

# From the Lake Shores

Connors Lake • Lake of the Pines

LAKE ASSOCIATION



# SPRING



WATERS | VOLUNTEERS | FISH | FORESTRY

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

*a newsletter for the Lake Association Members • Volume 27 - Spring 2020*

photo by smith

## MESSAGE FROM DAVE

As you are well aware, much has changed over the last couple months in light of COVID-19. We hope you and your families are doing well and staying safe. Information regarding the pandemic changes almost daily, and we as a board have made decisions accordingly. Our board meetings have moved to an online format to facilitate making these decisions while complying with the Safer at Home Order Governor Evers has put in place in Wisconsin. While reading the newsletter, you'll find that we have had to cancel and postpone numerous activities because of the pandemic. However, we as a board are still trying to do as much as we can while staying safe at the same time. As always, thank you to all the volunteers. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and thank you for supporting the Lake Association. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Dave Bauer  
President



*Dave Bauer*

**The Adopt-A-Highway spring cleanup has been cancelled, so we need everyone's help to keep our beautiful forest free of debris! With the arrival of warmer temperatures, now is a perfect time to get outdoors for a walk. And with all the snow melted, the garbage along the roads is crying out to be picked up. So, please lend a hand! Thank you!**

## LIGHTS AT LANDINGS

The Connors Lake/Lake of the Pines Lake Association with help from the Flambeau River State Forest will be putting up two Solar night lights to help boats at the landings. These are the state-of-the-art lighting systems that will be completely Solar powered with 5000k lighting. The first one will be installed this Summer on Connors lake landing. The second one will be in place next year on Lake of The Pines landing, between the landing and new handy cap dock system.

The Lake Association has donated \$4,000 for each lake and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is making up the difference. If you would like to look at an example of the new lighting, the department has a solar light system at the new bath rooms on Lake of The Pines with 3000k light, this new system will help everyone at the landing to enjoy the waters.

Steve Lindahl

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHERIFF'S

The Lake Association has various committees that address specific areas. Each committee has a chairperson to oversee the committee. One might say these are our SHERIFF'S.

Sheriff Tom Stram. Tom's committee is Aquatic Plant Management. Tom works with the DNR establishing a comprehensive Management Plan for Evasive Species in the lakes. He oversees the Lake Survey's for these Evasive Species, Permit Writing, Grant Writing, Application for reimbursement of funds spent on survey's and treatment and Actual Treatment. The invasive Eurasian Milfoil has been the bad criminal in Connors Lake. The DNR has turned down a grant to treat this year. We will apply again next year.

Sheriffs Dave Schiotz and Jim Schofield. Their committee is Citizens Lake Monitoring. They oversee water monitoring on both Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines and work with the DNR obtaining the sampling kits and completing the proper forms. Various factors are considered, oxygen content, phosphorus, water clarity among a few. They train the various individuals to take the samples. This is a vital activity by the Lake Association and DNR to ensure health of the lakes.

Sheriff Don Bluhm. Don's committee is Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW). Don is new to this position and we thank him for taking on this task. COVID-19 has changed our plans for 2020. We had been working with the DNR and received a grant for CBCW, however due to Covid-19 training and other aspects of the program could not be completed. The State has put CBCW on hold until June and maybe later. In the past program the DNR reimbursed the Lake Association twenty dollars for each hour of volunteer work at the landings. The proceeds are only for reimbursement of actual verified cost for lake surveys conducted for evasive species. The volunteers spend time at the landing sharing information about invasive species and inspecting boats and trailers before and after boating. This is to protect our lakes as well as others. These hours are recorded and given to the DNR along with proof of the cost spent on the lake surveys. In a typical year we need about 100 hours to cover the survey cost. We have not been able to meet our 100 volunteer hours and are exploring other avenues to help us reach that goal.

In our next newsletter we will discuss other committees, their functions and goals.

These three committees alone are reasons to support fund raising and demonstrate why volunteer help is so critical to the Association. Due to our current State and National situation it would appear that DNR assistance will be more limited in the future. We ask that everyone that can, make an effort to help us maintain and protect our lakes.

Tom, Dave and Jim have been very active in working for the Lake Association for years. Don joined us just recently. If you have the opportunity please personally thank them for their enthusiasm, involvement and time.

Thanks,

Florian Wisinski  
Treasurer



## WHAT DO FISH SEE WHEN THEY LOOK AT A LAKE?

Over the past several months (maybe years), I have been looking for a way to express what is important to a fish who is living in either Connors Lake or Lake of the Pines. These two bodies of water have become very dear to me. I have spent a good deal of time (maybe not as much as I would have liked) fishing, boating and just drifting across these beautiful bodies of water. I have watched the seasons change them from frozen white to glowing golden in the setting sun. Hearing the Loons cry and the Mallards quack and listening to the gentle lap of a ripple against the shoreline. These lakes are my aquatic home.

But, there are many species who are much more tied to what happens in these lakes. For the most part these species are fishes; especially the species that I pursue while angling. I have often stated that species of the genus *Esox* (*Esox masquinongy* and *Esox lucius*) are my favorite quarry, but I am not immune to fishing for bass (*Micropterus salmoides* and *Micropterus dolomieu*) or even a Walleye (*Sander vitreus*). Because of their popular status, I will use the Walleye as the focus for this exploration about what fish are looking for in a lake (i.e. what is fish habitat?).

First, we need to set the stage; what is a lake? Both Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines were the result of glacial activity that scoured out depressions in the land surface and melted about 10,000 years ago. Since that time they have both accumulated sediment from erosion in their drainage basins and accumulated organic matter from plants and animals that have died over the time since they were first formed. Eventually, through this process (known as eutrophication) they will fill in and actually become dry land. Don't worry, that will be a long time in the future.

These lakes, like all lakes, have three main types of organisms living in them; producers (green plants; algae and rooted macrophytes), consumers (invertebrates, fish and other vertebrates) and decomposers (bacteria and fungi). These three types of organisms transfer nutrients and energy from one group to the next by pathways that we call a food web. The ener-

gy comes ultimately from sunlight and the nutrients are mostly cycled around from one organism to the next. Energy from the sunlight is absorbed by the producers (mostly small algae collectively known as phytoplankton). These small, often single celled plants are eaten by small invertebrates (collectively known as Zooplankton). The zooplankton are in turn eaten by insect larvae and small fish, which in turn may be eaten by larger fish and invertebrates. As you can see this may lead to a pretty long food chain with a number of steps.

So, how do Walleye fit into this system? Well, it depends on how old and big they are. Adult Walleye (over the legal size limit) are predators and in northern Wisconsin it may take 4-6 years for them to reach 18 inches. As adults they primarily eat fish and larger invertebrates (insect larvae, leeches and worms), but anything that they can fit into their mouths. Therefore, their mouth gape is important to note here and that is the width of their mouth from one side to the other. The larger the Walleye the larger a food item it can swallow (because it has to go down whole). So, the food chain (or food web) for an adult Walleye can be traced backward from the fish it ate to the small invertebrates the small fish ate to the zooplankton the invertebrates ate to the phytoplankton the zooplankton ate.

