



# Lake Wisconsin

# Living

Winter 2016

AN EXCLUSIVE NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LAKE WISCONSIN

## Columbia County Ferry Landing Gets “Face Lift”

*Reprinted from Portage Daily Register (Lyn Jerde)*

Between the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the town of West Point, there's a lot of investment going on at a site that many believe has potential to be a premier tourism destination. By next spring, the current construction site near the Columbia County landing of the Colsac III ferry in the town of West Point, will be a full-service family-style restroom facility, replacing the pit toilet structure that currently serves the site. The \$500,000 Wisconsin Department of Transportation investment in the restrooms, plus the town of West Point's efforts to get a fishing pier accessible for handicapped anglers, are part of ongoing efforts to make the park area near the ferry a destination in its own right.

People who attended the Columbia County Visitors' Bureau's June 2015 kick-off of the ferry's summer season saw the plans for the structure. State DOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb appeared at the June event to unveil the plans for the wayside which also include improvements to the parking area - to be used primarily by visitors who don't necessarily plan to ride the ferry. Visitors now can see the wayside starting to take shape, with completion planned for next summer. And, though there's no sign of it yet, the town of West Point is working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to install another visitors' amenity at the ferry landing - a floating fishing pier accessible for anglers including those who use a wheelchair via a gangplank.

West Point Town Chairman Dean Schwarz said he was inspired to advocate for the accessible pier after he saw, several years ago, an angler who could not easily walk, trying to land fish that he'd caught while fishing from the shore near the ferry landing. According to Schwarz, the angler couldn't get the fish to shore because it was caught in the riprap surrounding the water's edge. That's why the town of West Point is raising \$23,000, one-fourth the cost of an accessible pier, with the DNR contributing three-fourths of the cost. Schwarz said he hopes to have the pier built and in the water by spring 2016.

The ferry, which carries people and vehicles on a seven-minute ride across the Wisconsin River between the Columbia County landing just outside of Lodi and the Sauk County Village of Merrimac, is one of Wisconsin's premier tourism attractions now. Peak traffic on the ferry coincides with the tourist season and weekend getaway schedules. August is typically the peak of the busy season with cars sometimes lined up 50 deep waiting their turn to ride the ferry. The DOT owns the ferry, but the Columbia County Highway Department operates it. The ferry runs 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, when the water is open. The ferry remains Wisconsin's only free ferry and was in operation long before there was a marked road leading to or away from it.

The state-owned park around the ferry, on the Columbia County side, is getting a long-overdue upgrade, Schwarz said. "The park, currently, is just a pit stop for the ferry," he said. "But we want to make it a destination."

**FREE Log Home Show! February 13th! Call For Details!**



We offer full log, half log, and exposed beam homes.

You can relax knowing that we offer construction services and custom plans since 1966.

**1-800-270-5025**

Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm Sat: 9am-3pm  
4421 Plover Road Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

**Come visit Lucky's...**  
**The NEWEST SPOT**  
**on the Lake!**



The best view, lots of TVs and a private party room available!

**Lucky's Bar & Grille NOW**  
**Delivers to Lodi!**

**2-4-1 Burgers on TUESDAY Nights!**



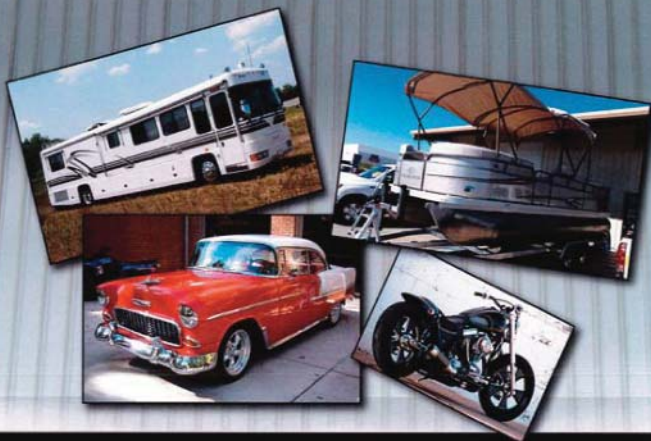
**January 23** - Ice Fishing Tournament with Lake Wisconsin Alliance  
**February 6** - Radar Run and Animal Rescue Fundraiser  
**February 13** - Golf on The Bay  
**March 5** - Radar Run

**Lucky's On The Lake**

W11579 Hwy V • Lodi, WI 53555

608-592-LUCK(5825) • [www.luckysbarandgrille.com](http://www.luckysbarandgrille.com)

New Secured Building  
For Inside Storage  
Concrete floor ~ Winterizing available



