

## Cultivating Environmental Stewardship in the Lakeshore Region

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# The Source

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### A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership –

Fall is in the air and with it comes several LNRP programs and projects.

Our Champion of Conservation Award Program selected champions in three topic areas and we will have our award ceremony on November 12 (see article in this newsletter for further information). We have received a number of very strong grant applications for our 2009 Community Grant Program. Decisions on the applications will be made in November.

On the project side, LNRP is working with the Village of Cleveland on plans for restoration of the abandoned millpond on Centerville Creek. We're working with TRC Environmental Solutions, the Calumet County Land and Water Conservation Department, the National Resource Conservation Service, and the Department of Natural Resources to develop complementary restoration projects for Pine Creek. We're also working with the Friends of the Branch and Tom Ward, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for Manitowoc County, on mapping invasive species on the Branch River.



*Jim Kettler enjoying a moment with barn dance guests.*

We're planning several paint-outs with the Water's Edge Artists (WEA) in the upcoming year and plan to expand upon our Conservation Gallery on the WEA website. Selected paintings for the 2010 Lakeshore Waterways Calendar are on exhibit now through November 29 at the Rahr-West Art Museum in Manitowoc.

Finally, we invite you to purchase your 2010 Calendar by visiting our website <link>. As many of you know, the Water's Edge Artists have partnered with the LNRP and have chosen prominent and otherwise overlooked creeks, streams, lakes, rivers and wetlands to feature in their paintings. We hope this calendar will benefit the community of our Lakeshore Basin by becoming a source of inspiration toward building stronger stewardship of these very special waterways.

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### Lakeshore Champion of Conservation Award Program

### Fall 2009



### News from LNRP

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### Wanted: Door County and Manitowoc County Landowner Feedback

During the past six months several new publications were developed for select audiences in the Lakeshore Basin, "Protect the Water You Drink – Tips for

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) and Dominion (NYSE: D), owner of the Kewaunee Power Station, will be hosting their Fall 2009 Lakeshore Champions of Conservation Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 12 at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, 75 Maritime Drive, in Manitowoc.

The environmental award program recognizes and honors the outstanding achievements of groups, programs, organizations, businesses or individuals in a wide range of environmental initiatives throughout Northeastern Wisconsin. The award seeks to pay tribute to those that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence, leadership, and accomplishment in their respective fields.

This year's awardees are the Kewaunee Groundwater Guardians emerging as the Champion of Environmental Education and Outreach Champion and selected as the Champion of Champions; Chuck Wagner selected as the Water Resources Protection Champion; and Terri Lyon selected as Land Use Protection and Habitat Restoration Champion. All award recipients receive recognition plaques, the Champion of Champions will be honored with a donation of \$2,000 and other Champions with a donation of \$500 made on their behalf to the local non-profit environmental organization of their choice.



The program begins at 5:30 pm with a wine and appetizer reception along with guest speaker Joel Brammeier. Joel serves as acting president and CEO of the Alliance for the Great Lakes. On staff since 2001, Joel oversees a staff of 20 professionals dedicated to protecting and restoring clean water, educating citizens and youth and building a sustainable future for the Great Lakes. He has led the development of laws and regulations to prevent invasive species in several Great Lakes states and recently published a report on the urgent need to permanently stop the influx of invaders like Asian carp. He received his master's degree from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources & Environment in 1998, and his bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University in 1996. Prior to joining the Alliance, Joel worked for the American Medical Association. He has lived in the Great Lakes watershed his entire life and now resides on the north side of Chicago.



By sponsoring these awards, LNRP and Dominion hope to encourage our communities to emulate the achievements of the successful nominees, thereby promoting innovative environmental efforts and enhancing the quality of life in the Lakeshore Basin. The event is free and open to the public. See you there!

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## Water's Edge Artists

# WATER'S EDGE Artists

### Exhibit at the Rahr-West Art Museum showcases Lakeshore Waterways Exhibit

A very accomplished group of artists created the Water's Edge Artists group and have been working to support the work of the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP). The artists submitted individual pieces to three jurors that selected the best of show and twelve other paintings for the 2010 Lakeshore Waterways Calendar.

