

# THE BUZZ N' BLOOM QUARTERLY



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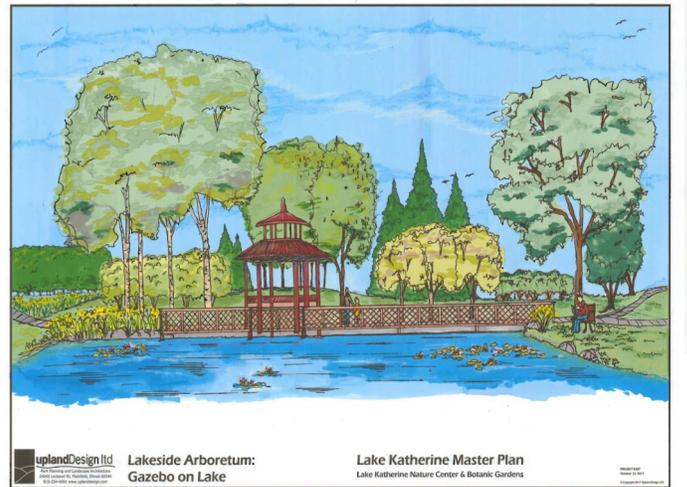
## MASTER SITE PLAN IN THE WORKS!

Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens is pleased to announce the development of a Master Site Plan for LKNCBG.

A Master Site Plan is vitally important to an institution such as ours. It allows LKNCBG to develop our entire site in a focused manner, creating a clear, detailed vision that corresponds to our mission and our strategic plan.

Landscape architects from Upland Design, Ltd. are working with members of the community and LKNCBG staff to develop a plan that will encompass the full potential of Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens. Plan ideas include shoreline and ecological restoration, outdoor activities, and potential sustainable development to create revenue streams for LKNCBG.

In addition to providing clear direction, a Master Site Plan also allows potential donors to see where their money is going, how it will be



Sample Drawing from Master Site Plan

used, and how the use fits with our mission and strategic goals.

An Open House will be held on November 17, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Palos Heights City Hall to invite the public to see the Master Site Plan and provide feedback.

The Master Site Plan will provide a vision and a goal for the future of LKNCBG. Daniel Burnham, architect of the Chicago Plan, said, "Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood." Indeed, we couldn't agree more.

### Nature in Short

- Fall migrant birds have arrived.
- Prairie seeds are ripe for collecting.
- Fall color still at its peak.

## DRAGONFLY MONITORING SURVEY ARRIVES

The Illinois Odontological Survey (IOS) is now at Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens! The IOS, formerly known as the Dragonfly Monitoring Network, was created and coordinated by Gareth Blakesley five years ago while working at the Notebaert Nature Museum.

Its most recent coordinator, Craig Stettener, has fin-

ished his involvement with the program, allowing Gareth to bring the IOS to LKNCBG.

The IOS will bring an added level of science to LKNCBG, attract newcomers to Lake Katherine, and involve LKNCBG with Chicago Wilderness and Audubon-type events and seminars.

Individual wanting to participate as Dragonfly Moni-

tors must attend an instructional seminar and commit to 6 site visits per year during the spring through fall months.

If you are interested in becoming a Dragonfly Monitor, contact Gareth Blakesley at LKNCBG to register.



## LKNCBG JOINS WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCIL

Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens recently became a member of the Wildlife Habitat Council.

Formed in 1988, WHC was the first organization to bring together conservation and business. It works with corporations and other landowners to create tailored voluntary wildlife habitat enhancement

and conservation education programs on corporate facilities and in the communities where they operate.

As part of LKNCBG's mission, we recognize the critical need for sustaining biodiversity and emphasizing voluntary efforts to enhance wildlife habitat, just as WHC does.

LKNCBG joins approximately 90 corporations and over 40 conservation, non-profit, governmental, and academic groups who are members of WHC.

*"Thank you for becoming part of the Council. We look forward to building a collaborative relationship for the benefit of biodiversity."*

*Robert Johnson, President,  
Wildlife Habitat Council*

## REACHING OUT TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

Lake Katherine's role as a contributing member of the Palos Heights community reaches well beyond our borders.

LKNCBG volunteers recently assisted the **Palos Lions Club** by "shaking their cans" to collect donations for the Lions Club's October Candy Days.

