



## DECODER

Fall 2012

# Official Newsletter of the Wisconsin County Code Administrators

## President's Message - Steve Rannenberg

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Submission of Articles:  
WCCA Welcomes articles, letters to the editor, articles from the WCCA districts, calendar listings, etc. Please send anything that may be of interest to other zoning administrators in Wisconsin. Articles may be submitted by mail, fax or email. Content of the articles does not necessarily represent the position of WCCA, the WCCA Executive Committee, or the editor.

#### Deadlines:

Spring Issue March 15  
Summer Issue June 15  
Fall Issue September 15  
Winter Issue December 15

After a long, hot summer now we look forward to a change of season. With that comes the WCCA Fall Conference. By now you have received registration form and the agenda. You have a better sense of the issues before us and more importantly, you will get the straight skinny from those in the know. The Fall Conference also means it is election time. You and your fellows rely on the good works of the Executive Board and the various committee members to keep this train on the track. I want to take just a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to my teammates on the Executive Board. Participation is the minimum standard. Exceptional effort is the norm, none more so than that of Michelle Staff (Jefferson County) stepping into the role of secretary/treasurer and bringing WCCA into the electronic age. During this turbulent period of

transition there was no whimpering amongst the Executive Board and no one wavered. Surrounded by that kind of dedication to a cause nothing is beyond our grasp.

As a member of the NW District I can report to you that two of our group are retiring; Karl Kastrosky from Bayfield County and Larry Peterson from Taylor County. I'm sure that we will continue to have losses amongst our ranks. With those losses we are weakened. However, new opportunities present themselves as new hard-chargers will step in to fill the gaps. That thought brings me to Becky Frisch and her move from Langlade County to Marathon County. Oh what adventures await you Becky?

Remember, our primary mission within the WCCA is to be engaged and relevant. 2013

promises to be an interesting year on so many fronts. Our reinvigorated relationship with WCA gives me the encouragement to drive on to the objective. I assure you that we, as an executive board, will maintain focus on those matters of interest to you and over which we have a modicum of control. That over which we have no control or influence becomes of little interest to us only after we have exhausted any possibility to be in the fray. Again, I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Conference. For those who have not attended a conference, remember our "rookie rate" for first-timers. The Metropolis Resort has a number of unique amenities that make it a family destination, so consider making it a mini-vacation.

Steve Rannenberg  
Douglas County  
1st VP



## District Reports

West Central—Kevin Lien  
No Report

North West District– Tom Bergman

The Northwest District met in Ogema at the High Point Village Coffee Shop for our quarterly meeting on August 15th. The coffee shop is located across Bass Lake from Timm’s Hill. Timm’s Hill is Wisconsin’s highest point at an elevation of 1951.5 feet. It was a beautiful setting for our meeting. Once again we had great attendance from the Counties in the District including Larry Peterson of Taylor County. Also in attendance were Tom Blake and Scott Watson of the DNR.

During our meeting we discussed whether or not to continue withholding sanitary submittal fees from the state to encourage the filling of wastewater specialist vacancies. The group decided to write a letter to the state explaining our position. It was decided that we would no longer withhold the fees.

As always we spent a good amount of time discussing Act 170 to get an idea of how other counties are approaching the challenges of the legislation.

Scott Watson, Waterways Team Leader for the DNR, gave a presentation about recent hires in his department and the changes to chapter 30 as a result of Act 167.

Larry Peterson of Taylor County retired shortly after our meeting, and we would like to thank him for his years of service.

Karl Kastrosky of Bayfield County also retired. Karl has been a dedicated member of the WCCA and has contributed many hard hours as chair of the NR 115 committee. He is also a celebrated member of the great band, The Non-Conformists. His years of service are greatly appreciated.

The Northwest District is looking to have another meeting sometime in November or December.

