



Friends of the Branch River

Spring 2012 Newsletter

A Note from the President

Dear Friends of the Branch River,

Welcome to our Spring newsletter as we leave behind one of the warmest winters on record. Meteorologists are predicting a continuation of this warm trend for at least another 4 months, however no mention on precipitation levels. I look as Spring as brining in the new as nature wakes up for another growing season and wildlife bring-up their young.

We have exciting FOBR programming for 2012! With our increasing membership support and thanks to Business Sponsorships we can continue to educate and provide opportunities for everyone to foster the stewardship of our local watersheds. Please take time to submit your membership for the year. **FOBR Memberships received by March 26th are entitled to 5 free trees for and individual or 10 trees for a family membership.** (see page 4) We have other member benefits planned for programs throughout the year. We need your support to continue our valuable outreach work.

Our first event of the year is the **Annual Banquet on Thursday, March 29th** at the Branch River Golf & Tennis. This dining destination is located on the Branch River and is a sponsor of this newsletter. At the Banquet you will be treated to excellent food, door prizes, a fun time and presentation from a very dedicated, vivacious speaker, Patty Maher from the Rahr Memorial School Forest.

Patty's presentation also kicks off our Youth Conservation Leadership Program; initiated by a donation from our own dedicated member Vicki Mayer and matching funds from the Schenian memorial fund.

We are hoping for a record attendance at this Banquet, so send or call in your reservation for the Banquet! The **RSVP deadline is Monday, March 26th**. If you can't attend but would like to sponsor a door prize, you can give me a call at 920-732-3939. Don't forget to send in your membership and support our FOBR sponsors.

Our programming this year has something for everyone! Thanks to Bruce and Gail Wegner of Frank Check Builders, we are bringing back "**Fun with Froggy Friends,**" with **Randy Korb** with his program of live frogs, toads, and salamanders for the kids to handle while learning about their environmental needs. Last year we had over 100 kids attend this event held in Whitelaw. This year we are moving to Silver Lake College's **Earth Day on April 21st** which will help expand our outreach. ****Please note we will offer the first session at 9:30 to exclusively for FOBR friends and the 2nd session starting at 11 AM open to the public until the session is filled.** (see page 10 for details)

We invite you to contact us with any news in our watershed or programs and activities you would like the FOBR to provide. We are always looking for stories or things people are doing in our watershed as good stewards. As an organization we try to keep everyone informed about things in the watershed.

~ Tom Ward, President

Contents:

Upcoming Events	2
Newsletter Sponsors	3
March Banquet & Membership Info	4
Membership & Banquet Forms	5
Branch River Watershed Map	6
Membership 2012 List	7
Water Testing & Tree Info	8
Youth Program Update	9
Upcoming Program Details	10
Local Issues	12
How to Stop the EAB	14

**Groundwater
Week
March
11-17th**

Upcoming Events ~ FOBR

Thursday, March 29th

FOBR Spring Banquet



Join us for a wonderful evening of fellowship and fun! This year will be better than ever with the unveiling of our new Youth Conservation Program and outreach efforts. Special guest speaker, Patty Maher, from the Rahr Memorial School Forest will discuss today's youth and the future of our environment. Door prizes, Raffles and more!

See page 4 for more information and RSVP slip

Thursday, April 19th ~ Members Meeting



Join us to learn about the plans for FOBR's continued success. This is our annual meeting to elect our new board members and review the programs for the year. A program on Branch River Fisheries by DNR Fisheries Manager, Steve Hogler. Meeting will be held at the Franklin Town Hall in Taus starting at 6pm.

See page 11 for more information.

Saturday, April 21st

Randy Korb ~ Fun with Froggy Friends Returns!



Yes, Randy Korb is returning with his amphibious friends for another wonderful hands-on demonstration. This year we are partnering with the Earth Day Event at Silver Lake College to allow for more froggy fun! Members of FOBR will have an exclusive, first showing of Randy's show....special RSVP required.

See page 10 for more information and RSVP slip.

Saturday, April 28th ~ Branch River Clean-Up



Put on your work boots and gloves and lend a hand to clean up the Branch River!

See page 11 for more information.

Sunday, May 20th ~ Canoe the Branch River



Take a trip down the Branch River and get a rare glimpse of this river that is land-locked by private landownership. While canoeing help inventory the invasive species threatening the natural system of the Branch River. Space is limited, Register early!

See page 11 for more information.

June 30th ~ Art in the Outdoors



Grab your paints, pencils and paper! Youth and adults can participate in this outdoor art experience. Regional artists will be on hand to offer creative suggestions. Location to be determined so please look for future mailings or check-out our facebook page or website. **See page 11 and WiFriendsoftheBranchRiver.org**

FOBR Newsletter Sponsors

In the past, the FOBR group has been fortunate to have its publications paid for by a grant through LNRP. While there continues to be some funds from the grant, our outreach efforts and membership have started to outpace the funding levels. In an effort to offset the newsletter printing costs, the FOBR Board is offering a unique sponsorship opportunity for area businesses and organizations in our 2012 newsletter issues (Spring/Fall).

