-read executive director Kristin Gies for an enjoyable discussion on a nature-based read of her recommendation. **Email** MNP for information on this month's title.

Summer Solstice: An Evening of Celebration, Fri, Jun 22, dusk

Gather together at MNP's amphitheater and revel in the gift of summer! Join us for live music & song, readings, and whatever strikes us... Relaxed fun for the family.

MNP Bee Club, Tues, Jul 17, 6:30pm

Monthly meetings for beginners to experts, all are welcome. Learn from discussion, presenters and hands-on at the hive.

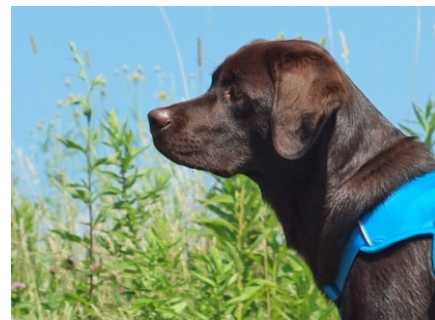
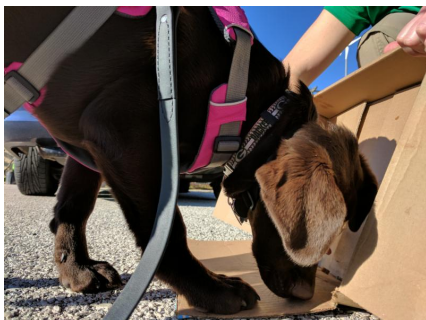
ED Book Club Hour, Wed, Jul 18, 9:30am

Join MNP's very well-read executive director Kristin Gies for an enjoyable discussion on a nature-based read of her recommendation. Contact center@mequonnaturepreserve.org for information on this month's title.

Bat Monitoring, Wed, Jul 25, 7pm *Meet/park at the Donges Bay Road parking lot.* Here's your chance to see bats up close & personal as we study the Preserve's population using echolocation technology. Learn why these fascinating creatures are our valued allies.

Need a rental space for your next business meeting? Contact center@mequonnaturepreserve.org.

Follow Tilia on Instagram or donate to her Pennies for the Pup Gofundme campaign.



Like us on Facebook for the latest news!

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

PieperPower Education Center
8200 W. County Line Road, Mequon WI 53097
For more information, call 262-242-8055
or email center@mequonnaturepreserve.org



Community outreach programs are sponsored by:

Sponsored by



8200 W County Line Road Mequon, WI 53097 | Phone: (262) 242-8055



mequonnaturepreserve.org