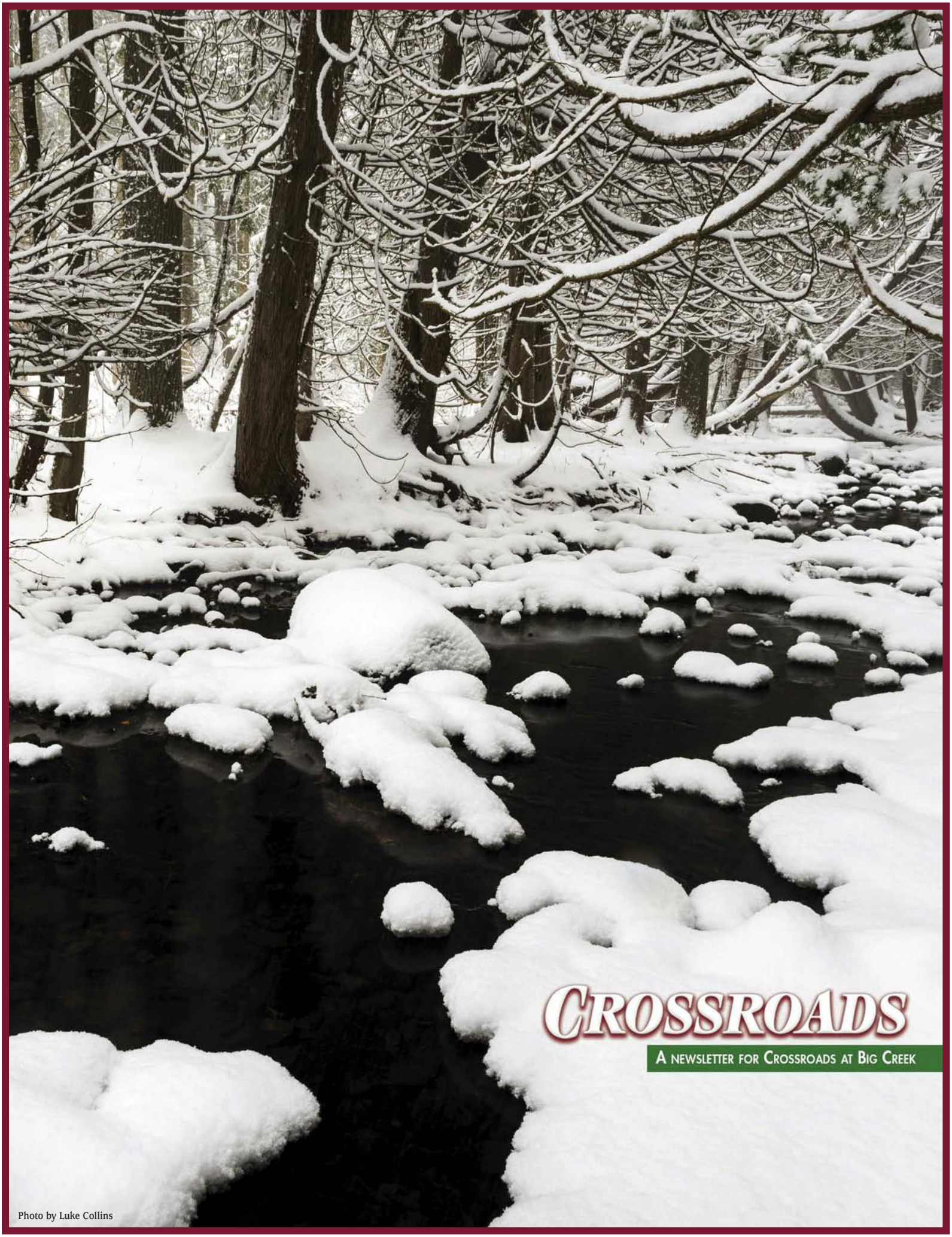

CROSSROADS

A newsletter for Crossroads at Big Creek

Photo by Luke Collins

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

Vol. 16, Issue 3 - Winter 2018

CROSSROADS AT BIG CREEK inc.

Crossroads at Big Creek *is a preserve which offers education, conducts research and provides outdoor experiences to inspire environmental stewardship in learners of all ages.*

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

A Time to Reflect, Assess & Commit

Usually by this time of the year we have either checked off all the tasks on our To-Do-List or simply added them to the top of next year's list.

