



HANCOCK LAKE



Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring 2014



36th Annual Lakes Convention

For several decades, the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention has provided an exceptional opportunity for people to come together and network with others on lake and water interests. This year, nearly 600 attendees from 60 Wisconsin counties and eleven other US states participated in this year's Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention. The convention theme, *Back to the Point of Lake Management*, marked the return of the statewide meeting to the city of Stevens Point where it began in the late 1970s..

The convention offered interactive workshops, opening and closing plenary sessions, a poster session, nearly 50 concurrent sessions, and several opportunities to create new partnerships and bolster seasoned ones.

continued on page 2 column 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 36th Annual Lakes Convention
- 1 Message from the Board
- 2 The Dam Inspection
- 3 What is Happening Under All That Ice
- 3 The Globs
- 4 Note from the President
- 4 Calendar of Events
- 4 New Species of Concern
- 5 A Few Observations
- 6 Membership Application

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 715-282-7571 (Term expires June 2014)	Bill Tischendorf, V. P. 715-282-5843 (Term expires June 2014)
Joann Beltz, Treasurer 715-282-6822 (Term expires June 2015)	Sherry Fechter, Secretary 715-282-7571 (Term expires June 2015)
Michael Ahles, Director 715-282-5963. (Term expires June 2015)	Bruce Mezei, Director 715-282-5447 (Term expires June 2014)
George Beltz, Director 715-771-9011 (Term expires June 2015)	

Lake Association Picnic

This year's Lake Association picnic will be July 19th and again it will be held at Alpine Resort. The Lake Association will provide the meat, buns, soda, paper plates and utensils. Guests are asked to bring a dish to pass. Anyone willing to help with the picnic should get in touch with Jerry Sheahan. Good food, and good time are the order of the day, mark your calendar.

Last year's summer boating get together was held on August 10th at the island. We had eight pontoon boats all connected, snacks, refreshments and a good time were had by all in attendance. If you missed last year's, plan on making this year's outing a date and time will be set at the annual meeting. Watch the Hancock Lake Association web site for future updates.

This year's Hancock Lake Winter Fest was canceled due to the excessive amount of slush on the lake. The slush made travel on the lake a real challenge. Hopefully next year will bring better conditions as there was a great amount of interest in the event. Mark the date, first Saturday in February on your calendar.

Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held on **June 14, 2014 at**

continued on page 2 column 1

Lake professionals and enthusiasts from around North America listened intently during the many concurrent sessions ranging from native plants and animals to county-level land and water resource activities to advocating for Wisconsin's lakes. Researchers, lake managers, citizen volunteers, and agency personnel shared ideas and approaches for enhancing lake water quality and bolstering wildlife habitat.

Next year's Lakes Partnership Convention will again be held in Stevens Point on April 23rd through 25th. For more information, contact UW-Extension Lakes at (715)-346-2116 and visit.

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

Message from the Board

continued from page 1

9 am at the Woodboro Town Hall at the junction of Oneida Lake Road and Old Highway K. An abbreviated agenda posted below.

Annual Meeting Agenda

- CALL MEETING TO ORDER
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- SECRETARY REPORT; SHERRY FECHTER
- TREASURERS REPORT; JOANN BELTZ
- OLD BUSINESS:
 - ISLAND RESTORATION (MAY BE ONGOING) RANDY FECHTER
 - DAM INSPECTION; BILL TISCHENDORF
 - DAM CLEANUP; REMOVED BRUSH
 - SUMMER BOAT GATHERING GOOD TURN OUT; DO WE WANT TO DO THIS AGAIN?
 - ICE FISHING JAMBOREE CANCELLATION;
- HANCOCK LAKE UPDATE; BILL TISCHENDORF
- ONEIDA LAKE UPDATE; GEORGE BELTZ
- CRIME WATCH UPDATE; SHERRY FECHTER
- NEW BUSINESS:
 - BOAT LANDING UPKEEP; SHERRY TISCHENDORF
 - BOAT LANDING POWER LOADING SIGN; SHERRY TISCHENDORF
 - CITIZEN STREAM MONITORING; BILL TISCHENDORF
 - DAM INSPECTION (YEARLY INSPECTION); NEEDS TO BE DONE SPRING AND FALL
 - LAKE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE DOMAIN NAME CHANGE; BRUCE MEZEI
 - \$30.00 ANNUAL FEE FOR COUPLES: WOULD STILL COUNT AS TWO VOTES
 - ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR PROJECTS;
- NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:
 - PRESIDENT
 - VICE PRESIDENT
 - DIRECTOR
- PICNIC UPDATE; JERRY SHEAHAN
- .
- COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:
- MOTION TO ADJOURN

