

## Meet the Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area (LISMA) Team

Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area (LISMA), a non-profit environmental advocacy group focusing on invasive species management in Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Calumet, and Fond du Lac counties, is currently funded through two grants from the Wisconsin Private Forest Grant Program. The second grant was recently awarded and will support the continued operation and development of LISMA. A team of eight dedicated individuals have been the catalyst in getting LISMA off the ground. These individuals come from different backgrounds and geographic locations within the LISMA boundaries. They are Diane Schauer, Jim Kettler, Jenn Hansmann, Sherrill Anderson, Jim Knickelbine, Tom Ward, Andrew Karleigh, and Connie Ramthun.

Diane Schauer is the aquatic invasive species coordinator in Calumet County. She is also on the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) board of directors and the Invasive Plants of Wisconsin (IPAW) board of directors. She first became interested in the world around her when she moved to Palm Beach County, FL and only recognized cattails. Through her work with native plants, Diane learned about invasive species. Diane and her husband moved to Brillion in 2001 and became involved with the local nature centers and wildlife areas.

Jim Kettler is the executive director of LNRP. As an ecologist with special interests in restoration ecology, agroecology, and ecosystem management, he received a PhD in ecology from the University of Georgia and a BS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Jim also taught at the Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Bard College. From 1996-2006, he was involved with the International Honors Program, as Traveling Faculty, as Academic Director, and Executive Director. Jim and his family live in an environmentally designed home using geothermal, passive solar, and a wood stove in the town of Centerville in Manitowoc County.

Jenn Hansmann is the community relations coordinator of LNRP. Jenn was born and raised on the shores of Lake Michigan in Cleveland, Wisconsin. Her studies included organic methods of fruit and vegetable farming, raising goats, sheep, cows, beekeeping and community building. She spent a summer at a small CSA farm in western Wisconsin, and then moved back to the area to work at Springdale Farm in Plymouth, Wisconsin. She brings a passion for healthy lifestyles and the local food movement.

Sherrill Anderson is the regional outreach coordinator of LNRP. Sherrill brings a passion for writing, editing and capturing people's stories, part of an extensive appreciation of nature and the environment. She has a BA degree in environmental studies and philosophy and a MS in Land Resources from UW-Madison. Along with assisting the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network and other program areas as needed, Sherrill edits and contributes to LNRP's newsletter, *The Source*, and serves as media outreach coordinator for LNRP.

Jim Knickelbine is the executive director of Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve in Two Rivers. He is a native of Manitowoc. He attended the University of Wisconsin- Manitowoc and the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee. Jim is a licensed bird bander and certified birder, has received the Rahr Diamond Award for conservation in Manitowoc County, is president of the board of Conservation Education, Inc., Education chairperson for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, and a member of the

Governance committee for the Denmark Community School.

Tom Ward was Department Director for the Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department for 32 years. Tom has facilitated the development of a number of citizen organizations in Manitowoc County such as the Friends of the Branch River, the Manitowoc County Lakes Association, Pigeon River Watershed Monitors, and Groundwater Guardians. He was past State President for the Soil & Water Conservation Society and helped re-organize the State chapter to improve operations, organized and was a charter member of the Great Lakes Non-point Abatement Coalition (GLNAC). He currently serves as the aquatic invasive species coordinator for Manitowoc County Lakes Association and president of Friends of the Branch River Watershed.

Andrew Karleigh is the aquatic invasive species coordinator for Fond du Lac County, working for Glacierland Resource and Conservation Development, Inc. He first started working on invasive species issues in high school, removing purple loosestrife. He earned a degree in water resource management from UW Stevens Point, during which he spent a summer in South Africa working on invasive species removal.

Connie Ramthun is a native landscaper in Fond du Lac and the education coordinator at Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum. Connie and her husband have worked over the years to restore the land they live to a series of natural communities, including oak-hickory woods, restored prairie and a wetland with natural springs. They have removed invasive shrubs from their woodlot and turned a former cornfield into a native prairie and prairie nursery.

LISMA's next step is to hold a strategic planning meeting on February 19 to develop the five year strategic plan that will guide their activities. If anyone is interested in participating in the strategic planning process, please contact Jennifer at [jenniferp@lisma.net](mailto:jenniferp@lisma.net) or 920-793-4007.