photo by Luke Collins

CROSSROADS

A newsletter for Crossroads at Big Creek

Crossroads at Big Creek, Inc. - Scientific, Historical & Environmental Learning Preserve

Vol. 15, Issue 2 - Fall 2017

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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CrossroadsAtBigCreek.org

Of Trees and 'Water Tank Gazebos'...

By now, most of you are aware of the Jim Maki Arboretum and the trees and shrubs that have been planted there over the last two years. In the southern half of the Arboretum near the power line run, we have planted species of trees that you would typically find in a Northern Mesic or Sugar Maple Deciduous Forest. On the eastern and western edges we have pioneer species such as Paper Birch and Poplars and in the interior we have planted Basswood, Sugar Maple, Ironwood and Red Maple.

The northern half of the Arboretum consists of a broad expanse landscape planting similar to a Jens Jenson concept designed by Tom Luebker, Master Gardener, woody plant enthusiast and Crossroads volunteer. It features a long list of woody plants from Kentucky Coffee Tree to Winterberry Holly. As this planting grows and matures it will provide a great panoramic view from of all things a 'Water Tank Gazebo.'

Guaranteed to be a one-of-a-kind gazebo, it was the result of many people working together to create a Crossroads original. It was designed by Bill Harder, local 'Good Guy Engineer,' It then progressed by the efforts of Jim Maki 'Local Arm Twister Procurement Specialist' and constructed by Brent Brilla, local 'I Can Do This' carpenter.

The gazebo was constructed from Door County White Cedar milled at Henschel Sawmill and will feature a unique geological specimen donated by Jim Maki. By the time you read this newsletter the Water Tank Gazebo should be complete and ready for Crossroad hikers to rest their weary legs.

As fall settles in, visit Crossroads to check out all our unique and 'One-of-a-Kind' destinations.

Dick Weidman,
President, Board of Directors at Crossroads

Educator Workshop on Teaching Climate Change

Saturday, October 7; 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. in the Collins Learning Center

This Climate Change Coalition of Door County workshop will introduce teachers and environmental educators to the basics of climate change and provide classroom ready materials and demonstrations usable both as lab experiments for students or outreach activities for the community.

The $15 registration fee includes lunch and materials.
Contact info.crossroadsatbigcreek.org for registration materials.

Archaeological Digs

"What a fabulous week! We have to keep this going!"

Overheard on the final afternoon of the 2016 Middle School Archaeological Dig as students reluctantly climbed on to their bus, their teachers and our professional archaeologists vowing that they would continue the program.

This October, we indeed will continue the Middle School Dig for the third year. Thanks to this project, which began as preliminary archaeological surveys of the Big Creek Preserve prior to construction, we have now located and registered Native American sites on all three of our properties.

During the past four years, students from Sturgeon Bay and Sevastopol have excavated a previously unknown chapter of Door County history. Using professional archaeological excavation techniques and documentation, students have unearthed arrowheads, stone knives, scrapers, fire-cracked-rocks, pottery and copious amounts of animal bones and teeth.

While participating, students developed many skills including mapping, artifact analysis and site interpretation, statistical sampling plans and using the scientific method. The students also furthered their critical thinking skills with respect to glacial history, landscape ecology, cultural adaptation and why people inhabited specific locations in Door County.

All work was conducted under the careful scrutiny of professional archaeologists to prevent unintentional site desecration. But why should middle school students get all the fun? Adults wishing to participate in the fall dig should contact Crossroads info@crossroadsatbigcreek.org to pre-register for an adult dig during the first week of October.

Thanks for making it possible:

- Randy and Amy Dickson
- Barb and Mike Madden Fund of the Door County Community Foundation
- Clifford and Clara Herlache Heritage Foundation of the Door County Community Foundation
- Maihaugen Foundation
- Midwest Archaeological Consultants
- Ruth and Hartley Barker Memorial Fund of the Door County Community Foundation
- Nancy Snyder
- William and Marjorie Glenn Endowment of the Door County Community Foundation

Adult digs

Student digs (background image)

A Half Year of Generosity

Donors through July 31, 2017

$20,000 and up
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Anonymous

$10,000 - $19,999
Estate of Peg Foster

$5,000 - $9,999
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$1,000 - $2,499
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Carmen Youra

In Memory of...

Marilyn Cunningham
Coggin Heeringa
Robert and Carol Meollenberndt
Marilyn Ostrand

John W. Fredrickson
Sturgeon Bay HS Class of 1974
Family of John W. Fredrickson

Ed Ireland
Don and Coggin Heeringa
Thomas and Suzanne M. Kuffel
Valerie and Jim Maki
Eric and Dee Paulsen

Leroy Liebe
Coggin Heeringa
Marilyn Liebe

Leroy Messersmith
Jim and Valerie Maki

John Thenell
Joan A Draeb
Coggin Heeringa

Judith Wedemeyer
Michael and Barabara Sweeney

2017 Business Members

Ask about this new giving opportunity

$500 Level
C & S Manufacturing
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Meissner Landscape Inc.
Ross Estate Planning
W E Builders
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Nicolet National Bank
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Crossroads Trail Run 2017

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Bayside Home Medical
Lake Michigan Wind & Sun
Dr. Shaun & Susan Melarvie
Dr. Melissa Nelson
Ross Wealth Management
Jon and Leanne Pinkert
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The sun broke through the clouds in time to witness 476 people participate in the 2017 Crossroads Trail Run, including its volunteers and supporters. Eleven different states, 3 countries and 71 different cities were represented on our Crossroads Trails on June 25. Runners and walkers ranged in ages from four to 86 years old, all outdoors sharing together in healthy activity.

We raised $12,000 to benefit the Friends of Crossroads Ski-For-Free program and to support the Crossroads at Big Creek general fund. The trail run promoted cross-generational recreation and to increased awareness of 'green' living by featuring locally grown and created awards, refreshments and removable trail flags, as well as by leaving a minimal footprint.

For the first time, Crossroads Trail Run featured all three of Crossroads at Big Creek's three nature preserves. Due to several newly developed trails, the 10k route (6.2 miles) snaked through The Cove Preserve, Ida Bay Preserve and 3.1 miles on the Big Creek Preserve. The creek was all a-flow with fast moving currents, mimicking speedy runners and walkers along the whole course.

Thank you to our 48 volunteers for a multitude of tasks. And a special thanks to the Crossroads Trail Run Team: Colleen Elliott, Matt Luders, Theresa Kay-Meredith, Rich Propsom, Kathy Saladin, Gretchen Schmelzer and Deb Whitelaw-Gorski.

– Gretchen Schmelzer, co-chair

Mark June 23 to save the date for Crossroads Trail Run 2018.

Crossroads at Big Creek is a private 501(c)(3) organization.

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 operation expenses at Crossroads.

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

❑ **I would also like to donate $ _____ to:**

- ❑ Archaeology
- ❑ Education and Events
- ❑ Best Use

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

CROSSROADS AT BIG CREEK inc.
SCIENTIFIC • HISTORICAL • ENVIRONMENTAL • LEARNING PRESERVE

Box 608, 2041 Michigan Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

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