



Door County Environmental Council

WINTER 2014-15

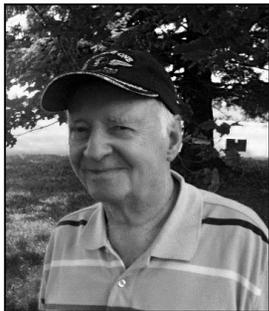
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Environmental Council, PO Box 114, Fish Creek, WI 54212

Environmental News for Door County

"To foster the preservation of Door County's rich heritage of natural resources...for the health, welfare and spiritual uplift not only of its inhabitants, but for generations to come."

JERRY VISTE RETIRES FROM DCEC

Jerry Viste, Door County Environmental Council's (DCEC) long-serving Executive Director, has announced his retirement, which began on February 1, 2015.



Viste's many accomplishments at DCEC provide an example of citizen action to preserve one of America's most unique and diverse

environments. For decades Jerry sought to make people aware of the riches that surround us and never to trade irreplaceable riches for a few coins of silver. For Jerry, true wealth lies in clean air and water and in a healthy land and people.

Viste has always had an innate understanding of the interconnectivity of the air, water, land, food, animals and people that embody this community. His land ethic runs as deep

as the roots of his multi-generation family farm. His campaign to protect Door County's natural resources began in 1980 when a coal-fired power plant was proposed for Sturgeon Bay, and the Viste farm in Nasewaupée was threatened with becoming an ash disposal site. He joined forces with the nascent Door County Environmental Council to stop that plant and began serving on the DCEC Board of Directors.

In 1986, in addition to running the dairy farm and raising a family, he tied his knowledge of environmental stewardship to DCEC's newly created position of Executive Director. Under Viste's leadership, DCEC continued its mission to protect vital resources from unrestrained development. As huge developments threatened water quality, Viste worked to instruct the public about northeast Wisconsin's fractured bedrock and how susceptible that bedrock is to contamination. Decades of committed board members have worked tirelessly with him to control such threats.

An early issue was regulating the size and quantity of holding tanks that proliferated in the state. What started out as a concern about the holding tanks ended with the hiring of Stephen John. With DCEC, John produced the *Door County Citizens Guide to Small Wastewater Systems*, a book that contains vital information for businesses and homeowners who are concerned about protecting water quality. The book offers comprehensive information on alternatives to holding tanks, including a *Created Wetlands* wastewater system.

When oversized marinas jeopardized fish populations, Viste educated the public on the hazards of interfering with fish spawning and their natural habitats. Through DCEC efforts, the citizenry were informed of the riparian rights of waterfront property owners, which gave them a legal means to retain those rights.

As the Great Lakes were continually threatened with invasive oceanic species, DCEC set out upon a fight to keep the "salties" out. Among the most threatening species is the Asian Carp. Viste brought in Dr. Phil Moy in 2010 who opened our eyes to the dangers that the Chicago sanitary canals pose for our Great Lakes.

When the desire for fresh water from the Great Lakes was at its height in the late 1990's, Viste initiated a series of educational seminars on the imminent threat of water diversion, and he labored to get the Great Lakes compact signed. Included in those seminars was nationally-recognized Peter Annin, author of *The Great Lakes Water Wars*, who spoke at DCEC's standing-room-only summer program in Baileys Harbor.

In the late 1980's, Jerry worked with Dr. James Zimmerman who

compiled a thorough natural resources inventory of specific Door County biological and ecological features. The resulting *Zimmerman Maps* are still used today by developers, planners, and conservationists and can be accessed at our website.

In 1987, Jerry brought in attorney William P. O'Connor, who had created land trusts around our state and who advised DCEC on forming a land trust in Door County. Originally called *Door County Land Trustees*, the now *Door County Land Trust* is still thriving. Jerry always said that the proudest accomplishment of DCEC was the formation of the Land Trust.

The second proudest accomplishment was protecting critical habitat of the Hines Emerald Dragonfly. In a ten-year battle, Jerry and DCEC engaged in litigation to ensure this rare species will always inhabit its special places in Door County.

