



HANCOCK LAKE



Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2009

Loon Watch

With the ice gone the loons have returned for the summer. Last weeks survey showed one territorial pair and three floaters (these are unpaired birds that do not hold a territory but still travel between lakes).

Mated pairs spend much of their time together especially early in the breeding season. They are often seen swimming side-by-side and making short dives together. Sometimes as they swim together they will turn their heads away from each other and exhibit bill-dipping, signs of non-aggression.

As a pair begins thinking about nesting, they will scout the shoreline of the lake for suitable places to nest. Once the nest site has been selected the pair will build the nest using mud, leaves, grasses, or any material surrounding the nest site or on the lake bottom. They will copulate on the nest and soon the female will lay 1-2 (rarely 3) eggs. The adults will take turns incubating the eggs and nest exchanges are usually followed by egg turning prior to settling onto the eggs. The eggs can withstand being exposed for extended periods of time when the weather is dry and warm.

If you approach a loon nest, the behavior of the incubating
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Message from the Board

The purpose of the Association is to maintain, protect, and enhance the quality of the lake and its surroundings for the collective interests of the members.

Board of Directors:

Dick Statton, President 715-282-7147 (Term expires June 2010)	Bill Tischendorf, V. President. 715-282-5843 (Term expires June 2010)
Mike Powers, Treasurer 715-282-6949 (Term expires June 2009)	Gene Klawikowski, Secretary 715-282-5472 (Term expires June 2009)
Lou Mezei, Director 608-270-5908 (Term expires June 2009)	Pat Thostenson 715-282-5556 (Term expires June 2009)
George Beltz, Director 715-771-9011 (Term expires June 2010)	

The Hancock Lake Association officers held a meeting on May 3, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. Attending were Dick Statton, Bill Tischendorf, Pat Thostenson, George Beltz, Lou Mezei, and Gene Klawikowski.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on **June 13, 2009 at 9 am** at the Woodboro Town Hall at the junction of Oneida Lake Road and Old Highway K. Some items on the agenda include election of Treasurer, Secretary, 2 Directors, status of the weed issue, fishery committee update, Hancock dam update, and other items as appropriate.

Lake Association Picnic

After discussion, the members selected **Saturday, June 13th, 2009** the same day as the annual meeting, for the Lake Association Picnic at the Woodboro Town Hall starting after the meeting or about 11:00 am. You are all invited to attend.

The Association will provide brats, hamburgers, buns, condiments, soda, paper plates, and utensils. You are asked to bring a dish to pass, other drinks of your choice, and folding lawn chairs. A tent and picnic tables will also be available.

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loon will tell you if you are too close. First, the loon may raise its head in an alerted position to better view the disturbance.

If you continue to approach, the loon will put its head down to the water and flatten its body in a hang-over posture to try to hide from view. This indicates that you are too close! If the loon perceives that danger continues to approach, it will slip off the nest and into the water. If the loon is startled, it will flush abruptly and may kick the eggs out of the nest.

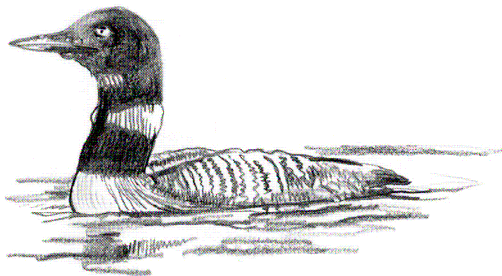
A loon that is in the water and near the nest will often remain low in the water with only the head and sometimes part of the back above the water's surface. It is trying to look small and out of view while it keeps an eye on your activities near the nest.

If you approach the nest too closely, a loon in the water may penguin dance and try to lead you away from the nest. This is their most extreme reaction to human presence and means you are much too close to the nest (or chicks later on). This is not the time for taking pictures; you should leave the area immediately.

As soon as a chick dries out after hatching, it is ready for the water. It can swim and make shallow dives even at this young age. It can be weary work keeping up with the adults; therefore young chicks are often seen backriding. This also serves to keep the chick warm and protected from flying and underwater predators. An adult will also wing tuck a chick which serves these same purposes.

