

# ...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 eighteenth edition of the Connors Lake/Little Papoose/Lake of the Pines Voluntary Lake Association, Inc., Newsletter.

## A message from Jim Schofield, President

Spring is always a great time of year up north. It starts a visible prelude to the fullness of summer and all its wonderful offerings. Spring is also a signal to start all those presummer jobs. Likewise, the Connors Lake/Lake of the Pines Lake Association has started its jobs. We have had several board meetings and have a busy and exciting year in store for us.

We've started a Membership/Volunteer Campaign! Like the title states, it has a dual purpose. First, we want to increase our membership from 130 to at least 150 and secondly, to encourage you, our members, to get more involved in your association activities. The strength of membership plays a pivotal role when dealing with the state over lake issues.

Also, it would be fantastic if more members would get involved in lake association activities such as our Annual July Picnic and Boat Inspections at our two boat landings. The state actually reimburses us for those inspection hours which help pay for the \$5000 annual cost of treating our lakes to control Eurasian water milfoil. Our Raffle also contributes to cover that cost. Let's get all those 100 tickets sold this year!

I want to close the letter by encouraging all of you to fill out our Survey and returning it in the self-addressed stamped envelope. Sarah Happe did a great job with developing it in order for you to share your important feedback with your lake association board. The survey is a great aid in helping the association to move forward with the aim of making our lakes a very special and beautiful place today and many years into the future.

Enjoy our award-winning newsletter and have a great spring and summer "at the lake".

## 2015 CoPaPi Lake Association Dates at Connors Lake Pavilion

Saturday **May 23** Memorial Weekend Meeting

Jim Halvorson, FRSF Superintendent and Emily Stone will be our speakers  
What life lurks beneath our lakes? Dive in and find out! Emily Stone, Naturalist/Education Director at the Cable Natural History Museum, will explore the cycles, systems, and mysteries that connect lakes with uplands, and you with lakes. Discover cool creatures, and experience the submarine magic for yourself. You'll never look at lakes the same way again.

Saturday **July 4** Association Annual Meeting

Saturday **July 18** Annual Family Picnic (11:30 - 1:30)

Saturday **September 5** Labor Day Weekend Meeting



### Survey prepared by Sarah Belson Happe

Please complete and return the enclosed survey in the self-addressed stamped envelope that is also enclosed. Filling out this survey will help the board know the direction we should follow and will let us know your feelings about the CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association, Inc.

**Township of Winter**

**Town Website: [www.townofwinter.com](http://www.townofwinter.com)**

**Chairman:** David Kinsley, W7270 Thorson Road., Winter WI 54896, 715.266.2102

**1st Supervisor:** Terry Patenaude, Winter WI 54896,

**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](mailto:townofwinter@centurytel.net)

The fall newsletter will be mailed in November 2015. Please submit your contributions or mention items you would like to see in future newsletters by Wednesday October 7 to Sandra Lehmann. Drop off at the house, call 715.332.5101 or email [sjl@pctcnet.net](mailto:sjl@pctcnet.net)

## CoPaPi Board of Directors for 2014-2015

### Officers

President	Jim Schofield	term ends 2016
Vice President	Bob Feller	term ends 2016
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 2016
Ellen Cernjar, Mark LaVick, Dave Bauer, Tom Stram	term ends 2015
Gene Johnson—Past President, Esther Johnson—Past Treasurer	

### Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

Jim Schofield	715.723.2011	schofieldje@hotmail.com
Bob Feller	608.849.7449	rfeller@tds.net
Nancy Sorensen	715.332.5624	plato@pctcnet.net
Sarah Belson Happe	952.473.9645	sbhappe@msn.com
Sandra Lehmann	715.332.5101	sjl@pctcnet.net
Dave Bauer	920.915.1101	dbauer9255@gmail.com
Ellen Cernjar	715.878.4672	gecernjar@yahoo.com
Mark LaVick	715.332.5399	cabinatconnors@pctcnet.net
Tom Stram	715.384.8348	twrcstram@frontier.com
Dale Lehmann	715.332.5101	sjl@pctcnet.net
Dave Schiotz	715.235.9322	dkschiotz@yahoo.com
Tom Deinhammer	715.835.6588	deintj@charter.net
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 18, 2015**

**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 interested residents, their families and friends.

**Memberships in CoPaPi Lake Association**

The CoPaPi Board has decided to start yearly memberships for the year 2015. You will receive a membership notice every year in the spring newsletter. A membership is \$25 per year per member.

### 2015 Cash Raffle

Tickets will be available on or before Memorial Day weekend. Only 100 tickets will be sold at \$100 each. Please support our lake association and buy raffle tickets.

This year we are holding the raffle drawing on Saturday, September 5th at 10:30am at the Connors Lake Picnic Area pavilion. This coincides with our 9 am Labor Day weekend meeting.

Contact local establishments or a board member to purchase tickets

CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association would like to say

**WELCOME**

to all new people in our lake area.

Please consider becoming a member in 2015.

**Fire Numbers—Your Address**

Please make sure your fire number can be seen clearly. When the "brush" grows up in the summer many of them become hidden.

Check on yours.

## WCLMN

### Wisconsin Citizens Lake Monitoring Network by Dave Schiotz, Coordinator

I am often asked “how are the lakes doing? Is the water as clear as last year? What is the Secchi reading?”

Since water quality is something that affects all of us, I thought I would concentrate on that topic for this newsletter article.

By definition, clarity is a measure of the “number of particles in the water which influences how light travels through water.” There are several ways of measuring clarity but we primarily use the Secchi Disk. It allows us to measure an approximate distance that we can detect light in the water—the greater the Secchi reading, the clearer the water! We try to be as accurate as we can when using the Secchi disk but readings can vary due to weather, waves, angle of the sun and water surface glare.

Seasonal fluctuations in water clarity are normal and are often influenced by storms, water level, wind and normal food web cycles.

Lake of the Pines, because of its naturally dark water, does not have as great a fluctuation in clarity as Connors. The Secchi reading may vary only 1 - 2 feet in LOP, while in Connors we may get a 5 - 10 foot difference throughout the summer.

Next time you are looking at the water and you notice it is clear or murky or somewhere in between, try and think of some factors that may have influenced your observation.

Once again we have a great group of volunteers. Last year we had the most complete data on both lakes we have ever had! We hope to improve on that this year. Weather permitting; we plan to do our first sampling around the middle of May.