Southwest District—Dan Everson

Iowa County – On September 14th, the Southwest District meeting started off with a tour of an unique single-family home under construction within the driftless area. The residence, given the name Underhill is located about 2 miles south of Ridgeway. Counties represented were Dane, Grant, Iowa, and Sauk.

According to the owners, the purpose of building Underhill is to explore and popularize a number of alternative and more sustainable building materials and methods. Many trees on site were used in the construction process, specifically the structural framework within. Other alternative construction methods included solar in-floor heating, orientation and window placement and a sod roof that isn’t quite complete. Also, the overall size and floor plan was taken into consideration and the owner’s described the process of downsizing from their home in Madison and letting go of “stuff”. Completion is slated for sometime near Thanksgiving. See the link for more information about our tour.

<http://digginginthedriftless.com/2012/09/18/county-code-administrators-tour-underhill-house/>

After the tour we reconvened at the Iowa County courthouse where we met up with others from Crawford, Green, LaFayette and Richland Counties. Terry Loeffelholz started out with sharing their experiences with a mine that produces frac sand located in Grant County within an unzoned township. The material is hauled to a processing site located in Iowa, just south and on the other side of Prairie Du Chien. Once processed, the material is then hauled to Prairie Du Chien to railcars.

Dan Everson provided updates with respect to the Executive Board, NR 115 Shoreland subcommittee and how Dane County has moved forward with adoption and implementation of NR 115.

Mike Bindl shared his research of various application fees from within our district and how he is utilizing the information to prepare for their next budget. We also discussed the Fall Conference and everyone seemed to have positive comments regarding the agenda. Our next district meeting is to be determined in the near future.

Last but not least, we conducted our annual election of District Representative. I am pleased to say we nominated Scott Godfrey of Iowa County to serve and he accepted graciously. Our alternate representative is Mike Bindl from Richland County.

It has been a great four years serving the Southwest District as well as the Executive Board. Truly, a great experience and overall glad to see Dane County back in the mix. This opportunity is mostly contributed to the past Zoning Leadership Seminars, my fellow co-workers, Director Todd Violante and Zoning Administrator Roger Lane.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing you in Eau Claire.

Southwest District—CONTINUED



Northeast District—No Report

Southeast District—No Report

## Keeping Lakes/Wetlands in the Family: Sharing the Magic Through Stories

*Compiled by Lynn Markham, Center for Land Use Education*

*In each of the last 4 years, Lake Tides has offered a fall edition that includes a section featuring reviews of some great lake books. You can peruse these at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/laketides](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/laketides). This year, we branched out to include wetland books. By protecting wetlands we protect the water quality of our lakes and the animals that depend on them. Remember, giving the gift of a book to your local library or school allows many folks to enjoy the magic of water.*

Courtesy of amazon.com



### Who lives here? Wetland Animals

*Written by Deborah Hodge*

*Illustrated by Pat Stephens*

Wetlands are home to amazing animals whose bodies are built for living in or near the water. This book showcases wetlands to bring kids closer to animals that live there - a perspective seldom seen by human eyes. It explains that moose, bullfrogs, and hippos all have special ways of finding food, staying safe, and raising their young in a watery habitat. Detailed illustrations appeal to younger children while maintaining scientific accuracy.

*Ages 4+*

*"I like that this book talked about wetlands all over the world." ~ Tate, Age 7*

### Were you a wild duck, where would you go?

*Written by George Mendoza*

*Illustrated by Jane Osborn-Smith*

A wild duck narrator looks at the past when the environment was bountiful, searches through today's polluted environment for a home, and encourages saving and restoring the environment for the future.

*Ages 6+*

*"It's good to tell people to protect wetlands for animals and to protect them for people."*

*~ Tate, Age 7*

### Wetlands

*Written by Hollie Endres*

Clear, simple text with great photos that explain the plants, animals and basic functions of wetlands.

