

## **Balsam Branch Partnership Land Protection Strategy Results**

The Balsam Branch Partnership Board completed the land protection strategy with input from partner organizations and members. A questionnaire was used to help prioritize characteristics of land for protection. Twelve out of 16 (75%) partner organizations returned completed questionnaires. Thirteen out of 40 (32%) member surveys were returned.

The board established an evaluation system and procedures for land protection as part of the land protection strategy. The evaluation reviews priorities in a qualitative manner. This will allow the board to consider the appropriateness of a single parcel for protection. It is unlikely that several parcels will be reviewed simultaneously.

Outreach materials about the land protection strategy are recommended to inform the public and encourage protection of land. The land protection committee should coordinate contacts with landowners of targeted properties. Nominated properties include wetlands along the Balsam Branch River between DD Kennedy and Highway 8 and properties along the river from DD Kennedy to Highway C.

### **Mapping Project Results**

Maps are useful tools to illustrate our priorities. We will focus on the characteristics that we seek to protect rather than individual properties.

- ✓ Print and laminate maps to add to our options for display.
- ✓ Develop a brochure/handout that summarizes our land protection strategy including maps and protection options.

#### Map components

##### **Map 1**

Polk County map with Balsam Branch Watershed highlighted, other watersheds indicated.

Hydrology - lakes and rivers

Wetlands > than 5 acres

##### **Map 2**

Public properties - e.g., Interstate Park, Garfield Recreation Area, DD Kennedy, etc.

Nonmotorized recreational trails

**Balsam Branch Partnership  
Land Evaluation**

**Approved  
11/27/01**

Pass/Fail

Property must be in Polk County

Check all of the characteristics that apply. Categories and characteristics are listed in order of priority. Board decisions to pursue protection of properties will be based upon a consideration of these priorities.

Unique environmental areas

- Adjacent to Balsam Branch River**
- Significant wetland areas**
- Adjacent to lakes or rivers**
- Significant wildlife value**
- Significant geologic features**
- Presence of state or federally listed plants or animals**
- Significant historical features**

Water quality

- Critical parcels for watershed protection**  
e.g., Intermittent drainageways, buffer areas, pollutant sources to be removed
- Groundwater recharge area**
- Includes floodplain**

Location/general characteristics

- Within the Balsam Branch Watershed**
- Adjacent to public land**
- Adjacent to protected private land**
- Of sufficient size so that adjacent development will not negate desirable characteristics**
- Significant scenery**
- Visible to the public from roadways, waterways, or recreation areas**
- Threatened by development pressure**
- Protection is consistent with local zoning**

Recreation

- Opportunities to create/expand public nonmotorized recreational trails**
- Opportunities to create/expand public nonmotorized recreation such as canoeing and environmental education**
- Access to property is legally binding and permanent**

## Procedures for selecting properties - approved 11/27/01

1. Landowner offers property for protection. This may result from general outreach about the BBP or targeted landowner contacts.
2. Board member sponsors nomination of property to be protected by completing evaluation form and presenting it to the board for review. Partner organizations may be called upon for assistance.  
*Discuss administrative/financial characteristics in the proposal. Who will likely partner with the BBP? Any idea of price/cost? Will this be a reasonable project to manage?*
3. Board approves or denies further investigation into property.

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4. Further discussion with landowner regarding options for land protection.  
*The BBP will facilitate land transactions by <sup>1</sup>*
  - approaching landowners with protection options (7)*
  - finding partner organization willing to hold easement or title (7)*
  - providing general public education regarding protection options (7)*
  - assisting with negotiations with landowners (7)*
  - writing grants (7)*
  - requiring management fee for conservation easements (7)*
  - contracting management of easements if feasible (6)*
  - raising funds from the public (6)*
  - holding conservation easements (4)*
  - acting as a transitional landowner (buy and then resell property) (4)*
  - holding title to property (1)*
5. Seek funding to support transaction.  
*This will likely involve grant applications, discussions with partner organizations, and fundraising.*
6. Board approval required for grant applications and major fundraising efforts.
7. Board approval required for entering into any legally binding agreements including all land transactions.

