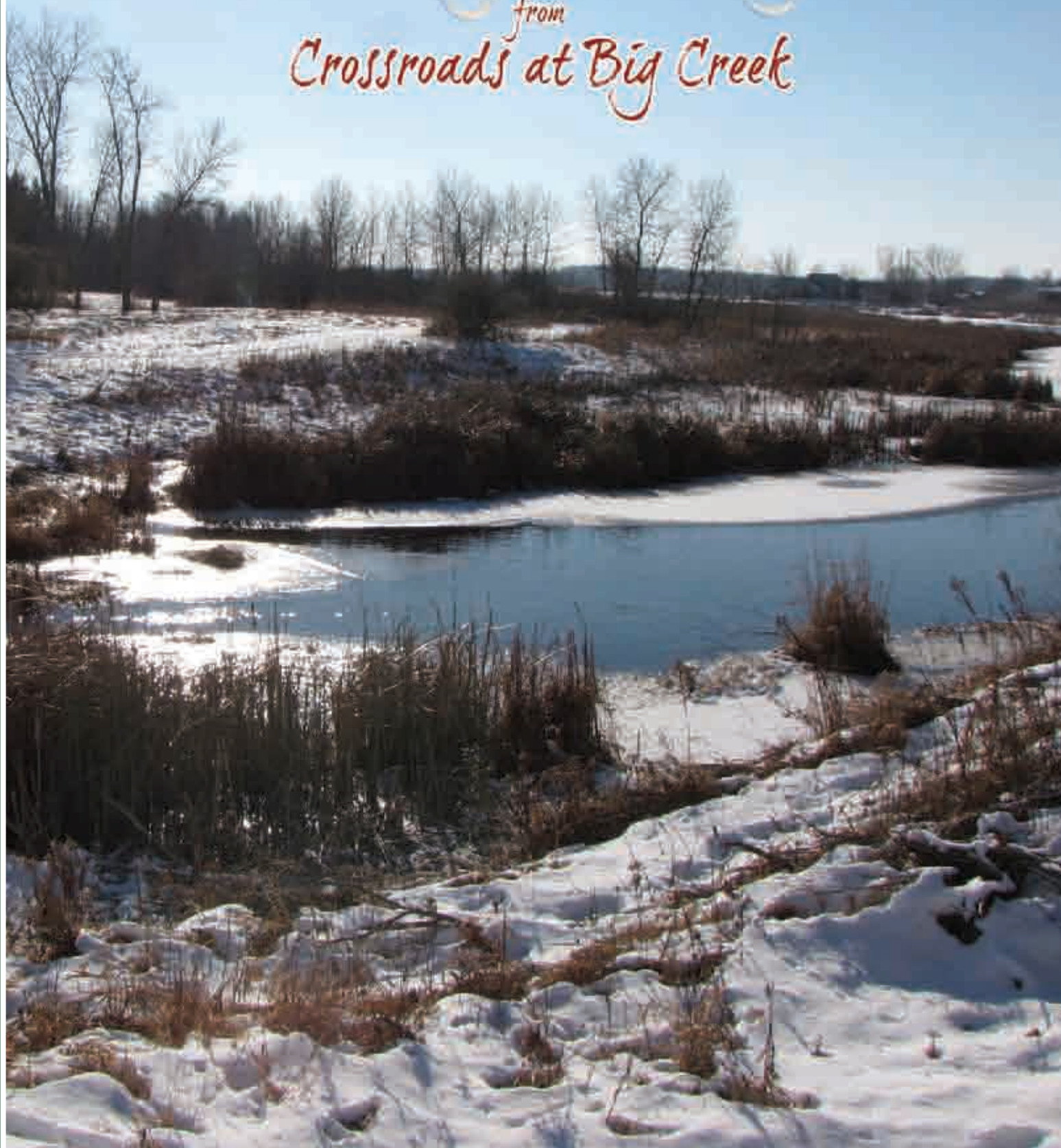


Holiday Greetings
from
Crossroads at Big Creek





CROSSROADS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CROSSROADS AT BIG CREEK

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

Vol. 13, Issue 3 - Winter 2015



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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Rich Propsom,

Property & Facilities Manager

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Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

920-746-5895

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A Season of Gratitude

You certainly do not have to strain your brain over the theme of 'Giving' this holiday season. From Black Friday to Cyber Monday to Tuesday Day of Giving, it seems that we are bombarded with ads and peer pressure to buy and buy and buy so that we can give and give and give. Sometime, however, we need to rise above all this buying and giving and take stock of what we are grateful for.

At Crossroads our gratitude this year is reflected in all we have accomplished through the generosity and help from all our friends.

We made the Collins Learning Center structurally sound again with some major renovations to the south side of the building.

