

# ...from the Lake Shores

News and Information from your Lake Association



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

## Welcome

to the fourth edition of the Connors Lake/Little Papoose/Lake of the Pines Voluntary Lake Association, Inc., Newsletter.

## A message from Gene Johnson, President

As another year is underway, we find ourselves heading to the lake for enjoyment. Hopefully, the list entitled "Think Spring!", found on the next page, will be a nice reminder of things to review prior to setting afloat.

Also, I want to thank everyone who participated with the Habitat Happening Fundraiser last fall, as it was a great success. I, along with other officers & board members, have been approached by many members asking what they can do to support the lake. Understanding many enjoy the lake and surroundings but do not have the time to devote to specific dates which the meetings or fundraisers fall on, we have a simple request: Enclosed is a raffle ticket for the Cash Raffle to be drawn Saturday, September 27, 2008. We ask that, if you have interest, you buy it, sell it or if time does not permit return it so it may be sold by others. If you buy or sell it, please return your payment and the ticket stub to CoPaPi at P.O. Box 63, Winter, WI 54896. Enclosed is an addressed envelope, with a Forever stamp on it for you to use. Your donation is tax deductible. The raffle this year will have 300 tickets that sell for \$50.00 each. If you would like to purchase or sell additional tickets, please contact Mark LaVick at The Cabin.

Last but not least, we encourage you to attend our meetings at the Connors Lake Pavilion. I wish you Safe Travels and hope to see you at the Lake.

## CoPaPi Board of Directors

### Officers

President	Gene Johnson	term ends 2008
Vice President	Tom Stram	term ends 2009
Treasurer	Esther Johnson	term ends 2009
Recording Secretary	Ellen Cernjar	term ends 2008
Corresponding Secretary	Sandra Lehmann	term ends 2009

### Board Members at Large

Mike Borden, Carolyn Mealman, Dale Lehmann, Deeann Johnson	term ends 2008
Gordie Dukerschein, Dave Cooley, Dave Schiotz, Mark LaVick	term ends 2009

## 2008 General Membership Meetings at Connors Lake Pavilion

Saturday, **May 24** (Memorial Day Weekend)

Saturday, **July 5** - **Association Annual Meeting** (Independence Day Weekend)

Saturday, **August 30** (Labor Day Weekend)

All meetings will begin at 9:30 am

## Think Spring!

Something as simple as a checklist will help ensure that your equipment is in top condition so your spring launch is a safe and successful one.

- **Life Jackets:** Always check your Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) to ensure that they are in good condition, properly sized and that there are enough for everyone.
- **Flares and fire extinguishers:** Check the expiration dates on your flares. Make sure the fire extinguishers are properly charged and correctly mounted.
- **First-aid kit:** Replace any supplies that were used last season or have passed the expiration date.
- **Running Lights:** Make a quick check to see if all of your running lights are working.
- **Hoses and Clamps:** Inspect all hoses and clamps and replace as necessary.
- **Fuel Lines:** Inspect closely every spring, including fill and vent hoses. Look specifically for softness, brittleness or cracking. Remember, you are dealing with combustible fluids!
- **Fittings:** Thru-hull fittings below the waterline should be tight; sea valves should operate freely. Make sure the boat's plug is on board and in good condition. Check your zincs.
- **Electronics:** Inspect batteries, electronics, and connections. Remove the terminals and wire-brush them along with the cable ends.
- **Fluid Levels:** Check all fluid levels, from engine oil to power steering and power trim reservoirs.
- **Cables:** Inspect your control cables making sure there are no cracks, swells or corrosion as these are signs of deterioration.
- **Fuel Tanks:** Check your tanks and pumps, also replace the filters every spring.
- **Hoses:** Inspect cooling, exhaust and blower hoses. Check pipes and clamps for stiffness, leaks, rot and corrosion.
- **Bilge Pumps:** Check for leaks, float switch operation and corrosion. Every spring, boats sink at the dock when these problems go undetected until the first heavy rain.
- **Ropes and Lines:** Make sure your lines are not damaged, chafed or deteriorating, and replace as necessary.
- **Boat trailer:** Inspect trailer tires for wear, proper inflation and test the trailer lights before towing. Make sure your trailer tags are current.
- **Sailboat rigging:** Check for signs of corrosion, wear and leak where chain plate mountings come through the deck.
- **Paperwork:** Make sure your vessel registration and insurance policy are current.

## Happy Boating!

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Habitat Happening

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Habitat Happening Fundraiser will be held Saturday, August 23, 2008. The Cabin on Connors Lake has offered to host this event. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. It is a fun evening for all. Watch for further announcements.

