

Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership  
The Source: Your Guide to Action and Stewardship in the Lakeshore

## **Summer 2012**

### **Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed Kicks Off Earth Week**

On Saturday, April 14, 2012, in honor of Earth Day, approximately 130 local citizens from the Manitowoc area gathered at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum to clean all of the accessible Lakeshore city beaches and two miles of the Manitowoc River. A newly formed group, calling themselves "Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed," organized the cleanup activity. Armed with bags, buckets, gloves, pick-up sticks and tally sheets, these citizens cleaned the beaches for two hours collecting approximately 35 large bags of garbage. The group collected countless tires, bottles, plastic bags, soda cans, metal pipes, cigarette butts, newspaper and paper, articles of clothing and other miscellaneous items. A few weeks later, the group cleaned Red Arrow South and Red Arrow North beaches as well. All information on the debris was tallied and was forwarded to the Alliance for the Great Lakes and American Rivers.



The Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed hopes this marks the beginning of many cleaning events to be organized and conducted by the group. The two events were a huge success. All supplies were sponsored by the city and supported by the Mayor's Office of Manitowoc. Other sponsors for the event were Natural Ovens, Piggly Wiggly, Woodland Dunes, Wisconsin Maritime Museum and the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership.

If you are interested in joining the group or participating in one of their upcoming events, contact Kim Kettner at 920-242-1993.

### **LNRP Receives River Planning Grants**

LNRP will continue to cultivate environmental stewardship through watershed-based activities with new funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

#### *Friends of Hika Bay*

One grant will help implement the 5-year work plan for the Friends of Hika Bay. Activities include on-going bird surveys in the Centerville Creek corridor and Fischer Creek Conservation

Area, water quality sampling in the frontal watersheds of Calvin, Pine, Point, Fischer, and Centerville Creeks, and invasive species removal in the natural areas of these same watersheds.

#### *Friends of the Branch River*

A second grant will help launch a Youth Conservation Leadership Program in partnership with the Friends of the Branch River Watershed. Vickie Mayer initiated the planning for the program last year by donating her Champion of Conservation award to the group. Her 'seed money' was matched with funds from the friends' group. Vickie was selected as a 2011 Champion for her life-long work on environmental issues in Manitowoc County. The newly acquired grant funds will launch a set of activities designed to instill a strong conservation ethic and provide opportunities for mentoring interested young people.

#### *Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed*

The third grant is designed to launch a group formed in early 2012, the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed. Through a series of *Explore and Restore* events, the grant will provide opportunities for LNRP to partner with the Wisconsin Maritime Museum and the Manitowoc-Two Rivers YMCA along with the citizen-led friends' group. The group initiated clean-up events on the river and local beaches this spring and is planning additional events this summer.

#### **Free Training to Detect and Remove Invasive Species**

Tom Ward, LNRP Board Secretary and Invasive Species Specialist, will offer a free training, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 P.M., at John Kirsch's barn across from Hika Park and Centerville Creek, 1148 Lakeshore Drive, Cleveland; 920-693-3209. Participants will learn how to detect Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed near Centerville Creek and the surrounding area. The event will take place weather permitting; a back-up evening is scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup> in case of rain. Participants need to bring a pair of gloves. RSVP to participate: Jenn Hansmann, jenn@LNRP.org.

#### **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunity Offered by Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed**

On Saturday, September 15th, 9:00-11:00 a.m., you're invited to take part in the world's largest shoreline cleanup! Volunteers will break up into teams to clean each of our Lake Michigan beaches from Silver Creek Park in the south to Neshotah Beach in the north. This event is coordinated by Alliance for the Great Lakes and Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Wendy at 684-0218 x 115 or wlutzke@wisconsinmaritime.org.

#### **Fall 2012**

#### **LAKESHORE NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES 2012 'WISCONSIN IDEA' AWARD**

We were gratified and surprised to receive the 2012 Wisconsin Idea Award from the UW Colleges and UW-Extension. UW Colleges and UW-Extension Chancellor Ray Cross presented the award to LNRP and Friends of Hika Bay at the institutions' Chancellor's Awards Reception, September 20, in Madison. The annual Chancellor's Awards recognize UW Colleges and UW-Extension partners, supporters and employees for their outstanding contributions to the quality of life in Wisconsin.

In giving the award, Cross praised LNRP and Friends of Hika Bay for bringing together the community and the university in the common goal to improve and preserve water quality in northeast and east central Wisconsin.

UW-Manitowoc Campus Executive Officer and Dean Dr. Charles Clark nominated our two organizations for their “ongoing partnership and collaboration with university campuses and governmental agencies to provide students with a life-enhancing opportunity to get boots-on-the-ground, in-the-field experience in the biological sciences.”

