



**From the  
Lake Shores**

Connors Lake • Lake of the Pines

LAKE ASSOCIATION

**FALL**

**WATERS | VOLUNTEERS | FISH | FORESTRY**

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

*a newsletter for the Lake Association Members • Volume 31- November 2021*

# Words from the President

It was a great summer for The Lake Association. We were able to resume having our membership meetings in person at Big Bear. It's been wonderful to gather and see everyone face to face. The lights have been installed at both boat landings. This should help our late-night anglers trying to catch one more fish. Our no wake buoys have been approved and delivered, so we can put them in this coming spring. These buoys will help with preventing the spread of milfoil.

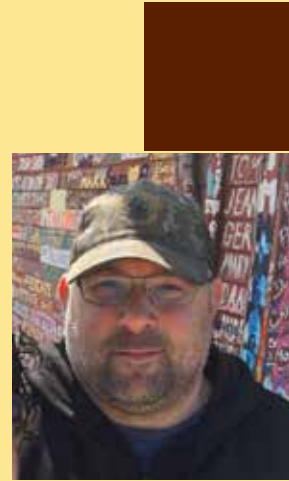
Our membership list keeps growing, which we love to see. Thanks to all members for joining, it makes all we do possible.

Next year we are planning the fireworks for Fourth of July, and many thanks to everyone who has donated money to make that happen.

I am looking forward to our rock drop Saturday, January 22. If you're interested in helping, mark your calendars, and I will send out emails as we get closer.

Lastly, on behalf of the Board and the entire membership, thank you to all the volunteers who've helped this last year. Your contributions are invaluable. As I have said before, without volunteers, this association could not exist.

Dave Bauer



*Dave Bauer*

# News From The Flambeau State Forest

For the 2021 peak season we were able to get a few projects completed. One of the first projects that was able to be completed was ATV trail grading. We were able to have roughly 3 miles of trail graded to the East of Dix Dox Landing and continuing South of Hwy 70.



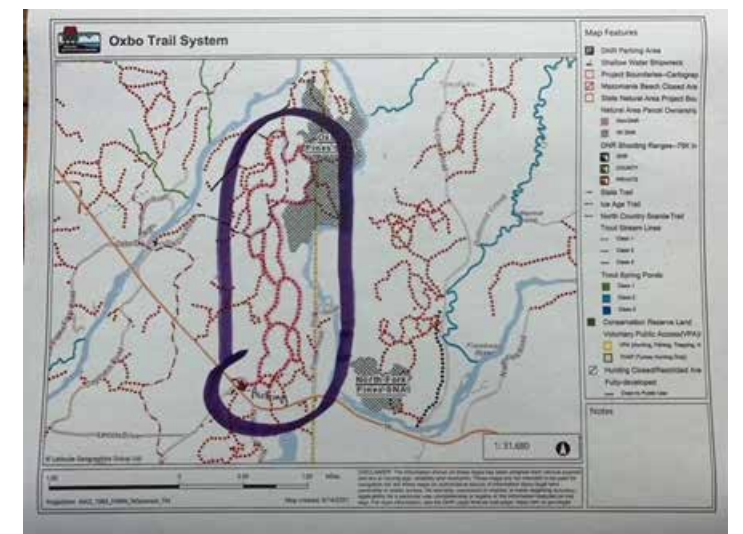
The solar light at the Lake of the Pines Boat Launch was also able to be installed this summer. It took some time to complete as we had to hire a lift truck company that was a few months backlogged. It turned out very nice despite the wait!

We were also able to complete the replacement of entrance signs at Flambeau Hills Trail (both North and South), Lake of the Pines Campground, Connors Lake Campground and Little Falls Slough Gundy.



Lastly, one larger project completed this year was the re-establishment of the Oxbo trail system just North of Hwy 70 across from Snuss Blvd. This was a few weeks project to get this old trail system brushed and mowed. We are currently working on signage for Hwy 70 and the parking area. The parking lot will eventually be graveled as well. This trail system will be rolled for snowshoe and hiking use in the Winter months and a trail pass will be required. I have a map below of the complete trail system.

Other than those few notable projects we stayed very busy with maintenance this year throughout the property. This year we focused on "beautifying" the property through sign updates, extensive mowing, painting updates and extensive cleaning. There were several areas needing a little TLC so that was our focus. We were also able to repair two large power loading holes at both the Lake of the Pines and Connors Lake boat launches. We tackled large brushing projects throughout the Forest as well to help open up trails and other public use areas. Overall a very busy year with several visitors. Please reach out with any questions. Thank you!



## July 2021 Election Results Are In:

### Recording Secretary

Jamie Wilson - Term Ends 2023

Toni Slack - Term Ends 2023

### Treasurer

Florian Wisinski - Term Ends 2023

Don Bluhm - Term Ends 2023

### Members of the Board of Directors

Tom Stram - Term Ends 2023

Ted Wilson - Term Ends 2022

Chris Demeulenaere - Term Ends 2022

Mark LaVick - Term Ends 2023

Thanks to all of you who took the time to vote.

Robert Feller

The Wisconsin Elk Management Program has been extremely busy. On a statewide level, staff and partners are working together to complete the 2021-2031 Wisconsin Elk Management Plan. This management plan will provide history, information, research, and goals for elk management into the future. This past spring, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Management and Office of Applied Sciences Research staff, worked to complete our annual post-calving population estimate projecting a 2021 population estimate of 448 elk statewide. In the Northern Zone, an estimate of 332 elk (296-375) post-calving was projected. This includes elk located in the greater Clam Lake, Flambeau River State Forest, Moose Lake, Shanagolden, and Butternut areas. To break that estimated 332 animals down, the projection includes 167 (154-180) cows and 81 (74-87) bulls with 84 (68-98) calves to be born in spring of 2021.

In 2020, a hunting quota of 10 bull elk was approved, with allowable take set at five for tribal members and five for Wisconsin residents. 2020 marked the first year that any hunting was approved in the “Expanded Range”, allowing hunting within the Elk Management Zone south of State Highway 70. The Tribes decided not to harvest any elk in 2020 for various reasons, primarily due to concerns of COVID-19. All five State-resident hunters were successful, including Jed Becker, who harvested the first elk in the expanded range. Jed harvested Bull 305 on the Flambeau River State Forest on October 24, 2020. M305 was originally moved to the Flambeau River State Forest in the winter of 2014-15 and was harvested at the age of 10 years old. Jed mentioned he enjoyed hunting the Flambeau River State Forest area, which provided

many challenges, including difficult habitat to hunt, that created a rewarding pursuit.

Jed Becker with Bull 305 harvested on the Flambeau River State Forest during the 2020 Wisconsin Elk Hunting Season.



*Jed Becker with Bull 305 harvested on the Flambeau River State Forest during the 2020 Wisconsin Elk Hunting Season*

2021 will mark the fourth elk hunting season with a quota of eight (8) total bull elk from the Northern Elk Zone being approved for harvest. This allows Tribal hunters to harvest four bulls, as well as another four bulls to be pursued by Wisconsin DNR authorized hunters. The drawing of the once in a lifetime tags was held in early June 2021, where three hunters were selected at random from over 25,000 Wisconsin resident applicants. Additionally, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) optioned to draw the final elk tag from over 1,800 individuals who entered their ticket drawing. 2021 marked the fourth of five eligible years for RMEF to hold a drawing for a Wisconsin elk tag. 70% of funding raised by elk hunting applications is to be used on elk habitat, monitoring, and research. The 2021 elk hunt opened on October 16th.

DNR staff and partner agencies have continued to complete many research, translocation and habitat improvement projects for elk. The largest of the last year occurred in February 2021. A group of 23, Kentucky and Kentucky-lineage, elk were trapped in Hawkins, WI while causing stored feed damage. Once trapped, and adults fitted with GPS collars, the elk were translocated to Clam Lake area, where they were held until early April. The elk were released and dispersed across the landscape of greater Clam Lake. These elk helped fulfill one of the primary

objectives of the Kentucky Translocation Project, to interject new genetics to the Clam Lake herd within the Northern Elk Zone. Since release, these elk have scattered around, primarily inhabiting areas north of Clam Lake, closer to the Porcupine Wilderness, St. Peters Dome, and the English/Mineral Lakes areas, as well as melding with local Clam Lake elk groups.

Flambeau River State Forest area elk habitat management work continues to occur through rotational timber harvests, annual openings creation and maintenance, and hunter walking trail mowing. A new tool being explored for implementation on the Flambeau River State Forest, as well as surrounding public lands, is the creation of burn units to maintain large blocks of habitat with prescribed fire. Prescribed burning will allow the department and partners to maintain larger tracts of early successional habitat type that elk prefer, but also many game and non-game wildlife species use. The use of fire, as a landscape management tool, is natural and extremely effective for open or early successional habitats.

