



FOREST COUNTY  
POTAWATOMI  
LAND &  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES

# LNR NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 2  
July-December 2017

A publication of the FCPC Land & Natural Resources Division



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## Colors of Attraction

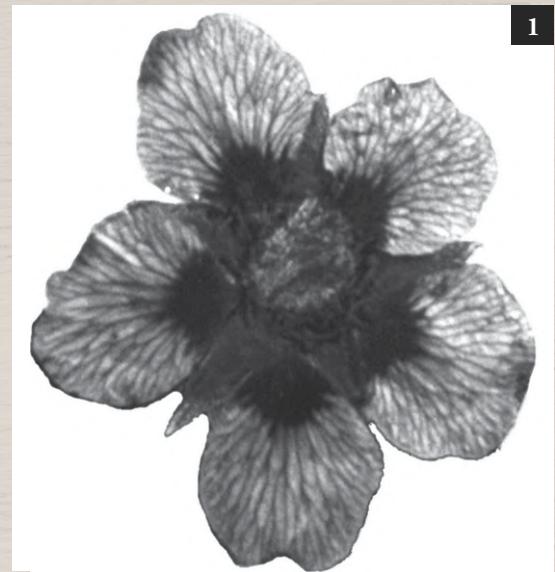
By Chelsey Baranczyk,  
Natural Resources Biologist - Botany /Wetlands

Numerous flowers of varying colors are erupting along the roadsides, on the edges of woodlands, and in fields. What are these colorful native plants and what purpose do they serve besides pleasing the eye?

As it turns out, all these bright colors are meant to catch the attention of pollinators. Pollinators aren't simply the bees you most often hear about. They are butterflies, moths, ants, beetles and other insects, and bats and birds, too! They all have

specific preferences in flower shape and color. Planting a variety of flowers in many colors in your garden will attract them all.

Bright BLUE- and VIOLET-colored flowers are said to attract bees. Bees are unable to see red colors, but they do see near ultra-violet colors. If you do see bees on brightly-colored red flowers, chances are there may be a UV-pattern on that flower that they are able to see but



we cannot. Don't be afraid to attract bees to your garden either. If you don't bother them, they won't bother you!

Hummingbirds on the other hand are rather fond of flowers with RED, PINK, FUCHSIA, or PURPLE colors, which explains why most hummingbird feeders are often the color red. Fun fact: There is no need to put red food coloring in the hummingbird feeder. This is actually considered harmful to them. A simple solution of four parts water and one part white granulated sugar is best to keep your hummingbirds happy and healthy.

Butterflies and birds like bright YELLOW-, ORANGE-, PINK-, or RED-colored flowers, while nocturnal pollinators (those active at night) such as bats and moths often gravitate toward flowers with strong scents and very pale colors such as WHITE that stand out in the dark hours.

Just like the color of a flower



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catches your eye, the color and scent of a flower has the same effect on our pollinators. This creates a beneficial relationship for both the plant and the pollinator since the pollinator gets a sweet treat of nectar while in turn carrying off the flower's pollen to another flower to complete the pollination process. Roughly 75 percent of all flowering plants require pollinators. After every third bite of food, take a moment to thank a pollinator.

Interested in helping out our pollinators? Consider planting native wildflowers of a variety of colors in your garden! Some common plants arranged by flower color include:

#### Blue or violet flowers:

- New England aster (*Sympyotrichum novae-angliae*)
- Bergamot/bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- Wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)
- Great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)

#### Yellow or orange flowers:

- Bush honeysuckle shrub (*Diervilla lonicera*)
- Barren strawberry (*Geum fragarioides*)
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



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#### • Cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*)

- Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

#### White flowers:

- Serviceberry/Juneberry shrub (*Amelanchier laevis*)
- Bearberry, Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
- Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)
- Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
- Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)
- Wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)

#### Pink or red flowers:

- Joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*)
- Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)
- Swamp/rose milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Wild rose shrub (*Rosa blanda*)

Don't be afraid to add a bit of variety to your garden! Different plants bloom at different times of the year, providing food for our pollinators all season long!

**Photo 1:** A cinquefoil flower that looks solid yellow to us looks very different to butterflies and other pollinators, photo by Matthew H. Koski & Tia-Lynn Ashman, CC BY-SA. **Photo 2:** Shrubby cinquefoil, photo by Jacob W. Frank, NPS. **Photo 3:** Bee balm, photo by FCP Natural Resources. **Photo 4:** Cup plant, photo by FCP Natural Resources.

