



# HANCOCK LAKE



Volume 5, Issue 1

Spring 2013



## 35th Annual Lakes Convention

Join us in Green Bay April 9-11, 2013, for the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention! The planning committee has lined up some terrific keynote speakers and is working to finalize the program of presentations in seven separate topic streams. This year's theme is "We're All In This Together: Celebrating Diversity". We will be exploring the many different aspects of our wonderfully varied lakes - our diverse flora and fauna, the diverse people who love them, and the many ways we recreate in and around Wisconsin's waters. Join us and come together with folks from all across the state as we celebrate our differences and unite to protect, restore, and enhance our lakes.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/conventions>

Edited press release by Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

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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:

Randy Fechter, President      Bill Tischendorf, V. P.  
715-282-7571                      715-282-5843  
(Term expires June 2014)      (Term expires June 2014)

Joann Beltz, Treasurer              Gene Klawikowski, Secretary  
715-282-6822                      715-282-5472  
(Term expires June 2013)      (Term expires June 2013)

Lou Mezei, Director                  Bruce Mezei, Director  
608-276-5908                      715-282-5447  
(Term expires June 2013)      (Term expires June 2014)

George Beltz, Director  
715-771-9011  
(Term expires June 2013)



### Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held on **June 8, 2013 at 9 am** at the Woodboro Town Hall at the junction of Oneida Lake Road and Old Highway K. The items on this year's agenda included nominations for Secretary, Treasurer, and two directors, updates on the AIS issue, fishery, Hancock Lake dam update, picnic update. Gene Klawikowski and Lou Mezei have indicated that they will not be running for their offices this year. The board would like to thank them for their years of service to the Lake Association and put the call out for volunteers to fill their positions.

### Lake Association Picnic

Last years Lake Association's summer picnic was held July 21 at the Alpine Resort on Oneida Lake. The Association provided the meat, buns, soda, paper plates, utensils, and those who attended brought a dish to pass. A goodtime was had by all who attended. The date and location for this year's summer picnic will be set at the annual meeting.

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## Thousands of dead loons on northern Michigan's shorelines.

By Don Gardner  
For The Oakland Press

The common loon, a beloved, iconic bird known for its eerily lonely, two-note call and its beautiful markings, suffered devastating losses along Lake Michigan's northern shoreline last fall. Thousands of dead birds, mainly loons, washed ashore — from the Upper Peninsula down to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. A large percentage of the dead loons had just entered their first year of breeding maturity.

The reason for the die-off, which follows similar incidents in 2006 and 2007, isn't fully understood. But it is suspected that it is driven by the food chain linking the loon to invasive species, specifically, the Quagga mussel, the zebra mussel and the round goby.

Since 1988, when the first zebra mussels in Michigan were found in Lake St. Clair, the invasive mussels have been clearing and "cleaning" Great Lakes water columns by consuming plankton.

While the end result is a more aesthetically pleasing water column, the clearer water has allowed the sun's rays to penetrate deeper, causing larger and larger algae mats to flourish on the bottom. As the algae mat builds upon itself and dies, it becomes anaerobic — depleted of oxygen — and type-E botulism bacteria develops.

Gobies living in that environment at the bottom of the lake pick up the toxin produced by the bacteria. The gobies are then preyed upon by the loons and other fish-eating waterfowl, which become infected by the botulism.

The toxin affects the bird's nervous system and musculature, leaving it unable to fly. Soon, it can no longer keep its head aloft and it drowns.

In just a seven-mile stretch of Lake Michigan beach near the Upper Peninsula town of Gulliver, 865 water birds turned up dead during a two-week period in October.

Among these water birds were 302 common loons, 157 horned grebes, 142 long-tailed ducks, 103 white-winged scoters, 101 red-necked grebes and smaller numbers of ring-billed gulls, double-crested cormorants, herring gulls, red-breasted mergansers and common mergansers. All of the species are primarily piscivores, or fish eaters. That totaled an average of 121 dead birds per mile. Similar numbers were found further west, on beaches near the town of Manistique, as well as along the Lower Peninsula's northern west coast and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. It is believed these areas saw the most dead birds wash ashore due to prevailing wind patterns at the time.

