

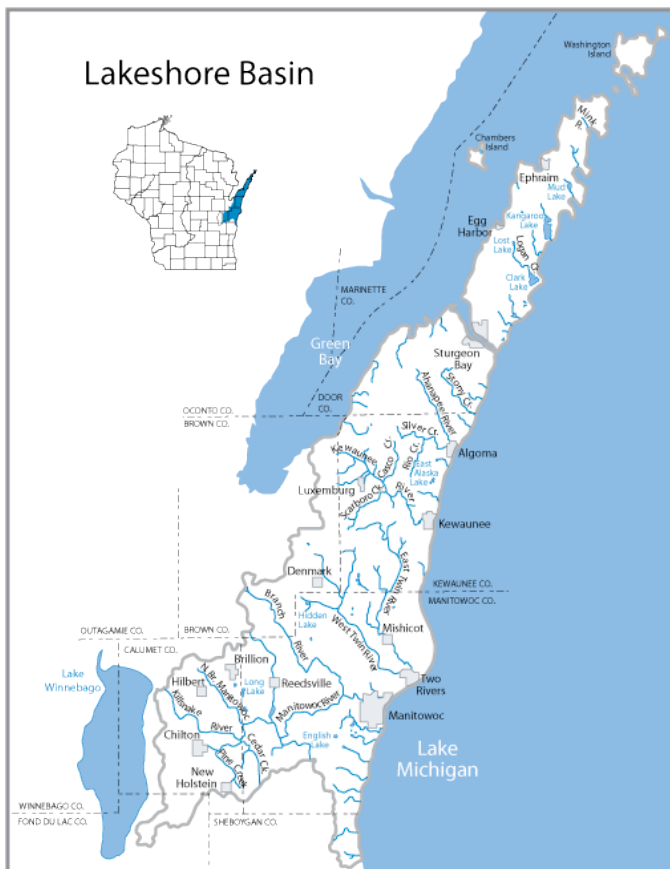
LNRP
P.O. Box 62
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235



The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, Inc.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources River Planning Grant RP-201-11

Cultivating River Stewardship in the Lakeshore Basin



Final Report

October 17, 2011

**Jim Kettler,
Executive Director**

Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership WI DNR River Planning Grant RP-201-11

Cultivating River Stewardship in the Lakeshore Basin

Introduction

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership received funding to cultivate river stewardship through a series of seminars, workshops, outreach events, and paint-outs with the Water's Edge Artists. Geographical focus was primarily on the Branch River system but also included Pine Creek in Calumet County and the streams flowing into Hika Bay in southern Manitowoc County.

What follows is an outline with specific event descriptions and associated information. Panelists, artists, and working volunteers are named. Also enclosed and/or attached are the newsletters, new releases and program materials associated with each event.

From the outreach established with the Friends of the Branch River, membership was increased from 90 individuals at the beginning of 2010 to 134 at the beginning of 2011. These increased membership numbers and the associated events provided greater protection of the Branch River Watershed.

A new group was formed as Friends of Hika Bay with the merging of stewardship efforts revolving around the restoration of Centerville Creek and the dissolution of Centerville Cares.

And LNRP continued to engage the community on the restoration of Pine Creek. In fact, LNRP has submitted multiple proposals with TRC Environmental Solutions for GLRI funding.

One of our aspirations and a specific goal of the grant is to help create the environment for self-supporting local 'friends' groups. A critical piece of this puzzle is for the group to find the "legs" for the administrative support for events, membership management, outreach, fundraising, and all the other necessary structural elements. Perhaps the greatest outcome of the River Planning Grant is to see the Friends of the Branch River engage a consultant that provides both the biology and environmental background but the appropriate administrative skills.

Introducing Melissa Lake, FOBR Program Assistant

Melissa Lake was brought into the FOBR group in January 2011 as a program assistant from a referral made by Margaret Pauwels. Tom Ward had been looking for someone to assist the FOBR Board with administrative and public relation duties not able to be covered by the board volunteers, and to help extend the FOBR's outreach efforts. Melissa has worked on programming, outreach efforts to the area schools, and press releases to area media sources for all FOBR events/meetings. She has also created the promotional

and informational materials for special programs and events, as well as, working on tracking and promoting FOBR membership and the newsletter's redesign, editing and writing of articles. Melissa has also set up and maintains the FOBR facebook page.

Melissa Lake moved to Manitowoc in May of 2009 with her husband and two young daughters from Juneau, WI. To learn more about her new town and the people, Melissa joined several groups over the first 6 months. Melissa is active with the Chamber of Manitowoc County, Service League of Manitowoc County, Women in Management and Lakeshore Business Builders. Melissa has two degrees from UW-Stevens Point in Wildlife & Biology. Over the last 15 years, she has worked as a technician, program assistant, and environmental educator with the WI DNR, US Fish & Wildlife Service in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Alaska, and non-profit environmental groups. Melissa enjoys her work with FOBR and is looking forward to building upon this year's efforts.

Stewardship Engagements

1. Friends of the Branch River

Fall 2010 Newsletter

Wrote multiple articles, did the lay out, edited to a finished product, and distributed.

See Attached Fall 2010 FOBR Newsletter

2. Branch River Paint-out

November 6, 2010

Dodge Nature Preserve, Branch

Facilitated a paint-out with the local community.

Painters

Bonnita Budysz, Jody Ackley, Vicky Molitar, 5 Excel Art Students, Russell Schwindt, Keary Kautzer, Rob Wasmund, Bob Beck, Colette Blum-Meister, Phyllis Verhyen, Jim Selle, Mary Anderson, Lori Beringer, Paul Goderstad

See Story in Fall 2010 FOBR Newsletter

3. Hayton Pond Art Exhibits

November - December, 2010 with public opening on Nov 12

Terra Verde Coffeehouse, Chilton

Coordinated the exhibit with coffee house owners.

Showcasing artists Phyllis Verhyen, Maggie Putin, Mary Anderson, Bonnita Budysz, Betsy Bultman Spry

See Press Release Below

For Immediate Release: October 30, 2010

For Further Information: Sherrill Anderson, Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, 920.849.7053, or Marko Sosa, Terra Verde Coffeehouse, 920.849.9050

Water's Edge Artists to Return to Terra Verde Coffeehouse for One-Month Exhibition

An area group of "plein air" painters will return to the Terra Verde Coffeehouse, 507 N. Madison Street, Chilton, during the month of November. These fine artists paint outdoors in nature to draw attention to and support the lakeshore basin's waterways and surrounding lands. The public is invited to an opening reception with the artists on Friday, November 12 from 7:00-10:00 p.m. Refreshments and food will be available for sale.

The Water's Edge Artists formed in late 2006 in collaboration with the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership to support LNRP's stewardship projects in the lakeshore basin. The artists split sales from these art works 50-50 with LNRP. Back in early June, the artists painted outside at Hayton Pond and Pine Creek and will once again be showcasing their oil and pastel works.

"We are really excited to have these talented artists back to Terra Verde," café owner Marko Sosa says. "Sharing their fine artworks with the community is part of what we love to do and we hope to see lots of people at the opening reception and throughout the month."

The artists also just concluded their month-long *Visions of Water* exhibit, now in its third year, at the Rahr-West Art Museum in Manitowoc, and launched their third *Lakeshore Waterways* calendar. This year they are also introducing sets of note cards, one image for each month of the calendar and cover, and are offering them at Terra Verde as well. One hundred percent of the note card and calendar sales go to LNRP.

For more information, contact Sherrill Anderson, LNRP Program Assistant, 920.849.7053, or email, Sherrill@lnrp.org.

###

4. Lemberger SuperFund Seminar
February 28, 2011
Whitelaw Fire Department, Whitelaw
Co-coordinated event but FOBR engaged Melissa Lake as primary contact.
Panelists
Richard Boice: EPA
Annette Weissback: DNR
Elizabeth Heinen: DNR

See Announcement in Fall 2010 Newsletter and Story in Spring 2011 Newsletter

5. Membership Banquet

April 1, 2011

Branch Country Club, Branch

Set up event with Country Club and Speakers, FOBR coordinated.

Speakers

Bonnita Budysz: Water's Edge Artists

Karyl Rommelfanger: Local Historian

PRESS RELEASE: April FOBR Banquet

Also see attached Banquet Invite and Program

On April 1st FOBR members and guests gathered at the Branch River Golf and Tennis Center to celebrate the Annual Banquet. The evening started with a Social Hour that featured donated items for raffle. Tom Ward welcomed everyone to the dinner and presented awards to Steve Hogler, DNR Area Fisheries Manager and Jim Kettler of LNRP for their outstanding support of FOBR and local natural resources. At the end of dinner the evenings guest speakers entertained the audience with their presentations. Bonnita Budysz, renowned local artist, and local historian, Karyl Rommelfanger were the guest speakers.

Bonnita grew up in rural Manitowoc County spending summers on her grandparents' dairy farm, instilling a personal connection with nature. Her artworks have been exhibited at the Cultural Galleries in Petropavlosvk, Russia and the Pasadena Museum of California Art, as well as local venues including the Rahr-West Art Museum in Manitowoc and the Edgewood Orchard Galleries in Door County. As founder and director of the Water's Edge Artists and board member for Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, she continues to champion conservation issues. She shares her love of art by teaching, demonstrating, and lecturing at art institutions worldwide.

Karyl Rommelfanger grew up in western Wisconsin and moved to the area to teach for the Manitowoc School District. She taught German for over 36 years. Her love of history lead to the research on the St. Nazianz community. St. Nazianz functioned successfully for almost twenty years until the sudden death of its strong, charismatic leader. Controversies followed and the village would never be the same again. In 1854 one-hundred thirteen followers of controversial Catholic priest, Ambros Oswald, departed their homes in Germany and immigrated to Wisconsin. With pooled resources they purchased over 3,000 acres of land in the Town of Eaton, Manitowoc County. There they established a Catholic communal society named after patron saint St. Gregory of Nazianz. Though purposefully separated from the society around them, their mission was to "love thy neighbor," especially widows, orphans, and the sick. Their ministry to the destitute was among the first effort of its kind in Wisconsin.

6. Property Management Workshop

April 11, 2011

Whitelaw Fire Department, Whitelaw

Co-coordinated event but FOBR engaged Melissa Lake as primary contact.

Panelists
Matt Rataczak: NRCS
Tom Schneider: FSA
Paul Kester: Kester Wild Game Food Nursery

PRESS RELEASE: April Land Management Program

Also see Announcements in Spring 2011 Newsletter

On April 11 at the Whitelaw Fire Station, over 60 people attended the FOBR workshop the land management presentations on how to attract wildlife. The FOBR offered an opportunity to learn more about how you may be able to have a pond on your property with little or no costs. Matt Rataczak from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) explained the many options available for the development of shallow ponds, wetlands, riparian buffers and other wildlife habitat.

Many small property owners would like to have a pond on their property, but feel they could not afford the construction costs. Matt explained the many programs available to help landowners to receive long term payments to convert these fields to wildlife habitat and protective land cover and install practice beneficial to wildlife. Small fields that are getting difficult to farm, high sediment delivery to the stream or difficult to rent out are very suitable for these programs. That same evening Kester's Seeds of Oshkosh shared ideas on seed mixtures to attract deer and waterfowl to your land or wetland areas. Matt Rataczak showed slides of his food plots and season food plot mixtures that he strategically designed to attract deer all season long and improve to hunting opportunities.

If you feel FOBR should offer more programs on deer management or wildlife management let us know. You can contact Tom Ward at tomward@tm.net or 920-588-0047.

7. Frog Demonstration by Randy Korb
April 16, 2011
St. Michael's School, Whitelaw
Co-coordinated event but FOBR engaged Melissa Lake as primary contact.
Presenter
Randy Korb

PRESS RELEASE: April Fun with Frogs Program

Also see Announcements in Spring 2011 Newsletter

With the concern that computers, cell phones, video games, sports, and extra circular activities creating what outdoor educators are calling "Nature Deficit" in our youth, the FOBR Board planned two hands-on activities for kids earlier this Spring. Kids are

spending less time outdoors exploring our natural world and declining involvement in hunting, fishing and other activities by youth is reflecting this problem. The FOBR are sponsoring two unique programs to help kids, and kids of all ages, reconnect with the great outdoors using FROGS and friends!

On Saturday, April 16th, the Friends of the Branch River Watershed hosted an Earth Day program, “Fun with Frogs and Friends” at the St. Michael’s School in Whitelaw, Wisconsin. More than 100 kids and 80 adults participated in this fun educational event. Participants attended two sessions: one with the live frogs and salamanders, and the other session had coloring activities and an educational video about frog calls. Randy Korb, Environmental education specialist of the St. Croix Wildlife organization (www.stcroixwildlife.org), presented the live frog and salamander program. During the live frog/salamander session the kids were able to learn about the species and hold them. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed refreshments and other information on display.

Randy Korb has made a fulfilling career out of bringing nature into Wisconsin and Illinois classrooms. For the past 20 years, Randy has given live frog and monarch butterfly demonstrations in schools, libraries, and other venues. By giving lessons about the environment that are exciting and hands-on, Randy has helped innumerable students throughout the upper Midwest learn to value and protect nature. “I like the energy and enthusiasm of children,” says Randy. “I enjoy sharing what I know with them, and they seem to get something from it too.”

This program was such a success that FOBR plans bring Randy Korb and his amphibian friends back next year and developing additional activities for the Youth Conservation Leadership Program.

8. Froggy Friday

May 6, 2011

Dodge Nature Preserve, Taus

Co-coordinated event but FOBR engaged Melissa Lake as primary contact.

Volunteers

Tom Ward, Melissa Lake, Terry Huske, Rollie Olm, Carol Dodge, Wayne Huske

PRESS RELEASE: May Froggy Friday Program

Also see attached Frog Identification Booklet

On Friday, May 16th FOBR held their “Froggy Friday” event at the Dodge Nature Preserve. This program was used as a fun and educational opportunity to learn about WI frog & toad habitats, life cycle and their distinct calls for kids of all ages. Over 58 people attended this outdoor event with over 30 of them children.