The Waterways Exhibit is currently being shown at the Rahr-West Art Museum through November 29. The original calendar paintings and other works by the artists are being displayed and are for sale. The public is invited to see the exhibit and reflect upon the artist's attempt to create stronger stewardship of our waters. By purchasing a painting, you are directly helping to protect our waterways!

The Rahr-West Art Museum is located at 610 N. 8th Street in Manitowoc.

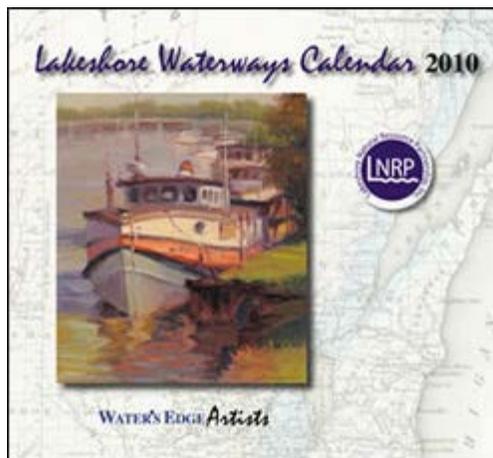
### Get Your 2010 Calendar!

The Water's Edge Artists have chosen prominent and otherwise overlooked creeks, streams, lakes, rivers and wetlands to feature in their paintings. The calendar hopes to capture the essence of these important places through the painters' direct contact with nature.

Click [here for our order form](#) or stop by the Rahr-West Museum, the Woodland Dunes Nature Center, or the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. You can also contact any LNRP Board or Staff Member. The calendar sells for \$15 including shipping and all proceeds go to protect and restore the waterways of the Lakeshore Basin.

### Water's Edge Artists Paint-Out Sponsored by Friends of the Branch

Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.



Owners of Rural Homes and Agricultural Lands in Door County" and a series of four "Explore and Restore" watershed brochures for residents in Manitowoc County in the West Twin, East Twin, Manitowoc and Silver Creek watersheds. There is momentum to replicate or expand upon these efforts in several ways throughout the basin, so it is important to evaluate our effectiveness and to identify ways to improve the products and programs. If you have received any of these publications, or even if you have not, but want to review them and provide feedback, please contact UWEX basin educator, Debbie Beyer, 920-459-6644 or [deb.beyer@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:deb.beyer@ces.uwex.edu). Your interest and help is greatly appreciated!

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### Now Available! "Land Use and Wetlands: A Local Decision Makers' Guide to Wetland Conservation"

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) has released a new publication titled Land Use and Wetlands: A Local Decision Makers' Guide to Wetland Conservation.

The purpose of the Local Decision Makers Guide is to improve wetland conservation and reduce wetland controversies by providing town, village, city and county land use officials with basic information about how wetlands contribute to the economic health, public safety, and quality of life in Wisconsin's communities. The publication also explains how wetlands are regulated under state law and identifies practical steps that local governments can take to improve consideration of wetlands and wetland laws in land use decision-making.

Though tailored specifically for use by local land use decision makers, the Guide can also be used by citizens and lake, river, and watershed groups to help engage local land use officials about the benefits of protecting and restoring wetlands. In fact, WWA developed the publication in direct response to northern Wisconsin lake leaders who expressed a need for tools and information to help them educate local officials on the public benefits of protecting wetlands.

Developed with grant support of the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, the Local Decision Makers Guide can be viewed or downloaded for free from WWA's new local government outreach web-pages at [www.wisconsinwetlands.org](http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org). Print copies can also be requested by contacting Kyle Magyera, WWA Policy Specialist, at 608.250.9971 or [email](mailto:kyle@wwa.org).

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### Landowner Input Sought for Pine Creek Improvements

By Don Schwobe

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) is inviting area residents living near the Pine Creek Watershed to discuss ways to further

Michael J. Dodge Nature Preserve on the Branch River near Reifs Mills, north of Whitelaw in Manitowoc County.

