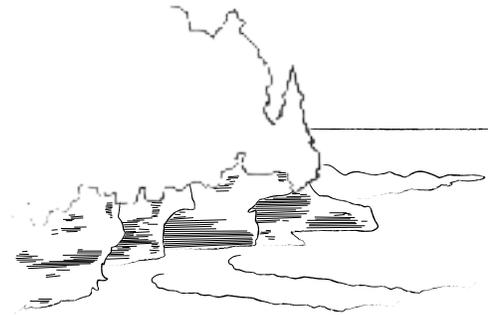


The Door County Environmental Council News



2021

“Fostering the preservation of Door County’s rich heritage of natural resources for the health, welfare, and spiritual uplift not only of its inhabitants, but of generations to come.”



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50th Anniversary of the Door County Environmental Council 1970-2020

In 1969, in response to concerns of rapidly growing development, degradation of water quality, and inadequate planning and zoning regulations, a group of citizens held a series of meetings. They drew up plans to form an activist organization that would stand up for the environment and the wildlife that lived in it. The Door County Environmental Council (DCEC) was formed to preserve and protect all of Door County’s natural resources.

The DCEC membership grew rapidly as did the influence it wielded. The County began to operate in a more sophisticated way, establishing various departments of government that did planning and required obedience to the laws that were regularly

passed by the County and the State of Wisconsin. While much has been accomplished, new problems arise and old problems become more complicated, all of which we are compelled to confront.

As founding member, John F. Wilson succinctly put it, “It is obvious that we humans are incapable of leaving nature alone and untouched, no matter how beautiful and perfect. We must alter and adjust and yet rarely improve what exists.

Hence, an organization such as the Door County Environmental Council will always be required: to balance, to monitor, to protect this beautiful place.”



Provided courtesy of UW-Madison SSEC

DCEC History and Accomplishments

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- In the beginning, a planned trailer court development for the Fish Creek bluff area aroused public sentiment in opposition and influenced the Town Board to not allow progress with the necessary permits. DCEC was formed by a group of Fish Creek area residents who were concerned about increasing development pressure and the lack of effective land use controls at any level. The Gibraltar Planning Committee was requested to participate with the County Planning Office to research and design a zoning plan specific to the Town of Gibraltar needs, as brought out by these development plans.

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- DCEC was incorporated as a Wisconsin nonprofit organization.
- Original Directors of DCEC listed in 1970 incorporation documents dated 31 December 1970 were: Wilbur E. Johnson, Fish Creek; John F. Wilson, Fish Creek; Philip J. Letourneaux, Fish Creek, Harvey M. Malzahn, Jr.; and J.P. Matzahn, Fish Creek.

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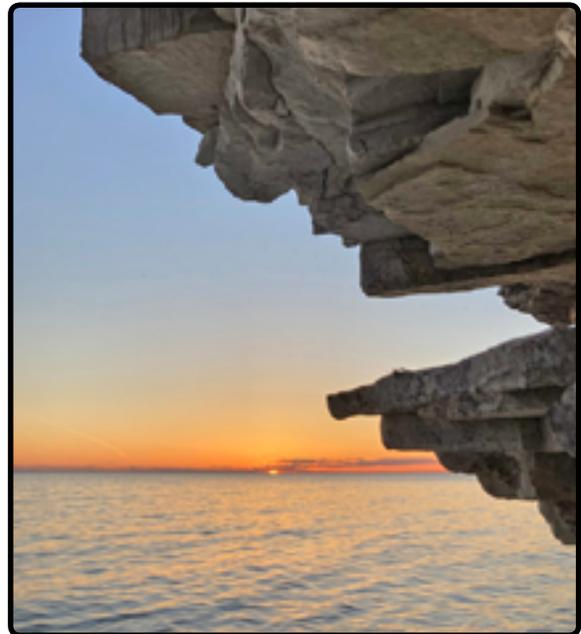
- DCEC was granted 501 c 3 tax-exempt status by the IRS.
- Gibraltar Town Board adopted Door County Zoning in an emergency meeting, only to find that most of the provisions were not acceptable. The Town Planning committee was directed to work with the County office to come up with a zoning proposal that was suitable for the Town.

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- The Town of Gibraltar imposed a temporary moratorium on new projects until the Planning Committee returned an acceptable zoning proposal.
- Powers were at work to ensure that zoning for the Town did not create severe limitations on projects that “would be beneficial to increase the tax base of the Town,” a false concept that would be used in opposition to zoning in other areas of the County.

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- DCEC supported the Ridges Sanctuary in a complaint about failed septic systems that were contributing to huge algae blooms in the protected swales of the Sanctuary.
- DCEC aligned with the Citizens Civic Association and others in promoting a downtown corridor for location of the new bridge that was in preliminary stages in Sturgeon Bay.



Escarpment sunset

Photo by Mike Bahrke



Sunset, Ellison Bay

Photo by Mike Bahrke

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- DCEC cooperatively promoted Jackson Harbor Ridges Conservancy on Washington Island, successfully supporting Louise Erickson's efforts.
- DCEC's position regarding talks of a possible four-lane expansion of Highway 57 to Door County reminds all that this County was a destination and not a continuance to somewhere beyond. Highway 42 was underutilized as a result of County promotional groups' suggestions.
- The OMNIBUS Corporation had requested a variance to change the former ski hill zoning from single family residential to resort commercial, bypassing the Gibraltar Advisory Board's recommendations and going directly to the County Zoning Board.
- DCEC Board consensus was that dedicated people were needed on the County Board to represent and promote environmental issues.

