

# The Sheboygan River Explorer

Spring 2014

Volume 3, Issue 1



## Inside this issue:

Upcoming Programs	2-3
8th Annual Litter Cleanup Event	4
Canoe/Kayak Trips	4
Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Updates	5
Community Photo Contest	5
Roy Sebold Sheboygan River Natural Area	6
Why is the river still brown?	6
Monitoring	7
NRDA Report	7
Map & Resources	8

*The goal for the Sheboygan River is to reduce the contamination and improve habitat enough so as to raise its "grade" as a Great Lakes river from an "F" to a "C".*

## Make 2014 a year of river fun and learning

Dear friends, look inside **and you'll see that there** are many ways in 2014 for you to enjoy the river and help restore it to better health. If you want to participate in a guided program or trip, **we've got it.** If you want to conduct wildlife surveys or habitat work on your own, we can point you in the right direction. If you want to focus on making your home and yard river-friendly, **we've got tips for you to do that.**



The Sheboygan River Fish and Wildlife Restoration Plan tracks what has been accomplished and points to further improvements. Take time to review the plan this spring and begin thinking about how you can help with one or more of the projects to further improve Sheboygan River health.

Inviting you to explore and restore your river,

*Deb*

Debbie Beyer  
UW Extension Natural Resources Educator

## What is Your Sheboygan River Story?

Saturday, March 8, 10:00-noon

Sheboygan County Historical Museum

Gather for a brief presentation of recent history in the restoration of Sheboygan River fish and wildlife by UW-Extension educator, Debbie Beyer. **Bring along artifacts (photos, objects, articles, etc.) you'd like to show others pertaining to the Sheboygan River's past or present and share your Sheboygan River story in (5 minute segments) informally with the audience.** This program is the kick-off of a Sheboygan River oral history project for documenting the variety of experiences and memories people have of the Sheboygan River.



## Learn about Frogs & Toads

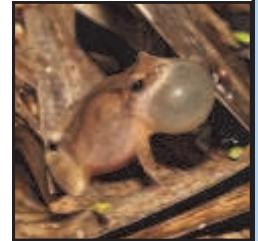
Join Debbie Beyer for a training on Wisconsin frog and toad biology, how to identify their calls, and **techniques for participating in Wisconsin's Frog and Toad Survey**. This training is encouraged if you plan to **join the Frog'n Fridays**. Registration required.

Saturday, March 15, 10:00-noon  
UW-Extension Office



## Frog'n Fridays

Meet Debbie Beyer along the south end of the Shopko parking lot to begin the frog and toad listening survey for the Sheboygan River AOC. Caravan to other survey points in Sheboygan, Kohler, Sheboygan Falls and into the countryside. Participate in as much of the survey as you like. Surveys must be done in calm weather conditions, hence the rain dates. Registration required, so we can notify you of cancellations. Your help is appreciated!



April 11, 7:00-10:00pm (Rain date: April 25th)

May 23, 8:00-11:00pm (Rain date: May 30th)

July 11, 8:30-11:30pm (Rain date: July 12th)

## Friday Morning Bird Walks



Join Debbie Beyer and other local birders, for a morning walk to identify birds along **the Sheboygan River**. We'll start at Esslingen Park and drive to other project sites and eBird hotspots as time allows. Drop in for just a short excursion before work, or

stay for several hours. Our observations will be submitted to eBird. Bring your binoculars and field guide. Water-proof boots suggested.

March 14, 8:00am

April 11 & 25, 8:00am

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 8:00am

June 6 & 13, 7:30am

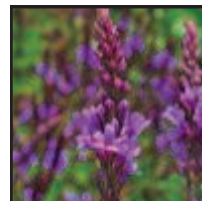
July 11, 7:30am

## Native Plant Walks

Join local ecologist and Sheboygan River project contractor, Scott Horzen, to see and identify some of the native trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges and wildflowers planted at the habitat projects. Discuss **their ecological importance and get ideas for "going native" with your own landscaping**. Park along University Drive and begin with a walk in the wetlands across from Lutheran High School. Travel to other sites if time allows. For possible weather cancellations call 920-459-5918 two hours prior to the program start.