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

## FCPC Students Visit Natural Resources for Annual Career Day

*By Jenni Mabrier,  
Environmental Education Coordinator*

Every May, the Natural Resources Department hosts a career day for FCP students in grades 9-12. It's an opportunity for the kids to come out and try some of the things our

staff does. Hopefully one of those will catch their interest and get them thinking about a future career in natural resources!

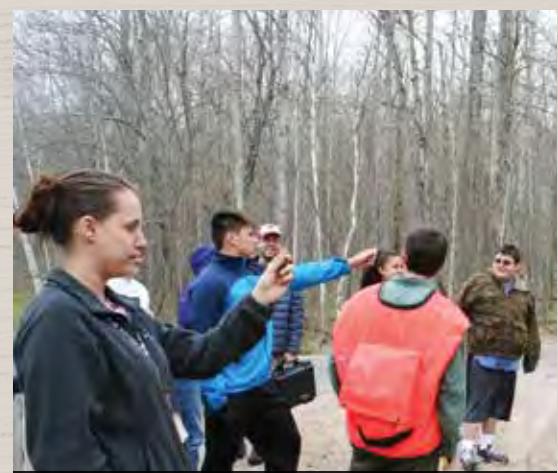


FCP Fire/Fuels Manager Jim Gumm demonstrates a controlled burn.

Forestry staff use a wedge prism like this one during timber-stand inventories. Instead of measuring every single tree in a stand (which could take a while), they only measure ones where at least part of the trunk in the prism is in line with the rest of the trunk.



FCP Natural Resources Biologist Sam Schratz (in gray jacket) shows the students how an ANAbat receiver works. Because bat calls are too high-pitched for us to hear, we use the ANAbat to record the calls for us.



FCP Forester Adam Bontje (orange vest) brought some of the tools he uses for the students to try.

# Another Great Year at the Preschool!

By Jenni Mabrier,  
Environmental Education Coordinator

Another school year has come to a close, ending with graduation for some of the preschoolers. I will miss the graduates next year when they go off to kindergarten but look forward to meeting the new kids entering preschool! Here are some of the activities we did during this school year:

## **Chickens**

Four baby chicks spent their first four weeks of life at the preschool, where the kids learned how to take care of them and watched the chicks grow.

## **Trail Cameras**

The trail camera activities took us three weeks – the first week we found out what causes the camera to take a picture if there's no one there to push the button (when it sees movement) and we predicted which animals we thought our camera would photograph. The second week we put the camera outside with some food in front of it. For the third week, we looked through the photos and compared the animals photographed to our predictions.

**Photo 1 & 2:** Thawing out (plastic) frogs for spring and trying to catch flies with a frog tongue

**Photo 3:** Four baby chicks spent their first four weeks of life at the preschool, where the kids learned how to take

care of them and watched the chicks grow.

**Photo 4:** Some of the animals caught on trail camera

**Photo 5:** Week two of trail camera - putting the camera outside

*Photos by FCP Natural Resources*



# FARM

## New Growth in Blackwell

*Story by Jenni Mabrier,  
Environmental Education Coordinator  
Photos by FCP Natural Resources*

Ever since the Red Deer Ranch in Blackwell closed its doors in 2015, that property has been sitting dormant. Like a seed that has finally felt the thaw of spring, the former deer ranch property is sprouting to life once again, this time as a farm.

It started with the construction of three high tunnels thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department



We plan to have the preschoolers hatch and raise a few of our chicks each spring. Those chicks will return to the farm when school gets out for the summer.



**Farm Manager Dave Cronauer and Assistant Farm Manager Joe Shepard unload the new cattle.**

of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). These buildings work like a greenhouse, trapping heat, warming the ground, and protecting the plants from frost. That lets us start planting earlier in the spring and continue harvesting later into the fall – important when you have such a short growing season outside!



**The high tunnels**

This first year, we are planning to have vegetables, pigs, beef cattle, and chickens – both for eggs and for meat. An orchard with apples, pears, and plums has also been planted, but it will be a few years before they produce fruit. We are growing all plants and animals in a natural, sustainable way to produce foods to nourish our bodies while also taking care of mother earth.

