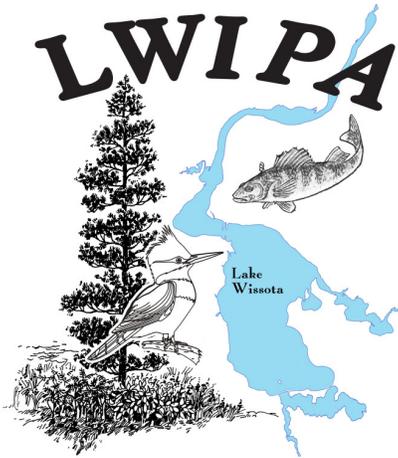


Lakeside News

Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association

Spring/Summer 2014



Lake Wissota Developers with a Vision

by Jim Schuh



During the next four years each issue of this newsletter will feature an article on the 1913-18 formation of Lake Wissota. Xcel Energy has provided the LWIPA and Chippewa County Historical Society with written materials and approximately 1,000 images of the dam construction. We greatly appreciate their support of sharing this information with residents and members of our non-profit organizations.

The 2013 Fall/Winter issue ran the initial article which concluded:

... After developing the Red Cedar River at Menomonie mill dam and the Cedar Falls dam into power sites, the next step was to develop the small but powerful Chippewa River. When the lumbermen learned that developing the single site on the Chippewa would cost as much as they had previously invested in the entire venture, they hesitated, and a promoter offered them \$5,848,000 for the Chippewa Valley properties. The offer was accepted in the spring of 1914.”....

This second article begins where the last one ended.

(The following information was taken from The 7-9-96 Determination of Eligibility for National Register of Historic Places, for the Wissota Dam Historic District, Chippewa County, WI.)

Wisconsin-Minnesota Light and Power Company Formation

“The purchaser was the American Public Utilities Company, owned by Charles B. Kelsey and Joseph Brewer, promoters and engineers, of Grand Rapids, Michigan. (continued on page 3.)

Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association
PO Box 903, Chippewa Falls

Inside this issue:

Developers with a Vision	1
President’s Compass	2
Water Quality in the Lake Wissota Watershed	2
Lake Developers, continued	3
Purple Loosestrife	3
Mysteries Under the Lake	4
Recipe for a Monarch Waystation	4
Take Back the Night Sky, Sensible Shoreland Lighting	5
Loosestrife, continued	6
Newsletter Sponsor	6
Upcoming Events Calendar	7
Membership Form	7

Notice of LWIPA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 16,-7:00 P.M.

Lafayette Town Hall

Program: “Lake Wissota: Where Does All the Water Come From and How Do We Keep It Clean?”
presented by Daniel Zerr, UW Extension.

(Bonus: We’ll have a Leinies Canoe Paddle Door Prize Drawing)
To exercise the right to vote at the Annual Meeting, dues for the membership year (Jan.1-Dec.31, 2014) must be paid prior to or at the meeting. (The form is located on back page of this newsletter.) The agenda will include the election of officers, updates on activities, and opportunities for comments by members.

“When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

LIWPA BOARD MEMBERS

Ann Gordon, President

Mary Jo Fleming, Vice-Pres.

Bob Allen, Treasurer

Bob Wierman, Secretary

Roger Kees

Ralph Bellore

Tony Schuster

Chuck Card

Kate Lindsay

Jim Schuh

Kerry Ingraham

Ed Hebert

Newletter contributors:

Jim Schuh, Ann Gordon,
Mary Jo Fleming, Ralph
Bellore, Kerry Ingraham,
Kate Lindsay

President's Compass

by Ann Gordon

This past fall, LWIPA offered our members an exciting opportunity to tour the Hydro Plant on Lake Wissota. The tours were offered on November 8 and 11 with a maximum of 30 people each day. Members of the Hydro Plant staff led the tours inside and outside the plant including a trip under the dam and into the command center. Everyone who attended found it a very interesting and educational event. Remember, this was a benefit of being an LWIPA member!

You may remember hearing about the Tree Drop Project—an effort to provide additional fish habitat in Lake Wissota. Roger Kees, LWIPA Board member, and Heath Benike, Fisheries Biologist from the Department of Natural Resources, have been working to get approval to create a tree drop project on property that includes land along the State Park and Kamp Kenwood. The extreme cold created some delays this winter, but approval has been given and the project should be in place by spring. We hope to have an update at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 16th.

