

# ...From the Lake Shores

Volume 21 | December 2016

## WELCOME!

We would like to **WELCOME** any new residents to the area!  
Please consider becoming a member of our Lake Association! The membership fee is \$25/year per membership.  
Check out our website at [www.connorspineslakeassociation.org](http://www.connorspineslakeassociation.org)  
and look under the TAKEACTION Tab – Membership, or email with any questions!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT | Bob Feller

Some things stay the same, and some things change.

Back in the spring of 2003 the DNR estimated that we had 23 acres of invasive EWM (Eurasian watermilfoil) in Connors Lake. In February of 2004 the lake association was formed and the first treatment was made in 2005. Now fast forward to 2016 and we have under 5 acres of EWM located mainly in Musky Bay. Thanks to our members support, Tom Stram's guidance and a diligent board we have been able to stay on top of the problem. The data collected from our CLMN (Citizen Lake Monitoring Network) and CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Waters) volunteers help us to make science based decisions and keep invasives from entering our lakes. What won't change is our main focus on keeping our lakes and fisheries healthy and invasives in check.

What has changed is that State support and grant monies are decreasing. Our treasurer Florian Wisinski crunched the numbers and made some preliminary future cost estimations. While we presently have the funds to meet our needs for lake surveys and treatment we are anticipating this may change. We will continue to look for grants and other outside sources for help. What hasn't changed is our need for your membership support and the time you volunteer.

Another change... how we communicate with our members. In my day: "chip" meant a piece of wood, "hardware" was found in a hardware store, and "software" wasn't even a word. Now I have a smart phone, a laptop, and a kindle. I still like to hold a book in hand and turn pages, but with the help of my kids and grandkids I'm starting to "embrace" change. Your lake association has made the technological leap with:

Website: [www.connorspineslakeassociation.org](http://www.connorspineslakeassociation.org)

Email: [info@connorspineslakeassociation.org](mailto:info@connorspineslakeassociation.org)

Facebook: Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines Lake Association

What hasn't changed is that we need your suggestions. We are always updating and revising the site and would appreciate your feedback on things you would like added or changed. Please visit the "contact us" page on the website to submit your thoughts.

Finally our newsletter "...from the Lake Shores". After crafting TWENTY Volumes of our excellent newsletter, Sandy Lehman decided it would be her last one. Ellen Cernjar has offered to help with the transition. What will change... the newsletter will now be available to you in different ways...

- We will be emailing a PDF to all email addresses we have on file, you can print at home if you wish.
- On the website to read, download or print.
- Hardcopies will be mailed to those without an email address on file, and available at The Flambeau Forest Inn.

Change... someone once said "the only bad change comes out of a vending machine." Whatever change that comes our way I want to thank you for your continued support and passion for caring for our beautiful lakes. Have a great fall and winter "at the lake".  
-Bob Feller

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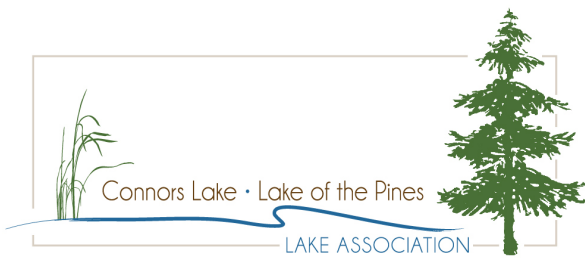
*"Preserving and protecting our lakes for today and for future generations."*

Connors Lake | Lake of the Pines | Little Papoose

Voluntary Lake Association

Connorspineslakeassociation.org | [info@connorspineslakeassociation.org](mailto:info@connorspineslakeassociation.org)

Check us out on Facebook: Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines Lake Association



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# LAKE ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

**OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS** | Officers and Directors are elected for two-year terms. Their terms shall expire after the annual meeting or upon the election of new Officers and Directors, whichever occurs later. The term of office of President, Vice President and four (4) at-large directors expire in even-numbered years. The term of office of Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and four (4) at-large directors expire in odd-numbered years. The past president is a board member at large.