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in parenthesis indicate votes received out of seven.

# Pre-Registration By May 10th

**Pre-registration** is required to reserve a T-Shirt. Make checks payable to Amery Area Rotary. (non-refundable)

Entry fee: \$10 per adult \$25 per household

T-Shirts cost \$10 each if pre-registered.

Come join us for an enjoyable ride around the area. Some country and some city views.

**On site registration** at the tent at Cattail Trail Park in Amery from 6 am until 10 am. Make checks payable to Amery Area Rotary.

Entry fee: \$15 per adult \$35 per household

T-Shirts cost \$12 while supply lasts.

**Registration form** for both pre-registration and on site registration:

T-Shirt size (enter quantity):

S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_

Tour participants (enter quantity):

10K \_\_\_ 25K \_\_\_ 50K \_\_\_ 100K \_\_\_

**Identification** of contact person (print)

name: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

city: \_\_\_\_\_

state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

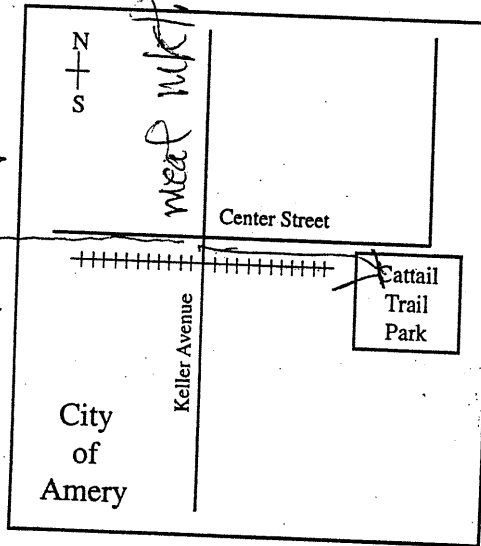
email: \_\_\_\_\_

# SAFETY

All riders will be required to wear helmets, ride no more than two abreast and obey all traffic laws.

The route will be patrolled by the SAG Wagon until 5 pm on the day of the ride.

Tour starts from Cattail Trail Park.



**Mail Registrations to:**

Amery Area Rotary  
PO Box 243  
Amery, WI 54001

## Other Cattail Trail Days Events

Pancake Breakfast at the Airport 7 am — 11 am

Petting Zoo 10 am — 2 pm

Fishing at the Cattail Park noon — 2 pm

Gospel Music Saturday and Sunday

Amery Festival of Lakes (Pontoon rides)

Food Stands

To ask questions:

Phone: 715-268-5475

Fax: 715-268-4912

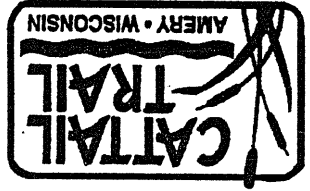
Email: fred@electroprod.com

Website: www.electroprod.com/rotary/

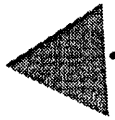
**Amery Area Rotary  
YMCA Camp Iaghowan  
Balsam Branch Partnership**