If anyone is interested in joining the CLMN Team, or you would like to see what is involved, contact me or one of the volunteers. Training is provided.

Thanks also to Sandra Lehmann for inputting all our data into the DNR/CLMN website.

Have a good summer!

Dave Schiotz [dkschiotz@yahoo.com](mailto:dkschiotz@yahoo.com) or 715.332.5164.

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. Scroll down to find Sawyer County and click on it
3. Find Connors Lake or Lake of the Pines
4. In the Report column click on Details

### Snowmobile Trail Pass

Effective July 1, 2015 a snowmobile trail pass will be required for all sleds operating in Wisconsin. The rules are different for those sleds registered in and out of state. More information can be found on the following link.

<https://www.awsc.org/Trails-Trail-Passes/Non-Resident-Trail-Pass.aspx>

## 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 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 Connor's 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 to be sure those boaters are not transporting milfoil.

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, faithful volunteers will bring along a friend to introduce them to the CBCW program. With more volunteers, we can begin inspections at Lake of the Pines.

Sign-up sheets will be at the, Saturday, Memorial weekend Lake Association General Meeting or you can email me ahead of time at [pbehrenbrinker@gmail.com](mailto:pbehrenbrinker@gmail.com). Many thanks to those who have volunteered in the past and we hope to see you again this summer.

## Fishery News

by Tom Deinhammer, Chairman

The WDNR and the tribes have a new agreement for walleyes in the ceded territory on both of our lakes. Three walleye over 15 inches of which can be 15 –19 in. No walleyes between 20 and 24 in and one over 24 in. The tribes will be spearing Connors and the limit will be set at 96 walleyes and 5 muskies. This is new so check with the WDNR for answers to your questions.

Have a good summer. If you have any questions about our lakes give me a call at 715.835.6588 and I will try to help you out.



This beehive wrapped around Lehmann's bird house last summer.

## Aquatic Invasive Species Report by Tom Stram

The fall 2014 Eurasian water-milfoil survey revealed that Connors Lake has 3.47 acres of the aquatic invasive weed which is almost entirely located in Musky Bay. The cost to the Lake Association for control of the milfoil last year was \$4,200 for treatment and \$950 for the post-treatment survey.

After our DNR Treatment Grant expired in 2013 we were told that we were on our own to cover the costs of treatment. Thankfully the initial grants did help us reduce the milfoil from 32 to two or three acres. Fortunately we were able to get an AIS Education Grant to cover the cost of the annual fall survey.

The continuing yearly treatment costs are substantial for a lake association of our size so we took an extra hard look at alternatives which included, first of all, purchasing our own fully rigged boat and getting one of our members certified as an applicator. The problem is that the cost of treatment is made up primarily of the cost of the herbicide which is a fixed cost whether we have our own boat or not. My personal opinion has always been to leave the treatment to the professionals like our herbicide applicator and surveyor. They are my best source of advice for AIS management along with the experts from the DNR.

The second alternative is tempting and involves treating the whole of Musky Bay in hopes that this will seriously wipe out the milfoil for many years. This happened in the north bay by Belson's cabin when the initial intense treatment knocked out the rather fierce invasive milfoil infestation for approximately 10 years. Unfortunately the cost of this treatment would be prohibitive i.e. \$20,000 for granular herbicide and \$10,000 for liquid herbicide. There are no guarantees it will have the desired effect and could cause a potential adverse effect on the native aquatic plant population.

The third choice is to do what we have been doing for the past several years. That is to treat moderately dense areas of milfoil in Musky Bay and be watchful for and treat any new milfoil in the no to low tolerance areas around and across from the boat landing. We delineate the larger and denser EWM beds into polygons to decrease the difficulty and increase the effectiveness of the treatment. Our herbicide applicator says this approach on Connors Lake has been one of his most successful projects.

The last choice is to do nothing. Musky Bay is an ideal environment because of the water depth and lake bottom soil substrate for EWM to grow and spread rapidly. The new dense beds located in our fall surveys were not in the previous years' treatment area i.e. small fires become large fires within one year. In just a short period of time we would have no choice but to treat the entire bay.

Some people have told me they have milfoil in front of their cabins. In most cases this is native milfoil of which we have an abundant and healthy amount in the littoral zone around the lake. Attend our general lake association meetings and we will show you the difference between the native and invasive varieties of milfoil.

I have learned that the management of aquatic invasive species is not cut and dried. Some of my comments above are personal opinions and they are based on information obtained from reading the research and consulting with experts on AIS management.

Please contact me by phone 715-384-8348 or e-mail ([twrcstram@frontier.com](mailto:twrcstram@frontier.com)) if you would like to discuss this subject further or to help Bob Feller and me in this project.

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You can look up the lakes in your WI County that have invasive species by keying in

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives>

Under Data & Maps (on the right side) choose Lakes & Rivers with Aquatic Invasive Species. In the location line click on the check box and choose your county. You will find interesting information.

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### DNR spring wildlife & fisheries proposed rules hearing and annual Conservation Congress county meeting

Over 4,600 people attended the 2015 Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings and Wisconsin Conservation Congress county meetings that were held Monday, April 13.

The public hearings, held simultaneously in all 72 counties, allowed citizens to comment and provide their input on proposed fish and wildlife rule changes, Conservation Congress advisory questions, and to submit resolutions for changes they would like to see in the future.

Go to the following link to see the results of the Statewide Spring Hearing. You will then find the listed links that you can click on.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html>

- [Statewide Spring Hearing results](#)
- [Spring Hearing results by county](#)
- [2015 Citizen resolution results](#)
- [2015 Spring Hearing questionnaire](#)
- [2015 Hearing locations](#)
- [2015 Hearing flyer](#)
- [2015 Proposed changes to wildlife rule language](#)
- [2015 Proposed changes to fisheries rule language](#) and [attached table \(Sec. 8, NR 20.20\)](#)
- Additional Information on 2015 [trout](#) and [panfish](#) regulation package proposals

Maybe you have heard the lake make groaning sounds. The cracking, popping, grinding and thunder like boom occurs when there has been a temperature change. Lake ice is dynamic and, like any solid, it expands and contracts with temperature changes.

