



Whitefish Bay Association

Summer 2003 Newsletter

By Pat Miller

“SUMMER TIME...AND THE LIVING IS (USUALLY) EASY,” to paraphrase a popular tune: warm, sunny days; picnicking; relaxing on the beach; and enjoying the cool waters of Lake Michigan. But last summer swimming came to a sudden halt when 69 people became ill after swimming at Nicolet Bay and several other beaches in Door County. Testing of the major beaches began immediately and continued throughout the summer with a number of additional beaches being closed periodically whenever an E. coli count reached 235 or more. This was a “first” for Door County; to anyone’s knowledge, there was no record of beach contamination or closings with which to compare. The E. coli count is important because it is an indicator of human or animal fecal contamination that can cause disease.

This year Door County Board of Health (BOH), Soil and Water Department (SWCD), and the Sanitarian’s office are collaborating on a program to protect our beaches and water resources. With Door County’s 250 miles of shoreline and 52 public beaches (more than any other County in the State), the potential for beach contamination is great. With a \$75,000 grant from the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), four trained student scientists from UW-Oshkosh began a standardized program of testing/monitoring and signage on May 19.

Thirty-one beaches with an existing record of contamination or the greatest vulnerability to pollution are being tested regularly: 13 (including Whitefish Dunes beach) will be tested daily; another 13, twice weekly; and two more, once a week. Three inland lakes, Clark, Kangaroo, and Europe, will also be tested regularly. A laboratory, certified/licensed by UW-Oshkosh, has been set up at Sturgeon Bay Utilities wastewater treatment plant for a quicker turnaround reporting time. Signs will be posted based on the E. coli count: if between 235 and 1000, an advisory sign will read

“Water Quality Is Poor—Don’t Swim”; with a count of 1000 or greater, the sign will say “Closed—Don’t Swim.” Accurate records are being kept to provide a benchmark for comparison.

Unfortunately little is known about the cause(s) of beach pollution. However prime suspects are human feces



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and polluted runoff from pesticides, animal waste, oil and grease and construction sites; seagull droppings; and failing municipal and private septic systems. SWCD has been charged with researching the source of contamination. Funds from a grant will enable the department to gather a task force of experts to formulate a program to determine cause(s). The Sanitarian’s office is conducting a survey of sanitary systems throughout the County for failure to comply with state and local codes.

And what are some precautions each of us can take? Be alert for signs of pollution, report illness that appears to be connected with swimming to the County BOH; keep impervious surfaces clean of oil, grease; use pesticides, fertilizer very sparingly; put rubber pants on young children when swimming; keep beaches free of litter; take note of large flocks of seagulls, especially after a storm. In other words, ADOPT A BEACH!

Further information and the latest test results may be found online at www.co.door.wi.us/health.

Membership Drive 2003-2004

To maintain a vital and active role in our neighborhood community we need your continued support of The Whitefish Bay Association. July 1, 2003 marks the beginning of a new fiscal year and runs through June 30, 2004.

Membership in the association is for any person or persons owning real estate in the Whitefish Bay area (Whitefish Dunes State Park south to Glidden Lodge and west to Bechtel Road). Associate membership in The Whitefish Bay Association is available to any person living in or having an interest in the Whitefish Bay area. Your membership in the Whitefish Bay Association entitles a vote at the annual meeting and provides the financial resources to maintain the organization, publish

newsletters and mailings, and funds the annual meeting, picnic and other events.

Over the past few years membership has declined from earlier years when local land use issues and property tax increases were in the limelight. We need your ongoing support to ensure if and when future issues of importance to all of us in the Whitefish Bay area come up, we have the strength and support of our local community.

Please fill out the enclosed membership application, include your \$15 dues and mail it to: The Whitefish Bay Association, P.O. Box 181, Sturgeon Bay, WI. 54235. Membership applications will also be accepted at the annual meeting, July 5th.

Whitefish Bay Association Picnic & Raffle Saturday, August 2nd

The 9th annual Whitefish Bay Association Picnic and Raffle will be held on Saturday August 2, 2003, at The Hitching Post from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this great neighborhood get-together and fund raiser.

We have put our order in with Hugh Daubner for brats, burgers, soda, beer and good weather. We'll ask everyone else to bring a dish to share. A – M, Appetizer or Dessert; N – Z, Salad or Casserole. There will be no reason to be hungry after this picnic. Who will win this year's "I gotta have that recipe" sweepstakes?

For all you artists, crafters and talented people, we would greatly appreciate a raffle donation. For those of us less-talented



ones, how about donating some time to serve on a picnic/raffle committee, helping to make this year's event a success? We need volunteers for the following:

- * Flyers/mailing
- * Kids Games
- * Reservation taker
- * Donation Coordinator
- * Setup, & tables/chairs
- * Ticket Sales

Contact Bruce Richardson to donate your time.

Whitefish Bay Association Purpose

From the bylaws of the association:

"The Whitefish Bay Association is a voluntary organization formed for the purpose of maintaining the integrity and property values of the Whitefish Bay area, originating and completing projects for the betterment of the community and the environment, and promoting and advancing the best interests of the Whitefish Bay area property owners and Door County."

Dog Ordinances



All dogs in the Town of Sevastopol are required to be licensed. Licenses can be obtained through the town office with proof of vaccination and a small fee. Contact Linda Wait @ 746-1230.