Jerry latest project has been to work with the University of Wisconsin/Stevens Point to offer a low-cost comprehensive home well-testing program for private well owners. Understanding that clean drinking water is vital to everyone's health, DCEC expects to complete this countywide testing program in 2016.

Under Jerry's leadership, DCEC has brought dozens of experts to Door County to inform the public on critical issues like phosphorus and nitrate runoff, smart growth planning, cost of community services, recycling, rain gardens, cladophora (the green stuff on the beach) and a myriad of other issues. These experts admired his vast knowledge of conservation and his dedication to protecting our natural resources.

Viste often laid a foundation of understanding for others. We will forever be in his debt for bringing so many topics to the forefront of discussion and for guiding DCEC to be the educational force it is today.

Having been a teacher earlier in his life, Jerry continued teaching elected officials and the public on wetland protection, sustainable farming, maintaining clean drinking water, and, above all, the connection among living things. In his 80+ years, Jerry acquired the understanding that all belong to a fragile ecosystem and that when harm comes to any part of that system, we all suffer. As a farmer, father, grandfather, veteran and teacher, his lifelong journey to protect the natural resources of Door County began decades ago on the family farm.

Several years ago the Wisconsin Stewardship Network said of DCEC: “Despite controversial and sometimes

unpopular issues... the uncompromising stature of this established organization gained statewide reputation as a leader in the field of resource conservation and protection.” Over the past forty-four years, every corner of Door County has benefited from Viste’s leadership and dedication to this mission.

Education through newsletters, the website, seminars, and other avenues will continue, as along with invited experts, DCEC will always try to inform us of what is going on.

There is more on the history of the Door County Environmental Council on our website at http://www.dcec-wi.org/history_dcec.html

Plans for a retirement party in Jerry’s honor are in the works. We’ll let you know when those plans are finalized. Please join us in wishing Jerry the very best in his future endeavors, wherever they may take him.

Ground Water Contamination in Northeast Wisconsin

Door and Kewaunee counties are being subjected to ground water contamination. Our drinking water is being contaminated by toxic substances. Most notably, the recent increase in industrial size farms in our area has caused numerous wells to test positive for animal waste bacteria at levels which are dangerous for human usage and consumption. The Door/Kewaunee karst geologic formation contains over 200 feet of highly fractured bedrock within our water supply. The surface soils in our counties were removed by glaciers thousands of years ago. This landscape is found in few other locations in Wisconsin and much of the area has an

inadequate amount of soil depth to properly filter nutrients before reaching the bedrock and aquifer.

The members of the Door County Environmental Council (DCEC) believe that the state’s current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) Program, designed to control the application of nutrients, predominantly manure, has failed to ensure safe drinking water for the Door and Kewaunee county residents.

The members of the DCEC are working toward the following goals, which we believe are essential to protect our drinking water:

1. Our state officials will increase the number of personnel and/or technologies to monitor and verify the proper storage and spreading of animal waste.

2. Nutrient Management Plans will be accurately spelled out and strictly followed by the participating farmers with supervision.

3. Significant consequences will be given to both first time and repeat offenders for polluting the water by the improper handling of manure.

4. State representatives must pass legislation that recognizes that our area's sensitive geologic structure is not a safe or suitable environment for excessive nutrient application.

5. Our local and state authorities will take any and all actions necessary to ensure the safety of our drinking water straight from our wells.

The DCEC has published reports on the growing number of Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) moving into the state and have voiced concern over the enormous amount of animal waste coming here from other counties. We have researched and shared the health risks of indiscriminate spreading of toxic liquid manure, loaded with antibiotic resistant and infectious bacteria. We have pointed out the evidence that small farms, using sustainable agricultural techniques, can provide enough healthy and adequate food supplies for all the citizens of the planet. Industrial factory farming is not necessary to feed our citizens. However, we recognize that the current threat to ground water contamination needs more immediate action to insure protection.

Our members believe that our above stated goals are necessary because:

- Our local and state departments (DCSW and WDNR) often have to react to, rather than prevent, the improper handling of manure.