Monday June 23, 6:00-7:00pm

Monday July 21, 6:00-7:00pm



Contact Debbie Beyer at 920-459-6644 or [deb.beyer@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:deb.beyer@ces.uwex.edu) or Amy Kretlow at 920-459-5918 or [akretlow@uwm.edu](mailto:akretlow@uwm.edu) to register for programs

## Bat Monitoring Training

WDNR biologist, Paul White, will teach about the biology of Wisconsin bats and how to detect them as they hunt for insects in the night sky. Learn to use the **“Ana-Bat” detector, which is a gadget that records bat vocalizations imperceptible to the human ear.** Also, learn how to search for bat roost locations. Expect a 1-hour indoor program followed by 1-hour outdoor practice. Good walking shoes a must! Registration required. This prepares you for loaning the Ana-bat to do your own surveys, or for joining the group bat walks.

Thursday April 10, 7:00pm  
UW-Extension Office



## Bat Survey Canoe Trips

Help us navigate the night-time waters and survey for bats in the lower portion of the Sheboygan River. Registration is required to reserve a free canoe, contact Camp Y-Koda at 920-467-6882 or [yeduction@sheboygancountyyymca.org](mailto:yeducation@sheboygancountyyymca.org)

June 25, 8:00pm  
July 9, 8:00pm

## Thursday Evening Group Bat Walks

Come join UW-Extension's **Amy Kretlow and Debbie Beyer** to walk one of the Sheboygan River bat survey routes and practice using the Ana-Bat detector. We'll walk a survey route and collect data to accompany additional data being collected by volunteers (some of you!). Wear good walking shoes and bring insect repellent! For possible weather cancellations call 920-459-5918 two hours prior to the program start.

April 17, 8:00pm, Kiwanis Park  
May 1, 8:15pm, Deland Park  
May 15, 8:30pm, Glas Coffee House  
June 12, 8:45pm, South Pier turn-around

## News and Views on the Sheboygan River

Tuesday, March 11,  
6:30-7:30 pm  
Maywood Ellwood H.  
May Environmental  
Park

Join Debbie Beyer, UW-Extension, and Caitie McCoy, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, for this update on Sheboygan River fish and wildlife and community perceptions studies. Learn about next steps and how you can be involved in helping the Sheboygan River heal.



## Invasive Plant Pull & Ice Cream Socials

Enjoy fresh air and exercise along the river cutting or pulling garlic mustard, buckthorn and other invaders. Then take a break to enjoy ice cream and socialize with your fellow river-enthusiasts. Long sleeves, insect repellent, gloves and sturdy shoes encouraged. Meet on University Drive along the Sheboygan River. For possible weather cancellations call 920-459-5918 two hours prior to the program start.



March 20, 5:00-7:00pm  
April 3, 5:00-7:00pm  
April 17, 5:30-7:30pm  
May 1, 5:30-7:30pm  
May 15, 6:00-8:00pm  
June 12, 6:00-8:00pm  
July 10, 6:00-8:00pm



## 8th Annual Litter Cleanup Event

## Sheboygan River Canoe/Kayak Trips

Saturday, May 17, 2014  
Camp Y-Koda

**“Clean the river now, keep it clean forever!”**

Enjoy a morning walk or paddle along a stretch of the Sheboygan River picking up litter in this great family and community event! In cooperation with the Sheboygan River Basin Partnership and the UW-Extension, we will again be picking up trash along various stretches of the Sheboygan River and other local areas.

Bring your own canoe, use a Camp Y-Koda canoe for free, or walk a riverside park. Please be prepared for any kind of weather; rain, sleet, or sunshine, we will be picking up litter!

New this year, Camp Y-Koda will be collecting old shoes as a fundraiser.