The program began with Tom Ward presenting info about how habitat loss threaten the existence of amphibians. He showed examples of some invasive plant species that are contributing to the habitat loss. After reviewing the different vocal calls of the frogs and

toads, the group split up with different guides and headed out to do surveys across the Dodge Natural Preserve. Both kids and adults had fun listening for the frogs and toads at the different habitats. After completing their surveys, everyone headed back to enjoy refreshments and win door prizes.

9. Film Premier – Green Fire

June 9, 2011

Lakeshore Technical College, Cleveland

LNRP sponsored and coordinated event.

Presenter

John Kirsch: Co-Chair Friends of Hika Bay

See Attached Press Release and Program Announcement from Village of Cleveland

10a. Film Premier – Green Fire

June 16, 2011

UW Manitowoc, Manitowoc

LNRP was co-sponsor.

Presenter

Stan Temple: Senior Leopold Fellow

10b. Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic

June 17, 2011

Woodland Dunes Nature Center, Two Rivers

LNRP was co-sponsor

Presenter

Stan Temple: Senior Leopold Fellow

See Attached Press Release

12. Dinner on the Ledge

July 16, 2011

Trout Springs Winery, Greenleaf

LNRP sponsored and coordinated event.

Presenter

Steve DeBaker: Wine maker and lead coordinator for
"Wisconsin Ledge" American Viticulture Areas designation.

Press Release

"Dining on the Ledge" to be an Annual Event

On July 16, friends and colleagues gathered for a wonderful evening of food, wine, art and conversation at the Trout Springs Winery (TSW) near Greenleaf. TSW and the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, who partnered last winter with the Niagara



Escarpment Resource Network, hosted the event. Trout Springs Winery embraces many of the principles our two groups uphold - the sustainability of our precious resources by implementing wise land use practices and sustainable farming methods.

These principles have been shared with the Friends of the Branch River, Friends of the Twin Rivers, and Friends of Hika Bay – groups LNRP has helped form and revitalize! All members were invited to the event.

Our talented Water's Edge Artists showcased several dozen oil paintings, pastels and water colors, creatively hung on the outside of TSW's main building and inside the open, attached garage. More than a dozen of these plein air painters and photographers were featured.

Our creative chef was Kyle Cross who has returned to Wisconsin after stints in California and Florida. Kyle prepared a four-course meal matched with TSW wines that knocked our socks off! The main course featured fresh pan sautéed trout grown on the property. All other foods were locally sourced and selected with freshness and taste in mind. Kyle is now the chef at Carmella's Italian Bistro in Grand Chute. Look for his monthly "Fox Foodie" column in *The Scene*.

TSW is one of a handful of Wisconsin wineries that competes in National and International Wine competitions. With over 30 years of winemaking experience, they take great pride in producing perennial, award-winning wines. Trout Springs Winery was the first winery in Brown County and continues to be the oldest commercial vineyard in Northeastern Wisconsin. Each year they introduce new vintages and strive to make each one special by implementing the latest techniques. Their detailed process requires dedication and passion. Qualities not taught, but that are inherent in the TSW team. LNRP and NERN want to thank them for a wonderful evening and their continued support of our conservation efforts on the Niagara Escarpment.

13. Pine Creek Field Day
July 29, 2011
Locations on Pine Creek,
Calumet County
LNRP was an invited participant.
Presenters
Eugene McLeod: Calumet
County LWCD
Chris Harvey: Project Manager,
TRC Environmental Solutions

***Press Release: Field Day on
Pine Creek***

The Lake Winnebago Land & Water Conservation Association Summer Meeting/Tour was held Friday July 29, 2011 and hosted by Calumet County Land & Water Conservation Committee and Department.



TRC Project Manager, Chris Harvey, answers questions from tour participants.

The tour highlighted ongoing efforts to clean up PCB contamination in and along Jordan and Pine Creeks and to restore and improve habitat and water quality along the creeks

and their watershed. The PCB contamination occurred in the 1960's and levels are as high as those in the Fox River. There are also significant nonpoint and groundwater pollution problems within the watershed. Tour stops included restored, active, and future cleanup sites. Directed discussion focused on the activities, practices, and partnerships to address the nonpoint and groundwater problems.

LNRP has been involved in the Pine Creek restoration efforts for several years holding workshops in October 2009 and January 2010 along with an initial field site visit in July 2010 in collaboration with TRC Environmental Corporation.

TRC is implementing a restoration plan that limits the amount of damage to existing wetlands caused by the clean-up activities. The restoration activities include backfilling and grading, stream bank reconstruction, and revegetation with native plants, grasses, shrubs, and trees.

In 2010, over 18,000 tons of PCB-impacted material was removed from the site along with an additional 15,000 tons removed from Jordan Creek. Work has been completed from Danes Road to Honeymoon Hill Road with plans to reach beyond Hayton Road later this year. However, due to weather and the fact that more material needs to be removed than expected, work will likely continue through 2014.

November 2010

Volume 2, Issue 2

FOBR Newsletter

*Special Interest
Articles:*

Branching Out: A
Message from
President Tom
Ward: *page 2*

LNRP Receives
River Planning
Grant: *page 3*

Climate Change –
Global Realities and
Local Impacts:
pages 4-5

Paint-Out at Dodge
Preserve: *pages 6*

Fall Clearing of
Invasive Species:
page 8-9

*Individual
Highlights:*

FOBR Directors
Contact
Information: *page 6*

2010 Calendar of
Events: *page 7*

2010 Membership
Form: *Back page*

Do you believe we need to protect and conserve the waters of the Branch River? If yes, then please consider becoming a member of the Friends of the Branch River!



Mission Statement

“Branch out into the community to improve and preserve the Branch River Watershed through education, communication, and cooperation by providing local leadership which benefits everyone in a manner that is fair to all.”



FOBR Branching Out In 2011

By President Tom Ward



This past year we began a process of revitalizing the organization to increase our educational and communication outreach to residents of the Branch River Watershed. We conducted a River Walk last October and again on the ice in February to map invasive species on various stretches of the River. The fall walk allowed members to wade the stream in the upper stretches of the river where canoeing is often too difficult. The winter walk provide a new activity and opportunity to view the river by foot on the ice and observe the wildlife or their signs as they use the river corridor to escape the elements during this time of the year.

Our partnering with LNRP (Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership) created an opportunity to observe the Water's Edge Artists capture the beauty of the water as the essence of life thru "Paint Outs held at the Dodge Preserve". Through these events held in the spring, May 1 and this past November 6, we want to encourage a broader-based stewardship, an awakening awareness that because 'we all live on the water', we are all responsible to be passionate in its protection.

On July 23 we held a very well attended tour of the Trout Springs Winery in the Brown County portion of the Watershed in lieu of our summer picnic. Most of us were not aware of this growing industry in this part of Wisconsin. On August 9, we co-sponsored with LNRP, a presentation on Climate Change and how we can mitigate these changes in our County. (See enclosed article).

As a result of these new events and ideas we held a planning meeting of the FOBR on October 18 to identify and prioritize programming ideas for 2011. To involve more youth and families with fun activities the top vote getter was to sponsor Randy Korb's program "**Discover Wisconsin Frogs & Toads**". Randy demonstrates with his live collection, the 12 species of Wisconsin frogs, allowing children to handle these amphibians.

Activities to encourage more engagement with the river will include a canoe trip of the river in the spring with a **Frogie Friday**. **The amphibian monitoring event and** follow up includes a kids Frog presentation for adults and kids, with an evening at the Dodge Preserve. We also plan to sponsor the National Wildlife Federation's self-certified habitat program that allows you to rate your back yard property as a home for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.

Programs and presentations suggested for 2011 will feature a program on the local history of Manitowoc County; understanding your property tax assessment's Land Classification; more on Wind Towers; and a presentation on the fisheries of the Branch River. Watch for more on these events in up coming mailings and news releases and please plan to attend increase your awareness of your local natural community we call the Branch River Watershed.

LNRP Receives Second River Planning Grant

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) has received a second WDNR River Planning Grant designed to help local groups cultivate a stewardship ethic among their members. LNRP has partnered with the WDNR and many other organizations for the past six years to use education and coordination to support local community efforts to maintain or improve the health of natural resources through the **We All Live on the Water** campaign and the **Explore & Restore** programming.

The **We All Live on the Water** campaign began with a Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant secured by the four basin groups along the shore of Lake Michigan. LNRP then received DNR funding to launch a collaborative set of seminars with local partners. Many members of the Friends of the Branch River came to the seminar “*Cultivating Stewardship through the Arts*” in December 2007 when LNRP brought our



favorite storyteller, John Roberts, painter Bonnita Budysz, and the poets Kathryn Gahl and Jean Biegun together to share perspectives of their work and the connection to watershed stewardship.



Explore and Restore

The **Explore and Restore** partnership designed and delivered interpretative maps and river events. The program has evolved into a series of outreach activities designed to raise awareness and understanding of water resource issues as well as two significant restoration projects on Centerville Creek near Cleveland and on Pine Creek in Calumet County.

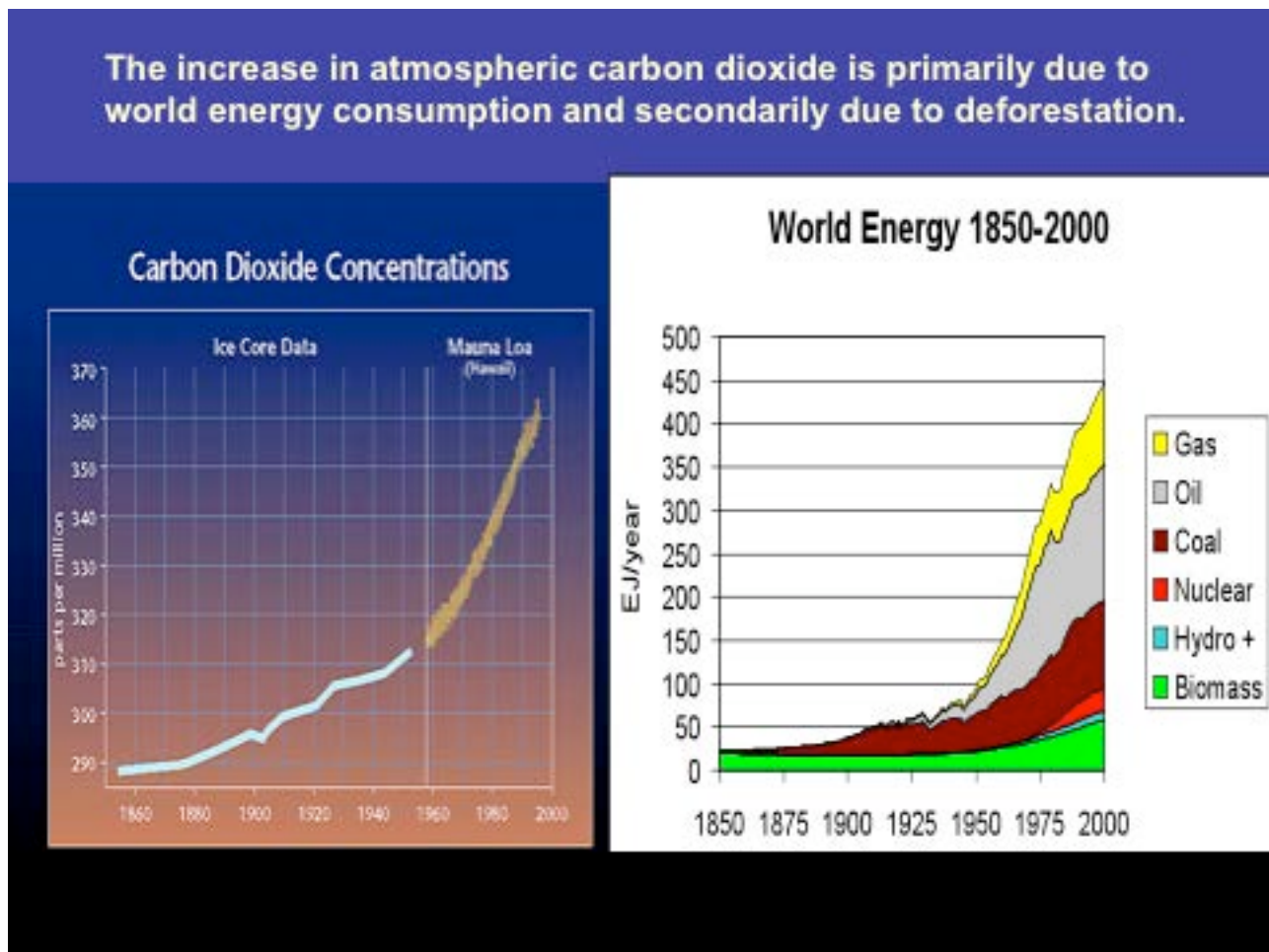
This project proposes to bring these partners together along with new partners in innovative ways to advance their common river stewardship goals.

Friends of the Branch River will be a continuing partner in the extension of the **We All Live on the Water** campaign and **Explore and Restore** programming. The proposal provides a good match to the mission of the group: to promote the conservation and preservation of the Branch River as a valuable resource by raising community awareness and support through individual outreach as well as organized activities.

Climate Change – Global Realities and Local Impacts

Jim Kettler, Executive Director of the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, and Tom Ward, President of the Friends of the Branch, provided a presentation on August 9 on Climate Change to members of the Friends of the Branch River.

Kettler started the presentation with a film that argued against the human influence on global warming and instead put the source of climate change on solar flares and sunspots. Although Kettler agreed with the presentation in the film, he showed how the time cycles that were being considered were 500 to 1000 years. Following the film with a power point presentation, Kettler provided a look at energy consumption and the related rise in carbon dioxide in just the last 150 years.