**Bike Tour**  
Saturday  
1 June 2002

10K, 25K, 50K & 100K



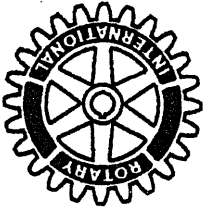
Bike Tour Start point



*Balsam Branch Partnership*

P.O. Box 217 Amery, WI 54001 (715) 268-4666  
Education Protection Recreation

Amery Area Rotary



Service above self

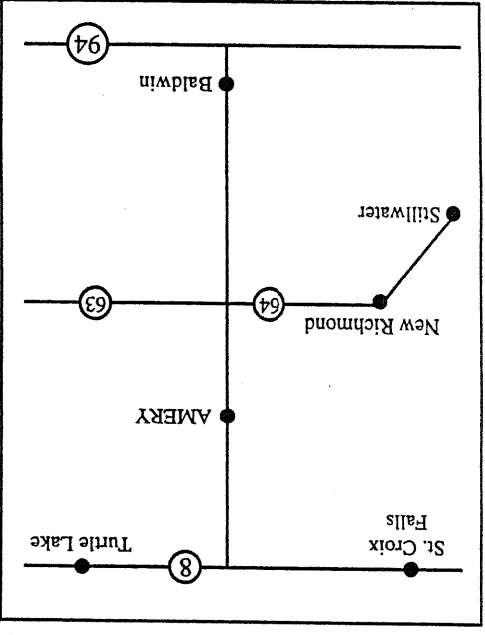
**Event Sponsors**

Russell's Sport & Bike  
Amery Free Press  
WXCE  
Dick's Market  
Amery Travel Service  
Bremer  
Schanon Mortgage  
S&C Bank  
WESTconsin Credit Union



**Join us on our  
bike tour**

Come join us in beautiful western Wisconsin. We will be touring portions of Polk and St Croix county's quiet, paved, scenic roads. There will be opportunities to stop along the way at our strategically placed rest stops to refresh, visit, sightsee and of course refuel on fruit, beverages or energy snacks.





Dear Friend of BBP,

You are cordially invited to attend the following event:

**Rivers, Dams, and History: A public forum on the DD Kennedy Dam**  
November 28  
7:00-9:00PM

Northern Lakes Center for the Arts, 113 Elm Street, Amery

In response to the DD Kennedy Dam failure last spring the Balsam Branch Partnership is sponsoring a forum to help citizens understand subjects related to dams and dam replacement. For instance:

- **What is the history of the DD Kennedy Millpond?**
- **How much will dam replacement cost?**
- **What are the benefits of the DD Kennedy Millpond?**
- **How do dams affect rivers?**
- **How has wildlife responded to the dam failure last spring?**

Expert panelists will discuss a variety of issues related to small dams. These panelists represent:

- **Polk County Historical Society**
- **Polk County Government**
- **University of Wisconsin Extension Community Development**
- **Wisconsin River Alliance**
- **Wisconsin DNR Fisheries**
- **Wisconsin DNR Wildlife**

Panelists will give short presentations in their area of expertise. This will cover a multitude of dam-related issues. Audience members will then be given the opportunity to pose questions to panelists. ***This forum is open to all interested groups and individuals.***

I hope to see you at the forum,

Jane Johnson  
President, Balsam Branch Partnership



11/28/01

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Rivers, Dams, and History: A public forum on the DD Kennedy Dam**

**November 28**

**7:00-9:00PM**

**Northern Lakes Center for the Arts, 113 Elm Street, Amery**

Last spring the DD Kennedy Dam failed during extreme flooding events. The Polk County Parks Department is moving to replace the dam without input from the community. In response to this incident the Balsam Branch Partnership is sponsoring a forum to help people understand subjects related to dams and dam replacement. For instance:

- ***What is the history of the DD Kennedy Millpond?***
- ***How much will dam replacement cost taxpayers?***
- ***What are the benefits of the DD Kennedy Millpond?***
- ***How do dams affect rivers?***
- ***How has wildlife responded to the dam failure last spring?***

Expert panelists will discuss a variety of issues related to small dams. These panelists represent:

- ***Polk County Historical Society***
- ***Polk County Property, Forestry & Recreational Committee***
- ***University of Wisconsin Extension Community Development***
- ***Wisconsin River Alliance***
- ***Wisconsin DNR Fisheries***
- ***Wisconsin DNR Wildlife***

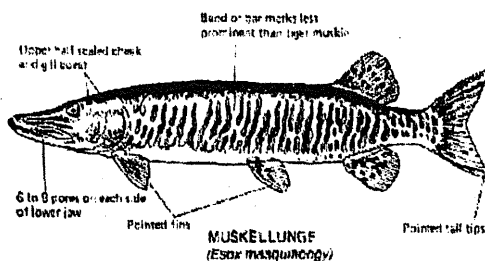
Panelists will give short presentations in their area of expertise. This should shed some real light on dam issues. Audience members will then be given the opportunity to pose questions to panelists. ***This forum is open to all interested groups and individuals.***

For more information on this forum or the Balsam Branch Partnership contact:  
Cheryl Bursik, Board Member  
268-4666