On the research front, many projects are ongoing as well, including two by University of Wisconsin-Madison students. The first, a graduate study analyzing elk use of open habitat will be finalized this winter. Anna Brose, used multiple field work seasons to collect data, as well as two years to sort elk collar data, sample processing, and spatial analysis to determine elk use in created and maintained wildlife openings, newly established timber sales, and other open-ground types. In another study, PhD candidate Jen Merems is studying interactions between elk and wolves. Jen is also studying if there are certain natural features and landscape traits that make elk more susceptible to predation. Jen is also analyzing the risk of wolf predation leading to lowered use of high-quality elk habitats.

Additionally, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Office of Applied Sciences elk research

scientists are assessing various methods to improve our elk population estimates as well as surveillance methods for data collection and surveys. A popular tool deployed across the greater Flambeau River State Forest, is the use of SNAPSHOT Wisconsin. SNAPSHOT uses a remote trail camera grid system that volunteers intermittently check throughout the year to monitor and collect information about elk and other wildlife species using the coverage area.

Looking ahead, DNR elk project staff are projecting a busy upcoming winter and spring. With staffing turnover and COVID-19 impacts in 2020/21, DNR winter elk trapping efforts look to get back on track. We will be continuing to execute seasonal sensitive work including recollaring and handling elk as needed to replace failing GPS collars that produce high amounts of useful data. With that, continued collection of elk population data will be used to formally create our 2022 elk population estimates, growth, and provide recommendations on a 2022 elk hunting season. There is also the potential that calf searching returns to the Northern Elk Zone in May of 2022, so keep your eyes and ears open for possible volunteer assistance opportunities!



*WDNR executing a prescribed burn on the Northern Wisconsin Elk Management Zone in the spring of 2021.*

## A History of the Flambeau River State Forest

The following are excerpts taken from a presentation made by David Olson (former superintendent—1983-2003)

It is difficult to appreciate the history of the Flambeau River State Forest without some knowledge of the type of forest it is today. The forest currently encompasses over 90,000 acres with approximately 75 lineal miles of both the north and south fork of the Flambeau River. Of the 90,000 acres approximately 19,000 acres are set aside as wilderness areas where no, or very limited management is permitted. An average yield of 20,000 cord equivalents in commercial timber products is removed from the forest each year along with hundreds of cords of firewood, balsam boughs and Christmas trees.

The forest as a whole is still considered by many as one of the last true semi-wilderness properties owned by the state. Recreation has, is and always will be an important element of the forest. There are two family campgrounds (Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines) and one large picnic area complete with a beach and public boat access to Connors Lake. Effective this fall beginning with the first gun deer hunt there is a new rule that requires a minimum amount of solid blaze orange (not camo blaze orange) on ground blinds used on DNR lands during all days when there is a gun deer season open. This includes the remaining four gun seasons. Nov 22-30 Regular 9-day Gun Deer Hunt (and corresponding dates in CWD & metro units) Dec 1-10 Muzzleloader Season (and corresponding dates in metro units with shotgun or rifles seasons) Dec 11-14 Antlerless only statewide Gun Deer Hunt Dec 24-Jan3 CWD Zone Holiday Gun Deer Hunt. The blaze orange on ground blind requirement does not apply to: private lands, county or federal lands, waterfowl blinds, state parks when open to archery hunting only, elevated blinds or tree stands (where the hunter is not hunting from the ground), and any ground blind built totally out of dead vegetation collected on that property. Note: It is still not legal to leave ground blinds

(except for waterfowl) or tree stands overnight on DNR lands. Candlelight Ski is Saturday, February 7, 2009 Even if you don't ski this is a fun event to attend. In 2008 there was plenty of hot cider, enough chili for everyone, chips, and other treats. Several big bonfires kept us warm. Plan to attend in 2009. Location is the Flambeau Hills Trailhead ½ mile east of the forest headquarters on Hwy W. Flambeau Forest Scenic Areas Little Falls/Slough Gundy—a great spot for viewing the whitewater of the South Fork of the Flambeau River. Please note that no person may possess glass bottles within the Flambeau River State Forest boundary in these areas.

Sobieski Flowage—this area was once an active cranberry farm. It includes a medium size flowage, waterfowl nesting areas, and several miles of hunter walking trails. Located on Hwy M north of Hawkins. Bass Lake—a beautiful wilderness lake for fishing, hunting, and sightseeing. Take the road by the fire tower, park in the parking lot, and enjoy a short walk into Bass Lake. Updating the Flambeau River State Forest 1980 Master Plan On September 27, 2008, an open house was held at Big Bear Lodge to get input concerning the forest master plan. The Regional and Property Analysis, the Public Involvement Plan which is the primary assessment document in the planning process, is available for public review. If you wish to view a copy or fill out an online Issues Questionnaire, follow this link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/StateForests/SF-Flambeau/>. The questionnaires are due November 14, 2008. CoPaPi Lake Association ... from the Lake Shores November 2008 Page 9 of 14 A large trail system is made up of snowmobile trails, ATV trails, hiking and biking trails, and cross-country ski trails. However, the real recreation attractant to the forest is the river and people realize this wild river by utilizing and enjoying the primitive campsites scattered along its banks. Because this property is not near a major town or city it tends to draw a different type of person than other state-owned properties do. The river by its own nature does not allow large motorized boats and the commercialization

that is often found elsewhere is mostly absent.

1920's The years from 1917-1927 saw a group of citizens, led by Judge A. K. Owens of Phillips, who were determined to preserve a large portion of the land along the Flambeau River between the city of Park Falls and the village of Tony. They proposed that this land be set aside and placed in public ownership. At this time most of the land in this area was owned by lumber and paper companies. However, there was 3600 acres of public land in this area of which 2600 acres was owned by the State Land Commission and 1000 acres owned by the Conservation Department. On January 18, 1929, the Conservation Department reserved 3112.62 acres of virgin timber in an area known as the "Big Block". The State Land Commission owned the bulk of this area but it was eventually purchased by the Conservation Department.

1930's Flambeau River State Forest—that was the name that was approved by the Conservation Department on November 29, 1930, when the area was established as a state forest with definite boundaries. At this time not much was happening within the forest. Timber sales were limited to small salvage operations from periodic wind blow downs or on pulpwood salvage sale on old cutover lands. However, river recreation was becoming a drawing point. It was during this period that the Conservation Department began producing maps of the river which identified the rapids, camping areas and other points of interest from Park Falls to Ladysmith. People would arrive in Park Falls by rail on a train named the "Challenger" and begin their journey into the past and into the wilderness of the Flambeau River.

1940's In June of 1940 the forest boundaries were enlarged by 102 sections. At this time the entire forest was in Sawyer County. In April, 1941, over 19,000 acres of land was purchased from the Tomahawk-Kraft Lumber Company. The forest was now over 21,300 acres and on October 1, 1942, the Flambeau River State Forest became an active administrative unit. The headquarters was established at the old Connors Lake Civilian

Conservation Camp. This site is actually on the west side of the north fork of the Flambeau River and is still being used as a storage area for the forest. The forest boundaries were again enlarged in 1943 to include land in Price and Rusk counties. Normal land acquisition and purchases from lumber companies such as the Edward Hines Company, along with tax delinquent lands in Price and Rusk counties brought the forest size to more than 65,000 acres in 1946. Full management of the forest was hindered by the lack of access roads.

In 1942 the only blacktop road on the forest was state highway 70. A gravel road, in poor condition, ran from Phillips to Winter and a gravel road ran from Hawkins but stopped at the bank of the south fork of the Flambeau River.

On October 10, 1949, the wind came up at about noon and blew 30-50 mph until 7 pm. Gusts of up to 100 mph created damage throughout the forest. The "Big Block", which was still mostly owned by the Land Commission, received the most damage. The wind came from the southwest and mostly affected conifer species as the hardwoods had already lost their leaves. The timber loss was over 3 million board feet.

1950's On May 5, 1950, a wind out of the southwest blew down another 1.5 million board feet of timber. This new material was added to the previous blow down sales. In 1950-1951 the Land Commission intended to mark their part of the "Big Block" for selective cutting as soon as the blow down salvage sales had been completed. Pressure from various conservation groups such as the Izzak Walton League and the Citizens Natural Resources Association brought action from the state Legislature to purchase practically all of the Land Commission lands in the "Big Block" along with 216 acres of other land for \$457,115.63. The transaction was completed in late June of 1951 with the intent being that the Conservation Department was to preserve the "Big Block" intact. On July 7, 1951, the severest winds of all hit the forest. The winds were of tornadic force and gouged out one to sixty acre

holes from within the "Big Block". In a four day period, beginning on June 24, 1952, severe winds again damaged the area. Approximately 3 million board feet was destroyed with most of this damage again in the "Big Block" area. Altogether the windstorms of 1949-1952 destroyed over 12 million board feet of timber. In 1958 the Conservation Commission reviewed the no cutting policy on the "Big Block".