“The Wisconsin Idea emphasizes collaboration and extending the expertise of the University of Wisconsin beyond campus borders,” Dr. Clark said. “This unique partnership among LNRP, Friends of Hika Bay, and UW campuses provides a model to improve our local habitat and society. The Award is a testament to the vision and energy of LNRP Executive Director Dr. Jim Kettler, Friends of Hika Bay Water Quality Chair Russ Tooley, and Village of Cleveland President Cindy Huhn to engage our biological science faculty and students with field trips and internships in water quality sampling and monitoring, bird tracking, and projects related to remediation of Centerville Creek, Hika Bay and Fischer Creek.

“Dr. Kettler and Russ Tooley have worked closely with UW-Manitowoc’s Dr. Rebecca Abler and Dr. Richard Hein, professors of biological sciences, who wrote letters of support,” Dr. Clark added.

Additionally, LNRP engaged previously during two semesters with UW-Madison Landscape Architecture students to re-design Hika Bay Park. Horticulture Department students at Lakeshore Technical College, Cleveland Campus, are involved in selecting, replanting and monitoring invasive plant species at Hika Bay as well.

Jim Kettler said, “We are deeply honored to be receiving such special recognition with this Award. It really goes to all the people who’ve been involved with us these last few years – residents, academia, Village trustees, and the students themselves.”

The Wisconsin Idea Award honors individuals or organizations outside the UW (System) that have made significant contributions to society; the economy; the environment or the quality of life at the local, state, national or international level through involvement with the UW Colleges or UW-Extension.

(Photo preceded by caption)

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) and the Friends of Hika Bay (FHB) are recipients of the University of Wisconsin Colleges and University of Wisconsin-Extension 2012 Chancellor’s Wisconsin Idea Award for bringing together the community and the university in the common goal of improving and protecting water quality in northeastern Wisconsin. Chancellor Ray Cross (back row, right) congratulated some of those involved in the restoration of Centerville Creek at the Chancellor’s Award Event Sept. 20, 2012, in Madison.

Front row: Rebecca Abler, UW-Manitowoc associate professor of biological sciences; Jim Kettler, executive director of LNRP; Russ Tooley, water quality chair of FHB; Cindy Huhn, president of the Village of Cleveland.

Back row: UW-Manitowoc CEO/Dean Charles E. Clark; Ethan Poling, UW-Manitowoc student; Chancellor Ray Cross

Photo by Jim Gill/Wisconsin Public Television



### **Ten Groups Engage in LNRP Lakeshore Water Summit**

On August 29<sup>th</sup> at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, LNRP brought together 30 representatives from 10 citizen groups to network, share stories and learn more about our ongoing challenges with water quality in the lakeshore region. Organizations included the Calumet Co. and

WE ALL LIVE  
ON THE  
*Water*  
Life Depends on It. Protect It.

Kewaunee Co. Groundwater Guardians, Door County Environmental Council, Friends of Hika Bay, Friends of Manitowoc River Watershed, Friends of the Branch River, Friends of the Twin Rivers, Kewaunee Cares, Clean Water Action Council and Door Co. Property Owners.

Well tests in Kewaunee County demonstrate problems in **30% of those tested** with pollution from nitrates, harmful bacteria or both and problems continue in Calumet County as well. A new citizen's group formed in Kewaunee County, Kewaunee Cares, to educate the public about groundwater issues along with other environmental challenges.

The summit's goal: to begin developing a collective message, *We All Live on the Water* as well as explore each organization's challenges and aspirations, and ultimately to engage in effective advocacy on these critical issues facing our ground and surface water quality.

LNRP President Chris Goebel welcomed participants and spoke to our mission of cultivating environmental stewardship in the lakeshore region. Ben Turschak, a graduate student at the WATER Institute in Milwaukee, addressed the science behind the abundance of the nuisance invader *Cladophora* along the Lake Michigan shoreline and presented data on Lake Michigan's water chemistry. He focused on the causes of algae blooms and subsequent algal mats along its shoreline, which degrade property values and lead to other bacterial invaders such as *E. Coli*, resulting in beach closings. The WATER Institute research has identified the Quagga mussel which converts phosphorus from polluted runoff into dissolved P creating the algal mats. This small invader filters water so effectively that it disrupts the food chain for deep-water fisheries.

Specific trends regarding groundwater and nitrates were addressed by UWEX - Stevens Point scientist Kevin Masarik who analyzes groundwater from county well testing. His data indicates that septic systems are not the major contributor to nitrate leaching with less than 32 septic systems per 10 acres when compared to land use dominated by corn production. He acknowledged that nutrient management rules for landowners are not written to protect groundwater from exceeding safe nitrate levels. Kevin also said it really should be up to local communities to decide how to balance the needs of their community, whether their priority is successful conventional agricultural practices or providing safe drinking water.

The group discussed key issues concluding that communities dominated by one land use will continue to have nitrate issues with their ground and surface waters. Those striving for diversity in land use may be able to provide safer drinking water, of which conventional agriculture can be a part. Other land uses -- such as crop diversity and less intensive agriculture, better manure management (less dependence on commercial fertilizers), new technology and non-agricultural land use -- could reduce the amount of nitrogen applied in the whole area.

