

# 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 30- June 2021*

## MESSAGE FROM DAVE

I am so glad that we can get back to normal (somewhat anyway). I hope everyone got through this pandemic with their health and their loved ones. We plan to have all our general meetings in person at Big Bear. As usual, we will meet Saturdays on Holiday weekends (Memorial, July 4th and Labor Day). This is an opportunity for the board to share with you all of the association's activities. If you can't make the meetings, this newsletter is another avenue to be in the know.

Volunteering is a vital part of this organization. Without volunteers, our goals cannot come to fruition. Understandably, it is difficult for many of us as we are only here on weekends and vacations. However, if throughout the year, you can give us just two hours of your time, it will go a long way. As you read the newsletter you will see simple and unique ways that you can help out. The best way be involved is to reach out to the person in charge of the activity you want to help out with. For example, if you passionate about water quality, you would want to get ahold of Citizen Lake Monitoring. All of our emails are listed within the newsletter.

With your help, we can make our beautiful lakes even better.

Lastly, and most importantly, the Board and myself would like to thank all of our volunteers. Your dedication to the lakes and the Lake Association has not gone unnoticed. We appreciate every minute you spend contributing to the betterment of our lakes. You rock!

Take care my friends and only drink the cold ones.

Dave Bauer



*Dave Bauer*

## News From The Flambeau State Forest

Hello, my name is Kyle Marinoff and I am the new Property Supervisor for the Flambeau River State Forest, Tuscobia State Trail and the Chippewa Flowage. I am originally from Green Bay, WI and I have a Bachelor's of Science degree from UW-Stevens Point in Natural Resources. I have held many field positions and management position with various employers, and I would be happy to discuss all of that if anyone wanted to reach out. I have a wife and 3 children, and we are looking forward to this new adventure!

I am still learning a lot about each of my properties and there are projects happening all over. I have a list below of what is happening around the Flambeau. Please feel free to reach out to me when you feel something needs to be addressed. I look forward to meeting everyone and working together.

Thank you!

### Happenings at the Flambeau

- Connors Creek ATV Bridge is closed. The bridge has failed State inspection and will be repaired. ATV trail re-route set on Hwy M to Hwy W
- ATV trail maintenance will be happening soon. Trail sections near Oxbo.
- Flambeau Hills Trailhead, Slough Gundy and Fisherman's Landing Parking areas: all are being graded and filled where needed.
- New signage being ordered to help with confusion at our boat launches to cover where the vehicle stickers are needed and where they are not.
- The Elk Ridge Yurt and our Headquarters building remain closed until further notice
- Our LTE staff is here now and will be working throughout the summer and there is a big list of chores and other things to do so you will see little projects being carried out daily
- Solar Light being installed at Lake of the Pines launch soon.
- Several other projects in the works or being proposed but there is nothing immediate that will be happening.



## Clean Boats Clean Water - Dave Bauer and Jill Senso

We are looking again this year for volunteers to educate boaters on preventing the spread of invasive species into and out of our lakes. This is an easy way to help protect the lakes. This can be done at any time the boat landings are busy. At the boat landings, we have a questionnaire sheet for you to easily follow. The more volunteer hours we accumulate, the more grant money we can secure for the lakes. Again, this can be done at any time. We need more hours to qualify for grants to help pay for treating the milfoil. If you have any questions or concerns, please email them to me at [dbauer9255@gmail.com](mailto:dbauer9255@gmail.com).





## Interesting Lake Happenings

by Carolyn Mealman

From CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association, Inc. –  
from the Lake Shores (November 2011)

### Loon Watch

Again, this year I will not record any loon chicks. Our territorial nesting pair picked about the same spot as last year which left the nest very visible.

Our "Muskie Bay" loon is still single. The loon, being one of the most ancient species of birds on the planet, existing in its current form for about one million years, is also very fascinating. Thus, when the bird is nesting there seems to be a good chance to get a close-up view. Humans are supposed to stay 200 feet away from the nest, but this is hard to do when your favorite fishing spot is close by. It isn't just, "O well, if they leave, they'll return". The nest then is left unguarded and a really quick meal for feathered raptors, of which we had two close-by. Our nesting pair had 2 eggs (binoculars) which would have hatched within days of the loss.

