

## Restore the Shore seeks to improve habitat

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**MANITOWOC** — The county Board of Supervisors meet on campus at the University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc, a couple of hundred yards away from a project linked to a proclamation they endorsed Tuesday night at their regular monthly meeting.

April was declared Restore the Shore month. The proclamation praises a coalition of area groups joined together to create an initiative to remove invasive species and plant native species where appropriate.

More specifically, area volunteers are working with Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve in crafting a proposed Lakeside Boulevard Management Plan south of the UW-Manitowoc campus extending south to Red Arrow Park.

The site is composed of brushy habitat and beach between the boulevard and the Lake Michigan shoreline, some of it steeply sloped.

A document from Jim Knickelbine, Woodland Dunes' executive director, indicates the area has historically been largely unmanaged. Local residents have been concerned with loss of view of Lake Michigan as trees have grown on the site and erosion of the [bank](#)



“We view this site as one having great potential for ecological and aesthetic restoration,” Knickelbine stated.

As a result they have obtained permission from the city to cut trees and brush and plant domestic flowers at the top of the bluff. Supervisor Todd Holschbach is one of the neighborhood volunteers doing the work.

He read the proclamation which states the Lake Michigan shoreline in Manitowoc County “is our own natural wonder providing habitat for a wide spectrum of native plants and animals including native and migratory birds.”

“Restore the Shore” supporters point out the local shoreline is a migration route for birds like the Canadian warbler and other bird species.

Holschbach told fellow supervisors the shoreline is increasingly becoming a destination for area residents and visitors to enjoy bird watching, as well as biking, hiking, fishing, hunting and other activities.

But the shoreline habitat in Manitowoc County is threatened by non-native species including phragmites, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotwood, Eurasian honeysuckle and buckthorn.

Groups coming together as part of Restore the Shore include Woodland Dunes, Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area, Citizens for a Scenic Lakeside, Lakeshore Natural Resources partnership, the cities of Manitowoc and Two Rivers, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the West and Hooper foundations, Friends of Mariners Trail and others.

Knickelbine stated songbirds need adequate areas to rest and feed during migration. He believes the Lakeside Boulevard project, while relatively small, can be of significant benefit to birds and other wildlife.

“Encouraging high quality natural areas along the lakeshore can [improve](#)

[the quality of life for both wildlife and people in a neighborhood,”](#) Knickelbine said.

The intent is to work with the city in developing work plans and train volunteers. Work parties will remove honeysuckle and other invasive plants followed by planting native species appropriate to physical conditions of the area including soil, sunlight, slope and aspect and hydrology.

“Thinking in the long term is critical,” Knickelbine said. “If not managed, in the short term newly planted native species won’t succeed, and in the long term invasive species will again dominate the site.”

## Expo Overview

In other county [business](#)

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- Public Works Director Jeff Beyer gave an overview of 2013 operations and fiscal results of Manitowoc County Expo.

There were 118 events including 15 multi-day events ... everything from large camper shows to snowmobile races to a wedding reception with 600-plus guests to Beer Fest and, of course, the County Fair in August, with revenue for Expo’s biggest annual event very weather dependent, Beyer said.

The total revenue of \$756,499 was exceeded by expenses of \$768,121 for a a loss of \$11,622. Beyer said but he noted the general reserve [fund](#)

[has grown to about \\$40,000.](#)

He said last year included several “big capital outlay hits” for various maintenance projects and repairs that should be good for several years. “We did well for the amount of breakdowns last year,” Beyer said.

Among the diverse events scheduled for March and April are the Classic Chevy Club of Wisconsin Auto Swap, state Pee Wee 4A Hockey Tournament, Home Builders Show, Pinewood Derby, Packerland Kennel Club Show, Wisconsin State Dartball Tournament, Ant Hill Mob Bike Show & Dance, Small Animal Swap and Clipper City Model Railroad Open House.

- Paul “Biff” Hansen, who is unopposed on the April 1 Spring General Election ballot for another two-year term, said he would not be running for board chairman after serving in that position since 2012.

Hansen said it is getting harder to balance his professional career — he is an associate principal at Lincoln High School — with serving as board chairman. He said spending more time with his [family](#)

[and maintaining his health are more important.](#)

“You can start the process of who you’d like to sit in this hot seat the next two years,” Hansen said.

- County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer has appointed Cathy Ley to serve as the next director of the Aging and Resource Disability Center. She will take over the reins of the department serving citizens of both Manitowoc and Kewaunee counties in September when Judy Rank retires.

“I am well aware I have a tough act to follow,” said Ley, who has been with the ADRC for nine years and serves as its Care Transition supervisor.