All ages are welcome; however, youth under the age of 18 must be with an adult. Please return form to the *Sheboygan YMCA, Sheboygan Falls YMCA; or Camp Y-Koda, W3340 Sunset Rd, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085.*

The registration deadline is May 10, 2014.

Experience the Sheboygan River, stretch your paddling muscles, and learn about the clean-up and restoration work on a free guided trip with Camp Y-Koda! Contact Camp Y-Koda at 920-467-6882 or [yeducation@sheboygancountymca.org](mailto:yeducation@sheboygancountymca.org) to register.

- Saturday June 14, 9:00-11:00am
- Sunday June 15, noon-2:00pm
- Wednesday June 18, noon-2:00pm
- Saturday June 21, 9:00-11:00am
- Sunday June 22, noon-2:00pm
- Saturday June 28, 9:00-11:00am
- Sunday June 29, noon-2:00pm
- Wednesday July 2, noon-2:00pm
- Saturday July 12, 9:00am-11:00am
- Sunday July 13, noon-2:00pm



Registrants will be contacted by Camp Y-Koda a few days in advance of the trip with final details. River section featured on each trip determined by water conditions.

### CAMP Y-KODA 2014 SHEBOYGAN RIVER CLEAN UP

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  M  F  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Youth under the age of 18 must be with an adult.  
 Please select one of the following options:

- Trash pick-up on foot along the Sheboygan River
- Invasive species eradication at Willow Creek
- Trash pick-up using a camp canoe
- Trash pick-up using your own canoe or kayak
- I want to donate \$10.00 for a River Clean Up t-shirt. Add \$2.00 for size XXL.

Youth  SM  MED  LG  
 Adult  SM  MED  LG  XL  XXL

Confirmation and instructions will be mailed or emailed to you at least three days prior to the event. Please call Camp Y-Koda at 920-467-6882 with questions or for more information.

#### HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I hereby agree to waive any claim or liability I may have on the YMCA arising out of use of the facility, and further agree that I will indemnify and save harmless the YMCA from any and all claims brought against the YMCA, its members and volunteers, on account of death, injury, or damage to persons or property received by any persons by reason of the acts or omissions of the users in their use. I also agree to waive any claims against the YMCA, its members and volunteers for injuries or damages that may result from the conduct of other persons, including participants in the program. I understand the above responsibilities and I give permission for myself and/or my child to participate and be photographed in YMCA activities.

Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Receipt# \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Fish, wildlife and habitat updates

### Citizens, groups join to protect habitat in “Schuchardt Valley”

Local citizens are partnering with Glacial Lakes Conservancy and The Sheboygan River Basin Partnership to work with the City of Sheboygan to protect the fish and wildlife habitat, scenic, cultural, recreation and education values of what is known locally as “Schuchardt Valley”. This is the valley you can see from the Shopko parking lot and Taylor Drive, and extends north of Esslingen Park.

During the Sheboygan River AOC biological assessment in 2011-2012, this area was identified as a priority area for habitat protection, because it provides unique native plant and animal communities, some found nowhere else within the Sheboygan River AOC. Some of these features are also of state and regional ecological significance. If you'd like to be part of the effort and receive updates, contact Debbie Beyer at 920-459-6644.

### Take part in Sheboygan River AOC fish and wildlife planning

The Sheboygan River AOC Fish and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee, a group of agency and other biologists, are working on a restoration plan for fish and wildlife populations and habitat within the Sheboygan River AOC. This plan recognizes the habitat work that has already been done with the intent of removing the Sheboygan River from the list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern. It also recommends additional projects that would help further improve the health and vitality of the river. If you'd like to review the draft before it is finalized in

April, please contact WDNR Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan Coordinator, John Masterson, at 920-893-8555 and [john.masterson@wi.gov](mailto:john.masterson@wi.gov).



