

APPRECIATION DAY Continued...

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While at the park, students walked the trails along the river stopping at seven stations to participate in activities that had water conservation, education, and recreation themes.

- Station 1: Fly Casting
- Station 2: Fly Tying
- Station 3: Water Conservation Jeopardy
- Station 4: Would You Drink This Water?
- Station 5: Trout Shocking
- Station 6: Stream Flow Monitoring/Macro invertebrates
- Station 7: The Incredible Journey

Thank you to all the organizations who prepared and staffed these activities.



Students looking on as DNR Fisheries biologists shock fish in the River and explain how this is used to determine population and other qualities.

Roosevelt School teacher Faye Miller has always been very enthusiastic in her assessment: "This event is a positive educational experience and I hope it can continue each year." Roosevelt students, who were unable to attend this year due to a long walk in inclement weather, appreciated FLPR's delivery of bags stuffed with materials and tree seedlings they would have received at the event. Absolutely wonderful thank you notes were sent to FLPR organizers and were read by all and greatly enjoyed.

We would like to thank the volunteers:

Al Kunst, Brian Swenson, Silas Sopkowicz, Tyler Groh, Lee Zettler, Tom Meronek, Dale Kufalk, Andy Henke, Barb Gifford, Carol Kulich, Pat Nelson-Bullis, Barb Feltz, Jodi Hermsen, Stu Grimstad, Jerry Knuth, Bill Ebert, and Jim Gifford

A special thanks to the Natural Resources Foundation who made this event possible through a Besadny Grant.

The day was another great success! FLPR will sponsor another "Appreciation Day" for a whole new group of fourth graders in May 2009. Anyone wishing to volunteer for next year's event can contact:

Barb Gifford
(715) 344-3539
barbaragifford@charter.net

Students looking at Macro-invertebrates with help from the UWSP American Waters Resources Assoc.



Students analyzing "dirty" water to determine if they would drink it.

Oak Wilt

Why worry about oak trees in a newsletter focused on the Little Plover River? Oaks and all the trees near the river are an part of the intricate ecosystem that make up the Little Plover River. Without their roots the banks of the river might crumble, without their leaves, the river wouldn't be shaded. Without trees birds and other animals would not spend as much time at the River. Trees are very important to a the Little Plover River. Which is why Oak wilt is a perfect topic for this newsletter. Oak Wilt is caused by a fungus that moves through the water-conducting vessels in the tree. It slows the spread of water to the tree causing leaves to die and fall off, eventually kill the tree. You can help prevent Oak Wilt from happening to your trees by following a simple rule. **Do NOT prune or wound oak trees from April to October.** However, if it is a warm spring, as soon as the temperature is 50°F, stop pruning oak trees, even if this is in March.

LITTLE PLOVER RIVER WORKGROUP EFFORTS

The Little Plover River Workgroup continues to meet and implement projects to help restore a healthy flow to the River. The Workgroup is made up of: "Friends of the Little Plover River", Villages of Plover and Whiting, UWSP, DNR, Portage County, Trout Unlimited, Del Monte Inc., Stora Enso, Neenah Paper, several area potato and vegetable growers and the River Alliance of WI, along with advisory support from: WI Wildlife Federation, WI Geologic and Natural History Survey, USGS, USDA-NRCS, US EPA, Golden Sands RC&D, Rural Water Association and Earth Tech.

The Workgroup has developed a list of Flow Management Plan Activities to restore flow to the River. Some of the activities that have been identified in the Plan are: wetland restoration, land acquisitions, land use changes, pumping alterations, conservation, agricultural management changes, storm water management, stockpiling snow at the headwaters, wastewater reuse and limiting new high capacity wells.

The Village of Plover continues to pump minimally from their two wells closest to the river and is obtaining almost all of their water supply from well # 3, which is further from the river. One landowner adjacent to the river is considering taking irrigated cropland out of production by selling to DNR and is currently waiting for an appraisal. The Villages of Plover and Whiting have obtained a grant to fund a feasibility study for a joint "rainy well" to minimize impacts from current municipal wells. Irrigated Vegetable producers are coordinating with each other to adjust crop rotations so high water demanding crops will not all be grown adjacent to the river in any one season.

If necessary, two Workgroup members, Curt Soik (Soik Sales Inc.) and Worzella and Sons Inc., will allow their irrigation wells to be used as a temporary emergency measure this year to pump water into the River to prevent it from going dry. Soik's well was used last year to prevent dry-up with the Village of Plover and DNR helping out the Soik's for their cost of this effort.

DNR initiated a review of the river last fall to determine a minimum Public Rights Stage flow for the river. The Department will be working over the next few months to finalize the PRS data, identify the correct process to use in setting the PRS, and contacting the Village of Plover and UWSP to coordinate collected flow data. The Department is not moving forward with setting the PRS to be used as a tool for litigation associated with restricting existing groundwater pumping. DNR approach continues to be that local solutions to these local issues are the correct approach. As long as the stakeholders continue to move forward with planning and implementation of groundwater protection activities, protections for the LPR are much greater than any litigation.

For further information on Workgroup activities or if you have suggestions to include in the Flow Management Plan, contact Steve Bradley, Portage County Conservationist, 715-346-1334.

Conservation Tip:

Check for leaks

Dripping faucets & toilets running threw could be telling you that water & money are needlessly going down the drain. Put dye tablets or food coloring in the toilet tank, if it shows up at the in the bowl, there's a leak. Fix leaking faucets & toilets and save money.



The Little Plover River just west of Hoover Drive on July 21, 2008

Thank you Donors!

Supporters

Jerry and Marilyn Knuth
Sue and Kent Hall
Joe and Pat Briganti

Leaders

Margaret and Dave Hillier
John and Lynn Meyer
N.E. Spangenberg

Conservation Tip:
Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. It saves the water that runs while it is getting cold enough to drink.