The FOBR newsletter will have spaces available for one or both newsletters. Businesses or organizations may sponsor these spaces. The FOBR mailing list currently reaches more than 800 addresses. If you know of a business or organization that might be interested please contact Melissa Lake for pricing and details.

Email: info@MyOnCallAssistant.com or Phone: 920-382-9605)

Please Support our Sponsors!

FRICKE PRINTING

Jim's Excavating

Jim Sauer, Sr.

920-732-3276

5516 CTH T, Whitelaw, WI



Excavating of All Types
Trucking of All Materials
Shredded & Screened Topsoil

SendOutCards™

"Changing Lives... One Card at a Time"

Send REAL cards from online!

www.SendOutCards.com/77308

Phone: 920-382-9605

Branch River Golf & Tennis

French Creek Farms, llc ~ Steve Tesarik

Hamp Haven Farms / Wolfgang Dairy



FOBR Spring Banquet

The Friends of the Branch River Watershed is ready to kick-off another exciting year! Please join us as we give you a sneak peek at what is in store for 2012. Our guest speaker, Patty Maher, from the Rahr Memorial School Forest will discuss today's youth and the "Nature Deficit" that threatens the future of our environment.

**RSVP
Required
by
Monday,
March 26
See next page**

Thursday, March 29th

Branch River Golf and Tennis

3212 North Union Road, Cato, WI

5:00 pm ~ Registration & Social

Raffle Ticket Sales & Cash Bar

6:00 pm ~ Dinner

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

Patty Maher, Rahr Memorial School Forest Coordinator

Look around your neighborhood, look in the parks, look in the outdoors...where are the children!? Today, children know more about the levels of a video game and less about what is out their back door. How will our children and their children take care of the earth if they have not spent time in nature? Join us for a presentation and discussion about the importance of children spending time in nature, the future outlook, and what we can do to share our love of the great outdoors with youth.

While growing up in St. Paul, MN, she spent her summers escaping to her grandparents' cabin in northern Wisconsin where she would spend all day exploring the lakes, rivers, and forests. This fostered a love of the outdoors that grew into a career. Patty has worked for 10 years at the Rahr Memorial School Forest. As the School Forest Coordinator, she has taught over 10,000 students about nature. She is passionate about getting kids outside, teaching them about nature, and helping them learn how they can help our natural environment now and into the future.

Join FOBR & Get Free Trees !

FOBR Mission ~ "Branch out into the community to improve & preserve the Branch River Watershed through education, communication, and cooperation by providing local leadership which benefits everyone in a manner that is fair to all."

Help protect and enhance the Branch River Watershed by becoming an active and supporting member of Friends of the Branch River Watershed (FOBR). Your membership will help achieve our goals: provide activities to encourage more engagement within the Branch River, to involve more children with fun, educational activities, offer programs to encourage land use management, and to improve and preserve the Branch River Watershed.



We are offering FREE Trees to our current members and new members who join FOBR by Monday, March 26th.

For an Individual membership, you can choose 5 free tree seedlings and for a Family or higher membership 10 trees. The following tree species are being offered: swamp white oak, burr oak, silver maple, white cedar, and white spruce. You must have your membership form and money in to order your trees. Please order your trees before March 26th by contacting Jim Hill. **Trees pick up will be on April 21st, by coordinating with Jim Hill (920-732-3026)**