## Interesting Lake Happenings

by Carolyn Mealman

Our late fall flock of 11 turkeys disappeared and there were only a handful that visited our bird feeders, every few days, during snow cover. We really enjoy seeing the wildlife and watching and learning their behavior patterns.



"Ice over" was the week-end of November 21st and 22nd. The spring thaw saw a large area of water open up out front that the waterfowl were enjoying. On April 6th the wind changed direction, causing a lot of waves and "ice out" was one of the earliest since my time here. April 6 also saw two inches of snow on the ground.

It was pretty quiet on Connors Lake this winter. Not many people drilling a hole in the ice. Very few deer were making the pilgrimage back and forth across the ice. Several people have seen the elk that are in the Johnson Road area, but I'm still waiting. The logger, who was working off Johnson Road, reports he saw the elk quite often; in fact, elk would lay down about 40 yards away and watch the logging.

I thought we were going to have another "crazy cardinal" incident this winter when a Red Bellied Woodpecker started to peck on the wood of our window frames several times a day. We had to keep scaring it so our windows weren't a disaster. Finally it got the message. Maybe it was trying to store seeds there.



During the "warm-up", around January 13<sup>th</sup>, a couple chippies came out to say hello. The creatures certainly couldn't have been hungry after all the storing up they did. They really thought spring was here March 12, and really sure when the Redwing/Purple Crackle/waterfowl groups showed up on the 17<sup>th</sup> and most of the 300 Finch flock left us. In mid-March a lone coyote ventured out on the ice, making a large ark before going back to shore. Perhaps the pack ousted it.

**Rainbow**—On Friday, April 10th, as we headed for the dinner table and looked out the window, a 20 yard long rainbow appeared, as if rising out of the lake. That was the evening, around five o'clock, that we had clouds, rain and sun. It soon faded and we sat down at the table. Our son, Craig, who was here, said, "look there's another one right out front." Shortly, another one appeared to the right of it. In a short time the second one was gone. But, as the weather pattern continued across the lake, the one rainbow moved with it right to the other shore, up over the trees and over Cty. M, where it faded away. I can't ever remember seeing a moving rainbow before.

The **loons** arrived on Connors Lake on April 16. They must have been surprised when they encountered our snowy weather on April 20 and 21.



### A little wildlife trivia for you {answers at the end}.

1. The fire-fly is not a fly – what is it?
2. Dragonflies have 6 legs, yet cannot walk. Does the number of legs of different species of insects vary?
3. Hudson seal is neither a seal nor does it come from Hudson Bay. What animal produces the fur?
4. A shark has no bones – of what is its skeleton composed?
5. The eye of a fly has over 4,000 facets. Does this unusual construction protect the fly?
6. The horned toad is not a toad – what is it?
7. Butterflies taste with their feet. What were these insects originally called?
8. A dog invariably turns around before lying down in a strange place – Why?
9. The wings of a humming bird move many times faster than an airplane – How fast?
10. You can always predict rainy weather by watching the morning glories – How?

### Another Aesop's Fable—The Man And The Gnat

As a clownish fellow was sitting on a bank, a Gnat settled on his leg, and stung it. The man slapped his leg, meaning to kill the Gnat; but it flew away, and he had nothing but the blow for his pains. Again and again the insect alighted upon the leg; and again and again the man struck at it, each time more savagely than before. His thigh became bruised all over; but the Gnat was still unharmed and lively. Almost mad with rage and disappointment, the fellow burst into tears. "O mighty Hercules!" cried he, "nothing can withstand thy power. Aid me, I beseech thee, against this terrible Gnat, which for an hour has tortured me beyond all bearing." {Can you relate to him?}

### **Trivia answers**

1. It is a beetle.
2. All insects have 6 legs.
3. A muskrat
4. Cartilage.
5. The facets allow the fly to see an approaching enemy in almost every direction without moving.
6. A lizard.
7. Flutterbugs.
8. To see which way the air is moving, so it can face it to scent danger.
9. 60 miles per hour.
10. They close their blossoms before a rain.

## Eagles Building and Courting from Wisconsin Woodsmoke by Cid Vig

The eagles arrive shortly after the snow leaves the Northwoods. It's a time for building, courting and laying. During April, both sexes incubate the one, two or three eggs that have been laid. Both male and female have developed a brood patch on their lower breast, an area that is featherless and well-supplied with blood vessels so as to keep the eggs warm. Observers report that the eggs are covered constantly and turned every hour. The hatching time for eagle eggs is 35 days.

It is important that the eagles are not disturbed in any way during April and May. Most eagles appear to mate for life. The breeding pair returns to the same nesting site year after year. A pair will frequently maintain two or more nesting sites in the same area and rotate between them.

Sixty percent of the eagles nest in white pine trees, the tallest and strongest trees. Thirty percent nest in red pines, and the remaining ten percent in hardwoods. In the white pines the nests are usually found beneath a canopy of the upper branches and in hardwoods almost always at the top. Very few nests are found in dead trees.

Eventually, the nests become a huge structure - five to seven feet deep and six to eight feet in diameter. One record-breaking nest weighed as much as two tons. In Wisconsin several nesting territories have been used for as many as 50 years. Since the eaglets are very rambunctious during their stay in the nest, the structure needs to be repaired each spring.

Wildlife biologists, Ron Eckstein and Chuck Sindelar, have found many interesting objects in eagle nests when they climbed the nesting trees to band eaglets - clam and turtle shells - coyote, rabbit and raccoon skulls. Many of these things came from carrion piles, since eagles are unable to carry objects that weigh over six pounds.

The courtship activities are most interesting. They are best described in the Northwoods Eagle calendar. "Chase displays are common - sometimes one eagle will fly underneath the other, and the birds will grasp talons and roll over in flight, exchanging positions with one another. The most spectacular display (cartwheel) is when the mated pair flies to a great altitude, locks talons together, and plummets toward the ground spinning in a series of cartwheels and then pulls out of the fall just before hitting the ground".



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## Signs of Spring

By Sandra Lehmann

Each year those of us who are full time residents in The Northwoods anxiously await the arrival of spring. Seeing pussy willows along the roadways is a welcome sight. If you cut them and put them in a vase without any water they will last for years. Spraying them with hair spray helps keep the pussy willows from falling off the branch.



