

...from the Lake Shores

News and information from your Lake Association

"Preserving and protecting our lakes for today and for future generations."



Welcome

to the sixteenth edition of the Connors Lake/Little Papoose/Lake of the Pines Voluntary Lake Association, Inc., Newsletter.

A message from Tom Stram, President

This will be my last President's Message because you will have a new president effective this summer. Having served three consecutive two year terms it is time for a change of leadership.

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of individuals as Officers and Board of Directors of your lake association and all of them will continue to serve. It would have been very difficult to accomplish what we have without these individuals. These accomplishments include:

EWM—Reducing the aquatic invasive Eurasian water-milfoil from 30 acres to less than 1 acre. We are now in a maintenance mode with our matching treatment grant from the WDNR having expired.

WCLMN—We have an active group of volunteers monitoring the water quality on both lakes.

CBCW— I am very concerned about the shrinking pool of volunteers for our boat inspection program. We have at least four invasive species in Connors Lake now and new species are being identified in the state every year. The latest copy of the DNR publication "The Wisconsin Fishing Report" lists Connors Lake as a good lake for walleye and smallmouth bass fishing and Lake of the Pines for Muskie fishing. I am concerned that this publicity will result in markedly increased boat traffic and a greater risk of introduction of new invasive species. PLEASE consider volunteering for a 2 hour shift at the boat landings. We will spend time teaching you what to do at our three summer general membership meetings of the lake association and you can accompany an experienced volunteer inspector for your first time at the boat landing. The adventure is both educational and fun.

Fish Committee—The DNR has completed a comprehensive study of the fisheries in both lakes and they will be stocking Lake of the Pines this fall (see Tom Deinhammer's report).

Navigation—Three buoys have been purchased for Connors Lake and one buoy for Lake of the Pines for safe navigation. They are in the process of being placed with new anchorage.

Newsletter—Our award winning biannual newsletter "from the Lake Shores" is filled with the latest information from our volunteers on aquatic invasive species management, water quality data, fisheries, wildlife and nature, new laws and regulations and a feature article of historical interest.

Loon Watch—Carolyn Mealman has asked for someone to step forward and take over the "Loon Watch" program that she has so aptly conducted for many years.

Web site—www.copapisawyerctywi.org is a work in progress and I would like to see us develop a new eye catching logo. Be assured that the future of the lake association is in good hands. It is always good to infuse new ideas into any organization.

I will remain active in the lake association as your aquatic invasive species coordinator and would like to work with Jim Halvorson to start work on the hiking/biking trail around both lakes included in the Master Plan for the Flambeau River State Forest.

It has been a real pleasure serving as your lake association president for the past six years.

Thanks for your encouragement and support.

Have a great spring and summer "at the lake".

2014 General Membership Meetings at Connors Lake Pavilion

Saturday	May 24	Memorial Day Weekend
Saturday	July 5	Association Annual Meeting
Saturday	August 30	Labor Day Weekend

Speakers to be announced
All meetings will begin at 9:00 am

The fall newsletter will be mailed in November 2014. Please submit your contributions or mention items you would like to see in future newsletters by Wednesday October 8 to Sandra Lehmann. Drop off at the house, call 715.332.5101 or email sjl@pctcnet.net

Township of Winter**Town Website: www.townofwinter.com****Chairman:** David Kinsley, W7270 Thorson Road., Winter WI 54896, 715.266.2102**1st Supervisor:** Helen Dennis, N4437 Lake Winter Road, Winter WI 54896, 715.567.0445**2nd Supervisor:** Ron Barnaby, W6930 County Road G, Winter WI 54896, 715.266.4461**Clerk/Treas:** Lori Van Winkle, P.O. Box 129, Winter, WI 54896, 715.266.3131**Town Mailing Address:** Town of Winter, P.O. Box 129, Winter, WI 54896, Phone: 715.266.3131, email: townofwinter@centurytel.net

Former Town Chairman, James Genrich, passed away on January 4, 2014, after recently being diagnosed with gastric cancer. Jim was president of the Winter Lakes Alliance, a member of the Southern Sawyer County Sportsman Club, member of the Winter Cemetery Board and member of the Sawyer County Lakes Forum of Hayward. He was also associated with the board for Walleyes for Northwest Wisconsin out of Hayward, was active with Wounded Warrior Organization, was chairman of the Fireman's Board in Winter and was the town chairman of Winter. He showed a great interest in and was a friend of our lake association.

CoPaPi Board of Directors for 2013-2014**Officers**

President	Tom Stram	term ends 2014
Vice President	Jim Schofield	term ends 2014
Treasurer	Nancy Sorensen	term ends 2015
Recording Secretary	Sarah Belson Happe	term ends 2015
Corresponding Secretary	Sandra Lehmann	term ends 2015

Board Members at Large

Dale Lehmann, Tom Deinhammer, Dave Schiotz, Patty Peloquin Behrenbrinker	term ends 2014
Ellen Cernjar, Mark LaVick, Dave Bauer, Bob Feller	term ends 2015
Gene Johnson—Past President, Esther Johnson—Past Treasurer	

Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

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Patty Peloquin Behrenbrinker	715.332.5344	pbehrenbrinker@gmail.com
Gene Johnson	715.536.0219	genes.johnson@frontier.com
Esther Johnson	715.332.5223	

Saturday—July 19, 2014**CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association****Old Fashioned Family Picnic****Connors Lake Picnic Park 11:30 am–1:30 pm**

The event is free and open to all lake residents, their families and friends.

2014 Cash Raffle

Will be similar to last year with tickets available Memorial Day weekend. Please support our lake association and buy raffle tickets.

Open House/Public Meeting

Public open house meeting is planned for Friday, June 6, 2014, at the Forest Headquarters. Staff will be there all day to answer questions you may have. They can discuss the master plan, what has happened over the past year, what is planned for the upcoming year, and any concerns you may have.

Please stop by for a visit.