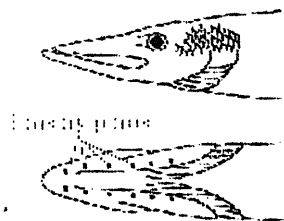
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*The Balsam Branch Partnership is a local nonprofit organization that promotes environmental education and nonmotorized recreation by engaging the public through events and outreach.*

## Basic Description and ID



- Light background with dark markings (spots or bars).
- Lower half of cheek and operculum are scaleless.
- Tips of tail are more pointed than a Northern Pike.
- Has 8 to 15 pores on the underside of the mouth (can number up to 20).
- About 36 inches long (for a five year old fish).



## Range, Habitat, and Niche

The natural home of the Muskellunge is the lakes and rivers in the northern region of North America. It is a solitary fish and lurks in weedy beds and in other protective cover. They inhabit only about one percent of the freshwater in North America. They prefer clear water with sandy or gravelly bottoms, brush, logs, and aquatic plants. They prefer cool water where temperatures stay below 80 degrees F, but they can endure temperatures as high 90 degrees F for a limited time. They most often reside in water less than 15 feet deep.

## Diet

Musky are carnivorous. Smaller fish make up 95% of their diet. Fish such as:

Pumpkinseed  
Yellow Perch  
Rock Bass  
White Suckers  
Shiners  
Bullheads  
Carp  
Minnows &  
Walleyes (very few)

They may also eat crayfish, insects, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, and waterfowl.

## Spawning

The musky spawning season is in the spring (April and May) about two weeks or more after the northern pike. Musky move up small streams or into flooded shallows around lake margins to spawn. They choose heavily vegetated sites in water 15 to 20 inches deep. Pairs of musky swimming side by side spawn over the vegetation, on to which the fertilized eggs attach. This usually continues for about a week before the fish return to deeper water leaving the eggs to fend for themselves. Many eggs do not attach to the vegetation and sink to the bottom, where they die from lack of oxygen in the mud. In one experiment, out of 25,000 musky only 4 musky survive.

## Why They Are At The Dam

During the spawning season, the musky disperse and move up stream looking for quiet, grassy waters to spawn in. Once they reach the dam, they cannot go any further and end up congregating at the base of the dam. They are not, however, spawning in the moving water.



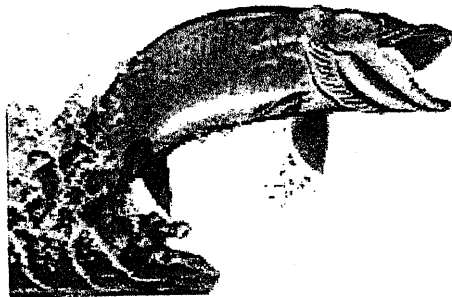


## About the Musky

The musky is solitary and stalks prey much as a tiger would. They have razor sharp, needle shaped teeth. They are members of the pike family, which have "duck-billed" heads and long slender bodies. They are usually greenish-yellowish or a brownish color with spots on their fins.

Because of their rarity and the stress these fish undergo when captured, they are particularly vulnerable to fishing pressure, as well as pollution, habitat alteration, and the introduction of exotic species. We strongly urge people to practice "catch & release"!

Thank you for joining us!



Created by:  
Mary Kruizenga and  
Melissa Meier  
Amery High School-  
Environmental Science

## "Come and See the Musky"



### *"The Majestic Fish of 10,000 Casts"*

*~Author Unknown*

Hosted by:  
The Balsam Branch Partnership

**THE BALSAM BRANCH PARTNERSHIP IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THESE CLASSES AS PART OF THEIR EDUCATIONAL COMMITMENT TO RIVER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION.**