### How Pussy Willows Got Their Name

Many springtimes ago, according to an old Polish legend, tiny kittens had been chasing butterflies at the river's edge and fell in. The mother cat, helpless to save them, started crying. The willows at the river's edge swept their long graceful branches into the water - the kittens gripped on tightly to the branches and were rescued.

Each springtime since, goes the legend, willow branches sprout tiny fur-like buds where the tiny kittens once clung.



### The Willow Cats by Margaret Widdemer

They call them pussy-willows,  
 But there's no cat to see  
 Except the little furry toes  
 That stick out on the tree:  
 I think that very long ago,  
 When I was just born new,  
 There must have been whole pussy-cats  
 Where just the toes stick through----  
 And every Spring it worries me,  
 I cannot ever find  
 Those willow-cats that ran away  
 And left their toes behind!

A lake is an inland body of relatively motionless water that usually has a river or stream feeding into or draining out of it. Lakes differ from lagoons and estuaries due to the fact they are not connected to the ocean. A lake is also larger and deeper than other inland water bodies such as ponds.

The study of inland water bodies and ecosystems is called Limnology. A lot of lakes today are artificially made to generate hydro-electric power, for domestic water supply, for industrial or agricultural use, or for aesthetic and recreational purposes.

## Make Your Own Rainbow By Sandra Lehmann

To make your own rainbow you will need:

- A glass of water (about three quarters full)
- White paper
- A sunny day

1. Take the glass of water and paper to a part of the room with sunlight (near a window is good).
2. Hold the glass of water (being careful not to spill it) above the paper and watch as sunlight passes through the glass of water, refracts (bends) and forms a rainbow of colors on your sheet of paper.
3. Try holding the glass of water at different heights and angles to see if it has a different effect.



Even though you normally see a rainbow as an arc of color in the sky, they can also form in other situations. You may have seen a rainbow in a water fountain or in the mist of a waterfall.

Rainbows form in the sky when sunlight refracts (bends) as it passes through raindrops. It acts in the same way when it passes through your glass of water. The sunlight refracts, separating it into the colors red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.

Located on the border of the United States and Canada are the Great Lakes of North America. They include 5 lakes: Michigan, Huron, Erie, Ontario, and Superior which together contain around 21% of the world's freshwater supply.



Lake Superior is the largest of the Great Lakes and also has the largest surface area of any freshwater lake in the world at 82,000 km<sup>2</sup> (31,700 mi<sup>2</sup>).

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Wednesday	Broasted Chicken—All you can eat	
Thursday	Steak Night—2 for 1 Pork or Beef Ribeye	
Friday	Fish Fry—Broiled or Deep Fried	
Saturday	Prime Rib	

See you this summer!



Like us on Facebook for specials and event info  
Check out our website for our events calendar!  
[www.flambeauforestinn.net](http://www.flambeauforestinn.net)

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River otters can stay underwater for up to eight minutes and can close their ears and nostrils to keep water out. They can also dive to a depth of 60 feet!

River otters are very playful animals and can very often be seen playing games. Social groups are typically made up of adult females and their pups.



## **Making Maple Syrup—A sign of spring and dependent on the weather! by Sandra Lehmann**

The middle of March is usually when tree tapping for sap and the making of maple syrup occurs. The sugar maple or hard maple produces the sweetest product.

Maple syrup can be produced with a minimum of equipment, but a few standard items increase the efficiency of the operation and the quality of the product:

1. A drill with a 7/16- or 1/2-inch bit for drilling tap-holes in trees.
2. A metal or plastic collection spout for each tap-hole.
3. A collection container (bucket or plastic bag) or tubing line for each tap-hole.
4. A large pan and a heat source for boiling down the sap
5. A large-scale thermometer calibrated at least 15 degrees above the boiling point of water.
6. Wool, orlon or other filters for filtering finished syrup while hot.
7. Storage facilities and containers for the finished syrup.

To tap a tree, select a spot on the trunk of the tree 2 to 4 feet above ground in an area that appears to contain sound wood. Drill a hole, at a slight upward angle, approximately 2 to 2.5 inches deep and insert a collection spout and attach a covered bucket or plastic bag or a tubing line to the spout.

Sap flow in maple trees occurs when a rapid warming trend in early to midmorning follows a cool (below freezing) night. That is why the amount of sap produced varies from day to day. Normally, a single tap-hole produces from a quart to a gallon of sap per flow period, with a possible seasonal accumulation of 10 to 12 gallons per tap-hole.

The amount of sap required to produce a gallon of maple syrup varies, depending on its sugar concentration. Sap averages approximately 2 percent sugar. At this concentration, 43 gallons of sap are required to produce 1 gallon of syrup. If the sap contains a higher sugar concentration, less sap will be required.

In large commercial operations the evaporation pan is arranged so that sap may be continuously added and syrup drawn off. In smaller operations the evaporation pan is filled with sap and sap is added as necessary to replace that lost by evaporation. When a suitable amount of concentrated sap is present, the pan is "finished-off".

To begin evaporation, the evaporating container is filled with sap. The sap is then heated to the boiling point and kept boiling until evaporation lowers the level of sap in the pan and then more sap is added. This process is continued until most of the sap in the pan is highly concentrated. It may be necessary occasionally to skim the surface of the boiling liquid to remove surface foam and other materials. Once the desired boiling point has been reached, the syrup is ready for filtering and packaging. Hot syrup should be filtered through a suitable filter of wool or orlon to remove suspended particles and improve the appearance of the syrup. After filtering, the syrup should be packaged, also while hot.

Pure Maple Syrup is a natural, nutritious and delicious sweetener and has one of the lowest calorie levels of common sweeteners. Maple Syrup is also a natural product with no additives or preservatives. Some ideas for using maple syrup are: carrots glazed with maple syrup, butter and a pinch of dry mustard; acorn squash baked with 2 tablespoons maple syrup and salt and pepper in each cavity; and as a sauce for vanilla ice cream.

### **Maple sugaring among the Ojibwe Indians in the Great Lakes region**

From February to April, as with warm, thawing days alternated with frosty nights, sap usually began to run freely in the sugar maple trees. Before the trees were tapped, birchbark was gathered for baskets. The baskets ranged from one quart to two gallons in size. Traditionally, women assumed the principal role in sugar-making. Most of the maple-sugar groves were owned *matrilineally* – in the name of a woman.

