



Spring 2010

Happy Earth Day!!

Fond du Lac Environmental Program

What's That Lurking in our garage?



Many of you have probably noticed the new addition to the FdL Waste Site on University Road. This new addition is a cardboard baler! Actually, it can also be an aluminum, plastic, steel, clothing and other recyclables too.

The Fond du Lac Environmental Program received

a grant from EPA in 2008-2009 to purchase this baler. It was installed in December of 2009 and is just one more step towards our goal of making the FdL Waste Site, and solid waste management in general, as sustainable and efficient as possible.

How is this benefitting the community? Now, instead of spending thousands of dollars a year to have loose cardboard hauled away, bales are sold at the going-rate per ton. It's a small amount, but the savings is huge.

Special Occasions for Spring...

*April: 22nd—Earth Day—40th Anniversary—
May: 3rd—International Migratory Bird Day*

*April is Arbor Month
May is Wetlands Month and Asthma Awareness Month*

In addition to the financial savings, recycling cardboard has environmental benefits. Bales are sent to mills that recycle it to make new paperboard and paper products.

The baler is not just limited to corrugated cardboard—you can bring in paperboard to recycle too!! Examples of paperboard are: cereal boxes, pop boxes, toilet paper rolls, etc. Chi-miigwech to all of you recycle!

Don't forget! If you are hosting an event, recycling bins are available—just call Shannon Judd, Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator, at 878-8023.

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Air Program Update

Written By:
Mary Munn

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will monitor air toxics and nitrogen oxides during 2010 *with* the Fond du Lac Air Program. The MPCA is interested in gathering rural data for comparison to metropolitan areas and to refine risk assessment models. The MPCA will also compare concentrations of nitrogen oxides to federal ambient air standards and air toxics to inhalation health benchmarks, which are concentrations in ambient air at or below which a chemical is unlikely to cause an adverse health effect. Monitoring for ground-level ozone will also continue in 2010 as part of a long-term cooperative effort between the MPCA and Fond du Lac Air Program.

The MPCA monitors three types of air toxics: 56 volatile organic compounds, seven carbonyl compounds and 15 particle-borne metals. They include compounds such as benzene, formaldehyde, arsenic and lead.

The opportunity to have ambient air data this sensitive is very exciting and important. The project will let us understand Fond du Lac's air quality and the effects on the health and welfare of the community. Staff will review and circulate the results at the end of the sample period.

If resources are available the MPCA hopes to continue monitoring air toxics at several reservations

For the current air quality status and to sign up for air quality alerts, go to MPCA's Air Quality Index Website: <http://aqi.pca.state.mn.us/>

Greening the Fleet

The air program partnered with Minnesota Environment Initiative's Project Green Fleet grant effort for 2009 and has received diesel retrofits for 3 gravel trucks and 1 pumper truck for the Fond du Lac Construction Company. This is in addition to 12 heavy equipment retrofits last year.

Diesel retrofits reduce exhaust emissions like a catalytic converter for a car. Project Green Fleet was awarded \$400,000 grant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reduce emissions from diesel vehicles in Minnesota.



http://www.five-shades-of-green-energy.com/images/back_hoe.jpg



Vernal Ponds...little-known havens of springtime life

Written by: Shannon Judd



Most everyone has seen and walked through the many 'puddles' that form in the woods with the snowmelt and rain showers of spring, but did you know that some of these "puddles" are actually a type of wetland that is important for many species?



Above: Fairy Shrimp
http://www.vernalpool.org/inf_fs.htm



Vernal, or spring, ponds are isolated, temporary pools of water that form, as stated above, with snowmelt, rainwater, or high water tables. They can last for a few weeks or a few months; dry up and refill. One species that lives in this pond has an interesting method of surviving in an environment where water is temporary: the fairy shrimp (photo: upper right). Their eggs can go dormant in the soil when the ponds dry up and remain that way for several years! Once the pond is refilled the eggs will hatch after approximately a month.



Fairy shrimp depend on vernal ponds and spend their entire lives in them. Other animals just like to use them!



Because these pools do not contain fish, frogs and salamanders like to lay their eggs in them to ensure a greater chance of survival.



(Mosquitoes do too but do not hold that against the vernal pond!)



Next time you see a pool of water somewhere other than a parking lot, stop and take a look at what might be swimming around or developing inside. Enjoy yet another example of the wonder of nature and adaptations plants and animals make to flourish in their environment.



Photo taken by Shannon Judd



Spring Flora...

With the arrival of spring comes the blooming of beautiful wildflowers that dot the earth with color.



One of the very first wildflowers to bloom are **marsh marigolds** (see photo right). They are often seen along creeks and other wet areas. The whole plant is known to be edible when cooked, but slightly poisonous when raw. Of course, it apparently tastes so bitter when raw that most would prefer not to eat it that way anyways.



Marsh marigolds typically bloom between April and June, depending on the location, but whenever you do see them, you know spring has arrived.



<http://www.shortcourses.com/naturelog/>



Recycle

Plastic

Newspaper

Cardboard

Magazine Paper



Aluminium

Mixed paper

Do your part to conserve natural resources and protect the environment for future generations....Recycle.

Fond du Lac Waste Site: 878-8069

Who's Who?

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