



promises made, promises kept



**Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Granted COC**

Greetings!

Over the past few weeks, I've seen many using our reclaimed mine site, and I hope others in the community follow their lead and take in everything the site has to offer. Mid- to late-summer offers the best scenery at the site as so many of the wild flowers are in full bloom.

I also wanted to share with you that Flambeau Mining Company has been granted a Certificate of Completion (COC) for the 149-acre portion of the reclaimed site through an agreement reached among several parties, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

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The COC allows us to move forward with the 40-year long-term care of the reclaimed site and returns to our company all of the reclamation bond that is allowed by law. As part of that agreement, Flambeau Mining Company withdrew its petition for a COC on the 32-acre industrial outlot portion of the site and agreed to conduct additional monitoring at the site and in the Flambeau River. We agreed to separate the outlot in this process because it is used by the local community for a different purpose – as a business park – rather than having been returned to a nature area like the remainder of the site. As such, there are best management practices used at the outlot to manage stormwater – as there are at many developed business areas – and we agreed to do additional monitoring to demonstrate those best management practices are effective. The parties agreed that the original Notice of Completion remains in effect and a COC could be sought for that 32-acre portion of the site after three more years.

continued...



Flambeau  
Reclaimed

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Also, as you likely know, we have done a great deal of monitoring over the years both voluntarily as well as what was required by the state, and that data shows that we did a good job of protecting the environment throughout the construction, mining and reclamation of the site. We will cooperate with the interested parties on this additional monitoring, and we are confident it, too, will show that we are continuing to protect the environment and the Flambeau River. If you would like to read more about the COC process and the agreement, please visit our Web site at [www.flambeaumine.com](http://www.flambeaumine.com).

With the COC process completed, I want to take a moment to thank many in the community who participated in the process, including those who came to the May public hearing to share their positive thoughts about the reclaimed site. It was especially nice to hear from individuals who have done work on the site, taken a walk during their lunch hour, gone horseback riding on the equestrian trails, benefited from the Copper Park Business and Recreation Area and more.

I thank you again for your support, and hope to see you on the trails!

**Jana Murphy**  
Manager of Environment  
and Reclamation Services

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY

On May 29, about a dozen students from Flambeau High School visited the former mine site to plant dozens of native plants near the Copper Park Equestrian Trailhead. The planting was part of an educational effort to further create a diverse landscape of plant species thriving on the site and beautify the entire area for horseback riders and others using the trail.

Earlier this year, Jana Murphy, manager of environment and reclamation services for the Flambeau Mining Company, provided the students with seeds for the plants, lupine and coreopsis. The students nurtured the plants in the Flambeau High School's greenhouse, which was once used to grow plants for the reclaimed site. The greenhouse was donated to the high school several years ago during the site's reclamation.

"With the students help, the reclaimed site will continue to flourish and offer the entire community a beautiful and relaxing recreational area for years to come," said Murphy.





## FLAMBEAU HOSTS COMMUNITY BIRD WATCH

Following on the heels of the bluebird nest workshop earlier this spring, the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine recently co-sponsored a Bird Watch event on the site.

The free, family activity took place on June 9th and was also sponsored by the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Ladysmith Service Center.



*"Two international interns from Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary view a Red-Tailed Hawk brought by Chris Cold, DNR Wildlife Educator."*

Approximately 15 local community members including two young ladies from Sweden and the Ukraine were treated to an educational workshop featuring presentations on the various species of birds found at the reclaimed mine site, inspections of the on-site blue bird nest boxes installed last year and a bird watch hike across the reclaimed site.

"We are so pleased that members of the community and beyond were able to attend this exciting educational experience," said Storme Nelson, Director of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary. "The site is home to a diverse population of bird species, and we encourage others in the community to take the opportunity to visit the site and view birds in their natural habitat that backyard birdwatchers might not usually get a chance to experience."

For more information about future bird watch events and/or other family-oriented activities taking place at the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Nature Trails & Recreation Area visit [www.flambeaumine.com](http://www.flambeaumine.com).

## DID SOMEONE SAY GEOCACHING?

As technology continues to transform our lives, many have discovered an exciting new hobby – geocaching.

Growing in popularity since 2000, Geocaching is an outdoor treasure-hunting game in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver to hide and seek containers (called "caches") using only the coordinates of a specific area. Each cache usually contains a log-book for visitors to sign in and/or a small trinket for the finder, who then replaces it with something else for the next person to find.



The game is played throughout the world, but local residents can take part right here in Rusk County. According to Greg Meier, a local geocache enthusiast from Bruce, Wisconsin, more than 45 caches are hidden in Rusk County and Greg and his family have placed about 30 of them – mostly in wild and scenic area.

"The greatest strength of geocaching is that local people who know their area well, can direct others to certain special places that are open to the public," said Meier. "Where the public can then enjoy the outdoors on their own, yet have an almost personal guided tour by using the capabilities of their GPS receiver, in conjunction with the [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) website and their own skills.

The Flambeau Mining Company property is currently home to five caches, two on the reclaimed mine site, and with more on the way. According to Jana Murphy of the Flambeau Mining Company, there is more opportunity to be had for geocache sites along the recently expanded Copper Park Equestrian Trails.

For more information about geocaching and how you can become geocaching enthusiasts, visit [www.ruskcounty.org](http://www.ruskcounty.org).

# A FEW FRIENDLY REMINDERS

With the summer months finally upon us and the warm weather allowing many to venture into the outdoors, the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Nature Trails & Recreation Area is sure to be a hot spot for members of the community and visitors to the area.



The site has a lot to offer, and here are a few reminders to help visitors enjoy the trails, the thriving plant and wildlife, and the educational and relaxing activities the site provides.

- **Know your limit** – There are approximately four miles of nature trails that wind through the site, making it important for visitors to know their exercise limit and properly prepare. Bring items such as bottled water, and wear proper walking or hiking shoes and/or other needed articles of clothing. It's recommended that bikers wear helmets when navigating the site.
- **Take a break** – Take advantage of the picnic area that runs along the Flambeau River. This is a perfect place to rest and re-energize. It's also a great meeting place in the event you are separated from a group activity.

- **Protection from insects** – As with many outdoor activities that take place in nature, there is a good chance there may be mosquitoes or ticks, and other annoying insects. Make sure to bring and use bug repellent while using the trails. And check yourself and companions for bear ticks, which can carry Lyme disease.
- **Sun Protection** – Be sure to bring a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen for protection from the sun.
- **Respect the plant and wildlife** – The site provides a self-supporting habitat for plant and wildlife, including more than two dozen species of trees and shrubs, more than 200 native plants, an abundance of frogs and several species of waterfowl, and other birds.
- **Control your dog** – If using the site for dog walking, please remember to keep him or her under control at all times. Not only will this help protect the plant and wildlife surrounding the trails, but also ensure the enjoyment of others using the trails.



For more information and other reminders to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience on the site, visit the Flambeau Mine Web site at [www.flambeaumine.com](http://www.flambeaumine.com).

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