We transformed a dusty and dingy basement storage area into a very accommodating, bright and purposeful instructional meeting space.

We continued to develop the trail system at Ida Bay, opening new outdoor hiking experiences for everyone who ever wondered what was inside that chain link fence for all those years. We also managed to remove most of the fence thanks to one of our neighbors, Dennis Hayes.

Discovering what was behind that fence proved to be a major archeological find that involved hundreds of enthusiastic students from schools far and near.

We also managed to hire a Crossroads neighbor, Rich Propsom, as our much needed Property and Facilities Manager. His enthusiasm and energy has been reflected in many projects at Ida Bay and future projects at the Cove that will make the property more accessible for a wide range of outdoor activities.

The Maki Arboretum Project is underway and promises to provide ample learning opportunities for students young and old to discover both woody and herbaceous plants of Door County and Wisconsin.

With solar panels added and a new home for The Friends Ski-For-Free Program this winter (Think Snow), our maintenance building is fulfilling its anticipated need.

Add in all the other accomplishments of volunteer groups, Boy Scout projects and willing area students and we have a great deal of good to be grateful for this year.

So yes, giving is a big part of the Season, but being grateful and thankful for what that giving accomplishes is truly the reason for the Season.

Have a Memorable Holiday.

Dick Weidman,
President, Board of Directors at Crossroads

Bigger & Much Better



In 1994... back when Crossroads was a school forest and years before the Collins Learning Center was built ... Ivan Bissen donated our parking lot. He claimed that he "did it for the children." Children did benefit. As soon as we had a parking lot, school buses began delivering students to our preserve.

Now, some 20 years later, the parking lot has had several topcoats plus countless repairs and patches. And yellow buses continue to drop off children. This year, by the end of November, 2,075 Door County students had participated in field trips to Crossroads.

While our dedication to children has not waived, we have expanded our programs to adult education and also offer a number of workshops and special events for learners of all ages. Year to date, 4,765 adults have attended classes at the Collins Learning Center and several thousand more have attended special events such as Door County Reads and the Sustainable Living Fair.

Not only is our original parking lot in disrepair (due in part to water table issues) but it simply is not large enough to accommodate our adult learners. Two or three times each week, we run out of parking spaces.

In 2016, we hope to expand our parking lot ... and to expand it in an environmentally responsible way. At this time, we are exploring options for engineering a parking lot that will protect our water and wildlife resources while meeting the needs of our many users.

We understand this will cost a great deal more than a conventional treatment, but Crossroads is committed to being a role model of environmental stewardship.

To participate, fill out the donor form on page 7 and return in the reply envelope or donate online at: www.crossroadsatbigcreek.org

Ski Van Free and snowshoe!

Sponsored by
Friends of Crossroads
and Door County
Silent Sports Alliance.

Crossroads at Big Creek lends, free of charge, an array of ski and snowshoe equipment, sizes to fit age 3 through large adult. When trail conditions permit, go to the Crossroads Maintenance Building where our volunteers will fit you with equipment, share a few pointers and a trail map and send you out on groomed (classical and skate) ski or hiking trails. When you have finished, return your equipment and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate.

THURSDAYS, SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS: 11:00 - 3:30 (when snow is adequate)



Autumn Giving

Gifts made from
September 1 - November 30

\$50,000 - \$99,999

The Estate of
Wayne & Patricia Eastman

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Don and Coggin Heeringa
Estate of Ray Stonecipher

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Anonymous

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Door County
Silent Sports Alliance