Several times this summer I spotted 6 loons on the lake at one time. Five in one group and one that was antisocial. Groups of loons are typically birds that don't have a territory or have lost their nest or chicks. Working together to corral fish is one advantage the group has. Another day, as I was observing the group, one individual started "running" on the water, dipping, diving, and otherwise "showing off". Usually, the males do this while courting, but August is a little late. Anyway, this is probably where the "crazy as a loon" saying comes from.

There were reports of one loon on Lake of the Pines and four loons on Bass Lake at the end of Tower Rd.

Adult loons are doing well in Wisconsin, but

chick production has gone down. Impacts from increased exposure to toxic chemicals, fishing tackle, power plant emissions and increased recreational use of lakes all are potential threats. Loon Watch Program

The Loon Watch Program is a program coordinated through the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute which is the outreach arm of Northland College, Ashland WI. Loon Watch protects common loons and their aquatic habitats through education, monitoring and research. Loon Watch plays a critical role in raising citizen awareness about loons, helping people make the connection between how they use lakes and the ability of loons to flourish on those lakes. Loon Watch's education and research activities extend across North America, and their population surveys and monitoring work is primarily in Wisconsin.

Loon Watch is recruiting volunteers to monitor lakes around Wisconsin as part of the Annual Lakes Monitoring Program. Volunteers earn the title of Loon Ranger by helping to record important loon events such as migration, nesting, and chick rearing on lakes they live on or frequently visit. There are over 400 Loon Rangers across the Northern half of the state who are recording the observations of the season which help scientists in the protection program. We are lucky to have a resident loon ranger on Connors Lake.

In 1985, the first Wisconsin Loon Population Survey indicated that there were just over 2,300 loons in Wisconsin. By 2005, the population had increased to 3400. Every five years, Loon Watch replicates this one day survey to track population trends

Loon Watch is still promoting "Get the Lead Out" program. Not only loons but herons, ducks, swans, eagles, and other water birds suffer lead poisoning from ingested tackle and it passing through the

food chain. By the time you receive this newsletter, the loons will be on their way East and South to warmer weather.

Loons don't mate for life in the sense that swans and geese do. If both the male and female survive the winter (they migrate separately), they will likely return to the same lake and re-unite. However, a loon's allegiance may be to its nesting lake- not its mate. If last year's mate fails to return, or is chased off by a stronger loon, the loon may select a new mate.



The wing flap serves a practical purpose of shedding water from the wings. It may sometimes be a means of communicating with another loon. It is a frequent occurrence.

Sometimes the male loon is larger but typically telling the difference between the male and female loon is difficult. Both parents take turns on the nest and take care of the chicks, but only the male gives the yodel call used to defend breeding territory.

Adult loons give five basic calls. You may visit the Loon Watch website to hear each call and read an explanation of what the loon is saying.



Loons normally swallow fish whole under water. Other than when feeding chicks, they normally bring only large fish to the surface prior to eating them.

### TRIBUTE TO A PAST MEMBER



**Carolyn Elizabeth Mealman, 90, of Phillips, passed away on May 11, 2021.**

**Carolyn was very active in the Connors Pines Lake Association. She served as an officer, director, secretary, and wrote for the newsletter. She started the "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" education program. She also worked the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, was a Loon Ranger, and worked on habitat fundraisers. She enjoyed hours of wildlife viewing from her home on Connors Lake. The Lake Association honored her contributions by planting three trees in her memory.**



# Fisheries Report, Spring 2021

## Ed Peters

### Introduction:

Jeff Scheirer (Fisheries Manager- Park Falls) and crew have been scrambling to catch up from their suspended early spring surveys during 2020, but with help from Fisheries Research staff in Spooner they have estimates of adult population density for Walleye and Muskellunge in both Connors and Lake of the Pines. The Research Team has been marking Walleye and Muskies in both lakes since ice-out. Fish collected by electrofishing were marked on April 2, 2021 on lake of the Pines and on April 3, 2021 on Connors Lake. On April 9, 2021 two crews did the recapture sample for the Walleye population estimate by electrofishing the entire shoreline of both lakes. The Research Team reset their fyke nets on April 10 to continue the second recapture sample for the Musky population estimates.

There are many different ways to estimate animal populations, but mark and recapture population estimates are an important tool for fisheries biologists. Accurate population estimates are critical to the management of these resources upon which our economy here in northern Wisconsin depends. However, it is challenging and costly to estimate the number of fish in lakes like Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines. The process requires planning, equipment, personnel, and careful record keeping.

Results: The following information is taken from reports prepared by the Wisconsin DNR.

