



Lakeside News

FALL & WINTER 2015

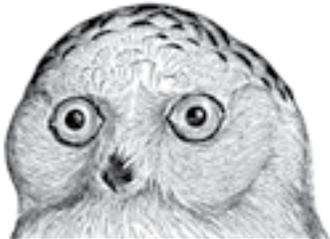
LAKE WISSOTA IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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42 inch muskie!



WEDNESDAY

Oct. 21

GUEST SPEAKER
7:00 pm
Lafayette Town Hall

Details inside on page 3

Celebrate the Chippewa River . . .

MARY JO FLEMING

Lake Wissota may be just be a “ wide spot” in the Chippewa, but we should be proud to be part of a vibrant, working river whose dammed impoundments provide clean, alternative energy. Xcel Energy and Wisconsin DNR funded the second annual Celebrate the Chippewa River

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Oct. 21

Guest Speaker; 7:00 pm;
Lafayette Town Hall

Wednesday, Nov. 11

LWIPA Board Meeting; 6:30 pm;
Lafayette Town Hall

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

WEDNESDAY

Nov. 11

LWIPA Board Meeting

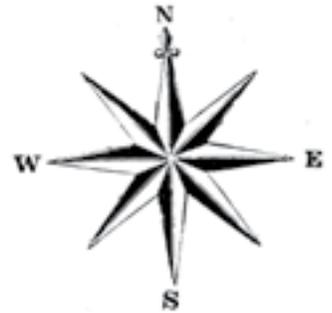
6:30 pm • Lafayette Town Hall

The next meeting of the LWIPA Board is scheduled for 6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 11 at the Lafayette Town Hall. Anyone who is interested in the work of the Lake Association is invited to attend.

Look for the LWIPA 2016 Schedule on our website in January.

President's Compass

MARY JO FLEMING



A summer with plentiful rain made our lakescapes lush. We had to mow our lawns on more than a regular basis, another reminder to minimize turf grass and maximize lake time. All that rain, however, also impacted Wissota as sediment washed into the lake bringing with it heavy loads of phosphorus and nitrogen. We are an impoundment lake affected by four watersheds, the largest reaching all the way to Iron County. What happens in the watersheds affects aquatic plant growth, water quality, and lake depths in bays and backwaters. Everyone in the watersheds plays a part in the health of Lake Wissota. Everyone. Lakeshore owners are in a unique position to model best practices and act as lake advocates. We can't place blame on folks upstream if we turn our lots into hardscape and remove natural cover from our shores. We can't blame government unless we have tried to make our opinions heard. In the next few weeks, spend a quiet day on the lake fishing, floating, paddling, or watching the reflection of autumn leaves in the water. We love our lake, and it needs our attention.



45 paddlers and bikers explored the Chippewa River waters and trails.

"Celebrate" continued from cover

at the Heyde Center on Friday, August 28, and on and along the river on Saturday, August 29.

Speakers increased Friday's attendees' knowledge of invasive species, birds that inhabit restored oak/prairie habitats, and aquatic organisms from mussels to eels. Representatives from the Little Lake Wissota Stewardship Project, UW Extension and the City of Eau Claire explained projects that reduce stormwater runoff from city hardscapes and slow water runoff from lands along waterways. Food for thought...A one inch rainfall on a ¼ acre lot with a 1500 sq. ft. dwelling, driveway and turf grass produces 617 gallons of runoff. Water that infiltrates the ground, on the other hand, cleanses itself of many pollutants before reaching ground and surface water.

Spencer Black, retired state legislator and leading conservationist in the Assembly, and Denny Caneff, director of the River Alliance, reminded us of our strong conservation heritage, and the systematic erosion of those principles in recent years. We were reminded that our natural resources- air, water, soil, minerals, and wildlife- must be used in a sustainable way that will allow Wisconsin to remain productive while protecting her natural beauty and the health of her citizens. This is the land ethic proposed by Aldo Leopold, who founded the independent conservation board that became the DNR.

A celebration of the river wouldn't be complete without a day on the "Chip", and on Saturday, 45 paddlers and bikers explored her waters and trails.

WEDNESDAY
Oct. 21
Guest Speaker
Ashley Steinke

7:00 pm | Lafayette Town Hall

Ashley Steinke and his wife, Stacy, currently own and manage three farms that lie in the Yellow and Chippewa River Watersheds. Their family raises 100% Grass Fed Beef and pastured chickens. He will give a landowner's perspective on how to meet wildlife habitat and water quality goals while managing property for production agriculture. He received his Master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from South Dakota State University and his Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from UWSP. He formerly worked for the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association and as the Taylor County Conservationist, had his own wetland/habitat consulting company, and is now a stay-at-home dad still keeping plenty busy with farming and encouraging others to manage properties that benefit all of us. Members of LWIPA, and other interested persons are welcome to attend.

