



Cultivating Environmental Stewardship in the Lakeshore Region

MEMBERSHIP

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The Source

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Welcome by Executive Director Jim Kettler



It has been just over one year since I came on board as Executive Director. In this last year, I've really enjoyed the work especially when it means being in the woods, fields and waterways of the Lakeshore Basin. I'd like to share some of the highlights of our success. In the last four years the LNRP has completed three rounds

of grants awarded through the [Community Grants Program](#) bringing the total allocation of funds to over \$88,000 and funding 38 projects throughout the area. Funding was obtained to launch the [Lakeshore Environmental Resource Network](#) project (LERN). LERN is a direct effort to organize the wealthy array of individuals and organizations involved in environmental education and research efforts in the basin. We also launched the "[We All Live on the Water](#)" educational campaign and were integral to the newly formed collaboration with farmers and state agencies, the [Agricultural Watershed Improvement Network](#) (AWIN). Our most exciting news is the launch of this basin-wide quarterly e-newsletter! The funding came from a DNR River Planning Grant. We will bring you news from across the basin on what our partners are doing to protect and restore our rivers and lakeshore. Our continued success depends on you, those living

Winter 2008



News from LNRP

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Events Calendar

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MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Algoma Kewaunee Great Lakes Sport Fishing Club Meets the 2nd Thursday each month at Slovan Inn.

Mission Statement: To Protect the lake Michigan Fishery by informing the public, working with local

and working in the communities we help serve. Please support LNRP through an individual, group or business membership. Your contribution will perpetuate the growing success of the organization and help us improve the quality of life through the implementation of **our vision:**

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership is the leading environmental advocate on the waters of Northeast Wisconsin, fostering stewardship in the planet's largest watershed, and taking action to champion the environment.

The Lakeshore Basin provides an unsurpassed quality of life - a quality of life worth protecting and enhancing! All levels of participation and contribution are important. Please support LNRP with an annual membership and continue to receive our newsletter!

Jim

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Celebrating Four Years of "Solutions Through Community" by Director of Outreach Julie Hein-Frank



Hello and welcome to *The Source* as we celebrate four years of *Stewardship and Action in the lakeshore basin!*

Motivated by a vision and enthusiasm from founder John Roberts the organization has grown. In this short time we have collaborated with over fifty groups, local and state agencies and many dedicated individuals working on grass roots initiatives in the basin with projects that reach beyond county borders on issues in land, water, agriculture and education. Our outreach support and funding provides stewardship in area schools, scientific data collection and research with invasive species and the search for genetic markers in waters with e-coli outbreaks. We foster the stewardship of local artists and writers and provide funding for the creation of new land trusts and groundwater groups.

Our Community Grant program is proudly our flagship but we have become much more than a re-granting organization. We now support [four major initiatives](#) and are working on a fourth grant round for the fall of 2008. These new initiatives and partnerships actively increase community involvement and meet identified needs on a local level as we work to protect our coastal resources. LNRP is effective at building the capacity of local grass roots organizations with the focus to protect the natural resources that are the fundamental source of this areas prosperity and quality of life. We launch this newsletter to network all in the basin that share our passion for this ecologically rich area and ask you to join us as we bridge the gap to action on the issues that affect the land and waters that we all depend on.

Please join us in fostering community partnerships and promoting support for activities that advocate a balance between land use and protection of our natural resources in the lakeshore basin:

DNR officers and working with local leaders to keep the lake fishery active and healthy. For more information contact Duke Dubois duke93@itol.com

The Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) will have an informal meeting and holiday social on Monday, December 10th, 2007 from 4 to 5:30 pm at the The Nautical Inn 234 Kentucky Street, Sturgeon Bay. The next meeting will be Monday January 14th at 2pm.

Please visit the [DCIST](#) website.