So we reflect on our year's accomplishments and assess if we accomplished what we planned and set as goals. Crossroads' To-Do-List (2018 Goals) certainly was ambitious but our staff, volunteers and donors really knocked it out of the park (Milwaukee Brewers reflection).

Goal setting always is an interesting process–brainstorming what you would like to do and dealing with the reality of what might be possible.

Looking at the 2019 goals on the backside of this newsletter, it may seem a bit ambitious on our part. But luckily we have a unique cast of contributors who share the vision of where Crossroads has been, where we are now and what we can be in the future. That is where commitment enters the process.

Even with the most ambitious staff, with organizations like Crossroads, success depends on donations and commitment from the people who share our goals.

Whether it is educational programming, research projects, the displays in The Collins Learning Center or an outdoor experience like our Ski for Free program, Crossroads very much appreciates the commitment from our donors and volunteers.

Thank you for making this year's goals a reality and here's to Knocking It Out of the Park (Brewers were so close) again in 2019.

This is my last article for this newsletter. I will hand the gavel to another board member for 2019. The past nine years as President have gone quickly and I have seen Crossroads develop into a unique venue for people of all ages and an outdoor recreational site for all who have discovered what Crossroads has to offer.

Look for me in the Maki Arboretum or doing some trail maintenance and ski trail grooming. Thank you for making my tenure a memorable one.

Dick Weidman
President, Board of Directors at Crossroads

Swales and Trails

Photo by Rich Propsom

"Provide environmental opportunities for education, recreation and research" was **Goal #1** from the Crossroads Board's Strategic Planning Retreat. Discussions included: increasing educational and recreations opportunities, improving habitats and dealing with invasive species and dead ash trees.

Efforts already are underway–but far from finished.

Thanks to a gift from the 1923 Fund and the efforts of our Land and Facilities Manager, Rich Propsom, the excavation of our swale system is complete. The design not only restores the historic surface water drainage pattern, but also creates a few small but longer-lasting pools of water to encourage diverse wildlife use.

To enhance educational opportunities, a new nature trail was established adjacent to and meandering along the swale. This trail leads our new Outdoor Work Lab (the OWL) for science and archeology, a large bat house and a small secluded gathering area overlooking a swale. Next year, our focus will be on re-vegetation along the swale and trails to enhance a variety of wildlife habitats.

To expand recreational opportunities this winter, our Board has decided to open all trails to hiking, skiing, biking and snowshoeing. We will continue to groom and set track for classic diagonal stride, but will no longer maintain the skate ski lanes.

Photo by Rich Propsom

Our ***Ski For Free*** program will again offer the opportunity for Door County residents and visitors to experience the beauty of winter from our trails with expanded weekend hours, thanks to volunteers from Friends of Crossroads and Door County Silent Sports.

You may have noticed that we lost all of the mature trees in the Ash Grove along our Michigan Street border and that without the shade of the tree canopy, the understory became an impenetrable thicket of invasive plants. This summer and fall, we removed many of the dead trees and Friends of Crossroads and staff have been removing buckthorn and honeysuckle throughout the Big Creek and Ida Bay preserves.

Ski for Free and snowshoe!

When snow is adequate for grooming, ski and snowshoe equipment available free of charge.

Saturday 9:30am - 3:30pm
Sunday 1:00 - 3:30pm

You may also call **920-746-5895** to reserve a special event time.
See **www.crossroadsatbbigcreek.org** for current conditions.

Fall Fun & Funds

Events and Donations
between August 1 and October 31, 2018

* A fund of the Door County Community Foundation

$35,000 and up
1923 Fund

$10,000 - $24,999
Skinner Family Fund*
Don and Coggin Heeringa

$2,500 - $2,999
Healthy Water Door County*
Hislop Family Foundation
Linda Seamonson

$1,000 - $2,499
Carol Coryell Scholarship for Deserving Students Fund*
Robert and Donna Hays
Cliff and Clara Herlache Heritage Fund*
Wisconsin Humanities Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Wisconsin
Barb and Mike Madden
Brian and Joan Wake Family Fund*

$500 - $999
Door County Master Gardeners
Door Peninsula Astronomical Society
David and Ann Harsh
Ivy Nelson
Patsy Steirna
Cap and Mary Wulf

$250 - $499
Jane Bruesch
James Hoehn and Nancy Goldberg
Beekeepers Club of Door County
Gretchen Schmelzer
Norm and Mabel Watkins

