



Lakeside News

SPRING & SUMMER 2015

LAKE WISSOTA IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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WEDNESDAY
APR. 15
LWIPA Annual Meeting
7:00 pm • Lafayette Town Hall
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Got Trees?

ROGER KEES

Whether called “Fish Sticks” or “Tree Drops,” adding coarse woody structure to shorelines has been shown to provide excellent fish habitat. The two descriptions seem to be overlapping and even merging as the use of multiple or single trees both are proving to be effective habitat improvement practices. According to the WI DNR best practices manual: FISH STICKS Improving Lake Habitat With Woody Structure:

Trees have been dropping naturally into Wisconsin lakes since the glaciers receded. Until the last century, when logging and lake-shore development expanded, trees stayed where they dropped and

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UPCOMING EVENTS Calendar

Wednesday, April 15

LWIPA Annual Meeting; 7:00 pm;
Lafayette Town Hall

Thursday–Saturday, April 23–25

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership
Convention, Stevens Point, WI

Wednesday, May 13

LWIPA Board Meeting; 6:30 pm;
Lafayette town Hall (Visitors encouraged)

Saturday, June 27

LWIPA Annual Picnic; Lion's Club
Pavilion. Food and door prizes. Everyone
invited!

Friday, August 28

Celebrate the Chippewa River;
3:00–10:00 pm; Heyde Center (Art show,
speakers, displays, and music)

Saturday, August 29

Celebrate the Chippewa River; Phoenix
Park (Canoes, kayaks, and bikes)

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

President's Compass

ANN GORDON

As I write this column, the ice is still on the lake—but spring will be here soon and lake residents will begin putting in their docks and boaters will be getting ready for fishing and water sports. Watch for new buoys near the County X Bridge—paid for by LWIPA and to be installed by Lafayette Township after the ice goes out.

I occasionally receive phone calls and emails from someone wanting to donate to the Lake Association in memory of a family member. I refer them to the Community Foundation of Chippewa County. Several years ago, an anonymous donor set up the Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Endowment Fund through the Foundation. Earnings from the Endowment Fund can be used for grants to support efforts to preserve and protect Lake Wissota and its surroundings. Additional information can be found at yourlegacyforever.org or by calling 715-723-8125.

You are all encouraged to attend the LWIPA Annual Meeting on April 15 and Celebrate the Chippewa River event in August. Check the calendar and related articles in this newsletter.

The LWIPA Annual Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, June 27. Plan on coming to see your neighbors, meet new people, and maybe win a door prize! Brats and hot dogs and all the fixings will be served.

The Board is planning another opportunity this summer for LWIPA members to tour the Hydro Plant on Lake Wissota. Members should watch for a postcard announcing this event.

See you on the lake!



Healthy Lakes: Funding for Lakeshore Best Practices

MARY JO FLEMING

As lakeshore owners, we have a role to play in the health of our lakes. Five best practices for managing lake property have been identified:

- Leaving downed trees or anchoring trees along the shore so that submerged branches provide fish habitat
- Planting native plants or leaving native vegetation at least 10 feet above the water line in order to slow runoff and provide quality habitat for wildlife
- Diverting runoff from roads, paths, other hard surfaces and lawns by building small berms or shallow dips
- Using rock infiltration pits or trenches where water can be stored as it slowly filters and cleans itself
- Installing upland rain gardens that improve wildlife habitat—good for pollinators—while diverting and cleaning runoff from roofs, roads and driveways near homes

The DNR is funding a grant program that will authorize up to \$1000 to help individual homeowners pay to install these small projects on their property. LWIPA will sponsor a workshop later this year for homeowners who might be interested in taking part in the program. The grants would be administered through LWIPA. The DNR is encouraging neighbors to band together to make the most impact on their shorelands. Notification of the workshops will be sent to LWIPA members.



WEDNESDAY

APR. 15

LWIPA Annual Meeting

7:00 pm • Lafayette Town Hall

Program:

Update on the Little Lake Wissota Stewardship Project

Presented by: Nick Stadnyk
Chippewa County Land Conservation and Forest Management

To exercise the right to vote at the Annual Meeting, dues for the membership year (Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2015) must be paid prior to or at the meeting. The agenda will include the election to the board, updates on activities, and opportunities for comments by members.



The 2015 Leinenkugel's Canoes for a Cause event will be held on Saturday, May 16th.