**WHAT IS THE BALSAM BRANCH PARTNERSHIP?**

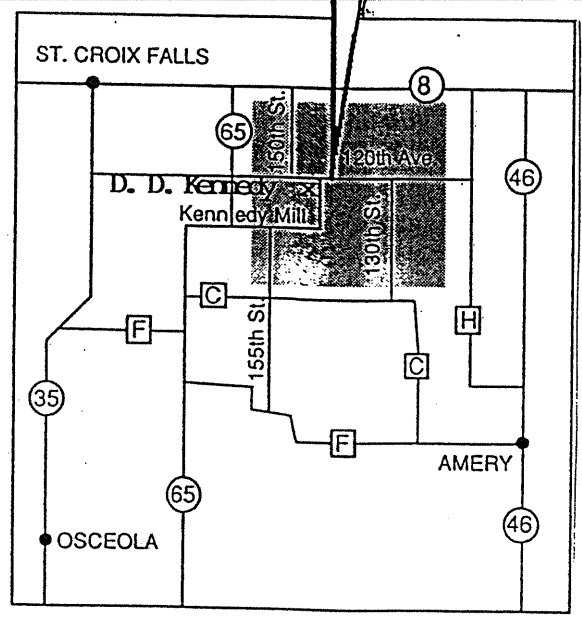
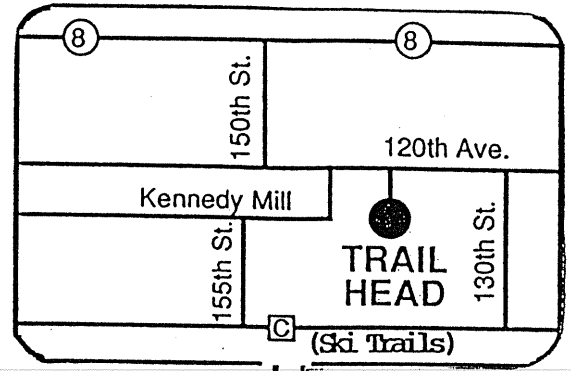
The Balsam Branch Partnership is a non-profit corporation, organized for the purpose of providing and sustaining environmental areas in the Balsam Branch Watershed (which empties into Lake Wapogasset), where education, recreation and protection are promoted.

The Balsam Branch Partnership started as a collaboration of several organizations including, but not limited to: Friends of D. D. Kennedy, Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, Garfield Township, Norska Ski Club, and the Lake Wapogasset/Bear Trap Association.

Future educational opportunities to learn about the history and ecology of the Balsam Branch will be offered through Amery Community Education. We will also sponsor our annual Muskie Event the last Saturday in April, 2001 at D. D. Kennedy.

**Did you know that** the Garfield Park Ski Trials are open to hiking and horseback riding in the summer. D. D. Kennedy Outdoor Education Center offers 1 and 1/2 miles of paved trails through a restored prairie, a fishing pier and two docks on the Kennedy Mile Pond where the water flow that once powered the mill has been reactivated.

We are also available to speak to your youth group about river ecology. (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, Church groups, etc.) If you are interested, please call Jane Johnson at 268-2920



Use the registration form below to register for these classes.

**MAIL THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO:**  
Amery Community Ed • 115 Birch Terrace • Amery WI 54001

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Intro to Forest Management

Prescribed Burning for Private Landowners

Fee \_\_\_\_\_ (Make Check Payable to Amery Comm Ed)

Your suggestions for classes or events \_\_\_\_\_

**INTRO TO FOREST MANAGEMENT**

This class is geared to the new woodlot owner. Students will learn why it is important to manage your woods, the essentials of a good plan, and programs and resources that are available for future assistance, including Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law and Wisconsin's Forest Landowner Grant Program.

Tues., September 26 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Middle School Art Room Fee: \$3.00  
Paul Heimstead, DNR Limit: 25 people

**PRESCRIBED BURNING FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS**

Learn the importance of managed burning on your land for the health and maintenance of your property.

Thursday, December 7 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Lakeview Intermediate Cafeteria Fee: \$3.00  
Mike Johnson, DNR Limit: 50 people

**THE BALSAM BRANCH PARTNERSHIP IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THESE CLASSES**  
as part of their educational commitment to river and watershed protection.

**WHAT IS THE BALSAM BRANCH PARTNERSHIP?**

The Balsam Branch Partnership is a non-profit corporation, organized for the purpose of providing and sustaining environmental areas in the Balsam Branch Watershed (which empties into Lake Wapogasset), where education, recreation and protection are promoted.