**BOATS • RVS • MOTORCYCLES • ETC.**

*\$20/per ft - 50% Deposit to guarantee space, balance due at drop off.*

Just a Half Mile West of Okee

**(608) 592-5244**

[Info@meisterskandm.com](mailto:Info@meisterskandm.com)

**MEISTER'S  
K&M**  
SHORELINE RESTORATION  
TREE SERVICE & LANDSCAPING

*Someone you know and trust!*

[www.WiLakeside.com](http://www.WiLakeside.com)

**LAKESIDE**  
Bar & Grill  
Pizzas now Served  
Sunday - Thurs  
4 pm - close

Daily Lunch Specials  
Fri Fish Fry • Sat Prime Rib

*Best Sunset on the Lake*

W10960 Corning St • Poynette • 608-635-2959

**Experience the Best Service Imaginable.**

**Aaron Meyer**  
**Mortgage Loan Officer**  
NMLS# 594379

**Building or buying a home? Contact Aaron today.**

[ameyer@SettlersWI.com](mailto:ameyer@SettlersWI.com)

Cell: 608.444.5178 Phone: 608.842.5024

**Sb Settlers bank**  
[www.SettlersWI.com](http://www.SettlersWI.com)

MEMBER FDIC



# BUSINESS... Spotlight

## Graham's Auto & Truck Clinic

**H**onesty, integrity and quality are not always words used to describe an automotive repair and used car sales facility. However, at Grahams Auto & Truck Clinic in Poynette, these words are spoken by their customers on a regular basis. Graham Counihan, the owner of Graham's Auto & Truck Clinic, says this comes from taking pride in their work and building personal relationships with their customers.



As an Irish immigrant in 1978, Graham quickly understood the importance of having good relationships with people in his community and has since used that philosophy as the foundation for his business. Graham started his business from the ground floor, most often having customers referred to him by word-of-mouth. Eventually through hard work and a good reputation, Graham became a local favorite for complete automotive repair, and in 1996 was able to build a full scale, "state of the art" repair facility. Then in 2003 Graham became a U.S. Citizen, something he is very proud of.

While approaching his 20th year at his current facility, Graham is still working in the business with his son, Nathan. You can stop at the shop on any given day, early in the morning or late at night, and see these two in action. Much like Graham, Nathan believes in good customer service leading the way for a successful business. This partnership has brought great things to Graham's Auto & Truck Clinic with ASE Master Technician Graham Counihan overseeing workmanship and repairs, and Nathan (his son) making sure all the "I's" are dotted, the "T's" are crossed... Together, Graham and Nathan provide every customer with an exceptional experience along with the latest and greatest technology in automotive care.

Speaking of technology, Graham's Auto & Truck Clinic utilizes a "state of the art" digital inspection software that is loaded on tablets which allows them to easily share with their customers not only what the technicians found, but also show pictures and diagrams along with an explanation so the customer sees exactly what the problem is and how it possibly may have been prevented... And of course, what needs to be done to fix the problem correctly.

Vehicle repair can sometimes be a lengthy process, but Graham and Nathan are pleased to offer free loaner cars or pick-up and drop-off if needed. With the latest and greatest technology partnered with an amazing and knowledgeable staff, Graham's Auto & Truck Clinic can repair any vehicle, both foreign and domestic!

Graham still receives many customers by word-of-mouth, but you can also find information on Graham's Auto & Truck Clinic by visiting their Facebook page, reading reviews on-line, and by visiting their website at [www.grahamsautorepairandsales.com](http://www.grahamsautorepairandsales.com). When you visit the website you can schedule an appointment and even ask a question. You can always call Graham or Nathan at 608-635-2393 or stop in and speak to them one-on-one at N3333 Hwy J in Poynette.

### Graham's Auto Truck Clinic Your Dealership Alternative

We service all vehicle makes and models.  
No service or repair is too big or too small!

*Where dedication and service is our specialty!*

- Free Loaner Cars Available With Repairs
- Free Vehicle Pickup and Delivery Within 15 Miles
- Early Morning/Late Night Key Drop Box
- We Service & Repair Foreign and Domestic Vehicles
- ASE Certified and Factory Trained Technicians
- Saturday Appointments Available by Request

**\$5 OFF**

Any  
Oil Change

**\$25 OFF**

Any Repair  
or Service

Call 608-635-2393 to schedule an appointment or  
schedule online at

[www.grahamsautorepairandsales.com](http://www.grahamsautorepairandsales.com)  
N3333 Hwy. J • Poynette, WI  
1/8 mile N from Poynette McDonald's

## Be Part of Your Newsletter...

To make your newsletter even better, we invite you to submit your information to be published in *Lake Wisconsin Living*.

Do you want to highlight stories about your friends, family activities you have experienced, etc.?

