



# HANCOCK LAKE



Volume 11 Issue 1

Spring 2019



This year's theme, "Pay it Forward," is a popular concept. When someone does something for you, instead of paying that person back directly, you pass it on to another person instead. This practice can certainly be seen with lake and stream volunteers, professionals in natural resource management, and all those who value our precious water resources. Many of us automatically do this type of activity every day. At the 2019 Convention, we will share some of these inspiring stories of "paying it forward."

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/convention/default.aspx>

## 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<br>715-282-7571<br>(Term expires June 2020) | Bill Tischendorf, V. P.<br>715-282-5843<br>(Term expires June 2020)   |
| Joann Beltz, Treasurer<br>715-282-6822<br>(Term expires June 2019)   | Sherry Fechter, Secretary<br>715-282-7571<br>(Term expires June 2019) |
| Bruce Pontel, Director<br>262-903-1101<br>(Term expires June 2019)   | Bruce Mezei, Director<br>715-282-5447<br>(Term expires June 2019)     |
| George Beltz, Director<br>715-771-9011<br>(Term expires June 2020)   |   |



The Hancock Lake Association extends a warm welcome to all new residents and would encourage them to attend our events and meet their neighbor

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Annual Lakes Convention
- 1 Message from the Board
- 3 Wisconsin Bogs
- 3 More on Other Fish
- 4 Calendar of Events
- 5 Note From The President
- 5 Oneida Lake Update
- 5 Dam Matters
- 6 Pest Control
- 6 Something you would like to see in the newsletter
- 6 Membership Form

### Annual Meeting

Second Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> 8:30 at the Woodboro Town Hall with a half hour social gathering before the meeting begins at 9AM.

### Meeting Agenda

- Call meeting to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Secretary Report, minutes of last meeting; Sherry Fechter
- Treasurers Report; Joann Beltz
- Hancock Lake update; Bill Tischendorf
- Oneida Lake update; George Beltz
- Apparel sales committee: Julie Kemp
- Old business;
  - Voluntary boat launch fee box at landing; Randy Fechter
  - Spring newsletter: Mail and/or Email Sherry Fechter
  - Boat landing upkeep; Randy Fechter
- New business;
  - Summer Picnic: Picnic planning committee; Milt Kemp.
  - Bulletin board at boat landing; Bill Tischendorf
  - Move location and date of Regatta; Sherry Tischendorf

- Fund raising committee: Sherry Fechter
- Duck Race; Sherry Fechter/Joann Beltz
- Nomination of officers;
- ❖ Secretary
- ❖ Treasurer
- ❖ 2 Directors

**If you want anything added to the meeting agenda, Please contact Randy Fechter (920-948-7744).**

**Lake Association Picnic**

**Third Saturday July 20<sup>st</sup> 2019** at the Alpine Resort.

The Lake Association will be providing the main dish but asks those that attend to bring a dish to pass. This is a great opportunity to meet your new neighbors and catch up with old neighbors. We will be announcing the results of the board election, there will be a silent auction, door prizes and more.



**Hancock Lake Boat Regatta**

**Second Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup> 2019**

We will be moving the boat regatta to the **Second Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup> 2019** starting at noon. The regatta has always been held just off the beach at the island, however do to the heavy boat traffic the last couple of years we may need to move. We will look for suggestions at the annual meeting, and let everyone know at the picnic the new location. We use the lake association weed boat for all the food. Bring a dish to share and your own refreshments and join the party, if you do not have away to get out to the boats check with other members for a ride.