Kettler stated, “It is clear from the scientific evidence that human energy consumption is clearly linked to the rise in carbon dioxide which in turn is linked as a greenhouse gas to global climate change.” He went on to show the global realities including the increase in the severity of storms and the rapid meltdown of glaciers worldwide.

Continued on Page 5

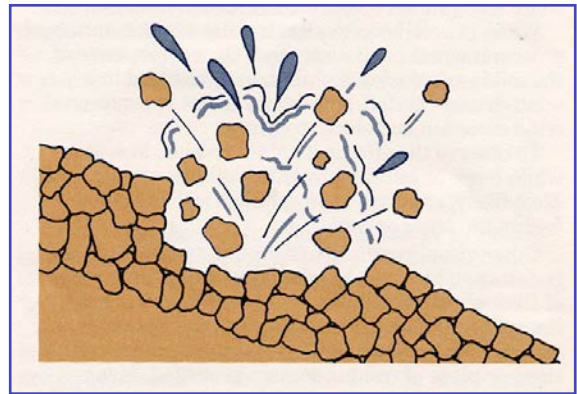
Continued from Page 4

Ward followed Kettler's presentation with the impacts locally and how a change in climate calls for a change in land management practices. Working groups of scientist are currently working in Wisconsin on developing strategies and ways that we can be better prepared to plan and address these changes as farmers, landowners and resource managers.

Climatologists predict for Wisconsin that seasonal precipitation patterns may shift, with more precipitation in the winter and less in the summer. Less rain in the summer with increased evaporation caused by higher temperatures could trigger more severe summer droughts and lower water levels. Climate data for the mid west found that storm events have increased in magnitude by as much as 46%.

Evidence in the Great Lakes region already shows that temperatures are rising especially in winter. Winters are becoming shorter and spring is coming earlier. There is significantly shorter duration of ice on inland lakes. And extreme rain events are more frequent.

Extreme rain events can have tremendous impacts on bare soils starting with raindrops striking the bare soil surface like little bombs, dislodging and splashing soil particles into the air. Raindrops strike the soil surface at about 20 miles per hour splashing soil particles up to 3 feet high in the air and up to 5 feet sideways.



Ward went on to explain what we can do to mitigate the impacts and listed the protection of stream and riparian zones as one of the most important. Buffer strips and conservation tillage are practices that are readily available. Identifying and protecting groundwater recharge areas is also an important consideration. All are part of returning to a watershed approach to management that allows us to deploy tools that model and identify critical source areas and focus treatment on critical fields or sources.



As an individual, Ward strongly suggests that we all need to “belong to a citizen group or organization, advocate for conservation, and know the political process and how to get things done.” We can also start in the home by reducing our energy consumption by better insulating, by using energy efficient appliances, and other means.

As Ward says, “It’s all about making the rights changes to maintain the quality of life we have come to know! “

Paint-Out at the Dodge Preserve

Michael J. Dodge Nature Preserve, 11006 Reifs Mills Road, on the Branch River, north of Whitelaw in Manitowoc County.

The Friends of the Branch River (FOBR) and the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) hosted a third paint-out at the Dodge Preserve on November 5 and 6. Founder of the Water's Edge Artists Bonnita Budysz joined the LNRP Board this past September.

"The Water's Edge Artists," Budysz states in their mission statement, "is an alliance of plein air artists dedicated to the conservation and protection of water resources in the Lakeshore Basin of northeastern Wisconsin. Through collaboration with the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, our efforts reflect the



shared passion for preserving the local fragile environments of our watersheds." The artists donate a large portion of the proceeds from painting sales to LNRP for its waterway improvement efforts.

"The powerful symbol of water as the essence

of all life permeates these plein air paintings," Budysz explains. "During the process of painting outdoors, one's physical senses are heightened to respond to the natural world; a deep emotional engagement involving both the moment and memory occurs; and our art spirit soars as the creative communiqué continues. The resulting artworks are images that resonate with wonder and a unique sense of place and time. With these paintings and this conservation effort, I want to elevate and encourage a broader-based stewardship, an awakening awareness that because 'we all live on the water', we are all responsible to be passionate partners in it's protection."

The FOBR and LNRP plan to exhibit paintings from the Branch River in spring and summer of 2001. Stay tuned for the dates and locations.

For further information on paint-outs and activities of the Water's Edge Artists, please contact Sherrill Anderson, Sherrill@lnrp.org, 920-412-1920.

FOBR

PRESIDENT

Tom Ward

(920) 732-3939

VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Huske

(920) 732-4371

TREASURER

Wayne Huske

(920) 732-4371

SECRETARY

Terry Huske

(920) 732-4371

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Harvey Mlesiva
(920) 732-3968

and

Barb Panosh
(920) 732-3488

EPA Releases Report for Cleanup of the Lemberger Landfill

The U.S Environmental Protection Agency released a required 5-year report this past year recommending that the responsible parties that dumped waste into the old Lemberger Landfill should help with a new plan to reduce groundwater contamination. The report states that the system used to clean up the site was ineffective in cleaning up the groundwater. The EPA classified the site as a Superfund Site in 1984.

DNR has not detected any significant levels of the contaminants reaching or discharging to the Branch River that could have potential for harming aquatic life, according to Annette Weissbach, hydro-geologist with the DNR. The Friends of the Branch conducted water quality monitoring through UW Steven's Point a number of years ago that identified high levels of nitrates entering the river from discharge of the ground water in the same areas of the watershed that have high nitrates in the private wells.

FOBR feels that we need more opportunity to understand the EPA's report and recommendations to enable watershed residents to feel comfortable with the long-term risks to our river and groundwater. As a result on February 28 at 6 PM, the FOBR has scheduled a presentation by experts from EPA and DNR to provide us with a more detailed report of their findings and hopefully decisions on potential requirements for additional abatement plans. Plan to attend, stay involved, and find out more about the Super Fund Site Cleanup and help us assure that that the Agencies are doing their jobs to protect our watershed.

2010 - 2011 Calendar of Events

December – Christmas Party
Date/Location?

February 28 Seminar: "Recommendation for Cleanup of the Lemberger Landfill." The EPA and DNR will give a presentation on future action that may be required for the clean up of the Lemberger Landfill site. Location to be announced.

March 31: Annual Banquet. Location to be announced.

April 11: Annual Membership Meeting. This may be a timely meeting to feature a program on "Understanding your tax assessment's Land Classification. Location to be announced.

May: Watch for plans to do a canoe trip, water levels permitting.

May – June: "Discover Wisconsin Frogs & Toads." Demonstration of live collection of frogs, toads, and salamanders allowing children to handle these amphibians. We'll follow with a evening at the Dodge Preserve to identify and monitor amphibian sounds.

Fall is good time for invasive plant control

The summer of 2010 was a banner year for many of the weedy and invasive plants of concern in Wisconsin, according to state officials who are urging landowners to not yet put away their garden gloves and pruning saws for the year.

“Fall is the perfect time to find and control many of the invasive plants that thrived during this hot wet summer,” notes Kelly Kearns, a native plant ecologist with the Department of Natural Resources.

Kearns says locating and identifying invasive plants is the first step in controlling them, and it becomes easier to spot certain species in autumn, once people know what fall color to look for. Kearns offers these tips for identifying invasive plants in the fall:

The leaves of some aggressive shrubs, like buckthorn and honeysuckle, which are found to be spreading in Manitowoc County, remain green and stay on the shrubs into late fall, after most native shrubs have lost their leaves. These same shrubs will be the first to green up my mid April this spring.

- Japanese knotweed produces a delicate spray of white flowers in early fall and after frost the bamboo like stems turn a deep reddish brown.
- Most people only recognize garlic mustard when it is blooming in the spring. In fall the first year plants are green and remain so even under the snow, making fall a good time to spot and pull or spray the over wintering plants.
- Phragmites or Giant Reed Grass stand up well the winter time and can be easily identified as large grass 7 to 10 feet tall and sporting a large plum or feather like seed head. This is a time to note the location and target for a herbicide treatment next September and October.

All of the woody species -- trees, shrubs and vines -- are best controlled in the fall. Cutting them down alone is generally not sufficient for these persistent plants. Most will resprout the following year, often with many more stems. To prevent resprouting, a small amount of herbicide labeled for killing brush must be applied to the cut stump soon after cutting. Tom Ward Invasive Species Coordinator for the County Lakes Association recommends Tordon: this chemical is a ready to use herbicide with no mixing as a basal cut stump application. Spray or paint the freshly cut stumps especially the outer cambium layer with undiluted Tordon. Tordon is sold in quart size for \$13.20. Because of the price it may be cheaper for smaller infestations to use the cut method and stump spray.



Common Buckthorn

A similar technique of basal bark application involves spraying or painting an herbicide in an oil carrier in a band around the base of the tree. Also done in fall or winter, this method allows the tree to be killed without first cutting it. Garlon 4 and Element 4 are the brand name products. Garlon 4 is \$298 for 2.5 gallons and Element 4 is the cheaper product at \$235. For small application areas this product is quite expensive and the Tordon stump treatment method is more practical. These products are used as a stem bark ban spray with oil at a rate of 20%. Stem treatment can be done all year round unless snow depth prohibits application near the root collar.

According to Ward, Country Visions Agronomy locations are a good location to find the products (some chemicals require a 2 day special order with Rockwood site most likely to carry a supply).

Rockwood, 4008
Rockwood Rd.
682-5449; Kiel,
W1220 Park Ave.
894-3715;
Mishicot, 14215
CTH B, 755-
2876; Reedsville,
305 N 6th St.,
754-4446;
Valders, 2513
Marken Rd., 775-
4145.



Phragmites or Giant Reed Grass

“Anyone using the cut-stump treatment and basal bark treatment should be cautious, and follow the label recommendation for the formulation and habitat where applied,” Kearns said.

After a hard frost most native plants have gone dormant, making it easier to apply the herbicide without impacting any non-target plants. Cut-stump and basal-bark treatments can be done throughout fall and winter as long as it is warm enough that the herbicide doesn’t freeze.

Fall is also a time when most plants are dispersing their seeds. Some have developed mechanisms to hitch a ride with animals and are easily spread by hunters, hikers and others enjoying the outdoors. People should inspect clothing when in the woods or field and avoid moving seeds from a weedy area to one that is still relatively uninfected. “Learn to identify these plants all year long and you can stop their spread before they can degrade the wild places you like to visit,” Kearns said.



Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership
PO Box 62
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

2010 Membership

2010 Membership Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Amount \$ _____

Check Membership Level

___ Individual \$10 ___ River Protector \$100-249

___ Family \$15 ___ River Champion \$250+

___ Sponsor \$25-99

Make check payable to Friends of the Branch River

Joining Friends of the Branch is an easy way to show you care about the quality of your river and watershed. Simply fill out the membership form and mail your correspondence to:

FOBR

c/o Wayne Huske

7016 County Hwy T

Whitelaw, WI 54247

FOBR is a 501(c)(3) organization

Mark Your Calendars !

.....

Monday, April 11th - Monthly Program
6 pm at Whitelaw Fire Station

At the monthly meeting, two informative talks on helping landowners improve their acreage for wildlife will be presented:

- Property Management for Deer & Other Wildlife
 - Creating Wetlands & Ponds for Wildlife through Landowner Assisted Programs
-

Saturday, April 16th - Fun with Frogs

10 am St. Michael's Grade School, Whitelaw, WI

A special demonstration by Randy Korb allows kids and parents to get up-close to frogs and salamanders!

Friday, May 6th - Froggy Friday

6 pm Dodge Nature Preserve

11006 Reifs Mills Lane, Whitelaw, WI

Come out to the Dodge Preserve to learn about frogs and help conduct a frog survey. For Kids & Adults.

May - Date to be Announced

Canoe & Kayak Trip on the Branch River

7003 Cedarview Road
Cleveland, WI 53015

Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership



Annual Banquet

Friday, April 1, 2011

Branch River Country Club

6:00 PM Dinner

**RSVP Required by
Friday, March 25, 2011**

RSVP Return Slip

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Select Dinner Plate of Your Choice

All Dinners included: Rolls, Salad, Coffee,
& Chocolate Layer Torte with Raspberry Coulis

Beef Tips Burgundy over Noodles x \$15.00

1/2 Oven Broasted Chicken x \$15.00

Baked Stuffed Haddock x \$15.00

Subtotal: _____

Membership Annual Dues

*You do not need to be a member to attend the Annual Banquet

Individual x \$15.00

Family x \$20.00

Sponsor x \$30.00

Total: _____

**Make Checks Payable to:
Friends of the Branch River Watershed**

Send RSVP Slip and Check By Friday, March 25th

Friends of the Branch River Watershed
c/o Wayne Huske
7016 County Road T
Whitelaw, WI 54247

Banquet Speakers

FOBR Annual Banquet

.....
Friday, April 1, 2011

Branch River Country Club

3212 North Union Road

Cato, WI

.....

5:00 PM

Registration

Raffle Ticket Sales

Cash Bar

6:00 PM

Dinner

After Dinner

Awards

&

Speakers

Return to the River ~ Bonnita Budysz

Just as salmon and trout imprint on the river environs where they were born, Bonnita Budysz, believes that we respond and return to the waters and the landscape where our first explorations and awareness of the natural world took place. Bonnita shares her experiences with candor and humor, as she reflects on her artistic journey from Silver Creek to San Francisco, and back again as she 'Returns to the Branch.'

Bonnita grew up in rural Manitowoc County spending summers with on her grandparents' dairy farm, instilling a personal connection with nature. Her artworks have been exhibited at the Cultural Galleries in Petropavlovsk, Russia and the Pasadena Museum of California Art, as well as local venues including the Rahr-West Art Museum in Manitowoc and the Edgewood Orchard Galleries in Door County. As founder and director of the Water's Edge Artists, she continues to champion conservation issues. She shares her love of art by teaching, demonstrating, and lecturing at art institutions worldwide.