For More Information Contact Bob Bultman dcist1@gmail.com

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EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Wednesday, December 5th

December LNRP Seminar- FREE







Developing A stewardship ethic through Art. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve

[CLICK HERE TO SEE FULL INVITATION](#)

[Learn About Your Land - Woodland Owner Education Series](#)
(Sponsored by UWEX, WDNR, Brillion Nature Center, Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Maywood Nature Center. Funded by WEEB)

Please call the appropriate nature center to register in advance.

**December 8th
Singers and Silent Ones
Living in Your Woods**

-  Join our [Membership](#).
-  Sponsor a [We all live on the Water Sign](#)
-  Become a Member of our [Board of Directors](#).
-  Join our [Grant Advisory Teams](#).
-  Contribute to our [Environmental Solutions Fund](#).
-  Apply for an [LNRP Community Grant](#).

Holiday Wishes,

Julie

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Tensions in the Neighborhood

The Link Between Cladophora & Phosphorus -- September Seminar Review

LNRP hosted the first in our “We All Live on the Water” seminar series on September 26th at the [Wisconsin Maritime Museum](#).



The first seminar issue came out of a year-long process initiated by the DNR that created the Lake Michigan Stakeholders. From the steering committee review on Coastal Health, [Cladophora](#) was named as the “single” most important environmental issue facing the shoreline of Lake Michigan. The presence of *Cladophora* has been the cause of significant beach closings throughout the lakeshore. Although human health concerns are still not a primary concern, there are significant aesthetic and ecological impacts both of which are causing considerable concerns for landowners, municipalities, land management agencies, and the business community.

However, the [Great Lakes Water Institute](#) at UW Milwaukee now has a working model linking *Cladophora* & phosphorus loads into Lake Michigan. The model estimates that with a 50% reduction in phosphorus, *Cladophora* levels would remain under what is considered a “nuisance” level. Field data are supporting the model although not all feedback loops are yet accounted for.

We invited the principle author of the model, Harvey Bootsma, Associate Professor of the Great Lakes Water Institute, to be the keynote speaker for the seminar. His presentation included a simulation of the "*Cladophora* animation" model with information on phosphorus loading into Lake Michigan from Wisconsin river-basins. Manitowoc County had some of the more heavy loaded rivers in the State including the Manitowoc River, Fischer Creek, Point Creek, and the East and West Twin Rivers.

Get an up-close look and learn about the fascinating lives of salamanders, frogs, turtles and snakes and the important roles they play in the ecosystem. Begin to understand the importance of healthy woodlands for amphibians and reptiles and learn how to improve habitat. Presenter: Bob Hay, WDNR Herpetologist

10:30-noon Brillion Nature Center, Brillion, 920-756-3591

2:30-4:00 Woodland Dunes Nature Center, Two Rivers, 920-793-4007

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WORK PARTIES

Send work party schedules for the spring issue to julie@lnrp.org by March 1st 2008

FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

Partnership for Phosphate Reduction

PO Box 429 | Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Phone: (920) 746-4450

Email:

Info@DCPhosphateFree.org

<http://www.dcpfosphatefree.org/>

The Partnership for Phosphate Reduction is a citizen's based group, sponsored by Door Property Owners, Inc. They are striving to raise public awareness regarding phosphates in our waters. They are campaigning to convince people to purchase and use only phosphate free dishwasher detergents and lawn fertilizers.

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Key findings from the research showed:

- The primary factor responsible for the recent increase in *Cladophora* abundance appears to be increased water clarity, resulting from zebra and quagga mussel filtration.
- A secondary factor may be a moderate increase in nearshore dissolved phosphorus concentrations in the past decade. Mussels are the major source of dissolved phosphorus in the nearshore zone but agricultural lands are showing higher phosphorus in the same time frame.
- We may need to lower the nearshore target phosphorus concentration to compensate for increased light availability.
- The *Cladophora* model suggests that, at depths greater than 22ft, a 50% phosphorus reduction would result in a significant decline in *Cladophora* abundance. At shallower depths, the response is less certain.

Perhaps the most important message was that reducing phosphorus concentrations in Lake Michigan is a long-term process, due to large stores of phosphorus in watershed soils, and the lake's long phosphorus residence time.

We followed Harvey's talk with a panel of speakers that provided insight on the best management practices. Sources of phosphorus were identified from homeowners, construction sites, and agricultural operations along with the best management practices in each area. Janet Sosnosky is the storm-water coordinator in Manitowoc and provided a municipal and homeowner perspective. In October 2006, the city received a storm water discharge permit and is now working to fully comply with the DNR regulations. Janet also spoke on the variety of things a homeowner can do to reduce phosphorus including keeping anything from running into storm drains, eliminating phosphorus from any lawn fertilizer or detergent product, and mulching leaves back into the lawns and gardens. Jim Reif represented the Home Builders Association providing a series of best management practices that are in place for many builders and promoted by the Association. Steve Hoffman is an agricultural consultant in Manitowoc county and shared practices that farmers are putting in place including buffer zones, nutrient management plans, and better manure management.

What followed was a lively discussion that illuminated the tensions between the agricultural and non-agricultural community. It is clear that the non-agricultural community is looking for results for lowering run-off and the implications to the cladophora problem being experienced on Lake Michigan. A number of participants felt that the majority of phosphorus is coming from agriculture, that there is a lack of enforcement, and that there are insufficient punitive damages for transgressions. Although there have been a number of nutrient management plans completed for farms in Manitowoc County, there are few dollars available for cost sharing in getting farmers to volunteer to do a nutrient management plan and even less for a comprehensive nutrient management plan.

Our challenge is to work constructively within that tension to allow us to find solutions to problems that damage our quality of life. Already, the *Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter* took a strong editorial position just four days later with a call to ban phosphorus in lawn

Did You Know?

LNRP promotes community solutions to problems that effect the overall health and welfare of the [Lakeshore Basin](#) ecosystem.

- We support and facilitate local efforts to preserve or improve our natural resources.
- We promote wise stewardship of our ground and surface waters, forests, soils, wildlife and habitat by engaging citizens in education and action.
- We foster community partnerships, provide funding, promote discussion and support activities that advocate a balance between land use and natural resource conservation and protection.

Board Member Profile

Ed Douglass
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin



Ed has a Ph.D. in development communications with a minor in cultural anthropology from the University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign. His bachelors and masters degrees are from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. His work in the

fertilizer. LNRP will continue to work to facilitate a dialogue with plans to hold a two-session series with Centerville Cares. The Steering Committee is looking for other ways to continue the dialogue and search for community-based solutions. If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact Jim Kettler jim@lnrp.org or call 920-693-2199.

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Partnering to Make Waves in the Basin

Notes from UWEX Basin Educator, Debbie Beyer



Hello! There is great momentum building for increased public awareness and engagement in watershed work in this part of the State. So many people and organizations are involved in so many wonderful initiatives. Some of the projects with which I've been involved over the past year include:

Stormwater education and awareness – I've been working behind the scenes to help Woodland Dunes Nature Center in Two Rivers and the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc engage citizens in stream monitoring (in the Manitowoc, East Twin and West Twin watersheds) and learning sessions about water resource issues, with the help of WDNR River Planning grants. We've discussed a few new approaches for targeted education in the upcoming year – watch for details in future newsletters!

Silver Lake and Park Restoration – I've worked with Manitowoc County's Tom Ward and WDNR fisheries biologist Steve Hogler to develop a series of 14 outdoor exhibits to interpret the death and rebirth of Silver Lake. Look for beautiful exhibit panels to be installed this spring!

Woodland Owner Education – I've coordinated with WDNR foresters, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, Brillion Nature Center, Maywood Nature Center, Glacierland RC&D, Kewaunee County Conservation Department and others to direct mail forest management information to at least 5,500 woodland owners in Calumet, Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties. By the end of this year, we will have hosted more than 46 programs in the four-county area since September 2006. This work was supported with two grants from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board and much enthusiasm in all of the partners. Thank you to these and other education partners for great work over the past year. I look forward to continued collaborative successes in the next year! [to top](#)

A Few Points about Water Pollution in the Lakeshore Basin

by Deb Beyer, UWEX Basin Educator for Natural Resources

As one looks across the Lakeshore Basin, it does not take long to realize that probably the leading water resource issue today is what is referred to as "non-point source pollution." The term "non-point" refers to pollution that comes from a wide variety of

last 25 years has been in developing countries, helping colleagues in Africa and the Middle East to design communication strategies that encourage people to adopt and sustain specific behaviors that will improve their health. He has worked on a variety of public health challenges from childhood immunizations, to anemia in pregnant women, to oral rehydration, to malaria prevention and treatment, to drinking water and household sanitation. It is from his work in water and sanitation that he has developed an abiding concern for the safety of drinking water in the Lakeshore basin. The fractured bed rock and thin top soil make everyone in the basin who relies on well water vulnerable to illness and disease from whatever pollutants we discharge onto our land. Ed is one of the founding members of the LNRP. He also served on the board of the Door Property Owners for nine years.

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Did you know?

LNRP has granted over \$88,000 in three years to [38 projects in the lakeshore basin.](#)

NEW INITIATIVES L.E.R.N.

The Lakeshore
Environmental Resource
Network



sources in many different places across the landscape. There is no one "point" from which this pollution flows.

A few of the sources for non-point pollution include toxic particles in car exhaust; tiny bits of rubber that wear off of tires; oil or other fluids leaking from motors; toxins in soot from chimneys; nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous in excess lawn and crop fertilizers; toxic chemicals in lawn, garden and agricultural pesticides; phosphates in our dish soap; bacteria in untreated poop from cows, horses, cats, dogs or other friends; bacteria from leaking septic tanks and sanitary sewer systems; and soil eroded from our fields and construction sites.

We all experience the effects of our non-point source pollution. It may be the sight of our rivers, streams and lakeshore waters running brown with mud after rain, the horror of our drinking water being contaminated, or the disgust in our beaches being smothered in algae or contaminated with high bacteria levels, or disappointment in our favorite trout streams no longer hosting trout.

Knowingly or not, we all contribute to non-point source pollution and we are all responsible for reducing it, whether we live in the country or in the city.

Ten *pointers* to lessen our impacts:

1. Limit driving – car pool, walk or bike
2. Recycle auto oil
3. Wash your car on your lawn or at a car wash
4. Sweep grass clippings, leaves and fertilizer from pavement
5. Pick-up pet waste
6. Direct downspouts to onto lawn
7. Install rain barrels
8. Choose no-phosphorous fertilizer
9. Use little or no pesticides
10. If you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it!

There is increasing emphasis placed on cleaning up stormwater runoff on our urban and rural lands. By working together, we can decrease our contributions to non-point pollution, improve our waters and restore our defining Lake Michigan lakeshore. Consider joining forces with your neighbors and other citizens.

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Developing a Stewardship Ethic through Art *The LNRP December Seminar - Free*

We All Live on the Water - Developing a Stewardship Ethic through Art

Explore the connection between art and watershed stewardship with area artists as they share samples of their work and explain how it expresses their stewardship ethic.

LERN is a dedicated partnership led by the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership working with the [Door County Library](#) and the [Ridges Sanctuary](#).

The purpose of LERN is to assess the environmental needs in education and research in the lakeshore basin through a Community Needs Assessment process. We will begin in Door County in the Spring of 2008. The project will fill identified gaps and create a clearinghouse of educational materials and research documentation. LERN will provide all the foundation necessary to explore and investigate local environmental issues that address the critical needs of our community. LERN will break new ground in how regional educational resources are utilized, serve to empower the capacity of environmental efforts in the basin and will create an exportable model of how other regions can more effectively deliver educational resources.

If you or your group would like more information on how to become a part of the LERN project, contact project director Julie Hein Frank julie@lnrp.org (920) 304-1919

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[COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM](#)
**Fall Grant Round
Planned for 2008**

***We All Live on the
Water***
Life Depends on it -

Together we will discuss the challenge of developing and incorporating a stewardship ethic in the Lakeshore basin. We will also consider the value of working with those who manage environmental resources: state agencies, organizations, communities and our neighbors. *Hot cider and cookies will be served.*

**Wednesday, December 5th
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve
just west of Two Rivers on Highway 310 (920) 755-3147

Featured Artists:



Bonnita Budysz ~ *plein air painter* Bonnita Budysz has been a featured artist in the national "American Artist" and "Art of the West" magazines, as well as being selected for the International Artist Magazine's book series, "How Did You Paint That?". Bonnita's lush and luminous paintings are consistent award winners in the top national and international juried exhibitions; most recently at the American Impressionist Society's National Juried Exhibition in Rockport, Texas in April, 2006 and the National Juried Barns 'N Farms Exhibition in Kewaunee, Wisconsin in July, 2006. She is an awarded signature member of the American Impressionist Society and the Pastel Society of the West Coast;

an associate awarded member of the Oil Painters of America as well as an active artist member of the California Art Club and the Portrait Society of America. She paints plein air year-round primarily in her native Wisconsin, the Southwest and California, as well as abroad where she led a workshop group of 20 students to Ireland in May of 2006. Intense study with masters of the Russian Impressionist school has enhanced her joyfully vibrant style with the radiant color found in her award winning landscapes, still lifes, and commissioned portraits, all of which are widely collected and exhibited in fine galleries and museums (including the Cultural Galleries in Petropavlosvsk, Russia and the Pasadena Museum of California Art), as well as in private and corporate collections worldwide. She shares her love of art by conducting annual workshops, demonstrating, and lecturing at prestigious learning institutions worldwide.

Jean Biegun ~ *poet, member of Woodland Dunes' education committee* Jean Biegun is a volunteer Teacher-Naturalist at Woodland Dunes Nature Center and enjoys writing poetry for the quarterlyDunesletter. She is glad to serve on the Board of the Education Committee, too, having retired to Two Rivers from a long career with the Chicago Public Schools. She begins and ends each day with inspirational views of the East Twin

Protect it

Sign Sponsorship is available in your area for your family, group or organization

*Makes a great holiday gift!
Sponsorship includes annual membership to LNRP*



Aldo Leopold wrote: "A true Conservation ethic will evolve only when citizens, not just government alone, take responsibility for managing and protecting our land and waters."

The We All Live on the Water project is the first in a series of collaborative efforts involving five Lake Michigan basin-based organizations in Wisconsin -

[The Lake Michigan Partners.](#)

The focus of this project is to provide a simple method for 3.5 million citizens to more easily contribute to the protection of Wisconsin's coastal natural resources.

This project installed over 250 signs across coastal counties, at strategic river crossings, lake landings, beaches, and public access spots.

The signs provide the 1-800-TIP-WDNR hotline number to report environmental violations and to increase awareness of each participating organization as well as their individual efforts in protecting our natural resource.

For more information, to



River from her living room and never takes for granted the grand natural beauty of the rivers and the lake that drew her husband and her to this area. Contributing to the preservation of that beauty and its ecological message is vitally important to her. ...You must give to the rivers the kindness you would give to any brother -- this stewardship plea of Chief Seattle voiced over one hundred and fifty years ago Jean feels must be shared even more urgently today, and she knows the arts can help convey that concern.



Kathryn Gahl ~ *writer, poet* Kathryn Gahl loves red lipstick, the Tango, and cooking up a storm in her country kitchen. A poet and writer, her works appear in over thirty literary journals. She has received honorable mention from the Council of Wisconsin Writers and was a finalist at both Glimmertrain and Margie. In 2007, Wisconsin People & Ideas names her a finalist in the statewide poetry and fiction contests. She lives with her second and last husband on 42 acres near the West Twin River.



John Roberts ~ *founder of LNRP, renowned for his stewardship and spellbinding stories of life in the outdoors.*

John Roberts brings to LNRP his experience as a career dairy veterinarian, part owner of a dairy farm and a passionate concern for the environment. John is a long time resident of both the northern and southern ends of the

lakeshore basin. The foundational philosophy of "solutions through community" was his initiative as LNRP's first president. John is an avid canoeist, kayaker, bird watcher, botanist and has spearheaded the most comprehensive scientific study of any river system in the basin. He understands the people, the agricultural backbone and the local environmental concerns that are part of the fabric of living in this beautiful and productive lakeshore region. He knows that LNRP is an essential and proven way to make things even better.

make a contribution or to sponsor a sign in the lakeshore basin [please contact LNRP](#)

Featured Sponsor:

The Tri lakes Association is a proud sponsor of the campaign and has placed signs on three area lakes

We thank them for their Support and Stewardship

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Seminar Host

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Beetle Mania *Lyon Recognized as an Invader Crusader*



LNRP would like to introduce Terri Lyon as one of our Champions of Conservation!

Terri received one of the inaugural [Invader Crusader Awards](#) presented by the [Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species](#). The

Invader Crusader Award was created to honor Wisconsin citizens and organizations for their significant contribution to the prevention or eradication of invasive species that harm Wisconsin's land and waters.

The spread of invasive species like purple loosestrife is a growing crisis in Wisconsin. Awareness alone is not always enough to generate action. Terri's involvement began because of control needs on the lake where she lives. There are three strategies for controlling purple loosestrife: hand-pulling, chemical treatment, and biological control with the *Galerucella Beetle*. She and her mother began with manual pulling, but the loosestrife began to spread into areas they were unable to access. When the biological control program was offered through the DNR, they sent a check for \$100 to obtain 100 beetles and began a beetle raise & release program. Through some years of learning the process and perfecting some rearing techniques, Terri found it critical to produce these beetles in much greater numbers by asking individuals and groups to participate in the program.

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership provided funds through our Community Grants Program to Terri and the Manitowoc County Lakes Association to expand a program to educate, train and involve the public in the bio-control method, which has proven to be most efficient and least costly for larger infestations of loosestrife. Beetle Mania had three main project objectives: 1) increase public awareness through educational programs to schools, clubs, lake associations and other groups; 2) educate and train individuals and groups in eradication methods through workshops and hands-on clinics; and 3) establish local insectories to raise and release beetles for on-going control in loosestrife-infested areas.

Partnering with groups that include the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and the Viking Bow and Gun Club, the Manitowoc County Lakes Association mobilized a number of groups to rear and release beetles, and to establish two new insectories in the Lakeshore Basin. The Beetle Mania project recruits, coordinates and supports

individuals and organizations, interested in conservation efforts that control invasive species using bio-control methods. Beetle Mania uses predator beetles that only eat purple loosestrife.

Beetle Mania utilizes education and awareness programs at area workshops about why it is important to control purple loosestrife. One-day training sessions provide the necessary information to set-up and carryout a successful project. Once trained, groups or individuals who have committed to starting a project for one, two, or three years will receive free supplies to host a project. Three participation outings are required for the program: Rootstock collecting, Beetle collection and Beetle releases.

Cooperators then raise the purple loosestrife plants in cages as food for the beetles, add the beetles and wait for their new beetles to develop and emerge. They release their newborn beetles at sites in need. The success of beetle release locations is measured through annual photographs. Purple loosestrife sites are photographed at peak bloom in the initial year. Each consecutive year follow-up photos are taken to measure the reduction of blooming. It starts to look very dramatic at year three, because beetles have compromised the loosestrife enough to reduce the production of flowers.

With no flowers, there are no seeds. With no seeds, purple loosestrife cannot spread. To determine if additional releases are required at release sites, beetle activity is monitored each spring for returning beetle populations. Larger sites are further developed for insectary potential for use as beetle collection sites in future years. If there are no more purple loosestrife plants, the beetle population dies off.

Many towns and counties are unaware that a program exists for purple loosestrife control. However, Terri has been very successful in getting the word out on the program and when towns find out they are receptive to beetle releases in infested areas and they love the fact that it costs them nothing, which fits into their ever-tightening budgets. Beetle Mania will offer beetles to area residents interested in distributing beetles to infestations in their communities. Property owners along riverbanks can help to control purple loosestrife by obtaining these very effective beetles. Beetle Mania has also developed into a program well beyond just beetle raising and release. This season Beetle Mania will survey purple loosestrife in three counties and will:

- Help to identify areas that require control to develop future release plans for Calumet, Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties.
- Present infestation information to local Land Conservation Departments for invasive species planning at the county level. This will include a new invasive, known as Phragmites that is becoming increasingly visible in our landscapes.
- Provide survey results to the Department of Natural Resources for reporting on internet websites.

Beetle Mania will also study the effectiveness of re-introducing various native species at some second-year control areas. This will help determine if native species can effectively compete once the loosestrife is bio-controlled. The results of the study will determine if native restorations will be a part of a more sustainable program in the

future. If you're interested in getting involved or have purple loosestrife in your neighborhood, please contact Terri at tlyon@volrathco.com. We want to commend Terri as an LNRP Champion of Conservation!

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Testing the Waters *Groundwater Guardians Reach Hundreds of Students*



Hundreds of fifth-graders throughout Kewaunee County learned a valuable lesson about the environment. In a county where 28 percent of wells are currently contaminated, a volunteer group is reaching out to children and educating early. It's a lesson outside the classroom on groundwater contamination. "A lot of students don't even know that the groundwater we drink out of

our faucets comes from the ground. They think it comes from Lake Michigan or from this imaginary Canadian river underground," Davina Bonness of Groundwater Guardians says.

Three years ago, Bonness, who works for the county's land conservation department, founded Groundwater Guardians through a grant from LNRP. It's strictly a volunteer organization that writes grants to pay for educational programs, like the annual Groundwater Festival held at the Kewaunee County Fairgrounds. The Annual Groundwater Festival is a one-day, fun-filled event for Kewaunee County 5th grade students and their teachers to gather together and learn about Wisconsin's groundwater resources. The purpose of the festival is to enhance the ability and motivation of students and their teachers to understand and take responsible action regarding environmental issues affecting groundwater and water resources.

Through hands-on activities, students learn how fast contaminants travel through different kinds of soils. They also learn about the watershed concept, how everything flows downhill to our lakes and streams. "We learned how dirt and pesticides pollute the water, and how to stop it with vegetation," a fifth-grader from Algoma said. Students from Luxemburg-Casco High School assisted with the demonstrations. And by educating students, parents are learning, too. "Our children are the hope. If we can reach them and they can learn one thing, then we're doing our job."

WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER GUARDIAN PROGRAM

[Jen Kingsley](#) is the Statewide Groundwater Guardian Program Coordinator at the UW-Extension Central WI Groundwater Center in the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point. Groundwater Guardian is a national program which connects and recognizes communities that take action to protect groundwater and educate the public

about groundwater. It is sponsored by the Groundwater Foundation in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Links of Interest:

The Groundwater Foundation

<http://www.groundwater.org/gg/gg.html>

Wisconsin Groundwater Association:

<http://www.wgwa.org/>

The U.S. Geologic Survey - Water Cycle website

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle.html>

Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gndwater/info/index.htm>

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Connecting Partners Across the Basin - *Send us your Events- We'll help spread the word!*



In each issue of The Source we will list a calendar for all basin river groups and organizations to share their resources, upcoming events, work parties, seminars and meeting times. If you would like to participate and be featured in the newsletter events calendar, please send a list of your events to us by email. We are also interested in hearing about field seasons, projects - and happenings along the

lakeshore- you are welcome to submit articles, anecdotes or send along information about your group for the "Featured Organizations" section. Please list the county of the event and send any website links and other contact information readers may need to

julie@lnrp.org

Submissions for the Spring Issue due March 1st 2008

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