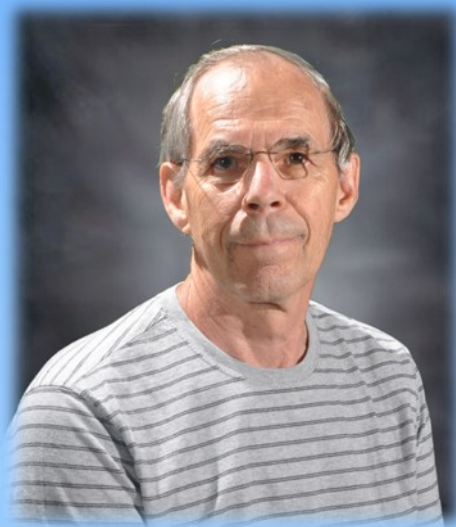


Manitowoc County Lakes Association

*Intended to provide useful current information to help Members
and the Public understand and protect Our Resources*

Fall 2012 Edition MCLA Lake Stewardship Awardees



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MCL

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2011—2012 MCLA Officers

President:
Gene Weyer

Past President:
Al Meyer

Vice-President:
Jerry Corfman

Secretary:
Char Peterson

Cover

MCLA's Lake Stewardship Awardees are from top left;

Julian Jetzer and Brian Kuckenbecker

From bottom left are;

Chuck Kiehn, Brian Robley
and Scott Otterson

Letter from our President



My mother once told me, "You can't expect things to get better if you don't get involved." Although my mother has been gone for a long time, her words still ring true.

I am happy to report that many of you stepped up and got involved in 2012. You helped to make a difference for Wisconsin, Manitowoc County, and your lake.

MCLA is supported by representatives from 24 lakes. Our bi-monthly meetings provide a chance to synergize, discuss what is working on our lakes, and find help for problems we might encounter.

In 2012, you initiated a wide variety of new projects. Here are some examples:

- Scores of volunteers helped assess and sample water on our 24 lakes. The assessment allows us to: compare water quality between all County lakes, scientifically rate water conditions and avoid casual assessments, relate rain-fall in the watershed to water quality, benchmark conditions for future tests, and focus efforts to lakes that have water quality issues.
- The same group determined water clarity and recorded the results. Many coincided the timing of their readings to a "DNR satellite fly-over." This information will help calibrate the satellite readings and show long-term water quality trends.
- A committee of MCLA representatives is working with the County to shape zoning ordinances that work within the State mandates, protect our lakes, but not interfere with how we want to live on our lakes.
- MCLA is expanding the volunteer base for identifying and treating invasive species both in the water and on land. Tom Ward is training the volunteers to be local experts. Being knowledgeable in Invasive Species might not sound too sexy, but stopping the spread of invasives will make Manitowoc County a better place to live. And, the activities are actually fun.

- In 2013, we plan to test water at "ice out." Might be a little cold, but this test will provide a true look at our lake conditions.
- In 2013, we plan to investigate oxygen levels under the ice. I think we have the equipment, and I know we have the volunteers.
- In 2013, we will have a representative participate in the Soil and Water Conservation Five Year Plan. Remember all that water testing we did this past summer? Well, we will use the data to help focus on area lakes that need help.

As you can see, we have a bunch of activities going on now, and many more for the future.

If you are looking for a way to give back to the community, if you are thinking about how you will be spending your time next week and don't have a good answer, and if you want to do something that will make you feel good, contact me. We have plenty of room in MCLA for people just like you.

Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring



Over 70 people have been trained to help monitor for Aquatic Invasive Species on Manitowoc County lakes. Monitors serve as the eyes and ears to spot invasive species on area lakes. Early detection of AIS allows for immediate treatment before it spreads and can be eligible for a rapid response grant if it is less than 5 acres and discovered within 5 years.

MCLA, in cooperation with Woodland Dunes Nature Center, conducts at least two training sessions each year. Many lake associations have trained their residents to keep their eyes out for AIS. Monitors have successfully identified new outbreaks of Eurasian Milfoil on Cedar, English and Harpts Lakes since the program began. Attendees at the training session held at Woodland Dunes learn to identify native and invasive aquatic plant species. Each participant is equipped with laminated life size specimens to aid in self help identification. Monitors will soon be asked to complete their end of year monitoring reports.