- The NMP (Nutrient Management Plan), a recommended method used to meet state standards for the safe handling and application of manure, is a voluntary program and should instead be mandatory and enforceable.

- The state does not provide nor fund the personnel necessary to enforce compliance to the NMPs or the state standards and the responsibility falls on county Soil and Water Department personnel.

- Offenders of over application upon the land and contamination of the water often get a minor “slap on the hand” in penalties. Fines are so small that there is little motivation for the offenders to change their practice.

- The uniqueness of our land must be acknowledged in new state laws. The inherently low nutrient load capacities of the Door/Kewaunee counties must be separately considered apart from the rest of the state.

As the world's population continues to grow, clean water must be on the forefront of everyone's mind. Our future existence depends on our access to clean water. This is serious. It is possible to reach a sustainable, clean water environment, if the above issues are addressed quickly and effectively. If we do not stop water contamination now it will ultimately affect all of us in our health and livelihoods.

DCEC has always, and will continue, to stand up for a clean and healthy environment. Our organization has been involved with environmental issues, such as this and many more, over the past 40 years. Our

members are proud to say that through DCEC they have supported the many efforts and movements that have needed a voice, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for the land upon which we live.

Be aware that Ag-Corporations are currently lobbying to pass laws to strip the local municipalities of their own powers to pass ordinances preventing these types of environmental problems. They are also lobbying to outlaw the photographing or video recording of CAFO activities by the public, a measure the Humane Society of the United States believes is an attempt to cover up the inhumane treatment of animals that goes on every day. At the same time, Wisconsin's land has been opened up for sale to other countries like China, allowing them to purchase farmlands for their industrial sized

CAFO's. Letting waste build up and spoil our water, in exchange for more profit dollars, is not acceptable.

It is the personal action of each individual that has the greatest effect on change. Join with us and stand up to protect our water, for yourself, for your neighbors, for your grandchildren. Call or write your government officials. Flood them with mail. Write to the Soil and Water Department, the DNR, the Health Department and especially our state representatives. Don't stop writing until changes are made. We can make a difference. Let's all come together and save Door and Kewaunee counties from the onslaught of toxic waste being dumped on our land and into our waters.

The DCEC board of directors released this paper on February 6, 2015. The position paper may be found online at <http://gbpg.net/1DYSAzv>

2015 SUMMER PROGRAM

Upcoming: Keeping Asian Carp Out of the Great Lakes

Two experts from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) will address what is being done to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes at the 2015 DCEC Summer Program on Wednesday evening, September 9 in the Baileys Harbor Town Hall.

George Meyer, executive director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF), and Marc Smith, NWF Policy Director, including its Great Lakes water programs, will speak at this free event. Both men bring a long history and expertise in Midwestern and other environmental issues to the crucial subject of the invasive Asian carp.

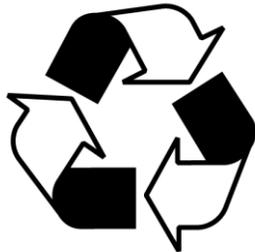
Prior to his more than 10 years at WWF, Meyer served with the Wisconsin

DNR for more than 30 years. An attorney, Meyer led the DNR's enforcement division for 10 years and was department secretary from 1993 to 2001. Today, he remains a force in conservation policy in Wisconsin. The WWF that he leads is an umbrella group for 185 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry related groups. The WWF also has 6,000 individual members, Meyer says. When Meyer speaks, people take notice, whether the issue is mining or rules for hunting and fishing.

Smith's work at NWF includes implementing the Great Lakes Compact, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, agriculture policy and invasive species work. He also directs wildlife

conservation efforts with Meyer's Wisconsin affiliate and other key organizations and stakeholders in Illinois and Ohio. Smith also serves as a special designee on the Council of Great Lakes Governor's Advisory Committee for the

Great Lakes Compact and Agreement, and has testified on a wide range of Great Lakes, wildlife and conservation issues before state, regional and national government bodies.



