

The Sheboygan River Explorer

UW
Extension
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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The goal is to make the Sheboygan River cleaner and deeper to reduce health threats for people, fish and wildlife and to increase opportunities for economic and recreation activities.

Lights, Camera, Action!

In early August it felt as though final preparations were being made for the curtain to open on a huge Broadway musical, although our stage was the Sheboygan River and instead of watching an orchestra of musical instruments assemble, we watched an army of heavy machinery assemble. The characters in this scene played their roles well and continue to do so, troubleshooting many unforeseen details that come about in this type of project.

You are invited to watch this production. It is not hard to see. Just follow the river anywhere from Esslingen Park down to the Harbor and you're bound to see



some of the action. If you're interested in exploring and understanding the projects further, join in on one of the scheduled programs listed in this newsletter or check out information on <http://fyi.uwex.edu/aocs>.

Inviting you to explore and restore your river,

Debbie

Debbie Beyer
UWEX Natural Resources Educator



Your Creativity Wanted for Sheboygan River Billboards!

Photo Contest: Help create billboards to encourage citizens to take care of the Sheboygan River. Catch people doing something good for the river and take their picture. Get their permission and submit it for the contest by January 15th. If you are a winner, we'll use your picture on a billboard next spring!

Slogan Contest: Be creative and help us come up with a billboard slogan to encourage citizens to help restore the Sheboygan River. Visit a local coffee shop to drop off your entry by January 15th.



For more contest information and entry forms, visit www.sheboyganrivers.org, or <http://fyi.uwex.edu/aocs/sheboygan>, or pick up a form at The Weather Center Cafe, The ZSpot, Starbucks, Camp Y-Koda, Paradigm, Sheboygan or Sheboygan Falls YMCAs, or UW-Extension.

Upcoming Events

Sheboygan River Highlights

Wednesday evenings, November 28 (Highland House Restaurant) and December 12 (UW-Extension), 5:30 – 6:00 PM

Curious about what is happening on the river? Meet in the upper dining room of the Highland House Restaurant (Nov.28) or at the UW-Extension office (Dec. 12) for a brief update of dredging and habitat restoration activities. Ask questions, get answers! No registration required.

Sheboygan River Project Tours

Saturday mornings, November 10 and December 1, 9:30-11:00 AM

Meet at the Sheboygan County UW-Extension Office, Room 5024 for a brief overview of the habitat and dredging projects, then caravan in your own vehicle to the project sites. Rain or shine, dress for the weather. No registration required.

Saturday, Nov. 10: Help our habitat, take a tour and GET FREE LUNCH!

Call Debbie Beyer at 920-459-6644 by Nov. 5 to register for your free lunch.

8:00-9:00 Willow Creek invasive plant removal.

Meet at Plank Road Trailhead on Eerie Avenue road. Dress for the weather and bring gloves and pruning shears, if you have them.

9:30-11:00 Sheboygan River Project Tour. Meet at Sheboygan County UWEX office, Room 5020 for a brief overview, then caravan in your own vehicle down the river to view projects sites.

11:00 – 2:00 Take your free lunch ticket to Gander Mountain where the Sheboygan River Basin Partnership will thank you for your efforts and give you a free lunch – brat or hamburger, soda or water and cookies!

Attention Birders!

We want you to go birding along the Sheboygan River! Record your observations on eBird. For more information contact Debbie Beyer at deb.beyer@ces.uwex.edu or (920)467-3343.

Community members are getting involved!

Will you?

Residents Fight Aliens – PLANTS That Is!

Homeowners along the Sheboygan River are helping combat invasive plants that are beginning to take over our Sheboygan River shoreline, namely Japanese knotweed, bush honeysuckle, buckthorn, and a tall grass called Phragmites. Through a special program led by the WDNR, homeowners are invited to receive assistance to treat invasive plants on their property. If you know a Sheboygan River property owner who is working to control invasive plants, THANK them!

High School Students “Test the Waters”

Nine high schools from throughout Sheboygan County are participating in a program called “Testing the Waters” this fall.

More than 350 students will visit some of the Sheboygan River cleanup and habitat projects and learn techniques for testing water quality. Students



are taking samples, analyzing them, and in April 2013 will present their results at a symposium. The program is led through a partnership between YMCA Camp Y-Koda Outdoor Skills Program, University of Wisconsin – Extension, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, and the Sheboygan River Basin Partnership. Funding is from a WDNR River Protection Grant and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. If you know a teacher or student who is “Testing the Waters,” . . . THANK them!