In the Sleeping Bear Dunes, 1,444 sick or dead birds representing 18 species were documented between June 21 and Nov. 20. Of those birds, 580 were common loons, with 422 found dead in October. Both numbers were the highest

mortality rates ever recorded at the Lakeshore since accurate records began in 2007. Only 30 dead loons were recorded in 2011, and only 180 were recorded from 2007-2011.

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*Message from the Board*

*continued from page 1*

Hancock Lake Winter Fest held Saturday February 2nd, 2013 had a great turnout with 44 tournament attendees. There was 19 Hancock Lake Members both participating in the tournament or just showing up for good food, hot chocolate, warm fire and socializing.

The biggest fish in their categories are:

Northern 29 3/4"

Perch 11"

Crappie 13"

Blue Gill 7.5"

Hancock Lake Association fund raiser was to help with the restoration of the swimming beach area erosion (on the west side of the island) and making the boat landing wider for easier access was very successful. Selling hamburgers, chips, soda and hot chocolate collected us \$100.

We want to thank all the people that participating in this event especially Marc Tischendorf for letting us join along with his tournament.

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**Great  
Blue  
Heron**



Great Blue Herons appear blue-gray from a distance, with a wide black stripe over the eye. In flight, the upper side of the wing is two-toned: pale on the forewing and darker on the flight feathers. Great Blue Herons have specialized feathers on their chest that continually grow and fray. The herons comb this "powder down" with a fringed claw on their middle toes, using the down like a washcloth to remove fish slime and other oils from their feathers as they preen. Applying the powder to their under parts protects their feathers against the slime and oils of swamps. Thanks to specially shaped neck vertebrae, Great Blue Herons can curl their neck into an S shape for a more aerodynamic flight profile and to quickly strike prey at a distance.

Great blue herons are waders, typically seen along lake shorelines, in marshes, or near the shores of ponds or streams. Great Blue Herons eat nearly anything within striking distance, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, insects, and other birds. They grab smaller prey in their strong mandibles or use their dagger-like bills to impale larger fish, often shaking them to break or relax the sharp spines before gulping them down. Great blue herons have been known to choke to death by attempting to swallow fish too large for their long, S-shaped necks. Great Blue Herons can hunt day and night thanks to a high

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percentage of rod-type photoreceptors in their eyes that improve their night vision. Great Blue Herons have benefited from the recovery of beaver populations, which have created a patchwork of swamps and meadows well-suited to foraging and nesting.

Despite their impressive size, Great Blue Herons weigh only 5 to 6 pounds thanks in part to their hollow bones—a feature all birds share. Great blue herons' large size and wide wingspan make them a joy to see in flight. They can cruise at some 20 to 30 miles an hour. In flight, the Great Blue Heron curls its neck into a tight “S” shape, distinguishing it from the crane who flies with its neck fully extended.

Though great blue herons hunt alone, they typically nest in colonies. Colonies can consist of 500 or more individual nests, with multiple nests per tree. Most breeding colonies are located within 2 to 4 miles of feeding areas, often in isolated swamps or on islands, and near lakes and ponds bordered by forests. They prefer tall trees, but sometimes nest in low shrubs. Male Great Blue Herons collect much of the nest material, gathering sticks from the ground and nearby shrubs and trees, and from unguarded and abandoned nests, and presenting them to the female. She weaves a platform and a saucer-shaped nest cup, lining it with pine needles, moss, reeds, dry grass, mangrove leaves, or small twigs. Nest building can take from 3 days up to 2 weeks; the finished nest can range from a simple platform measuring 20 inches across to more elaborate structures used over multiple years, reaching 4 feet across and nearly 3.5 feet deep. Ground-nesting herons use vegetation such as salt grass to form the nest. Females produce two to seven Pale blue eggs, which both parents protect and incubate. Chicks can survive on their own by about two months of age and may live to be 15 years of age. The oldest Great Blue Heron, based on banding recovery, was 24 years old. Great Blue

Heron, like most of our birds, are legally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Herons are vulnerable to habitat loss and to impacts such as traffic, logging, motorboats, and other human intrusions that can disrupt nesting colonies. Other threats include chemical pollutants or other causes of reduced water quality. Although contaminant levels have declined in many areas, pollutants such as PCBs and DDT and newer types of industrial chemicals continue to affect heron habitats and can contribute to factors such as reduced nest site attendance.