Chicks are semi-precocial meaning they can leave the nest immediately and swim on their own. However, they are dependent on the adults to be fed until they learn to hunt on their own. Both adults will feed the chicks.

Loons hunt for fish and crustaceans under water. They will sometimes begin a foraging excursion by lowering their head into the water and "peering" for their prey. When a prey item is spotted, they will dive and swim after their quarry. Loons are skillful and agile swimmers and use their large webbed feet for propulsion. They hold their wings close to their bodies. When they catch their quarry, they come back to the surface. A loon may spend 5-10 minutes trying to orient its prey so it can be swallowed head first. □



It was decided that again this year we will have a few door prizes, including a drawing for an **airplane ride over the lake for picture taking**, a 1/2 day **guided fishing outing on Hancock with Mike Powers**, rustic art by local artist and more. Also a silent auction of some donated items. If anyone would like to donate items for the silent auction, please call Gene Klawikowski at 715-282-5472, and if anyone would like to volunteer to help plan the picnic, please call Sally Klawikowski at 715-282-5472.

Spring Weed Harvest

Last spring Bill and some other members harvested some of the weeds on Saturday mornings at the boat landing. Bill will again be coordinating the harvesting. If anyone would like to help out, please call Bill at 715-282-5843. You will need a small boat to get into the shallow bay along with a rate or fork for pulling the weeds.

Monitoring Boat Landing

This year we will again monitor the boat landing for weeds on the boats. We would like to do this on more weekends. If you would like to volunteer, please call Bill at 715-282-5843. Oneida County is running a couple of Clean Boat Clean Water workshops on how to do the boat inspections, date and times are listed in the calendar of events section. These workshops are provided at no cost to the individual, to register contact Jean Hansen at 715-369-7835 or jhansen@co.oneida.wi.us

Wisconsin Lakes Convention

Bill Tischendorf represented Hancock Lake at the state wide 3 day meeting in Green Bay. For a summary of the convention see 31st Wisconsin Lakes Convention.

Dues for 2008

It is also time for the annual dues of \$20 per person to be collected. Attached is a form to be filled out and returned. If more than 2 persons in your household would like to join, please write their name and address on the back of the form. At the last annual meeting the bylaws were amended to state that the dues must be payable on or before the annual meeting.

Hope to see you there!

Gene Klawikowski
Secretary

News from the State

Phosphorus lawn fertilizer bill passes Legislature

The Clean Lakes Bill (**AB 3**) has passed both houses of the legislature and awaits the Governor’s signature to become law. Passage of this bill has made Wisconsin a national leader and a model for other states.

The bill creates a statewide law regulating phosphorus in lawn fertilizer and will prohibit the display, sale, and use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus, with certain reasonable exceptions. The Wisconsin Association of Lakes member lake associations, lake districts, and concerned citizens from across the state worked together to advance this bill, which is modeled after Dane County’s existing and successful county ordinance.

Nutrients like phosphorus—a common ingredient in lawn fertilizer—are degrading 90% of Wisconsin’s inland lakes. Plants don’t absorb more phosphorus than they can use, and excess phosphorus from lawns washes directly into our lakes and streams, causing smelly algae blooms, fish kills, and declining water quality.

This bill is a small, but significant step forward in the efforts to curb the avalanche of nutrients that pollute our public lakes.

Slow-no-wake bill passes Legislature!

A bill (**SB 12**) that will establish a statewide slow no wake zone for motorboats within 100 feet of a lake’s shoreline awaits the Governor’s signature to become law. This bill is a positive step forward to preserve water quality, prevent shoreline deterioration, and improve public safety for citizens who are fishing, swimming, and paddling on our shorelines.

Boating too close to shorelines can contribute to shoreline erosion problems, reduce water clarity by stirring up lake bed sediments, release phosphorus—the nutrient responsible for algae blooms—from lake bed sediments, and harm fish habitat when propellers uproot shore land plants.

