

...from the Lake Shores

News and Information from your Lake Association

"Preserving and protecting our lakes for today and for future generation"



Your Financial Help is Needed Now! Please Respond Generously

Our organization was formed in 2003 to protect our lakes, preserve the water quality that we are accustomed to and to establish a standard for the lake level. To help the Lake Association with the task of addressing these needs the Lake Association Board of Directors hired the Foley-Lardner Law Firm to provide legal counsel and in turn, Earth Tech to assist with technical advice.

Progress has been made:

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) delegates and representatives of the CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association met early in 2006 to discuss issues of concern to each party and collaborative plans were made to:
 - Monitor the streambed and lake level, on a regular schedule, at the Hwy. W bridge
 - An agreement to have the WDNR and Earth Tech more carefully study and monitor the elevations and condition of the bed of the lake immediately upstream of the impoundment rock structure and in the channel downstream of the impoundment pursuant to a set schedule and data gathering procedure.
 - Earth Tech will assimilate historic lake level data and precipitation data to better ascertain reliable historical averages of lake levels
 - Earth Tech has the authority from WDNR to review and comment on the WDNR's data on lakebed and streambed elevations.
 - The WDNR wants to cooperatively collaborate with CoPaPi on the foregoing issues as well as development of a fisheries management plan and a Lake Management Plan.
- Residents of our lakes have volunteered as water level gauge readers, precipitation monitors, milfoil watchers and lake historians.

A legal defense fund was established and we thank those individuals whose contributions helped subsidize the first phase. The Inaugural *Habitat Happening* Auction and Fundraiser that was held in August netted \$6,970. Planning for the 2nd *Habitat Happening* Fundraiser has begun. Volunteers are needed to work on this event.

The dialog that has begun with the WDNR holds great promise for an ongoing, cooperative partnership that will ensure the future of these pristine waters. The CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association needs your financial contribution to retire our debt to the law firm and to maintain a fund balance to pay for future legal advice, should that be necessary.

**For your convenience, a donation card is included in this mailing.
Please return your gift marked for the Legal Fund to the address listed.**

Bi-Annual Lake Assoc Membership Dues are Due

\$50 per membership (2 yrs @ \$25 per year)

Please complete the enclosed card, indicate payment for dues and mail with your check to the address indicated.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2007 General Membership Meetings @ Connors Lake Pavilion

- Saturday, May 26th
- Saturday, July 7th – **Association Annual Meeting**
- Saturday, September 1st

All meetings will begin at 9:30 am

Status of Eurasian Watermilfoil Treatment

Submitted by Tom Stram

The initial response to the herbicide treatment of the invasive weed Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in 2005 was very gratifying. Large areas of dense monoculture (EWM only) were drastically reduced but smaller areas of EWM mixed with native weeds remained. Our share of the cost of this treatment was \$8,000. A follow-up herbicide treatment was done in July of 2006. Due to conditions beyond my control this treatment was performed in mid-summer instead of early spring and in one circumscribed area of “Musky Bay” only leaving several large areas in high boat traffic lanes untreated. This last treatment fortunately did not cost us a lot of money but did demonstrate the need for a comprehensive plan for aquatic plant management in our lakes.

Upon my recommendation the Lake Association therefore contracted the services of Harmony Environmental of Amery, Wisconsin to write and submit an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) matching grant (50%) from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for the purposes of educating, surveying, preventing and planning. The grant application was submitted to the WDNR on February 1, 2007. If we get the grant our share of the costs will be approximately \$6,000. In order to facilitate getting future grant money for EWM treatment and to maximize its effect we will need this planning grant.

As it is now we will have to cover the cost of any herbicide treatment performed this year. **We plan to perform another treatment of about 5-10 acres early this spring and will need additional donations to the “Milfoil Fund” to help cover these costs.** *(For your convenience, a donation card is included in this mailing. Please return your gift marked for the Milfoil Fund to the address listed.)*

Soon after the ice leaves the lake I will be calling on our network of volunteers to survey the lake for EWM. At one of our future general meeting I plan to invite someone from the WDNR or Harmony Environmental to present information on the development of a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan, which would include such things as water quality, aquatic life and habitat, watershed, land use, and management of invasive species for your consideration.

Will You Volunteer?

Submitted by Tom Stram.

