

# ...from the Lake Shores

News and Information from your Lake Association

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

Welcome to the first addition of Connors Lake/Little Papoose/  
Lake of the Pines Voluntary Lake Association, Inc., newsletter.

## Status of the Lake Association

In early September a letter summarizing the Labor Day meeting was sent to all people who own, rent, or lease property for at least 30 days each year within one mile of Connors Lake, Little Papoose, or Lake of the Pines. Enclosed with this letter were the by-laws (for your review) and a ballot for you to vote on the by-laws and Officers and Board of Directors.

On November 3, a letter was sent to all stating the vote tally for approval and disapproval of the Lake Association, by-laws, and the officers and board of directors. Because the formation of a lake association was approved, this letter also stated that the dues for our Association are \$25 per voting member and that voting will be limited to one vote per paid membership on any question called to a vote.

To date we have received 71 paid memberships from 61 households. Upon receiving paid memberships a letter was mailed acknowledging receipt of paid membership along with a membership card stating the number of the member. This card is to be brought to all Lake Association meetings in order for the member to cast their one vote per card.

The officers met on January 16, 2004, to discuss incorporating our Lake Association. Present at that meeting was Dale Olson, Sawyer County Conservationist and the Sawyer County contact for treating the milfoil infestation. He gave us information on becoming a qualified lake association and on milfoil infestation.

I, as corresponding secretary, filed the paperwork to become incorporated with the state of Wisconsin, and we became incorporated as of February 4, 2004

The most recent email/snail mail correspondence was sent out the week of March 21 concerning the treatment of milfoil in Connors Lake along with a pledge form toward the cost for treatment of such milfoil.

Sandra Lehmann, Corresponding Secretary

# Memberships

Our membership in the Lake Association is now at 71 as of May 15, 2004. While we are happy with this response, there are several who have not responded who had indicated that they were in favor of the membership dues. Possibly you put the letter aside and figured on taking care of it and forgot. It is not too late to apply for membership for 2004. The dues are \$25 and entitle you to one vote, or if a husband and wife both want a membership, it is \$25 each and both are entitled to a separate vote.

Esther Johnson, Treasurer

## 2004 Memberships List

- Cynthia Aigner & Susan Winslow
- Jerry & Irene Anstett
- Daniel & Debra Arndt
- Thomas & Sue Belson
- James & Maxine Biser
- Audry Bluhm
- Mike Borden
- Sue Borden
- Gregory & Ellen Cernjar
- Robert Cervenka
- Debbie Cervenka
- Art & Judy Clark
- Harold & Suzanne Cooley Jr
- Gordy & Beverly Dukerschein
- Nancy Erickson or Sam
- Bette Fink
- Brian Fink
- Ronald & Gail Gruneberg
- Ronald & Mary Guarascio Sr
- Greg & Helen Gullo
- Glenn & Adelina Hanke
- Jeffrey Hansen
- Pete & Kay Hansen
- Sarah Belson Happe
- Leonard & Mary Ironside
- Thomas Irwin
- Esther Johnson
- Gene Johnson
- Deeann Johnson
- Daniel & Susan Jones
- Ronald & Marie Karow
- John & Janet Koch
- Ed Koller
- Robert & Julie Konkol
- Mary Lane
- Marianne La Vick
- The Cabin at Connors Lake
- Dale Lehmann
- Sandra Lehmann
- Lloyd Lindahl
- Walter & Shirley Lindahl
- Stephen & Karla Luptak
- Robert Magee & Viola Ironside
- Diane Martinek
- Richard & Laura Marusinec
- David & Lorraine McNamee
- Wallace & Carolyn Mealman
- Herbert & Margaret Meisner
- John & Kathleen Meuris
- Paul Meyer
- Arthur & Linnaia Noot
- Sean O Connell
- Patricia Peloquin
- Gary & Margaret Pesicka
- Ken Piorer
- Jenny Piorer
- Plansky Family--Karen Goulette, Marie Plansky, Katherine O'Keefe, David Plansky
- Lee & Helen Rades
- Jane Richter
- Thomas Richter
- Steven & Tami Schneider
- Alfred Schneider/Grace Schneider
- Charles & Nancy Sorensen
- Ruth Stram
- Thomas Stram
- Lee & Jacqueline Swanson
- Lois Umhoefer
- Donald & Mary Verhage
- Fritz Vollendorf or Lorraine
- Hal Woolworth
- Virginia Woolworth

## Crib Project

In the Spring of 2003, 27 cribs were placed in Connors Lake. Because supplies still remained, seven additional cribs were successfully built in November 2003. Due to their buoyancy, they were placed in shallow water between the boat landing and swimming area in late November. It is our intention to move these cribs to deeper water in 2004. This will be completed in May by Northland Pier via their pontoon and crane.

