

Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership WI DNR River Planning Grant RP-187-10

Cultivating Stewardship in the Manty River System

Final Report

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership received funding to cultivate stewardship through a series of seminars, workshops, and paint-outs. Seminars focused on timely topics such as stream and woodland restoration, Climate Change, Emerald Ash Borer, invasive species, and the Niagara Escarpment.

What follows is an outline with specific event descriptions and associated information. Panelists, artists, and working volunteers are named.

Pine Creek Restoration Initiative

Team and Events Planning

- July 14, 2009 - Chilton
- July 30, 2009 - Appleton
- September 1, 2009 - Chilton
- September 24, 2009 – Chilton, New Holstein, Kiel
- October 6, 2009 – Chilton, Manitowoc
- November 19, 2009 – Chilton
- April 14, 2010 – Hayton

Restoration of Pine Creek: Panel Discussion #1

- Jim Baumann, Chris Harvey, Eugene McLeod, and Chris Miller
- October 21, 2009

Restoration of Pine Creek Woodlands: Panel Discussion #2

- Frank Kirschling, Dick Nikolai, Greg Hines, Dian Schauer, Chris Miller
- January 21, 2010

Hayton Pond Paint-Out: Engage with Water's Edge Artists

- Bonnita Budysz, Jason Prigge, Sharon Delvoye, Cynthia Tumpauch, Mary Anderson, Sandra Murzyn, Phyllis Verheyen
- June 5, 2010

TRC Field Day: Engagement with staff of TRC Environmental Solutions

- Full complement of TRC Staff and Management
- July 13, 2010

Hayton Pond Art Exhibit

- Phyllis Verhyen, Maggie Putin, Mary Anderson, Bonnita Budysz
- July 22, 2010

Branch River Membership Engagements

Team and Events Planning

- September 21, 2009 – Taus
- October 6, 2009 – Manitowoc
- October 19, 2009 – Taus
- April 19, 2010 - Taus

Invasive Species Mapping – Fall River Walk

- Terry Huske, Wayne Huske, Tom Ward, Alan Pleuss, Graham Hammes, Carol Dodge, Roland Olm, Jim Muench
- October 10, 2009

Invasive Species Mapping – Winter River Walk

- Jim Knicklebine, Tom Ward, Barb Panosh, Jim Hill, Jeff Hill, Joe Racinski, Paula Ward, Paul Ingrisich, Sylvia Ingrisich, Allen Klingerisea, Dave Lang, John Meyer
- February 21, 2010

Dodge Preserve Fall Paint-Out

- Bonnita Budysz, Russ Schwindt, Jason Prigge, Sandra Murzyn, Heidi Dalberg, Mary Anderson, Amy Graff, Rob Wasmund, Betsy Spry, Colette Blum-Meister, Deke Palecek, Sally Berner, Pam Clausen
- November 7, 2009

Dodge Preserve Spring Paint-Out

- Russ Schwindt, Phyllis Verhyen, Mary Anderson, Rob Wasmund, Jeff Young, Cynthia Tumpack
- May 1, 2010

Seminar #1 – Emerald Ash Borer

- Sue Crowley, Greg Hines
- February 18, 2010

Membership Banquet - Niagara Escarpment

- Bob Bultman
- March 18, 2010

Seminar #2 – Climate Change

- Tom Ward, Jim Kettler
- August 9, 2010

The follow is a series of articles that were either printed in the LNRP newsletter or the Friends of the Branch River Newsletter outlining the events funded by the River Planning Grant. All events and activities are designed to further cultivate a stewardship ethic.

River Walk on the Branch River

The Friends of the Branch River and the Lake Shore Natural Resource Partnership sponsored a "Walk the Branch River" on Saturday October 10, from 9 am to 1 pm. This was an opportunity to enjoy the river, fall colors and map invasive species. We had two groups walk two stretches of the river in the Town of Franklin.

We began the morning with a brief presentation on the top ten invasive species of Manitowoc County. Teams were then equipped with maps and GPS units, and transported to stretches of the Branch River.



