



A newsletter of the Town of Sturgeon Bay Lakeshore Area

Volume 3, Issue 2

FALL 2003

Beach Testing

by Bill Orner

E Coli! Flash back to news headlines of beach closings, bacteria counts and illnesses. As concern rose about the quality of our water resource, the Lake Michigan Federation began the Adopt-a-Beach program of volunteer testing, coordinated locally by the Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department (SWCD).

In June training was held and materials provided to volunteers for beach and water monitoring. A Lake Forest Park team took water samples on July 9 & 23, August 13 & 27 and September 10 at a beach location just north of the Chippewa lake access, about midway along the Road. Testing methodology included wading out in the lake to a depth of one meter, obtaining the sample in a sterile Whirl-Pak bag using a pipette to dispense one milliliter of it onto a petri film plate, incubating the sample, reading the culture and entering the counts into a Web database.

No colonies of E. Coli were recorded at our site with the exception of the July 23rd sample which had two colonies of E. Coli, just below the acceptable EPA threshold of 2.35 colonies per ml (equivalent to 235 colonies per 100 ml). Many other colonies, not E. Coli, were found and recorded, as well as the presence of decomposing dead fish, other bacteria sources, weather conditions and shoreline information.

Testing at Portage Park on August 1st by the SWCD prompted a beach advisory there on August 2nd and 3rd. Extremely high readings of E. Coli led to an immediate beach closing on September 10th, the date of our final volunteer test at our site over a mile to the north of the park. Jaime Corbisier, SWCD Conservationist, indicated that result data could be different on the same day as findings are very localized. She also mentioned data is extremely reactive to storm events, i.e., E. Coli readings can occur just about anywhere after heavy rains.

Adopt-A-Beach data and observations for Lake Forest Park, Little Sturgeon and Glidden Drive may be found at:

www.lakemichigan.org.

Annual Meeting

by Marion Orlock

Guest speaker conservationist Jaime Corbisier gave a detailed slide presentation on: "Invasive Plants in Door County and Wisconsin" and another on "Water Quality." Jaime answered some concerns, especially regarding the green, slimy algae that has invaded areas along the beach, putting to rest the assumption many had that the cause was weed harvesting in the Bay.

The association welcomed new members Helen & Carl Marschner (2507), Sally and Dave Richardson (3160), and Bob & Lorraine Nonn (3332).

Officers for 2003-2004 are:

President: Jim McAninch

Vice President: Pat Nell/Lewis Gibson

Secretary: Marion Orlock

Treasurer: Jane Kusche

Directors: Tom Bennett, Joe & Liz Wallner, Steve Johnson

Committee Chairs:

Membership & Newsletter Editor: Ruth Sandor

Newsletter Production: Marilyn & Don Carolan

Nominating: Karen Ebbeson

Octoberfest: Celeste Munson

Entrance Sign & Flowers: Mary Parker & Tom Bennett

Transitions

by Pam Mc Gee

Our wonderful neighbors Ruth and Bob Lutzke have moved from their home on Lake Forest Park Road to Cardinal Ridge, an assisted living facility (formerly Care for All Ages) on the West Side of Sturgeon Bay. Ruth and Bob have two rooms arranged as a living room and separate bedroom, enabling them to be together. Their phone number is unchanged. They are settled in and I am sure would enjoy a visit from you. Mail is addressed to them at 817 Circle Ridge Place, Room 121, Sturgeon Bay WI 54235. (Information shared by nephew Paul and his wife).

It's Been A Long, Long Time: The story of the Log Cabin at 2820 Lake Forest Park Drive

by Bob & Karen Hays

Once upon a time there was no Lake Forest Park Drive. The road to the lake was Buffalo Ridge Trail, an old logging road, partially corduroy (log). The family referred to it as the Woods Trail.

It was very narrow. If a car met another while going to or from Lake Michigan, one driver would have to back his vehicle up into a clearing. In the spring often part of the road was flooded.



The Draeb family cabins were installed on property purchased by George A. Draeb in 1921 from Lester Cheeseman for one dollar. Since George was a jeweler, there was probably some in-kind trading going on as well.

The front log cabin came from the Ernest Long Logging Camp and was moved to the property in the 1920's. The logs are round and it had a small loft, later removed. When little Billy Draeb was two, in 1928, he was sent to the loft for a nap. It was later discovered that he painted a portion of the ceiling green. The paint remains.

George Draeb and Henry Dankoler installed a fireplace inlaid with pocket watches. The Door County Advocate noted this unique fireplace in its "50 Years Ago Today" column in the late 1970's. Soon afterwards the cabin was vandalized by someone who apparently thought the imbedded watches were of value. The only justice about this incident is that the thieves were wrong about the old nickel-plated "dollar-watches." Bill Draeb spent much of one winter in the early 1980's restoring the two missing panels with replicas of the originals.

A second cabin was added in 1931. It had originally housed builders of the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal; horses transported it over the ice in the winter. It had square logs notched and numbered with Roman numerals and a full sleeping loft. It became the back of the cabin and was made the kitchen.

The late 1920's and early 1930's provided great summer entertainment for the Draeb family children. Early mornings were spent spying on Mr. Cheeseman as he went down to the lake and bathed in his red union suit. They gathered blueberries and black raspberries. When the girls were alone they would swim "bare can" much to their mother Lydia's dismay. Lydia set out picnics on an immense stump about six feet in diameter. The deer ate out of her hand in the evening.

