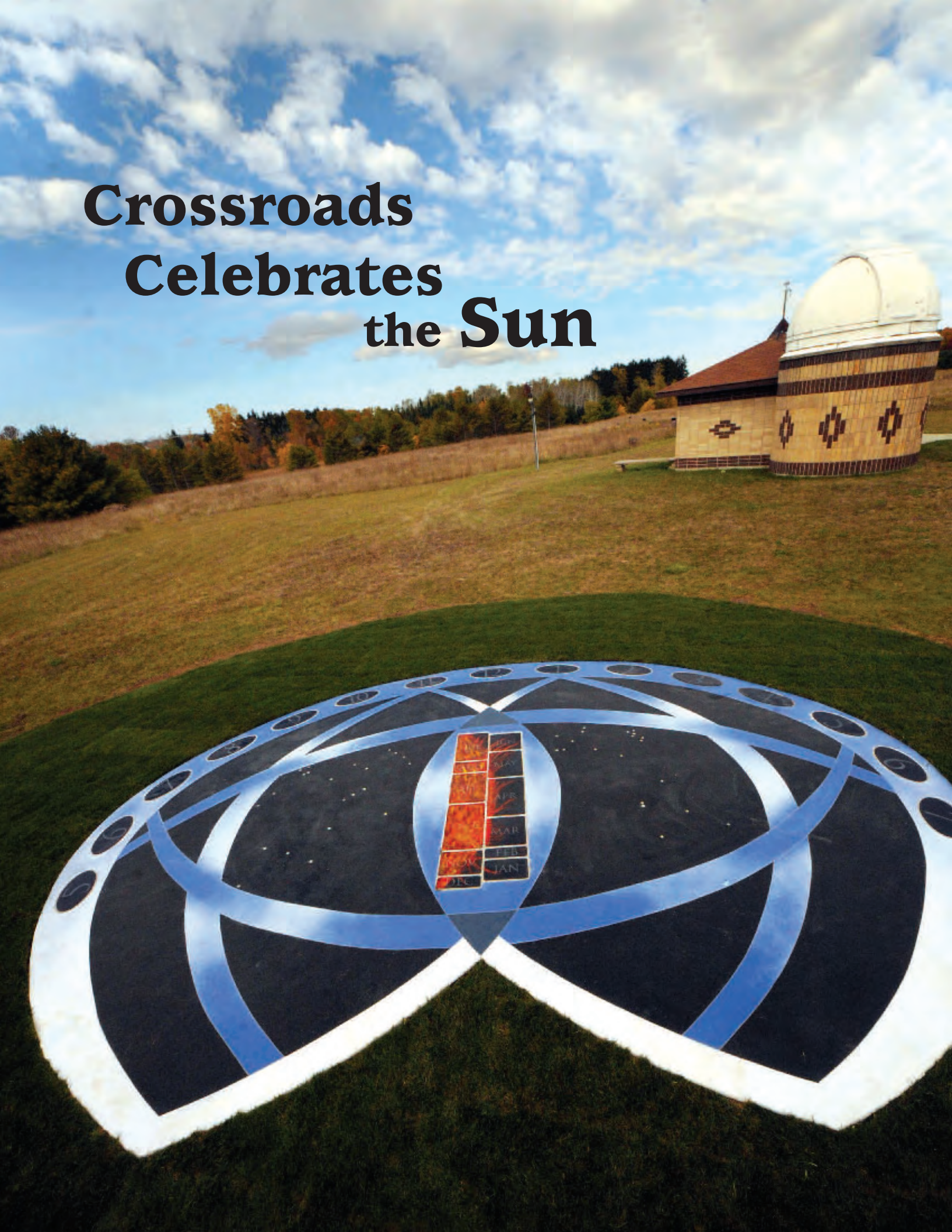
Crossroads Celebrates the Sun



Crossroads at Big Creek, Inc. - Scientific, Historical & Environmental Learning Preserve Vol. 10 Issue 2 - Fall 2012

CROSSROADS AT BIG CREEK inc.

Crossroads at Big Creek *is a preserve for experiential lifelong learning focused on science, history, and the environment.*

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2041 Michigan St.
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
920-746-5895
www.CrossroadsAtBigCreek.org

Message from the President

Anticipation of Harvest

Farmers and gardeners alike endure a roller coaster ride of ups and downs, periods of anxiety and elation as they survive another growing season in anticipation of that day when fruits of their labor materialize in the harvest. From the time those small seeds are planted or delicate seedlings are taken out of the greenhouse and placed in the soil, we hope that the energy of the sun combined with the effort we put into nurturing those seeds and plants will result in a bountiful harvest… a harvest not just for the producer, but a harvest able to fill the needs and desires of many. So it is that the efforts of those growers planting those seeds impart a positive effect upon all who share in the anticipation of a bountiful harvest.