**Annual Duck Race**

**Labor Day Saturday August 31 2019**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Oneida/Hancock Lake Association Duck Race was a great success. We sold 1258 ducks 200 more

than the year before. New this year was the beer can race, concession stand at the bridge during the duck race, and we served food at Alpine. We raffled off a grill/meat package, Wisconsin chairs, a fire ring, tool package, and many other great prizes. Total made for the event was \$8,887.75 which was \$2,624.95 more than the year before. Thank you to everyone that bought tickets, donated prizes, and helped at the event. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual duck race will be Saturday, August 31, 2019. We are looking for anyone that wants to volunteer to help at the event or donate a prize



**Tisch's Ice Fishing Tournament**

**First Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 9am-3pm**

The 2019 fest had 83 entries resulting in some nice prize money for the lucky fishermen, and a good time for all. 1<sup>st</sup> place Northern 29.5", 1<sup>st</sup> place crappie 11.5", 1<sup>st</sup> place pan fish 7.5", and 1<sup>st</sup> place perch 9.5" The Lake Association made \$280 + \$100 donation selling hot sandwiches and chili and will plan on having a concession stand again next year again.



**Can Cozies**

The Hancock Lake and Oneida Lake Associations are selling can cozies at all of our activities. They have an image of Hancock Lake on one side and Oneida Lake on the other.

Price \$2 ea.



**GO PAPERLESS**

Newsletters received via E-mail will be in color and all internet links will work with the click of the mouse. If you would prefer to receive all future newsletters via E-mail please let us know by sending a E-mail stating so to [Hancocklake@yahoo.com](mailto:Hancocklake@yahoo.com).

# Wisconsin Bogs

By Bill Tischendorf

Bogs are acidic, low nutrient, wetlands dominated by sphagnum mosses that occur in deep layers and accumulate over time as peat. Bogs can be divided into three types; (1) fens, dominated by, grasses, sedges, and reeds; (2) open bogs dominated by bog mosses, and heaths; and (3) muskeg (tree bogs) in which the peat may be formed almost entirely from tree remains. Poor fen, open bog, and muskeg often occupy different parts of the same wetland basin.



**Fens** are subdivided in rich fens (pH, 5.5-6.9) and poor fens (pH 4.5 to 5.5) they have a rooting zone in contact with surface water or groundwater. A typical poor fen seen here is the grassy edge floating and unable to support any amount of weight.



**Open bogs** receive nutrients mainly from precipitation and limited internal runoff. The thick layers of sphagnum isolate the bog from the influence of nutrient-enriched groundwater. These bogs may also be floating but their mass will usually support your weight. Walking on the surface causes it to move or they may even make trees sway.



**Muskegs** or tree bog are similar to open bogs but with a scattering of stunted trees, generally between 10% and 25%. Muskegs often grade into black spruce swamps, which have over 25% cover of trees as seen in the back round.

Bogs are home to a wealth plant and animal life, some of which are only found in the bogs. Plants such as Labrador-tea, Bog-rosemary, Leatherleaf and the insectivorous Purple Pitcher-plant and Round-leaved Sundew are found only in the bog. The bogs are also home to a large array of butterflies that exist only in the bogs.

Here on Hancock Lake we have several opportunities to get up close and personal with our bogs, get in the kayak or canoe and investigate the bogs poke around, look for the interesting plants, and wildlife being mindful that there is nesting going on. Last year unknown to me I accidentally got too close to the nesting Sandhill crane, when she sprang up squawking it was all I could do to stay upright.

In Hancock we have another type bog, the sunken bog, these bogs have lost their buoyancy and sank to the bottom. As explained to me years ago, as the lake warms during the summer decaying matter release gases that are trapped below these bogs causing them to rise to the surface. They appear as mud flats slued with stumps, making some bays less navigable until the water cools and these bogs return to the bottom.

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## More On Other Fish

By Bill Tischendorf

### Catfish/Bullheads

Members of the catfish/bullhead family have large flattened heads, minute sharp teeth, whisker-like barbels, an adipose fin between their dorsal and tail fin and a spine at end of the dorsal fin and each pectoral fin. Bullheads have a rounded tail which will help you distinguish them from small channel catfish that have a forked tail. They lack scales but have thousands of taste buds covering their body that along with the barbels are used to locate food. They tend to be nocturnal bottom feeders. They are an important host for glochidia of many mussels species. There are eight species of catfish/bullheads found in Wisconsin waters, four of them can be found in the lakes and streams around Hancock lake. The catfish/bullheads can be divided into three groups: bullheads, madtoms, and catfishs.

