

Newsletter
Winter 2019-2020

GREAT CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE HERITAGE AREA

“Imagine the Possibilities” is what participants in regional meetings around the heritage area were encouraged to do during April and May 2019. Residents of the watershed met to explore mutual interests and future ideas hosted by North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area (NWW) board members and regional leaders. Meetings were held in Hudson, Wisconsin; Sandstone, Minnesota; Gordon, Wisconsin; and St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin.

Ideas flowed about possible passport programs for the area, leading visitors to pottery shops, small town museums, forests, or conservation efforts. Signs and interpretive materials for significant historical sites were possibilities as well as collaborative planning among businesses, residents, and local governments for conservation and recreation. To see a short news report from a Duluth, MN television station (Fox 21) of the meeting in Gordon, Wisconsin, paste the following link into your Internet browser if clicking the link does not work.

<https://tinyurl.com/wu4ldoq>

EARTH DAY MARKS 50th ANNIVERSARY IN 2020

There are different stories of how Earth Day began in 1970, but one that comes from the heritage area involves Senator Gaylord Nelson, who is known nationally as the “Father of Earth Day.” Born in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, he grew up canoeing, hiking, and playing in the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers. To celebrate this important part of our NWW heritage, special celebrations are planned. Watch for more details on the watershed-wide calendar LYNX (www.northwoodsandwaterslynx.org) and on the NWW Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stcroixheritage/>).

WHAT'S UP IN YOUR PART OF THE WATERSHED?

North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area went live in October with its online event calendar, [LYNX!](#) The name, a nod to the iconic wildcat of the north woods, also alludes to one of NWW's top priorities: linking communities throughout the St. Croix Watershed. It is for both residents and visitors who want to find out what is happening, and also for organizations to post their events. NWW worked with

ArtReach St. Croix to create an expanded version of its existing event calendar. We invite you to head over to NorthWoodsAndWatersLYNX.org to check out upcoming events or submit one of your own!

GIVING

NWW is a new non-profit with few financial resources. A financial gift to North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area will help us meet our goals. Send your tax-deductible contribution to:

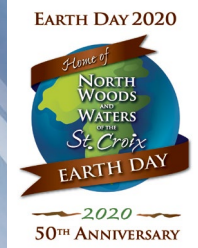
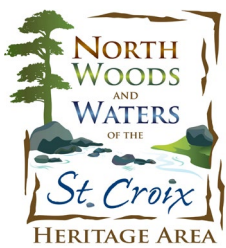
**North Woods and Waters of the
St. Croix Heritage Area
P.O. Box 212
Taylors Falls, MN 55084**

If you have questions, contact Project Manager Alyssa Auten at northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com

ST. CROIX MASTER WATERSHED STEWARDS & POLLINATORS PROJECT NEWS

Along with the US Forest Service, the US National Park Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area is a leader in promoting the protection of pollinators in the watershed. Currently 157 organizations have agreed to protect pollinators; the goal is to have 20 additional organizations sign up yearly. To find out more about how heritage areas are protecting pollinators, visit <https://www.nps.gov/articles/nha-operation-pollination-2019.htm>.

The St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards, a group of more than 30 volunteers in the region trained through a 2015 EPA grant, continue to manage the pollinator project in the heritage area. They have a number of other projects in the works, including a cypress planting demo for high-fluctuation water areas; various collaborations with schools, government agencies and nonprofits to... *continued on back...*



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ST. CROIX MASTER WATERSHED STEWARDS & POLLINATORS PROJECT NEWS, cont...

promote community action and citizen science throughout the watershed; and writing informative pieces for local and regional publications.

GOOD THINGS TAKE TIME

The update of NWW's Feasibility Study was completed and sent to the National Park Service for an initial review in December 2019. Volunteers refined important stories about the uniqueness of the NWW heritage area and identified the resources that tell the story. Congressional information sessions began in late summer. NWW board members and advisors met with members from both the Wisconsin and Minnesota Congressional delegations to ask their support. The hope is to have NWW designated a national heritage area by Congress in time for the Earth Day celebration in April 2020. Contact Marty Harding for more information at: northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com

JOIN US ON THE BOARD OR IN OTHER WAYS

If you have passion for this region and a deep interest in promoting what the watershed has to offer, please join in. Board members represent the heritage area, and bring expertise in any of the heritage area's economic, cultural, ecological, or historical resources as well as board administrative areas such as finance, policy development, or human resources. Members of the four Ojibwe Tribes in the region have designated positions on the Board. Applications are available from Project Manager Alyssa Auten at: northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com.

In addition to service on the Board of Directors, consider participation on NWW committees, service as an ambassador, or as an NWW storyteller! For more information, contact Marty Harding at: northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS! (Jan. - Nov. 2019)

- Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation
- Hugh J Andersen Foundation
- Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative
- Numerous individual donors

WHO'S WHO AT NWW

Board of Directors

- Martha Harding (Chisago City, MN)
- Bill Neuman (Franconia Township, MN)
- Buck Malick (Hudson, WI)
- Nancy Hoffman (Chisago City, MN)
- Brian Finstad (Barnes, WI)
- Carol LeBreck (Barnes, WI)
- Tom Polasik (Stillwater, MN)
- Julie Smendzuik-O'Brien (Maplewood, MN)
- Lynne Moratzka (Scandia, MN)
- Paul Weirtz (St. Paul, MN)

Liaison Organizations

- St. Croix River Association
- St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards

Advisors, Liaisons & Committee Members

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Kathy Bartilson | Gary Noren |
| CJ Carlson | Rick Olseen |
| Peter Gove | Danette Olsen |
| Cecily Harris | Heidi Fettig Parton |
| Jeremy Koslowski | Sue Ryun |
| Suzanne Lindgren | Lisa Schlingerman |
| Mike Link | Christopher Stein |
| Ann Moonen | John Velin |
| Jonathan Moore | Wendy Ward |
| Nancy Morgan | |

Program Manager

Alyssa Auten
northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com

RIPPLES

- **ELK!** After many years of cooperative efforts between local citizen groups and the State of Wisconsin, elk remains found in the Barnes area in 2005 will now be permanently housed in the Barnes Museum. Stop in to see the Elk Exhibit that tells the story of this grand creature in northern Wisconsin!
- **STEAM ENGINE ROLLS.** The largest steam engine in the world passed through Pine County in July 2019. The Union Pacific Big Boy Steam Engine No. 4014 traveled to the Lake Superior Railroad Museum in Duluth as part of the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad's completion. Twenty-five "Big Boys" were built; of the eight that remain, only this one still operates. See <http://www.up.com/heritage/steam/schedule/index.htm>