Spawning habitat may indeed be a limiting factor in Walleye populations in Connors Lake and the lake association's work will hopefully produce more catchable size Walleye, but we probably won't see the results in the catch for another 3-5 years. The study that we hoped to start this year could have given us some insight into what happens to those eggs as they begin to hatch. Laboratory studies have traced the development of Walleye from egg hatching, through their larval stages and up to the juvenile stage, when they look like miniature versions of adult Walleye.

There are some incredible changes that happen during the first few days after hatching. For the first

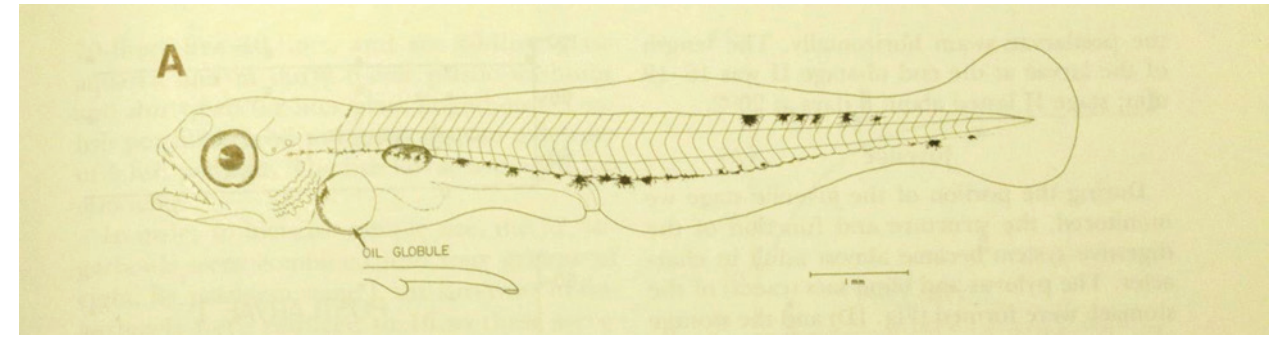


Figure 1. Morphological characteristics of a prolarval Walleye showing the digestive tract separately and the bar which indicates 1 mm (from; Li, S. and J. A. Mathias. 1982. Causes of high mortality among cultured larval Walleyes. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, 111:710-721.)

five days or so, the tiny Walleye known as prolarvae (Figure 1) get most of their nourishment from the yolk remaining in the yolk sac. At this time they generally grow to about 8 or 9mm and their mouth gape is about 1 mm. By this time they have begun feeding, but it seems they cannot digest the food. Over this time period survival is generally good (under laboratory conditions) with over 90 out of 100 prolarvae surviving to the next stage (figure 3.)

At the stage they are known as post larvae (Figure 2 C) and their digestive tracts can begin to absorb nutrients, but they still have an oil droplet that can supplement their feeding. If they don't get adequate food in the form of small zooplankton by this time they may starve. Over the next five days the number of post larvae may decrease by over 60 per 100 that originally hatched, so there is only about 30% of the original number left. During the post larval stage, which lasts for about 14 days, they more than dou-

ble in size from about 9mm to about 20mm. This seems to be the most critical period for these young fish. Throughout these very early stages in the life of a Walleye (or any other species of fish) they are looking for food items that can fit into their small, but growing mouths. They will graduate from small zooplankton to larger zooplankton and small insect larvae, which they bite at one at a time. Many may succumb to the stress of switching to eating enough food to keep them alive and in fact this is a time period when cannibalism among the young Walleyes also seems to be a major factor. In some cases, as one post larva tries to eat another, the head of one may get stuck in the mouth of the other and both may die. However, the cannibalistic larvae grow more rapidly and are more robust than those that are not cannibalistic. By the end of this critical post larval period there may only be 20 of the original 100 hatchlings alive; even under ideal conditions in a laboratory aquarium (Figure 3).

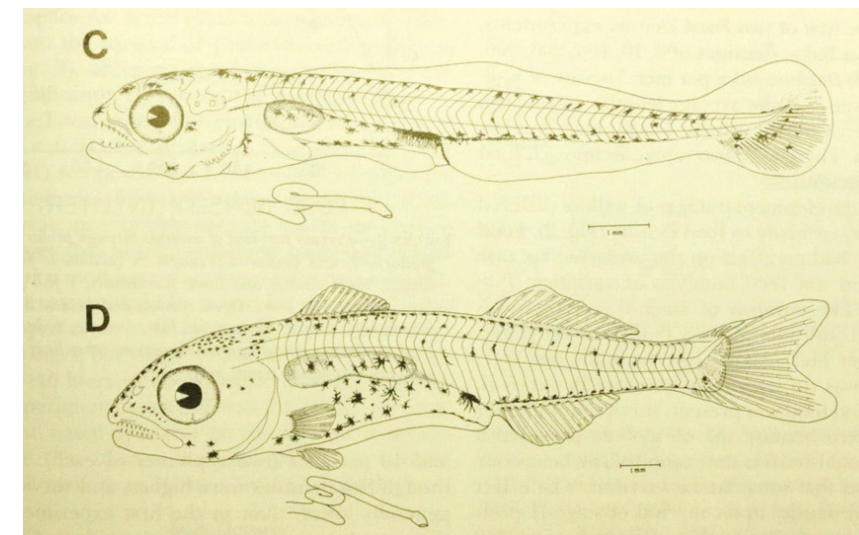


Figure 2. Morphological characteristics of postlarval (C) and juvenile (D) stages of Walleye; notice how the digestive tract becomes more complex and also notice the line that indicates 1 mm by each illustration (from; Li, S. and J. A. Mathias. 1982. Causes of high mortality among cultured larval Walleyes. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, 111:710-721.)

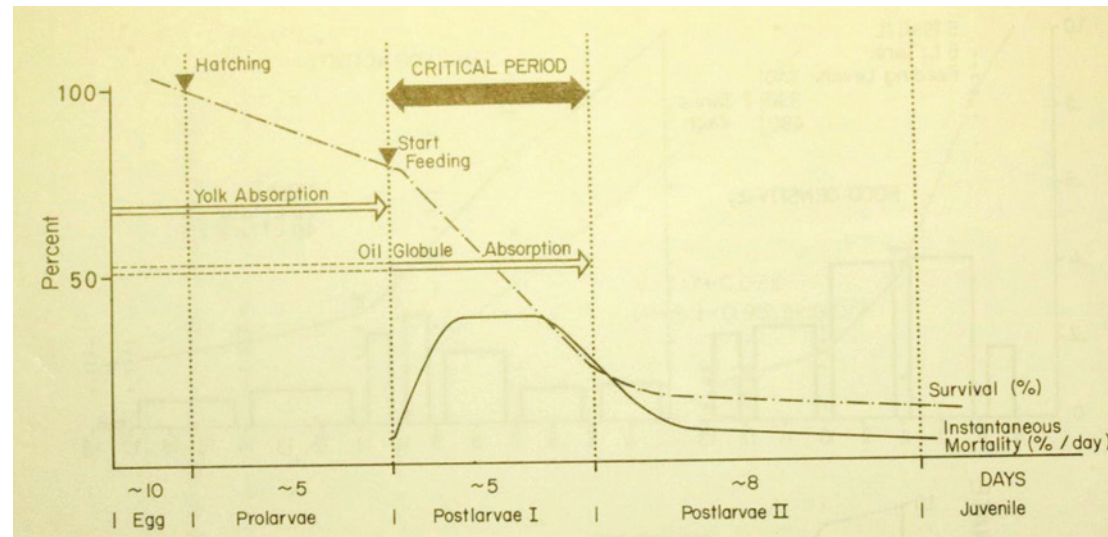


Figure 3. Survival of larval Walleye from hatching (100 individuals) to the beginning of the juvenile stage with about 20-25 remaining (from; Li, S. and J. A. Mathias. 1982. Causes of high mortality among cultured larval Walleyes. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, 111:710-721.)

During the juvenile stage (Figure 2 D) the Walleye continue to grow and depending on the food supply they may reach 6 to 10 inches by the end of their first fall of life. They also look more and more like the Walleye we know as adults; only smaller. However, since most prey fish species also hatch in the spring, there is a sort of a race between predators and prey. Can the predators grow fast enough to be able to continue to consume the prey as they grow; or will the prey grow fast enough to make them too big to be eaten by the predators? A study in Nebraska showed that smaller Walleye were less robust (had lower Relative Weights) than larger individuals at the end of the growing season; they also, more frequently, had empty stomachs. This was especially true late in the summer and into the early fall when the prey fish, present in those reservoirs, had outgrown the size of prey the Walleye could eat. Does that happen in Connors Lake or Lake of the

Pines? I don't think that we know and therefore, we may need to look at ways of evaluating what the food resources of these lakes are as we move ahead with habitat enhancements.

We don't have much data on the weights of different length Walleye in either Connors Lake or Lake of the Pines, but we could start a data base by which we could evaluate the health of the Walleye populations in these two lakes. And, if we did that for other species as well, it could add to our understanding of the overall health of the lakes. Right now this is just an idea that we might want to talk more about.

So, how a Walleye sees a lake depends on how big they are and a lake needs to supply all of their different habitat needs differ through their lives.

By: Ed Peters

## News From The Flambeau River State

The start of the logging season was looking good until we received a large amount of snow during deer season. The ground was not frozen before we received the snow which made it more difficult for logging. Even though the conditions were not ideal, we did, have 17 sales being actively harvested during the winter months. Ten out of the seventeen sales were completed. Our spring bid opening is May 28th. Four sales totaling 565 acres will be bid out. Due to COVID-19, our normal timber marking activities this spring have been limited.

Additionally, 2 sites totaling 37 acres were planted to white spruce in April. The sites are located off of Payne Farm Road and Lincoln Drive. Future monitoring will be done on these plantations to ensure the planting is successful.

Garlic mustard treatment is planned for the month of May. The area being treated is located north of Hines Grade and west of County Road M in the area known as "the Big Block". Garlic mustard has been being treated in this area for the last 5 years and will continue to be treated since it is very invasive and difficult to eradicate. We are looking at doing an inventory for invasives on the hunter/walker trails possibly this summer.

Melissa Burns  
Park Manager  
Flambeau State Forest

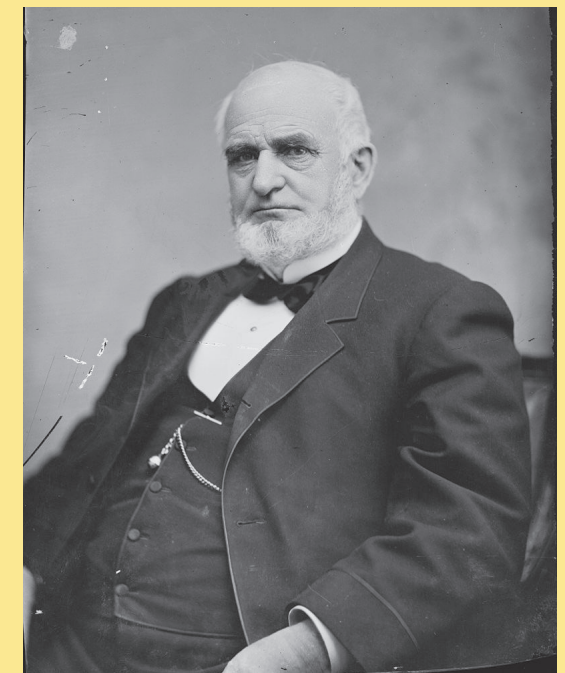
## WHO'S THE SAWYER IN THIS COUNTY ANYWAY?

Sawyer County is named for Philetus Sawyer, a New England man who represented Wisconsin in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate in the 19th century.

Sawyer was born in Whiting, Vermont. He moved to Wisconsin in 1847 and worked in the lumber industry.

Sawyer's early political career included serving in the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1857 and 1861, and as mayor of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, from 1863 to 1864. He ran for and was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1864 and served for ten years from 1865 until 1875 being first elected to the 39th United States Congress. From 1865 till 1873 he was the representative of Wisconsin's 5th congressional district. However, for the 43rd Congress he redistricted and represented Wisconsin's 6th district. He did not run for reelection in 1874. Sawyer returned to Congress in 1881 as a U.S. Senator. He served two terms from 1881 to 1893 and did not seek a third.

Sawyer County was created in 1883 and organized in 1885. In the 1890s immigrants came from a variety of countries such as Germany, Norway, Poland, Ireland and Sweden.



Philetus Sawyer died in 1900 in Oshkosh at age 83.

## SPRING 2020 ELK UPDATE

First of all, I would like to update folks that Laine Stowell, former WDNR Elk Biologist, retired in December 2019. Laine poured his heart into the Elk Project since taking the role in 2000. Laine's vision of importing and expanding elk in the current elk range came true in multiple phases. In 2014 and 2015, elk from Clam Lake and Butternut were released onto the Flambeau River State Forest. This established elk in the expanded zone of the Northern Wisconsin Elk Range. In 2016, WDNR and many partners completed a quarantine pen facility off West Lane, just south of the Flambeau River State Forest

Headquarters and solidifying a release site for Kentucky elk into Northern Wisconsin. In 2017 and 2019, a total of 92 Kentucky elk were released to join our current elk herd. Laine's work was crucial in the completion of this effort, especially locally. He spent countless hours compiling data, information, research, building partnerships, and endless habitat improvement projects for which elk are thriving on the landscape. Mr. Stowell was not only passionate with field work, but also educating anyone he could. He routinely attended presentations, held field tours, volunteer field/workdays, or simply discussed the elk, habitat projects, and other information with countless individuals. Please join me in saying THANK YOU LAINE STOWELL FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE FOR ELK IN WISCONSIN.



*Pictured Laine Stowell (right) and DNR Wildlife Technician Mike Bulgrin (left) with cow 418 who was collared as a calf after being trapped in abandoned well at a cabin in Clam Lake, June 2016. Laine and Mike were able to rescue her from the well. She just turned 4 years old.*

After the completion of the translocation of Kentucky elk, more bodies are roaming around the Flambeau River State Forest and surrounding land. Our 2019 translocated elk spent most of the fall, winter, and spring with both our resident Wisconsin elk and the 2017 Kentucky released group. While we lost some elk, mostly 2019 Kentucky released, the majority fared well. Visuals, both in person, citizen reports and game cameras indicate that our young elk population in the Flambeau River State Forest are extremely healthy with great body condition coming out of winter. Elk have now become eating machines, with the spring timeframe being crucial for nutrient intake. Elk went through the winter months feeding to maintain their body conditions. With the stresses of winter behind, the future for all elk includes eating as much as possible. For pregnant cows it

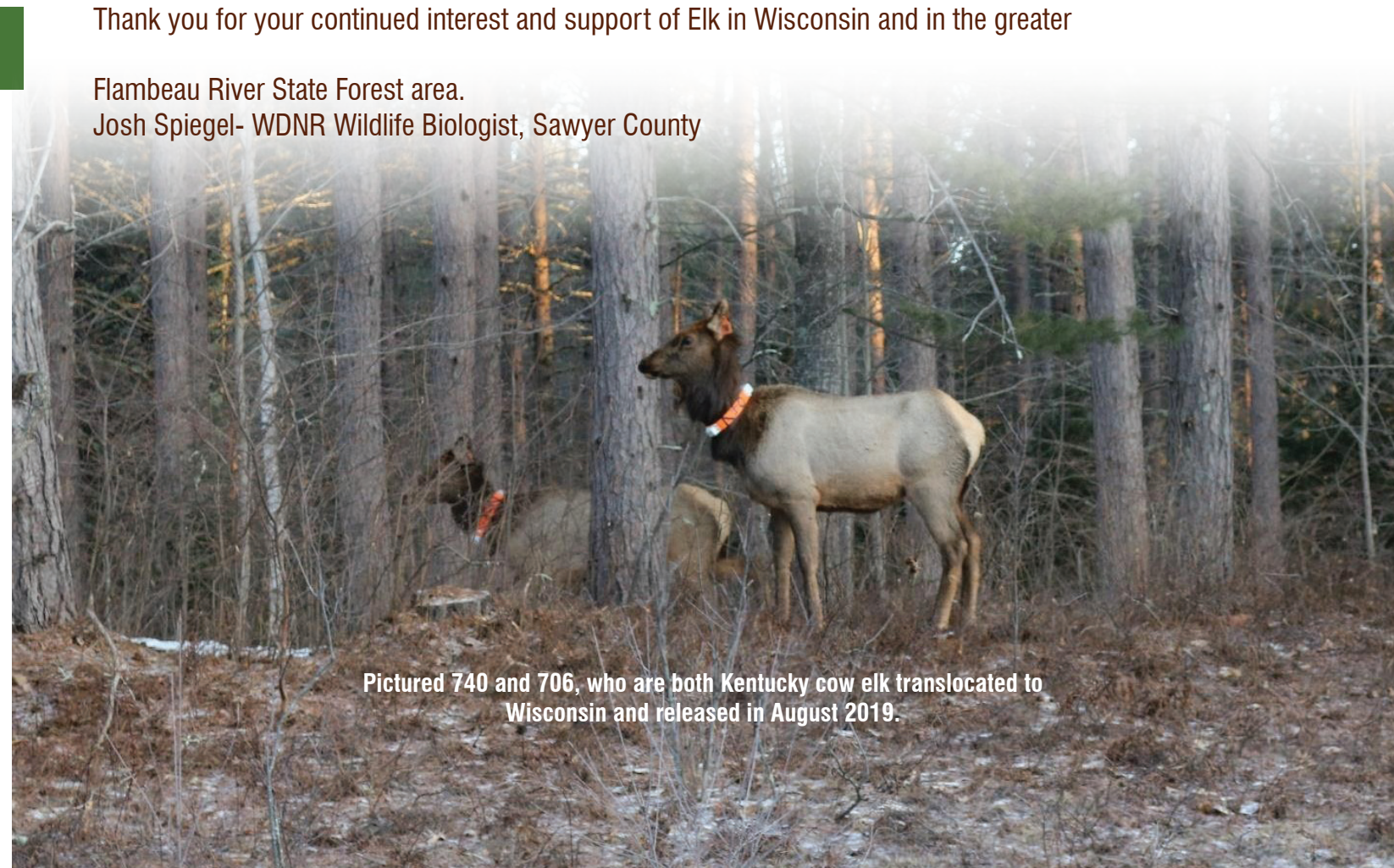
will be giving birth and raising calves. Bulls have shed their 2019 hard antlers in March/April and have started growing their new head gear. Lastly, young and old elk alike will be foraging heavily on the lush grasses needed for growth and strength.

As for field work, WDNR did not perform any trapping for recollaring of elk this winter, primarily due to staffing changes. Like recent years, we will also be forgoing calf searching in the spring/summer of 2020. With excellent historic data on pregnancy rates for known aged cows and calving survival rates, we can estimate our calf recruitment without having to search for calves. We're also able to track GPS collared elk remotely. This ability allows staff to monitor assumed pregnant cows and confirm "calving" movements. For this coming summer, WDNR staff are planning to continue our habitat maintenance projects which includes maintaining clover and grass openings to provide high quality forage and cover. Working with Flambeau River State Forest foresters, timber sales continue to provide young forests. Aspen is a critical forest stand type that benefits, not only elk, but many species in its young regeneration stages. Young aspen is used by elk for forage, calving and year-round cover, and a means of predator escape. Another field project will include adding "Elk Crossing" signs throughout the Northern Elk Range. With our expanding elk population, we want to improve the signing on roadways, primarily county highways, that are commonly used by elk. Our #2 elk mortality cause is vehicle collisions at 13% of total mortalities. This will benefit both elk and human safety.

Lastly, the 2019 Elk hunting season wrapped up in early November. All hunting parties were successful in harvesting elk. Both WI resident hunters and Chippewa Tribal members were able to harvest 5 elk, to meet the total harvest quota of 10 bull elk. Much like the 2018 season, all hunting was performed in the greater Clam Lake area. A proposed elk hunting season for the fall of 2020 has been suggested and details will be completed early this summer.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of Elk in Wisconsin and in the greater

Flambeau River State Forest area.  
Josh Spiegel- WDNR Wildlife Biologist, Sawyer County



*Pictured 740 and 706, who are both Kentucky cow elk translocated to Wisconsin and released in August 2019.*

## Spring is Not Cancelled by Emily Stone

Over the past few sunny days, my anxiety levels have been rising. Oh, there's the global pandemic to worry about for sure, but that's not why sunshine has me worried. The issue is that I've been laser-focused on my computer lately, while I create virtual versions of our MuseumMobile lessons before schools dissipate for the summer. You can access them through the banner on [cablemuseum.org](http://cablemuseum.org). And while I've been working inside, I've been worried that outside, spring is happening without me.

What if I miss the Dutchman's breeches flowers? Will all the bloodroots have dropped their petals by the time I get there? I usually don't count on seeing all the flowers before Mother's Day, but is spring coming early this year? Time is passing differently during the lockdown.

So, on one particularly warm, sunny afternoon this week, I headed up to St. Peter's Dome and Morgan Falls to see for myself. This Research Natural Area boasts one of the best "northern mesic forest" communities in this area. What does that mean? Rich soils with plenty of nutrients and water (but not too much water) support deciduous trees like sugar maples. And underneath those still-leafless trees, in the strengthening sunshine, thrives a community of spring ephemeral wildflowers.

Ephemeral means fleeting, transitory, evanescent, flitting, and impermanent. Those synonyms give me a little thrill, I'll admit, but also a tingle of terror. Ephemeral means that if you don't get out into the woods at the right time, these absolutely exquisite flowers will return to dormancy beneath the surface and you'll have to wait an entire year to see them again. Right now, a year feels like a lifetime.

I examined my anxieties, knowing that my life would indeed go on even if I missed out on this one ritual of spring. A Mary Oliver poem came to mind, where she mourns the death of a river, and grieves for "lost joyfulness." When someone in the poem asks: "Isn't this somewhat overplayed?" She justifies her feelings by saying, "it can be a friend. Companion. A hint of heaven." Indeed. These wildflowers are old friends. Friends whom I can't infect, and who can't infect me. And if not heaven, they certainly transform the forest into a fairyland.

As I wound my way through gravel backroads—hopefully toward a rendezvous with my friends—I peered into the woods for clues to their well-being. Vivid green patches of wild leeks (also known as ramps) popped up here and there. I'll be harvesting those soon. I love making both quiche and pesto with the pungent leaves. They replace all the greens and spices in a recipe; no additional spinach, garlic, or onions needed. In a move that's as lazy as it is sustainable, I pick just one leaf per cluster instead of digging up the muddy roots. Less washing. Less impact on the population. It's a win-win.

The green leaves of leeks are refreshing for both the eyes and the palate, but they aren't one of the flowers I'm seeking. Wild leeks don't bloom until July, which is weeks after their leaves have finished storing the sun's energy in their bulbs as carbohydrates, and withered away under the thick shade of the forest canopy. Why this separation? Well, the leaves need sun, but the flowers need pollinators, and each is more abundant in their own season.

To everything there is a season, and after I'd hiked just a short distance down the trail, I was comforted that I had not missed this one.

A few pink-striped faces of spring beauties smiled up at me, but many patches were just filled with their skinny little pairs of leaves.

Where's that patch of wild ginger I always look for? The unfurled leaves were still small, and the single flower bud I spotted was tightly closed. In



contrast, my chest opened a little, relaxing in the knowledge that my fears were unfounded and I had not missed spring. My favorite patch of bloodroot was blindingly white, seemingly in full flower. Zooming in with my camera, though, I noticed a couple of bare stems, where a pollinated blossom had already shed its petals. Bloodroot is one of our earliest blooming wildflowers. In contrast to its pristine petals, the stem and roots leak red juice if broken.

The showy pantaloons of Dutchman's breeches flowers were also near peak bloom, with no flowers past their prime, and some buds still expanding. Dutchman's breeches flowers look like pantaloons on a clothesline.

But this white trillium was still bundled up tight, and not a single plant had more than a swelling bud. Large-flowered trilliums are a fan-favorite, with its three leaves and matching three white petals. I bet this one will be in bloom by the time you read this!

Several hours flew by as I followed my camera up and down the trail, trying to find just the right light and just the right angle that could help me capture the joyfulness present in these ephemeral wildflowers.

In our current chaos, it is comforting to know that spring is not cancelled.



"It is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning in the broken world." – Mary Oliver, Invitation.

Emily Stone  
Naturalist/Education Director at the Cable Natural History Museum

Emily's second book, *Natural Connections: Dreaming of an Elfin Skimmer*, is now available to purchase at [www.cablemuseum.org/books](http://www.cablemuseum.org/books). Or order it from our friends at [redberrybooks.com](http://redberrybooks.com) to receive free shipping!

For more than 50 years, the Cable Natural History Museum has served to connect you to the Northwoods. The Museum is currently closed due to COVID-19, but we're still building our new exhibit and bringing you educational content. Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and [cablemuseum.org](http://cablemuseum.org) to see what we are up to.

*\*Photos by Emily Stone*



## The Trout Lily by Tom Stram

*Erythronium americanum* is commonly called the Yellow Trout Lily. Why is it called the Trout lily? The flower starts blooming in mid-April, just about the time trout season opens and the plant often grows near woodland streams in which trout are found. The more plausible explanation however is that the purplish blotches on the leaves resemble the markings on some kinds of trout. There is a plethora of other common names including Dogtooth violet, Adder's Tongue, yellow violet, rattlesnake tooth violet, lamb's tongue, star striker and many others. The name fawn lily is appropriate because the leaf mottling resembled the markings on a young deer.

The trout lily is a long-lived spring ephemeral consisting of a yellow lily shaped nodding flower of 1-2 inches with 6 strongly reflexed petals and sepals on a single stem a mere 5 - 10 inches above the ground. One or two elongated oval leaves with smooth edges at ground level are glossy yellowish to dark green with brownish maroon spots. The flowers track the sun and close at night. The leaves form large mats of foliage on the forest floor but don't always produce flowers. Groves of trout lilies are very stable and have been known to exist for over a century. A few weeks after blooming all that remains of the flower are seeds. Fifteen inches below the soil surface are pointed corms (as opposed to bulbs) shaped somewhat like a tooth hence "Dogtooth violet". The yellow trout lily is propagated by seed but more commonly by runners from the corms. The seeds are dispersed by ants, beetles and crickets. Queen bumblebees have a special relationship with the trout lily in early spring for both pollen and nectar.



Scientific classification puts the Trout lily in the Family Liliaceae and Genus *Erythronium*. The name *Erythronium* comes from the Greek word for the color red, although the lily we know is hardly red but yellow. There are 15 - 30 species of *Erythronium*. *E. americanum* is found in moist, bottomland and meadows throughout the deciduous forest regions of eastern North America including northern Wisconsin. A white variety *E. albidum* is found in southern Wisconsin. We have found abundant colonies or mats of trout lilies along the trails at Little Falls/Slough Gundy.

Herbalists use *E. americanum* as an emetic or as a substance causing vomiting. American Indians have used the leaves to treat scrofula, a form of tuberculosis. Deer will eat the flowers but they and other grazing mammals shun the leaves which contain distasteful flavorings. The black bear will dig up and eat the corms. Trout lilies can grow in wildflower gardens. I have had one large clump for many years in my wildflower garden in Marshfield and most of them flower every year.

## 2020 CASH RAFFLE LAKE ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER

The 2020 Cash Raffle is underway. COVID-19 has resulted in a slow start; however I am sure we can overcome this. The Cash Raffle is currently our only significant fundraiser. We had hoped that events associated with the fireworks would have also made them a significant factor in fundraising, however as we all know the current situation has caused cancelation of the fireworks for 2020. We are looking forward to 2021 for this event. As in most of the past years there will be 10 winners with tickets sales limited to 100. So, there is a 10% chance of winning, I like the odds. Winners will receive; 1st Place \$2,500.00, 2nd Place \$1,000.00, 3rd Place \$500.00, 4th Place \$250.00, 5th thru 10th Place \$100.00 each. Tickets are \$100.00 each.

The plan is to have tickets available at Flambeau Forest Inn and Big Bear Lodge. However, dynamics of our situation could change, who really knows?

If your preference is not to visit either of these establishments, I will also have tickets that can either be picked up at my place on Connors Lake or I can deliver if you are in the immediate area. Please call me at 262-514-4107. This phone has an answering machine that I can readily access. If my wife or myself do not answer please leave a message, name and phone number where you can be reached. The USPS does not allow use of the mail for this raffle. We will work with you to deliver or pickup tickets, so please do not let this deter your participation.

Drawing for the raffle will be held Labor Day weekend on September 5, 2020. We look forward to everyone's continued support. We were passed over by the State regarding funds for Milfoil treatment for 2020. Not to be overly redundant, we do not know what 2021 will bring, so fund raising may be even more critical than in the past.

Thank you  
Florian Wisinski - Lake Association Treasurer



Our woods hold much history which can be found by exploring the unbeaten path. The remnants of this log cabin can be found deep within the pines near the east side of the Flambeau River and a short hike south of Country Road W. Was it used by a logger, a trapper, a hunter or for a family's sanctuary?

If you have history on this shanty or other historical stories to share, we'd love to hear from you for future newsletters.

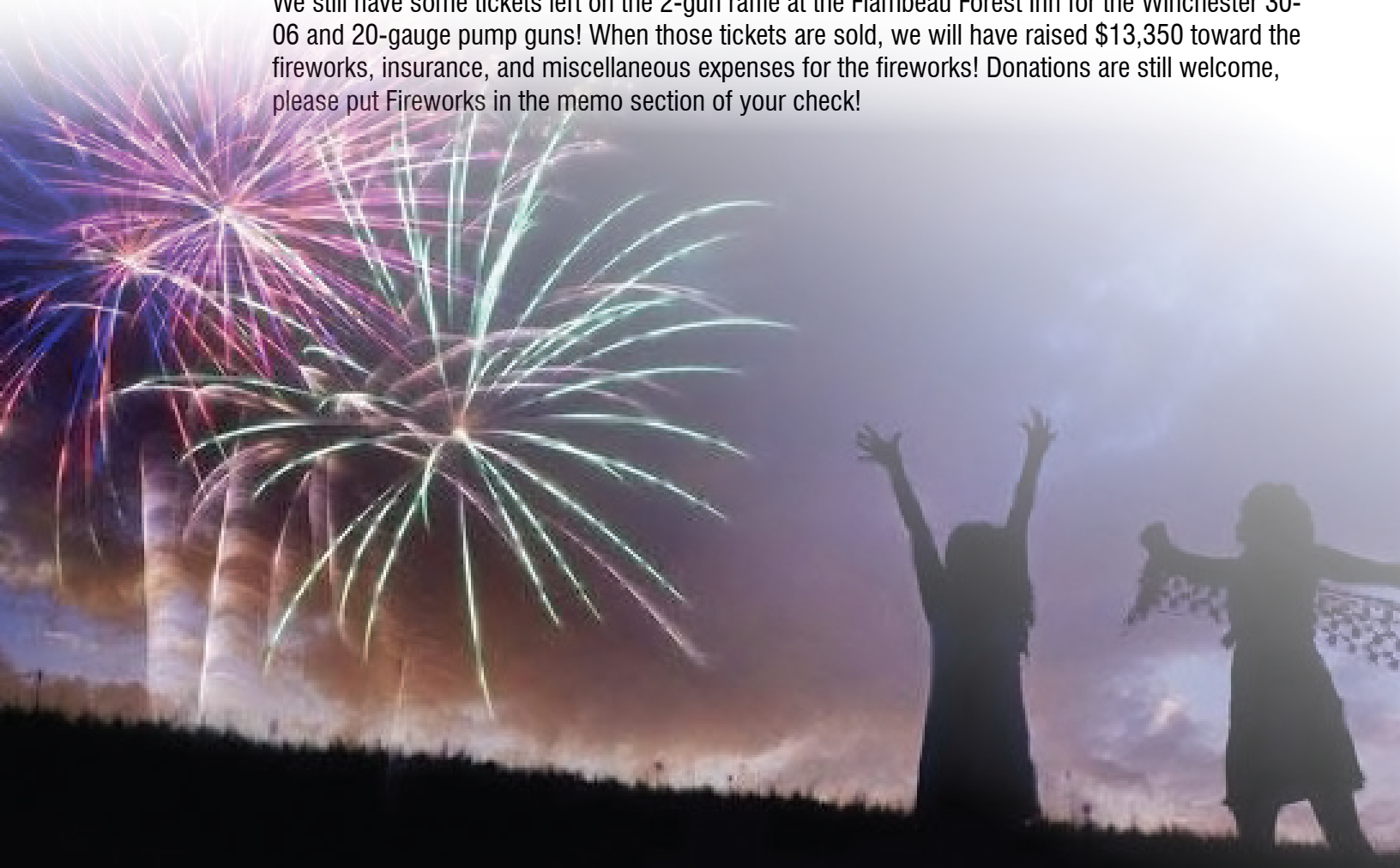
## FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS

by Toni Slack & Steve Lindahl

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus and the unknown date of the full opening of Wisconsin, we have decided to postpone the 2020 fireworks to 2021. We have been watching many summer events including fireworks that are cancelling for the same reason. We have been hearing over and over that the social distancing will be going on through the summer and maybe longer. On Saturday April 25, during our Zoom meeting, we had a lengthy discussion, weighed the positive and negative, and made the sad decision to postpone the event for a year.

Here are the topics that we debated and a few details on what steered our decision:

- 1) Purchase the fireworks and hope that we can have a normal fireworks display.
  - a. Social distancing may still be in place with a limited amount of people allowed on the beach area.
  - b. The park may not even be open and as of now it is roped off.
  - c. If we purchase the fireworks now and we cannot have them on the 3rd of July, then we could move them to Labor Day weekend.
- 2) Do the fireworks on Labor Day weekend.
  - a. Same reasons as above and the full opening of Wisconsin date and social distancing.
  - b. The fireworks will have to be stored, in a bunker, if we cannot have them during this weekend. (see below)
  - c. Rick has a Disabled Youth Hunt where he has a few children who he takes out for a bear hunt. He did say he would work it out, but putting the display together takes a ton of time, and we felt that it was unfair to him and the children he takes out.
- 3) If we purchased the fireworks and are still on social distancing on Labor Day.
  - a. Now we have thousands of dollars of fireworks which must be stored in a special bunker. The cost could be substantial, and Rick will need to find one that is available. There are only a couple in the state and there will probably be a lot of other organizations that will need these bunkers too. We still have some tickets left on the 2-gun raffle at the Flambeau Forest Inn for the Winchester 30-06 and 20-gauge pump guns! When those tickets are sold, we will have raised \$13,350 toward the fireworks, insurance, and miscellaneous expenses for the fireworks! Donations are still welcome, please put Fireworks in the memo section of your check!