### Black Bullhead



The black bullhead inhabits lakes, ponds, and slow moving streams throughout the state. Body is usually black, dark brown, or dark olive, with a white or yellow belly and a faint pale white or yellow vertical bar at the base of the tail. Chin barbels color dark gray, brown or black. Feeding is mainly on snails, leeches, insect larvae, fish and carrion. Spawning occurs from April to June over mud or sand under shelter such as matted vegetation, logs or undercut banks. Large masses of swimming young can be seen in the spring.

**Brown Bullhead**



The brown bullhead is found mainly in lakes and ponds and rarely in streams. Body is usually yellowish brown to dark gray with dark brown mottling, with a cream or tan belly. The brown bullhead can be distinguished by its “free”, flap like adipose fin, and no vertical bar at the tail. Chin barbels color black to yellowish brown. Feeding is mainly on snails, crayfish, insect larvae, fish and carrion. While not as common as the Black and Yellow bullheads they have been caught in several neighboring lakes.

**Yellow Bullhead**



The yellow bullhead inhabits lakes and mid-sized slow moving streams, preferring clear warm water. Body is mainly solid, black to yellowish brown; belly white or yellow; no bar at base of tail. Chin barbels whitish or light gray. Feeding is mainly on snails, crayfish, insect larvae, fish and carrion. The yellow bullhead is the one most commonly caught in Hancock.

**Stonecat**



While found in the streams and small rivers statewide they are rather rare in our area. Stonecats can be distinguished by its adipose fin, which is attached to the back and caudal fin. Color dark brown, dark olive, or black; belly cream, white chin barbels.

**Other Catfish/Bullheads**

**Slender Madtom**

Currently found in the southeast only in the Bark and Oconomowoc Rivers.

**Tadpole Madtom**

Found in medium to large, slow moving rivers mainly in sloughs and backwater statewide, with the exception of the north central portion, one unconfirmed in 1976 from the Willow Flowage.

**Channel Catfish**

Found in larger warm waters statewide but primarily south of hwy 29.

**Flathead Catfish**

In a different family from the rest, the flathead catfish is found primary in very large rivers in the southern part of the state.

A web site to find what fish have been found in what lakes.. [https://cida.usgs.gov/wdnr\\_fishmap/map/](https://cida.usgs.gov/wdnr_fishmap/map/)  
Another site to help you identify the fish that you have caught. <http://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/home/Default.aspx?tabid=604>

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**  
PLACE WOODBORO TOWN HALL  
TIME SECOND SATURDAY OF JUNE 8TH, 2019, 8:30AM

**HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PICNIC**  
PLACE ALPINE RESORT ONEIDA LAKE  
TIME THIRD SATURDAY OF JULY 20TH, 2019

**HANCOCK LAKE ASSOCIATION BOAT REGATTA**  
PLACE HANCOCK LAKE ISLAND  
TIME SECOND SATURDAY OF AUGUST 10TH, 2019, NOON

**ONEIDA & HANCOCK LAKE ASSOC. DUCK RACE**  
PLACE CREEK BETWEEN THE LAKES  
TIME LABOR DAY SATURDAY AUGUST 31ST 2019

**TISCH'S ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT**  
PLACE HANCOCK LAKE ON THE ICE  
TIME FIRST SATURDAY OF FEBRUARY 1ST 2020, 8AM-3PM

**WISCONSIN LAKES PARTNERSHIP**  
PLACE HOLIDAY INN CONVENTION CENTER STEVENS POINT, WI  
TIME APRIL 10TH -APRIL 12TH 2019

**MIDWEST CRANE COUNT**  
PLACE ONEIDA COUNTY  
TIME SATURDAY APRIL 13TH 5:30AM-7:30AM

**NORTHWEST WISCONSIN LAKES CONFERENCE**  
PLACE HAYWARD HIGH SCHOOL  
TIME FRIDAY JUNE 21ST 2019 8AM

**KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH THE LAKE ASSOCIATION.**  
[www.HancockLakeAssociation.com](http://www.HancockLakeAssociation.com)  
[www.facebook.com/HancockLake](https://www.facebook.com/HancockLake)  
[Hancocklake@yahoo.com](mailto:Hancocklake@yahoo.com)

### OFFICER ELECTION.

The term of office of Secretary, 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.



