

# Water's Edge

Friends of Lakeshore State Park Newsletter - Winter 2011



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#### Tom Kroeger

DNR - Lakeshore State Park

#### Kris Martinsek

Board of Harbor Commissioners

### In Memoriam

**Chuck Ward**, Co-Founder  
Friends of Lakeshore State Park

## A Tribute to Friends Co-Founder Chuck Ward



Chuck Ward  
Co-Founder, Friends of Lakeshore State Park

Over nearly three decades, Chuck Ward helped to shape some of Milwaukee's prominent civic institutions: Irish Fest, the Milwaukee Brewers, Summerfest, Discovery World and, most recently, Milwaukee County Parks. Chuck was the founder and first president of the Friends of Lakeshore State Park. Chuck passed away on November 5, 2010 at the age of 54 after a courageous two and a half year battle with cancer. The Friends of Lakeshore State Park's board members will miss his wit, his caring and his willingness to be there whenever the board needed him.

A post on a message board at [liamclancy.com](http://liamclancy.com) said it best, "For anyone who attended Milwaukee Irish Fest regularly, you couldn't have missed Chuck Ward on the Miller Stage as a member of *Blarney*. Possessed of a booming voice and a cheerful and hilarious stage presence, Chuck and his band-mates led off every Irish Fest as the first act of the weekend. As a musician, he enthusiastically carried on the Irish song tradition of the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem. As an organizer, he, along with his brother Ed, built the biggest and best Irish music festival in the United States."

## MSOE Students Design Visitor's Center

On Saturday, February 12, a presentation and judging of three design concepts for a future Lakeshore State Park Visitor's Center will take place from 12:30 to 3pm at the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) located at 1025 North Broadway. This event is open to the public.

MSOE professor Dr. Matthew Trussoni, Assistant Professor of Architectural Engineering and Building Construction, approached the Friends of Lakeshore State Park with an idea to utilize the lakefront park and a future building program to use in a student studio project. Three teams of architectural graduate students developed design options for a small, environmentally sustainable Visitor's Center on the Park.

At this event, a panel of judges representing the DNR and key aspects of engineering involved with the design will critique the designs during the student presentations.

The Park's original plans included a Visitor's Center, but the building was not built at the time of Park construction. The proposed building will house offices for the Park manager and staff, provide public restrooms, drinking fountains, a meeting/lecture facility, space for exhibits and accommodations for boaters using the boat slips in the Park's docks.

## Strategic Planning Meeting Held

Board members met for strategic planning in January. The meeting was run by board member Dana Johnson from Open Leaf Excursions and business coach Chris Carmen from Action Coach.

The Park and the Friends group moved into a new phase of development recently and thus new vision, mission and goals were appropriate. The group discussed how to best facilitate education, events and partnerships moving into the future. Points of culture were also discussed to create an environment for future boards to continue to facilitate the goals set forth.

This meeting was just the first phase of strategic planning and will create the skeleton upon which future plans will be made.

Visit the Friends online [www.friendslsp.org](http://www.friendslsp.org)

## Tom Kroeger Receives State Park Hero Award

The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks presented their annual State Park Hero Awards at a meeting at the UW-Arboretum in Madison in October. These awards showcase the leadership and service of individuals and groups that support the State Park System.

Of special interest to the Friends of Lakeshore State Park was the State Park Hero Award for Outstanding DNR Land Manager which was won by Lakeshore State Park's own Tom Kroeger.

This is quite an achievement and a feather in Tom's cap to be recognized at this high level after being DNR Land Manager for just two years.



Friends president Todd Montgomery congratulates Tom Kroeger at the State Park Hero Awards.

The Friends of Lakeshore State Park's board of directors extends its sincere congratulations to Tom on his receipt of this honor.

## Welcome New Friends Board Members

Congratulations to Mary Kielich, Manuel "Manny" Raynal and Michael Palmisano who were elected to the Friends of Lakeshore State Park board of directors by unanimous vote at the Friends of Lakeshore State Park's annual meeting held in October at the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center's beautiful new building. Both Mary and Manny live in the Historic Third Ward and are members at-large. Michael joins the board as the representative from the Italian Community Center.

In addition, Meghan Forseth joined the board in January 2011 as the representative from Discovery World.

Please join the board in welcoming all four new members and wishing them the very best. The board is confident that each will be a true asset.

Are you interested in becoming a Friends board member? To be considered for future board membership, please email Bob Gosse, first vice president and nominations chairperson, at [rgosse@summerfest.com](mailto:rgosse@summerfest.com).

## A Sturgeon in the Lagoon

Fishermen Frank Baranek and his son Jason Baranek caught a nearly three foot long sturgeon off Lakeshore State Park's public fishing pier in September. The men caught and released the large fish back into the Park's lagoon.

According to an article by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reporter Don Behm, "There is no sturgeon fishing season in the lake but the Milwaukee harbor catch is an exciting milestone for the project because sturgeons have not been found here for many decades,' according to Randy Schumacher, regional fisheries coordinator with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Milwaukee. ...This is the fifth year of (a) cooperative stocking program, known as 'Return the Sturgeon,' involving Riveredge (Nature Center), the DNR, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."



# GATHERING WATERS FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 11 - 11am to 6pm

You can volunteer for the third annual Gathering Waters Festival on Saturday, June 11 - 11am to 6pm.

Help is needed on the day of the event and in advance. Join the fun and help make this year's event the best yet!

Contact Kae DonLevy at 414-588-0617 or [info@gatheringwatersfest.org](mailto:info@gatheringwatersfest.org) for more details.

Gathering Waters Festival is a free urban outdoor adventure on Milwaukee's lakefront with groups to entertain, demonstrate outdoor activities and feed your senses.



Gathering Waters Festival 2010  
Photo by Todd Montgomery

[gatheringwatersfest.org](http://gatheringwatersfest.org)

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