D.G. Anderson

### Want to plant native wildflowers?

We have an exciting and unique opportunity to establish native wildflower gardens as a backyard habitat restoration demo along the Sheboygan River at the new Glas Coffee House on 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The Sheboygan River Basin Partnership is seeking funding for the native plant stock and is hoping volunteers will help with planting this spring. If interested, please leave a message for UW-Extension Sheboygan River Volunteer Coordinator, Amy Kretlow at 459-5918 or [akretlow@uwm.edu](mailto:akretlow@uwm.edu).

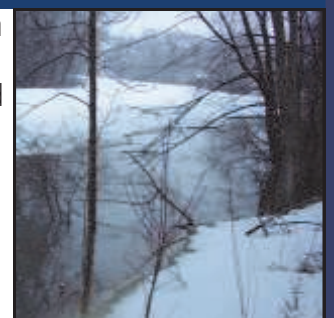
### Did you see the seawall at Workers Water Street Park?

Work is expected to begin as soon as weather conditions are right and paperwork is in place, to fix the failing seawall. A very deep sinkhole, among others, was observed in October. The undermined areas will be filled and larger riprap (boulders) will be placed against the wall.

If you have questions, contact City Engineer, Ryan Sazama at 459-3366.

## Community Photo Contest

Calling all photographers to focus their lenses on the Sheboygan River, anywhere from Sheboygan Falls to the Sheboygan Harbor, in 2014. We have an on-line photo album at <https://sheboyganrivercleanupproject.shutterfly.com/>, so your photos will be added to that collection for public viewing and possible use in exhibits and publications, plus winners will be on display at locations in the Sheboygan area. Submit your photos electronically to Debbie Beyer at [deb.beyer@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:deb.beyer@ces.uwex.edu) by September 1, 2014. Include your name, address, phone number, photo name, camera and lens description, and category: youth (18 and younger), adult amateur, or adult professional.



## Roy Sebold Sheboygan River Natural Area

On December 17, the County Board approved a request to dedicate the Taylor Drive/ Indiana Avenue Wayside in memory of the late Roy Sebold. As an active citizen conservationist and outdoorsman, Roy was well known in the local conservation community.

Roy was on a citizen advisory committee for the cleanup efforts and was a long time member of the Izaak Walton League from Sheboygan. He was relentless in his efforts to get state and federal governments to speed up the clean-up efforts on the river.

**In the 1970's it was discovered that ranch mink are very sensitive to PCB contamination from eating Lake Michigan fish.**

While trapping for furbearers, Roy noticed the lack of mink along the Sheboygan River and notified the WDNR. **Roy's observation helped fuel justification** for the Sheboygan River to be included on the list of



Roy Sebold with one of his red fox harvests. "Roy's tenacious pursuit of the Sheboygan River clean-up was key to the eventual project initiation and **completion,"** says John Nelson, Sheboygan River Project Manager for The Nature Conservancy.

Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Wild mink populations can be impacted when they ingest PCB-contaminated prey, things like fish, crayfish and frogs.

### After dredging, why is the Sheboygan River still brown?

When rain falls or snow melts and flows across pavement, lawns and farm fields, rather than soaking into the ground, it washes soil particles, pesticides, pet wastes, oil and other pollutants into local lakes and streams. This is called stormwater, or runoff pollution.

Our recent Sheboygan River clean-up targeted sediment (particles) contaminated with chemical compounds, called PCBs and PAHs, that escaped into the river from various industries up until the 1970s. Nearly 400,000 cubic yards of sediment were removed! However, new sediment continues to enter the river from farm fields, construction sites, and pavement when rain falls and snow melts. This is what makes the river muddy.

A community approach is needed to further clean-up the Sheboygan River and keep other local waters clean. We all can do things to reduce our contributions to pollution in our rivers and streams:

- Redirect downspouts from pavement to your lawn or rain garden
- Compost yard waste to keep it out of streets and storm drains
- Sweep up debris from sidewalks and driveways rather than hosing them off
- Plant buffers along waterways to capture runoff before it reaches open water
- Test soil to avoid over-fertilizing your lawn, gardens or fields
- Control erosion with straw or a cover crop when tilling up land
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the garbage
- Manage manure on farms to keep it away from open water

If we all do the best we can at these things, the Sheboygan River will be a cleaner, healthier place for us to work, play and relax!