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- The DCEC board meeting was attended by town officers who agreed that the Town of Baileys Harbor was ready to adopt County zoning if it wasn't deemed too stringent and restrictive.
- A summer program featured Doug LaFollette, prominent Madison political figure who addressed more than 200 attendees on the politics of environmental protection in Wisconsin. His presentation was entitled *Door County, the Goose That Lays Golden Eggs*.
- The Town of Gibraltar Advisory Planning Committee proposed a liberalized zoning plan for the town that made all land presently zoned agriculture available for development. This appeared to be contrary to the aims of the County Planning Committee and was opposed by DCEC. DCEC implemented a series of environmental cartoons by W. Lahey, regularly featured in the Advocate, to bring quick awareness of critical issues to the public.
- DCEC formulated a critical listing of unneeded highway improvements for controlling the new planned highway corridor. This transportation corridor request was forwarded to the Highway Committee and promptly tabled.

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- The Goony Golf proposal by Arden Johnson returned from 1975, and its denial was again supported by the Sister Bay Planning Commission and DCEC.
- There was alarming news that more than 150 wells went dry in Door County in March, bringing water conservation efforts to the forefront.
- A formal petition presented to the County Board from DCEC requested that:
 1. Zoning be made mandatory in the entire County,
 2. Extraction of minerals and nonmetallic controls be established with bonding to cover possible damage and remediation,
 3. An obtrusive lighting ordinance be enacted to control night lighting impact,
 4. All year-round-flowing streams, regardless of size, be given the same control as navigable waterways,
 5. 5-acre minimum lot size be imposed for single-family dwelling on agricultural lands, with no housing subdivisions allowed in recreational land areas, and
 6. Transportation corridors be zoned into the County immediately, with power line corridors to follow existing routes.

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- The Marshall’s Point Conservancy agreement with Wisconsin DNR would have minimized development and the resultant resource damage. Fortunately, Klaus Nobel purchased the Baileys Harbor property and thereby cancelled the Marcantonio plans for creating a mega-development on the property. Meanwhile, DCEC secured the EPA Water Study and Environmental Impact Assessment. DCEC and other parties filed suit against the County to obtain injunctions halting the issuance of any building permits contrary to the application of the Zoning Ordinance. The suit claimed that provisions of the ordinances are too ambiguous to preclude further definition or are basically invalid.
- Liberty Grove project Cedar Cliff Condominiums was planned on property that was being sold on contract by the University of Chicago to Lewis and Mochem. This suit claimed that building permits would be issued under *conditional use permits* rather than a provision of the zoning ordinance that would be proper.
- With the December date for completion of the new bridge in Sturgeon Bay approaching, the problems associated with the 18th Ave. corridor preservation were becoming more evident and needed to be properly addressed by the appropriate County Board committees.



Sunset through a white cedar on the Niagara Escarpment in Ellison Bay
 Photo by Mike Bahrke

- A plan for the development of 36 condominium units in 9 separate buildings on 16.7 acres of property was submitted to the County Resource Planning Committee. The land was zoned R-1 for single-family dwellings and would be located adjacent to Peninsula Players in Gibraltar Township. This project was opposed by DCEC and others because of concerns over wastewater hauling, scenic destruction, and the known impact of additional traffic and need for services.
- Hidden Harbor (Friedmann property) in Fish Creek had many environmental concerns, and DCEC requested a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A DNR Hearing was requested to address the impact of a 100-condominium project to see if the project would impact Door County water resources. The hearing was granted.
- DCEC challenged the right of the DNR to exempt areas of concern from the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA). This was a result of the DNR deciding that an EIS was not necessary, in spite of public testimony supporting the need. The filed suit claimed the DNR's environmental assessment was inadequate, even though the Federal Government was engaged in an area wastewater treatment study.
- DCEC joined the opposition to the Claybanks Horns Pier Marina proposal with limited township cooperation. The area has since become a valuable Historic Township Park area.
- As a result of a planned trailer court, Claybanks also adopted Agricultural Zoning which dictated that a 30-acre minimum was required for a residential building site. This control would help maintain the status of agriculture as the major industry of this rural town.
- DCEC investigated the extensive clear-cut logging of red pine in Peninsula State Park with the finding that the park personnel have no say in the logging, which was done under the orders of the DNR State Forester. The State Parks are under management plans that dictate proper forest management in those publicly held lands.
- DCEC's summer program at Baileys Harbor, entitled *Door County Speaks Out*, was a forum with a panel of board members directing questions at invited County and Town officials in attendance. Questions from the audience ranged from legal sewage disposition to land use planning and extensive condominium development without proper examination and easy permitting.
- An effort was made to establish Agricultural Zoning in the Town of Baileys Harbor with smaller requirements for lot size.
- Board member Eileen Etherton reported on the excessive waterweed growth in the upper Bay and many dead ducks in the canal. The responsibility and culpability of the Sturgeon Bay sewage outfall would be investigated, with a possible suit as the result.
- Negotiations with the Hotz family, owners of the Newport Park property, resulted in a successful DNR purchase and conservation of this wilderness area, promoted by DCEC since 1976.
- A DCEC suit against the County was directed at zoning issues raised by the James Corp. Friedmann Hidden Harbor project. DCEC asked the court to prevent the County from issuing permits prior to the resolution of the legal issues in the suit. The legal action was defeated and the Friedmann Estate was blessed with the largest holding tank in the Midwest, with the precedent being established for more condominiums in the County.

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- DCEC was the primary force cooperating with Door County Natural Beauty Council and Save Our Soil (SOS) in opposition to plans for a coal-fired generating plant near Sturgeon Bay by Wisconsin Public Service Corporation and the utilization of vital farmlands for ash disposal. After a year of legal battling and research to enable citizens to halt the eminent domain process, the utility abandoned plans for the canal property, claiming the need was not sufficient. The property had originally been purchased for a nuclear plant, but those plans were abandoned, as the parcel was not stable enough for a large nuclear facility.
- Peter Anderson, of the Wisconsin Environmental Decade, was the speaker for the summer program and addressed issues of electric power needs and construction in Wisconsin.
- DCEC's position was in opposition to SB 512, which would exempt Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relation (DILHR) from compliance with Wisconsin Environmental Protection Act (WEPA) under the urging of Kathy Falk, attorney with Wisconsin Environmental Decade.

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- It was noted that there are excessive amounts of algae on the shores of Green Bay, and it was decided to contact the County Board about having all septic systems examined on a regular basis. The point was raised that plumbers shouldn't be in charge of inspections because of a possible conflict of interest; the responsibility for inspections should lie with the sanitarian's office.
- A summer program focused on *Protecting Property Values in Door County*, with Richard Lehmann, a Madison attorney specializing in land planning law, as the speaker. A petition was initiated requesting that the County Board initiate countywide zoning and planning.
- DCEC testified at a DNR hearing in Ashwaubenon regarding the permitting of holding tanks in Wisconsin. Consensus was that people's rights are being trampled by the manner in which formal hearings are conducted.

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- DCEC had voted to support the opposition of a large development to be located at the end of Tacoma Beach Road in Sturgeon Bay in an area that was wetland but not designated as such. A previous development attempt was halted, and the fill placed there was ordered removed by the DNR. The Asher plans were for a marina and subdivision to be located at the end of the present road; the subdivision has since been completed.
- There were reports of raw sewage being sighted along the shore in Ephraim. This was reported to the DNR office in Green Bay along with the excessive amounts of algae in Baileys Harbor. It was found that a fault in the new municipal Ephraim sewer line caused the Bay problem.

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- DCEC sponsorship of scholarships for high school students who want to attend the summer workshops at Central Wisconsin Environmental Station began as an effort to involve young people in environmental issues and interests.
- DCEC initiated a county-wide essay contest for students in grades 5-8 and 9-12 to be held annually with cash awards to the winners. The first contest drew 130 entries on the subject *How Can I Help Preserve Our Natural Resources?*

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- DCEC began exploration of alternative wastewater systems for homeowners because of the proliferation of holding tanks in the County as replacements or substitutes for failed conventional systems.
- DCEC also promoted an eventual ban on the use of holding tanks in the County as other locations have done successfully. Sauk County officials told of their holding tank control measures at the summer program.
- DCEC grew beyond the volunteer management status, and the Board determined that an executive director was needed. Jerry Viste was hired to coordinate all of the functions of the corporation.



Jerry Viste

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- DCEC hired Dr. James Zimmerman, Madison Ecologist, to act in an advisory capacity and to promote the concepts originated by Dr. Zimmerman for critical resource protection. Dr. Zimmerman and his wife Libby are both recognized experts in wildlife and ecological protection and are familiar with all County areas.
- DCEC began the study of formation of a land trust organization in Door County.
- A DCEC summer program featured William P. O'Connor, prominent Madison attorney, who created land trusts all over the State, and who gave suggestions on forming a land trust in the County. As a result the *Door County Land Trustees* was formed which evolved into the *Door County Land Trust*, an independent nonprofit corporation.



Dr. James Zimmerman

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- DCEC was involved as a sponsoring organization for the “Gibraltar Preservation Council,” which was dedicated to preserving the rustic status of Highway 42, from Egg Harbor to Fish Creek. The effort had limited success with acceptable plans after a compromising effort by a different organization occurred. The group continued to lead in efforts to defend the purposes of zoning with testimony and opposition to mega-projects throughout the County.
- DCEC participated in “Globescape 88,” a two-day conference on sustainability for the



Yellow Lady's Slippers

Photo by Mike Bahrke

Midwest, which was held in Oshkosh, WI.

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8 • DCEC participated in an advisory capacity for the preservation of rustic Cherry Road near Sturgeon Bay. Sevastopol Town proceeded with prior easements on private properties to halt the eminent domain process. The Town was faced with a challenge from the Foley/Lardner firm representing the WPSC, and local officials were overpowered. The Town effort was defeated when WPSC mustered corporate utility support from the entire state to counter the Township's legal opposition to the eminent domain process. The end result was that state utilities cooperatively formed the American Transmission Company (a holding company made up of the state utilities), which controls all major power lines in the state, with large legal firm access to squelch local opposition efforts.

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9 • DCEC began the promotion of Sustainable Agriculture as a tool for farm economic help and water quality improvement in Northeast Wisconsin.
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0 • DCEC applied for and received DATCP grants to hire a consultant and establish a network of concerned farm people with the current emphasis on rotational grazing and limited crop input.
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0 • DCEC influenced the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters (through Dr. Zimmerman) to hold its annual conference in Sturgeon Bay, with the theme *The Niagara Escarpment*. This statewide conference was very successful with participants from Canada (St. Catherines, Ontario) in addition to local panel members and professionals.

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0 • DCEC furnished copies of *The State of the World* to each of the schools and libraries in the County as an Earth Day gift. This guide to public policy was published by the WorldWide Institute and shows the consequences of our action in relation to resource sustainability.
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0 • A series of DCEC sponsored Sustainable Agriculture Institute meetings was held in Sturgeon Bay weekly to encourage farmers and others to participate in sustainable farming practices. The Sustainable Agriculture weekly seminars in winter months provided lecturers and speakers from as far away as New Zealand. Initial total fees for the entire winter series of meetings for each participant was \$25 to cover speaker expenses.

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- DCEC co-litigated with the Ridges Sanctuary Board and private property owners to stop the wildlife harassment by ultralight flights near the Ridges and other shoreland wildlife areas. The complaint alleged that nuisance low-level flights were interfering with the wildlife of the Ridges, North Bay, and Kangaroo Lake.
- The statewide Sustainable Agriculture summer get-together was sponsored by DCEC and held at the Don Rudolph farm property north of the Experimental Station. The popular event drew dignitaries from Madison and out of state for two days of speakers and tours of local sustainable practices.

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- DCEC became a supporter of efforts to obtain Federal listing of the Hines Emerald Dragonfly and supported designated habitat for the dragonfly as suggested by Dr. James Zimmerman and in cooperation with the owner of Three Springs Estuarine Sanctuary. DCEC participated in numerous local and statewide hearings on the proposed listing.

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- DCEC co-litigated the protection of the Three Springs Estuarine Sanctuary in Liberty Grove with limitations and patrol of an industrial expansion located nearby. This was a formal action to force the DNR to follow their regulations that have since been modified to eliminate repetition.
- DCEC cooperated in finally securing the Federal listing of the Hines Emerald Dragonfly as an endangered species along with a similar State listing.
- DCEC cooperated in the effort to secure a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the Sister Bay Marina expansion project. A scale model was required and modifications were made to the proposal as a result of the contested case hearing.



Fran Hamerstrom

- The first DCEC sponsored presentation by Frances Hamerstrom, central Wisconsin avian researcher, took place at the Liberty Grove Town Hall to a large audience. Her presentation was entitled *Wisconsin Birds of Prey* and involved some of her student researchers.

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- Dr. Frances Hamerstrom (The Bird Lady) spoke at the DCEC summer program to a full house at the Door County Auditorium in Fish Creek. This was the second appearance of Dr. Hamerstrom. This presentation was entitled “The Hunting Peoples of the Rainforest.”

- DCEC cooperated with objectors in the Northport Breakwater project expansion for the WI Ferry Dock. The contested case hearing was lost, but the ramifications as predicted were there;

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annual dredging was needed to control littoral drift sand.

- DCEC began Environmental Citizen of the Year award presentations at the summer program, with 97-year-old Estelle Rondeau, the first recipient, for her battle to save Cave Point Drive ecology.
- DCEC assembled the unique Zimmerman Ecological Maps of Door County, now available for public display on the DCEC website.

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- DCEC was the primary force along with the owner in the effort to halt the destruction of the Delwiche Pineries in Southern Door with the plans for the Highway 57 expansion. DCEC argued that the four-lane plans were an unneeded duplication of Highway 42.
- DCEC participated in the lengthy Contested Case Hearing to limit expansion of the Alibi Dock in Fish Creek. The result was fifteen conditions imposed on the development. This was a lengthy cooperative effort with the Gibraltar Preservation Council.

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- DCEC was involved as co-litigant in the battle to preserve the former Nor-Ski-Ridge property as a relatively pristine area. Plans for a huge development complex were challenged in the local zoning process, appealed to Circuit Court and District Court, and finally petitioned for hearing by the State Supreme Court. A large number of ski hill proponents testified in support of having a place to ski.
- The plans were modified and scaled down from the original huge buildings to duplexes, with a more acceptable impact. One of the faults of the County regulatory procedures became evident when it was revealed that duplexes are allowed in over-the-counter permits. The State Court declined our petition for review and the project was completed at the former ski hill.

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- DCEC was engaged in litigation to bring about effective zoning and enforcement in Door County. The suit against the County was to force adherence to State Statutes for subdivisions and to establish the proper recording and definition of these same subdivisions. DCEC was involved in promoting proper land use and expedient zoning in the other townships of Southern Door with limited success.
- The final program in the Sustainable Agriculture Series featured Ed Minihan, an authority on *development right* options from the Town of Dunn near Madison. After the presentation, the opposition began working immediately in Liberty Grove to cause the *development right* proposals to be voted down in a referendum in that Township.