The **Art Garden Committee of Palos Heights** approached LKNCBG about participating in its collaborative mosaic mural to be displayed in the Municipal Parking Lot. LKNCBG sponsored an anchor tile for the project, which will be unveiled this month.

In addition, Lake Katherine is hosting one of its **Community Days** this month. The goal of

the October Community Day is forest restoration in Nabel Woods. LKNCBG staff and volunteers will remove invasive species.

Our staff is also available to give **Eco-Talks** on a variety of nature-based topics to schools, institutes, or groups within ten miles of Lake Katherine. Topics include ecotourism, native plants of Illinois, attracting wild-

life to your garden, and weather watching. For further details, contact Gareth Blakesley at LKNCBG.

In addition, LKNCG offers a wide assortment of **Educational Programs**, including Family Programs, Little Explorers, and After School at the Lake. For details, visit our website at [www.lakekatherine.org](http://www.lakekatherine.org) or pick up information at our desk.

## BOOK REVIEW — SECRET GO THE WOLVES

**R.D. Lawrence, *Secret Go the Wolves*, 1980, 232 pages**

One of life's great adventures unfolds in naturalist R.D. Lawrence's *Secret Go the Wolves*.

His story begins with two wolf pups, 10 inches long and only seven days old, 200 miles north of Toronto on the Mattawa River. Beginning with their first encounter with the pups, the lives of R.D. Lawrence, his wife Joan, and the family malamute Tundra would never be the same.

Through Lawrence's narrative, you become attached to Matta and Wa, the wolf pups. He describes moments such

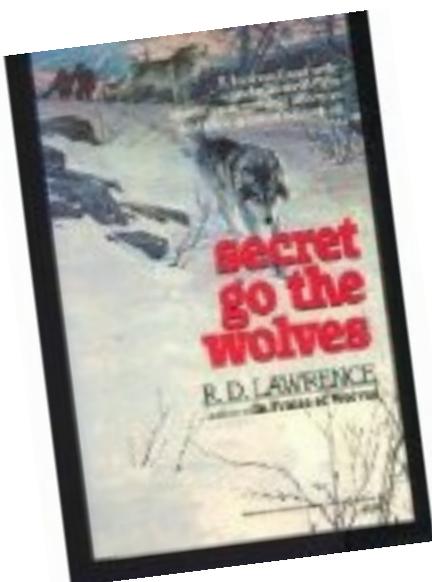
as the time he fed the pups using his own tongue to dribble milk into the tiny starving bundles. As a reader, you see the tapestry of life as it is woven before your eyes.

The story gains intrigue as the family keeps Matta and Wa's existence a secret from hunting and trapping neighbors, no small feat since Matta and Wa are free to come and go as they please.

If you love the outdoors, read this book. If you love nature, read this book. If you

love a well-written hard-to-put-down story, read this book.

*Secret Goes the Wolves* is more than nature, more than wolves, and more than a good story. It is life.



## DISCOVER LAKE KATHERINE BY MICHAEL LITTMAN

My first recollection of visiting Lake Katherine with my family invoked multiple memories of nature and discovery. During those times before, I was a bit younger, not married, and without kids.

My buddies and I grew up with a sense of nature provided by parents who took us camping in the North Woods of Wisconsin as well as camps in Michigan and the East Coast. During our college years, instead of joining the herds of invading teenage-crazed towns of Cancun and Daytona Beach during Spring Break, we traveled to places like the Grand Canyon, Smoky Mountain National Park, the Black Hills of South Dakota and St. Joseph Peninsula State Park in Florida.

Now that I am "tied down" with a wife and two kids, I feel

extremely fortunate to be able to bring them out to LKNCBG for a much needed dose of nature whenever possible. After all, it only takes us about five or ten minutes depending on whether we bike or drive.

We usually start our walk around the lake near the babbling brook and falls, with my son asking if he can climb the rocks along the edge. Finding a water feature like this one in the Chicagoland area isn't easy. It reminds me of the time I went trout fishing in the hills around Ashland, NC, where spring-fed brooks carry fish that laugh at your stonefly imitation. It also brings back visions of walking the springs and creeks of the Driftless areas of the Midwest where glaciers missed the rolling hills and valleys were flattened everywhere else in the region. My son just thinks it's

cool and usually finds a stick he can dab into the water and pretend to fish.

