

April—June 2005



Extension Impact: Education Makes a Difference

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We're Being Invaded!

No, the title isn't referencing the new movie *War of the Worlds*, but it is referring to an invasion from alien species that are attacking our water. These species, often called 'invasives', enter an ecosystem beyond their native range. Some were intentionally imported; others were unintentionally introduced. The major pathway is through foreign ships that enter the Great Lakes. Almost 800,000 tons of ballast water is discharged into the lakes annually.

Unfortunately, Waupaca County is infected by a number of aquatic invasives that threaten the diversity and abundance of native species (including game fish), recreational activities, such as, fishing and boating, and even the

tourism economy. Fortunately, the Chain O'Lakes Association and District have become a model in Wisconsin regarding how to engage in control and prevention efforts against invasive species.

In early 2004, the Chain worked with Mike Koles and Laura Felda, UWEX Invasive Species Specialist, to learn more about aquatic invasives. The educational effort led the Chain's work with these educators to develop a strategic planning process that would identify specific tactics to simultaneously combat invasives currently in the lakes and prevent others from entering the gem of the Waupaca area tourism economy. The process (funded by a DNR grant written by Koles) was facilitated by UWEX.

The plan identified a systematic approach to fighting back and also provided a sound foundation for writing a second "implementation" grant that was funded at almost \$40,000. The Chain is in the midst of implementing a variety of education strategies to address the situation, including:

- signs at boat landings and bridge crossings
- T.V. and radio public service announcements
- restaurant placemat
- brochures provided at boat landings and area businesses
- volunteer boat monitoring
- herbicide treatment of plants

Mike Koles

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Upcoming Events

- July 26—3 PM, Take 5 Fruits Program, Scandinavia Library
- July 27—6:30 PM, Stop the Bully! Parent Class, Waupaca Family Resource Center
- July 28—Noon, Forage Field Day, Manawa
- August 23—Noon, Forage Field Day, Weyauwega
- August 4-14 WI State Fair, West Allis
- August 24-28—Waupaca County Fair, Weyauwega Fairgrounds
- September 9—Ag Lender and Farm Managers Conf. Kimberly
- September 6—New Master Gardener Orientation, Waupaca Courthouse



Invasives on the Move!
Boat trailer caked with Eurasian Watermilfoil could be traveling to a water body near you.

L. Johnson

Essential Elements of Positive Youth Development



4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.

We hear a lot about positive youth development. How do we know the 4-H and community activities encourage positive youth development? “Positive youth development is an intentional process that promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, choices, relationships, and the support needed for youth to fully participate in their family, school, peer group, neighborhood, and the community.” (Allan Smith, 2002). Programs that offer youth opportunities to participate in meaningful activities, to

feel valued by their community and to make informed and healthy choices are critical for positive development.

Recent research reported in *Strengthening Positive Youth Development Environments, 2005* shows that there are four essential elements in positive youth development, including:

Belonging: need for a caring, supportive relationship with a group.

Mastery: opportunity to take on new challenges and learn new skills.

Independence: given the

opportunity to make connections and take on new responsibilities.

Generosity: youth give service and make bonds with others as well as the community.

Youth and their families enrolled in Waupaca County 4-H Youth Development Programs, participate in a variety of educational programs built on the four essential elements. We’ll highlight the four essential elements with programs featured in future issues of *Extension Impact*.

Penny Tank

Guiding Good Choices



How do you give young teens more freedom and yet steer them to take healthy and safe actions? Eighteen parents and fourteen youth in Marion attended **Guiding Good Choices**, a five-session program teaching parents of 9-14 year olds how to reduce the risk their children will develop problems using tobacco, inhalants, alcohol and other legal and illegal drugs. Extension Educators, Marilyn Herman and Connie Abert teamed up with Marion Family Resource Center staff to teach practical skills, lead honest parent discussions, and answer hard questions about the impact of drug use on family life.

Sessions focused on:

- *How to Prevent Drug Use in the Family*—Parents learn about the nature and extent of the drug problem and youth strengths among teens in Marion and start to make decisions about how to prevent problems in their own family
- *Setting Guidelines: Develop Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards*— Parents develop clear family guidelines and expectations for behavior
- *Avoiding Trouble: Say No to Drugs*— Youth and parents learn skills that help youth stay out of trouble, avoid risky behavior, keep friends and have healthy fun
- *Managing Conflict: Control and Express Anger Constructively*—Parents learn to manage family conflict in ways that maintain and strengthen the relationship with their children
- *Involving Everyone: Strengthen Family Bonds*— Parents learn ways to build family ties, keep children involved in family activities, and support other parents.

Fitting the 5 week program into family and work schedules proved challenging but worthwhile for parents. When asked ‘What was the biggest thing you learned over the 5 weeks’, parents listed:

- practice refusal skills with your kids
- better ways to work with my own or a child’s anger
- share how situations make a parent feel and why things need to get done
- different ways to approach problems with my children

After the program parents report talking more to their children about the consequences of their actions, are more patient, do more teaching than punishing, better understand the importance of setting clear boundaries and approach problems with a more positive attitude.