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- DCEC began a focused effort to secure regulation and supervision of holding tanks as a method of choice for wastewater treatment in Door County. Sanitation Department personnel from Sauk County gave presentations at our summer program, outlining the methodology used in their County to control holding tank use.
- The DCEC Board gave approval to begin an ultimate ban on holding tanks in the County.
- Stephen John (wastewater expert from Illinois) was contracted to do the necessary research and development of a manual describing the long-range effect of the use of holding tanks and the detrimental effect on the entire County infrastructure.

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- The summer program and a follow-up to the Sustainable Agriculture Series for the year were dedicated to problems associated with population growth and its effect on quality of life and resource protection in the County. Dramatic population explosion was the pending disaster shown in the PowerPoint topic presented by Doug Lafollette.
- DCEC was represented at the Madison anniversary of Aldo Leopold’s death in 1949 at the Monona Terrace facility, the tour of the International Crane Foundation, and the Leopold Shack.

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- The Stephen John wastewater draft report was made available and copies were distributed to all counties in Wisconsin and officials at State, Federal, and local levels.
- Nina Leopold Bradley (eldest daughter of Aldo Leopold) was the highlight of the DCDC summer program with a family legacy presentation on the anniversary of Aldo Leopold’s untimely death. Her slide presentation was entitled *A Daughter Remembers* and drew a full house.
- DCEC began presenting information on created wetland systems for homeowners as an option to mound systems. David Flowers, professional engineer of Cedarburg, was the leading authority on created wetlands and worked with DCEC to plan promotion of these new systems.



Nina Leopold Bradley

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- DCEC began the focus on phosphorus as the nutrient responsible for the “green stuff” algae on our beaches with information that *Cladophora* is the plant primarily responsible.
- DCEC began a campaign, with assistance from *Alliance for the Great Lakes*, to promote and urge support of the Charter Annex (precursor to the Great Lakes Compact governing water diversions from our Great Lakes).
- Cheryl Mendoza of the Alliance urged support of the Annex at our summer program.
- DCEC maintained a position in support of an alternate shorter route as Wisconsin DOT revealed new plans for Highway 57 that created a four-lane route with high impact to the town of Union and the entire route in Door County.

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- The Ahnapee River Watershed Alliance, made up of citizens from the entire river watershed area, began through the cooperative efforts of DCEC, John Slaby, and Patrick Robinson. The goal was to protect and maintain the integrity of the Southern Door/Kewaunee County watershed through stewardship efforts.
- DCEC was engaged in publicly calling attention to the nutrient releases of municipal sewage systems that are operating under State and Federal requirements. This will be an ongoing effort to eventually lower the requirements for discharge to zero. Municipal wastewater must eventually be discharged into natural filtration areas rather than surface waters.

- Stephen John’s final wastewater contribution was a manual *Homeowners Wastewater Systems*, to be given to the public as an aid in making proper wastewater decisions. The manual is available at the County Sanitarian’s office.

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- DCEC was engaged in promoting phosphorus control through proper disposal of animal waste, preventing excessive farm run-off, and municipal sewage treatment evaluation.
- DCEC created awareness of nutrient levels and oxygen depletion in Green Bay waters as a direct result of upstream and Fox River flows and their impact on Door County, with the nutrients contributing to the “green stuff” problem.
- The summer program speaker, Vicky Harris of UWGB Seagrant Institute, addressed this problem with a detailed explanation of the processes involved in locating the nutrient sources.

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- DCEC was involved in cooperative litigation to force Wisconsin Public Service to remove the mercury discharges from the Pulliam Generating Plant in Green Bay. That facility has been out of compliance with State and Federal regulation every quarter since 1999. The resultant court decision ordered compliance with the regulations.
- Endangered Hines Emerald Dragonfly habitat survey work proceeded as a result of cooperative litigation with the *Center for Biological Diversity* and the *Natural Resources Defense Council*, both national groups that have been involved in habitat protection for the Hines Emerald Dragonfly.
- Dr. Bud Harris, UW-Green Bay (retired) gave a summer program presentation on municipal wastewater contribution to the algae/nutrient problem, addressing the impact of constant discharge into our waters.

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- DCEC established a dedicated website with valuable information for public use, including the Zimmerman Environmental Maps and many other documents available for download.
- DCEC was engaged in a cooperative effort with the Door County Land Trust to conduct a comparison study of land uses and resultant costs. Dr. Mary Edwards of UI-Urbana completed the study and the revealing results were given to all town officials and made available to the public. The study is available on the DCEC website, <https://www.dcec-wi.org/publications>.
- DCEC began promotion of wind energy through the *Renewable Energy Task Force* with meetings at Maplewood and other locations. The new independent organization *Community Wind Energy* was formed.
- The summer program on the entire invasive problem featured several presenters addressing aquatic and terrestrial invasives, including Pat Roberson, Bob Bultman, and DNR’s Chris Pagel.