## Information from Tom Stram

### Aquatic Plant Management Plan

The Aquatic Plant Management Committee consisting of Jake Nelson (Flambeau Forest Inn), Dale Lehmann, Jim Halvorson (Superintendent of Flambeau River State Forest), Dave Schiotz, Kristi Maki (Sawyer County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator), Lloyd Lindahl, James Kreitlow (WDNR-Lakes Coordinator) and Tom Stram met along with our grant consultant Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental at the Flambeau Forest Inn on January 5 and March 1, 2008. We met for the purpose of developing a strategy for managing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Connors Lake. Among other items the committee established criteria for treatment of AIS based on lake usage, methods and timing of treatments, and establishing a rapid response protocol for treating AIS should it suddenly appear in Lake of the Pines. A final draft of the Aquatic Plant Management Plan will be presented at the general membership meeting on Saturday, May 24, by Cheryl Clemens. The plan will then be presented to the WDNR and, if approved, will enable us to apply for grants to help cover the costs of treatment. The good news, from Kristi Maki, is that she identified less than one acre of milfoil last fall. Therefore, we will probably not have to do any treatments this spring.

At the Memorial Day general meeting, on May 24, Cheryl will also introduce us to the possibility of developing a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan. In addition to AIS management the scope of a more comprehensive plan would include water quality monitoring (initiated summer of 2007), shoreline habitat assessment, watershed assessment, and lake nutrient budget. The benefits of this planning might be the establishment of a new cold water fishery (i.e. trout) or enhancement of our present fishery. Please consider attending the May 24 meeting. We look forward to your comments.

"Copies of the Aquatic Plant Management Plan will be sent to you by e-mail for your review and copies of the plan will be available on the bulletin boards at The Cabin and Flambeau Forest Inn".

### A Dozen Ways to Protect Water Quality

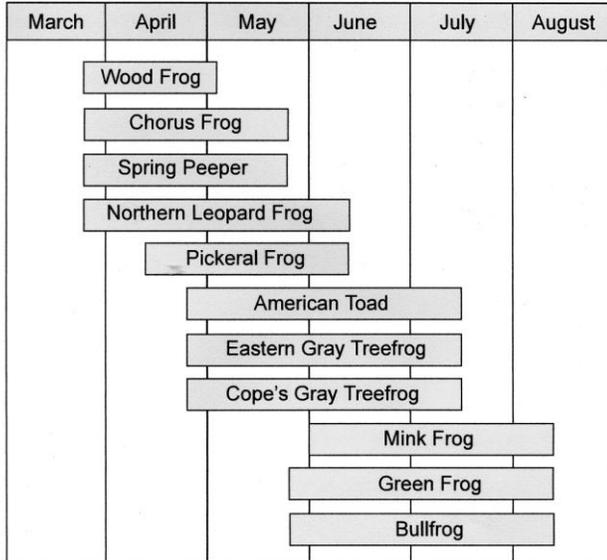
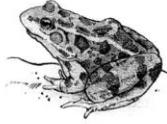
1. Respect the rules for building, digging or clearing vegetation.
2. Use only phosphorus free fertilizer and only if soil test indicates the need for fertilizer.
3. Maintain or install a 35' vegetative shoreline buffer.
4. Prevent sediments from running downhill and reaching the water.
5. Control storm runoff through splash blocks, rain barrels or rain gardens.
6. Reduce or keep to a minimum the amount of impervious (paved) surfaces.
7. Inspect and maintain your septic system.
8. Remove pet waste from the yard.
9. Prevent fire pit ashes and leaf litter from entering the lake.
10. Know your native aquatic plants and keep them in place.
11. Respect slow and no-wake zones.
12. Invite new neighbors to get involved in your Lake Association.

### Top 5 Fishing Violations in Wisconsin

1. Not having your fishing license with you whenever and wherever you fish.
2. Keeping undersized fish. Refer to an up-to-date fishing regulations handbook and also signs posted at boat landings.
3. Fishing with too many lines. No more than three lines per angler. Never leave lines unattended.
4. Violating safety and boating regulations while fishing. One personal flotation device required for every passenger in the boat. Use running lights when boating at night.
5. Not registering your boat or keeping registration up-to-date. All boats powered by a motor need registration. Canoes, rowboats, and paddleboats are exempt.