While that may be an elegant description of how a few people are able to sustain a large population, just what does that have to do with this newsletter and what happens at Crossroads? For all of you who involved in the work at Crossroads, the analogy is all too clear. The planning sessions for every project, program and event produces ideas which are the seeds that are planted by the board and volunteers and nutured by donors.

Crossroads planted many seeds this last spring and I can report to you that we are looking forward in sharing this bountiful harvest of projects and programs with all of you this season.

Our hidden classroom already has been in use for fall programs and the Council Ring is under construction.

The Solar Array and Analemmatic (human) Sundial are unique additions to our Astronomy Campus.

The new maintenance and program support building should also be completed in October and ready for occupancy by all the equipment, tools and supplies that are crammed in the Collins Learning Center, and this building will be powered by solar energy.

The establishment of the John Collins Memorial Walkway and Contemplation Circle connected to the Collins Learning Center will help us remember one of our founders.

As you can see, even though in reality, it may have been a challenging growing season for farmers as well as our economy, through the efforts of all our friends, contributions from our donors and generosity of foundations, Crossroads had a great growing season and will continue to share the harvest of 2012 for many years to come.

Dick Weidman,
President, Crossroads Board of Directors

Celebration of the Sun

"Celebration of the Sun" is the theme of Astronomy Day 2012 at Crossroads and with the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society, we will celebrate with the Dedication of the Sundial, followed by exhibits and activities. The event is scheduled for October 20, but celebrating and taking advantage of the sun is a way of life at Crossroads.

Heritage Garden

Obviously, our Sun provides the energy which enables volunteers from Master Gardeners to grow plants in our Greenhouse and the Heritage Garden. Their amazing vegetables are donated to Lakeshore C.A.P. and Feed My People. The flowers provided nectar for pollinating insects. And the families who participated in our gardening classes are now harvesting their own produce.

Our new Maintenance Building will be powered by energy from the Sun because we will be adding our third solar array to the roof the facility. Our upgraded multi-media system will also be powered by solar energy during the daylight hours.

For the past six summers in the lab in the Collins Learning Center, researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh have tested water from area beaches, but they also are involved in a number of beach-related studies. Several years ago, their work revealed that the much of the contamination in swimming areas had washed into the water from the sand. This year, their research centered on grooming beaches to expose the sand to the microbe-killing UV rays of the Sun. In short, they are learning to use sunlight to improve water quality.

UW-Oshkosh students in the lab.

So Our Sun provides the energy for plant growth, and by extension, life as we know it. The Sun provides us with clean alternative energy, and now we are learning in the lab at Crossroads to use the light of the Sun to improve water quality.

It's worth celebrating.

New Maintenance Building will have roof-top solar collectors.

Work in

DONORS

Maintenance Building

The Maintenance Building currently under construction will enable us to re-purpose the lower level of the learning center for education.

Gerry and Jane Berg
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Council Ring & Hidden Classroom

The Council Ring and Hidden Classroom will be complete by the end of October.

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photo by
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Multi-Media Upgrade

State-of-the-art audio-visual equipment will be installed during October.

Anonymous
Door County
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Learning in Retirement
of Door County
Raibrook Foundation

Progress

DONORS

Human Sundial

The Human Sundial, the project of the Leadership Door County Class of 2012, will be dedicated October 20 at 1:00 PM. Jim DuFrane designed the installation and created the tiles.

Leadership Door County Class of 2012
Jim DuFrane, designer /project manager
Kevin Grohskop
Jodi Hibbard
Erin Hoffman
Cindy Koutnik
Ryan Johnson
Elizabeth Meissner-Gigstead
Joe Mitchell
Door Peninsula Astronomical Society
Dylan Lauger Concrete
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Meissner Landscape
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John Collins Memorial Garden

Helen Collins shows the garden, made possible by memorial gifts, to her friends.

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(July 1 to November 30 donations will be listed in the holiday newsletter.)

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Proceeds from Running Green for Crossroads
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Dee and Eric Paulsen

Helena, Lydia, and Crista Samson
Steve and Joan Wilkie

Running Green Raises $5,000!