The last item of importance is that the LWIPA Board approved the hiring of an intern to monitor the Lafayette boat landing (and possibly others on Lake Wissota) for three days a week this summer. The intern will be hired by Beaver Creek Citizen Science Center for this specific purpose. It has become increasingly difficult to find volunteers for this important job and this is a way to continue the Clean Boats Clean Water Program.

See you on the lake this summer—and at the Picnic on Saturday, June 28th!

Water Quality in the Lake Wissota Watersheds

by Mary Jo Fleming

The Little Lake Wissota Stewardship Project is a state, county, and private partnership whose goal is to reduce the amount of phosphorous entering one of the areas in the lake that has been identified as having impaired waters. When watersheds deliver too much phosphorous to the lake, summer algal blooms interfere with the health of lake critters and make other recreational uses far less appealing. Some projects designed to slow run-off by impounding water and restoring vegetation along the waterways have been completed. Grant funding is currently being used to inventory agricultural lands. As citizens of the lake, we need to make a long-term commitment to act as surface water quality advocates.

Along with monitoring watershed issues, lakeshore owners have a unique opportunity to make sure that the delicate lakeshore areas that are so vital to a healthy lake are maintained in as natural a state as possible. Naturally vegetated lakeshores act as the “kidneys” of the lake by slowing run-off and trapping pollutants before they reach the water’s edge. This area has also been designated the “ribbon of life” since it plays a vital role in the life cycles of 90% of the critters associated with a lake habitat. It doesn’t do any good for lakeshore owners to have a mowed lawn with an unimpeded view of the lake if the view is a lake choked with blue-green algae. Zoning rules designed to increase water quality ask that we leave shorelines natural except for 30 foot viewing corridors per 100 feet. We need to step up and accept the challenge as lake stewards. Alone, we can’t improve the health of our lakes; but we can set an example by using our own lakeshores responsibly, by staying informed about watershed issues, and by acting as an advocate for policies that, over the long term, will protect Lake Wissota and the value of our properties.



Lake Wissota Centennial Celebration, con't

In 1913, they had purchased the La Crosse Gas and Electric Company, and they now changed its name to the Wisconsin-Minnesota Light and Power Company and merged the Chippewa Valley properties into it.

In contrast to the lumbermen, the Kelsey-Brewer organization was aggressive, energetic, technically skilled, and highly ambitious. Immediately after forming the

Wisconsin-Minnesota company Kelsey-Brewer began intensive development of the existing electric properties while proceeding with a program of rapid expansion, in order to facilitate their larger plan of developing hydroelectric power sites on the Chippewa River.”

“The Wisconsin- Minnesota Light and Power Company began its development of the Chippewa River with a large undertaking near the rapids at Paint Creek on the Chippewa River, two and a half miles above Chippewa Falls, with a view toward building a dam large enough to consolidate several rapids into a single fifty-seven foot head with potential power of more than 30,000 kilowatts. To stabilize the erratic stream’s flow, they created a 6,377-acre lake – named, like the dam, Wissota – as a storage reservoir.”



Joseph Brewer 1875-1943



Charles Kelsey

“Since the power produced at Wissota was far more than the Wisconsin-Minnesota system was able to use, the company contracted to deliver a large part of it to the Consumers Power Company, a rapidly growing utility serving the Twin Cities area.”

Photos from the Grand Rapids Public Library: 616.988.5400 Special Collections & Portrait file: http://grplpedia.grpl.org/wiki/index.php/Biography_and_Portrait_File

Purple Loosestrife– A Beautiful but Beastly Invasive

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), a beautiful but aggressive invader, arrived in eastern North America in the early 1800’s. Plants were brought to North America by settlers for their flower gardens, and seeds were present in the ballast holds of European ships that used soil to weigh down the vessels for stability. Without the specialized insects and diseases that kept it in check in its native lands, purple loosestrife spread westward and can now be found in all 50 states and across Canada. It moved into Wisconsin after 1900, and is now in all 72 counties. Most infestations here are still small, and it probably still occupies less than 10 percent of our total wetland acreage. Thus, there is still time to control purple loosestrife here.