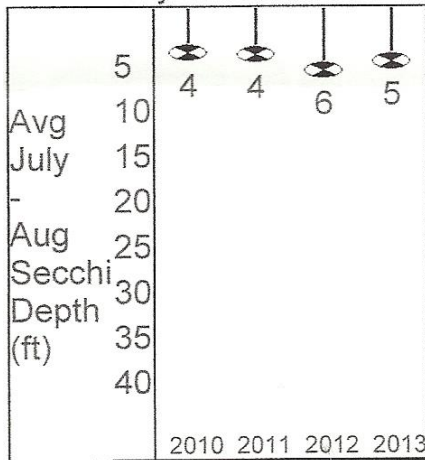
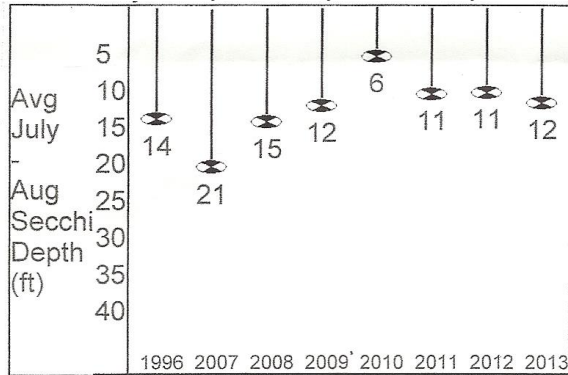
WCLMN (Wisconsin Citizens Lake Monitoring Network)

by Dave Schiotz, Coordinator

CLMN guidelines specify we should try and do our first water sampling two weeks after ice-out. Last year the ice went out on the two lakes around May 8th and we were able to sample the last week of May. This year, the way winter is hanging on, our first collection may be in June!!

Secchi disk readings, which we do twice a month from late May into September, is an important parameter. It not only is an indicator of water clarity but is also used as one of the calculators of the Tropic State Index (age of the lake). Both of our lakes are solidly into middle age (Mesotrophic). Below are graphs of the Secchi disk readings from several years for July & August. These graphs and other data are taken from the official DNR, WCLMN data site.

Connors Lake, Sawyer County, Waterbody # 2275100



Lake of the Pines
Sawyer County
Waterbody # 2275300

Notice the "flood" year of 2010, especially evident in Connors.

One of the descriptions of Mesotrophic lakes is that the water is moderately clear but there is "an increasing chance of low dissolved oxygen (DO) in deep water during the summer." To illustrate this point I have included two data charts from both lakes showing the depth, temperature, and DO. We are comparing late May and late July.

Connors Lake

05/24/2013			07/26/2013		
Depth	Temp.	D.O.	Depth	Temp.	D.O.
FEET	DEGREES F	MG/L	FEET	DEGREES F	MG/L
0	55.8	10.54	0	73.3	8.44
5	55	10.71	5	73.3	8.35
10	53.1	10.74	10	73.2	8.23
15	50.9	10.74	15	72	7.38
20	47.4	10.18	20	54.9	5.54
25	45.7	9.77	25	49.3	5.5
30	44	9.69	30	46.7	5.91
35	42.6	9.43	35	44.4	6.54
40	42.4	9.36	40	43.6	6.64
45	42.4	9.25	45	42.9	6.59
50	42.3	9.18	50	42.4	6.16
55	41.8	8.92	55	42	5.22
60	41.3	8.68	60	41.7	4.35
65	41.1	8.53	65	41.6	3.14
70	41	8.36	70	41.5	2.71
75	40.9	8.29	75	41.5	.69
80	40.8	7.1	80	41.6	.04

Lake of the Pines

05/25/2013			07/21/2013		
Depth	Temp.	D.O.	Depth	Temp.	D.O.
FEET	DEGREES F	MG/L	FEET	DEGREES F	MG/L
0	62	10.66	0	79.5	7.67
5	60.3	10.67	5	80	7.56
10	55.3	9.96	10	71.3	1.57
15	49.7	7.46	15	65.9	.08
20	45.6	6.05	20	61.9	.04
25	44.2	4.5	25	48.9	.02
30	42.6	2.45	30	45.9	.01
35	42	.85	35	45.3	.01

Even though Connors Lake is over twice the depth of LOP, it contains oxygen at a much greater depth - something to think about when you're out on the water or ice!!

We have a great group of volunteers and everything we do is because of their efforts. I am hoping that they will once again consent to be part of our CLMN team. As always, a special thank you to Sandra Lehmann for inputting all our data from both lakes into the DNR network.

If anyone is interested in volunteering or if you just would like to observe the sampling, please let me know. Dave Schiotz dkschiotz@yahoo.com or 715 332-5164.

Have a good summer!

You can access WCLMN reports at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn>
Do not key in www, just http://

1. Citizen Lake Monitoring page opens
2. Find Sawyer County and click on it
3. Find Connors Lake or Lake of the Pines
4. In the Report column click on Details

Clean Boats/Clean Waters by Patty Behrenbrinker



As we look forward to the relaxation and beauty that Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines provide for us, would you please consider volunteering for one or two hours to keep these resources healthy for our enjoyment now and for future generations?

The Clean Boats/Clean Waters program helps to educate boaters and inspect watercraft that are entering and leaving our local lakes. Volunteer inspectors at the Connors Lake boat landing perform boat and trailer checks, hand out informational brochures, and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Because we have a number of invasive species in Connors Lake and, most significantly Eurasian Water Milfoil, it is equally important that we inspect boats entering and leaving Connors Lake. We want to be sure the boaters are not transporting milfoil to another location.

Volunteers work in two-hour shifts on Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day weekends. For every volunteer hour the CoPaPi Lake Association is credited with \$12 towards our share of the grant and lake treatment costs. Our volunteering PAYS US BACK.

In order for our resource of volunteers to grow, we are hoping that this year our previous and faithful volunteers will BRING A FRIEND ALONG to introduce them to the CBCW program. With more interested volunteers, we can begin inspections at Lake of the Pines.

Sign-up sheets are at the Saturday, May 24th Lake Association General Meeting or you can email me ahead of time at pbehrenbrinker@gmail.com. Many thanks to those who have volunteered in the past, and we hope to see you again this summer.

