



HANCOCK LAKE



Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2010



The 2010 Wisconsin Lakes Convention, titled *Fringe Benefits: Restoring Wisconsin Shorelands and Shallows*, covered a plethora of water topics with an emphasis on the fringe of Wisconsin lakes, known as shorelands and shallows. Experts from around the country joined convention participants to discuss the research, management options, educational ideas and policy changes concerning Wisconsin's lake fringes.

Attendees received a status report on our nation's lakes
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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 2011)	Gene Klawikowski, Secretary 715-282-5472 (Term expires June 2011)
Lou Mezei, Director 608-270-5908 (Term expires June 2011)	Pat Thostenson 715-282-5556 (Term expires June 2011)
George Beltz, Director 715-771-9011 (Term expires June 2010)	



Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on **June 12, 2010 at 9 am** at the Woodboro Town Hall at the junction of Oneida Lake Road and Old Highway K. The items on the agenda included nominations for the offices of President, Vice President, and one Director, status report of the weed issue, fishery committee update, Hancock Lake dam update.

Lake Association Picnic

The Lake Association's summer picnic will follow the annual meeting and was also held at the Woodboro Town Hall. The Association will provided the brats, hamburgers, buns, soda, paper plates, utensils, and everyone should bring a dish to pass.

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from researchers with the National Lakes Assessment. This project was designed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its partners to provide estimates of the condition of lakes across the country. Poor habitat conditions along the lakeshore and high levels of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus are the most significant stressors of those assessed in the survey. Lake enthusiasts here in the Midwest learned that forty-six percent of our area lakes show moderate to high levels of lakeshore human disturbance.

Convention participants listened intently for how they can change these trends toward a positive direction. They learned about specific measures they can take to protect and restore the fringe of their local lake activities like rain gardens, erosion control treatments, and shoreland restoration. Even though damage to our lakes' fringes can negatively affect the health of Wisconsin lakes, it is not the only challenge that faces our state's waters. Tuesday and Thursday workshops offered hands-on training and discussion on many important lake topics including aquatic invasive species, lake ecology, volunteer monitoring, Lake District commissioner training, interpreting and using lake data, and working with local partners for lake protection.

Other speakers presented shorter sessions on a range of themes including water quality and ecological health, research, waterfront history, policy and regulation, the economics of shoreland management, and citizen involvement.

More than 350 people from over 55 Wisconsin counties and 9 other states participated in this year's Wisconsin Lakes Convention. The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, a nationally recognized and successful collaboration of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, UW-Extension Lakes and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, hosts the lakes convention each year. ☺

WAL press release

All boats required to operate at slow-no-wake within 100 feet of shoreline

MADISON – A new boating rule in Wisconsin is designed to make lakes safer while protecting shorelines and improving water quality. The law prohibits boaters from operating their boats at speeds greater than slow-no-wake within 100 feet of lake shorelines. Slow-no-wake is defined as the minimum speed required to maintain steerage.

PWC operators cannot operate at a speed greater than slow-no-wake within 200 feet of the shoreline of any lake. They also are required to cut back to slow-no-wake speed when passing within 100 feet of other boats, including other PWCs.

State of the Lake:

Members of the board have been working with the town board to draft a "Maintenance Plan" along with a "Disaster Plan" for the damn, this process is still under way. With so many lakes at record low levels throughout the northern part of the state we are fortunate that we can maintain a somewhat constant level.

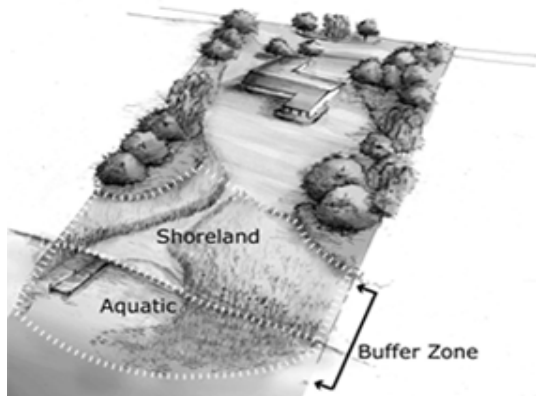
Last year the secchi disc reading were noticeably higher than previous years, with the July-August average more than a foot greater. In speaking with DNR personal and other self-help monitors, they all reported similar increase readings although most did not see as much of a change. It was attributed primarily to the cooler than normal weather last year. If this had any effect on the spread of the curly-leaf pond weed I can not say, but I found a couple of new colonies last year, pulled most of it. With the ice out by the 31st of March this year I suspect we will see an increase in the aquatic vegetation this year. The changes made to law making it illegal to travel on public highways with aquatic plants or animals attached to the boat, trailer or equipment, should reduce the number of boats entering the landing with invasive species on them. We will of course continue to place inspectors at the boat landing during high use times, resources permitting.

First heard the loons April 7th, the female that had been on the lake for many years was replaced last year. The new pair was successful in hatching two chicks last year but lost one early on. Building your nest below the eagle nest may not be the best plan but the male loon apparently likes the spot. Although the loons have not nested the Eagles have been setting on their nest since March.

