

# Lake Wisconsin

# Living

March | April 2015

AN EXCLUSIVE NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LAKE WISCONSIN

## About the River

*Repurposed from the Website of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW)*

### The Legend

According to an old Ho-Chunk legend, the Wisconsin River was formed by a spirit who had taken the form of a gigantic serpent. One day he decided to make a trip to the sea from his home in the great forests near Big Lake (near Rice Creek State Natural Area.) As he crawled over the land he made a groove into which water rushed. Sudden movements of his tail caused the water to splash and form lakes. The beds of the tributaries arose from the grooves of other serpents who, being afraid of the Great Spirit, had fled in all directions. Near the Dells the serpent entered a large body of rock. Finding a crack, he thrust his head in and struggled forward, bursting the stone apart as he went. Further on he changed direction and, becoming tired from his efforts, he rested and wallowed around, which widened the channel there.



### But Really

In some ways the scientific explanation of the river's origin is not as satisfying as the Native Americans' magical story. Fettered by facts and theories, geologists have a more difficult job, for to decipher the river's development requires going back several billion years almost to the basement of time – the Precambrian era. Accordingly, their interpretation of its formative history is complex and not completely understood or even agreed upon. Much of this uncertainty has to do with glacial events in northern and south-central Wisconsin that rewrote the script – obliterating earlier land forms and creating new ones. These events are what caused the river to assume its present unusual course: bisecting the state vertically for the first two-thirds of its length, bending to the west between Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids, and then below Portage abruptly turning westward until emptying into the Mississippi.

### The Wisconsin Ice Age

The current thinking is that with the exception of the Driftless Area in southwestern Wisconsin, different portions of the state were covered with ice by at least one and possibly as many as twenty-five glacial advances, which came down from Canada in a period between about 2.4 million and 25,000 years ago. Insights into their history are just unfolding. Finally, about twenty-five thousand years ago a lobe of the last great glacier of the Ice Age flowed southwesterly across the state until it covered the northern portion to about Merrill. Another part of this ice sheet – commonly called the Great Bay Lobe – extended southerly from near Antigo to the east end of the Baraboo Hills, then southwesterly through Dane County and into northern Illinois.

The intersection of this glacier with the unyielding Baraboo Hills created an ice dam that impounded the glacier's meltwaters and formed a huge body of water called Glacial Lake Wisconsin. Probably this dam broke and reformed several times as the ice front alternatively wasted back and advanced over the next several thousand years. At its zenith, the lake covered an area in the central portion of the state estimated to have been more than eight times larger than Lake Winnebago and with depths of up to 160 feet.

About fourteen thousand years ago, the ice sheet began permanently withdrawing as the earth's atmosphere warmed toward the end of the Pleistocene Era, and the Baraboo Hills' ice dam broke for the final time. The

*Continued on page 3...*

# BUSINESS

## •••Spotlight

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On October 1st, 2014 the DNR implemented new rules regarding well water testing. As of this date, any well inspection also requires that the water be tested for coliform bacteria, nitrates, and arsenic. The inspection and water test must be conducted by a licensed well driller or pump installer.

Many times an Offer to Purchase for a home utilizing a private well will include a well inspection and sometimes a water test. The new rule requires that any well inspection will automatically trigger a water test even if the well water testing contingency is not included. This does not mean that every real estate transfer will require a water test, just those that include a well inspection or specifically call for a water test.

The well inspection and subsequent water test can be obtained and paid for by either the Buyer or the Seller, depending upon the terms of the Offer. The terms of the Offer may also include whether or not the Seller has the ability to cure any defects in the well or remedy issues shown on a water test. Whether buying or selling a home with a water well, it's important that both parties consider appropriate deadlines allowing enough time for not only the inspections or testing, but also for the remedy of potential issues.

## About the River, *continued from front page...*

cataclysmic flood that ensued literally compressed geological time into hours – the lake's water level probably dropped a hundred feet in several days as its rampaging waters tore out a channel and flooded down the lower Wisconsin River valley, swelling the river to over a hundred times its present size. Enormous quantities of sand and gravel filled the river's bed, in some areas up to 150 feet deep. Later as the stream eroded through it, numerous terraces were formed.

### Four Segments

Because of these events, the present-day riverbed consists of four major segments, each with a distinctive history. The first segment from Lac Vieux Desert to Merrill formed while the last glacial advance receded from this area. Since the land from Merrill to Stevens Point was not covered at that time by either ice or Glacial Lake Wisconsin, this segment of the riverbed predates the last glacier. It probably served to carry melt-water from the ice front to the glacial lake. The third segment from Stevens Point to Portage was formed when the glacial lake drained.

