



DOUGLAS COUNTY OUTDOORS

DOUGLAS COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

OUTDOOR REPORT

JUNE 2015

Stay up-to-date on what is going on in the Douglas County Forest, find us on our new Douglas County Forestry Department Facebook page.

◇ Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/douglascountyforestrydepartment?fref=ts>



NATURE

- Recent rain has helped bring summer forth. Trees are fully leafed out and everything is a lush green.
- Wildflowers are starting to add splashes of color to the forest floor. Large-flowered trilliums, fringed polygala, jack-in-the-pulpit, sarsaparilla, wild strawberry are just a handful of the wildflowers that can be seen. Blueberry plants were loaded with blossoms this year...hopefully a bumper crop of berries will be available later this summer.
- One of the foresters commented that it is "pretty ticky out there". Both deer ticks and wood ticks are quite active. Precautions such as using insect repellent, tucking pant legs into socks/boots, wearing light colored clothing, and doing tick checks should be used. For more information about ticks, prevention, Lymes disease see http://www.apg-wi.com/upnorth/up_north_explorer/explore/tick-off-awareness-are-best-strategies-to-tick-borne-threats/article_b355b4cc-f9a4-11e4-b282-f751943f8fb8.html
- **THEY'RE BACK!!!** The nursery in the forest is open and wild baby animals are starting to be seen more often. While it is a thrill to see these babies, please help keep these animals wild. Many times baby animals are left alone for long amounts of time. Unless the animal is injured or there it has a dead parent nearby, leave them in the wild...it is their best chance at survival.
- That's quite a fish tale!!!
May 28th an area resident found quite a fish on the Upper St. Croix Lake. It ended up being a 77 inch sturgeon, likely a female that weighed around 100 pounds. The DNR Fish Technician that was called to collect the fish estimates that the sturgeon was at least 80 years old, its fin rays will be sent to a sturgeon specialist to determine the actual age. The sturgeon had been dead for a couple of days. For more information on this gentle, ancient species of fish see <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/sturgeon/>
- One of our foresters found this snake while working out on the forest. This Western foxsnake (pine snake) is commonly mistaken for a copperhead snake or a rattlesnake but it is actually a non-poisonous snake that feeds on rodents and ground-nesting birds. It can grow to be 36-56 inches long. Find out more about this snake at <http://dnr.wi.gov/.../caer/ce/ee/critter/reptile/foxsnake.htm> or learn about other Wisconsin reptiles at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/ee/critter/reptile/index.htm>



Large-flowered Trillium



Photo by Cindy Hill



77 inch Sturgeon found in Upper St. Croix Lake
Photo by Guy Little



Photo by Lance Wegner

Douglas County Forestry Department
Home of Wisconsin's Largest
County Forest



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Park/Trails Recording-715-378-4528
forestry@douglascountywi.org



- Our back yard is your back yard... everyone suffers from illegal dumping . Dumping debris, trash, or litter is prohibited on County Forest property, including abandoning vehicles, furniture, or appliances. Illegal dumping is more than just an eyesore; it's a health and safety hazard to humans and animals alike and can also pose great risk to the environment. Everybody suffers from illegal dumping through costly clean-up efforts and the negative community image it fosters. Dumping can also result in closing off areas to motorized uses.

If you observe an act of illegal dumping in the Forest, please call the Douglas County Sheriff's Department at (715) 394-4432 or the Forestry Department at (715) 378-2219.

Information about places that will take many of these items can be found on the Douglas County website at <http://www.douglascountywi.org/index.aspx?nid=369>



Douglas County Forestry Staff cleaning dumped debris off of County Forest land.

COUNTY PARKS

- The Douglas County campgrounds and day-use parks are open and ready for the public. The 3 Douglas County Campgrounds (Lucius, Gordon Dam, and Mooney Dam) are all first come-first served campgrounds. Lucius Woods and Gordon Dam parks have electric hookups available and the newer features at Lucius Woods as of last year are water hookups, upgraded electric hookups, and new playground equipment. Summer is here...time to break out the tents!
- Don't feed the bears...it's an age old saying that still has an important meaning for any type of wildlife. While it is fun to see these animals up close, it can be unsafe for people and the animals. Animals can become habituated to people and expect to find food where humans are. If they lose their fear of people they can quickly become a nuisance. Keep food, cooking utensils, and food scraps contained and away from tents.