The Balsam Branch Partnership started as a collaboration of several organizations including, but not limited to: Friends of D. D. Kennedy, Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, Garfield Township, Norska Ski Club, and the Lake Wapogasset/Bear Trap Association.

Future educational opportunities to learn about the history and ecology of the Balsam Branch will be offered through Amery Community Education.

We are also available to speak to your youth group about river ecology. (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, church groups, etc.) If you are interested, please call Jane Johnson at 268-2920.

**LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS**

Learn to use native plants to landscape your yard. Topics will include shoreline landscaping for wildlife habitats, creating a butterfly garden, and native planting in shade areas.

**Tuesday, May 1** 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
**1 session** Fee: \$9.00  
**Instructor: Rob Bursik**  
**Location: High School Ag Room**

**FAMILY CANOEING**

Learn the joys of family canoeing from the shores of Lake Wapogasset. Meet at YMCA Camp Icahowan. Learn the fundamentals of basic canoeing and water safety. Great family event or learn as an individual. (If you need directions to the camp, please call 268-8377 or 268-0220.)

**Sunday, May 20** 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
**1 session** **Instructor: Karen Ohm**  
**Fee: \$5/individual or \$10 max. per family**

**LAKE RESTORATION WALK**

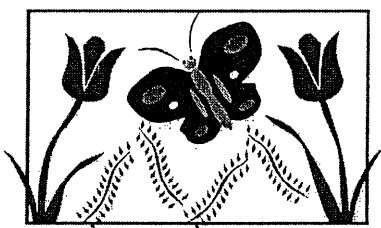
Stroll along newly created trails to see conservation practices installed by the Deer Lake Conservancy. Learn how restored wetlands, prairie plantings, and runoff basics will improve lake water quality. Meet at the trail head parking lot on 140th Avenue, one mile north of Highway 8.

**Questions? Call Jane Johnson at 268-2920.**  
**Saturday, June 9** 10:00 a.m. - noon  
**1 session** Fee: FREE

**GUIDED PRAIRIE WALK**

Rob Bursik from Dragonfly Gardens will lead this nature walk. Prairie flowers and grasses provide lovely homes for native birds and butterflies. Look for the dozens of different native prairie flowers planted on this 20-acre prairie planted in 1999 by the Deer Lake Conservancy. Meet at the trail head parking lot on 140th Avenue one mile north of Highway 8.

**Questions? Call Jane Johnson at 268-2920.**  
**Saturday, August 4** 10:00 a.m. - noon  
**1 session** Fee: \$4/person



MAIL THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO:  
Amery Community Ed • 115 Birch Terrace • Amery WI 54001

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Landscaping with Native Plants  
\_\_\_\_ Family Canoeing  
\_\_\_\_ Lake Restoration Walk  
\_\_\_\_ Prairie Walk  
\_\_\_\_ Total Fee (Make Check Payable to Amery Comm Ed)

Your suggestions for classes or events \_\_\_\_\_

**Balsam Branch Partnership**  
2002 - 2003 Strategic Plan Update

***To provide and sustain environmental areas in the Balsam Branch Watershed where educational and recreational opportunities are promoted for all ages through all seasons.***

**Goals**

- ✓ *Develop an organization with financial and human resource capability to accomplish objectives and goals of the Balsam Branch Partnership.*
- ✓ *Provide a variety of learning opportunities to increase appreciation and stewardship of the area's natural and cultural features.*
- ✓ *Encourage, support, and provide a variety of non-motorized recreational opportunities.*
- ✓ *Preserve unique environmental and critical watershed areas using a variety of land protection and acquisition tools.*
- ✓ *Restore, manage, and increase knowledge of established environmental areas.*

***Develop an organization with financial and human resource capability to accomplish objectives and goals of the Balsam Branch Partnership.***

**Measures of success**

- Stable board that meets regularly
- Funds available to carry out activities
- Expansion of active members
- Name recognition in the community

**Activities<sup>1</sup>**

- Publish newsletter (7)
- Establish membership procedures – data base, renewals, volunteer list, mass mailing (6)
- Sponsor annual forum/big event (4)
- Show slide show and display at community functions/meetings (4)
- Develop targeted work plan (3)
- Write grants/investigate new funding sources (1)
- Web site

***Provide a variety of learning opportunities to increase appreciation and stewardship of the area's natural and cultural features.***

**Measures of success**

- A variety of classes that reach all ages are provided and promoted
- Class attendance
- Interest expressed – phone calls, personal contacts.

