



# LAKETIDES

*The newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes*

## WATER FROM ANOTHER TIME

**Volume 21, No. 4**  
**Autumn 1996**

*Much of what we are and where we are going can be uncovered by examining where we have been. Rummaging around in the dusty archives that records the rich history of our lakes gives us the opportunity to walk the bridge that connects their misty past with their uncertain future.*

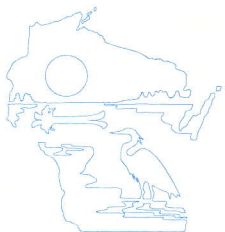
**There is great excitement around here over the idea of focusing the 1997 Wisconsin Lakes Convention on the history of Wisconsin lakes. Thank you to all the folks who have sent books, letters and pictures on their lake histories. In the spirit of the April '97 Lakes Convention we would like to give our readers a little taste of some of the stories coming in April.**

### The Lauderdale Lakes

The lakes in southern Wisconsin have experienced the greatest change due to earliest and largest amount of European settlers on the lakes and in the watershed. There were very few settlers other than Native Americans in Wisconsin before 1836, which was the year the U.S. government opened a land office in Milwaukee. The native people in southern Wisconsin were primarily Fox and Sauk; there were also Potawatomi and people we call mound builders. Although there are few written records, there is much evidence of the life the native people enjoyed on the region's lakes. Mounds, villages and burial grounds are common near many of Wisconsin's lakes.

### Good Bye to Black Hawk

European expansion caused ripples of migration for native people across North America. The Sauk and Fox had settled in southern Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa after being pushed from Canada and Michigan by the French and Iroquois. In the late 1700's a few Indians were maneuvered into signing agreements that gave away their land for little or nothing. In the early 1800's they were moved across the Mississippi. One man, Black Hawk, led a resistance to the removal of his people. The Black Hawk War of 1832 ended their claims to the land. A gangly lawyer from Illinois was a member of the volunteer company that chased Black Hawk and his people—his name was Abe Lincoln. After the brief war, the U.S. Government sold the land to settlers for as little as \$1.25 an acre.



**Wisconsin Lakes  
Partnership**



## Orison Grey Ewing

Orison Grey Ewing was one of the first settlers to view the Lauderdale Lakes southwest of present day Milwaukee. Born in 1815 in Townsend, Vermont, Orison ran away to Boston at the age of twelve, where he worked shucking oysters. In 1837 he journeyed to Flint, Michigan to try his hand as a timberman. In the spring of 1838 he traveled to the Lauderdale Lakes area where he staked out a claim to over 300 acres, part of it bordering Green Lake. Orison met a twelve year-old girl named Hannah Watson, whom he married a few years later. Older men marrying girls in their early teens was a practice quite common at the time.

The first Europeans to come to the Lauderdale Lakes found clear water and beautiful open prairies and rolling hills teaming with wildlife and flowers. Raw materials for home building were ripe for the taking from giant forests of oak, hickory and elm.



## Welcome to Wally World

Over the years farms, homes, mills and hotels sprang up around the Lauderdale Lakes. Steam boats, like the Puffer, plied the waters taking tourists on relax-

ing excursions. The Park View Hotel opened in 1880. Its most distinguished guest may have been General Ulysses S. Grant, who like many people, came to the lake to get away and relax. The Hotel Sterlingworth prices ranged from \$1.50 to \$2 per day, with special rates for weekly stays. Four room cottages were available for \$10 to \$12 per week. The Sterlingworth also featured a huge waterslide over three stories high. It was dismantled after a gentleman who had too much to drink took a tumble off the slide and was knocked silly.



As the young country grew, so did the upper class. It became fashionable for successful merchants, politicians, and other members of the upper levels of society to summer on the lakes. The Deakin's were successful wholesalers of fine arts and gems in Japan. They owned homes in Chicago, Palm Beach and by 1902 had purchased most of Green Island and bought the beautiful and spacious summer home at a place known as Island Point.

## Hydro Phobia

The Deakin's son Earl owned a world class Gar Wood power boat called the Hydro Bullet, which he raced in Florida and Michigan. The boat was so fast that there was concern for it going airborne. The boat was renamed Hydro Phobia. During World War I Deakin gave the boat to the government down in Florida and it was never seen again.





