

When in Doubt, Stay Out!!!

After one of Wisconsin's longest, coldest winters ever, Lake Wisconsin residents and lake residents all over the state have welcomed the warmth of summer and all of the recreational opportunities the lakes have to offer. However, in addition to summer fun on the water comes the inevitable algal blooms. Lake Wisconsin (along with lakes all across the state) have long been plagued with frequent blue-green algae blooms, some that have proved toxic. Besides the health risks, the frequency and duration of these blooms have also negatively affected recreational use of the lakes and the income of businesses around the lake.

Algal blooms occur periodically from June through mid-September, and they might last a day or could stick around for a couple days depending on weather conditions. Harmful algae blooms and the resulting bacteria sometimes causes state and local governments to send caution to boaters and beach users and in some cases, even close the beaches along inland lakes throughout the state as well as beaches along the Great Lakes.

Among the most prevalent cause of water quality impairment (blue-green algae) is excess nitrogen and phosphorus (nutrients). Animal manure, excess fertilizer applied to crops and fields, and soil erosion make agriculture one of the largest sources of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in the country. In watersheds across Wisconsin, 70 percent of the phosphorus pollution comes from agricultural runoff with just 30 percent of farms in each watershed contributing to the pollution (according to Jim Baumann, a wastewater engineer for the state DNR). Each pound of phosphorus released into the lake produces 500 pounds of algae. Even though phosphorus is a nutrient that is a natural part of aquatic ecosystems, too much phosphorus in the water causes algae to grow faster than ecosystems can handle; affecting water quality, food resources and habitats.

Algae are the base of the food chain and essential to the life in the lake. Blue-green algae are very primitive organisms that are not really algae. They photosynthesize like algae, but they are actually bacteria. Scientists refer to them as "cyanobacteria" to acknowledge that they are bacteria. "Cyan" means "blue", which refers to the fact that these organisms often appear blue-green in color. However, they can also be red, purple, blue, brown, and yellow in various shades. You may sometimes notice this variance in color when coming across an algal bloom.

Like phosphorus, blue-green algae are ordinary and necessary for our lakes, streams, and rivers. However, some blue-green algae can become toxic and cause many symptoms to both humans and animals. Exposure can occur through skin contact, inhalation (breathing in), and/or ingestion (swallowing).

Common human symptoms caused by exposure to these bacteria are:

- Skin irritations - itchy skin; red skin; blistering; hives; rash.
- Respiratory Irritations - sore throat; congestion; cough; wheezing; breathing difficulty.
- General body reactions such as fever, diarrhea, earache, runny nose; vomiting; abdominal pain; nausea; headache; muscle/joint pain; eye irritation; agitation.
- In severe cases, convulsions/seizures; paralysis, respiratory failure, even death.

Continued on page 2 ...

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When in Doubt, Continued from front page...

To avoid these problems, **use common sense**. If the water looks scummy, has a large mat of gunk, or otherwise looks questionable, avoid contact. Don't let children or pets play in shallow, scummy areas or where algae blooms are present. Avoid swimming, water-skiing, tubing and wakeboarding over mats of algae. Don't use raw, untreated water for drinking, cleaning food, or washing gear. Don't boil contaminated water, as this may release more toxins from the algae. After family members come into contact with water that may be contaminated, wash thoroughly, especially in areas covered by swimsuits (which may concentrate the algae). Thoroughly wash any clothing or fabric that has come into contact with the water. If your pet comes into contact with such water, wash the coat to prevent the animal from taking potentially-toxic algae in while self-cleaning.

The State of Wisconsin has a program to track negative consequences of contacts with algae. If you think you or others (including pets) have symptoms from such contact, you should call 608-266-1120 or fill out a report on line at <http://dhs.wi.gov/eh/bluegreenalgae>. You will be contacted shortly by someone from the program to get details and schedule further action.

Cleaning up the phosphorus would go a long way to reducing the severity of the algal blooms across the state, but it will require the efforts of many. For more information on what you can do to help improve the quality of our state's lakes, go to the website of area citizen groups (near you) and state and local governments to see a schedule of meeting dates/times. **The Lake Wisconsin Alliance** is the newest citizen group working closely with representatives from the Wisconsin DNR, Alliant Energy, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Petenwell and Castle Rock Area Stewards, and UW Stevens Point - Center for Watershed Science and Education. Their mission is *"to endeavor to balance the diverse interests of the Lake Wisconsin community by improving recreational opportunities, water quality, and sustaining a healthy ecosystem."* **See their article in this newsletter for the date(s) and time(s) of their next meeting(s).** For more on algae education, visit www.pacrs.org/resources/algae-education/what-are-algae/

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TerraFirma Real Estate NEWS



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While it can be easy to learn about general real estate news by reading your local paper, watching the news, or searching online, it can sometimes be difficult to find current real estate updates regarding a targeted geographic location or even a niche real estate market such as lake property.

Terra Firma has pulled data from the South Central Wisconsin MLS to share the most recent metrics regarding Lake Wisconsin sales and a larger picture of the waterfront market as a whole.

The first 6 months of 2014 have shown a slight increase in the number of homes sold on Lake Wisconsin from 26 in 2013 to 28 in 2014. The average sale price has climbed significantly from \$284,000 in 2013 to \$325,303 in 2014. Lakefront lot sales also saw an increase year over year with lakefront lots averaging \$190,000 in 2013 to \$202,231 with 5 sales in 2014. Water view or water access lots took a hit though as there were 4 such sales in 2013 averaging \$37,000 and just one sale in 2014 for \$10,500.

In comparison, when looking at the entire South Central Wisconsin (SCW) lake / river market, home sales have gone down from 276 homes sold in 2013 to 253 homes sold in 2014. Sold prices for SCW saw a slight increase from \$254,972 in 2013 to \$256,188 in 2014. Lot sales across SCW in general saw a large increase in units sold but a continuation of sliding prices. With 19 waterfront sales in 2013 at an average of \$123,000, waterfront lot sales almost doubled in 2014 with 37 sales for an average of \$120,722. Water view or water access lot sales also increased from 32 lots in 2013 to 37 lots in 2014 while prices slid from \$18,271 to \$16,056.

In summary, through the first half of 2014 we are seeing an upward trend on Lake Wisconsin which is great news for sellers. For those in the market to purchase a lake property, now could be your best opportunity to purchase, at the start of this upward trend, with good inventory available and continued low interest rates.



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Lake Wisconsin Alliance

As many of you already know, Lake Wisconsin Alliance (LWA) is a recently developed citizen advocacy organization with a mission *to endeavor to balance the diverse interests of the Lake Wisconsin community by improving recreational opportunities, water quality, and sustaining a healthy ecosystem.*

The LWA continues to grow its members and influence, and has been working very hard over the past several months. The organization has achieved a tax exempt status with the State of Wisconsin and will soon make application with the Federal government for tax exempt.

The By-Laws have been completed and will be voted on very soon. A structure for membership dues has been determined, and the Lake Wisconsin Alliance will soon be asking interested individuals to pay a modest membership fee to help support its efforts.

A group of members has been working with the Department of Natural Resources to collect water samples at designated sites on the lake. The Technical Advisory Team (for LWA) organized a great workshop in June to help define threats to Lake Wisconsin with the new goal of defining some concrete actions that members of the Lake Wisconsin Alliance can partake; thus helping to reduce the risks/threats that were identified.

UPCOMING LWA EVENTS

Annual Meeting - August 23rd

12:00-2:30 p.m.

at Remi's Thirsty Moose

- Membership drive
- Election of the first Board of Directors
- Educational presentations

First meeting of the Board of Directors will be
September 25th at 6:00p.m.

Location TBD

You can contact Kirk Boehm at 608-635-8851 or kmb.boehm@gmail.com if you would like to be included in the email announcement list or if you have any questions regarding LWA. We would welcome your participation. Also be sure to like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LakeWisconsinAlliance.



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We look forward to hearing from you!

Agritourism

and Lake Wisconsin

By Ross Ament



Have you ever navigated a corn maze, gathered apples in an orchard or selected just the right size pumpkin? If the answer is yes, you have experienced agritourism. There are several ways to name it: agricultural tourism, agritourism, ag-tourism, or farm visits, but the common thread is the act of visiting a farm or enjoying locally grown food and fiber products. If you can eat, drink or wear it, then that product or experience is part of Wisconsin agriculture.

The greater Lake Wisconsin area is rich in opportunities to engage in agritourism. The fall season seems to offer the most chances to visit a farm, buy super sweet corn, or taste a fresh juicy apple. In the Poynette area, Lapacek's Orchard (www.lapaceksorchard.blogspot.com) offers apples and raspberries, as well as a petting zoo and fun activities for the kids. West of Lodi is the Treinen Farm (www.treinenfarm.com) home of the award winning corn maze. You haven't fully experienced a corn maze until you have navigated Treinen's maze. If you are looking for cheese, milk and ice cream, travel to the Sassy Cow Creamery (www.sassycowcreamery.com) west of Columbus.

Wineries are also great examples of agritourism. We are fortunate to have two great wineries near Lake Wisconsin, Wollershieim Winery (www.wollershieim.com) in Prairie du Sac and the new Rock n Wool Winery (www.rocknwoolwinery.com) just north of Poynette east of Rt. 51 on Drake Road.

If you can't make it out to the farm, you are missing the best part of the Wisconsin agricultural experience. However, you can still purchase delicious locally grown products at the area Farmers Markets. See the bottom of this page for more details on local Farmers Markets.

The Wisconsin agricultural experience can also be found at the many Fall Festivals that offer local agricultural products. One of the more unique festivals is just north of Lake Wisconsin (you could say it is in the Lake Wisconsin Watershed area), the Reedsburg Fermentation Fest (www.fermentationfest.com) October 4th - 12th. See the Calendar of Events in this newsletter for more details on other area Fall Festivals.

My apologies for probably missing other farm experience opportunities in the area, but you can go to the Wisconsin Agricultural Tourism Website: www.visitdairyland.com for more places to visit, taste and have fun. I also encourage you to check each farm's Website for times and directions before traveling to their location.



Ross Ament teaches, presents, and advises on the subject of agriculture tourism. He is a board member of the Wisconsin Agricultural Tourism Association. He and his wife, Connie, live on Lake Wisconsin. For more agritourism information, Ross can be contacted at rossament@gmail.com or 608-635-2779.

Local Farmers' Markets

- Lodi Valley, April - October 31st, Fridays, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Village Green next to Koltes Do-It-Best, 902 N. Main St.
- Sauk, May - October 25th, Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. across from Blue Spoon Café, downtown Prairie du Sac
- Poynette, through September 27th, Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Pauquette Park, 106 S. Main St.
- Portage, May - October 30th, Thursday, 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Commerce Plaza (corner of Cook & Wisconsin Streets)
- Baraboo, May - October, Saturdays, 7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. - Courthouse Square on Oak Street between 3rd & 4th Streets

Fishing on Lake Wisconsin and Wisconsin River

By Gary Sanders • Lake Wisconsin Walleyes, LLC • www.lakewisconsinwalleyes.com

The Slow Death Rig is a popular technique that has fooled countless Lake Wisconsin walleyes and saugers. It was a technique first developed around 15 years ago by South Dakota fishing guide and tournament angler David Spaid. Since then a host of accomplished anglers on waters across America have tweaked and perfected the tactic into what it is today. The rig consists of five basic components:

1. Mustad Slow Death hook
2. 36"-42" leader of 10 lb. or 12 lb. monofilament line
3. Colored bead
4. Ball bearing swivel
5. Bottom bouncer from 1 oz. to 3 oz. depending on depth and current

To rig, you simply cut a 3' to 3-1/2' piece of line and tie a #2 Mustad Slow Death hook on one end. Slide on a 4mm colored bead and then tie a ball bearing swivel on the other end. Connect the leader to the snap swivel on a bottom bouncer and thread a crawler on the Slow Death hook starting at the center of the nose of the crawler and pushing the hook out a little bit behind the collar. Push the head of the worm up over the knot to hold it in place then pinch the crawler off about 1/2" behind where the hook protrudes. Be sure to test the action by dropping it in the water next to the boat. If the crawler twirls or "corkscrews" in the water its perfect. If not, then readjust the crawler until the action is right.

To fish the rig, drop the bottom bouncer with Slow Death rig attached to the bottom while maintaining a forward speed of 0.7mph to 1.2mph. Proper weight to speed ratio can be identified if your line is at about a 45 degree angle. If more than 45 degrees then too much weight, less than 45 degrees then not enough. When a fish bites, sweep the rod tip forward to set the hook. I prefer to use bait casting gear and St. Croix bottom bouncer rods, but spinning gear can be used. Experiment with bead colors to fine tune the presentation. This rig will catch a wide variety of fish including big ones. Give it a try.



Lake Wisconsin Walleyes, LLC



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- 2 LAKESIDE
- 3 MOON VALLEY
- 4 REMI'S THIRSTY MOOSE
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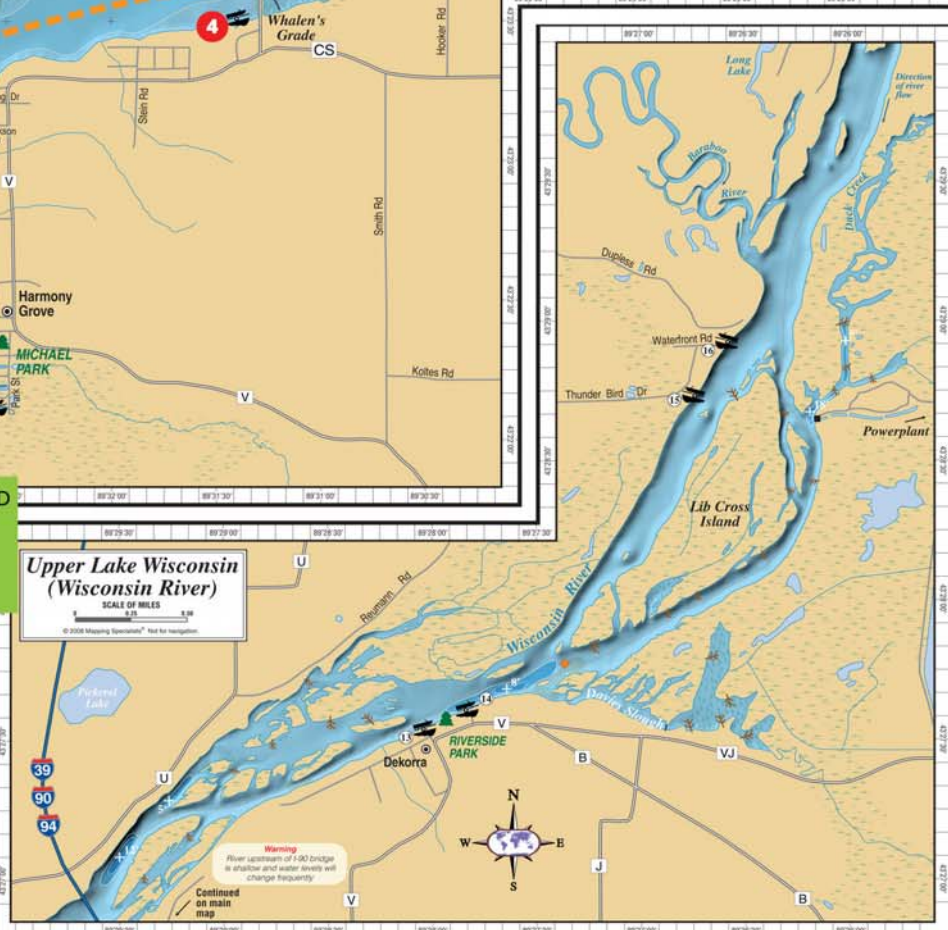
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Warning
River upstream of 1-90 bridge is shallow and water levels will change frequently

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Coordinates are in degrees,
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BUSINESS

•••Spotlight

Moon Valley Resort Has Much to Offer Summer Visitors

Moon Valley Resort, a longtime Merrimac business located at E13105 Highway 78 next to the state boat launch two miles west of the Merrimac ferry, has made some big changes this year. In addition to the cabin rentals, bait shop and marina they've operated for decades, owners Donny and Beth Anderson are opening a café, art gallery and expanded watercraft rental facility.

Visitors to Moon Valley will be able to purchase or rent Hobie stand up paddle boards and Hobie Mirage pedal powered kayaks

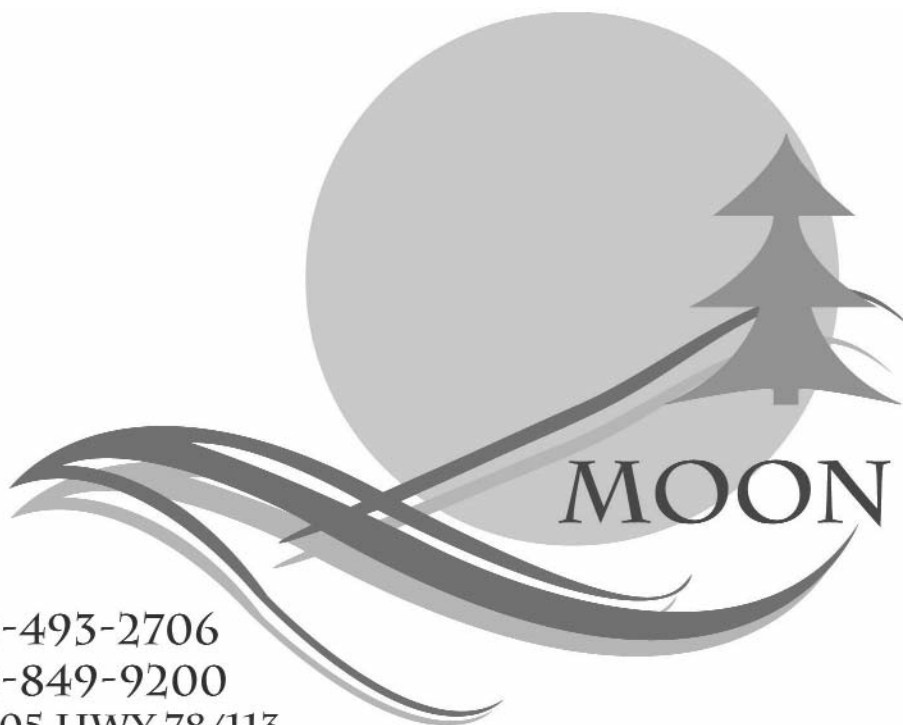
exclusive to the resort. Row boats, motor boats and a pontoon boat will also be available to rent.

The Moon Valley Picnic Basket Café will offer box lunches featuring Texas style BBQ pork sandwiches provided by Pokey's Smoke on the Water restaurant (also located in Merrimac). The café will also offer hand dipped Sassy Cow ice cream, gourmet coffee, craft beer from Wisconsin Brewing Co. and Capital Brewing Co., and a variety of artisanal meats and cheeses from Lodi Sausage Co. and Carr Valley Cheese.

The Moon Valley art gallery

has teamed up with Merrimac artist Char Olsen to offer Wisconsin centric art by local artists as well as cards, jewelry and books. They will be expanding in the coming weeks to offer T-shirts, local pottery and furniture.

So whether you stop in for lunch on your way to the many nearby attractions or come out to shop for art or a new kayak, come into Moon Valley Resort on the shore of beautiful Lake Wisconsin for a day of summer fun. The resort is open Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Friday through Sunday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



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Kirk's Korner



Q: How Prominent is the Wisconsin River?

The Wisconsin River is one of the hardest working rivers in the nation, and with a length of 430 miles, it is also the state's longest river. The Wisconsin River has a water shed of 11,864 sq. miles which is 21% of the entire state of Wisconsin's watershed. The river has 21 storage reservoirs and 29 dams along its route with 173,747 acres of surface water impounded in the watershed. The first dams on the Wisconsin River were built by loggers in the late 1800s to help assure water levels were sufficiently high enough to float logs from the northern forest of Wisconsin to towns like Wausau.

Of the 29 dams along the Wisconsin River, 25 are operating hydroelectric power plants, and combined they produce over 1 billion kilowatt hours per year and supply more than 300,000 people with electricity.

In comparison, the Hoover Dam creates about 4 billion kilowatt hours per year. The very last dam on the Wisconsin River is the Prairie du Sac dam which was built from 1911-1914 and created what we all know today as Lake Wisconsin.

Because the dam was completed in 1914, this year marks the 100th Anniversary of Lake Wisconsin. And, in celebration of the 100th year Anniversary of the Prairie du Sac Dam and Lake Wisconsin, you can see a display of the history at the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society - Tripp Heritage Museum from now through October 2014. For hours visit <http://saukprairiehistory.org/> and <http://www.facebook.com/groups/130412887037238/>

In addition to this exhibit, there will be several events and activities in August and September celebrating the 100th year Anniversary of the dam and Lake Wisconsin. See the Calendar of Events in this newsletter issue for details.

*Happy 100th Anniversary
Lake Wisconsin*

Do you have a question about Lake Wisconsin or the Wisconsin River? If so, please send your question to newsletter@TFMwisconsin.com.

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Calendar of Events

LAKESIDE BAR & GRILL - W10960 Corning St., Poynette 608-635-2959

- August 16th - 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. (outside) Rustic Road Band; Daytime Bean Bag Tourney
- August 23rd - Golf Outing - DJ 6:00 p.m. - close
- August 30th - End of Summer Party! 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. (outside) Flip City Band, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. (outside) Natty Nation Reggae Music
- August 31st - 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. (outside) Funky Chunky Band, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. (outside) Midlife Crisis Band
- September 6th - 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. (outside) Chameleon Band
- September 20th - 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. (inside) Black Water Gin
- September 27th - 3-9 pm (outside, weather permitting) Buck Naked

ROCK N WOOL WINERY - WINE TASTING - August 14th, 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., W7817 Drake Road, Poynette. Rock n Wool Winery launches 3 new wines. Enjoy LIVE music and \$1.00 wine-soaked hot dogs. And, as always, FREE wine tasting.

FITZ'S CORN BOIL - Thursday, August 14th, 5:00 - 10:00 pm, W11602 County Road V, Lodi. Fitz's Annual Corn Boil fundraiser for Lodi Area Non-profits. This great outdoor event has it all - music, raffles, auction and fun for the whole family. For additional information call 608-592-3302 or go to www.fitzrestaurantlakewisconsin.com

BADGER STEAM & GAS ENGINE SHOW & MASSEY EXPO - August 15th-17th - Flea Market with over 600 vendors, crafts, antiques, auction, music and food 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Badger Steam & Gas Engine Showgrounds, S3347 Sand Road, Baraboo. Call 608-522-4905 or go to www.badgersteamandgas.com

ANNUAL OPTIMIST CLUB RAFFLE & PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER - August 17th - Dinner at the Lodi Fairgrounds at 5:00 p.m. with a raffle - top prize of \$3,000 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance at Associated Bank, 102 N. Main St, Lodi.

TASTE OF PORTAGE MARKET FAIR - August 22-23 - Enjoy family fun at this event, now celebrating 23 years! There will be great food, live music, kid's activities, an art and craft show along with a car show. Events take place at Market Square Parking Lot at the corner of Hwy 33 and Adams Street.

ANNUAL WISCONSIN STATE COW CHIP FESTIVAL - August 29-30 - Marion Park, 100 First St. Beer Garden with live music, children's games, food court, arts and craft fair, Classic Run at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, parade at noon and the Wisconsin State Cow Chip Throw. 608-643-4317 or www.wiscowchip.com

LABOR DAY WEEKEND SHOOT & BARBECUE - Merrimac - August 31st - Starts at 10:00 a.m. at the Merrimac Conservation Club, one mile west of Merrimac on Hwy 78. www.merrconserve.com

U.S. WATERMELON SPEED-EATING AND SEED-SPITTING - CHAMPIONSHIPS - September 6th - Free all you can eat watermelon, watermelon carving, arts and crafts fair. Chandler Park www.pardeevillewatermelonfestival.com

MODEL AIRPLANE FLY-IN - September 7th sponsored by Lodi Area Radio Control Club. Starts at 8:00 a.m. on Hwy J, 2 miles east of Lodi. www.larcc.com

WO-ZHA-WA DAYS CELEBRATION OF AUTUMN - September 12th-14th - Arts and crafts fair, antique flea market, Maxwell Street Days, live entertainment and parade. Street carnival, refreshment and the Wo-Zha-Wa Run on Saturday. Downtown Wisconsin Dells and Bowman Park. www.dells.com

DEVIL'S CHALLENGE TRIATHLON

September 14th starting at 8:00 a.m. ¼ mile swim, 15 mile bike and 5K run. Devil's Lake State Park S5975 Park Rd. Pre-register and obtain more information at www.witriseseries.com

PUBLIC TOURS - PRAIRIE du SAC DAM

September 12th - 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. & September 13th -14th - 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tours are 90 minutes in length and will start and end at the Tripp Heritage Museum, 565 Water Street, Prairie du Sac. Each time slot allows for 20 people. Tickets are \$5 each. For additional ticket information go to www.brownpapertickets.com/event/736081

"DAM JAM" EVENT in Prairie du Sac starting at 6:00 p.m. - September 13th; specific details will be forthcoming. Watch the local newspapers for more information.

TOUR de DAM BICYCLE TOUR/RIDE - September 20th benefiting the UW Carbone Cancer Center; Prairie du Sac Dam will be a tour stop with limited viewing of the powerhouse. The ride offers 4 choices of routes:

- 5 miles - Fun route for youth and adults; children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult
- 20 miles - Novice rider and/or family riders
- 40 miles - Intermediate
- 60 miles+ - The Bluffs Challenge
- Training rides available

Cost is \$45 if register after August 15th; Team (minimum of 3 riders) member discount - \$5/person; Piggy back discount - get a friend to do the Ride and receive \$5 off your registration. Contact Gary Moddes at canaryrider@yahoo.com or 608-370-6065 for sponsorship and volunteer opportunities. For additional information / details go to <http://gmmoddes.wix.com/tour-de-dam-51214#>



LODI FALL City-Wide GARAGE SALES - September 26th - 28th - A map will be published in the Lodi Enterprise newspaper the week prior to this event. 608-592-3261

BREW-B-QUE DOWNTOWN BLOCK PARTY - September 27th Don't miss one of the chamber's biggest events of the year in downtown Lodi! This great event takes a Backyard BBQ and turns it into a Huge Block Party as we close Main Street for the day and offer great food, a Kids Zone, live music and craft beer. 50/50 Raffles and Corn Hole Tournament! 608-592-4412 or www.lakewisconsin.org

FALL FESTIVAL - BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC PARISH - September 28th, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Church, 521 Fair Street, Lodi. 608-592-5711. Family-style dinner, craft sale, kids' games, live music, beer tent and candy sale.

POYNETTE FALL CRAFT SHOW & BAKE SALE - October 4th, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Dekorra Lutheran Church, N3099 Smith Road



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