

Central Wisconsin Sustainability Newsletter



March 2009

Greetings,

The newsletter's primary purpose is to help people learn about events and initiatives related to sustainability in Central Wisconsin.

This month our newsletter is just a quick update about upcoming events because there are a number of events happening in March that were not included in the February 2009 newsletter.

If someone you know would like to receive the Central Wisconsin Sustainability Newsletter by email, they can sign up by entering their email address in the green box on our sustainability web page at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/sustainability.html.

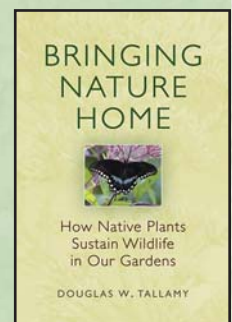
The April newsletter will again include Recent Sustainability News and Businesses Moving Towards Sustainability featuring St. Michael's hospital and Emy J's in Stevens Point. Please send articles for the April newsletter to Lynn Markham at lmarkham@uwsp.edu by March 23rd.

Upcoming Events...

March 2009

Starting in March 2009 – Stevens Point

Book Discussion – Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens. James Cook and Holly Petrillo, professors in forest ecology and entomology, respectively, are starting a group for the public to discuss it. They're planning to hold 5 one-hour sessions from 7-8 pm on Wednesday nights at Emy J's. People can join the group by contacting James Cook at jcook@uwsp.edu or 346-2269. If a large number of people are interested, some may be put on a waiting list for a future discussion group on this topic.



March 3, 3:30 pm

Building Green: Two Wisconsin Case Studies

UW-Stevens Point, College of Professional Studies, Room 229

Tom Brown will discuss basic facets of green design as illustrated in two local examples:

- The Sullivan Residence in Amherst, which received the National Energy Value Gold Award and a 5-Star Plus rating under the USEPA Energy Star Program
- Mead Wildlife Area Education & Visitor Center, which received 3 Wisconsin awards plus an award from the National Association of Conservation Engineers

You can read about these case studies at www.tombrownarchitect.com.

March 3, 5:30-8 pm

Local Food Fair

Stevens Point Area senior High (SPASH) North Commons, Stevens Point, WI

Want to understand how local foods relate to community and personal health, food security and climate change? Interested to learn what community organizations are doing to address food issues in the Central Wisconsin? The event is free and open to all interested people. Contact: Jeremy Solin at (715) 342-4643 or jeremy@farmshed.org.

Schedule:

- 5:30 - 6:15 - Potato bar served: Baked potatoes with toppings provided by local restaurants (free, donations accepted)
- 6:30 - 7:00 - The Emperor's New Food: An original production featuring local artists and highlighting local food's connection to our health, security, and climate change.
- 7:00 - 8:00 - Information and Networking Courtyard and desserts: Meet local farmers, sign up for CSA shares, learn about diverse organizations' local food-related efforts, and find ways to get involved in supporting local foods. Enjoy desserts provided by local restaurants.

March 3-6

Better Buildings: Better Business Conference

Wisconsin Dells, WI

In two short days you will learn: How to build homes that deliver the energy savings customers want. About renewable energy technologies that reduce energy costs. How energy efficiency and green building practices keep you competitive.

Contact: Phil Jahnke Sauer pjahnkesauer@ecw.org, (608) 238-8276 x124
www.ecw.org/university/ecuevent.php?ecuid=6.

March 4, 7 pm

Birdscaping in the Midwest – Mariette Nowak, speaker

Lincoln Center, 1519 Water Street, Stevens Point

Nowak, from Wisconsin, is the author of the book Birdscaping in the Midwest, which was published in 2007. This excellent guide to bird gardening in the Midwestern states provides abundant detail about how to improve the quality of backyard habitats through examples and practical plans. Mariette Nowak demonstrates that even small steps can improve local bird habitat in meaningful ways. Presentation sponsored by the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society.

March 5, 7 pm

Waupaca Protects City Drinking Water by Working with Farmers - Will It Work In Portage County?

Portage County Annex, Conference Room 5, Stevens Point, WI

The Portage County Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee will host a presentation by John Edlebeck, City of Waupaca Public Works Director and City Engineer, regarding the innovative groundwater management cropping agreements in Waupaca's Municipal Well Recharge Areas. Some farmers within the recharge areas voluntarily contract to grow crops which allow less nitrate-nitrogen to leach into the groundwater in return for payments from the City. The City benefits by not requiring expensive nitrogen removal for its water supply. Prevention of contamination is cheaper and more effective than cleanup.

