



# HANCOCK LAKE



Volume 7, Issue 1

Spring 2015



## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Lakes Convention

Each year the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership holds a statewide convention, and April 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the 37<sup>th</sup> year of the event. This unique convention brings together citizen scientists, businesses, and lake, river and wetland professionals to interact, learn, share and engage with one another to ensure a healthy future for our waters.

This year's annual Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention will have a special focus on health – the health of our lakes, their watersheds, and how water and lake ecology impacts people. Join us for the latest in lake science and research, and hear real-world examples of successful lake initiatives across the state. For more on the convention, the full agenda and registration use the link below.

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

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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 715-282-7571 (Term expires June 2016)	Bill Tischendorf, V. P. 715-282-5843 (Term expires June 2016)
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Joann Beltz, Treasurer 715-282-6822 (Term expires June 2015)	Sherry Fechter, Secretary 715-282-7571 (Term expires June 2015)
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Michael Ahles, Director 715-282-5963. (Term expires June 2015)	Bruce Mezei, Director 715-282-5447 (Term expires June 2016)
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George Beltz, Director  
715-771-9011  
(Term expires June 2015)

### Keeping Up To Date With The Association.

The Hancock Lake Association is now on Facebook, and along with our web page you can stay informed. Visit us at:

[www.HancockLakeAssociation.com](http://www.HancockLakeAssociation.com)

[www.facebook.com/HancockLake](https://www.facebook.com/HancockLake)

Contact us at [Hancocklake@yahoo.com](mailto:Hancocklake@yahoo.com)

### Lake Association Picnic

This year's Lake Association picnic will be held July 18th at the Alpine Resort. The Lake Association will provide the meat, buns, soda, paper plates and utensils. Guests are asked to bring a dish to pass. There will be a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle and many door prizes including a kayak donated by the Lake Association.

*Below; last year's picnic.*



Anyone willing to help with the picnic should get in touch

*continued on page 2 column 1*

# The Dam Maintenance

with Jerry Sheahan. Good food, and good times are the order of the day, mark your calendar.

## Hancock Lake Boat Regatta

The annual boat regatta will be the first Saturday of August at noon just off the beach of the island. Do not miss this opportunity to share your stories and ideas with other lake residents.

## Hancock Lake Winter Fest

Next years winter fest will be held the first Saturday in February. This year's was great success this year with 43 registered fishermen. The Lake Association had a food stand selling burger and soda the proceeds going toward the island project. Thanks go out to Sherry F and Sherry T for their work to with the food stand. The day was enjoyed by all that attended whether fishing or just making new friends.



If you were unable to attend this year, mark your calendar for February 6<sup>th</sup> 2016.

## Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held on **June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 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
- HANCOCK LAKE UPDATE; BILL TISCHENDORF
- ONEIDA LAKE UPDATE; GEORGE BELTZ
- CRIME WATCH UPDATE; SHERRY FECHTER
- OLD BUSINESS:
  - ISLAND RESTORATION RANDY FECHTER
  - DAM UPDATE BILL TISCHENDORF
  -
- NEW BUSINESS
- LAKE ASSOCIATION ON FACEBOOK BRUCE MEZEI
- NOMANATION OF OFFICERS:
  - SECRETARY
  - TREASURERS
  - 2 DIRECTORS
  -
- PICNIC UPDATE; JERRY SHEAHAN
- SURVEY BILL TISCHENDORF
- COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:

In October 2013 Flambeau Engineering, LLC completed the inspection of the dam and report was submitted to the WDNR as required. The following were addressed last year in response to the inspection report.

Brush and weeds were removed from the dam and surrounding embankments by the Lake Association.

Riprap was added to stabilize the left side upstream bank by the town road maintenance crew.

Small stone and riprap was added to end of the outlet spillway to fill the scoring there. The riprap on the downstream left bank cleaned up, and the flow into the culverts was improved. This work completes all the issues that were addressed by the inspection report.



The town contracted Musson Brothers out of Rhinelander to do the work.

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# Planning to pull your boat through Minnesota?

## You better read this!



### DNR postpones AIS training and trailer decal program *(Released January 28, 2015)*

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will postpone the new aquatic invasive species training and trailer decal program that was due to launch at the end of the month while legislators consider changes to the program.

Under a law passed by the state Legislature in 2012, anyone trailering a boat or water-related equipment such as docks and lifts in Minnesota is required to take aquatic invasive species training and display a decal on their trailer. The effective date is July 1, 2015.

“With the legislative interest in this educational program and ongoing discussions about possible changes, we are postponing the launch until we see if the Legislature acts this session to modify the program,” said Bob Meier, DNR assistant commissioner.

The DNR supports the education that would be provided under this law, but recognizes there are some concerns with the way the law is currently written. For example, people transporting boats on trailers through Minnesota to another destination are required to take the course and display a decal even if they don’t put their boat in Minnesota waters. Since the training and decal are currently not required until July 1, the DNR wants to remind people that there will be time to see what happens legislatively and still take the course and receive decals. The agency will post online any updates on trailers and alert the media if there are any program changes.

<http://www.trailers.mndnr.gov/>

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### The Bear Facts

(Extracted from “Bear in Mind”, Wisconsin Natural Resources) submitted by Bruce Mezei



Black bears are common in the Hancock Lake area. They enter their dens in mid-October through early November as food supplies dwindle. They “den up”, not hibernate, through April. Cubs are born mid-January and stay with the mother for just over a year.

In spring, bears feed on greening vegetation and deer fawns. By mid-summer they gorge on berries and roots. They fatten up on nuts and seeds in late summer to early fall. They also eat carrion, fish and insects.

If hiking, keep pets on a leash and children close. Make plenty of noise. If you encounter a bear, remain calm and make a noise. Slowly back away (do not run or climb a tree) and allow the bear a clear exit.

Never feed a bear (state law prohibits it). Take down bird



feeders in early spring until late fall. If you must feed birds, make the feeders inaccessible. Don’t let garbage pile up and place garbage in cans with tight-fitting lids. Don’t discard cooking grease in your yard. Scrub grease off grills after each use. Don’t compost meat or fish in compost piles. Place pile safe distance from house. Bring in any unconsumed pet food at night.

Call 1-800-228-1368 for damage or nuisance complaints.

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☺ **Note from the President:** ☺

We, your Hancock Lake Association Officers met March 14 to discuss our 2015 spring newsletter. One of the issues we talked about is the Hancock Lake pier. For those who don't know, the lake pier broke in half this last fall as seen in the attached picture. In all reality the lake pier has been in bad shape the last few years. Hancock Lake's current pier was put in by the DNR which came from Crescent Lake.

One of the options that we had discussed at our officers meeting was to purchase an aluminum pier with wheels that we could wheel in and out as needed. We would then chain/lock it to a tree in the winter. The ice freezing in the winter is what has caused the damage that we have been witnessing with the current pier.

I know that we talked about projects that would be beneficial for most if not all of the association members, we feel like this could be a good opportunity for us to assist in improving our lake conditions. Our thought is that waiting for our annual June 13th meeting would not be beneficial in this case due to the fact that the pier would be needed before our annual meeting date.

Since this would cost \$1500 which is a substantial amount of money we are sending this out by email or mail to all of the members for feedback. Please respond by email, phone or mail with your comments, suggestions or questions. We would like to make a decision regarding this issue by April 17th 2015.



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**Proposed Changes to NR40**

The Invasive Species Identification, Classification, and Control Rule (NR 40) went into effect on September 1, 2009. The rule establishes a way to classify and regulate invasive species in Wisconsin. The rule divides species into 2 categories, "Prohibited" and "Restricted," with different regulations and control requirements. The rule affects everyone in Wisconsin.

**PROHIBITED SPECIES** are not yet widely established in the state and pose great economic or environmental threat. Prohibited species may not be transported, transferred, possessed or introduced without a permit. Control of existing populations will be required.

**RESTRICTED SPECIES** can pose great a environmental or

economic threat, but are already widely established in the state. Restricted species may be possessed, but may not be transported, transferred or introduced without a permit. Control of existing populations will be encouraged.

The DNR is proposing to revise Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule. The proposed changes include delisting 2 species, changing the regulated status of 4 species, listing 51 new prohibited species, listing 32 new restricted species, and listing 2 species as split-listed (prohibited /restricted).

Of the proposed changes there a several that are of interest to the lake enthusiast.

Delisting (removal) of the Red-Eared Slider from the Restricted list. The Red Eared Slider is a non native turtle that is sold in pet stores. Escaped or release sliders could out impact native turtle populations.

Down Grading of both the Eastern and Western Mosquitofish from prohibited to restricted status. The mosquitofish is a small live-bearing fish that feeds primarily on zooplankton and invertebrate prey at the top of the water column. They were stocked in an ill fated attempt to control mosquitoes, Introduced mosquitofish have contributed to the elimination or decline of populations of federally endangered and threatened species.

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**OFFICER ELECTION.**

The term of office of Clerk, Treasure 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 SECOND SATURDAY OF JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2015, 9AM

**HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PICNIC**

PLACE ALPINE RESORT ONEIDA LAKE  
TIME THIRD SATURDAY OF JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

**HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION BOAT REGATTA**

PLACE HANCOCK LAKE ISLAND  
TIME FIRST SATURDAY OF AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2015, NOON

**HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION WINTER FEST**

PLACE HANCOCK LAKE ON THE ICE  
TIME FIRST SATURDAY OF FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> 2016, 9AM-4PM

**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/)

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## Dreaming of Springtime

As the temperatures start to improve we begin browsing through the seed catalog and dream up the perfect lakefront landscape. We would like to help jump-start your plant selection by offering some of the best woody plants and flowers suitable for native plant landscaping and habitat restoration projects here in the Midwest. Keep these plants in mind as you think about lakeshore restoration, meadow plantings or wetland rehabilitation.

Over the last five years, Douglas W. Tallamy, Ph.D., and chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, has been specifically researching the usefulness of native woody shrubs (and other flora) as host plants for our native caterpillars. These plants will in turn support moths, butterflies and other beneficial wildlife. See Dr. Tallamy's lists below.

### Top Native Wildflowers

Common name	Genus/ Scientific name	# of caterpillars supported
Goldenrods	<i>Solidago</i>	115
Asters	<i>Aster</i>	112
Sunflowers	<i>Helianthus</i>	73
Joe pye weed; Boneset	<i>Eupatorium</i>	42
Morning glory	<i>Ipomoea</i>	39
Sedges	<i>Carex</i>	36
Honeysuckle (natives)	<i>Lonicera</i>	36
Lupine	<i>Lupinus</i>	33
Violets	<i>Viola</i>	29
Geraniums	<i>Geranium</i>	23
Black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia</i>	17

### Top Native Woody Trees/Shrubs

Common name	Genus/ Scientific name	# of caterpillars supported
Oaks	<i>Quercus</i>	557
Cherries	<i>Prunus</i>	456
Willows	<i>Salix</i>	455
Birches	<i>Betula</i>	411
Poplars	<i>Populus</i>	376
Maples	<i>Acer</i>	297
Blueberries	<i>Vaccinium</i>	294
Alders	<i>Alnus</i>	255
Hickories	<i>Carya</i>	235
Elms	<i>Ulmus</i>	215
Pines	<i>Pinus</i>	201

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## Saving Wisconsin's bats



Bats are a vital part of many ecosystems. They help control pests and are pollinators and seed-dispersers for countless plants. As predators of biting insects, bats may also play an important role in reducing risk of insect-borne diseases, such as the West-Nile Virus. For now, Wisconsin's bat population is stable. But a deadly fungus is racing through cave-dwelling bat populations in eastern states causing extensive mortality, and unfortunately reached the southwest corner of the state in spring 2014.

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a devastating disease of hibernating bats that has caused the most precipitous decline of North American wildlife in recorded history. It is caused by the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, and is rapidly spreading through cave bat populations across the country causing unprecedented mortality. Since it was first discovered in 2006, WNS has affected eleven cave-hibernating bats, including four endangered species and subspecies of insect-eating bats in the eastern and southern U.S., causing declines approaching 100 percent in some populations. Recent estimates suggest 5.7-6.7 million bats have died over the past seven years. This syndrome poses a severe threat to all four of Wisconsin's cave bat species.

### Background

In February 2006, some 40 miles west of Albany, New York, a caver photographed hibernating bats with an unusual white substance on their muzzles. He noticed several dead bats. The following winter, bats behaving erratically, bats with white noses and a few hundred dead bats in several caves came to the attention of New York biologists, who documented white-nose syndrome (WNS) in January 2007. Named after the distinctive white growth that appears on the nose and wings of affected bats, WNS reached Wisconsin in spring 2014.

Of the eight species recorded in Wisconsin, the four cave-dwelling bats are listed as threatened - Big Brown, Little Brown, Northern Long-eared, Eastern Pipistrelle - while four others are on our "watch" list.

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# 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: _____
<p>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</p>	

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

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