Carol Dodge & her husband Rolli beautifully manage this 80 acre preserve, featuring many ponds, bird habitat areas, vistas, wooded and meadow areas, rustic cabin; all framed by the Branch River. Enjoy the day with the Water's Edge Artists, an alliance of plein air artists dedicated to the conservation and protection of water resources in the Lakeshore Basin. Get a chance to see the painters in action, ask questions, and learn to appreciate their stewardship ethic.

The Friends of the Branch will provide a free lunch beginning at 12 p.m. for the artists and registered guests. A horse drawn wagon will transport viewers to the artist's paint sites.

Directions: From I43 take Hwy 10 West (exit # 154) to County Hwy T (just east of the village of Whitelaw), turn right/north to Reifs Mills Rd., turn left/west followed shortly by a turn right/north (still on Reifs Mills Rd.). Immediately on the right side of the road is Carol & Rolli's residence at 11006 Reifs Mills Rd. The next driveway/parking area is the entrance to the Dodge Preserve and where to park. If you go past the curve (there is a Michael J. Dodge Nature Preserve sign before the curve), you have gone too far.

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## 2010 Declared Year of the Niagara Escarpment



The Niagara Escarpment in many ways defines the watersheds of the Lakeshore Basin. Quoting Joanne Kluessendorf – "The Niagara Escarpment spans the middle of the North American continent, connecting countries, as it stretches from Wisconsin to Niagara Falls in New York State. Its towering white cliffs create a distinctive and beloved landscape in Wisconsin, especially here in the northeastern part of the State. This rocky ledge, so familiar to us, has witnessed many strange and wonderful changes through its long history. The remnants of an ancient tropical sea, these strata have been abraded, eroded, tilted, frozen, scoured, planed and polished. Strong and solid, stone from the escarpment has been used to help build our cities. Yet, this same stone harbors a fragile ecosystem that affects wildlife, our water, and our quality of life."

In Wisconsin, the Niagara Escarpment spans a distance of over 230 miles and reaches from Waukesha County to the Door County Peninsula. It runs through the counties of Door, Kewaunee, Brown, Manitowoc, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Dodge and Waukesha. Locally, it is often known as and referred to simply as "the Ledge." The Ledge is a resource that is constantly in flux, particularly with respect to attitudes about land use and conservation. While it is true that the Niagara Escarpment is a globally significant ecological resource, it is also a highly sought after resource in terms of building lots and building construction materials (cut stone, gravel, etc.).

In an attempt to balance the competing interests that exist and to better recognize the importance of the Niagara Escarpment, The Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (the 'Network') was formed an informal effort in 1998. Led by the East Central and the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commissions as well as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, this advisory group has over 300 members in including representatives of federal, state, and local agencies, academic groups, non-profit conservation organizations, and citizen members. The group meets regularly to promote better planning, protection, and management for resources related to the Niagara Escarpment. At this point, the Network has no 'legal' status (i.e. 501(c) (3) non-profit, etc.), however; good partnerships have been established with participating entities that can assist the organization in accomplishing its goals.

The Network has accomplished some major things over the years, including conducting Natural Resource Foundation Tours, doing public and school presentations (with the assistance of LNRPI!), facilitating major art shows and conferences, all in an attempt to elevate the awareness of the Niagara Escarpment. In recent months, one of the Network's most exciting accomplishments to date is the adoption of a proclamation (AJR-1, March. 24, 2009) by the Wisconsin State Legislature which makes the year 2010 Year of the Niagara Escarpment and more specifically, May, 2010 as being Month of the Niagara Escarpment. This effort was led by Rep. Al Ott (R-3rd Assembly District).

"I am especially pleased that the Niagara Escarpment is getting this well deserved recognition," said Ott in a previous press release. "Assembly Joint Resolution 1 will promote awareness and education to this distinctive landscape. The Niagara Escarpment will be acknowledged as an essential geologic and natural resource to our State." Ott added, "This unique natural element is an important ecologic, historic, economic, cultural and recreational foundation."