RECREATIONAL TRAILS

- As conditions change throughout the season, be sure to get the latest update on trail conditions by visiting www.douglascountywi.org/forestry, or by calling the Douglas County Trail Hotline 24 hours a day 7 days a week at (715) 378-4528.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lion's Club Fishing Contest

The Lyon's Club will be sponsoring a kids fishing contest on Saturday, June 13th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Children's Park Creed Pond (behind the Douglas County Forestry Department office). The Solon Springs Lions Club hosts this free contest every year to promote family activities and awareness to local recreation. Food and prizes are donated by many local residents and businesses and administered by Solon Springs Lions Club Members.



HIKING

Join members of the North Country Trail Association's Brule-St. Croix Chapter for hikes on the North Country National Scenic Trail. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at KD's Restaurant in Solon Springs. See the attached flyer for the schedule.

For more information;

715-292-3484

www.meetup.com/sscbhikers

email: bsc@northcountrytrail.org

Facebook: NCTinWI

CHILDREN'S NATURE PLAYGROUP

A Children's Nature Playgroup, sponsored by the Friends of the Bird Sanctuary will be gathering every 3rd Wednesday through September at the Bird Sanctuary Club House in Solon Springs. See the attached flyer for more information and the schedule of events. Find their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FOTBSNaturePlaygroup?fref=ts>



Take a Walk on the North Country Trail

Meet 9 AM Saturdays at K D's Restaurant in Solon Springs

**Join members of the North Country Trail Association's Brule-St. Croix Chapter
for hikes on the North Country National Scenic Trail**

Spring Hikes

Saturday, May 9th - Brule Bog Boardwalk - spring flower and birding hike

Saturday, May 23rd - Memorial Day Weekend - Leo Creek

Saturday, June 6th - National Trails Day hikes

Saturday, June 20th - Douglas County Wildlife Area, Bird Rd. to Stuckey Rd.

Saturday, July 4th - Brule-St. Croix Portage - regional history hike

Fall Hikes

Saturday, August 22nd - Aden Creek

Saturday, September 5th - Labor Day Weekend - Brule Bog Boardwalk

Saturday, September 19th - Brule Valley Overlooks in the Brule River State Forest

Saturday, October 3rd - St. Croix National Scenic Riverway - fall color hike

Saturday, October 10th - Ahmeek Lake Moraine in the Bayfield County Forest - fall color hike

Saturday, October 17th - MacQuarrie Wetlands - waterfowl viewing hike



Your Adventure Starts Here

For more information

715-292-3484

www.meetup.com/sscbhikers

email: bsc@northcountrytrail.org

Facebook: NCTinWI





Children's Nature Playgroup

At the Bird Sanctuary Clubhouse

Every 3rd Wednesday May thru September 9 – 11 am

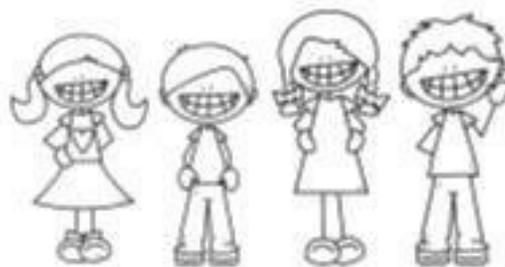
May 20 – Exploring the Bird Sanctuary. Hike to the sharptail grouse blind. Making our Summer Journals to note observations made while at home and in playgroup. Children will bring their Journals with questions they have about nature to each group time for an open discussion.

June 17th – Upside Down: Curious George, the creative nature explorer. Challenging the children to think how the natural world is all around us and we are very much part of it. Using Jack Johnson's song and lyrics "Upside Down" to demonstrate and get kids grooving! Introduce Scientific Method for older children.

July 15th – ICE! What could be more fun on a hot summer day? We are going to pretend it is winter and explore the properties of ice, how it melts, does it evaporate?

August 19th – Discovery Lab. Kids will create collections of things in nature and use our science tools and observations to learn.

September 16th – Seasons. Follow bears through all 4 seasons. Why do we have seasons? What season are we entering? All about black bears and why they are an important piece to our natural landscape.



Directions to the Clubhouse: On US Hwy 53 go south 3 miles from Solon to Cty Hwy M or north 3 miles from Gordon to Cty Hwy M (by Poodle Inn) turn west on Cty M, go ¼ mile to Bird Sanctuary Road, turn north, go ¼ mile to clubhouse (on the right beyond the split rail fence).

Call Becky 715-378-4518 for more information.

Friends of the Bird Sanctuary
P.O. Box 116, Gordon, Wisconsin 54838
www.fotbs.org

