

Cultivating Environmental Stewardship in the Lakeshore Region

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A Message from the Executive Director

As Executive Director of the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, I was lucky enough to be part of a very interesting and rewarding training session at the Aldo Leopold Center the weekend of November 12-14. The Land Ethics Leadership Training focused on the land ethic of Aldo Leopold and both provided new tools -- and strengthened existing ones -- to better discuss the difficult issues we face revolving around land use and water quality.



November 2010 class of Land Ethic Leaders: (back row L to R) Shannon Davis-Foust, Laura Maloney, Trisha Steele, Carl Wallman, Cara Carper, Renee Rollman, Michelle Gooch, Liz Nevers, Darcy Kind, Jeffrey LaMarche, Maud LaMarche, Kathryn Clingan, Alexis Sohlden (front row L to R) Michelle Haynes, Jen Kobylecky, Jim Kettler, Brick Fevold, Kathryn Gonzalez, Ray Osinski, Jen Simoni, Anna Hawley. Not pictured: Alan Anderson, Tom Davis, Cliff Knapp, and Mary Kozub.

What are Land Ethic Leaders?

Leopold's legendary *A Sand County Almanac* and the concept of the land ethic ultimately involve values. Our

Winter 2011



News from LNRP

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Water's Edge Artists 2011 Paint-Outs

Water's Edge Artists 2011 Paint-Outs

Our talented and hearty plein air Water's Edge Artists started their events for the New Year with a paint-out at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc on January 7-8. They had the option of capturing the picturesque views of the harbor and downtown Manitowoc indoors or out in the elements. The beauty of that waterscape and historical buildings provides an

values shape our actions, both as individuals and as they relate to our society as a whole. Values and their relationship to individual and community decisions are extremely layered and complex, making it challenging to find common ground to discuss them in an open, neutral setting.

The Land Ethic Leaders program aims to help communities explore those values. The Leopold Center has partnered with another non-profit organization, the [Project on Civic Reflection](#), in designing the Land Ethic Leaders program, and through their years of research they've learned that the practice of reflective discussion can build three important qualities in participants:

1. **Clarity** (about values, why we do the work we do, or more generally—why we make the choices we make);
2. **Commitment** (to our values, our work, and our choices); and
3. A heightened sense of **community connection** through appreciation of our shared values.

The trainers believe these are key pieces of the puzzle to truly engage people in a meaningful dialogue about our individual and collective commitments to the natural world.

The Land Ethic Leaders program was rooted in Leopold's own method of engaging his family and students to develop a personal land ethic—observing the natural world through scientific inquiry, participating in purposeful work on the land, and reflecting on experiences. Together, these activities can bring people to a new understanding and respect for the landscape around them. The program was held in the same Wisconsin landscape that deeply inspired Leopold -- along the Wisconsin River near Baraboo. I hope to use the training to expand LNRP's impact in the upcoming year. Check our website for details on the premier of "Green Fire" a new film about Aldo Leopold and the Land Ethic.

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LNRP Launches Local Stewardship Program

To follow through on the call for a stronger Land Ethic by the Aldo Leopold Center, we are launching a new program emphasis, the *Local Stewardship Program*, to cultivate stewardship through the support and recognition of strong stewards and stewardship initiatives in the Lakeshore Basin.

As such, the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) and Dominion® are requesting nominations for our annual *2011 Lakeshore Champions of Conservation Awards Program*. LNRP is also accepting proposals for our bi-annual grants program, now called the Lakeshore Stewardship Program.

The *Champions of Conservation* environmental awards program recognizes and honors the outstanding achievements of any group, program, organization, business or individual in a wide range of environmental initiatives throughout Northeastern Wisconsin. The award pays tribute to those who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to environmental excellence, leadership, and accomplishment in their respective fields.

The awards are open to any group, program, organization, business, or individual located in the Lakeshore Basin. Nominations can be made by the person (or persons) involved in the activity or by a third party. Deadline for nominations is April 15, 2011 with an awards program in early June.

