

From the Lake Shores

Connors Lake • Lake of the Pines

LAKE ASSOCIATION



“Preserving and protecting our lakes for today and for future generations.”
a newsletter for the Lake Association Members • Volume 26 - May 2019

SPRING

WATERS | VOLUNTEERS | FISH | FORESTRY



MESSAGE FROM DAVE

With all the snow this winter, I am looking forward to being on the lake this summer. I am sure I am not the only one.

Since our last newsletter, we have completed our first fish habitat projects; a rock drop for spawning habitat and a tree drop for woody habitat. Even though it was -24 degrees for the projects, it was a huge success. We got all the rock moved in one hour and moved the trees into place in another hour. The next day we were able to get the trees in place for anchoring. Because of the number of volunteers, we were able to get it done quickly. Thanks to all who pitched in their time and equipment!

We are going to try something new this year and move our general meetings inside to the Big Bear. The time and weekends we meet will remain the same. The reason for the move is that inclement weather has posed problems with our meetings and presentations at the park pavilion. Moving it inside to Big Bear will eliminate these problems. We'll evaluate this move at the end of the year.

Lastly, we need volunteers to get things done. As you read through this newsletter you will see everything we do. It couldn't be done without the commitment and dedication of our member volunteers. To reach our goals, we need each member volunteer at least two hours a year. As I like to say "Just give us two"; with that we can get a lot of important things done for our lakes.

A big thank you to everyone who volunteers to make this the best Lake Association in the State!

Dave Bauer
President



Dave Bauer

CLEAN BOATS AND CLEAN WATER (CBCW)

Just give us 2!

Volunteering for CBCW is the front line for our association. This is where we educate boaters about preventing invasive species from entering into our lakes. It is the most important thing we do as an association. If you want to make a big impact on the lakes' ecosystems, volunteer for TWO HOURS with CBCW. This is one of the easiest and most flexible ways to volunteer. Anytime the lakes are busy, we need volunteers at the landings. If you want to volunteer, see me at one of our meetings and I will show you how to get started. Make a difference, get involved and GIVE US TWO!

Thanks, Dave Bauer



WILD GINGER BY TOM STRAM

Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) is a native North American plant and is not related to the common herb of the tropics (*Zingiber officinale*) used in traditional cooking. Other names include Little Brown Jugs, Little Pig's Feet, Canada Snakeroot, Indian Ginger, Sturgeon Plant and Ginger Root.

It is found throughout eastern US in rich moist acidic soils in shady deciduous forests. Wild ginger is 6 to 12 inches in height with large kidney shaped dark green leaves 6 inches in width. The flowers



bloom in late March, early April and are brown to purple in color, shaped like a bell with three pointed lobes. The flowers are almost invisible, located between the leafstalks and lying adjacent to the ground. The color of the flower is similar to decomposing flesh and attracts ants, gnats and flies in early spring that debatably pollinate the flowers.

The foliage remains green into early winter but the flowers fade quickly. They may exist in large colonies along the trail that hikers and wildflower enthusiasts will pass not realizing that it has an interesting and peculiar flower that can be seen only

by getting down on your knees and lifting up the leaves. Wild ginger was once very common and widespread. I have found several colonies along the trail down to Slough Gundy. It can be propagated by division in the spring. Wild ginger in my garden in Marshfield is borderline invasive in its growth habits.

Native Americans and European settlers used wild ginger as a spice. Powdered ginger root was used as a flavoring substitute for real ginger. Lumberjacks boiled ginger root with sugar water resulting in a Wild Sugar candy that is said to be delicious and the leftover syrup was used on pancakes. Meskwakis Indians cooked mud catfish with wild ginger to improve its flavor. Early settlers used ginger root as a popular "carminative" - something that removes flatulence. American and Canadian Indians use the plant to season freshly killed and even spoiled meat to render it safe for consumption. The Lewis and Clark expedition used a dressing of the root to treat open wounds.

Medical studies have identified two potent antibiotics in the root of wild ginger. Wild ginger contains aristolochic acid used to treat pain, as an anesthetic and diuretic. This aristolochic acid is now considered a carcinogenic compound and the United States Food and Drug Administration warns that its consumption may be associated with permanent kidney damage, and certain types of cancer, most often occurring in the urinary tract.

Deer and other mammals find ginger root offensive. However, it is an important food source for the Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly.



Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. (CLMN)

By Dave Schiotz

“There is still a lot of snow to melt but gradually brown is replacing white as a ground cover. Once all the snow has melted and run-off is completed, there will be a considerable amount of “foreign” material that has entered our lakes and streams along with excess water. To some extent this happens every year. Obviously an excessive snow pack like we had this winter may have greater influence on our water ways.

Our dedicated group of CLMN volunteers will do their best to accurately sample our lakes as they have done for a number of years. Just how many years has there been water sampling on Connors and Lake of the Pines (LOP)?

Going back in the Connors annual reports we had rather sporadic results in 1973, 74 & 75, then a jump to 1996. Samplers were primarily DNR personnel who were checking for Phosphorus, Chlorophyll and Clarity. Beginning in 2007, we have consistent results through the present time utilizing our CLMN volunteers. LOP had a rather incomplete sampling history until 2010. That year one person did the collecting but only a limited number of times. Beginning in 2011, a “crew” was recruited and we have had complete results each year since. This summer’s data will be the tenth year for consistent, accurate information collected by volunteers and submitted to the DNR.