## Officers

*President:* Bob Feller, [rfeller@tds.net](mailto:rfeller@tds.net) term ends 2018  
*Vice President:* Dave Bauer, [dbauer9255@gmail.com](mailto:dbauer9255@gmail.com) term ends 2018  
*Treasurer:* Florian Wisinski, [fjwisinski@aol.com](mailto:fjwisinski@aol.com) term ends 2017  
*Recording Secretary:* Sarah Belson Happe, [sbhappe@msn.com](mailto:sbhappe@msn.com) term ends 2017  
*Corresponding Secretary:* Toni Slack, [flambeauforestinn@gmail.com](mailto:flambeauforestinn@gmail.com) term ends 2017

## Board Members at Large

### Terms Ending in 2017:

Dave Cooley, [dcooley1@prodigy.net](mailto:dcooley1@prodigy.net)  
Ellen Cernjar, [ellencernjar@gmail.com](mailto:ellencernjar@gmail.com)  
Mark LaVick, [marklavick@gmail.com](mailto:marklavick@gmail.com)  
Tom Stram, [twrcstram@frontier.com](mailto:twrcstram@frontier.com)

### Terms Ending in 2018:

Tom Deinhammer, [deintj@charter.net](mailto:deintj@charter.net)  
Tom Eckels, [teeckels@gmail.com](mailto:teeckels@gmail.com)  
Dave Schiotz, [dkschiotz@yahoo.com](mailto:dkschiotz@yahoo.com)  
Jim Schofield, Past President, [schofieldje@hotmail.com](mailto:schofieldje@hotmail.com)

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## 2017 CONNORS LAKE | LAKE OF THE PINES ANNUAL EVENTS

**Saturday, May 27** | Memorial Day Meeting

**Saturday, July 1** | Annual Meeting & Family Picnic

**Saturday, September 2** | Labor Day Meeting

**All meetings begin at 9:00 am at the Connors Lake Picnic Shelter.**

Speakers will be announced as scheduled

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## 2016 RAFFLE WINNERS

The drawing was held on September 3, 2016 at the General Meeting.

We would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets to support our Lakes!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$2,500</b>	<b>Audrey Bulmn</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Prize \$100</b>	<b>Lorraine Menamee</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$1,000</b>	<b>Richard Summerfiel</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Prize \$100</b>	<b>Chris Teigan</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$500</b>	<b>Bob Feller</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Prize \$100</b>	<b>Janet Wisinski</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Prize \$250</b>	<b>Chris Klomsten</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Prize \$100</b>	<b>Kari Lewis</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Prize \$100</b>	<b>Joel Szmanski</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Prize \$100</b>	<b>Lorraine Menamee</b>

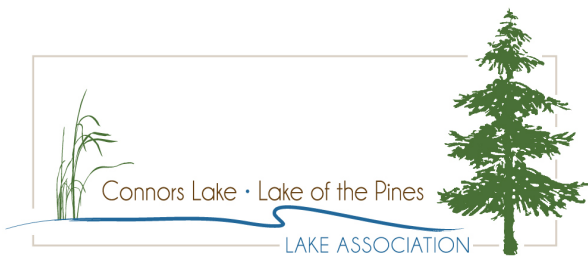
*“Preserving and protecting our lakes for today and for future generations.”*

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Check us out on Facebook: Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines Lake Association



# COMMITTEE UPDATES

## CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS (CBCW) | Dave Bauer



The above chart is the history of hours that our volunteers have spent at the Connors Lake boat landing. We have rebounded our hours from last year thanks to our volunteers and the great motivational speech by Tom Stram on July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. If anyone has a copy of the speech please send me one. Tom has stated that each hour is worth 15 dollars that goes towards our surveying our lakes for milfoil. That equals \$600 going towards surveying this year. However, it cost about \$2,000 for the survey. If anyone has any ideas of how we can get the hours up to cover the cost of surveying please email me at [dbauer9255@gmail.com](mailto:dbauer9255@gmail.com).