With the *Stewardship Program* mentioned above, LNRP also offers grants to non-profit organizations working to preserve, promote and protect water quality in the Lakeshore Basin. Grants range in size from \$500 to \$5,000. Advisory teams oversee these projects covering a two-year cycle.

Organizations eligible to compete for these grants are grassroots groups with limited revenue located in the Lakeshore Basin. Applications are due by September 1, 2011 with selections made in early November and an awards program on December 8.

Groups or individuals who have applied in the past may apply again. Both nominations for champions of conservation and stewardship proposals should focus on water quality issues in one of the following areas of concern:

- **Water Resources Protection:** Projects that monitor or improve groundwater, streams, rivers, lakes or wetlands.
- **Environmental Education and Outreach:** Projects that establish or improve communication and education about water quality issues for the general public, youth and stewardship programs.
- **Land-Use Protection and Habitat Restoration:** Projects that focus on improving land development decisions to restore or protect water quality.

Organizations interested in nominating a champion, applying for a grant or to learn more about LNRP may visit our website at www.lnrp.org/community-grant-programs.php where you can find nomination forms, grant guidelines, instructions, and sample applications. The website also includes highlights from previous stewardship projects and champion programs.

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Door County Tackles Tough Invasive Species Problem

Greg Coulthurst, Conservationist with the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department, is steadfastly battling an innocent looking invasive in our region. Thanks to his successful initial and on-going efforts, he and his associates are bringing a nasty pervasive plant under control in critical natural areas in Door County. *Phragmites australis* can grow as high as 16 feet in one growing season, and can quickly and aggressively choke out native plants. A \$5,000 community grant from LNRP's last round in 2009 provided a substantial amount of "seed" money

excellent painting experience and is a favorite site for the group.



We've developed an exciting list of these monthly events for the whole year. The paint-out sites we're exploring in Wisconsin's Lakeshore Basin include: Cave Point in Door Co., Dodge Preserve near Whitelaw, Fischer Creek and Point Creek in Cleveland, Algoma, Trout Springs Winery in Greenleaf, Ledge View Nature Center near Chilton, Kohler Golf Course, Pigeon Lake/Camp Sinawa in Manitowoc Co., Autumn Ridge Golf Course near Valders, and Bay Beach near Green Bay. We'll be finalizing these locations and will post them on our website: www.lnrp.org/art. We're very excited at the new directions for the Water's Edge Artists in 2011!



We are also planning an art show, "Water's Edge Artists - Creating a Stewardship Ethic," at the Plymouth Art Center running from March 25 through June 3. Opening reception will be Friday, March 25, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Other events around this exhibition will be forthcoming. Watch for announcements in the near future!



Winners of Best in Show for 2009, 2010, and 2011 gather at the Rahr-West Museum this past October.

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**2011 Lakeshore Waterways
Calendars & Note Cards
Available!**

Our Water's Edge Artists' paintings just keep getting better, reflecting on the

(pun intended) or catalyst to get the initial project off the ground and running, according to Coulthurst.



"*Phragmites* spreads primarily by an extensive rhizome root system and by sending out above-ground runners or stolons -- which develop roots at each of the nodes occurring every 18 inches -- and can expand horizontally more than 50 feet in one year," he says. "Due to its aggressive nature, *Phragmites australis* can quickly take over an area, leaving very little usable wildlife habitat for our native animals. Protecting the most precious areas such as islands, shorelines, natural areas and wetlands, along with educating all landowners, have been the primary focus of the SWCD and the Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST)." They initiated this project in the latter months of 2009 when the

SWCD became aware of the *Phragmites* populations beginning to flourish on Detroit Island. After writing a successful LNRP grant application with the Detroit Island Landowner Association, and receiving a low bid to perform the work, the project quickly expanded to neighboring Washington Island.