The sap gathered in the early part of the flow was considered the best. Two to ten tapplings could be made in one tree, depending on its size. It could take two to three days to complete the driving of the spiles (collection spout). Every day, sap was gathered and carried to a lodge for processing. These special wigwams were maintained from year to year – a small one for storing the equipment, and a larger one where the sap was processed.

The finished product took one of three forms: syrup, sugar, or cake. Sap intended for syrup boiled for a short time over lower flame. Cooks added water to the sap and stirred it frequently. To make sugar, they slowly boiled the sap to thick syrup and poured it into another trough, where it was "worked" with a paddle and with the hands until it crystallized into grains. And to make cakes, or "hard sugar," they poured the thick syrup into makuks (birch bark containers) or other containers and let it cool.

After cooking the first sugar of the year, the people always offered a small amount to the Great Spirit, or Manidoo. This ceremony, the Offering of the First Fruits or Game, accompanied the first preparation of each seasonal food. The Manidoog were asked to insure good health, long life and the safety of everyone at the feast.



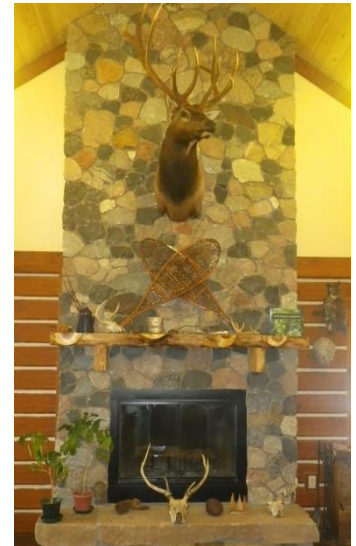
## FLAMBEAU RIVER STATE FOREST

### From the Superintendent—Jim Halvorson

Another winter has past. Spring peepers are calling and yes, I saw my first mosquito yesterday. I hope everyone had a safe and happy winter. The weather this past winter can be summed up as normal except for the cold February. This spring was unique, the snow pretty much left in one week, which was fine with me. We have moved into the new headquarters. There are still a few final touches that need to be done which will be taken care of over the summer. Also if you live on the west side of Connors Lake you may have seen your new neighbors. There is a small group of elk that have migrated in that direction. There are plans for releasing approximately 11 more this spring with more possibly coming next year. Here is a brief summary of what's been happening this past winter and what is coming up this summer.

### New Headquarters

- We moved in this past February. It will take the summer I suspect to get fully moved in. It is a beautiful building. People now have desks that are not in the hallway and the copy machine is out of the bathroom. We also have attached men's and women's showers that will allow our summer users a place to clean up when having extended stays at the campground or river sites.
- We are hoping to have an open house this spring and are planning on June 5th. Please spread the word out to your friends and neighbors. This spring we will continue working on some landscape issues around the building and improvements to the canoe landing on the headquarters side of the river.
- Many have asked what will become of the old headquarters. This building is registered as a historical building. Plans are to convert it into a self-guided interpretive building. It will be open during the summer months where you will be able to learn more about the history of the Flambeau River starting 30,000 years ago to the present. This may not happen however for a number of years.



### Forestry

- At our bid opening in November, **1,152 acres** in timber sales were sold for **\$871,817.00**. Total revenue for this past calendar was **\$1,781,817.00**. This past winter was also very busy with sales being cut as compared to last winter, which had deep snow conditions. Our timber sale establishment goal for next year will be **2,200 acres**. This is down from our 2,400 acres from last year and is primarily due to our catching up on our backlog needs.

### Recreation

- Cross country skiing was **excellent** on the forest this past winter. We had early snows and skiing conditions stayed good all winter. Our candlelight ski event was great. Thanks to all that came and brought dishes to pass. It seems to get better as each year goes by. I can only remember one poor year when temperatures were well below zero and only the hardiest came out.
- Snowmobiling started slow. Even though we had early snow it was not enough to start grooming. Because of this our trails were rough. Once we started grooming, conditions got better. We were actually in somewhat of a snow belt here in that all around us snow conditions were less than ideal for snowmobiling.
- Projects this summer we will be working on are: improvements to Connors Picnic area, new vault toilets at Lake of the Pines Campground, improved signage on both our ATV and snowmobile trails, kiosk placement at river landings, campsite renovations located at Cedar Rapids location, three miles of ATV trail renovation, construction of canoe landing at headquarter site, renovation of Beaver Dam and Camp 41 river canoe landings, hiking trail improvements off Johnson Road south to Connors Creek and graveling three miles of Skinner Creek Road.

### Elk

- **11 additional elk** will be released this spring on the Flambeau. This is the second release phase; the first was in the Haystack road area. Many of the elk are collared and will be tracked as they move freely through-out the forest. This fall you will be able to hear the bulls calling through-out the forest. A field trip is being planned for late August, early September.

### Law Enforcement

I want to introduce our new Ranger Chis Bender to the Flambeau River State Forest: Chris is from Wausau, WI and graduated from UW-SP in 2013, with a B.S. in Resource Management and Conservation Law Enforcement. His prior work experience is as an LTE Park Ranger at Yellowstone Lake State Park and as a permanent Conservation Warden. Chris is an avid outdoorsman, enjoying all types of hunting and fishing. He also enjoys motorcycling around the U.S, backcountry backpacking, and wakeboarding. Make sure you introduce yourself to him.



## The Northern Elk Herd

By Laine Stowell

By now you've heard that 26 elk were brought from Kentucky and are being health tested and acclimated to the Black River State Forest in Jackson County. This is the start of the "operational" part of an agreement that's been negotiated between Kentucky and Wisconsin. Missouri, then Virginia, showed us the way from 2011 through 2014, and we got "in line" to get Kentucky elk right after Missouri's first year. The negotiated plan is to capture 150 Kentucky elk and place 75 of those at the Jackson County Project and place 75 in the Clam Lake elk range.