The Dam Inspection

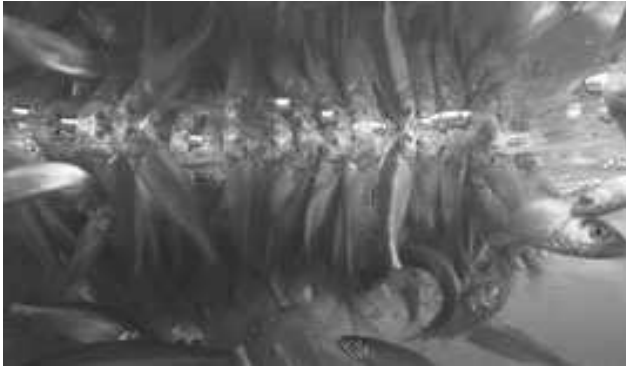
Every ten years the State of Wisconsin requires the dam owner to have a safety inspection done. In the past the WDNR engineers did the inspection. The WDNR is no longer able to do these inspections, the dam owner is required to hire an engineer to perform this inspection. The Town of Woodboro contracted with Flambeau Engineering, LLC of Park Falls, WI to do the inspection. In October 2013 this inspection was done and the inspection report submitted to the WDNR as required. The following items need to be addressed by the date indicated.

- Signing – A portage sign to be installed. (April 30, 2014) A sign will be ordered and installed when weather permits.
- Brush Removal - Remove shrubs on the embankments.(October 31, 2014) This was done in October by the Lake Association
- Embankment Maintenance – Erosion on the left side upstream and downstream must be filled and seeded or riprap to stabilize. (October 31, 2014)
- Rodent Activity – No evidence of rodent borrowing observed at the dam but there were paths. Rodent activity should continue to be monitored.
- Inspection Operations and Maintenance Plan – Updated as needed.
- Emergency Action Plan – Updated as needed. This has been done.
- Concrete Walls – In fairly good condition some wear showing continue monitor and inspection of the concrete.
- Spillway Outlet – Scoring was observed at the end of the concrete this void should be filled with smaller stones and large riprap on top. November 30, 2014)
- Outlet Culverts – Debris partially blocking culverts down stream. (April 31, 2014) Done by spring run off.

Members from the Lake Association removed brush along the banks of the dam last October. With a little routine maintenance we will keep the brush and other vegetation under control. Keeping the vegetation removed allows for easier monitoring of any rodent activity. The debris in front of the culverts was taken down stream by the high water this spring however it will continue to be monitored and removed as required. This summer the town's highway maintenance crew will be placing riprap on the embankments along with stones to fill the scoring below the spillway.

The Lake Association along with the Town of Woodboro will continue to do the yearly inspections.

What is Happening Under All That Ice?



When the surface water is frozen it is hard to imagine any sort of life under the thick layers of ice and snow. Ask any ice fisherman though and they will tell you that aquatic life is alive and well. We obviously know that fish, other marine life, and aquatic plants survive under the ice otherwise there wouldn't be any come spring.

The water under the ice is hovering just above freezing closest to the surface, but it gradually gets a little warmer in the deeper areas. Fish are warm blooded, meaning their body temperature varies with the temperature of the water, which is how they can survive the cold waters. Also, oxygen is trapped beneath the layer of ice. As a result, fish and other aquatic animals find it possible to live comfortably in the frozen lakes and ponds.

During periods of prolonged ice cover, the lake is sealed off from the atmosphere and cannot be recharged with oxygenated air. All the fish and aquatic organisms in the lake use up the oxygen, and when it does not get replenished, oxygen levels can get too low for fish to survive. A winter kill begins with distressed fish gasping for air at holes in the ice and ends with large numbers of dead fish which usually show up as the water warms in early spring.