## Canadian Fishing

The phrase “Canadian Fishing” is a term when used by walleye fishermen produces a variety of images depending on their personal experiences in Canada, but ultimately the end result will be synonymous with super fishing results. As a group of fishermen sit leisurely around a warm campfire and proudly brag amongst themselves about their “Canadian Fishing” you will hear tales of “100 fish days”, “a fish on every cast”, “Can’t catch ones small enough to eat”, and of course, the grand finale, “My arms got so tired that I had to stop fishing”. Yes, “Canadian Fishing” brings back many fond memories to those fishermen who venture north of the border.

Rarely, does fishing on Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines produce such stories of “fishing extravaganza” that would compare to a Canadian experience. But, every once in a great while, these two lakes will go out of their way to give us a “Canadian Fishing” encounter. If you’re lucky enough to be on the lake on the right day and at the right spot, you will be in store for a real treat that will give “Canadian Fishing” a run for its money.

The walleye is the fish of choice for many anglers in Wisconsin. Walleyes are a schooling fish and tend to school according to their sizes. I found that the walleye schools in our lakes seem to group themselves between 9-14, 15-18, 19-23 inch categories give or take an inch or two. The bigger walleyes of 25+ inches are usually loners for the mere fact of lack of numbers. It takes a male walleye about 15 years to reach 25 inches whereas, the female walleyes take just 8 years. To reach 28 inches, a female walleye requires 12-13 years. Male walleyes rarely if ever reach that size. The Wisconsin record walleye of

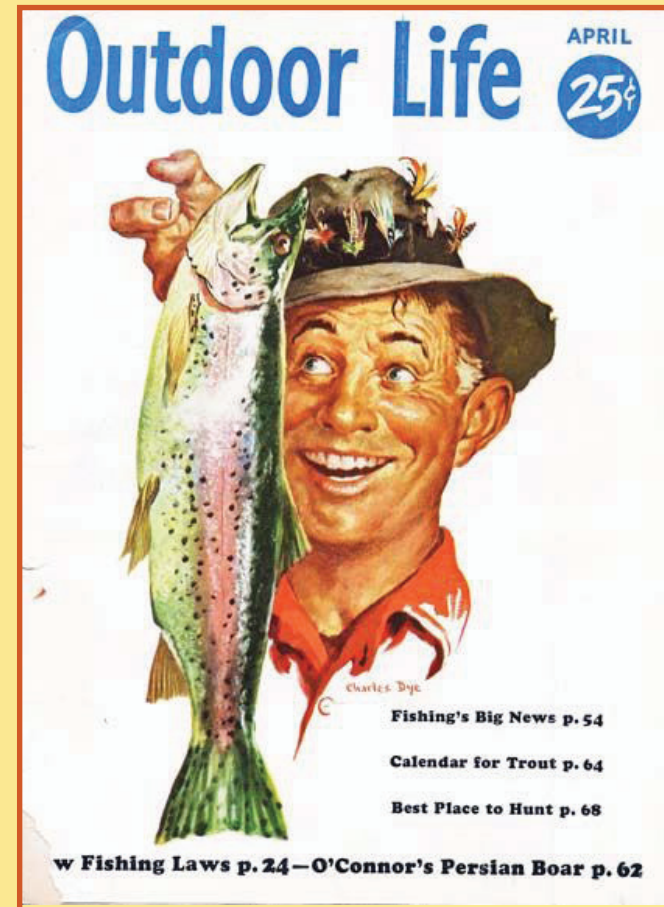
18 lbs was caught in 1933 on High Lake in Vilas county. Recently, the DNR netted a 17.5 lbs., 32.3 inch walleye on Lake Wazee. So, yes, the big ones are still around, but catching them is another story!

My Canadian experience happened over a mild Memorial Day weekend on Lake of the Pines. Just before sunset, my son-in-law and I anchored in 8 ft of water offshore a small opening in a bed of reeds on the east side of the lake. I was hoping to get into some crappies in the reeds while my partner jigged the cabbage weeds for

walleyes. I was using a small slip bobber/leech combination on an ultralight fishing rod. On my first cast into the shallows, my yellow bobber took off as soon as it hit the water. My pole bent like a willow branch, and the fight was on! At this shallow depth, I could see that I had a big walleye making a real splashing ruckus at the end of my line. This would be the first of fifteen 19-23 inch walleyes we caught that evening. For several hours we had almost nonstop and exciting big walleye action. I even had a walleye follow and strike my bobber while reeling it in. As

the evening got darker, we finally decided to call it quits. And, yes, my arms were a wee tired. After taking several pictures of our lunkers and releasing them for another day, I looked up at my son-in-law, and with a smile I said, “You just had a “Canadian Fishing” experience!”

The Ol’ Fisherman





## LIVING WITH BLACK BEARS IN WISCONSIN

Black bears are most commonly found in northern and central Wisconsin and are expanding their range to the south and west. Over 28,000 black bear range throughout the state and their population is growing. Most conflicts with bears can be avoided if best practices are followed.

### Avoiding bear conflict . . .

Black bears are attracted to many commonly used items found around your yard, home or campsite. Problems occur and risk increases when bears begin to associate people with food. If bears find a consistent food source around people, they will make a habit of visiting the area. These habits are hard to break. If a bear regularly associates you or your property with food, the wellbeing of both people and bears is compromised. Never feed a bear!



### While at home . . .

- Feed intended for birds attracts a wide variety of wildlife, including bears. The safest thing to do is to only feed birds in winter, when bears are in their dens. If you choose to place bird feeders during warmer months, they should be brought in at night, and made inaccessible to bears. Hang feeders at least 10 feet off the ground and at least 5 feet from any surface that can support a bear. If bears are observed in the area feeders should be immediately removed.
- Garbage cans should be clean and closed tightly and if possible, kept inside a garage or shed. There should be no loose garbage in the area.
- Composting in known bear territory may present a risk unless compost is properly covered.
- Pet food should be kept indoors, especially at night.
- Outdoor grills should be cleaned and stored after use.

### Orphaned or Injured Bears . . .

Black bear mothers may leave their cubs for up to 15 hours while they search for food elsewhere. If you find bear cubs without their mother, do not handle them. Leave them and call the DNR for further instructions if their mother does not return for them after 15 hours. If you find an injured black bear or a bear cub that is truly orphaned, contact the **DNR at 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463)** for help to find a licensed wildlife rehabilitator near you. Never attempt to rehabilitate a black bear on your own. A black bear, even a cub, can be dangerous to humans as they fight to defend themselves against a perceived threat (humans or pets). They also have very specific dietary and housing requirements that are not easily met in captivity.

### While Camping . . .

- Never store food, cooking utensils or other aromatic products (toothpaste, deodorant, soaps etc) in

your tent. Instead, store in a vehicle or hang out of reach in a tree at least 100 yards from your sleeping area.

- Campsites should remain clean with all waste, scraps, and garbage removed. Make use of bearproof garbage canisters if available.
- Avoid establishing wilderness campsites where bear signs, such as scat or tracks, are present.

