



promises made, promises kept



Dear Friends:

Happy Holidays! Winter is a wonderful time of year at the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Nature Trails and Recreation Area. Our trails remain open from dawn to dusk, and it's great to see so many families come out and enjoy the site for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter hiking and more.

The holidays are a natural time to pause, reflect on the past year and look toward the future. With that in mind, I wanted to update the community on Reclaimed Flambeau Mine activities over the past several months, as well as share some of our plans for 2011. I also want to provide an update on environmental matters at the site.

As the new year approaches, I was excited to see the recently unveiled 2011 Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Artists Calendar by the Rusk Area Arts Alliance. This year's calendar again features gorgeous work by local artists – read how to get yours inside. You can also find out how to enjoy some free snowshoeing on our trails this winter, as well as learn how a house adjacent to the mine site is helping the community.

This summer and fall, we continued our close look at how Best Management Practices (BMPs) address storm water runoff in the vicinity of the Copper Park Business and Recreation Area. Work to identify wetland areas was completed, and we are voluntarily working with the state Department of Natural Resources to identify additional practices for continuous improvement at our site. Related to stormwater runoff and the intermittent stream on our property (often referred to as Stream C), several longtime mining opponents have again served us with a Notice of Intent (NOI) to file a lawsuit. This NOI is different from the June 2009 NOI (for which no law suit has been filed), but it makes similar unfounded environmental claims against the site related to the Clean Water Act. We are disappointed by this action and will vigorously defend any action

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A Winter Scene by Chuck Mogensen

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which may be initiated based on facts and our strong environmental record. I will keep you updated on these NOIs, should either proceed.

We are also continuing our work in partnership with the local community and area organizations to consider the possibilities of developing the Copper Park Interpretive Center, including enhanced trails, signage and facilities at our site. The project vision at this time includes highlighting the mining heritage, reclamation of the Flambeau Mine site, and natural/environmental sciences. Ultimately, the result would be that the land where the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Nature Trails, Copper Park Equestrian Trails and Sisters Farm Trails are located remains open for public education and recreational purposes. Such an interpretive center would add a new tourist destination for Ladysmith and Rusk County. We're pleased to be a part of it.

Did you know that for several years, Westlake Enterprises, Inc. – a local nonprofit organization that helps individuals with development disabilities gain work skills and training – has worked with Flambeau Mining to prepare and distribute this newsletter? I'm honored to

have served on the Westlake board of directors for a few years now, and look forward to helping the organization continue its outstanding work in our community.

To be sure, we're looking forward to a busy winter and spring. If you have any questions about the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Nature Trails and Recreation Area and how you and your family can enjoy it in the upcoming weeks and months, please feel free to contact me personally. In the meantime, have a wonderful holiday season – and I'll see you on the trails!

Happy Holidays,

Jana Murphy
Reclamation and Environmental Services Manager

HOUSE NEAR FLAMBEAU SITE HELPING THE COMMUNITY

A modular home sitting adjacent to the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine site will enjoy a new life helping the community.

Flambeau Mining Co. has donated the house located between the reclaimed mine site and Highway 27 to the Rusk County Lighthouse Organization, a nonprofit group that provides housing assistance to individuals and families. Lighthouse made several improvements to the structure, including installing a new furnace, before opening it as a shelter earlier this month to

folks who need assistance during these economically trying times.

“We are grateful at the generosity and commitment the Flambeau Mining Company has shown to helping those less fortunate in our community,” said Erny Heiden, Rusk County Lighthouse Executive Director.

Flambeau Mining Co. bought many homes in the early 1970s shortly after discovery of the ore body on the site. Over the years, the homes have been used by mine employees or rented to tenants. The company continues to own and rent ten houses around the mine site. Some of the tenants had an outstanding view of the construction, operation and reclamation of the mine just beyond their backyard. And now they enjoy



the natural beauty of and easy access to the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Nature Trails.

TRY SNOWSHOEING FOR FREE

Did you know that snowshoeing can burn more than 600 calories per hour? You can help work off those holiday treats by giving this easy-to-learn sport a try on the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Nature Trails. Snowshoes donated over the last several years by Flambeau Mining Co. are available for loan, free of charge, at the Rusk County Visitors Center. Snowshoe sizes range from child to adult and provide a great opportunity for families to get out during the winter. If you can walk, you can snowshoe.

Recently, Flambeau Mining donated four more pairs of snowshoes to support this popular winter activity. The free use of the snowshoes is very popular – they’re checked out almost every snowy weekend – so plan to hit the trails early! To reserve snowshoes call the Visitors Center at 715-532-2642.

LOCAL ARTISTS FEATURED IN 2011 FLAMBEAU CALENDAR

Bring the natural beauty of the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine into your home and office with the 2011 Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Artists Calendar, now available through the Rusk Area Arts Alliance (RAAA). The calendar features work by local artists in a variety of media – including photography, watercolor, oil, acrylic, hand weaving and pyrography – all inspired by the environmental splendor and wildlife of the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Nature Trails and Recreation Area.