Spring Banquet RSVP Return Slip

Clip Out & Return

Select Dinner Plate of Your Choice

Dinners include: Rolls, Salad, Coffee, & Chocolate Torte with Raspberry Coulis

1/2 Oven Broasted Chicken

Baked Stuffed Haddock

Number Attending: _____ x \$19.00

Total Due: \$ _____

**Make Checks Payable to:
Friends of the Branch River**

Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

2012 Membership Form

2012 Annual Membership Dues

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

**Make Checks Payable to:
Friends of the Branch River**

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

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

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

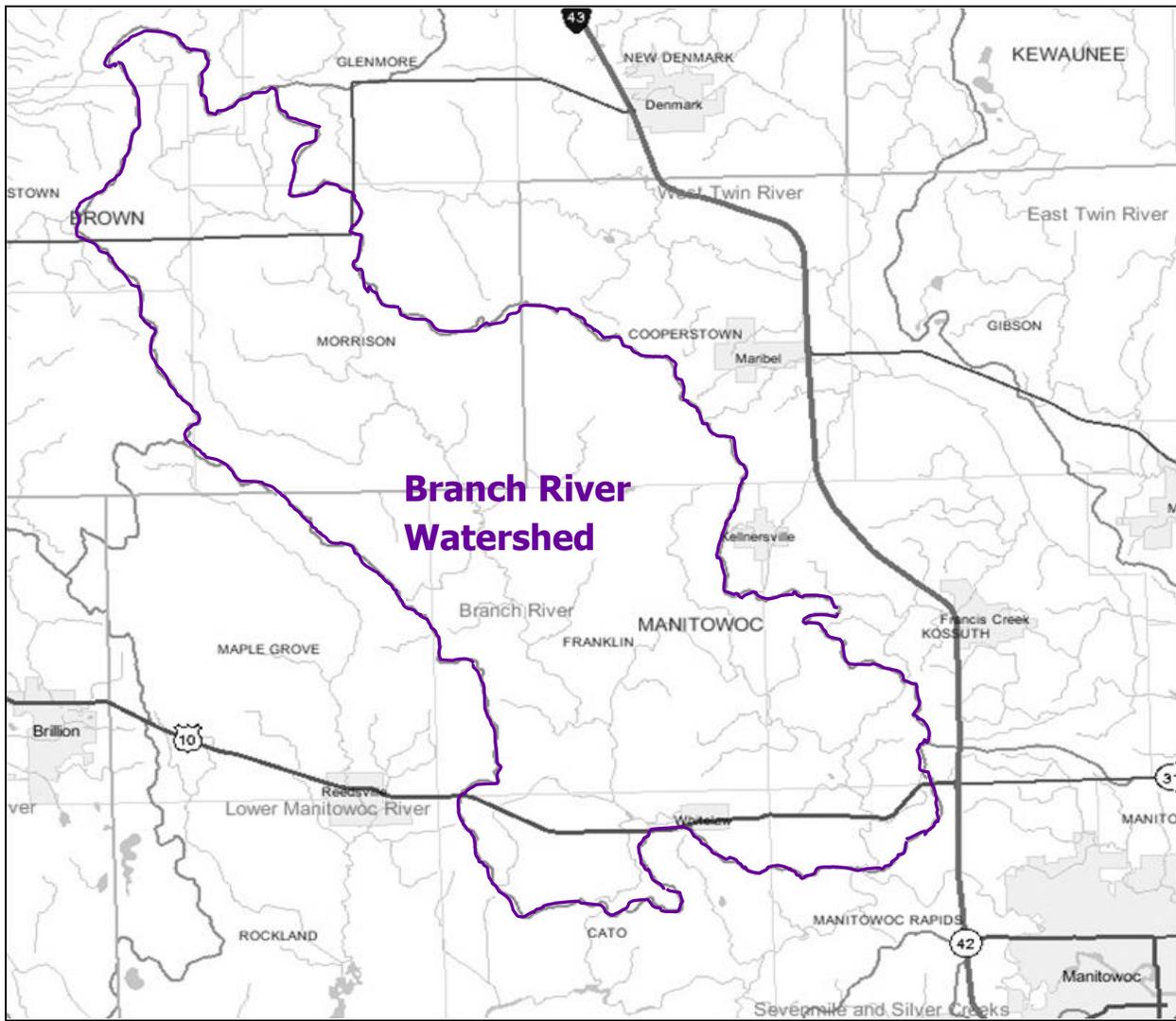


**Please Mail
Banquet &
Membership to :**

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



Branch River Watershed ~ General Location



Volunteers Wanted: Boat Inspection Assistants

Every weekend during the months of May through July, boat inspections will be held on 20 lakes in Manitowoc County and 6 lakes in Kewaunee County. Volunteers teach boaters how to inspect their own boats for invasive species. Volunteers are needed to help with boat inspections for a few hours each weekend. This is a great opportunity for youth 16 years and older, No experience is necessary. Training will be provided.

If interested in assisting with the Boat Inspections program, please contact Tom Ward at: 920-588-0047 or email: tomward@tm.net

2012 FOBR Members

River Protectors

Izaak Walton League / Southern Brown County Conservation Club

Carl & Jane Laveck

River Sponsors

Vernon & Evelyn Childs

Russ & Mary Tooley

Robert & Joann Weinert

Honorary Sponsor Memberships

Branch River Golf & Tennis

Fricke Printing

Frank Check Builders, Inc.