MCLA LOSES TWO FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS

Charles Bouc



Charles spraying invasive species on his wildlife properties at the age of 83.

Charles Bouc of Newton most recently passed away on September 12, 2012. He owned much of the land and drainage area to Weyers Lake and over his lifetime, planted many trees and shrubs, converting eroding cropland to wildlife habitat and protecting the watersheds from erosion.

Charles traveled to Europe and returned to his farm acreage with many conservation ideas that he had witnessed overseas. One of his practices was to plant a hedge row of trees and shrubs along his fields bordering the town roads at a time when most farmers were removing the fence lines to create larger fields. The hedges significantly reduced wind erosion on his sandy lake shore soils and today provide a vegetative screen and habitat around his farm.

Charles recognized the threats of invasive species to his properties and the natural ecosystems of the area. In May, 2010 Charles and his sons completed the MCLA Invasive Species Monitoring Program to help battle invasive species. At the age of 83, he took to the field with a hand sprayer and brush cutters to start removing Honeysuckle, Buckthorn, Autumn Olive and Phragmites.

Charles along with his son Tom attended many MCLA meetings as a lake representative for Weyers Lake. Tom, a teacher at Lincoln High School, also helped MCLA recruit student boat inspectors this past spring. Tom and his brothers will be carrying on their Dad's conservation tradition on their properties.

Daniel Free

Daniel Free of Manitowoc passed away on April 20, 2012. Danny was an ardent conservationist and a very active member of Manitowoc Fish & Game, Wisconsin Deer Hunters, Manitowoc Gun Club, NE Wisconsin Great Lakes Fishermen and the Manitowoc County Conservationists Hall of Fame. He could always be found helping with fundraisers for the many conservation organizations.

In 2007 and '08, Dan was one of the first MCLA boat inspectors who spent many weekends the first year of the AIS program volunteering to help inspect boats at the Silver Lake Boat landing. He also volunteered to staff the MCLA fair booth, often volunteering for shifts that others did not care to cover.

When Dan was working as a school bus driver he would offer to drive bus for the MCLA Fall Lakes Tours and enjoyed sharing his time. He was very dedicated to many efforts that involved protecting our County's natural resources.

MCLA'S Lake Stewardship Awardees

***Pigeon Lake Monitor
Julian Jetzer***

Julian and his family have spent several decades on Pigeon Lake beginning in 1953 when his parents built a cottage on the north side of the lake. He tells us, "Back then the biggest concern on the lake was, when does the Pavilion and Alan Meyers bait shop open.?" The lake has developed and changed dramatically over the years and yet the water quality retains its same high standard.

Julian's long history on Pigeon makes him uniquely qualified to observe any water quality change. He served on the Pigeon Lake water quality committee since 2004 and as its chairman since 2009. People like Julian help to improve the environment and quality of living for everyone in Manitowoc County. The Lake Stewardship Award is the highest award given by the MCLA. Julian deserves it.

***Bullhead Lake Monitor
Brian Kuckenbecker***

Consistency is one of the keys to an overall successful monitoring program. Over the past five years, there is no one that has been more consistent than Brian. Bullhead Lake is one of those lakes with some "good water" days and some "bad water" days. With Brian's help there will be more "good water" days. Congratulations to Brian on his MCLA Lake Stewardship Award.

***Long Lake Monitor
Chuck Kiehn***

Every lake needs someone to step up and lead. Chuck has lived on Long Lake since 2000 and has been a Lake Association Board member for 12 years, serving as president for five years. Long Lake is lucky to have Chuck involved. He is intimately involved in all the lake activities, working with the lake monitors to ensure year over year testing. Chuck is a certified invasive species monitor. He is out on his paddle boat, power boat or canoe whenever he isn't working. Chuck sets the bar for leadership and is truly deserving of the MCLA Lake Stewardship Award.

***Carstens Lake Monitor
Brian Robley***

Brian has recently been honored by MCLA as a long-term leader of our organization. This year we are recognizing him for his monitoring effects at Carstens Lake. Carstens Lake is a small lake with a large watershed, a recipe for nutrient rich water. The first step in getting improvements is to benchmark the existing situation. Brian has that well covered. Going beyond the warm testing, he also monitors oxygen levels in the winter. He is very deserving of the MCLA Lake Stewardship Award.