Volunteering at the lake is hard to do. I think we all feel the same way. We go to the lakes too enjoy our time off and spend time with our families. But we are realizing that the cost that our club is taking on to treat the milfoil has gone up. Any help we can get to cover the cost of keeping the milfoil at levels that allows us to enjoy the lake and to control the spread of invasive species is very important. If each member would donate 1 to 2 hours a year we would be in good shape. Your time that you spend volunteering makes a big difference on the quality of the lake and is appreciated. This organization only exists because of volunteers. Let's keep it going.

## FISHERY | Tom Deinhammer

Tom Eckels has joined the fish committee that includes Greg Cernjar, Jim Schofield and Tom Deinhammer. If you have any suggestions regarding the fish in our lakes, please contact a committee member. On September 25<sup>th</sup>, the WDNR stocked 4489 extended growth walleyes in Lake of the Pines (LOP). This stocking has happened for four years, on an every other year basis. In 2017, the WDNR will be netting Connors Lake for muskies and walleyes to see what the populations are. If the netting shows that walleye numbers are down, we would like to see stocking done to increase that population.

With the spring netting being done on both lakes, the WDNR will check to see if muskies travel from Lake of the Pines to Connors after they spawn. When muskies have been netted in LOP, a chip was implanted so that they could tell when and where the fish was first tracked.

We hope to meet with the WDNR about the results of the final musky study that ends in 2017 and will share that information when we have it.

## WISCONSIN CITIZENS LAKE MONITORING NETWORK (WCLMN) | Dave Schiotz

2016, was an interesting year for our CLMN program. Our new shed was a great asset which housed all of our testing equipment and made it readily available for our “testers.” It also provided storage space for several other programs - CBCW, Adopt A Highway etc. A special thank you to Mark LaVick for donating the site and the dock sections which provide the foundation for the structure.

I can't thank our volunteers enough for their diligence. This was the best year since we started the program for complete data on both lakes. Volunteers sampling on LOP were Larry Anderson, Dave Bauer, Don Bauer, Carl Edwardson, and Jim Schofield. Those working on Connors were Greg & Ellen Cernjar, Gordie Dukerschein, Tom Eckels, Bob Feller, Jeff & Sherry Hansen, Rich Marusinec, Dave & Karen Schiotz, and Tom Stram.

2016, was a year of above normal rainfall which can cause an increase in run-off and influence the phosphorus level, which in turn can affect the amount of algae (chlorophyll) in the water. Compared to last year, both the phosphorus and chlorophyll levels were elevated this year.

I am often asked “how is the clarity of the lakes?” By now everyone should know that we use the Secchi Disk to determine how clear the water is. Weather and other factors may influence water clarity so that a lake can vary from year to year. The CLMN of the DNR averages our individual readings for July and August and puts them in graph form. In our graph, I noticed that LOP does not vary to the extent that Connors does! This winter when you are out enjoying nature or sitting by the fire, think of some possible reasons why? Have a good Winter!

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY | Dave Cooley



Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with our first year of ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY. This is a new way to get involved and volunteer to make our lake vicinity (even more) more beautiful. We clean-up the sides of the road on Hwy W from the Intersection of Hwy M (Fire Tower) to the DNR Headquarters.

Thanks to those that helped this year: Jim Biser, Don Bauer, Dave Bauer, Don, Cody, Brianna, Sue and Hunter Bluhm, Greg Cernjar, Tom Eckels, Bob and Patty Feller, Steve Luptak, Laura and Rich Marusinec, Mike and Kim Poncek, Dave Schiotz, Jim Schofield, Tom Stram. (If I've miss anyone I apologize-let me know if I missed you and I'll give special mention next newsletter.). A special thanks to Dave Schiotz for getting Adopt-A-Highway organized this year.



This is a great way to encourage concern for the welfare of our local natural resources. Adopt-A-Highway is an activity that families can participate in together; children that are at least 11 years old or the 6<sup>th</sup> grade can participate. We will be out for the Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up three times a year; in late April after the snow is gone; in July after the county mows along the sides of the roads; and the last time will be sometime in October. If you would like to get your name on the volunteer list to be contacted for the next highway clean-up, please contact Dave Cooley at (920) 428-0755 or dec54914@prodigy.net.



## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES | Tom Stram

On June 12, 2016 just over 3 acres of Eurasian Water-milfoil (EWM) was treated in Musky Bay with Navigate (2,4-D) granular herbicide. The treatment cost was \$5,280. The EWM was surveyed on Connors Lake on August 22, 2016. All but two samples of EWM were found in Musky Bay. Most of the samples were of low density (few plants together in one location).

Only a few dense areas were surveyed. The most consistent EWM growth was fairly near the shoreline. There was some residual milfoil in the areas treated as of June. Our surveyor commented that it was difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment but the density was lower in the treated areas. The cost of the surveys is covered almost entirely by a DNR grant and volunteer labor at the boat landing under the CBCW program. Thank you for volunteering!!

We will have to decide this winter before treatment permit time what is the best approach for Aquatic Invasive Species control for next year. We plan to consult with our herbicide applicator and surveyor along with experts from the DNR for the most effective and economical approach to AIS management.



Improve habitat and water quality with simple and inexpensive projects for your lakeshore property.



healthylakeswi.com

## HOW WILL YOU IMPROVE YOUR LAKE?

ILLUSTRATION: KAREN ENGELBRETSON

**1 FISH STICKS**

**CREATE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT.**  
Fish Sticks are feeding, breeding, and nesting areas for all sorts of critters – from fish to song birds. They can also prevent bank erosion – protecting lakeshore properties and your lake.

**2 NATIVE PLANTINGS**

**IMPROVE WILDLIFE HABITAT, NATURAL BEAUTY AND PRIVACY, AND SLOW RUNOFF.**  
Native Plantings include grasses and wildflowers with shrubs and trees. Choose a template based on your property and interests – from bird/butterfly habitat to a low-growing garden showcasing your lake view.

**3 DIVERSION**

**PREVENT RUNOFF FROM GETTING INTO YOUR LAKE.**  
Diversion Practices move water to areas where it can soak into the ground instead. Depending on your property, multiple diversions may be necessary.

**4 ROCK INFILTRATION**

**CAPTURE AND CLEAN RUNOFF.**  
Rock Infiltration practices fit in nicely along roof drip lines and driveways and provide space for runoff to filter itself. They work best if your soil is sandy or loamy.

**5 RAIN GARDEN**

**CREATE WILDLIFE HABITAT AND NATURAL BEAUTY WHILE CAPTURING AND CLEANING RUNOFF.**  
Rain Gardens multi-task - they improve habitat and filter runoff while providing a naturally beautiful view.

IMPROVE HABITAT AND NATURAL BEAUTY ~ SLOW, DIVERT, CLEAN AND FILTER RUNOFF

**DO IT YOURSELF**

Check out the fact sheets, example documents, and FAQs available on the website to find out how to install a Healthy Lakes practice in your backyard ([healthylakeswi.org](http://healthylakeswi.org)).

**PARTNER WITH OTHERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND SAVE MONEY**

The Wisconsin DNR is offering cost-share grants for Healthy Lakes practices through lake organizations and local governments.

Grants will cover:

- Most of the installation expense
- Some technical assistance

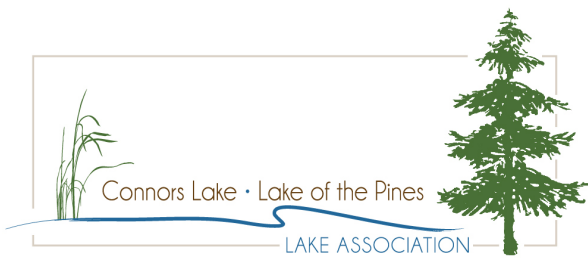
If you are interested, contact your:

- Lake organization, or
- County land and water office

Even if your lake organization or county does not currently have a grant option, they can use your interest to support future applications and they may have additional resources to help you protect your lake.