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2015 WELL TESTING UPDATE

FORESTVILLE, NASEWAUPEE ARE UP NEXT

The DCEC has been busy this winter signing up new villages and townships in the county for this summer's well testing program. We are happy to say that the village and township of Forestville, as well as the village and township of Nasewaupée, have agreed to participate in the program this July.

This program is provided by the UW Extension -Stevens Point, *Water and Environmental Analysis Lab (WEAL)* and with DCEC, we are attempting to provide a more extensive analysis of privately owned wells in the county. Three tests are available in the program and participants can choose one or more of these tests to be performed on their water. The test battery includes the following:

--Home Owner Package – coliform bacteria and nitrate/nitrogen tests. Also, pH, alkalinity, hardness, chlorides, conductivity, and corrosivity.

--Metals Package – heavy metals including arsenic, lead, copper, iron, manganese, zinc, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, and sulfate.

--DACT Screen – Diaminochlorotriazine (DACT). This is the herbicide (a form of the atrazine compound) used to kill broadleaf weeds.

Participants are mailed their results with a set of three explanatory pamphlets. After the wells are tested, an optional seminar will be held with each town's participants to discuss how to interpret the results and to answer any questions.

ALL results are private and anonymous, with no requirements to address any quality issues for the wells tested. However, the participating villages and townships will also learn the general overall test results for their participant group.

The DCEC provides up to \$500 to each participating town group to be used for advertising purposes for the test

program. Well owners who want to be tested must pay a fee of \$113 for the three test packages which normally would cost an individual more than \$500. Owners can opt to participate in only one or two tests for a lesser fee.

This is a great opportunity for our citizens and it also gives us a glimpse of how our county is standing up to groundwater contamination. It's important to know where we are, currently, with clean water, as potential pollutants continue to be spread upon our land.

Egg Harbor and Baileys Harbor received their well results in 2013, followed by Sturgeon Bay, Sevastopol, and Jacksonport in 2014. That completes

the towns of northern Door County. Most participants in those towns were simply curious to find out about the condition of their wells.

The DCEC will continue to sponsor the Well Testing Program until all villages and townships have had the opportunity to participate in this valuable program. Those people who DO NOT live in the current towns participating may still have their water tested. For sampling instructions and collection bottles contact: 715-346-3209 or Toll Free 877-383-8378, E-mail disk@uwsp.edu . Web Page www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/weal (prices not listed on web page).

Well Test Results

Towns (no. samples)	Coliform Positive %	Nitrate/Nitrogen None/Accept./Elev	DACT Screen None/Accept./Elev.	Arsenic None/Accept./Elev	Lead None/Accept./Elev.
Egg Harbor, Baileys Harbor (109)	22%	32%/36%/32%	94%/6%/0%	52%/48%/0%	54%/42%/4%
Sturgeon Bay, Sevastopol/Jacksonport (152)	15%	43%/26%/31%	81%/17%/2%	49%/40%/11%	81%/13%/5%
Combined (261)	18%	38%/31%/32%	88%/12%/1%	51%/44%/6%	68%/28%/5%

This Results Table displays percentages for *None Detected/Acceptable Levels/Elevated Levels*

Letters to DCEC

Jerry Viste has been synonymous with common sense and the unwavering voice of preservation for as long as we can remember, and Door County will continue to gratefully remember his contributions to our "Kingdom So Delicious."

--Jim and Carole Maronek

Viste has been indispensable! Congratulations to Jerry Viste on his retirement as executive director of Door County Environmental Council. However, it is not without regret that we bid Jerry farewell.

He and the council were indispensable

allies in most, if not all, of the environmental challenges we faced in our township; always there with advice, encouragement and often financial assistance. Jerry is a one-of-a-kind individual; a fierce promoter of environmental awareness and education, a down-to-earth leader, always there on the front lines ready to protect the health and beauty of the peninsula so many of us call home.

Jerry leaves some big shoes to fill! Thanks, Jerry, for all your many years of dedicated service to the environment.