We were looking for invasive species such as; phragmites, purple Loosestrife, Eurasian water milfoil, buck thorn, wild parsnip, teasel, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, all of which are threatening our riverine habitats.

What we found were very few invasive species on the two segments we surveyed! We plan to do several more mapping exercises in the next few months. Once these sites are located and mapped, landowners will be contacted and notified with methods to control and prevent further spread of these invasive species.

Water's Edge Artists Paint-Out Sponsored by Friends of the Branch

**Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 a.m.
until 1:00 p.m.**

**Michael J. Dodge Nature Preserve on the
Branch River near Reifs Mills, north of
Whitelaw in Manitowoc County.**



Carol Dodge & her husband Rollie Olm beautifully manage this 80 acre preserve, featuring many ponds, bird habitat areas, vistas, wooded and meadow areas, rustic cabin;

all framed by the Branch River. The public enjoyed the day with the Water's Edge Artists, an alliance of plein air artists dedicated to the conservation and protection of water resources in the Lakeshore Basin. Everyone got a chance to see the painters in action, ask questions, and learn to appreciate their stewardship ethic.

The Friends of the Branch provided a free lunch for the artists and registered guests. A horse drawn wagon transported viewers to the artist's paint sites.

For the dates and locations of future paint-outs check the LNRP website at www.lnrp.org

Landowner Input Sought for Pine Creek Improvements

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) is inviting area residents living near the Pine Creek Watershed to discuss ways to further improve the ecosystem, according to Executive Director Jim Kettler. The TRC Environmental Corporation has been removing PCB contaminated soil and sediment for the last year to make the water and lowland areas safe once again for people, fish and wildlife.

“We would like to restore Pine and Jordan Creeks and the surrounding lowlands to a better condition than existed before they were contaminated” Kettler said. “We hope to expand on the current restoration by working together on the rivers’ cleanup. Restoring the natural habitat and installing conservation practices on land adjoining these rivers can enhance our community’s future. We value this opportunity to work with residents to take this effort to the next level, as a cooperative venture and need their input, ideas and assistance.”



Restoration Underway on Pine Creek

This interactive meeting will be held at St. Martin’s Heritage Park on Wednesday, October 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, followed by a free catered lunch. Heritage Park is located just south of Hwy 151 on County Trunk T. Natural resource professionals from TRC Environmental Corporation, the Department of Natural Resources, Calumet County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Natural Resource Conservation Service will participate in this event.

PCB Remediation on Pine Creek – Calumet County

A fish-consumption advisory has been posted for Pine Creek since 1991 due to PCBs. The remediation plans for the project incorporate the restoration of the creek and adjoining floodplain to near pre-existing conditions, using state of the art methods, including biodegradable coir block bank reconstruction and the installation of large woody debris.

TRC Environmental Solutions was awarded the work in December 2004 from the Tecumseh Company. Removal of PCBs required extensive overbank soil and sediment removal. In places, the entire stream channel is being reconstructed.

LNRP received a DNR River Planning grant in July 2009 to assess landowner interest in developing complementary restoration work to the work being completed by TRC. To date, two panel discussions have been held (Oct 21, 2009 and Jan 21, 2010). The first provided historical background and the context of the PCB remediation. However, both panels spoke to best management practices associated with stream, wetland, and woodland restoration that are available.

Natural resource professionals from TRC Environmental Corporation, the Department of Natural Resources, Calumet County Land and Water Conservation Department and Planning Departments, Glacierland RC&D, and Natural Resource Conservation Service have participated in these events.

Winter River Walk on the Branch River

On Sunday February 21, the **Friends of the Branch River** and the **Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership** sponsored a second "Walk on the Branch River" which began with a program to identify the 10 most threatening invasive species in Manitowoc County. Following a presentation by Jim Knickelbine, director of the Woodland Dunes Nature Center, the group split into two to walk stretches of the Branch River and map the invasive species identifiable during the winter.