The Network is currently developing plans to host an extensive 'celebration' for this resource throughout the entire calendar year. To date, over 70 separate events, workshops, field trips, programs and new products have been developed to help the public better understand this simple, yet complex resource. For more information on the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network, including information on how you or your organization can help us celebrate in 2010, please contact Eric Fowle at (920) 751-4770 or via e-mail at [efowle@eastcentralrpc.org](mailto:efowle@eastcentralrpc.org)

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## Barn Dance a Huge Success

A celebration of rural Wisconsin and the people who make it a special place occurred on Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Saxon Homestead in Cleveland, Wisconsin. The fund-raiser ran from 5 to 10 p.m. in a restored hay barn in the now designated Saxon Historic Heritage Center.

Under the banner, Partnering for Progress: Celebrating our Rural

improve the ecosystem. The TRC Environmental Corporation has been removing PCB contaminated soil and sediment for the last year to make the water and lowland areas safe once again for people, fish and wildlife.

We would like to restore Pine and Jordan Creeks and the surrounding lowlands to a better condition than existed before they were contaminated. We hope to expand on the current restoration by working together on the rivers' cleanup. Restoring the natural habitat and installing conservation practices on land adjoining these rivers can enhance our community's future. We value this opportunity to work with residents to take this effort to the next level, as a cooperative venture and need their input, ideas and assistance.

This interactive meeting will be held at St. Martin's Heritage Park on Wednesday, October 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, followed by a free catered lunch. Heritage Park is located just south of Hwy 151 on County Trunk T. Natural resource professionals from TRC Environmental Corporation, the Department of Natural Resources, Calumet County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Natural Resource Conservation Service will participate in this event.

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## Feb 23-24 is Great Lakes Day in Washington D.C.

Although we are not sure of the exact amount, an unprecedented amount of money - between \$400 million and \$475 million, will soon be approved to help rehabilitate the Great Lakes. Let congress know you appreciate this, especially leading up to Great Lakes Day in February. Send a thank you note to your congress members for funding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

The Honorable Russ Feingold  
US Senate  
506 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington D.C. 20510-4904

The Honorable Herb Kohl  
United State Senate  
330 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington D.C. 20510-4903

U.S. Congressman Tom Petri  
2462 Rayburn Bldg  
Washington D.C. 20515

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## Events Calendar

### Shipwreck Activity Day

November 7, 2009, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Learn about diving on shipwrecks, hear famous shipwreck stories, and more with regular museum admission or membership.

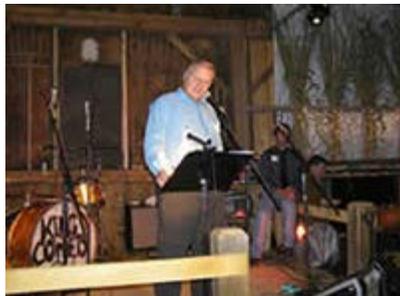
Wisconsin Maritime Museum  
75 Maritime Drive, Manitowoc, WI

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### Food in Schools Forum

November 4, 2009, 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Communities, the event featured music by the King Comets, a swing band that focuses on the early roots of rock'n'roll, locally sourced appetizer buffet and refreshment bar, a display of antique farming artifacts show casing the history of the Klessig family, door prizes including paintings from the Water's Edge Artists, and a short program featuring keynote speaker Secretary of Agriculture Rod Nilsesstuen.



We raised \$15,000.00 in net proceeds to directly support the work of three nonprofit partners: the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP), Gathering Waters Conservancy (GWC) and the Council of Rural Initiatives (CRI). Each group devotes time and resources to a common vision for a healthy natural resource environment, wise land use and sustainable rural communities. They all work in collaboration with other partner organizations, providing educational and outreach programs to address environmental challenges and contribute to community development and a sustainable future on many levels. These goals and activities are also pursued by co-hosts of the Partnering for Progress event, UW Extension and the Saxon Homestead Farm.

We are making this an annual event every September during the harvest season so look for further information on the LNRP website. Next year should be even better!