Let us know by emailing your information to [newsletter@TFMwisconsin.com](mailto:newsletter@TFMwisconsin.com). We look forward to hearing from you!



## Lake Wisconsin Alliance (LWA) Offers FREE Educational Seminars!

The Lake Wisconsin Alliance (LWA) hosted an educational program on Shoreland Erosion Practices on Thursday, September 10, 2015 in Harmony Grove. This free event focused on shoreland erosion practices that help to stabilize shorelines, prevent runoff, and create wildlife habitat.

Two sites were showcased on the tour and although they both had eroding shorelines, they were planned with different practices to address the erosion. Tim O'Leary, a Conservation Specialist with the Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department, was the tour leader and described the different practices used to stabilize shorelines including rip rap, bioengineering products, and shaping and seeding with native vegetation. Tim went over the permit process and explained that some factors, such as boat traffic and wave energy may make a site ineligible for rip rap and only bioengineering practices could be installed.

The first site, in Harmony Grove, was considered a low energy site and had to be stabilized with coconut coir logs and was also planned for shaping and seeding with native vegetation. The coconut coir logs are a bioengineered product that will stabilize the bank and will eventually decompose and break down. By the time the log decomposes, the bank will be stabilized by the deep roots of the native plants. Work had not yet started on this project so it gave those in attendance the chance to see what a project looks like beforehand.

The second site was located between Sticky Bay and Harmony Grove and was considered a medium energy site. This site was planned to be stabilized with rip rap along with shaping and seeding with native vegetation. Live native plants were planned to be installed amongst the rip rap to help further stabilize the bank. Erosion fabric was also planned to be installed under the rip rap to help prevent water from cutting behind the rip rap which could lead to future erosion issues. This site was half way completed, so it was a good opportunity to see a project in the works.

The Lake Wisconsin Alliance (LWA) hosted another educational meeting on Pier Regulations at the Lodi Women's Club Public Library on Thursday, November 12, 2015. Martye Griffin, Water Regulations and Zoning Specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), started the presentation by reviewing the history of pier regulations in Wisconsin which has been effective since 1893. There are essentially two rights that need to be considered with pier regulations: 1) A riparian owner has the right to build a pier or wharf for the purpose of reaching or accessing navigable water; and, 2) Placement of a structure cannot impact the Public Trust Doctrine, or the idea that all Wisconsin citizens have the right to boat, fish, hunt, ice skate, and swim on navigable waters, as well as enjoy the natural scenic beauty of navigable waters, and enjoy the quality and quantity of water that supports those uses.

Martye also discussed how most existing piers were grandfathered. On April 17, 2012, rules were passed that exempted all existing piers from needing state approval. These piers can be placed in lakes and rivers the same as they always have with few limitations. A handout was provided with frequently asked questions on pier regulations as well as a copy of the Pier Planner Fact Sheet. Both documents provide information on new pier regulations and permit requirements. These documents are available on the LWA website ([www.lakewisconsinalliance.org](http://www.lakewisconsinalliance.org)) under Resources – Education and Outreach.

After attending the presentation, it is clear that each pier situation is different and mostly dependent on what was present prior to April 17, 2012. Local permits may also be required and lake shore property owners are encouraged to contact their local zoning office prior to installing a new pier, wharf, or boathouse. Contact information for the Columbia and Sauk County zoning offices is also located on the LWA website under Resources – Education and Outreach.

Questions related to pier regulations can be directed to Martye Griffin at [MartinP.Griffin@wisconsin.gov](mailto:MartinP.Griffin@wisconsin.gov) or 608-266-2997. Questions related to these events, future educational meetings or LWA can be directed to Melissa Keenan at 608-355-4838 or [mkeenana@co.sauk.wi.us](mailto:mkeenana@co.sauk.wi.us). See the Calendar of Events on page 5 for future meeting dates.

Lake Wisconsin Alliance (LWA) – a recently developed, non-profit (501)(c) 3, citizen advocacy organization with a mission to endeavor to balance the diverse interests of the Lake Wisconsin community while improving recreational opportunities, water quality, and sustaining a healthy ecosystem within the Lake Wisconsin watershed.

## LWA to Host EDUCATIONAL Presentation “Update on Nearshore Fishery Survey on Lake Wisconsin”



*Mud Darter, a special concern fish species found during the first year of near fish surveys completed on Lake Wisconsin.*

The Lake Wisconsin Alliance (LWA) will host its first educational meeting for 2016 at the Lodi Town Hall, W10919 County Road V, on Thursday, January 7th from 6:00-8:00pm. LWA received a Prairie du Sac Dam Aquatic Resources Enhancement Fund grant from Alliant Energy to conduct nearshore fishery surveys on Lake Wisconsin in 2015 and 2016. Dave Marshall and Tim Larson have been contracted by LWA to conduct the surveys and will present the results from the first year.