--Robert and Linda Merline,
Fish Creek

Looking Back and Looking Ahead: President's Message

As The Door County Environmental Council starts another year of work, I thought it would be interesting to report and reflect on what was achieved in 2014, as well as what critical environmental issues and initiatives we hope to address in 2015.

During the past year your dues supported a number of seminars offered free to the public. The topics addressed by a variety of professionals and experts included programs on environmental causes of the proliferation of cancer, Wisconsin's current legal battles to protect public health and resources, the Bay of Green Bay dead zones and their causes, among others. DCEC has been outspoken, both in writing and in person, in a variety of public forums regarding concerns such as; the Emerald Ash Borer and related tree cutting, liquefied aerial manure spraying, protecting our aquifers, invasive species control, air quality, and other important issues. DCEC will remain a strong voice to call for the enforcement of current and new environmental protection laws and regulations

We have continued to promote, sponsor, and coordinate a UW Stevens Point Extension facilitated residential well water quality testing program. This program has now performed well testing in all the northern Door County towns with the 2014 completion of well testing in the towns of Sevastopol, Sturgeon Bay, and Jacksonport. You likely have been hearing and reading about well contamination from excessive spreading of liquefied manure. This well testing program provides vital information on not only individual wells, but the overall quality of the aquifer as well. In 2015, the well water testing program will continue and move to southern Door County. It appears at this time that the Towns of Forestville and Nasewaupee, and the Village of Forestville have all agreed to

participate in the UW Stevens Point testing program.

Your council also plans on continuing sponsorship of educational seminars. One of our programs will bring two leading experts on Asian Carp to Door County to update us on the very latest information and efforts to fight this potential Great Lakes invader. You have likely seen YouTube videos of these fish in the Illinois River. Can you imagine them here in the bay and lake? Plans for other 2015 timely and relevant programs are still in the works. More details will be forthcoming on these very important programs. As always, we plan on monitoring news and current events for environment concerns, and being outspoken, when appropriate, at public meetings.

Additionally, this year we want to improve our communication with our members by upgrading our current website and Facebook page to create a fresh and more interactive experience. We hope to be able to keep members informed of important events concerning our environment, in real time, as they occur.

Like us on Facebook at *The Door County Environmental Council*. We know that information, education, and public involvement are the keys to protecting Door County's environment. In that regard, we need your help! DCEC invites any member, who is willing to work on our board and/or committees, to step forward. The board meets in person, and by conference call, so seasonal and full time Door County residents can always participate in the meetings. Please contact us if you can help.

We know individually we can only do a little, but together we can accomplish great things! Please help protect and preserve the county we all love.

Sincerely,
Steve Eatough, DCEC President

Celebrate Earth Day! Wednesday, April 22, 2015

How the First Earth Day Came About

By Senator Gaylord Nelson,
Founder of Earth Day

What was the purpose of Earth Day? How did it start? These are the questions I am most frequently asked.

Actually, the idea for Earth Day evolved over a period of seven years starting in 1962. For several years, it had been troubling me that the state of our environment was simply a non-issue in the politics of the country. Finally, in November 1962, an idea occurred to me that was, I thought, a virtual cinch to put the environment into the political "limelight" once and for all. The idea

was to persuade President Kennedy to give visibility to this issue by going on a national conservation tour. I flew to Washington to discuss the proposal with Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who liked the idea. So did the President. The President began his five-day, eleven-state conservation tour in September 1963.

For many reasons the tour did not succeed in putting the issue onto the national political agenda. However, it was the germ of the idea that ultimately flowered into Earth Day. More at <http://earthday.envirolink.org/history.html>

"... on April 22, 1970, Earth Day was held, one of the most remarkable happenings in the history of democracy. . . " --American Heritage Magazine, October 1993

Meet our Newest Board Member:



Dorothy Anderson Metzger

My history in Wisconsin goes back to my childhood when my summers were spent in the North Woods of western Wisconsin. Those summers led

to my earning a degree in biology and to work in science book publishing. They also gave me an avid interest in conservation and careful use of the land, endangered species, and habitat loss.