NR115 the minimum standards for lakeshore zoning has become law, see article on page three. Oneida County now has two years to update their zoning laws to meet or exceed the provisions of NR115. These standards are the bottom of the pickle barrel Oneida County can go beyond these standards but not below. During this process I will assume the County would hold public hearings it would behoove anyone interested in this to watch the local papers for dates and times.



NR 115 Became Law February 1st



Forty-year-old shoreland development standards have been updated to improve lake and river protection, provide more flexibility for property owners, and reduce workloads for counties. The minimum standards are just one of many tools Wisconsin uses to protect critical shoreland areas, but they are an important tool because they provide a minimum base level of protection for lakes and rivers.

The standards apply only to land in unincorporated areas those areas outside city and village boundaries. Under the changes to these standards, owners of existing homes would not be affected unless they remodel their home, expand it, or make a major change in how they manage their property, like clearing trees or paving new areas.

The improved law took effect on February 1, 2010. Counties now have up to two years to modify their ordinances to incorporate the new standards. Until that time, the current shoreland-wetland zoning in each county remains in effect and unchanged

Building setbacks and minimum lot sizes stay the same

- Structures must be at least 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark.
- Minimum lot size remain 10,000 square feet with 65 of frontage for lots served by sanitary sewers and 20,000 square feet and 100 feet of frontage for lots not served by sanitary sewers

Rules on legal nonconforming structures made clearer and more flexible

Legal nonconforming structures, those built before their counties adopted shoreland standards and now closer to the water than standards allow, could more easily be maintained and repaired. The rules would:

- Eliminate dollar limits on the maintenance and repair of legal nonconforming structures for shoreland zoning.
- Allow vertical expansion of buildings at least 35 feet from the water through county permit when the owner takes offsetting steps like reducing water runoff or restoring native plants.

- Set height restrictions for those portions of buildings within the first 75 feet from the water's edge.

New focus on protecting water quality seeks to limit runoff and boost native vegetation

Studies have shown that more hard surfaces – roofs, driveways, decks etc – mean more water running off, less plants to filter out fertilizer, soil, and other contaminants in the runoff before it enters lakes. The updated rule proposals focus on water quality by limiting the amount of hard surfaces on a property and maintaining and restoring native plants, particularly in the first 35 feet next to the water. That area is critical for filtering out pollutants in runoff, anchoring soil in place, and providing habitat for an abundance of our treasured wildlife.

The rules set clear limits on development and vegetation management to protect the critical habitat within 35 feet of the ordinary high water mark.

Landowners proposing to increase hard surfaces, known as “impervious surfaces,” to more than 15 percent of the total property area within the shoreland zone must get a permit and take offsetting actions like installing a rain garden or restoring native plants.

Existing developments where more than 15 percent is already a hard surface can keep what they have; if they want to have more than 15 percent of their lot in hard surfaces, however, they will need to take offsetting actions, or “mitigate” when hard surfaces comprise between 15 and 30 percent of their lot. A county may not permit a property owner's proposal to increase total impervious surface in the shoreland to more than 30 percent; an applicant must seek a variance for such a proposal.

Such actions to reduce runoff and restore habitat can help property owners and all Wisconsin residents enjoy the best that lakes and rivers have to offer. Cleaner water, better fishing, and more wildlife viewing and scenic beauty for and for generations to come. ☺

DNR publication

What Happened to the Phosphorus?

When you buy lawn fertilizer this spring, you will notice that the turf fertilizer products sold at retail will no longer contain phosphorus or P. Beginning April 1, 2010, new state regulations restrict the use, sale and display of turf fertilizer that is labeled as containing phosphorus or available phosphate. This type of fertilizer cannot be applied to lawns or turf in Wisconsin unless the fertilizer application qualifies under certain exemptions. . In addition, there are restrictions that professional lawn and landscape businesses must follow

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as well as sales and product display requirements for businesses that sell lawn or turf fertilizer.

Background

Phosphorus is an essential plant nutrient. Plants only absorb the amount of phosphorus they can use. Extra phosphorus can wash into lakes, rivers and streams which can lead to algae blooms and declining water quality. The law's intent is to provide protection to Wisconsin's water resources from phosphorus run-off.

Reading a Fertilizer Label

Fertilizer labels carry a series of three numbers that indicate

the amount of total nitrogen (N), available phosphate (P) and soluble potash (K) in the package, also referred to as N-P-K. In the picture, the product contains 24 percent nitrogen, 0 percent phosphate and 12 percent potash. Fertilizers that also contain pesticides, sometimes called "weed and feed," will also carry the three numbers for nitrogen, phosphate and potash.



Use Restrictions

Under the new law, turf fertilizer that is labeled as containing phosphorus or available phosphate cannot be applied to residential lawns. There are some exceptions to this.