# Frog Breeding Phenology and Frog Calls and References submitted by Tom Stram with permission of John Haack

## Frog Breeding Phenology



John Haack  
St. Croix Natural Resource Educator  
Phone: 715-635-7406  
e-mail: john.haack@ces.uwex.edu  
website: <http://basineducation.uwex.edu/stcroix/>



## Frog Calls and References

Name	Sounds Like
Wood Frog	Quacking ducks
Chorus Frog	Rubbing your fingers across a comb
Spring Peeper	High pitched peep
Northern Leopard Frog	Rubbing a thumb on a balloon
Pickeral Frog	Low pitched snore
American Toad	High pitched musical trill
Eastern Gray Treefrog	Musical trill like a bird
Cope's Gray Treefrog	Fast harsh nasal trill
Mink Frog	Horse hooves on a pavement
Green Frog	Low banjo string twang
Bullfrog	Deep bass sounds like a fog horn

### Wisconsin Frog References

★"Wisconsin Frogs, Places to Hear Frogs and Toads Near Our Urban Areas" by Randy Korb. Available at the Spooner and Shell Lake Public Libraries or copies can be purchased by contacting Randy Korb at [rkorb@aol.com](mailto:rkorb@aol.com) (Includes a CD of WI frog calls). Approximate cost \$15.00

★"Amphibians of Wisconsin" by Rebecca Christoffel, et. al. Available for \$4.00 ea. Make checks payable to "endangered Resources Program" and write "Herps Education Account" on the memo line. Send to Bureau of Endangered Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707

★"The Calls of Frogs and Toads" by Lang Elliott. Available at your local bookstore. The cover price is \$19.95

★Learn the calls of frogs or Wisconsin at <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/frogquiz>. Click on "public quiz" enter the state and follow the links.

## Where have all the flowers (Trilliums) gone by Tom Stram



Have you noticed how few of the earliest-blooming wildflowers are present while walking through the deciduous forests? Thirty years ago when we bought our cabin on Connors Lake a walk in the woods would find spring ephemerals like bright-yellow marsh marigolds, snow-white bloodroot and the large-flowered white trillium. Trillium grandiflora is still common in the north woods in scattered colonies and occasionally covering large areas of the forest floor. The flower is composed of 3 leaves, 3 sepals and 3 white to pink petals radiating from a very fragile 6 to 12" stalk. They grow best in areas that receive full sun until the tree leaves fill out in May or June and they demand moist, very humus rich soil. Trillium is best propagated by seed with transplantation being difficult because of flower fragility. Did you know that it could take up to 15 years for the White Trillium to produce its first flower? The seeds require 2 years of cold dormancy before they even germinate. Only mature plants produce flowers and seeds for further colonization. Cut flowers soon wilt in a vase so observe this remarkable flower in its natural habitat only. If you must purchase mature plants at a nursery be sure to ask if they are grown from seed rather than plundered from the woodlands. There are 43 species of trillium growing in different microclimates of eastern US forests. Colors vary from white to purple to yellow to maroon to painted white with red rays and have interesting nicknames such as Catesby's trillium, Bashful wake-robin, nodding trillium, Stinking Benjamin, Squawroot, Birthwort, Confusing trillium and American True Love. Studies in Northern Wisconsin have indicated an 18 percent decline in species richness from what was present around 1950. The primary reason for this decline appears to be overgrazing by the white-tailed deer according to studies of white trillium in Illinois, Minnesota and Pennsylvania. Other reasons for this decline could be a decrease in pollinators, soil acidification, tree cutting and disease.

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## Natural Resources Board approves revisions to VHS rules

Submitted by Tom Stram

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) is an infectious viral disease of fish that can cause them to bleed to death. The VHS virus is not a threat to people who handle infected fish or want to eat their catch, but it can kill more than 25 fish species. It was first detected in Wisconsin in May 2007 in the Lake Winnebago system and Lake Michigan system. VHS is considered an invasive species.

In reaction to this potentially serious threat to Wisconsin's fisheries, DNR passed emergency administrative rules (beginning in June 2007) that prohibited anglers, boaters and other recreational users from moving live fish, including bait minnows, and water from affected waters.

In March, the DNR's Natural Resource Board approved revised permanent administrative rules to prevent the spread of VHS. The revised rules allow anglers to take leftover minnows--purchased from a Wisconsin bait dealer or fish farm--home and use them on the same waterbody, or use them on a different one if the minnows hadn't been exposed to any water from the lake or river fished. The revisions also remove a requirement for all people to drain all water from bilges, ballast, live wells, bait buckets and other containers when they leave the bank or shore of any water. People may now take away up to 2 gallons of water in a container holding those live minnows to be transported away from the waterbody.

The revisions were in response to strong bipartisan legislative opposition to provisions of the emergency VHS rules that prohibited anglers from taking leftover minnows home and using them on another fishing trip. The legislatively-requested changes will make the rules more difficult to enforce and in turn provide less protection against the spread of VHS. Bait minnows are the main way in which VHS is spread to new waters.

Wherever in Wisconsin you are enjoying one of our 15,000 lakes, you can help slow the spread of VHS and other invasive species by practicing the following precautions:

- Do not move water or live fish (including unused bait minnows) from one water body to another.
- Drain all water from bilges, bait buckets, live wells, and other containers at the landing.
- Dispose of minnows and other bait in the trash, and put your catch on ice before you leave the landing.
- Only buy minnows from registered Wisconsin bait dealers, or catch some yourself in the same water you fish.
- Clean plants and other debris from your boat before launching boats and leaving landings.