High schools “Testing the Waters” include:

**Sheboygan South High—Kohler High
Cedar Grove High—Random Lake High
Sheboygan Christian High
Howards Grove High
Plymouth High
IDEAS High
Elkhart Lake High**

Thank you property owners, teachers and students!!

Project Updates

The Legacy Dredging Project, from Kiwanis Park to the 8th Street bridge took its first scoop August 20. The project targets 160,000 cubic yards of sediment contaminated with PCBs and PAHs. The sediment is being scooped from the river, then transported to shore and mixed with Portland cement to make it thicker, so that it can be hauled by truck to a landfill. Sediment with 50 parts per million (ppm) or greater concentration of PCBs is trucked to the Environmental Quality Landfill in Wayne, MI. Sediment



with less than 50 ppm PCBs is trucked to Waste Management's Orchard Ridge Landfill in Menomonee Falls, WI. This project is expected to be an investment of about \$34M in federal, state, county, city and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation funds for a deeper and cleaner Sheboygan River and Great Lakes environment

for us and future generations.

Targeted completion date: December, 2012

Contractor: Ryba-Terra Joint Venture, Kalamazoo, MI

The Sheboygan Harbor Improvement Project, from the 8th Street bridge to the Lake Michigan shoreline, took its first scoop August 27. The project goal is to provide a 11-16 foot-deep navigation channel, removing 170,000 cubic yards of sediment contaminated with low levels of PCBs. The sediment is being scooped from the river and dumped into a barge. When full, the barge (continued on pg. 6)

Who's Who? On the Sheboygan River Projects...



Vic Pappas

Degree: B.S. Watershed Management, UW-Stevens Point

Title: WDNR Lake Michigan Field Supervisor

Years of experience: 31

Role: DNR project manager for dredging projects and

general oversight on AOC projects

Vic said, "Thanks to many partners, we are finally getting close to restoration and recovery of the Sheboygan River from serious chemical contamination problems. At the same time, recreational uses, habitat and economic conditions associated with the river are being improved. We will continue to monitor our actions and we are very optimistic that we are on the doorstep of holistic recovery of the Sheboygan River."

Sarah Dezwarte

Degrees: B.S. Biology, UW-Milwaukee, B.A. Elementary Education, Lakeland College

Title: Director of Education, YMCA Camp Y-Koda



Outdoor Skills and Education

Years of Experience: 9 years

Role: As one of the members of the Sheboygan River Community Advisory Committee, I coordinate and supervise the committee's community outreach and education efforts to get adults and youth out on the river and understanding it better. **Sarah said,** "My family has lived on and used the Sheboygan River since 1854. Growing up on the river has instilled in me an appreciation for nature and encouraged me to want to share this experience with others. A healthier Sheboygan River is the first step."

Heather Williams

Degrees: B.S. Biological Science, M.S. in Environmental Engineering, both from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale

Title: Project Manager, USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office

Years of Experience: 20 years

Role: I am the Project

Manager for the two dredging projects currently underway on the river; the Sheboygan River Great Lakes Legacy Act Sediment Remediation Project and the Sheboygan Harbor Strategic Navigation Dredging Project. I am the project lead coordinating all aspects of the dredging projects, working as liaison between project stakeholders and managing the dredging contractors. (continued on pg. 5)



Frequently Asked Questions

How many trucks are involved in hauling?

On a good day, more than 280 truckloads leave Sheboygan with contaminated sediment. More than 6,000



truckloads have been hauled away from the two drying sites near the 8th Street Bridge as of this writing.

How far up the river are they dredging?

In 2012, dredging is taking place from the Lake Michigan shoreline all the way up to Kiwanis Park. In previous years, dredging was completed in sections further upriver.

What is the river contaminated with?

What were the sources?

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the Tecumseh Products Manufacturing facility in Sheboygan Falls were in the lower 14 miles of river. PCBs were used to stabilize liquids and plastics in the U.S. from 1929 to 1978. Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were a by-product of burning coal at a gas manufacturing facility in the late 1800s and early 1900s in Sheboygan.

How long will this go on?

The dredgers are working hard to complete their projects by the end of 2012. The habitat projects will be constructed in 2012, with plantings completed in spring 2013.