A piece of equipment that our lake association purchased, which greatly reduced the collection time and improved the accuracy of our data, was a HQD digital meter from the Hach Company. With this instrument, we can sample dissolved oxygen and temperature simultaneously. We do this at the lake’s surface and at five-foot intervals. Samples are always taken in the deepest spot in the lake (Connors is 80 feet and LOP 35 feet).



This leads us to the second big question: How is CLMN data used? Nationally, CLMN generated information is used every two years to report trends in Wisconsin Lakes and identifying needs to the federal government. CLMN data is used for before & after studies of certain bodies of water as well as to show the severity of any water quality problems and what solutions may be relevant. Data is summarized to show water quality trends and set priorities for lake protection and funding. In Wisconsin, CLMN data was used to document the need for a ban on Phosphorus in detergents and setting limits on the amount of Phosphorus from wastewater treatment facilities.

Another use for our Secchi data is the Remote Sensing Research: CLMN volunteers take water Clarity measurements on individual lakes. This information is sent to the U. W. Environmental Remote Sensing Center (ERSC). Using satellites and other known data from our lakes the ERSC can extrapolate the Clarity of lakes that were not physically measured thus giving us a much broader view of WI Lake Clarity than if we had to rely only on lakes actually measured. As one can see the CLMN data we collect not only informs our association members about our lakes but has an important impact beyond the Flambeau River State Forest.

Anyone interested in joining our team, for either lake, or if you have questions, feel free to contact me or any team member.

P.S. In the fall newsletter, pg.5 (Comparing Our Lakes. CLMN) there were two errors that I missed!!

- 1) 2018 Secchi Disc, Regional Average should be 10.5ft., not 105ft.
- 2) Phosphorus Regional Average should be 20.0 mg/i(ppm), not 200.

See you on the water!

Fish Habitat Activities at Connors Lake: Ed Peters

Do you remember the morning of January 26, 2019? The day was clear and according to my thermometer it was -26 at dawn. Thankfully, it had “warmed” to almost -20 when I left the house to help out with a spawning habitat project on Connors Lake. After a hot cup of coffee and a donut at the Flambeau Forest Inn an enthusiastic group of us drove over to the boat ramp area at the north end on Connors Lake to spread 15 cubic yards of cobbles (fist sized rocks) on the ice in an area where Walleye have been seen spawning over the years. When the ice melts, these rocks will drop to the bottom of the lake in this area and hopefully augment the spawning success of Walleyes using this area. This was a joint effort of the Connors Lake/ Lake of the Pines Lake Association and the Walleyes for Tomorrow chapter from Phillips and other lake associations from Price County.

The concern is that even though spawning has been witnessed here, the fall surveys of young of the year Walleye have found lower numbers of small fish than are expected. Similar additions of rock to spawning areas in other area lakes, like Solberg Lake, north of Phillips have shown benefits to the numbers of young of the year Walleye that show up in fall surveys. Will this have the similar results for Connors Lake? Only time will tell. In addition, members of the Connors Lake / Lake of the Pines Lake Association will be working with each other and the fisheries staff of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to monitor the use of this spawning area and the population of small Walleyes that recruit to the population.

As an extension of this project representatives from six lake associations and Walleyes for Tomorrow met at the DNR office at Park Falls. The meeting was hosted by Jeff Scheirer, DNR fisheries biologist and featured Dr. Greg Sass and Dr. Stephanie Shaw who are both research biologists with the Wisconsin DNR. Both Greg and Steph have done detailed work on a variety of fish species and they presented some ideas on projects that could help understand what may be limiting the success of Walleye spawning in lakes here in Sawyer and Price Counties. They also cautioned that research takes time and careful evaluation to answer the questions that we are trying to address. To be statistically reliable, experimental manipulations need either a separate control or pre and post experimental study periods.

The group agreed that the next step will be for Greg and Steph to propose the details of a research project and for the representatives of the lake associations and Walleyes for tomorrow to ask their respective members to commit to participate in the research, along with graduate students and technicians working with the DNR. So, stay tuned for more information and action that can help us understand how we can solve challenges to the lakes and fish populations that we treasure.

Cobble (fist sized) rocks spread near a shoreline Walleye spawning area at Connors Lake on January 26, 2019 as part of a habitat improvement project. When the ice melts, this spring, the rocks will drop to the bottom where it is hoped that this will improve the spawning success for Walleyes in the



Connors Lake/Lake of the Pines, Fisheries Committee Report (April 11, 2019): Ed Peters

There have been several important events since the last newsletter was published. First, the Fisheries Crew from the Park Falls office of the Wisconsin DNR did fall electrofishing surveys on Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines. One of the objectives for these surveys was to evaluate the 2018 crop of young of the year (YOY) Walleyes. The second major event was the habitat improvement efforts that were spearheaded by Dave Bauer and this is covered in a separate article in this newsletter. The third events were meetings with Wisconsin DNR research scientists, Stephanie Shaw and Greg Sass. In addition, I contacted Kathy Overmann at Fishing Has no Boundaries in regards to the installation of an accessible fishing pier at Connors Lake. Each of these is covered in separate sections of this report.