The food will be distributed to elderly services, Rising Sun Day Care, and Gte Ga Nēs Preschool as well as providing the ingredients for meals at community events. We are hoping to grow the farm each year so that in a few years we will be able to offer fresh food first to the tribal elders and then to all tribal members.

# FORESTRY



Recently-burned prairie area near  
FCP Solid Waste facility on Ritchie Lane

## Fire as a Forest Management Tool

*Story by Jenni Mabrier,  
Environmental Education Coordinator  
Photos by Celeste Schuppler, Education  
& Monitoring Technician*

Controlled burns are intentional, low intensity fires. Seeds of some plants and trees will only grow after they have been exposed to the heat of a fire. Having regular controlled burns also makes sure there isn't a buildup of dry leaves, sticks, and other materials that could fuel an out-of-control wildfire.



Staff from the Menominee tribe helped FCP Land Information Director Casey Swanson (far right) and FCP Fire/Fuels Manager (Forestry) Jim Gumm (second from right) with several prescribed burns in the Stone Lake area in April.

# Hey Fish, been here long?

By Ben Koski, Natural Resources  
Biologist - Aquatic Sciences

Length is a good estimation of how large a fish is in comparison to the rest of its classmates, but have you ever wondered for how long a fish has been in school?

I was fishing for panfish one sunny afternoon when I caught a beautiful bluegill. I had no intentions of having the fish over for dinner that evening, so I quickly released it back into the calm, clear water. A few moments later I reeled in a much smaller bluegill, breaming with color. I admired the iridescent shine of the little fish and let it go. Peering over the side of the boat, I was astonished at how many bluegills had amassed underneath my bobber. There must have been hundreds, all different sizes, and presumably different ages. I caught myself perched upon a simple thought, "Same colorful fish, same shape, same appetite, different

size. I wonder how old these fish are?" A light breeze washed across my face, and I looked up to take in my wooded surroundings. Pine trees lined the banks with a soft green texture, some small and some tall. Later on I would find out that trees and fish have something in common, more than just a need for water. It turns out, you can age a fish in the same way that you can age a tree, by counting growth rings.

## The way it works

Fish have three boney structures in their bodies that produce growth rings. Dorsal spines, scales, and inner ear bones (otoliths) all grow in this manner and are all used to age fish. Fish scales are the least invasive, non-lethal, and most commonly collected during fish surveys. A few scales are pulled off each fish and brought back to the laboratory. Scales can then be examined under a microscope or pressed onto a soft plastic slide and examined on a microfiche reader.

Not all fish produce scales that can be aged, but fish that produce cycloid and ctenoid-type scales are candidates for counting, such as bluegill, bass, perch, and pike. Scales are formed by thin layer of skin that covers a thin layer

of bone. Scales grow from their outer edge in ring-like layers of bone called circuli. Radiating out from the center of the scale are straight lines, or ridges, called radii. When a fish is born in the spring and starts to develop its scales, the first circuli formed for the scale is called the focus. As the fish feeds and grows through the summer, circuli are continually added, usually at a consistent rate. When feeding and growth slows down during the winter months, the circuli grow slower and closer together appearing as darker rings around the scale. These dark rings are called annuli. An annulus is formed each year when growth slows down, so by counting the number of annuli, you can determine the age of the fish. If the fish was captured during the spring, right before fast growth begins again, the very outer edge of the scale would be counted as the last year of growth.

## Does age really matter?

When studying and managing fish populations, determining fish age allows biologists to calculate growth rates. The rate at which a fish grows depends on a handful