Nearshore fish populations have been described as “canaries in the coal mine” but are not routinely surveyed since they offer no perceived or direct economic benefit associated with sport fish populations. These sensitive fish populations provide important ecological linkages that may reveal lake-ecosystem stresses even before traditional trophic state index (TSI) parameters reveal water quality problems. Nearshore fish populations are represented by a diversity of species, including Threatened, Special Concern and other environmentally intolerant groups. The presence and absence of these often overlooked fish populations can also reveal important information on nearshore habitat conditions and can be used to assess habitat restoration projects.

# Calendar of Events

**COUNTDOWN to NEW YEAR'S EVE – Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 11a-12p,**  
**Baraboo Public Library.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kids' New Year's Even at Noon celebration! Play games, make crafts, & at noon, celebrate the "Noon Year." Refreshments provided.  
[www.baraboopubliclibrary.org](http://www.baraboopubliclibrary.org)

**MIRROR LAKE CANDLELIGHT SKI, HIKE, & SNOWSHOE NIGHT – January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6-8p.** The Friends of Mirror Lake State Park & the Park Staff will host this family event. Two easy 1-mile trails will be lit by torches for hikers, skiers, and snowshoers. Enjoy hot beverages, at no charge, around a roaring bonfire. A 2016 Wisconsin State Park sticker is needed to enter the Park & will be available to purchase at the Office that evening. Call 608-254-2333 for more information.

#### LAKE WISCONSIN ALLIANCE Events –

- Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, Educ Mtg, "Update on Nearshore Fishery Survey on Lake Wisconsin," 6-8 pm, Lodi Town Hall
- Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, LWA Board Mtg, 6:30pm, Location TBD
- Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, LWA Board Mtg, 6:30m, Location TBD
- Mar 10<sup>th</sup>, Educ Mtg, "Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Changes & Impacts to Lake Wis" 6-8pm, Lodi Women's Public Library
- March 24<sup>th</sup>, LWA Board Mtg, 6:30pm, Location TBD

**LUCKY'S ANNUAL ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT – January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8a-5p.** To register, visit the website at [www.luckysbarandgrille.com/lake](http://www.luckysbarandgrille.com/lake) or stop or call 608-592-5825.

**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WINTERFEST – January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11a-6p,**  
**Marley's – A Taste of the Caribbean – Wisconsin Dells.** Food, drinks, kids 120 Track, Vendors, Raffles, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Snowmobile Show, and more... For more information call 608-254-1800.

**PORT WINE CELEBRATION at Wollersheim Winery – January 30<sup>th</sup>, 10a-4p.** A break from Wisconsin's winter! Join us as we celebrate our Port wines. Take a behind-the-scenes look at how they're made. Sample both our Red Port and White Port along with other Wollersheim wines. Live music, wine by the glass, light food, & insights on Port wine by Philippe Coquard. For more information call 608-643-6515 or visit [www.wollersheim.com](http://www.wollersheim.com)

**SNOW TRAIN at MID-CONTINENT RAILWAY MUSEUM – February 12-14.** Wintertime railroading is a unique experience one will never forget. Travel through the Winter Wonderland of scenic Sauk County on our 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Snow Train. All cars are kept comfortably warm using the over century-old tradition of steam heating or coal-fired stoves. Advanced reservations can be made at [www.midcontinent.org](http://www.midcontinent.org) or by calling 608-522-4261 or toll free at 800-930-1385. All on-board dining options require reservations. Coach seating may be reserved in advance or purchased at the depot ticket window on the day of event; however, there is no guarantee of ticket availability without a reservation.

**2016 ESKIMO OPEN – February 21<sup>st</sup>, 10a-3p.** This event at Remi's Thirsty Moose is family fun for all! Tee time will be between 10am & 3pm with an 18-hole golf course on the ice. There will also be a club throwing contest, a bonfire & plenty of indoor activities. For more information contact Joe at 608-635-5303.

#### LAKESIDE BAR & GRILL

W10960 Corning Street, Poynette, WI 608-635-2959. Like us on Facebook. CLOSED Mon-Fri (12/21-12/25) the week of Christmas; reopening Dec 26<sup>th</sup>.

