

Holiday Greetings

*from
Crossroads
at Big Creek*



CROSSROADS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CROSSROADS AT BIG CREEK



Crossroads at Big Creek, Inc. - Scientific, Historical & Environmental Learning Preserve

Vol. 9 Issue 3 - Winter 2011

Crossroads at Big Creek is a preserve for experiential lifelong learning focused on science, history, and the environment.

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AT BIG CREEK, Inc.

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Message from the President

Forward...

By definition the word "forward" denotes a movement or progression to what lies ahead. It also is the Wisconsin State Motto, which is now being debated among its citizens.

But at Crossroads we prefer to define forward as our dedication to constantly striving to provide a positive learning experience to all who enter our facilities. Certainly during the challenging economic environment in which we find ourselves at this time, it would be easy to rest on our past laurels, but life is too dynamic to become mired in the present without looking toward the future.

This is why we are progressively seeking out new projects to enhance our facilities and subject matter to explore in our evolving educational programs.

As the upcoming Christmas Season and fast approaching New Year find all of us shopping for that special gift or making a New Year's resolution that we hope will make 2012 a better year than the one we are leaving behind, I would ask you to include Crossroads in your gift giving.

As we move forward on projects like our Council Ring/Hidden Classroom and Maintenance Building, your support through volunteer hours or financial

donations will enable us to maintain the excitement and enthusiasm of "The Crossroads Experience."

Enjoy this special time of the year with family and loved ones and join all of us at Crossroads as we look **Forward** to another year of learning.

Dick Weidman,
*President of Crossroads
Board of Directors*



Jan Olson and Dick Weidman at the dedication of Founders Plaque

Environment in 2011

Researchers from University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh tested water samples from Door County beaches in Crossroads lab.



Five new fish were added to the Great Lakes Exhibit.



As a part of Family Gardening Classes, families raised vegetables in the Collins Center greenhouse.

Citizen researchers of all ages helped with sucker migration project sponsored by UW-Madison.



A grant from Green Fund of the Door County Community Foundation helped with Crossroads research and work in buckthorn remediation.

As a part of our water quality education efforts, Crossroads dedicated the Escarpment Exhibit in May.



Projects for 2012



Maintenance Building

The utility room in the basement of the Collins Learning Center seemed cavernous a decade ago. But ten years ago, everything was new and under warranty. At that time, the Door County Historical Society had moved only two buildings to The Historical Village, the Leif Everson Observatory was the only building at our Astronomy Campus, and the preserve had a single trail through its 85 acres.

We have grown. Now eleven buildings, six miles of groomed trails, and more than 127 acres of land all are maintained from this room, which serves as a shop, a garage, and a storage area for power and



Outside storage

garden tools, paints and herbicides. It is also used to house our ski/snowshoe program and as a wheelchair entrance.

Children and power tools are not a good mix. And we'd love to eliminate the noise, exhaust and dust.

The snowmobile, snowblower, golf cart and lawn tractor take up most of the floor space, so the remainder of our maintenance equipment is stored



Storage for shop & power tools.

off-site in neighbors' garages or else, is just sitting outside in the weeds.

To increase safety, to have room to store and actually use our maintenance equipment, and to

re-purpose the basement room for education and recreational programs, the Board of Directors has taken the initiative to build a maintenance building east of the solar array just off Michigan Street.

The building will be two stories, 40 x 60 feet. One bay will have ample storage for vehicles, equipment, chemicals, and tools. A smaller heated bay will house the shop. The attic room will provide much-needed storage. A buff-colored board and batten exterior and dogwood-red metal roof will match the learning center.

We are determined to build a utilitarian, yet ecological, building to meet our growing needs. Our needs are becoming urgent. We need this building in order to maintain our trails, repair our buildings, and manage our land. We estimate that the building will cost between \$55,000 and \$65,000. Please consider a year-end gift to help us make this building a reality.

Why We Need a Maintenance Building:

- **Maintain our maintenance equipment**
(so we can maintain the preserve, the trails and the buildings)
- **Increase the safety of Collins Center**
- **Reduce noise, exhaust and dust**
- **Re-Purpose the basement for education and recreational programs.**



Ski/snowshoe program & storage now located in the basement.