Fall Electrofishing Surveys: The fall electrofishing surveys were conducted at Connors Lake on 26 September, 2018 and at Lake of the Pines on 4 October, 2018. The survey on Connors Lake sampled three miles of the total five miles of shoreline in 1.4 hours of shocking, while the Lake of the Pines survey sampled the whole shoreline (4.9 miles) in 2.2 hours of shocking. The difference may be related to the inclusion of several inexperienced netters in the overall crew on Connors Lake, but only DNR personnel on the Lake of the Pines crew. Of the 38 Walleye collected from Connors Lake only two were in the size range that are considered to be age 0+ or YOY. Similarly, there were two YOY size Walleye collected from the Lake of the Pines. Table 1 summarizes the results for all game species collected during the fall surveys on both Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines. As expected, the overall abundance of Walleye and Muskellunge in Lake of the Pines is higher than in Connors Lake as a result of the stockings that have occurred there.

Table 1. A comparison of the results from the fall 2018 Walleye Recruitment Surveys, using electrofishing, at Connors Lake (Connors) on 26 September, 2018 and Lake of the Pines (LOP) on 4 October, 2018.

| Species | Number Captured | | Size Range | | Catch/Mile Sampled | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------|------------|-----------|--------------------|-------|
| | Connors | L O P | Connors | L O P | Connors | L O P |
| Walleye (age 0+) | 2 | 2 | 7.0-7.7 | 7.3-8.0 | 0.67 | 0.41 |
| Walleye (age 1+) | 23 | 33 | 8.2-11.0 | 8.4-10.7 | 7.67 | 6.73 |
| Walleye (other) | 13 | 52 | 11.4-18.4 | 11.2-23.4 | 4.33 | 10.61 |
| Smallmouth Bass | 6 | 1 | 5.5-20.9 | 12.0-12.4 | 2.00 | 0.45 |
| Largemouth Bass | 8 | 7 | 4.0-15.4 | 2.5-13.4 | 2.67 | 1.43 |
| Muskellunge | 7 | 39 | 9.5-45.4 | 9.0-38.9 | 2.33 | 7.96 |
| Northern Pike | 12 | 2 | 8.0-27.4 | 19.5-21.9 | 4.00 | 0.41 |

In Table 2 I have tried to summarize the information in the fall electrofishing reports from both Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines. Many fisheries biologists use a series of length categories to describe the size of fish that are collected during surveys of fish populations. In 1976 Dick Anderson and his students at the University of Missouri proposed using a stock density index to evaluate the well-being of a fish population. In 1984, Don Gablehouse (one of Dr. Anderson's students), from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, proposed size categories for a variety of fish species that were based on lengths that are proportional to the world record length of each species. The

categories are stock, quality, preferred, memorable and trophy. Fish in the stock category are a minimum of 20-26% of the world record length for their species; quality fish are at least 36-41% of the world record length; preferred fish are at least 45-55% of the world record length, memorable fish are 59-64% of the world record length and trophy fish are 74-80% of the world record length. The lengths listed are for the major game species collected from Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines. So, the fall electrofishing survey captured a trophy size Smallmouth Bass (20.5 inch) and three memorable size Muskies (43 – 44.5 inch) from Connors Lake. The fall electrofishing survey on the Lake of the Pines collected three preferred size Walleye (20 – 23.4 inch) and one preferred size (38.5 inch) Muskie.

Table 2. The distribution by size categories (Stock, Quality, Preferred, Memorable, Trophy; as defined by Gablehouse (1984)) for fish species captured during electrofishing sampling at Connors Lake (Connors) on 26 September, 2018 and Lake of the Pines (LOP) on 4 October, 2018.

| Species/Lake | Stock | Quality | Preferred | Memorable | Trophy |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Walleye | 10 inch + | 15 inch + | 20 inch + | 25 inch + | 30 inch + |
| / Connors | 20 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| / LOP | 61 | 26 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Muskellunge | 20 inch + | 30 inch + | 38 inch + | 42 inch + | 50 inch + |
| / Connors | 7 | 3* | 3* | 3 | 0 |
| / LOP | 27 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Northern Pike | 14 inch + | 21 inch + | 28 inch + | 34 inch + | 44 inch + |
| / Connors | 11 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| / LOP | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Smallmouth Bass | 7 inch + | 11 inch + | 14 inch + | 17 inch + | 20 inch + |
| / Connors | 4 | 2 | 1* | 1* | 1 |
| / LOP | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Largemouth Bass | 8 inch + | 12 inch + | 15 inch + | 20 inch + | 25 inch + |
| / Connors | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| / LOP | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Gablehouse, D. W. 1984. A length-categorization system to assess fish stocks. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 4:237-285.

Meetings with DNR research scientists: After the February 7 meeting in Park Falls with Dr. Greg Sass and Dr. Stephanie Shaw we were hoping to develop some plans to start a research project that would involve Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines in a broader study of lakes in our area. So far we are waiting for the next step in that process. On March 30 Steph Shaw presented an overview of research projects that she is involved with at the Lake Escanaba Research Station near Boulder Junction. Her presentation was sponsored by Walleyes for Tomorrow and was well attended by interested people from our lake association and by others from as far away as Shawano.

Dave Bauer and I have been talking about a project that we may be able to develop on our own this coming summer. We have, thanks to Dave Shiots and others who have collected water chemistry data, a real wealth of information. Over the past several years (2015-2017), we have noticed some unusual patterns developing in the Connors Lake dissolved oxygen: depth profiles. During the mid to late summer, dissolved oxygen concentrations just below the thermocline have dropped drastically

Figure 1 shows an example of this phenomenon. The low dissolved oxygen concentrations (0.69 mg/L) at 20 feet may be a significant issue for fish that want to use the cooler water 60 to 70° at that depth. Dave and I are wondering whether this is widespread across the lake, or is it confined to the

open water area (deepest spot) where the regular measurements take place. So, we propose to take some additional measurements around Connors Lake when this happens again.

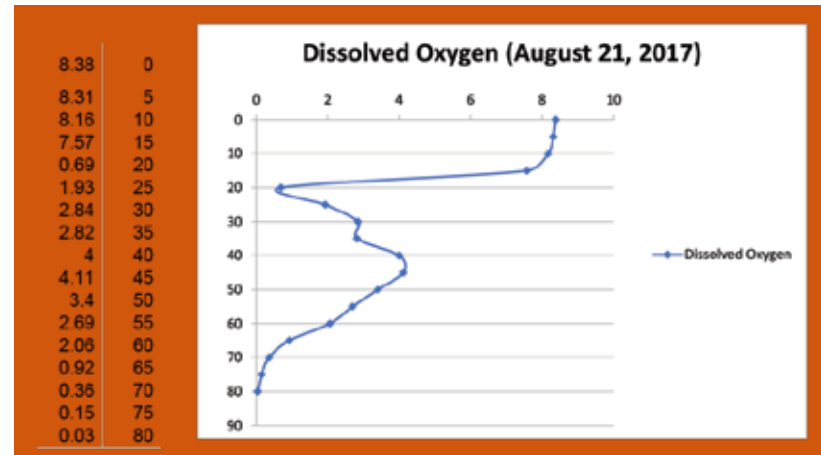


Figure 1. Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L): Depth (feet) profile from Connors Lake on August 21, 2017.

There is, however, a possibility that this situation does not develop every year. For example, in 2018 this low concentration of dissolved oxygen did not seem to develop. Figure 2 illustrates this. The dissolved oxygen concentration at 15 feet was 3.53 mg/L on August 18, 2018 and, although not ideal, that concentration of oxygen is not lethal for fish.

This is another example of how important it is for all of these activities that the lake association carries out on a regular and consistent basis are to understanding the health and well-being of these treasures that are Connors Lake, Lake of the Pines. We are indeed blessed to live and play in this wonderful area of Wisconsin and we need to take care of it so that future generations can also enjoy it. Dave and I may be asking for some assistance to gather information that may lead to a better understanding of how water chemistry affects fish populations in these lakes.

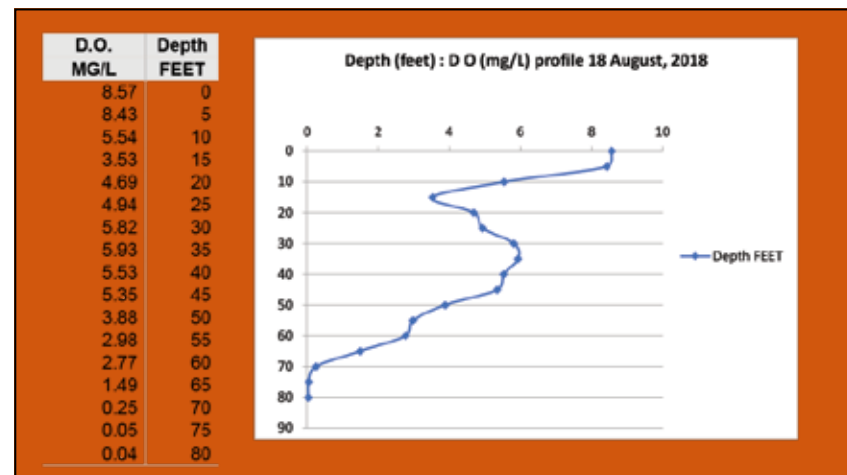


Figure 2. Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) : Depth (feet) profile for Connors Lake, August 18, 2018

Potential for an accessible fishing pier on Connors Lake: The Fishing has no Boundaries organization is interested in locating an accessible pier in southeast Sawyer County, but they need more information on who in our vicinity would use such a facility. They need some additional information before they will commit to participating in a project on Connors Lake. I will contact Kathy Overmann and bring this before the board and the general membership later this summer.

The Old CCC Crib

One of my very favorite fishing spots on Lake of the Pines is an old dilapidated CCC fish crib located out from the southern shoreline. The old contour maps of the lake use to indicate the locations of all the cribs constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (1933-1942) was a part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" during the Great Depression. It was comprised of unemployed unmarried men from ages 17-28. These young men which numbered up to 300,000 were deployed in camp-like settings in rural areas owned by federal, state and local governments throughout the United States. Our area was fortunate enough to have one such CCC camp built down West Lane on the Flambeau River. The men would work on conservation and development projects that included planting over 3 billion trees, construction of trails, lodges and facilities, and creation of public roadways in remote areas. For their labors, they would receive shelter, clothing, food, and \$30 a month of which \$25 would be sent back home to their families.

Now, back to the crib. Most of the cribs that I could locate consisted of a scattering of decaying logs with beach ball size rocks piled in a small central clump. Since these cribs were placed in less than 10 feet of water, silt and vegetation had engulfed most of them over the years. My particular crib fared better than most, but it was still surrounded by thick clumps of green cabbage weed with five or six logs still crumbled around the small stack of rocks. I could always depend on some kind of fishing action in this spot no matter what time of day it happened to be. During the day, sunfish, perch, crappie, and an occasional smallmouth bass occupied the crib. At

night, I could always count on a school of hungry walleyes checking out the crib for bait fish.

And, yes, you would always be on the lookout for a musky suddenly striking one of your hooked fish.

It was on a warm, sunny summer afternoon when fishing the CCC crib that I experienced one of my most memorable experiences there. I was anchored several yards off of the crib and just about to rig



up my poles when from the corner of my eye I noticed this large dark moving shadow in the water. Putting down my poles, I turned my head to get a better look at this slow swimming ominous object. As I strained to focus on this shadow, the outline of a huge snapping turtle began to appear. It had a shell at least three feet long with a thick neck and head protruding out another foot from its shell. Also, with the magnification of the water, this "godzilla" of a turtle sent chills down my spine! It was by far the largest turtle that I have ever come across!

I read later that snapping turtles can reach over 75 pounds and live to over 100 years. Male snappers grow to be larger than the females, and they continue growing throughout their lifetime. Needless to say, this was a very old male, and he swam right to the CCC crib. For several minutes, I watched this giant systematically claw and forage through the branches and boulders of the crib for a meal. He definitely knew his way around the crib. Who knows? He could have been visiting the crib since it was constructed in the 1930's. Having conceded my hot fishing spot this afternoon to the giant snapper, I pulled up anchor, started my outboard, and slowly motored off. There will always be tonight for walleye fishing!

The "Ol' Fisherman"
Prefers to stay anonymous

**You can't control what you can't find:
Detecting invasive species while they're still
scarce by Jake Walsh, Postdoctoral Research
Associate, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Most of the 10,000 ships lost to the bottom of the Great Lakes in wrecks over the past 400 years are still lost – hidden somewhere in 6 quadrillion gallons of water. Finding anything in a lake is a lesson in humility, so life as a freshwater biologist is always humbling. If we can't account for huge steel freighters, imagine the challenge of finding a single tiny organism.

But it is crucial to detect invasive species as early as possible. Aquatic invasive species cause billions of dollars in economic damages, and regulators base multimillion-dollar management decisions on scientists' and managers' ability to detect them. It is much more cost-effective to invest in prevention measures than to react after a species becomes established. And low-density populations are easier to manage than species that have taken over an ecosystem.

But since funding, gear and time are limited, scientists often can only sample for invasives over small fractions of vulnerable areas. Compounding the challenge, our target species tend to lurk at low densities – that is, they are rare in most places.

I have spent eight years studying the spiny water flea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*), an invasive zooplankton, in Wisconsin. In a recent study, I worked with my colleagues Eric Pedersen and Jake Vander Zanden to develop a theoretical framework that uses math and computer modeling to improve detection of invasive species at low densities.

Our model provides a simple rule of thumb for designing surveillance programs with no information other than an estimate of expected population densities. In other words, if managers have a ballpark understanding of how many individuals are in a system, our models can provide some basic information about how much

effort they need to invest in sampling in order to detect the species reliably. Alternatively, our models can help managers estimate whether their current efforts are effective for detecting populations early in the invasion process.

A belated find

For us, this challenge was personal. The spiny water flea has upended the food web of our own Lake Mendota in Madison, Wisconsin. In most lakes it's not surprising to miss new biological invasions. But Lake Mendota is one of the most well-studied lakes in the world, and we sampled it over 200 times in the decade leading up to the flea's detection.

Zooplankton are tiny organisms: The spiny water flea is less than a half-inch long. To find them, we drag a cone-shaped net through the water. The net is nearly 6 feet long, with a hoop about a foot and a half in diameter at one end and a collection cup that traps captured zooplankton at the other. For every 10 feet that we pull the net through the lake, we sample nearly 160 gallons of water – a quantity that would be a struggle to carry, but represents just one one-billionth of the volume of Lake Mendota.

At first, the spiny water flea's invasion of Lake Mendota seemed like the simplest of detection challenges. When we first identified its presence in 2009, our nets teemed with pinky-width tail spines and jet-black eye spots. We estimated that these densities would correspond to a lakewide population of trillions.

But as we learned more, we found that the fleas had likely been in the lake for as long as a decade before showing up in masses we referred to as "spiny water flea applesauce" in our collection jars. Rules of thumb for detecting invasive species

Rules of thumb for detecting invasive species

While this realization was a shock, our work revealed that it wasn't actually surprising. Since invasive species often lurk at low densities, missing invasive populations is more likely the rule than the exception, even in well-monitored ecosystems.

Detecting invasive species is the first step of any management strategy, and early detection is challenging but critical for effectively managing harmful invaders, such as Asian carp and zebra mussels. Failing to detect spiny water flea has been a key stumbling block in managing its spread across the Midwest. Similar dynamics are occurring with other invasive species, including medflies in California and Didymo algae, also known as "rock snot," which is causing blooms in rivers across North America.

We wanted to see whether there were ways to make detection more effective. To do this, we used theoretical models that explore detection at low densities to provide simple rules of thumb that aim to improve the process.

At low densities, detecting a small invasive organism in a large area can be nearly impossible without extraordinary effort. Even if there were one spiny water flea for every cubic meter of water in Lake Mendota, catching one in a net would be like finding a sesame seed in roughly 250 gallons of water.

However, managers can dramatically improve detection rates by targeting their sampling to areas or time periods when the target species is likely to be present at higher densities. Humans do this naturally when we have the necessary information. For example, I don't search grocery stores randomly for blueberries – I look in the produce section, mainly in late summer when blueberries are in season in Wisconsin.

The spiny water flea is most abundant in fall. By doubling search efforts in the fall, we calculated

that managers would improve detection as much as if they doubled efforts over the entire year.

Targeting is particularly important in multi-species surveys. Managers often look for multiple invasive species when they are sampling, but we concluded in our study that it's much more efficient to target each species separately if they differ in when or where they are most abundant. And the greater the difference, the greater the benefit from sampling for them separately.

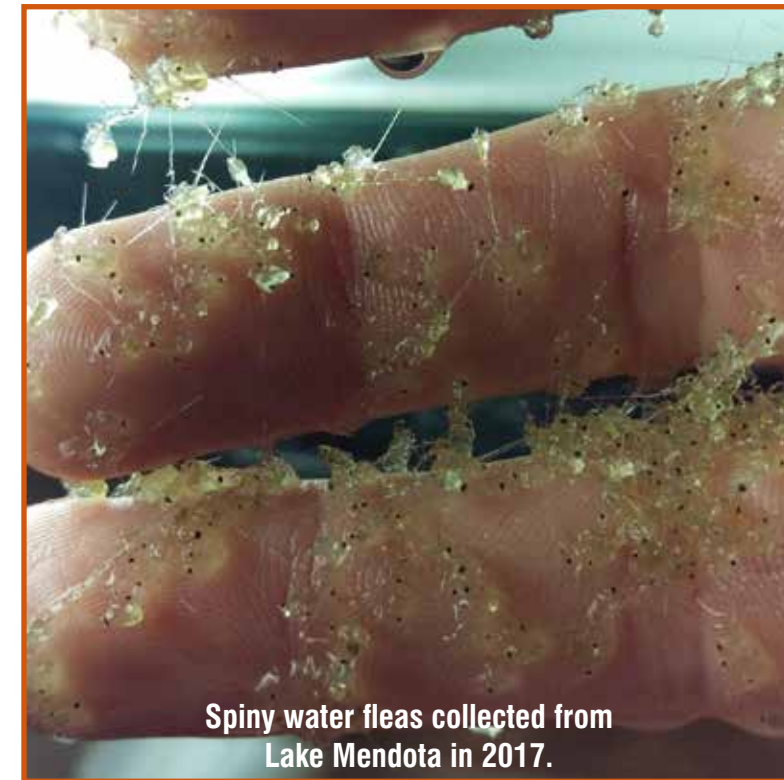
It also helps to identify locations that are vulnerable to invasion. If a manager is tasked with monitoring a dozen lakes, she could either spread effort equally among them or use information about what kinds of lakes the invader tends to invade to target vulnerable

lakes. Focusing efforts on a smaller number of vulnerable lakes, instead of sampling all 12, might be enough to overcome the challenges of detecting species at low densities.

Detection is key to control

Invasive species cause enormous ecological and economic harm. As just one example, invasive insects do some US\$13 billion in damage yearly to crops in the United States.

Our rules of thumb can help scientists and managers work smarter. Ultimately, though, the United States needs to invest much more in effective and comprehensive invasive species prevention efforts to prevent future ecological and economic harm by invasive species.



Spiny water fleas collected from Lake Mendota in 2017.

The Last of the First 25 is Gone.

Greetings All,

Just to inform you Cow 13, 24 going on 25 years old, no longer lives. Last week Sarah did a mortality check and verified that cow 13 was still alive. This morning I got a call from Dan Michels, Warden out of Park Falls, that one of his neighbors found Cow 13 dead out in his field. We went out to investigate this evening. She appeared in very poor condition. There was no sign of predation, scavengers had entered her abdomen, but otherwise it appeared that she may be one of those rare instances where a Wisconsin wild elk died of old age. She arrived with 24 other elk from Michigan in May of 1995 as a calf approaching her first birthday. The good people of the State of Michigan donated 25 elk to the good people of the State of Wisconsin, in order to investigate the feasibility of restoring elk to Wisconsin.

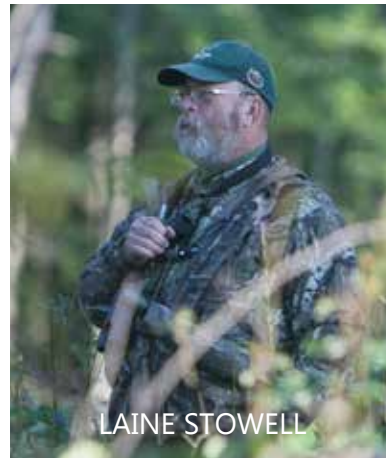
I have mentioned it often in describing Cow 13 that she was the orneriest cow elk I ever met, and I've met several hundred cow elk. She tried to kill me all 4 times I trapped her,

and she once jumped over my head and a swing gate to get to her calf in the transfer tub of the corral trap in 2009, but we still collared her. She and Bull 7 started the Butternut elk group soon after release in 1995. They left the release pen near Clam Lake and travelled about 12 miles southeast to the eastern edge of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest near "Stock-farm

Bridge" on the east fork of the Chippewa River. I used to track them in this area when I first started as the Elk Biologist in 2000. Her's was one of 4 calves we found my first calving season in 2001... Bull 91. I trapped her and others of the Butternut group in 2006, 2009, 2013 and 2015. She was always ornery, big and in excellent condition. When I trapped her in 2009, I watched her and others in the field behind Steve Rose's farm while wolves howled in the surrounding woods. They didn't faze her a bit. We never verified any losses of this elk group to wolves. I think it was because both Bull 7 and Cow 13 were aggressive. Bull 7 killed Bull 23 in a rut fight in 1998. Aggression apparently runs in this group of elk. Not only did Cow 13 know how to kick elk biologists, but this aggressiveness has apparently been passed down to their progeny. Bull 178, who has been the dominant herd bull for the past several years, killed 2 bulls in rut fights, one in 2015 and one in 2016. In 2015 we took 5 cows and 4 calves from this Butternut group, releasing Cows 13, 160 and 256 back into their Butternut home. We moved the others, with 2 bulls from Clam Lake, to the Flambeau River State Forest. That group has grown over 133 percent since their arrival to the Flambeau River State Forest in 2015. They are now mixing with Kentucky elk, sharing their aggressiveness traits, savvy about wolves and bears, while the Kentucky elk share their diverse genetics. This bodes best for the future Wisconsin wild elk.

Not only is Cow 13 the oldest wild elk I've ever heard of, but she's contributed immensely to the prosperity of our Clam Lake herd. She will be missed! From now on 13 is my lucky number!

Best Regards,
Laine R. Stowell
Elk Biologist



Aquatic Invasive Species Report Spring 2019 by Thomas Stram

Based on the findings of our fall 2018 Aquatic Invasive Species survey we do not plan to treat the invasive aquatic Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) for the third straight year. The recently revised Aquatic Plant Management Plan states that we cannot treat the EWM until we have a 50% frequency of occurrence. Last fall's aquatic plant survey found a 27% frequency of occurrence (double that of the previous year).

On the positive side, the EWM is confined to Muskie Bay. To help keep it that way we ask boaters to avoid motoring in Muskie Bay but if fishing there to use a no-wake policy. Please notify your friends and guests of this recommendation. I continue to volunteer for the Clean Boats, Clean Water program to warn boaters of the presence of EWM and to avoid Muskie Bay. My prediction is that we will have a 50% rate of occurrence by the fall of this year. There are many very dense beds with surface matting in the bay. When we do treat the EWM it will be the whole bay with liquid 2,4-D at a cost of about \$8,000 to 10,000. We still have an annual expense for our annual plant survey but 3/4 of the total cost of \$2,000 is paid by the DNR through a grant that was extended through 2019.

Just give us 2!



Contact Dave Bauer for Serving Opportunities.

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connorspineslakeassociation.org

Flambeau River State Forest

Happy Spring! The lengthening days and melting snow is marking the end of a record breaking winter for snowfall throughout most of Wisconsin. The wildlife are finally getting reprieve from the harsh winter as well, and now with spring finally upon us, the greening grass and budding trees will provide a much needed nutrient source.

As we transition into the spring and summer months, the recreation staff will be starting to gear up to get everything up and running for the summer. Here's a look at what has occurred over the past few months, and some of the upcoming plans for the year:

Highlights:

Timber Sales on the forest were going strong this year. With the cold weather and lack of snow at the beginning of winter, ground conditions were prime for completing sales. Backlogs of 15 sales, totaling 2,478 acres, were completed. The road bans were posted March 20th, giving us an additional month for harvesting operations than in previous years. The next bid opening on the forest is May 2nd, 2019. Approximately 870 acres will be bid out.

Additionally, 5,300 acres of reconnaissance checks were completed, as well as 195 acres of survival checks. Four acres of red and white oak were planted in conjunction with the wildlife program. The Flambeau also went through a certification audit in August on six mandatory sales.

Access Improvements continue on the forest. We have requested state grants for the townships of Winter, Draper, and South Fork, and Flambeau. 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.

A 1 mile segment of new ATV trail was completed from Fisherman's Landing to the Rusk County Line, and will be open beginning May 15th of this year. The road naming project will be wrapping up on the forest by mid-summer as well. The purpose of this is to give visitors a better reference of where they are at & for emergency response as well. New maps are in the process of being made that will reference all of the roads by name to ease navigation. There are also some plans for some additional roads to be opened up within the next year for forest access. As good stewards of the land, please remember & remind others to stay on designated roads and trails to keep this wonderful place intact. New this year will be a Motor Vehicle Use Map, similar to that of the US Forest Service, that will clearly define motor vehicle access within the forest.

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.

Projects this summer:

- Maintenance on the exterior of the Historical Headquarters – a contract has been awarded for the re-roofing and staining of the building.
- ATV/Snowmobile trail Maintenance
- Mowing 96 miles of roads and trails
- Repair Bridge over Mason Creek on the ski trail – a new pre-fabricated bridge will be installed this summer.
- Canoe site repairs

- Ramp extensions and a new boarding pier are being considered at the Connor's Lake Boat launch.

Recreation:

This will be the second year in which the department will be operating under a new model for recreation services. Recreation services are no longer provided by Flambeau River State Forest Staff. All recreation services on the property are now provided by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. The Department has a new campground reservation vendor this year. All reservations can now be made at: <https://wisconsin.goingtocamp.com/>

Events:

This summer we will continue to offer 3 Nature Programs at the Connors Lake Picnic Area; Smokey Bears Birthday, Outdoor Cooking (if you have a favorite campfire or grill recipe that you want to show off, contact me to be a part of the event!), and Elk Bugling. Our 27th annual Candlelight Ski had an amazing turnout this year! I sure hope that if you haven't had a chance to come out to the candlelight ski that you make it a point to attend next year. It is a great event and it is wonderful to be able to chat with all of the people that love the Flambeau as much as we do.