You may remember that in December 2012, the Natural Resources Board approved an amendment to the Clam Lake Elk Management Plan that allowed bringing in additional elk, approved assisted dispersal as a management tool (assisted dispersal is the taking of elk from a colonized part of the elk range and relocating them into an un-colonized area of the same elk range), and added 508 square miles of elk range on the southern portion of the 1,112 square mile elk range. This last part added the 8,000 acre Kimberly Clark Wildlife Area, 93,000 acre Flambeau River State Forest, about 20,000 acres of Price County Forest, over 50,000 acres of Sawyer County Forest, about 25,000 acres of Rusk County Forest, and over 25,000 acres of industrial forest land—78 percent of this 508 square miles is public access land, compared to 63 percent public access land on the original elk range. Furthermore, the managers of these lands, DNR forestry, County Forestry and Industrial foresters, all aggressively manage for aspen and manage their timber for sustain growth and conservation. The result is abundant young forest, in particular aspen clear-cuts. From 28,000 plus elk radio telemetry locations the elk up near Clam Lake have taught us that elk love aspen clear-cuts, not only for abundant forage, but also for predator escape cover...it's easier for a 500 to 900 pound elk to run through thick aspen whips than a 75 to 110 pound wolf chasing them.

Of the 75 elk to be brought to the Clam Lake elk range some will be released in the area of the original release of elk, and some will be released in that 508 square mile "expanded range". In preparation of release of Kentucky elk into the expanded area we've moved elk to the expanded range during the winters of 2013/2014 and 2014/2015. Right now there are 21 elk within the expanded range, and we hope to move another 25 to 50 elk there in the next 3-4 years. Our hope is that the predator experienced Clam Lake elk will mix with the predator ignorant Kentucky elk to help the latter's survival. Our greater hope is that these two groups will mix and share their genetic material, which will make our resident wild elk a healthier and more resilient population.



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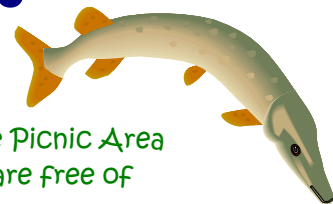
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# 2015 Summer Nature Programs

## Flambeau River State Forest



The following programs will be held on Saturdays from 1-2 pm at the Connors Lake Picnic Area in the Flambeau River State Forest (unless specified otherwise). The Programs are free of charge, vehicle admission fees are waived for participants of the program.

The public is invited to attend and all ages are welcome. We hope to see you there!

### June 6: **The Fun of Fishing**

Learn the basic skills of fishing. Come join our Flambeau Forest crew as we learn to cast, bait our hooks, and reel in the fun. Bring your poles and let's play some Casting games.

**Rain or shine, all ages are welcome join. We will have some extra poles.**

### June 20: **Fun with Dad. Happy Father's Day!**

Challenge Dad in a game or two, horseshoes, egg toss, croquet, or get a team together for a game of whiffle-ball.

**Equipment for all games will be provided**

### June 27: **Art in the Park**

Have you noticed all the natural colors in the wilderness? Let's take a walk in the forest and see what we can find. Beauty is everywhere if you look for it. Kids, be ready to find leaves, bark, and more as we go on an adventure to explore what's around us. We will turn nature into art.

**Supplies are provided**

### July 4: **Family Fun Day! - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration**

**Let's get summer going!** All types of fun activities for the kids. Sidewalk chalk drawings, games for the whole family, coloring and water-coloring contests.

**Prizes will be awarded for everyone**

### July 18: **Outdoor Camp Cooking**

Come and enjoy the afternoon learning new ways of cooking in the outdoors. Have you ever made dinner over an open fire, cooked with Dutch ovens and other iron skillets? Visit with us and enjoy tasting and sharing recipes with hints on how to make it enjoyable for the whole family.

**Demonstrations and free samples**

### August 8: **Smokey Bear's Birthday**

Come and celebrate Smokey Bear's birthday party with us. Games party favors and a Cake too. You may even run into Smokey Bear himself!

### August 15<sup>th</sup> **Scavenger Hunt**

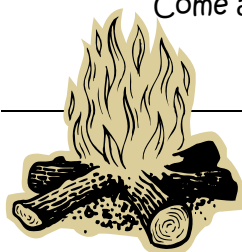
Enjoy this afternoon fun and see what you can find.

**Prizes are awarded**

### August 29: **Tag Along with the Elk Biologist**

Come and join us as we monitor the Elk. Listen to telemetry of the radioed collared elk and see if you can hear a bugling elk with Laine & Diane.

**Meet at the New Flambeau River State Headquarters at 6:30 pm.**



Flambeau River State Forest  
W1613 Co. Rd. W  
Winter, WI 54896  
715.332.5271 ext. 101



## Wisconsin Turtles

By Sandra Lehmann

Turtles in Wisconsin are associated with lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and bogs; however, they are also found commonly foraging for food on land. We have 11 turtle species in Wisconsin. There are two softshell turtles—smooth softshell and spiny softshell; one Eastern musk turtle; one snapping turtle; and seven semi-aquatic pond and marsh turtles—Blanding's turtle, false map turtle, northern map turtle, ornate box turtle, ouachita map turtle, painted turtle and wood turtle.

As far as I can figure out, our northern area is populated by the following turtles: spiny softshell, snapping turtle, Blandings turtle, painted turtle, and wood turtle. We have seen painted turtles sunning themselves on logs as we go around the lake and we have had big snapping turtles come into our yard from time to time.

Turtles are active primarily from April to October. Their daily activities generally include sleeping, basking, and foraging for food. Depending on the species, turtles can be omnivores, herbivores, or carnivores. Algae, fruit, stems, leaves, and invertebrates are consistent turtle food sources. For mobile prey, turtles use methods such as ambushing or stalking. In many cultures, turtles have been associated with age and wisdom. Some species have been documented to live 100+ years.

Turtles have slow maturation rates. Sexual maturation in certain species can take as long as 20 years. Mating primarily takes place in late spring and involves males courting females. Once fertilization takes place, females usually instinctively migrate to upland nesting sites in June and July, excavate a nest, lay eggs, and cover the nest with soil. From August to September, hatchlings

begin to emerge and head for water and cover. Turtles do not display parental care once the eggs are laid. The sex of hatchlings is dependent on incubation temperature, with females being produced in warmer soil and males resulting from cooler soil. Prior to the onset of winter, turtles begin to hibernate beneath soil and plant debris of woodlands and prairies or in the soft muck at the bottom of waterways.

The **main threat** to turtles in Wisconsin is **habitat fragmentation**. In some areas, predators such as raccoons and skunks are the culprits when they raid turtle nests. Other threats include pollution, disease, and exploitation for use in global food markets and pet trades. In Wisconsin, road mortality is a major cause of the decline in local turtle populations. Traffic on even lightly travelled roads causes significant **road mortality** of adult turtles. From late May to early July, female turtles migrate to upland areas to nest. In too many instances, they have to cross roads to lay eggs in suitable habitat.