Science

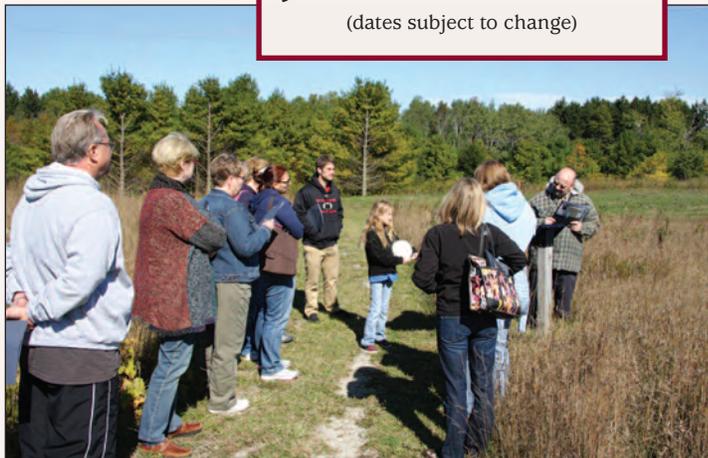
“Celebrating Solar Systems” was the theme of Astronomy Day 2011, and it was a celebration indeed, as

the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society initiated their updated Planet Walk between the Astronomy Campus and the Collins Learning Center. A grant from the Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium enabled Crossroads to offer teacher training that weekend. Participating teachers then guided families through hands-on activities.

Members of the astronomical society will hold Viewing Nights on the Saturday nearest the new moon each month. The community is invited to experience these exciting events.



photos by Dave Udel



Night Sky Viewing at The Leif Everson Observatory

January 21
February 18
March 24
April 21
May 19

June 5 - Transit of Venus

(dates subject to change)

History

Join us on
Tuesday, December 27, at 1:00
when the Door County Historical Society
invites the community to return to
a simpler time with in a
“Door County Pioneer Christmas.”
Bring the whole family to this free holiday event.

Antique Appraisal Event Coming Back By Popular Demand

On November 19, the Historical Society held its first Antique Appraisal Event. It was so successful, they've scheduled another for April 1. Antique writer Mark Moran (yes, the one you've seen on the PBS television program “Antiques Road Show”) will be back. Appraisals will be \$15, while a ticket to watch the show is \$3. Proceeds will be used to paint the peak of the Vignes School.



Giving in Year Twenty

Gifts from September 1 - November 30, 2011
(2011 totals will be listed in the Spring newsletter)



\$5,000 - 10,000

Marian Hislop

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous

Tom and Peggy Hauser
Don and Coggin Heeringa

\$500 - \$999

Dorene Dempster and
Mark Herrell

\$250 - 499

Joseph and Lori Cedzo
HATCO
Zion United Methodist Church
Leroy and Marilyn Liebe

\$100 - 249

Dave and LaVonne Callsen
Lee and Inge Bacon
Door Landscape & Nursery
Door County
Environmental Council
Door Property Owners
Robert and Rebecca Hoover
Herb Klein and Cal Bonniver
Tom and Lucy Kile
Camilla Nielsen
Tom and Barbara Tierney
Wild Ones of Door County
Norm and Mabel Watkins
Steve and Joan Wilkie

\$1 - 49

Eileen Andera
Heidi Bader
Jeanne Barnard
Carol Bartoszek
Dorlores Bullis
Patrick Blizel
Randy and Jane Bumgardner
John and Katherine Campbell
Cheryl Chorozny
Rose Coisman
Pete and Carol Clikeman
George and Margaret Collier
Elaine Cregan
Julie Doucette
Catherine Eckers
Sue and Mike Eliason
Fran and Arliss Evenson
Marianne Ewig
Feldman Family
Rosemary Freischmidt
Travis Grooters
Gary and Barbara Henkelmann
Nicole Herbst
Deborah Jeanquart
Thomas and Darlene Kolp
Tammy Kroll
Katie Malvetz
Joyce Miller
Gretchen Montee
Betty Ostram
Mathew Propsom
Anna Quale
Belind Richard
Leona Rylander
John Rosenthal
Gordon Saron

