



Lakeside News

FALL 2014
WINTER 2015

LAKE WISSOTA IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



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Mary Jo Flemming, Bob Allen, Jim Schuh, Bing Fleming and Bob Wierman work on a kiosk.



Boat Landing Kiosk Renovation Now Complete

BOB WIERMAN

LWIPA volunteers have completed the renovation of seven informational kiosks at six boat landings and the wayside on County Highway X. The kiosks were sanded, stained, and now have uniform signage and information about Lake Wissota. Thanks Volunteers! Check out the new look at any of the following locations: Lafayette boat landing, The View boat landing, County Highway X wayside, Paint Creek boat landing, Lake Wissota State Park boat landing, Anson boat landing(near Kamp Kenwood) and Jim Falls Park boat landing (Chippewa River).



The first tree drops were installed by DNR in the winter of 2014 along the shoreline of Lake Wissota State Park and Kamp Kenwood. Live trees are securely anchored to the shore to provide woody habitat for improved fish habitat.

President's Compass

ANN GORDON

This has been a busy year for the LWIPA Board. Ralph Bellore, our Membership Chair, worked with an artist to prepare a new colorful brochure for the Lake Association. It promotes LWIPA and its purposes and includes information about membership in the organization. The flyer is being distributed to real estate agents in the area to share with their customers purchasing property on the lake and related rivers. If you know of a place that would welcome the brochures, contact a member of the Board. (See www.lwipa.net)

The Tree Drop Project at Lake Wissota State Park and Kemp Kenwood was completed last winter with the assistance of Roger Kees, LWIPA Board member, and Heath Beneke, DNR, and DNR interns. In the future, we hope to add other tree drop locations to improve fish habitat.

The Annual Picnic, coordinated by Jim Schuh, was held on Saturday, June 28th at the Lions' Pavilion in Lafayette Township. About 100 people attended, learned about the LWIPA projects and activities, visited with their lake neighbors—and won a variety of door prizes. Be sure to come next year!

Because Beaver Creek Citizen Science Center was unable to receive a grant for the Clean Boats Clean Water Program, LWIPA was unable to hire an intern for the summer to monitor the boat landings. We hope to hire an intern next summer.

Members of the Board have also been involved in several activities related to Lake Association. Mary Jo Fleming, Kerry Ingraham and Ann Gordon attended several meetings of the Chippewa County Land Conservation Department that is updating their ten year plan. They provided input related to the lake for inclusion in the plan update.

Chuck Card and Ann Gordon participated in planning for “Celebrate the Chippewa River”—an event sponsored by the Lower Chippewa River group. Barb MacNaughton-Bernhardt and Ann Gordon consulted with the Kamp Kenwood counselors about their summer theme of “Water.” Both of these activities are detailed in this issue of the newsletter.

A nature story of interest is the siting of black bears during the summer months including a mother and two cubs. The reports have come from the southeastern area of the lake. Have you seen any bears in your neighborhood?



Nov. 5

LWIPA Board Meeting

The next meeting of the LWIPA board is scheduled for 6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 5 at the Lafayette Town Hall. Anyone who is interested in the work of the Lake Association is invited to attend.

Look for the LWIPA 2015 Schedule on our website in January.



Love Your Lakes Don't Leaf Them...

MARY JO FLEMING

This promotion is gaining ground all over the state thanks to myfairlakes.com and the Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership. As leaves and grass clippings accumulate in the watershed, they break down and release nitrogen and phosphorous that contribute to algal blooms.

It's autumn! We love our trees but leaving fallen leaves on our lawn is not the best practice for maintaining healthy turf grass or good neighbors. Raking leaves and dumping them over the bank is not the answer either! Mounds of leaves on steep slopes break down slowly and smother rooted plants that prevent soil erosion. There are better alternatives:

1. Rake, bag and recycle
2. Rake, collect and compost
3. Rake, chop and spread on gardens and around shrubs
4. Don't rake! Chop fine with a mower and leave on the lawn.