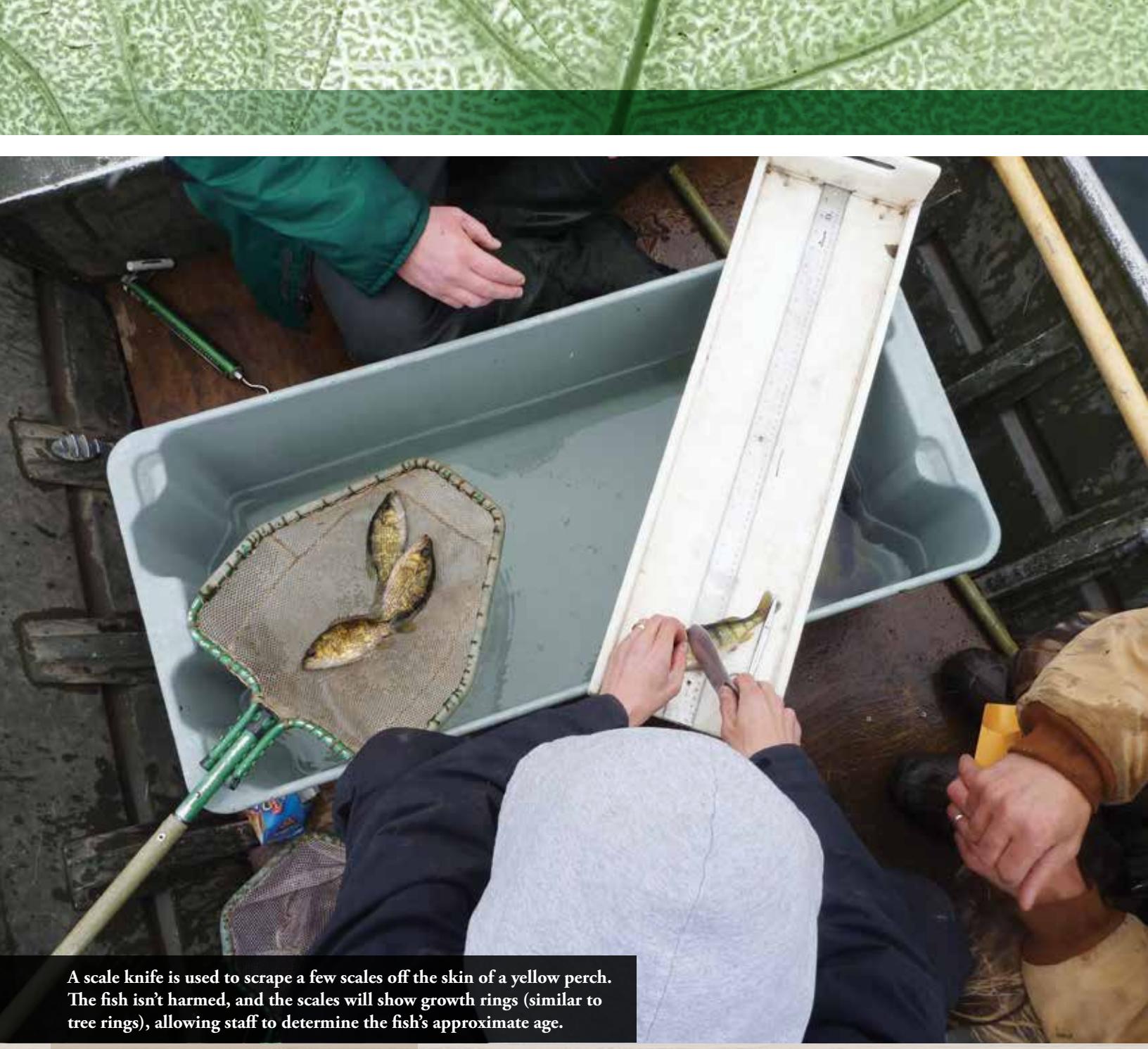
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A scale knife is used to scrape a few scales off the skin of a yellow perch. The fish isn't harmed, and the scales will show growth rings (similar to tree rings), allowing staff to determine the fish's approximate age.

**Photo 1:** Jason Spaude, Natural Resources Technician, looks at a magnified bluegill scale on the microfiche machine.

**Photo 2 & 3:** A close-up of a bluegill scale. In the left photo, note the gaps between rings – the larger gaps are what staff count to determine a fish's age. Those gaps are highlighted in the right photo, showing this bluegill is about 4 years old. The ridges or lines running from the middle of the scale out to the edge are called radii.

Photos by FCP Natural Resources

of factors, but food supply, health, and growing season length are major drivers. This can play a pivotal part in managing a lake and its residents. For example, if a lake has a high number of shorter fish and their ages are higher than average for each length group compared to other similar fish in similar lakes, their growth may be limited by the sheer number of fish present. The limited availability and competition for quality food may be stunting their growth. Therefore,

fish harvest regulations can be put in place to promote a reduction in the overall numbers of that fish species, decreasing the competition for food among the fish. If over-abundance and competition for food was causing the fish to grow slower than their potential, then this management strategy may just allow them to swim to their longest potential. Unless you have them over for dinner first. Time to go fishing!