Hamp Haven Farm / Wolfgang Dairy

French Creek Farms, llc

Jim's Excavating

Family Memberships

James & Diana Blashka

Al & Gladys Meyer

Bonita Budysz

LeeAnn Meyer Family

Charles & Joann Geiger

Harvey & Eileen Mleziva

Jim & Jean Hill

Dave & Deb Muench

Wayne & Terry Huske

William & Margaret Pauwels

Al & Kathy Klingeisen

Norb & Rita Pritzl

Joe & Melissa Lake

Dan & Georgia Rabideau

Lehman Family

Thomas Family

Mangin Family

Tom & Paula Ward

Manis Family

Don & Pat Weber

Mike & Pam Meissner

Individual Memberships

Elmer Kitzerow

Al Schoepke

Vickie Mayer

Joyce Sheahan

Barb Panosh

Cynthia Williams



LEFT - In the early fall birds love the pea size fruits of the common hackberry tree. RIGHT - Small red apples of the flowering crab provide food for migrating birds, glistening like ornaments in late fall. SEE PAGE 14 for more info.



Our Most Valuable Resource ~ Water

“If all the world’s water could fit into a gallon jug, the fresh water available for us to use would equal only about one tablespoon.”

National Groundwater Week ~ March 11-17th

Now is the time to have your well tested

March with the spring thaw and runoff is good time to have your well tested for e-coli bacteria. Many people wait for County Fair time to check for nitrates but they forget about the threats from Bacteria.

During spring runoff and rain events water can pond and without much vegetation to filter out bacteria, find its way into a sink hole or crevices in the bedrock. Sampling to catch the presence of Bacteria can be tricky due to the nature of freeze thaws and the time it takes to reach your well. You can pick up a water sample kit at the Manitowoc Soil and Water Office, at the Office Complex on 4319 Expo Drive in Manitowoc to have it available for the right weather.

The best time to pull a sample is if your water should become cloudy or develop a foul taste or smell of manure. If your water should smell of manure call the County Health Department at 683-4155 and they will conduct an official sample. Otherwise wait a couple of days after a significant snow melt or rain event before pulling your sample. Be sure to follow the guidelines of sampling for bacteria by sterilizing your faucet end and pulling the sample nearest your pressure tank. Bacteria samples need to be mailed to the lab before a Friday to avoid sitting in a post office over the weekend.

Who’s Responsibility? Cutting of Downed Trees in Rivers

The question of cutting trees in the River has been brought to the attention FOBR Board. To clarify this question I contacted DNR Water Regulations person for clarification. A permit would be required if a landowner was going to remove an area greater than 30 feet wide, which is the view corridor of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

For single trees still anchored to the shoreline, they can not be removed without the landowner’s permission because it could be considered timber theft since the landowner owns the bed of the river.

Free floating snags can be removed without a permit or the riparian landowner’s permission but you would have to get permission to deposit the tree on the adjacent shore. However the snags can not be allowed to drift downstream as it may cause an obstruction to navigation or erosion. There is no requirement by anyone to remove trees obstructing navigation.

Winter removal may have been a good time to remove some types of obstructions, otherwise low water levels in late summer may offer an opportunity for an easier removal. This may be a project FOBR could coordinate if there was an interest by members to help. Contact Tom Ward if interested.

Youth Conservation Leadership Program Update



For the Spring 2012 YCL programs we have made plans for joint indoor/outdoor activities at Silver Lake College, and the Dodge Nature Preserve. Additional details will be available in future mailings, on our facebook page (Friends of the Branch River Watershed, WI), and our NEW website: www.WiFriendsofthBranchRiver.org.



The Youth Conservation Leadership Program will have a two-fold mission: to provide youth & family programming throughout the year and provide guidance for youth (ages 11-18) who wish to gain additional skills and training towards environmental leadership or advocacy. The initial idea is to start with local environmental programs and build upon those for the YCL participants. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer with the YCL program, please contact Melissa Lake, FOBR Program Assistant. (Email: info@MyOnCallAssistant.com or Phone: 920-382-9605)



Year-long Photo Adventures!

All year long the FOBR Youth Conservation Program will be providing photography opportunities in preparation for the end of the year Photo Contest. This year will be even better with a new category "Youth in the Outdoors." Official Kick-off will be in October.

Stay Tuned for More Info ~ www.WiFriendsofthBranchRiver.org.



Maritime Museum's Watershed Ambassadors Summer Camp

Monday thru Friday, June 18 - 29, 2012

This two week camp is for students entering grades 6-12, who are interested in investigating local rivers and Lake Michigan, collecting water samples, helping with habitat projects, getting out on the water in canoes, spending time on a schooner on Lake Michigan, and working together to create outreach projects to share healthy water habits with the rest of our Lakeshore residents. Cost for the camp is \$10. Space is limited. Contact the Wisconsin Maritime Museum for more information. Wendy at (920) 684-0218 or wlutzke@wisconsinmaritime.org

**** FOBR has requested TWO Youth Leadership spots for this program ~ stayed tuned!**

Volunteers Wanted: Youth Conservation Mentors



FOBR is looking for enthusiastic and dedicated individuals that want to help make a difference in future generations. Persons must be willing to share their time and talent to help foster environmental awareness and leadership traits. No experience is necessary. Training will be provided.