Volunteers are asked to register prior to the event at www.canoesforacause.com

Volunteers will meet at The View between 8am-9am on Saturday morning. From there, bus transportation will be provided to and from the event site(s). This year's project will involve installing a buffer zone within the Little Lake Wissota watershed by planting trees and shrubs. Around noon, lunch and beverages will be served at The View. Any and all volunteers are welcomed and appreciated! If you have questions, please contact Matt Leinenkugel at (715)720-6342 or at Matthias.Leinenkugel@millercorors.com

County Highway X Bridge Project to Begin in May

KERRY INGRAHAM

The County Highway (CTH) X Bridge Project is proceeding as scheduled. Bids for construction are presently underway. Construction on the project will most likely begin around May 1st with a completion date still scheduled for November 1st. No work will be done in the water until June 1st, e.g., construction on piling supports.

While under construction, CTH X will have 2-way car traffic open except for when they are driving pilings when traffic will be limited to one lane. This portion of the Project will take approximately 10 days to two weeks. To ease traffic congestion, detours will be posted directing traffic east and west of the bridge.

As you may have noticed, land has been cleared at the Lafayette Boat Landing adjacent to CTH X. This area is needed to facilitate the "approach" to the bridge. The new bridge will have approximately two additional feet of water clearance than the present bridge. During construction, a portion of the boat landing parking will be used by the construction team for equipment and construction materials. At project completion, the boat landing is not expected to have any significant loss of parking space than is presently available. The shore land affected by the project will be reinforced with riprap.

The new CTH X Bridge will feature three lanes of traffic, two for vehicles and one for bike and pedestrian traffic. The Project is 80% federal and 20% state/locally funded. A public informational meeting will be held at the Lafayette Town Hall once the construction contractor is determined.

Two additional bridges on Lake Wissota are scheduled for construction in the next few years, the Paint Creek Bridge (195th St./197th St.) and the Yellow River Bridge (CTH K).



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.

You could be a newsletter sponsor.

Email membership@lwipa.net.

Newsletters are published Spring and Fall.



Celebrate the Chippewa River

Beaver Creek Reserve Citizen Science Center is coordinating the efforts of organizations from the Lower Chippewa River, including LWIPA, for this two-day event. Come one! Come all! Celebrate the Chippewa River!

- Friday, August 29 from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Heyde Center in Chippewa Falls. There will be afternoon workshops followed by a hot buffet dinner. The after dinner speaker is Spencer Black from the Sierra Club followed by music.
- Saturday, August 30 - Canoeing, kayaking, biking and fishing from Phoenix Park. Shuttle service available back to the site.

Watch for more details this summer. Plan to attend!!

Landscaping for the Birds

MARY JO FLEMING

Serviceberries, also known as Juneberries, are important small trees for migrating warblers who feast on caterpillars and tiny pollinators drawn to their delicate white flowers. Birds, who often seek areas along water in early spring, need high-protein food sources.

Smooth or Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*) and Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*) both tolerate a wide range of soil types and sun to part shade. A popular hybrid of the two is the Apple Serviceberry. Trees are less than 25 feet tall with an average spread of 5-10 feet. Serviceberries have delicate branches that cast light shade and can be easily tucked into the backs of perennial gardens, along natural woodland borders, or used as a tall feature in a mixed bed of dwarf weigelas, northern azaleas, Virginia bluebells, penstemons and other wildflowers. The fruit, resembling small blueberries, develops early in the summer and attracts catbirds, orioles, cardinals, and many other species. Leaves turn a fiery orange/red in fall.



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 Jo Fleming, Ann Gordon, Kerry Ingraham, Roger Kees, Matt Leinenkugel, Elly Rochester, Jim Schuh, John Swensen



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.

Wissota Development Planning Process

JIM SCHUH

Continued from Fall 2014/Winter 2015 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. These developers were now in the planning phase for building the world's largest concrete dam. The Wissota project was huge in its day, and even today, a century later, it would be considered a very large project.

Complex architectural and engineering plans would be produced. Construction cost estimates would be needed for funding the Wissota Dam project. It was an enormous undertaking for its day and required planning for construction of a small town. An engineering firm was hired to determine the area that would be flooded and maps were needed to portray the 51-mile shoreline perimeter of the new lake. People living on farms within the boundaries of the project area would have to vacate the area or move their

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Wisconsin Boating Safety Classes

JOHN SWENSON

If you were asked what the minimum age to obtain a driver's license in Wisconsin is, you could probably answer that question without much hesitation. If you were asked the same question about the minimum age allowable to operate a motorboat in Wisconsin, it might take a little longer to answer.