**GRANT DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1**

healthylakeswi.com



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# FLAMBEAU RIVER STATE FOREST

## NEWS FROM THE FLAMBEAU RIVER STATE FOREST | Curtiss Lindner

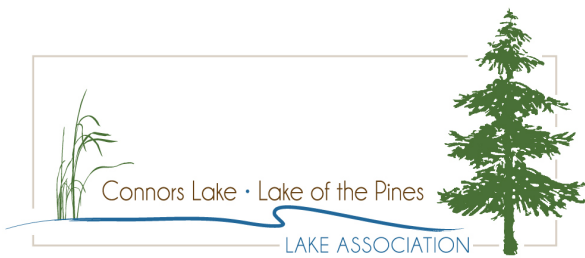
“The secret to change is to focus all of your energy on the New and not fighting the Old”. Change is something that we are seeing a lot of on the Flambeau River State Forest these days. Everything from the vision of Elk on the landscape, more recreation opportunities with the creation of ATV routes, to the fresh new look of the DNR headquarters. The change that has affected us most of all on the Flambeau is the retirement of our great leader and advocate Jim Halvorson. Many of us that call the Flambeau River State Forest home know and respect Jim. He has made us all laugh, he has made us all frustrated but most of all he has made us all friends. If you happen to see Jim out and about enjoying retired life, please take the opportunity to thank him for all he has done to help shape the Flambeau River State Forest as it is today.



Like always as things change, life must go on, and work has continued. Here on the Flambeau River State Forest we have been very busy as usual with on-going projects, forestry and recreation. Here is a summary of some of the things that we have accomplished this year and what we plan to do in the next year to come.

### Highlights:

- **Timber Sales** on the forest are strong. At the bid opening in October, **1,520 acres** in timber sales were sold for **\$884,000**. Another **1000 acres** will be bid out at the April 2017 bid opening. Even though the summer of 2016 was wet, we still had a few sales being cut. Prior to deer season we had 8 sales being cut. These sales include select cuts in hardwoods and coppice or regeneration cuts in aspen and red maple stands. The result is a mosaic of timber types and ages which promotes forest diversity and provides for a wide range of recreation interests from hiking to hunting.
- **Access Improvements** continue on the forest. We have gotten state grants for the townships of Cedar Rapids, Winter, and Rusk County. These grants are used to assist townships financially to upgrade roads that provide direct benefits in the way of access, recreation, or logging to the Flambeau River State Forest. Work for this past summer included re-graveling a section of road that has high traffic from logging equipment for the township of Cedar Rapids. Culvert replacement, asphalt repair and asphalt resurfacing on West Lane. Culvert replacement, ditching, and resurfacing gravel for Rusk county forest. Reconstruction of approximately 4 miles of ATV trails located; south of Hwy EE, between the bridges north of Feline Rd. Tower Hill to Hwy W, and Fishermans landing to the power line. Currently the forest maintains 62 miles of improved roads, 48 miles of snowmobile trail, 58 miles of ATV/UTV trails and 76 miles of hunter/walking trails.
- **Insects and disease** – Emerald ash borer was detected in Sawyer County in August near Radisson. This was a single beetle that was located with no ash trees in close proximity to the trap. Be careful moving firewood and note the movement of firewood and other wood products has changed. Thirty percent of the state forests trees are comprised of ash. The FRSF will continue to survey for EAB during the summer. No evidence of EAB has been detected on the forest. Dutch Elm disease continues to affect elm trees. The forest has been having some health issues with Tamarack and European larch. Overall the forest is healthy and providing lots of timber to the mills as you may have noticed with change in the landscape. Continued forest management will only improve the health and vigor of the forest.



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## FLAMBEAU RIVER STATE FOREST-CONTINUED

- **Projects this past summer**

- Installing Gates on access trails
- ATV/Snowmobile trail renovation/construction
- Mowing 96 miles of roads and trails
- Graveling Oxbo Roads north and south
- Construction of two new Semi Primitive campsites at Cedar Rapids
- Installed 14 new informational kiosks at our public boat landings
- Repair of Pavilion at Connors Lake Picnic Area
- New asphalt at Flambeau River State Forest Shop
- Crack sealing of all Flambeau River State Forest parking lots

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

- **Events:** This summer we implemented the cutback of our summer nature programs. We went from weekly programs to 3 main programs through the summer (Outdoor Cooking, Elk Bugling, and Smokey Bear's Birthday). Participation did go up and the programs were a success. We plan to continue this in the future. We had a fantastic turnout for last years Candlelight Ski. This year we can only hope to have the great turnout and weather that we had last year. We would like to welcome anyone available on February 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 to come out and have some fun at our 25<sup>th</sup> annual Candlelight Ski.
- **Law Enforcement** activities continue on the Forest. We are noticing a lot of vehicle traffic going around our gates and berms. Cameras have been deployed to monitor and many violators have been caught but the problem still persists. If you have any information regarding violations please give one of our rangers a call at (715) 332-5271 ext. 102 or 112. Any tips and help are appreciated. If you are unsure of a rule or regulations please feel free to stop in or call, we always welcome answering questions for anyone in the public.