Total numbers of fish captured and the average size of those fish can give one measure of the health of a fish population. Table 1 compares the total number of Walleye collected from the Lake of the Pines and from Connors Lake during the April surveys. Table 2 compares the total number of Muskellunge collected from the Lake of the Pines and from Connors Lake during the April surveys.



Table 1. A comparison of the Walleye captured and measured during electrofishing sampling done on Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines by the Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Research crews in April 2021.

	Lake of the Pines	Connors Lake
Total number captured	209	396
Average Length (in.)	15.7	16.3
Length Range (in.)	13 – 25	11 -29
Percent > 15 inches	63%	67%
Adult Population estimate	592 (2.2/acre)	1,000 (2.3/acre)



Table 2. A comparison of the Muskellunge captured and measured during electrofishing sampling done on Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines by the Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Research crews in April 2021.

	Lake of the Pines	Connors Lake
Total number captured	78	40
Average Length (in.)	31.0	31.7
Length Range (in.)	20 - 43	20 – 44.5
Percent > 40 inches	4%	5%
Adult population estimate	278 (1.0/acre)	116 (0.27/acre)

In addition, the data collected during the April sampling effort gives us a picture of the size distribution of adult Walleye and Muskellunge populations in Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines. The horizontal axis in both figure 1 and 2 show the lengths in inches of fish caught during the April sampling and the vertical axis show the number of individuals caught and measured in each one-inch length interval.

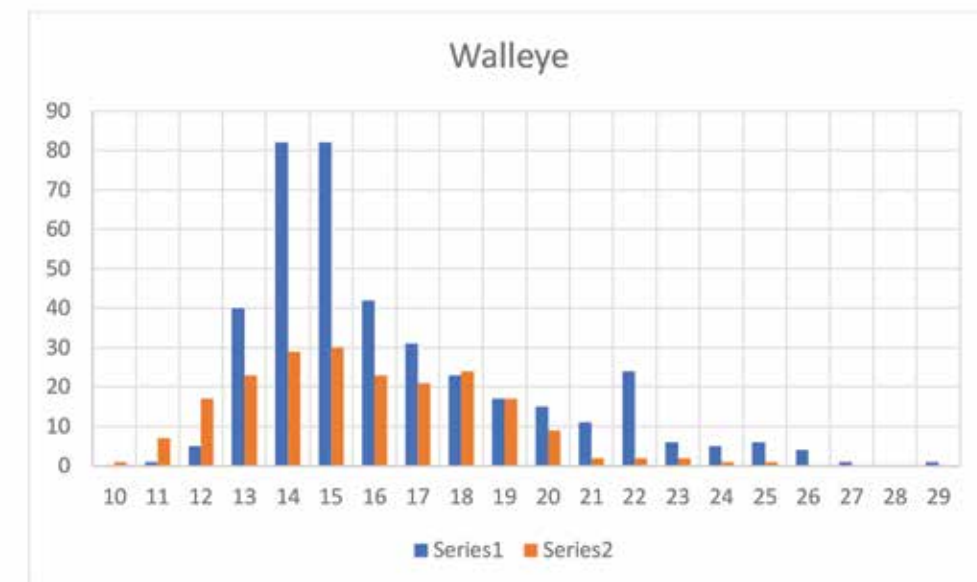


Figure 1. Length frequency distributions for adult Walleye captured in Connors Lake (series 1) and Lake of the Pines (series 2) during April 2021.