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- The Emerald Ash borer, enemy of native ash trees, was getting close to Door County, and Linda Williams, DNR forester, spoke at our seminar, giving pointers to help keep these invasives away.
- DCEC, along with other conservation groups and citizens has opposed the request for horse trails to be established in the pristine Door Bluff County Park. This proposal would destroy many of the protected plants and the wilderness concept of that remote parkland. After

evaluation and study of the features, the county declared the park should remain in a natural state with no improvements.

- A grant was awarded from *Focus on Energy* to the *Community Wind Energy (CWE)* subgroup of our *Renewable Energy Task Force*.
- DCEC supported changes to NR 243 that would tighten the rules governing animal waste spreading. The new concerns over mega-farm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) prompted a Crossroads seminar with Russ Tooley of Centerville Cares telling of their local battles with a mega-farm operator near Cleveland, Wisconsin.



Emerald Ash Borer trails Photo by Paul Leline

- DCEC began a series of seven public summer seminars on subjects relative to environmental issues at Crossroads at Big Creek, with Virge Temme, green building architect, and other presenters.
- The summer program was dedicated to *Great Lakes Water Wars*, with the cooperation of *Alliance for the Great Lakes* presenter, France Canonizado.
- The *Renewable Energy Task Force* sponsored several events and tours promoting green building and energy conservation.
- DCEC sponsored a showing of *An Inconvenient Truth*, the Al Gore documentary on global warming, at Crossroads.

- Public seminars at Big Creek on energy conservation, water quality maintenance, and created wetlands for homeowner wastewater disposal continued.
- Annual summer public program with Peter Annin, former Newsweek reporter and author of *The Great Lakes Water Wars* spoke to a full house in Baileys Harbor.
- DCEC began working with officials and installers to expedite the inspection/correction process for failed wastewater systems.
- Organizations involved with DCEC in the Hines Emerald Dragonfly habitat again proceeded with litigation to correct the areas left out of designation, including both segments of the Hiawatha National Forest in Upper Michigan.
- DCEC challenged the DNR removal of a major portion of natural tree growth in Potawatami State Park to construct a large group motor home camping facility. The location of similar private campgrounds within 1/4 mile was ignored, and the project was completed.

- DCEC purchased exclusive rights for *A Sense of Wonder*, the story of the last years of Rachel

Carson's life. Carson was the author of *Silent Spring*, the book that touched off environmental concern over the excessive pesticide and herbicide use in the world. This video was shown in May at Crossroads at Big Creek to a full house and again in August at the Auditorium in Fish Creek.

- The DCEC annual summer program in August featured canoeist Valerie Fons, who traveled by canoe from the Arctic Ocean in Canada to Cape Horn in southern Chile and holds several long-distance canoe records.
- DCEC reinforced its position in opposition to the proposed harbor project planned for Schauer Town Park south of Jacksonport. The studies conducted by the DNR and Lawrence University bear out the disastrous effect that dredging has on shallow spawning areas and natural habitat. The shallow, rocky lake bed would necessitate dredging for several hundred yards to create a useable channel to a nonexistent harbor.
- Designed, produced, and printed, the *Created Wetland System for Homeowners* brochure will be available to installers and the public. This brochure explains the benefits of created wetland systems as opposed to mounds presently used to replace failed systems.
- The DCEC Water Committee has been working on plans to begin a specific well-water testing program for the Town of Liberty Grove, with UW-Stevens Point as a cooperative partner in the effort to establish base-line data utilizing the results.



Jerry Apps



Dr. Phil Moy

- 147 acres in Door County including the Kayes Creek watershed and the Kellner Fen, were added to the critical habitat for the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly.
- A full house in Baileys Harbor enjoyed a program by popular author Jerry Apps as he told stories of rural life in Wisconsin.
- Asian Carp specialist Dr. Phil Moy explained the dangers of the invasive species in our waterways and the threat to the Great Lakes in another seminar DCEC sponsored.
- DCEC brought in Wisconsin's leading water geologist Dr. Ken Bradbury for a program entitled *Exploring Underground Door County*.



*Kevin Masarik
Courtesy UW-Stevens Point*

- DCEC started a 6-year, low cost, voluntary home owners well testing program with Kevin Masarik of UW-Stevens Point with follow-up public presentations of

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results of tests covering most of the County. The tests identified some problem areas of e-coli, nitrates, and heavy metals contamination throughout the County.

- DCEC hosted public programs featuring speakers such as: Ed Garvey on environmental activism, John Peck from the Family Farm Defenders explaining the pressures on small farmers, and Dr. Roger Kuhns with examples of urban green spaces throughout the country.

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- Dr. David Kirby, author of *Animal Factory*, gave a thorough presentation of CAFOs at the summer program.
- DCEC showed the powerful film *The Last Mountain*, that told the story of the impact of mountain top removal by the coal industry in West Virginia.
- Money was donated for the Gibraltar school greenhouse.
- A letter of support was sent for the creation of the Liberty Grove Heritage Roads Program.

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- DCEC seminars included Andrew Werthmann, speaking on antibiotics increasing in our groundwater, and Professor George Stone on glacial ice loss, global warming, and its effects on The Great Lakes.
- DCEC published the *Quick Response Action* form in their newsletter and online. It regards runoff and spill incidents at the DNR
- DCEC, co-sponsoring with Door Property Owners, brought renowned *Safelawn* specialist Paul Tukey to promote chemical-free lawncare and the importance of healthy soils.