**LUCKY'S BAR & GRILLE on the LAKE**  
 W11579 Hwy V, Lodi, WI 608-592-LUCK (5825) or  
[www.luckysbarandgrille.com/lake](http://www.luckysbarandgrille.com/lake)

- **2-4-1 Burgers** on TUESDAY Nights!
- **Ice Fishing Tournament** with Lake Wisconsin Alliance, Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8a-5p.
- **Radar Run & Animal Rescue Fundraiser**, Feb 6<sup>th</sup>
- **Golf on the Bay**, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>
- **Radar Run**, March 5<sup>th</sup>



**SOUTHERN WISCONSIN ICE RACING ASSOCIATION (SWIRA) – Race location at Remi's Thirsty Moose, N3135 Cty Hwy V, Poynette, 608-635-4311.** For additional information, dates, and registration visit [www.swiraclub.com](http://www.swiraclub.com) Kids Race **FREE**; Classes for all ages, Quad studded & rubber classes, Motorcycle classes.

#### Day of Event Schedule:

- Registration 7:30-9am
- Practice 9-9:45am
- Mandatory Drivers Meeting 10am
- Racing to Follow Drivers Meeting

#### Event Dates:

- Jan 10<sup>th</sup>
- Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> – 2-day State Championship Weekend; Big \$\$\$ & Door Prizes! Sunday – Big UTV Shootout!
- Feb 6<sup>th</sup> (Make-up for Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> if needed)
- Feb 7<sup>th</sup>
- Feb 14<sup>th</sup>
- Feb 21<sup>st</sup>
- Feb 28<sup>th</sup> (Make-up date if needed)



# SMOKEY HOLLOW SUMMER DAY CAMP PROGRAM



## DAY-CAMPING "OH" WHAT FUN!

Ages 3-11; Adventure Teen Camp - ages 12-14; Themed Weekly Events, Day Trips, On-Site Excitement, Arts & Crafts, Group Games, Fitness & Recreation, Swim Zone, Sandy Beach, Water Toys, Overnight Fun & So Much More!



**608-635-4805**    **[www.smokeyhollowdaycamp.com](http://www.smokeyhollowdaycamp.com)**

email: [camp@smokeyhollowdaycamp.com](mailto:camp@smokeyhollowdaycamp.com) (formerly known as Crystal Lake Day Camp @ Smokey Hollow Campground)

# VACANT LOTS

## Theresa Lane Lot G

Wisconsin River  
 20 ft. of river frontage - 3.30 acres  
 Property at end of private drive  
**MLS# 175.352 - \$250,000**

## Eagle Bluff Court Lot 7

Wisconsin River  
 125 ft. of frontage - 1.74 acres  
 Amazing views of Wisconsin River  
**MLS# 1730931 - \$115,000**

## Wisconsin River Highlands Lot 23

Wisconsin River  
 Deeded access - 1.12 acres  
 10 minutes from Wisconsin Dells  
 Camping allowed  
**MLS# 1753727 - \$39,900**

## Buffalo Ridge Lot 13

Wisconsin River  
 Deeded access  
 Seller financing available  
 2.75 acres - Permanent boat slip  
**MLS# 1738273 - \$23,500**

*Find Your  
 Dream Home  
 in 2016!*



**MESMERIZING LAKE VIEWS • LAKE WISCONSIN**

**N3269 Tipperary Point Rd.**  
 4 bd, 3 bath - 3,325 sq. ft.  
 Open floor plan, amazing master suite  
 Extra land available  
**MLS# 1726518 - \$599,900**



**CUTE AND CHARMING • LAKE WISCONSIN**

**W11619 Demyneck Rd., Lodi, WI**  
 3 bd, 2 bath - 1,767 sqft.  
 100 ft. of lake frontage on double lot  
 Amazing views across Lake Wisconsin  
**MLS# 1755324 - \$469,900**



**STUNNING VIEWS • LAKE WISCONSIN**

**N2421 Rapp Rd., Lodi, WI**  
 3 bd, 2 bath - 1,650 sq. ft., 60 ft. of lake frontage  
 Only 30 minutes from downtown Madison  
 Adjacent lot available  
**MLS# 1706998 - \$450,000**



**GORGEOUS HOME • LAKE WISCONSIN**

**W11593 Demyneck Road, Lodi, WI**  
 4 bd, 2 bath - 2,965 sq. ft.  
 Open concept kitchen with lakeviews  
 50 ft. of lake frontage  
**MLS# 1726744 - \$422,900**



**UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY • LAKE WISCONSIN**

**W11680 County Road, Lodi, WI**  
 3 bd, 1 bath - 1,260 sq. ft.  
 Zoned for commercial and residential  
 91 ft. of lake frontage, 1.22 acres  
**MLS# 1740019 - \$379,900**



**RUSTIC CHARM • WISCONSIN RIVER**

**1105 Grand Pines Circle, Wisconsin Dells, WI**  
 3 bd, 3 bath - 1,992 sq. ft., with river access  
 Quiet gated community  
 Many amenities!  
**MLS# 1747309 - \$157,000**