### A Good Day for Ducks

*Written by Doug Truax*

*Illustrated by Jack Smith*

It's fall in the suburbs, and as Justin gazes out passively at his cold, rainy, gray neighborhood, he bemoans the fact that the weather's bad and there's nothing to do. All that changes when Grandpa shows up the next weekend and takes Justin to his duck cabin in the Northwoods. There the boy discovers the joys of being an active participant in the natural world. When Justin finally returns home, he takes back with him life lessons that he will never forget. Justin learns how ducks migrate and about the need to conserve wet places - the lakes, ponds, and marshes - where ducks are found. And most importantly, he has begun to see the world in a whole new way.

### Wetland Plants

*Written by Terri Sievert*

This book brings wetland plants to life for children - not an easy task. Wetland plants that can be eaten as food include seeds, rice, and eelgrass for birds and wild rice, cranberries, and arrowhead roots for humans. Also provides an engaging example of how wetland animals depend on the plants. Since half the wetlands in the U.S. and Wisconsin have been destroyed, the author stresses the dangers to the ecology caused by building and draining wetlands. Wraps up with a section about what is being done to protect wetlands.



Gift Giving Overlook

### Wetlands: Soggy Habitat

*Written by Laura Purdie Salas  
Illustrated by Jeff Yesh*

What lives in a wetland besides flamingos, ducks, and other birds? How do plants survive in the soggy soil? This book answers these questions and more. People drain wetlands to build houses or farms, but we should be protecting the wetland ecosystems because each of them makes this planet an amazing place to live. The attractive pictures do a good job of expanding the information in the text. Ages 5+

### A Place for Frogs

*Written by Melissa Stewart  
Illustrated by Higgins Bond*

This colorful picture book is focused, obviously, on frogs and why they are important in our world. A simple text runs along the top of each illustrated spread, describing a human threat to frogs ("Some tadpoles have trouble surviving when people add fish to lakes and ponds") and then suggesting a solution ("When

people take out the fish, frogs can live and grow"). Realistic acrylic paintings depict frogs in their natural habitat. The sidebars provide real examples of what people are doing to help frogs. The text is very easy to read and understand; the sidebar information is a resource for parents or teachers working to help the young readers understand the connections between ecosystem and humankind. Ages 6-9

### The Big Belching Bog

*Written by Phyllis Root  
Illustrated by Betsy Bowen*

Phyllis Root does a bang-up job of conveying pond-loads of information in short stanzas, walking readers comfortably through the flora, fauna, and science of bogs. The illustrations by Betsy Bowen reflect the tone and mystique of these oft-overlooked portions of our Northwoods. More detailed descriptions of plants, animals, and bugs make this a wonderful teaching tool plus give older readers even more to sink their teeth into...A great book to have on a Northwoods shelf.

*Courtesy of amazon.com*



### Wisconsin Lakes Trivia!

Raining outside and you've already read every book in the cabin? Looking for an interesting addition to "game night"? Test your knowledge and have some fun playing "Wisconsin Lakes Trivia." The categories of history, fish, wildlife, and sports & recreation will have you scratching your head, yelling out answers, and hopefully, learning something new about our lakes.

Order through UW-Extension Lakes today at [www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/publications](http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/publications)  
**Only \$17.95 (includes shipping)**

### Fish of the Northern Lakes 2013 Calendar!

Take a trip below the surface to view these amazing underwater photographs by Eric Engbretson. See the fish that roam your local lakes and rivers in their natural habitat. Order at <http://underwaterfishphotos.com/calendar.shtml>



**Only \$14.99**

**More  
Great Gift  
Ideas!**



Lake Tides 37(4)



## Fall Conference Follow Up Items

If anyone is interested in more information on Zen. Charlene Burns provided the WCCA with suggested reading material.

Zen for Christians by Kim Boykin & Gerald May

The Miracle of Mindfulness by Thich Nhat Hahn

You are Here: Discovering the Magic of the Present Moment by Thich Naht Hahn

Zen at Work by Les Kaye



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