"We started with an inventory or survey that identified approximately 125 clones or populations of *Phragmites*," Coulthurst explains. "These populations were mapped using a GPS that Rachel Reklau (Detroit Island landowner and project partner) used in April of 2010. She inventoried the entire area -- nearly 10 miles -- of Detroit Island shoreline. Detroit Island consists of 637 acres, and is located just south of Washington Island. These two islands share a rare, unique and diverse habitat for a variety of plant and animal species, and offer one of the most prolific Smallmouth Bass spawning areas."

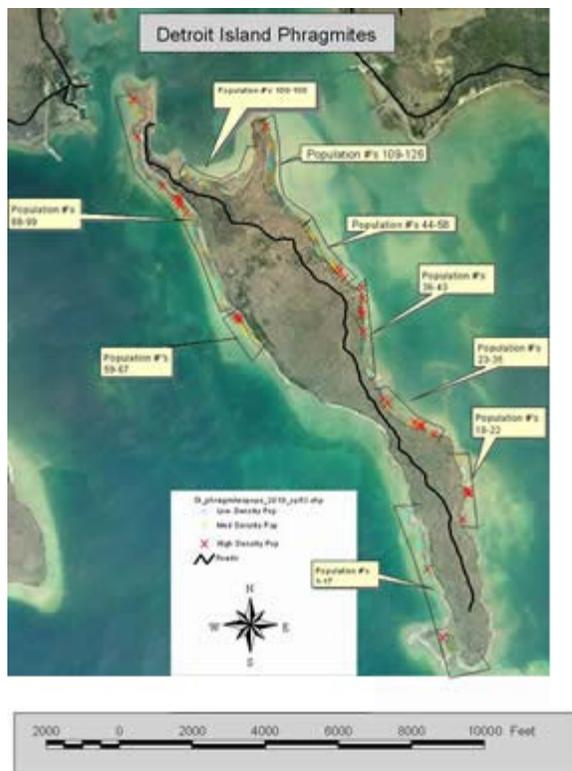
Coulthurst adds, "Rachel, an aquatic approved and licensed herbicide applicator, just couldn't keep up with the expanding *Phragmites* populations on the Island. She agreed to partner with the SWCD to hire a contractor to address the immediate task of controlling these plant populations understanding the need to conduct follow up treatments during the summer of 2011." Coulthurst says that this type of follow up and dedication are essential to successfully control *Phragmites* populations.

"When we received bids for the project and one applicator came in with a low bid, nearly \$3,000 from the LNRP grant would have been left if the project wasn't expanded. With LNRP approval, the SWCD proceeded with plans to expand the project to Washington Island starting with the area around the Sand Dunes public beach," Coulthurst explains.

"I really didn't know how much *Phragmites* was on Washington Island until I inventoried the area with a GPS," he says. "After meeting with local residents and walking approximately 8.5 miles of shoreline, I found 4.8 acres of *Phragmites*! We suddenly faced a new problem of having more *Phragmites* than money for treatment. We then realized the need to pursue or secure additional funding to treat the entire population in this unique and connected ecosystem."

"Subsequent bids for the additional treatment on Washington Island's South shoreline came in around \$10,200, leaving a funding deficit of about \$8,000. We wrote letters to all the landowners in the project area requesting permission to proceed with treatment, and for a donation of \$50-\$100. I was amazed at how quickly these landowners responded by donating over \$5,100! We then used some remaining donation money given to the DCIST and the SWCD originating from the Sturgeon Bay Open Bass Tournament's conservation fund for treatment of *Phragmites*. We were all very pleased with both the financial and individual support we received to make this project an overwhelming success. A key player in this success story on Washington Island was shoreline owner Rich Walker, who was also overwhelmed with the progression of *Phragmites* on its south shoreline. Rich contacted individuals on the Island and helped educate his neighbors as to the importance of this project. He was also able to collect many of the donations and permission forms to make this project happen."

Coulthurst further adds, "We wanted to do more on the east and west shores of Washington Island but we just ran out of time and money. The good news is that in the last couple of months, Washington Island volunteers were trained by the DCIST Coordinator Marne Kaeske to inventory the untreated areas of *Phragmites*. To date, volunteers and staff inventoried an additional 2.5 miles of shoreline and identified approximately 0.6 acres of *Phragmites*. Our goal is to have the entire Island inventoried and ready for treatment in 2011. Again, we've

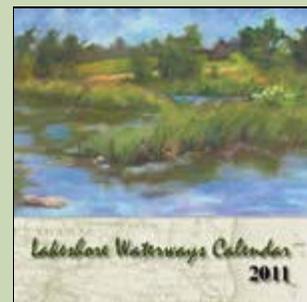


artists' growth and evolution as individuals and as a group. What better way to support both LNRP and these dedicated artists than by purchasing a 2011 calendar and set of 13 note cards depicting the Lakeshore Basin's waterways and landscapes? This collection of images, in its third consecutive year, was selected in a juried show and represents both new and familiar artists this year.



New this year, we offer the note cards as well, each showing a four-color image for each month and cover, on the cover of a folded card with the artist's and LNRP's information on the back, printed on heavy card stock. They're a great way to stay in touch with friends and family for any occasion, and make an excellent gift. Some of our members have purchased dozens of sets for gifts. A calendar or note card set costs a mere \$10 with the entire proceeds from sales of both going to support LNRP's programming and staff.

To order yours today, go to <http://www.lnrp.org/calendar-order-form.php>. Thank you for your continued support!



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Centerville Creek Project Moves Forward

The Centerville Creek Restoration Project received additional funds from the Village of Cleveland to move forward into the design phase of the project. All sides are hoping for construction to begin this spring. Over \$250,000 has been raised with additional fundraising planned for 2011. The project will remove 150 years of sediment buildup from a dam removed in 1996 restoring 0.5 miles of the Centerville Creek, and an additional 500 feet of the South and North Branch. A natural stream channel will be designed to incorporate fish habitat enhancements in the form of large woody debris, bank cover, pool habitat and spawning riffles.

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LNRP Receives WDNR River Planning Grant

learned that a second year of treatment or follow-up is essential to keeping the *Phragmites* at bay. Follow-up treatments on Detroit Island will be conducted by Rachel Reklau, and on Washington Island we are hoping to receive additional funding to finish the job.”



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Why Centerville CARES

Back in 2003, a group of local residents living in the Centerville Creek area near Cleveland, Wisconsin, came together to address odor and pollution coming from a large CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operation) and an aquatic plant (*Cladophora*) in their neighborhood. Founding member Russ Tooley, an instrumental voice with Centerville CARES (C-CARES for short), recalls their history and reflects on their experience and evolution.

“C-CARES didn’t start out as an educational group,” he says. “When we formed, we saw the ‘world ending as we know it.’ Suddenly we had to keep our windows closed in the summer due to both the CAFO stench and the rotting *Cladophora* algae blooms flourishing along our Lake Michigan shoreline, especially at Hika Bay. They happened simultaneously. With the CAFO expanding and the associated fish kills and run off contributing to the pollution, we thought we could just ask the owners to stop and the *Cladophora* would go away.”

“About the same time we had a huge influx of invasive Zebra mussels. At first, we just looked at the surface of the problem and made simple connections based on what appeared to be happening. We quickly realized that, as an organization, we needed to first educate ourselves. I’m proud to say that in more than seven years, we have never had to retract any news releases or information we have put out there.”



He adds, “With these types of issues, it’s easy to get emotional and exaggerate or overstate the problem and then have to retract what you said. We’ve managed to use science and let the facts stand for themselves. We’ve learned you have to first get the facts straight and keep your emotions in check.”

Hika Bay, located in Cleveland along the shore of Lake Michigan, is a prime example of how *Cladophora* can destroy a recreation area. Due to unusual currents, it’s one of the hardest hit areas for *Cladophora* among five recognized “hot spots” along Lake Michigan. One of the worst years was 2004. Tooley recalls, when *Cladophora* remained especially pernicious shoreline-wide with algae growing to a depth of 2-3 feet. In a DVD, “*All Washed Up: Lake Michigan’s Algae Challenge*,” produced in 2008 by University of Wisconsin’s Sea Grant program, its authors say:

“Since about 2002, great gobs of algae have been fouling many of Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan beaches and rocky shorelines. When it rots in the sun, the algae gives off a powerful stench that smells like sewage...The algae blunts tourism spending, lowers property values, and clogs industrial water intake pipes. The costs add up to millions of dollars each year.”

