



THE PASSING OF CHARLIE MARKS by Jerry Specht

Greetings Everyone. I don't normally comment in the GLSD newsletter, but there have been some major changes at the GLSD. Our leader and administrator for more than 22 years, Charlie Marks, passed away unexpectedly early January.

I had worked with Charlie for 18 years and if you knew Charlie at all, he would have also been your friend. He would have shared with you not only his passion for the lake, but the projects the GLSD was involved with for improving Green Lake. He was a team player that excelled at forming partnerships for the purpose of getting things done for the lake. He garnered over \$2,000,000 in grants to help protect the lake while at the GLSD. Under his 22 year watch, the Sanitary District taxes were only raised twice. Charlie was highly respected by not only DNR and federal agencies with whom he worked but also local government, school and organization leaders from around the area. Charlie was a planner; a big focus for him was his planned retirement at the end of this year.

Upon Charlie's passing the Sanitary District board hired Lisa Reas on an interim basis to continue the work Charlie had begun on various projects and grants that were in process. Paulette Janssen, the Sanitary District administrative assistant, along with Lisa, did an outstanding job in handling the flow of projects, grants, paperwork, etc. Stuart Marks and Dallas Lewallen, continued to oversee the district's sewer operations while assisting Lisa and Paulie with as much project information they could provide. With the staff's hard work, operations at the GLSD has continued to move along well in the past 3 1/2 months.

The GLSD board is very pleased to announce that on April 10th, we hired Lisa as our full time Administrator!! The board would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our staff and all our Lake Partners (Green Lake Association, Green Lake County Land Conservation, DNR, etc.) who helped us through this difficult transition time. A sincere Thank You to Everyone!!

THANK YOU PAULIE, LISA, DALLAS and STU!!

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

Green Lake
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A GREAT LOSS TO GREEN LAKE

The sudden passing of Charlie Marks on Friday, January 4th, 2019, was a tremendous loss to the Green Lake Sanitary District. The administrator of the GLSD for 22 years, Charlie accepted the administrator position in 1996, moving his family to the area from Waukesha. Though Charlie's background was in business and utilities, he was a fast learner in the field of natural resources. He had a passion for the outdoors which inspired his work at the GLSD.

It was through Charlie's efforts that the Green Lake Sanitary District has received over \$2 million in DNR grant funds for the protection of the lake. Since 2012, the Green Lake Sanitary District, has cost-shared well over 110 BMP's in the Big Green Lake watershed. These efforts alone have saved over 500 tons of soil from the lake. Additionally, during Charlie's tenure, the GLSD acquired 13 Conservancy properties for the benefit of the lake and the taxpayers of the Green Lake Sanitary District. Charlie was an integral part of the protection of Big Green Lake for many years.

Charlie was known as a great communicator; he loved to talk about his family and the lake. His phrase, "Give me one minute.." should have been trademarked. He didn't just sit behind a desk; he loved being in the field. He made sure the tough jobs around the lake got done. Whether it was cutting buckthorn, water sampling, or scuba diving in the K Marsh to inspect the carp barrier, Charlie did it all. For that and so much more, he will be greatly missed.

Born in Waukesha WI, Charlie graduated from Waukesha South High School where he met the love of his life, Cathy Wichser. In 1981, Charlie graduated from Marquette University as cum laude of his class with a degree in business. He and Cathy married a year later in Waukesha. He had been employed by the Wisconsin Electric Power Company for 15 years when he accepted a job as Administrator of the Green Lake Sanitary District. He moved his family to Berlin initially and later into their dream home on Little Hills Lake in Wautoma. Charlie thoroughly enjoyed his position in Green Lake; he had a passion for his job and a love of the lake. He became

an accomplished grant writer for the district. Over the years, the grants he acquired helped protect critical lands around Green Lake, restore shorelines and fish habitat areas, as well as provided funding to install BMP's throughout the Green Lake watershed.

