

Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN)

March 2010 News

Happy Spring everyone!

Attached is the agenda and program for our 3/19/10 meeting at the USF&W offices in Green Bay, WI. Please note that prior to the meeting (9-Noon) is an opportunity for a special lecture and caravan tour of the proposed Red Banks Historic District located just to the north. Our guide and long-time, active NERN member will be enlightening us all during the course of the morning. If you have not yet registered, please do so immediately by e-mailing me! About 5 more spots are available before we feel the group gets to large, so claim your spot now! If you are not sure if you've registered, then please e-mail me to verify!

Also attached are items of potential interest ranging from upcoming events, to grant opportunities, to supporting materials for items reported on in detail below.

Now for some updates on things that have transpired since late February (and believe me, a lot has transpired!):

- The 2010 Calendar of Events has been updated and a .pdf file of it is attached to this e-mail. It will also be available on the website www.escarpmentnetwork.org within the week. Four NEW events and few minor corrections have been added, so please review any event of prior interest with this in mind!
- The estimated number of persons that 2010's events have 'elevated' directly by our campaign so far is about 450 and will grow immensely by year's end! That reminds me to thank our relatively new partners, the Milwaukee Audubon Society for putting on a fantastic conference back in mid-February. A feeling of interest and excitement about the escarpment was in the air all day. Kudos to the organizers and speakers!
- The unification of NERN as a formal program area of the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) was completed at their recent March 11th Board of Directors Meeting where the final memorandum of understanding was approved. Furthermore, yours truly was inducted as a member of the Board to represent the program area and everyone's efforts and interests. The next few months will bring about a few new things as the transition gets underway, such as: The sharing of contact lists, assessment of current efforts and development of a strategic work plan for the next several years; the formalization of NERN's committee/governance structure; the development of a new membership scheme and the associated tactful and pleading call out to our current members to 'please stick with us!'; the establishment financial accounts and the development of fundraising projects, and on, and on, and on. The point is, please do 'stick with us' through this and don't hesitate to provide some constructive input as strategies, methods, and procedures are developed and put in place. I (we) will try to report out as much as I/we can to all of our current members. This will ease the transition while ensuring that we keep or improve the interest and the value of the organization to our members. It is our hop that we can have your long-term support and commitment to the planning for and protection of the Niagara Escarpment in Wisconsin.
- The Tourism/Marketing Committee had a lively meeting last week to further refine, coordinate, and provide direction on several major and minor projects related to 2010 and the Year of the Niagara Escarpment. A number of other, smaller scale promotional devices/materials will be available soon, but some of the more exciting bigger projects will also be complete and are worth waiting for!: A series of electronic (and printed?) brochures identifying specific tourist itineraries for both Door County and the entire Niagara Escarpment Corridor. These fold up maps and location listings provide the traveler with four different themes to choose from!: Culinary, Recreation, Heritage, and Natural Resources. An accompanying Guide to the Niagara Escarpment brochure will be available to establish the geologic and historical context of the four tour itineraries. Also, further development of the Great Arc Bike Route is underway and we hope to have a brochure/map available by May with, perhaps an interactive 'google maps' version of the route completed by year's end. A 2010 full-page display ad will also appear on the back cover of the new Northeast Wisconsin Farm Fresh Atlas (available soon) and we expect to have our first two 'pint glasses' printed up and distributed/available through our collaboration with Capital Brewing from Middleton, Wisconsin. The first two designs are complete and you will want to collect them all! There's more to this list than I have time to report

on, but trust me that the group is just getting started! By the way, check out the some of the new 2010 Tourism Guides that are available out there including Calumet County's and the Greater Green Bay Area Convention & Visitor Bureau's - nice job of integrating/mentioning the 2010: Year of the Niagara Escarpment Theme....thanks!

- A newly formed organization, the Fond du Lac County Friends of the Ledge, has been meeting regularly to discuss and strategize on appropriate and effective methods to protect cultural heritage sites and other features along Fond du Lac County's portion of the escarpment. The group has formed a mission statement and is inviting interested individuals from the County to participate. The group is still in its fledgling stages but are off to a good start and are asking all the right questions. Questions about this effort can be directed to John Brusoe at jclairem@bertramwireless.com.