Aquatic plants are a solution to winter fish kills. Yes, they're a nuisance to some of our lake activities. Yes, there can be too many. However, this vegetation is necessary to the survival of all aquatic organisms; especially during the winter months. Light penetrates the ice allowing the plants and algae to carry out photosynthesis; creating oxygen. Heavy snowfall can have the opposite effect. It will reduce the light penetration resulting in less oxygen, as well as cause the plant to die therefore consuming oxygen during the decomposition process.

We can't predict what type of winter weather we will have, but it is certain that aquatic plants are necessary for fish survival under the ice. There is a fine line between too much aquatic plant life and too little.

Excerpt from Aquarius Systems newsletter

THE GLOBS



The Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department has been fielding questions similar to the following.

- What are those “**jelly ball**” things in my lake? They look nasty!
- Are these disgusting looking “**gelatinous masses**” some new invasive species?
- These things look like they could be used as “**breast implants**”! What are they?

What people are seeing is a type of freshwater bryozoa, (*Pectinatella magnifica*) to be specific. These masses typically range in size from golf balls to volley balls. While not appealing to humans, they are harmless and normal. They are more likely to be found in biologically productive lakes (lakes with diverse and healthy plant and animal populations).

The following excerpts from the website <http://www.millermicro.com/bryozoa.html> provide basic information. Please visit the site or do an Internet search for **freshwater bryozoa** or **Pectinatella magnifica** for additional information.

- Bryozoa are underwater colonies of tiny, colonial animals which, like sponges, filter water for their food.
- Worldwide, there are over 3,500 species of bryozoa, but only about 50 of these species inhabit freshwater.
- ***Pectinatella magnifica*** grows larger than most other species, but has less external form -- just a coating of firm jelly along a branch or stone, and a semi-visible set of pea-sized shapes just under a tough outer skin. Its characteristic **lophophores**, the visible portions of the actual animals, poke their tiny stems out into the water and wave petals to guzzle water and water-borne nutrients. When disturbed, they all pop back into the jelly in unison.

Thanks to Ted Ritter Vilas County AIS Coordinator, for providing this article.

☺ **Note from the President:** ☺

Article I - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association is to preserve and protect Hancock Lake and its surroundings, and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety and aesthetic values of Hancock Lake, as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations.

The above paragraph states our Lake Association's purpose. I will repeat some of what I wrote in last year's spring newsletter:

Starting as a member, director and now current president I witnessed firsthand of 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.

Although I found the above statement to hold true we should never lose sight of our real goal, which is Article I of our bylaws.

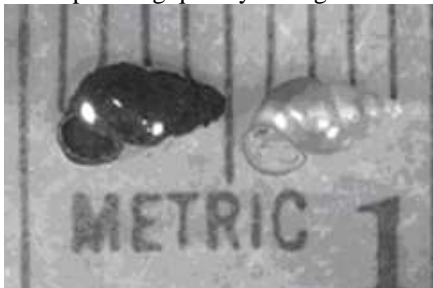
Again I personally found great pleasure living on Hancock Lake this past year. The enjoyable summer, the long but beautiful winter, witnessing the ice going off the lake and the abundance of wildlife through all of Wisconsin's seasons. There are so many wonderful things when living on or near a lake it would be hard to mention them all.

I would like to thank those of you that participated in our Lake Association activities. I ask you to please keep up the good work and too help us all live by the purpose of our Lake Association.

Thank you,
Randy Fechter

New Species of Concern

New Zealand Mudsnaills were found in Black Earth Creek in Dane county by DNR biologists. They are a potentially harmful aquatic invasive species that showed up in western US in the 80's spreading quickly through western streams.



As you can see these snails are tiny less than a 1/4 inch in size making them very easy to transport on boots and gear.

OFFICER ELECTION.

