



# Spring 2014

## Newsletter

### A Note from the President

Dear Friends of the Branch River,

Welcome to a new year of programming on protecting our watershed. Like our winter, no two years are the same. I will predict that spring will eventually arrive and I am sure the weather will bring new challenges.

Due to reduced funding for 2014, we are producing this mini-newsletter that will serve as a notice of up and coming programs. We are still here working hard as ever. Please support our programming by attending these functions and especially our sponsors who make it all possible. Tell our sponsors you appreciate their support!

I'm excited about our Spring Banquet program Thursday, April 10 at Christopher's at Branch River golf course. Our Presenter is Jim Uhrinak, a Restoration Ecologist and Certified Forester, who consults on design, development and the protection of original, cultural landscapes in North Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. Join us on an exploration of how we can use ancient American Indian perspectives to appreciate our watershed and today's landscape. Understanding a cultural landscape perspective of over 5,000 years in the Branch River watershed can lead to new discoveries, increased enjoyment, help lead us into a better conservation projects. A Big thank you to Lakeshore Dental for sponsoring our speaker!. You can read more on page 4.

Randy Korb is back again this year with his live collection of Wisconsin frogs, toads and salamanders! Your children and grand children will get to feed, see, and handle them during his program. This year we are not part of Manitowoc County Earth Day, but hosting the program at Reedsville Elementary school on Saturday, April 5. Be sure and bring the kids or grandkids to this fun-filled event! Our generous sponsor for the program is Thrivent Financial for Lutherans - West Shore Team. More details on page 8.

Remember Spring is runoff season; many fields have been tilled, bare of vegetation and vulnerable to runoff of sediment and phosphorus. In your travel note ditches and channels that are unusually brown with sediment. If you should smell the odor of manure or septage in the water call the DNR Hot line 1-800-847-9367; for gullies and field erosion call the Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Dept. 920-683-4183.

On one final note, we lost a natural resources champion this last December. Vickie Mayer, steadfast supporter of FOBR and our Youth Leadership program, passed away. Her dedication can be found on page 9.

I hope to see you at our Awards Banquet on April 10!

~ Tom Ward, President

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# Thank You to our Sponsors!



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Greg, Andy, & Kari  
Doug & Tom

## FOBR Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship opportunities are available for 2014. Businesses, organizations, or individuals may sponsor newsletters or programs. The FOBR newsletter mailing list currently reaches more than 950 addresses in the Whitelaw, Manitowoc, Reedsville, Valders, Brillion, and surrounding areas. FOBR program flyers go out to more than 5,500 students during promotion. If you are interested in helping with Sponsorships or know of anyone that might be interested in supporting our programs and outreach, please contact Melissa Lake for pricing and details. (Email: [info@MyOnCallAssistant.com](mailto:info@MyOnCallAssistant.com) or Phone: 920-382-9605)

## ~ Upcoming Events ~

### Board Meetings & Programs

Future Programs: April 7, June 2 & October 6

Board meetings: April 7, June 2, August 4, Oct 6, & Dec 1

The program and meeting night will be the first Monday of every other month. Please join us for the member **programs starting at 7pm**. Anyone is welcome at the **Board meetings at 5pm**, usually held at the Franklin Town Hall in Taus. (north of HWY 10 at the corner of HWY J and Taus Road) Please contact us for the exact location of each meeting or program. You will be able to find future updates on our new website: [www. WiFriendsoftheBranchRiver.org](http://www.WiFriendsoftheBranchRiver.org) and on our Facebook page.



**Saturday, April 5 ~ Randy Korb: Fun with Froggy Friends**

**Saturday, April 26 ~ Earth Day Celebration**

See page 8



**Thursday, April 10 ~ FOBR Spring Banquet**

See page 4 & 5



**May 2 ~ Brat Fry Fundraiser**

Time to fire up the grill !! We are doing a fundraiser at Rob's Market in Manitowoc, next to the airport, on Friday, May 2 from 9am until 3pm. We need volunteers to help: set-up, fry cook, take orders, prep food, and clean up. We need at least 5 people working per shift. Shifts are 2 hours each. Last year we raised over \$800! Please contact Wayne or Terry Huske to volunteer or for additional details. Phone: 920-732-4371

## April 7 ~ Leaving a Legacy

 **Thrivent Financial**  
for Lutherans®  
West Shore Team

Have you heard about Charitable Giving? Are there people or causes you care about and wish to help support financially? It doesn't matter if you run a business, farm, work a job, or are retired. Learn ways to develop a strategy to help ensure your legacy lives on. This presentation will help you uncover ways to enrich their futures and unleash your generosity.



