

# In the Watershed

Notes of interest for those who wish to protect the Mukwonago River watershed area through best land and water use practices

Friends of the  
Mukwonago River  
June 2010

## Save the Date

Canoe Lulu Lake and Crooked Creek with Friends of the Mukwonago River on Saturday, June 26 from 9-noon. The Nature Conservancy's pristine property is a great reminder of the wonderful work that they do in our area-- celebrating 50 years in Wisconsin! More details will be emailed.

## Prairies, Woodlands Readed



Local land owners made good use of the spring weather to carefully manage local prairies and woodlands with fire in order to encourage native species and discourage non-natives. The burns took place on both public and private land. Spring is the ideal time for this management tool because it sets back the growth of aggressive non-native cool season plants, especially grasses. **Burns must be properly managed by trained personnel.**

## Earth Expressed

"I am I plus my surroundings and if I do not preserve the latter, I do not preserve myself."  
Jose Ortega Y Gasset, philosopher, essayist (1883-1955)

## Turtles Everywhere...



May through July is their busy time of the year as females head to nesting sites away from water. We have been getting lots of phone calls about dead turtles in areas other than Hwys. LO and E, where the "reminder" signs are posted, so please be an alert driver.

If you can **safely** rescue a turtle, please do so. Call to report dead turtles to Jean Weedman at 262-594-5996 or email us at: [friendsofthemukwonagoriver@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofthemukwonagoriver@yahoo.com) since we are maintaining records for future reference and possible signage.

## Native Plant Sales

Add more natives to your yard...

Coming on Saturday, June 12 at Johnson's Nursery in Menomonee Falls is a very large annual native plant sale. The nursery has worked closely with Wild Ones, the organization begun by Laurie Otto of Milwaukee, to promote the use of Wisconsin native plants, shrubs and trees. Their catalog of native plants, shrubs, and trees can be accessed online at [http://www.johnsonsnursery.com/Native\\_Plants\\_of\\_Wisconsin.aspx](http://www.johnsonsnursery.com/Native_Plants_of_Wisconsin.aspx).

## Conservation Tip

With summer picnics coming...think about the negative environmental impact of paper plates and plastic serving ware...

Using real dishes and silverware doesn't have to be a problem...people did it years ago, and we now have dish washers! Use an old set of dishes and silverware for outdoors, or buy a special use, sturdy set of outdoor dishes. Check out Craig's list or Ebay or a local rummage sale. Once you have a set, you can add coordinating pieces from Goodwill (\$.49 each glass or dish) to complement your outdoor ware! A great serving tray makes it all so easy to carry.

## Library Program

Join us as we present our video "Glacial Refuge: The Phenomenally Diverse Mukwonago River" at the Alice Baker Library on Wednesday, **June 30 from 6:30 - 8 p.m.** at the Eagle Municipal Building. The 53 minute video will be followed by a question and answer period.

## Board Notes

Election of officers:

President and Secretary Ezra Meyer

Vice-President Jean Weedman

Treasurer Pamela Meyer

**Check out our website [www.mukwonagoriver.org](http://www.mukwonagoriver.org) for great information about our watershed and to renew your membership!**

## BP Oil Spill—What can you do?

In what has become an ecological disaster of unparalleled proportions for the US, many groups are working diligently on everything from wildlife rehab to assisting Gulf Coast people impacted by the spill. Support a group that ties in with your interests in the Gulf. Some of those many groups:

- **Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana** <http://www.crcl.org/>  
Building a list of volunteers prepared to help with this response including wildlife recovery, monitoring and photographing oil movement, and providing boats and drivers for response activities
- <http://lagulfresponse.org/home.html>  
Coalition of major players--[Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program](#), the [Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana](#), the [National Audubon Society](#), the [National Wildlife Federation](#) and [The Nature Conservancy](#)--working on the ground to help
- **Defenders of Wildlife** <http://www.defenders.org/>  
Urging the public to help prevent another drilling disaster through advocacy, and listing all of the wildlife refuges that are in the Gulf of Mexico
- **Environmental Defense Fund** [www.edf.org](http://www.edf.org)  
The Environmental Defense Fund website has a slide show with their scientists working in the gulf. Two of the organization's four areas of focus are **Oceans and Land, Water, and Wildlife**.
- **Waterkeepers Alliance** <http://saveourgulf.org/>  
Working to report and correct problems, with scientific and legal expertise
- **Greenpeace USA**  
Defending oceans and protecting our environment from toxic pollution like the recent oil spill, listing "At least 491 birds, 227 turtles, and 27 mammals, including dolphins, have been found dead."
- **Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators Association**  
Advocating for preserving Louisiana's battered coastal ecosystem.
- **TriState Bird Rescue and Research** <http://www.tristatebird.org>  
Nonprofit group--the official bird rescue group, hired by the US Fish and Game
- **The Audubon Society** [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)  
Working on bird rescues and habitat rescue, showing photos and updates on their site
- **Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida**  
Mobilizing to provide appropriate care to injured or orphaned indigenous wildlife after critters are cleaned
- **International Bird Rescue Research Center** [www.ibrrc.org](http://www.ibrrc.org)  
Providing information and having teams in Florida, Alabama and Louisiana, and an adopt-a-bird program at [http://www.ibrrc.org/adopt\\_a\\_bird.html](http://www.ibrrc.org/adopt_a_bird.html)