For more information about the "Clean boats, Clean Waters" program go to the website:

www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/CBCW

Spring Fire Season By Sandra Lehmann

Several warm sunny days, with some wind, will cause leaves and dead grasses to become very dry and to ignite easily. Be very careful when burning brush. Burning permits are required and are good from the date of issue through December 31 of that year. The permit has dates and times when burning is allowed and includes burn barrels and brush and leaf piles up to six feet by six feet in size. The permits are free and can be obtained from the DNR or Fire Warden.

Be aware of the burning restrictions for a specific day by calling 1.888.947.2876 or going to the DNR website

<http://dnr.wi.gov/burnpermits>

Hauling of Firewood—As of June 2014, bringing or buying firewood outside of a **10 mile radius** is illegal and can be confiscated and destroyed by the DNR.

Aquatic Invasive Species Report by Tom Stram

We are now in a maintenance position (keep at same level) for management of the invasive species Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). The fall 2013 survey of EWM in Connors Lake revealed only 0.83 acres of infestation.

You will recall that we started treatment in 2005 with a total of 32 acres. Our matching treatment grant from the Wisconsin DNR expired last year and was not renewed as expected. The Lake Association will now have to assume the entire cost of treatment which will probably be between \$5,000 and \$6,000. Fortunately we have a new Education and Prevention Grant from the WDNR that will cover the cost of the post-treatment survey (\$1,000).

The first herbicide treatment will be in early spring followed by one or two spot treatments later in the summer. This strategy has brought us to the present low level of infestation (less than 1 acre).

Why treat at all? Our herbicide applicator, surveyor and I think this is the most cost effective way to keep the EWM in check. This year we may try something new, manual removal of the milfoil in the area of the boat landing to further reduce the costs of control.

Fishery News

by Tom Deinhammer, Chairman

On January 10 2014, the fish committee met with Jeff Scheirer to discuss the fish population in our lakes. Those present at the meeting were Jeff Scheirer, Fishery Biologist Wisconsin DNR, Mark Luehring of Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, President Tom Stram, and fish committee members Lee Swanson, Jim Schofield, Greg Cernjar and me.

There was a good discussion about the fish in our lakes. Jeff said the WDNR would be releasing the names of the lakes that would be getting walleyes stocked in the fall of 2014. Connors Lake probably would not be getting walleyes as it is just above the numbers to receive them. Lake of the Pines will be getting walleyes one time.

The WDNR did netting in the fall of 2012, early netting in the spring of 2013, summer electro shocking in early summer of 2013 and netting in the fall of 2013. The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission also did electro shocking in the summer of 2013. I think we have a good idea of the fish population in our lakes as far as walleyes are concerned.

For more information on the fish population in our lakes you can go to fishingwisconsin.org.

That just about does it for now so if you have any questions call me (715.835.6588) and I will try to answer them as best I can.

In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.
John Muir

Interesting Lake Happenings

by Carolyn Mealman

On April 9th, as I start writing this article, the jonquils, daffodils and day lilies have poked their leaves up from the winters sleep and are anxious to get blooming. I am looking forward to seeing the bright yellows they will bring. Now it is April 16 and we are having a snowstorm.

Our winter on the lake didn't seem to be out of the ordinary—many, many deer crossing the ice; up to 14 turkeys stopping by to check and see if the birds left any seeds; and not as many finches and juncos as we have had in past winters (a clue we could have heeded?)

Our first chippie showed up on March 11 and shortly after a weasel and the groundhog ventured out. When the snow finally started to melt, the turkeys and other birds really liked being able to scratch and peck around the ground. I even saw a robin pull a worm out of the dirt. One misguided goose set down on the ice and looked around as if to say, what's up? Three swans flew over looking for open water. Looks like it will be a while before "ice out".

Lost in the Woods

Lost in the woods, a hiker spends two days wandering around with no food. Finally, he spots a bald eagle, hits the bird with a big rock and eats it. A park ranger stumbles in the scene and arrests the man for killing an endangered species. In court, the hiker explains that he was on the edge of starvation and had no choice.

"Considering the circumstances, I find you not guilty", says the judge. "But I have to ask – what did the eagle taste like?"

"Well, your honor", the hiker replies, "it tasted like a cross between a whooping crane and a spotted owl."

Ice Out Dates – 2006 to 2014

April 11, 2006
April 3, 2007
April 26, 2008
April 14, 2009
April 16, 2010
April 15, 2011
March 20, 2012
May 8, 2013
Around May 1, 2014???

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Loon Watch

As a Loon Ranger I received my packet for 2014. In 2013 Northland College LOONWATCH celebrated their 35th anniversary of the longest

running program at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute. In 1978, twenty-four northern residents gathered in Ashland to discuss the status of the common loon. In 2013, 292 volunteers monitored 310 lakes and reported 378 territorial pairs and 306 hatched chicks. Of the 306 chicks, 228 were observed at eight weeks which translated into an average of 75% survival rate. At 8 weeks the birds are able to dive and feed themselves and the chances are good they will migrate in the fall.

Northland College will host the North American Loon Symposium on October 25 & 26 in Ashland. This would be an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in loons to participate in a great educational seminar.

I will be retiring from my volunteer position this year and looking for a replacement.

You need not be a permanent resident but need to be able to observe the lake several times a month, especially in the spring, or have a helper. Arrival time, pairs, and nesting data are important. There are guidelines to follow – it isn't hard – and the hours you spend are counted toward our association 'lake hours' at \$12 an hour toward lake grants.

Please call Carolyn at 715-332-5267 and I'll be glad to explain and help you.

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"No matter how intently one studies the hundred little dramas of the woods and meadows, one can never learn all the salient facts about any one of them." — Aldo Leopold ([A Sand County Almanac](#))

Did you know that you can find out the latest road conditions by visiting the Wisconsin Department of Transportation travel information website at www.511wi.gov or by calling 511.