As a volunteer boating safety instructor for the Wisconsin DNR, I have found that many parents and young adults are unaware that Wisconsin law has specific age requirements with respect to the operation of motorboats, and in an effort to spread the word, below is a summary of those requirements.

Wisconsin boating safety certification or out of state equivalent certification is required for operators of motorboats born on or after January 1, 1989 and at least 16 years of age. Operators 12 to 15 years of age must either have a certificate or have an adult onboard while operating. Anyone 10 years of age or older is eligible to take the class and receive a safety education completion certificate, but the certificate does not become valid until the child reaches 12 years of age. And children under the age of 10 may not operate a motorboat, even with adult supervision.

The safety certification requires completing and passing a DNR-approved boating safety class. Once obtained, it is good for life. While eight states have no safety class requirements, the Wisconsin certification is recognized by the other forty one states in the U.S. which have similar requirements.

More information about boating laws in Wisconsin can be found in the Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities on the DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf>

Information about local boating safety classes can be found on the DNR website at https://jc.activeoutdoorsolutions.com/wise_student/app/class-Search.do or by calling the Eau Claire DNR Service Center at 715-839-3700. If you can't find anything in Chippewa County immediately, keep checking. Classes are usually offered beginning in early Spring and throughout the summer months. You can also call me, John Swenson, at 715-828-2514.



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Healthy Lakes: Funding for Lakeshore Best Practices

provided excellent near-shore, or littoral zone, fish habitat. Fallen trees provide shelter and feeding areas for a diversity of fish species and may also provide nesting and sunning areas for birds, turtles, and other animals above the water. Nearly all fish species utilize woody habitat for at least one portion of their life cycle. Fallen trees add to the natural complexity of the near-shore area, which is reflected in varying habitat materials and aquatic plant communities that are rarely seen in deep water areas.

Working with our local DNR fisheries biologist and with the cooperation of the Lake Wissota State Park and Kamp Kenwood, LWIPA began a pilot project in March of 2014 to add tree drops along their shorelines. DNR technicians and interns cut the trees and anchored them in place with cables attached to the stumps. These trees were selected based on their proximity to shore, species, size, and the water depth and bottom structure of the near shore area. All permits, labor and equipment was provided via lake improvement grants. While still early in the development of these resources, we are hoping that fish surveys planned for this spring will show a positive effect on use of these structures by several types of wildlife.

The LWIPA Board would like to continue this project by extending an invitation to interested private property owners along our shores to nominate trees on their shoreline for inclusion in a 2015 effort to identify and create additional structures. Once again, all permits, equipment and labor will be provided via grants and LWIPA matching funds as needed. DNR technicians will cut and anchor all selected trees.

The process will be as follows:

- Interested property owners should contact Roger Kees, project coordinator, 715 720-6189 or email at roger@lwipa.net (Email is preferred)
- Nominated trees must be along a shoreline that is not subjected to ice heave or strong wave action or strong currents, and will not interfere with neighboring property lines, docks, etc. when dropped into the water.
- LWIPA representative will follow up later this spring with property owners to identify and mark nominated trees.
- LWIPA representative and DNR fisheries biologist will survey the nominated trees and meet with landowners to confirm interest and answer any questions.
- Once all landowners have been contacted and confirmed, a late summer or early fall timeline for completing the actual work will be established.

There are real advantages to grouping these projects along a continuous stretch of shoreline. Thus neighborhood projects are encouraged and will receive top priority if funding becomes an issue. We encourage interested property owners to talk with their neighbors to build larger projects. For more information, contact Roger Kees or, on the web, visit Fishing Wisconsin at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/outreach/fishsticks.html>



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Wissota Development Planning Process

buildings to higher ground prior to filling the basin. The Yellow River Bridge, later known as the Cobban Bridge, was constructed in 1908 for a cost of \$12,744. It crossed the Chippewa River just upstream from its junction with the Yellow River in an area called the Yellow River flats. Because this bridge would be under water after creating the reservoir the six-year-old bridge would need to be removed. New bridges would be needed to be built over tributaries and between the area that would become big and small Lake Wissota for traffic flow around the new 6,148 acre lake.

Join LWIPA Today! 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



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.