In February, 1953, a new office was completed. It was begun in 1951 and was constructed of hemlock logs selected from the 1949 blow down. This building is still the headquarters for the forest. In 1956 a project was completed to relocate and blacktop the Phillips to Winter road—this is County W. Between 1946 and 1957 a new bridge was built across the south fork and a road was completed which connected the village of Hawkins to the new County W. There was concern raised by conservation groups of the road bisecting the "Big Block" area. However, the road was placed in a relatively straight line through the "Big Block".

CoPaPi Lake Association ... from the Lake Shores November 2008 Page 10 of 14, At this time the Connors Lake picnic and beach area was just a small wooded area along County W. In 1947 this area was enlarged to one acre and a set of "two holers" along with three stone fireplaces were built. By 1957 the area was considered too small. The completion of County W had increased the number of people visiting the area and work was begun to enlarge the area to the north and east. A parking lot, beach and boat landing were developed along with two four unit toilets with attached changing stalls.

The Little Falls-Slough Gundy scenic area was built in 1958 and included a parking lot and walking trails into the area. Also built in 1958 was "Fisherman's Landing". It was built at the site of the old Tomahawk-Kraft Lumber Company camp on the south fork of the Flambeau River and County M. In 1955 fifteen campsites were developed for river travelers. Development at these campsites was kept at a minimum and included hand dug springs and stone fire rings.

A prison camp was constructed from 1954-1956. It was built on the northwest corner of the junction of County M and the south fork of the Flambeau. Originally it was planned to be built in 1952 but opposition from local citizens and resort owners delayed its construction until 1954. State land ownership was up to 75,000 acres by the end of the 1950's and during this period only a small extension to the forest boundaries was made.

1960's With the construction of new roads into the area the 60's brought a time of recreation development and more intensive management of the forest resources. The entire forest including the "Big Block" area was broken down into compartments and "reconned" into individual stands. Future timber sales and the forest's allowable timber harvest was calculated from data collected from these stands. In 1960 Lake of the Pines campground was opened to the public. A small beach and boat landing was included in the project.

In 1962 the Kennedy road was constructed—now called County EE. It ran from Park Falls through the northern portion of the forest and ended at Highway 70 just west of Oxbo.

In 1965 Connors Lake campground was opened and also contained a beach for swimming. By the end of 1960 the forest was approximately 80,000 acres in size.

1970's The 1970's ushered in a new era for the management of the "Big Block" area. Foresters were still, occasionally, setting up sales. One sale caught the attention of a UW professor. A battle developed as to how the "Big Block" should be managed. Letters and editorials were written, tours were given, and meetings were held. In the end the WDNR designated the "Big Block" as a wilderness area where management was not allowed. Several snowmobile loops were developed and an eight mile cross country ski trail was opened up near Highway 70 and Oxbo.

On July 4, 1977, the earth seemed to open up and swallow the tops of the trees in the "Big Block" and surrounding area. Winds as high as 155 mph

blew across northern Wisconsin from Grantsburg to Rhinelander. Some 850,000 acres of timber were destroyed. The "Big Block" of virgin timber was totally leveled and totally destroyed. What took nature hundreds of years to create was taken away in a mere twenty minutes. Thousands of acres of broken and splintered trees lay on the ground all pointing in the same direction. One small child was killed while camping at Connors Lake campground. Salvage operations began immediately after approval from the Natural Resources Board. Sale areas were randomly laid out and sold to the highest bidders. This was a massive cleanup and credit should be given to the loggers and mills that worked together with the staff in accomplishing what they did.

By 1980 over 131 sales totaling over 10,000 acres were sold. A total of 109,000 cords and 18.5 million board feet were scaled and removed. The value exceeded 1.4 million dollars. After the sales were completed each site was monitored for natural regeneration. Some were planted and others were direct seeded by air. 1980's Clean up of the storm continued into the early 1980's. Evidence of the storm can still be seen from

unsalvaged timber still tilting to the west. Two new additions to the forest were made in the mid 1980's. Bass Lake was acquired along with some surrounding property. It was immediately classified as a wilderness lake where motors and overnight camping were not allowed. The Upper North Fork of the Flambeau River Natural Area was also acquired. This fifteen mile long section of river begins near the TurtleFlambeau flowage dam and runs through the southern part of Iron and Ashland counties. It was purchased from Owens-Illinois but was limited to three hundred feet on each side of the river due to local citizen's reluctance to have state ownership in the area. An additional 14 miles of ski and hiking trails were developed along with changes and improvements to the snowmobile trail system. In the late 1980's pressure was put on the WDNR to build and provide ATV trails on the property. These trails were eventually built in the early 1990's. Total property ownership at the end of 1989 was approximately 90,000 acres. CoPaPi Lake Association ... from the Lake Shores November 2008 Page 11 of 14

**Who won that kayak that was raffled off by the Lake Association? Here is the lucky winner .... Chuck Foley!**

**Watch for another raffle at the Flambeau Forest Inn and you could be the next winner. Thanks to Toni and Perry for their effort and support.**

**Robert Feller**



*Looks like he is enjoying his kayak.*

**A Year in the life of Connors Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin as Shown by data collected by the Citizen's Lake Monitoring Network Volunteers during 2021. Ed Peters.**

Most lakes in northern Wisconsin go through an annual cycle that coincides with the four seasons (winter, spring, summer, fall) that mark the changes we embrace as part of life in this area. In winter, of course, lakes are typically ice and snow covered, and the liquid water below the ice is almost always approximately 40° F or 4° C. Under these conditions the water beneath the ice can mix, but since the ice prevents the wind from moving the liquid water, little mixing occurs. However, when the ice melts in spring the wind can easily mix the water from the surface down to the bottom and the water can slowly warm, but a graph of Temperature vs. depth will look like a vertical line until, with some warm, sunny, calm days begins to warm the surface water (see figure 1) and the lake begins to stratify.

Deep lakes like Connors Lake typically stratify during the summer with a warm surface layer, known as the epilimnion at the surface that is separated by the thermocline (aka metalimnion) from the cold hypolimnion. A well-developed thermocline inhibits the mixing between the epilimnion and the hypolimnion. Earlier in spring, right after ice out, the lake was able to mix from top to bottom and the water temperature profile would probably be nearly equal from the surface down to the bottom of the lake. At that time the dissolved oxygen profile would also be nearly equal from the surface to the bottom. This is known as the spring overturn (some people call it the spring turnover, but I am from the Milwaukee area, there "turnovers" are delicious pastries filled with apple, cherry or sweetened cheese).

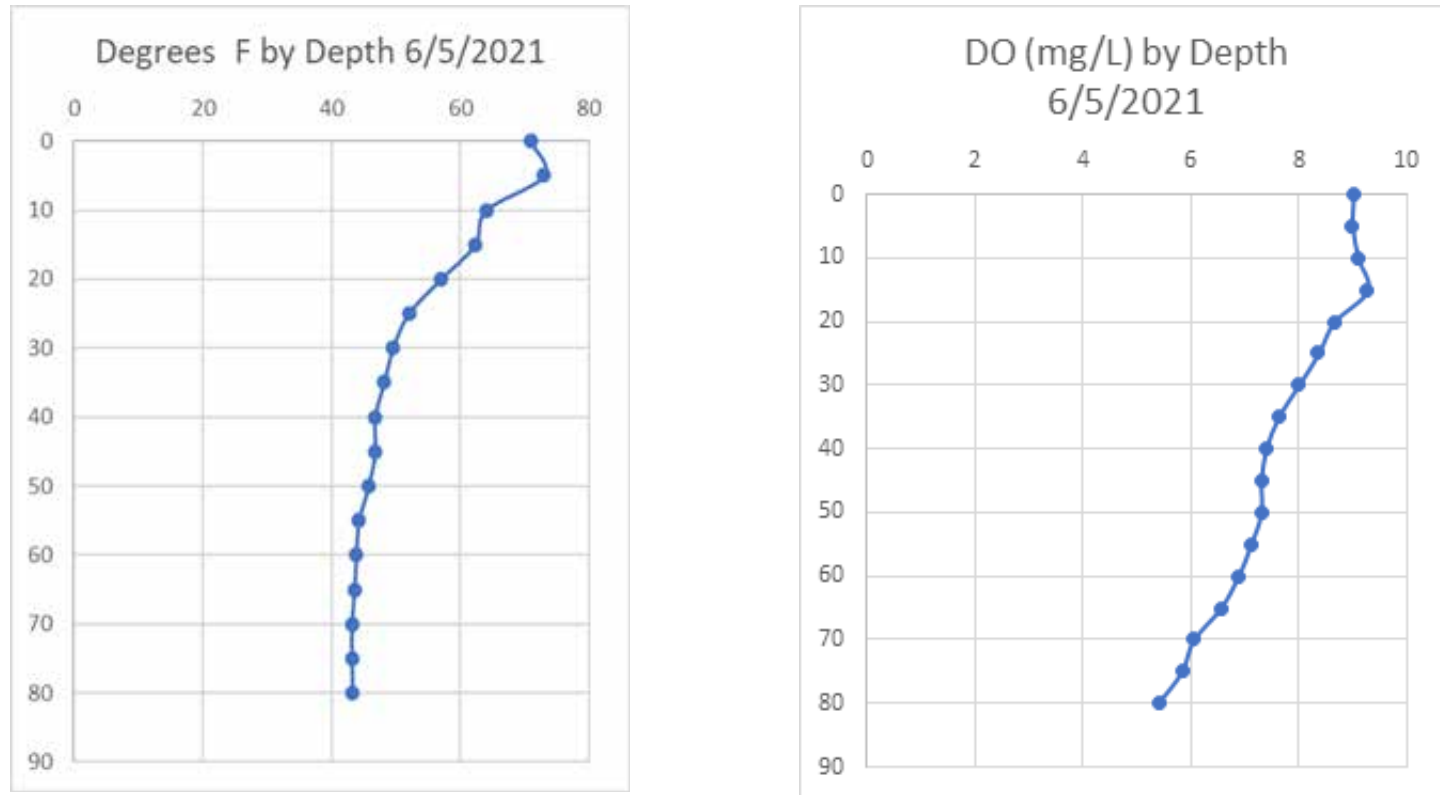


Figure 1. Depth versus Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) plots from measurements at the deepest part of Connors Lake on June 5, 2021.

The graphs in figure 1 show the temperature and dissolved oxygen measurements from the surface of Connors Lake to the bottom in the deepest portion of the lake early in June (June 5) when the surface water temperatures had already increased in response to the warming from sunlight and warm air temperatures. There is only a weak thermocline separating the warmer epilimnion from the cooler hypolimnion.

At this time of year, the temperature (between 40° and 70° F) and dissolved oxygen concentrations (over 5 mg/Liter) in Connors Lake provides good conditions for cool water fishes like Walleye, Muskies and Northern Pike to use the lake from the surface to the bottom. In fact, cold water fish like trout could also use most of Connors Lake; except the top five feet.

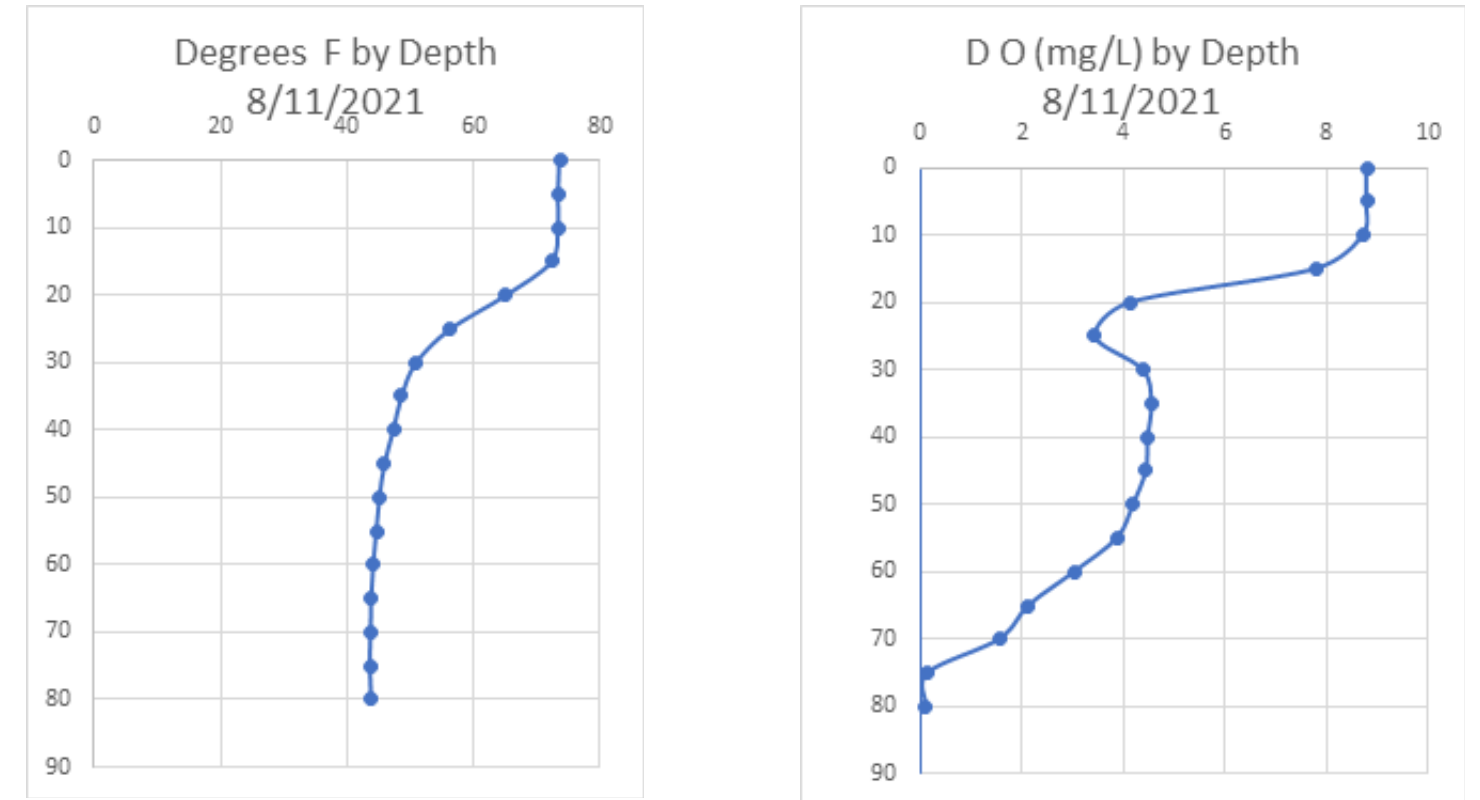


Figure 2. Depth versus Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) plots from measurements at the deepest part of Connors Lake on August 11, 2021.

The graphs in figure 2 show the temperature and dissolved oxygen measurements from the surface of Connors Lake to the bottom in the deepest portion of the lake early in August of 2021. The temperature profile shows a well developed epilimnion that extends down to a depth of about 15 feet with a temperature of about 75 degrees Fahrenheit. From there the temperature declines rapidly from about 70 degrees to about 50 degrees 30 feet; this is the thermocline. Over the next 50 feet (from 30 feet to 80 feet) the temperature is almost constant between 45 and 50 degrees; this is the hypolimnion. These temperatures would still be good for trout, were it not for the fact that the DO concentrations are from mostly below 4 mg/L and decline to almost zero over 70 feet down. The reason for this decline is because there is no mixing between the well oxygenated surface and the deeper strata, because of the temperature differential. In addition, since light penetration as indicated by Secchi disc measurements range from 10 to 13 feet in Connors Lake; there is no photosynthetic addition of oxygen occurring below 15 feet. Any oxygen that was in the deeper parts of the lake are being used up by respiration by invertebrates and decomposition of dead organic matter that "rains down" from the surface throughout the summer.

The DO profile also shows a slight "sag" in dissolved oxygen concentrations in the thermocline (20 – 25 feet). This may be caused by a concentration of decaying organic matter that may be the result of the increased density of the cooler water at those depths.

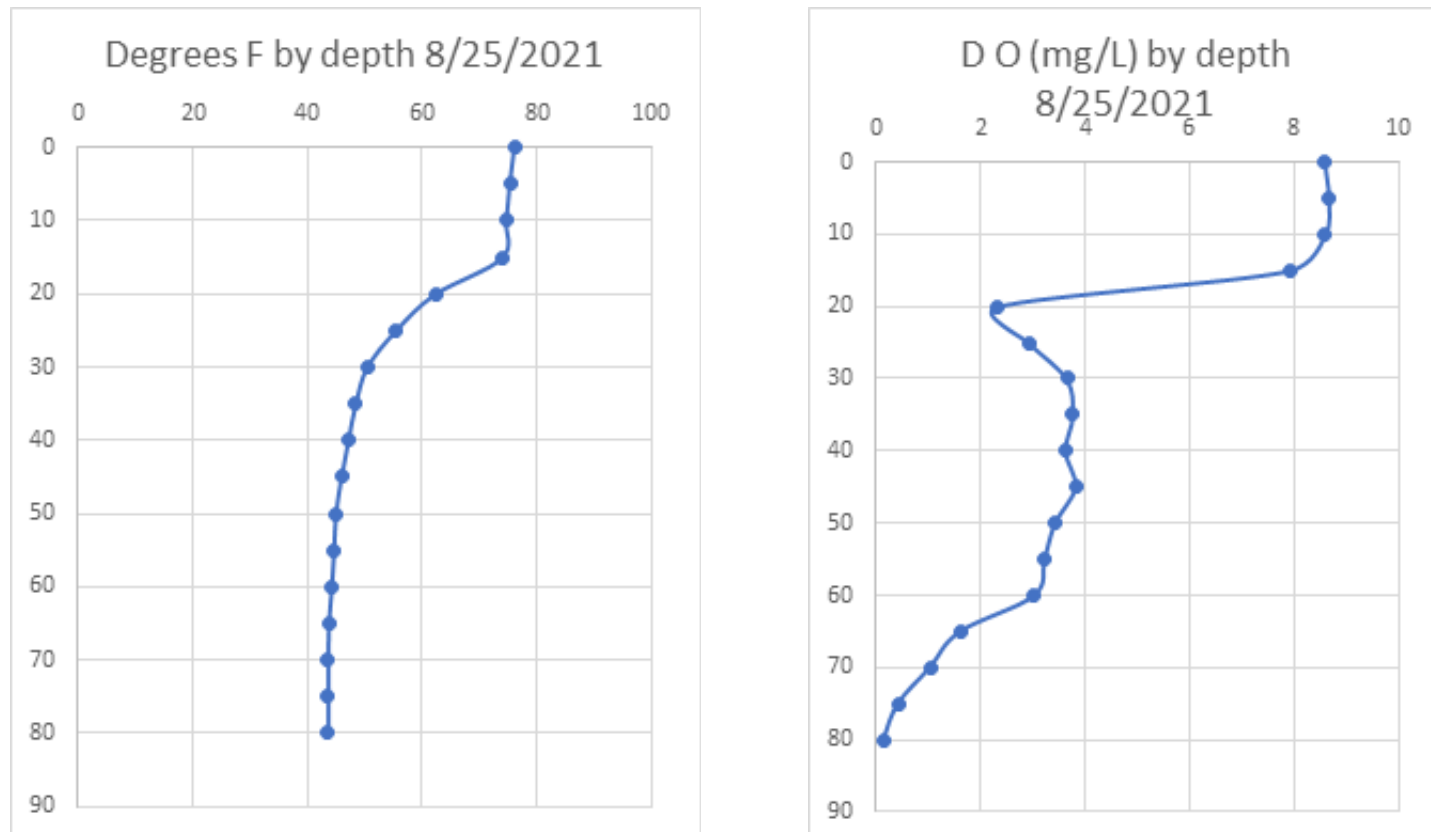


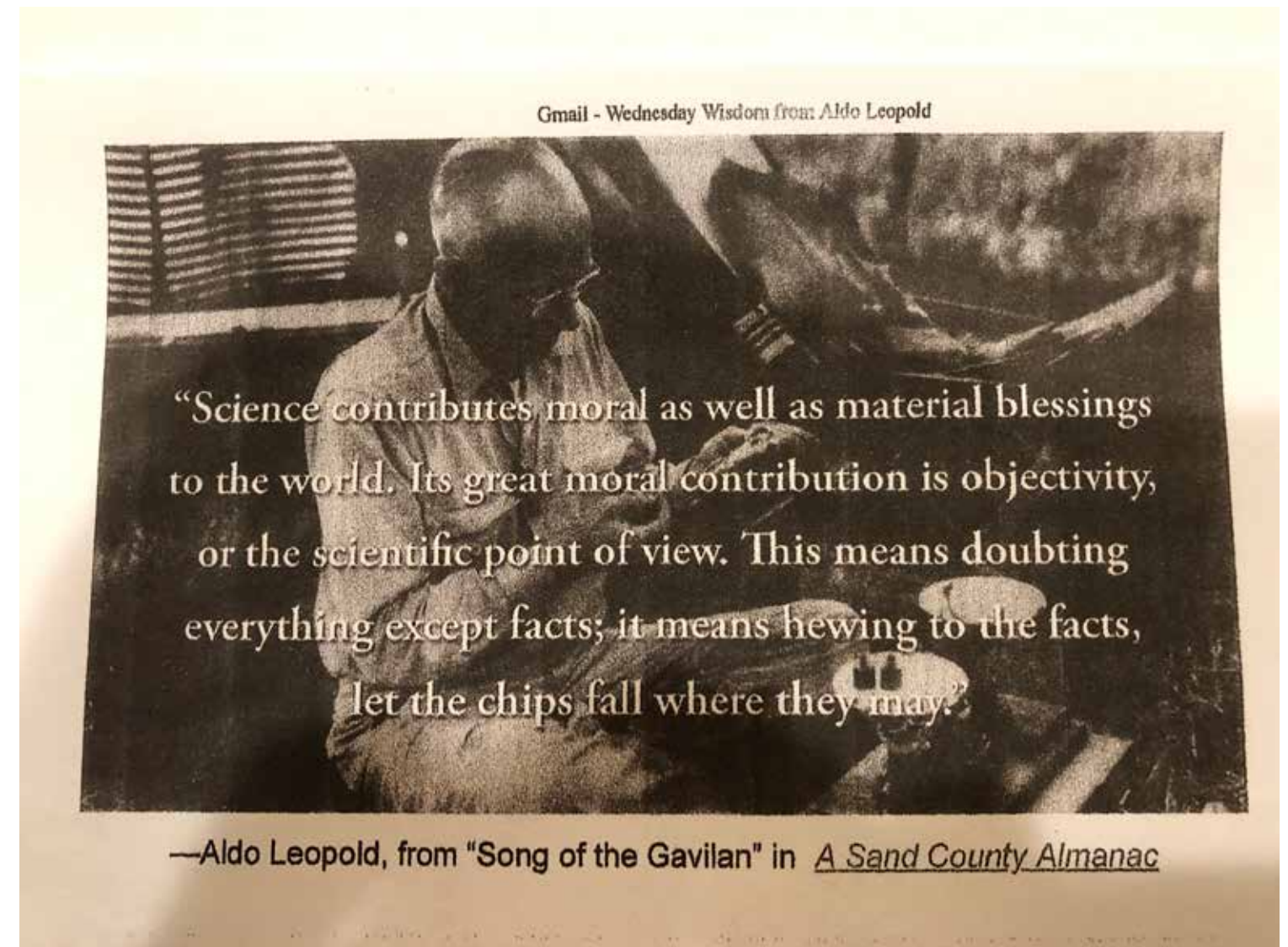
Figure 3. Depth versus Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) plots from measurements at the deepest part of Connors Lake on August 25, 2021.

The graphs in figure 3 show the temperature and dissolved oxygen measurements from the surface of Connors Lake to the bottom in the deepest portion of the lake late in August 2021. These graphs show the typical progression of temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles through the summer of 2021. In general, the deeper portions of the temperature graphs show that the water below about 30 feet below the surface of Connors Lake (hypolimnion) remains between 40- and 50-degrees Fahrenheit throughout the summer, while the surface (0-15 feet) warms 70 to 80 degrees (epilimnion) in the late summer. Because of the difference in water density, these two portions of the lake do not mix and since respiration is still using up available oxygen in the hypolimnion the difference in DO concentrations is even more pronounced on August 25 than it was on August 11. This has major consequences for the dissolved oxygen concentrations in the lake. After the thermocline is established, this mixing cannot occur and the supply of oxygen below the thermocline is depleted by the respiration of fish, invertebrates and microorganisms in that portion of the lake. The temperature in the hypolimnion is still “trout habitat”, but the DO concentrations make it unlikely they or any other species of game fish would survive for long below a depth of about 20 feet.

The other phenomenon that we have seen in previous years in Connors Lake has been a decline (sag) in DO concentrations at the base of the thermocline during the late summer is definitely more pronounced on August 25 than it was on August 11.

As fall approaches, cooler temperatures, especially at night, and cold rains, like we experienced on October 20 and 21, begins to cool the surface water temperatures. This sets up the situation where the lake is nearly equal in temperature from the surface to the bottom and can mix from the surface to the bottom (fall overturn).

In addition to the dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles, and Secchi disc readings that are measured at least once a month, the protocol also includes collecting water samples for Chlorophyll-A and phosphorous concentrations that are analyzed by the DNR lab. All these evaluate the health of the lakes we treasure and alert us to changes in habitat conditions for fish populations and the aesthetics of both Connors Lake and The Lake of the Pines.



### The Comfort of the Woods by Amos Russel Wells

I understand my comrades of the woods,  
 And they know me completely. Not an oak  
 But is my brother, strong, reserved, sincere.  
 Along the happy, peaceful forest ways  
 That wind so intimately through the trees  
 I hold a calm communion with my friends,  
 The pines and gentle birches. Day by day  
 Insensibly the bond is closer drawn  
 With beckonings of branches, waftures  
 Of subtle fragrance, melodies of birds,  
 Flickers of sunlight on the level leaves,  
 A thousand sweet enchantments pure and good.  
 This air dissolves my fretfulness and fears;  
 They fall into the green depths of the dell,  
 The cheery brooklet carries them away,  
 The bushes brush them off. I enter here  
 With furrowed brow and heavy-burdened heart;

But little unseen hands are softly pressed  
 Upon the frowns, and little unseen hands  
 Tug at the burdens till they all are gone.  
 Ah, what am I that these my friends  
 Should minister to me so graciously?  
 Do they not know my follies and my sin?  
 Yet with a mother’s blind, forgiving love  
 They cleanse the foulnesses they will not see.  
 Nor do they only wait for me to come,  
 Withdrawn, expectant; but amid the din  
 Of cities, and upon the crowded streets,  
 I feel the brick and mortar fade away,  
 And find the woods around me once again,  
 Tall, shadowy, protecting, Once again  
 I hear the woodland murmurs like a hymn,  
 And on my troubled spirit lies once more  
 The peaceful benediction of the trees.