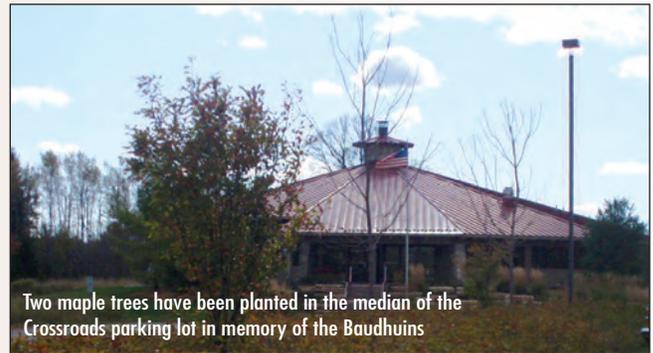
Gretchan Schmelzer
Reta Schmidt
Jeanne Schopf
Ed Schriener-Schmitt
Marguerite and Dennis Skahen
Kay Stack
Scott Steeb
Debra and Dan Swanson
James Tellstrom
Rob and Cathy Vuksanovic

Jon and Cynthia Wargo
Randy Watermolen
Eugene and Wilma Waterstreet
Elizabeth and James Williamson
Shirley and Halliman Wisborough
Jolene Wilson
Clifford Wind
Carmen Youra
Troy and Connie Zak

Memorials & Tributes

In Memory of Reinie Krause
Harry Porter

In Memory of Howard Kihn
Eric and Dee Paulsen



Two maple trees have been planted in the median of the Crossroads parking lot in memory of the Baudhuins

In Memory of Mary and William Baudhuin

Jim, Linda, and Jessica Adams
Thad and Cathy Ash
The Ladies of Bank Mutual
Autumn Barlament
Baudhuin Incorporated
Sr. Mary Bauduin
Meghan Blum
Nancy Olsen Blum
Anastasia Cihlar
Steve and Tami Delarwelle

Mark and Tina Jennerjohn
Chris and Connie Larsen
Marcus Lumaye
Eric and Dee Paulsen
Megan and Kevin Rottinghouse
Amy Schommer
Dustin Stephany
Jerome and Pamela Wierzba
Anne Ziegelbauer



Yes! I (we) want to be a part of Crossroads at Big Creek.

Crossroads at Big Creek is a preserve for experiential lifelong learning focused on science, history, and the environment.

Enclosed is a check to help meet the program and operations expenses at Crossroads.

\$50 Prairie Club
 \$100 Forest Club

\$250 Wetland Club
 \$500 Big Creek Club

\$1,000 Hillcrest Club
 \$5,000 Preservation Club

I would also like to donate \$ _____ to: Maintenance Building Fund Council Ring Fund

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

(if you would like to receive notes on upcoming events)

- Yes, you may list my name for donor recognition
 Please do not list my name
 Please do not send fund-raising materials in the future.

Please make checks payable to:
Crossroads at Big Creek, Inc.

PO Box 608, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Crossroads at Big Creek is a private 501(c)(3) organization.



Crossroads at Big Creek, Inc. does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status

Aldo Leopold Day

Saturday, March 3rd



Aldo Leopold Day, celebrated the first Saturday of March, has always been a time of inspiration as Door County environmentalists gather at Crossroads to celebrate the legacy of this Wisconsin environmentalist. In 2012, we will celebrate the life work and influence of one of Leopold's students – Fran Hamerstrom.

Last month, the Door County Environmental Council presented Crossroads with a stunning James Ingwersen pastel portrait of Fran Hamerstrom. This amazing gift inspired us to learn more about Leopold's only female graduate student and one of the first women to earn a degree in wildlife management. Working with her husband in a career that spanned more than 70 years, she studied birds of prey and created a preserve for prairie chickens which saved these birds from elimination from Wisconsin. Not only did she contribute to more than 150 scientific papers, but also wrote a dozen popular books about birds and nature. Perhaps her greatest contribution was to instill thousands of students in an environmental ethic.

Mark your calendars for March 3, 2012, when, on Aldo Leopold Day, Crossroads at Big Creek will pay tribute to Wisconsin environmentalist Fran Hamerstrom with a series of programs.