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- Gordon Stevenson, former DNR runoff specialist, was featured at the summer program, entitled *Is the Green Bay Dead Zone Growing?*, about farm nutrient runoff in our waterways and the bay of Green Bay.
- DCEC showed the important movie, *The Price of Sand*, that told the story of the devastating effects of frack-sand mining in central and western Wisconsin.
- The DCEC newsletter featured stories about the antibiotic misuse on factory farms and how center-pivot liquid manure aerial spraying systems endanger neighbors for miles around.
- As the Emerald Ash Borer continues its spread into the County, DCEC promoted nature taking its own course as opposed to clear cutting all of the Ash trees.

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- Longtime Executive Director Jerry Viste retired after serving DCEC for 35 years. Jerry left an indelible mark on our organization and we will be forever grateful for his guidance.
- Lynn and Nancy Utesch, organic farmers in Kewaunee County, presented a program called *Manure: Nutrient or Pollutant*, discussing the difficulties and problems associated with manure application. They were honored as Environmental Citizens of the Year by DCEC for advocating for protection of the aquifer and surface water from

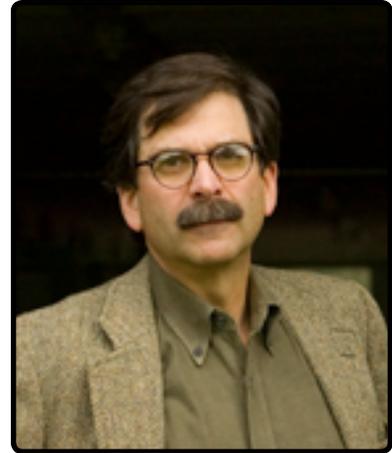


Lynn and Nancy Utesch

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manure pollution.

- Attorney Sarah Williams from Midwest Environmental Advocates spoke to a large crowd to explain The Public Trust Doctrine in the Wisconsin Constitution and how it relates to the proposed west side hotel in Sturgeon Bay.
- Mark Kastel from the Cornucopia Institute presented a program with the self-explanatory title, *Live Healthy-Eat Healthy*.
- Marc Smith of the National Wildlife Federation and George Meyer, former DNR Secretary and present Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, address the dangers involved in a potential Asian Carp invasion in the Great Lakes and discussed ways to prevent this invasion.
- DCEC opposed the Camp Zion Conditional Use Permit request to expand their compound in Ellison Bay. The County denied their request.



Mark Kastel

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- DCEC teamed with the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society to bring the self-entitled “Dark Ranger” Kevin Poe who promoted the Dark Skies initiative that tries to limit light pollution and explained its effects on wildlife and ecosystems.
- Kimberlee Wright, the Executive Director of Midwest Environmental Advocates, a non-profit environmental law center in Madison, Wisconsin, that works for healthy water, air, land and government, addressed the DCEC audience in a program called Wisconsin’s Clean Water Future.
- Renowned Hydrology Professor Maureen Muldoon led a seminar explaining why some areas are more vulnerable to contamination in NE Wisconsin’s Karst regions.
- DCEC published their position paper on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) expansion in our newsletter.



Kevin Poe, Dark Ranger



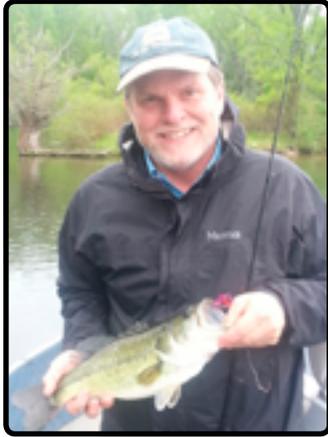
Kimberlee Wright



*Professor Maureen Muldoon
Courtesy UW-Oshkosh*



*Cameron Davis
Courtesy EPA*



Todd Ambs



Bob Martini



Jessica Culpepper

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- The featured speaker for the summer program was renowned water resource expert Cameron Davis who spoke on *The Great Lakes in a Time of Hyper-Change*.
- DCEC began its ongoing involvement in opposition to the proposed Back 40 open-pit sulfide mine near the Menominee River.
- Door Property Owners and DCEC merged to combine forces to preserve Door County’s natural resources.
- DCEC provided day-long Trolley Tours to the public stopping at several local small farms to promote local sustainable agriculture.



Opposition to the Back 40 Mine

It’s Our Water was the theme for the year and the speakers reflected on that theme:

- Todd Ambs, campaign director of Healing our Waters, Great Lakes Coalition, spoke on *Government Water Policy*.
- Robert Martini, retired Statewide Rivers Protection Coordinator for the WDNR, spoke on water management solutions for healthy water.
- Jessica Culpepper, Food Safety and Health attorney at Public Justice spoke on solutions for ground-water contamination and how to prevent it in the first place.
- Door County Kayak Tours and the Door County Environmental Council launched a flotilla of colorful kayaks on the bay of Green Bay in downtown Sturgeon Bay to raise awareness of the dangers of the proposed Back 40 Mine in Stephenson, Michigan.
- In the newsletter DCEC published colorful maps identifying the impaired water, high-cap wells, and monitoring sites in the bay of Green Bay.
- The DCEC adopted a one-mile stretch of Highway 42 in Egg Harbor from County E to County EE for cleanup as a member-engaging activity. Cleanups take place in the spring and fall.

