



Cultivating Environmental Stewardship in the Lakeshore Region

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A Message from the Executive Director

Longer days are upon us! Spring feels great and LNRP is looking ahead to another year of engaging activities that **cultivate environmental stewardship in the lakeshore region**. This has become our new Mission Statement, and we're excited to have given ourselves a fresh face by launching our new programming umbrella called the *Local Stewardship Program*. The new focus will allow LNRP to revisit projects funded through the previous Community Grant Program. We'll evaluate how to better support community solutions to problems affecting the overall health and welfare of our lands and waters. We'll also look to further invest in successful on-going and new projects through enhanced corporate sponsorship.

In the last six months, we've also been putting together a set of business plans for each of our programming areas. The *Niagara Escarpment Resource Network* and the *Lakeshore Environmental Resource Network* continue to be the cornerstones of our community-based relationships and outreach efforts. The *We All Live on the Water* campaign remains the underpinning of our programming. In 2011, the *Agricultural Watershed Improvement Network* will focus on stronger groundwater protection; our *Champions of Conservation* program will again recognize and award our outstanding stewards; the *Water's Edge Artists* are launching the "Art with a Purpose" program, merging the arts into stewardship and providing artist led mentorship opportunities for area youth; and our *Explore and Restore* programming is focused on capacity building for the Friends of the Branch and the restoration of an abandoned millpond on Centerville Creek. However, each program now has a business plan tied into our mission, the means of support, and the strategy to generate revenue for our administrative costs.

Spring 2011



News from LNRP

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Champions of Conservation Award Ceremony

Wednesday, May 18, from 5-8 p.m. at UWGB

Join us to recognize and award the great stewards in our communities. Our guest speaker for the Spring 2011 *Champions of Conservation* ceremony will be Barbara Lawton. Barbara just completed two terms as Wisconsin's Lieutenant Governor, where she earned Madison's *Capital Times* designation as "Wisconsin's Green Leader." Lawton's Green Economy Agenda set in motion a series of proposals to empower smart individual and institutional action related to energy independence and climate change as a strategy to strengthen Wisconsin's competitive position in a



In mid-March, Frank Wasdovitch, Calumet County Parks Director and Kelly Nieforth, Calumet County Economic Development Specialist, led a small group tour of Calumet County Park.

One good example is how we are using our *Ledge Tours* to further engage the public with events, hikes, and workshops to raise awareness and appreciation of the Niagara Escarpment. Every other month, NERN invites members and interested individuals to an exploration of the Niagara Escarpment. Through these Ledge Tours, we hope to provide an opportunity for guided interpretive experiences whereby participants can explore geological marvels as well as observe the creative process of producing wool and fiber, paintings and artwork, vineyards and cheese making.

We have lots of announcements, good articles, and well-told stories in the Spring 2011 *Source*. We've launched two new websites for our [annual barn dance](#) and the [Centerville Creek Restoration project](#). Stay in touch with the [Water's Edge Artists](#) through their website. And, plan to join us at our *Champions Awards Ceremony* May 18 at UW-Green Bay, where former Lieutenant Governor and current Chair of the Wisconsin Arts Board, Barbara Lawton, will be our keynote speaker.

It's an honor to serve you,

Jim Kettler, Executive Director

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Reflections from State Street

By John Kirsch, LNRP Board Member

On Saturday, March 12, I visited our Wisconsin State Capital to experience the protests that were taking place around our beloved Capital square. Admittedly, I also wanted to add to the numbers of those who were protesting the anti-union bill recently passed by the State Legislature. A huge number of people of all ages were braving the cold and expressing themselves in a peaceful, dignified manner (something we can be proud of). A tractor parade added to the scene as the farmers joined in with a program called "Pull Together". As I took in the energy and visual spectacle of thousands of people marching and singing, I sensed something even larger than the collective bargaining rights issue. Much of the chat on the street expressed concern over how Wisconsin's history of open government and bipartisan cooperation was being set aside for a rush to implement partisan changes.

This approach to government can impact Wisconsin in very negative ways, especially if it is influenced by outside interest groups. Sustainability and natural resource protections are sure to be affected by this approach. As an example, Governor Scott Walker's budget bill proposal would roll back regulations designed to protect waterways from phosphorous and other pollutants. His reason is to make sure Wisconsin's phosphorus limitations aren't stricter than surrounding states. During the campaign, Scott Walker told the Dairy Business Association "I want to make sure that every regulation that comes through any state agency is science-based and predictable". I'm beginning to think he was talking about political science.

One of the many things to admire about Wisconsin is our leadership in natural resource and environmental protection. There have been many battles fought over how to protect our natural resources which have typically ended with a reasonable compromise. This is due to an underlying ethic and love of the out-of-doors that never allowed a political power to run roughshod over natural resource protection. We believe that the economy and ecology are not mutually exclusive, and that a healthy ecology supports a healthy economy. Our programs like the Stewardship Fund have a history of bi-partisan support.