You can see just a sampling of the featured artwork lining the top of the newsletter.

The calendars make great holiday gifts and are available for a \$5.00 donation to RAAA at the Rusk County Visitors Center, Ladysmith Community Library, and Mad Cat Studio. More information on RAAA is available at www.ruskarts.org.

FLAMBEAU SITE BECOMES OUTDOOR CLASSROOM FOR AREA STUDENTS

Students from teacher Laurie Leaf’s biology classes and Darrell Gago’s forestry classes at Bruce High School spent a unique day of learning at the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine site in September. Following a curriculum designed by fellow students who were involved in a 2009 biodiversity study at the site, 9th through 12th graders became “field biologists,” learning to identify various trees, plants, flowers and other natural elements across the 2,100 acres of Flambeau Mining Co. property.



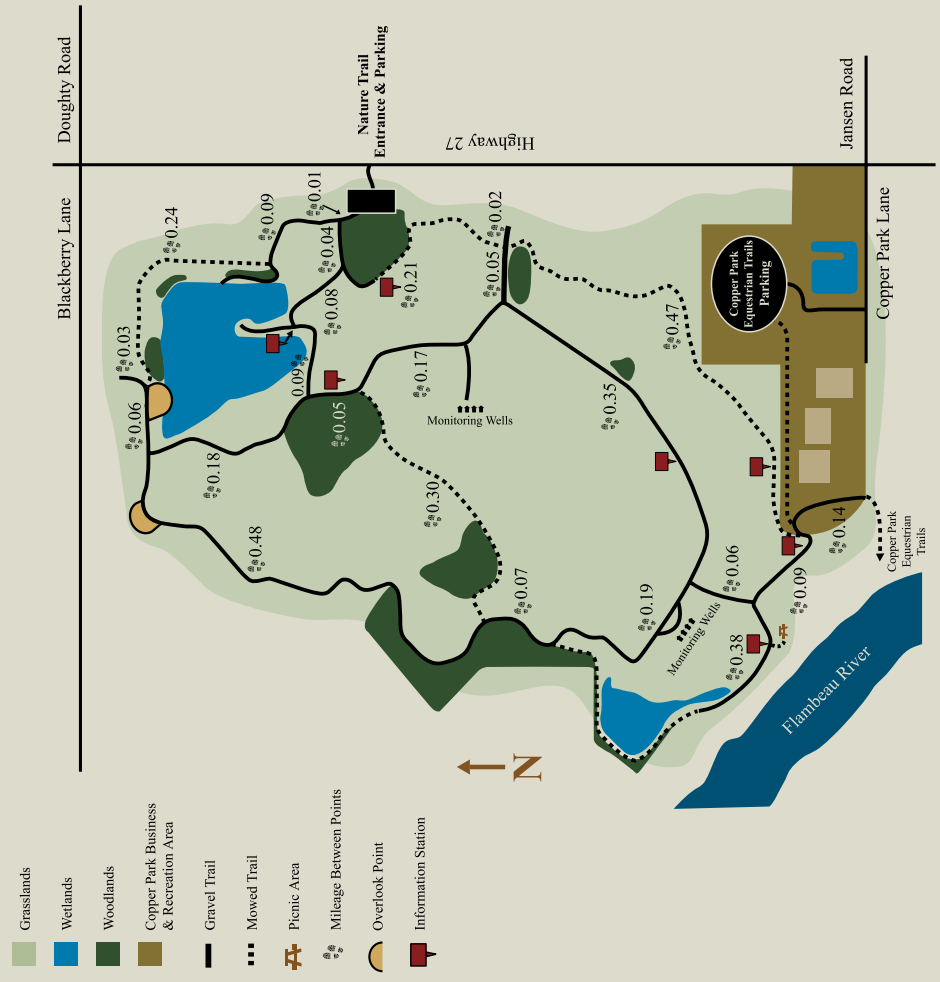
Students visited a number of stations at the site. At one, they were shown examples of different types of trees and taught how to identify them. At another, students worked on their own in the field, identifying and logging different types of wildflowers. At the final station, they explored the forest to identify trees based on the knowledge they’d acquired earlier in the day. The day also included discussions about conservation and the reclamation of the Flambeau Mine site.

“It was absolutely terrific, and they did a great job,” Leaf said. “The students who designed the curriculum worked very hard over the summer and during the school year, and the kids really responded to their teaching. To learn about the forest when you’re actually in the forest makes the lesson so much more applicable.”

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...Continued article "Flambeau Site Becomes Outdoor Classroom For Area Students"

One parent reported that her daughter posted a message on Facebook about how much fun she'd had on the field trip, and more than 25 students responded with positive messages about their experience at the Flambeau site, Leaf said. She added that she plans to bring her students back to the Flambeau site next fall, perhaps to do some water work.

"We're very lucky to have this resource in our community," Leaf said.



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