Discovery Farms' Eric Cooley spoke about surface water and phosphorus runoff from agricultural fields. They collected water quality data from crop fields during rain events, measuring different field tillage practices and nutrient management to figure out which reduce phosphorus runoff the most. No-till or reduced till works to reduce soil erosion and particulate phosphorus but lead to higher dissolved phosphorus. Researchers are trying to find additional best management practices to effectively reduce particulate phosphorus.

Each group presented its goals, successes and challenges. State Senator Joe Leibham joined them over the working lunch and addressed the need to hear from people about their concerns. Senator

Leibham sees that as his responsibility to his constituents and encouraged all of us to send e-mails or call him on specific issues related to the environment and water quality.

The River Alliance of Wisconsin's Allison Werner presented tools for effective advocacy for clean water and how to communicate our message. She suggested inviting legislators on a tour to view how water quality impacts people's everyday lives, especially where there is a problem or following a remediation.

Participants of the Summit felt the networking, sharing of stories and gaining ideas were most impressive. With that foundation, others found the morning presentations (Ben, Kevin and Eric) and toolbox (Allison) most useful because of the integrity of the information presented. Most would like to see follow up workshops, bringing ideas from the gathering to the forefront. As a result of their attendance, all organizations will incorporate the *We All Live On The Water* campaign into their own action plans, with LNRP keeping them updated and bridging the gap between various groups to start a dialogue on the challenging topics discussed at the Summit. People evaluated the Summit with high praise, expressing they came out of it inspired. LNRP will be meeting with the groups this fall and winter to explore next steps. The Summit was made possible with funding from Freshwater Future.

### **Beach Ecology, Succession, and Why Invasive Species Matter**

On the stormy night of October 25<sup>th</sup>, some 15 hearty folks came to the Wisconsin Maritime Museum for an informative discussion on Beach Ecology. The seminar was the first of three public seminars offered by the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed. The group was established in February, 2012 and has 32 members.



Carolyn Rock, WDNR Naturalist/Educator at Whitefish Dunes State Park in Door County, said the key components of a beach are vegetative matter, water movement, sand composition, beach and shoreline topography and external influences.

"Results from our beach research at Whitefish Dunes is totally different than what we thought it would be...Vegetation varies from native to invasive species, and location and quantity...and it turns out glaciers create smooth rocks, not

the sand or water. If we based our communities on watersheds instead of counties, our cities would look very different. Our recent experience of the longest low water on record underscores

our need to pay attention and do what we can to adapt to and mitigate our changing climatic conditions.”

Jim Knickelbine, Director of Woodland Dunes Nature Center in Two Rivers, spoke about what they’ve discovered in exploring their ridge and swale communities. Woodland Dunes’ property contains 14 old beach ridges up to 5,000 years old. While succession ecology is supposed to be ‘gradual and orderly...(leading to) a stable climax,’ it rarely happens that way and nature destroys and rebuilds through wind, storms, fire, and drought. Sunlight is the ultimate controlling factor for beach succession and determines what plant species will thrive. The ridge swale communities are fragile and highly changeable, relying on plant communities to stabilize them.

Tom Ward, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for Manitowoc County, addressed the issues and ongoing challenges with invasive plant species. He said that *Phragmites* and other species could take over our road ditches and are already being found on our beaches. Their pervasive nature and ability to spread quickly make them difficult to control. Participants left with a greater appreciation for the complexity of managing our Lake Michigan beaches for aesthetics and water quality since “We All Live on the Water!”



## Friends of Hika Bay

Calvin, Pine, Point, Fischer & Centerville Watersheds

### Ridge & Swale Ecology Explored

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Cleveland Campus of Lakeshore Technical College, a dozen people from the Friends of Hika Bay, Village of Cleveland and LNRP attended a presentation on ridge and swale ecology with Jon Gumtow from Stantec. Jon showed examples of ridge/swale systems, unique to large water bodies like the Great Lakes, and present at The Ridges Sanctuary in Baileys Harbor and Point Beach State Park north of Two Rivers.

In redesigning Hika Park in Cleveland, he stated the need to get clear objectives, consider how they’d like it to function and what they’d like it to look like. He and Ron Schaper from the Friends of Hika Bay said it’s important to use materials on-site and keep it as natural as possible. The group can use adaptive management strategies allowing adjustments as needed given a commitment to make it work. A permit will be needed for trails so knowing the wetland boundary is important. Jon suggests sticking with the plan Ron described and dealing with the invasive species. Friends of Hika Bay need to plan for a topography and vegetation survey early next spring; determine the wetland delineation for whole area; and conduct thorough soil sampling. The group will need to spend a year clearing invasive species seeds from the soil before introducing native plants such as cedars, white and yellow birch and hemlock. Jon’s

presentation and the ensuing discussion helped clarify the next steps for Hika Park. Stay tuned as this project progresses.

### **Manitowoc/Two Rivers YMCA Hosts Community Paddle**

Joe Metzen, Community Development Director, for the Manitowoc County YMCA hosted an 'awareness paddle' October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 with the help of Wendy Lutzke, Environmental Educator at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed, and Manitowoc School District. The event was funded by the DNR River Planning Grant received by the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership.