Marilyn Herman

The New WI Ag Livestock Facility Siting Law

Rural residential development is growing in many areas that had been used primarily for production agriculture. At the same time, agriculture is still the local leading industry in many areas of the state, with some dairy and livestock producers expanding their farming operations.

As a result, the WI legislature recently passed a *Livestock Facility Siting Law* that provides a framework or standards for local municipalities if they choose to regulate the future location of new or expanding large livestock facilities.

Extension Responds

Working closely with representatives from the WI Department of Agriculture and the WI Towns and Counties Associations, Greg Blonde co-chaired a statewide UW-Extension Dairy Team workgroup on the issue. A series of educational workshops was developed and presented at six locations across the state this spring to help local officials examine and better understand the new state law.

Evaluation Results Show Impact

80% of responding participants said the workshop will help them make better decisions when weighing the interests between farmers and non-farm neighbors.

71% said they gained understanding of local and state government relationships in dealing with siting issues.

69% agreed that they learned to identify resources for managing conflicts about land use and agricultural issues.

68% said they plan to take local action regarding adoption of the new WI livestock facility siting law.

Greg Blonde



Over 500 elected and appointed officials from forty-seven counties attended Wisconsin Act 235 seminars; including 24 from Waupaca County, representing town officers, county supervisors, zoning, conservation staff, and many local planning committee members.

Marion Takes Community Readiness Survey

It is critical for Extension to deliver programs that are valued by Waupaca County citizens. *The Marion Area Coalition for Healthy Communities*, of which Waupaca County Extension is a member, recently conducted a randomized survey of residents in the School District of Marion. Survey questions asked community members to share their beliefs and opinions about drug and alcohol use and its impact on the community. The Community Readiness Survey, with over 40% returned, gives us valuable information on possible prevention, education and enforcement efforts.

Community Readiness Survey Key Findings:

84% of those responding to the Marion Community Readiness Survey believe prevention programs are a good investment because they save money and lives.

- 75% of respondents support law enforcement spending more time enforcing laws prohibiting sales of tobacco to teens and enforcing minimum drinking age
- 50% believe that it is not at all or only a little difficult to get an older person to buy alcohol for underage youth
- Only 5% of respondents indicated they support situations where parents know their teen are drinking alcohol and tell teens to use alcohol carefully.

Two-thirds of survey respondents also indicated that public information is a good way to change attitudes about alcohol and tobacco use. Press articles about the survey results and other prevention information will appear in *The Marion Advertiser* and local papers over the new few months. Some examples of our prevention work with the Marion Coalition include implementing *Too Good for Drugs* curriculum, the *Parent Network*, and *Guiding Good Choices* with the Marion School District.

Connie Abert

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Learning for Life

Our Mission: To extend the knowledge and resources of the University System to the people of Waupaca County and Wisconsin.

Our Vision: To serve Wisconsin's educational network, engaging the people of Waupaca County and our communities in positive change.

UW-Extension offers equal opportunity programs and employment.

Waupaca County Board Supervisors

2005 Master Gardener Training



Waupaca County UW-Extension and the local Master Gardeners will offer training again this Fall for anyone interested in becoming a certified Master Gardener volunteer. Training will be held on twelve consecutive Tuesday evenings from September 20 - December 6. Cost is \$125 per

person. Class size is limited. Call Greg Blonde for more information.

Master Gardeners are county residents trained by UW-Extension specialists in different aspects of plant science or horticulture. Master Gardeners attend 36 hours of instruction, pass a written exam, and provide 24+ hours of volunteer service during their first year after training.

Waupaca County Master Gardeners volunteer by working with youth through community gardens in New London, Iola and Waupaca; grow food for local Food Pantries; give presentations to community organizations; help at the County Fair; coordinate a Spring and Fall county-wide plant sale, and host advanced training programs for local Master Gardeners.

Greg Blonde

Community Partner Advisory Group

*Ensuring local effectiveness
through strong partners*

To reinforce the University of Wisconsin Extension commitment to local education for all the people of Wisconsin, 26 Extension Offices around the state have launched Community Partner Advisory Groups (CPAG). These groups are made up of local citizens from all walks of life. Waupaca County's CPAG was launched with an orientation session for more than 25 citizens on June 30th who are being asked to:

- *provide program advice about current and emerging local issues*
- *provide input on the impact of our educational programs*
- *identify community groups to collaborate on projects*
- *help strengthen existing relationships between Extension and local groups throughout the county*

Local Faculty and the Waupaca County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee in partnership with the CPAG are confident that UW-Extension can sustain high quality education programs that address the ever-changing needs of our residents.

Connie Abert