



LAKE TIDES

The newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes

How Effective are Lake Organizations?

Part II

Lake organizations are at the bedrock of the state's lake management efforts, but what are these groups working on and how well are they doing? We continue our look at the results of this study, completed by Professor Anthony Gabriel and Cynthia Lancaster, for some useful insight on Wisconsin's lake organizations. If you missed the first part of this article, visit our web site or find your Fall 2002 issue of Lake Tides.

Volume 28, No. 1
Winter 2003

What are the Issues?

Gabriel and Lancaster asked lake association and lake districts officers to comment on three items: the importance of certain lake management issues; whether their organizations had initiated any action on these issues; and whether the issues were effectively addressed.

These groups were asked to rank the importance of a variety of lake issues from one (extremely important) to five (not at all



Lakes have as many issues as signs represented here.

important). Jet skis (64%), property taxes (62%), aquatic vegetation (60%), and government representation (53%) were most often ranked extremely important or important by the organizational leaders. Over 50% of lake association respondents reported jet skis (71%), property taxes (68%), and aquatic vegetation (55%), government representation (54%), and

shoreline erosion (50%) as extremely or very important issues. By comparison, over 50% of lake districts reported aquatic vegetation (73%), fire and police protection (60%), algae blooms (57%), property taxes (53%), agricultural runoff (53%), dam management (52%), and government representation (50%) as extremely or very important lake issues.

There were several significant differences in the importance of lake issues noted by lake associations and lake districts. Besides jet skis and shoreline development, lake associations gave significantly higher importance to noise pollution (45%), litter in or on the lake (37%), and harassment of waterfowl (34%). Conversely, lake districts gave significantly higher importance to the lake management issues of aquatic vegetation, algae blooms, and agricultural runoff.

There were several differences in management actions reported by lake associations and lake districts. Lake associations initiated action most often on the lake issues of aquatic vegetation (29%), jet skis (28%), and lawn and garden runoff (24%). By comparison, lake districts most often initiated action on aquatic vegetation (41%), dam management (31%), algae blooms (30%), and boating congestion (30%). Besides the latter three issues, a significantly higher proportion of lake districts had also initiated actions on agricultural



Wisconsin Lakes
Partnership

Continued on Page 2

runoff (25%), construction site runoff (22%), filling/dredging (20%), wetland losses (15%), and flooding (14%).

While their primary management goals are to protect environmental quality and fisheries, lake associations and districts have distinct management objectives as well.

How Effective are We?

There were also several differences in the effectiveness of management actions reported by lake associations and lake districts. In regards to the most effectively addressed lake issues, 16% of the lake associations reported that aquatic vegetation and jet ski issues had been effectively addressed, while 24% of the lake districts reported aquatic vegetation and dam control and maintenance were effectively addressed. Besides the latter issue, a significantly higher proportion of lake districts reported having effectively addressed government representation (20%), boating congestion (14%), while a significantly higher proportion of lake associations reported having effectively addressed noise pollution (15%).

While most of the lake issues were considered to be extremely important or very important by over 30% of the lake organizations surveyed, a high importance ranking does not necessarily relate to management action or the issue being effectively addressed.

For example, while a large number of lake management organizations rank property taxes as an extremely or very important issue (53-68%), few had initiated action on the issue (8-9%) or effectively addressed it (5-6%). Conversely, waterskiing was not one of the more important issues identified by lake management organizations (28-32%); however, 16-24% of the organizations had initiated action on the issue and 15% had effectively addressed it.

What do Lake Organizations do?

Lake associations and districts continue to play a major role in lake management in Wisconsin. The majority of lake associations

and districts are well organized, with incorporation and written by-laws and regular newsletters and meetings. While their primary management goals are to protect environmental quality and fisheries, lake associations and districts have distinct management objectives as well. Lake associations stress management objectives that include member education, water safety, zoning issues, and social activities. Lake district management objectives are more likely to include aquatic plant control.

The top lake management activities of lake organizations include water quality monitoring (78%), newsletters (72%), fish stocking (69%), educational meetings (63%), and volunteer water monitoring (63%). The top

lake management activities of lake associations are similarly ranked, differing only slightly from the overall proportions. Lake districts report water quality monitoring (87%), fish stocking (74%), and study of lake problems (68%) as their top activities.