Great Blue Herons aren't likely to visit a typical backyard. However, they are sometimes unwelcome visitors to yards that include fish ponds. Scan shorelines, river banks, and the edges of marshes, estuaries, and ponds for this tall, slow-moving heron. Great Blue Herons also feed in meadows, farmland, and other open fields. Some colonies or “heronries” are found near developed areas; look for the herons' bulky stick nests high in trees. And once you recognize their slow wing beats and massive silhouettes, you'll start to notice these birds in flight high in the sky as well.

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**Road Salt  
Does More  
Than Keep  
Roadways Safe**

Spring is upon us another winter of snow and ice has passed but what is the cost of those ice and snow free roads we enjoyed this winter? Where does all that salt go when the spring rains come?

To combat the icy sidewalks and road conditions crews spread tons of salt on sidewalks and roadways. By most estimates as much as 20 million tons of these various salt mixtures are used yearly. When dry salt is spread onto a paved surface, it melts the snow and ice by reducing the temperature at which water will freeze. The salt damages metal and concrete, it contaminates drinking water, kills vegetation, and accumulates in our streams, lakes, reservoirs, and groundwater, harming aquatic plants and animals. As much as 70% of salt spread on roadways stays within the watershed.

In high concentrations sodium chloride can be harmful to aquatic organisms. While most waterways have not reached a status that is considered lethal, the high concentrations the excess salinity due to the salt concentrations impedes the survival of spotted salamanders and wood frogs. Changes in the salinity of a pond or lake can also affect the way the water mixes as the seasons change, leading to the formation of salty pockets near the bottom and biological dead zones.

Sodium is essential to life and good health at recommended levels. Since the body doesn't produce sodium or chloride it is necessary to obtain the mineral in both food and beverage. Road salt does have a negative impact on human health. High concentrations of sodium in groundwater increase the amount of the mineral into the body, leading to hypertension, increasing the chance of heart attacks, and strokes. Too much salt can also irritate the stomach lining. Some states monitor their drinking water for sodium, but there are no federal regulatory standards for sodium concentrations in drinking water in the United States.

So why do we keep using road salt if it is harmful to humans, aquatic organisms and the environment? Well, it is not only effective, but it is cheap compared to other forms of de-icing that are available. Alternative chemicals are expensive and often require municipalities to invest in new spreading equipment. Calcium chloride, for example, is quite effective for extremely cold temperatures, but costs five times more than road salt and is much more corrosive. Road salt is a necessary evil in some parts of the world. Its use prevents accidents and loss of productivity due to impassable roads. The only win-win is to use road salt in the most efficient manner to decrease the amount of salt needed to keep people safe.

Excerpts taken from the Aquarius Systems Newsletter

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☺ **Note from the President:** ☺

Gene Klawikowski and Louis Mezei are current Hancock Lake Association officers but have stated to us that this will be their last year. With that said we are looking for people to fill their shoes. This is a great opportunity for you to participate in protecting something that we all love --Hancock Lake. I want to personally give thanks to past/current board members Dick Statton, Gene Klawikowski, Bill Tischendorf, Louis Mezei, Pat Thostenson, Mike Powers, George Beltz and everyone else that participating in creating Hancock Lake Association. I remember sitting in the crowd during our first meeting to see if there was enough support to start an Association. I, like many others had questions of what this would mean and what was the purpose. Starting as a member, director and now current president I witnessed firsthand the love that many people have for Hancock Lake. I found that the Association is a useful tool for several reasons: others share some of the same feelings as you, you gain knowledge from hearing different opinions than yours and you get an opportunity to meet more of your neighbors.