Who is paying for it?

The funding is different for each project:

Superfund Dredging Project: Tecumseh Corporation and Pollution Risk Services, LLC.

2011 Camp Marina Project: Wisconsin Public Service

Legacy Act Dredging Project: Federal tax dollars through the Great Lakes Legacy Act and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and matching funds from the state, county, city and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation.

Sheboygan Harbor Improvement Project: Federal tax dollars through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and state, county and city funds.

Fish and Wildlife Population and Habitat Studies and Projects: Federal tax dollars through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

What is the volume of the dredge buckets?

The bucket used in the inner harbor (downriver from the 8th Street Bridge) holds 3.7 cubic yards. The buckets used upriver from the 8th Street Bridge range from 5 to 7 cubic yards for the crane and 3 cubic yards for the excavator bucket.



What is being mixed into the sediment?

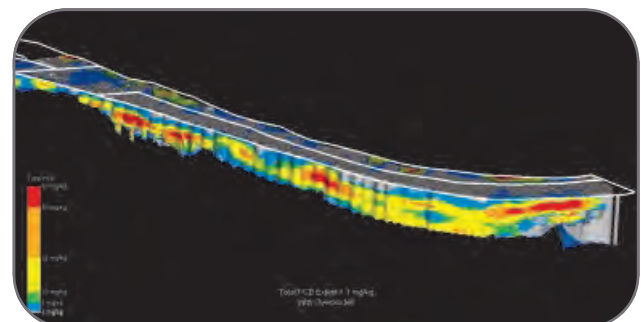
Type 3 Portland cement is being used to help thicken the sediment for trucking to landfills.

What happens to the water that is separated from the sediment? Is it contaminated?

The water is treated on-site to remove PCBs and heavy metals before it is pumped back into the river. It meets standards and is cleaner when it is pumped back into the river than when it was taken out.

How does the dredge operator know where to dig?

Thousands of core samples have been taken to map out locations of contaminated sediment. Each dredge has a computer and GPS equipment to tell the dredge operators where they are dredging.



Who's Who? On the Sheboygan River Projects...

(continued)

Heather said, "The Sheboygan River remediation and restoration projects, funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, are the culmination of years of planning and of the development of successful partnerships between federal, state and local agencies. It has been a pleasure to work in Sheboygan with so many dedicated people helping to clean up the river."

Stacy Hron

Degrees: B.S. Conservation & Environmental Science, M.S. in Biological Sciences, both from UW-Milwaukee
Title: WDNR Sheboygan River Area of Concern Coordinator
Years of Experience: 10 years



Role: I am the DNR project manager for the habitat restoration and assessment projects. I also am part of the project teams for the dredging projects and outreach activities. I am responsible for making sure the projects I manage stay on track and on budget. I also am responsible for planning and coordination related to the Area of Concern and working to restore uses that have been impaired.
Stacy said, "I have enjoyed being part of this momentous time in the history of the Sheboygan River and the privilege of working with the excellent partners that are making the river better for the community as well as fish and wildlife."

Debbie Beyer

Degrees: B.S. – Wildlife Management and Biology, M.S. – Environmental Education and Interpretation, both from UW-Stevens Point.
Title: UW-Extension Natural Resources Educator
Years of Experience: 22 years.



Role: I've been facilitating the Sheboygan River Fish and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee for three years, and planning, coordinating and developing outreach and education efforts, including the Community Advisory Committee.

Debbie said, "It is inspiring to me to be part of an important project like this that will make a real difference in the health of Lake Michigan, the whole Great Lakes ecosystem and the people, fish and wildlife that call it home."

Chad Pelishek

Degree: B.S. Environmental Policy and Planning, UW-Green Bay
Title: City of Sheboygan Development Manager
Years of experience: 16 years



Role in the Sheboygan

River projects: City contact for the projects

Chad said, "The Sheboygan River has for a long time been looked at negatively. With the dredging and habitat projects, the City is looking forward to reinvention of the river for both passive and active recreation as well as new economic development opportunities."

Aaron Brault

Degrees: BS – Geographical Information Systems & Environmental Studies – UW-Madison, Master's Credits in Urban Planning from Ball State University
Title: Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Director
Years of Experience: 10 years



Role: I'm part of the government agency team facilitating all the projects. Author of a successful \$1.5M grant toward the Harbor Project. Manage \$4M of the Harbor Project expenditures, facilitate stakeholder workgroup meetings.