When compared to lake districts, a significantly higher proportion of lake associations are involved in newsletter activity (77%), and fundraising events (36%). In contrast, a significantly higher proportion of lake

districts are involved in a range of activities, most notably lake studies (68%), harvesting aquatic vegetation (52%), chemical treatment of aquatic vegetation and algae (47%), long range planning (47%), and dam management (44%).

Factors Influencing Lake Management Activities and Effectiveness

Gabriel and Lancaster looked at correlations to determine factors possibly influencing lake management activities and effectiveness.

They looked at lake characteristics such as the number of cottages, property values, lake size, and the number of extremely important or very important lake management issues.



A favored winter pastime.



Silver Reflections and Golden Projections: 25 Years of Lake Partnerships

Wisconsin Lakes Convention *featuring "Where the Waters Meet"*

April 10-12, 2003

KI Convention Center, Green Bay

Twenty-five years is a long time. Twenty-five years ago the web was a thing crafted by spiders and a company called Apple Computer was formed. Jimmy Carter became president and Elvis died.

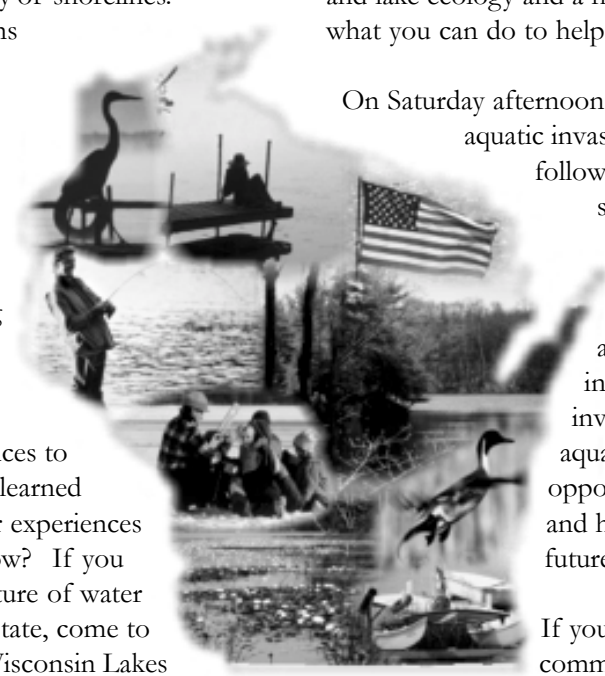
Consider what we lovers of water have accomplished over those many years! Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to pass mercury and DDT laws and now the eagles are back. Wisconsin was the first state to initiate non-point source pollution control and develop rules protecting water quality, habitat, and the natural beauty of shorelines. Citizen advocate organizations came into existence, grew in numbers and now flourish across the state. Some lake organizations have been active since the late 1800s; others have only recently formed. Today over seven hundred groups are working to better the waters of Wisconsin.

We have stories and experiences to share. What lessons have we learned over the years? How will our experiences shape where we go tomorrow? If you want to play a role in the future of water management in the Badger State, come to Green Bay this April. The Wisconsin Lakes Convention, one of the largest and most significant conferences of its type in the nation, is celebrating 25 years of lake and water partnerships. This is a wonderful opportunity to listen, learn and discuss with others your experiences with lakes and waters issues across the state.

The Thursday pre-conference workshop, entitled *Where The Waters Meet*, explores the science, issues and policies behind the management of the vast water resources of Wisconsin - wetlands, groundwater, lakes and rivers. Representatives from various citizen organizations committed to the protection of the sub-surface and surface waters of Wisconsin and the life systems they support will gather to discuss threats, challenges and future steps. Learn about land use initiatives that affect water quality, the status of Wisconsin and world water supplies, wetland, river and lake ecology and a host of other issues, including what you can do to help this important effort!

On Saturday afternoon, a summit on fishing and aquatic invasives will be held immediately following the convention. Experts, sportspeople, legislators, and citizen activists will gather to share information and discuss a number of issues associated with this topic, including the impact of invasives on ecosystems and aquatic habitat. This is your opportunity to share your ideas and help chart a course for the future.

If you are new to the lake or a committed aficionado, this is a great opportunity for you and your organization to learn and gain a hefty amount of information in a very short period of time, at a reasonable price. It is a great time to find answers to your many questions about lake management and water resource issues, meet new friends and catch up with old ones. Join us to learn, share and have fun in Green Bay this April.