The cabin had a series of privies over the years. Water was obtained by hiking through the woods to the Cheeseman well and hand-pumping it into old Chlorox gallon bottles in the morning and evening. It was a practice continued well into the 1950's. Electricity was brought in during the late forties.

In the late thirties the cabin served as a honeymoon cottage for Grace Draeb and her husband Dale Chapman. They added bookshelves, cupboards and a flagstone patio. Ownership then passed to Doris Draeb and her husband Frank Ullsperger.

The 1950's were full of children. The Ullspergers and Bill Draeb's family used the cabin a lot. Up and down the beach there were a great number of kids, so the cottage was often overrun with a sandy gang playing Spoon or Monopoly. Endless beach parties continued into the sixties.

Karen Draeb and her husband Bob Hays began using the cabin as a summer vacation retreat in 1973 and bought it from her Aunt Dorie in 1981. It was re-roofed, skylights were added, deteriorating bottom logs were replaced, and a wooden deck took the place of the flagstone patio. Karen spent most of the summer there with the children, Erik and Elizabeth. Bob would join them as he could.

Things really hadn't changed much since the early days of Draeb habitation. Baths were still taken in the lake with Ivory soap. Water was hauled in a milk can from Bill and Joan Draeb's home five lots away. The privy was still limed. The kids still fought off bats in the loft.

In early fall 1990 the Hays (and their next door neighbors the Trollers, also with a privy) received ugly news from the DNR and county zoning officials that the cabin must be destroyed or attached to proper septic and well facilities. The Hays chose to save the cabin and attach a home to it. Bill Draeb designed a breezeway to span the two.

Now the cabin is mostly used for storage or occasional Boy Scout outings. It is due to have some log replacement and re-chinking next spring. Possibly the beaverboard walls put in during the thirties will come out. The Hays are trying to determine garage placement before they retire and make the family property their full-time home.

MICK'S PONDEROSA

Interview by Joan Draeb.

In 1994, Omer Mickelson purchased 14.5 acres of back lots on Lake Forest Park Drive. Many years ago a previous owner had divided this land into building lots. Omer felt that this area should remain as a wilderness area. He petitioned the Town of Sturgeon Bay Board to revert this land into "Wood Lot." They agreed.

MICK'S PONDEROSA *(continued)*

The trees on a "Wood Lot" are governed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Every so many years a specialist from the DNR walks through the lot marking trees that need to be harvested for the good of the land. This year the lumbering is being done by the Olson Company.

After the trees are removed the brush is placed in piles to make habitat for the birds and animals that live in the area. The DNR then inspects, making certain that the new saplings have room to mature.

Omer hopes you will all enjoy looking back into the woods watching the new growth appear over the next few years.

Food and Friends

Every year on the third Saturday of January (Jan 17, 04) residents gather at the Nightengale Supper Club. So popular is this opportunity to get out that it is immediately reserved for the next year. Cocktails at 6 p.m. dinner at 7. All are welcome; if the weather is conducive to travel many seasonal owners drive up. Call Jo Ann Zirtzlaff (930 746 0331) to reserve and be added to her mail/call reminder list.

Food and Football

On Superbowl Sunday Pat Nell and Lewis Gibson will host a tailgate potluck, inviting all the hardy souls in residence during winter. Pat promises her White Chili, back by popular demand. Call her at 743-5774 for particulars and to give a head and dish count.

Food and Fellowship

by Mary Parker and Karen Ebbeson

The Lake Forest Summer potluck dinners were grand in every way: delicious food and fine fellowship. The evenings averaged 35 to 45 persons; we appreciate the neighbors who are able to make their homes available.

Thanks to Joan Draeb (May) Ellen Diebel (June), the Crossroads at Big Creek (July salad supper), Jim and Donna Janning (August), Don and Marilyn Carolan (September).

Karen Hays is developing a recipe book from contributed dishes; contact her (743-0294) for forms. If you've attended you know what a very good cookbook it will be, perfect for Christmas 2004 gifts.

For the summer of 2004 we will vary the night of the week each month. Tentative hosts, in order are: Sue and Jim Mc Aninch, Karen and Jim Ebbeson, Mary and Carl Parker, Sally and Dave Richardson.

Save your white elephants for next season's hilarious auction to benefit the Crossroads. Our success depends also on people willing to help with mailings, to co-host, work on set up or clean up, plan entertainment, etc. To offer suggestions, to request notices or to volunteer, call Karen 743-3755 or Mary (708) 354-6927.

Editor's Note Re Membership

All Road neighbors, their families and guests are welcome at any social or informational occasion announced here or otherwise. Most of these are not "official events" sponsored by the LFP Corporation anyway. They are often organized by someone with a good idea and the gumption to set it up.

That said, having dues-paying members does benefit the Corporation, its formal participants, and all who live or own property here. The mailing label has June-04 if you are current, June-some-other-year if you have not renewed recently. If you've not been a member since the mailing list migrated to a new database program, there is no date.

Membership is \$10 for a household. Make checks payable to LFP Corporation and mail to:

Jane Kusche
2750 Lake Forest Park Rd,
Sturgeon Bay WI 54235

- This Newsletter is distributed by the Lake Forest Park Corporation. If you have any items of interest about the LFPR area or old pictures, contact one of the following:

President Jim McAninch mcaninch@doorpi.net

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The enclosed alien invaders: phragmites cards courtesy of Jaime Corbisier, Door County Soil and Water and Carolyn Rock, Whitefish Dunes State Park.

Coming in Spring/Summer 2004 issue:
More on algae and invasive honeysuckle.