Purple loosestrife is a very hardy perennial that can rapidly degrade wetlands. Wetlands are the most biologically diverse, productive component of our ecosystem. Hundreds of species of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, fish, and amphibians rely on healthy wetland habitat for their survival. When purple loosestrife gets a foothold, however, the habitat where fish and wildlife feed, seek shelter, reproduce

(Continued on p. 6) and



Mysteries Under the Lake ?

image by Ralph Bellore

Last issue we ran an underwater image of a building foundation that is located between the “X” bridge and the island. That spurred one of our readers, a gentleman of 97, to call and relate the story that around 1947 he and a friend took a rope with a piece of metal on the end and by plumbing the bottom, located a silo and barn roof north of the island.

Our image this issue is of a structure that is located approximately 200 yards north/northwest of the island. Perhaps it is the same structure referred to in the above paragraph. Speculation is that it is a building structure because there are shadows at the corners at 3:00 and 9:00, perhaps a barn. There is an adjoining small structure on the lowest corner of the building casting a shadow too, perhaps a milk house or a silo? Also in this photo are some distinct lines in the lower left corner. Could these be a corner of a house? And some kind of walkway, or driveway, or shallow walls? It is just a fun mystery.

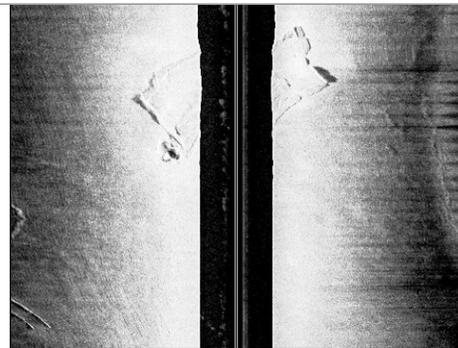


Image of a farmstead? The black column in the middle is the water directly below the boat which does not return a sonar image (imagine the center black column is not there).

If anyone has stories, information or conjecture about the picture, please call and share your story!

Recipe for a Monarch Waystation

by Mary Jo Fleming

For several years, the monarch population in Mexico has suffered severe depletion from multiple sources like deforestation, climate changes and population density. This directly affects the populations that are migrating north to this area of the country where the numbers are also drastically reduced. Though the problem is global, providing improved habitat for the monarchs (and other butterflies) in the summer in our yards can help. Following is the “recipe” for creating an official monarch waystation:

1. Cover a sunny, 70 square-foot location with 8 layers of newspaper. Spread 2 inches of shredded bark, shredded leaves, or pine needles on top of the newspapers, thereby creating a gardening bed.
2. Leave for 3-4 months. (This requires doing # 1 as soon as the ground can be walked on in the spring.)
3. Order or obtain the following butterfly-friendly plant plugs: **

3 New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus americanus)	3 Lanceleaf coreopsis (Coreopsis lanceolata)
5 Butterflyweed (Asclepias tuberosa)	3 Pale purple coneflower (Echinacea pallid)
3 Downy phlox (Phlox pilosa)	2 Bergamot (Monarda fistulosa)
3 Rough blazingstar (Liatris aspera)	7 Prairie dropseed grass (Sporobolus heterolepis)
3 Sky Blue Aster (Aster azureus)	
4. Sketch a plant plan with 1 ft. spacing between plants. Arrange plant species together in groups of at least 3, except grasses which can be planted as a border or scattered throughout the garden to support plant stems. Dig or drill holes through mulch, newspapers and dead sod just deep and wide enough in the soil to fit the plant plug. Augment the rain by watering for the first year to give roots a start. Leave the garden standing over winter. Cut back to four inches in the spring and lightly rake and compost last year’s vegetation. Then sit back and enjoy the results. For more information, go to www.MonarchWatch.org.

** Native plant nurseries: Prairie Nursery www.prairienursery.com, Prairie Moon Nursery www.prairiemoon.com, Dragonfly Gardens www.dragonflygardens.net, Beaver Creek Plant Sale on Mother’s Day

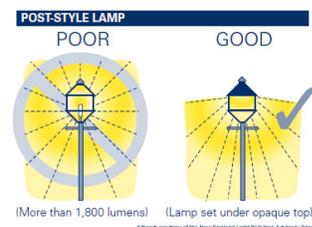
Take Back the Night Sky, Sensible Shoreland Lighting

Artificial lighting allows us to engage in nighttime activities that would be impossible or unsafe under normal nighttime conditions. Whether it's boating, fishing, or walking down a path to the water's edge, our enjoyment of the night is enhanced by the use of artificial light. At the same time, our rivers and lakes at night provide a quiet open dark space that gives us and the creatures, privacy and an opportunity to enjoy the night sky. Balancing the ability to see at night with the desire to preserve the beauty of the night is the goal of sensible shoreland lighting.