Joy Maccaux

Marian Hislop

Charitable Lead Trust

Ministry Door County

Midwest Archaeological
Consultants

John and Nancy Munch

Nancy Snyder

\$500 to \$999

Lee and Susan Basten
Breakfast Rotary Club

Cellcom

John and LeeAnn Harling

Ann and David Harsh

Diane Jome

John and Karen Kierstyn

Karl and Lucy Klug

Ed and Cindy Koutnik

Master Gardeners of Door County

Dave and Jackie Udell

\$250 to \$499

David and Janet Daniel

Leroy and Marilyn Liebe

Margaret Madel

Anonymous

\$100 to \$249

Carol Bockhop

James and Barbara Bunning

John and Cathy Campbell

Karen Cowen

Dorene Dempster and

Mark Herrell

John Fulkerson

William and Cleid Galligan

Howard H. Hintze

De Anne Hoffmann

Nancy Mattke

Al Miller and Vicki Dirst

Eric and Dee Paulsen

Tony Polonus

Kathy Rowe

William and Mary Jo Schaars

Nancy Tong

Rob and Cathy Vuksanovic

Norm and Mabel Watkins

Hal and Shirley Winbourough

Wild Ones of Door County

\$50 - \$99

Peter and Carol Clikeman

George and Margaret Collier

Jane Gurthrie

Doug and Barbara Henderson

Louis and Rosemary Janda

Paul and Kanai King

Jerry and Nan Krause

Andrew and Clare Lubar

Bill and Betty Parsons

Raymond and Lee Vlaming

\$1 - 49

Heidi Bader

Jeanne Barnard

John and Carol Bartoszek

Pat Blizel

Jane and Randy Bumgardner

Rose Coisman

Elaine Cregan

Catherine Eckers

Travis Grooters

Marjorie Grutzmacher

Nicole Herbst

Deborah Jeanquart

Lucille Kirkegaard

Tammy Kroll

Thomas and Suzanne Kuffel

Jim and Valerie Maki

Harry and Judy Porter

Matt Propsom

Ann Quale

Belinda Richard

John Rosenthal

Rod and Marian Schlise

Jeanne Schopf

Edward Schriener-Schmitt

George and Susan Sergeant

Scott Steeb

James Tellstrom

Randy Watermolen

Jolene Wilson

Clifford Wind

Carmen Youra

Memorials of...

Ralph Berg

Valerie and Jim Maki

Rod Bohn

Harry and Judy Porter

Don and Coggin Heeringa

Betty Carstens

Eric and Dee Paulsen

Allen Everson

George and Susan Sergeant

Jill Harding

Jane Guethrie

Coggin Heeringa

R.J. Ullman

Eric and Dee Paulsen

Mary Wanke

Coggin Heeringa

Karen and Diane Jome

Eric and Dee Paulsen



Business Members

*Ask about this
giving opportunity*

\$500 Level

C & S Manufacturing
Midwest Archaeological Consultants
Ross Estate Planning
Thrivent Financial -
Jaqueline Szczepanski

\$250 Level

Bayside Home Medical
Eagle Mechanical
Pinkert Law Firm LLC
Viking Electric Supply

\$100 Level

Bob the Painter - Bob Ryan
Dorsal, Inc.
Going Garbage
Gordon's West Side Electric
Jeanquart Associates
LfpDesign! LLC
Peninsula Veterinary Clinic
Reliable Auto Sales
Roen Salvage
Wulf Brothers / HiTec Fabrications

Special Thanks!

Gerry Banks

Patty Clark

Door County Advocate

Door County Daily News.com

Door County Historical Society

Door County Silent Sports Alliance

Door Peninsula Astronomical Society

Fran and Arliss Everson

Friends of Crossroads

Dennis Hayes

Master Gardeners of Door County

Midwest Archaeological Consultants

Peninsula Pulse

Raibrook Foundation

Sturgeon Bay Utilities

WDOR

A Dock in the Bay

It was just a year ago that, with financial help from many of you, Crossroads acquired the 9-acre Big Creek Cove property which included a dock. Then last winter, the rising water in the bay of Sturgeon Bay caused the deck of that dock to float away.

We hope to replace it with a 100' dock with an 8'x 10' platform.

The dock/observation deck would serve as a kayak or canoe landing, observation deck, work surface for lessons and research, and a hike destination, increasing both the educational and recreational potential for Crossroads.

The design, which was selected at the November meeting of the Crossroads Board of Directors, is a modular floating dock. Materials and installation will cost about \$20,000. It is the Crossroads policy that for each major project, we now raise an additional 20% to fund a reserve account for on-going maintenance. Consequently, our fundraising goal for this project is \$24,000. A gift of any size would help us reach our goal.



Old dock frame



Photo by Mike Grota



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.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Prairie Club | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Wetland Club | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Hillcrest Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Forest Club | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Big Creek Club | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 Preservation Club |

I would also like to donate \$ _____ to:

- Parking Lot Project Dock for Big Creek Cove Archaeology Project

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 is a private 501(c)(3) organization.



Photo by Tina Cochr - Door County Advocate

Crossroads at Big Creek, Inc. does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

2016 Crossroads at Big Creek Educational Theme: *Wildlife Corridors*

2016 Goals:

- Replace/expand our current **Parking Lot** in an environmentally responsible way
- Install a **dock/landing/observation deck** for Big Creek Cove
- Create a **native plant garden** for birds & butterflies (while solving some drainage issues) in the area between the rock garden and driveway
- Begin planting in the **Maki Arboretum**
- Paint **Collins Learning Center** exterior
- Continue **archaeological investigations**
- Conduct a **feasibility study** for an Outdoor Center for Crossroads

A **wildlife corridor** is defined as: “a strip of habitat connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities or structures. Corridors moderate effects of habitat fragmentation, wherein urbanization can split up habitat areas, causing animals to lose the ability to move between regions in order to use all of the resources they need to survive.”