Balsam Fir Tree by Tom Stram

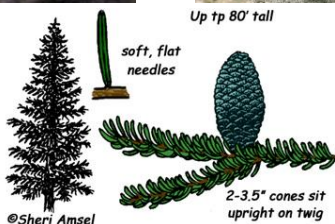
Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*) is a native evergreen tree abundant in the northern half of Wisconsin forests usually growing with white spruce, black spruce and aspen, in cool, shaded, moist but well drained acidic soil. These slow growing fir trees are medium sized with a mature height of 45 to 75 feet, a spread of 20 to 25 feet, and have a pyramidal shape with a very narrow crown. The needles are flat, 1/2 to 1 inch long and blunt or notched at the end and are twisted to appear in what looks like two horizontal rows. In addition they are dark green on the top and silver-blue on the bottom. The cones are 1 1/2 to 3 inches long, pointed upwards from the branches, dark purple, ripening brown and disintegrating to release winged seeds in September. The erect cones are a sign of a true fir tree. The bark on younger trees is smooth, grey with distinguishing raised "blisters".

The "blisters" contain a highly aromatic sticky resin called the pitch. To harvest the pitch simply open the blisters with a sharp stick or knife. Be careful not to pop the resin blister because they sometimes spray when ruptured. Watch out for the eyes, skin and clothing. The pitch can entrap insects entering the bark, close wounds in the bark and fight microorganisms. Balsam fir pitch can be used for human survival in the wilderness. It has antiseptic and healing properties. Simply apply the pitch to cuts, abrasions and wounds. Native Americans made warm tea by mixing the pitch with water or eating directly for treating headaches, colds, cancer, and rheumatism, etc. The pitch apparently tastes good and can be consumed by humans in the survival mode. It can be used as a fire starter if smeared on cattail down. Other uses include waterproofing seams of birch bark canoes and as an adhesive.

The seeds and buds are food for birds including crossbills and chickadees, squirrels, mice, voles and deer. The tree can provide shelter for large and small mammals and birds. The bark is browsed by black bears. The soft light weight wood is of little value as pulp. When grown commercially they are usually much fuller than in the wild and are popular as Christmas trees because they hold their needles well after cutting. They are also popular in making Christmas wreathes.



Up to 80' tall



©Sheri Amsel

2-3.5" cones sit upright on twig

White Nose Bat Syndrome Contributed by Linda Winn, Wildlife Biologist

On April 10 a news release published by the DNR confirmed that the deadly bat disease has been detected in Wisconsin. The disease has also been found in three Michigan counties: Alpena, Dickinson and Mackinac. This brings to 25 the number of U.S. states where the disease has been confirmed, and five Canadian provinces.

White-nose syndrome has killed up to 5 million bats since 2006. The disease is named for the characteristic white fuzz on the bat's nose, wings and tails. This can result in the loss of multiple bat species and the benefits they provide to our ecosystems and our people.

White-nose syndrome spreads rapidly bat to bat and bat to cave. It does not affect people or other animal species but causes hibernating bats to frequently wake from a hibernating state. Stirring repetitively depletes the bats' energy stores and can cause them to starve or become dehydrated before spring arrives.

Wisconsin is home to several of the upper Midwest's largest bat hibernation sites and historical estimates have put the population at 350,000 to 500,000 bats.

Bats play an important role by eating insects that can damage forests and transfer diseases like West Nile Virus. Learn more about bats and volunteering opportunities on DNR's Bat Program website found at



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are skillfully prepared to order using only the finest ingredients, and presented with great attention to detail, quality and service. Our bar offers an unrivaled fireside setting with multiple televisions for every venue, signature sandwiches, tantalizing appetizers, and the best custom made pizzas in the north woods. We feature premium brands of liquor, beer, and Wisconsin draught beers. Our extensive wine list is superb and very reasonably priced, with many of our selections having a rating of 90 or higher.

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The Former West Allis Hunting Club by Rich Marusinec

Fourteen years ago, in 2000, I purchased our cabin on Connors Lake from my cousin Jerry Medved. At the time it was a simple small cabin with no running water. My family history goes back to the beginning of residential properties on Connors Lake. My uncle, Carl Medved, was part of a hunting club from West Allis, Wisconsin, that purchased the existing property in 1942 from Elmer Larson. In 1941 Elmer purchased the land from Edward Hines Lumber Co which had owned quite a bit of the land in the area. According to my uncle, the hunting club had purchased one of the first five lots on Connors Lake. I assume there were not many cabins on the lake at that time and it would be interesting to find out who had the first building around the lake. In late 1942, shortly after the land purchase, our cabin was built. Back then the cabin was used mainly for fishing and hunting. Deer hunting was good and fishing on the lake was excellent.

Starting in 1962, for about 8 years, my family and I would vacation to Connors Lake during one of the weeks that my uncle and his family would be at the cabin, usually in late July. The 60's and 70's were great times to visit Connors Lake and escape the city of West Allis. From West Allis there was no fast way of getting here so it would take almost 7 hours with 7 of us in the old station wagon (no mini-vans back then). Now it only takes 4 hours and 20 minutes with great roads. I remember getting to Hwy W, which was stone and dust at that time, and it seemed like it would take an hour to get to the cabin from Phillips. We were all anxious to arrive and you had to go slow.

My family would rent a cabin from Jack and Molly Ironside, which was right next to my uncle's cabin. I have great memories of coming to Connors Lake in the 60's as a young boy. At that time there were not many skiers or boats pulling tubes on the lake and it was mostly a fishing lake. We would catch a lot of perch, ranging in size from 8-15 inches, along with a good amount of walleyes' and using mostly red worms. My uncle would make us dig for red worms for days at home before coming up for the week since we couldn't afford to buy bait for the whole week. We had a large family with five children (2 additional after the 60's) so entertainment was simple. We would typically float and mess around with large black inner-tubes on the lake (the ones with the large air nozzles that would scrape you all of the time if you weren't careful), or row around the lake and travel through the stream to Papoose Lake and Lake of the Pines (no kayaks back then).

I also have great memories of Jack and Molly Ironside. Jack worked for the DNR at that time and appeared to us as a very sturdy and important man. We had heard that he would catch somewhere between 5 and 10 muskies each year and was an excellent fisherman. Molly was always very accommodating and an excellent host for the resort. Over the years I am amazed at how many people have told me they rented from the Ironsides during the same time I was up here.