Good landscape lighting illuminates beauty that already exists on our property and enhances the nighttime experience. Proper use of lighting can enhance safety and security while at the same time, save you money.

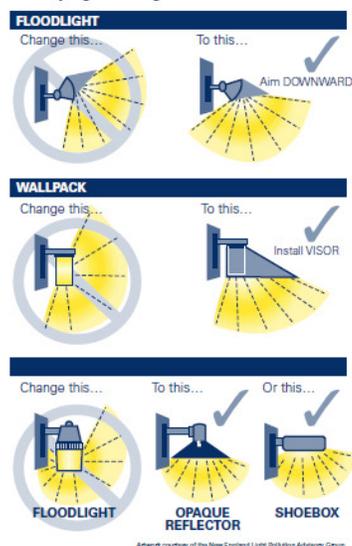
The top three most serious problems involving artificial lighting are:

- **Glare:** light from a fixture itself rather than what the fixture is meant to illuminate. Glare can severely hamper vision, creating a hazard rather than increasing safety.
- **Light Trespass:** light fixtures on one property that illuminates an adjacent or nearby property. Glare is often the most common cause of light trespass along with improperly directed fixtures.
- **Sky Glow:** exterior lighting that shines directly upward. Billboard lights that shine upward, street lights that bounce light off pavement, and commercial and residential lighting open to the sky all contribute to sky glow.



Solutions that protect the beauty of our night skies:

Modifying Existing Fixtures



- Provide adequate light for the intended task, but don't over-light. Choose lights that meet your needs without lighting the entire neighborhood. Turn lights off when you don't need them.
- Use shielded light fixtures. When properly directed downward and mounted at the proper height this will eliminate glare and light trespass. Direct light fixtures near your dock away from the water, which is highly reflective.
- Use full cut-off lighting fixtures to minimize glare. Full cut-off means that no light is emitted above the horizontal. This reduces the glare that can dazzle the eyes and reduce our ability to see into shadows.
- Use low voltage, high-efficiency lamps. High efficiency fixtures may cost more initially, but the payback time is often very short.
- Avoid dusk to dawn security lights. A motion detector is more effective since a person will be more noticeable when they are suddenly illuminated.

Eliminating glare and light pollution saves money while reducing our impact upon the night skies, our neighbors and creatures of the night. An outdoor light fixture that scatters light everywhere is like running your air conditioner with the windows open. Don't be a lighting litterbug. Enhance the night-time experience of your waterfront landscape with intelligent, low voltage lighting. A subtle glow and strategically placed fixtures will help accentuate the inherent beauty of your property in just the right way.

For more information and tips on exterior lighting see "Sensible Shoreland Lighting, Preserving the Beauty of the Night" By David S. Liebl & Robert Korth (UW-Extension publ. GWQ031)

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE CONTINUED

rear young, quickly becomes choked under a sea of purple flowers. Once established, it can shade everything else out. Loosestrife has spread rapidly in Wisconsin over the last 20 to 30 years.

Purple Loosestrife Upright is a semi-woody, hardy perennial with a dense bushy growth of 1 to 50 stems. In late June through early September it has numerous long spikes with purple to pink blossoms. Spikes bloom from the bottom up. Lower pods may drop tiny seeds (smaller than a pin head) while upper blooms are still present. The leaves are variable, usually opposite, but sometime alternate or bunched in whorls. They are linear shaped; smooth edged; sometime hairy and attached directly to stems with each pair at 90 degrees to those above and below.

Purple loosestrife grows in moist-soil to shallow-water sites, such as low meadows and pastures, marshes, stream and riverbanks, lakeshores and ditches. Established plants tolerate dry conditions, such as gravel roadsides and abandoned fields. Though it is illegal to do so, purple loosestrife is still planted in some gardens. If it is present in a garden, it should be removed. Every healthy, mature plant can produce up to 2-3 million seeds in one year

Purple loosestrife can be controlled three ways; physical removal, chemical treatment and biological control. Prevention, however, is the best method. Learn to distinguish purple loosestrife from native wetland plants; then watch for and gently pull or dig small, young plants (before seeds set) in late June, July and early August, when it is in flower and plants are easily recognized For detailed how-to information on each method please refer to the DNR reference below.