***Cedar Lake Monitor
Scott Otterson***

Scott has been monitoring Cedar Lake for several years. He is out with his sample bottles the last weekend of every month. His consistent and precise monitoring meticulously records Cedar Lake's condition. Cedar Lake is the largest lake in our county and has some of the best water quality. People like Scott will help it keep that way and epitomizes a Lake Steward.

Is Your Lakes Quality Getting Worse or Better? “Turning on the Light Switch to Our Lakes”

The MCLA mission since we formed has been to ***“protect and enhance the quality of area lakes and watersheds for the benefit of all.”*** However, many of our Lake representatives don’t know how good or bad the Manitowoc lakes are. Many County residents simply accept the water quality to be as it is. They do not have a mechanism or data to compare lakes and work for improvement.



Buck Leach, one of the volunteer water samplers taking a sample on Spring Lake.

Manitowoc County has over 100 lakes, the majority small privately-owned lakes. However we have 21 lakes with public access and only five of these lakes with public access have been tested for phosphorus and chlorophyll on a consistent basis. Phosphorus runoff from the lake’s watershed feeds excessive aquatic plant growth creating lake algae blooms.

A group of 14 volunteers were trained in April by WDNR staff to collect water samples to be submitted for testing. They took the first round of initial phosphorus samples in June to see if we can screen for the lakes with highest phosphorus levels to save on sampling costs. Water samples were run by our local UW Manitowoc Science Department to build local capacity and community awareness.

High phosphorus testing lakes will trigger additional phosphorus and chlorophyll testing to meet the DNR’s Impaired Waters testing protocols. These lakes will be tested during the summer usage months on a

regular basis. MCLA will utilize the Wisconsin State Lab for analysis to ensure accuracy and to input sample results into the State data base.

A DNR monitoring grant was applied for by MCLA but this project was not selected for funding due to the limited dollars available in 2012. In order to meet the next DNR Impaired Waters List in 2014, MCLA felt it was critical to start the project utilizing our membership funds. A lake placed on the State’s Impaired Waters List is targeted for funding and agency efforts to help us clean it up. Manitowoc County Fish & Game Protective Association came through with a donation to fund this summer’s water samples.

MCLA President Gene Weyer recently announced that MCLA was funded with a grant to do the sampling in 2013.

Our actions will link together groups of volunteers, county agencies, landowners, university students and the WDNR. We are collecting scientific data to illustrate what a “good lake” looks like. We are using the data to improve water on all public access lakes.

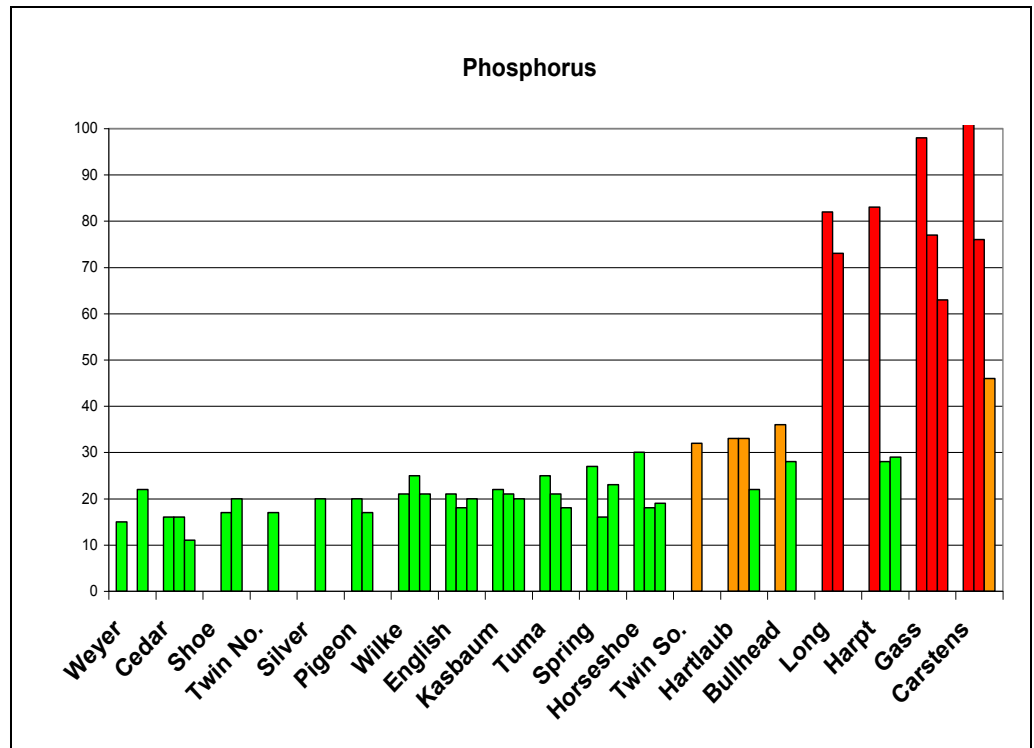
Once this project is started we will have data on all substantial Manitowoc lakes with public access. It will create a baseline of