## What are we going to do about it?

Individuals commonly did their own management, blowing out stumps for navigation or filling in wet areas on their own property. By 1902 bigger problems with the lake were starting to surface. On the third of July, 1902 a group of curious and enthusiastic people entered the home of Earl Deakin, and late that day the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association emerged.

One of the first issues the association discussed was too many aquatic plants. A "weed boat" was purchased. The boat was designed by a property owner, H.G. Meigs. It was propelled by a paddle wheel and powered by a 1-cylinder up-right engine. A team of horses waded along the shore pulling a drag for shallow weeds. The deeper stuff was handled by a crew of three using a sickle bar suspended under the "weed boat." In 1941 the crew was paid 45 cents an hour.



*The Weed Boat - Lauderdale Lakes*

*These excerpts have been adapted from  
A History of the Lauderdale Lakes by  
Robert Brown and Patricia Mc Cormick.  
We thank Abe Goldsmith for sharing this  
information and Bob Brown for photos..*

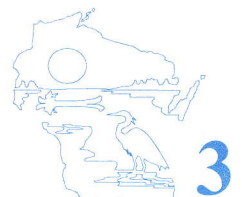
*Understanding our past can serve us well. We discover that basic human impulses haven't changed much over the generations. We find that some of the best things on the landscape are there because of the vision and wisdom of a few honorable individuals. We can learn from the past and make a hopeful future.*

## **W**ATER FROM ANOTHER TIME Wisconsin Lakes Convention - April 3-5, 1997, Stevens Point

Mark your calendars for the 1997 Wisconsin Lakes Convention. The theme will revolve around the history of Wisconsin's lakes. Thursday's work-day will focus on lakeshore development. Workshop streams on Friday and Saturday will tie the historical theme to current events and issues.

The state Lakes Conference is probably the best opportunity your organization has to educate your leaders and members and to find the answers to your important questions. More information and resources (both human and materials) concerning lakes will be brought together at one place and one time than any other occasion in the year. We hope you will join us. As always, registration materials and Convention program will be included in the Winter issue of *Lake Tides*.

If you have written materials, stories or photos on early Wisconsin lakes history to share, please send them attention **Robert Korth, CNR-UWSP, 1900 Franklin St., Stevens Point WI 54481**. If you would like them returned, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (with appropriate postage). Contact Dorothy Snyder (715/346-2116) if your group would like to display or give a short presentation on your lake history at the 1997 Convention.





# Redesigning Wisconsin's Nonpoint Source Programs?

The Wisconsin Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement Program was created in 1978 by the Legislature. They recognized the extensive water quality threats and problems in Wisconsin's lakes, streams and groundwater that are not caused by point sources. The program is administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with assistance from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). University of Wisconsin-Extension provides information/education for the partnership.

The Priority Watershed Program presently has 31 large-scale projects, six small-scale projects and seven lake projects with approved plans. Fifteen additional large-scale priority watershed projects, one small-scale and six priority lakes projects are in the planning phase. Recently there has been much talk about changes proposed by our state agencies to Wisconsin's Nonpoint Source Program. Lake organizations, environmental groups, Land Conservation Departments, urban managers, farmers, and local elected officials are all following with interest the latest proposed restructuring of our water quality programs. There has also been interest shown by the Governor's office, and the Secretaries of the Departments of Administration, Natural Resources and Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Part of the impetus for the agencies re-evaluating the state's nonpoint source control program is that funding for the program may be significantly reduced. During the present biennium (the two-year period ending June 30, 1997), program expenditures are estimated to be \$44 million. Base program funding, i.e. that which is likely to be available to the program during the next two years starting July 1, 1997 (unless additional funding is provided by the legislature this spring) is estimated to be \$26 million. If you do the math, that adds up to the \$18 million shortfall we've been reading about in the news.

Proposals now being discussed are all based on reduced spending, and range from stopping at least two-thirds of existing watershed projects, to shifting urban grants to loans, and requiring counties and lake districts to provide local match for staff support. None of the proposals allow for new project starts, jeopardizing the state's legislative directive to have all high ranked watershed projects begin implementation by the year 2015.

Major changes to any state program are not without controversy. Any attempt to better the proposal must begin with an understanding of the issues and an open mind. Toward that end, here are answers to some questions being asked about the draft proposal for restructuring Wisconsin's nonpoint source programs:

## Why is restructuring being proposed?

- ◆ To address an estimated fiscal shortfall within the Priority Watershed Program within the next biennium;
- ◆ Call for change by Representatives Powers and Johnsrud;
- ◆ A petition from the Environmental Decade, et al., requested changes to the state's animal waste management program;
- ◆ The DNR and DATCP want to increase local flexibility in approaching water quality issues; and
- ◆ A Legislative Audit Bureau report recommended changes in 1992.

**Point Source =  
pollution from  
a pipe, like a  
factory outfall**

**Nonpoint  
source = run-  
off pollution,  
like contami-  
nants moved  
across the  
ground by  
rain water**





## What programs are included in the proposed restructuring?

The current proposal addresses the Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Program (Priority Watersheds), Soil and Water Resource Management Programs, and the Animal Waste Management Program. The Wisconsin Lakes Program **is not** specifically referenced in the current proposed restructuring draft, but anything is possible.

## What are some key components of the draft proposal?

❖ **Basin Approach** - Through the DNR reorganization process, 23 basin teams have been established. Heading the basin approach for water quality issues, an “umbrella team” has been proposed. The umbrella team will consist of external partners to the agency that will determine priorities within each basin. This team should contain representatives from many interests in the watershed such as lakes, urban, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, soil and water, etc.

❖ **Redesigned Program Delivery** - DNR and DATCP propose providing a “menu” of approaches, activities, and programs that could be used to better meet local runoff pollution, stormwater management, animal waste management, soil erosion control needs, or other local basin priorities. Programs would be outcome-driven, focused on highest priority needs, and be accountable for expenditures. Local governments would have greater flexibility in determining problem-solving strategies, budgets, staffing and outcomes.

❖ **Program Planning** - Both departments agree that watershed project planning should continue to be simplified. There needs to be greater tailoring of the plan to fit the situation. Local governments will have a greater role in activities at the basin level and in project planning.

❖ **Regulation of Critical Sites** - Under state law, all priority watersheds initiated after a certain date must identify critical nonpoint sites. The landowner is notified of the potential for enforcement but a period of time is given for voluntary compliance. Because of limited dollars, the redesigned program may need to rethink the definition of a critical site and provide greater financial incentives to landowners to correct the problems. The effect of this approach may mean fewer dollars for noncritical sites.

❖ **Funding** - Changes could include redirecting existing funding and looking for new sources. Both agencies agree that a county match is needed. Some other ideas include: switching Urban Best Management Practices from grants to loans; low interest loans; and pursuing more cost-effective implementation approaches.

❖ **Transition to New Program** - Proposed transition period is unclear but would begin in the 1997-99 biennium. This transition would include evaluating existing Priority Watershed projects to determine their effectiveness.

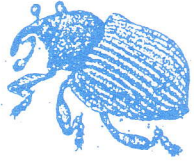
## Opportunities for Public Input

To obtain a copy of the proposal (Redesigning Wisconsin's Nonpoint Source Programs) contact Keith Foye, DATCP-ARM, PO Box 8911, Madison WI 53708-8911. Organizations interested in your comments on the draft proposal include the Wisconsin Land Conservation Association (Adam Payne, Exec. Dir. - 608/833-1833) and the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (Jean Schomish, Eau Claire - 715/839-6226). **The final draft will be prepared and distributed by November 22 with submittal of the proposal to the Governor on December 3.**





## Local Bug Recruited for Plant Control



*In the Winter 1996 issue of Lake Tides (Vol. 21, #1) we wrote a short piece on the UWSP Cooperative Fisheries Unit and WDNR looking for a "few good lakes" interested in participating in a two-year study on the impact native weevils might have on our old nemesis, Eurasian watermilfoil. This project was undertaken by UW-Stevens Point graduate student, Laura Jester and her advisor, Michael Bozek. Here's an update on the project.*

The Wisconsin Milfoil Weevil Study is designed to evaluate the use of an aquatic insect, the "milfoil" weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*), as a biological control agent for Eurasian watermilfoil. The milfoil weevil is native to North America and has been associated with natural declines of Eurasian watermilfoil in several lakes around the United States.

The two main objectives of the Wisconsin Milfoil Weevil Study are: 1) to determine the distribution of the weevil in lakes

throughout Wisconsin and assess what factors are associated with its abundance in a particular lake; and 2) to evaluate the effectiveness of stocking weevils in a lake in order to control Eurasian watermilfoil and use the weevil as a practical management tool in the future.

Many lake organizations around Wisconsin were interested in this study,

however, only twelve could be chosen to participate. These lakes also helped fund the study by paying the local share of the grant received.

The life history and feeding effects of the milfoil weevil have been studied over the past several years in the northeastern U.S. Adult weevils feed on the stems and leaves of milfoil plants and females lay their eggs on the apical meristem (top growing tip). The larval stage of the weevil hatches from the egg and burrows into the mer-

istem, often causing extensive damage to cells in this important growing tip. The larvae tunnel in and out of the stem, creating holes and chewing out the inside of the milfoil stem. Weevils pupate inside the stem and emerge as free-swimming adults. The adult weevil spends the winter along the shoreline and returns to the milfoil bed in spring. In lakes at a similar latitude to Wisconsin, three generations of weevils hatch each summer and females can lay up to two eggs per day throughout the season.

The control of Eurasian watermilfoil is attributed to the burrowing and tunneling of the weevils' larval stages. This results in significant loss of buoyancy and the stems fall down through the water column.

This weevil has a preference for Eurasian watermilfoil and does not significantly impact native aquatic plant species, including northern watermilfoil. In lakes where this selective herbivory and damage to Eurasian watermilfoil has occurred, a more diverse assemblage of native aquatic plants has re-emerged.

The Wisconsin study began in May 1996 and will continue through the summer of 1998. This past summer was dedicated to determining weevil distribution and abundance. Thus far, the weevil has been found in all twelve project lakes. During the summer of 1997, weevil populations in 12 lakes around the state will be augmented with additional weevils in study plots. The effect of the weevil on Eurasian watermilfoil will be monitored through the summer of 1998.

*For further information on the study, contact Laura Jester, WI Cooperative Fisheries Unit, College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481.*

### 12 Study Lakes





# Back to the Future

... Gaylord Nelson  
inaugurated ...

*If you have any willpower, you will not read the last paragraph of this article first!*

Lake frontage is undergoing a state of development. At first thought this might be regarded as beneficial, since more people get to use the lakes. But in practice as more people crowd around them, uses intensify and conflicts between them arise. Most of these conflicts are subtle and they don't stick out like the speed boat/fisherman issue.

... Hawaii becomes  
the 50th state ...

There is an ever-present pressure to provide as many lake-front lots as possible. The market for frontage on popular lakes is so active that developers and buyers will go to any length to provide the frontage. This is often done with no thought for the consequences. Everyone seems to want to locate on the shores of a lake and communities are growing there. People should contemplate the consequences; maybe there should be more breathing space around the shore line.

... Vince Lombardi  
becomes Green  
Bay's coach ...