(Below Stevens Point, the pre-glacial river's course had been to the southeast but it was still blocked by the receding glacier when the ice dam broke.) The river's course around Portage formed soon after the ice dam broke when the river was forced to cut a new channel at a lower elevation. The last segment, west to the Mississippi, had probably been part of another older river whose origin to the east had been erased by the glacier. Interestingly, at some much earlier time – perhaps as early as the first advance about 2.4 million years ago – a glacier had penetrated two to three miles up this river's mouth, temporarily forcing it to flow eastward, likely by way of the Duck Creek and Fox River drainages to an ancestral Rock River system.

### Presently

From its origin at Lac Vieux Desert, the river flows through the northern highlands to Nekoosa, a province of ancient Precambrian crystalline bedrocks overlaid by layers of drift from several major glacial advances. Just above Merrill the river crosses the youngest glacier's

terminal moraine (i.e., rocky deposits marking the termination of a glacial advance). From Merrill it continues south through older glacial drift, traversing a major moraine by the Lake DuBay dam in northern Portage County and passing through the oldest drift until it reaches Stevens Point. Here it leaves the glaciated area, and below the city turns westward to Wisconsin Rapids – Nekoosa, imprisoned between the edge of the oldest glacier's moraine to the north and the youngest glacier's outwash plain to the south. Just beyond Nekoosa, it abruptly passes into the Cambrian sandstone lowlands, entering the flat Central Sand Plain – a legacy of Glacial Lake Wisconsin. About a mile below the Dells, it crosses another portion of the youngest glacier's terminal moraine and flows through its drift until it reaches Prairie du Sac, where it recrosses the moraine. The river then traverses the uplifted, soft sandstones and limestones of the Driftless Area in the Western Uplands until it joins the Mississippi River.



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

# Lake Wisconsin Alliance

*Lake Wisconsin Alliance (LWA) – a recently developed, non-profit (501(c) 3, citizen advocacy organization with a mission to endeavor to balance the diverse interests of the Lake Wisconsin community while improving recreational opportunities, water quality, and sustaining a healthy ecosystem within the Lake Wisconsin Watershed.*

Lake Wisconsin Alliance (LWA) has been hard at work over the winter and as a result just recently received a River Management Grant from the State of Wisconsin DNR to help LWA with its educational mission and to help create a greater awareness of LWA. The grant will help by providing funds to build a LWA web site, to develop and publish a brochure, and to design a logo. Currently LWA is soliciting help in developing the web site, a brochure and a logo, so if you or anyone you know has skills in these areas we would certainly like to hear from you if you are willing to volunteer some of your time and expertise.

Back on January 13th we conducted an educational seminar at the Lodi library regarding lake biology, home shoreline practices and indicator fish species. Speakers included Susan Graham, Water Resources Management Specialist with the Wisconsin DNR and Dave Marshall, aquatic ecologist with Underwater Habitat Investigations, LLC. The seminar was interactive, very informative and very well attended. LWA will continue to conduct educational seminars / programs, so be sure to watch future issues of this newsletter and keep your eyes on our Facebook page for more information on dates and times ([www.facebook.com/LakeWisconsinAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/LakeWisconsinAlliance)).

## UPCOMING EVENTS • MONTHLY MEETINGS

- **Thursday, March 26, 2015, Location TBD**
- **Thursday, April, 23, 2015, Location TBD**
- **Fish Shocking Demo, Date/Time/Location TBD**

As always, Lake Wisconsin Alliance encourages all citizens to participate and very much welcomes your membership. As the organization continues to grow, the need for membership dues is necessary to continue the mission of protecting Lake Wisconsin's water quality and recreational opportunities for all.

Please contact Kirk Boehm at [kmb.boehm@gmail.com](mailto:kmb.boehm@gmail.com) or 608-635-8851 if you would like be included in the email announcement list or if you have any questions regarding LWA. Also be sure to LIKE the Facebook page for LWA at [www.facebook.com/LakeWisconsinAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/LakeWisconsinAlliance). By doing this you will be able to regularly see information related to future meetings and educational programming.



# Fishing on Lake Wisconsin and Wisconsin River

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

## Think Spring!

The sap starts running in the trees, and buds start to pop out seemingly overnight. Turkeys start strutting in anticipation of attracting hens, and the walleyes and saugers have started their journey upstream in preparation for their annual spawning ritual. The longer days and warming temperatures create snow melt thus increasing the current and eroding the ice. Open water fishing for pre-spawn walleyes and saugers on the Wisconsin River is a welcome change after months of ice fishing.