In 2007 he was awarded the prestigious Caestecker Award for his dedication and contributions to the lake. This honor is given only to individuals who have exerted an exceptional influence on issues benefitting the Big Green Lake community. He truly loved his work and never looked at it like a job. He loved the connections and relationships he was able to form throughout the years. Charlie's legacy of lake protection will live on through the programs, projects, and priorities he began at the GLSD. Charlie was well known for saying, "When I'm gone, I want people to say, 'He was always willing to do what was right for the lake.'" That he did.

In honor of Charlie's legacy, the Charlie Marks Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation (a 501-c-3 organization). This scholarship fund will assist graduating high school seniors from Berlin and Green Lake High Schools who are planning to pursue a degree in an environmental field. The recipients must be passionate about environmental issues such as water quality, and protection of lakes and rivers. Donations to the Charlie Marks Memorial Scholarship Fund can be given directly to the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation/Charlie Marks Memorial Scholarship Fund or you can donate online at www.oshkoshareacf.org/fund/charlie-marks-memorial-environmental-scholarship-fund/.



Photo courtesy of the Green Lake Association



UPDATE ON WATERSHED PROTECTION PROJECTS

Photo courtesy of Green Lake County Land Conservation.

2019 LAKE PROTECTION GRANT – GREEN LAKE COUNTY

The WI DNR just announced that the Lake Protection Grant application submitted by the GLSD in February has been chosen for funding. The grant, written by Charlie Marks with the help of the GLA and Green Lake Co. Land Conservation Dept., was the highest ranked Protection Grant application in the state. The grant will help fund approximately \$300,000 worth of projects [roughly 20 Best Management Practices (BMP's)] within the Big Green Lake watershed. These practices range from agricultural sediment retention basins and cover crops to streambank stabilization and wetland restoration. The installation of these practices is estimated to reduce over a million lbs of phosphorus-rich soil

from entering Green Lake and causing additional algae growth and other water quality impairments.

The Green Lake Sanitary District would like to thank our partners in this project, the Green Lake County Land Conservation Department, Green Lake Association, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, WI DNR, and our agricultural partners in the watershed. A lot of effort goes into determining what work needs to be done, coordinating agreements with landowners, engineering projects, and overseeing installation. These efforts are rarely recognized but very impactful to our lake. Thank you to all who help make these projects a reality.



Photo courtesy of Green Lake County Land Conservation.

2016 LAKE PROTECTION GRANT – FOND DU LAC COUNTY

In 2016, the Green Lake Sanitary District was awarded a Lake Protection Grant to install \$270,000 of BMP's in the Fond Du Lac County portion of the Big Green Lake watershed. Nearly all the funding has been spent. To complete the grant work in 2019, Fond du Lac County Land Conservation has provided the necessary designs and construction plans for 5 critical sediment basins on farmlands in the Dakin Creek watershed. These sediment basins are an important tool to keep farmland runoff from reaching Green Lake. We thank the Fond du Lac County Land Conservation Department for their engineering work, the WI DNR, NRCS and GLA for providing additional funding, Steve Prissel for his outreach and guidance, and partnering landowners. We know there is much more work to be done. The GLSD and Fond du Lac County LCD have begun plans to apply for new funding in 2020.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP'S)

Since 2011, the GLSD, in partnership with the Green Lake Assoc. (GLA), the Green Lake County Land Conservation Dept. (LCD), and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) worked with local farmers and landowners to implement over 120 BMP's in the Big Green Lake watershed at a cost of approximately \$2 million dollars.