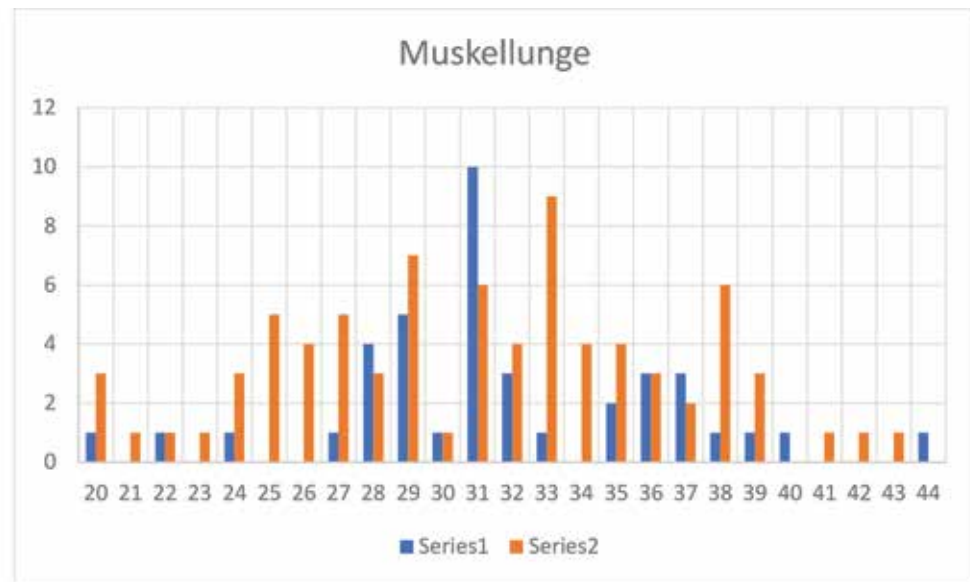


Figure 2. Length frequency distributions for adult Muskellunge captured in Connors Lake (series 1) and Lake of the Pines (series 2) during April 2021.

The large number of Walleye (figure 1) in the 13-inch to 16-inch size interval should bode well for fishing during the next several years. Since the April sampling emphasized adult size fish the Walleye smaller than 12 inches were not sampled as effectively during this survey. The fall surveys are designed to sample those size classes more effectively.

Stocking of Muskellunge in Lake of the Pines may be the reason for the even distribution of size classes there. When the final population estimates are released later this summer and early fall we will be able to get a better picture of the population structure for all the gamefish species in Connors lake and Lake of the Pines.

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Last April, we sank about 25 christmas trees in about 10 to 15 feet of water. This will help with perch spawning, food production and cover. We are hoping to do more trees next spring. This is in addition to a rock drop this winter. I will be asking again for volunteers in the future, so please keep reading our emails. In the picture, you see the first load of trees going out. We sank them in groups of four trees with twine and a cement block. We found out that three people in a boat is preferred - one to drive the boat, and two to handle the trees. Also a pontoon boat with no carpeting is ideal for the job.



Donald Bluhm working hard at this year's tree drop.

**REMEMBER TO PERFORM LAKE CPR  
BE COURTEOUS, POLITE, AND RESPECTFUL**

Motorboats, Wake Boarders, Canoes, Pontoon Boats, Water Skiers, Beach-goers, Kayaks, Jet Skiers, Paddle Boarders, Sail boats, Tubers, Swimmers, Sports fishers, Snorkelers, make a long and growing list of people we have to SHARE our lakes with. Like any sporting community there are formal rules and informal unwritten rules learned through experience we need to follow for us to play together.

**INFORMAL RULES**

Lake etiquette which is defined as “the customary code of polite behavior among members of a particular group”. It’s not just social norms but also lake safety and care of the lake’s environment.

**WATCH YOUR WAKE** | Almost every motorboat or jet ski can create a wake. Don’t throw a big wave at another boat, swimmers, anglers or shoreline owners. There are areas on the lake which are SLOW-NO- WAKE (within 200 feet of the shoreline on both Connors and Lake of the Pines), Connors Lake Muskie Bay (to stop spread of invasive species) and the swimming beaches on both lakes.

**Environmental Impacts-** Shoreline erosion, impaired water quality from increased sediment in the water, and loss of shoreline vegetation that helps stabilize the shore and is habitat for fish and wildlife. All of which increase when water levels are high.

**TURN DOWN THE SOUND** | Sound is amplified over the water. Even though you might not be close to anyone it doesn’t mean they can’t hear your music. Keep your tunes at a decent level.

**REPETITIVE PASSES** | Once you’ve run a line, move on to another area. It’s a big lake... use different parts.

**FORMAL RULES**

Wisconsin Boating Regulations

(You can get a full list in the WI DNR Boating Regulations Pamphlet or on <http://dnr.state.wi.us/>)

PWC (Personal Watercraft = less than 16ft. in length) PFD (Personal Flotation Device)

- PWC operators MUST obey all boating regulations and in addition they must comply with the following:
  - No operation of PWC from sunset to sunrise.
  - Slow-No-Wake within 200 ft of shoreline.
  - Must wear a PFD of proper size and type.
  - Must be at 12 years old, but under 16 need a valid Boating Safety Student Certificate. Parental supervision is not a substitute for the certificate! No person under 12 may operate a PWC.
  - PWC must be designed to seat 3 people if you want to tow people during waterskiing, aquaplaning, or similar activities.
  - To operate a PWC within 100 ft of another boat or PWC you must not exceed the Slow-No-Wake speed, neither boat/PWC are involved in water skiing or similar activity.
  - It is ILLEGAL to operate a PWC within 100 ft of another boat/PWC/tow rope/person towing a skier or involved in a similar activity.
- No person operating a motorboat/PWC that is engaged in water skiing, aquaplaning or similar activity may operate within 100 ft of an ANCHORED BOAT, PWC, PUBLIC BOAT LANDING, or SWIM AREA.
- No person water skiing or engaged in a similar activity may get within 100 ft of a PWC or allow the tow rope to get within 100 ft of a PWC.