Unlike last October when volunteers walked the frigid waters of the river in waders, this time they could walk easily on the frozen ice. Snowmobiles traveling down the Branch River channel created a sidewalk of compacted snow for the hikers. One group started at the river crossing on Hillcrest Road heading south, and a second group started at the Hwy T Bridge and walked north, meeting in the middle at the Dodge Preserve.



The hike was scheduled for February when weather is generally more comfortable and river ice strongest prior to the March thaws. However this year's early spring caused the upper reaches of the Branch River to open early from Brown County to Hwy J. Fortunately, the lower reaches remained ice covered with small stretches of open water.

The winter walk provided a view of the river few people can experience unless canoeing during high water periods. The snow provided a map of wildlife tracks including mink, deer, turkey, raccoon and rabbits. The river corridor, protected by a canopy of cedar and hardwoods, provided a break from the wind swept fields as well as a cozy climate wildlife enjoy during the long winter months.



Our plan was to map invasive species threatening these riparian habitats. Once we've located and mapped sites of invasive species, landowners can be contacted or notified with methods to control and prevent further spread of these invasive species.

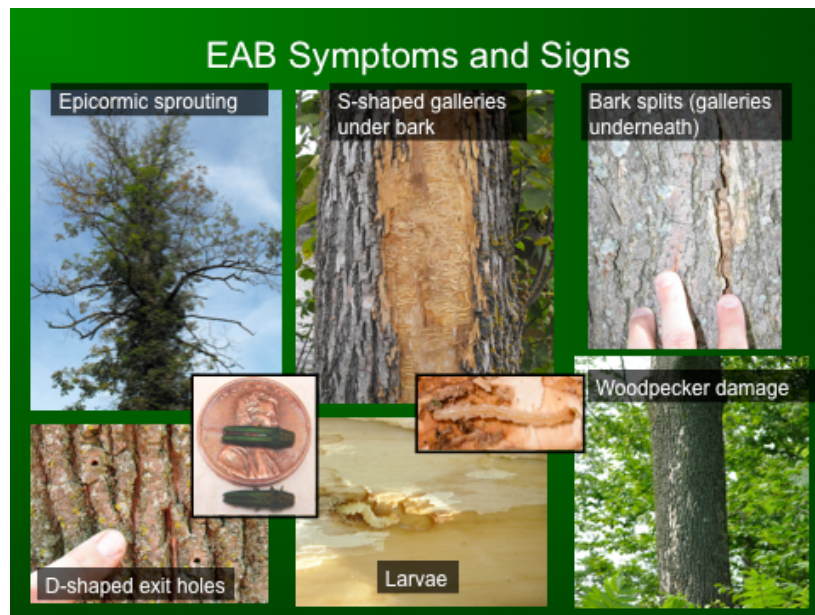
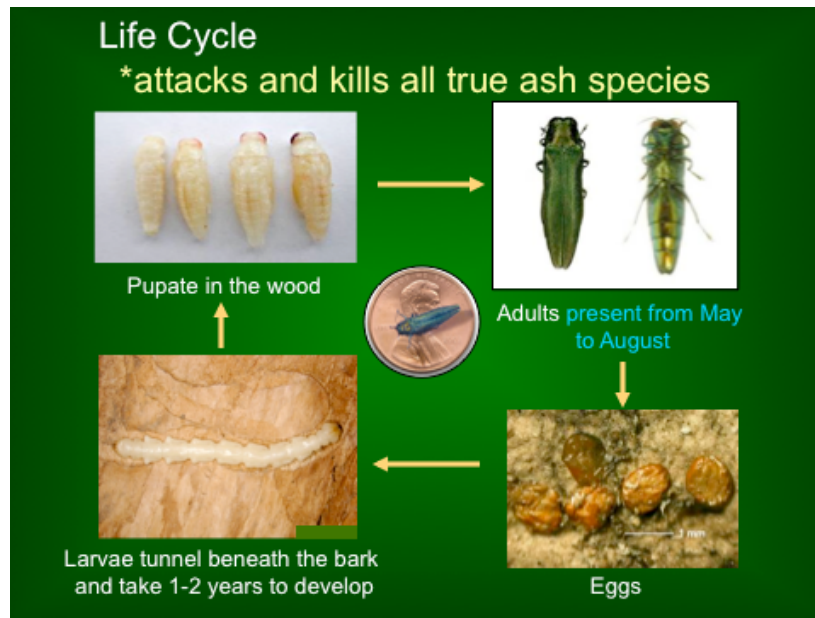
The volunteers did identify major infestations of Japanese Honeysuckle colonizing the flood plain of the Branch River. Honeysuckle, an invasive species that escaped from lawns and urban landscapes, was