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Maple Syrup, Henschel Farms Jim Maki and Deb Whitelaw-Gorski
Honey from Wienkes Market - LAKESHORES landscape and design

Door Prizes
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Walking Sticks - Dan Swanson
Honey - Colleen & Rob Elliott and Pam Johnson
Magazine subscription - Trail Runners Magazine

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Refreshments
Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream - Schopf's Dairy View Country Store
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Thank you to Bob and LuAnn Desotelle, Mike and Kim Herlache, and the Ostrand-Harding Families for sharing their land with us and making the 10K trail run possible.

Yes! I (we) want to be a part of Crossroads at Big Creek.

Crossroads at Big Creek is a preserve for experiential lifelong learning focused on science, history, and the environment.

Enclosed is a check to help meet the program and operations expenses at Crossroads.

- ❑ $50 Prairie Club
- ❑ $100 Forest Club
- ❑ $250 Wetland Club
- ❑ $500 Big Creek Club
- ❑ $1,000 Hillcrest Club
- ❑ $5,000 Preservation Club

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____
(if you would like to receive notes on upcoming events)

- ❑ Yes, you may list my name for donor recognition
- ❑ Please do not list my name
- ❑ Please do not send fund-raising materials in the future.

Please make checks payable to:
Crossroads at Big Creek, Inc. PO Box 608, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
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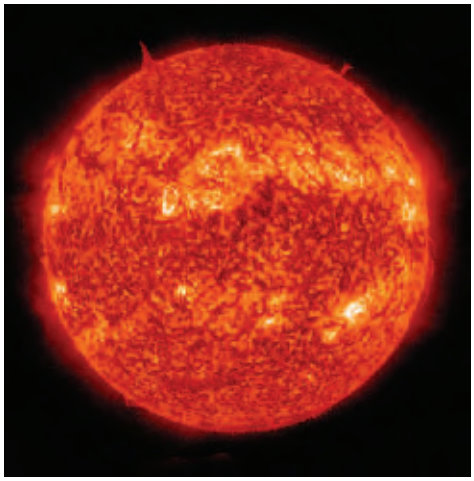

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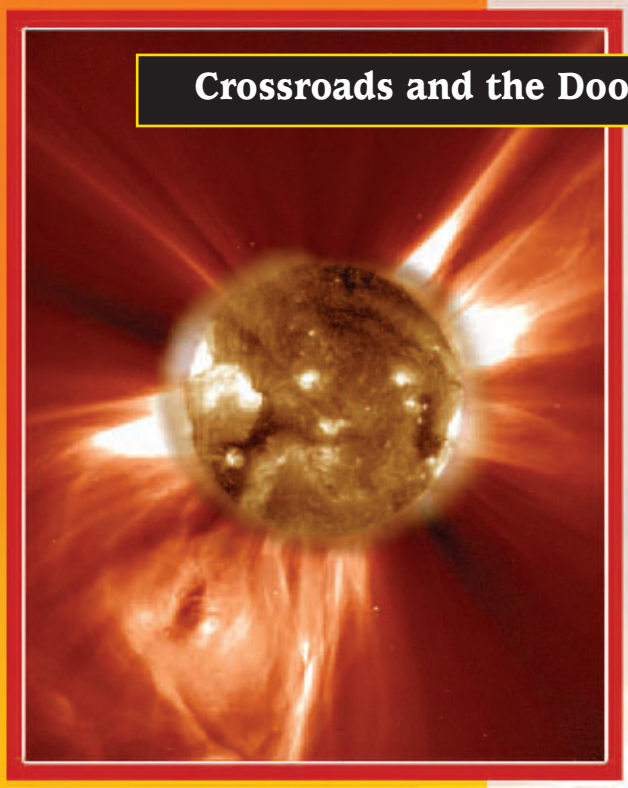

Crossroads and the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society Present:

Astronomy Day 2012

"Celebration of the Sun"

Saturday, October 20th

1:00 Dedication of the Sundial:
DPAS and the 2012 Class of Leadership Door County

1:45 - 4:00 Activities at the Astronomy Center and the Collins Learning Center

- Safe solar Viewing
- Hands-on Activities
- Planet Walk
- **Free:** Ice Cream SUN-daes, compliments of the Door County Milk Marketing Board

7:00 Evening Viewing at the Leif Everson Observatory

- And telescope and binocular viewing.

Free and Open to the Public.

Astronomy Day 2012