Number 4 is the easiest and returns all those nutrients right to the lawn. Mow dry leaves several times as they fall. Mowing in one direction and then at right angles breaks leaves down into small enough pieces to fit between blades of grass. They will be completely broken down by spring. Studies at Michigan State University found that this method was not only good for lawns but also reduced early weed growth – dandelions – by 80% in test plots. Their study was done with maple and oak leaves. For those who still doubt, the Scotts Miracle Grow website also recommends this practice.

Mary Jo Fleming is a Chippewa Valley Master Gardener Volunteer

Are you a current member?

Membership dues for 2015 are being accepted 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 did not join in 2014.

Join LWIPA Today!

Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association 2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

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

ENCLOSE CHECK FOR \$20 PAYABLE TO:

LAKE WISSOTA IMPROVEMENT AND
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

MAIL TO:

LAKE WISSOTA IMPROVEMENT AND
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 903
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729

LWIPA Partners with Kamp Kenwood Counselors

ANN GORDON

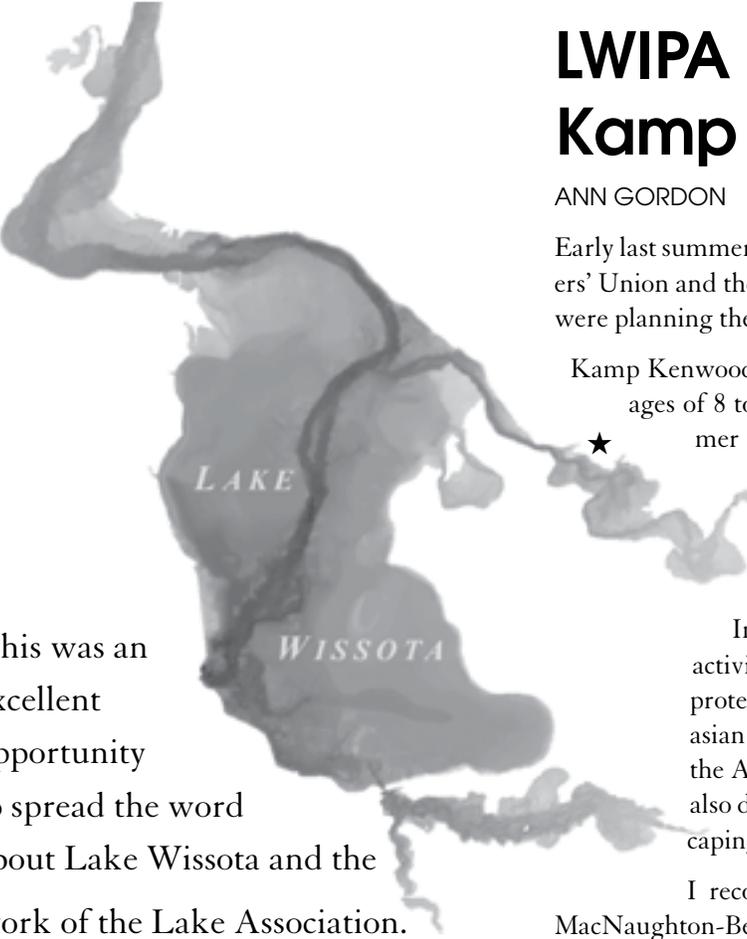
Early last summer I received a call from Cathy Statz, an employee of the Farmers' Union and the Director of Kamp Kenwood. She and the camp counselors were planning their curriculum and activities for the summer.

Kamp Kenwood offers week-long sessions for children and youth from the ages of 8 to 18 during the summer months. Their theme for the summer was "Water" and she wondered if I could talk with them about the activities of the Lake Association. Cathy said that every summer they enjoy camp on Lake Wissota, but they have never spent any time talking about the Yellow River and Moon Bay where they are located.

In May, I met with the camp counselors and talked about the activities of the Lake Association and our goal of improving and protecting Lake Wissota. We talked about the problem of Eurasian Watermilfoil, the Clean Boats Clean Water Program, and the Aquatic Invasive Species Neighborhood Watch Program. We also discussed the Little Lake Wissota Stewardship Project, lakescaping, and water safety and boat safety courses.