**Activities<sup>1</sup>**

- Community education/class series
  - Lake/stream ecology
  - Bird watching
  - Ice age trails/geology
  - Canoeing
  - Snowshoeing
  - Cross-country skiing
  - Fossils
- Forum on land use/protection tools
- Muskie event
- Play w/ discussion e.g., Balance and Swing

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in parenthesis indicates votes received. Six or seven participants were given three votes each.

***Encourage, support, and provide a variety of non-motorized recreational opportunities.***

**Measures of success**

- More non-motorized trail users
- Bicycle trip completed
- Non-motorized trail designated between Amery and Dresser
- Soo Line trail completed

**Activities<sup>2</sup>**

- Vinter Fest (Balsam Branch Partnership presence – provide treats) (6)
- Raise/provide funds to support trails (5)
- Hold bicycle trip (4)
- Coordinate volunteers to maintain and publicly support trails (2)
- Develop county cross-country ski map (2)
- Hold classes on activities like fly fishing and cross-country skiing (1)
- Distribute trail information at Polk County Info Center
- Develop trail map for snowshoeing
- Promote horseback riding

***Preserve unique environmental and critical watershed areas using a variety of land protection and acquisition tools.***

**Measures of success**

- Acres protected
- Money in the bank
- Properties on registry (interested landowners)

**Activities<sup>2</sup>**

- Support and host board training (5)
- Complete Land Protection Strategy (4)
  - Discuss terms used for outreach
  - Complete land protection maps/brochure
- Sponsor forum on land use and protection tools (4)
- Follow property committee activities (3)
- Contact targeted landowners regarding protection options (2)
- Hold classes
  - land conservation through estate planning
  - landowner self-assessment of habitat values of property

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<sup>2</sup> Numbers in parenthesis indicates votes received. Six or seven participants were given three votes each.

The BBP will facilitate land transactions by <sup>3</sup>

- o approaching landowners with protection options (7)
- o finding partner organization willing to hold easement or title (7)
- o providing general public education regarding protection options (7)
- o assisting with negotiations with landowners (7)
- o writing grants (7)
- o requiring management fee for conservation easements (7)
- o contracting management of easements if feasible (6)
- o raising funds from the public (6)
- o holding conservation easements (4)
- o acting as a transitional landowner (buy and then resell property) (4)
- o holding title to property (1)

## **Committee Assignments**

### **Outreach**

Membership (Brook)  
Community Functions (Jane, Walt, Sue)  
Newsletter

### **Education**

Community Education Classes (Jane, Phyllis)  
Muskie Event  
Play (Jane)

### **Nonmotorized Recreation**

Bike Trip (Marge)  
Trail promotion and funding (Brook and Marge)  
Incorporate human-powered recreation group (Brook)  
Follow Polk County Property Committee (Marge)

### **Vinter Fest (Rosalie, Joel)**

### **Land Conservation/Protection (Cheryl, Walt)**

Training Inservice  
Forum  
Land Protection Strategy  
Contacting landowners

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<sup>3</sup> Numbers in parenthesis indicate votes received out of seven.

**Balsam Branch Partnership**  
2003 - 2004 Strategic Plan Update

***To provide and sustain environmental areas in the Balsam Branch Watershed where educational and recreational opportunities are promoted for all ages through all seasons.***

**Goals**

- ✓ *Develop an organization with financial and human resource capability to accomplish objectives and goals of the Balsam Branch Partnership.*
- ✓ *Provide a variety of learning opportunities to increase appreciation and stewardship of the area's natural and cultural features.*
- ✓ *Encourage, support, and provide a variety of non-motorized recreational opportunities.*
- ✓ *Preserve unique environmental and critical watershed areas using a variety of land protection and acquisition tools.*
- ✓ *Restore, manage, and increase knowledge of established environmental areas.*