## SLOW, NO WAKE BOUYS

Over the past 5 years we have watched the invasive aquatic plant called Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) gradually spread in Muskie Bay of Connors lake. Our Aquatic Plant Management Plan, dictated by the Wisconsin DNR, states we cannot treat with herbicide until the frequency of occurrence in Muskie Bay reaches 50%. The fall 2019 survey found a 49% frequency of occurrence so we planned to treat the milfoil in the spring of 2020. Because of the price tag to treat with the newest and most effective herbicide (\$16,000) we applied for a treatment grant from the DNR which was denied because there was too much competition for limited funds. Rather than treating and assuming the entire cost we decided to wait until 2021 and reapply for another grant. The fall 2020 survey of Connors Lake revealed the good news that for some unknown reason the frequency of occurrence dropped from 49% to 31%. So again, we are in the no treatment mode for 2021, but there is still a significant amount of EWM in Muskie Bay. Hopefully the downward trend will continue, but there is also the possibility that the frequency of EWM will increase in Muskie Bay, and it could also spread to other parts of Connors Lake outside the of the bay.

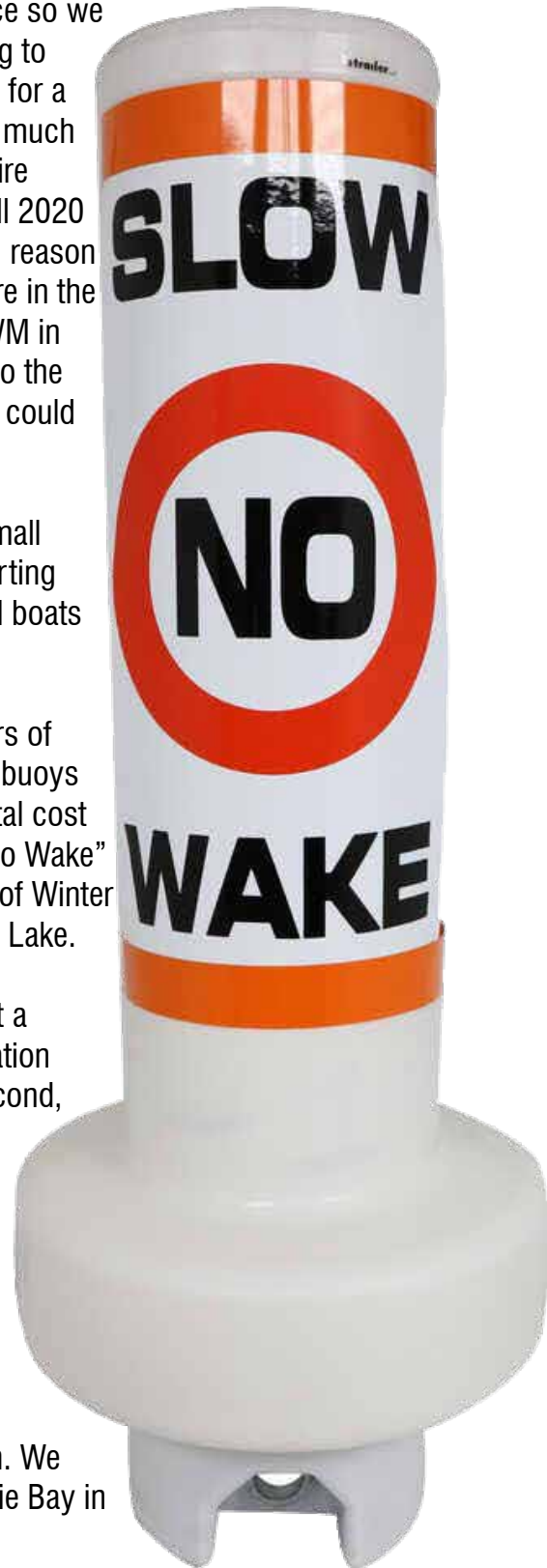
Remember that EWM spreads easily when plants are fragmented and small pieces (6 inches long) can drift and then sink to the bottom, thereby starting new colonies. This fragmentation can occur easily when motor powered boats or personal watercraft go through Muskie Bay at high speeds.

To try to reduce this fragmentation from happening the Board of Directors of your Lake Association voted on October 10, 2020 to place three lighted buoys tagged with “Slow, No Wake” at the outer borders of Muskie Bay at a total cost of about \$5,000. But, in order for DNR wardens to enforce this “Slow, No Wake” zone in Muskie Bay the Lake Association needs to propose to the Town of Winter that they pass a “Slow No Wake Ordinance” for Muskie Bay on Connors Lake.

This is a three-step process. First, the Lake Association needs to submit a draft ordinance to the Town of Winter Board of Supervisors with justification for the area of Muskie Bay to be marked with the appropriate buoys. Second, if the Town Board approves the draft ordinance, they will then schedule and advertise a public hearing. Third, after the public hearing the Town Board needs to approve the ordinance at their next regular board meeting. Because of the time needed to accomplish this (and any legal ordinance) we needed to proceed early in 2021 so that we can protect Connors Lake from the spread of EWM at ice-out.

The Ordinance was finally approved in late summer of 2021 to late for placement this calendar year. The buoys were ordered by Gene Johnson. We have accepted possession of the buoys and they will be placed in Muskie Bay in the spring of 2022 by the Flambeau River State Forest DNR.

*Tom Stram*



## Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN)

**By Dave Schiotz**

The falling leaves and boats removed from the lake signal that the open water sampling is over for another year!

The important work of monitoring the water of our two lakes could not be done without this dedicated group of volunteers. On Lake of the Pines (LOP) we have Larry Anderson, Carl Edwardson and Jim Schofield. On Connors are Don Bluhm, Gordie Dukerschein, Bob Feller, Jeff & Sherry Hansen, Mark LaVick, Rich Marusinec, Dave & Karen Schiotz, and Tom Stram.

There is always a need for more volunteers, especially on LOP. Larry, Carl and Jim have been doing all the sampling on LOP for several years and could use some help!

For any new volunteers, materials and training are provided and we set the schedule so two people will work together.

The data we collect is very important in assessing the health of our lakes and guiding future management decisions. We can ask the question “what do people want to know about their lakes?” Generally there are five parameters that most people are interested in:

- 1). Clarity of the water. (Secchi Disk)
- 2). Chlorophyll a. (Algae)
- 3) Total Phosphorus (acts as fertilizer for aquatic life)
- 4). Dissolved Oxygen (DO. Necessary for fish and other aquatic animal life)
- 5). How do our lakes compare to regional averages for the above values?

Let's look at each parameter separately, the values we use represent averages for July and August.

	Regional Ave.	Connors.	LOP
Clarity:	10.2 ft.	12.67:ft.	9.67ft.
Algae:	8.6 m/g/l.	3.9 m/g/l.	4.5 m/g/l
Phosphorus:	Less than 20.0 m/g/l.	15.6 m/g/l.	14.4 m/g/l

(m/g/l) = micro grams/liter

Generally both lakes are? Mesotrophic (middle aged) and are healthy. We are truly fortunate to be able to use two “gems” like Connors and LOP and it is our responsibility to protect them!

This winter as you sit by the fire and wonder about all the data we collect and input into the CLMN data base, just do this:

Type in. WI DNR CLMN  
Click on citizen Lake monitoring network Reports Sawyer county  
Connors details. or LOP details  
All the data for the lakes will be there since we started collecting!

This will be my last CLMN article as I am retiring! This was my fourteenth year coordinating the program for both lakes and it's time to get some youth into the leadership. We are fortunate to have Don Bluhm and Ted Wilson volunteer to take over the program. To all the volunteers, I really appreciate your help through the years. You made my job much easier!



## Meet the New Board Members



We are Ted and Jaime Wilson. We are school librarians in neighboring towns. We have two adult children, Morgan, a Spanish teacher in Medford, and Ean, a student at UWO studying to be a physical education teacher. We bought our cabin on Johnson Road in November of 2019. Depending on the time of year, we spend more time at our cabin than at our home in Medford, WI. The area around Connors Lake is truly something special. We are surrounded by water, forest, animals and quiet. That is something you don't get when you live in a small city. When we are not working on cabin projects, you can find us processing firewood, out on the lake, hiking in the woods, riding four-wheelers on area trails, reading, feeding the birds, putting together puzzles, playing games or enjoying a campfire with our family and friends. If you are in the area, we would love for you to stop by. You are welcome to pull up to our dock or ride your four-wheeler down the hill to our cabin. Winter is quickly approaching, so you can expect a fire in the fireplace and a fridge full of beverages. We can't wait to meet

## BASS LAKE: WHERE THE SHORTY BASS AWAIT YOUR LINE

Have you had the pleasure of portaging your canoe and ultra-light tackle a half-mile down the trail to Bass Lake lately? If you're an old-timer or new comer to the area, spending a few hours on the lake should yield some good action with the stunted but copious amounts of large mouth, bluegill and perch.

It would seem that every county has a "Bass" Lake; however, ours is uniquely rustic. The 94 acres and 45 feet deep seepage lake is pristine. No motors. No cabins. No roads. Flanked by tamarac-spruce bog and mature pine forests, the wild setting is as close to a Canadian fly-in lake that south of the border has to offer.

On this day, we had the pleasure of paddling upon a flock of Trumpeter Swans, which took the sting out of the Mrs. out-fishing me.

## 2021 CASH RAFFLE LAKE ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER

The Cash Raffle Fund Raiser drawing was held at the Big Bear Lodge at 10:00 am on September 4th. The fund raiser this year was a huge success. All 100 tickets were sold. This is fantastic it's been many years since all tickets were sold. We really want to thank everyone for making this a very successful year. Its you our members that made this happen. Thanks again.

The 2021 winners are as follows:

- |                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st Place \$2,500 | Patricia Bebak                |
| 2nd Place \$1,000 | Ken Prokash                   |
| 3rd Place \$500   | Heidi Doherty                 |
| 4th Place \$100   | Karen Schiotz                 |
| 5th Place \$100   | Philip Verdegan               |
| 6th Place \$100   | Nick & Michelle Salverson     |
| 7th Place \$100   | Mia Stram                     |
| 8th Place \$100   | Mike & Lisa Clark             |
| 9th Place \$100   | Steve Reisner & Lilly Donohne |
| 10th Place \$100  | Tim Meehan                    |



Respectfully,  
 Florian Wisinski, Treasurer  
 Connors Lake / Lake of the Pines Lake Association



*Barb Smith ventures down the trailhead for an adventure on Bass Lake.*

## 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.

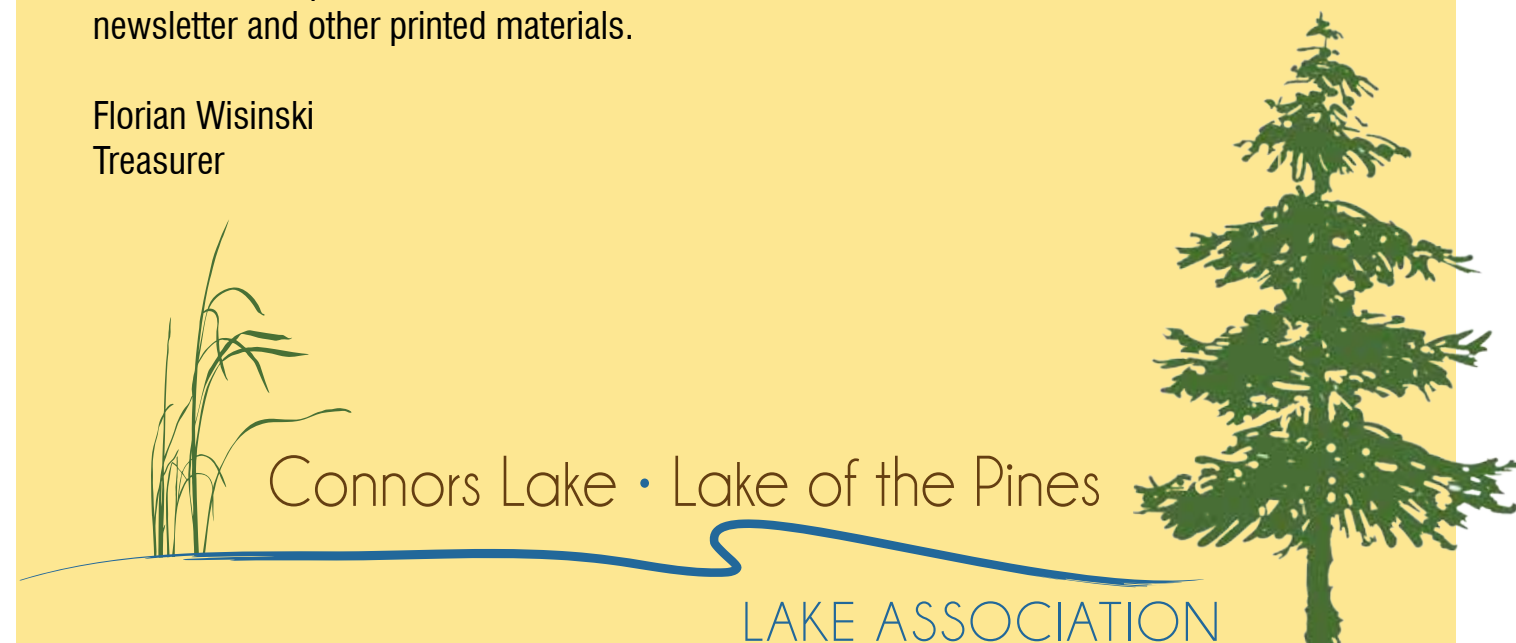
**CITIZEN LAKE MONITORING NETWORK COMMITTEE (CLMN):** Chair; Don Bluhm. CLMN shall help sample our lakes for various parameters and submit data to the DNR in order to better determine the health of our lakes.

**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.

**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



# Childhood Memories of Connors Lake

By Cynthia Aigner

My folks (Cynthia and Oscar Aigner) were lucky. They got me and the cabin in the same year. It was 1951. They bought the cabin from a man named Emil, who lived on Wilderness Bay. We visited often on weekends. I remember his large black lab named Mike, who was almost as tall as I.

Connors Lake was beautiful. It was deeper and cleaner and had fewer weeds. The lake had an abundance of crawfish and many turtles in the channel. People went fishing and usually caught something. I spent hours on the lake floating on an inner tube or riding around in the boat. I had a 5 hp Evinrude motor and a wooden boat. Boy, I loved the freedom of the boat and motor. I felt like I was flying! Once I got in trouble with my parents and several neighbors for chasing a loon in the boat. I never did that again. I also loved fishing and water skiing when I was older.



Off the lake, I climbed the fire tower back when there was someone in the tower to let me in. I can't remember his name, but he lived in Radisson and he was nice to me. I liked target practicing, first with my red Ryder BB gun and later with my 22. I went with my Dad grouse hunting. He would carry me on his shoulders and I would carry the birds home. I went to Little Falls and Slough Gundy before there were well worn paths. At one time there was a bridge to get to the island. I hugged the Big White Pine more times than I can count. In the evening we would go to the dump and watch the bears scavenging in the trash for food. The first dump I remember was off Nedli Road. The second dump was off Lake of the Pines Road.

I remember Connors Lake Lodge. It was a huge white, wooden structure with a screened porch along one side. It was located close, just a few steps away from Teddy Acre's old cabin, now belonging to Dan and Alice. I remember there being lots of furniture on the porch. I liked the swinging sofa best. There was a green merry-go-round on the Lodge property. My folks would take me there to play and then we would go to the Lodge for a drink. Mom and I got Coke, Dad got Orange Crush. That merry-go-round is now located on the grounds of the Condos at Lake of the Pines.

The Lodge was run by a couple named Mary and Leo, but owned by a man named Stanley who lived in Chicago. He would come to the Lodge on occasion. When he was there, he would walk down to our place in the afternoon to talk with my Mom. I remember he always wore a suit with a jacket and he never sat down. I think he liked my Mom more than she liked him.



One spring Buttons, the dog that belonged to everyone and no one, had puppies under the Lodge porch. I was about five years old and I could crawl under the porch to play with them. I got to keep one of the girl puppies and I named her Lady. That winter she ran out into a busy street near our home in Marshfield and was run over. That was my first broken heart.

Later the Lodge was bought by Teddy Acre, his wife Barb, his sister Betty, and brother-in-law Dick. Dick always had funny jokes to tell me. The Lodge was only open on the weekends. Betty was a good cook. Often, we would reserve a table on Sunday for a family-style chicken dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy, biscuits, and all the trimmings. Once a year the Lodge hosted a big party and everyone on Old Lodge Lane would attend. They served crawfish from Connors Lake, among other goodies. The adults would dance to the juke box, while us kids played bumper pool. That was when the twist was popular and no one danced very well. At the Lodge there was a sliding window between the bar and the saggy screened porch that was used to serve us kids pop and candy bars because we weren't old enough to go into the bar. We always stopped there on our way back from climbing the tower.

I spent time at the Flambeau Forest Inn, then owned by the Shanahans. I would take the boat over midafternoon and have a strawberry sundae. They let me run a tab and my folks would have to come weekly and "pay up."