I recommended several other resource persons including Barb MacNaughton-Bernhardt, a member of the LWIPA board. Later she met with the counselors to explain how she monitors the lake to evaluate water quality. She loaned them some of her equipment for use during the camps.

In August, I attended the Farmers' Union Summer Conference that included a session by the counselors who explained their summer camp program. They demonstrated a ground water model they had borrowed from Chippewa County Land Conservation and summarized the kinds of lessons presented during their Water Study. I was pleasantly surprised to hear that their lessons included reference to many of the subjects we discussed in May. Also, one of the main speakers at the Summer Conference was Dan Zerr, UW Extension, who spoke at the LWIPA Annual Meeting in April—and someone I had referred to them. Hopefully LWIPA and Kamp Kenwood counselors can share more time and resources in the future.



This was an excellent opportunity to spread the word about Lake Wissota and the work of the Lake Association.

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 semi-annual 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.



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Photo by Cathy Brown of a painted turtle, commonly found in this area.

Frogs and Turtles in Winter

MARY ERICKSON

While walking on the beach a few days ago I picked up a piece of driftwood and there was a frog sitting under it near the water. We were both surprised and he took a giant leap into the lake and swam away. It was a cold day and I got to wondering about turtles, frogs and toads and how they get ready for the icy winter. I knew they buried themselves in the in the mud or went deep in the ponds where there was still water but how are they able to survive? They don't bulk up like bears or grow a heavy coat to keep them warm so why don't they freeze? To answer these questions I went to my computer and here's what I found.

Turtles are ectothermic animals meaning they get their body heat from their surroundings—the air, water or ground. They need to be warm to move around and eat. When they get cold their system slows down including their heart and lungs and they can't digest food so they don't eat. Most turtles go deep in ponds and bury themselves in mud and leaves. Their hearts slow down and they stop breathing through their lungs. Because of this they don't need much oxygen but get the amount they need from the water. The oxygen seeps in through some special skin cells just inside the tail opening. Water turtles are able to stay like this for two or three months. Of course desert turtles have a different story and stay active year around.

Aquatic frogs like the leopard and bullfrog typically hibernate underwater but do not bury themselves as turtles do. These frogs need to be near oxygen-rich water and spend much of the winter lying on top of the mud or partially buried. They may even take a little swim from time to time.

Terrestrial frogs and toads normally hibernate on land. They are good diggers and burrow deep into the soil below the frost line. Spring peepers and wood frogs spend the winter in deep cracks and crevices in logs or rocks or dig down as far as they can in leaf litter. They are not as well protected and may freeze but they do not die. Why? They have a high concentration of glucose in their vital organs that acts as antifreeze. When the weather warms the frogs frozen parts will thaw and its heart and lungs will start up again.

This winter when you are bundled up taking a walk near a pond or just in your yard, remember our special friends who are doing their “winter thing” and waiting for spring, just as we will be.



LWIPA BOARD MEMBERS

Ann Gordon, President
Mary Jo Fleming, Vice President
Bob Allen, Treasurer
Bob Wierman, Secretary
Roger Kees
Ralph Bellore
Tony Schuster
Chuck Card
Barb MacNaughton-Bernhardt
Jim Schuh
Kerry Ingraham
Ed Hebert

Newsletter Contributors:

Mary Erickson, Mary Jo Fleming, Ann Gordon, Barb MacNaughton-Bernhardt, Elly Rochester, Jim Schuh, Bob Wierman



During the next few years each issue of our newsletter will feature an article on the 1913-1917 formation of Lake Wissota. Xcel Energy has provided the Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection Assn. and Chippewa County Historical Society with written materials and approximately 1,000 images of dam construction in Chippewa Falls. We greatly appreciate their support of sharing this information with residents and members of our non-profit organizations.

Chippewa River Dam and Water Power History

JIM SCHUH

Continued from Spring/Summer 2014 Lakeside News...