## Note from the President:

### Duck, Duck, Goose!

I'm pretty sure you have heard of our annual duck race event. We started this alongside Oneida Lake Association in 2016 hoping for a successful fundraiser. To be honest we didn't have a clue that it would create such a positive experience!

2016: 865 ducks sold, \$4,783.84 total, \$2,391.92 each association

2017: 1053 ducks sold, \$6,121.80 total, \$3,060.90 each association

2018: 1258 ducks sold, \$8,746.75 total, \$4,373.38 each association

2019: Although a great profit is important, the fun and excitement surrounding this event really show how special it is. This year, Hancock Lake and Oneida Lake Associations are both looking to improve on the preparation and activities surrounding the event. With that in mind, our Lake Associations Duck Race committee would like to see an increase in member participation. The financial success alone could be a valid reason why you would want to help out, throw in the fun factor and this should be a no brainer! Please contact Sherry Fechter (920-979-8825) if you are interested in finding out ways you can participate.

Once again I thank you for the wonderful work and commitment to help us all live by the purpose of our Lake Association.

### 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.

Thank you,  
Randy Fechter

Hancock Lake Website: [www.hancocklakeassociation.com](http://www.hancocklakeassociation.com)

Hancock Lake email account: [hancocklake@yahoo.com](mailto:hancocklake@yahoo.com)

Hancock Lake Facebook page; [facebook.com/Hancock\\_Lake](https://facebook.com/Hancock_Lake)

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- conducted a shoreline and shallow water habitat assessment following rigorous DNR protocols
- an aquatic invasive species (AIS) survey
- a three night frog and toad survey, to be repeated in 2019
- lake user survey asked a variety of questions regarding how they use the lake

In 2019, White Water will present a “floating workshop” for anyone interested in learning about the health and biology of the lake. Over the course of the next year or so, additional information will be gathered about Oneida Lake and we will begin to draft the Adaptive Management Plan.

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## Dam Matters

- 1) The inspection report completed by the Department on October 14, 2002 and the inspection report submitted to the Department by Flambeau Engineering on December 2, 2013 identify multiple locations on the dam where concrete was chipped and deteriorating.
- 2) Ron Twardowski, on behalf of Staab Construction Corporation, submitted plans and specifications dated May 30, 2018.
- 3) The Town of Woodboro submitted an application dated July 11, 2018 to repair the Hancock Lake Dam. The Town received conditional approval of the plan from the DNR August 1, 2018.
- 4) The proposed concrete repairs include:
  - a) Sawcutting, removing and patching of approximately 21 square feet of concrete on the downstream right wingwall and abutment
  - b) Sawcutting, removing and patching of approximately 17 square feet of concrete on the downstream left wingwall and abutment
  - c) Repairing and adding rebar at base of left and right wingwalls is anticipated; extent of rebar placement to be determined during construction
  - d) Using sand bags as coffer dam to isolate wingwall areas
- 5) The proposed project, if constructed in accordance with the conditions in the Order will not adversely affect water quality, will not increase water pollution in surface waters and will not cause environmental pollution
- 6) The proposed construction will not endanger life, health and property upon compliance with the conditions in the order.

Update from, Phil Kriesel, Woodboro Town Chairman. “The contractor ran out of good weather for the repairs last year. We are still under contract my expectations are it will be done when the weather and water allows late spring or summer”.