Metzen said 40 people participated from as far away as Plymouth, consisting of 23 kayaks and canoes. Most were privately owned but the Manitowoc School District brought kayaks for participants without boats. Wendy Lutzke gave a quick presentation on the ecology of the Manitowoc River and a history of the watershed before the group embarked on the 4-5 mile paddle from Manitou Park to the YMCA in downtown Manitowoc.

He added, "We had great feedback from the paddlers. We learned they are willing to stick around after the event and discuss what they learned. Next year, we will host two events before July 1<sup>st</sup> and include an educational program following the paddle."

"We are thrilled at this collaborative effort with LNRP, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed, the Manitowoc School District and the YMCA."

### **Local Friends Group Pitches in to Make a Difference**

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed (FMRW) with citizen volunteers from around the Lakeshore area came out to demonstrate their concern about the health of our beaches. Approximately 173 hard working individuals participated in the Adopt-a-Beach event, sponsored by the



Alliance for the Great Lakes. The FMRW assigned leaders to 11 city beaches, and with Alliance support, provided all the needed materials and supplies to make the clean-up event a success.

FMRW organizer Kim Kettner said, “We are proud of our community and want to make a difference in an on-going effort to support the water quality issues in our watershed. Through this activity alone, we collected over 366 pounds of litter, with cigarette filters being the most plentiful. Other items we collected included tires, plastic bags, aluminum cans, glass bottles and cups.

“The FMRW membership includes every sector of the population from students to teachers, local employees, Franciscan Sisters and other concerned citizens. We thank all who participated, especially our leaders who stepped up to keep each beach crew on task with the end result being beautiful beaches for everyone to enjoy.”

### **Winter 2013**

#### **Centerville Creek – Up and Flowing**

Centerville Creek has once again become a healthy flowing stream, meandering its way into Lake Michigan. The multi-year restoration project is 90% completed, and the impressive results are a visible eye opener.

Following removal of the Centerville Dam in 1996, sediments and erosion made the stream a safety hazard, a biological wasteland and essentially a desert for migratory birds and native plant species.

The principle participants in its transformation were InterFluve, a nationally recognized engineering firm that restores water resources; the elected officials of the Village of Cleveland; Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership; The Centerville Creek Advisory Committee; and Friends of Hika Bay.

During the summer of 2012, earth-moving equipment was busy digging and dumping dirt into the expanded Hika Park, otherwise known as Hika Sands. The creek was cleaned out and shaped to meander to produce healthier water quality and flow. UW-Manitowoc students teamed up to conduct water quality samples throughout the summer, producing an extensive database of information. Stumps and rocks were strategically placed in the riverbed to create



quality habitats for fish and other aquatic species. Invasive species were eradicated with volunteers to further enhance the riparian environment, and native woodland grasses were planted. Plans are in place for a massive tree planting in the spring of 2013, as a collaborative project with the community and local schools.

Years of cooperation, expertise, fundraising, persistence, and hard work paid off in this immense undertaking.

The Village Board recently designated the creek corridor as park lands, greatly expanding the size of Hika Park. This impressive restoration converted an area of local concern and decay into a viable wildlife corridor and enhanced community resource. Stay tuned for the final stage of this transformative process!



Friends of the Branch River Watershed is presenting a workshop on Animal Tracks and Signs. Expert Kyle Koch from Medicine Hawk Wilderness Skills will lead the class on Saturday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am-Noon at Woodland Dunes Nature Preserve. He will show how to identify animals by their footprints and the patterns of their gaits. Time will be spent both inside and outdoors. Check out their facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsBranchRiverWI?ref=ts&fref=ts>



## Friends of Hika Bay

Calvin, Pine, Point, Fischer & Centerville Watersheds

Friends of Hika Bay is planning a massive Tree Planting project May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>, in the nearly restored Centerville Creek Corridor. With grants and private funds, we will be planting over 1,000 trees and shrubs. Come get your hands dirty; we are looking for volunteers and shovels for the planting. Please contact us to sign your friends, family or organization up for the cause.

Friends of Hika Bay is also planning a Lakeshore Tour. We will explore Point Creek, Pine Creek and the beach ecology of Lake Michigan. There will also be a training session on beach cleanup and how to control Cladophora. Join us for a gazebo conversation and training on the effectiveness of GPS coordinants and invasive species rectification. Bringing the community together to steward our precious Lakeshore.

Please check out their website: [www.hika-bay.org](http://www.hika-bay.org)



Nearly a year ago, a group of local individuals who wanted to help care for the Manitowoc River formed the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed. Now the group, and LNRP, are gearing up for a Climate Change Seminar March 7<sup>th</sup>, at The Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc. It is the second of three seminars presented by the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed and LNRP, focusing on adapting to climate change.

In honor of Earth Day, on April 20<sup>th</sup>, the friends group will gather to clean all accessible Lakeshore city beaches. Everyone is welcome to volunteer for the impactable beach cleanup. On this day, they will also have a booth at the Manitowoc Earth Day celebration at Lincoln High School.