Thrivent Financial representative, Bart Malcomson, will introduce you to ways to unleash your generosity and ensure your legacy lives on. Program is open to the Public. No products will be sold at this event. **RSVP to Attend** this presentation with complimentary supper, 6pm at Branch River's Edge Restaurant in Branch on HWY 10 west.

**RSVP by Friday, April 4, contact Terry Huske at 920-732-4371**

# April 10 ~ Spring Banquet

## Event Sponsor



**5:30 pm ~ Registration & Social**

Raffle Ticket Sales & Cash Bar

**6:00 pm ~ Dinner**

**7:00pm ~ Awards, Speaker, & Raffle/Prizes**



3212 North Union Road, Cato, WI



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***“Branch River Watershed Cultural Landscape:  
5,000 years in Eastern Wisconsin”***

**Jim Uhrinak** is a Restoration Ecologist and Certified Forester consulting on design and development as well as the protection of original and cultural landscapes in North Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. Join Jim in an exploration of how we can bring American Indian perspectives to the appreciation and stewardship of our watershed and contemporary landscape.

Be warned, learning something new about where we work, or live can be life changing. A cultural landscape perspective of over 5,000 years in the Branch River watershed can lead to new discoveries, increased enjoyment, help lead us into a better conservation and restoration projects.

Jim’s life work has also led to significant anthropological and historical connections and discoveries, and he recently edited the distinguished American anthropologist, Dr. Nancy Lurie’s book “The Nicolet Corrigenda: New France Revisited.” He writes land management plans, conducts inventories, and provides interpretive materials supporting tribal heritage, educational programs, and natural area management. Jim has formal training in Wildlife Ecology, Educational Psychology, and Community Outreach. He serves on the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN), is on the Board of the Milwaukee Audubon Society, and is owner of Green Tree – Tree Care. Jim loves to share his knowledge and experience with those who are seeking to advance their understanding of the relationships between the natural and cultural worlds.

***RSVP Required by Friday, April 4***



# 2014 Spring Banquet ~ RSVP Return Slip ~ Due 4/4

Clip Out & Return

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Family-style Dinner Includes:

Roasted Chicken, Tenderloin Tips with mushroom sauce, Side dishes, Rolls, Salad, Coffee, & Dessert

**Vegetarian Option ~ Pasta plate:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00

**Adults Attending (13+ yrs):** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00

**6 - 12 yrs Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00

**Total Due: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to: FOBR**

## 2014 Membership Form

### 2014 Annual Membership Dues

- Individual \$15.00
  - Family \$20.00
  - Friend \$30 - \$99
  - Protector \$100 +
- Youth Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like to learn more about FOBR's...

- \_\_\_ Youth Conservation Program & Activities
- \_\_\_ Canoeing and kayaking
- \_\_\_ Mapping invasive species & control
- \_\_\_ Monitoring water quality & amphibians
- \_\_\_ River clean-up
- \_\_\_ Tree planting
- \_\_\_ Fish and habitat improvement
- \_\_\_ Land management

**Make Checks Payable to:  
FOBR**

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* - would you like to receive email notifications about upcoming FOBR events (1-2 per month) YES / NO



**Please Mail  
Banquet, Membership  
and money to :**

**Friends of the Branch River  
c/o Wayne & Terry Huske  
7016 CTH T, Whitelaw, WI 54247  
Phone: 920-732-4371**



# 2014 FOBR Members\*

\* as of March 10, 2014

## River Protectors & Life Time

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Carol Dodge & Rollie Olm

Carl & Jane Laveck

Southern Brown Conservation Club

Wayne & Terry Huske

Jack & Joan Shimon

Tom & Paula Ward

## River Friends

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Vernon & Evelyn Childs

Denmark State Bank

## Honorary Sponsor Memberships

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Christopher's at The Golf Course at Branch River

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Thrivent Financial for Lutherans ~ West Shore Team

## Family Memberships

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Joe & Patricia Lorrigan

Robert & Emily Endter Family

Harvey & Eileen Mleziva

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David & Karen Naidl

Roy & Karen Grunwald

Norb & Rita Pritzl

Scott & Robert Hastreiter

Michael & Ann Scheibl Family

Jerome & Theresa Herrmann

Bob Shuh & Mary Brethouwer Family

Jim & Jean Hill

Evelyn Steeber & Kathy Kochan

Al & Kathy Klingeisen

Robert & Yvonne Wenzlaff

Jerome & Marianne Leahy

## Individual Memberships

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Richard Anhalt

Barb Panosh

Doris Cherney

Elmer Schill

Terry Lemberger

Rev. Edwin Zahn

Charles Nate



# Vickie Mayer Youth Conservation Leadership Program

The Vickie Mayer Youth Conservation Program has a two-fold mission: to provide youth & family programming throughout the year (all ages) and provide guidance for youth (ages 9-18) who wish to gain additional skills and training towards environmental leadership or advocacy. The basic idea is to start with local environmental programs and build upon those for the YCL participants.