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## Environmental Management

### Thoughts on Improving and Sustaining Dairy's Rich Traditions

Chris Goebel, LNRP Board Member

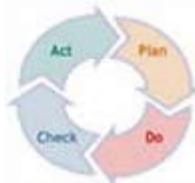
When I volunteered to draft a newsletter piece on Environmental Management Systems (EMS) – yes, it really was quite a while ago, and I'm finally getting around to it – I thought my background in leading a national trade association to adoption of a self-imposed system of environmental standards and practices would help me craft the article. I still think that, but admit that a less than comprehensive knowledge of the Lakeshore Basin's dairy businesses renders me a bit vague on some of the details about how EMS might shape their day-to-day operations.

EMS has its roots in a comprehensive set of environmental management standards developed by the International Organization on Standardization, originally published in 1996 and revised in 2004, designated as ISO 14001. ISO 14001 is a series of recommended practices integrated into ongoing business operations that seek to make environmental sensitivity and responsiveness a normal part of business planning and management. I recall when the concept was first introduced on the heels of ISO 9001 – a systematic approach to quality assurance and controls – the two initiatives, taken together, were viewed skeptically (to put it mildly) by some in the United States as a clever way in which others in the global marketplace might induce U.S. businesses to adopt new and expensive ways of doing things that would render them increasingly non-competitive. And, to some extent, I suspect that attitude carries over today, in that manufacturers and producers are reluctant to take on new "requirements" that will increase their costs of doing business.

In truth, however, EMS is all about sustainability – a voluntary sustainability at that. Unlike government rules and regulations that are often perceived as needless and ill-conceived intrusions that merely add cost-creating layers of compliance and reporting, EMS's integration into daily business operations is a means of enhancing environmental performance, acknowledging and reducing so-called "externalities" (costs of cleaning up polluted waters, e.g.) that impose societal costs upon us all, and facilitating better decision-making by employees at all levels of operations.

So, what are we really talking about here?

As incorporated into the Agricultural Watershed Improvement Network (AWIN) partnership's efforts to improve farm management practices throughout the Lakeshore Basin and better protect the quality of ground and surface waters, EMS requires that cooperating dairy operators adopt a continuous cyclical regime of "Plan, Do, Check and Improve".



- "Plan" means that the cooperating farmer formulates an environmental policy, stating environmental goals, intentions and an overall mission. Specific goals to enhance environmental performance are established, and the plan details how they will be met and employee responsibilities for doing so.
- "Do" means that a clear chain of command and responsibility is in place, and that employees are familiar with EMS goals and trained in the specific procedures required to meet them.
- "Check" means that a systematic means of assuring and assessing environmental performance is in place, including monitoring and measurement, record-keeping, and documentation and analysis of all incidents with environmental impacts, including lessons learned and practices and procedures put in place to prevent recurrence.
- "Act to Improve" means that the EMS is constantly monitored and evaluated for its effectiveness in

For teachers, school administrators, food service staff, school board members, and those interested in healthy food choices in schools.

Topics include:

- The GROW Project and research at Appleton Area School District
- Sustainable living curriculum at Sheboygan Fall Schools
- Panel Discussion of educational resources, including:
  - Farm to School in Northeast Wisconsin
  - Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom
  - Got Dirt? Gardening Initiative
  - Nutrition Education Resources

UW Extension – Green Bay  
1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay, WI  
Pre-Registration Required

Contact Kristen Buettner, 920-391-4655  
or [Buettner\\_KM@co.brown.wi.us](mailto:Buettner_KM@co.brown.wi.us)

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### "Who's Afraid of a Radish?" Farm to School in the Kitchen

November 13th, 2009, 2:00 - 4:00pm

Chilton High School  
530 W Main St  
Chilton, WI 53014

Join us for an enlightening afternoon filled with information focusing on **real implementation** of Farm to School in the kitchen. Practical methods of production, realigning work schedules, and guidelines for employee training and encouragement are discussed using a step by step process to begin utilizing the fresh, whole foods Farm to School can offer.

The first half of the workshop will focus on implementing the program and covering basic ground work. Attendees will be provided with sample work scenarios and solutions for busy production schedules.

A short break will follow featuring a full fruit and veggie bar for attendees to sample and enjoy from Chilton School's daily lunch lines. Local costing information will be displayed so attendees can see firsthand the savings and versatility of this program.

The second half of the program will be in the form of question and answer with a panel of cooks and leads who have successfully added Farm to School to their programs.