### If you come in contact with a bear . . .

Never approach a bear. Bears are generally afraid of people, and aggressive behavior is rare. However, a bear will be defensive when protecting their young or a food source. Bears can also become agitated if they are startled. Most of the time a bear will avoid confrontation, but if they become aggressive, here are the proper steps to take:

- Talk to the bear or start shouting if it doesn't leave.
- Raise arms above your head and wave them to appear larger than you are.
- **DO NOT RUN.** Slowly back away and don't turn your back on the bear.
- Always leave an escape route for the bear.
- **DO NOT LIE DOWN and PLAY DEAD.** Fight back if attacked.

### Diet

Black bears are opportunistic eaters. They are omnivorous, eating both plants and animals. They will most often eat vegetation, berries, insects, and nuts, but will also target other animals. If they are in a farming area, livestock and crops and/or honey or bees can also become part of their diet.

### Behavior

Black bears are normally shy animals and try to avoid humans. Their home range is about 27 square miles for males, and 8 square miles for females. During the winter, bears don't truly hibernate. They fall into a deep sleep to conserve energy, but can easily be awakened. While asleep, their heartbeat slows, their body temperature drops and they survive off of fat reserves that they build during the fall.

*\*Reprinted from Living with Black Bears in Wisconsin PUB-WM-532-2016 from Wisconsin Dept. Natural Resources*



## FISHERIES COMMITTEE REPORT FOR OCTOBER: ED PETERS

Fish Committee Report; spring 2020: Ed Peters  
First, I would like to share a personal note. I have been looking forward to this coming summer ever since last fall. 2019, for me was pretty poor, as far as fishing was concerned. Other activities (important things, but not fishing) along with boat issues made 2019 for a pretty frustrating year for me. So, 2020 was going to be my chance to get back on the water to enjoy the action and fruits of fishing. Now, I am not so sure how 2020 is going to play out, either.

The year 2020 on Connors Lake started off well enough with the rock drop and the planning for

year than it was in 2019.

On February 11 there was a meeting at the Park Falls DNR office, hosted by Jeff Scheirer (Fisheries Biologist) to talk about a research project on Connors Lake and lakes in the Phillips Chain to evaluate spawning success of Walleye. There was real excitement and enthusiasm at the meeting where Dr. Stephanie Shaw (Fisheries Research Biologist) outlined the project. This was followed up by emails as we began to set up the sampling procedure and order materials to carry out the project. But, everything came to a screeching halt just before we could get into



*Fill them up Dan. That John Deere sure works better than a shovel!*

the spawning studies. We all owe a big thank you to Dave and Don Bauer for their work and coordination with Walleyes for Tomorrow. In addition, we had a great turnout on January 25 when we moved that pile of rock from the boat landing across the bay to the shallow area on the north side of the point. Another plus was the temperature was almost 50 degrees warmer this

the field to collect Walleye eggs, fertilize them and set out the egg boxes. I am not sure, but I am hopeful that the groundwork laid this past winter will serve as a springboard for next year's spawning season.

In April I received an update from Jeff Scheirer about the effect of COVID-19 and Wisconsin's

Safer at Home Order. Here is a summary of his main points.

1. All spring surveys and nearly all field operations in WDNR's Fishery Program have been suspended through May. When they can be resumed is not known at this time.

2. If our hatcheries meet their 2020 production goals, the 4,100 large fingerlings slated for Lake of the Pines should still be stocked as planned next fall.

3. The mark-recapture population estimates on walleye and muskellunge and the angler creel survey in Connors Lake and population estimate for muskies in Lake of the Pines have been suspended. We have not yet discussed how we will adjust those plans. Likewise, we're uncertain whether we will be allowed to complete the scheduled electrofishing assessments of bass and bluegill population status in late May and early June, as planned in Mason, Evergreen, Connors, and Lake of the Pines.

4. The walleye harvest rule change that we're considering for 22 local waters; if enacted, it will not affect any lakes within the Flambeau River State Forest. We're proposing no changes to the daily bag limit of 3 walleye or to the open season dates. However, the hook-and-line regulation on the Flambeau and South Fork Flambeau rivers would change from the current special regulation (1 > 14") to the standard regulation for the Ceded Territory (3 walleye 15-20" may be kept with one over 24").

5. Members of the Bad River Band took 139 of the 145 walleye and 2 of the 5 muskellunge they "declared" (or set aside) for their intended harvest from Connors Lake in 2020. They may return to take 6 more walleye

and 3 more muskies to fill their harvest quotas. This summer, I would like the Fish Committee (and other interested members) to work with the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network committee to expand the regular water analysis protocol. This would involve using the Dissolved Oxygen / Temperature meter to measure dissolved oxygen profiles at several more locations around Connors Lake if regular sampling indicates low D. O. concentrations at the base of the thermocline this summer. These conditions have shown up in several previous years and we would like to know how extensive this condition is around the lake. This will probably require training several new people on how to properly use and maintain the sampling gear and we won't know when or if extra sampling will be needed until (or if) that D. O sag shows up during the regularly scheduled monitoring.



*A steady stream of snowmobiles and ATV's moved sleds full of river rock out to be spread along the point. Not sure how much the dog carried.*

## *Aquatic Plant Management by Thomas W. Stram*

This spring of 2020 we planned to treat the Eurasian Water-Milfoil (EWM) in the 16.28 acre Muskie Bay. Our Aquatic Management Plan revised several years ago under the watchful eye of the DNR stated that we could treat the EWM only when there was a 50% occurrence in Muskie Bay. We had been treating "small fires" of 3 acres or less for several years but the DNR did not approve of this strategy. So, the past 3 years we watched the milfoil increase from 3 to 9 plus acres. 30% of those acres were canoping on the surface making it vulnerable to fragmentation by boats and increasing the possibility of spread. A 6 inch fragment falling to the bottom can easily start a new colony. Historically we have used 2,4-D as our herbicide of choice since 2005, but during several of those years we have seen evidence of resistance. Because the EWM is scattered throughout the Bay, we planned to treat the whole Bay. Several years ago, a new herbicide called ProcellaCor has been approved by the DNR for use in Wisconsin lakes. This product is taken up more quickly by the plants, is more selective and the duration of effectiveness is longer. Its effect is guaranteed by the manufacturer for three years, but its cost is twice that of 2,4-D; \$6,600 vs \$16,200.

ProcellaCor is applied as a liquid by a technique called; metered weighted drop line injection. Because of the high cost of using the new herbicide, we applied for a DNR grant to cover 3/4 of the cost. Well, we found out a month ago that we did not get the grant. The grant process was very competitive this year with only 1/4 of the applicants being funded. After consulting with 4 DNR Aquatic Invasive Species specialists, our applicator, surveyor and grant writing specialist, I recommended to the Lake Association Board of Directors that we delay treatment this year and reapply for the grant next year. We know how to play the grant game much better and feel confident we can improve our scoring and chances for funding. One of my suggestions is a fundraising appeal specifically for EWM treatment to show the DNR that the riparian owners on Connors Lake are serious about the quality of their lake experience.

**connorspineslakeassociation.org**

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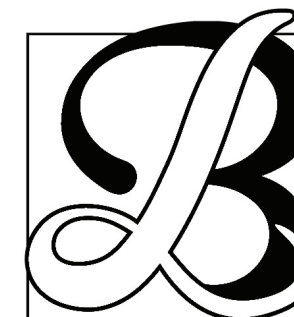
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