If interested in assisting with the Youth Conservation Leadership program, please contact Melissa Lake at:
info@MyOnCallAssistant.com or 920-382-9605.

April 21st ~ Fun with Froggy Friends



This year we are partnering with Silver Lake College's Earth Day on Saturday, April 21st. Earth Day is a free event to attend. Special funding for this day comes from a grant through the Manitowoc County Recycling Center for their prescription drug collection event and other generous sponsors throughout our communities.

During Earth Day the Friends of the Branch River is able to offer Randy Korb's *Fun with Froggy Friends* live demo due to the generous sponsorship by Bruce & Gail Wegner of Frank Check Buildings, Inc. This demo allows kids to handle many of the 12 Wisconsin frog and 7 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 shows, 9:30am or 11:00 am.



Randy Korb and his amphibious friends educated and entertained more than 100 kids at last year's *Fun with Froggy Friends* program.

As a special members' benefit, all FOBR members will get in FREE. to either demonstration! Also, there will be a **9:30am Special Invitation Only** presentation of *Fun with Froggy Friends*. This early presentation is for anyone who received this newsletter mailing. Please fill in the form below and return to RSVP for the 9:30am show. If you have questions or comments, please contact Melissa Lake, Email: info@myoncallassistant.com OR call: 920-382-9605

Fun with Froggy Friends Program Fees

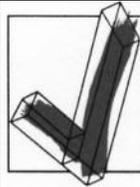
FREE = FOBR members

FREE = Kids accompanying an FOBR member

\$2 each = Non-member kids (ages 3-18)

\$2 each = Non-member adults, without kids

Program Sponsor ~ Bruce Wegner



Frank Check Builders Inc.

310 Redwood Court • P. O. Box 125 • Francis Creek, WI 54214

Phone: 920-682-6358 • Fax: 920-684-8150

www.FrankCheckBuilders.com



Fill out completely, Clip & Return

Adult Name(s): _____

Approximate Number of Children attending: _____ Adults: _____

Are you a 2012 FOBR member ? _____ Contact Phone #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

**Send 9:30am Program RSVP Slip By Wednesday, April 18th
(NO MONEY - Pay at the Door)**

Friends of the Branch River, c/o Melissa Lake
3207 Mero Street, Manitowoc, WI 5422 Or 920-382-9605
email info to: info@myoncallassistant.com

April 19th ~ Membership Meeting

Presentation on Fisheries on the Branch River

Steve Hogler, DNR Fisheries Manager will be our guest speaker on Thursday April 19th at 6 PM, Franklin Town Hall in Taus. Steve will update us on the fisheries of the Branch River and the Sturgeon restoration. This is our annual membership meeting to elect our new board members and discuss future programming and activities for the FOBR watershed. Come join us and get to know your friends and neighbors of the Branch River.

April 28th ~ Branch River Clean-Up



Grab your work boots and gloves and help clean up the Branch River! Volunteers are needed to pick up litter and debris from the shoreline of Branch River. Volunteers work in teams and meet back at a location to have refreshments. Garbage bags are provided. Clean-up starts at 9am on April 28th at the Huske's residence (7016 CTH T, Whitelaw) Please contact Wayne or Terry Huske to volunteer or for additional details. Phone: 920-732-4371

May 20th ~ Canoe Trip

Come canoe or kayak the Branch River on Sunday, May 20th, starting at 2 PM. Prior to the trip will be a brief training on identifying invasive species along river systems. Starting location will be determined by water levels on the river. For more information or to sign-up for the event, please call or email Tom Ward @ 920-588-0047 or Email at: tomward@tm.net



Please check our website for updates in May
[www. WiFriendsoftheBranchRiver.org](http://www.WiFriendsoftheBranchRiver.org)

June 30th ~ Art in the Outdoors



Everyone is welcome to participate in the Art in the Outdoors program on Saturday, June 30th. Artists from LNRP's Water Edge Artists group will be in attendance to showcase their works-in-progress and offer suggestions to participants. Plans are to offer mini-workshops for youth and adults. We are still working on the location and details of this great event, but will be sending additional information out in May. Please mark your calendars to save this fun date! You will be able to find future updates on our new website: [www. WiFriendsoftheBranchRiver.org](http://www.WiFriendsoftheBranchRiver.org)

Local Issues & Information

We invite you to contact us with any news in our watershed or programs and activities you would like the FOBR to provide. We are always looking for stories or activities people are doing in our watershed as good stewards. As an organization we try to keep everyone informed about things in the watershed.