We also frequented Big Bear Lodge, way before it was remodeled to its current size. They had a deer park there. For a quarter I would buy corn and feed the deer from my hand. We would go to the bar and Mom would order a Coke and beer nuts. I hate beer nuts.



I remember Werbs North Woods, where the Condos at Connors Lake are now located. It was a bar and small grocery store initially. After his parents died, George turned it into just a bar. When we went there, we always drank our pop out of the bottles because we were not sure the glasses ever got washed! He kept a coyote penned next to the bar. It really smelled bad.

Eventually I got older and less interested in going to the lake every weekend. Then the Lodge was gone! I truly missed the place and people.



I grew up, went to school, moved away from home, and went to school again and then again. I got to the cabin occasionally. As luck would have it, I was here for the "big storm." A tree went through our roof. My son was just a toddler then, but he remembers that day.

After my Dad died, we had the old cabin torn down and replaced with a comfortable home. We saved and used some of the lumber that Dad cut and planed himself. Mom liked it, but we all knew Dad wouldn't. He would say, "this is no cabin, it is a house!"

I am retired now and am up here often. I have time to reflect and remember the past. There have been many changes since I was a little girl, but the pine trees still smell the same, the mosquitoes still bite, the sound of waves on the lake is relaxing, and the sunsets and moon rises are awesome. The call of the loon is beautiful music to my ears.

## Fall 2021 Fisheries Committee Report: Ed Peters

Sampling for the adult Walleye population estimate in Connors Lake commenced on April 3, 2021 with the setting of fyke nets. The nets were checked daily and Walleye were measured, sexed and marked before they were released back into Connors Lake until the nets were pulled on April 9. Over those six days, 85 female, 178 male and 17 Walleye of unknown sex were marked with a fin clip and released back into Connors Lake.

On the evening of April 9, 2021, the entire shoreline of Connors Lake was electrofished using a boom shocker boat to sample the population for marked (fin clipped) and unmarked Walleye. These data enabled the fisheries biologists from the Wisconsin DNR, led by district fisheries biologist Jeff Scheirer to assemble the information to calculate an adult Walleye population estimate. Table 1 summarizes the size distribution of female, male and unknown sex individuals marked during the fyke net sampling.

Table 1. Female, male and unknown sex Walleye captured in fyke nets that were measured, marked with a fin clip and released back into Connors Lake between April 3 and 9, 2021.

Length Range In inches	Females	Males	Total Sexable	Unknown Sex	Total Adults
7.0 – 11.9	0	0	0	0	0
12.0 -14.9	0	89	89	2	89
15.0 – 19.9	35	87	122	14	136
20.0 +	50	2	52	1	53
Total	85	178	263	17	278

In general, if the DNR biologists can squeeze out gametes, the fish is considered a mature adult, regardless of its length. They often find mature male walleye under 9 or 10 inches, and sometimes we they find mature females under 12 or 13 inches. If they cannot express eggs or sperm, then walleye less than 15” are categorized as having “unknown sex” and are presumed to be immature. Therefore, two fish in the 12.0-to-14.9-inch size class that were less than 14 inches total length were not counted as adults. However, all 14 Walleye of unknown sex in the 15.0-to-19.9-inch size range and the single 20.0+ inch individual were considered to be adults. These data are detailed in table 2 to describe how a fish population is estimated.

Population estimates were calculated using the Chapman modification of the Peterson mark and recapture equation:

$$N = (M+1) (C+1) / (R + 1)$$

Where:

N = the population estimate,

M = the number of marked individuals in the population,

C = the number of individuals caught and examined for marks during the recapture sampling,

R = the number of marked individuals recaptured during the recapture sampling.

Table 2. Detailed data from fyke net and electrofishing sampling to estimate the population of adult Walleye in Connors Lake, April 3 to 9, 2021.

Females	Length Range	M Marked during netting	C Caught during electrofishing	R Recaptures caught electrofishing	Unmarked Caught During Electrofishing	Estimated Population
	7.0 -11.9	0	0	0	0	
	12.0 -14.9	0	4	0	4	5
	15.0 – 19.9	35	26	7	19	122
	20 +	50	15	3	12	204
	Sub-total	85	45	10	45	332
Males	Length Range	M Marked during netting	C Caught during electrofishing	R Recaptures caught electrofishing	Unmarked Caught During Electrofishing	Estimated Population
	7.0 -11.9	0	1	0	1	2
	12.0 -14.9	89	52	15	37	298
	15.0 – 19.9	87	47	19	28	211
	20 +	2	0	0	0	3
	Sub-total	178	100	34	66	514
Unknown Sex	Length Range	M Marked during netting	C Caught during electrofishing	R Recaptures caught electrofishing	Unmarked Caught During Electrofishing	Estimated Population
	7.0 -11.9	0	0	0	0	0
	12.0 -14.9	0	0	0	0	0
	15.0 – 19.9	14	17	0	17	270
	20 +	1	0	0	0	2
	Sub-total	15	17	0	17	272
Combined	Length Range	M Marked during netting	C Caught during electrofishing	R Recaptures caught electrofishing	Unmarked Caught During Electrofishing	Estimated Population
	7.0 -11.9	0	1	0	1	2
	12.0 -14.9	89	56	15	41	321
	15.0 – 19.9	136	90	26	64	462
	20 +	53	15	3	12	216
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>1,000 (2.3/acre)</b>

Like Connors Lake, the Wisconsin DNR conducted a fisheries assessment of The Lake of The Pines from April 2, 2021 using fyke nets to collect fish for the marking portion of a mark and recapture population estimate. This was followed by electrofishing of the entire shoreline of the lake with a boom shocker on April 9 to sample the population for the proportion of marked to unmarked fish in the Walleye (Table 3) population in the lake.

The standard protocol for estimating muskellunge population density calls for a marking sample from spring fyke nets in one year followed by a recapture sample from spring fyke nets in the next year. The DNR’s Fisheries Research Team marked muskellunge in Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines in spring 2019. The recap netting planned for spring 2020 was postponed by the pandemic and completed in spring 2021. In addition, 40 Muskellunge were captured during the fyke netting in Connors Lake during 2021 and the Muskellunge population was estimated to be 116 individuals (0.27/acre).

Table 3. Summary of the Walleye and Muskellunge population data from The Lake of The Pines survey, April 2 to 9, 2021.

	Walleye	Muskellunge
Total number captured	209	78
Average Length	15.7 inches	31.0 inches
Length Range	10 – 25 inches	20 – 43 inches
% > legal minimum length	63%	4%
Adult Population	592 (2.2/acre)	278 (1.0/acre)

Since these population estimates are strictly for adult Walleye and Muskellunge, there are many more of both species in both Connors Lake and lake of The Pines than indicated by these surveys. One reason for this may be that smaller individuals of Walleye and Muskellunge may avoid using the same habitat as adults to avoid being eaten by their larger relatives. Another reason may be that the 3/4 inch mesh size of the fyke nets may allow smaller individuals to escape more easily; this is known as gear selectivity. Studies on many types of sampling gear have shown that gear selectivity is always an issue that fisheries biologists must consider as they design a sampling program and as they interpret the data upon which their studies depend.



Connors Lake, Fall '21 - Sherry Hansen

## OWLS OF WISCONSIN

Warm weather brings the anticipation of getting to lakehouse and taking in all that the big woods has to offer. One of the simple pleasures is sleeping with the windows open and on most nights just after the 10 o'clock hour the owls who inhabit our section of woods begin what seems to be a most important conversation - perhaps the fluttery "Who-cooks-for-you" are a call to "let's go hunting" or "hey, you where you at?" Either way their call is music to the soul that rival the song of the bull elk and loon.

We've never seen them. So saying for certain which ones they are is hard to say. I'd guess that they're the Barred variety due that distinct call.

According to searches found on-line, Wisconsin has 11 common species of these raptors:

Barred Owl



- Great Horned Owl
- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Barred Owl
- Great Gray Owl
- Northern Hawk Owl
- Boreal Owl
- Barn Owl
- Long-Eared Owl
- Short-Eared Owl
- Northern Saw-Whet Owl
- Snowy Owl

The Snowy Owl is traditionally an owl thought of in the tundra or taiga thanks to its white coloration that blends in perfectly with the snow. However, it's a surprisingly nomadic bird that's been slowly breeding more and more south. Currently, Snowy Owls have a winter range throughout most of the entire state of Wisconsin.

Matt Smith

Cover image: The Great Gray Owl is the tallest American owl, with the largest wingspan. These owls have migrated to Wisconsin from the boreal forests of Canada. They are strong enough to break through hard-packed snow in order to catch prey! They feast on Wisconsin's ground-critters, such as squirrels and other small rodents.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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rfeller5459@gmail.com  
(Past President)

connorspineslakeassociation.org



## THANK YOU.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY THANK YOU OCT 9, 2021



NEXT ADOPT – A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP is Saturday, Oct 9. Meet at Condos On Connors at 8:30 AM.

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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LAKE ASSOCIATION