“Friend” them on facebook to stay updated on current information:

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheManitowocRiverWatershed?fref=ts>

### **Spring 2013**

#### **Hika Park Restoration Project**

A multi-year project to remediate Centerville Creek and Hika Park in Cleveland should culminate this year with the construction of what we hope will mimic a ridge swale ecosystem, the construction of a pedestrian bridge connecting the south and north portions of the park, and native landscaping in the Centerville Creek corridor.

By Village of Cleveland Board approval in September 2012, Hika Park increased six times by adding the Hika Shores property and the newly restored Centerville Creek corridor.



The Friends of Hika Bay will continue to monitor invasive species and the health of the trees being planted this year.

LNRP and the Friends of Hika Bay will also continue to monitor water quality using interns from UW-Manitowoc. This partnership gives students real life experience in the environmental sciences and project design.

### **Climate Change**

Climate Change Forums were held in Manitowoc County in collaboration with the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed. The first in the series on March 7<sup>th</sup> introduced participants to the changes in our region's climate from a panel of experts.



The second forum was hosted by Dr. Jim Brey, education director with the American Meteorological Association and Evan Murdoch, from UW Sea Grant, on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Nearly 50 participants attended. The next step will be to form a committee of interested volunteers to engage further with Evan Murdoch to initiate planning for climate resiliency. Stay tuned for news as this process evolves.

### **Beach Clean Up**

For the second year, on April 20<sup>th</sup> Friends of the Manitowoc Watershed participated in a Beach Clean-Up in honor of Earth Day on the beaches in the City of Manitowoc. Over 120 people participated and hauled nearly 1,000 pounds of garbage off our beaches! The event was featured on Channel 11's *Good Day Wisconsin* and a lengthy article in the *Herald Times Reporter*.

### **River Clean-up with Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed**

The Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed with the YMCA will host a clean-up of the Manitowoc River on June 8 at 10:00 a.m., sponsored by the American Rivers. Volunteers will meet at Manitou Park parking lot in Manitowoc. Paddlers will travel as far as the river will allow towards the YMCA, depending on weather conditions, how many people are involved and the state of the river. FMRW coordinator, Kim Kettner, says, "We are looking to get the YMCA paddlers involved and hope to make this an annual active Explore and Restore event. We welcome any one with an interest in cleaning up our waterways. Participants will need their own recreational canoes or kayaks. If you don't have a boat and wish to sign up to clean by foot, call Kim Kettner, 920-242-1993 or email, [kkettnerm@hotmail.com](mailto:kkettnerm@hotmail.com)." FMRW will provide supplies except working gloves. No make-up date is scheduled.

### **Summer 2013**

#### **Manitowoc County Friend Groups Stepping Up!**

*Photos by Jim Kettler and Jenn Hansmann*

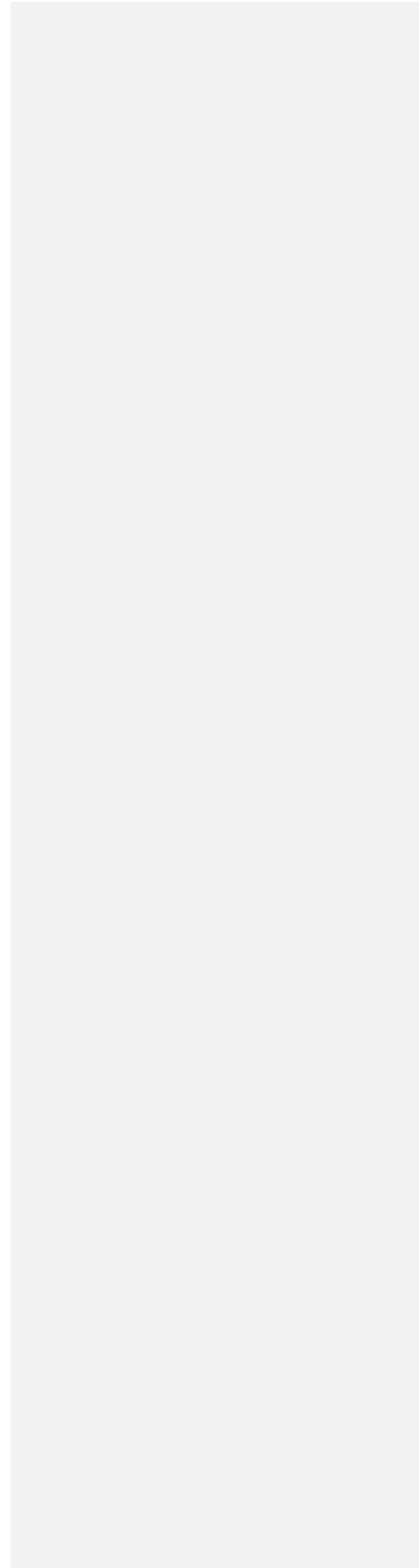
As our regional communities are beginning to mobilize around water quality ethics and concerns, we are seeing a real emergence of groups acting to restore, protect and enhance the waters of Manitowoc County. The oldest group, the Friends of the Branch River Watershed, has been active for over a decade. Friends of Hika Bay, Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed, Friends of the Twin Rivers, and the Little Manitowoc River Partnership have all formed since 2011. LNRP is also looking to partner with the Manitowoc County Lakes Association.

**Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed**

The Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed formed in early 2012 under the leadership of coordinators Kim Kettner and Wendy Lutzke. They've already conducted three Manitowoc beach clean-ups and one of the Manitowoc River, and hosted seminars on beach ecology and climate change. For the group's vision for the next five years, Kim Kettner said, "As I look forward, there are two areas I would like to see the group develop (to strengthen) the partnership between the Friends of the Manitowoc River and City officials. We have established ourselves as a hard working group and I believe we have a lot to offer our community. There is a lot to be done and assets are slim. With a little trust and teamwork we can achieve great things!"

"The Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed is trying to educate, create awareness and connect the community to one of its most overlooked assets -- water! Whether it be through climate change, invasive species, water quality, recreation or business opportunities, our goals are to get future generations involved to protect, restore and preserve the Manitowoc River, its watershed and Lake Michigan."

Joe Metzen, Community Development Director at the Manitowoc-Two Rivers YMCA, is partnering with Friends of the Manitowoc River and LNRP to promote the use of the waterways on the lakeshore. He'd like to "educate community members on water safety, grow the number of people increasing their overall wellness through kayaking and canoeing," as well as educate the public about the opportunities to use our area's wonderful natural resources and the history and ecology of our waterways.



He added, "I think the YMCA as a community partner can be a valuable partner in growing the safe use of area waterways. We can also play a large role in educating children through our focus on Youth Development and Social Responsibility and, most notably, through our teen service learning program. The Y believes in the overall success of our whole community and anything we can do as an organization to help enhance the quality of life for all community members is worthwhile."

### **Friends of the Branch River Watershed**

The Friends of the Branch River formed in 1996 under the leadership of John Roberts, also the founder of LNRP. In its first decade, the group focused to improve and preserve the Branch River watershed through education, communication and cooperation by providing local

leadership, branching out into the community through activities, events and presentations.



Last February, Calumet County Water Specialist Dani Santry with the Resource Management Department addressed 'What is in Your Water?' for the Friends' group. She spoke on the importance of private well testing, what to test for and when, and addressed groundwater susceptibility in karst areas, pesticides and endocrine disrupting chemicals in surface and ground waters.

In the next five years, Friends of the Branch President Tom Ward would like to see "new

and inspired leaders become active in the organization and lead us to deal with new challenges facing the watershed from global warming to groundwater degradation, as well as our membership expand to a younger, more involved, active organization that can advocate protection and restoration of the watershed. As an organization we hope to expand river access for the local community and provide opportunities for more hands-on projects."

"In the next 25 years, land use pressures from agriculture, urbanization and the effects of global warming will become more important. We would like a more engaged community, active in local and state environmental protection as well as engaged in monitoring the watershed's ecosystem."

### **Friends of Hika Bay**

The Friends of Hika Bay formed in 2011 as an evolutionary step from Centerville Creek's restoration citizen advisory team. As the multi-year restoration of Centerville Creek and Hika Park has progressed, the group expanded their efforts to include four other creeks flowing into Hika Bay including Fischer Creek, Point Creek, Pine Creek and Calvin Creek.

The group was awarded the prestigious 2012 Chancellor's *Wisconsin Idea* Award from the University of Wisconsin system for their partnership with UW-Manitowoc using interns for

water sampling and analysis on five creeks in southern Manitowoc County that flow into Lake Michigan. Russ Tooley, Committee Chair-Water Quality, was instrumental in forming the original partnership. Russ explained, “The relationship between UW-Manitowoc, Friends of Hika Bay and Manitowoc County riparian landowners gets stronger every year. Starting from just one intern for summer sampling to four interns with significant funding for each student means our baseline data gets better and more useful. In addition, all of the UW biology students now get their ‘feet wet’ in our local streams, making classroom work more interesting. One of the better parts of the intern program is the opportunity for landowners to see how their local university and science can be applied to problems they see in their own backyards.”

Committee Chair-Invasive Species Ron Schaper recently reflected on the group’s progress to control invasive plant species. “Control of invasive species is progressing. Several species were sprayed or removed last year and more treatments will be needed in the future.” They are cleaning up ‘undesirables’ (such as dames rocket) on the beach and restoring the first sandy ridge of the ridge/swale complex. “We are ‘picking our battles’ and prioritizing to eliminate the more virulent invasives first with our limited resources. We’d like to promote a healthier environment for native plants to flourish and will begin reintroducing these species once we’ve controlled the invasive plants.”

Cleveland’s Hika Park is evolving into a Hika Park System including the original active use boat launching and picnicking component and two ecological components consisting of the Hika Shores beach with near-shore habitat and the Centerville Creek Corridor. All three properties are in the Village and are connected making it a unique lakeshore public asset.