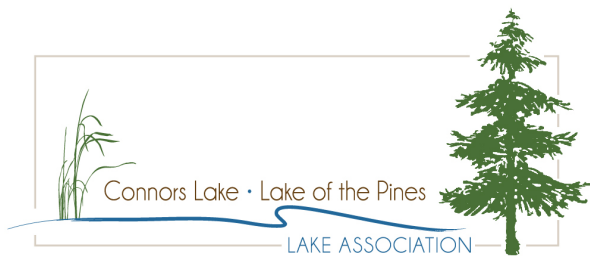
### Open House/Public Meeting

Public open house meeting is planned for June 2, 2017 at the Forest Headquarters. Staff will be here all day to answer questions you may have. We can discuss the upcoming projects including options as they relate to the access plan and forest production areas. Hope you can stop in for a visit.

Details of the Master Plan for the Forest can be viewed online at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stateforest/flambeauriver/>

Hope you have a Great Winter



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## LIFE UNDER THE ICE By EMILY STONE

### A selection from *Natural Connections: Exploring Northwoods Nature Through Science and Your Senses* *Reprinted with Permission of Emily M. Stone*

Nets in hand, a line of Wisconsin Master Naturalist students ventured onto the dock. Snowflakes danced on the wind as a prelude to the big snowstorm yet to come. For now the thin ice in the marina by Barker's Island in Superior, Wisconsin, held a layer of snow just one flake thick. Dr. Joel Hoffman of the Environmental Protection Agency had broken open a narrow channel in the ice parallel to the dock and was ready to help us discover a hidden world.

Underneath the snow-free ice, he explained, enough sunlight penetrates that life continues as usual. But what is usual for a harbor connected to Lake Superior? Our nets were made of 150 micron mesh. One micron (or micrometer or  $\mu\text{m}$ ) is a millionth of a meter. We sure weren't trying to catch fish! A Northland College student sampled with one diamond-shaped net. This plankton net was designed to be lowered to the bottom of the lake and drawn straight up. It provides a cross section of the entire water column. John Kudlas, a steadfast Museum volunteer and educator, used another net affixed to a long handle to sample one layer of water with a horizontal sweep.

The particles in the bottom of the nets didn't look particularly lively to our naked eyes. Most of the organisms that Joel expected us to find are only about 1–2 mm long. We brought them in out of the chill, rinsed the samples onto Petri dishes, and put them under dissecting microscopes.

The makeshift office of the brand-new Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve erupted with enthusiasm. "Wow! Cool! Oh my gosh, look at this! Joel, what's this? Did you see that? Check out what I've got. Here's a good one! Oh it just moved. You've gotta see this!"

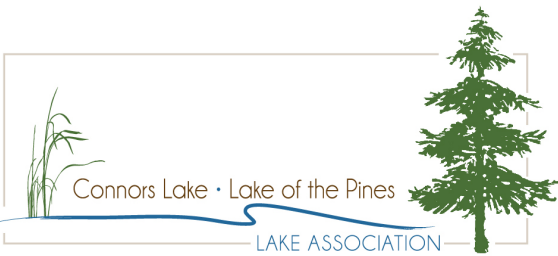
Copepods, cladocerans, and rotifers, oh my! Tiny aliens swam, spun, and ate before our eyes. Joel had drawn diagrams on the board of what we might see, and now they came alive.