**Terra Firma**  
 —REALTY—

5008 Linde Lane • Suite 400  
 DeForest, WI 53532  
**888-470-5253**

[www.TFMwisconsin.com](http://www.TFMwisconsin.com) | [www.LakeWisconsinProperty.com](http://www.LakeWisconsinProperty.com)



**Terra Firma**  
—REALTY—  
*Looking to buy or sell waterfront property?*  
**Terra Firma is your waterfront property specialist!**  
5008 Linde Lane, Suite 400 • DeForest, WI 53532  
Phone: 608.846.5253  
Michael J. Coke • Kirk M. Boehm  
www.TFMwisconsin.com | www.LakeWisconsinProperty.com



**HART PAINTING**  
Since 1972  
Interior & Exterior  
Commercial & Residential Painting  
608-643-6049  
828 Industry Road • Sauk City, WI 53583



**COMPUTER COTTAGE**  
Convenient in-home computer repair  
Virus/Spyware removal  
Wireless networking  
Network security  
Printer problems  
Lost passwords  
No start/boot and BSDs  
System cleanup/tuneup  
and much more...  
www.Computer-Cottage.com 608-616-9943

Auto • Life • Business • Boat & Recreational Vehicles • Home/Renters




**FARMERS INSURANCE**  
Now Offering:  
Auto Bind  
Online  
24/7 Storefront  
Gary L. Witt, Witt Agency, LLC  
Bus. Phone/Fax: 608.745.1547  
www.farmersagent.com/gwitt  
gwitt@farmersagent.com  
120 Henry Dr., Ste.3, Portage, WI 53901



**CUSTOM**  
CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN, INC.  
W10632 Tipperary Road, Poynette, WI 53955  
(608) 635-5303  
Joe Wajnert  
• customcdi@aim.com • www.customcdi.com •  
A FULL SERVICE RESIDENTIAL AND LIGHT COMMERCIAL DESIGN/BUILD FIRM

**Accounting Solutions & More, LLC**



**Joe Aliota, CPA**  
3733 Grandier Road  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
608-698-4338

- Small Business Accounting
- QuickBooks Services
- QuickBooks Training
- Payroll
- General Bookkeeping
- Non-Profit Organizations
- New Business Formation

**Nations Title Agency Offers:**  
Closing & Title Professionals With Decades Of Experience  
The Ability To Close Anywhere Locally & Nationwide  
A High Level Of Service At Competitive Prices • Quality And Innovative Products



**Nations Title Agency**

**Marybeth A. Call**  
608-284-0198 • macall@nationstitle.com  
5250 E. Terrace Dr, Ste F, Madison, WI 53718

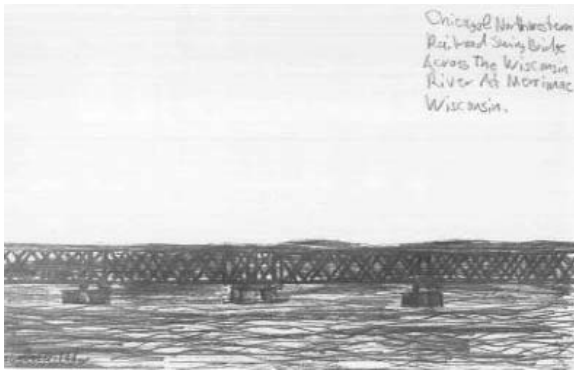


# Kirk's Korner



## What can you TELL ME about the Lake Wisconsin Railroad Bridge?

Kirk M. Boehm - Sales Agent | Terra Firma Realty



The Lake Wisconsin railroad bridge was actually built long before the Prairie du Sac dam, and it was about 40 feet above the water at one time. The bridge was also built so that a section of it could pivot 90 degrees to allow large cargo ships and tall steamboats (carrying lumber and other supplies) to travel downstream to the Mississippi River. The Wisconsin River was 50 feet deep near the Merrimac side at this time, so these larger ships could easily travel from Portage to Prairie du Chien and down to the Mississippi River.

The initial draft of the bridge included a double decker bridge designed with a lower road deck intended for wagons and coaches, but this lower section was scrapped for both political and financial

reasons. This decision was, in part, why the Merrimac Ferry still exists today as the intent was to replace the ferry with the construction of the double decker bridge. Currently, the Lake Wisconsin railroad bridge is an open deck bridge and is 1,729 feet long.

**Do you have a question about Lake Wisconsin or the Wisconsin River?**  
*If so, please send your question to newsletter@TFMwisconsin.com.*

**“CALL TODAY”**  
to advertise your business in  
**Lake Wisconsin Living!**

Lake Wisconsin *Living* newsletter is mailed directly to the property owners on Lake Wisconsin (approximately 2,000) and electronically delivered to another 13,000 individuals who have expressed interest in owning property on Lake Wisconsin. With a per issue circulation in excess of 15,000 and 90,000+ annual readers, your audience will be extensive.