data on lakes and determine which ones need attention and additional testing. These baseline benchmarks of data will allow us to statistically watch for changes over a period of time; comparing neighboring lakes and investigate why they don’t have the same water conditions.

It will help eliminate subjective views by landowners, using data to determine lake conditions and not individual perceptions. We will document weather events and compare lake conditions to determine how they are related and provide data to collect additional source identification and more comprehensive water quality monitoring.

The results of this project will provide a foundation for future lake planning efforts by MCLA or local lake groups to help prioritize grant application goals and direct our local County Soil & Water Conservation Office and DNR to help resolve and watershed management impacts.

*The following graph represents the June – August 2012 phosphorus samples, September samples will hopefully be available for the MCLA Banquet on October 19th. **Lakes with phosphorus levels less than 30 are considered good for this region of the State; between 30 & 60 would be considered fair and anything above 60 is poor to very poor.***



Cameras Are Being Used to Monitor Boat Landings

Lake Namakagon Association in Bayfield County is using surveillance cameras to monitor weed removal compliance to prevent the introduction of invasive species. A woman was recently cited for leaving the lake without removing vegetation from a trailered boat rig. A sign is posted at the boat landings, indicating visitors will be videotaped to sure they are in compliance with AIS laws.



The 3600-acre Lake has four cameras at a total cost of \$6,000. The cameras are embedded in vandal-proof concrete platforms. Lakes associations are finding it very difficult to get volunteers to staff their boat landings to conduct boat inspections.

In Manitowoc County, DNR Wardens have been issuing citations to boaters who are failing to remove vegetation from their boats before they enter a lake or leave the area. Violators can receive a fine up to \$767 for their first offense. MCLA would like to see funding from the boat launch fees utilized to treat the ramp area with an herbicide where AIS is present to help minimize the risk of plants infesting trailers.

Water Quality Affects Property Values

A guest of MCLA President Gene Weyer at his place on Hartlaub Lake this past year commented about the lake's water clarity and how it would impact one's desire to invest in a property that suffered from poor water clarity. This caused Gene to wonder just what economic impact this would have on all our County lakes.

Gene contacted a friend who does property assessments to delve into this potential issue. The assessor said that deeper lakes with good water clarity levels command on average 20% more than those with low clarity levels.

His calculations for Carstens Lake property with land and improvements has a value closer to \$700,000, a decrease of 20% would cost property owners \$140,000 in lost value.

Property value premiums from an EPA fact sheet states: "People value living near healthy clean water. Studies from Main and Minnesota show that home values declined by tens of thousands of dollars with declines in water quality. The aggregate effect of an increase in property values attributed to good water quality on a single lake equates to millions of dollars per lake in those areas.

Further, recent studies around the county (e. g., in Colorado, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Maryland, Ohio and Virginia) have shown increased property values and tax revenues from properties near open space, green space, walking/biking trails, or riparian areas. Even in tight economic times, a relatively higher premium is placed on properties with access to nature. For example, a current study of five counties in southeastern Pennsylvania Shows that open space is attributed with adding \$16.3 billion to the regional housing stock value.



Clean and healthy waterfronts boost property values for adjacent retail and commercial businesses. Waterfront business properties are attractive to customers and have greater property value premiums when they are near clean waters. Preserving healthy watersheds and protecting open space while providing access to people has the potential to boost local revenues while providing attractive amenities.