### Lake Wisconsin Walleyes, LLC



Gary Sanders  
Professional Guide  
(608)235-0962

[gary@lakewisconsinwalleyes.com](mailto:gary@lakewisconsinwalleyes.com)

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With a little cooperation from Mother Nature, ice-out in the narrows above Tipperary Point typically occurs around the second or third week of March, but access from the boat landings there can take a few days more as the current eats away at accumulated ice and snow piled up at the launches. This bite can be fantastic as thousands of walleyes and saugers move through the narrows in waves on their way upstream to spawn, but it's no secret, and parking is limited, so the early birds get to launch.

These fish are not shy about biting and a variety of presentations will work, but pulling a three-way rig upstream with a #11 floating Rapala and vertical jigging with jig & plastic, jig & minnow or hair jigs while slipping

with the current back downstream through the deeper sections of the river are typically effective techniques that catch plenty of fish. These fish won't hang around long, however. But not to fear as they'll be back by May where you can get them in the same place on their return from spawning. Complicating their return downstream, is the start of the crappie bite around the same time, forcing you to choose which species to chase. In the interim, during the month of April, you can find plenty of walleyes and saugers within a few miles of either the Prairie du Sac Dam or the Kilbourne Dam at the Wisconsin Dells.

Here's to another productive open water season on Lake Wisconsin and the Wisconsin River. Tight Lines!

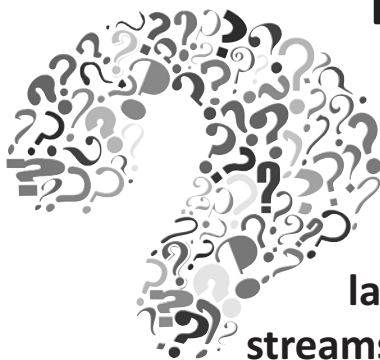
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# Calendar of Events

## MARCH MADNESS KICK-OFF PARTY

March 19th-20th at Lucky's on the Lake, W11579 Hwy V, Lodi. Come watch all of the games at Lucky's and enjoy food and drink specials. Bring your brackets! 608-592-5825 • [www.luckysbarandgrill.com](http://www.luckysbarandgrill.com)

**DISPLAY: Bird Art by Local Artists**, Lodi Public Library - Now through March 28th - Local area artists are featured in this display of bird art in the library's program room. Visit anytime during open Library hours. Sponsored by Lodi Reads Leopold, a team within the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley, who plans events in March of each year to heighten awareness of Aldo Leopold and his ideas.

## LAKESIDE BAR & GRILL

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- March 21st - 5:00-9:00 p.m. The Blues Party Band
- April 4th - 4:00-8:00 p.m., Acoustic Solo Teddy Davenport
- April 18th - 5:00-9:00 p.m., Old School Band
- May 9th - Four Lakes Bass Tournament, ALL Day
- May 16th - 2nd Annual Salute to Soldiers Fundraiser - Proceeds go to American Legion & Wounded Warrior.

## 2nd ANNUAL LADIES NIGHT AT PORTAGE

**LUMBER** March 19th - 6:30-8:30 p.m., Portage Lumber store at 1009 E. Wisconsin Street, Portage. FREE event. Register by Wednesday, March 11th. Event includes FREE appetizers and refreshments, FREE massages, grand prize giveaways, photo booth to capture your experience, local vendors showcasing their products, DIY classes/workshops, hands-on power tool station, latest painting tips, gift bags to first 75 ladies, and much more. Also 20% off storewide! RSVP by March 11th by calling 608-742-7186 or [info@portagelumber.com](mailto:info@portagelumber.com).

## LODI VALLEY CHAPTER IATA Annual Meeting

March 28th - 5:00-8:00 p.m., West Point Town Hall, N2114 Rausch Road, Lodi. Join the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) for an evening of socialization, delicious food, and an interesting presentation:

- 5:00 p.m. - Social BYOB
- 5:45 p.m. - Pot Luck Dinner, bring a dish to pass
- 7:00 p.m. - Presentation by Steve Swensen, Ecologist from Aldo Leopold Center
- TOPIC: Aldo Leopold & a Land Ethic in Our Time
- 8:00 p.m. - Business Meeting
- Contact Joanna at 608-592-7817



## EASTER EGG HUNT sponsored by Portage Lions Club

Saturday, April 4th - 10:00 -10:30 a.m. Foil-wrapped chocolate eggs will be scattered on the grounds of Woodridge and John Muir School at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Bring baskets or bags to collect eggs. Children will be separated by age groups from 1-10 years of age. [www.portagewi.com](http://www.portagewi.com)