planted for its intense flowering and resulting berry production. Birds feasting on the berries have now spread the invasive shrub throughout our woodlots, shading out native trees and shrubs and preventing reforestation.

The good news: we found neither the tall *Phragmites* or Giant Reed grass found along our road right-of-ways nor the dreaded Glossy Buckthorn infiltrating many woodlots in the county.

Seminar on Emerald Ash Borer

In February, The Friends of the Branch River and the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership hosted a community discussion on the potential impact of the Emerald Ash Borer on Northeast Wisconsin woodlands. Sue Crowley, from the DNR led the discussion giving an overview of the biology and potential impact.



Greg Hines, Executive Director of the Glacierland RC&D joined in with some demonstration materials, discussed the signs of infestations, and what you can do to help stop the spread. Greg warned that it is only a matter of time before the infestation hits the Lakeshore Basin. Already, an infestation in Newburg has forced the DNR to quarantine most of the counties in southeast Wisconsin. An Emerald Ash Borer was also found in Brown County.

The discussion moved to proactively managing your woodlots. Sue is very willing to work with landowners to survey their woodlots and offer recommendations. However, it is clear that planting for diversity will be fundamental to being successful.

Sue recommended that outside of the quarantined counties, limit ash to less than 10% of a new planting. All landowners should be aware of the high risk that ash in a new planting will be killed before maturity. If ash component represents >10% regeneration, consider reducing the ash component during release and thinning operations, favoring non-ash species while retaining the most vigorous ash stems.

Landowners are encouraged to contact Sue Crowley with any questions they may have and even arrange for a site visit. Sue can be contacted out of the DNR Mishicot Office at 920-755-4984.

Membership Banquet Celebrates 11 years of the Friends of the Branch River

FOBR held its 11th annual membership banquet in March gathering both old and new members to Gill's in Whitelaw. After a good meal of chicken, fish, and all the fixings Terry Huske made the call for members to volunteer to become organizational officers.

Jim Kettler, Executive Director of the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership spoke of the partnership with FOBR and the willingness of LNRP to continue to partner on programming and other events in the Branch River watershed.

Bob Bultman – Niagara Escarpment Resource Network – was the guest speaker for the night and presented:



“The Niagara Escarpment – Landscape of International Significance”

2010 is Wisconsin's Year of the Niagara Escarpment and Bob shared his perspectives on the ecological and cultural importance of the Niagara Escarpment as well as some of the most important management challenges.

In Wisconsin, the Niagara Escarpment spans a distance of over 230 miles and reaches from Waukesha County to the Door County Peninsula. It runs through the counties of Door, Kewaunee, Brown, Manitowoc, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Dodge and Waukesha. Locally, it is often known as and referred to simply as “the Ledge.” The Ledge is a resource that is constantly in flux, particularly with respect to attitudes about land use and conservation. While it is true that the Niagara Escarpment is a globally significant

ecological resource, it is also a highly sought after resource in terms of building lots and building construction materials (cut stone, gravel, etc.).

For more information on the Niagara Escarpment and for a calendar of events, check the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network website at www.escarpmentnetwork.org.

Paint-Out at the Dodge Preserve

Saturday, May 1st from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (rain or shine) starting with a Spring Bird Walk at 7:30 a.m. with Charlie Geiger

Michael J. Dodge Nature Preserve, 11006 Reifs Mills Lane, on the Branch River, north of Whitelaw in Manitowoc County.