Sources: *Purple Loosestrife: A Major Threat to Wisconsin's Wetlands and Waterways*, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources brochure. Online at <http://cleanwater.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/add.purple.pdf>.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/loosestrife.htm>

Purple Loosestrife: What You Should Know, What You Can Do, Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters, P.O. Box 2800, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 8L5



Blossoms of purple loosestrife should not be confused with several of our look-alike natives.

Edina Realty®

Rita Provoznik

I Sell Waterfront

(715) 828-7080

Email: ritalakewissota@usa.net

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

The LWIPA newsletter is mailed to almost 1100 residents on the lake, regardless of whether they are members of the organization or not. This is because the Board knows that an informed, concerned populace is key to the health of Lake Wissota. This makes the newsletter an effective place for area businesses to reach a special target audience.

Several area businesses concerned with the welfare of the Lake are loyal sponsors of the newsletter, printed semiannually. Rotating these sponsors

helps offset printing and distribution costs of this newsletter. However, there are opportunities for additional sponsors to place an ad in one or both of the semiannual newsletters.

Would you like to help sponsor the newsletters in the future? Please contact board member Ralph Bellore at 715/726-1871 to learn more details.

Please join the membership of LWIPA in thanking our sponsors for their valuable contribution.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16– LWIPA Annual Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Lafayette Town Hall. Be sure to mark your calendar. Here's a chance to win a Leinies canoe paddle signed by Jake, Dick and John Leinenkugel!

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, APRIL 24-26, – Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention, Stevens Point, WI

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7– LWIPA Board Meeting, 6:30, Lafayette Town Hall. (Visitors welcome)

SATURDAY, JUNE 28 – LWIPA Annual Picnic, Lion's Club Pavilion,

The online calendar is located at www.lwipa.net/calendar

Are you a current member?

Membership dues for 2014 are due now. If your mailing label has just your name, you are a current 2014 LWIPA member. If your mailing label has your name plus "or current resident" you have not joined yet! Please:

Join LWIPA today!

Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association 2014 Membership Application

Name _____

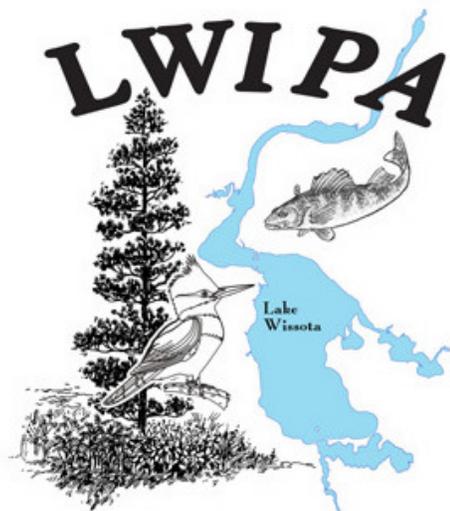
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____ **YES, PLEASE SEND NEWSLETTERS AND OTHER NOTICES BY E-MAIL**

Enclose your check for \$20 payable to **Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association** and mail to:

Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association
PO Box 903
Chippewa Falls WI 54729



PO Box 903
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

WEBSITE: WWW.LWIPA.NET
BLOG: LWIPA.BLOGSPOT.COM

LAKE WISSOTA IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors of the Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association invite you to help us build our organization into an effective voice for Lake Wissota. We are an important advocate for the lake community, and we intend to continue to grow in our ability to represent our members' concerns, values, and needs. If we are to succeed, **WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION.**

Our current projects and future growth need your input and financial support.

Our organization provides:

- ◆ Information on legislation and zoning changes that affect the lake and lakeshore
- ◆ Advice on low-maintenance plants that can help stabilize the shoreland and lake bank
- ◆ Strategies for dealing with aquatic plant benefits, problems, and management
- ◆ Lake use and safety programs
- ◆ Recommendations for encouraging wildlife

- ◆ Networking opportunities with others who might help solve lake property problems
- ◆ Representation on governmental committees that impact the lake
- ◆ Resources and events that can increase awareness and foster participation in our lake community

Membership in LWIPA is open to any individual, family, business or organization that subscribes to the purposes of the Association. Your dues will be used to support our continuing educational and environmental projects. Membership dues are \$20 per household and are now being accepted for 2012. Please complete the form in this newsletter and include with your check. In addition to the benefits listed above, you will receive periodic newsletters including information on quarterly and annual meetings, invitations to volunteer for committees, and notices of events.