Copepods were some of the most common critters in our samples. These tiny crustaceans live in the sea and in nearly every freshwater habitat (including the lake right outside your door). Their teardrop-shaped bodies are covered by an exoskeleton so thin that it is transparent, and they are adorned with large antennae and a single red eye. Bristle-like setae do most of their sensing and can differentiate patterns in the water flow around their body caused by approaching predators or prey. Some copepods have extremely fast escape responses when they sense a predator, and they can spring a few millimeters out of the way.

Such small creatures do not need a circulatory system. One group, the calanoid copepods, have a heart but no blood vessels. Most lack gills and let oxygen absorb directly into their bodies. The copepod larval form is even simpler, consisting only of a head and a small tail, with no thorax or abdomen. A larvae must molt five to six times before it attains a complete set of body parts. After five more molts, it reaches adulthood. This process can take anywhere from a week to a year, depending on the species, temperature, and food availability.

Some scientists say that copepods form the largest animal biomass on Earth. Since copepods use carbon to create their exoskeletons (discarding ten or more exoskeletons over their lives) and release carbon into the ocean through respiration and scat, they are important to the global carbon cycle. The upper layers of the ocean are the world's largest carbon sink and can absorb one third of humans' annual carbon emissions. Several copepods ate their carbon-based lunch as awed students spied through the scopes.





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## Under the Ice: *CONTINUED*

For over 45 years, the Cable Natural History Museum has served to connect you to the Northwoods. Come visit us in Cable, WI! Our new phenology exhibit: “Nature’s Calendar: Signs of the Seasons” is now open.

Their mouthparts swished the water to create currents that drew food toward their bristly setae. Large particles were individually caught by “fling and clap” movements, where appendages grasped both the particle and a packet of water surrounding it and removed the water by an inward squeeze.

All too soon, the students returned the samples to the lake. The snow fell harder. With less sunlight filtering through the ice and snow, life in the lakes will slow down a bit for the winter. Some critters enter resting stages; others just slow their metabolisms. As you look out over the frozen lakes, can you imagine tiny, translucent copepods living in their hidden world?

*Special Note: Emily’s book, Natural Connections: Exploring Northwoods Nature through Science and Your Senses is here! Order your copy at <http://cablemuseum.org/natural-connections-book/>.*

**For over 45 years, the Cable Natural History Museum has served to connect you to the Northwoods. Come visit us in Cable, WI! Our new phenology exhibit: “Nature’s Calendar: Signs of the Seasons” is now open.**

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### **MEMBERSHIP | Dues are valid for one year Dues should be paid by February 1st of the current year.**

**Make checks payable to: Connors Lake | Lake of the Pines Lake Association**

**NEW MEMBERS** | Any person, family or business interested in supporting the goals of the Connors Lake | Lake of the Pines Lake Association is welcome to join. A voting membership is \$25/membership and is good for one year. Please visit the website for a Membership Application to fill out and send in.

**EXISTING MEMBERS** | Your renewal will be coming in the mail in December. Please fill out the form and pay dues. Reminder it is \$25/membership. Use the pre-stamped envelope to return by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The Spring Newsletter will be published in May of 2017. Please submit your contributions or mention items you would like to see in the future newsletters anytime between NOW and by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. Email to: [info@connorspineslakeassociation.org](mailto:info@connorspineslakeassociation.org)**

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### **TOWNSHIP OF WINTER | [www.townofwinter.com](http://www.townofwinter.com)**

**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)

**Chairman:**

David Kinsley

W7270 Thorsen Road Winter, WI 54896

PH. 715-266-2102

**1<sup>st</sup> Supervisor:**

Terry Patenaude

N5090 Crawford Street Winter, WI 54896

PH. 715-6611816

**2<sup>nd</sup> Supervisor:**

Ron Barnaby

W6930 Cty Rd G Winter, WI 54896

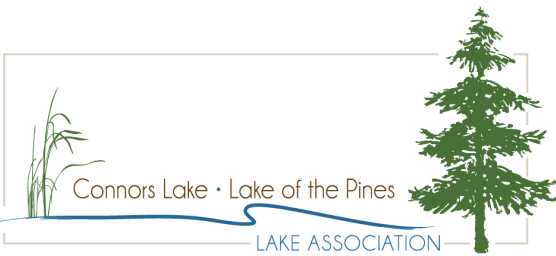
PH. 715-266-4461

**Clerk-Treasurer:** Lori Van Winkle

P.O. Box 129

Winter, WI 54896

PH. 715-266-3131



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## THE NORTHERN ELK HERD By LAINE R. STOWELL