The Friends of the Branch River (FOBR) and the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) are hosting a second paint-out at the Dodge Preserve. Carol Dodge & her husband Rollie Olm manage the property located on the Branch River.



The **Water's Edge Artists** group has developed an annual Lakeshore Waterways Calendar and Waterways Gallery that showcases local artists paintings. These paintings raise appreciation for the special natural areas in the LNRP service area. Accompanying each calendar month's painting is a quote that inspires readers to be stewards of these special places and their own local natural areas.

Come join us and enjoy the many ponds, bird habitat areas, vistas, wooded and meadow areas. You'll get a chance to see the painters in action, ask questions, and learn to appreciate their stewardship ethic. You can also bring your fishing pole and take advantage of the first day of fishing with this unique access to the Branch River.

The FOBR and LNRP will provide a free lunch for the artists and guests.

A painting of the Branch River by Pam Clausen was given as a Door Prize at the 2010 FOBR Membership Banquet. Proceeds from the sales of the paintings are used directly by LNRP in their water protection programming. Members are encouraged to consider a purchase of a painting to help LNRP continue programming on protecting and conserving our water resources.

For the dates and locations of future paint-outs check the LNRP website at www.lnrp.org

Artists Paint Pieces of Local History and Share With Community

The first Saturday of June, if you were headed west from Manitowoc on Hwy 151 and drove through the unincorporated village of Hayton, you may have noticed several artists with easels surrounding the Hayton Pond on Pine Creek just a few miles east of Chilton. These Water's Edge Artists were capturing this historical site on canvas in oils and pastels at one of their monthly paint-outs.



The historic bridge at Hayton

Later that same day, a few dozen local and area residents gathered at the Charlestown Town Hall to meet with the artists and one another, sharing stories of their youth. LNRP Board of Directors Don Schwobe and Rock Anderson recalled spending countless hours canoeing, fishing, and dining at the restaurant that now houses TRC Solutions staff and is owned by Tecumseh. TRC is in the process of reclaiming the waterways and lands where PCBs were deposited for decades by Tecumseh (*see related article about the TRC Field Day in this issue*).



Water's Edge Artists Mary Rypel Anderson, founder Bonnita Budysz, Phyllis Verhyen and Maggie Putin at the recent Hayton Pond Paintings Show at Terra Verde Coffeeshouse.

These artists created works of spectacular beauty honoring Pine Creek, Hayton Pond and the structurally sound stone bridge hand-built in the mid-1800s. Then, on July 22, they presented 14 of these collectible works of art at a show at Terra Verde Coffeeshouse in Chilton. Again, local residents came to peruse their paintings in an atmosphere of celebration and camaraderie.

Participating artists included Mary Rypel Anderson, Bonnita Budysz, Sharon Delvoe, Betsy Bultman, Cindy Tumpach and Phyllis Verhyen. LNRP's Jim Kettler commented, "We hope by tying these paint-outs to critical restoration areas to expand awareness of -- and interest in -- these important resources. Through our DNR River Planning Grant, we're engaging with the public as part of the 'We All Live on the Water' campaign. We are working on Pine Creek in Calumet County, and on Centerville Creek and Hika Bay in Manitowoc County. We're really excited to explore these educational opportunities."

Participating artists included Mary Rypel Anderson, Bonnita Budysz,

Upcoming paint-outs will take the Water's Edge Artists to Sturgeon Bay Maritime Museum and environs August 6-7, and to two separate events in September. The first over Labor Day Weekend they'll be at the Kite Festival at Neshota Beach, Two Rivers. September 10-11 they will visit High Cliff State Park (Friday) and the Fall Food & Energy Fest at Ledge View Nature Center, located just outside Chilton in Calumet County (Saturday). Both events help celebrate 2010 as the Year of the Niagara Escarpment. Concurrently you can visit an ongoing exhibit at the Weis Earth Science Museum located at the UW-Fox Valley in Menasha through November. For more information, you can go to the Water's Edge Artists website at www.lnrp.org/art. You can find the remaining scheduled paint-outs in the calendar listed at the right of this newsletter.