St. Naizianz ~ Karyl Rommelfanger

In 1854 one-hundred thirteen followers of controversial Catholic priest Ambros Oswald departed their homes in Germany and immigrated to Wisconsin. With pooled resources they purchased over 3,000 acres of land in the Town of Eaton, Manitowoc County. There they established a Catholic communal society named after patron saint St. Gregory of Nazianz. Though purposefully separated from the society around them, their mission was to "love thy neighbor," especially widows, orphans, and the sick. Their ministry to the destitute was likely the first effort of its kind in Wisconsin. St. Nazianz functioned successfully for almost twenty years until the sudden death of its strong, charismatic leader. Controversies followed and the village would never be the same again.

Karyl Rommelfanger grew up in western Wisconsin and moved to the area to teach for the Manitowoc School District. She taught German for over 36 years. **She is now retired and....**

Program

5:00 p.m. Cash Bar

6:00 p.m. Dinner

(colored dots will be assigned for your meal selection)

Beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome – *Tom Ward, President*

Call for FOBR Board Members

Presentations

Bonnita Budysz
Return to the River

Karyl Rommelfanger
The History of St. Nazianz

Raffle Drawings and Door Prizes

Thank you for supporting FOBR!

2011 Speakers

Bonnita Budysz – Painter and Conservationist

Just as salmon and trout imprint on the river environs where they were born, Bonnita Budysz, believes that we respond and return to the waters and the landscape where our first explorations and awareness of the natural world took place. Bonnita shares her experiences with candor and humor, as she reflects on her artistic journey from Silver Creek to San Francisco, and back again as she 'Returns to the Branch'. As founder and director of the Water's Edge Artists, partnering with Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, she continues to champion conservation issues. She shares her love of art by teaching, demonstrating, and lecturing at art institutions worldwide.

Karyl Rommelfanger – Teacher and Historian

Karyl Rommelfanger will share the story that shaped the community of St. Nazianz and surrounding area. In 1854 one-hundred thirteen followers of controversial Catholic priest Ambros Oswald departed their homes in southern Germany and immigrated to Wisconsin. With pooled resources they purchased over 3,000 acres of land in the Town of Eaton, Manitowoc County, and established a Catholic communal society named after patron saint St Gregory of Nazianz, who had retreated into a wilderness to be closer to God. Though purposefully separated from the society around them, Father Oswald's message to his followers was to "love thy neighbor," especially widows, orphans, and the sick. Their mission to minister to the destitute was likely the first effort of its kind in Wisconsin. St. Nazianz functioned successfully for almost twenty years until the sudden death of its strong, charismatic leader. Controversies followed and the village would never be quite the same again.

We'd love to see you
at our upcoming events!

2011 Calendar of Events

- April 11th** – Public Meeting
Property Mgmt for Deer and Wildlife
Creating Wetlands and Ponds
6 pm, Whitelaw Fire Station
- May 16th** – Fun with Frogs
Randy Korb's Family Event
10 am, St. Michael's School, Whitelaw
- May 6th** – Froggy Friday
Learn about frogs in their natural habitat
For Kids and Adults!
6 pm, Dodge Preserve, 11006 Reifs Mills
Lane, Whitelaw
- May / June** – Paddle the Branch
Kayaks and Canoes
TBA
- June 16th** – Green Fire
Manitowoc County premier of the new
film on Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic
7 pm, UW Manitowoc
- June 17th** – A Land Ethic in the Time of Climate
Change
Stan Temple, Senior Leopold Fellow
1 pm, Woodland Dunes Nature Center



Welcome to the 12th Annual Friends of the Branch River Membership Banquet

**Friday, April 1, 2011
Branch River Country Club, Branch**

Our Sponsors

Whitelaw Convenience Store	Bob Schuh
Trout Springs Winery	Wayne & Terry Huske
Country Cuts and Colors	Barrett Koralewsky
Barb Panosh and Ernie Walters	Kate Leahy
Terry's Auto Whitelaw	Pine River Dairy
Friends of the Branch River	Jim Hill
Denmark State Bank	Russ Pahnke
Pat & Lois Keehan 4K Carving	Braun Earth Acres

FOBR Froggy Friday Guide

May 6, 2011 @ Dodge Preserve, Whitelaw

Northern Spring Peeper

How to Identify: 3/4 - 1 1/4 in. (1.9-3.2 cm).

They are tan to brown to gray depending on their surroundings. Peepers have a dark, often imperfect, "x" on the back; a plain belly and large toe pads.

Habitat: Wooded areas with temporary or semi-permanent ponds or swamps or marshes.

Did you Know. . . . that in winter, peepers' bodies freeze--but their cells don't rupture because of the concentrated sugars in them. These sugars act as a kind of natural anti-freeze.

Breeding: March through May.

Voice: A high ascending "peep," sometimes with a short trill; chorus resembles the jingling of bells.



Northern Leopard Frog

How to Identify: 2 - 3 1/2 in. (5.1-8.9 cm); green or brown; rounded spots with light borders; light stripe on upper lip; ridges on its back which extends to groin.

Habitat: Lakes, streams, rivers, ponds; often far from standing water. (This is why it's sometimes called the meadow frog.)

Breeding: April through mid-June.

Voice: A deep, rattling snore interspersed with "chuckling" or the sound of a thumb rubbing against a balloon; similar to pickerel frog.



FOBR Froggy Friday Guide

May 6, 2011 @ Dodge Preserve, Whitelaw

American Toad

How to Identify: 2 - 4 1/2 in. (5.1-8.9 cm); brown to red to olive; dark, warty skin; elongated glands found at the ridge behind the eye or connected by a short spur.

Habitat: Common in a variety of habitats wherever there are insects, moisture, and a variety of shallow waters for breeding.

Breeding: April through June.

Voice: A musical trill lasting up to 30 seconds, with considerable individual variation in the tone.



Bullfrog

How to Identify: 3 1/2 - 6 in. (9-15 cm); plain green with dark markings; no ridges along its back.

Habitat: Permanent bodies of water.

Breeding: June through July.

Voice: Deep bass notes similar to a foghorn; "jug-o-rum" or like drawing a bow across a bass fiddle.



FOBR Froggy Friday Guide

May 6, 2011 @ Dodge Preserve, Whitelaw

Blanchard's Cricket Frog

Wisconsin Status: Endangered

Federal Status: Not listed

How to Identify: 5/8 - 1 1/2 in. (1.6-3.8 cm); light brown to black; rough skin; dark triangle between eyes; longitudinal dark stripe on back of thigh.

Habitat: In or near permanent bodies of shallow water with submerged plants.

Breeding: May through July.

Voice: Like the clicking of pebbles in rapid succession, or like clicking two "steelie" marbles in your hand.



Cope's Gray Treefrog

How to Identify: 1 1/4 - 2 in. (3.2-5.1 cm); green to gray to brown; light spot beneath eye; bright yellow or orange on concealed surfaces of hind legs; large toe pads. Note: There aren't many differences between this and the [eastern gray treefrog](#). Cope's tends to be smaller, has smoother skin, and when calling, is totally green without dark markings on its back. Their calls, however, are distinct.



Habitat: Trees or shrubs growing in or near water.

Breeding: May through mid-July. **Voice:** A short, loud trill lasting up to 30 seconds; faster and harsher than Eastern Treefrog. A nasally "wa-a-a-a-a."

FOBR Froggy Friday Guide

May 6, 2011 @ Dodge Preserve, Whitelaw

Eastern Gray Treefrog

How to Identify: 1 1/4 - 2 in. (3.2-5.1 cm); green to gray to brown; light spot beneath eye; bright yellow or orange on underside of hind legs; large toe pads; a rough or bumpy skin on its back, usually with darker blotches.

Habitat: Trees or shrubs growing in or near water.

Breeding: May through mid-July.

Voice: A short, loud trill lasting up to 30 seconds; slower and more melodic than Cope's gray treefrog.



Green Frog

How to Identify: 2 1/4 - 3 1/2 in. (5.7-8.9 cm); green to brown; ridges along its back that do not reach groin; green on upper lip.

Habitat: All types of permanent bodies of water.

Breeding: June through July.

Voice: Similar to the twang of a loose banjo string, usually given as a single note.



FOBR Froggy Friday Guide

May 6, 2011 @ Dodge Preserve, Whitelaw

Mink Frog

How to Identify: 1 7/8 - 2 3/4 in. (4.8-7.0 cm); olive to brown often with spots or mottling on the sides and legs; skin produces a musky, mink-like odor when rubbed.

Habitat: Cool, permanent water where vegetation is abundant (including bogs).

Breeding: June through July.

Voice: Like the sound of horses' hooves trotting over a cobblestone street.



Pickrel Frog



How to Identify: 1 3/4 - 3 in. (4.4-7.6 cm); brown or tan; rectangular spots, without light borders, in parallel rows down the back; bright yellow or orange on concealed surfaces of hind legs; light stripe on upper lip; ridges along its back which extend to the groin.

Habitat: Cool, clear waters of spring-fed lakes and streams.

Breeding: April through mid-June.

Voice: A steady, low-pitched snore with little carrying power; similar to leopard frog (To know for sure if you're hearing a pickrel or leopard frog, you need to see one and decide which frog you're looking at.)

FOBR Froggy Friday Guide

May 6, 2011 @ Dodge Preserve, Whitelaw

Western Chorus Frog

How to Identify: 3/4-1 1/2 in. (1.9-3.8 cm); greenish-gray to brown; 3 dark stripes down the back; light stripe on upper lip; small, round toe pads.

Habitat: In or near shallow, often temporary, bodies of water.

Breeding: March through May.

Voice: A "crreek", lasting 1 or 2 seconds; similar to the sound of a fingernail running along the teeth of a fine-toothed comb.



Wood Frog



How to Identify: 1 3/8-2 3/4 inches (3.5-7.0 cm); pink, tan, or dark brown; dark mask through the eye; prominent ridges on its back; light stripe upper lip.

Habitat: In / near moist wooded areas.

Breeding: March through April.

Voice: A hoarse, subtle quacking with little carrying power.

FOBR Froggy Friday Guide

May 6, 2011 @ Dodge Preserve, Whitelaw

Frog / Toad Calls Cheat Sheet

American Toad - musical trill lasting up to 30 seconds, with considerable individual variation in the tone.

Bullfrog- Deep bass notes similar to a foghorn; "jug-o-rum" or like drawing a bow across a bass fiddle

Blanchard's Cricket Frog- Like the clicking of pebbles in rapid succession, or like clicking two "steelie" marbles in your hand.

Cope's Gray Treefrog- A nasally "wa-a-a-a-a."

Eastern Gray Treefrog- short, loud trill lasting up to 30 seconds; slower and more melodic than Cope's gray treefrog.

Green Frog- the twang of a loose banjo string, usually given as a single note.

Mink Frog- Like the sound of horses' hooves trotting over a cobblestone street.

Northern Spring Peeper- high ascending "peep"

Northern Leopard Frog- A deep, rattling snore interspersed with "chuckling" or the sound of a thumb rubbing against a balloon;
** similar to pickerel frog.

Pickerel Frog- steady, low-pitched snore with little carrying power; similar to leopard frog (To know for sure if you're hearing a pickerel or leopard frog, you need to see one and identify)

Western Chorus Frog - A "crreek", lasting 1 or 2 seconds; similar to the sound of a fingernail running along the teeth of a fine-toothed comb

Wood Frog - hoarse, subtle quacking with little carrying power.

FOBR Froggy Friday Guide

May 6, 2011 @ Dodge Preserve, Whitelaw

Species Name	Month	Habitat	Call
Wood Frog	March - April	In or near moist wooded areas	Low hoarse "quack"
Northern Spring Peeper	March - May	Wooded areas w/ temporary water	High "peep-peep"
Western Chorus Frog	March - May	Shallow, temporary bodies of water	High "creek" like a fingernail on comb
American Toad	April - June	Anywhere with shallow water	Musical trill; up to 30 seconds
Northern Leopard Frog	April - mid June	Permanent bodies of water; in grass	Thumb rubbing on a balloon (pickerel)
Pickerel Frog	April - mid June	Spring-fed lakes & streams	Steady, low snore (like leopard frog)
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	May - July	Permanent shallow water w/ plants	Clicking steelie marbles
Cope's Gray Treefrog	May - mid July	Tree/shrubs in or near water	Nasally "Wa-a-a-a"
Eastern Gray Treefrog	May - mid July	Tree/shrubs in or near water	Melodic short trill up to 30 seconds
Bullfrog	June - July	Permanent bodies of water	A bow across a bass fiddle/cello
Green Frog	June - July	Permanent bodies of water	Twang of a loose banjo/rubberband
Mink Frog	June - July	Permanent water w/ plants	Horses' hooves on cobblestone street

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: James Kettler, Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, 920-304-1919, jim@lnrp.org

New Documentary on Leopold Showing at Lakeshore Technical College, Lake Michigan Room

Green Fire film connects legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold with modern environmental projects such as the Centerville Creek Restoration Project

Cleveland, WIS. - Thursday, June 9, the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership will host a free screening of a new film called *Green Fire*, the first full-length, high definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold. The film explores Aldo Leopold's life in the early part of the twentieth century and the many ways his land ethic idea continues to be applied all over the world today.

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time is a production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the US Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature. The film shares highlights from Leopold's life and extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation in the twentieth century and still inspires people today. Although probably best known as the author of the conservation classic *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold is also renowned for his work as an educator, philosopher, forester, ecologist, and wilderness advocate.

The film is being shown in community screening venues like this one throughout 2011. It will then be released on public television in early 2012.

"Aldo Leopold's legacy lives on today in the work of people and organizations across the nation and around the world," said Aldo Leopold Foundation Executive Director Buddy Huffaker. "What is exciting about *Green Fire* is that it is more than just a documentary about Aldo Leopold; it also explores the influence his ideas have had in shaping the conservation movement as we know it today by highlighting some really inspiring people and organizations doing great work to connect people and the natural world in ways that even Leopold might not have imagined."