**REMEMBER TO PERFORM LAKE CPR  
BE COURTEOUS, POLITE, AND RESPECTFUL**

- While towing a person whether on water skis, aquaplaning, parasailing or other device you need a person observing the activity of the person being towed and a driver. The observer must be able to signal the operator.
- It is unlawful to operate a motorboat: Under the age of 10 years old ; Within 100 ft of any dock, raft, pier, or buoyed restricted area at a speed more than slow-no-wake. You cannot create hazardous wakes. Persons at least 10 but less than 12 can operate a motorboat (NOT PWC) if they are accompanied by a parent, guardian, or person over 18. Persons at least 12 but less than 16 may operate a motorboat (NOT PWC) if they are accompanied by a parent, guardian, person over 18 or if they have completed the WI DNR Boating Safety Course and possess a safety certificate.

There is a phrase used by fishermen in reference to a boater or angler who, whether intentionally or not, acts with pure stupidity, obliviousness, or blatant disregard for other boaters, anglers or the environment ... what a GOOGAN! Don't be that GOOGAN! If you're pulling a water skier on a busy lake or kayaking by yourself with no one in sight remember you are sharing the water with other boaters, beach-goers, plants and animals. Be Courteous, Polite, and Respectful - give a wave and hello. Remember it's all about having fun and sharing your lakes.

**2021 CASH RAFFLE  
LAKE ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER**



The 2021 Cash Raffle is underway. 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 2021. We are looking forward to 2022 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.

Tickets are available at Flambeau Forest Inn and Big Bear Lodge.

If your preference is not to visit either of these establishments, I will also have tickets that can either be pickup 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 4, 2021. We look forward to everyone's continued support.

Thank you!  
Florian Wisinski  
Lake Association Treasurer

**Postpone Fireworks Again for 2021**

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus Rules and DNR rules, we have had to, once again, postpone the fireworks to 2022. We have spoken to the DNR and they will only allow us to have a permit for the Connors Lake beach area for 50 people.

On Monday, March 1 the Board of Directors had an unscheduled Zoom meeting and made the sad decision to postpone the fireworks event for yet another year. We discussed alternatives again but decided not to take the chance and order the fireworks. We are very hopeful that in 2022 we will be able to have an awesome fireworks display!

The money that was donated is still in an account, just waiting for everything to get back to normal! We have sold all the gun raffle tickets and the winners were called! Donations are still welcome, please put Fireworks in the memo section of your check!

To those that have made cash donations to the fireworks, we will refund your donation promptly, call (715) 332-5405 or email us at [info@connorpineslakeassociation.org](mailto:info@connorpineslakeassociation.org) and let us know where you want the refund mailed.

Thank You,

Toni Slack  
Board Member at Large



## Our Mission

The purpose of the Association is to preserve and protect Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines, and their surroundings, and to enhance the water quality, address lake levels (maintain and maintenance of) fishery, boating safety, and aesthetic values of Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations.

We are always in need of volunteers for the various committees. A volunteer on a committee only needs to be a member of the Lake Association, one does not need to be on the Board to join a committee. If interested please contact any board member.

To accomplish this mission, we have various Committees for these tasks. Each committee has specific objectives and a Chairperson leading each. So, let's take a look at each;

**AQUATIC PLANT AND ALGAE COMMITTEE:** Chair: Tom Stram. The Aquatic Plant and Algae Control Committee shall represent the Association at Department of Natural Resources hearings and at local meetings relating to the control of nuisance plants and invasive species and to the protection of desirable vegetation. The Committee shall offer proposals to the DNR for a vegetation management plan and may be delegated responsibility to implement such a plan.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Membership Committee shall initiate plans for recruiting of new members and retention of members.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Co-chairs Mark LaVick and Antoinette Slack. The Finance Committee shall recommend fund raising activities to the Board and, after receiving Board approval, shall organize such activities. The Finance Committee shall also annually audit the financial records of the Association.

**CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATERS COMMITTEE (CBCW):** Chair: Dave Bauer. Volunteer boat inspectors help perform boat and trailer checks, disseminate informational brochures and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

**FISHERY COMMITTEE:** Chair: Ed Peters. The Fishery Committee shall help monitor and manage the fish populations in both Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines in accordance with the recommendations agreed upon with the DNR.

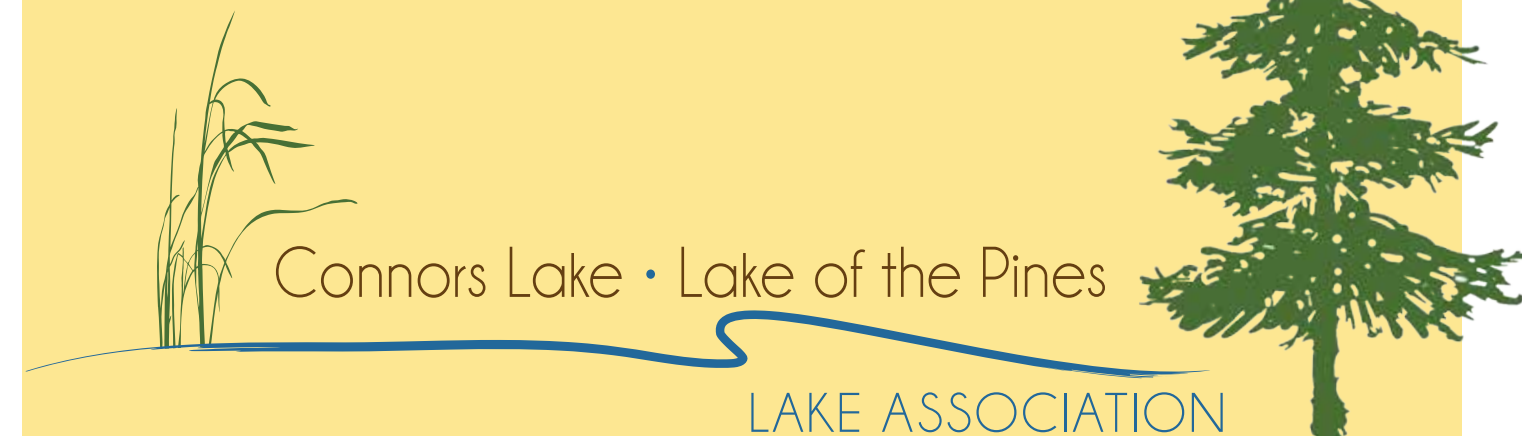
**CITIZEN LAKE MONITORING NETWORK COMMITTEE (CLMN):** Chair; Dave Schiotz. CLMN shall help sample our lakes for various parameters and submit data to the DNR in order to better determine the health of our lakes.

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**PROJECTS COMMITTEE:** Chair: Open Position. The Projects Committee shall annually propose projects that the Lake Association may choose to undertake. All necessary elements such as materials, number of members, time required and cost should accompany each proposal.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:** Chair; Robert Feller. Note Dianne Peters provides invaluable assistance on the Newsletter. His Communications Committee shall provide maintenance, updates and recommendations for the Lake Association's website, Facebook, newsletter and other printed materials.

Florian Wisinski  
Treasurer



We are also looking for Board Members this year! There are a few positions that will be opening, still open, and need to be filled. It is a 2-year commitment, about 2 hours a month, meetings are in the late spring through early fall. Contact Dave Bauer for more information and available positions!

Please let us know if you or someone you know would like to volunteer on projects, at the boat landing, or in other areas. If they need volunteer time for college or high school classes, this is a great opportunity!

## Natural Connections - Life on top of Life

By Emily Stone

Naturalist/Education Director at the Cable Natural History Museum

The kayak rocked gently as I lowered myself in. With a few paddle strokes I was gliding away from shore, but mosquitoes still buzzed around the netting of my bug jacket. On this calm, humid morning, the bug jacket was a sanity saver.

I don't usually get out on the water this early, but today I was on a mission. This summer is the Loon Population Survey that Loon Watch at Northland College runs every 5 years. During the last survey, in 2015, I counted loons on a single lake on my way to work. This year, with many of the regular survey volunteers reluctant to travel to their lake homes, I've added two new lakes to my list. The official survey will take place between 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 18. But will I really have time to do all of that driving, loading and unloading the kayak, and still spend quality time on each lake? This trial run would help me figure that out.