Finally, quite a few news articles and items of interest below, particularly with respect to wind energy as of late. Also, be sure to check out the escarpment 'coaster' proposal in Ontario! While it may be judged from a number of perspectives, you have to admit that it does sound fun!

I'm probably forgetting to report on a few other items, so if I missed something of importance to you, please let me know and I'll send it out to all right away!

Enjoy the Spring!

- Eric Fowle, NERN Program Representative - Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership Board of Directors

SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS !

Enclosed is an invitation to participate in a Master Composter training, set for Saturday April 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Outagamie County UW-Extension office, 3365 W. Brewster St., Appleton. The Master Composter Certification is for anyone interested in learning more about composting and willing to share their knowledge with their local communities. The goal of the Master Composter Volunteer Program is to empower local composters to organize and teach home composting workshops as well as offer compost demonstrations in their communities. See attachment. For more information contact Jim Resick.

Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, Inc. Winter 2010 Newsletter

<http://www.lnrp.org/newsletter/issues/winter2010.htm>

FROM THE WISCONSIN RIVER ALLIANCE.....

Urgent! Ask your legislators to cosponsor the Groundwater Protection Bill!

Over the past several months we have been telling you about upcoming legislation to protect our groundwater supplies and groundwater-dependent rivers, lakes and wetlands. At long last, the groundwater bill is here! Your voice is critical to show strong support for the bill. Call or email your legislators TODAY and ask that they add their name as a cosponsor of the groundwater bill, LRB 4094/1. A long list of legislative cosponsors will show strong early support for the bill, which helps leaders identify it as a priority.

The great news is that the legislation does reflect the priorities we have been fighting to include in this bill:

1. Creates "groundwater management areas" so local governments and the Department of Natural Resources can ensure that groundwater is used more carefully, thereby avoiding drying up groundwater supplies, lakes, streams and wetlands;
2. Creates a process for the scientific review of new wells so sensitive natural resources are not harmed; and
3. Brings conservation into water planning so that new groundwater withdrawals are used efficiently.

A strong show of early support is especially crucial for the success of this bill since the legislative session ends in April, and there is still a lot of work to be done. If legislative leaders see the bill is a priority because of its long list of cosponsors, they will accommodate these short timeframes. And stay tuned – hearings should be announced soon, and your voice will be needed then too!

Call, write or email your legislators before this Thursday, March 11, and ask them to cosponsor LRB 4094/I, being circulated by Senator Mark Miller and Representative Spencer Black. We've attached a [draft message for your convenience here](http://wisconsinrivers.org/documents/policy/Cosponsorship%20alert%20sample%20letter.pdf) but feel free to personalize this message and let them know why Wisconsin's groundwater resources are important to YOU!

OUR RECENT EVENT COVERAGE

None during this period.

WISCONSIN'S NIAGARA ESCARPMENT ON THE WEB

Eric,

I occasionally receive the NERN electronic newsletter and I have an idea for some information that we would like to make available to the masses. You are probably aware of the Greenprint project that we have been working on with the Trust for Public Lands organization. The web site is up and running and we have been holding training for various groups. We would like to post some information about the project and a link to allow access for people to start using it. To view the website, go to:

http://tplgis.org/DoorCounty_Greenprint/

Thanks, Brian Forest - Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department

(Editor's Note - NERN is working with Door County staff to identify some live training opportunities on this project. Keep your eyes out for more details!)

[Wind Watch: Egg Harbor: Property owner delivers wind farm warning](#)

"You'll see the escarpment develop (with wind farms) from Fond du Lac, through my community and up into Door County," Deslauriers said. "Hopefully, by the time they get here, there will be enough knowledge out there to regulate setbacks ..."

[National Wind Watch: News - http://www.wind-watch.org/news/](http://www.wind-watch.org/news/)

[Plenty of spear time](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Perched on the lip of the Niagara **Escarpment**, it's easy to see a dozen miles across the snow-covered expanse of the big lake to the communities on the west ..

[New sales tax should be repealed by 2021](#)

The Reporter

... as the Merc incentive package, economic development or special projects like buildings, remodeling or purchasing parkland on the **Niagara Escarpment**. ...