## EASTER BASH at Pierce's Market Place

2915 New Pinery Road, Portage on Saturday, April 4th, 10:0 a.m. -12:00 noon. Activities, pictures with the Easter Bunny, Easter treats, and much more. 608-742-2386 • [www.piercesmarkets.com](http://www.piercesmarkets.com)

## LAKE DELTON REGIONAL JOB FAIR

Buffalo Phil's Bar & Grille in the Crystal Room, 150 Gasser Road, Lake Delton on Wednesday, April 8th from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

**LODI VALLEY Chapter IATA Meeting** - April 16th at 7:00 p.m., Lodi Medical Clinic, 160 Valley Drive, Lodi. Attend the meeting to learn more about what's happening with the Ice Age Trail in this area. For more information, contact Joanna at 608-592-7817.

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**DANE COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET** - 1st Outdoor Market of 2015 on Saturday, April 18th from 6:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The Saturday Dane County Farmers' Market is conveniently located on the tree-lined grounds surrounding the State Capitol building - otherwise known as "the square." See [www.dcfm.org](http://www.dcfm.org) for directions and parking.

**TRAIL IMPROVEMENT EVENT** with Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) - Saturday, April 18th from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at Rainbow Bridge. The group will work for about 3 hours. Help out for as long as you can. Bring work gloves, water, a snack, bug spray, and an energetic attitude. Wear hefty shoes and long sleeves. Look for the yellow IAT event sign. For directions see website [www.iceagetrail.org](http://www.iceagetrail.org) or contact Bill at 608-843-3926 for more information.

**WINE WALK** - Friday, April 24th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. - Downtown Portage. Enjoy a night out with friends tasting great wine inside various businesses while also walking from place-to-place to shop. Advance ticket sales start March 25th - \$25/person cash or check at the Portage Chamber of Commerce, 104 W. Cook Street. Admission includes one wine glass per person, tasting map, and wristband. Participants must be 21 or over and ID is required. 608-742-6242 or [www.portagewi.com](http://www.portagewi.com)

**LODI CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALES** - April 24th to 26th. Get your house and goodies ready for a fun weekend of garage sale shopping. Be sure to contact Lodi Enterprise at 608-592-3261, to get your ad in the paper. Map and ad for all garage sales will appear the week before.



**SAUK COUNTY EARTH DAY 2015!** Sunday, April 26th from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., UW-Baraboo/Sauk County, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo. FREE Admission! An indoor family event with around 50 hands-on, fun displays for youth and adults, four mini-workshops, door prizes, and more! For more information call 608-355-4839 or email [ppohle@co.sauk.wi.us](mailto:ppohle@co.sauk.wi.us), or check out [www.saukcountyearthday.org](http://www.saukcountyearthday.org).



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# Kirk's Korum



## Q. What is the TMDL Study?

The Wisconsin DNR, together with many partners (i.e. Lake Wisconsin Alliance) throughout the river basin, are working to improve the water quality of the Wisconsin River and its reservoirs, including Lake Wisconsin. The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study and implementation plan will provide a strategic framework and prioritize resources for water quality improvement in the Wisconsin River Basin. The Wisconsin River TMDL study area spans Wisconsin's central corridor from the headwaters in Vilas County to our own Lake Wisconsin, covering 9,156 square miles, approximately 15 percent of the state.

So just what is the TMDL? TMDL is the amount of pollutant that can be discharged into a waterway and still meet water quality standards. In the Wisconsin River Basin, the TMDL is the total amount of phosphorus and suspended solids that can be discharged into the river, its tributaries and reservoirs, and still meet water quality standards. Under existing conditions, many reservoirs and tributaries in the Wisconsin River do NOT meet water quality standards due to excess pollutant loads; meaning the reservoirs and tributaries are not suitable for their designated uses, such as fishing, wildlife habitat, and/or recreational activities such as boating and swimming.

The goal of the Wisconsin DNR is to have a draft of the TMDL by early 2016 and an approved TMDL by 2017. However, due to uncertainty in available resources for completing the TMDL study, the DNR cannot commit to a specific completion date.

## So Why the TMDL Study?

*This study and implementation plan will provide a strategic framework and prioritize resources for water quality improvement in the Wisconsin River Basin by answering the following questions:*

- What is the magnitude of the existing pollutant load?
- What is the contribution from each pollution source?
- How much does pollution need to be reduced in order for each waterway to meet water quality standards and achieve their designated uses (fishing, recreation, habitat, etc.)?
- How will the needed pollutant load reductions be achieved for each waterway?

*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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