Contact has been made with Frank Pratt, DNR Fish Biologist out of Hayward. He has been supportive of our efforts and is willing to process a new permit for crib building in 2004. We are looking at once again building "Log Cabin" cribs like the ones constructed last year. It has not been mandated that we need to build the smaller, more expensive plastic versions.

With the establishment of our Lake Association, we will be looking to a Fundraising Committee to raise funds to enable us to put together an additional 20 to 30 cribs in 2004.

Another need to make this project a success is help. If you are able to hang a picture on the wall, you can help. If you are able to lift half a log, you can help. It would be nice to have enough people helping so that people can work in shifts. If you are not use to swinging a hammer, six to eight hours is a long time. Having worked on several crews, teamwork seems to be the key.

The basic construction of a crib is like a log cabin. The outside walls are put together just like 'Lincoln Logs.' After the first tier is in place, pine boards need to be nailed down for the floor construction. We were smart the second time around and used an air nailer, but it was still necessary to put in a few spikes. It worked well to have one person start the spike with a smaller hammer, and then one of the men finished the job with a big mallet. Once the floor is in place, cement blocks are inserted to help sink the crib. Next the walls are put in place. Prior to nailing pine boards on the top, the interior is filled with branches.

Be sure to join a crib team and help improve the fishing for the future.

Deeann Johnson

## Eurasian Watermilfoil

In the spring of 2003, Craig Roesler, Water Quality Biologist for the Department of Natural Resources, estimated that 23 acres of Connors Lake was infested with a non-native invasive aquatic weed called Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.). This exotic home aquarium plant native to Eurasia and North Africa first appeared in the U. S. in 1942 after being intentionally introduced into a lake in the Washington D. C. area and has since spread to all states in the continental U. S. except Montana, Wyoming and Maine (April 2003).

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) first appeared in southern Wisconsin lakes in the 1960's and northern lakes by the 1980's. EWM is a rooted submerged perennial herb with long branching stems and feather-like whorled leaves with tiny reddish flowers produced above the water on a spike. It is often difficult to distinguish from our native Northern watermilfoil and Coontail weeds. The plant grows aggressively in our nutrient-rich lakes and forms dense canopies of vegetation in water up to 15 feet deep. These mats of weeds can shade out our native plants, reduce habitat and food for fish, degrade water quality, become breeding grounds for mosquitoes, interfere with water activities, increase boat repair and maintenance costs and ultimately depress real estate values. EWM plants spread naturally through underground shoots and runners, but the most troubling aspect is its ability to spread through fragmentation of stem pieces only 2 inches in length. Motorboat traffic contributes to the natural seasonal fragmentation and the distribution of fragments throughout lakes.

Transport on boating equipment plays the largest role in introducing fragments to new bodies of water. Road checks in Minnesota have found aquatic vegetation on 23% of all trailered watercraft inspected. Monitoring and prevention are the most important steps for keeping Eurasian watermilfoil under control. All equipment, including boats, motors, nets and trailers should be inspected and all aquatic plants removed or rinsed with high- pressure tap water. Live wells and bait containers should be drained on land. In addition, it would be preferable to dry your boat and equipment for 5days. Transport of aquatic plants on public roads is prohibited in Wisconsin. Once an exotic non-native species is established it is highly unlikely to be eradicated because they do not have their natural insect enemies, diseases, water regimes or other stresses that keep them in their native ranges.

Treatment of established colonies of EWM includes water level manipulation (drawdowns), mechanical harvesting, chemical (herbicide) treatment and in the future possibly biological control. Mechanical harvesting is temporary (underwater lawn mowing), expensive, and may actually spread the infestation. It is used to create temporary boat lanes. The City of Sturgeon Bay alone spends over \$100,000 annually to control EWM. The chemical 2,4-D among others has been used to selectively kill EWM. Its use has been approved by the DNR but does require a permit. Grants are available to help pay up to ½ the costs of chemical treatments that can run \$400/acre. Herbicide treatments last 1 to 2 years and then have to be repeated hopefully to fewer acres than initially. Several insects including native stem-boring weevils, aquatic pyralid moths and aquatic midges are being evaluated for biological control of EWM. No natural plant pathogens like bacteria or fungi have been identified to date.