Exemptions

- New Lawns:** Fertilizer labeled as containing phosphorus or available phosphate can be used for new lawns (seed or sod) during the growing season in which the grass is established.
- Phosphorus Deficient:** Fertilizer that is labeled as containing phosphorus or available phosphate can be used if the soil is deficient in phosphorus, as shown by a soil test performed no more 36 months (three years) before the fertilizer is applied. The soil test must be performed by a soil testing laboratory.
- Non-turf Use:** Fertilizer labeled as containing phosphorus or available phosphate can be applied to pastures, land used to grow grass for sod or any other land used for agricultural production or for home gardens.

Purchasing Turf Fertilizer with Phosphorus

Fertilizer retailers cannot *display* turf fertilizer that is labeled as containing phosphorus or available phosphate. However, retailers can post a sign indicating if fertilizer containing phosphorus is available for purchase. If you need to purchase fertilizer because of one the exceptions listed above, you should ask your retailer if fertilizer with phosphorus is available. ☺

For more information, contact Charlene Khazae, fertilizer program manager, 608-224-4541 or email charlene.khazae@wisconsin.gov.



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



Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

OFFICER ELECTION.

The terms of office of President, Vice President and one at-large director 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 12, 2010

Annual meeting and the nomination of officers.

HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PICNIC

PLACE WOODBORO TOWN HALL

TIME 11 AM JUNE 12 2010

The Annual picnic will follow the Annual Meeting.

CBCW WORKSHOPS

PLACE ONEIDA COUNTY UW-EXTENSION BUILDING

TIME 9AM-12PM MAY 14 2010

Contact **Lawrence Eslinger, AIS Coordinator, 715-365-2750**

PLACE MINOCQUA MUNICIPAL BUILDING

TIME 9AM-12PM MAY 28 2010

Contact **Lawrence Eslinger, AIS Coordinator, 715-365-2750**

BOATERS SAFETY CLASSES

PLACE MHLT ELEMENTARY 7450 TITUS DR, MINOCQUA, WI

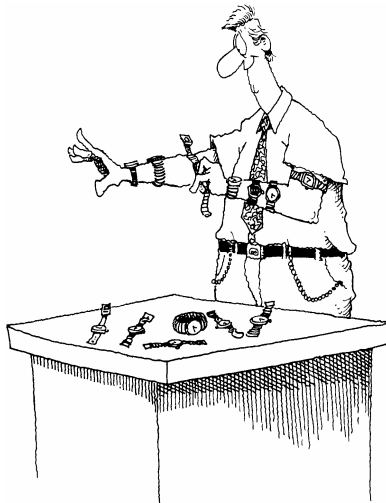
TIME 4PM MAY 24-MAY 27

CONTACT: **JOANNE** TO REGISTER 715-356-5206 EXT. 2123

PLACE MHLT ELEMENTARY 7450 TITUS DR, MINOCQUA, WI

TIME 4PM JUNE 16-JUNE 19

CONTACT: **JOANNE** TO REGISTER 715-356-5206 EXT. 2123



Artwork by John Caldwell

Why not
take some
time off
come out
and join
your
friends and
neighbors
at the
Hancock

Lake Annual Picnic, June 12th,
11 a.m. at Woodboro Town Hall,
Everyone is welcome.

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.

There will be door prizes, a silent auction and a good time by all. Come meet your neighbors, swap fish stories of the ones that got away and those that did not.

LOOK OUT THEY ARE COMING!!

Spiny Waterflea:



The Eurasian spiny water flea is a large (2 cm) freshwater zooplankton native to northern Europe and the Caspian Sea. Named for the large barbed terminal spine which is thought to deter fish predators. It arrived in America around 1982 in Lake Ontario, possibly accompanying ballast water of an oceanic freighter. Following their arrival in Lake Ontario, spiny water fleas spread to each of the remaining Great Lakes by 1987. On September 6, 2003, the spiny water flea was discovered for the first time in an inland lake within Wisconsin in the Gile Flowage, an impoundment in Iron County, and later Stormy Lake in Vilas County.

Zebra Mussels:



Zebra mussels look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish "D"-shaped shell, usually with dark and light-colored stripes. They can be up to two inches long, but most are under an inch. Zebra mussels usually grow in clusters containing numerous individuals and are generally found in shallow (6-30 feet), algae-rich water. Zebra mussels are the ONLY freshwater mollusk that can firmly attach itself to solid objects - submerged rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, water intake pipes, etc. Zebra mussels are known to be present in Metonga Lake in Forest County.

What can I do to stop the spread of the invasive species?

- ✓ **INSPECT** your boat, trailer, and equipment and
- ✓ **REMOVE** any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading & before transporting on a public highway).
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from boats, motors and all equipment.
- ✓ **DON'T MOVE** live fish away from a waterbody.
- ✓ **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash.
- ✓ **BUY** minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer. Use leftover minnows only under certain conditions.*

**You may take leftover minnows away from any state water and use them again on that same water. You may use leftover minnows on other waters only if no lake or river water, or other fish were added to their container.*

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