A provision within the bill allows local boating ordinances to extend slow-no-wake zones farther away from the shore (for example, 200 feet as Dane County has done). Local boating ordinances may also specify slow-no-wake zones that are less than 100 feet from the shoreline. This provision recognizes that there are some locations where a

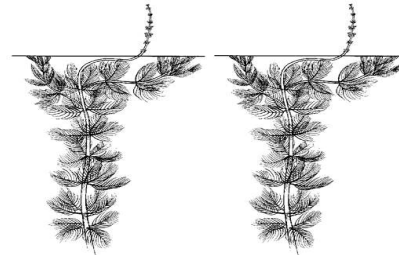
more localized approach may be desirable to accommodate recreational use. An exemption is also included for water-skiers pick up and drop off zones.

Aquatic invasive species transport bill

The Legislature has introduced a bill (**SB 123** and companion bill **AB 162**) that would improve regulation of aquatic invasive species.

This bill offers some technical changes to improve upon the “illegal to transport” language that was passed in the supplemental budget bill in May of 2008. Current law prohibits “invasive species” from being transported on a highway. This bill would prohibit the transport of aquatic plants or animals on a vehicle of any kind on a public highway. This bill would prohibit the launch of watercraft (expanded to include any vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object of any kind) with aquatic plants or animals attached. Authority for law enforcement officials is also broadened under this bill.

This bill would give the Department of Natural Resources authority to respond to invasive species that are new to Wisconsin, or are an increasing threat to Wisconsin resources.



Invasive Species Classification Rule

The Natural Resources Board, approved bill (**NR 40**), it will now go to both houses of the state legislature where they may or may not choose to hold hearings. The rule could go into effect will be late summer or fall of 2009.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species (Council) have been working over the last four years to develop rules to classify and regulate invasive species.. The purpose of these rules is to prevent and minimize the introduction and spread of invasive species in the state. The key components of the rule package include: 1) the legal classification categories - prohibited and restricted; 2) criteria for classifying species; 3) a listing or identification of invasive species by category; 4) actions that would be prohibited or restricted; 5) exemptions for possession, sale or other activities involving some invasive species under specific conditions or when authorized by a permit from the

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Department 6) control requirements and 7) specific enforcement actions that could be taken.

The rule will identify invasive species in each specific category based on the criteria and will place restrictions on those species that are classified as prohibited or restricted. Regulatory controls are also placed on pathways of introduction or spread of invasive species (e.g., remove aquatic plants and animals from equipment when leaving the water, bank or shore).

More information on NR 40 can be found on the DNR web site <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/> □

OFFICER ELECTION.

The terms of office of Secretary, Treasurer, and two at-large directors expire this year, the board will be looking for nominations for these offices at the annual meeting. Anyone is interested in running for one of these offices and is unable to make the annual meeting may submit their name by mail.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

PLACE WOODBORO TOWN HALL

TIME 9 AM JUNE 13 2009

Annual meeting and the nomination of officers.

HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PICNIC

PLACE WOODBORO TOWN HALL

TIME 11 AM JUNE 13 2009

The Annual picnic will follow the Annual Meeting.

CBCW WORKSHOP

PLACE ONEIDA COUNTY UW-EXTENSION BUILDING

TIME 9AM-12PM MAY 12 2009

Interested in getting involved in aquatic invasive species prevention?. Contact jhansen@co.oneida.wi.us

CBCW WORKSHOP

PLACE MINOCQUA MUNICIPAL BUILDING

TIME 9AM-12PM MAY 12 2009

Interested in getting involved in aquatic invasive species prevention?. Contact jhansen@co.oneida.wi.us

31st Wisconsin Lakes Convention

Over 350 people from 50 Wisconsin counties, 8 other US states and one Canadian province participated in this year's Wisconsin Lakes Convention. Bill Tischendorf represented Hancock Lake at this year's convention in Green Bay, and found the challenges, and solutions presented there were relevant to our lake. The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, a nationally recognized and successful collaboration of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL), UW-Extension Lakes and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), hosts the lakes convention each year. The goal of this year's convention was to share knowledge with agency staff, lake citizens, businesses, elected officials, and others to help get our lakes "back to balance."