The term of office of President, Vice President and one 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 14TH, 2014

HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PICNIC

PLACE ALPINE RESORT ONEIDA LAKE
TIME JULY 19TH, 2014

HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION BOAT REGATTA

PLACE HANCOCK LAKE ISLAND
TIME YET TO BE DETERMINED

HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION WINTER FEST

PLACE HANCOCK LAKE ON THE ICE
TIME 9AM-4PM SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7TH 2015

WISCONSIN LAKES PARTNERSHIP CONVENTION

PLACE HOLIDAY INN CONVENTION CENTER STEVENS POINT, WI
TIME APRIL 23-25 2015
[HTTP://WWW4.UWSP.EDU/CNR/UWEXLAKES/CONVENTIONS/](http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions/)

2014 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference

PLACE DRUMMOND HIGH SCHOOL
TIME 8AM-3PM FRIDAY JUNE 20TH 2014

2014 North Central County Lake Association Workshop

PLACE NICOLET AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
TIME 8:30AM-12PM FRIDAY JUNE 13TH 2014

Wisconsin Boater Safety Course

BOATER SAFETY COURSES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
[HTTP://WWW.BOATEREXAM.COM/USA/WISCONSIN/](http://www.boaterexam.com/usa/wisconsin/)

Another nifty little trick they have to assist in their travels is a "trap door" called an operculum. This makes them resistant to most chemicals and also allows them to survive out of the water in damp environments for as long as 26 days. They can even survive passage through the gut of a fish or other animals that may try eating them.

What impact the mudsnails will have on Wisconsin waters is unknown. In some western states they have been found in densities of 500,000 per square meter, damaging the native food web. While other locations show a minimal impact with populations crashing after the initial boom.

Asian Clams were first discovered in the United States in 1924 and are now in over 40 states. Asian Clams are currently only found in southeast Wisconsin.

continued on page 5 column 2

Come one, Come All!
 Join your friends and neighbors at
 the Hancock Lake Annual Picnic.
 July 19th at The Alpine Resort.



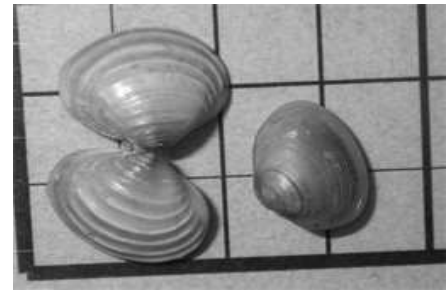
Hancock Lake Regatta



The island project, off to a good start. We ask that you keep fires off the beach and that you do not cut the brush along the shore as it is need to slow the erosion. How to continue this project will be discussed at the annual meeting.

A few observations this year.

April 26th the loons were seen back on the lake.
 May 5th the lake was ice free, same date as last year.
 May 26th the eagles were seen feeding young eaglets



Above the quarter sized Asian Clam in comparison to our native dime sized fingernail clam. The Asian Clam has much thicker yellow or brown shell than the native clam and with distinctive ridges. They have a rapid growth rate with a short life span maturing in three to six months and living one to five years. Reproduction is sexual and asexual giving live berth twice a year to as many as 70,000 young per year. Because they are so prolific they compete with native species for food and space.

Anglers, trappers and hunters will have a huge impact on how these spreads. So what can you do to slow the spread, it is important to clean all gear thoroughly. A small coarse brush carried in your waders is handy to clean the mud and debris from boots and laces. A snow brush in the boat will aid in cleaning the boat and trailer. Every little bit will slow the advance.

BEFORE LEAVING:

- ✓ **INSPECT** all equipment.
- ✓ **REMOVE** attached plants and animals (required by law)
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from equipment (required by law)
- ✓ **SCRUB** equipment with a stiff brush, including crevices, to remove all mud and snails.
- ✓ **RINSE** equipment with tap water to remove juveniles. Consider keeping a water jug or spray bottle in your car

There was some concern over the Blue-Green Algae last year. Blue-green algae are most often blue-green in color, but can also be blue, green, reddish-purple, or brown. Blue-green algae generally grow in lakes, ponds, and slow-moving streams when the water is warm and enriched with nutrients like phosphorus or nitrogen.

**Report Blue-Green Algae Illness
 Humans & Animals
 Rashes Blisters Diarrhea Vomiting
 Wheezing Sore Throat Numbness
www.dhs.wi.gov/eh/bluegreenalgae
 (608) 266-1120**

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 per individual 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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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