A summary of the revised VHS rules is available online at [http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs/vhs\\_prevent.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs/vhs_prevent.html).

Our fall newsletter will be mailed in November, 2008. We would like contributions of interesting adventures you might have while at the lake this summer. Please submit these, or mention items you would like to see in future newsletters, by October 22, to Sandra Lehmann. Drop off at the house, call 715.332.5101, or email [sjl@pctcnet.net](mailto:sjl@pctcnet.net).

## INTERESTING LAKE HAPPENINGS



### LOON WATCH

On April 6<sup>th</sup> we heard a Loon call, but it couldn't land here as "ice out" has not occurred as of this writing on April 8<sup>th</sup> and it will be some days yet. Water will be really cold for the first day of fishing season on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Of our 304 lakes monitored for loons, 243 were home to at least 1 territorial pair of the 366 pairs reported. The fledgling rate improved slightly over 2006. We had 3 loons that stayed here last year, no chick, and a few that visited.

An outbreak of type E botulism on Lake Michigan in late October last year, during migration flight, spelled concern as an estimated 8,000 birds along a 250 mile stretch of shoreline died. The outbreaks are associated with the invasion and proliferation of at least 3 exotic species which come in by oceanic ships. The exotic species that the birds eat could impact as many as 75,000 waterfowl, including 9,000 loons.

If you encounter any loon mortality, contact the WDNR. The hotline is 1.800.433.1610.

The "loon watch" sign at the landing has mysteriously disappeared. The WDNR does not have it. It would be nice to see it appear, as it cost me \$15.



### OTTER FRIENDS

One early February day Wally was driving over the Hwy W bridge and spotted 2 otters up on the ice resting. Evidently they decided to winter in the area. Otters can dive to 60' and be under the water for 4 minutes. I hope they survived as they are a sign of a healthy lake balance.



### CLEAN BOATS/ CLEAN WATERS

Along with VHS viral disease that was found in Wisconsin waters, the discovery of the Spiny Water Flea in Stormy Lake in Vilas County (the second lake, with the first being in Gile Flowage near Hurley in 2003) is another invasive species we must watch for.

by Carolyn Mealman

Spiny Water Fleas prey heavily on native zooplankton and may disrupt lake ecosystems. The creatures are only 1/4" to 1/2" long. They gather in masses on fishing lines.

This is another reason why our boat inspections and education packets program is important for our lakes. These invasive species are primarily spread by boaters.

We have a good crew of volunteers (and could use more) who have found the program fun and interesting. Most boaters are happy to listen and learn. Our volunteers will be glad to partner with a new person to "learn the simple facts".

There will be a sign-up sheet at the May 24<sup>th</sup> general meeting or notify Carolyn at 715.332.5267, email at [cesm@pctcnet.net](mailto:cesm@pctcnet.net).

We need new people to get involved from both lakes.



### LAKE WATER LEVEL

According to our readings from the Hwy W bridge, the water level for the winter months has been between 70.82, after a 7" rainfall on October 31<sup>st</sup>, to 70.75 on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a little over the 70.50 minimum set by the WDNR for the winter months. As ice melts and the spring rains come it will be interesting to see what happens.



### WINTER OUTDOOR LIFE

Undoubtedly there is global warming somewhere, but it was not to be found in the north woods of Wisconsin this year. We had 48 days of below zero readings and 26 days of single digit temps, from November 22 to March 27<sup>th</sup>. A record snowfall was good for winter sports and lake levels.

We watched as many deer played "white tails" games on the frozen lake. Many traversed from one side to the other. I always wonder why—are they just roaming or do they have a purpose? I am glad I have a nice warm place to live and don't have to hunt for food everyday. Food is scarce right now.

Our bird feeders are crowded with all the "snow birds" returning north. It is good to see them as Spring might come.

**ICE OUT** just before noon on Saturday, April 26



## FISH FACTS

Fish Survey—According to the GLIFWC website, a survey was conducted on Connors Lake on October 17<sup>th</sup>, last year, along 5 miles of shoreline. Of the 141 walleye caught, the length ranged from 4.8” to 19.8”. The objective was to assess the class strength of age 0 – 1 year old walleyes of which there were 70. Check their website for more information.



## ICE FISHING CONTEST

On Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Flambeau Inn Ice Fishing Contest was held. It was a beautiful winter day and there was a “fish crib” of activity on both lakes as 300 people took part. At least 25 fish were registered and kids prizes went to Travis Meyer, Tyler Foley, and Jerod Foley. Adult winners were: Jason Barotka, Jeff Hansen, D. Hintz, and Joel Redmond.