As members of a non-partisan not-for-profit organization, we will be challenged by this new view of government. Our challenge will be to remind and educate our fellow Wisconsinites about the multiple values of our Wisconsin natural resources.

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global economy. Her leadership as chair of the Wisconsin Arts Board brings the intersection of the arts, water and the environment into the center of many public policy convenings and conversations. Her presentation "*Water and the Arts: Inextricable, the Fulcrum for our Future*" will explore this intersection with our audience.



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Fun with Frogs and Froggy Friday

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

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 in the Branch River Watershed. Parents and kids of all ages are welcome to attend.

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

Become a biologist 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!

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Stewardship

Environmental stewardship is the responsibility to take care of our natural resources to ensure their sustainability for current and future generations -- an ethic whereby citizens participate in the careful and responsible management of

Great Arc (Niagara Escarpment) Bike Route Map Coming Soon!



The Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN) will publish a Great Arc Bike Route Map in early May, thanks to the efforts of Greg Hines, Glacierland RC&D, Adam Pfefferte of the East Central Wisconsin RPC and others. This 288-mile bike journey takes you through some of Wisconsin's most splendid and diverse landscapes and vistas from Mayville, near the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County, to the tip of Door County and Washington Island.

"There's so much beauty along the Bay of Green Bay leading up to Door County and along Lake Michigan's shoreline, and traveling from Mayville and the Horicon Marsh area," Hines says.

Born out of the 2010 Year of the Niagara Escarpment, embarking on 57 projects and activities touching nearly 19,000 people, Hines and Eric Fowle, NERN co-chair and Executive Director of the East Central Wisconsin RPC, came up with the idea of a bike route on the Escarpment as a method to build continued awareness. Hines, Fred Depies and avid bicyclist Dave Gramling comprised the initial committee and Hines took the lead. The idea behind all NERN projects is to celebrate and bring awareness and appreciation to this amazing resource that essentially defines the Lakeshore region and ties us geologically all the way into Ontario and New York State.

Eric Fowle says, "We decided to develop this map to build awareness of the Niagara Escarpment through

accessibility." Traveling the area by bike, while challenging, allows you to slow down and really take in the experience in a deeper way.

"When we started out, we weren't really sure how to proceed or how the route should look," Hines explains, "and wanted to tie existing trails together. We considered including gravel paths and concluded that asphalt pavement would be best and safest for bike riders. Along the route, you can see Lake Winnebago, the Fox River Valley, biking trails, the Fox River Trail, and travel through urban and rural areas, state parks, and county trails." It runs from southwest to northeast along the Door Peninsula and includes the Horicon Marsh. The route may eventually be expanded with secondary trails and informational signage.

Initially, NERN will publish 4-5,000 maps and distribute them to state parks, some county land conservation departments, area visitors' and convention bureaus, nature centers and other outlets within the escarpment Counties. The map is being sponsored by Glacierland RC&D, Trek, and the East Central Wisconsin and Bay-Lake RPCs, among others. For further information, or to be put on an e-mail list to be notified of its availability (tentatively May 1st), please contact Eric Fowle, efowle@eastcentralrpc.org, or www.escarpmentnetwork.org.

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The Continuing Evolution of C-Cares: Part II

By Russ Tooley, President, Centerville Cares

In the prior article in the winter 2011 edition of *The Source* about Centerville CARES, we addressed why we formed and identified challenges and successes over the years. In this segment, we consider "what now."

For the future, we want to work closely with other groups around the state. Groups interested in conserving natural resources are energetic, talented and resourceful, yet often small in numbers and scattered geographically with a focus on a particular local problem. This common characteristic is exactly how C-CARES started. We now understand that real progress depends on collaboration for a singular stronger voice and to best use the strengths in other organizations.

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership is a particularly valuable partner for our efforts. LNRP's emphasis -- on the quality of our local rivers so that native species flourish and people can enjoy them for swimming and recreation -- is a goal we embrace. The Centerville Creek restoration project that LNRP is spearheading demonstrates how LNRP is making a real difference. This effort will improve the entire Hika Bay area from Whistling Straits all the way through Centerville, Fischer, Point and even Pine Creeks.



air, land, water and biodiversity to ensure healthy ecosystems for present and future generations.