The Friends of Hika Bay has been assisting LNRP and the Village in park planning and monitoring the Centerville Creek and Hika Shores restoration landscaping. Members and supporters have cleared much of the invasive plants from the Hika Shores beach and are continuing this effort into the remaining property. The Friends of Hika Bay organized a tree planting work-day where volunteers planted over 700 trees in the Centerville Creek Corridor.

John Kirsch, Committee Chair – Hika Park, “considers the Hika Park System important because it has direct impact on the health of the natural lakeshore and is an accessible place where the community can enjoy and engage with nature. Viewing the creek corridor from the overlook on Jefferson Street gives you the sense that something great will be created when the trails, bridges and other parts of the Hika Park improvement plan are in place.”

### **Little Manitowoc River Partnership**

In 2012, Justin Winga reached out to LNRP and we co-founded the Little Manitowoc River Partnership. The partnership’s purpose is to facilitate coordination between government agencies, organizations and residents to conserve the Little Manitowoc River Coastal Wetlands.

The group also plans to develop the Little Manitowoc River Conservancy that would stretch from the shore of Lake Michigan 1.5 miles inland, connecting three city parks including the Little Manitowoc River Walkway, Lincoln Park and Indian Creek Park. This area would run along 2.5 miles of the meandering Little Manitowoc River creating a total conservation area of 240 acres.

“We believe successful conservation involves connecting people to nature, both physically and mentally. So, our focus is not only on restoration of the wetlands but development of recreation and educational opportunities as well,” Winga said.

### **Friends of the Twin Rivers (East & West)**

The Friends of the Twin Rivers is an informal association of organizations, explained Jim Knickelbine, Director of Woodland Dunes Nature Center in Two Rivers, home to the new group, “including Woodland Dunes, Glacial Lakes Conservancy and the City of Two Rivers at present, and citizens monitoring water quality on the East and West Twin Rivers who contribute data to the national WAV program.”



“Our five-year goal will be to maintain or expand the level of water quality monitoring by engaging additional volunteers, and to begin habitat restoration projects along the shorelines of the rivers and within their watersheds. And, our 20-year goal is to reach the majority of landowners on the lower Twins with information and assistance on habitat optimization, and to manage invasive species such as *Phragmites*, buckthorn, and purple loosestrife so that resident native wildlife and migratory birds benefit and community quality of life is enhanced.”

### **Manitowoc County Lakes Association**

The Manitowoc County Lakes Association consists of a number of groups representing lake associations throughout the county. LNRP included work on Carstens Lake as part of the water quality sampling on Pine Creek. LNRP is looking to further develop the partnership by providing a Lake Michigan representative as work on any county lake will have an impact downstream and eventually on Lake Michigan. LNRP staff will present details to the group July 25<sup>th</sup> with the



goal of formally establishing the partnership.

### **Friends of the Branch Group Launches Youth Leadership Fund**

Vickie Mayer, 2011 Champion of Conservation and winner of the group's "Lifetime Membership Award," initiated the Youth Leadership Fund for the Youth Leadership Program, officially launched at the Friends of the Branch River's 2013 Spring Banquet. This program will help inspire young people to protect our natural resources, create agents of change by involving them in outdoor adventures and raise awareness of the interconnectedness of all life and environmental stewardship. They'll also gain a sense of place and leadership skills to build future civic engagement. Many conservation organizations in Manitowoc County have few members with young children or young adults. Fostering a stronger leadership potential in young adults will help inspire the next generation of conservation champions and advocates.

### **Youth Outdoors Day with Friends of the Branch River!**

The Friends of the Branch River and the Dodge Preserve near Whitelaw hosted a Youth Outdoor Day, June 8<sup>th</sup> offering short sessions on fishing and river habitats, "alien" invaders (invasive species), a geo-caching/treasure hunt and outdoor photography. The photography session was the most popular. FOBR program assistant, Melissa Lake, said, "For me, the best part of the Youth Outdoor event was seeing what a great experience this was for the youth, parents, and instructors/volunteers."



### **Forum Explored the Economics of Water Resource Protection**



**Friends of Hika Bay**  
Calvin, Pine, Point, Fischer & Centerville Watersheds

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, the Friends of Hika Bay invited the public to explore the economics of water resource protection at a free interactive forum at the Lakeshore Technical College, Cleveland Campus. Laura Grant, assistant professor at UW-Milwaukee, School for Freshwater Sciences and Department of Economics, presented her perspective framed by her research interests in environmental and public economics. A panel representing local stakeholders followed Laura's presentation. Cindy Huhn, Village President and a resident of Cleveland since 1975, discussed the Village of Cleveland's role in the recently completed Centerville Creek restoration project on the shore of Lake Michigan. Catherine Egger has been a realtor with Coldwell Banker for 18 years since returning to Manitowoc and she talked about the need to find a balance of waterfront development and conservation. Mickey Judkins, former executive director of global ventures for the Wisconsin Commerce Department, explored the importance of water quality as an economic driver as well as a health concern for lakeshore citizens. Feedback from participants expressed interest in continuing the conversation and finding ways to invest in water resource protection.