There are many internet sites to check for more detailed information including [www.aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu), [www.fw.umn.edu/research/milfoil](http://www.fw.umn.edu/research/milfoil), and the Wisconsin DNR. Learn the difference between Eurasian and Northern milfoil and please help prevent its spread within Connors Lake and to other lakes.

Tom Stram, Vice President

## Pledges for Milfoil Treatment

To date, only half of the pledges have been returned. Without your help, we will not be able to treat the infestation and the value of our lakes will diminish. Our goal with the pledges is to raise the full amount (\$16,000) so that we are able to treat early this summer.

If you have not done so, please forward your pledge amount to us at this time. It can be mailed to the address listed on the first page.

Please note that your donation is tax deductible. If your donation is less than \$250, your check will serve as your receipt. If it is more than \$250, a receipt will be sent to you upon receiving your donation. Thank you for helping preserve and protect our lake for the future.

We will be applying in July to have the state pay for half of the treatment; however, we do not want to wait for this grant to proceed with treatment. In the future, it is our intention to obtain grants to subsidize the landowners' contributions.

## Lake Level

Over the winter months a few more doors have opened to shed light on why the DNR removed the majority of the rock roller dam at the outlet of Connors Lake. From a few different meetings with and without the DNR, it has been expressed that a river located near the Wisconsin Dells (Baraboo) had major benefits from the removal of a dam. Significant growth of habitat took place after the removal of the dam and hence has become the flagship idea for the DNR. The dam removed was located on a river and not a lake. While the State admits that the two (lake and river) vary in detail, it is up to the regional personnel within the DNR to decide what is best for the actual location. Even with this large difference in water source, the norm would apply to remove dams throughout the state if the change to geomorphology is held to a minimum.

Due to the removal of the rocks, the bed down stream has washed in a few places. Overall, if this localized washing (scoring) continues, by default the DNR will need to address this issue by either streambed control or means of water control. This is in part enforced by the USGS who has set limits for changes to a waterway / streambed and extends their authority over the DNR or other parties who made the change.

Since the streambed is washing, the DNR will be required to address this washing (scoring) in the near future. Beyond this, there are several different avenues that can be taken. These avenues will be addressed at the next meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors. An update will then be given at the General Meeting Memorial Day weekend.

Gene Johnson, Interim President

# **Lake Association Meeting At Connors Lake Park Pavilion Saturday, May 29 at 10:00 a.m. sharp**

If you would like to purchase a membership or make a pledge for the milfoil treatment, please arrive between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. The meeting will start promptly at 10:00a.m. and run approximately one hour. During the meeting ballet topics will be discussed, among other topics. Voting will be done via a mail-in ballet in the weeks to follow the meeting.

The Lake Association has been able to reserve the pavilion at the park from 9:00 a.m. until noon for no charge. During this time, the DNR will wave the parking fee for Lake Association Members. Please put this newsletter on your dash to wave that fee. The DNR has asked that we do NOT park in the area reserved for vehicles with boats. They also asked that no one park on the grass. Overflow parking will be available at The Cabin.

In addition to the meeting, there will be a BRAT and POTATO SALAD FUNDRAISER immediately following the meeting at the park. For \$5 you can enjoy lunch and help support the lake.

Hope to see you on Saturday May 29th<sup>h</sup>.

Tentative Future Meeting Dates:

July 3rd General Meeting    August 21st Office/Board    September 4th General Meeting

## *CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association, Inc., Officers and Board of Directors*

### **Officers**

**President:** Gene Johnson \*

**Vice-President:** Tom Stram

**Recording**

**Correspondence**

**Secretary:** Bette Fink \*

**Secretary:** Sandra Lehmann

**Treasurer:** Esther Johnson

### **Board of Directors**

Mike Borden \*

Debbie Cervenka

Bud Cooley

John Heizler

Mark LaVick

Dale Lehmann \*

Paul Meyer \*

Lee Swanson \*

\* These positions are up for reelection this year.

## **Future Events**

The DNR will be having a Plant Identification Session at Connors Lake Park on June 5, 2004, from 9 a.m. until noon. Come find out what plant life the Flambeau Forest holds.