Stay at the Regency Suites, 1-800-236-3330 or the Holiday Inn, 920-437-5900. For special rates, please refer to the Wisconsin Lakes Convention when reserving your room.



Silver Reflections and Golden Projections: 25 Years of Lake Partnerships
Wisconsin Lakes Convention
April 10-12, 2003
K1 Convention Center and Regency Suites, Green Bay

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Where the Waters Meet

7:45 a.m. Registration Opens

8:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Plenary

Welcome

From Here 2 Opportunity -Victor Phillips, Dean, College of Natural Resources and GEM Center, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Thoughts on Water - Karen Goulet, Acclaimed Wisconsin Poet

The Water Pressure is Building - Stephen Born, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Water Cycle: We're in it Together - Jim Peterson, Environmental Resources Center, University of Wisconsin-Extension

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Plenary

Voices for Water - Representatives from various water resource groups respond to a set of questions in a round-table format. Listen to what key participants consider to be the most pressing issues and challenges.

Moderator: Jeff Bode, Chief, Lakes and Wetlands, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Where Do We Flow From Here?: Next Steps in Policy and Action - Stephen Born

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Luncheon with Scott Hassett, recently appointed Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (invited)

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Concurrent breakout sessions (for session descriptions, see below)

Session A: Monitoring: What Good Does it Do?

Session B: Restoring our Waters

Session C: Planning and Protecting our Future Part I: Citizen Involvement in Decision-Making

Session D: Primer in Wisconsin Water Law Part I: The Public Trust Doctrine

Session E: Strengthening the Movement by Building more Effective Organizations

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Concurrent breakout sessions

Session A: Water Supply: Will There Be Enough and Why is Getting Enough Becoming More and More Difficult?

Session B: Promoting a Sustainable Future for Wisconsin's Waters: Proposed Policies and Recommended Actions

Session C: Planning and Protecting our Future Part II: Tools for Natural Resources Management

Session D: Primer in Wisconsin Water Law Part II: A Review of The Revised Nonpoint Source Program and Wetlands Protection in Wisconsin

Session E: Water YOU Gonna Do? : Personal Choices Affecting Water

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Reception in Celebration of Wisconsin's "Year of Water" featuring the Habanaro Jazz Band

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Do you know how to cook a deer? Come listen to the "Brutal Buckskinner" and find out. Other workshops delve into fascinating stories about Green Bay and the construction of Wisconsin's Flagship Schooner. Learn about outdoor photography, fly-tying and much more!

AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Silver Reflections and Golden Projections: 25 Years of Lake Partnerships

Wisconsin Lakes Convention

April 10-12, 2003

K1 Convention Center and Regency Suites, Green Bay

FRIDAY, APRIL 11 and SATURDAY, APRIL 12

7:45 a.m. Registration and Exhibit Hall Open

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Plenary

Opening Remarks

From the Lakes to the Sea (a multi-media slide presentation)

A Lake Management Retrospective-Representatives of The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership provide insight on the history and the future directions of lake management in Wisconsin

The Future of Lake Management: Words from a Young Poet

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Plenary

View from the Capital - Wisconsin legislators discuss key issues and answer audience questions

The 6 R's: Project Success - C. Y. Allen, internationally-recognized speaker and Professor of Communications, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Luncheon in the Exhibit Hall with Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle (invited)

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Concurrent breakout sessions (For stream descriptions, see below)

Stream A: The Nuts and Bolts of Lake Management: Organizational Development

Stream B: Lime, Alum and other Tools of the Trade: A Look at Cutting Edge Lake Technologies and Current Research

Stream C: The Stories of Our Lives: Projects, Tales and Business from the Waters of Wisconsin

Stream D: Lake Management in Wisconsin: Past, Present and Future

Stream E: The Power of Education!

Stream F: Shoreland Management: History, Laws and New Initiatives

Stream G: Life from the Deep: Frogs, Plants and other Critters

Stream H: Water and the Law: Planning in the Twenty First Century

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Concurrent breakout sessions (Streams A-H. See list above.)

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Reception in celebration of 25 years of Wisconsin Lake Partnerships. The Habanero Jazz Band is at the helm!

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. WAL Annual Meeting

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. An Aquatic Plant Management Update

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Evening working workshops-special informational sessions and forums. View entries to the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership photo contest in the Exhibit Hall

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Walking Tour of Green Bay riverfront

7:45 a.m. Registration Opens

8:00 a.m. County Lakes Association meeting

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Plants at the Root of a Healthy Ecosystem Workshop (pre-registration required)

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Concurrent breakout sessions (Streams A-H. See list above.)