Pine Creek Field Day

LNRP and TRC Solutions hosted a field day at Pine Creek on July 13. The field day was designed to provide landowners and other interested members of the public current information on the work underway at the site.

TRC is responsible for completing the environmental remediation of the polychlorinated biphenyls, commonly known as PCBs, found in the channel sediments and floodplain of Pine Creek and Hayton Pond.

Current activities have consisted of cleaning up the in-channel sediment and overbank soil. The work is occurring about 4000 feet east of Honeymoon Hill Road where the contractor installed access routes and completed excavation of the site. The flow of Pine Creek is temporarily diverted in short segments to allow the dry removal of PCB-contaminated soils. The stream channel and floodplain are excavated using a backhoe. After excavation, restoration of the stream channel and floodplain are completed with backfilling, grading, stream bank reconstruction, and revegetation with native plants.

*Project Manager, Chris Harvey,
TRC Solutions, explaining activities
at the site.*

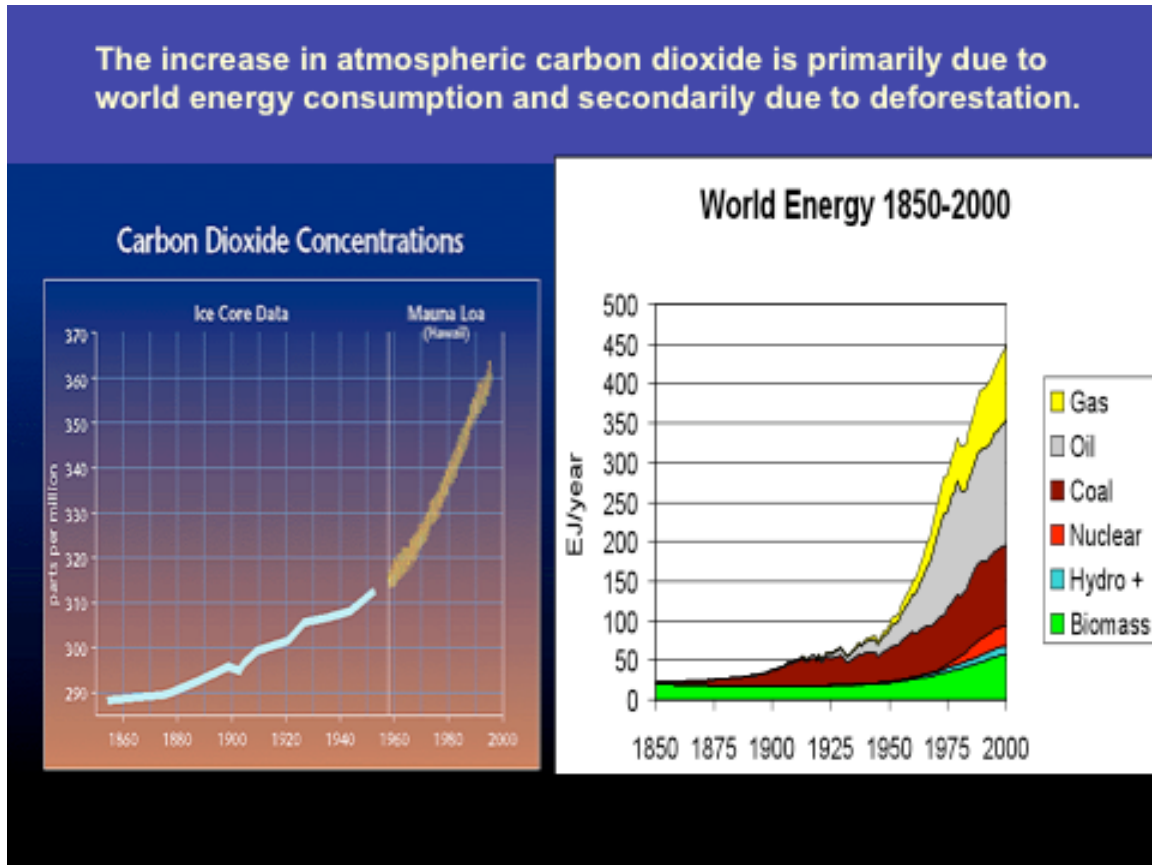


The project will continue this year and next with completion expected sometime in 2012 or 2013. All publicly available reports are available at the New Holstein Public Library.

Climate Change – Global Realities and Local Impacts

Jim Kettler, Executive Director of the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, and Tom Ward, President of the Friends of the Branch, provided a presentation on August 9 on Climate Change to members of the Friends of the Branch River.

Kettler started the presentation with a film that argued against the human influence on global warming and instead put the source of climate change on solar flares and sunspots. Although Kettler agreed with the presentation in the film, he showed how the time cycles that were being considered were 500 to 1000 years. Following the film with a power point presentation, Kettler provided a look at energy consumption and the related rise in carbon dioxide in just the last 150 years.



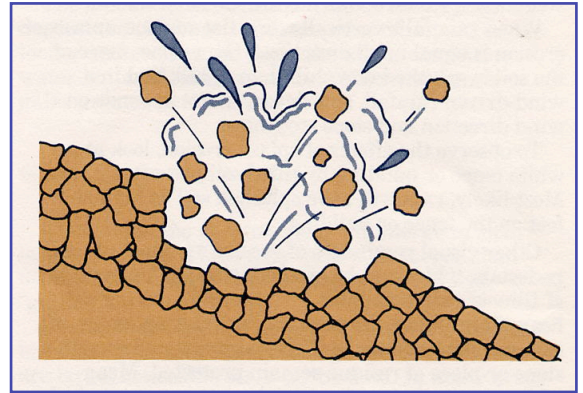
Kettler stated, “It is clear from the scientific evidence that human energy consumption is clearly linked to the rise in carbon dioxide which in turn is linked as a greenhouse gas to global climate change.” He went on to show the global realities including the increase in the severity of storms and the rapid meltdown of glaciers worldwide.