As of the 2016 gun deer season there are 27 elk in the Expanded Range (ER). The ER is a 508 square mile range expansion to the original 1,112 square mile Clam Lake Elk Range that was approved by the Natural Resources Board in December of 2012. This 508 square mile expansion includes 93,000 acres of the Flambeau River State Forest, 50,000+ acres of Sawyer County Forest, 20,000+ acres of the Price County Forest, 24,000+ acres of the Rusk County Forest and some 30,000 acres of Industrial Forest Lands enrolled in the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law requiring public access. This results in 78 percent of the ER as public access lands. Furthermore, these state, county and private managed forest result in aggressive aspen management that equals high quality elk forage and predator escape cover. Twenty-one years of elk telemetry have taught the DNR that elk like aspen, especially aspen in the 0-10 year age class, and these 508 square miles have abundant aspen in that age class.

Some of the benefits of this abundant young aspen is that we have not lost any radioed elk to wolves in this area since July of 2014. The three 2015 calves and six 2016 calves are still alive, having been seen these last 2 weeks. Twelve of the northern band of 17 elk have been seen these past 2 weeks and they're fat and spry. All ten of the southern band were seen on November 17<sup>th</sup> and all were fat and healthy. We may have between 9 to 10 calves born in the ER in 2017.

The big news though is that we've built an elk Quarantine Facility in the Flambeau River State Forest (FRSF) not far from the headquarters of the FRSF, and in 2017 and 2018 we plan to release 75 Kentucky captured elk. A bonus is that any pregnant cows will give birth to Wisconsin born elk that will enhance adaption and acclimation of these immigrants to Wisconsin. Hopefully we'll have some 35 resident Wisconsin elk to mix with the Kentucky elk to show the newcomers how to deal with abundant bear and wolves, and the mix will result in Kentucky elk sharing their genetic diversity with our Wisconsin elk. If this mix is successful, the ER will be the "nursery" for elk to be moved to expand numbers in the Clam Lake Elk herd, but also might be used to expand elk across northern Wisconsin in suitable habitats where local communities welcome them. Elk will then be truly "restored" to Wisconsin!

Laine R. Stowell, Elk Biologist, 21 November 2016.

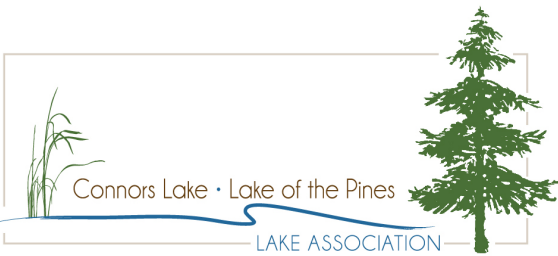
Dear Lake Association Members:

This year of 2016 has been an exceptional year for people volunteering to help the Forest at any level, at any capacity. We have been most fortunate to have had the help of Flambeau users such as the MSOE Chapter of Triangle Fraternity, Fraternity of Engineers based out of Milwaukee, Northland College students working on a southern Flambeau Habitat Project and groups of you wonderful people working on Adopt-a-highway roadside cleanup, not once but three times. Thanks to Dave Schiotz for organizing this effort and thanks to you too Dave Cooley for jumping in and taking the program on. Your ownership in the Forest is what makes it successful and will help us continue in the future. Thank you folks.

Diane Stowell | **We are committed to service excellence.**

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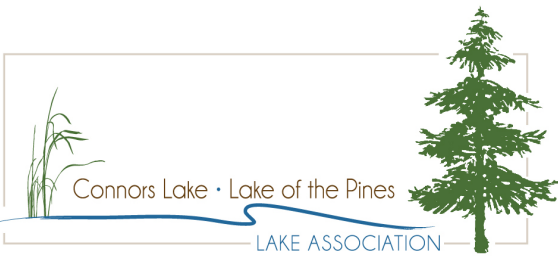
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