To place an ad in this newsletter, please contact newsletter@TFMwisconsin.com or call us at 608-846-5253 or 888-470-5253.  
For additional information, please visit our website at www.LakeWisconsinLiving.com.

**MANKE Enterprises**  
**Boat Lifts**  
**Docks**  
**Sales & Service**  
*Where life meets the lake!*

**ShoreStation** **voyager™ DOCK**  
QUALITY SINCE 1984  
**WICKCRAFT** company, inc.  
**PORTA-DOCK**

924 Development Drive, Suite C • Lodi, WI  
www.manke.com  
**608-592-4022**

# Fishing on Lake Wisconsin and the Wisconsin River

By Gary Sanders • Lake Wisconsin Walleyes, LLC • [www.lakewisconsinwalleyes.com](http://www.lakewisconsinwalleyes.com)



From the beginning of November until ice up is one of the best times of the year to fish Lake Wisconsin if you can deal with no piers at the landings, frozen fingers, and the cold, face freezing boat rides across the lake.

However, the hardy bunch that brave these cold temperatures are usually rewarded with good catches.

Vertical jigging blade baits, hair jigs, plastic, and minnows in the 15' to 25' depths are the standard offerings, but other live bait techniques such as lindy rigging or trolling presentations, such as pulling stick baits behind lead core or 3-way rigs, can produce as well.

Electronics are very important to locating bait, in our case gizzard shad, as the banana shaped marks representing walleyes and saugers will usually be found nearby. Once ice up locks us out of the landings, it's typically a fairly short wait until there is fishable ice at Whalen's Grade. This is typically the first fishable ice in the area and pressure is high, so get there early, or choose a weekday if your schedule allows.

Tip-ups are a popular and effective way to target those first ice pike, and the panfish and bass typically bite well during early ice. As we move into January, we should see safe ice in Okee where tip-ups and medium shiners account for pike, walleyes and saugers. This is a very popular community hole, so if you pull up and see a crowd, move along and come back later. The bite will pick up again after they leave and the noise subsides.

Another effective presentation that worked surprisingly well last winter well into February was fishing with tip-downs. Tip-downs are usually used to

target crappies, and they work great for that, but they'll catch a bunch of walleyes and saugers as well. My method for using tip-downs consists of drilling three holes about six inches apart from each other. I'll rig a tip-down in each of the outside holes with the biggest rosy red minnows I can find. I lightly hook them under the dorsal fin with a number 12 treble hook and a split shot about 12" above the hook, sized appropriately to balance the tip-down. Drop them down the hole and using your electronics to see where the bait is, raise the bait 6" off the bottom. In the center hole, I'll set up my Marcum flasher and vertically jig a Rapala Rippin' Rap in size 4 or 5. Once-in-a-while this will get hit, but it mainly serves to draw fish from the surrounding area.

## Lake Wisconsin Walleyes, LLC



Gary Sanders  
Professional Guide  
(608)235-0962

[gary@lakewisconsinwalleyes.com](mailto:gary@lakewisconsinwalleyes.com)

[www.lakewisconsinwalleyes.com](http://www.lakewisconsinwalleyes.com)

Blade baits will work as well. The fish will hear or feel the vibrations from the Rippin' Rap, swim over to have a look, and can't seem to resist the rosy reds struggling next to the bait. Remember, you've got to be on fish in order to catch fish, so stay mobile and drill new holes. Not marking anything? Move along until you do. Give it a try.



## Snowmobile Trail Pass

2014 Wisconsin Act 142, effective July 1, 2015, expanded the snowmobile trail pass requirement to include snowmobiles registered in Wisconsin and increased the nonresident snowmobile trail pass fee.

Beginning with the 2015-16 snow season, all snowmobiles operating on a Wisconsin snowmobile trail or corridor must display a valid snowmobile trail pass

whether registered in Wisconsin or another state.

The following snowmobiles are exempt from displaying a trail pass:

- a snowmobile owned by the U.S., another state or political subdivision thereof if the owner's name is displayed on the cowling.
  - a snowmobile that is present in this state for a period not to exceed 15 days provided it is used exclusively as part of an advertisement being used for the manufacturer of the snowmobile.
  - a snowmobile that is 35 years or older and displays an antique registration.
- Snowmobile trail pass is:
- an annual pass valid until June 30.
  - separate from snowmobile registration.
  - a 3" x 3" decal required to be permanently affixed to the bottom center

portion of the snowmobile windshield.