Each year the highlight dinner for the week was to go to Big Bear Lodge which was always busy and a cool place for an 8 year old to go. I recall my parents would always take one night out with my uncle and aunt and go to Hicks Landing in Fifield for a steak dinner. It was also fun to go to the dump and watch for bears. Usually we would see 3-5 bears when we went and it was amazing how close they would get to the cars. One year my uncle heard some noise in the

garbage cans behind the cabin late at night and he took a pan with him running out the door thinking it was a raccoon only to be met face to face with a large black bear. Both, however, were scared and ran in opposite directions. I was able to watch that from our guest cabin—too bad I didn't have a camera for that (no video cams back then)! I also remember all of the crawfish in the lake. There would usually be close to a hundred of them under the piers and we would catch a bunch and have fun with them all day long. They were always a pain when fishing since they would also grab your bait if you left it on the bottom too long. My sisters would make me take them off their hook for them. I also somewhat remember Werbs at the end of the block. My parents would have me stop there on occasion for milk or something and it seemed like a dungeon with the bar area full of old men.

During the past 15 years it was a pleasure to get re-acquainted with Molly Ironside and also meet Bob McGee. I really enjoyed talking to Bob since he would usually walk over every time I arrived for the weekend and give me the latest scoop in the area. Bob was a great guy and took unbelievable care of Molly the past 10 years. I miss them both since they are such a deep part of Connors Lake history.

Now that I am back in the area I am amazed at how many things there are to do. Obviously we are blessed with a great lake and a Lake Association that helps takes care of this valuable lake. In the area we have great places for hunting, fishing (including kayaking the Flambeau River), cross- county skiing (which I enjoy), snowmobiling, ATV'ing and mountain biking. We are also close to many other great cities in the area and we enjoy traveling to Hayward several times each summer for various festivities, and also skiing the Birkie trails in winter.

Many of us on the lake are fortunate to have had relatives locate around the lake many years ago and then end up with their cabin or land. I feel extremely lucky to have been able to buy my uncle's cabin and enjoy the Connors Lake area as they did or more! I hope to be able to extend this fortune to my daughter in the future. Based on history it should be one of the best lakes and areas in Wisconsin for years to come.



FLAMBEAU RIVER STATE FOREST

From the Superintendent—Jim Halvorson

Snow and cold is the best way to explain this winter. The snow came early and stayed late. I hope everyone's home or cabin made it through OK. If your roof was going to leak, this was the year for it to happen. The deer winter severity index was one of the highest recorded since it has been taken in the 60's. On the positive side however, we did have a fair amount of timber sale activity on the State Forest which helped the deer considerably. It was easier for them to get around in the packed snow within the sale areas and they had plenty of browse available. We still will have to wait to see however, how well they did along with the fawn production this year.



The goose control system between the scare gun and the two swan decoys seemed to work well last summer on the beach area and we will continue it this year. It was a bit comical watching the children sneaking up to the swan decoys last summer, thinking they were real.

Highlights

Timber sales were active this winter with approximately 2000 acres being cut. This was particular good this year, as I mentioned earlier, as these areas created some relief for deer getting away from the deep snow and providing additional browse. This year our goal for sales to be established will be 2,485 acres. This is about 300 acres less than last year as we are finally catching up with addressing our backlog acreage. On the sales cut this winter, we will try to keep open for firewood as long as we feel the roads will hold up. Some however we will need to close due to the soft road conditions. For areas open for firewood stop by the office for a permit and we can direct you to areas where wood is available.

Access improvements continue on the forest. State grants have been allocated for the Townships of Lake, Draper, Flambeau and Winter for a total of \$202,000.00. These dollars will be used to assist townships financially to upgrade roads that provide direct benefits (access) within the Flambeau River State Forest. Work over this summer will continue with forest road improvements with a 1.5 mile gravelling project in the Oxbo area and the completion of gravelling 4 access roads located in the southern portion of the forest. Renovation will also continue on 60 miles of hunter walking trails with additional parking areas and gate placement and signage.

Insects and Disease continue to be monitored in the forest. Two key bugs that we continue to watch closely for are the emerald ash borer and gypsy moth. **Emerald ash borer (EAB)** continues to spread slowly across the state. Last month an outbreak was found in the City of Superior which required the quarantine of Douglas County. This was a major leap for this insect. It is a relatively large insect and not a good flier. How it makes large leaps like this is primarily by movement of firewood. New this year, firewood coming into the State Forest is not allowed unless it comes from within **10** miles of the State Forest boundaries or it comes from a certified firewood supplier. Remember, if you are bringing firewood from your home or buying it outside of this **10** mile radius, it can be confiscated and destroyed. If this critter gets a foothold on the Flambeau River State Forest it will most likely kill 30% of the trees across the forest and 100% of our ash wetland stands. For a map showing EAB counties that are now quarantined you can go to the attached web site.

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article.jsp?topicid=20#img>. For gypsy moth to see which counties are quarantined you can go to this attached web site. <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>. As you can see we are still not affected within Sawyer County by either of these two critters.

Other projects we will be working on this summer associated with the **implementation of the Master Plan** include:

- Graveling 3.3 mi of Skinner Creek Road
- ATV trail renovation, (2.2 mi)
- Build off loading ramp at Flambeau trail parking lot
- Complete snowmobile re-route from Price Lake Road to Tower Hill Rd.
- Grill and fire ring replacement at campsites
- Mowing 120 miles of access rds. ATV/Snowmobile trails and Hunter/walking trails
- Re-construction of the ATV trail from EE south 2 miles
- Construction of new ATV trail Co. Hwy. M to Fisherman's Landing (1.5 mi.)
- Renovation of Connors Lake Picnic area (tree planting, grills, landscaping, etc.)
- Construct 3 additional campsites at Cedar Rapids
- Renovate and stabilize Beaver Dam and Cedar Rapids canoe landings
- Renovate and install Trailhead signage and kiosks
- Replace vault toilet at Lake of the Pines Campground
- Replace roof and siding on storage building
- Complete re-building of stairs down to LOP beach area.
- Install Kiosks at canoe and boat landings as needed
- Renovation of campsites both at Connors and LOP campgrounds
- Headquarters building project (**should be 90% complete before deer season**)

If you have any questions on any of the projects give me a call.