$100 - $249
Door County Environmental Council
Staff of the Boys and Girls Club
PEO Chapter EE
Ronn and Mary Gilbert
Daniel Herrbold
Rebecca Hoover
Delane Jome
Norm and Pat Lenius
Chris and Connie Larsen
Sandra Ott
Gregory Ristow
Pierce and Carrie Sherrill
Carmen Youra
Donald and Nancy Ziegelbauer

$1 - $99
Bob and Jeanne Barnard
Joan and Carol Bartoszek
Pat Blizel
Peg Carstens
Nicole Champeny
George and Margaret Collier
Mitch and Sandie Custer
Thomas and RaeLyn Dalske
Nellie DeBaker
Marvin and Susan DeJardin
Richard and Lizabeth Dickson
Joan A. Draeb
Cathy Eckers
Mike and Sue Eliason
June Ehbar
Emery and Pam Frieberg
Jane Guthrie
Sharon Haines
Laurel and John Hauser
Nicole Herbst
Kenneth and Wyvonna Hill
Amanda Igra
Margo Ireland
Deborah Jeanquart
David and Sarah Koelling
Cathy Laba
Chris and Connie Larsen
John and Elsie Lindgren
Ron and Judy Lokken
Andrew and Clare Lubar
Jim and Valerie Maki
Joyce Miller
Bob McCurdy
Susan Nelson
Martha and Frank Neigel
Mark and Kelly O'Rourke
Sandra Ott
Roger and Sara Pinkert
Matt Propsom
Ann Quale
Marguerite and Dennis Skahen
William and Mary Jo Schaars
Carl and Ruth Scholz
Jeannie Schopf
Ed Schriner-Schmitt
Richard and Dorothy Shappel
Geri Szuberla
Mike and Carol Toneys
Cathy Vuksanovic
Charles and Suzanne Wagner
Rick and Linda Walzak
Jolene Wilson
Clifford Wind
Duane and Leslie Youngsteadt
Troy and Connie Zak

Photo by Tina Gohr, courtesy of the Door County Advocate

Photo by Tina Gohr, courtesy of the Door County Advocate

Photo by John Beck

Photo by Tina Gohr, courtesy of the Door County Advocate

In Memory of...

June Haines Bale
Sharon Haines

Mary Gordon
Judy and Lew Juadis

Diane Jome
Delane Jome

Claire and Leroy Olsen
Susan Nelson

Steve Schmelzer
Judy and Lew Juadis
Keith and Christine Miller
Madilyn Ostrand

Steve Wilkie
Judy and Lew Juadis

Susie Woldt
Sandra Ott
Carl and Ruth Scholz

In Honor of...

Jane and Randy Bumgardner
Judy and Lew Juadis

Jeanne Barnard
Judy and Lew Juadis

Jim Tellstrom
Judy and Lew Juadis

Photo by Tina Gohr, courtesy of the Door County Advocate

Special Thanks!

Gerry Banks
Celebrate Water Door County
Cherryland Credit Union
Luke Collins
Door County Astronomical Society
Door County Daily News.com
Door County Historical Society
Door County Libraries
Door County Soil and Water
Door County Master Gardeners
Friends of Crossroads-Invasives Team
Tina Gohr
Linda LeClaire
The Lodge
Terry Ann Morris
Jim Maki
Peninsula Pulse
Carol & Pete Schuster
Sunrise Ambassadors
Sustain Door
Sturgeon Bay Fire Department
WDOR
Wisconsin DNR
UW-Extension

Crossroads 2018 Business Members

Ask about this great giving opportunity

$500 Level
C & S Manufacturing
Door County Candy
Door County Medical Center
Ross Estate Planning
Meissner Landscape

$250 Level
Eagle Mechanical
Pinkert Law Firm LLP

$100 Level
Havegard Farms, Inc.
*Lfp*Design! LLC
Lake Michigan Wind & Sun
Young Automotive

Celebrating Water with Archaeology

If our educational theme is *Celebrating Water* ...how do we justify a week-long archaeological dig?

Students from T.J. Walker, Sevastopol and Southern Door middle schools can tell you. During the first week of October, these students participated in a dig on the banks of the Big Creek Cove. They were asked to think about why native people would have lived near water.

But they did far more than just think about life several thousand years ago. Under the close supervision of professionals of Midwest Archaeological Consultants, middle school students (and some adults) learned the basics of an archaeological survey and performed excavation by skim shoveling and troweling of test units. They also experienced a flint knapping demonstration. Students unearthed projectile points, stone tools, fire-cracked rocks, pottery and bones.