Partnership opportunities:

The Flambeau River State Forest continues to seek the creation of non-profit Friends Group that will help enhance the property. We have a few individuals working on forming it. If you are interested in helping or want more information, please contact me.

Open House/Public Meeting

The annual public open house meeting is planned for May 24th, 2019 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 Summer!

Chris Bender, Property Manager



Members of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation hosted "Bugle Days" at the Connors Lake Pavilion in September 2018.

The Flambeau

Spring is here and so will be the Canada geese. They are beautiful waterfowl that can easily provide problems when their numbers increase. They overgraze grass, ornamental plants, and there can be an accumulation of droppings and feathers in public-use areas, plus the fouling of swimming areas.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers a Resident Canada Goose Nest & Egg Depredation Program which authorizes landowners who register with the Service to destroy resident Canada goose nests and eggs on property under their jurisdiction when necessary to resolve or prevent injury to people, property, agricultural crops, or other interests. The order does not authorize the killing of any migratory bird species or destruction of any nests or eggs other than those of resident Canada geese.

Wildlife Services recommends an integrated approach to manage damage caused by Canada geese. The integrated methods include no-feeding policies, landscape modification, barriers, light and sound scaring devices, herding dogs, egg-and-nest treatment, depredation permits, among others. Using a variety of methods is important because, no single technique will provide a long-term solution to



damage problems. The Flambeau River State Forest applies yearly for this Depredation Order. There is no fee for registration and you must renew the order yearly. Nests and eggs may only be destroyed between March 1 and June 30 and each registered landowner must report the number of nests and eggs destroyed on their property and the date they were destroyed by October 31 of the registration year. A report is required even if no nests or eggs were destroyed. Landowners cannot re-register in future seasons if they have an outstanding report. Eggs may be shaken, punctured or oiled using 100% corn oil and need to be replaced back in the nest or they will just lay more eggs.

At the Flambeau River State Forest we monitor the Connors Lake Picnic Area and the Connors Campground beach closely for geese issues. We spend many hours trying to keep this public space clean and safe. We place a double strand fishing line fence along the 427 ft. beach area and ribbon it heavily. We also place dummy swans and dogs, and use pyrotechnical scare cartridges and launchers that you can buy on-line. Only 1 nest has been found in the beach area over the years, and we have had 3 round-ups during the molting stage. This helps, but it is a never-ending job. The requirement to have a round-up is to have enough of a population to make a difference and I believe you need to go thru the process of getting a Depredation Order first. DNR Wildlife staff and Wildlife Services work together on these round-ups. Be sure to go on line to register at: [Http://www.fws.gov/permits/mbpermits/GooseEggRegistration.html](http://www.fws.gov/permits/mbpermits/GooseEggRegistration.html), if you are interested in getting the Nest and Egg Depredation Permit. The way I understand it, each landowner does not need to register individually. You can register as the Lake Association and appoint an authorized person to handle the nests. You can get more information by going to the afore mentioned website.

Have a great summer!
Diane Stowell
Forestry Technician Adv./Visitor Services – Flambeau River State Forest



2019 Cash Raffle

Since our inception in 2003, we've continued to shore up (pardon the pun) our funds enabling us to continue our mission: "Preserving and Protecting our Lakes for Today and for Future Generations". It's been through the generosity of our members, volunteers, and visitors to the area, that has sustained our association and allowed us to promote Aquatic Invasive Species Treatments, Clean Boats & Clean Waters, Citizens Lake Monitoring Network, The Fisheries Committee, Adopt-A-Highway and many other projects, including this newsletter.

2019 CASH RAFFLE
Fund Raising Sponsored by
Connors Lake/Lake of the Pines
Voluntary Lake Association

DRAWING
Saturday August 31st, 2019 @ 10:00am
Big Bear | W1614 County Rd W - Winter, WI

1st Prize - \$2,500
2nd Prize - \$1,000
3rd Prize \$500
4-10th Prizes \$100

Thank You for Your Support and Good Luck!!!

One of the most, and consistent fund raisers we have is the annual Cash Raffle. Although I don't recall when we started the raffle, going back just ten years would indicate we've raised over \$50,000!! Once again, we're offering a tax-deductible opportunity to not only help our association put some cash in our pocket - hopefully yours as well.

For 2019, we're going back to our original format; hoping to sell 100 Tickets at \$100 each, netting (oops, did it again) over \$5,000. Tickets are currently available through any board member, or from Toni and Perry at The Flambeau Forest Inn who have generously given of their time and participation, Big Bear, Loretta Steak House, and Oxbo. Please support those who support us. And remember; we can't use the USPS to obtain or send tickets.



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Wednesday, Chicken *All You Can Eat
Thursday, 2 for 1 Ribeyes
Friday, Fish Fry Cod or Walleye
Saturday, Steak Night and starting May 25TH Prime Rib
Sunday, 1/2 Rack of BBQ Ribs & 2pc. Broasted Chicken
715.332.5405

Check out flambeauforestinn.net for more fun events.

We offer DNR licensing.
Owners live on premises in case of emergency.
Bait available (crawlers and leeches only)

*Thanks for a great 2018 Season!
We look forward to serving you next year.*



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