Hancock Lake Website (new) was created by one of our directors Bruce Mezei. Bruce has put a lot of hard work into developing and maintaining our new website using data that was gathered by all members. Our goal is to make our website interesting and a useful tool for all members. We will need input from all members to keep the website updated and interesting. This would include stories, data, pictures, etc. that you would like to share with other people. Please use the link below and check it out. Don't forget to make a favorite of our website so you can easily view the latest updates. All new information or comments that you would like for us to view please send to our Hancock Lake email account shown below: <http://myplace.frontier.com/~bruce.mezei/HancockLakeAssociation/index.html>

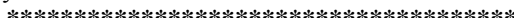
Hancock Lake email account (new) was created to improve communication between board members and members. Our Lake Associations goal is to improve on communication outside of our annual meeting that is held every summer. Our decision to go with yahoo for our email account is so we won't have to change our email account and name as the board members change. There is an area on our annual dues application form for your email address. It is beneficial to you if you would enter your email address there.

**Important:** For privacy we will be sending all email messages using BCC (blind copy). When using BCC no one can see any of the email addresses.

[hancocklake@yahoo.com](mailto:hancocklake@yahoo.com)

We will be sending this to all Hancock Lake Association members email addresses that we have on record. With that said if you gave us your email address and you didn't receive the 2013 spring newsletter via email that means that we don't have your correct email address.

Thank you,  
Randy Fechter



## OFFICER ELECTION.

The term 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 there name by mail.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

PLACE WOODBORO TOWN HALL  
TIME 9 AM, JUNE 8TH, 2013  
ANNUAL MEETING AND THE NOMINATION OF OFFICERS.

#### HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PICNIC

PLACE ALPINE RESORT ONEIDA LAKE  
TIME YET TO BE DETERMINED

#### CLEAN-BOATS-CLEAN-WATERS WORKSHOPS

PLACE RHINELANDER ONEIDA COUNTY AIRPORT  
TIME 5PM-7PM THURSDAY MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>

PLACE MINOCQUA COMMUNITY CENTER

TIME 9AM-12PM TUESDAY MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>

CONTACT UW-EXTENSION, 715-365-2750

#### WISCONSIN LAKES PARTNERSHIP CONVENTION

PLACE KI CONVENTION CENTER IN GREEN BAY

TIME 8AM-5PM APRIL 9-11

[HTTP://WWW4.UWSP.EDU/CNR/UWEXLAKES/CONVENTIONS/](http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions/)

#### BOATERS SAFETY CLASSES

BOATERS SAFETY COURSE IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

<http://www.boaterexam.com/usa/wisconsin/>

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## Living on the Edge

The water's edge is a busy place. Northern pike, bluegills, bass, and other fish spawn in the shallow water along the shore. Loons, ducks, geese, and other water birds nest along the banks. Wildlife such as frogs, otters, and mink live there, too. Shoreline areas on land and into the shallow water provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife that live in or near Wisconsin's lakes, rivers, and streams. Overdeveloped shorelands can't support the fish, wildlife, and clean water that are so appealing to the people attracted to the water's edge. Unfortunately, that's exactly what's happening to many Wisconsin waterways. The problem is poorly planned shoreland development. Bit by bit, the cumulative effects of tens of thousands of waterfront homeowners "fixing up" their property are destroying one of our state's most valuable resources its fragile lake and stream habitats.

Owners of shoreland property often bring with them their traditional landscaping ideas centered on the conventional suburban yard that strives for the "clean" look of a golf course or a beach. Yet, besides eliminating fish and

Come one, Come All!  
 Join your friends and neighbors at the  
 Hancock Lake Annual Picnic, Date  
 and Location to be determined at the  
 Annual Meeting  
 Everyone is welcome.

## First Annual Winter Fest

February 2nd the Lake Association held it first Winter Fest out on the ice. For those who could not make it out on the lake here are a few pictures from the day.



Lake residents gather to catch up on the news and tidbits.



Grabbing a burger, chips and soda at the food table



Fish on! Just some of the fishermen having a great day.