Lake enthusiasts statewide listened intently for ideas and approaches to help tilt the balance of lake ecosystem dynamics back in favor of the native aquatic plants and animals. Dr. Tony Ricciardi was the keynote speaker at a plenary session to kick off the convention. He highlighted a number of the reasons why certain species are highly invasive and why some ecosystems are more vulnerable to invasion than others. Other speakers presented shorter sessions on a range of themes including AIS smart prevention, water law, global environmental changes, regional partnerships to protect lakes, citizen involvement, and the economic value of water.

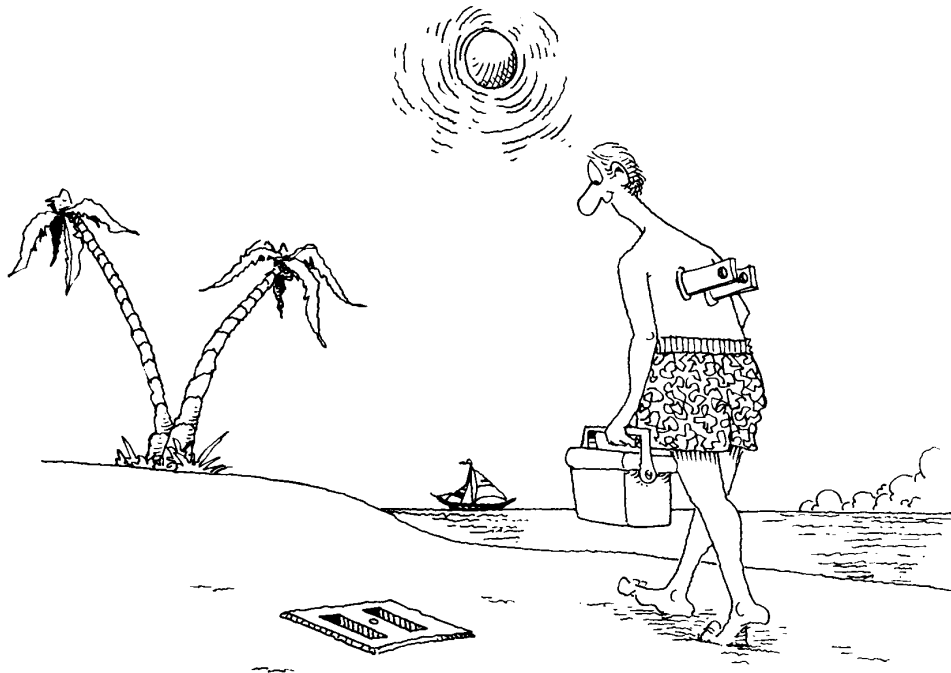
Workshops attended by Bill; **Limnology 101** Presenters: Pamela Toshner and Buzz Sorge, WDNR, **Long-term Trends in Eurasian Water-milfoil Management** Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Hauxwell, Alison Mikulyuk, and Michelle Nault, Wisconsin WDNR Science Services Bureau, and **Evaluation of Chemical Control Methods to Manage Aquatic Invasive Plants** Presenters: Mike Netherland, US Army Corps of Engineers Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, and John Skogerboe, US Army Corps of Engineers Eau Claire Aquatic Ecology Laboratory. □



Clean Boats, Clean Waters
- Help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin!



**Wisconsin
Lakes
Partnership**



Artwork by John Caldwell

Take time to recharge your batteries.

Come join your friends and neighbors at the Hancock Lake Annual Picnic, June 13th, 11am. at Woodboro Town Hall.

Brats, hamburgers, buns, condiments, soda, paper plates, and utensils, will provided by the Hancock Lake Association. You are asked to bring a dish to pass, other drinks of your choice, and folding lawn chairs.



A few pictures from last years picnic.

←Grand door prize winner
Renee Gielas

Our cook Jerry Sheahan →



Membership Application

Hancock Lake Association, Inc.

I subscribe to the purpose of the Hancock Lake Association and have enclosed membership dues for _____ of \$20.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Membership Dues must be paid by Annual Meeting,, the second Saturday in June. Dues are \$20 and should be made payable to Hancock Lake Association, Inc. Mail to: Hancock Lake Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 171
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Hancock Lake Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 171
Tomahawk, WI 54487

POSTAGE
REQUIRED

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321