Correct time to spray Japanese Knotweed



Fall is the time to apply herbicide to many or invasive species. Tom Ward is applying a select herbicide to Japanese Knotweed on Silver Creek, which recently finished flowering with a large showy white blossom. Japanese Knotweed (JK) is very difficult to kill with common herbicides and spreads by underground rhizomes. This year JK has been treated with herbicide in the watersheds of Silver Lake, Wilke Lake, Hartlaub and Cedar Lakes.

A Ban on Wake Enhancing Devices on Long Lake

The Town of Rockland, at the request of the Long Lake Advancement Association, unanimously approved an ordinance that bans wake-enhancing devices in boats, such as bladders, ballast tanks, wedges, or hydrofoils. A second ordinance was passed that sets temporary no-wake periods during times of high water, which may only have to be applied a couple of times a year to prevent shoreline damage.

Property owners were experiencing shoreland damage they felt was caused by a few boats using these devices churning up the water.

The DNR approved the rule draft ordinance prior to the Town approval. The Town Constable can issue a \$50 fine for the first offense and higher for second offenses. The Town receives \$40 of the fine, which helped encourage the passing of the ordinance.

The Town began writing warnings to the boat owners in late June. A sign was later posted at the boat landing advising of the new ordinance.

***Photo Story of the
Carstens Lake
successful field tile diversion.***



25% of Carstens Lake's annual phosphorus load was draining from this field and it's drainage area through a field tile system into the lake.



The field tile system's outlet was channeled directly into Carstens Lake, outleting next to the boat landing and creating unsafe ice during the winter ice fishing season.



Joe Salm, a lake property owner, diverted the field tile line from the boat landing outlet to a larger wetland area; outleting the tile discharge through a large perforated plastic line. Note the water being distributed through the header pipe, spreading the water evenly over the wetland, to be filtered by the vegetation before entering Carstens Lake. Other watershed treatment methods are being discussed with landowners in the watershed.

***Come Join Us For a Night Out at the MCLA's Annual
Fall Banquet!***

Help recognize your fellow Lake Protectors that are being recognized for their years of Service conducting water quality monitoring of your favorite lakes. MCLA would like to see over a 100 people support this event.

Date: Friday October 19, 2012

Time: Cash Bar 6:00 to 7PM
Dinner @ 7PM
Program to Follow

Location & Cost:

Twin Fountains
7330 English Lake Road (Corner of Hwy 42 and English Lake Road)
Family style dinner, Broasted chicken and Beef tips Mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable, stuffing, salad, coffee, milk,

Cost is \$15.00 per person payable in advance or at the door.

Make all checks payable to MCLA.

For Reservations:

Char Peterson is the contact for dinner reservations and door prize donations from Bullhead, Long and Pigeon Lakes. Char's email address is petersonsonthelake@tds.net, her phone number is (920) 853-7179.

Joe Salm is the contact for dinner reservations and door prize donations from Carstens, English, Hartlaub, Silver, Weyers and English Lakes. Joe's email address is josephsalm@gmail.com his phone number is (920) 562-3838.

Jerry Corfman is the contact for dinner reservations and door prize donations from Cedar, Harpts, Horseshoe, Shoe, Spring, Tuma and Wilke Lakes. Jerry's email address is corfmanpj@yahoo.com, his phone number is (920) 894-1968 or (920) 948-5944.

Program:

The results of this year's water quality monitoring on the County Lakes will be reported on and shared for discussion, this is a must see to fully understand the results. Volunteers that have been doing water quality sampling under the DNR Self Help Monitoring program will be recognized for their many years of service. These folks deserve your attendance.

Our Guest Speaker will be DNR Supervisor Rob McLennan, speaking about the role of volunteers in lake protection

Door Prizes are being provided by area Lake Associations and donors.

Your hosts this year are Bullhead Lake, Carstens Lake and Wilke Lake. By all means pass this information along to other members within your lake organizations or anyone else you feel we may have missed. Let's make this year our largest banquet attendance ever!

Distribution of Milfoil in Manitowoc County

MCLA begin sending in DNA samples this summer to learn more about the distribution and type of Milfoil in our County lakes. We are looking at three species of invasive species: EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil), a hybrid cross of EWM and native, and our native Northern Water Milfoil.