Ward followed Kettler’s presentation with the impacts locally and how a change in climate calls for a change in land management practices. Working groups of scientist are currently working in Wisconsin on developing strategies and ways that we can be better prepared to plan and address these changes as farmers, landowners and resource managers.

Climatologists predict for Wisconsin that seasonal precipitation patterns may shift, with more precipitation in the winter and less in the summer. Less rain in the summer with increased evaporation caused by higher temperatures could trigger more severe summer droughts and lower water levels. Climate data for the mid west found that storm events have increased in magnitude by as much as 46%.

Evidence in the Great Lakes region already shows that temperatures are rising especially in winter. Winters are becoming shorter and spring is coming earlier. There is significantly shorter duration of ice on inland lakes. And extreme rain events are more frequent.

Extreme rain events can have tremendous impacts on bare soils starting with raindrops striking the bare soil surface like little bombs, dislodging and splashing soil particles into the air. Raindrops strike the soil surface at about 20 miles per hour splashing soil particles up to 3 feet high in the air and up to 5 feet sideways.



Ward went on to explain what we can do to mitigate the impacts and listed the protection of stream and riparian zones as one of the most important. Buffer strips and conservation tillage are practices that are readily available. Identifying and protecting groundwater recharge areas is also an important consideration. All are part of returning to a watershed approach to management that allows us to deploy tools that model and identify critical source areas and focus treatment on critical fields or sources.



As an individual, Ward strongly suggests that we all need to “belong to a citizen group or organization, advocate for conservation, and know the political process and how to get things done.” We can also start in the home by reducing our energy consumption by better insulating, by using energy efficient appliances, and other means.

As Ward says, “It’s all about making the rights changes to maintain the quality of life we have come to know! “