Aaron said, "I've lived away from the Great Lakes only once in my life. It will not happen again. They are truly a special resource and have been and will continue to be a primary driver of our region's recreation, economy, and quality of life."

Project Updates

is moved to the seawall, where the sediment is mixed with Portland cement, while still on the barge. After the sediment thickens, it is scooped into



trucks to be hauled to the Waste Management's Orchard Ridge Landfill in Menomonee Falls, WI. This project is expected to be an investment of about \$21M in federal, state, county and city funds for a deeper and cleaner Sheboygan River and Great Lakes environment for us and future generations.

Target completion date: December, 2012

Contractor: Environmental Quality Management, Inc., Chicago, IL
AECOM, a global company with an office in Sheboygan; Severson, Niagara Falls, NY

The Superfund Dredging Project,

from New Jersey Ave. bridge to 8th Street bridge, started up again in May and has continued throughout the season. It was completed in October with 41,399 cubic yards of



contaminated sediment removed from the river this season. This project uses a hydraulic dredge, pumping the sediment upriver through pipes to the drying site. When dry, the sediment with 50 ppm or more contamination with PCBs is trucked to the Environmental Quality Landfill in Wayne, MI. Sediment with less than 50 ppm PCBs is trucked to the Waste Management Landfill in Whitelaw, WI. In 2011-2012, this project is a \$12.5M investment of Tecumseh Products Manufacturing and Pollution Risk Services, LLC. dollars toward a cleaner Sheboygan River and Great Lakes environment for us and generations to come.

Targeted completion date: Fall, 2012

Contractors: Pollution Risk Services, LLC, Cincinnati, OH

The Sheboygan River Fish and Wildlife Population and Habitat Studies and Projects:

A variety of studies and planning projects have been on-going since 2010. On-the-ground construction of habitat projects from Esslingen Park to Kiwanis Park, began August 15. The studies and projects aim to improve habitat in and along the river for fish and other aquatic creatures, migrating birds, nesting birds, bats, reptiles and amphibians among other wildlife. The riverbank is being improved in targeted areas to restore a more natural slope, reduce erosion, and establish native plants. Access for fishing and canoeing will be improved. The pond along University Drive is being restored back to a wetland with native plants and three small open-water pools. These projects are part of a \$6.5M investment of federal tax



dollars in a healthier Sheboygan River and Great Lakes environment us and the fish and wildlife on which we depend for food, recreation and ecosystem services.

Target completion date: November 2012 for construction, spring 2013 for plantings.

Contractors: Lee & Ryan, Greenfield, IN
Schneider Excavating, Lannon, WI
Applied Ecological Services, Broadhead, WI
SEH, Milwaukee, WI
Interfluve, Madison, WI
Oneida Total Integrated Enterprises, DePere, WI
Cardno JF New, Madison, WI
Cedarburg Science, Cedarburg, WI



Agencies:

WDNR
US Geological Service
UW-Madison
UW-Green Bay
UW-Extension

Sheboygan River Project Map



Explore the Sheboygan River on-line at your leisure:

Wisconsin AOCs info & resources for citizens, including narrated slide presentations: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/aocs>

Wisconsin AOCs official maps, records and reports: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes>

Sheboygan River canoe and kayak trips: <http://sheboygancountyymca.org/camp-y-koda>

Sheboygan River Basin Partnership: <http://www.sheboyganrivers.org>

All Great Lakes AOCs information: <http://www.epa.gov/es/aoc>



What do these things have in common...?

- golf balls
- bowling balls
- bikes
- shopping carts
- skate boards
- bottles
- wallet
- cell phones
- tires (including one from a Model T car!)
- fishing poles
- fishing lures
- knives

... They have all been dredged up in the Sheboygan River!



For programs volunteering or materials request contact:

Debbie Beyer, Natural Resource Educator

UW-Extension

One University Drive

Sheboygan, WI 53081

Phone: (920)459-6644

Email: deb.beyer@ces.uwex.edu

For dredging or habitat project questions contact:

Chad Pelishek

828 Center Ave., Suite 104

Sheboygan, WI 53081

Phone: (920) 459-3383

Email: cpelishk@ci.sheboygan.wi.us



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Debbie Beyer
UW-Extension
One University Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081