The hybrid cross is of most concern with the nuisance characteristics of EWM and resistance to our current arsenal of herbicides. Note in the table that the lakes of Silver, Hartlaub, English and Carstens all have Hybrid Milfoil within a few miles of each other. Silver, Hartlaub, and English Lake did not have Eurasian Milfoil to hybridize with, implying Carstens Lake as the possible host or spreader lake for the area. This is why boat inspection and clean trailers are so important.

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is the invasive species native to Europe, Asia and Northern Africa. It came to this country via aquaculture and the aquarium trade. It first arrived in SE Wisconsin, spreading its way north from Indiana; Elkhart in Sheboygan County was the first lake in our area to become infested with EWM. Tourism from Indiana and SE Wisconsin was thought to be the source for invading Elkhart Lake. It soon moved to lakes in southern Manitowoc County.

EWM becomes a nuisance in lakes that have poor water quality or low diversity of native plants; becoming so thick that larger fish cannot swim through the tangled mats. The thick mats soon choke off navigation and access to open water from shoreline piers.



*EWN on Silver Lake this past summer made fishing from the piers impossible. A herbicide was later applied around the pier to encourage fishermen to **return to the park**. Silver Lake was found to have the milfoil hybrid.*

Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water Program Helps Homeowners Keep Their Lakes Clean

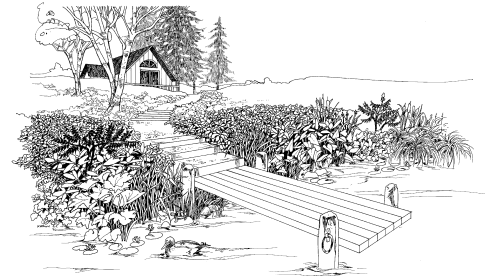


The Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water program makes it easy for residents to do their part in protecting our lakes, rivers and streams. At the user-friendly www.BlueThumb.org website, people can quickly and easily learn how to beautify their existing landscaping with native gardens, raingardens and shoreline plantings that also help to reduce water pollution.

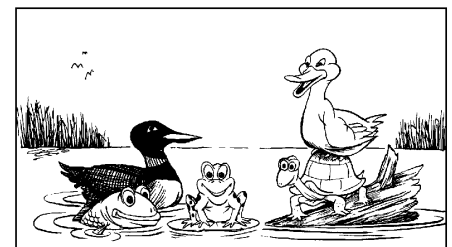
Why are native plants so effective in improving water quality? The “magic” is largely due to the extensive roots - sometimes extending down 16-feet! These incredible roots act as filters by absorbing polluted run-off and excess nutrients. The long roots decrease erosion and soil compaction as make the plants incredible drought-resistant. Regular lawn grass is basically on life-support because it needs constant watering to stay green during a hot and dry summer. Native plants do not require watering after they are established and also need no fertilizers or pesticides. In addition, native plants can make gorgeous gardens while also attracting birds, butterflies and other wildlife.



On-line at BlueThumb.org there are “how-to” videos for raingardens and shoreline plantings, step-by-step planning packets, installation instructions, plant lists and design blueprints as well as a plant selector tool. Residents simply enter the growing conditions in their yard, a shady wet spot for example, and the tool generates a list of native plants that will grow in those conditions.



The program is the inspiration of Dawn Pape, an educator with the Rice Creek Watershed District in Minnesota. “Our goal at Rice Creek is to continually improve the Blue Thumb program to make it even easier for residents to be involved in keeping their lakes and rivers clean,” says Pape. “What individuals do in their own yards makes a huge difference in water quality since most land in the state is owned privately. We’d like to see all stormwater absorbed by either Blue Thumb plantings or other best management practices so water does not run off carrying pollutants into our waters.” Momentum for the Blue Thumb program has been growing as more and more homeowners realize that native plants are beautiful, cost-effective and low-maintenance. People are learning that raingardens help to keep dirty stormwater from streets and rooftops out of our waterways and that native shoreline plantings can stabilize valuable lakefront property while also providing habitat for fish and wildlife and discouraging geese from congregating. Visit www.BlueThumb.org to learn about how you can get started on a planting project of your own this year.



LNRP
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Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

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\$15 - individual membership

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Payable to :

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P. O. Box 342,
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