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Centerville Creek Restoration Moving Forward

Plans continue to move forward on the restoration of Centerville Creek and the abandoned millpond. Designs are being formally developed this winter, with bids for the construction work likely to go out this spring. The project will fulfill goals originally identified in the Village of Cleveland's 1985 Waterfront Plan, further refined in the 1998 Hika Park Plan, and finalized in the recently completed 20-Year Comprehensive Plan. In the next two months, LNRP will be seeking further input on the park designs from local community groups and organizations. While many people enjoy the feeling and life of downtown city-developed lakefronts, just as many people enjoy the rural, natural and historic feeling that communities like Cleveland can provide. The park and its surroundings will be attractive to many businesses, residents, and tourists. Through current funding from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation, private foundations, business contributions, and other local conservation groups, this property will be preserved as a rare ecological community, an asset for economic growth, and a significant community resource designed for public enjoyment.

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LNRP Receives Media Development Grant

Recent grants from Freshwater Future will help support the development of a media campaign as well as provide overall mentorship and guidance.

The media campaign will focus on stronger groundwater protection by developing a stronger set of tools for farmers and land managers. We will also be working with two media consultants to enhance, direct and refine our efforts:

- Helping us develop the overall plan for media outreach for events/issues with target dates;
- Developing media kits with the appropriate message to get the attention of print, broadcast and social media outlets;
- Appropriately targeting the message for the audience with substance beyond the sound bite;
- Working with our existing Facebook page to increase its effectiveness and expand its audience;
- Developing the right media connections and relationships to help insure accurate coverage.

Sherrill Anderson, LNRP Program Assistant, will be leading this initiative.

C-CARES appreciates LNRP for providing funding for sampling equipment, publicity for our projects, support for our conferences and introducing us to other like-minded groups. Perhaps most importantly though, because LNRP operates in a broad five county area along the Lake Michigan shoreline and inland, they bring a broad-based group of individuals with tremendous knowledge to help us develop new approaches and ideas.

The Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network (SRWN), a group of groups, is a relatively new organization working to protect our rural environment, understanding there is strength in numbers. The goals of C-CARES and SRWN align well, provide us a louder voice, and give access to new ideas. SRWN is developing tool kits to help groups defend against the destruction of our rural infrastructure due to CAFOs, provide water quality monitoring advice, use social networking to connect like-minded individuals, and sponsor conferences for citizens with CAFO concerns.

Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA) continues to be "THE" source for *pro bono* legal services in Wisconsin. They have helped C-CARES understand the available options to protect air and water quality from excessive CAFO pollution. MEA worked with us on legal challenges resulting in new Best Management Practices (BMPs) for air quality scheduled for 2011. MEA also worked with us in a CAFO permit challenge where we established the legal precedent that citizen water monitoring data must be considered.

The Michigan Sierra Club Water Sentinels trained us on CAFO monitoring. The Michigan Sierra Club provided guidance for how to find good CAFO monitoring sites and how to document findings and ideas for effective data sharing. C-CARES now works closely with both Michigan and Wisconsin Sierra Club members through SRWN to build numbers and influence.

C-CARES works with the Lake Michigan Stakeholders (LMS). Dozens and dozens of agencies, organizations and individuals focus on the Lake Michigan environment. Since C-CARES' members live near or on the Lake Michigan shoreline, LMS is a natural collaborator. The federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) represents the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades. C-CARES actively participates in LMS meetings and supports the project initiatives of fellow members to obtain GLRI funding.

Collaboration with UW-Manitowoc and LNRP -- to monitor the four watersheds in southeastern Manitowoc County surrounding Hika Bay -- has become our most exciting activity. LNRP provides leadership and funding, UW-Manitowoc provides science and student monitors, and C-CARES helps maintain and encourage citizen involvement. Approximately 120 students from the UW-Manitowoc biology sections participated in a water quality analysis of Centerville, Fischer and Point Creeks during the fall of 2010. This student activity will continue indefinitely each spring and fall. The first analysis provided insights into possible pollution sources. Subsequent analyses will focus on potential point sources of pollution and the impact of the restoration of the stream channel.

In conclusion, the combination of successes along with the sheer magnitude of water quality problems helps sustain the members of C-CARES so that our regular water sampling activities can continue. We take our education responsibility very seriously and expect more success as we build on the strengths of our collaboration partners.

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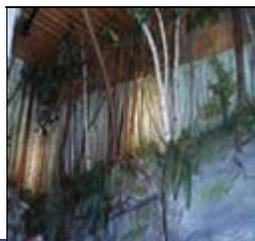
Crossroads at Big Creek Uses Mural to Teach Water Quality Issues

By Coggin Heeringa, Crossroads at Big Creek

The medieval church had it right. When clerics wanted to educate the people, they knew that sermons were not enough -- that seeing is believing. So they covered the walls of cathedrals with frescos, tapestries, carvings, stained glass and they even commissioned artists to paint chapel ceilings. People then, and yet today, have used these images to form their concepts of religion.

Similarly, at Crossroads at Big Creek, we have learned that murals make magnificent teaching tools.