Green Fire illustrates Leopold's continuing influence by exploring current projects that connect people and land at the local level. Viewers will meet urban children in Chicago learning about local foods and ecological restoration. They'll learn about ranchers in Arizona and New Mexico who maintain healthy landscapes by working on their own properties and with their neighbors, in cooperative community conservation efforts. They'll meet wildlife biologists who are bringing back threatened and endangered species, from cranes to Mexican wolves, to the landscapes where they once thrived. The *Green Fire* film portrays how

Leopold's vision of a community that cares about both people and land—his call for a land ethic—ties all of these modern conservation stories together and offers inspiration and insight for the future.

"The making of *Green Fire* has been a process of discovery," says Curt Meine, the film's on-screen guide. Meine's doctoral dissertation was a biography of Aldo Leopold, published as *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1988). To give the film its modern perspective of Leopold's influence in the conservation movement today, Meine was charged with conducting hundreds of interviews with people practicing conservation all over the country. "Meeting all those people has really yielded new connections between Leopold and nearly every facet of the environmental movement, including ocean conservation, urban gardening, and climate change—issues that Leopold never directly considered in his lifetime but has nonetheless affected as his ideas are carried on by others," said Meine.

"Aldo Leopold is one of our nation's most beloved nature writers," says environmental historian Susan Flader. "His *A Sand County Almanac*, published posthumously in 1949, has become a catalyst for our evolving ecological awareness and a classic in American literature." Leopold is regarded by many as one of the most influential conservation thinkers of the twentieth century, and the film highlights the ways his legacy continues to encourage us to see the natural world "as a community to which we belong."

The Aldo Leopold Foundation is distributing the film to community screeners, and is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The foundation's mission is to inspire an ethical relationship between people and land through the legacy of Aldo Leopold. Leopold regarded a land ethic as a product of social evolution. "Nothing so important as an ethic is ever 'written,'" he explained. "It evolves 'in the minds of a thinking community.'" Learn more about the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the *Green Fire* movie at www.aldoleopold.org.

If you go: June 9 at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.: Cleveland, WI at the Lakeshore Technical College, Lake Michigan Room

For more information: Jim Kettler, Executive Director, Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, 920-304-1919 or jim@lnrp.org

#####



**VILLAGE OF CLEVELAND
Centerville Creek/Hika Park Restoration Project
Friends of Hika Meeting**

Thursday, June 9, 2011

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 7:00 PM FILM SCREENING

Lakeshore Technical College, Lake Michigan Room, 1290 North Avenue, Cleveland

NOTICE

The Friends of Hika will meet after a screening of the film, "Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time." Dr. Jim Kettler, Executive Director of Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, will present an update on the Centerville Creek/Hika Park Restoration Project. The Friends will also discuss the improvement and maintenance of the former millpond area and Hika Park.

The purpose for the Centerville Creek/Hika Park Restoration Project is to comprehensively approach the restoration of the abandoned millpond and the enhancement and expansion of Hika Park through creation of an environmental and recreational corridor.

The Village Board and Plan Commission members may also be present to gather information and participate in discussion. This may constitute a meeting of the Village Board pursuant to State ex rel Badke v. Greendale Village Bd., 173 Wis2d 553, 494 NW2d 408 (1993), although no formal action will be taken at this meeting.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: James Kettler, Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, 920-304-1919, jim@lnrp.org

New Documentary on Leopold Showing at UW Manitowoc Theater

Green Fire film connects legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold with modern environmental projects such as the activities of the Woodland Dunes Nature Center and the programming of the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership

Cleveland, WIS. - Thursday, June 16, Woodland Dunes Nature Center and the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership will host a free screening of a new film called *Green Fire*, the first full-length, high definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold. The film explores Aldo Leopold's life in the early part of the twentieth century and the many ways his land ethic idea continues to be applied all over the world today.

Stan Temple, Senior Leopold Fellow and former faculty at UW Madison will introduce the film. Dr. Temple will also host an interactive discussion at the Woodland Dunes Nature Center on June 17 from 1-3 p.m.

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time is a production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the US Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature. The film shares highlights from Leopold's life and extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation in the twentieth century and still inspires people today. Although probably best known as the author of the conservation classic *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold is also renowned for his work as an educator, philosopher, forester, ecologist, and wilderness advocate.

The film is being shown in community screening venues like this one throughout 2011. It will then be released on public television in early 2012.

"Aldo Leopold's legacy lives on today in the work of people and organizations across the nation and around the world," said Aldo Leopold Foundation Executive Director Buddy Huffaker. "What is exciting about *Green Fire* is that it is more than just a documentary about Aldo Leopold; it also explores the influence his ideas have had in shaping the conservation movement as we know it today by highlighting some really inspiring people and organizations doing great work to connect people and the natural world in ways that even Leopold might not have imagined."

Green Fire illustrates Leopold's continuing influence by exploring current projects that connect people and land at the local level. Viewers will meet urban children in Chicago learning about local foods and ecological restoration. They'll learn about ranchers in Arizona

and New Mexico who maintain healthy landscapes by working on their own properties and with their neighbors, in cooperative community conservation efforts. They'll meet wildlife biologists who are bringing back threatened and endangered species, from cranes to Mexican wolves, to the landscapes where they once thrived. The *Green Fire* film portrays how Leopold's vision of a community that cares about both people and land—his call for a land ethic—ties all of these modern conservation stories together and offers inspiration and insight for the future.

"The making of *Green Fire* has been a process of discovery," says Curt Meine, the film's on-screen guide. Meine's doctoral dissertation was a biography of Aldo Leopold, published as *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1988). To give the film its modern perspective of Leopold's influence in the conservation movement today, Meine was charged with conducting hundreds of interviews with people practicing conservation all over the country. "Meeting all those people has really yielded new connections between Leopold and nearly every facet of the environmental movement, including ocean conservation, urban gardening, and climate change—issues that Leopold never directly considered in his lifetime but has nonetheless affected as his ideas are carried on by others," said Meine.

"Aldo Leopold is one of our nation's most beloved nature writers," says environmental historian Susan Flader. "His *A Sand County Almanac*, published posthumously in 1949, has become a catalyst for our evolving ecological awareness and a classic in American literature." Leopold is regarded by many as one of the most influential conservation thinkers of the twentieth century, and the film highlights the ways his legacy continues to encourage us to see the natural world "as a community to which we belong."

The Aldo Leopold Foundation is distributing the film to community screeners, and is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The foundation's mission is to inspire an ethical relationship between people and land through the legacy of Aldo Leopold. Leopold regarded a land ethic as a product of social evolution. "Nothing so important as an ethic is ever 'written,'" he explained. "It evolves 'in the minds of a thinking community.'" Learn more about the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the *Green Fire* movie at www.aldoleopold.org.

If you go: Film Screening, June 16 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.: UW Manitowoc County Board Room, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc; Open Discussion, June 17 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Woodland Dunes Nature Center

For more information: Jim Kettler, Executive Director, Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, 920-304-1919 or jim@lnrp.org

#####

Spring 2011

FOBR Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2
2011	
Membership	3
Membership Info	4
Wildlife Pond & Certify Your Property	5
Birdhouse Tips Beetles Battle	6
Springtime on the River	7
Dodge Preserve & Branch River Watershed Maps	8
Fun with Frogs	8
Climate Change & Maple Syrup	9
Buyer Beware	10
Invasive Control	11
Our Man-made Disaster	12
Lemberger Sites Next Step	13
Lemberger Maps	14
Hydro-fracturing	15

A Note from the President

By the time you receive this issue, Spring should be well on its way and hopefully March will not leave like a lion. I had seen my first robin ironically during the last snow-storm. Stop and notice as nature springs forth in the watershed, changing daily. Starting with the arrival of our seasonal birds at the bird feeders, pairing of the Canada geese, loud calls of the sandhill cranes, swelling of the tree buds and out flow of maple sap, this emergence will soon be followed by thunder and lightening, the frogs and toads chirping and calling from our wetlands and shorelines. If we listen carefully at sunrise, we can hear the gobbling of our most recently re-introduced resident, the eastern wild turkey.

You are invited to read articles on preparing your bird house for our newly arriving guests, evaluating your property to attract and invite wildlife, and helping us fight invasive species that threaten these spring experiences by planting only native species.

We also invite you and your families to our activities to help you become engaged in nature this spring, beginning with our Saturday, April 16 live frog, toad and salamander activity at the St. Michaels School. Your kids and grandkids will be fascinated by holding and watching our many native Wisconsin amphibians. Then, at sunset on Friday, May 6th, come learn how to identify these frogs and toads by their calls at the wetlands on the Dodge Preserve near Whitelaw.

For folks with larger properties or hunters leasing land, on Monday, April 11th, a presentation will help you plan your properties to encourage deer and other wildlife with food plot plantings and habitat management. A review of landowner assisted programs will immediately follow this program to help you install these improvements.

Don't forget to join and support our organization with both your donations, and even more importantly, your time and interest. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. ~ Tom Ward



Board Information

President ~ Tom Ward
920-732-3939

Vice President & Secretary ~ Terry Huske
920-732-4371

Treasurer ~ Wayne Huske
920-732-4371

Directors—At—Large
Harvey Mleziva 920-732-3968
Barb Panosh 920-732-3488

Upcoming Events ~ FOBR



Friday, April 1st ~ FOBR Banquet

5pm Branch River Country Club, 3212 North Union Road, Cato

Monday, April 11th ~ FOBR Land Program

6pm at Whitelaw Fire Station, 330 E. Menasha Ave/Hwy 10 West
Guest speakers will explain the many options available to develop shallow ponds, wetlands, and other wildlife habitat on your property; receive long-term payments for preserving wildlife habitat; and developing food plots on your property.
FOBR meeting to follow program



Saturday, April 16th ~ FOBR Fun with Frogs!

10am at St. Michael's Grade School, 132 W. Menasha, Whitelaw
A special demonstration by Randy Korb allows kids and parents to get up-close to frogs and salamanders!

Friday, May 6th ~ FOBR Froggy Friday

6pm at Dodge Nature Preserve, 11006 Reifs Mills Lane, Whitelaw
Come out and learn about frogs in their natural setting. Help conduct a frog call survey at dusk and then enjoy refreshments and fun afterwards.

May TBA ~ Canoe/Kayak Trip on Branch River



Programs at Woodland Dunes Nature Center

3000 Hawthorne Avenue. Two Rivers

Phone: 920-793-4007

Saturday, April 2nd ~ Beetles Battle Loosestrife

Saturday, April 9th ~ Willow Basketry

Wednesday, April 13th ~ Pond Life workshop

Saturday, April 16th ~ Earth Day at Silver Lake College

Thursday, April 28th ~ Native American program

Saturday, May 7th ~ Bird Hike

Wednesday, May 11th ~ Nature Hike

Saturday, May 14th ~ Bird Breakfast

Saturday, May 21st ~ Bird Hike

Saturday, June 4th ~ Frog Hike

Saturday, June 8th ~ Pontoon Boat Tour



2011 FOBR Members

River Protectors

Southern Brown County Conservation Club
Cark & Jane Laueck

River Sponsors

Buchner Agronomy Consulting, LLC
Doris M. Cherney
Vernon Childs
Michael & Marilyn Forbes
Wayne & Terry Huske
John Roberts & Nancy Osterberg

David & Karen Naidl
Michael & Patricia Schenian
Russell & Ione Steeber
John & Joan Shimon, Twin River Turf
Russ & Mary Tooley
Ernie Walters & Barbara Panosh

Family Memberships

Kenneth Cherney
Bill & Judy Decker
Don & Cheryl Domrath
Jim & Jeanne Einberger
Glenn & Gayle Fritsch
Charles & Joanne Geiger
Allan & Suzanne Herrmann
Jim & Jean Hill
Joe & Melissa Lake
Ronald & Colette Meister

John & Cynthia Meyer
Harvey & Eileen Mleziva
Dave & Deb Muench
Rollie Olm & Carol Dodge
Keith & Judy Pamperin
William & Margaret Pauwels
Norb & Rita Pritzl
Don & Joyce Sheahan
Tom & Paula Ward
Donald & Patricia Weber

Individual Memberships

Richard Anhalt
James Kettler
Charles Nate
Karyl Rommelfanger
Elmer Schill
Al Schoepke
Elizabeth Strohfeltd
Dennis Verhyen

Join FOBR Today!

“Branch out into the community to improve and preserve the Branch River Watershed through education, communication, and cooperation by providing local leadership which benefits everyone in a manner that is fair to all.”

Help protect and enhance the Branch River Watershed by becoming an active and supporting member of Friends of the Branch River Watershed (FOBR). Your membership will help achieve our goals: provide activities to encourage more engagement within the Branch River, to involve more children with fun activities, hold paint-outs at the Dodge Preserve, offer programs to encourage land use management, and to improve and preserve the Branch River Watershed.

The Friends of the Branch River Watershed strive to provide local leadership by educating the public and landowners of programs and practices to properly manage their resources through qualified speakers. FOBR cooperates with other environmental groups to enhance and extend their conservation efforts. Partnering with Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, Izaak Walton League, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, River Alliance of Wisconsin and the Manitowoc County Lakes Association allows for a greater outreach and shared programming resources.

Membership Form

Annual Membership Dues

Individual \$15.00
Family \$20.00
Sponsor \$30-\$99
Protector \$100 +
Donation \$ _____
Subtotal: \$ _____

I would like to get involved in:

Youth outdoor activities
 Canoeing and kayaking
 Mapping invasive species & control
 Monitoring water quality, amphibians
 River clean up
 Tree planting
 Fishing and fish habitat improvement
 Land management

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Please Mail To:

Friends of the Branch River Watershed, c/o Wayne Huske
County Road T, Whitelaw, WI 54247
Phone: 920-732-4371

Wildlife Pond

Would you like to have a pond on your property, but feel that you are unable to cover the construction costs? Your dream may be more affordable than you thought. On **Monday, April 11, 6 pm, at the Whitelaw Fire Station**, the FOBR will help you discover how you could create that pond with little or no costs. Matt Rataczak from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Tom Schneider from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) will explain the many options available to develop shallow ponds, wetlands, riparian buffers and other wildlife habitat on your property.