Barnhart—Branch River Powerlines Proposed Expansion - Open House March 20th

Open House Scheduled on Transmission Line in the Watershed ~ American Transmission Company is holding an open house on **Tuesday, March 20, from 1 to 7 pm** at Twin Fountains restaurant (7330 English Lake road and Hwy 42). The routes for high-voltage electric Transmission lines or expansion of existing lines and a large substation in the watershed are being proposed.

American Transmission Company plans to upgrade the Barnhart—Branch River Project by Fall of 2016. The upgrades could be achieved by two alternatives: building two new substations and a new 45 mile (345,000 volt) line, or upgrade an existing 51-mile line and require a new, 18-mile, 138 KV line. These increases are prompted by changes at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant. Point Beach plans to increase its generating capacity at their 40-year old facility. This would affect the Manitowoc, Calumet and Sheboygan county area.

The identifying of potential transmission line routes with public involvement will occur in 2011 through Summer 2012. The Environmental Analysis will be completed 2011-2012 and the Regulatory Review and Public comment period will be 2013. So get involved early and stay up-to-date on the next steps. FOBR will be following the progress of this environmental project. (For more information: www.atc-projects.com/BBR.html)

Manitowoc Rivers and Beaches Report

In collaboration with UW-Oshkosh, Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership and the Friends of Hika Bay, student researchers from UW-Manitowoc have been monitoring contamination levels in local beaches and creeks in Manitowoc County. Their goal was to assess the current state of the water and to continue assessing throughout restoration practices in order to determine whether restoration is succeeding in improving creek quality. Dr. Richard Hein & Dr. Rebecca Abler presented their recent findings at a presentation at the Lester Public Library in Two Rivers on February 23rd. What research found in Centerville Creek, which has been studied since summer of 2010, is that unsafe levels of *E. coli* are present, especially in the northern branch.

E. coli is a bacterium that's normally present in warm-blooded animal guts. When it shows up in fresh water systems where it's not normally found, it's an indicator that there may be some sort of contamination from warm-blooded animal feces. Other factors seem to be connected to the high amounts of phosphate and ammonia values that were also found to be present. The hypothesis that was made was that this may be one of the major sources of contamination to Lake Michigan in the Hika Bay area. Typically that beach will spike above unsafe *E. coli* levels many times during the summer. Research could not link contamination to run-off from farms. If farm run-off was the direct reason for the contamination then *E. coli* amounts and other contaminations likely would have a more direct connection with the results. Research could not directly link contamination to run-off from farms. However, additional sampling sites in 2012 are designed to test water quality from agricultural lands.

During the upcoming summer, interns will be monitoring Centerville Creek and other creeks in the area as well. Through Hein's and Abler's classes, several students have already done some analysis of samplings from Point, Fischer, Calvin, and Pine creeks. The research is viewed as a long-term project designed to show the impact of restoration work and habitat enhancements on water quality. (source: Sarah Kloeping, HTR News online, February 24, 2012)

Highway 10 Bridge construction on Branch River

The Highway 10 bridge in the town of Branch will undergo construction in July 2013. Public hearings and informational sessions will be held open for the public before the construction begins. Survey and plans for the bridge will be under development and for review in October of this year. Construction will not begin until wildlife and land protection measures are in place. Netting will be placed on the underside of the current bridge in early 2013 to prevent swallows from nesting. Also, construction will not begin until the spawning season for trout has ended. Project manager for the DOT is Matthew Harfs in Green Bay (email: Mathew.harfs@dot.state.wi.us / 920-492-5702) Engineering Consultant is David Glodowski, Gremmer & Associates in Stevens Point (715-341-4363 email: dglodowski@gremmerassociates.com)

Wetlands Bill passage threatens the Branch River Watershed

SB 368/AB 463 passed the state Senate on a party line vote on February 15th just after midnight. It passed the state Assembly on February 21st and then was signed into law by Governor Walker on February 29th as 2011 Act 118.

The bill reverses Wisconsin's law by not requiring a developer to first always look at alternate sites to build before filling in a wetland. It removes protections for our most sensitive and important wetlands and allows a developer who wants to build in a wetland to do mitigation in a location that is not connected to the watershed, which can leave the area around the development at risk of flooding or other negative impacts on the watershed. It will be significantly easier to develop in a wetland, and it is anticipated that mitigation, rather than avoidance or minimization of damage, will become the norm.

Wetlands are critical for flood prevention and water purification. In the Branch River Watershed many of our wetlands help recharge our groundwater aquifer and are great places to hunt. In many locations they are the only buffer between highly phosphorised cropland and the stream channel. In Cities wetlands can be the only small remaining habitat for wildlife and water filtration.

Update: Town of Franklin Remediation Sites

Currently there are no known plans for any testing or extraction at the remediation sites.