The Youth Leadership program is designed for the development of a stronger stewardship ethic and fostering a stronger leadership potential in young adults that will prepare the next generation of conservation champions or advocates. The person who knows the land and its inhabitants is the person who will care about natural resources, native plant and animal diversity, and natural beauty. For society's future success, today's youths must become more familiar with the land and resources near where they live.

There are three levels of participation (ages 9-18). Level 1 ~ Awareness, Level 2 ~ Advocacy, and Level 3 ~ Leadership. Participants can enter any one of these levels based on experience. Individual review of youth knowledge will be assessed after enrollment. Opportunities exist for any participant to move from one level to the next as they further develop their leadership skills. To qualify for completion of a level or combination of levels the enrollee must have 5 credits by the end of 2014. A credit is identified as the completion of identified events or activities in each level. FOBR has partnered with other organizations to offer a variety of events, activities, and rewards for the Youth Leadership program. See pages 8 & 9 for example programs.

Rewards and Recognition: For those who successfully complete the requirements, FOBR has coordinated awards and recognition that will be fun & rewarding.

Examples of potential Rewards and Recognition:

- Scholarships to attend Conservation or Youth Camps
- Scholarships for college or technical degrees
- Charter Fishing trips
- Pheasant hunts or participation in youth shooting events
- Other Prizes to be announced



Program enrollment: We are taking enrollment for interested youth (ages 9-18) for calendar year 2014. Fill out the form below and send or email the information to: Melissa Lake Attn: FOBR Youth Program, N4759 County Road DJ, Juneau, WI 53039 (Email : info@MyOnCallAssistant.com, Phone : 920-382-9605)

Additional details will be posted on [www.WiFriendsOfTheBranchRiver.org](http://www.WiFriendsOfTheBranchRiver.org)

*Fill out completely, Clip & Return*



## Sign - Up! 2014 Youth Conservation Leadership Program

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Form to:** Melissa Lake, Attn: FOBR Youth Program, N4759 County Road DJ, Juneau, WI 53039  
Contact Melissa Lake for more details. Email: info@MyOnCallAssistant.com or Phone: 920-382-9605)

## April 5 ~ Fun with Froggy Friends



The FROGS are Back! This year we are holding this event at Reedsville Elementary school. ( 350 Park Street, Reedsville )

Randy Korb's *Fun with Froggy Friends* is a live demo. This allows kids to handle many of the Wisconsin frog and salamander species. This program encourages parents and their children to explore the natural wonder of these amphibians of the Branch River Watershed.

Kids of all ages are welcome to attend one of the two shows scheduled that day (10am & 11:30am). Look for information in local papers & our website. (FREE = FOBR members , FOBR member w/ kids; Non-member kids & adults = suggested donation of \$1 per person)

**Event  
Sponsor**



**Thrivent Financial  
for Lutherans®**

West Shore Team

## April 26 ~ Earth Day Celebration

Join us on Saturday, April 26 (10a - 2pm) at the Lincoln High School JFK Gym for the Earth Day Celebration by Manitowoc Sustainability Committee. For more information on Earth Day or the Drug Disposal Program visit [www.manitowocrecycles.org](http://www.manitowocrecycles.org)

We will have activities for all ages and Ann Shebesta, Butterfly Lady of Mishicot, will have a Monarch display and butterfly gardens info.

**Youth (ages 9-18) will be able to learn more about our Youth Leadership program & events and sign-up for the 2014 year.**



## Youth Watershed Ambassadors Summer Camp



FOBR's goal is to introduce young people to their sense of place within their watershed in order to become caretakers and spokespeople for the health of this precious natural resource. We are thankful for the generous sponsorship towards the Watershed Camp by the **Manitowoc Sunrise Rotary Club** whose mission is to promote youth education and literacy.

The week-long camp (July 14-18) includes the following activities: canoeing and kayaking, fishing, study of aquatic invasive species, macro-invertebrates, and fish species, plein-air artwork, tours of community water wastewater and filtration plants, an overnight aboard the USS *Cobia* submarine, boating along the Lake Michigan shoreline in search of what lies beneath, community service projects to beautify our waterways, and interaction with water resource professionals.