Events this year will include our **nature programs** on Saturdays for our children. I'll be sending a list of activities to Sandra Lehmann to e-mail out to everyone after we finalize it. Again, if you have any ideas on how we can improve participation, I am open to suggestions. The **candlelight ski** this year was a great success and the weather was great. Thanks to all that came and brought treats. Big Bear Recreational Rentals is sponsoring an archery shoot, both from canoes on the river and on the Flambeau Hills Trail (cross-country ski trail), on June 6 & 7. You can contact them if you are interested in participating.

Law enforcement activities continue on the Forest and we will be hiring additional personal this summer to carry out these law enforcement activities. If you come across violations please give our Rangers a call at 715-332-5251 ext. 102 or 103, your help is appreciated. If you are unsure of the rules stop by and we will be glad help interpret them for you. At times they can be confusing.

Wildlife activities on the Forest will continue this year. Surveys on grouse, wolf, bear, eagle, osprey, goshawk and track surveys either have been done or will be completed this spring. In addition, amphibian and deer studies continue on the forest. If you would like details on any of these give me a call. **Elk have been introduced** on the Sawyer County Forest in the vicinity of Thornapple and Haystack Rds. Additional plans are to release a second group of 10 to 15 animals on the Flambeau River State Forest pending approvals and available animals. Hopefully as the herd becomes more established they will become a common site.

The Master Plan for the Forest can be viewed on line at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/StateForests/flambeauRiver/>

Hope you have a GREAT summer



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Big Bear Recreational Rentals is holding a **3D River Shoot** on the Flambeau River, from Oxbow to Red's Big Bear, on June 6 and 7, 2014. The entry fee for two, which includes the canoe and shuttle service is \$70. If you provide your own canoe and transportation the fee will be \$20. A **10 target land shoot** will also be held. There will be trophies, prizes and raffles. It is suggested you pre-register but you can also register the day of the Shoot. For more information or to register contact Big Bear Recreational Rental at 715.332.5544 or email Dan Schauder, danielschauder@yahoo.com

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Canada Geese Concerns

By Diane Stowell, Flambeau River State Forest

As you are aware, we had and will continue to have a number of geese who will try to use the Connors Lake Picnic Area. Canada geese prefer to feed, roost, and loaf near water where they can escape if threatened and Connors Picnic Area is perfect for their use. Restricting their ability to move between water and land will deter geese from an area, especially during the molt. Fencing also can be used to protect lawns or other areas where geese tend to forage. Short fences or hedges at least one foot high are usually adequate, especially if the geese have goslings.

Like last year, we will be constructing and maintaining a flagged fishing line which acts like a fence along the shore front of the beach area to discourage goose use. Surprisingly, last summer, we were actually quite successful at curbing the use of the picnic and beach areas by geese. We also used two swan models and pyrotechnics which are "frightening devices". The experts tell us that a combination of nonlethal techniques (scare techniques) used at the beginning of the goose use season work best, so timing is very critical. The Flambeau staff will start early to deter goose problems.

The following publication is dated in an Elk year which is from birth to the next year's birth (May of 2013 to the end of April 2014). **NOTE:** the State of Wisconsin has expanded the elk range to include the FRSF and some of the surrounding area (Price, Rusk and Sawyer County blocks of land). They have translocated 15 animals to the Winter Block acclimation pen which is a hop and a skip from the FRSF. This is part of their Assisted Dispersal project. Hopefully more elk will be translocated in the near future to add to this number. If you have any questions concerning the elk you can email: laine.stowell@wisconsin.gov

Clam Lake Elk News—January through March 2013; Vol. 14, Iss. 1

by Laine Stowell Third Quarter of the 2013/2014 Elk Year

Current Status: Based upon an updated population estimate using our camera survey's marked bull to unmarked bull ratio and field counts we estimate there are about 159 elk as of 1 April 2014. There are about 122 elk in the Clam Lake subgroup, 16 in the Moose Lake subgroup, 18 in Butternut, and it appears Cow 203 and her uncollared calf have taken up permanent residence in the Shanagolden area with at least 1 bull. Each Memorial Day for the past 5 years F203 travels to the Shanagolden area to have her calf, then returns to Clam Lake to find a bull. This year a bull found F203 and she and her calf stayed between Shanagolden and Glidden. We also have 88 deployed working radio collars.

Elk Research on the Clam Lake Herd: Bethany Blicharz is still analyzing data and drafting her findings. She plans to finish her graduate work in May. The plan is to have additional population information from the camera information in 2014. A third grid will be established in the new release area in the Winter Block of the Sawyer County Forest.

Elk Health & Mortality: The Winter Severity Index has been used to make population adjustment decisions on deer population estimates in Wisconsin since 1975. This index tallies the number days when the temperature low is 0° F or colder and the number of days when the snow depth is greater than 18" deep. Two of the most severe winters recorded since 1975 where the first 2 winters after elk were released in the Clam Lake area. During the winters of 1995/1996 and 1996/1997 we experienced Winter Severity Indexes (WSI) of 155 and 138, respectively. Winters with a WSI of 100 are considered very severe and likely result in significant numbers of deer dying due to malnutrition. A yearling elk was recorded as dying due to Winter Severity induced malnutrition during the winter of 1995/1996 by the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point elk researchers and WDNR Elk Project Staff documented 2 calves dying

due to Winter Severity induced malnutrition during the winter of 2000/2001 when Winter Severity was 118 in Mellen, Wisconsin. The reason I give you this background is because as of 1 April 2014 the WSI for Winter, Wisconsin is 161, if not a record close to one. This year has been very cold with deep snows. During the last week of March Elk Project staff confirmed 3 calves M397, F403 and F412 as having died due to malnutrition. A 4rd calf, F414 was killed by wolves, but it's bone marrow confirmed that it was suffering from malnutrition. Forecasts indicate that temperatures are going to hover in the 30's and low 40's for the next 10 days, delaying snow melt. We will likely lose more calves. On top of this, if spring green up is delayed to late May, older cows can be vulnerable to birthing complications, and pregnant September 2 year olds may not be able to sustain pregnancy. There are likely to be other impacts to elk productivity in 2014 on top of WSI induced calf losses.