## New Tournament Rules in 2009

According to LAKE TIDES, in 2009, a permit is needed if ANY of the following apply:

More than \$10,000 in prizes are awarded  
More than 20 boats or 100 anglers participate  
Fish are weighed off-site and then released live (trout rule)

These rules have been made to make a positive difference for the health of Wisconsin waters.



## WEEKEND ADVENTURES



I know most of you like to just come and relax at the lake. I received the Wisconsin Natural Resource book and in it are listed 58 adventures in most of the counties of the state. They all sound interesting and fun. For all of the listings you can call the toll free line 1.866.264.4096 after 5 pm. Call Christine Tanzer on Wednesday at 608.264.8548 or email [Christine.Tanzer@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Christine.Tanzer@wisconsin.gov). The trips include bird watching, flowers, bogs and swamps, prairies, dunes, wolves, butterflies, chance for wonderful photography, and fish hatchery.



## FIRE SEASON

WDNR Forester Ranger Mike O’Mara in Winter of Sawyer County reminds residents and visitors about the new burning permits. A totally new burning permit system is in place in Wisconsin this year. Starting this year, annual permits to burn brush and small piles of non-recyclable paper and

cardboard in a barrel, can be obtained. This year, you must call a Toll Free number, or check the status of burning conditions on the Internet prior to burning. This includes burning a pile of debris as well as burning in a burn barrel. A message will be available each day by 11 am informing the public whether burning is allowed and what restrictions may be in place for that day. It is the responsibility of each person to obtain this information every time they burn, even in their burn barrel. You can get a permit from the WDNR.

A small cooking or warming fire, often referred to as a campfire, is exempt from the requirement, but should be confined to some type of “fire ring” and should be attended at all times.

Burning is only allowed Monday through Saturday from 6 pm to midnight.



## FIREWOOD

A reminder not to bring **FIREWOOD** to this area from farther than 50 miles away. The Emerald Ash Borer is in northern Illinois and we do not want this bug in Wisconsin.



## TURKEYS

A large flock of turkeys came through three weeks ago. They seem to roam around our section of the forest. I hope to cut the flock down by 1. As we were sitting in our blind hunting turkeys on April 18<sup>th</sup>, a very hungry eagle zoomed down and tried to snatch one of our decoys. At the last minute it decided something was wrong and flew away. Also, in scouting on the previous Monday at 5:45 am, as I used my turkey call, we heard a pack of coyotes answer south of the Connors Lake campground. This was really neat. No turkey was harvested.



## FOX is outfoxed by EAGLE

As I sat eating a late breakfast a golden yellow fox left our shore carrying a large meal in it’s mouth. I got my glasses to watch and all of a sudden it dropped the food and started to run in circles. It was then that Wally and I saw the eagle swooping down. The fox started to defend his catch as the eagle came down again. In the end the eagle lured the fox just far enough away from the cherished article to swoop down and snatch the goods and fly away. Alas, the fox came back to shore to start the quest all over again.

# FLAMBEAU RIVER STATE FOREST

## From the Superintendent—Jim Halvorson

Whew, what a winter. We certainly wore the varnish off the snowshoes this year. Both snowmobiling and cross country skiing were up along with a very active year for the loggers. The increased logging activity on the Flambeau could not have come at a better time for the deer. With the amount of browse available from the cut tops, along with the snow being compacted from the equipment, the deer had a pretty easy winter. Hope yours was as good as the deer. Welcome back to the Flambeau River State Forest and hope you have a great summer.

Here is a brief update of what's been happening this past winter and upcoming events this summer.



## Highlights

- There were a number of **timber sales** cut this winter. As I mentioned earlier the timing could not have been better in helping the deer through the winter. There was some sale activity on the cross country ski trails and on the snowmobile trails. Thanks to all the winter users for putting up with this inconvenience this past season. Our **allowable cut** on the forest last year and this upcoming year remains at 1,700 acres. Again the forest is regulated not to cut more than it can grow; this is referred to in forestry jargon as the **allowable cut**. If anyone is interested in where future cutting is planned, along with timber sales in the past or upcoming years, stop by and I can go over them with you. Particularly in the fall when you scrape the rust off your gun and thoughts of hunting come back, focusing on these cuts can be very productive.
- **Reforestation** activities this upcoming year will involve 2 pilot studies. One will examine the reintroduction of white pine back into the forest through the planting of 1 year old containerized seedlings. The other will look at different treatments to encourage natural hardwood regeneration that have been lost to sedge and other shrubs.
- Work on updating our **forest inventory** continued on a fast track over the winter. With the help from our foresters on staff, along with neighboring foresters from Price, Rusk and Sawyer counties, another 13,205 acres were completed. We have widdled our backlog down to about 30,000 acres. When we carry out the inventory, trees growing are grouped in what we refer to as stands. Thirty (30) bits of information is then collected on each stand letting us know how well they are growing and what future management is needed. In addition to this we are looking for invasive plants, wildlife, endangered species, historical, archeological, road layouts water quality and soil issues. **Forest inventory** is the backbone to forest management in the State Forest.
- The implementation of the **access plan** continues. This past year 10.5 miles of ATV trail were renovated. In addition, 4 miles of access roads were topped with gravel. This upcoming year an additional 11 access roads that have been contracted out begin to be renovated. Trails to be renovated are identified in the access plan to be improved. Trails will be widened to 30', crowned, ditched and culverts placed. In addition some of the roads will be graveled. Other roads not identified as remaining open will be gated or have earthen berms placed to be closed. Twenty closures were placed last year and I expect approximately the same will be placed this year. For those of you unfamiliar with the access plan it follows 6 main points.

1. Maintain the Flambeau River State Forest remote and wild.
  2. Minimize water quality impact and rutting.
  3. Reduce the open miles of road following the "Remote Wild Theme" by reducing the road density to improve (sustainable) roads approximately every 2 miles.
  4. Areas presently remote will be maintained remote, no additional open access roads.
  5. Continue providing ATV handicap access permits.
  6. Provide additional pull-offs for hunting.
- There were **no major bug, disease or wind events this past year**. Hopefully it will be similar this year. Monitoring for gypsy moth and emerald ash borer will continue. A reminder for everyone to **limit their movement of firewood**. Firewood not collected within 50 miles of the Forest is prohibited to bring in. This is the major method many of these critters move. Our biggest concern is emerald ash borer followed by gypsy moth. Emerald ash borer in particular would be devastating to the Forest. Please be careful.
  - **Master Planning** for the Flambeau River State forest **will begin this late summer**. This will take about 2 years if we can stay on schedule. I will periodically send information to the newsletter detailing meetings and opportunities for you to address improvements. Our last master plan was done in 1980. So start thinking about some good suggestions for the future of the Forest. The plan will lay the groundwork for the next 10 to 15 years.
  - **Recreation improvements** this past year involved replacing a bridge on the cross country ski trail and continued work on making our ATV trails sustainable. The upcoming summer projects will involve repairing all the parking pads within the Connors Lake campground, another bridge **replacement** on cross-country ski trail and hopefully initiate an addition of playground equipment at Connors Lake picnic area (pending grant/project \$ CoPaPi ).
  - **Events** last year included our **naturalist programs** on Saturdays for our children. This will continue. Watch for the info pamphlets on these planned activities. We will post them on the kiosk at Connors Lake landing. The **candlelight ski** this last winter was carried off, conditions were cold and windy. We gave up trying to keep the candles lit and handed out head lamps to those skiing. Still a good time was had by all. It was great to see so many from the Connors Lake area participating. Thanks for the cookies Sandy. This spring you may have seen about 100 people racing around. This was due to an **adventure race** sponsored by the UWSP. It involved biking, orienteering, running and canoeing. This is the third annual race held on the Flambeau. You participate in 2-person teams that are broken into various age groups. Another race is being planned this fall
  - **Law enforcement** activities continue in the Forest. We have had some **illegal dumping of household trash at Lake of the Pines campground** this past year, and tickets were issued. This may sound like a minor offense but it has turned into a major expense for us. So please refrain from placing your trash in these containers. Over the summer our enforcement staff will check for movement of both Eurasian milfoil and VHS (transporting minnows). We are going into the 3<sup>rd</sup> year following the initiation of the no glass containers on the river. Make sure you mention this rule to your friends planning a canoe trip. If you witness violations please give us a call. If you are unsure of the rules stop by and we will be glad help you interpret them. At times they can be confusing.
  - **Wildlife** activities this past year continued with wildlife opening maintenance, grouse, amphibian and martin surveys. Track surveys will continue along wolf flights. All these surveys will continue. In addition we have identified approximately 30 additional hunter walking trails that we plan to start maintaining by mowing. This is a big leap from the original 3 we have.

## Interesting Tidbits

**Art Noot reports** on Wednesday, April 16, 2008—On our morning hike, about a quarter mile from our house, Gabriel (dog) and I were stalked, then attacked by a hostile grouse. This also happened yesterday but not as aggressive as today. Today the stalking changed to downright charging our 100 pound “puppy”. Gabe was astonished, then delighted—he wanted to play. The grouse did not want to play and actually pecked at Gabe’s paws, circled him (evidently impressed by Gabe’s long tail) and tried to peck his tail. The critter was wondering about me, too, because I reached down to pick him up and then he backed away. As it was, he was an inch from my hand and gave me a dirty look. One of the pecks must have insulted Gabe because Gabe reached down and picked the grouse up in his mouth. Being a well trained and sensitive dog, Gabe dropped the bird without harm the moment I said “drop!” The whole experience was amazing. A fluffed up grouse assaulting the both of us. In the end, the bird—still all fluffed up—turned his back on us and did a strut back into the trees. Gabe and I are sure the critter was somehow protecting a nest (do males do that? I thought females were supposed to do that.) or suffered from an oversized ego. Whatever, it was quite a hike today.

### Sandra Lehmann reports:



**Ruffed Grouse** The male ruffed grouse attracts mates and defends his territory by drumming! He perches on a drumming post, usually a log, mound or stone and cups his wings and beats them against the air. This produces a drumming sound! In fact, the ruffed grouse is sometimes called the drummer. The male puffs out his ruff and fans out his tail in a visual display designed to either attract a mate or warn off an intruder.

The female lays 9-12 eggs at a rate of one egg every day and a half. The nest is in a cup-shaped depression lined with leaves and feathers, usually at the base of a tree, stump or under a bush. The female incubates the eggs. The chicks hatch in about 24-26 days and are hunting for insects shortly after hatching. The female takes care of the hatchlings until they can roost on their own in the trees. They will fledge when they are 10-12 days old and will be independent by the time they are about 16-18 weeks old.



**Fish Cribs**—Steve Lindahl has offered to underwrite the costs of materials, construction and insertion of 20 fish cribs per year for 3 years. Nineteen fish cribs have already been built.

**Grant**—The CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association, Inc., received a Lakes Planning grant for \$789.23 to purchase a Dissolved Oxygen Meter. The grant covers up to 75 percent of the cost and it is up to us to provide the other 25 percent.



**Bird Houses**—Did you know that the Flambeau Forest office (across from Big Bear) has examples of many kinds of bird houses and the plans to build them? Stop in their office as they have a lot of information for you.



**Sandhill Cranes**—the oldest living species of bird in the world, according to the International Crane Foundation (ICF.) To many people the repeated k-r-r-r-oo call of early migrating sandhills ranks with the cry of the loon or the howl of a wolf. The sand hill crane does not breed until it is two to seven years old. It can live up to the age of 20. Cranes stand in an upright posture while calling. They usually call with their heads thrown back and their beaks skyward. Mated pairs stay together year round, and migrate as a group with their offspring.

are most active at dawn and dusk. In flight cranes fly with their necks extended and their legs trailing, in what has been called a “flying cross.”

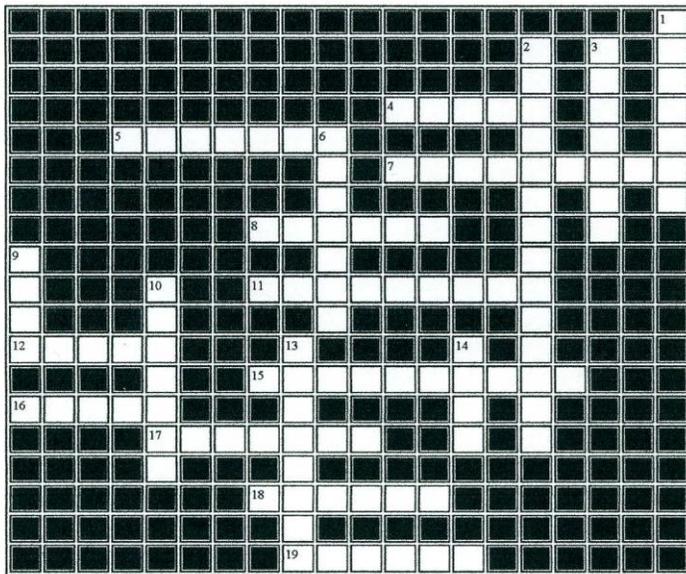


**Knots**—[www.animatedknots.com](http://www.animatedknots.com) is a very interesting web site. Knots are grouped by areas of interest or you can go into The Knot List link and find the knots by name. Each knot automatically ties itself and you can run the animation fast, slow, or step by step. If you have use for a particular knot but don’t know the name of it, go to the area you want and look in the Uses page. Example: Go to Fishing, scroll down to Welcome, click on Various Uses.

# Fun for kids of all ages

## Flambeau River State Forest

Sandra Lehmann



### Across

4. \_\_\_\_\_ bears live in our forest
5. \_\_\_\_\_ like to lay their eggs in the gravel shoulders on the roads
7. A plant that produces itching and blisters in people who are sensitive
8. County in which the Flambeau River State Forest is located
11. A heavysset, short legged, slow moving rodent
12. A bird arriving in spring looking for earthworms
15. A place where people set up tents for a weekend escape
16. A playful animal with a long slim body and relatively short limbs with web paws that swims in our lake
17. A popular lake in the Flambeau River State Forest
18. Member of the weasel family that feeds on porcupines
19. \_\_\_\_\_ perform their mating ritual by drumming

### Down

1. Wild \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes feed at bird feeders and in cow pastures
2. The campground at \_\_\_\_\_, in the Flambeau River State Forest, that stays open all winter
3. \_\_\_\_\_ blackbirds have scarlet shoulder patches fringed with yellow
6. April \_\_\_\_\_ bring May flowers
9. Your headlights, shining on this animal, will show white eyes
10. \_\_\_\_\_ butterflies head back from Mexico to American and Canadian breeding grounds each spring
13. A popular activity on the North Fork of the Flambeau River
14. A large waterbird that has a long pointed bill

## Can you identify these tracks?



## CRYPTOGRAM

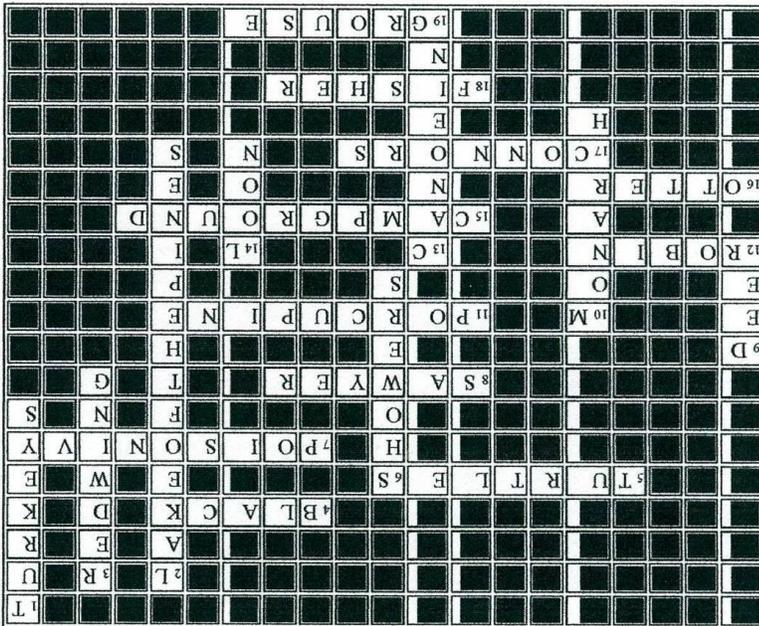
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
3	1	8	22	26	6	2	14	15	20	10	12	7	13	21	24	11	23	9	4	18	16	19	25	5	17

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 9 18 7 7 26 23 4 15 7 26    3 4    4 14 26    12 3 10 26    15 9

\_ E \_ A \_ I \_ \_    A \_ \_    \_ U \_  
 23 26 12 3 25 15 13 2    3 13 22    6 18 13

To solve the cryptogram fill in the letter that corresponds to the numbers below the blanks

# Answer Keys



1. Black Bear
2. Turkey
3. Porcupine
4. Human
5. Raccoon
6. River Otter
7. Gray Squirrel

S U M M E R T I M E    A T    T H E    L A K E    I S  
 9 18 7 7 26 23 4 15 7 26    3 4    4 14 26    12 3 10 26    15 9  
 R E L A X I N G    A N D    F U N  
 23 26 12 3 25 15 13 2    3 13 22    6 18 13

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
3	1	8	22	26	6	2	14	15	20	10	12	7	13	21	24	11	23	9	4	18	16	19	25	5	17

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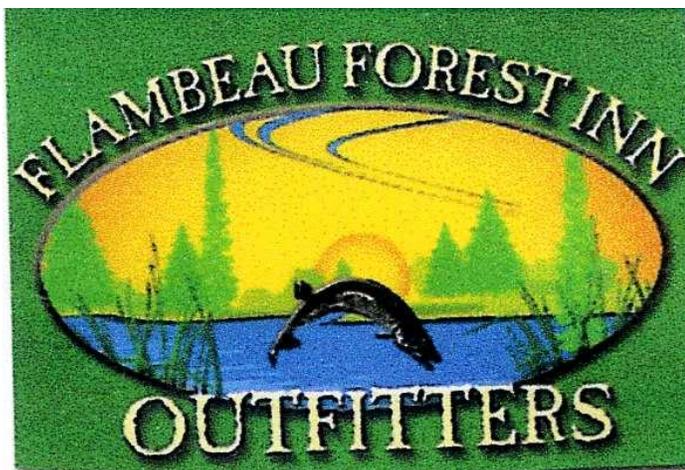
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