On the glassy lake, which reflected an overcast sky, I noticed a thick sprinkling of tiny insects. They parted for my bow, and we both created ripples as we moved. As I nosed through a patch of water lily leaves, though, I was startled to see that some of the leaves bristled with clusters of these black critters. With a gangly pair of legs splaying out from their midsection, and a more streamlined pair of legs trailing behind, I could barely discern their short front legs from the rest of their body. Curved antennae arched like sheep horns away from the heads. Some water lily leaves only sported a fringe of these leggy critters, while other, smaller, water shield leaves were completely hidden beneath the invertebrate stubble.

Later, I would discover that these are young water strider nymphs. Unlike butterflies, who transform from egg, to caterpillar, to chrysalis, and then adult, water striders go through incomplete metamorphosis. Basically, they shed their exoskeleton five times over about two months as they grow, and look more like an adult each time. In all stages, water striders are excellent predators on mosquito larvae. The baby mosquitoes must breathe at the surface through a snorkel. Water striders can grab that snorkel, pull them up, and suck their juices. That's poetic justice, don't you think?

And while, from the perspective of a giant human, all those water strider legs looked like hair on the leaves, a closer look at those legs would reveal actual hairs. At a nanoscale, these microscopic hairs are covered with spiraling grooves that collect and remove water droplets. This prevents the water strider from getting soggy despite skating on surfaces with liquid below and high humidity above. Scientists hope to use this design to create water repellent surfaces through biomimicry.

I can't zoom in to the level of those hairs, but I do love zooming in on my photos once I get them home. When I did, four tiny, red specks appeared in a cluster of striders on a water shield leaf. It took me a minute, but I finally connected the dots (so to speak) and realized that these were nymphs themselves—this time of water mites.

As tiny as adult water mites are, these spider relatives are straight-up predators. Their young, though, are parasites who attach like ticks to their hosts and sip bodily juices until they drop off and join their parents

as predators. I've photographed dragonflies carrying the water mite nymphs around, and now these water striders, too. Before you start saying ew, or judging the mites' lifestyle, please know that they also attach to mosquitoes. If a female mosquito has enough mites, they'll prevent her from laying eggs. Does that change your opinion of them?

Here were mites on top of nymphs on top of leaves, with mosquitoes still buzzing around my head. But we're not done yet. The leaves themselves held evidence of more life, in the form of squiggly lines that looked black against the dark water. These are channels created by midge larvae as they feed. With weak mouthparts, they cut off a strip of the epidermis, scrape it clean of nutritious green cells, and then use silk to fasten the strip into a roof above their channel. This setup allows water to continuously flood the channel. The larvae breathe through gills and will die if they dry out.

When I finally looked up from that lively patch of weeds, I quickly spotted the loon I'd come for. At first it looked like a single adult, but as I coasted closer and zoomed farther, the hump on its back resolved into two fuzzy chicks. While I watched, the chicks wiggled and preened. I smiled, remembering the many times I climbed into my mom's lap, only to be called a wiggle worm as I fidgeted between the desire to be cozy or to be active. Finally, one chick sprawled all the way across their parent's back to take a nap, while the other chick floated nearby. These chicks must be almost two weeks old, which is the age they lose access to their private raft.

Here again, on this summer morning in the Northwoods, was life on top of life.

I found the loons. I found much more.

(And yes, even with distractions, I had plenty of time to survey all three lakes.)



Young water striders crowd on to a water shield leaf. I wonder, are they taking a break to be warmer, and drier, and hide from underwater predators just like the loon chicks?

Photo by Emily Stone.



Loon chicks ride on their parents back during their first two weeks of life. It's warm, it's safe, and it's dry.

Photo by Emily Stone



## Mayapples, The Green Umbrellas

In late April small green umbrellas emerge from the ground in moist open deciduous woodlands, shady fields, riverbanks and roadsides across most of eastern North America. These are the unfurled leaves of Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum* or foot leaf), a plant that grows in large colonies arising from branching underground rhizomes or roots. Other names include Indian apple, hog apple, devil's apple, wild lemon, Puck's foot and raccoon berry. Eventually these umbrellas form unbranched 12 - 18 inch stems topped with one or two smooth, pale green, rounded leaves with 5 - 9 deeply cut lobes that are 6 - 8 inches in diameter.