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Highway 42 cleanup

- DCEC supported the Mariner Park Concept Plan in Gills Rock that reflects the public response to a survey that protects the land as a public park for the people.
- DCEC opposed the County's plan to drawdown the Forestville Millpond. DCEC feels that to reduce the contaminants flowing from upstream, a comprehensive watershed clean-up program must be employed.
- The September newsletter cover story questioning tourism capacity in Door County drew more responses in support than any other story we printed.
- Dr. Mark Borchardt presented a program titled *Cows, People, and Groundwater Quality* which once again drew attention to our endangered water supply.



Dr. Mark Borchardt

The COVID-19 pandemic prevented any in-person seminars, but DCEC was busy behind the scenes:

- DCEC hired UW-Green Bay to study phosphorus levels in the Ahnapee River and they began a water-testing program.
- DCEC created a position statement in opposition to the proposed RV campground in the Quarry area north of Sturgeon Bay.
- DCEC testified that for all future CAFO expansion permits, additional groundwater monitoring wells be required before expansion can occur.
- DCEC highlighted the environmentally sensitive areas in Door County that are being threatened by proposed non-metallic mines with emphasis on protecting the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly habitat.



Ahnapee River testing Photo by Kelly Deuerling

In the years to come, and with your help, The Door County Environmental Council will continue to help preserve, protect, and enhance the air, land, and water of Door County for its inhabitants of today and tomorrow.

DCEC Leadership

PRESIDENT: Mike Bahrke, Ellison Bay
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Steve Eatough, Sister Bay
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: William Hoag, Ephraim
SECRETARY: Paul Leline, Baileys Harbor
TREASURER: Eileen Andera, Sturgeon Bay

DIRECTORS:

Dorothy Anderson, Liberty Grove
Solomon Lindenberg, Sister Bay
Emeil Marks, Sister Bay
Renee McAllister, Sturgeon Bay

HONORARY DIRECTORS:

Tony Haswell
James Ingwersen
Flora Langlois
Bob Merline
Carol Sills
Karen Wilson
Libby Zimmerman

BOOKKEEPER: BayLake Bookkeeping, Sturgeon Bay
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR:
Kaethe Gutierrez, Sturgeon Bay

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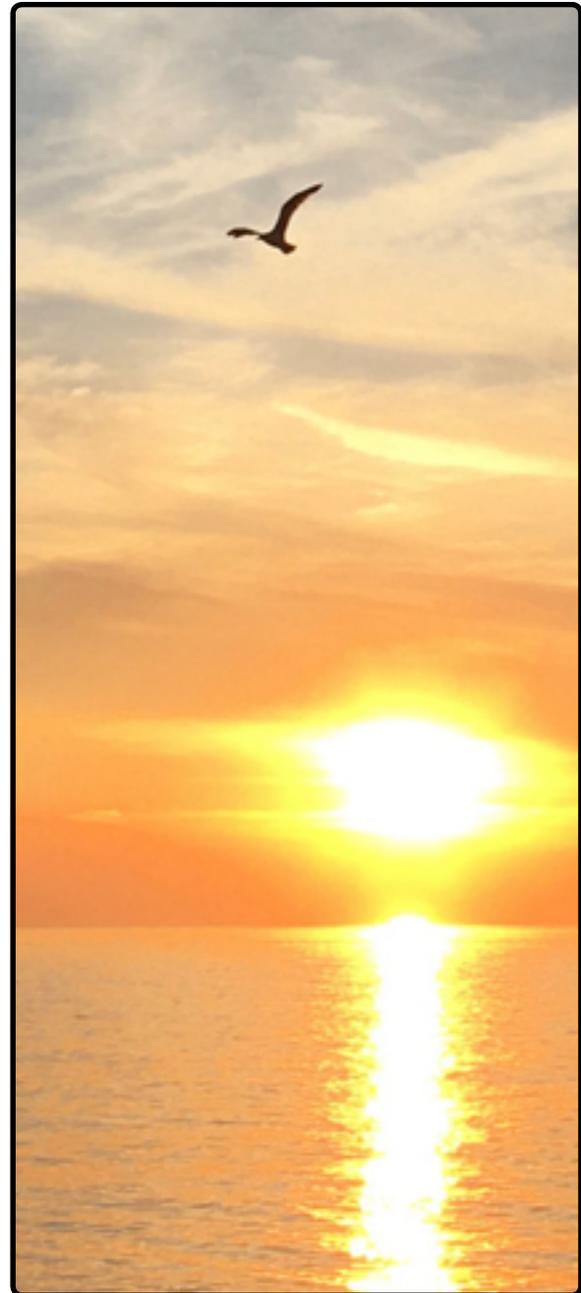
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Summer sunset

Photo by Mike Bahrke

DCEC MEMBERSHIP FORM -- JOIN TODAY!!

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student/Limited | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Other |

Name (s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____
Phone (____) _____ Door County voter? Yes No

Please mail with payment to: DCEC, P.O. Box 114, Fish Creek, WI 54212



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