My husband and I bought our cabin in Liberty Grove in 1990. Since then, I've watched open land developed and wildlife disappear in Door County. I've also observed the invasion of factory farms and dangerous farming practices in our county as well as in the rest of Wisconsin. I hope I can help DCEC make a difference--to alert people to these threats and to encourage legislators to fight back.

Volunteers Needed! With Jerry's Viste's departure and a couple of board member retirements, we could *really* use some help! Web savvy? Media friendly? Are *YOU* interested in what *YOU* can do for Door County's environment? Can you spare a couple of hours a month to continue our vital work? Call us at (920)743-6003!

Door Bluff Headlands Park Ash Trees to Remain!

In January, Door County's Airport and Parks Committee reversed their decision of last summer to remove thousands of ash trees from Door Bluff Headlands Park.*

Joel Gunnlaugsson offered a resolution to "forgo all tree harvesting at this time and to re-evaluate the management plan and work with all citizens, especially from Liberty Grove, to develop a long-range Door Bluff (Headlands) Park plan ... fulfilling educational experiences and viable sustainability of the forest."

DNR experts said it could be

originally dedicated almost seventy years ago: a nature sanctuary. A petition to preserve the park circulated online and garnered more than 400 signatures!

What's next? It's not clear as of this writing that the county's highway or parks departments have adopted policies to prevent the spread of the EAB into other areas of the county. Nor have recommendations been adopted to prevent visitors to the park from inadvertently introducing the pest.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Forest Service continues intensive research on stopping the borer through various

PLEASE DO NOT INTRODUCE THE EAB AND OTHER HARMFUL INSECTS BY TRANSPORTING FIREWOOD, PLANTS, OR MULCH! READ THE LABELS AND THINK BEFORE USING PESTICIDES; WILL IT BE BEES or TREES?

several years before the invasive species reaches the 156-acre park, where an estimated 43 percent of all the trees are ash. In June, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in Gibraltar and Sturgeon Bay, several miles from Door Bluff Headlands Park at the tip of the Door Peninsula. Door County is now quarantined along with several other counties in Wisconsin. For an up-to-date map and more information, see Wisconsin's EAB Resource Guide at <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article.jsp?topicid=20>.

The Committee's reversal came after several Town of Liberty Grove board members, town residents, and local organizations—including the Door County Environmental Council and the Northern Door Neighbors Association—requested the park remain as it had been

means and is seeking resistant cultivars. The only approved preventive treatment available to homeowners through drenching or granular applications at this time use neonicotinoid pesticides.

Unfortunately, neonicotinoids are a relatively new class of insecticides that share a common mode of action that affect the central nervous system of insects, resulting in paralysis and death. They include imidacloprid, acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, nithiazine, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam. Neonicotinoids have been implicated in harm to beneficial non-target insects and have been implicated in bee colony collapse.

**Some of the information in this article comes from correspondent Peter J. Devlin's January 9, 2015 article in the Door County Advocate.*

DCEC's Leadership

PRESIDENT: Steve Eatough, Sister Bay
1st VICE-PRESIDENT: Eileen Andera, Sturgeon Bay
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT: Phyllis Ingwersen, Sister Bay
TREASURER: Eileen Andera, Acting
SECRETARY: Paul Leline, Baileys Harbor
DIRECTORS:
Carl Madsen, Sister Bay
Dorothy Anderson Metzler, Liberty Grove
Carol Sills, Baileys Harbor

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James Ingwersen Karen Wilson
Libby Zimmerman

MEMBERSHIP: Ray Kostiuk, Fish Creek
BOOKKEEPER: Nancy Raye, Sturgeon Bay

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Green Bay: 920-437-1954
1-800-773-8579
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<https://ribble.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

Door County Environmental Council MEMBERSHIP FORM (Please Print)

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email: _____

Phone Summer (____) _____ Winter (____) _____ Door County Voter? Yes No

Summer address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please mail with payment to: DCEC, P.O. Box 114, Fish Creek, WI 5421 Thank you!



The Door County Environmental Council, Inc.
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WELCOME NEW DCEC MEMBERS!