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Concurrent breakout sessions (Streams A-H. See list above.)

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lake Stewardship Awards Luncheon with Kevin Shibilski, Secretary of Tourism (invited)

1:30 p.m. Fishing Tournaments and Aquatic Invasives: Finding Common Ground (An interactive forum)

AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Thursday breakout sessions

Monitoring: What Good Does it Do?

Why you are monitoring drives what and how you monitor. The objective of this session is to compare and contrast the monitoring objectives and data collection methods used to monitor water in its various locations. This session will address a series of questions related to the rationale behind monitoring, the methods, the application, and the means of using data to shape policy. Volunteer monitoring programs as well as regulatory driven monitoring programs will be discussed.

Restoring our Waters

We live in a highly altered landscape—we have spent much of the last century changing and damming watercourses, disrupting lake shorelines and converting wetlands to agricultural lands. Many of our water bodies are highly degraded from historic and ongoing human activities. Our challenge for the next century is to restore what we have lost, bringing health and stability to our impaired water bodies. This session will explore some innovative tools for a proposed “Era of Restoration” for our lakes, rivers and wetlands.

Planning and Protecting our Future, Parts I and II: Citizen Involvement in Decision-Making and Planning Through Natural Resources Protection

In Part I, participants are provided a toolbox for shaping the future of water resources, including getting organized to influence local land use decisions, decision-makers, and participate in the public hearing process. Gain insight on who’s who and what they do and how you can be an effective advocate for the issues you believe in. In Part II, we look at strategies for protecting natural resources in a world of rampant unplanned development, use conflicts and habitat destruction on our lakes, rivers and natural areas. Tools to assist in planning for natural resources protection through lake and river classification and comprehensive planning are highlighted in this session.

A Primer in Wisconsin Water Law, Parts I and II: The Public Trust Doctrine, the Nonpoint Source Program and Wetlands Protection

Part I of this session draws on the fundamentals of the public trust doctrine and reviews some key cases in the context of waterway and wetlands regulation and protection. Citizen roles in overseeing the application of the public trust doctrine will also be key to a discussion led by two of Wisconsin’s most ardent public advocates. In Part II of this session we review various aspects of the wetlands regulatory framework, with emphasis on the newly enacted mitigation rules. Finally, we conclude this session with a discussion of substantive revisions to the nonpoint source program. This session will include discussion of how citizens can play a significant role in the oversight of this important initiative.

Strengthening the Movement by Building More Effective Organizations

Think about a conservation organization that you are familiar with that is strong, effective and gets things done. What are its characteristics? In this session, we will discuss the “benchmarks” of effective and sustainable organizations and share useful tips on these various areas of organizational management, which include planning, program development, funding, financial management, leadership development and others.

Water Supply-Will there be Enough and Why is Getting Enough Becoming More and More Difficult?

Wisconsin prides itself on its marvelous variety of water resources—more than 10,000 inland lakes, wild rivers, hundreds of miles of Great Lakes “seashores,” groundwater supplies so pristine that bottling companies want to come and take it away! Given all this plenty, why are more and more Wisconsin communities having difficulty in getting enough water to meet their potable needs? Is it related to the nature of the groundwater resource, to socioeconomic factors, or to legal problems...or to all these factors? What sorts of remedies—engineered, political, legal—can yield workable solutions? This session will delve into these questions and attempt to provide some real-world answers using Wisconsin case studies.

Continued



Promoting a Sustainable Future for Wisconsin's Waters: Proposed Policies and Recommended Actions

Over the past two and a half years, the "Waters of Wisconsin" (WOW) initiative has brought together hundreds of water resource professionals, scientists, advocates, local and state governmental representatives, business leaders, and other citizens to examine the status and future of Wisconsin's waters. A team of contributors to this initiative will summarize the policy recommendations of the WOW committee, and offer suggestions on appropriate "next steps" for citizens and policy-makers to take. This panel presentation will provide opportunity for participant comments and questions.

Water YOU Gonna Do?

Changes are needed to better protect Wisconsin's waters...and many of them begin at home. Learn how your choice of cleaning products, waste disposal, and landscape practices can help or hurt Wisconsin's waters. Come ready to develop your personal action plan to save water and energy.