# STAFF

## Sam Schratz Natural Resource Biologist



Hello! My name is Sam Schratz, the new natural resource biologist for the tribe. My goal is to provide quality science, science-based opinions, and guidance on wildlife-related issues or concerns, and to help ensure that wildlife health and populations are stable for enjoyment for future generations. I am honored to be given the opportunity to work with the Forest County Potawatomi

Community.

I moved to the northwoods from Jonesboro, Arkansas. You may be expecting me to have a heavy southern accent, but you would be wrong. I was born in Arkansas but raised in northeast Philadelphia/South New Jersey (that's the abridged version). In 2012, I received my Bachelor's of Science in Biology with an emphasis on Organismal Biology and

## Olivia Stanga Senior Natural Resources Technician



Hello! My name is Olivia. I am the new senior natural resources technician for the Natural Resources Department. I am very excited to be assisting with wildlife and habitat surveys, and utilize my wide variety

of skills and hands-on knowledge to succeed.

I grew up in the Fox Valley and received my Bachelor's degree in Biology and Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. I am continuously involved in conservation and helping wildlife however I can. Many of my contributions include

work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as non-profit organizations. Public outreach, wildlife management, and

environmental preservation are just a few of my ambitions.

Wildlife rehabilitation is another passion of mine. I am a permitted wildlife rehabilitator and have been rehabilitating injured wildlife for six years as a volunteer. From hummingbirds to bald eagles to bats to black bears, I am determined to help any animal in need of assistance.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time outdoors. I am an avid hiker, birder, and nature photographer. I love to explore new areas and observe wildlife new to me.

I am very eager to be a part of the Natural Resources Department and see what new opportunities await me!

# Michael LaRonge

## Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Public Outreach from Illinois State University and in 2016 I received my Masters of Science in Biology from Arkansas State University. My master's thesis focused on the roosting ecology of two bat species in Arkansas' second-largest bottomland hardwood forest and overall species inventory within that forest. My bat experiences have taken me to the volcanic cloud forests of Nicaragua (twice!) and the great basin deserts of the west. I will be leading the bat research project that has been funded for the next four years.

My interests include wildlife watching and photography, biking, hiking, and watching documentaries. I also enjoy traveling both domestically and abroad. My ultimate goal is to travel to every national park and visit every state. For now, I will focus on traveling throughout the Midwest and seeing what this part of the world has to offer me. I look forward to meeting members of the FCP Community. If you have any concerns or thoughts on wildlife or wildlife conservation, please feel free to contact me.



Greetings, my name is Michael LaRonge. I was hired for the position of Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) in September of 2016. I have been busy getting the office back on track and am now in a better position to reach out to the community and introduce myself.

I was raised in Wausau, met and married my wife Kim while in La Crosse attending college; we have been married for 20 years this past year. I graduated from University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with a degree in archaeology in 1996 and obtained my Master's degree in Industrial Archaeology from Michigan Technological University in 2001. In my spare time, I study the Japanese martial art of Aikido and currently teach class three times a week at my instructor's school in Merrill. As part of my ongoing martial training, I have recently begun

studying herbal medicine to help me heal injuries that occasionally occur during regular training.

Professionally, I have worked for the Wisconsin Historical Society, a few private cultural-resource firms, and the Lac du Flambeau Historic Preservation Office. I have also worked with several Wisconsin Tribal Communities as a private consultant. Although the summer months keep me busy with fieldwork, if you have questions about what the THPO office is working on or have information you feel would be helpful to the program's ability to help the community protect its cultural resources, please call and we can set up a time to talk. I look forward to continuing to work with the community membership and staff I have met already and meeting more of you as I conduct my work.



# CONTACTS/EVENTS



## LNR CONTACTS

Division Administrator	(715) 478-4192
Fleet	(715) 478-7390
Forestry	(715) 478-4975
Land Information/GIS	(715) 478-4988
Natural Resources	(715) 478-7222
Roads	(715) 478-7390

## UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY

**AUGUST 5  
2017**

TUESDAY

**AUGUST 22  
2017**

WEDNESDAY

**AUGUST 23  
2017**

MULTIPLE DATES

**SEPTEMBER  
2017**

### **Summer Fisheree**

Bug & Devil's Lakes  
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### **Night Hike**

Location TBA  
8 - 9:30 p.m.

### **Night Hike**

Location TBA  
8 - 9:30 p.m.

### **Monarch Butterfly Tagging**

Locations TBA  
2 - 4 p.m.

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