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## Oneida Lake Update

Extracted from White Water Press release

The Lake Association and White Water Associates have implemented the Oneida Lake Stewardship Program. A multi-year lake study and planning project actively investigating Oneida Lake and its surroundings.

In 2018 White Water aquatic biologists, and lake volunteers;

- conducted a point-intercept aquatic plant survey
- collected water samples for analysis at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

# Pest Control

By Bill Tischendorf

Those pesky mosquitoes, gnats, and other flying insects, what to do about them? Well before you grab the buzz bomb and start spraying everything lets get some free help. There is a army waiting to take to the air and help, we just need to give them a little help. I speak of those acrobats of the air, the swallows, purple martins, dragon flies and the masters of the night the bats. In resent years their numbers have been declining. So what can you do to help, they all can use a home. For those do it yourselves there are lots websites with plans for building houses for the swallows, martins and bats. For the not so inclined there plenty of prebuilt houses on the market. Which ever way you get your house try to be a good landlord clean it out, before the birds return in the spring. And when placing the house remember "location, location, location".



**Tree Swallows** feed from dawn to dusk in sheltered areas full of flying insects, usually foraging no more than 40 feet from the ground.

They are solitary nesters they prefer a single nesting box. Their nest box should have a floor at least 5"x5", a 1.5" entrance hole 7" above the floor with no perch, a sloped roof that over laps the sides, also an arrangement for cleaning. The house should be close to the lake shore in the open with the opening facing the lake. .



**Purple Martins** perform aerial acrobatics to snap up flying insects, they also get their water while in flight by skimming the surface of the lake.

They are communicable nesters and prefer a multiple nesting box. Their nest box apartment floor should be 6"x6", a 2"1/8 entrance hole should be 1" above the floor, the interior height should be 5-7", and a way to clean out each apartment. The house should be in an open area close to the water. Do to the complexity of these houses most are purchased.



**Bats** like to eat beetles, moths, mosquitoes, and more. One little brown bat can eat up to 500 mosquito-sized insects in an hour.

Bats are very communicable one bat house could house as many as 50 bats, that's a lot of pest control. The bat house needs to be well sealed and place in the open sunlight, about ten feet off the ground. Bat house color is dependant on the average summer temperature, in northern Wisconsin they should be black or a very dark color.



As for the dragon flies you do not need to build them a home. They live their first two or three years in the littoral zone of the lake, that near shore area where sunlight penetrates all the way to the sediment. Here they feed on almost any living thing smaller than themselves. In the spring as temperatures rise, the larvae crawl up on plant stems or your dock, warmed by the sun they shed their skin to become a young dragon flies. They live only a few months at most, just long enough to mature and reproduce. During this time they consume hundreds of mosquitoes, gnats, and other flying insects per day.

## Something you would like to see in the newsletter?

I am always looking for ideas for articles and open to anyone's idea. You can send me an idea or write an article, and send it. Keeping in mind the purpose of the Association "to maintain, protect, and enhance the quality of the lake and its surroundings for the collective interests of the members" when summiting an idea or article .

Send to [billtischendorf@newnorth.net](mailto:billtischendorf@newnorth.net)

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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: _____
Home Address: _____	Home Address: _____
Lake Address: _____	Lake Address: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
e-mail: _____	e-mail: _____

Please check the method on how you want to receive our Spring Newsletter: Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues must be paid by the annual meeting, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June. Dues are \$20 per member and should be made payable to:

Hancock Lake Association, Inc. Mail to:

**Hancock Lake Association, Inc.**

**8412 Dombrowski Rd.**

**Harshaw, WI 54529**

Contact:

Hancock Lake Association Website Address; [hancocklakeassociation.com](http://hancocklakeassociation.com)

Hancock Lake Association email Address; [hancocklake@yahoo.com](mailto:hancocklake@yahoo.com)

Hancock Lake Association Facebook page; [facebook.com/Hancock Lake](https://facebook.com/HancockLake)