Do you have cropland you are currently renting out, small fields getting difficult to farm Are you tired of trying to find a reliable renter or collect payments? Tom Schneider from the USDA FSA office will share program ideas to receive long-term payments to convert these fields to wildlife habitat and protective land cover.

The same evening FOBR is looking to have a speaker to address how to create wildlife food plots and plan your property for wildlife. Many people would like to plant food plots to attract deer or pheasants to their property, but lack the equipment or knowledge of plant selection to initiate a project.

We invite you to see if you qualify for these and other opportunities or want to ideas to improve habitat on your property or leased hunting lands.

For more information contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Phone: 920-683-5119

Certify Your Property as a Wildlife Friendly Place

To encourage the protection and improvement of our watershed, **the FOBR is sponsoring and encouraging participating in the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program.** The project encourages property owners to provide food, water, cover and places for wildlife to raise their young as well as incorporating sustainable gardening practices. By planting natural landscapes, you'll be doing your part to restore the ecology of the land on which you live and help reduce the impact of residential development.

Participating in this program is easy. All you need to do is provide the four basic elements that wildlife needs to survive: 1) food, 2) water, 3) cover to protect against the elements and predators, and 4) places to reproduce and bear young in safety. The methods for providing these basic elements can be simple and inexpensive, or as elaborate as you choose.

You may apply on line (www.nwf.org/certify) or [complete the enclosed application for certification](#) from National Wildlife Federation. The certification component of the program is a way we can acknowledge your efforts for providing a special place for wildlife and for being a responsible steward of the land. Once your application is approved, you will receive a certificate with your own unique habitat number, the quarterly Habitats Newsletter, additional information about habitats, the option of purchasing an attractive metal, weather resistant yard sign. The certification form will also help you evaluate your property for habitat and ideas for improvement.



Birdhouse Spring Cleaning Tips

Spring is here and it's time to put up, replace or prepare your bird houses for our summer guests. Our FOBR member and blue bird expert Charlie Geiger recommends the following:



- Bluebirds return to this area in the latter half of March. Therefore, nest boxes should be available now.
- Don't worry if bluebirds do not show up; the boxes will also host the nests of tree swallows, house wrens, and black-capped chickadees, each using different nesting materials.
- Destroy any house sparrow nests. They are not native, prey upon our native birds, and are not protected by law. They will kill native nesting birds in the nest box and build their nest on top of the existing nest.
- The house sparrow is the bluebird's major predator, so place nest boxes in locations where the house sparrow is absent or in low numbers. In urban areas, you can only support one box per yard, as nest boxes need to be about 300 feet apart.
- To reduce the number of house sparrows in your yard, do not feed anything but finch seed after March 15th.
- Monitor the nest box every seven to 14 days during the nesting season, and more frequently earlier in the season when competition for the boxes is greatest. Charlie has observed egg laying as late as the end of July. Bluebirds will have more than one brood; two is normal.
- Sites with generally less sparrow usage would include parks and cemeteries, offering wonderful sites especially along the perimeter; apple and cherry orchards where bluebirds may help with insect control; and roadside fence lines, where the ditches are mowed, and along hay field fence lines.
- Sites to avoid: areas having an active barn or barnyard due to the number of house sparrows they attract, and nearby bird feeders for the same reason. Avoid wetland areas, where tree swallows aggressively compete for the nest boxes; as well as places where food is frequently found on the ground, such as restaurant parking lots, picnic areas, or where seeds spill at feed mills.

Beetles Battle Purple Loosestrife

If exotic, aggressive purple loosestrife is invading your wetland or others nearby, you should be concerned. When left unchecked purple loosestrife can take over and drive most other species out. Often what is left is a boring monoculture with very few other plants or animals. Such wetlands are also usually poor at delivering the ecosystem services, such as water retention, that they should. Happily, biological control has proven to be effective at reducing the loosestrife, is safe for other species, and inexpensive to initiate. This workshop will introduce you to purple loosestrife and other wetland invaders, explain how bio-control works, and teach you how to start loosestrife bio-control in your area's threatened wetlands. You'll learn how to set up your own fascinating backyard rearing station to turn a few safe bio-control beetles into thousands, easily placed in your wetland. And a program of the WDNR and UW Extension will give you most of the gear you need for this for free! Raising beetles is fun, and if you don't have loosestrife you can share your beetles with neighbors who do! Please call to Woodland Dunes to register.

**Woodland Dunes
Program**

*Saturday,
April 2nd*
9AM to Noon
at Woodland Dunes

920-793-4007

Springtime on the Branch River Essay

As I step outside, on this early spring morning, on my way to the mailbox to retrieve my morning newspaper, light is just appearing on the eastern horizon. I pause, and listen to the morning chorus; the song sparrow in the nearby shrubs, the great horned owl in the distance, giving its final hoots of the night, the robin giving its first calls of the day. Later, some early migrants such as the red winged blackbird, the sandhill crane, Canada geese, along with our resident northern cardinal, blue jays, black capped chickadees, join in morning song, attempting to stake out a territory, and attract a mate. A time of renewal and reunion is upon us, a yearly event along the Branch River, that we should take the time to appreciate. Do we ever consider, what life would be like without these sounds?

I see renewal in spring, as I watch the grass become green again, the sap being collected from the maple trees, to later become delicious maple syrup, the buds that become leaves on the shrubs and trees, the early plants sprouting from the ground, all signs of renewed life along the Branch River. The river itself, free of winter ice, flowing swiftly, providing the spawning grounds, for many species of fish, as they move upstream against the rapid current. The fields and meadows springing back to life, providing food and habitat for not only us, but many of our feathered friends. It is our stewardship, of this riparian area, that allows this annual renewal to be carried out, hopefully, for generations into the future.

Reunions, be they family, class, military, or employment, are times that we renew our acquaintances with those that we do not see regularly. Many of us travel many miles, to these events. I view spring in much the same way - in that the habitats of the Branch River are the yearly hosts of the reunion, our guests are those arriving birds. Some that may have traveled thousands of miles, some may only stay a day or two, others may spent the summer, build a nest, raise young, then return south for the winter. They are in their finest colors, a delight to so many observers, in their breeding plumage, ready to attract a mate, as they look forward to a successful nesting.

I look at the nearby spruce, or cedar tree, that will provide a nesting site for the robin; the dead birch, that the black-capped chickadee is at work excavating an nest hole; the dogwoods that the American goldfinch will use to weaver its nest between the limbs; that dead snag in the distance, that a hairy or downy woodpecker will soon call home. I take notice of the nearby wetland, the deep pumping song of the American bittern, or the descending whinny of the sora, yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds, the 'witchy-witchy-witchy-witch' call of the common yellowthroat, and the marsh and sedge wrens, as they all join in chorus among the reeds. My attention is then drawn to the nearby woodland, and the call of the ovenbird, the drumming of various woodpeckers as they attempt to attract mates, the flute-like song of the wood thrush, and yes, the 'here I am, where are you' call of the red-eyed vireo. Each year, the reunion progresses, with so many species of birds, returning from their wintering areas, many to use the habitat along the Branch River, as a nesting area.

Then I take notice of a brushy area that in years past, was the home of nesting blue-winged warblers. Now it has overgrown, and no longer do they nest there, hopefully they have found suitable, younger habitat nearby, but they have been replaced by the eastern towhee, whose 'drink your teeee' song fills the morning air. So as the habitat changes, so do the species of bird it attracts, and the Branch River is a prime example of multiple habitats, attracting many species of birds. The Dodge Preserve along the river, has recorded over 140 species of birds, that have visited over the past few years, yet that is only a small area, compared to the entire area along the river, just think of how many birds depend on the habitat, of this river, for nesting, food, and water. The birds, along with all wildlife, are dependant on us and the good work we have done, to provide the habitat and clean water that is so important to their well being.

Let us continue to protect this corridor of river habitat, so that the reunions we enjoy each spring, along with those wonderful songs, are heard for generations to come.

Submitted by: Charlie Geiger, member of the FOBR

"Let us continue to protect this corridor of river habitat, so that the reunions we enjoy each spring, along with those wonderful songs, are heard for generations to come."



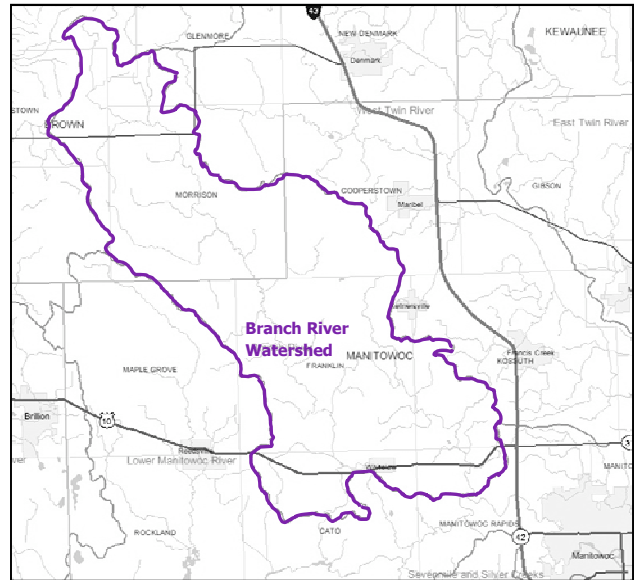
Dodge Nature Preserve

ADDRESS: 11006 Reifs Mills Lane, Whitelaw, WI



Branch River Watershed

General Location



Fun with Frogs and Froggy Friday

10am on Saturday, April 16th, at St. Michael's Grade School, 132 W. Menasha, Whitelaw

6pm on Friday, May 6th, at Dodge Nature Preserve, 11006 Reifs Mills Lane, Whitelaw

Computers, cell phones, video games, sports, and extra circular activities are creating what outdoor educators are calling "Nature Deficit" in our youth. Kids are spending less time outdoors exploring our natural world and declining involvement in hunting, fishing and other activities by youth is reflecting this problem. The FOBR are sponsoring two unique programs to help kids, and kids of all ages, reconnect with the great outdoors using FROGS and friends!

On **Saturday, April 16th at 10am**, the frog demonstration by Randy Korb, allows kids to handle many of the 12 Wisconsin frog and 7 salamander species. Our program encourages parents and their children to explore the natural wonder of these amphibians of the Branch River Watershed. Parents and kids of all ages are welcome to attend.

Become a biologist on **Friday, May 6th, at 6pm** at the Dodge Nature Preserve. Learn about frogs and their different croaks and calls. Then step outside to participate in a frog survey! Afterward, enjoy refreshments and social activities. Everyone is invited to attend!



Impact of Climate Change on Making Maple Syrup in Wisconsin

Maple syrup, a common breakfast condiment, is produced by concentrating the sap of the sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*. In early spring, forests of sugar maple, Wisconsin's state tree, are tapped by the hundreds at many commercial and family-run "sugarbushes," or wooded areas managed for maple syrup production, across the state. Many family farms in Wisconsin and elsewhere across northeastern states and eastern Canada, produce maple syrup for extra income, gifts, or family use. Considering that many producers are family-run businesses that have been producing syrup for up to four generations, maple syrup production undoubtedly has an important cultural significance in Wisconsin. Even small-scale non-commercial sugarbushes involve many people, often extended family or close friends, in the collection and boiling of sap. In many school districts in northern Wisconsin, students are taken to local sugarbushes to learn how to collect and process sap. In addition, the Ojibwe of Wisconsin have harvested sap for cultural subsistence for centuries.

Maple syrup production also has an economic impact in Wisconsin. According to the National Agriculture Statistics Service, Wisconsin is currently the number four maple syrup producing state. Additionally, the crop value for just over 500 producers was roughly \$5,865,000, in 2008 alone. In 2009, those 500 plus producers managed over 670,000 taps and produced over 200,000 gallons of maple syrup (keep in mind it takes approximately 40 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup).



Any family who runs a sugarbush can tell you that weather plays a critical role in the production of maple syrup. Although little scientific research has been done, producers will argue that temperature variation, fall soil moisture, wind, spring soil moisture, or humidity can impact a sugarbush's success. The best conditions for sugaring are cool nights, just below freezing, and fairly warm days, in the upper 40s °F. This temperature change causes shifts in pressure outside the tree that send sap flowing throughout the tree and out any open wounds, like a hole for a tap. [The National Agriculture Statistical Service data](#) shows that in 2005 and 2007, the number of gallons of syrup produced in the state of Wisconsin was very low. Years of poor production are most often tied directly to environmental conditions. Considering the fact that maple syrup production happens over the period of about one month and is weather dependent, changes in climate could have significant impacts on the statewide production of maple syrup. Sugar maples are usually found in moist and nutrient rich environments and are more common in northeastern

states. Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison have used climate models to predict the future distributions of the sugar maple and have found that it is expected to reduce in abundance in Wisconsin. Gradually, we can expect that sugar maples will become more stressed and prone to insect damage as state average temperatures, especially as winter temperatures continue to increase.

[Researchers have also downscaled global climate models](#) using local historical climate data to generate fine-scale climate change predictions statewide. From this data we can anticipate potential climate change impacts on maple syrup production. The data indicates that we can expect: a 4.5 to 6 °F increase in average spring temperatures, with a 4.2 to 6.3 °F in average spring highs and a 4.5 to 6.3 °F increase in average spring lows. Furthermore, they project the last spring freeze will come 12 to 15 days earlier, a 7.5 to 12.5 days earlier onset of springtime conditions, a slightly wetter fall, a wetter spring, and a reduction in the probability of frozen precipitation (e.g. snow) in March.