***Develop an organization with financial and human resource capability to accomplish objectives and goals of the Balsam Branch Partnership.***

**Measures of success**

- Stable board that meets regularly
- Funds available to carry out activities
- Expansion of active members
- Name recognition in the community

**Activities**

- Communicate with members at least once yearly – letter/notice/email, dues reminder
- Membership procedures – maintain list of members/dues
- Sponsor annual forum/big event (ski race)
- Show slide show and display at community functions/meetings
- Media contacts for events – press release, editorials, advertising

***Provide a variety of learning opportunities to increase appreciation and stewardship of the area's natural and cultural features.***

**Measures of success**

- A variety of classes that reach all ages are provided and promoted
- Class attendance
- Interest expressed – phone calls, personal contacts.

**Activities**

- Distribute resource guide
- Community education/class series
  - Land use/protection tools
  - Income tax/estate planning benefits of land preservation
  - Lake/stream ecology
  - Bird watching
  - Ice age trails/geology
  - Canoeing
  - Snowshoeing
  - Cross-country skiing
  - Fossils
- Play w/ discussion e.g., Balance and Swing
- Youth activities – school, 4-H, scouts – encourage community/civic involvement

***Encourage, support, and provide a variety of non-motorized recreational opportunities.***

**Measures of success**

- More non-motorized trail users
- Events completed
- Non-motorized trail designated between Amery and Dresser

**Activities**

- Vinter Fest
- Sponsor bicycle ride
- Promote non-motorized activities – email notices, public participation, letters

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***Preserve unique environmental and critical watershed areas using a variety of land protection and acquisition tools.***

**Measures of success**

- Acres protected
- Money in the bank
- Properties on registry (interested landowners)

**Activities**

- Support and host board training- tools for land protection, organizational options
- Hold classes
  - tools for land conservation
  - land conservation through estate planning
- Develop policies for land protection – role of the organization, how land is protected
- Outreach for land protection
- Contact targeted landowners regarding protection options
- Follow property committee, land use planning activities – role: keeping group up-to-date, do not represent board opinion w/o approval

## **Committee Assignments**

### **Outreach (Sue)**

- Membership (Brook, Jane, Sue)
- Community Functions (Jane, Walt, Sue)
- Member updates
- Media contacts
- Update display

### **Education (Jane)**

- Community Education Classes (Jane, Cheryl, Phyllis)
- Youth activities (Char, Phyllis)
- Play (Jane)

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### **Nonmotorized Recreation**

- Bike Trip (Marge)
- Trail promotion and funding (Brook and Marge)
- Follow Polk County Property Committee (Marge)

### **Vinter Fest (Jane, Dave)**

### **Land Conservation/Protection (Cheryl, Walt)**

- Training Inservice
- Land Protection Policies
- Land Protection Outreach
- Contacting landowners
- Follow comprehensive planning process (Gloria)

**Preserving Family Lands**  
**Course 1 – Land Preservation Tools**

*This course will help you:*

*prevent your treasured farm or forest from being turned into a subdivision*  
*leave a legacy of unspoiled land*

Preserving land with the help of a land trust is a realistic choice for landowners who love their land and have a genuine interest in preserving it for future generations. Various options available to preserve undeveloped land will be presented.

- Introduction: preserving open space, who is doing it and why
- Tools in the tool chest: conservation easements, donation/reduced price sale of lands, etc.
- Nearby examples of successful land preservation
- Who can help? Local land trusts and related organizations.

Speaker bio:

Date: Thursday in Feb./March  
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Location: New Richmond:  
Amery:

**Preserving Family Lands**  
**Course 2 –Income Tax Benefits and Estate Planning**

*Can you afford to set aside your land for conservation?*  
*How will the donation affect your family?*

This course will walk you through the potential financial benefits of land preservation. It will help you “do the right thing” for both the land and your family.

- Charitable contributions of land and conservation easements
- Income tax planning to maximize benefits
- Estate planning for conservation
- Who can help? Local land trusts and income tax and estate planning professionals.

Speaker bio:

Date: Thursday in March  
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
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Amery: