

# Lake Wisconsin

# Living

June | July 2014

AN EXCLUSIVE NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LAKE WISCONSIN

## The Merrimac Ferry

The Merrimac Ferry on Lake Wisconsin has been operating for 166 years... In 1844, Chester Mattson (along with George Grant) built the ferry and obtained a charter to provide ferry service crossing the Wisconsin River at the present location. At that time, passengers were charged five cents to ride the ferry and an additional 25 cents for each horse and 40 cents for a team of oxen.

The first ferry was human-powered until around the turn of the century when the first gasoline engine was added. In 1924 a new wooden ferry was built in Dubuque, Iowa, and replaced the old ferry. The Colsac I (a phonetic combination of the two names, Columbia and Sauk counties) could carry eight cars across (now) Lake Wisconsin and charged 35 cents per car and 5 cents for pedestrians and 75 cents for trucks. In 1933, the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation assumed management and operation of the ferry and the toll was eventually eliminated.

Thirty years after the State Highway Department took over operation (1963), Colsac I was replaced by Colsac II. Colsac II was built in Marinette Marine Corporation in Marinette, Wisconsin and could carry 12 vehicles. Passengers and their vehicles continued to ride free. Today, Colsac III, a 15-car ferry, makes the routine trip across Lake Wisconsin and passengers and vehicles continue to ride free of charge. Colsac III was constructed by Basic Marine in Escanaba, Michigan and christened on May 6, 2003. It cost \$2.2 million to build.

The Merrimac Ferry serves as a functional regional crossing and a tourist attraction connecting traffic between Sauk and Columbia counties. The ferry wenches itself across the lake on three submerged cables, and a round trip usually takes approximately 14 minutes. Peak traffic coincides with the tourist season and weekend getaway schedules. The peak of the season comes in August when up to 1,200 vehicles a day create a lineup of 50 or more vehicles waiting their turn for the ferry. In 2012 the Colsac III ferried 291,896 vehicles (in addition to pedestrians and bicycles), and made 56,474 trips across the lake.

The Merrimac Ferry is Wisconsin's only free ferry and was in operation long before there was a marked road leading to or away from it. Today the ferry provides shuttle service on Wisconsin Hwy 113 between Okee on the east side of the lake and Merrimac on the west side. The ferry is open for service 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, typically from April 15th through November 30th. However, the ferry will operate into December depending upon when the ice becomes too thick to operate the ferry.

The ferry has survived all attempts to replace it with a bridge as well as the 1967 construction of the Interstate bridge which provided a faster and more direct route to those popular tourist attractions just north of Lake Wisconsin. Located near the middle of Lake Wisconsin, the ferry is close to regional recreation areas, including Devil's Lake and Wisconsin Dells, making the ferry experience a popular, scenic and nostalgic part of the tourists' travels. For more information on the Merrimac Ferry visit:  
<http://www.tn.merrimac.wi.gov/ferry.htm> and  
<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/water/merrimac.htm>.



Photo courtesy of Town of Merrimac website.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Real Estate News .....	3
Lake Wisconsin Alliance ..	4
Fishing Report .....	6
Lake Wisconsin Map .....	8
Business Spotlight .....	11
Local Events .....	12
Kirk's Korner .....	13



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**Map:** Shows the location of Bell Ford Inc. at the intersection of Hwy. 51 and Hwy. 60, just off Hwy. 51 & 60 in Arlington, WI. The map also shows the location of the current Bell Ford Inc. location at the intersection of Hwy. 51 and Hwy. 60 in Arlington, WI.



# Real Estate NEWS



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## Planning to Sell Your Home?

### Refer to This Home Staging Check List for Best Results!

**W**hen you get ready to place a home for sale it becomes a product. Just like any product your home has features and benefits, pluses and minuses. And there are other products to compete with. To gain an edge in your marketplace, you must be priced right and look better than the competition. The most important thing you can do to prepare your home for sale is to get rid of the clutter. One of the biggest factors contributing to clutter is too much furniture. Evaluate what you have and ask yourself what you can live without. Another factor influencing potential buyers is storage space. We often see buyers opening bathroom, bedroom and kitchen closets. So, remove the clutter and clean out your closets. You want to show buyers storage, not lack of storage. You may consider packing up the items you don't immediately need and storing them off site. You will have to move it at some point and this will lessen the work on moving day. Here are some general tips.

- ✓ Most carpets need to be cleaned. Have them professionally cleaned before coming on the market. If they need to be replaced you should replace them unless you don't want to ask top dollar.
- ✓ Check all light fixtures. Are they working properly? Replace all burned out light bulbs. Look for dark hallways and corners and increase the wattage of bulbs in those areas. Turn on all lights for each showing.
- ✓ Repair and repaint cracks on all walls and ceilings.
- ✓ Keep all curtains and blinds open during the day to let in all light and views. The extra cost of heating or air conditioning is a necessary cost of selling.
- ✓ Pack up all valuables to protect them. If necessary, take them to a safe deposit box.
- ✓ Take a hard look at those beloved house plants. In most cases, plants can be removed to create more space.
- ✓ Fireplaces need to be cleaned out. Glass doors should be cleaned. Remove clutter from mantels and hearths.
- ✓ Pack up all collections. They distract buyers from the desired focal point... your home.
- ✓ Reduce the number of family photos on shelves, pianos and tables.
- ✓ Reduce the number of wall hung photos and paintings in every room to one large piece on a wall or a small group of three. Make sure they are hung at eye level. Most people hang their pictures too high.
- ✓ Wash all windows inside and out and make sure they operate freely.
- ✓ Repair items that are broken. This will show that your home is well taken care of. In most cases, buyers will ask for them to be repaired anyway, so do it now.
- ✓ And don't forget your yard, shoreline, and dock. Neat, tidy, and not a lot of maintenance are important to buyers looking to enjoy more time on the water and less time doing yard work.

In the end, the way you live in your home and the way you market and sell your house are two different things. Terra Firma Realty helps each of our clients properly stage their home to sell for top dollar in the quickest time. Let us know if we can help stage and sell your home.

### DID YOU KNOW?

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... Watch for more information on algae in the next issue of Lake Wisconsin *Living*.



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## Lake Wisconsin Alliance

The Lake Wisconsin Alliance (LWA) continues to grow and has recently filed for non-profit status with the State of Wisconsin. The Steering Committee will be finalizing by-laws next month and then will be voting on its first Board of Directors at its first Annual Meeting in August this year.

We continue to be impressed by the individuals who have been willing to come forward to help LWA – we have had a lawyer help with the filing of our non-profit application, a waste water engineer helping with our water quality issues, several individuals from UW County Extension Office, Sauk and Columbia County staff, local governance staff as well as many citizens who either live on the lake or use the lake on a regular basis – all participating in the regular meetings.

Please be sure to attend our next educational meeting which will be held on Thursday, June 12th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the new Lodi Town Hall, W10919 Cty. Hwy. V. This meeting will be a workshop explaining the risks associated with a river reservoir, particularly one that lies at the end of the river basin such as Lake Wisconsin. After a brief presentation there will be an opportunity to work in small groups to discuss opportunities to address issues such as water quality and invasive species and erosion – all items of concern as identified by participants of our educational meetings over the past year. Speakers will include Paul McGinley from UW-Stevens Point, Scott Provost from Wisconsin DNR and Amanda Acton from Alliant Energy.

You can contact Kirk Boehm at [kmb.boehm@gmail.com](mailto:kmb.boehm@gmail.com) or 608-635-8851 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 see our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/LakeWisconsinAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/LakeWisconsinAlliance).



River Alliance is a proud supporter of the Lake Wisconsin Alliance and their efforts to be an organized voice for Lake Wisconsin. We're pleased to welcome them into the family of citizen lake groups up and down the Wisconsin River system working together to protect and care for their waters.

Visit [www.wisconsinrivers.org](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org) where you can learn more about the River Alliance of Wisconsin, read our blog and sign up to receive our e-newsletter.

### Be Part of Your Newsletter...

To make your newsletter even better, we invite you to submit your information to be published in *Lake Wisconsin Living*. Do you want to highlight stories about your friends, activities you have experienced, family fun, etc.? Let us know by emailing your information to [newsletter@TFMwisconsin.com](mailto:newsletter@TFMwisconsin.com).

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

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# June Fishing on *Lake Wisconsin and Wisconsin River*

By Gary Sanders • Lake Wisconsin Walleyes, LLC • [www.lakewisconsinwalleyes.com](http://www.lakewisconsinwalleyes.com)

**T**he month of June is my favorite time to fish on Lake Wisconsin. The days are long, the weather is warm, fish are widely distributed throughout the lake, a variety of tactics can be used to catch them, and the bite is relatively consistent well into July.

Because the fish are widely distributed throughout the lake, I seek to quickly cover as much water as possible in order to contact as many fish as I can. Often, that means trolling crank baits or stick baits. There are a variety of ways to present these baits that are effective, and the method I choose pertains to where I locate active fish. The keys to these presentations are efficiency and repeatability. Running multiple lines while moving at a consistent speed is efficient and using dive curves to run baits at specific depths based on the amount of line out and the boat's speed is repeatable.

**Flats:** This is a generic term that when applied to Lake Wisconsin, simply means a large area that does not have dramatic depth changes. An example would be the general area in the middle of the lake between Stoner's Bay on the Northeast side of the lake, and Sticky Bay on the Southeast side of the lake. Walleyes roam throughout this general area in summer searching for food and often the most efficient means to catch them is to troll shad imitating crank baits such as Berkley Flicker Shads, Rapala Shad Raps, or Storm Smash Shads. I often use two methods to fish this type of bottom feature; trolling with planer boards or long-lining. Planer boards spread your lines away from the boat allowing you to cover a larger area. When walleyes are really biting well, we often skip putting boards on and just run the lines straight back in order to set lines back faster after catching a fish.

**Break lines and channel edges:** a break line is a generic term that simply means an area where there is a sudden depth change for an extended distance. Fish will often relate to this type of structure and travel along them as we would a roadway. They may be found on top of the break or off the edge of it. The edge of the channel on either side of the buoy line would be a similar feature and may be fished much the same way. Break lines seldom run straight for very long, so when I locate walleyes along these features I typically troll with lead-core lines. Lead core is a weighted line that sinks to a predictable depth based on the amount of line out, the baits dive curve, and boat speed. Lead core lines tend to closely follow the path of the boat which is very effective when following a winding break line or channel edge.


We can often get caught up on trying to determine the hot color for the day, but I feel that time is better spent determining locations and effective ways to present baits. Color is the easiest variable to control.

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Lake Wisconsin Walleyes, LLC



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Professional Guide  
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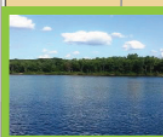


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## Upper Lake Wisconsin (Wisconsin River)

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**Warning**  
River upstream of I-90 bridge  
is shallow and water levels will  
change frequently.

Continued on main map

Using the GPS Coordinates  
Coordinates are in degrees,  
minutes, and seconds. The marks  
are located on the lake every 30  
seconds. Each line in the map  
margin represents 5 seconds.  
The coordinates are intended to  
help you find the approximate  
location of features in the lake.

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# BUSINESS

## •••Spotlight

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- Remove unwanted or excessive hair
- Reduce undesired fatty areas of the body

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# Local Events

## FARMERS' MARKETS

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

## LAKESIDE BAR & GRILL

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- June 21st - 5-9pm, The Funky Chunky Band
- June 28th - 6:30-10pm, Black Water Gin Band
- July 4th - 12-4pm, (outside) The Blues Party 4th of July Celebration - \$6.00 2pc Fish Fry ALL DAY!
- July 5th - 12-4pm (outside) The Leeding Zeros Band - 5-9pm (outside) Surrender Dorothy
- July 12th - 2-6pm (outside) The Fifth Gear Band
- July 19th - 5-9pm (outside) Chameleon
- July 26th - 4-8pm (inside) Cool Front



## BREAKFAST / BRUNCH ON THE FARM

- Saturday, June 14th, 9am-1pm, Columbia County, Walk-Era Dairy Farm, N9036 Lewiston Station Rd, Wisconsin Dells

## MOTO STATIC CRUISE INN & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 14, 2014 - 8am-4pm

Cars, music, food, train rides, tractor pulls for the kids, and pontoon rides, Chandler Park, east of Hwy 44; left on Park Dr to the park. FREE Event! [www.motostatic.com](http://www.motostatic.com)

## LAKE WISCONSIN ALLIANCE

- Steering Committee Meetings (4th Thursday of the month)  
June 26th, July 24th 6pm, Lodi Women's Club Public Library, 130 Lodi St., Lodi, WI
- Educational Meeting - Thursday, June 12 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Lodi Town Hall, W10919 City Hwy. V. Contact Kirk at 608-635-8851 or [kmb.boehm@gmail.com](mailto:kmb.boehm@gmail.com)

## LODI AGRICULTURE FAIR

July 10th - 13th - Music, raffles, food, softball tournament, demolition derby, tractor/truck pull, exhibits, horse pull, carnival rides and more... FREE! 700 Fair Street, Lodi, WI [lodiagfair.com](http://lodiagfair.com)

## COLUMBIA COUNTY FAIR

July 23rd - July 27th - [www.columbiacofair.com](http://www.columbiacofair.com)

## WAUNAFEST

July 24th - 27th - Four-day event with petting zoo, carnival, volleyball & softball tournaments, 5K & 10-mile run/walk, entertainment tent, craft show, food stands, parade, and classic car show. Centennial Park, 901 S. Holiday Drive - [waunafest.org](http://waunafest.org)

## SAUK PRAIRIE HARLEY DAVIDSON POKER RUN

July 27th - Run will alternate between historical sites and bars/restaurants. Prairie du Sac Dam will be a stop. Limited tours available (viewing from powerhouse landing - no PPE required).

## MERRIMAC COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 2, 2014 - 10am-8pm - The Festival at Memorial Park (along the beautiful shoreline of Lake Wisconsin at Front Street in Merrimac). Featuring rock & roll music by Flip City Live band, 2 water ski shows, great chicken BBQ and other foods, arts & crafts vendors, horseshoe tournament, kids' activities, chicken drop, raffle and beverage tent. Contact [www.villageofmerrimac.org](http://www.villageofmerrimac.org) or 608-493-2122

## BARABOO SUMMERSSET FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

August 1st - 3rd, 9am-5pm - Live music, food & drink, performances, workshops, visual arts, theatre, dance, film, literature, creative writing for all ages. UW Baraboo/Sauk County, 1006 Connie Road, [www.summerssetfestival.org](http://www.summerssetfestival.org)

## ARLINGTON FIREMAN'S FESTIVAL

August 1st - 3rd - Live music, volleyball, softball and horseshoe tournaments, truck & tractor pull. [www.arlingtonfiredept.com](http://www.arlingtonfiredept.com)

## LOCAL JULY 4TH FIREWORKS CELEBRATIONS

### June 28th

- Portage - Fireworks at dusk at Pauquette Park, Hwy 33 over the Wisconsin River
- Madison - Rhythm & Booms, dusk, shot from Lake Monona, John Nolen Drive  
[www.rhythmsandbooms.com](http://www.rhythmsandbooms.com)



### July 4th

- Baraboo - Fireworks at dusk at the Baraboo H.S., 1201 Draper St.
- DeForest - Spectacular Fireworks Display at dusk, Fireman's P ark, 500 Jefferson Street, downtown DeForest
- Pardeeville - Parade at 12noon with Fireworks at dusk, Chandler Park, east of Hwy 44, left on Park Drive
- Reedsburg - Fireworks at dusk at Nishan Park, 1700 Eighth Street in Reedsburg
- Wisconsin Dells - Fireworks Extravaganza at dusk at Wisconsin Dells Municipal Pool, 510 Veterans Drive

### July 5th

- Merrimac - Fireworks at dusk by Merrimac Fire Department, just off S7116 Bluff Road just north of Merrimac
- Prairie du Sac - "Fire on the River" at Sauk City Riverwalk, 726 Water Street in Sauk City [www.fireontheriver.org](http://www.fireontheriver.org)

### July 19th

- Dekorra - Midsummer Nights in Dekorra Fireworks Celebration at dusk, in the field at the corner of McMillan & Hall Road, near Poynette-Dekorrra recycling center. Rain date is Sunday, July 20th.



# Kirk's Korner



## Q: How Old is Lake Wisconsin?

This year Lake Wisconsin will be 100 years old as the result of the Prairie du Sac Dam, which is currently operated by Alliant Energy. The construction for the dam began in 1911 and was finished in 1914. Magnus Swenson, a Norwegian immigrant and engineer, formed a company in 1905 called Southern Wisconsin Power Company to study the feasibility for a hydroelectric dam on the Wisconsin River. Swenson first built the Kilbourn dam in 1909, currently located in Wisconsin Dells. Although this first dam was not profitable at the time, Swenson was convinced it would eventually become cost-effective and went forward with the construction of the Prairie du Sac Dam, ultimately forming what we now know as Lake Wisconsin.

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 May/June thru October 2014. For hours visit <http://saukprairiehistory.org/> and <http://www.facebook.com/groups/130412887037238/>

In addition, there will be several events and activities in July, August and September of this year celebrating the 100th year Anniversary of the dam and Lake Wisconsin. Watch for more information in the next issue of Lake Wisconsin *Living*.

*Do you have a question about Lake Wisconsin or the Wisconsin River? If so, please send your question to [newsletter@TFMwisconsin.com](mailto:newsletter@TFMwisconsin.com).*

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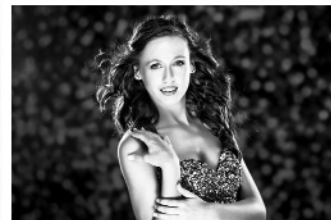
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