The camp is led by Titus Seilheimer, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant fisheries specialist and Wendy Lutzke, education curator at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. The cost for camp is \$25 per person. Camp is limited to 14 youth and will fill quickly. To register your young person or to ask questions please contact Wendy at 920-684-0218 x 115 or [wLutzke@wisconsinmaritime.org](mailto:wLutzke@wisconsinmaritime.org).



## The Legacy of Vickie Mayer



Vera (Vickie) Mayer died of complications from COPD on Monday, December 30, 2013 at River Wood Estates in Manitowoc. Vickie was passionate about environmental issues and was a charter member of several local organizations. She lived in the English Lake area for the past 50 years. While working with the Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department, she helped establish work done by the Friends of the Branch River group and the Manitowoc County Lakes Association.

During her 10 years with the Soil & Water Department, she attended the State Lake Leaders Program, sharing her knowledge and skills learned from the program. Vicki served on the first DNR Citizen Watershed Basin Advisory Committee for NE Wisconsin which later developed into a non-profit organization now known as the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP). Vickie was on the Board of the Friends of the Branch River (FOBR) where she was instrumental in fostering a discussion and public hearing regarding a permit application to chemically treat the Branch River to control a black fly problem that had the potential to upset the aquatic food chain in the river.

Vickie during her many years as a citizen advocate has worked on numerous conservation projects. In 1970 Vickie chaired a committee of the League of Women Voters to develop their position on the Clean Water Act and help President Nixon approve the Act. She was also chair of Manitowoc County's first Earth Day celebrations in 1985 and many that followed, held on the UW-Manitowoc Campus.

She was recognized for her work with awards from both the FOBR and LNRP by receiving the Manitowoc County Lakes Association Stewardship Award in 2007. Vicki received the LNRP Waters Champion of Conservation Award in 2011 for her environmental advocacy. With the awards stipend she initiated the Youth Conservation Leaders Program with the Friends of the Branch River. The Youth Leaders program will best memorialize her legacy by helping to insure a cadre of potential conservation leaders in our community and conservation organizations will help carry the torch.

Vickie was a life-long member of the League of Women Voters and Manitowoc County Homemakers, and volunteered as a 4-H leader and at Lakeshore CAP in the Juvenile Victim Offender Mediation Program. She was a member of the Lakeshore Peacemakers and the Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

A celebration of Vickie's life will be held at Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Fellowship later this spring. We welcome donations in Vickie's memory to the Youth Conservation Leaders Program at the Friends of the Branch River (PO Box 301, Whitelaw, WI 54247), or the Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (620 Park Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220). The Lambert-Eckert Funeral Home in Mishicot assisted the family with arrangements.

## Partners' Programs

As part of our outreach and education efforts, FOBR is encouraging attendance at programs put on by partner organizations. Credit for participation will be given to those youth attending and completing projects for the Youth Leadership Program. Here are a few upcoming events from our Partners. This is not a complete list of their events. Please contact the organizations directly for additional information.

**Taking Wing Stewardship**  
(920-864-7986)

[www.takingwingstewardship.org](http://www.takingwingstewardship.org)

**Woodland Dune**  
(920-793-4007 )

[www.woodlanddunes.org](http://www.woodlanddunes.org)

**Camp TaPaWingo**  
(920-755-2785)

[www.camptapawingo.org](http://www.camptapawingo.org)

|           |                         |          |                              |                |                   |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| April 4-6 | Learn to Hunt Turkey    | April 2  | Owl Prowl (rsvp by 3/26)     | April 25-27    | Spring Youth Camp |
| April     | Intro to Sporting Clays | April 26 | 5k Run "Dash at the Dunes"   | July 21- Aug 2 | Summer Youth Camp |
| May 10    | Bird watching & ID      | May 10   | Bird Breakfast & Celebration |                |                   |
| May       | Plant Identification    | June 7   | Bio-Blitz Survey             |                |                   |



## **Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership**

**7003 Cedarview Road  
Cleveland, WI 53015**

[www.WiFriendsoftheBranchRiver.org](http://www.WiFriendsoftheBranchRiver.org)

### **Directors**

**President ~ Tom Ward**  
920-732-3939

**Vice President ~ Al Klingeisen**  
920-732-4590

**Secretary ~ Terry Huske**  
920-732-4371

Harvey Mleziva 920-732-3988

Barb Panosh 920-732-3488

Wayne Huske 920-732-4371

**Program Consultant ~ Melissa Lake**  
920-382-9605



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