BMP's installed in the watershed include the following:

SEDIMENT RETENTION BASINS

STREAMBANK STABILIZATION

GRADE STABILIZATION

ANIMAL WASTE STORAGE FACILITIES

GRASSED WATERWAYS

NO TILL COST SHARING

COVER CROPS

DIVERSION STRUCTURES

TERRACING

LINED WATERWAYS

CRITICAL AREA STABILIZATION

FIGHTING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

The threat of invasive species to Green Lake is a continual problem we face as we see different invaders become established in nearby waters. The Green Lake Management Team partners (GLSD, GLA, GL LCD, WI DNR, & Golden Sands RC&D) are aware of specific invasives moving our way. We are at that point here on Big Green Lake. In many ways, Green Lake is an invasive species survivor; we have faced (and survived) the onslaught of common carp, Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, zebra mussels, and rusty crayfish to name a few. Unfortunately, the reality is that these aquatic invasive species (AIS) are just the beginning of a long list of AIS threatening Wisconsin's waterways.

Species of Greatest Concern

- Spiny waterflea**
- Quagga mussels*
- Faucet snails**
- Asian clams (Corbicula)**
- Starry stonewort**

**found in Wisconsin's inland waters

*found in Lake Michigan

Big Green Lake is at higher risk for infestation than other lakes in WI due to our proximity to Lake Michigan (a direct source for many AIS knocking at our door). Additionally, the unique size and depth of Green Lake offers such a wide array of recreational opportunities (wheth-

er it be fishing, boating, SCUBA diving, sailing, paddling, tubing, etc.) that lake users flock to our shores. These factors make preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species even more challenging.

The Lake Management Team is currently working on ways that we can best preserve Green Lake from new threats. The state's flagship program, Clean Boats, Clean Waters, focuses on education of lake users. While we acknowledge the importance of the education in stopping the spread of invasives, we feel more must be done. We need to be proactive in this battle.

As we continue research into this possibility, we have found much interest in having boat cleaning stations at the launches for boats going onto and coming off the lake. These cleaning stations would contain a variety of tools such as brushes (for removing aquatic plants and mussels) and grabbers (for reaching aquatic plants tucked under boat trailers). There would also be a compost spot where any material removed from boats could be placed so it does not wash back into the lake.

The threat of new invasive species entering Big Green Lake will likely never end. What can we do to stop them? What should we do to stop them? Can the options available to us make a difference in the fight to protect our lake?



FAUCET SNAILS
Photo courtesy of Golden Sands RC&D.



SPINY WATER FLEA
Photo courtesy of Golden Sands RC&D.



QUAGGA MUSSEL vs. ZEBRA MUSSEL
Photo courtesy of Golden Sands RC&D.



ASIAN CLAMS
Photo courtesy of Golden Sands RC&D.



STARRY STONEWART
Photo courtesy of University of Ontario.

A big THANK YOU to our partners at Golden Sands RC&D (especially Anna Cisar) for these photos, information, and input in this portion of our newsletter. Thank you as well to Krista Kamke (formerly of Golden Sands) for her insight into "The Pursuit of Boat Wash Stations."

NEW GREEN LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

The board of the Green Lake Sanitary District is happy to introduce Lisa Reas as the new administrator. Lisa is a long-time friend and partner of the GLSD. A 1998 graduate of UW-Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources, Lisa has a degree in Watershed Management and Water Chemistry and minored in soil science and chemistry. She has previously worked in Land Conservation with Polk, Burnett, and Price Counties and the US Army Reserve as a Water Purification Specialist. In 2000, Lisa was hired by the WI DNR to coordinate Green Lake's Revitalization of Shoreline Vegetation Project (RSVP). Lisa worked out of the GLSD office for 2 years as she worked with local lakeshore landowners on creating healthy shorelines. Lisa has spent the past 17 years working around WI with municipalities, lake groups, and state and federal agencies as an environmental consultant specializing in ecosystem restoration, shoreline erosion control, and water resources issues.

For the past 5 years, Lisa has worked closely with the GLSD in the management of the Green Lake Conservancy properties. She worked with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife to acquire over \$40,000 for invasive species removal at Sunnyside, Winnebago Trail, Hammer's Trail, and the Norwegian Bay wetlands. In early 2019, she submitted a \$65,000 grant to the DNR for restoration efforts to be undertaken at our new Tichora Conservancy property. Lisa has worked with local volunteers at many of the Conservancy properties on buckthorn eradication, restoration plantings, as well as prescribed burns.

Lisa is excited to be part of the GLSD team once again. A long-time resident of Green Lake, she and her husband, Dave Knapp, live within the sanitary district. They spend much of their free time fishing and boating on the lake with their 2 boys, James and Joshua.



BOAT WASH STATIONS

How can we address these 'dirty boats'? There are 8 public boat launches around Green Lake and a handful of private launches. Boats coming from other lakes that are already infested with new invasive species are the threat. Consider the protection spectrum below:

GOOD

- 1) Inspect your boat and trailer
- 2) Remove all plant material, mussels, algae, etc.
- 3) Drain your live well/bilge/etc.
- 4) Rinse your boat and trailer with water from a garden hose

BETTER

Add a pressurize wash for #4 instead of using a garden hose.

BEST

Add a hot, pressurized wash for #4. Utilizing water of 140 ° F will kill the most species of plants and animals that attach to your boat or trailer.

To make these cleaning options available to boats entering Big Green Lake, the GLSD and our partners are considering supporting the installation of boat wash stations at (some or all) boat landings around the lake. Trained staff would be provided to assist boaters at our busiest launches. There is still much debate on the issue. There are concerns regarding our ability to truly limit the 'avenues' through which invasives can reach Green Lake. Implementing a project such as this is not a small undertaking. A project of this scope takes much research, planning, budgeting and cooperation by our lake partners, local municipalities, and the public. As we work through the pros and cons of such a project, we will bring your further updates in our newsletters and on our website, www.glsd.com.



Photo courtesy of Golden Sands RC&D.

**THE GREEN LAKE
SANITARY DISTRICT
CONSERVANCY LANDS**

ASSEMBLY CREEK
& SPRINGS
(AKA HAMMER'S TRAIL)*

BLACKBIRD POINT
WETLANDS

GUSKEY-MILLER PRAIRIE*

MITCHELL GLEN
CONSERVANCY*

NORWEGIAN BAY
WETLANDS*

POOL'S HILL
NATURE PRESERVE

SUGAR ISLAND

SILVER POINT WETLANDS

SUNNYSIDE NATURE
PRESERVE*

TICHORA
CONSERVANCY*

TULETA HILL PRAIRIE*

WICK PRESERVE

WINNEBAGO TRAIL
NATURE PRESERVE*

*Denotes properties with
hiking trails.

For further information about these wonderful properties, please visit the Green Lake Conservancy website. The site contains detailed information about the properties, hiking trails, parking, maps, etc. www.greenlakeconservancy.org



The view of a (formerly) very dense buckthorn area after the forestry mowing completed by Dave Nelson.

THE TRANSITION...CAMP GROW TO TICHORA by Jerry Specht

Thanks to ALL OF YOU who helped to make the acquisition of Camp Grow a huge success. We would like to report that the transformation is well on its way. A requirement of the Knowles-Nelson (State of Wis.) grant is that all ~26 buildings must be removed as well as invasive non-native plants. Work commenced last fall with the removal of several buildings from the property. At the same time, our many dedicated buckthorn volunteers began cutting and stacking buckthorn creating new vistas of Spring Lake. Everyone who saw the areas before and after this cutting were amazed. A job well done by the volunteers!

Early this spring, Greenwyck resident Dave Nelson volunteered his time and equipment to grind 4 acres of dense buckthorn at Tichora. It was a very personal project for Dave. He grew up living in the ABA (GL Conf. Center) while his father was the Director of the ABA. It was there Dave became a cub scout and his love for the boy scouts sprouted. Ironically the land of Tichora was first a boy scout camp. The

boy scout camp was later sold to the Chicago Area Baptist Churches and to become Camp Grow. Dave's father served on the board of directors for Camp Grow. Now Dave is on the executive board for a Chicago area, Three Fires, boy scout council. Dave's life has a rich history similar to the land of Tichora. It's wonderful to see the personal relationships our area residents have with our Conservancy properties. Thank you again, Dave, for your work.