We have a network of about 10 volunteers that help locate and identify the colonies of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) on Connors Lake. I will be calling on their services come April so we can hopefully plan an early treatment this year. If you would like to help check for EWM please e-mail me at twstram@charter.net or call 1-715-384-8348.

Another group of about 10 volunteers under the direction of Carolyn Mealman logged in over 12 hours on the 2006 Labor Day weekend checking watercraft at the Connors Lake boat launch for invasive species under the "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" (CBCW) program sponsored by the WDNR and UW-Extension College of Natural Resources at Stevens Point. This was our first venture into boat inspections and we found it to be non-threatening, educational and fun. In addition to boat inspections we distribute and discuss educational materials on invasive species. If you would like to know more about invasive species and become an expert at boat inspections there are workshops offered at various times and locations throughout northern Wisconsin. You can contact Laura Felda-Marquardt by e-mail, Laura.Felda@dnr.state.wi.us, or by telephone 715-365-2659 for times and locations of CBCW seminars. If you would like to volunteer for inspections on Connors Lake or Lake of the Pines, contact Carolyn Mealman at 715-332-5267 or e-mail cesm@pctcnet.net or Tom Stram at 715-384-8348 or e-mail twstram@charter.net.

Can you donate your time for boat inspections at Lake of the Pines? We need volunteers to get this phase of the project started. Let's try to keep your Lake of the Pines free of Eurasian watermilfoil. Just a few hours on holiday weekends is a good start and the word gets out that they are inspecting boats at the boat launch.

Strength in Numbers

The CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association is a member of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL), Sawyer County Lakes Forum and the Winter Lakes Alliance. We joined the Forum and Alliance in order to get letters of support for the Aquatic Invasive Species grant. WAL is the only statewide organization working exclusively to protect and enhance the quality of Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes. They accomplish this by co-sponsoring lake education workshops and conferences across the state, working with the legislature to ensure that our lakes are protected and by serving on numerous advisory teams that advise decision makers on lake related public policy, lake protection and lake preservation. They publish newsletters and have an excellent web-site www.wisconsinlakes.org. Their Annual Convention will be held in Green Bay April 26-28, 2007. The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership of the UW-Extension at UWSP, WDNR and WAL also sponsor regional conferences and publishes a newsletter. The Sawyer Lakes Forum represents most of the Lake Associations in Sawyer County. They have at least 2 general meetings in the summer with speakers and agendas of interest to association members. The Winter Lakes Alliance represents Winter, Island, Black Dan, Blaisdell, Barber, Loretta, Fishtrap, Barker and Hunter Lakes. They have about 80 individual members. Their efforts are focused on safety, habitat protection and stocking programs. The Alliance has an educational meeting at the Winter Town hall every Saturday morning from April through December.
Submitted by Tom Stram

Clam Lake Elk Herd

Laine R. Stowell, WDNR Elk Biologist, Hayward Service Center

Beginning as a feasibility study to determine whether elk could be restored to Wisconsin, 25 elk were released to the wilds of the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest 3 miles south of Clam Lake on May 17, 1995. That first year 4 of those elk died, so the current 110 elk of the Clam Lake elk herd came from 21 original animals. The animals released came from the Michigan elk herd that currently numbers about 1,000 animals, which reside in the north central portion of the lower peninsula of Michigan on the Pigeon River State Forest.

The Clam Lake herd hardly grew the first 2 years because of severe winters and absent or low breeding bull numbers. However, the 4 yearling bulls present at release grew to sexual maturity in 2006 and good calf productivity occurred from 1997 through 2003, when the herd grew at 15-25% per year. In 2004 through 2005 the herd hardly grew because of mortality associated with recreational feeding and baiting that occurred after the baiting ban of 2002 and 2003. We're now approaching the end of the 2006 Elk Year (an elk year begins with the start of calving season and runs to the start of the next calving season--approximately from May 20 of one year to May 20 of the next). It looks like this current elk year the herd will grow about 10%. This is due mostly to the residents of the Clam Lake area voluntarily stopping their feeding. It is now illegal to feed elk (and bears), but enforcement is mostly unnecessary because the folks in the Clam Lake area do love their elk and have ceased this activity.