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## Manitowoc River Clean Up

The Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed are going beyond the beach clean-ups they've hosted these last two years. On June 8, 2013, the group brought together 17 volunteers to help clean up the Manitowoc River at Manitou Park as well as in watercraft throughout the lower portions of the river all the way to the YMCA. A total of almost 195 pounds of garbage was collected including a bicycle and tricycle. It was a group effort that follows the mission of the group to provide a unified voice to enhance the Manitowoc River and its watershed.



And, the group registered Manitowoc's beaches for the next Alliance for the Great Lakes beach clean-up, Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, to include: Silver Creek, University, Red Arrow, Lincoln High School, Warm Waters, Ferry, YMCA, Maritime Boat Launch, Memorial Wayside South and Middle Beaches Coordinator Kim Kettner said, "The next step is to have our (community) leaders commit to the event." If you're interested in participating, contact Kim at [kkettner@hotmail.com](mailto:kkettner@hotmail.com).



*Some of the larger items collected from the Manitowoc River*

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## Fall 2013

### LNRP Collaborating to Launch the Lakeshore Water Institute with UW-Manitowoc

Discussions are underway to create a Lakeshore Water Institute at UW-Manitowoc. The partnership between UW-Manitowoc and the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) formed in 2009 when LNRP received a Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant through the US Fish and Wildlife Foundation to

*Student involvement: A rewarding marriage of community engagement, education and science*



restore Centerville Creek. The project called for monitoring water quality throughout the restoration process with UW-Manitowoc interns completing the sampling and analysis. The grant also helped form the Friends of Hika Bay. A series of DNR River Planning Grants expanded into Fischer Creek, Point Creek, Pine Creek, and Calvin Creeks. In 2012, additional data was collected at Carsten's Lake and Pine Creek in collaboration with the Manitowoc County Lakes Association. The partnership earned the UW Colleges Chancellor's *Wisconsin Idea* award in September 2012.

The team has put together a program that creates opportunities for UW-Manitowoc students to engage in community-based action plans through undergraduate research and service learning, and get boots-on-the-ground experience. Student interns collect weekly measurements of physical, chemical and biological characteristics of streams and rivers in the watersheds of Manitowoc County. Additionally, select lab sessions in UW-Manitowoc introductory biology courses sample additional biological and chemical measures along with macro-invertebrates. Testing involves the pH, temperature, flow, turbidity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, ammonia, phosphorus and *E.coli*.

The Institute will be located at UW-Manitowoc and serve the lakeshore region both as a tool for educating and engaging youth, and for developing science-based decisions at the local government level.

The community partnership will be coordinated by LNRP with community-led Friends of Hika Bay, Friends of the Branch River Watershed, Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed, Friends of the Twin Rivers, and the Little Manitowoc River Partnership.

LNRP Executive Director Jim Kettler said, "Our ultimate goal is to cultivate a water ethic and, by doing so, enhance the quality and prosperity of our region. We are excited to be involved with expanding our collaboration with UW-Manitowoc Dean Charles Clark, and biology faculty Richard Hein and Rebecca Ablor."

### **LNRP Friend Groups**

Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed have had some exciting projects this fall. On September 21, 150 volunteers cleaned up 362 pounds of garbage at 11 beaches in Manitowoc as part of the Great Lakes-wide Alliance for the Great Lakes effort. This year's clean-up at Memorial Middle Beach was in association with the Franciscan Sisters who've 'adopted' that beach for tending. The group is also exploring more River Awareness Paddles with the area YMCA next summer, and adopting Schuette Park at a strategy meeting this month. They are providing volunteers to plant grasses at Red Arrow Beach the last two Saturdays in October to assist with the City's restoration efforts.



The Little Manistowic River Partnership is using a DNR 'rapid response grant' to remove *Phragmites* from the site this fall. From habitat analysis conducted earlier this year, that issue called for immediate action to begin restoration and remediation of the 230-acre Little Manistowic Conservancy with LNRP's assistance.

Friends of Hika Bay just completed planting 500 trees along the Hika Shores property as the next step in the multiple-year restoration of Centerville Creek project initiated in 2009. Elementary school teachers from Cleveland Elementary School brought 35 fourth and fifth graders to help plant the Hika Shores property. Brush and debris was removed from the Lake Michigan beach adjoining the property. Additional work on restoring the ridge-swale ecosystem will be continued in Spring 2014 along with construction of both a viewing platform at Centerville Creek and a pedestrian bridge connecting the boat launch area with Hika Shores portion of Hika Park.



Friends of the Branch River Watershed hosted Ruth Johnson, retired WDNR hydrogeologist and 2013 Climate Change Ambassador, on October 7 in Taus.

'Helping Hands for the Dodge Nature Preserve' gathered October 19 to clean up invasive species at this beautiful private preserve. The ever-popular 2013 Photo Contest is still open with entries accepted until November 9. Contact Melissa Lake, 920-382-9605, [info@myoncallassistant.com](mailto:info@myoncallassistant.com) for more information.