In addition to the above described losses we also lost 4 year old cow 287 to wolves in January, mature bull M110 to a vehicle collision, 3 year old M322 to wolves, and F414 to wolves. It was unusual that we did not lose any elk to wolves in February. Typically February and March are peak months for wolf losses. However, deep, loose snow this January through February and into the first couple weeks of March hindered wolf travel as it did deer movements.

Winter Elk Trapping and Assisted Dispersal Project: We maintained our 2 trap sites from December 18 through February 20, then just maintained the eastern site until we captured our last target bull on February 24th. We made 7 attempts and made 4 captures of a total of 36 elk, collaring 2 bulls, and recollaring 12 cows, 2 calves and 1 bull. Of these, three 3 year old bulls, 1 yearling bull, 1 bull calf, 9 cows and 1 cow calf, were translocated to the "Winter Block" acclimation pen. These 15 elk will be held until after all 4 of the pregnant

cows that are held give birth in June. They then will be released within the extensive clear cut aspen in that area. In the mean time they will have a pen wall between them and wolves, and will be fed. This is part of our Assisted Dispersal project. These will be the first elk released within the new expanded portion of the elk range. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the dozens of people that made this a very successful and efficient elk trapping season possible: without the permission of the 2 private landowners, our success would have been impacted by greater human disturbances, trap setup and elk processing help by wildlife staff from the Spooner, Ladysmith, Hayward, Park Falls, Brule and Ashland WDNR offices; Jeff Morden's extensive help and loan of his F350 with plow, Chris Frasch,, and Diane Stowell's hot sustaining meals we would not be near as successful.

Population Monitoring and Elk Education: During the 1st quarter of 2014 we made 1,081 telemetry location determinations and 2,162 mortality checks. During this quarter we gave 2 elk presentations to a total of 66 participants. We also gave 2 print and 1 radio interview.

Elk Habitat Development: During this period we submitted a grant application to the National Wild Turkey Federation, are developing another grant application to

the Rocky Mountain elk Foundation, Mike Zeckmeister applied for and received approval for \$20,000 towards this project, Sawyer County has pledged \$2,800 and Friends for Wisconsin Wildlife have pledged \$2,200, all for a \$102,000 project to create 23 acres of forest opening, rejuvenate 32 acres of forest openings and replant about 20 acres of trails during this upcoming field season.

Partnerships: The Sawyer County Forestry Department, Friends of Wisconsin Wildlife, the Flambeau River State Forest, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation with the WDNR Elk Project Staff are developing an extensive elk and turkey habitat management project for this upcoming season and for years into the future. The US Forest Service and the WDNR have signed a memorandum of understanding that would allow additional elk to be released within the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest. Details will be developed and funding sought for building an acclimation pen to hold such elk.

Upcoming Events: We will be deploying 139 trail cameras in May to monitor the elk population. We are in the process of writing grant applications for funding elk habitat and management projects to be implemented in 2014 and 2015.

Interesting Elk Facts Submitted by Sandra Lehmann

Elk are members of the deer family along with moose, caribou, mule deer, and white-tailed deer. Elk living in dense forests, like northern Wisconsin, do not get a lot of sun. They have dark, thick coats to absorb the sun and keep themselves warm. Also, the elk's legs and neck are often a darker color than their body. Elk are much bigger than deer. An average bull (male elk) weighs 700 pounds and stands 5 feet at the shoulder. White-tailed deer and mule deer usually weigh 180-275 pounds and are much smaller.

Each year in the spring, male elk and deer start to grow antlers. As elk antlers grow, they extend behind the elk's head, rather than growing tall and pointing forward like the white-tailed deer. As the daylight increases, changing hormones cause the antlers to grow faster. The antlers do not turn into bone until late summer. Until then, the antlers are covered in velvet - a soft protective layer that helps the blood flow. The velvet falls off or is rubbed off the antlers by males in August when the antlers are full grown.

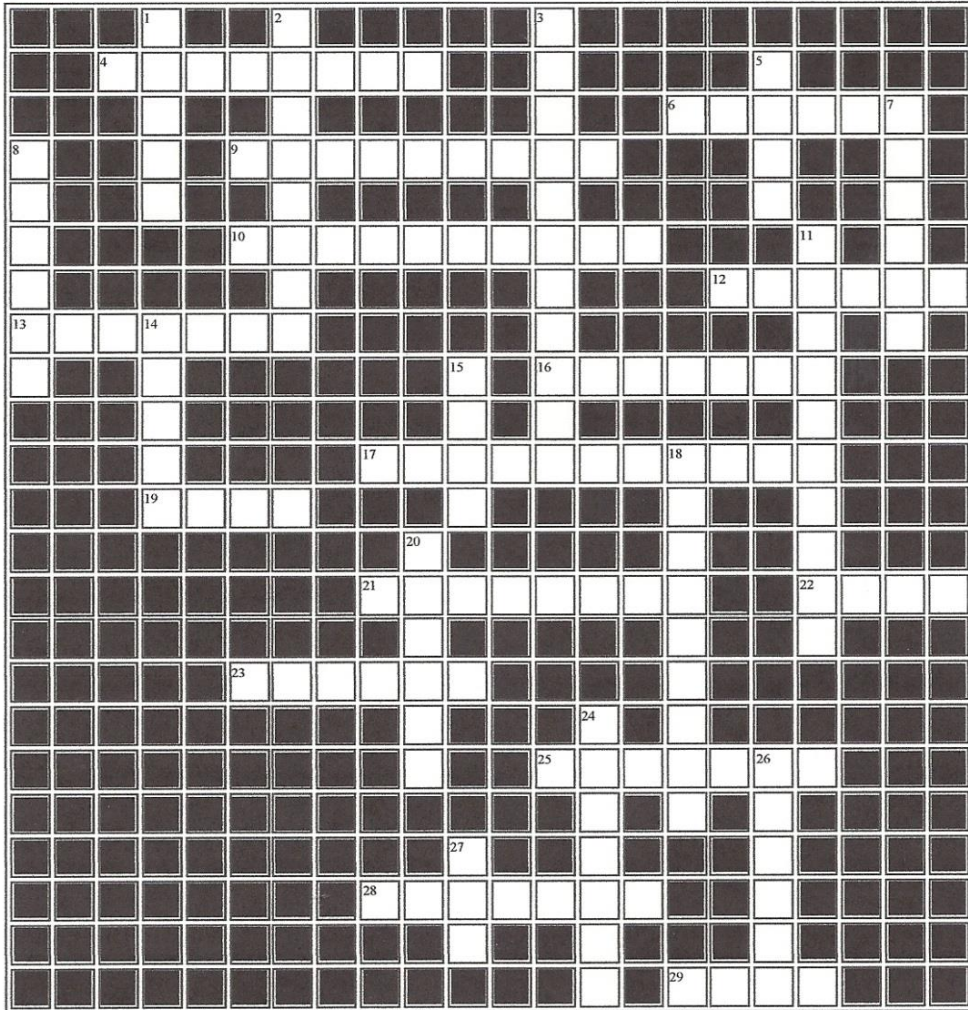
In the spring, elk young, called calves, are born with white spots similar to the white-tailed deer fawn. Calves hide for a couple of weeks after being born to avoid predators, just like deer. They feed on milk from a cow, but not a holstein, the female elk is called a cow. Like deer, elk also have large, dish shaped ears which they rotate to pick up noises from different directions. In northern Wisconsin, black bears and timber wolves and humans (by accident) are the major predators.

