

Water's Edge

Friends of Lakeshore State Park Newsletter - Spring 2009



Lakeshore Wildlife Observations

Winter is a great time to observe wildlife at Lakeshore State Park. Visibility is increased, and the snow records the wanderings of resident wildlife.



Surprisingly in such an urban setting, both red and grey foxes have been spotted at the park. During the warm seasons neither fox is seen often. The snowfall has changed all that. Straight lines of fox tracks criss-cross the park, showing just how active these animals are. In the last week two red foxes and one grey fox were out and about in the middle of the day. Both species were in their winter prime, with thick, full coats highlighted against the white snow.

There is also nice winter variety of waterfowl at Lakeshore State Park, particularly under the bridge and at the harbor entrance where the water stays open. Greater and lesser scaups, common goldeneyes, mallards and buffleheads are all present. A snowy owl has also been seen along the lakefront, and hopefully will show up at Lakeshore State Park soon.

Come on down and enjoy the park. The white snow and blue sky and water are a treat to the eye, especially at dawn and sunset.

Tom Kroeger

Lakeshore State Park Superintendent
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Bench Sponsorship



Four benches have been sponsored since November! Looking for a unique way to memorialize a loved one or pet or to support your favorite lakefront park? Show your support of the Park and sponsor a beautiful

Lakeshore State Park bench. You'll receive a plaque with your saying and receive a free year's membership to the Friends group. Pick your favorite location of the benches installed on the Park. Call Kae DonLevy at 414.588.0617 or email kdonlevy@aol.com for more details.

Gathering Waters Festival June 13 - 10am to 5pm



Gathering Waters Festival is a **free** outdoor festival which will bring together over 40 groups to entertain, demonstrate and feed your senses. Enjoy the spectacular views of Downtown Milwaukee and Lake Michigan while you: check-out the latest canoes and kayaks with **REI**; go fishing or try fly fishing – we'll

supply the poles; take a bike tour on **Hank Aaron State Trail** near Miller Park to the festival or from the festival and stop at the Bike Village with **Wheel & Sprocket** with the latest bikes, offering bike inspections and maps where to ride in Milwaukee; go for a boat ride; climb a rock wall; fly a kite; try geocaching; listen to great local music with **One Drum** and other local musicians; and interact with exhibits on wellness, Milwaukee's waters, rain gardens and other green projects. Local food, beverages and other items will be available for purchase.

Visit www.gatheringwatersfest.org for more info.

Volunteers are needed to make this event a success! Contact Dawne Wood via email or phone at flspdcw@aol.com or 414.961.9332.

Membership Reminder

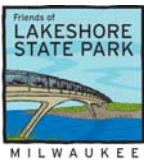
Be sure to complete and mail your renewal form for 2009. There are two ways you can receive a **FREE YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP!**

Become a **Gathering Waters Partner** or a **Bench Sponsor**.

Either of these options will also automatically enter you into a limited, new member drawing for an REI Camping Package or a Summer Fun and Dining package - your choice!

The drawing will take place June 30, 2009 so be sure to get your renewal in soon!

Visit the Friends online - www.friendslsp.org



Friends of Lakeshore State Park
c/o Historic Third Ward Association
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Milwaukee, WI 53202

Winter Fishing at the Park - *by Marc Wisniewski*

Don't let the urban environment fool you, the Lakeshore State Park estuary is one of the most unique fisheries in Wisconsin. Nestled between the Marcus Amphitheater and Discovery World, this 12-acre piece of water hosts an incredible variety of both warm water and cold water species.

As the ice exits in Spring, Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout will provide action for park anglers. A variety of shore fishing access areas put you within reach of trophy fish anywhere in the pond. Casting lures early or late in the day can produce trout in the five, ten, and even 20 pound range.

The pond waters warm quickly in May and host a variety of warm water species. Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Northern Pike, and even Panfish are available to shore fishermen. These species cruise around shoreline rocks and drop-offs. Both live baits and lures that imitate Alewives, Crayfish or Gobies are the best options.

The rocks and gravel shoreline that rim the park are perfect habitat for Smallmouth Bass which rebounded well after the reconstruction of the island. Some weeds have also started to come back. Aquatic vegetation is an important habitat for Largemouths and Northern Pike. Pike have always been native to that area of the harbor and the park access offers anglers a great opportunity to tangle with a 30 to 40 inch specimen.

After another long winter, Lakeshore State Park is the perfect place to start off your fishing season.



Five-year old Andrew Wisniewski of Greenfield displays his catch.

Welcome New Board Members

The Friends of Lakeshore State Park are pleased to welcome three new members to the Board of Directors: **Dana Johnson**, **Margaret Watt McKenna** and **Marc Wisniewski**. Each new member will serve a three year term. All three of our new members bring unique experience and interests to the Board that will benefit the Park.

Dana Johnson brings her outdoor recreation expertise which will be beneficial in expanding opportunities for the public's use of the Park.

Margaret Watt McKenna is a specialist in community relations and media. The Board hopes to focus her expertise to expand the public's awareness of the Park and its events.

Marc Wisniewski is an avid fisherman who brings his fishing expertise to expand the public's opportunities for outdoor recreation in the City. Marc will write an article for each newsletter to acquaint members with fishing tips for the Park and the surrounding area.

- Todd Montgomery, President



Gathering Waters Festival

Saturday, June 13

10am to 5pm

gatheringwatersfest.org