Two of the Villages in Portage County currently spend thousands of dollars annually to remove nitrogen from the water supplied to their residents and businesses. The presentation will be held Thursday March 5, 2009, at 7:00 PM in Conference Room 5 of the Portage County Annex at 1462 Strongs Avenue in Stevens Point. Members of the public are invited to attend.

March 9, 10 am – Noon

Growing Vegetables in Your Backyard

Portage County Public Library, Stevens Point, WI

A diverse panel of backyard gardeners from Central Wisconsin will discuss what has worked best for them. Panelists represent different gardening perspectives: urban and rural, beginner and experienced, organic and not organic, row and bed gardening, summer-only produce and a year-round supply of vegetables. Topics include starting a new garden space, choosing easy vegetables for beginners, preparing the soil each spring, starting seeds indoors, seeding directly in the garden and buying seeds and seedlings. Hosted by Interfaith Community for the Earth (ICE), the presentation is free and open to the public.

March 12, 7-9 pm

Power of Community

MREA, Custer, WI

Fourth in a video/discussion series sponsored by Sustainable Stockton and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. All are welcome. We will provide popcorn, please bring your own beverage. MREA building, 7558 Deer Road in Custer.

March 17, 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Green Collar Jobs: Sustainable Work in a Low Carbon World: UW-Extension Webinar

Will future jobs be increasingly “green?” If so, what makes a job or an industry green? Is a green job a good job? What constitutes this “green economy” that we hear so much about these days? This session explores the nature of green collar jobs and their implications for business and community development. It looks at links with environmental concerns, efficiency considerations, and workforce (and employment) development in terms of education and skills requirements. Offered at 4 central Wisconsin locations:

- Wisconsin Rapids - Courthouse Room 101 (Auditorium), 400 Market Street. FREE. Call (715) 421-8440 to register
- Marshfield - Room 101 UW-Marshfield/Wood County, 2000 W 5th Street. FREE. Call (715) 389-6520 to register.
- Wausau - 212 River Drive. \$5 per session or \$35 for the full series. Register by calling (715) 261-1241.
- Stevens Point - UW-Stevens Point College of Professional Studies, Room 104. FREE.

March 17-18

Solar Hot Water System Design

MREA, Custer, WI - www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1167945414

March 19

Basic Photovoltaics

MREA, Custer, WI - www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1143050327

March 19

2009 Twin Cities Sustainable Communities Conferences

St. Paul, MN

Mayor Ken Melamed, Whistler, British Columbia, host of the 2010 Olympics, will be the keynote speaker for both conferences. He will describe how Whistler citizens used the Natural Step to create a community sustainability vision/ action plan.

Noon – 6 pm, **2nd Annual Local Government Sustainability Workshop**

400 local government staff and elected officials, citizen and business leaders will learn about model policies and ordinances they can adopt for expand energy efficiency, active living, transit oriented development, walking, biking, transit use, zero waste and low-impact development.

6:00-9:30 pm, **4th Annual Neighborhood Sustainability Conference**

500 citizen volunteers from neighborhoods, congregations, schools, businesses, service clubs and city

environmental commissions will find resources for hands-on projects and learn how to help to shape sustainable local and state policies. For conference agendas and registration see www.afors.org

March 20

Basic Photovoltaics

MREA, Custer, WI - www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1200416204

March 28

Energy Efficient, Environmentally Friendly Construction

MREA, Custer, WI - www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1048284359

March 29

Sustainable Building and Living

MREA, Custer, WI - www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1048450033

April 2009

April 1

The Solar Lifestyle: Intro to Renewable Energy

MREA, Custer, WI - www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1048615608

April 8-10

Solar Water Heating Installation Lab

MREA, Custer, WI - www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1198097300

April 17-19

Central Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Festival

Join us as we celebrate Central Wisconsin's Grassland habitats, a unique experience. Come to see Prairie Chickens do their mating dance, observe kestrels on their nests with a video camera, watch Master Bird banders band birds for research, and learn what you can do in your own backyard to benefit wildlife. These are just a few of the activities at the Festival. For more info see goldensandsrwd.org/pcfest/index.htm or call 343-6215.

April 23-25

Solar Water Heating Installation Lab

MREA, Custer, WI - www.the-mrea.org/workshops.php?id=1198097640

If you would like an event you or your organization is sponsoring to be included in the Sustainability Newsletter, please send submissions to Center for Land Use Education: landcenter@uwsp.edu

Please include the following:

- Date, time, location, contact information, and a short description of the event.
- Send a brief justification as to why this event is relevant for the newsletter.
- Respond with "Sustainability Newsletter" in the email subject line.

Thank you and please forward this invitation to any who may be interested in advertising in the newsletter.