In the summer of 1914 Charles Kelsey and Joseph Brewer had just purchased the Chippewa Valley Electric Railway and Light Company that had been owned by a powerful group of lumbermen. Assessing the challenges and potential the Chippewa River presented would require much planning prior to dam construction.

“During the 18th and 19th centuries, the Chippewa River was an important transportation route for the indigenous inhabitants, fur traders and settlers. In the late 19th century, the river was the heart of the western Wisconsin logging industry. Sawmill operations led the way to damming the Chippewa for hydroelectric production. The Chippewa was a particularly challenging river to harness, because of marked seasonal fluctuations in its level. In 1871, the Union Lumbering Company erected the first dam at Paint Creek on the Chippewa River. Situated just above the location of the present Wissota dam,

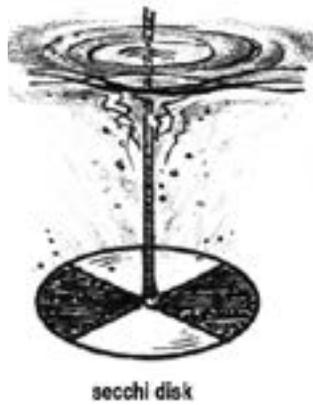
Continued on page 7

Volunteers Monitor Lake Wissota Water Quality

BARB MACNAUGHTON-BERNHARDT

In cooperation with the Citizen Science Center at Beaver Creek Reserve and the Department of Natural Resources, volunteers have been monitoring the water quality of Lake Wissota this and previous summers. This data is often used by scientists who study lakes and water resource planners for a variety of purposes including to support general lake management decisions, lake planning and protection grants, and to determine lake health. It establishes a baseline to look at water quality changes over time.

The type of monitoring varies, but could include (1) the use of a Secchi disc to determine water clarity; (2) water temperature readings at different depths; and (3) samples to measure the phosphorus and chlorophyll levels. These measurements and samples are usually taken from a boat at a specific location four times during the open water season, from May to August.



A Secchi disc is an eight inch diameter disc painted black and white in alternating quadrants. It is used to measure water clarity in lakes. It is lowered on a marked rope until it can no longer be seen, and then raised until it becomes visible again. This depth is recorded. Water clarity affects the depths to which aquatic plants grow, the dissolved oxygen level of the lake, and water temperature. It can also affect recreational use of the lake and property values. Water clarity is affected by algae, runoff, shoreline erosion, mixing of the lake water, and tannins, which are stains from decaying matter.

Water temperature is collected at three foot intervals from the surface of the lake to the bottom, using a digital meter. Lake temperature affects the rate of decomposition, nutrient recycling, lake stratification and dissolved oxygen concentrations near the lake bottom. Changes in the water temperature can affect the distribution of fish in a lake.

Water for the phosphorus and chlorophyll samples is collected using an integrated water sampler, which is a six and a half foot PVC pipe that serves as a collection tube. There is a water-locking ball at the bottom, which permits one to collect samples of water that is a mix of water from the surface to six feet below the surface.

The Secchi depth results, with the phosphorus and chlorophyll data, allow a determination of the level of nutrient enrichment of the lake known as the Trophic Status. The Trophic State Index is from 0-100, with 0 being the clearest and most nutrient poor, and 100 being the least clear and most nutrient rich. In 2013, the Moon Bay site had a Trophic State Index of 57. To help improve our lake water quality, we can try to control the nutrients going into the lake, by proper disposal of pet waste, maintaining septic systems in working order, and minimizing erosion and runoff from our shorelines, including fertilizers and pesticides, as well as maintaining a shoreland vegetative buffer. Lake summary reports can be found online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes.clmn>

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Chippewa River Dam and Water Power History

it was a roll dam 12 feet high. It was rebuilt in 1880 by the Chippewa Lumber and Boom Company and transformed into a flooding as well as a storage dam, with a 24-foot head and five 20-foot Tainter gates. It was successfully operated until the great flood of September 10, 1884, when the long earth wing on the north end gave way.”