Archaeological features on "The Ledge" are spared by D.O.T.

(from [Mid-America Geographic Foundation - MAGF](#))

D.O.T., on August 5th, finally abandoned its consideration of alternatives Hwy 23-7A,B,C and D (McBride Site), and Hwy 23-8,9,10 and 11 (routes south of Rienzi Cemetery).

"Stakeholders" met with D.O.T. officials at UW-FdL, and the planned "expressway connection" of Hwy 151 by-pass and Hwy 23, after much deliberation, was determined to favor either 23-1 or 23-2 (where those highways presently meet).

This is a tremendous victory for all of those who have championed long and hard to leave the Niagara Escarpment unscarred by a new 1,000 foot-wide corridor originally planned by D.O.T. The decision acknowledges the revelations about the many archaeological features found on the escarpment and respects recommendations contained in Dwight's book, *Secrets of the Ledge*.

MAGF, Citizens for Ledge Preservation, Park Watch, Town of Empire Board, DNR, Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN) and the Fond du Lac Reporter were organizations which have backed area residents in opposition to D.O.T.'s original plans. FdL County's Executive, the "Stakeholders" and D.O.T. officials should be applauded for finally resolving this conflict.

(Also see *attached Wis 23 Newsletter*)

ONTARIO'S NIAGARA ESCARPMENT ON THE WEB

[Gallery 1313 shows artists survey of the Greenbelt](#)

insideTORONTO.com

From the **Niagara Escarpment** to the Oak Ridges Moraine and Rouge Park, Ontario's Greenbelt connects the urban, the rural, the city and nature. ...

[NIAGARA ESCARPMENT-Collingwood - Blue Mountain - CANADA - WetCanvas](#)

The Niagara **Escarpment**, is known as one of the world's most unique land formations. ... The Blue Mountain region of the **escarpment** boasts some of Ontario's ...

[History of the City of Hamilton | Essay Fix it](#)

By admin

The site on which the community of Hamilton began was located on a gently sloping plain between the Niagara **escarpment** to the south, and a large, sheltered bay to the north. The nucleus of the town in 1816 was an area bounded on the ...

[Ancient Forests Cling to The Niagara Escarpment « DrReese's Blog](#)

The Niagara **Escarpment** is 420 miles long and made up of 400 million year old sedimentary rocks. For 130 million years the **escarpment** was under a Silurian ...

[Internet Archive: Free Download: River valleys of the Niagara ...](#)

River valleys of the Niagara **Escarpment** [microform] (1890). Author: Wilkins, D. F. H. (David Francis Henry) Subject: Valleys; Vallées ...

[Scenic Caves Nature Adventures - Collingwood, Ontario](#)

TravelVideo.tv (press release)

Self guided tour of caves, caverns and lookouts on the highest point of the **Niagara Escarpment**. Ontario's Longest Suspension footbridge offers light ...

[TheSpec.com - Local - **Escarpment** rescue in Dundas](#)

Hamilton firefighters carry a 62-year-old woman off the side of the **escarpment** along Sydenham Road in Dundas yesterday afternoon. ...

[Niagara **Escarpment** Foundation | Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation](#)

Designated a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 1990, the Niagara **Escarpment** is one of the “gems” of the Greenbelt, the pride of the region and a natural ...

[Tree management focus of conference](#)

Lindsay Daily Post

The most ancient and least disturbed forest ecosystem in eastern North America clings to the vertical cliffs of the Niagara **Escarpment** in southern Ontario. ...

[Frozen Vines \(and Fingers\) Yield a Sweet Reward](#)

Pittsburgh Post Gazette

The Niagara **Escarpment**, a ridge running through the peninsula close to the lake, plays a similar role. Winds coming off the lake hit the ridge, ...

[Proposed wind farm receives split reaction from residents](#)

Billings Gazette

But Judy Mattinson expressed horror at the idea of spoiling the “sweet, peaceful viewshed” of the **escarpment** with wind turbines. ...

[Landslide lawsuit tossed](#)

North Shore News

Five years after a devastating landslide rumbled down a slope on the Blueridge **escarpment**, a BC Supreme Court justice has dismissed a claim from the owners ...