This plant will grow under black walnut trees and is not eaten by deer or rabbits. The single, 2 - 3 inch wide, nodding, white to rose-colored flower appears in May but are often missed by passersby because they are hidden beneath the large umbrella-like leaves. The flowers are fragrant, variously described as pleasant to putrid. Those flowers have no nectar but plenty of pollen and if fortunate enough to be fertilized by bumblebees form a fruit that is a 1 1/2 - 2 inches, fleshy, lemon-shaped berry. The fruit is described as edible, and even delicious but eaten in moderation. The fruit has a lemon-like flavor and can be used to make jams, jellies and marmalade. Box turtles are the only documented seed dispersers. All the other parts of the plant - seeds, leaves, rhizomes and even the unripe fruit are extremely poisonous. The plant was one of the principal ingredients in Carter's Little Liver Pills.

Mayapple is a species that has been confirmed to have true medicinal value in modern pharmacology. The active ingredient is *podophyllotoxin*, from which are derived two semisynthetic drugs, etoposide and teniposide used in treating several types of cancer. Vespesid marketed by Bristol-Meyers Squibb is highly effective in treating small-cell lung cancer and testicular cancer. Lance Armstrong is the best-known survivor of testicular cancer. Most *podophyllotoxin* comes from the Asian species of *Podophyllum emodi*.



## A LOOK BACK MAY 2010 VOLUME 8

*A message from Tom Stram, President*

Anyone who is born with anxiety about the weather is going crazy this spring. The ice went out on the lake April 1, earlier than ever according to longtime residents of the lake. In some parts of the state the spring ephemerals are flowering four to five weeks sooner than normal. Unfortunately, the only constant weather feature is the severe drought located in a narrow band in NW Wisconsin, including Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines. It has been two years since I assumed the office of President of the Lake Association following Gene Johnson's excellent leadership in our early years. With lots of support from your officers and board of directors we have established two programs which are Clean Boats Clean Waters (to monitor the boat landings for aquatic invasive species) and Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (to monitor lake quality). We will start monitoring Lake of the Pines for the first time this summer. We could use more volunteers for both programs. This year we plan to locate two more warning buoys on Connors Lake and investigate a fish-stocking program. It would greatly enhance the visibility of our lake association if we had a CoPaPi website. Would someone please step forward and establish and maintain a website for our association. Unfortunately, even though we have established a good working relationship with the DNR there is probably little hope of restoring the dam, especially since we suffer from the severe drought.

Another disappointment has been the response of the Eurasian water milfoil that I will go into in more detail in a separate article. The theme of this year's Wisconsin Lakes Partnership meeting in Green Bay, which I was able, to attend was "Fringe Benefits: Restoring Wisconsin Shorelands and Shallows". An article in the last "From the Lake Shores" Newsletter by middle school student Lucas Stiemann called "Balance and Harmony on the Shore" introduced us to this subject. The health of our shorelines exponentially affects the health of our lakes. 90% of the living things in our waters are found along the shallow margins and shores. Fish, frogs and ducks lay eggs; songbirds and loons' nest, bass and panfish hide in the shade and toppled trees etc. All we need to do, with just a little help, is turn a portion of our lakefront over to nature. It will enhance the beauty of our property and improve the overall health of the lake. You have a very dedicated group of officers and board of directors. Most all of them are present at our quarterly meetings, both winter and summer. Annual elections are coming up soon and we need some new blood and new ideas from our general membership. Thank you for your continued generosity and support in the form of dues and donations.

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connorspineslakeassociation.org





## THANK YOU.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY THANK YOU APRIL 24



Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with this year's Spring 2021 ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY on April 24. Seems like we had a high volume of unusual metal, plastic, and unknown objects in addition to the standard beer (Busch Lite still in the lead, but Monster Energy Drinks coming close 2nd) and soda containers.

Thanks to those that helped this year: Cynthia Aigner, Dave Bauer, Don and Sue Bluhm, Chris DeMeulenaire, Brian Fink, Dave Schiotz, and Ted and Jaime Wilson. This Cleanup could not go on without all of you.

This is a great way to encourage concern for the welfare of our local natural resources. Adopt-A-Highway is an activity that families can participate in together; children that are at least 11 years old or the 6th grade can participate. We will be out for the Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up 2 times a year; in late April after the snow is gone; and in late-September or early-October. If you would like to get your name on the volunteer list to be contacted for the next highway clean-up, please contact Dave Cooley at (920) 428-0755 or dec54914@prodigy.net.



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