The buildings are mostly all going to be moved or torn down and repurposed. MANY local groups are/have salvaged the good items and lumber from the buildings including local schools, the GL Conference Center, Pilgrim Camp, and Habitat for Humanity. We are indebted to Dave for all his work. He saved us a lot of sweat and donuts! A big thank you to the many great volunteers who went beyond the Saturday morning cutting sessions and worked on their own time to pull and cut buckthorn. Thanks to all who have given time to these efforts!

BIKE PATH UPDATE

We have made new trails on Tichora allowing only bikers and walkers to enter Tichora from the east off Oakwood Ave. PLEASE NOTE: This is not meant to be a main entrance to Tichora. It is restricted in width to 30". There is NO PARKING in this area on OAKWOOD AVE. The purpose for this entrance is to help keep bicyclists and walkers safe and off Co. K as they bike around the lake. For bikes, this is only for passing through Tichora. This special permission is for non-motorized vehicles. Only non-motorized vehicles are allowed on Tichora grounds except for maintenance vehicles. Vehicle parking is available at the west entrance.

AS A SHORELAND LANDOWNER, WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT THE LAKE?

Page 3 of this newsletter outlines the intensive efforts by the Lake Management Team to protect Green Lake. Much emphasis is given to the impact to the lake by agriculture in our watershed. Yet there is much that our lakeshore landowners can (and should?) be doing to protect the lake. Shoreline buffers and rain gardens are best management practices (BMP's) that lakeshore owners can install to help the lake. The native plants found in shoreline buffers help to slow runoff into the lake, provide dense, tough root systems that help hold shoreline soils in place, while providing critical habitat for critters such as frogs, turtles, and butterflies. These native plantings can enhance a shoreline property with seasonal color and winter interest.

Rain gardens are a newer tool utilized by lakeshore landowners. These native plantings can be installed in areas of a yard where runoff collects, downspouts drain, or stormwater flows. Rain gardens are often characterized as sunken flower beds or bowl shaped planting areas. Their purpose is to utilize native grasses and flowers to slow or contain runoff (similar

to a buffer) and help infiltrate ponded water. The root systems of native plants help to hold soil in place while also increasing its porosity (which allows for increased infiltration of stormwater). Similar to shoreline buffers, rain gardens can enhance a property by adding color and interest to areas limited by drainage issues.

The Green Lake Sanitary District has a cost share program to help fund these kinds of exciting projects. RSVP (formally known as Revitalization of Shoreline Vegetation Project), is a program created in the late 1990's by Charlie Marks of the GLSD, Nancy Hill of the GLA, and Mark Sesing of the WI DNR. It provides funding to projects on a competitive basis. Interested landowners should contact the GLSD for more information. Project plans are due each year by June 30th for funding consideration. RSVP has been working with our local landscape professionals for 20 years. We have a certification process whereby landscapers attend training on how to restore a shoreline area. Training focuses on creating projects that will beautify a property while protecting the lake.



Photo courtesy of 'Rain Gardens for the Lake Ripley Watershed.'

THE NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The first week of January, the GLSD began its new contract with Waste Management. As part of the new contract, Waste Management provided carts to each property with a house in the GLSD. Waste Management utilizes these carts because they are durable and are easier for their employees to maneuver as they do their weekly pick up. Carts are to be placed at the end of the driveway, at least 3' from any mailboxes, with handles facing away from the street.

Waste Management provides only a standard size cart. We do understand that the cart may be difficult to maneuver for our older or special needs residents. There are several local property management companies that offer cart services at a minimal cost. J&J Services (920-960-5559) and Quality Property Management (920-896-3923) are two business that

have notified the Green Lake Sanitary District of this service. Any other companies wishing to be on our list should contact the Green Lake Sanitary District at (920) 295-4488.