[See all stories on this topic](#)

[Escarpment Views » Blog Archive » New Online Event Listings](#)

By Gloria

Due to the wealth of great information we're getting about public events happening up and down the **Escarpment**, we've just added a new Calendar of Events! These listings are FREE for anyone who sends us the information. ...

[Group seeks ban on new quarries](#)

Hamilton Spectator

... of the Nelson Quarry, supporting **Niagara Escarpment** Commission (NEC) objections to the Nelson expansion and NEC plans to tighten control of the plateau. ...

[FIFTY-THREE Ontario Councils with Moral Courage « Wind Concerns ...](#)

By MA

AND WHEREAS the Niagara **Escarpment** Commission has forwarded draft comments on the proposed legislation for our review and input, which do not appear to go far enough to protect the integrity and preserve the sensitive, unique, ...

[Escarpment Views » Blog Archive » Niagara Escarpment Commission ...](#)

By Gloria

Here's some interesting news about Mount Nemo, the area of the Niagara **Escarpment** that songwriter and musician Sarah Harmer has been helping to work to protect for years. Harmer's community group Protecting **Escarpment** Rural Land (PERL) ...

[Fading Into Myth: The Niagara Gorge - Canadian Description ...](#)

By noreply@blogger.com (Just Words)

The gorge was formed over the past 12000 years by the erosive power of the Niagara River, the Falls having receded from an initial position on the **escarpment** edge at Queenston. A much older erosive feature is exposed in the gorge at the ...

[Blue Mountain plans to build coaster](#)

Collingwood Enterprise Bulletin

The cars will be attached to a tubular steel track which will sit on the **escarpment**, possibly elevated up to six metres from the ground. ...

[More blasting in Caledon?](#)

Caledon Enterprise

“Part of the property is in the **Niagara Escarpment**, they also want to exit onto Heart Lake Road, north of Charleston.” And the exit is where they may have ...

[YouTube - Niagara Travel: Niagara Escarpment tour: Vertical ...](#)

These video clips were taken during my driving tour around the Niagara **Escarpment** on July 18, 2007. As much as I love Toronto, I occasionally need to get ...

[Presenting: Niagara Falls Tourism – One Wonder After Another ...](#)

By admin

The Niagara **Escarpment** is located in the Niagara Fruitbelt. This area is some of the most fertile land in the country. We have a microclimate in the Niagara Region which is ideal for growing fruit. The temperatures in the Fruitbelt are ...

[Picture-perfect Niagara](#)

St. Catharines Standard

The stories helped kick off **Niagara** Region's newly-approved culture plan, ... backyards and attractions along two Great Lakes and all along the **escarpment**. ...

[NEW YORK'S NIAGARA ESCARPMENT ON THE WEB](#)

[Q&A with the Western New York Land Conservancy](#)

Buffalo Rising

We have identified the need to protect and bring recognition to the fragile lands of the **Niagara Escarpment** in Niagara County. ...

[Wine industry convention draws hundreds to Rochester](#)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

There are currently 277 wineries spread out among five major wine and grape regions (Niagara **Escarpment**, Hudson Valley, Long Island, Finger Lakes and Lake ...

[Down in a cave with bats, a microphone, and you](#)

North Country Public Radio (blog)

I spent the better part of Thursday deep underground, in a cave under a limestone escarpment near Albany. We crawled for a couple of hours through the ...

[Wineries oppose governor's plan to see wine in supermarkets](#)

Oneida Dispatch

Duncan Ross of Arrowhead Spring Vineyards in the Niagara Escarpment, said , "As the owner of a New York winery, I am very concerned about the effect this ...

GENERAL NIAGARA ESCARPMENT ON THE WEB

[escarpment](#) From the English Dictionary

Word definitions and cross references to domain names.

[The Niagara Escarpment](#)

The Niagara **Escarpment** is a major land feature in Wisconsin that is unique in ... Want to learn more about the Niagara **Escarpment**? Check out the following ...

OTHER INTERESTING LINKS ON THE WEB

MAGAZINE | January 31, 2010

[Is There an Ecological Unconscious?](#)

By DANIEL B. SMITH

A branch of psychology says that there is - and that ignoring it puts not just the planet but also our minds at risk.