To reverse the trend and assist turtles in making safe crossings, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources launched the Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program. Key to the program's success are the volunteers who identify the deadliest roads for turtles and educate drivers to slow down and look out for turtles, especially from April to October when they are most active. Volunteers also have a large influence on local governments and road maintenance agencies, and getting them to install turtle road crossing signs and make road crossings safer for both humans and turtles, says Andrew Badje, a DNR conservation biologist.

Below are summaries of two of Wisconsin's turtles.

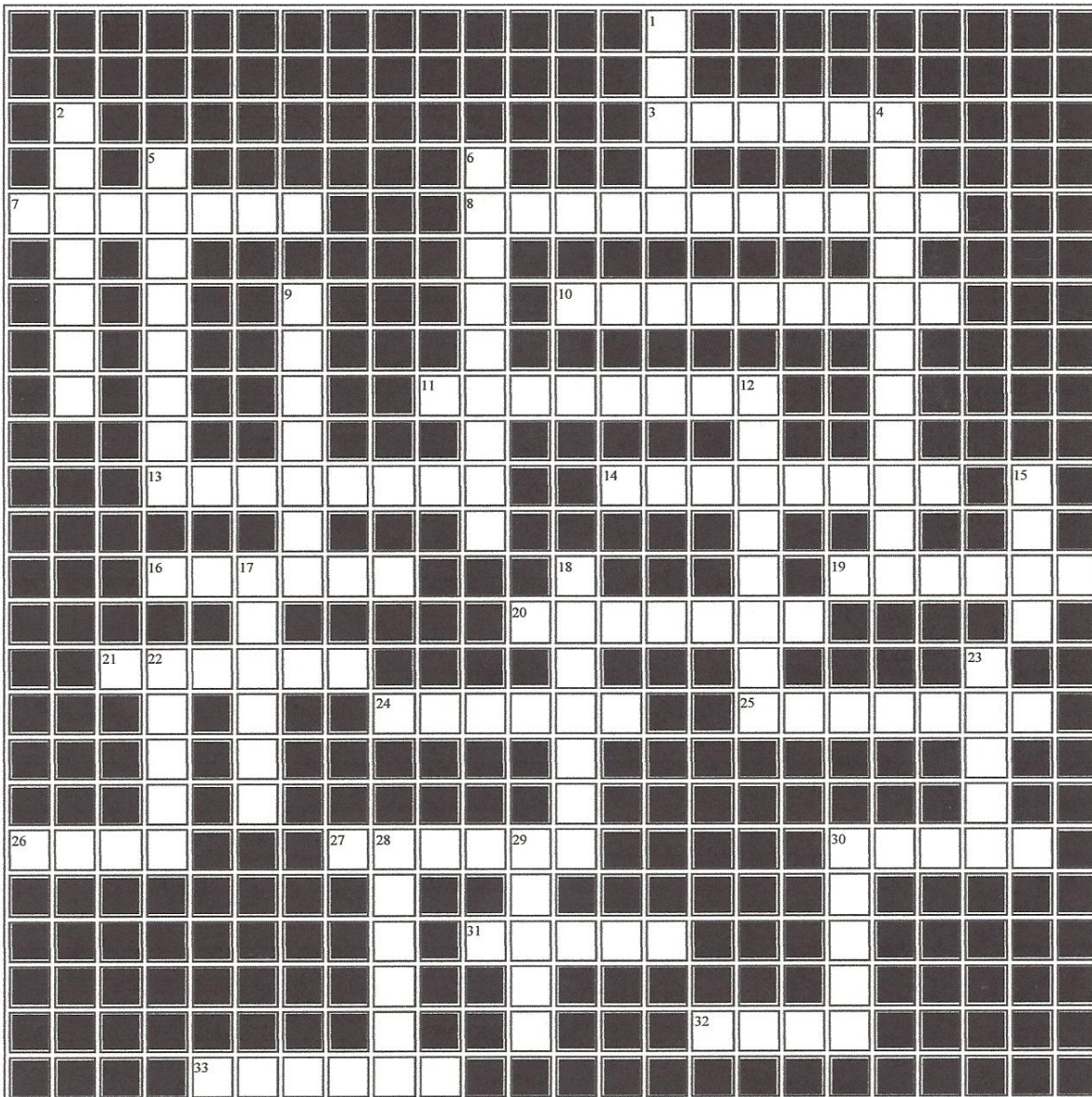
**Snapping Turtle**—The common snapping turtle is Wisconsin's largest and heaviest turtle species. Its shell can vary from light brown to black in color and it has a saw-toothed back edge. The tail supports a row of jagged dorsal scales and is nearly as long as the shell. The head has large jaws and a pointed snout with a prominent beak. Its long neck, powerful jaws and aggressive behavior have rightly earned the snapping turtle its name. Snapping turtles live in most aquatic habitats but prefer ponds, lakes and the backwaters of rivers.



**Painted Turtle**—Wisconsin has two subspecies of painted turtles that intergrade throughout much of the state. The western subspecies is typically found in extreme northwestern and western portions of the state. The painted turtle is distinguished by a relatively flat, smooth, keelless shell that lacks serrations along the rear edge. The western's shell tends to be greenish, but is sometimes blackish. Its underside is usually light orange to reddish with a large symmetrical "oak leaf" shaped gray blotch covering much of it. The western painted turtle's head and legs are dark with thin yellow stripes. Painted turtles prefer to live in marshes, ponds, shallow bays of lakes and backwaters of rivers that support dense aquatic vegetation. The western painted turtle is Wisconsin's most abundant turtle species.



# Fun for kids of all ages



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

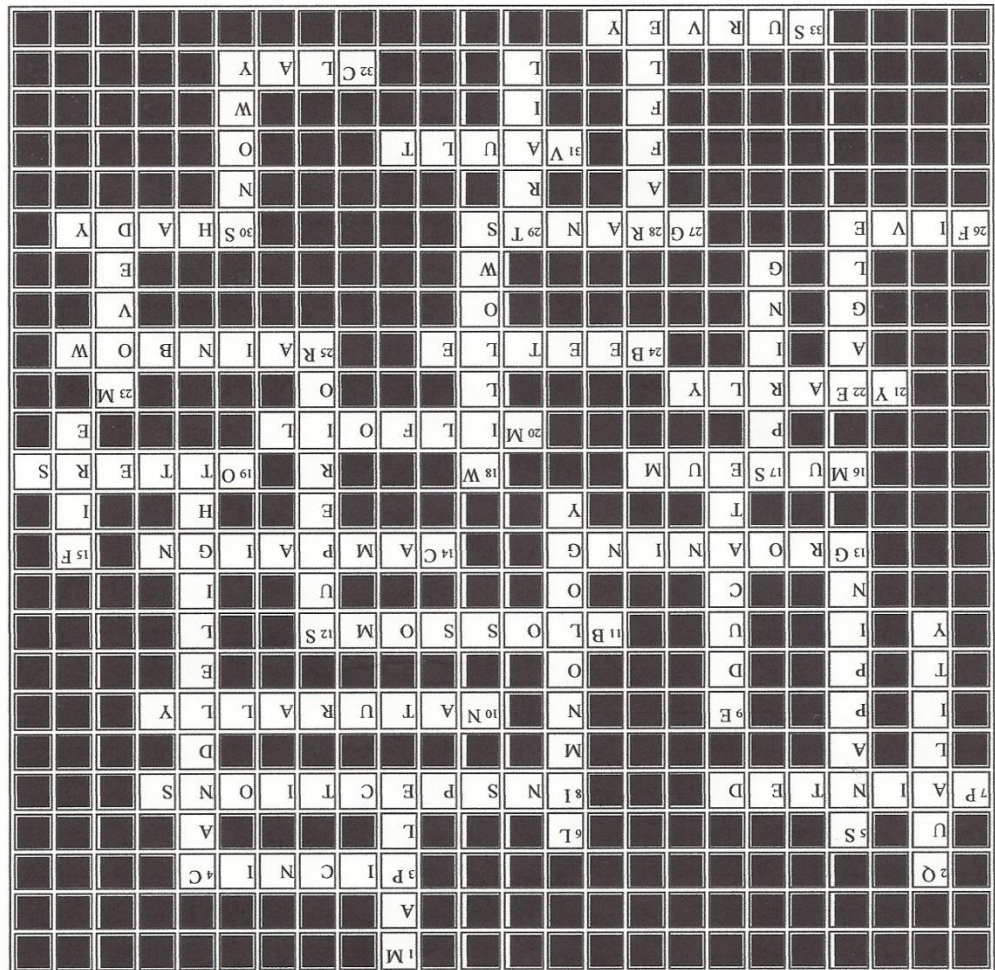
## Across

3. We have an annual July \_\_\_\_\_.
7. We often see \_\_\_\_\_ turtles sunning themselves on logs.
8. We currently carry out boat \_\_\_\_\_ at the boat landings.
10. Lake of the Pines has \_\_\_\_\_ dark water.
11. The morning glories close their \_\_\_\_\_ before a rain.
13. The lake makes \_\_\_\_\_ sounds when there is a temperature change.
14. A membership/volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ has been started.
16. We will be having a speaker from the Cable Natural History \_\_\_\_\_.
19. River \_\_\_\_\_ can stay underwater for up to eight minutes.
20. EWM stands for Eurasian Water \_\_\_\_\_.
21. \_\_\_\_\_ memberships are \$25 for each person.
24. The fire-fly is a \_\_\_\_\_.
25. Did you know that you can make your own \_\_\_\_\_?
26. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Great Lakes of North America.
27. In the past, \_\_\_\_\_ have helped pay for EWM treatment.
30. A toad house needs a \_\_\_\_\_ location.
31. New \_\_\_\_\_ toilets will be installed at Lake of the Pines campground.
32. A \_\_\_\_\_ container is best to use when making a toad house.
33. A \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed with this newsletter.

## Down

1. Making \_\_\_\_\_ syrup is a "right of spring".
2. Water \_\_\_\_\_ affects all of us.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ ski was held last February.
5. The common \_\_\_\_\_ turtle is Wisconsin's largest and heaviest turtle species.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of inland water bodies and ecosystems.
9. CBCW helps to \_\_\_\_\_ boaters on our lakes.
12. Lake \_\_\_\_\_ is the largest of the Great Lakes.
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ number is also your address.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ is always a great time of year up north.
18. In the spring you see pussy \_\_\_\_\_ along the roadways.
22. You may see the nest of an \_\_\_\_\_ when you look in the pine trees.
23. The workers at the FRSF office \_\_\_\_\_ into its new headquarters.
28. Each year we have a cash \_\_\_\_\_ as a fund raiser.
29. You will need a snowmobile \_\_\_\_\_ pass next season.
30. We had \_\_\_\_\_ weather in April.

## Crossword Puzzle Answer Key



## Making a Toad House By Sandra Lehmann

Toads consume 100 or more insects and slugs every day. While you can always choose to purchase a toad house they actually cost very little to make.

You can make a garden toad house from a plastic food container or a clay or plastic flowerpot or use an empty coffee can/container. When deciding what to use as a toad house, keep in mind that plastic containers are free and easy to cut, but clay pots are cooler in the heat of summer. Broken flower pots work just as well as undamaged pots for toad houses.

If you decide to decorate your toad house, use washable paint. The paint will adhere better to clay than it does to plastic. Miniatures would also be a good idea for decoration.



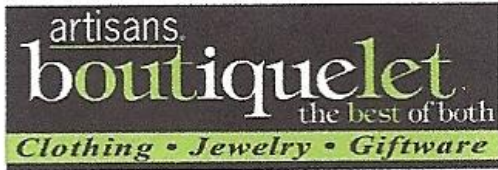
You have two options for setting up a toad house made from a clay pot. The first method is to lay the pot horizontally on the ground and bury the lower half in the soil. The result is a toad cave. The second option is to set the pot upside on a circle of rocks. Make an entryway by removing a couple of rocks.

When using a plastic container, cut an entryway into the plastic and place the container upside down onto the soil. Place a rock on top, or if the container is large enough, sink it down into the soil an inch or two to keep it in place.

A toad house for the garden needs a shady location, preferably under a shrub or plant with low-hanging leaves. Stick a handful of leaves inside the container to serve as bedding material and sink a small dish of water into the soil and keep it filled at all times.



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