- not required to operate on private property, on a snow route, or on frozen water if not on a marked corridor.

The snowmobile trail pass fee is dependent upon whether the snowmobile for which you are purchasing the trail pass is registered in Wisconsin and whether the owner of that snowmobile is a member of a snowmobile club and the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC). Trail pass fees are non-refundable. You will need your Wisconsin registration number or, for a nonresident snowmobile trail pass, the make and model of your sled.

For more details related to cost and clubs visit [www.awsc.org](http://www.awsc.org) or [www.dnr.wi.gov/permits/snowtrailpass.htm](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/permits/snowtrailpass.htm)

# REAL Estate Update | Winter 2016



Michael J. Coke | Broker/Owner  
 888.470.5253  
 Email info@TFMwisconsin.com

## We are thinking of putting our home up for sale, but should we wait until spring?

**W**e hear this question frequently and the short answer is **NO... don't wait.** Consider that last year, from December 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015, there were 24 properties sold on Lake Wisconsin for more than \$5.4 million. In addition, throughout south central Wisconsin there were 384 lake / river properties sold for over \$84 million during the same time. I'm certain these 384 property owners were very happy that they did "not wait" until spring to list their property for sale.

There are some real advantages to having your home on the market over the winter such as:

- Less homes for sale means less competition for the buyers who are active.
- Different clientele in different seasons visit your property. Snowmobilers, ice fisherman, hunters, and even renters who are in the area renting over the holidays give you access to buyers who you might not see in the summer.
- The Christmas motivator. Being in a cabin decorated for Christmas can be a well-staged tactic to trip the emotional lever of a buyer. The fresh smell of a Christmas tree and potpourri, colorful Christmas lights, and the joyous time of year may work in your favor.
- Large tax refunds or end of year bonuses can motivate a buyer to finally take action on finding their dream lake home.
- Qualified Buyers - I'll admit there are more buyers in the summer than in the winter, but those looking when it is 10 degrees outside are typically much more qualified.
- Many experts are talking about the probable rise in interest rates. A 1 point rise in a \$400,000 mortgage will increase the monthly payment by over \$200. Do you want to gamble that rates will remain the same next spring and now that same buyer won't be able to afford your home due to higher interest rates?
- Safety Blanket - Many lake houses are second homes and some owners rarely use their home in the winter. If you have one of those homes listed for sale, there may be frequent showings of your home in which case real estate agents act like "cottage patrol." If there is a water issue or a heat loss, you may hear about it from the agent before the real damage sets in. Last year Terra Firma Realty saved several homes from substantial damage due to heat

loss because we alarmed the homeowners of heat loss before pipes started freezing.

While the winter months may be a slower season for selling your lake property, as you can see, there are several benefits to listing your home during this time frame including the potential for a sale.



### DID YOU KNOW

- The Wisconsin River Watershed - covers 11,864 square miles, covers 21% of the state and includes 35 cities, 92 villages, 337 towns, 26 counties...

Looking to sell your Lake Wisconsin Property?

# LIST WITH THE LAKE PROPERTY EXPERTS



## Terra Firma

-REALTY-

### (888) 470-5253

[www.TFMwisconsin.com](http://www.TFMwisconsin.com)

[www.LakeWisconsinProperty.com](http://www.LakeWisconsinProperty.com)

- ✓ Proven History of Real Estate Success
- ✓ Lake Property Marketing & Sales Experts
- ✓ Huge database of Vacation Home Buyers
- ✓ Local Area and Home Market Expertise
- ✓ Looking to list? Use us for the best results!

### Lake Wisconsin Living

To advertise in this newsletter, please email [newsletter@TFMwisconsin.com](mailto:newsletter@TFMwisconsin.com).

c/o 5008 Linde Lane, Suite 400  
DeForest, WI 53532

**TIME VALUE MAIL ~ DO NOT DELAY**

## "WHERE NATURE INSPIRES LIFESTYLE!"



Whether decorating your home, cabin or room.... choose Papa Bears for the most awesome FURNITURE, CENTERPIECES and DECOR.

**HUGE selection and DELIVERY most any where!**

Remember Papa Bears for all GIFT ideas GALORE!



### Papa Bears Northwoods Store

53949 County Road (Business 12) • Baraboo, WI  
(2 miles south of Ho-Chunk Casino)

OPEN DAILY 9am to 5pm • [www.papabearsnorthwoods.com](http://www.papabearsnorthwoods.com)

866-235-9371 • 608-355-9488

Bring in this ad and receive

### \$20.00 OFF

OF A MINIMUM \$60  
REGULAR PRICE PURCHASE  
Cannot be combined with any other discounts.  
Expires 4/30/16