Friday and Saturday Stream Descriptions

The Nuts and Bolts of Lake Management: Organizational Development

If you need information on the day-to-day operation of your lake organization, this stream is a must. From fundamental questions relating to the most appropriate organizational structure to the specifics of running a lake district, managing differences within a community, and hunting down and managing grant monies, this session provides indispensable information to participants.

Lime, Alum, and Other Tools of the Trade: A Look at Cutting Edge Lake Technologies and Current Research

Are you aware of some of the latest tools and technologies being offered to address some of the most common lake issues? This session delves into the possibilities, limits and considerations associated with the use of certain technologies. Come ready to listen and consider the merits of various alternatives for addressing nuisance aquatic plant growth, nutrient loading and habitat restoration.

The Stories of Our Lives: Projects, Tales, and Business from the Waters of Wisconsin

We've assembled a collection of "stories" in this stream, some that address particular lakes' efforts to overcome certain physical or ecological characteristics or circumstances, others that look at the lives of those that have been inspired by water in its various forms-rivers, lakes, wetlands; and still others that have made a living by its beauty and widespread public appeal. Want more attention? Get tips on sharing your stories through newsletters.

Lake Management in Wisconsin: Past, Present and Future

Join us for a look at the progress made, the lessons learned, and the future direction of lake management in Wisconsin. From an overview of policies and programs in Wisconsin to tips about dam management and the drafting of a lake management plan, this stream offers the insight and experience of experts in the field. We also look at how proactive, hands-on projects can instill a stewardship ethic in members of the community.

The Power of Education!

There is a wealth of information out there to disseminate to the community, but what is the best way to do it? This session provides participants with ideas on how to harness the energy and encourage activism, volunteerism and creativity, while providing inspiration to youth and adults.

Shoreland Management: History, Laws and New Initiatives

Shoreland zoning is about to undergo a major change. Or is it? Starting with the history and evolution of Wisconsin's shoreland zoning program, this stream moves to a discussion of current initiatives underway to update the often controversial program. You will also have an opportunity to take a hard look at proposed new shore protection rules and shore protection/restoration strategies for landowners and communities.

Life from the Deep: Frogs, Plants and other Critters

Come get your questions on aquatic ecology answered. This is a bug's eye view of plants and near-shore zones, dragonflies, amphibians and the risks associated with the use of herbicides.

Water and the Law: Planning in the 21st Century

The 21st Century is upon us and new challenges abound! Come listen to an update on Wisconsin water law and gain new insight on the rationale behind and current implementation of Wisconsin's Smart Growth legislation around the State of Wisconsin. This stream concludes with a discussion of the challenges associated with planning for recreational use.



REGISTRATION FORM

Be an
Early Bird...
Register by
Feb. 10, 2003

**25th Annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention
April 10-12, 2003
KI Convention Center and Regency Suites, Green Bay**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: (_____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Affiliation (Lake Org., etc.): _____ County: _____

CONFERENCE

		Early Bird! (Postmarked by February 10, 2003)	
<u>Thursday, April 10 "Where the Waters Meet"</u>	\$50 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$45 <input type="checkbox"/>	-
<u>Friday, April 11</u>	\$65 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$58 <input type="checkbox"/>	-
<u>Saturday, April 12</u>	\$55 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$48 <input type="checkbox"/>	-
<u>Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 10-12</u>	\$165 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$145 <input type="checkbox"/>	-
<u>Late Registration Fee (after March 20, 2003)</u>	\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>		-

Look for additional information
in the January issue of *Lake Times!*

No refunds issued after April 1, 2003.
Students (K-12) admitted at half price.

Check for vegetarian meals Subtotal \$ _____ Subtotal \$ _____

WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 12 *Aquatic Plants at the Root of a Healthy Lake Ecosystem* (Limit: 25)
A hands-on approach to aquatic plant identification. Take this unique opportunity to learn and identify Wisconsin's common aquatic plants. Workshop cost includes your aquatic plant collection kit.
Registration for this workshop closes April 1! \$30

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE ENCLOSED \$ _____

Lodging Information: KI Convention Center/Regency Suites, 333 Main St., Green Bay, WI 54301 (800)236-3330 or (920)432-4555. Rates: \$91 double occupancy (\$20 for each additional person up to a maximum of 6); \$101 king double occupancy (\$20 for each additional person up to a maximum of 6). Price includes full breakfast and 2 hours of complementary beverages in the evening. Please refer to the Wisconsin Lakes Convention when reserving your room.