Politics and 501(c)3's

MARY JO FLEMING

It's time to talk politics; not whom to elect, but how to get our voices heard on behalf of lakes and watersheds. Area 501(c)3's that are deeply involved in lake issues are familiar with recent budget legislation that defunded organizations such as the River Alliance and Wisconsin Lakes, umbrella organizations that bring small groups together and make them effective; and legislation that weakens shoreland zoning rules and prevents counties from taking steps necessary to improve their watersheds. I don't think that there is one person on Lake Wissota who would like to decrease the number of days that his or her children or grandchildren or dogs can safely use the lake. It takes time and a little effort to talk to elected officials, but it doesn't take in-depth knowledge of issues. You own property along a lake. Tell it like it is. What was your grandson's reaction in August when you told him that blue-green algae would make him sick if he went in the water? What were you thinking when you had to kayak through heavy weed growth to get to your dock? How did visitors react when the barnyard odor of decaying aquatic vegetation wafted over that backyard barbecue? Yes, big money has always been involved in Wisconsin politics, but the last I heard, elected officials still need our votes. Talk to them as neighbors. Get involved with volunteer efforts such as Leinies' Canoes for a Cause and LWIPA activities to continue efforts on watershed improvement despite state funding cuts. Lake Wissota is a valuable asset to our community and with our help it will continue to be for years to come.



Volunteers planting some of the 3300 trees planted on May 16.

The 2015 Leinenkugel's Canoes for a Cause

ANN GORDON

More than 70 volunteers participated in Leinenkugel's Canoes for a Cause on Saturday, May 16. The volunteers gathered at the Sand Bar for coffee and donuts before leaving on buses to three different sites: the Pat Pfaff, Randal Bowe, and Bert Kriese farms. This year's project involved installing a buffer zone within the Little Lake Wissota watershed by planting 3300 trees and shrubs. The sites had all been marked beforehand so that volunteers could work quickly to plant the trees and shrubs in the correct places. After working for several hours, all the volunteers returned to the Sand Bar for lunch and beverages.

It was a very successful day and we encourage LWIPA members to participate next spring in Canoes for a Cause. You don't have to have a canoe to be involved but you will help water quality on Little Lake Wissota.



Little Lake Wissota Stewardship Project

NICK STADNYK

The Little Lake Wissota Stewardship Project is an effort to encourage water conservation and improve the water quality of Little Lake Wissota. The project started as a 5 year watershed management initiative, sponsored by the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company and Chippewa County. The project is supported through direct contributions from area residents, businesses, and civic organizations.

Past studies have shown that the lake is being degraded by sediment and nutrients. While this is a natural process in all lakes, it's happening at a much faster pace due to land use within the watershed. By working with landowners, we hope to keep the lake fishable and swimmable and increase the number of recreational user days.

Installing conservation practices such as reduced tillage, nutrient management planning, stream buffers, and wetland restorations can significantly reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients delivered to the lake, leading to improved water quality, water quantity, and environmental biodiversity.

In March 2015, this project was awarded the 2015 Governor's Tourism Stewardship Award. This award is presented to a business or community that uses and/or promotes sustainable practices. The nomination had been submitted by the Chippewa Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

If you'd like to get involved, contact the Chippewa County Land Conservation and Forest Management at (715) 726-7920 or Nick Stadnyk at (715) 559-7672.

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—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. 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.



Summer Activities on the Lake

ANN GORDON



The Board would like to report two important activities on Lake Wissota this summer. First, the Board paid an intern to monitor the Lafayette Boat Landing for the summer. Aaron Devoe was hired by Beaver Creek Citizen Science Center to implement the Clean Boats Clean Water Program on Saturdays and Sundays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. His salary and related expenses were paid by LWIPA. He also monitored the boat landing in Anson Township near the Lake Wissota Golf Course on Wednesday mornings. Aaron reported that he talked with about 100 people each day at the Lafayette Landing. The busiest weekend was the one before the 4th of July when he interviewed 140 people. The busiest time on the landing was between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. Overall he inspected 791 boats and interviewed 1759 people at the Lafayette Landing. At the Anson Landing, he inspected 66 boats, and interviewed 128 people.

The second activity included tours of the Hydro Plant on July 14 and July 15. A total of 55 people toured the Hydro plant on those two days. Bill Conlin and Rob Olson did a great job of leading the tours, answering questions, and acting as hosts for our members. Board member Tony Schuster organized the event. Similar tours were conducted two years ago in 2013.

LWIPA BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Jo Fleming, President

Ann Gordon, Vice President

Bob Allen, Treasurer

Bob Wierman, Secretary

Ralph Bellore

Chuck Card

Jim Erickson

Ed Hebert

Kerry Ingraham

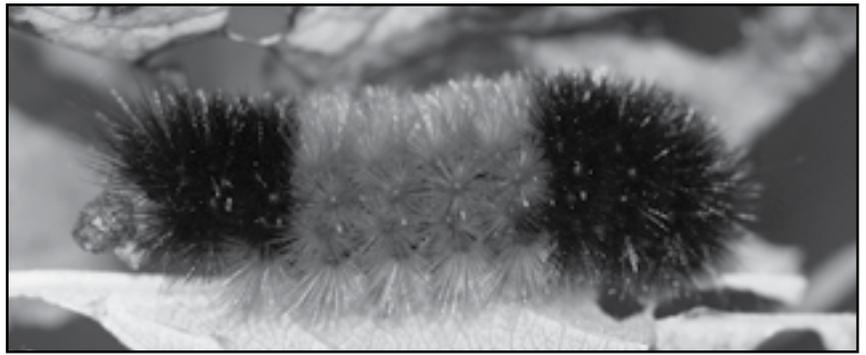
Barb MacNaughton-Bernhardt

Jim Schuh

Tony Schuster

Newsletter Contributors:

Mary Erickson, Mary Jo Fleming,
Ann Gordon, Elly Rochester, Jim Schuh,
and Nick Stadnyk



Woolly Bear Caterpillars

MARY ERICKSON

While working in our yard a few days ago I saw two Woolly Bear Caterpillars and was reminded of the excitement I felt as a child finding these black and copper striped furry friends. I would get a jar with lid, gather a few leaves and make a cozy home for them, making sure there were holes in the lid for air. For a few days I would check to see if a cocoon had been spun, but nothing seemed to be happening and I soon went to other things.

Now, as a grownup, my interest was rekindled so I went to the Internet to find out what these caterpillars are all about and found the information to be quite intriguing.

The Banded Woolly Bear larva emerges from the egg in the fall and overwinters in its caterpillar form and freezes solid. It survives being frozen by producing a cryoprotectant in its tissues. As the cool weather approaches it looks for a niche or crevice in which to spend the winter. (I thought this sounded a bit like a bear sleeping in its den!) In the spring the Woolly Bear thaws out and emerges to pupate or change in its cocoon, which it spins. Sometimes the caterpillars are seen in the spring and this is why. (The cocoon is a light tan color.) Once it emerges from its pupa as a moth it has only days to find a mate.

The adult moth, the Isabella Tiger Moth, is a dull yellow to orange with a furry thorax and small head. Its wings have a few black spots and first pair of legs are reddish orange. The caterpillar (larva) is black at both ends with or without a band of coppery red in the middle. Contrary to popular belief, the size of the bands is not a predictor of what winter weather will be, though many claim this to be true.

When picked up, the Woolly Bear's main defense mechanism is rolling into a ball and handling them is discouraged as the bristles may cause skin irritation in some people. They are not picky eaters and feed on many different plants, especially enjoying herbs!

In the fall we hear of many festivals such as apple and pumpkin fests. I found there are several Woolly Bear Festivals throughout the country, too. Who would have guessed?

When and if you see Woolly Bears this fall, they may be hurrying on their way to find a cozy place to curl up and spend the winter. Sleep well little friends!

Join LWIPA Today!

2015-16 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



About two dozen students and their teacher pose in front of the Wissota School. Lower left corner inscription:

April 09, 1916 No. 155
Wisota School

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.



Planning to Build a Company Town

JIM SCHUH

Continued from Spring / Summer 2015 Lakeside News...

“It was foreseen that the task (of building the Wissota Dam) would employ a large force of workers and it would take many months of time. So, regular town was laid out, for the housing of the employees, adjacent to the site of the proposed improvement. The groundwork of the town planning was the water and sewerage system. Pure water was taken from springs above the dam site and distributed into every building; and a complete sewerage system was laid down to empty its wastes into the river at a safe distance down-stream from the camp site.

The structures included a modern home for the superintendent of construction; bungalows for engineers and foremen living on the job with their families; bunk-houses and a central dining room for the working men; and separate houses made available for workers with families. The bunk-houses were heated by steam, conveyed under-ground from the source of supply; lighted by electricity, and their lavatories were supplied with hot water. The commissary facilities included a kitchen of large size, backed up by a cold storage house for meats, an ample grocery supply and root-houses for the storage of vegetables. The dining room was of capacity sufficient to seat 350 persons at a time, this being about half the force employed. The meals were served on china, with a waiter to each twelve persons.

In the bunkhouses standard double-decker iron beds with mattresses for each person were provided. Each employee was required to bathe and have his linen washed weekly. The sheets on the bunk-house beds were renewed with the same frequency, with an additional renewal each time a new tenant called for their use. Gambling and liquor supply were taboo. Reading and recreation rooms were attached to each bunkhouse. For the camp, as a whole, a tobacco shop, a billiard and

poolroom and an assembly room in which recreational features were provided, were established and maintained. These features varied from exhibitions of “Movies” and amateur exhibitions to really pretentious concerts provided by considerate residents of the adjacent city of Chippewa Falls.

A hospital with six beds, a pharmacy and a resident physician provided for emergency cases, and the general run of minor ailments with which the usual proportion of so large a force might be afflicted. For the inevitable casualties, first aid was provided by the resident physician; while the services of a leading surgeon of the neighboring city and the facilities of a modern general hospital in the same place were at the disposal of employees whose cases called for surgical treatment or continued hospital attention. There were not a few children of school age in the construction camp at Wissota. For these a standard Wisconsin school house was built and a teacher provided by the Wisconsin-Minnesota Light and Power Company, this being the first recorded case of a district school maintained in Wisconsin without a tax levy.”

The forgoing quote was taken from The White Coal of Wisconsin a book written by John A. Russell in 1918 for Kelsey, Brewer & Co.

LWIPA



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

FALL&WINTER 2015

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 2016. 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.