In 1991, when the Lemberger sites were classified as a federal Superfund Site, there were active remediation efforts to remove the contaminated materials and leachates from the area. The overall goal was to reduce the contamination levels to less than the federal standards for drinking water contamination. US-EPA safe drinking water standard is Five (5) parts per million trichloroethylene (TCE). The PAL plume (>0.5ppmTCE) in green and the ES plume (>5ppm TCE) is represented in orange on the maps on the following pages.

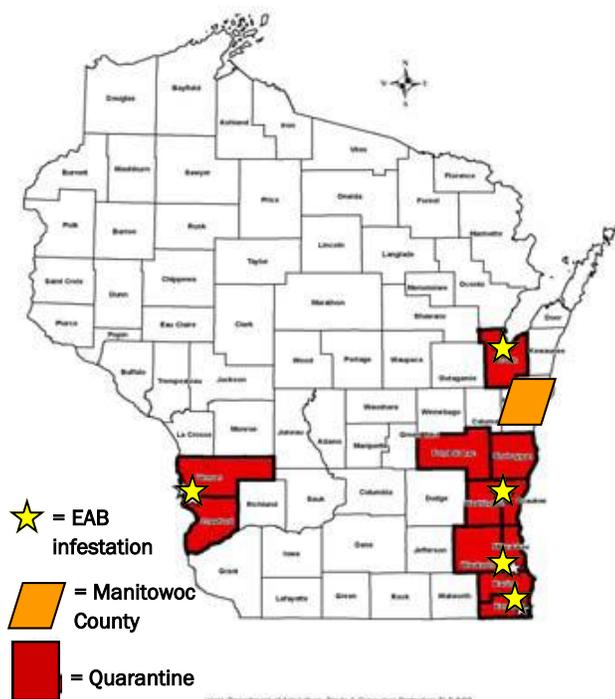
The Department of Natural Resources oversees the monitoring and enforcement of these regulations, with oversight from the Environmental Protection Agency. The WDNR has been continually monitoring the groundwater since the mid-1990s. This monitoring has provided a good understanding of the degree and extent of contamination. The monitoring has helped assure that any drinking water wells within the area of concern remain safe to use.

The Lemberger Site Remediation Group (LSRG), is comprised of the main waste contributors to the remediation sites. This group is responsible for providing the funding for the clean-up, treatment and disposal associated with the Lemberger sites. The LSRG, with EPA and WDNR oversight, has submitted the following required reports: Quality Assurance Project Plan, Sampling and Analysis Plan, and an updated Groundwater Monitoring Plan for residential and monitoring wells. **For more information:**

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/lebergerlandfill/> <http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/lebergertransport/>

What Trees Should I Plant? ~ Stopping the EAB

EAB Quarantine Counties & Approximate Locations of Infestation
WI DATCP / September 2009



In 2010 the Friends of the Branch River Watershed (FOBR) conducted a program about managing our woodlots and back yards with the arrival of the emerald ash borer and its potential threat to ash trees. See Map for location of Counties with emerald ash borer and you will note that it's only a matter of time until Manitowoc County ash trees become infested.

The emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is an exotic insect that was first identified in southeast Michigan in 2002 and detected in Wisconsin in 2008. EAB infests and kills all true ash species (*Fraxinus* spp.) that are native to Wisconsin.

Research on EAB in forests in Michigan has grimly shown that all black, green, and white ash trees are susceptible to EAB. Ash survival decreased 30-50% over three years in infested stands, and they predict that a healthy forest will lose 98% of its ash trees in 6 years.

In Manitowoc County and the Branch River Watershed ash on low land wet soils can make up the majority of trees species; with silver maple, poplar, cedar, willow and tamarack common.

Loss of the ash species will have a more dramatic impact to our low land woodlots than the loss of the American elm from Dutch elm disease in the seventies. When the elm trees died in the forest canopy was opened up to more sunlight, providing improved growing conditions that allowed dominance by canary grass (a European invasive grass planted for marsh hay) and elevated water tables increasing tree blow down and cattails.

Today we have new invasive species such as the tall plume headed phragmites grass (Giant Reed), honey suckle and buckthorn that will move into these wet land sites opened up by the die off of ash trees. Examples of this invasion can be observed in the Liberty Swamp near the Viking Bow and Gun club where ash and silver maple were destroyed by high winds/hail from the St. Nazianz storm.

What can woodland owners do?

Woodland managers can start selective cutting and harvesting their ash trees. Ash should be considered a less desirable species in the order of removal. Removing low vigor, stressed ash may make a stand less attractive to EAB and thus delay initial stand infestation. Keep the stand adequately stocked and favor species such as red and silver maple, swamp white oak and swamp conifers during release and thinning treatments. Because ash is a major component, multiple stand thinnings will be needed to bring the ash component down to a suitable level (ideally < 20% of stand basal area).