Mail this form with your check (payable to UW-Extension Lakes) or credit card information to: UWEX-Lakes, UWSP/CNR, 1900 Franklin St., Stevens Point, WI 54481. Questions? Phone 715/346-2116 or e-mail uwexplakes@uwsp.edu.

Check one: Visa Mastercard (We will process credit cards after January 1, 2003.)
Cardholder's Name _____ Card No. _____ Expires _____

You will receive confirmation and additional information upon registering.

They also explored organizational characteristics such as membership sizes, percentage of permanent residents, annual membership fees, total revenues and total expenses. They found a statistically significant, although relatively weak, positive correlation between the total number of lake management activities undertaken by lake management organizations and the number of cottages, percentage of permanent residents, and property values found on the lake, as well as their membership sizes and annual membership fees. Only the number of cottages and membership sizes were significantly correlated with the number of management activities initiated. The number of cottages was the only factor significantly correlated with the number of issues effectively addressed. No significant correlation was found between lake size, total revenues, or total expenses and the total number of lake management activities, management actions initiated, or issues effectively addressed.

Attempts were also made to determine differences in the number of management activities and effective actions based on organizational factors such as age of the organization (older or younger than 10 years), affiliation with WAL, lake association or district, incorporated, written bylaws, or formation to deal with immediate problem.

The researchers found that organizations affiliated with WAL are engaged in a significantly higher number of lake management activities and actions and can show effective solutions to lake issues. In addition, significantly higher numbers of lake management activities are undertaken by lake districts than lake associations, as well as by organizations that were incorporated and had written by-laws.

Funding

As the first part of this article indicated, lake associations and lake districts differ greatly in their sources of revenue and expenditures, with lake districts reporting significantly higher amounts in both. Lacking powers of

taxation, lake association revenues tend to be based on membership dues and miscellaneous sources of revenue such as fund raisers. Lake districts tend to have a broader range of formalized funding sources, receiving most of their revenue from property taxes, special charges, and special assessments. Lake districts also reported applying for a significantly higher proportion of WDNR planning grants. In regards to expenditures, lake associations most often reported spending funds on culture, recreation and education. Lake districts most often reported spending for general government, conservation and development, and debt service. Districts also spent significantly more money than lake associations on general government, culture, recreation, and education, conservation and development, and capital outlay.

Wisconsin is fortunate to have so many active lake organizations. Lake associations and districts continue their roles as important and vital stakeholders in lake management in Wisconsin, advancing in terms of their general sophistication as well as in number of issues targeted and lake activities pursued.

Based on a study completed by Anthony O. Gabriel, Department of Geography and Land Studies, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Washington, and Cynthia Lancaster, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. To review the study in its entirety, please visit our web site at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes.

Only the number of cottages and membership sizes were significantly correlated with the number of management activities initiated.



What does the future hold for lake organizations?

Convention Photo Contest

Don't forget the Lakes Convention Photo Contest! Send your pictures...win cash! See details at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes or call 715/346-2116.



Workshop Opportunity:

Stopping the spread of invasive species...how you can help!

While the project focuses on EWM, the prevention steps apply to all aquatic invasive species.

With the growing concern over the spread of aquatic invasive species to Wisconsin's inland lakes, many lake association members and other concerned citizens are looking for ways to get involved. In the last newsletter, you learned about the DNR Watercraft Inspection Program, in which DNR staff educates boaters at boat landings. I am happy to help promote a unique partnership that will offer you the opportunity to work with local youth to help educate boaters about how to prevent the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and other aquatic exotics.



The Minocqua/Hazelhurst/Lake Tomahawk (MHLT) Middle School Milfoil Masters Program is funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Christopher Columbus Foundation, which supports innovative projects in which youth help solve problems in their communities. The problem identified by MHLT Middle School is the spread of EWM. Their project was selected because of their strong state and community partnerships and their ability to reach a large number of people. MHLT Middle School, with partners from UW Extension and Wisconsin DNR, is developing toolkits to be used by volunteers at boat landings. Toolkit materials will aid volunteers in looking for and identifying EWM and in educating boaters about identification and the steps that they should take to prevent spreading invasives to other lakes. While the project focuses on

EWM, the prevention steps apply to all aquatic invasive species.