**2019
GREEN TEAM EVENTS**

STREAM BUGS AND
MONITORING TOUR
AT DAKIN CREEK
Saturday, June 1
9am - 10:30 am

PADDLE AND HIKE
AT TICHORA
Saturday, June 8
8:30 am - 10:30 am

MITCHELL GLEN TOUR
Saturday, June 29
8 am - 10 am
10 am - 12 pm (full)

MOONLIGHT PADDLE
AND BONFIRE
AT TICHORA
Saturday, July 13
8:30 pm - 10:30 pm

HISTORY TOUR
AT GREEN LAKE
CONFERENCE CENTER
Saturday, August TBD

MITCHELL GLEN TOUR
Saturday, Oct. 5
8 am - 10 am
10 am - 12 pm

NATIVE PRAIRIE
SEED COLLECTION
Saturday, Oct. 19
10:30 am - Noon

BUCKTHORN CLEANUP
ON CONSERVANCY
PROPERTIES
Oct. - Nov. TBD

For more information, please contact any of the following Green Team Partners: Green Lake Sanitary District (295-4488), Green Lake Conservancy (294-3592), Green Lake Association (294-6480) or Green Lake Schools (294-6411)



N5295 CTY RD TT
PRINCETON, WI 54968

GLSD COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Specht | *President*
Ken Bates | *Treasurer*
Boni Jensen | *Secretary*

GLSD STAFF

Lisa Reas
Administrator
Paulette Janssen
Admin. Asst.
Stuart Marks
Plant Operator
Dallas Lewallen
Plant Operator

OFFICE HOURS

7am–3pm, Mon–Fri

For sewer emergencies after hours, please contact Dallas Lewallen at (608) 345-7484 or Stuart Marks at (920) 369-8199.

2019 SPRING CLEANUP

The Green Lake Sanitary District's Annual Spring Cleanup will be held from Saturday, May 25, 2019 through Saturday, June 1, 2019. Garbage containers will be available at the GLSD Wastewater Treatment Plant (N5295 County Highway TT, Town of Princeton) during the dates and times specified below.

The garbage containers will be located within the Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility fences and identification of being a GLSD property owner will be required (same rules as always). The containers will be available for garbage drop off from 8am until 3pm for the following days: Tuesday (5/28/19), Wednesday (5/30/19), Thursday (5/31/19) and Friday (5/31/19). The containers will also be available for garbage drop off from 8:00am until noon for the following days: Saturday (5/25/19) and Saturday (6/1/19). Most trash will be accepted as well as scrap metal and yard waste. Hazardous materials such as used oils, paints, batteries, tires, microwaves, recyclables and appliances containing fluids etc. will not be accepted.

Electronic waste **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. Below is a list of the items that will not be accepted:

Television (any size), desktop or laptop computers, mice, keyboards, any computer cables, computer speakers, desktop printers, CD players, DVD players, VCRs, DVRs, and other video players, CPUs, monitors, fax machines, scanners, video recorders/players,

video game consoles, zip drives, hard drives, external modems, copy machines, fluorescent light bulbs.

The City of Princeton will be collecting E-Waste on May 13th. Specific times and other drop-off information can be obtained by calling the Princeton Clerk's Office for more information 920-295-6612. You do not have to be a City resident to take advantage of this event.

If you have any type of hazardous waste materials (i.e. chemicals, paints, etc) that you want to dispose of properly, Green Lake County Land Conservation (920-294-4051) will be holding a "Clean Sweep" on August 9, 2019, this event will run from 11am through 5pm. Please contact Green Lake LCD for more information, a preregistration is required if you plan to drop off hazardous materials.

For the 15th year in a row, we plan to provide an area set up for Reusable Items. If you have gently used items that are not ready for the landfill, we will accept them and donate them to people and organizations that can reuse them.

We reserve the right to turn away property owners who abuse the privilege of this special service (i.e. bringing in multiple loads of garbage/brush/waste which would be inconsistent with a normal single residence spring cleaning). If you are unsure about an item, contact the District Office at (920) 295-4488 between 8am and 4pm for clarification.