Our objective is to give managers and lead cooks the ability to see beyond negative expectations, and be successful in their own programs.

Please join us by registering via email at [dchapeta@chilton.k12.wi.us](mailto:dchapeta@chilton.k12.wi.us), or by phone at (920) 849 2393 on or before November 11th.

meeting environmental goals and upgraded where necessary. It also means continuous reexamination of the goals, themselves, and looking for expanded means by which to improve environmental performance.

For all its emphasis on environmental performance, EMS brings with it a vastly improved business model for dairying. By building environmental enhancement into planning and operations, rather than being required to overlay and adapt to government-imposed rules and regulations that are frequently formulated, initially, to address a worst-case scenario that an EMS-compliant operator's business plan is designed to prevent, the dairy farmer is able to realize both economic efficiencies and better environmental outcomes.

LNRP's executive director, Jim Kettler, is part of a team of AWIN operatives who are offering EMS training to Lakeshore Basin dairy farmers. Ultimately, it is hoped that cooperating dairy producers will be eligible to apply for "Green Tier" designation through the Wisconsin DNR. That recognition brings with it an acknowledgement that the farm's operations not only meet, but exceed, the environmental performance expected of compliance with government regulations, and that superior protections to air, water and land resources result. Audits would be routinely conducted in order to ensure that the EMS is performing to that level.

Wisconsin has recently enacted a series of new state programs to preserve and protect working lands – farms and forests, particularly. For the farm element, purchase of agricultural conservation easements (PACE) and creation of agricultural enterprise areas are central features. Both are proposed as means to keep the lands that produce food and fiber intact and producing and, as a valued social construct, support and improve the rural life that defines much of Wisconsin. During the debate on these initiatives, the idea that EMS adoption might be a condition PACE outlays in support of individual farmers was considered, but not included. As the program unfolds, I would expect that discussion to continue.

LNRP is proud to be a contributor to the movement to sustain and enhance Wisconsin's rural heritage, including bettering the environmental performance of its working farms. The success of our recent barn dance, billed as, "Partnering for Progress: Celebrating our Rural Communities", is testament to that movement. Together with our partners, the Council of Rural Initiatives, UW Extension, Saxon Homestead Farm, and Gathering Waters Conservancy, we will continue to advocate for EMS as a key means of improving and sustaining Wisconsin's rich dairy traditions.

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## River Walk on the Branch River

The Friends of the Branch River and the Lake Shore Natural Resource Partnership sponsored a "Walk the Branch River" on Saturday October 10, from 9 am to 1 pm. This was an opportunity to enjoy the river, fall colors and map invasives species. We had two groups walk two stretches of the river in the Town of Franklin.

We began the morning with a brief presentation on the top ten invasive species of Manitowoc County. Teams were then equipped with maps and GPS units, and transported to stretches of the Branch River.

We were looking for invasive species such as; phragmites, purple Loosestrife, Eurasian water milfoil, buck thorn, wild parsnip, teasel, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, all of which are threatening our riverine habitats.

What we found were very few invasive species on the two segments we surveyed! We plan to do several more mapping exercises in the next few months. Once these sites are located and mapped, landowners will be contacted and notified with methods to control and prevent further spread of these invasives.



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### Woodland Dunes Nature Center

Located on Hwy 310 west of Two Rivers, Wisconsin

### Harvest Dinner

Saturday, November 7, 6 p.m.  
The annual Winnie Smith Harvest Dinner will be held at Grace Congregational Church in Two Rivers. Come for a bounteous dinner catered by The Courthouse Pub, and a silent auction. The speaker will be Dan Small, the host and producer of WMVS-TV's Outdoor Wisconsin. Seating is limited; reservations required. \$50/person.

### Aegolius Bird Club

Open to anyone interested in the conservation and appreciation of birds. The club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at Woodland Dunes for a program, and also for a monthly field trip.

### Wild Ones

A national organization of people interested in learning more about the conservation of native plants and their use in landscaping meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the nature center headquarters. Each meeting includes an education program, and the public is invited.

For more information on any of these events, call 920-793-4007

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### Want to donate ?

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