Also, we can anticipate a 14 to 18% reduction in the frequency of cold days ($\leq 20^\circ\text{F}$) for northern Wisconsin and a 10 to 12% reduction for southern Wisconsin. Based on this data we can expect the maple syrup season to begin and end earlier in the year, and a reduction in the number of cold days could reduce the season length. However, without scientific research we can only infer how other climatic variables could influence maple syrup production.

Therefore, we can only speculate that the decrease in the probability of snow and a slight increase in spring and fall precipitation could have negligible or even positive impacts. However, it should be pointed out that the potential benefit from slight increases in precipitation in spring and fall could be outweighed by greater evaporation caused by high temperatures and low precipitation during the summer. Also, warm daily temperatures following periods of high sap production can cause sap to sour before it can be processed. Finally, the responses of the local climate to regional climate change could impact wind speed, frequency, and direction, which are all considered to be important factors in maple syrup production.

Article Courtesy of Climate Wisconsin ~ Climate Wisconsin is an educational multimedia project featuring stories of climate change. All stories are supported by research conducted in collaboration with the [Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts](#). Background essays and teaching tips were developed with support from the [Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies](#) and [Center for Biology Education](#) at the [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#). Climate Wisconsin is a project of the [Educational Communications Board](#) with funding from the [Corporation for Public Broadcasting](#).

Buyer Beware of Pretty Invasive Species!

Most of us are gleaning through our seed and nursery tree catalogs this time of year and soon will tour our local garden centers and farm markets. Attractive color pictures and glamour stories of summer long blooms or attractive foliage lures us into purchasing shrubs and plants that may be on the DNR's NR 40, prohibited or restrictive lists.

Prohibited species have been determined to likely survive and spread if introduced into this state and potentially will cause harm. These species have not been found in the state or region where they are listed as prohibited. No person shall transport, possess, transfer (means barter, sell or trade) or introduce prohibited species. Restrictive species have been determined to be already established in the state or region where they are listed and have potential to cause economic or environmental harm. They too, cannot be transported, possessed or transferred or introduced.

In Manitowoc County, we have discovered a number of invasive species that have escaped into our environment from being planted for ornamental urban landscaping or to attract wildlife such as; Japanese Knotweed and Honeysuckle, Autumn and Russian Olive, Multiflora Rose, and Glossy Buckthorn. Gardeners have unknowingly released invasive flowers such as; Common Tansy, Dame's Rocket, Purple Loosestrife, Teasels, and Tall Manna Grass.

A recent trend to create back yard pools and ponds has created a market to order aquatic plants from all over the country creating a risk of releasing extremely invasive species such as Hydrilla, Parrot Feather, and Yellow Floating Heart. We already have invasive species used in the aquarium trade or bait fishing industry that introduced Rusty Crayfish and the Red Swamp Crayfish. It is not uncommon for kids and adults to no longer want to take care of the aquarium and think we must free our



exotic fish and amphibians into a lake or river rather than throwing them into the garbage.

DNR's Administrative Rule NR 40 was instituted to provide nurseries, vendors, gardeners, and the public with a standard to provide guidance with identifying invasive species that are at the most risk to harm our environment or create economic impacts. In the past towns and municipalities identified Noxious Weeds that were commonly a threat to agriculture and could order their residents to remove or kill plants on the list.

However even with the publication of Prohibitive and Restricted species mail order catalogues and especially out of state sources are not aware of species that may be invasive to Wisconsin. We are finding that local big box and franchise stores are selling Prohibitive species in the state and county. Many local vendors at our farm markets may not be aware of the Invasive Species Rules, so buyers beware. If you should identify Prohibitive Species in your local garden centers or farmers market politely make them aware that it is illegal to sell these species.

As you place your seed catalog orders watch for the following Prohibitive or Restricted before you buy, many times they can be sold under various common names. The following invasive species is not the complete list but the most common species being purchase or sold in our community:

Aquatic Species: Parrot Feather, also called Brazilian Water-milfoil; Yellow Floating Heart, also called Floating Heart; Entire Marshwort or Fringed Water Lily; Purple Loosestrife; Rainbow Weed or Purple Lythrum.

Wildflowers or ground cover: Dame's Rocket also called Mother-of-the-evening or Sweet Rocket; Common Tansy also called Golden Buttons and Garden Tansy; the ground cover Porcelain Berry also called Creeper, Amur Peppervine, and Porcelain Vine.

Trees and Shrubs: Japanese Honeysuckle; Japanese Knotweed, Saw-Tooth Oak, Princess Tree, Autumn and Russian Olive and Multiflora Rose also called Baby Rose, Japanese Rose or Seven Sisters Rose.

Photo: Phragmites (Common Giant Reed Grass) can be easily spotted this time of year by the tall, erect stems still supporting a large seedhead.

Removal Assistance for Invasive Species

Cost share assistance is available through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to assist qualifying landowners with control of invasive species. The practice "Herbaceous Weed Control 315", will provide up to \$90 per acre for herbicide control of upland invasive species such as buckthorn and honeysuckle; \$212 per acre for hand pulling and bagging upland invasives; and up to \$1,000 per acre for aquatic invasive species control such as Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed.

Volunteers have been mapping many of these invasive species in the county, some of which are on public roadways and others on private land. We are finding that Common and Glossy Buckthorn are starting to invade many of our woodlots. These Buckthorns species varieties were introduced as ornamental shrubs from Eurasia and have spread too many of our county forests. They produce dense shade that eliminates native tree seedlings, plantings, saplings and ground plants. As a result the ability of forests to regenerate and remain healthy is threatened.

These shrubs can be recognized by their dense green leaves that remain on the trees in late fall and by their dark pea sized black berries. The berries have a severe laxative affect on birds that eat them resulting in loss of energy, and affectively spreading the seeds with out effective digestion by the birds. Because buckthorn has not totally taken over our landscape or naturalized it is an invasive that we can control.



Photo: Buckthorn's small, black, pea-sized berries may still be present on the female plants. Photo by Paul Skawinski

Multiple species of honeysuckle have been mapped along the Branch River corridor and have spread to almost all our county woodlots. These species, many of which are from Japan, were planted in back yards because of their flowery spring blooms that result in an abundance of berries, encouraging birds to spread the seeds throughout the landscape. The honeysuckles will form dense canopies like Buckthorn and choke out native species. Unfortunately Honeysuckle has naturalized and taken over most of our woodlots. However individual property owners are encouraged and may find it necessary to control these species when ever they have conducted a timber harvest or are encouraging natural regeneration.

Two aquatic invasive species we would like to see landowners aggressively control are Phragmites (Common Giant Reed Grass) and Japanese Knotweed. Phragmites is easy to spot growing 6 to 20 feet tall with a large plum head, near or in cattails. This plant is spreading from the east coast and was introduced in Manitowoc County by road construction equipment traveling from the infested bay of Green Bay during the construction of I-43. Phragmites displaces cattails, eliminating the food source of our #1 furbearer the muskrat and the muskrat's predator the mink; reducing habitat for marsh nesting birds and creating a fire hazard.

Japanese Knotweed is also a lawn ornamental plant that spread by rhizomes up to 60 feet from the source plants. It grows up to 8 feet tall with large leaves and supports white flowers in August, which made it an attractive as a scenic hedge. A few sites have been mapped in the watershed and are very hard to kill with herbicides.

Most of these plants are most effectively controlled in the fall of the year. However if you are interested in obtaining cost share assistance you will need to start now by accessing your properties for invasives and contacting the county NRCS office on Expo Drive in Manitowoc or calling their office at 683-5119. If the control is in your woodlot you will need to develop a Forest Management Plan with your Forester to develop a cost share contract.

You can also contact me, Tom Ward, through email: tomward@tm.net with questions.

Our Own Man-made Disaster

We have our own man-made disaster right here in the Branch River watershed.

The powers of nature awed the world recently as we watch the devastation of Japan from an earthquake-generated tsunami. Each spring, we witness this power through floods, storms, tornadoes and hurricanes. We try to respond by planning for these disasters the best we can. Many of our Best Management Practices, such as barnyard treatment systems and storm water retention ponds, are designed for a specific storm size and frequency like a 25-year storm event. This is why the FOBR encourages conservation practices to protect our watershed and groundwater through proper land use management and stream buffer systems.

At the same time, we are watching the world's most disastrous devastation as nuclear power plants in Japan melt down before our eyes, an after effect from this act of nature. Like so many of our natural disasters, this one is man-made. The media is focusing on the immediate life threats from high levels of radiation. What about the long-term effect of nuclear active fallout (radioactive dust particles) that is falling on the cropland, soils, vegetation and water bodies? After the Russian Chernobyl nuclear disaster, fallout contaminated vegetables, alfalfa, and pastures throughout Europe, rendering milk and meat from grazing animals unfit to eat. A vast area surrounding Chernobyl will be unfit for human entry for at least 100 years. (Deer hunters, could you imagine deer unfit to eat?)

Right here in the Branch watershed, we experienced a man-made disaster from a contaminated landfill resulting in toxic contaminated groundwater, which remains today after 30-plus years and resulted in our very own EPA Super Fund Site. To update the local community on the progress of this remediation and clean up, and let concerned citizens ask questions, the FOBR sponsored a presentation by Richard Boice from the Environmental Protection Agency. Representatives from the WDNR - Groundwater and Remediation and Redevelopment Sections also provided comments and feedback to attendees' questions. Supporting comments and updated map information was provided by the Lemberger Site Remediation Group's environmental engineer and legal representative. Nearly 80 people attended the program showing that our local community is involved and concerned about our own man-made disaster. If you missed the meeting, please read the adjacent article, The Next Step: Lemberger Remediation Sites.

President's Comment: "Lemberger Landfill Name": I have always been very uncomfortable with calling the remediation site the Lemberger Landfill, with respect for using the local family name of "Lemberger" in the Landfill site's name. It is embarrassing for the local Lemberger families now and future generations; to hear their name used to describe a toxic landfill. It is my understanding that the original landfill was an approved facility and the family could not discriminate who could use or not use the landfill. Out of respect for the family, I wish the remediation project would have been called "Remediation Sites 1, 2 and 3." Please consider this when you reference this project

*Photo Left:
Tsunami
destroyed house;*



*Photo Right:
Mother holds her
child as a
radiation reading
is taken*



*Photos courtesy
of Bing.com*

The Next Step: Lemberger Remediation Sites

On February 28th, concerned citizens and government officials gathered at the Whitelaw Fire Station to learn about the current status and proposed next steps of the underground contamination at the Lemberger Landfill sites. Over 80 attendees listened as Richard Boice, Remedial Project Manager of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), reviewed the past remediation efforts and contamination levels at the two sites. Representatives from the WDNR - Groundwater and Remediation and Redevelopment Sections, Annette Weissbach and Elizabeth Heinen, also provided comments and feedback to attendees' questions. Supporting comments and updated map information were provided by the Lemberger Site Remediation Group's environmental engineer and representative.

When the Lemberger sites were classified as a federal Superfund Site in 1991, there was active remediation efforts to remove the contaminated materials and leachates from the area. The overall goal was to reduce the contamination levels to less than the federal standards for drinking water contamination. US-EPA safe drinking water standard is Five (5) parts per million trichloroethylene (TCE). The PAL plume (>0.5ppmTCE) in green and the ES plume (>5ppm TCE) is represented in orange on the maps on the following pages.

The Department of Natural Resources oversees the monitoring and enforcement of these regulations, with oversight from the Environmental Protection Agency. The WDNR has been continually monitoring the groundwater since the mid-1990s. This monitoring has provided a good understanding of the degree and extent of contamination. The monitoring has helped assure that any drinking water wells within the area of concern remain safe to use.

Over the years of testing, the data showed that the underground contamination plume extended farther and deeper than originally believed. Local drinking water had been affected and some private wells were closed and new, deeper wells were drilled. In 1997, around the two sites, pump-and-treat wells were placed to extract the contaminated groundwater. However, over the years these pumping wells have not performed up to expectations; extracting less volume than originally anticipated. In 2006 the pump-and-treat system was shut down and another method of remediation, natural attenuation, was tried from August 2006 until August 2008. The test results show that the contamination is not dispersing/diluting naturally into the environment. The EPA then proposed that the Lemberger Site Remediation Group (LSRG) test hydraulic-fracturing as the next step in cleaning up the underground contamination at the sites. The maps on pages 14 and 15 illustrate the contaminated groundwater plume over the years; as the plume retracted due to the clean-up efforts.

The Lemberger Site Remediation Group (LSRG), is comprised of the main waste contributors to the Lemberger sites. This group is responsible for providing the funding for the clean-up, treatment and disposal associated with the Lemberger sites. The LSRG, with EPA and WDNR oversight, is preparing plans for testing the use of hydraulic fracturing to improve the effectiveness of the pump-and-treat wells to cleanup the groundwater. (see page 15 for hydraulic fracturing information). This method is used to increase or restore the rate at which the groundwater or leachates can be collected. This occurs due to the increased fracture size of the underground cracks in the bedrock. The hydraulic-fracturing will only be done at a few locations immediately adjacent to the contaminated sites. The effect of the hydraulic-fracturing will be very localized; not extending beyond 100 yards from the test site. The proposal calls for a season of testing this year, followed by data analysis and review. No official remediation action will take place until the testing, analysis, and review have occurred.

See Next Pages for Site Maps courtesy of Lemberger Site Remediation Group (LSRG) and RMT, Inc.