Residents and guests alike are reminded that both Door County and the Town of Sevastopol have

specific Dog Ordinances that include: running at large or not under control of its owner or other responsible person except on one's own property, and vicious, howling or barking animals. Penalties are financial for each day's occurrence. Copies of the ordinances are posted on the association bulletin board and are available on the Web at www.doorbell.net/dc/ord3119.pdf.

In light of the beach water contamination problems we experienced last year and will likely see again, every dog owner is asked to pick up after their animals, whether on the beach or inland. While dog droppings are not the single cause, they are a contributor. Proper disposal is important. Burying on the beach is not an acceptable means of disposal.

Annual Meeting, July 5, 2003

The Whitefish Bay Association will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, July 5th at Donny's Glidden Lodge Restaurant. The meeting will start promptly at 10:00 AM and run approximately 2 hours or less. The meeting will conduct the business of the association, review committee reports and nominate and install the new board of directors. A question and answer session will be held to discuss local issues important to our neighborhood.

A word of thanks to outgoing board members Duane Youngsteadt, Armando Zeledon, Colleen Strobel, and the loss of our departed friend, Carl Hake. All have provided a valuable insight and expertise in the operation of our association.

We need volunteers to join the remaining board members. Please consider serving your association and its membership by volunteering to serve as a board member even if you have previously served. We need your help to fill all 11 board positions.

Refreshments will be served. Door prize, dinner at Donny's Glidden Lodge Restaurant.



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Whitefish Dunes Naturalist Programs

By Carolyn Rock, Natural Resource Educator, Whitefish Dunes State Park

Come join the naturalist in discovering the beauty of Whitefish Dunes. Summer special events and guest speakers' list is now out, come pick up a copy today. All programs are free to the public but a park vehicle sticker is required. Celebrate Year of the Water by getting out and exploring the wetland.

Thursday, July 3rd

9:00 Hike for Health

Discover the world of nature as we do more hiking than talking on this hour-long journey. Join the naturalist for this weekly program throughout the summer. Explore the park as the summer strolls by. Meet at the Nature Center.

Friday, July 4th

10:00am Shipwrecks

Discover the history of ships lost in the bay and lake. Why did they go down? What did they carry? Learn about lives lost and heroes made. Meet at the amphitheater for this watery program.

11:00am Rocks to Sand

Check out the rocky shoreline and learn about the sand dunes at the park. Meet at the nature center deck.

1-3:30pm Red, White, and Blue Tent Celebration

Join the naturalists and friends in celebrating our nation with crafts, activities and beach fun. Play old time games on the beach.

Saturday, July 5th

10:00am Buzzy BumbleBees!

Do you know the difference between a honeybee and a bumblebee? Want to know the bee dance? Would like a bumblebee of your very own? Join the naturalist on this buzzy adventure, meet at the amphitheater.

11:00am Chompers and Stompers

Learn about the beaks and feet of birds and how they have adapted to their habitats. Meet at the nature center deck.

1:00pm Rivers to Lakes

Discover how rivers and lakes are formed along with the effects of sudden rainstorms, dams and other water issues. Be prepared to get your feet wet on this watery adventure. Meet at the ranger tower of the beach.

Wednesday, July 9th

9:30am On the Red Trail

Explore the forested sand dune on this 2-mile hike. Bring water and a snack. The naturalist will be sharing favorite quotes and sand dune facts. Meet on the nature center deck.

10:30am People of the Dunes

Take a journey back into time and discover the people who once lived on the dunes. Meet in the nature center.

1:00pm Dune Ecology

Enjoy the beauty of the dunes while learning how they came to be. Meet in the nature center.

2:30pm Finding Fossils

Explore the rocky edge for tales from long ago. What do the fossils tell us? Meet at the amphitheater for this family activity.

Thursday, July 10th

9:00am Hike for Health

Discover the world of nature as we do more hiking than talking on this hour-long journey. Join the naturalist for this weekly program throughout the summer. Explore the park as the summer strolls by. Meet at the Nature Center.

1-3:00pm Big Red Tent Featuring Insects

Come join the naturalist for two hours of fun in the sun. Discover Junior Ranger or Wisconsin Explorer Booklets, check out a beach toy, or attend a program. Programs begin on the half-hour and involve a craft and educational activity. This week's feature creatures are insects.

Personal Watercraft Laws

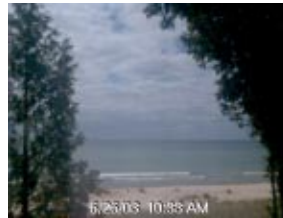
As the warmer weather approaches we are reminded of the Wisconsin Personal Watercraft (PWC) Laws. All residents, guests and renters should be aware that PWC regulations apply to our Lake Michigan waters. In addition to boating regulations, the following are some PWC laws:

- ⇒ No operation from sunset to sunrise
- ⇒ All persons riding must wear a Personal Floatation Device of proper size
- ⇒ Ignition safety lanyard must be attached to the operator
- ⇒ No one under age 12 may operate a PWC (Rental age limit is 16).
- ⇒ Operators age 12 to 16 must have a state-approved boating safety certificate.
- ⇒ Operation of a PWC within 100 feet of another boat, skier, public boat landing or PWC unless at no wake speed is prohibited.
- ⇒ PWC's are restricted to slow-no-wake speed within 200 feet of the shoreline.

Let's keep boating and Personal Watercraft use safe on Whitefish Bay.



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Can't always be in Door County?

Connect to www.doorbell.net to see a daily picture of Lake Michigan and a weather observation!

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W I S C O N S I N

