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A-2 Monday, August 7, 1995 Green Bay Press-Gazette

From A-1

Bay

on pressess, an accel scanner
intern.
Josephs is collecting data on the
bacteria count.
Johnson, a senior science major
as St. Norbert College, is shadowing Sacha she contemplates
future careers.

ing Sacha as she contemplates future careers.

"I'm an environmentalist, but I shy away from the term because of the negative baggage that goes with it." Sacha says.

The Seymour native studied aquatic biology and limnology—the physical, chemical and biological properties of fresh water—at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

"I'try to integrate ecology and

Stevena Point.
"I try to integrate ecology and economics. Ecology is the study of the house—in terms of 'ecos' being the Greek word for 'house' and economics is to put the house in order. We're looking at long-term solutions."

in order. We're looking at long-term solutions."
Sachs returned to the Green Bay area five years ago, after 10 years at the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sanitation District.
"My first reaction was a little bit of awe from the standpoint that the Fox River has such long historical significance," he says. "There have been people traveling this river for 300 plus years and this was the main highway for the state for a very long time."

wery long time."
On this day, they're taking samples on the bay near Long Tail
Point and Joliet, Communiversity
and Bay Beach parks. They'll also grab river samples at the mouth the Fox and at the Walnut Street

the Fox and at the Wainut Street Bridge. Josepha lowers a white disc shaped like a paper plate, known as a Secchi disc, into the bay and calls out the depth at which it becomes visible. Meanwhile, Johnson drops a electronic sensor into the hay to

electronic sensor into the bay to measure temperature and electro-conductivity.

conductivity.

Later, they'll gather 25 gallons of water off Little Tail Point for an effluent toxicity test. The state Department of Natural Resources requires the test as a condition for the MSD's discharge permit. They'll also stop at the lighthouse to examine monitoring equipment and recalibrate it if necessary.

sary. As Sachs pilots the Clearwater Revival, he makes mental notes of

what he sees:

• Peregrine falcons nest on the Tower Drive Bridge.

- Carp thrash around at the Green Bay Yachting Club.
 A double-crested cormorant flies overhead.
- Alewives leap in the boat's rake.
- rake.

 A pelican nest floats near a andbar on Cat Island.

 The algae bloom at Joliet Park eems to be a little earlier than last

• The algae blooms at Joinet Park seems to be a little earlier than last year's.
• No guills, no terns, no nothing on Kidney Island, also known as Renard Isle. A few years ago, there were tens of thousands of birds. Sachs doesn't know where they went, but suspects someone fid something to drive them away. The weather dominates Sachs' workplace. But rain and waves don't necessarily mean he stays ashore. (He does stay off the water when lightning is forecast.)
"It's a reminder that we're part of nature and cannot depend completely on our artificial environment," he says.
Few bodies of water in the world are studied as exhaustively as the Fox River and Green Bay.

On any given day, specialists from an alphabet soup of state, for and offeren and local agencies and universities are taking measurements of the water, the wildlife, the sediments.

In some cases, they're checking

the water, the wildlife, the sediments.

In some cases, they're checking the pulse of this dynamic ecosystem. Others are working to document and correct the environmental wrongs that have been done over the past century.

"We get involved in a lot of sharing of data and participating of ancillary programs with other agencies to return water clean to the environment," Sachs says. Information is shared with the DNR, Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Corps of Engineers and university researchers.
"I can remember when the river was viewed as an impediment in getting from one side of town to another," he says as the Clearwater Revival passes the paper mills along the Fox River. "I guess it takes a generation to get to the point that we're viewing it for aesthetic purposes."