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) has received a second WDNR River Planning Grant designed to help local groups cultivate a stewardship ethic among their members. LNRP has partnered with the WDNR and many other organizations for the past six years to use education and coordination to support local community efforts to maintain or improve the health of natural resources through the **We All Live on the Water** campaign and the **Explore & Restore** programming. This project proposes to bring these partners together along with new partners in innovative ways to advance our common river stewardship goals. Friends of the Branch River will be a continuing partner in the extension of the **We All Live on the Water** campaign and **Explore and Restore** programming. The proposal provides a good match to the mission of the group: *to promote the conservation and preservation of the Branch River as a valuable resource by raising community awareness and support through individual outreach as well as organized activities.*

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Groundwater Protection Partnership Formed with NRCS Cooperative Agreement

Glacierland RC&D signed a cooperative agreement with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) last fall to fund a collective partnership focused on stronger groundwater protection in Karst areas. Glacierland RC&D, the County Conservation Departments in Brown, Calumet, and Kewaunee Counties, the Kewaunee County Groundwater Guardians, the Calumet Groundwater Guardians, the Department of Natural Resources, and LNRP represent this partnership team. Participating counties will pursue the best use of resources for accumulating data on well testing and mapping of karst areas. As this data is developed, a series of outreach events and programming will be planned with a regional conference scheduled for July 19.

LNRP also has funding from Freshwater Futures to help develop a media campaign focused on stronger groundwater protection. The media campaign will link groundwater contamination to not only environmental concerns but to human health concerns as well, mobilizing communities, governments, and state agencies to revisit rules and implement stronger protection policies.

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Lake Michigan Stakeholders (LMS) Going Through Strategic Planning

The LMS Steering Committee started a formal strategic planning process last October with additional meetings scheduled for January and February. The process has created a set of bylaws for the organization with plans for a member approved 2011-12 *Action Plan*. The group is establishing an action plan based on a common set of goals and

Tooley says, "One reason for sustaining ourselves as an organization is because *Cladophora* hasn't gone away and remains a visible sign that there's still a problem. Even if the source of the problem isn't clear, the *Cladophora* is right there in our backyards. It's been with us since we came together as an organization and, unfortunately, addressing it hasn't been as straightforward as we would've liked."



also provided training for proper sampling."

"Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA) and C-CARES challenged the DNR permit for the CAFO regarding water quality management and we won," Tooley explains, "which made people statewide aware of our organization. This case established the legal precedent that proper citizen water monitoring must be considered by the DNR when writing permits." Subsequently, the operation has invested a lot of money adding a digester along with implementing additional BMPs. C-CARES this past summer acknowledged the improvements which substantially reduced odor and took down their protest signs. "For the first time since 2003," Tooley says, "we could open our windows most of the summer." The next issue, still unresolved, is to determine if the water in area creeks has improved.

The last several years, "we've put on some terrific educational forums giving our organization a great deal of credibility," Tooley adds. "Back in 2006, people perceived these issues of poor water quality, odor and beach closings as coming from Milwaukee sewage. So we invited Kevin Shafer, Executive Director at the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, to speak at one of our forums. Using data from the latest scientific research available, Mr. Shafer explained that beach closings in Manitowoc County are not caused by any Milwaukee related problems."

"While we're grateful the odor is greatly reduced, has the water quality really improved? In 2005, there was a large fish kill in Fischer Creek from runoff beneath the farm and the operators were fined \$60,000. Hopefully we are beyond those problems. CAFOs are complex, highly industrialized operations so there are no simple solutions to protect our water. It's a scale issue, with more risk due to the mere size and nutrient load from a CAFO with thousands of animals. BMPs help manage silage leachate, excessive manure spreading and the dangers in a karst topography. However, BMPs and regulations in and of themselves accomplish nothing without follow-up and oversight."



"Buffers along side of creeks are an effective BMP to reduce runoff pollution. Manitowoc County's Soil and Water Conservation Department helped us get a grant to install significant buffering in the Town of Centerville. Another significant success we've had is getting passed a fairly effective Manitowoc County septic ordinance, one of the best in Wisconsin. C-CARES also took water samples for DNA analysis to determine if the *E.coli* found in Point and Fischer Creeks is bovine related. Two tests said yes and a follow-up study said no. DNA analysis will continue, but it is both expensive and not legally usable. Rules to address ammonia release in the air from CAFOs are still needed. We were promised action by 2007; however, the DNR pushed it back to 2012. Cropland-buried field tiles are a potential conduit to move liquid manure into creeks. Due to the efforts of C-CARES, DATCP and the DNR now recognize that improved BMPs are required."

So, what has sustained C-CARES, given the magnitude of water quality issues? "The problem is visible and we have had success. Forcing attention to the problems, getting science based BMPs and improved rules sustain the group," Tooley asserts. "We collaborate with UW-Manitowoc and LNRP to engage the public. We received a \$750 water sampling grant from LNRP and we continue to work with them. A really exciting new development is hands-on studies of water quality being done by UW-Manitowoc students. Thanks to the involvement of Professors Abler and Hein, students will be doing extensive creek analysis twice a year."

"Besides MEA, we work with the Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network and others. LNRP got us a grant for our seminar series which helped us evolve into a solid group of more than 100 donating members who provide great

priorities to implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and promote a stewardship ethic among all constituents. Throughout the process, the Steering Committee has been striving for consensus to provide consistent and reliable guidance to its members. The stakeholders are also anticipating additional Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds to be allocated sometime very soon.

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NEW Wilderness Alliance Continues to Build Momentum

An initial symposium was held on June 15 to evaluate the interest and benefits of a collaboration of conservation organizations and agencies in Northeast Wisconsin. A second conference was held on October 25, with participants working to develop an *Action Plan* based on six topic areas: *Climate Change, Leave No Child Inside, Culture and the Arts, Restoration, Green Infrastructure, and Ecological Planning*. These focus areas have become the organization's road map and, through a follow-up survey to workshop participants, the NEW Wilderness Alliance is poised to launch a series of programs and initiatives.

NEWWA will use a watershed-centered approach to help plan and coordinate a regional open space plan to control invasive plants and animals, increase biodiversity through habitat protection, encourage sustainable land use, and increase water quality by substantially decreasing the amount of phosphorous pollution entering the watershed. A second initiative will focus on making a business case for the economic value of the area's natural resources and encourages regional governmental collaboration in the use of shared watershed resources. The group hopes to become a network designed to be a central clearinghouse system for all natural resource and biodiversity information including maps, atlases, research, etc. The *2011 Action Plan* calls for the development of a plan to bring nature to people, based at the region's Nature Centers and State Parks, through such programs as; Kids and Mentors Outdoors (KAMO), Green Bus for urban youth, and by hosting a variety of local events and workshops.

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LNRP Reappoints Board Members and Selects Officers

During our annual January Retreat, LNRP's Board of Directors reappointed Don Pirrung, Ed Douglass, and Don Schwobe. Don Pirrung was re-elected President and Ed Douglass was re-elected as Treasurer. The Board of Directors currently consists of 14 members representing both program areas and the geography of the Lakeshore Basin. Check our "[Contact Us](#)" page on our website for bios of all current Board Members and staff.

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representation at events. Thanks to the many C-CARES volunteers along with LNRP's *We All Live on the Water* campaign focusing on *Cladophora*, and the Phosphorous Conference in 2008 culminating in release of the *All Washed Up: Lake Michigan's Algae Challenge* documentary, we've successfully managed to get these issues on area residents' radar. While our work and vigilance continue to focus on these complex issues, we're proud of what we've been able to accomplish."