## Monitoring for Results

### How will we know if biological conditions have improved in the river?

There has been much thought and discussion among Sheboygan River Fish and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee members, as well as among scientists throughout the Great Lakes region and the nation. Strategies to verify results of the PCB clean-up and **habitat restoration work are being developed. Here's** a summary of the proposal for the Sheboygan River Area of Concern monitoring for the near future:

2014: Sampling will be conducted for contaminants in tree swallows and mink. The quality of the aquatic community including fish population and diversity, benthos population and diversity, and habitat will be surveyed.

2015: Sampling will be repeated for the quality of the aquatic community including fish population and diversity, benthos population and diversity, and

habitat. The survey to determine the fish consumption advisory will be conducted. Habitat restoration projects will be evaluated.

2016: Sampling will be repeated for quality of the aquatic community including fish population and diversity, benthos population, and diversity and habitat.

2017: Sampling will be done to determine the frequency of fish tumors. The survey to determine the waterfowl consumption advisory for mallards, scaup and Canada geese will be conducted. Surveys on species presence and diversity will be conducted for reptiles and amphibians, breeding birds, mussels, bats, and native plant communities, including presence of invasive plants.

The results of these surveys may identify the need for additional monitoring beyond 2017.



## Sheboygan River & Harbor Natural Resource Damage Assessment

The NRDA trustees for the Sheboygan River are continuing their work at the site. The trustees recently developed a list of criteria for selecting restoration projects that will address natural resource injury and lost human uses. See a factsheet about the restoration project criteria along with other documents at the **trustees' website** [[www.fws.gov/midwest/es/ec/nrda/sheboyganharbor/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/es/ec/nrda/sheboyganharbor/)].

For more information, contact:

Paula Bizot, NOAA  
(734) 741-2272  
[paula.bizot@noaa.gov](mailto:paula.bizot@noaa.gov)

Betsy Galbraith, USFWS  
(920) 866-1753  
[Betsy\\_Galbraith@fws.gov](mailto:Betsy_Galbraith@fws.gov)

Vic Pappas, Wisconsin DNR  
(920) 892-8756 ext. 3012  
[Victor.Pappas@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Victor.Pappas@wisconsin.gov)



For additional information, visit:  
[www.fws.gov/midwest/es/ec/nrda/sheboyganharbor/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/es/ec/nrda/sheboyganharbor/)  
[www.darrp.noaa.gov/greatlakes/sheboygan/index.html](http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/greatlakes/sheboygan/index.html)

By Betsy Galbraith,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service





## The Sheboygan River Area of Concern

For programs, volunteering,  
or materials requests contact:

Debbie Beyer, Natural Resource Educator  
UW-Extension  
One University Drive  
Sheboygan, WI 53081  
Phone: (920)459-6644  
Email: [deb.beyer@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:deb.beyer@ces.uwex.edu)



University of Wisconsin,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
and Wisconsin counties  
cooperating. An EEO/AA  
employer, University of Wisconsin  
Extension provides equal  
opportunities in employment and  
programming, including Title IX  
and American with Disabilities  
(ADA)  
requirements.



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Explore the Sheboygan River and related topics  
at your leisure:

Wisconsin AOCs info for citizens:  
<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://sheboygancountymca.org/camp-y-koda>

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

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

Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird:  
<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

IPAW: Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin:  
<http://ipaw.org/>

Wisconsin Bat Monitoring Program:  
<http://wiatri.net/inventory/bats/>

Wisconsin Frog & Toad Monitoring Program:  
<http://wiatri.net/inventory/frogtoadsurvey/secure/welcome.cfm>