Another "cool" spot is the mini-bluff looking over the lake on the north side of the lake. The stand of pines offers a totally different perspective for most visitors used to the deciduous trees of our nearby forest preserves. The needles under feet and sweet smell of pine remind me of camping under a cover of ponderosa pines along a cold alpine lake in the Wind River Range of Western Wyoming. When I asked my wife to give me a memory or thought on it, she said, "I just like it!"

I'm not sure whether all of the people I pass trekking through this section are thinking more like me or my wife, but judging by their faces I can tell they've forgotten

about the outside world at least for a moment and are enjoying their solitude in nature. That, I think, is the true value of Lake Katherine. To be able to get away from busy suburban lives for just a bit, to invoke memories of far away places full of natural wonder, or just to enjoy it for enjoyment's sake.

*"It is that range of biodiversity that we must care for—the whole thing—rather than just one or two stars."*

*David Attenbor-*

## SHARING YOUR TIME, TALENT, & TREASURE

BY JOE MCCLOSKEY

Lake Katherine offers people a unique opportunity to share their most precious assets. An organization as large as Lake Katherine could not function without the efforts of people who donate their time and talent to make the lake a fun place to visit. Because the volunteers perform most of the activities which must be completed on a daily basis, the lake can offer a multitude of activities for people to see and do.

There are many ways the lake can use your time and talents. You can choose the day of the week and time commitment you feel you would like to offer. Monday to Saturday the lake utilizes the volunteers to meet its many needs.

You could "work" indoors or outdoors. People are needed indoors to staff the welcome desk or help with the arts and crafts or camping programs. There is a place for people who like to work with animals in our Nature Center.

People who enjoy being outdoors will find many ways to help. There are trails and gardens that need tending. Field and forest restoration activities are available for those who like physical activity. We even have some ladies who don't mind pulling weeds to make our gardens look so nice.

We also share family oriented activities with the community (fishing derbies, festi-

vals, and civic projects) which require lots of helping hands.

Perhaps a time donation is not possible for you right now. There is still a way for you to help. Lake Katherine accepts donations to help offset the cost of providing services to the public. Your generous donation can help in many ways. Consider your donation as an investment in the community where you and your family live.

The next time you visit Lake Katherine, think about all the people who helped to make your experience more enjoyable. All those people wearing the green volunteer shirts usually have smiles on their faces. Their sense of well-being and commitment

to making their community a better place to live is all the reward they need.

*"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."*



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The Natural Resources Management Committee's mission is to promote, improve, and fundraise in regards to all matters pertaining to Lake Katherine's natural resources.

*"An understanding of the natural world and what's in it is a source of not only a great curiosity but great fulfillment."*  
*David Attenborough*

### How do birds fly?

There are a number of characteristics that allow birds to fly—hollow bones, air sacks around the body, feathers, strong muscles, and angled or hinged wings. All of these factors fall into four categories: thrust, lift, drag, and weight.

Birds create thrust by flapping their wings in a circular motion, not up and down. Thrust is what moves a bird forward.

Lift does exactly what it sounds like—lifts the bird off the ground when everything is just right. Lift is created

because of the shape of the wing—convex on top, straight below. The air moving over the wing moves faster than the air moving under the wing. Thus the over-the-wing air will have traveled a longer distance, and is therefore faster. This results in pressure exerted down, which is less than the pressure exerted up. One can simulate this theory by taking a strip of tissue paper, holding down the corners, and blowing over the top of the paper. The tissue paper will rise. This is lift.

Drag is what slows a bird down and is very important. In addition to flight, birds can use their feathers to slow down or to create drag. For example, birds spread their tail feathers or flight feathers (big wing feathers). Birds will use their feathers to create more surface area and, in turn, create more drag.

Weight is the last category that allows birds to fly. Actually, it is

the lack of weight. That is why birds have adapted hollow bones in order to be lighter. The same is true of their lungs. Instead of having one set (heavier), they have a series of air sacks (lighter) around the body. It is truly amazing how birds fly.

*"Being in touch with the natural world is crucial."*  
*David Attenborough*

## 2012 EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Winterfest

February 4

### St. Patrick's Day— Dying of the Waterfall

March 16

### Spring Fishing Classic

April 14

### Earth Day Celebration

April 28

### Family Day

June 9

### Monarch Butterfly Festival

September 16

### Fall Fishing Classic

October 13