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Art with a Purpose

This past autumn, the Water's Edge Artists launched an educational outreach program with the Manitowoc School System called **Art with a Purpose**. The program brought together middle school and high school students with artists during paint-outs at Point Beach, Silver Creek Park, and the Dodge Preserve. The students engaged with the artists to hone their own artistic talents. Student works were then added to the annual Water's Edge Artists exhibit in October at the Rahr-West Art Museum in Manitowoc.

The long-term objective of this project is to foster a stewardship ethic by appealing to individuals' heartfelt connection with the beauty of nature. Throughout history, art has proven to be a powerful messenger with the ability to initiate entire movements. The Water's Edge Artists are exploring what stewardship means and how their art can help foster a stewardship ethic that protects our priceless natural resources and strengthens communities. The initial effort proved so successful that LNRP and the Water's Edge Artists are seeking to expand the effort to youth at risk in both Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties.

The intention for "Art With A Purpose" is to mentor and teach children that creating art can go beyond the visual or tactile and actually be a vehicle to make a difference in our world. To actively engage in the act of environmental stewardship, protection, and preservation, students, with their own plein air painting kits, will shadow and partner with Water's Edge Artists on-site at paint-outs. By experiencing the challenge of creating with all of the forces and stimulus of nature unfolding before them, young artists will be encouraged to physically and emotionally connect on a deeper level to the natural world. This engagement will come full circle with students preparing their works for exhibit, under the guidance of mentor artists, and then showing their works



and talking with the public to raise awareness of vital water issues. We believe that this joint venture will enrich young lives in unique and far-reaching ways. We hope to build an enduring and deeper understanding that will benefit not just the individuals involved, but families and communities as well. We will partner with the United Way, the Sheboygan SafeHouse, the Manitowoc County Domestic Violence Center, Marco House, and other caring institutions with young people needing support and opportunities. This project will add to a series of efforts that LNRP has put forth to generate a stewardship ethic among people across the Lakeshore Basin.

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NERN Launches Membership Campaign



As reported in earlier newsletters, the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) formally partnered with the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN) in 2010. This partnership will facilitate the transition of NERN's 12-year coalition effort into a formal program to raise awareness, conserve and protect the unique resources and landscapes of the Niagara Escarpment Corridor. The assimilation of the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network coincided with the State Legislative Proclamation (2009-AJR1) that designated 2010 as "Year of the Niagara Escarpment," and May of 2010 as "Month of the Niagara Escarpment."

This action was taken for several reasons: 1) to provide increased administrative capacity, particularly based on experiences involving coordination of the "Year of the Niagara Escarpment" efforts; 2) to reach out to additional stakeholders with similar stewardship interests, and; 3) to take advantage of LNRP's non-profit status so NERN can raise funds and apply for grants. NERN is now considered to be a major program area of LNRP.

To further support the initiative, NERN is launching a new membership campaign. Annual membership fees will help assure continuation of several existing NERN programs focused on building awareness of the Niagara Escarpment and conserving its many unique and globally significant resources. Additional information regarding the membership structure and benefits of formally joining NERN and LNRP can be found on NERN's website (www.escarpmentnetwork.org), or by email (niagara@escarpmentnetwork.org).

Our goals for NERN are to protect and conserve the Niagara Escarpment as a unique geological formation. The Niagara Escarpment is an internationally significant geologic feature that spans the Great Lakes and defines the western edge of the Lakeshore Basin.

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](#).





Our joint efforts will focus on conserving its significant geology and biodiversity, protecting groundwater resources, protecting heritage and cultural landscapes, and developing geo-tourism initiatives, including our Ledge Tours and the Great Arc Bike Route that promote awareness and a stewardship ethic. Continue to check NERN's website for planned events and activities during 2011 (www.escarpmentnetwork.org), and help us continue celebrating the Niagara Escarpment every year!

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