The Milfoil Masters toolkits will be distributed at workshops, three of which are already being planned for the coming months. These workshops will orient the participants to the toolkit contents, and provide insight and instruction on how to talk with boaters about EWM and other invasives. Workshops are open to adults and youth. Adults/lake associations interested in participating and receiving a toolkit are strongly encouraged to work with a local youth partner. Volunteers trained at these workshops will be able to "launch" their boat landing education efforts during the fishing opener, May 3rd.

The following workshops are planned through April:

March 22, 9am – noon - Minocqua, MHLT Middle School

April 12, 11am – noon - Green Bay, Wisconsin Lakes Conference

April 26-Shell Lake, Shell Lake Community Center, time to be announced

Please contact Laura Felda, Adopt-A-Lake Coordinator - Wisconsin Lakes Partnership at 715-346-3366 for more information, to register for a workshop, or to express interest in future workshops. Hope to see you there!

By Mandy Beall, Aquatic Invasives Education Specialist, UWEX/WDNR. Phone: 608-267-3531 and 608-261-1092; Mandy.Beall@dnr.state.wi.us

Come to the South East Regional Lakes Workshop!

Looking for information about current lake issues such as aquatic plant management, shoreland protection and restoration, shoreland zoning, or private on-site sanitation rules? A **February 15th** Lakes Workshop at the Waukesha Co. Technical College Education Center will offer you choices of presentations covering each of these hot topics. Plus, this Saturday morning program will provide you an opportunity to view lake-related informational displays and to meet other folks who are also interested in lake protection. Registration is \$17.00/person, due by February 3rd to Wisconsin Association of Lakes. To learn more about this program and get a registration form, visit WAL's website: <http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/Pressrelease/SELakes2003.htm> or call the WAL office at 608-662-0923 or 800-542-5253.



Wisconsin's "Year of Water"

Early this year, Governor Jim Doyle endorsed the year 2003 "The Year of Water." His declaration was accompanied by the following statement: "I strongly endorse designating 2003 as the Year of Water in Wisconsin.

With the tremendous leadership of the Wisconsin Academy and others, I know we will take this occasion to build on the tremendous Waters of Wisconsin event, celebrate water as our most precious natural resource, participate in a statewide effort to understand and appreciate our waters, and to work together on projects that conserve and sustain our waters for future generations."

In the year 2000, the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters initiated an effort to study the use and sustainability, management, monitoring and policies associated with Wisconsin's water resources. The study group which was ultimately convened, consisting of water experts, citizen activists and organizations from around the state, focused on several key issues, all of which are discussed in a draft report released at the end of 2002 and viewable on www.wisconsinacademy.org/wow/forum/report/index.html. The report includes recommendations which members of the public are encouraged to read and review

critically. A Waters of Wisconsin Forum, held in Madison in October of 2002, also served to encourage discussion and provide additional momentum to a large-scale effort, now in full swing, to better manage the state's water resources. This year's Lakes Convention, featuring "Where the Waters Meet," aims to continue this critical dialogue regarding the future direction of water management in Wisconsin. This event is one of many that will take place in the year 2003 in the spirit of examining and bringing light to this increasingly significant issue.

*Wisconsin's
dialogue on
water
continues.*



Wisconsin's Year of Water

C A L E N D A R

February 15, 2003- South East Lakes Workshop. Waukesha County Technical Institute. Cost: \$17. To register, visit www.wisconsinlakes.org/pressrelease/selakes2003 or call 1-800-542-5253.

March 5 & 6, 2003 - Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance - Complying with New Stormwater Regulations. KI Convention Center, Green Bay. For information and to register, visit www.fwwa.org.

April 10-12, 2003 - Wisconsin Lakes Convention. KI Convention Center, Green Bay. For details, visit www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes.

May 10, 2003 - 1st Annual Groundwater Festival. UW-Stevens Point. For more information, contact Denise Kilkenny-Tittle at 715/346-2722 or gwwguardian@uwsp.edu.



Lake Tides 28(1)

Lake Tides -- 905026

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1900 Franklin St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715/346-2116

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**Volume 28, Issue 1
Winter 2003**

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Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership



Published Quarterly

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

E-mail: uwexplakes@uwsp.edu

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Reflections

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.

It is wrong when it does otherwise.

-Aldo Leopold