The force of the flowing Chippewa River was first used to power simple sawmills. The early mill owners began using “up-and-down” sawmills. Mill machinery was operated off a shaft turned by a waterwheel, powered by either overshot or undershot water flow. Circular saws did not appear on the market until 1850. During the 1860s water turbines became available for powering mills and replaced waterwheels. Water turbines were much more efficient in utilizing the water power.

Sometimes called “white coal” for the color of the waves on a rushing river, hydroelectric water power was touted as the future of electric power in the Midwest. The nation’s first commercial electric plant began operation in Appleton, Wisconsin in 1882, with hardware supplied by the New York Edison Company.

Organized in 1914 by a group of public utilities in northwestern Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota, the Wisconsin-Minnesota Light and Power Company sought to harness the power of the Chippewa River and its tributaries to produce electric power.

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

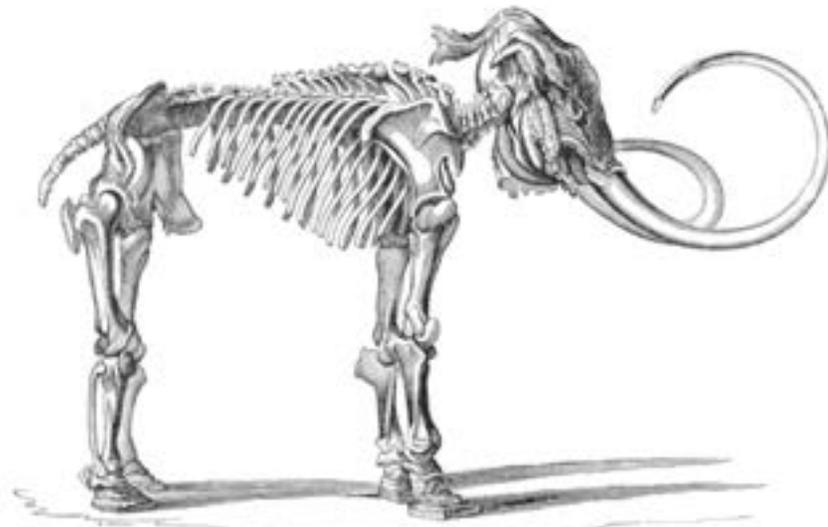


Fig. 266.—Skeleton of the Mammoth (*Elephas Primigenius*). Portions of the integument still adhere to the head, and the thick skin of the sides is still attached to the feet. From Flourens.

Celebrate the Chippewa River

MARY JO FLEMING

A number of Lower Chippewa River organizations, including Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection Association, held a celebration on September 6 to bring attention to our section of the Chippewa River. The Lower Chippewa portion extends from the confluence of the Chippewa and the Flambeau rivers to the Mississippi River and includes the impounded Lakes Holcombe and Wissota. Dave Carlson, in his introduction to the event, called the Chippewa a “world class river”. He stated how important the maintenance and strengthening of the Clean Water Act is for the protection of this valuable resource.

Randy Hoffman, DNR ecologist, considers the Lower Chippewa River Valley “Wisconsin’s gem” since it has a greater diversity of species and land forms than anywhere else in the upper Midwest. After the last glacier ended in Chippewa County, the land supported megafauna – mammoths and mastodons, giant sloths and beavers. In more recent history before Europeans, the valley was a tension zone between warring cultures, nomadic Dakota and hunter/gatherer Ojibway. Their fires helped maintain savannahs, vast grasslands with trees such as burr oak that could withstand the heat of fast-burning grass fires. Today the savannahs have been replaced by farms and woodlands that still support large numbers of white-tailed deer in the driftless area south and west of Eau Claire. North of Eau Claire are the northern hardwoods and pine forests, wetlands and lakes. State natural areas now protect some of the best features of the Lower Chippewa.

Protecting the Chippewa River benefits our impounded lakes since we are part of the same system. A scheduled canoe trip was canceled because of high water on the day of the event, but there are still plenty of fall days to get out on the Chippewa and explore our river.

The Lower Chippewa River Valley is “Wisconsin’s gem.”

LWIPA



P.O. Box 903 | Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
www.lwipa.net | 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 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 2015. 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.