For more information:

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/lebergerlandfill/>

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/lebergertransport/>

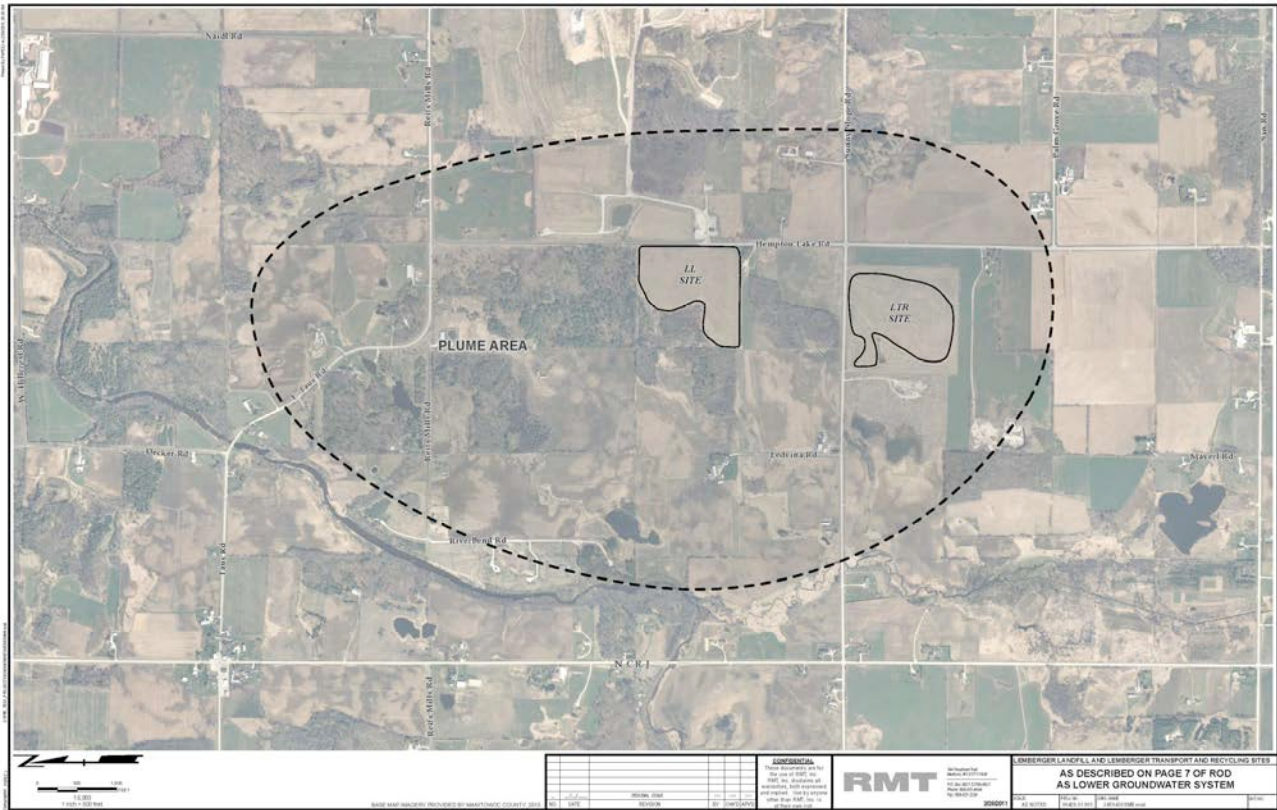


Figure 1– Depicts the TCE contaminated groundwater plume per the 1991 US-EPA Record of Decision

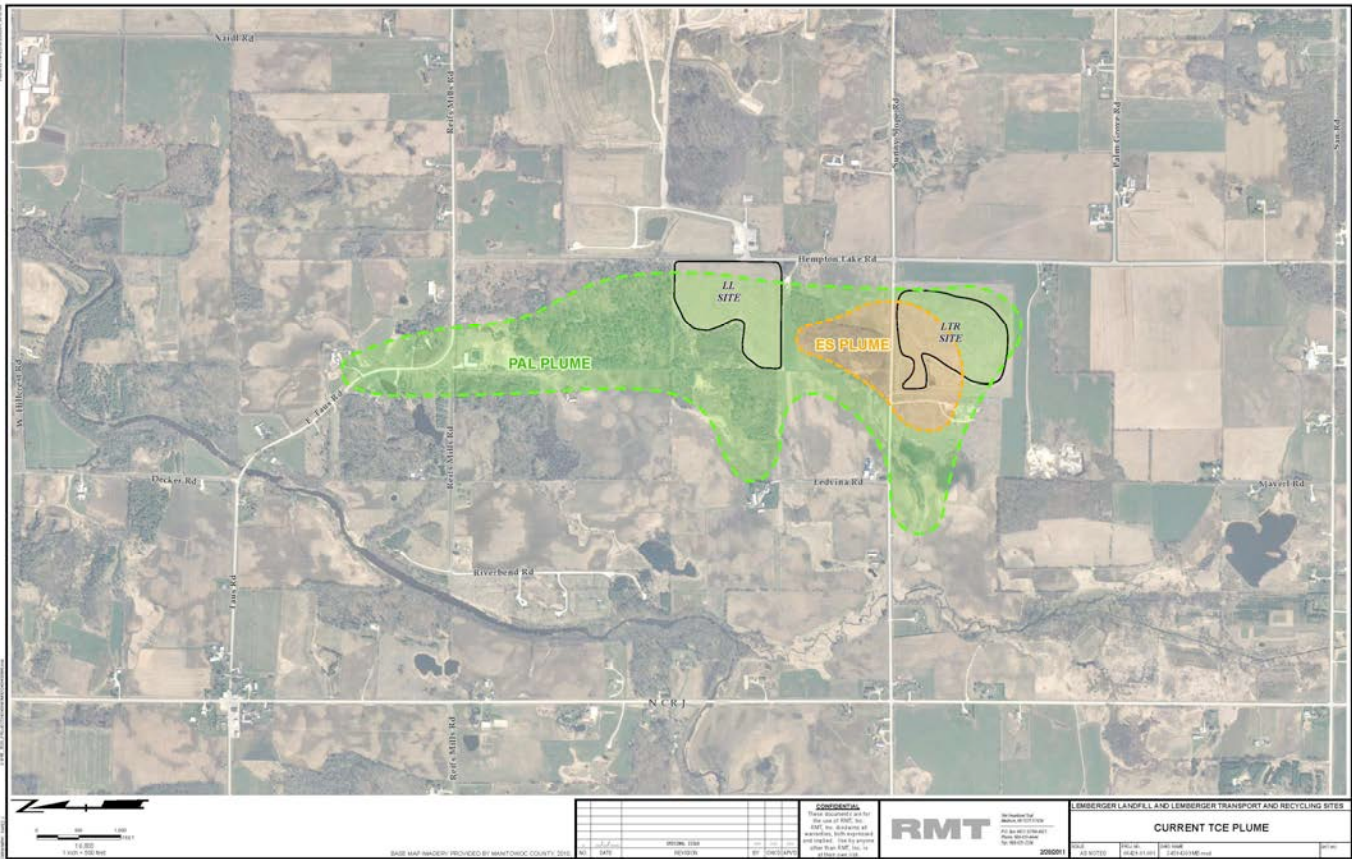


Figure 2 – Current TCE Plume; depicts the plume as per September 2010 monitoring
Green is the PAL plume (>0.5ppmTCE) Orange is the ES plume (>5ppm)
US-EPA safe drinking water standard is Five (5) parts per million TCE

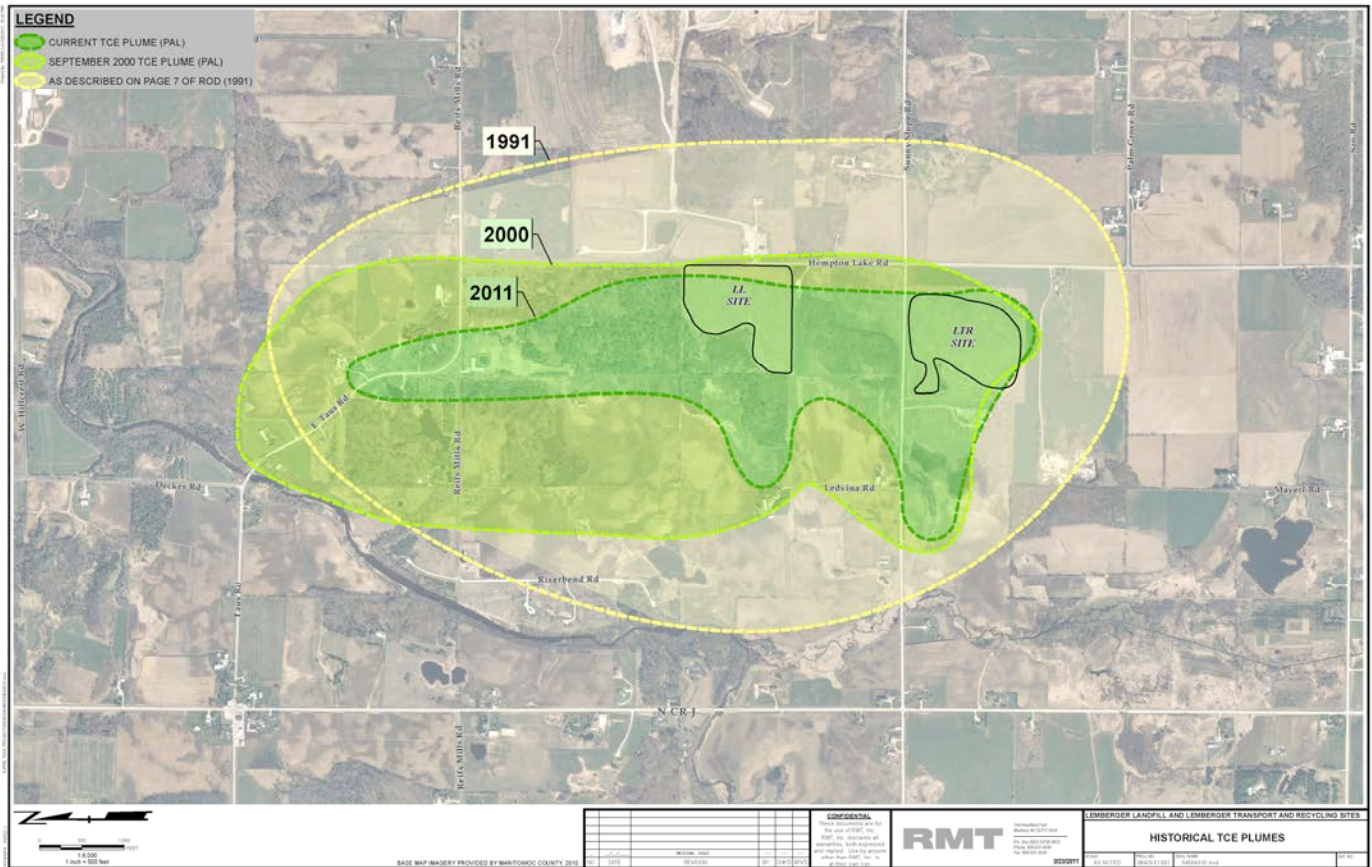
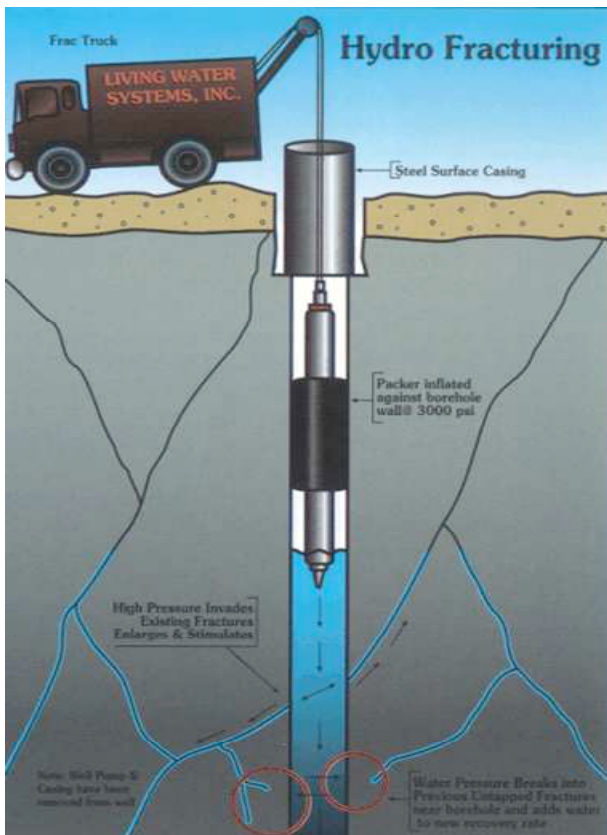


Figure 3 – Historical TCE Plumes; An overlay of three plume points over 20 years (1991, 2000 & 2010)



The Next Step: Hydro-fracture Testing

The image to the left is one example of how hydro-fracturing can occur. Other examples of hydro-fracturing have a stationary system instead of a vehicle powering the equipment.

Hydraulic fracturing is a method is a way to crack rock or very dense soil. Fracturing allows for pathways in the rock or soil to open up. This in turn creates a way for the fluids can be removed. The hydraulic fracturing creates a better opportunity for the fluids to easily flow to a common point so they can then be collected.

Hydraulic fracturing usually uses a liquid, such as water, to be pumped under pressure into holes drilled in the ground. The force of the water causes the rock/soil to crack or existing fractures to grow larger. Sand is sometimes pumped into the cracks to prop the fractures open and keep them from closing under the weight of the ground. Fluids can still pass through the sand to the collection point.

Hydraulic fracturing offers a way to reach pollutants deep in the ground that would be difficult or costly to dig up. Fracturing can also reduce the number of wells needed for certain clean-up methods; saving time and money.

Source: "A Citizen's Guide to Fracturing," EPA 542-F-01-015, May 2001.



Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership

**7003 Cedarview Road
Cleveland, WI 53015**

FOBR Calendar of Events

Friday, April 1st ~ FOBR Annual Banquet

Monday, April 11th ~ Land Program & Meeting, p. 5

Saturday, April 16th ~ Fun with Frogs, p. 8

Friday, May 6th ~ Froggy Friday, p. 8

May (TBA) ~ Canoe/Kayak the Branch River

“Like” Us! We’re on Facebook! Friends of the Branch River Watershed