Elk have unique characteristics that help them survive. One example is the elk's four toes on each leg. Elk use their back two toes (dew claws), found on the back of their legs, for balance and grip. The front two toes are covered with a thick toenail (hoof) and this is how the elk walk. Did you know that elk can run up to 35 miles per hour on their tiptoes? Another unique characteristic is their eyes. Elk have eyes on the sides of their head which allows them to see in almost any direction except behind them but the elk cannot see color.

The elk's diet, depending on the season, is made up of eating grasses and bushes, stripping and eating the bark of aspen trees, and also eating lichens that grow on mature trees. During the spring, elk graze on different types of grasses. In the summer, elk continue to graze on grasses, broad-leafed plants, tree leaves, and shrubs. In fall, elk will also eat mushrooms when they're available. When winter comes, elk will munch on twigs, bark, needles of trees and shrubs, and tree lichens. Elk have a four "chambered" stomach which digests this smorgasbord of food. Elk also need water in their diet to survive. In the winter, elk eat snow. On hot summer days, elk need lots of water from streams, ponds, or other water sources. Sometimes they even dunk themselves to get rid of biting insects and to cool off.



Fun for kids of all ages



You will find the answers to the crossword puzzle clues somewhere in this newsletter.

Across

4. General membership _____ are held at the Connors Lake Picnic Park.
6. Carolyn Mealman has served as our Loon _____ for many years.
9. We treat the invasive species in the lake with a _____.
10. Our boat inspection program needs _____.
12. A _____ bat disease has been discovered in Wisconsin.
13. We do not want the _____ ash borer in the forest.
16. Bears like to raid the _____ cans.
17. Both Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines are into middle age called _____.
19. Wisconsin Department of Transportation will provide you with the latest _____ conditions.
21. We hope to stock _____ in Lake of the Pines.
22. An elk has _____ toes on each leg.
23. A native evergreen tree is the _____ fir.
25. Be very careful when _____ brush.
28. Eurasian Water _____ is an invasive species.
29. This winter many _____ crossed the lake on the ice.

Down

1. Connors Lake is twice the _____ of Lake of the Pines.
2. Bringing or buying _____ outside a 10 mile radius is illegal.
3. The _____ ski was a great success this year and held in February.
5. We had way too much _____ this winter.
7. Each year we hold a cash _____.
8. The forest is actively involved in _____ sales.
11. _____ is inspected at the boat landings.
14. There will be a 3D _____ shoot this June.
15. We test our water clarity by taking Secchi _____ readings.
18. Tom Stram has served as our _____ the last six years.
20. _____ geese like to inhabit Connors Lake picnic area.
24. The West Allis _____ Club use to be on Connors Lake.
26. _____ programs will be put on by the FRSF at the picnic park.
27. _____ have been released in the Flambeau River State Forest.

The Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust asked me to include the following in our spring newsletter.

Greetings and Happy Spring from Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust! We have some exciting projects being lined up this year that we'd like to share with you. Ongoing right now is a **Native Wildflower Sale**, with orders being accepted through May 27th. Orders will be ready for pick-up at the Sherman & Ruth Weiss Library in Hayward on Saturday, May 31st from 10 am to 12 pm. Orders are also able to be shipped at an additional cost per flat.

An order form and description sheet, plus information and photos of the collections available, can be found at www.couderaywaters.org under the events page—scroll down to the bottom of the screen. You can also look on our facebook page www.facebook.com/cwrlt.

Native wildflowers are suited to your northern Wisconsin backyard. They are adapted to the soils, weather variations and moisture levels that our area receives. And you're not the only one who will enjoy them – native species of wildlife, including birds, butterflies, bees, and other beneficial insects will find your plantings.

Do you have a difficult site where erosion occurs? Try planting some native plants! With root systems that can be three times the height of the plant, they are able to hold the soil together much more effectively than turf grass, which has comparatively shallow roots – only a couple of inches deep. Native plants don't care for fertilizer, they already have the nutrients and minerals they need in the soil and they can help minimize the time you spend mowing the lawn.

Protecting our shorelines from runoff, erosion and compaction is a topic we know you are interested in. The Native Wildflower Sale is a convenient way to order native species suited for our local environment. Your lake will thank you!

A special thank you to Bev & Gordie Dukerschein & Artisans of Glen Flora for supporting our lake association by printing our newsletter. Please visit their boutiquelet.



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