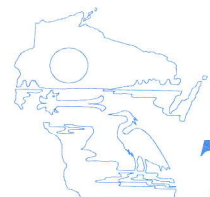
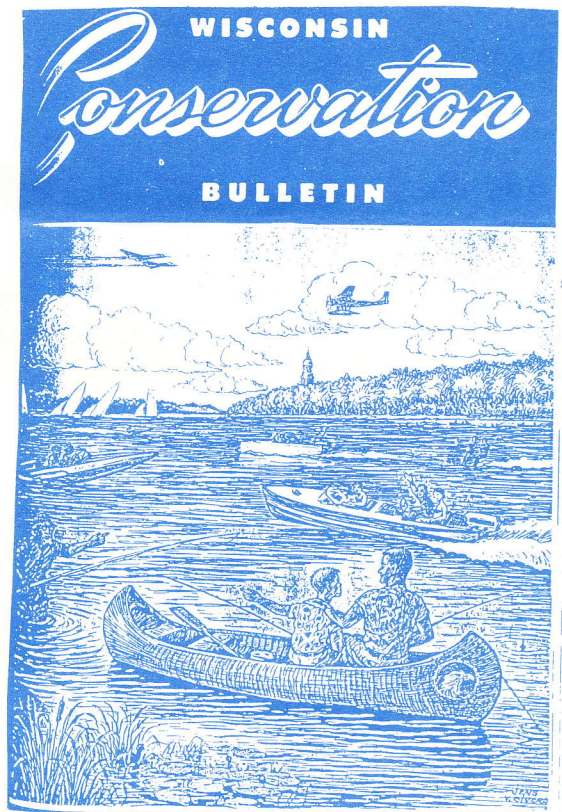
Marsh frontage proposed for dredging and filling may have been the spawning grounds for a predator fish species that holds the key to balanced fish population. This same area provided the opportunities for wildlife observation and hunting, a breeding area for ducks, and a housing site for muskrats. It also provided some of the esthetics offered in a bed of water lilies or a stately stand of rushes.

... Rawhide pre-  
miers on TV ...

The question deserving contemplation is this: Is it more important that the lake community retain this piece of marsh with its contribution to this recreational resource, or is it more important that some additional home sites be created which impose extra burdens upon the limited recreational resource?

Another problem. Most of Wisconsin's lakes are quite fertile. Fertility generally becomes expressed in both algae and rooted plants and there is a type of tipsy equilibrium between the groups of plants. This is a good state because it nurses vigorous fish populations, leaves the water quite clear for maximum enjoyment of swimmers and boaters, and causes few other problems. But add too much fertilizer, or begin to control one type of plant over another, and problems arise.

All the homes plus resorts crowded close together have waste waters which enter septic tanks and drain toward the lake. While these waters are cleansed of bacteria, they still have many fertilizing properties. Even many detergents have fertilizing properties. At the same time shore residents strive to achieve a clean weed-free beach for maximum swimming enjoyment. In this way algae get a big boost and thereby damage the swimming and aesthetic enjoyment. As they increase, they shade out rooted plants and attain nuisance proportions. This favors a carp-crappie fish association to the detriment of bluegills and bass.





... Fidel Castro  
visits U.S. and is  
warmly received...

The public use facilities picture becomes tremendously complicated also. The simple lake of yesteryear had few people on it and few others desiring to get on it. Today's lake has or could get every square foot of shore line underfoot as cottages or homes occupy the shores. Meanwhile the unoccupied land or public land is the funnel for those who live away from the lake. Perhaps hundreds live on the lake shore and thousands funnel into the sliver of land available for public use. The little road that served as a fire lane of yesterday has to serve as the public access of today—a function it was never meant to serve. Cars, boats and trailers plug up everything and conflict of use is evident.

These and many more problems are not easily solved. They require the cooperation and careful consideration of many units of government. Most of all they require some broad, comprehensive thinking and certainly some planning for the future.

... yes, it's 1959!

*No willpower, hey? Here is the eye-opener! This article was written by C. W. Threinen and published in the Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin in December 1959. We still haven't resolved most of these issues after 37 years of trying. Was this a vision of the future or do some things never change?*



## People, Lakes and the Land: Puzzling Relationships

The North American Lake Management Society 1996 International Symposium is right around the corner! On November 13-16, 1996 the Radisson South Hotel in Bloomington, MN will be the place to be to join citizens and scientists from around the world who are involved in lake management. This is a rare opportunity for folks in the Great Lakes states to spend time with some of the best experts the world has to offer on all sorts of lake subjects.

To register for this great opportunity, call Barbara Timmel at NALMS (608-233-2836) or Bob or Marilyn Schroeder at 303-781-8287. The agenda offers a wide range of information for professional and lay lake managers, lake associations and state chapter representatives, educators and students, and other lake users. This year's conference is co-hosted by the Wisconsin Association of Lakes and the Minnesota Lakes Association.