Last spring, when, as a part of the Water Quality Education grant from LNRP, 488 schoolchildren were introduced to the concept of karst topography and water quality issues during their Earth Day Field Trip. We learned that children and a startling number of their teachers and parent chaperones were unaware of the vulnerability of our aquifer. Most did not know that Door County is riddled with sinkholes and caves.



Using grant funding and designated donations, we have replicated a karst complex on the walls in the hall leading to the restrooms. Now every trip to the restroom is a trip that becomes a discussion on water quality. We don't have to preach. Marveling over the mural, people verbalize the connection between water and geology by themselves. The comment we hear most is "I never realized." We hope that realization will eventually lead to good decision-making.

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Water's Edge Artists: Creating A Stewardship Ethic Exhibit Opens at Plymouth Arts Center

The multi-talented painters who collaborate to support LNRP opened an exhibition, **Water's Edge Artists: Creating A Stewardship Ethic**, March 25 at the Plymouth Arts Center, corner of North and Mill Street, in Plymouth's historic downtown. More than 17 artists and two internationally-acclaimed sculptors

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Lake Michigan Stakeholders

The Lake Michigan Stakeholders recently went through a strategic planning process resulting in a set of by-laws and a draft 2011 Action Plan. The stakeholders will gather on Tuesday, May 17, at the Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland, WI to begin implementing the action plan through a set of collaborative networks and projects.

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Join us at UW Manitowoc for a screening of *Green Fire*!



See the first full-length, high-definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold and his environmental legacy! *Green Fire* shares highlights from his extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation and the modern environmental movement. It also illustrates how Leopold's vision of a community that cares about both people and land continues to inform and inspire people across the country and around the world, highlighting modern projects that put Leopold's land ethic in action in a multitude of ways. LNRP and Woodland Dunes Nature Center are co-hosting a screening of *Green Fire* for the community.

Check our website for updates.

DATE: June 16
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: UW Manitowoc
TICKETS: Free!
MORE INFORMATION:
www.GreenFireMovie.com

We're now on Facebook!

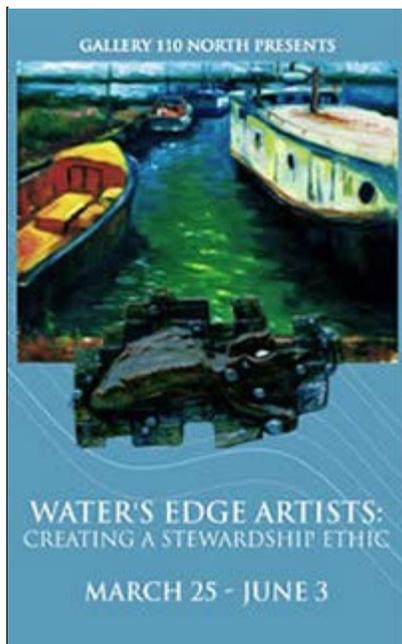
Come check us out on our brand new Facebook page where you'll be able to see news updates, join in discussions, and share the good news about LNRP to a larger audience. Find us under Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership.



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Want to donate ?

I would like to make a [tax deductible donation](#).



Bren Sibilsky and Tom Tittl are represented in this show.

The 65+ piece show centers around the juried calendar paintings from the 2011 *Lakeshore Waterways Calendar*, with several additional pieces from the talented painters. The associated note card sets will be available for sale. Profit from the sale of these note cards support LNRP's stewardship programming, as does a percentage of painting sales.

If you missed the gala opening reception, you can still see the show and participate in one of the complementary events planned around this exhibit. On Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17, WEA Founder and Artistic Director Bonnita Budysz will present a demonstration from 1-4 PM both days where you'll witness her creation of a large oil painting, transforming a blank canvas into an inspired waterway. Then on Thursday, May 5, from 1 to 4PM, the PAC will host a lively panel discussion, "*Merging Art Into Stewardship*" with LNRP Executive Director Jim Kettler, Budysz, Sheboygan River Basin Partnership President Peter Pittner, Wisconsin Arts Board President George Tzougros, Artist and Director/Producer of *Gallery Works* Kitty Lynne Klich, and Kohler Foundation Executive Director Terri Yoho.

You can also participate in area paint-outs in the Plymouth and Sheboygan County area planned for: **April 1-2, shores of the Mullet River**, (behind Real Yoga, 607 Eastern Ave.) Plymouth; **April 8-9, Maywood - Ellwood H. May Environmental Park**, (3615 Mueller Rd.) Sheboygan; **May 6-7, Victorian Village**, Elkhart Lake; **May 13-14, River Park** (lagoon area), (375 Buffalo St.) Sheboygan Falls. And, the exhibit will run through June 3. For further information, keep checking our website for updates: www.lnrp.org/art. Hope to see you at one or more of these events!

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