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wildlife habitat, this type of landscaping also creates problems for homeowners. The combined effect of shoreland alterations by many property owners on a lake or river can destroy habitat and cause declines in fish and wildlife populations. It's ironic that many waterfront property owners buy their lots because they enjoy nature and then unknowingly harm habitat by altering the natural landscape. Most species of fish and wildlife don't thrive along sandy swimming beaches or on mowed lawns. They do best within the tangles of aquatic plants ("weeds") and shoreline understory cover ("brush") that waterfront residents frequently remove.

Several state and county laws and rules protect shoreland and shallow water areas. For example, statewide, it is illegal to build most structures within 75 feet of the shore, or to place fill on lake beds. Shoreland Management is a partnership between state and local government. Each county has its own shoreland zoning ordinance that regulates development near navigable lakes and streams, in compliance with statewide minimum standards. Additionally, many of the counties' ordinances are more protective than the minimum state standards, so check with your local county zoning office before cutting or removing shoreland vegetation. To learn which shoreline alterations are prohibited or require a permit, call your local DNR or County Zoning Office.

Excerpts taken from The Water's Edge

### Who's on the nest and when?

For all those that enjoy watching the wild life, I came across this list several years ago. It covers the entire state so the dates may be a little early for some of the birds up north. This is a list of all birds observed to be sitting on a nest with eggs before the end of March somewhere in Wisconsin, along with the **earliest observed** on.-nest date. An asterisk denotes a species that nests predominately in the northern half of the state.

American crow	2/24	American kestrel	3/21
American woodcock	3/31	Bald eagle*	3/5
Barred owl	3/1	Common raven*	2/16
Eastern bluebird	3/12	Eastern screech owl	3/2
European starling	3/14	Gray jay*	3/20
Great blue heron	3/29	Great homed owl	1/ 20
Homed lark	3/23	House finch	3/31
House sparrow	3/20	Long-eared owl	3/22
Mourning dove	3/10	Northern goshawk*	1/ 19
Saw-whet owl	3/18	Pine siskin*	3/30
Red-tailed hawk	3/4	Sandhill crane	3/22
White-winged crossbill*	3/15	Wood duck	3/21

And don't forget that most mammals are busy breeding in March, or have already done so by March:

Eastern cottontail	Mar.	Snowshoe hare	Mar. Apr.
Eastern chipmunk	Mar. Apr.	Gray squirrel	Feb.
Red squirrel	Mar.	Beaver	Jan. Feb.
Muskrat	Mar. Apr.	Coyote	Feb.
Wolf	Feb. Mar.	Gray fox	Feb. Mar.
Red fox	Jan. Feb.	Raccoon	Feb. Mar.
Mink	Feb. Mar.	Skunk	Feb. Mar.
River otter	Mar. Apr.	Bobcat	Feb. Mar.

## Hancock Lake Association, Inc.

In this day and age, I believe all of us unintentionally take the beauty and uniqueness of our water resources for granted. Our society moves at such a fast pace that it's hard, not to get caught up in the rat-race! Have you ever taken the time to sit near a quiet lake shore and simply absorb the sights, sounds, and feel of the serenity? If you haven't set aside a few minutes to do so, and just enjoy the tranquility of the water and its surrounding environment. You'll also likely gain more of an appreciation for the beauty and uniqueness provided by our lakes, rivers, and streams.

Unfortunately, along with the ease of accessibility to these water resources come a number of problems that threaten their integrity, as well as the opportunities and benefits they provide for others to enjoy. Problems such as aquatic invasive species (AIS), improper shoreline development, and pollution, are a few that have the ability to quickly degrade these deceptively sensitive environments. It is critical that we, as users and beneficiaries of these water resources, respect them, and do what we can to protect, and if necessary, try to restore them.

Fortunately for us, there are lake organizations consisting of dedicated men and women willing to invest their efforts (time and money) to assure a long-lasting commitment to the protection and enhancement of local water resources, of which we all benefit from. I would encourage anyone, especially those that are fortunate enough to either have waterfront property and/or live near a waterbody, to join and support a local lake organization. If for nothing else, support them because their work helps to protect your pocketbooks! Yes, know that your property values are greatly affected by the health of the water in your surrounding area. For those of you that don't live on or near a waterbody, but enjoy the benefits they provide, you should also consider joining a lake organization, support their efforts.

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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  
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