## Inland Lakes Sustainability Study begins Second Year

The Inland Lakes Sustainability Study, a joint project among LoonWatch, Northland College, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, opens its second year with a report by Northland College sociology professor Patricia Shifferd. Shifferd recently completed "Jet Skis and Solitude," a preliminary study of citizens' attitudes about the quality of life on inland lakes. DNR researcher Mike Meyer follows Shifferd's research with an evaluation of animal populations on the study's designated lakes, including loons, eagles, mink, breeding birds, and amphibians. Meyer's results will be combined with Shifferd's sociological information and LoonWatch loon-census data to identify methods for sustaining healthy lake ecosystems and developing new education and citizen-involvement programs. Call LoonWatch at (715) 682-1220 for more information.





## Tax Exempt Numbers for Lake Districts?

An officer of a Lake District recently contacted us regarding a problem with tax exemption numbers. He knew that a lake district was a unit of government and therefore tax exempt, however, he was having problems with vendors who required a tax exempt number. We referred his problem to Elmer Goetsch, Chairman of the Board of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes. Elmer's response follows.

As we know, units of government, including Lake Districts, are not issued a tax exemption number. However, on rare occasions we get reports of Lake Districts being asked for a tax exemption number by local vendors.

I contacted the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, who verified that Lake Districts are not issued, nor do they need, a tax exemption number. The DOR went on to






say that a number of such experiences, like that of the Lake District officer mentioned above, have come up over the years. The Department of Revenue has therefore prepared a Government Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate (form S-209; N. 3-96) which can be issued by the local government having the problem. The Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District is specifically indicated on the certificate.

If the purchaser or the seller has questions regarding the completion or use of the exemption certificate, they may call 608-266-2776, or write to the Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue, P.O. Box 8902, Madison, WI 53708-8902. Forms are available from the Department of Revenue or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Dorothy Snyder, UWEX-Lakes Program, CNR-UWSP, 1900 Franklin St., Stevens Point, WI 54481.



### QUERY OF THE SEASON

### Lakes Need Your Support!

-  How can we protect lakes from over-development and over-use?
-  What is the best method to control Eurasian watermilfoil and other nuisance exotics?
-  Do motorboats affect lakes?
-  Are certain types of boats more damaging than others?
-  How can we maintain the natural reproduction of walleye, bass and musky?

You hold the key to answering these questions! When you register your boat or buy a fishing license, you make the decision whether these questions and other issues facing Wisconsin's lakes will be answered. **Look for the "Lake Research/Clean Water Voluntary Contribution" line and donate.** Downsizing government means that without your contributions, these research questions may go unanswered.

### C A L E N D A R

**October 22-24, 1996** -- Nonpoint Source Pollution Information/Education Program, Ramada Congress Hotel, Chicago [217/782-3362]

**November 13-16, 1996** -- People, Lakes and Land: Puzzling Relationships, 16th Annual International Symposium, North American Lake Management Society, Radisson Hotel, Minneapolis, MN [303/781-8287]

**March 8, 1997** -- Natural Landscaping Conference, Milwaukee Audubon Society, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee [414/375-1565]

**April 3-5, 1997** -- Water From Another Time, Wisconsin Lakes Convention, Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Stevens Point [715/346-2116]





## Lake Tides - 8534

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## Reflections

... Perhaps the slit, with its exposed bones and its far-off vanishing sky, has come to stand symbolically in my mind for a dimension denied to man, the dimension of time. Like the wisteria on the garden wall he is rooted in his particular century. Out of it—forward or backward—he cannot run. As he stands on his circumscribed pinpoint of time, his sight for the past is growing longer, and even the shadowy outlines of the galactic future are growing clearer, though his own fate he cannot yet see. Along the dimension of time, man, like the rooted vine in space, may never pass in person. . . .

Through how many dimensions and how many media will life have to pass? Down how many roads among the stars must man propel himself in search of the final secret? The journey is difficult, immense, at times impossible, yet that will not deter some of us from attempting it. We cannot know all that has happened in the past, or the reason for all of these events, any more than we can with surety discern what lies ahead. We have joined the caravan, you might say, at a certain point; we will travel as far as we can, but we cannot in one lifetime see all that we would like to see or learn all that we hunger to know. . . .

Loren Eiseley, *The Immense Journey*