Currently the elk project staff continues to monitor radio collared elk, have installed a motorist elk crossing warning system, and conduct habitat development work on properties of cooperative private landowners with the help of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). The United States Forest Service, in cooperation with the RMEF continue to rotationally mow portions of the ELF Right of Way for forest opening management for wildlife, in particular for elk. Almost 60 percent of all elk mortalities are associated with human activities--Elk will succeed in Wisconsin as long as we all cooperate by driving prudently in the Clam Lake area, do not promote high risk situations by feeding elk, and by giving them space and time to grow.

About the Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), established in 1972, is a national nonprofit land conservation organization specializing in conservation real estate, applying its expertise in negotiations, public finance, and law, to conserve land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and natural areas, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Across the nation, TPL has helped protect more than 2.1 million acres. Through its Northwoods Initiative, a regional conservation program focused on northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, TPL is assisting communities and public agencies in identifying and protecting sensitive and threatened lands. The Trust for Public Land depends on the support and generosity of individuals, foundations, and businesses to achieve our land for people mission. For more information about TPL visit <http://www.tpl.org/>.

About the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Headquartered in Missoula, Montana, the nonprofit Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has permanently protected more than 1,000 square miles of critical elk habitat and enhanced another 3.4 million acres of elk country. In addition, over 400,000 acres have been opened to public access for hunting, fishing and other enjoyment. The Elk Foundation recently announced their Great Lakes Conservation Initiative that will help to permanently preserve wildlife habitat within the elk ranges of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. To help protect wild elk country, visit <http://www.elkfoundation.org/> or call 800-CALL-ELK.

Courtesy of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

WDNR Meeting Summary

On February 14, 2007, Ellen Cernjar, Debbie Cervenka, Mark LaVick, and Tom Stram met with Tom Aartila and Dan Houston of the WDNR to discuss the monitoring of the Connors' Lake level. The meeting was cordial and both groups shared data regarding the level of the lake from April 2006 to February 2007. The WDNR also shared data and graphs of the stream bed survey in addition to rainfall conditions of District One - Wisconsin.

Both groups agreed that the drought conditions in 2006 were evident. Also, the survey by the WDNR of the stream bed showed no derogation and the farther from the rocks that the data points were taken, the less the bed has changed. Also discussed was the permitting process for milfoil treatment and how the WDNR could assist the Association in receiving permits faster, in addition to the possible availability of grant dollars.

The WDNR will not re-survey the stream bed until after the remaining rocks are removed, which they will do at some point in the future. However, they did grant the Association another year of monitoring the level of the lake, because of the drought conditions of 2006, prior to removing the balance of the rocks and indicated if there was a major weather event and residents of the lake noticed any significant impact they would be available to review the decision to survey the stream.

A summary of the meeting was submitted to the WDNR from the Association members on February 22, 2007 noting that the concern is the level of the lake and not the derogation of the stream bed. No response has been received from the WDNR as of March 27, 2007.

The Association appreciates the extraordinary efforts of Carolyn and Wally Mealman for their weekly monitoring of the lake level. The data that they provide is instrumental to the lake level effort.

2007-2008 CoPaPi Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

President:	Gene Johnson	(Term expires 2008)
Vice-President:	Tom Stram	(Term expires 2007)
Treasurer:	Esther Johnson	(Term expires 2007)
Recording Secretary:	Ellen Cernjar	(Term expires 2008)
Corresponding Secretary:	Sandra Lehman	(Term expires 2007)

Board of Directors

Mike Borden, Carolyn Mealman, Dale Lehman, Paul Meyer (Terms expire 2008)

Debbie Cervenka, David Gullo, Mark LaVick, Charles Sorenson (Terms expire 2007)

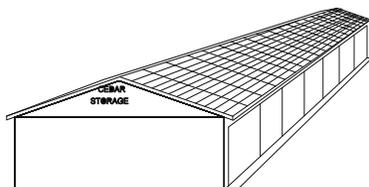
The Cabin
At Connors
Lake



Fine Dining In The North Woods Of Wisconsin

The 2nd Annual Habitat Happening Fundraiser will be held in August '07
Once again, The Cabin on Connors Lake will host this fantastic event!
Plan on attending, participating, donating and bringing all of your friends to this wonderful evening! This is a great opportunity to raise much needed funds to benefit the quality of our lakes. Many people and donations are needed to help make this a successful affair. Watch for further announcements! Volunteer to work on the committee! Donate a prize or auction item. All funds raised will be used for the improvement of our beloved lakes.

**Please support the other corporate sponsors of our
2006 Habitat Happening Event**



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