Consider contacting our local DNR forester, Susan Crowley, at 920-755-4984 for information on marking your woodlot for selective harvest and establishing proper stocking density. Removing too many trees can increase wind blow down and open it up for invasion of grass species.

What can homeowners and small property owners do?

The goal of any urban forest is to achieve tree diversity. No more than 20 percent of one kind of tree should comprise the total urban forest population. Diversity should be planned for both public and private landscapes. Remove large canopy dominating ash species that are shading out other species on your property.

What should I plant if I remove my ash trees or wish to reforest part of my property?

Most homes and yards are not located on wetland soils, however larger properties may have low wet areas and have ash as a dominant tree species. Many of our County soils are clay or gravely clay loam with some areas of the County having sandy soils.

I try to observe the native tree species in the area on similar soils. When planting trees I prefer to plant species that provide multiple benefits to wildlife and provide diversity of species to my property. I select fruit and nut bearing trees or species that provide winter cover and wind break.

A naturalist friend of mine use to say that pine plantations are no more than habitat for black birds and grackles, evolving to a sterile conifer forest. Therefore I prefer a more natural planting with a mix of conifers forming a wind break etc. I prefer native white spruce and cedar and white pine for winter cover. Stay away from disease vulnerable blue spruce; Norway spruce which is shorter lived on clay soils; and Red Pine that requires a sandier soil.

My favorite yard tree is the Common Hackberry (*Celtis Occidentalis*) which tolerates our high PH alkaline heavier clay soils; forms a shade canopy like our American elm with pebbled bark and fall yellowish color; and most importantly produces pea size dark colored fruits. Robins and cedar wax wings love the berries and they don't drop to the side walk or ground creating a mess.

My second choice for a yard or wildlife property is an oak, if your soils permit. Many gardeners plant certain wild flowers to attract butterflies, oak attract many butterfly species providing a host for their larvae. Blue jays help plant oak by carrying off the acorns in the fall.

The oak species have a tap root that penetrates the soil to a significant depth, making it very difficult to transplant unless you move it as a seedling. However because of the tap root, oak species do not do well on dense compacted or heavy clay soils. They prefer a sandy soil or some of our lighter more gravely clay soils (Hortonville and Hochheim soil types). You can check the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service web site and look up your soil type (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>).

The white and burr oak prefer open sun and don't tolerate competition with other trees. Deer, turkey and wood ducks love the smaller tasty acorns that drop in September. The swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) which is

common in our watershed tolerates poor drainage and would be the oak tree of choice on our clay soils. Red oak is subject to the oak wilt disease and is spreading through out western and central Wisconsin; the disease hasn't shown up in this part of the State to my knowledge. For this reason I have avoided planting red oak; they do drop acorns in October complementing white oak acorn drop and extending the availability of acorns for attracting deer during the hunting season.

Oak are thought to be a slow growing tree, however by controlling grass competition my trees were producing acorns in about 10 years and are almost as tall as some of my maples. The maples are extremely vulnerable to deer browsing.

On lighter soils the black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) is a faster growing tree that is also quite shade tolerant. Like the hackberry it has a small black cherry that is difficult to see from the ground and is consumed by birds during the fall migration. Out in the open the tree tends to grow more shrub like, if planted with other species it will grow tall and straight producing a very valuable saw log. Black Cherry is also a host to many butterfly larvae.

As a landscape tree I love my flowering crab trees. I have white and the deep pink blossom varieties through out my yard. There blossoms are over whelming lighting up my yard sometime near mothers day in mid May. The small apples are available for birds especially robins and cedar wax wings during the fall migration. A few apples always remain through the winter providing a food source for roving flocks of cedar wax wings and critically important to robins when they arrive too early in the spring. The little red apples glisten like ornaments during the first fall snow falls.

The flowering crab species because they are lower growing 15 to 20 feet, are also great trees to plant near your road side where power lines are a concern or close to your home where you may fear a having a tree falling on your home.

All trees should be planted where grass sod has been scalped back, sprayed or mulched in a 4ft. circle to reduce competition for moisture by grass for a couple of years. Trees should be protected with a tree tube or chicken wire from rabbits and deer. Always try to support our local nurseries and vendors that have native trees species available and are within a reasonable driving distance.

It takes all of us working together to help prevent the spread of invasive species, such as the EAB. Please share this information with other landowners and interested citizens. Together we can protect WI natural resources for future generations.



Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership

**7003 Cedarview Road
Cleveland, WI 53015**

NEW Website: WiFriendsOfTheBranchRiver.org

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

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

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

**Treasurer ~ Wayne Huske
920-732-4371**

Directors—At—Large

Harvey Mleziva 920-732-3988

Barb Panosh 920-732-3488

Joanne Kiel 920-732-1114

Justin Glavin 920-732-1114

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



“Like Us” We’re on Facebook!