Students from Sturgeon Bay also were able to use a flotation device in our new Outdoor Work Lab and to wash and catalogue artifacts in the Collins Learning Center.

Back in school, Walker sixth grade students created short video presentations about their experiences to share with their second grade buddies at Sawyer School. If you'd like to see the dig through the eyes of the youthful archaeologists, visit https://sites.google.com/sbsdmail.net/big-dig/home

The 2018 Fall Dig was made possible by:

Cellcom Green Gifts

Carol Coryell Scholarship for Deserving Students Fund of the Door County Community Foundation

Cliff and Clara Herlache Heritage Foundation of the Door County Community Foundation

Noon Rotary Club of Sturgeon Bay

Wisconsin Humanities Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Wisconsin

Photos by Holly Selle

Holiday Appeal

Last spring, the Crossroads Board of Directors participated in a Strategic Planning Session facilitated by Bret Bicoy. Many of you participated in interviews and/or completed questionnaires to help identify our strengths and weaknesses. (Thank you!!) You were honest and creative in your suggestions. From your input, the Board has begun to plan for the future.

One weakness (mentioned time and time again) was some form of "over-extended staff." With only two employees, we simply cannot increase our educational and research opportunities, extend our business hours or expand our land stewardship efforts.

Unless otherwise designated, gifts from the Holiday Appeal will be used to pay operating costs for the coming year. By starting 2019 with a financial cushion, we will be better positioned to hire the staff we need to achieve the Crossroads Mission.

Ways to Give

By mail:
Send a check to Crossroads at Big Creek, Box 608, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.

On line:
Go to www.Crossroadsatbigcreek.org to make a contribution via PayPal.

To make a gift of stocks, bonds or mutual funds:
Ask your financial advisor to contact us at 920-746-5895.

Estate planning:
To have Crossroads included in your estate plans talk with your attorney or estate planner.

To give the gifts of time and talent:
Join Friends of Crossroads: www.crossroadsatbigcreek.org or attend a meeting.

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

Yes! I (we) want to make a donation to Crossroads.

Donate on line: www.CrossroadsAtBigCreek.org

Please use my gift of $_____ to pay for day-to-day operations.

❑ $25 ❑ $50 ❑ $100 ❑ $250 ❑ $500 ❑ $1,000

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.

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

Mail your check in the enclosed envelope:
Crossroads at Big Creek, Inc.
PO Box 608, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
920.746.5895

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

Box 608, 2041 Michigan Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

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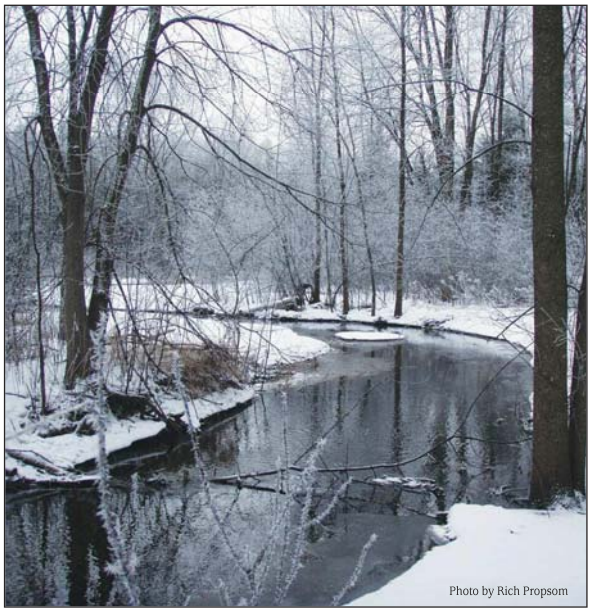

Photo by Rich Propsom

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.

2019 Educational Theme:
"The Great Lakes"

Celebrate Water
DOOR COUNTY
Together we can make waves

2019 Goals:

- Expand staff and programs
- Create a 10-year campus plan
- Replace the vehicle bridge over Big Creek
- Develop wildlife habitats along the swale system
- Improve signage for The Cove and Ida Bay preserves
- Maintain a grassy area to eventually use for overflow parking
- Persist with invasive species removal
- Continue archaeological and water quality research
- Collaborate with community organizations and agencies
- And, of course, Celebrate Water with educational programs and events focused on the Great Lakes

Photo by Jeff Schmaltz, MODIS Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC