

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

A message from Tom Stram, President

First of all I would like to thank Gene Johnson for his excellent leadership of the Co/Pa/Pi Lake Association since it's inception in September of 2003. Also like to express appreciation to Carolyn Mealman (and her husband Wally) for serving on the Board, checking the water levels regularly on Connors Lake come rain or shine, leading the Clean Boats Clean Waters program, lake quality monitoring and Loon Watch. We will miss the late Charles Sorenson for asking the difficult questions and helping to keep the board going in the right direction. Thanks to Mark LaVick and Ellen Cernjar for managing the raffle and raising a little over \$4,000 on behalf of the Lake Association. I would also like to thank our Corresponding Secretary, Sandra Lehmann for her technical skills and hard work, our Recording Secretary Ellen Cernjar for taking complete minutes of our meetings, and Esther Johnson for keeping track of our money. Welcome to our new board members at large—Nancy Sorensen, Brian Fink, and Tom Deinhammer. The future of our Association depends on someone stepping forward and accepting the vacant position of Vice-President.

During the next two years I would like to do a better job of managing the Aquatic Invasive Species on Connors Lake. We should also increase our efforts at keeping Lake of the Pines free from Eurasian water-milfoil. Following approval of our Aquatic Plant Management Plan in spring we applied for an Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment grant in August of this year. The approval process has become politicized but our consultant for grant applications thinks that we have a good chance of receiving the grant. Eurasian water-milfoil mapping of Connors Lake was performed by the WDNR this summer and of both lakes by a consultant this fall. The results will determine the size of our herbicide treatment next spring.

In addition to the above efforts we should also consider developing a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan for both lakes to include improvement of existing fisheries, development of a new cold water fishery, maintaining high water quality and, yes, restoration of a dam or spillway on Connors Lake.

CoPaPi Board of Directors

Officers

President	Tom Stram	term ends 2010
Vice President		term ends 2010
Treasurer	Esther Johnson	term ends 2009
Recording Secretary	Ellen Cernjar	term ends 2010
Corresponding Secretary	Sandra Lehmann	term ends 2009

Board Members at Large

Gordie Dukerschein, Dave Cooley, Dave Schiotz, Mark LaVick	term ends 2009
Dale Lehmann, Nancy Sorensen, Brian Fink, Tom Deinhammer	term ends 2010

Carolyn Mealman our past recording secretary, past board member, and faithful contributor to our newsletter, was in a very serious car accident on September 27. The accident occurred on Hwy W past the county line on her way into Phillips bringing bake goods to her church bake sale. She is in St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield and after one month she is definitely improving, she can see visitors for a very short time, and has started reading her cards, etc. Carolyn has good spirit and determination which is helping with her long expected recovery. The family thanks everyone for their thoughts, concerns, and prayers.

Our Cash Raffle was held Saturday, September 27, 2008 at The Cabin on Connors Lake. The CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association, Inc. would like to thank everyone who participated in our cash raffle and congratulate the winners.

2008 Cash Raffle Winners

\$2500	Len Ironside	Wisconsin Rapids
\$1000	Sarah Teigen	North Oaks, MN
\$500	Ed Rowe	Winter
\$300	Hal Woolworth	Marshfield

\$150 Winners

Chris Demeulenaere	Brookfield
Audrey Bluhm	Marshfield
Ellen Cernjar	Eau Claire
Allan Westergard	Poynette
Elyne & Ken Patenaude	Winter
Kari Prettyman	Winter

\$100 Winners

Totem Pole Liquor	Phillips
Katie Teigen	North Oaks, MN
Mark Stram	West Bend
Margaret Meisner	Winter
Pat Bebak	Winter
Esther Johnson	Winter
Tom Irwin	Braidwood, IL
Terry Strouf	Ojibwa
Diann Raczynski	Phillips
Bill George	Winter

What's in Your Tackle Box? It's time to Get the Lead Out!

Lead fishing tackle can kill loons, eagles, swans, and other aquatic wildlife that are dependent on Wisconsin lakes, rivers, and streams. All it takes is one lead sinker to kill a loon. For a penny more this could be prevented with a non-toxic equivalent.

Lead is a toxic metal, yet tons of lead are deposited in Wisconsin's environment annually through hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. Lead deposited in the environment will persist indefinitely and will not break down over time into less-toxic compounds. Lead poisoning has been documented in 25 species of water birds. Lead sinkers and jigs used in sport fishing are a significant source of adult Common Loon deaths, accounting for 46% of deaths in New England, 30% in Canada, and 17% in Minnesota. This spring the DNR's wildlife health lab examined 11 dead loons from across Wisconsin and found that more than half died from lead toxicity. Of those with lead poisoning, a high percentage was found to have lead fishing sinkers or jigs in their digestive tract.

You can prevent lead poisoning in wildlife:

- Replace lead jigs and sinkers with non-toxic equivalents made of tin, bismuth, steel or tungsten.
- Ask your sporting goods store to carry non-lead products.
- Dispose of old lead sinkers and jigs properly.
- Instill conservation ethics in your kids and grandkids by outfitting their tackle boxes with non-lead tackle.

Spread the word. Tell others about the problem and encourage them to switch to non-lead fishing tackle and ammunition. You can help by distributing "Get the Lead Out" educational "rack cards" to your friends, local sporting goods distributors, and sportsman's clubs. Go to <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/leadpoisoning.htm> to view the card online and obtain cards for distribution.

Enjoy fishing without poisoning wildlife by using non-toxic fishing tackle.

*Submitted by John Haack, UWEX, St. Croix Basin
Natural Resource Educator*



Invasive Plants in the Flambeau River State Forest

Garlic Mustard is a cool season biennial herb with stalked, triangular to heart shaped, coarsely toothed leaves that give off an odor of garlic when crushed. First-year plants appear as a rosette of green leaves close to the ground. Rosettes remain green through the winter and develop into mature flowering plants the following spring. Flowering plants of garlic mustard reach from 2 to 3-½ feet in height and produce button like clusters of small white flowers, each with four petals in the shape of a cross.



Garlic mustard poses a severe threat to native plants and animals in the forest. Many native wildflowers that complete their life cycles in the springtime (spring beauty, wild ginger, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, hepatica, toothwort, and trilliums) occur in the same habitat as garlic mustard. Once introduced to an area, garlic mustard out competes native plants by aggressively monopolizing light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space. Wildlife species that depend on these early plants for their foliage, pollen, nectar, fruits, seeds and roots, are deprived of these essential food sources when garlic mustard replaces them.

Buckthorn is either common or glossy. Both are tall shrubs reaching 20-25 feet in height and 10 inches in diameter. Both have the potential to spread very aggressively in large numbers because they thrive in habitats ranging from full sun to shade. This shading has a particularly destructive effect on herbaceous and low shrub communities, and may prevent the establishments of tree seedling.



Bush **Honeysuckles** are dense, upright deciduous shrubs (3 to 10 feet in height) with shallow roots; opposite, simple and oval or oblong leaves and yellow, orange, or red berries. Flowering occurs May-June, and produces fragrant, tubular flowers arranged in pairs. The distribution of bush honeysuckle is aided by birds, which consume the ripened fruit in summer and disperse the seeds over long distances. The vigorous growth inhibits development of native shrub and ground layer species by shading and depleting soil moisture and nutrients. The early leafing is injurious to spring plants which have not bloomed before trees and shrubs have leafed out.



Elk in Wisconsin

In February, 1995, 25 elk were trapped, held in a quarantine facility for 90 days while undergoing rigorous disease testing, and shipped to the Clam Lake release site. After being held in a pen for a 2-week acclimation period, the elk were released into the Chequamegon National Forest on May 17, 1995.

At the end of Elk Year 2007/2008 (just before the beginning of the start of the 2008 calving season) there was an estimated 123 elk. A 94% pregnancy rate was observed this year compared to 92% last year, however, also observed was 6% of newborns being stillborn and a 26% mortality of calves (to July 7, 2008). It is estimated that with surviving calves, there are now 150 elk in the Clam Lake elk herd (this also factors in the loss of Cow #8 around July 5th).

There was an investigation into a report that an adult bull had drowned in the West Fork of the Chippewa River. An unmarked bull (assigned number: Bull 120) was found that was about 5 years old. Apparently it had drowned before "break up" in March. During the calving season Cow 26's and Cow 8's calves were stillborn (calves U236 and U254). Calf M248 was attacked by an unknown, small predator, and calves F240 and M245 were killed by bears.

Bald Eagle—our national symbol

The adult eagle's most distinctive characteristic is its white head. The white head and tail contrast with its dark brown body. Its large bill, feet and eyes are yellow. Immature bald eagles are dark brown with only scatterings of white on the under wings and tail. The head and tail feathers don't turn white until the birds are four or five years old. Immature eagles' feet are yellow but their bills and eyes are brown.



The Mississippi River valley is an ideal wintering habitat for the bald eagle. There is food, shelter, and a good source of lifting winds in this area. The bald eagle prefers fish and the river has an abundance of species to catch or scavenge. Eagles will also go inland where food sources are available. Eagles need deep valleys to roost in at night for protection from wind and cold. Eagles use perching trees near open water feeding areas for resting and searching for food. As the cold air of the morning warms it lifts. The greatest lifting action occurs along the river bluffs. Eagles take advantage of this lifting action and can be seen soaring along the bluffs for hours utilizing this free wind. As long as there is open water on the river there will be eagles in the area.

Emerald Ash Borer

This is a destructive metallic green beetle native to Asia. In 2002, Michigan became the first state to fall victim to the invasive pest, which is suspected to have entered the US by hitchhiking on a plane from Asia. Wisconsin is the 10th state to be invaded by the beetle.



The ash borer kills ash trees when their larvae, which live under the bark, interrupt the flow of water and nutrients in the vascular system of the trees. Ash trees exhibiting classic signs of emerald ash borer activity will often have dead crowns with much of the rest of the tree missing its leaves.

It has killed 40 million trees from Maryland to Missouri in the past six years. Wisconsin is home to 725 million ash trees, including 5 million in the state's cities. Ash trees have often been planted in many urban areas as replacements for elms, which were decimated by Dutch elm disease a generation ago.

Firewood is a common carrier that transports emerald ash borers from place to place. State officials have imposed limits on moving firewood onto state properties since 2006 when the insect was discovered in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The recent discovery of ash borer has prompted state agriculture authorities to quarantine ash and some other wood products, such as tree trimmings in Washington, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Fond du Lac counties.

While there are pesticides that have successfully controlled infestations, experts said there is no foolproof measure to kill the bug.

From September 2008 WAL e-lake Letter

To protect our parks and forests from firewood hitch hikers, the WDNR has created a permanent rule which prohibits bringing firewood onto any WDNR property from more than 50 miles away or from outside of Wisconsin.



Otter Report

In the middle of October Dave Schiotz's son, Matt, came upon eight otters crossing County W at the bridge by the picnic park. They were on their way to Little Papoose from Connors Lake.



Clean Boats/Clean Waters

By Dave Cooley



I am writing this on behalf of all the people that benefit from the Clean Boats/Clean Waters volunteers who inspect incoming and outgoing boats at the Connors Lake boat ramp. These volunteers also educate boaters, answer questions, and hand out information about invasive species.

A big THANK YOU to Carolyn and Wally Mealman, Sandra Lehmann, Lee Swanson, Laura Marusinec, Sarah Happe, Tom Stram, Gordie Dukerschein, Randal Mack, Kathy Meuris, Gene Johnson, Ellen Cernjar, and Harold Cooley and family. It is not always easy to give up family and play time on the Holiday weekends, but these volunteers did that, and we all benefit.

This summer my father, son, and I decided that the fish in Connors Lake were too smart for us, so we took our boat out of Connors Lake to see if the fish in Lake of the Pines were less particular about what they would bite on. We trailed up to Lake of the Pines and just before we backed down the ramp, we realized we had dragged along some weeds from Connors Lake. With our lower lake levels this is probably more likely now. Fortunately, the weeds were not Eurasian Water Milfoil, and we cleaned our trailer before entering Lake of the Pines. But, this was a wakeup call as to how easy it is to carry plants from one lake to another. Considering that we have at least one invasive species, Eurasian Water Milfoil in Connors Lake, it is equally important that we inspect boats entering and leaving Connors Lake, to be sure that boaters are not bringing it in or transporting it to another location.

Please consider volunteering next summer at the Connors Lake boat ramp, and perhaps with enough help we can also have inspectors at Lake of the Pines. We monitor the boat landing the weekends of Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day. For every volunteer hour, CoPaPi Lake Association is credited with \$12 that is subtracted from our share of the grant & lake treatment costs. Our volunteering PAYS US BACK. Sign up sheets are at the lake association general meetings or you can email me ahead of time and say that you will volunteer your time. My email is dcooley1@prodigy.net. We sign up for two hour shifts and, if you feel more comfortable, we will pair you up with a past volunteer. Again—many, many thanks to those who helped this year.

Self-Help Volunteer Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN)

By Sandra Lehmann

Again this summer Tom Stram, Dave Schiotz, and Sandra and Dale Lehmann monitored the water in Connors Lake on six different dates.

To monitor the water clarity the Secchi (black and white) 8" diameter disc was lowered into the water until it could no longer be seen. The depth (in feet), at that point, was recorded.

We recorded the dissolved oxygen and water temperature every 5 feet until 75 feet was reached. This was done with the oximeter that the lake association purchased.

To measure the phosphorus and chlorophyll in the lake a water sample was collected and mailed to the lab.

You can access the reports at www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes.

1. On the left side, under Popular Topics, click Citizen Lake Monitoring
2. Under Monitoring Results click Reports & Data
3. Scroll down and click on Sawyer County
4. Find Connors Lake—over on the right you will find Reports, click on Reports
5. Under Annual Report, click on Create Reports

You will be able to view the data I recorded after it was collected on Connors Lake and also view data for other lakes that interest you.

You might also want to look at the Clean Boats/Clean Waters data. Follow the directions listed above except in #1 click on Clean Boats, Clean Waters. Connors Lake is in Sawyer County, Northern Region. Tom Stram is now recording the 2008 data and you can also look at the 2007 data.

Your spring newsletter will be mailed the first full week of May, 2009. We encourage you to suggest topics of interest and to contribute articles you would like to see in the newsletter. Please submit these and any comments to me. Drop off at the house—N3094 Johnson Road, call—715.332.5101, or email me at sjl@pctcnet.net
Deadline for spring newsletter is Wednesday, April 22, 2009. Thanks, Sandra Lehmann

Animal Scat

Scat is a very important part of animal tracking but it is often ignored or passed over because of our human tendency to look upon it as dirty. However, this is another way to identify the species that are present in an area, and even determine what they are eating in that location. Scientists studying scat can determine the health of the individual animal by analyzing the chemical content of this material, as well as looking for seeds, plant parts, berries, and other indicators of the animal's diet. Predator scat often contains large amounts of hair and bones from the prey. Rabbit and other herbivore scat usually contain only plant material.

Raccoon scat is often found in piles in trees or at the base of trees known as latrines. At certain times of the year it can consist totally of wild black cherry pits, beetle parts, or blackberries. Raccoons are extremely omnivorous.



Fresh **whitetail deer** scat will be a light brownish green and very moist with a sheen on it and soft. Older scat will be dark, almost black and very hard. Deer scat is oblong and dimpled, while **rabbit** scat is like little brown marbles about 1/4 to 3/16 inch in diameter and very round. In color, rabbit scat will appear dark to medium chestnut brown when fresh, and light brown to almost white when old. In summer, deer and rabbit scat is softer and darker, while in winter it is more fibrous.



Fresh **northern river otter** scat usually includes fish or crayfish and has a greenish tint.



Muskrat scat can be found on rocks and logs above the waterline. The scat is composed of little pellets stuck together, although sometimes the pellets are separate.



Fresh **Coyote** Scat

This is fresh coyote scat. You can see persimmon seeds in this scat, which demonstrates that coyotes are not always carnivorous.



Old **Coyote** Scat

This is an old coyote scat. It is made up of mostly rabbit and rodent hair with some beetle parts and gravel. Generally, scat over 3/4 of an inch in diameter is considered coyote, rather than fox scat.



Beaver

This is a picture of a tree that has been gnawed by beaver.



Piles of twigs with the bark gnawed off can be spotted from far away. These are beaver feeding stations or feed beds.



This chunk of femur was gnawed upon by a rodent in search of calcium. Notice that the tooth marks on the left side of the bone are very small, too small to be those of a squirrel, rat, or chipmunk. They are less than a millimeter wide, and probably belong to a white footed mouse or deer mouse.



Since 1978, the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute has recorded information on the common loon. A loon's location of breeding, number of adults and young, and time of residence on particular waterways are crucial for determining the loon's status and survival rate in Wisconsin. In spring and summer, Sigurd Olson Environmental staff and volunteers throughout the state help achieve project goals by monitoring loon populations on lakes and reporting valuable nesting information. It's not an easy life for the common loon. Nesting sites are gradually being decreased because of shoreline development. Harassment (both intentional and unintentional) by lake users has regrettably added to mortality. Both air and land pollution has decreased the loon's chance for survival. Take care of our loons.



This is the first in a series of articles about the history of the people
on
Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines.

Bodinus family—east shore of Connors Lake

William Schnell Bodinus wrote the following for his 75th wedding anniversary recollections.

Bill and Evelyn's 75th anniversary was August 22, 2006. Evelyn passed away December 2007, at 97 years, and Bill passed away May 2008, at 99 years. They were married 76 years.

We learned of the beauty of Connors Lake in the late 20's. I had been doing business with the Phillips Getchow Company. Their estimator was named Jack Needler. He had purchased two, approximately 40 acre, plots from Hines Lumber Company at a cost of \$8.00 per acre for the cut-over timber land. These plots were on a lake in Wisconsin called Connors Lake

In 1938 Al Crump and I went to a convention (ASRAE) at Mackinac and we stopped at Jack's cottage on the way back. We stayed at Ray's place—a log saloon with a few rooms on the second floor—now known as Big Bear. The following year Jack convinced me to buy Lot #3, which was 37 acres, at \$15.00 per acre.

In early 1941, Evelyn and I went up to Connors Lake and had the first section of our cottage built for \$175 (20' x 24'). I sold half of the property to Evelyn's cousin's brother Edwin Hanke, for \$15.00 per acre and he had a duplicate cabin built in the fall of 1941, which was finished in December 1941. Edwin Hanke was the father of Glen Hanke who still owns the property.

The Bodinus family is still enjoying Connors Lake—mostly on the long holiday weekends when 22 of them get together. A frequent visitor is Evelyn's cousin's granddaughter (who married a pilot) via floatplane.



Information from Jim Halvorson, Superintendent, Flambeau River State Forest

The forest employs 11 permanent staff and 15 part time (summer) people. Some of them are: Judy—visitor service associate/program assistant, Maggie—forester, Heidi—assistant forest superintendent/forester, Courtney—naturalist/camp host, Diane—forestry tech/campground assistant, Laura—facility repair/river sites, Lynn—visitor associate/dispatcher, Roy—forestry tech advance, Dave and Scott—ranger enforcement officers, Chris and Chris—forestry tech, Andy—facility repair/forestry tech, Jeremy—facility repair, and Don—from Winter, gives us 600 hours in fire control/forestry tech.

The forest office makes good use of the prison crew and they help with the ski trails, road work, brushing of the trails, maintenance of gates, and painting. The forest office crew is kept busiest during the winter months administering the timber sales. Allowable timber cut for the forest is 2000 acres which is dispersed over multiple sales which equal close to \$1,000,000 per year. It takes two years to complete the cut of the sale and most of that is done during the winter months.

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 on-line Issues Questionnaire, follow this link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/StateForests/SF-Flambeau/>. The questionnaires are due **November 14, 2008**.

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.

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".

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.

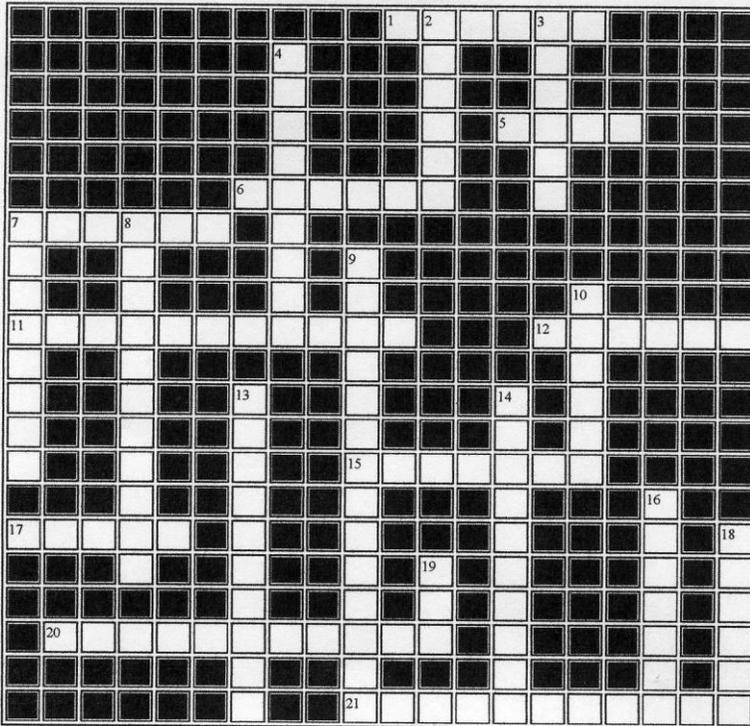
1980's Clean up of the storm continued into the early 1980's. Evidence of the storm can still be seen from unsalvaged timber still tilting to the west. Two new additions to the forest were made in the mid 1980's. Bass Lake was acquired along with some surrounding property. It was immediately classified 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 Turtle-Flambeau 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.

Fun for kids of all ages

Fall in the Flambeau River State Forest

Sandra Lehmann



Down

2. _____ are part of the crow family but are larger than crows
3. A pumpkin is really a _____
4. The species of deer that we see in the woods is called _____
7. Birds love _____ sunflower seed
8. _____ are red and grown around the area
9. This campground is open all year
10. The leaves on the trees turn vivid _____ in the fall
13. _____ has been judged the best pumpkin and is easy to grow from seed
14. _____ is a popular past time on the lakes in the winter
16. Something big and round that we like to carve is called a _____
18. _____ is traditional at the Thanksgiving meal
19. Soon _____ will cover the lakes and streams

Across

1. Sharp-tailed _____ are largely known for their springcourtship display on clearings called "dancing grounds."
5. Of all plants (trees) _____ top the list as a food source for wildlife.
6. _____ are all over the ground in the fall
7. A _____ resembles a large domestic cat with a short tail
11. This campground is only open Memorial Day-Labor Day.
12. The largest members of the dog family are _____
15. You see many wild _____ along County M and W
17. A _____ looks very much like a mouse but has a long tapering snout
20. A gun deer hunter must wear _____
21. A popular hiking area in the state forest along County M

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
21	19	5	20	11	22	6	8	14	17	16	4	3	18	15	25	26	23	24	13	10	1	7	2	9	12

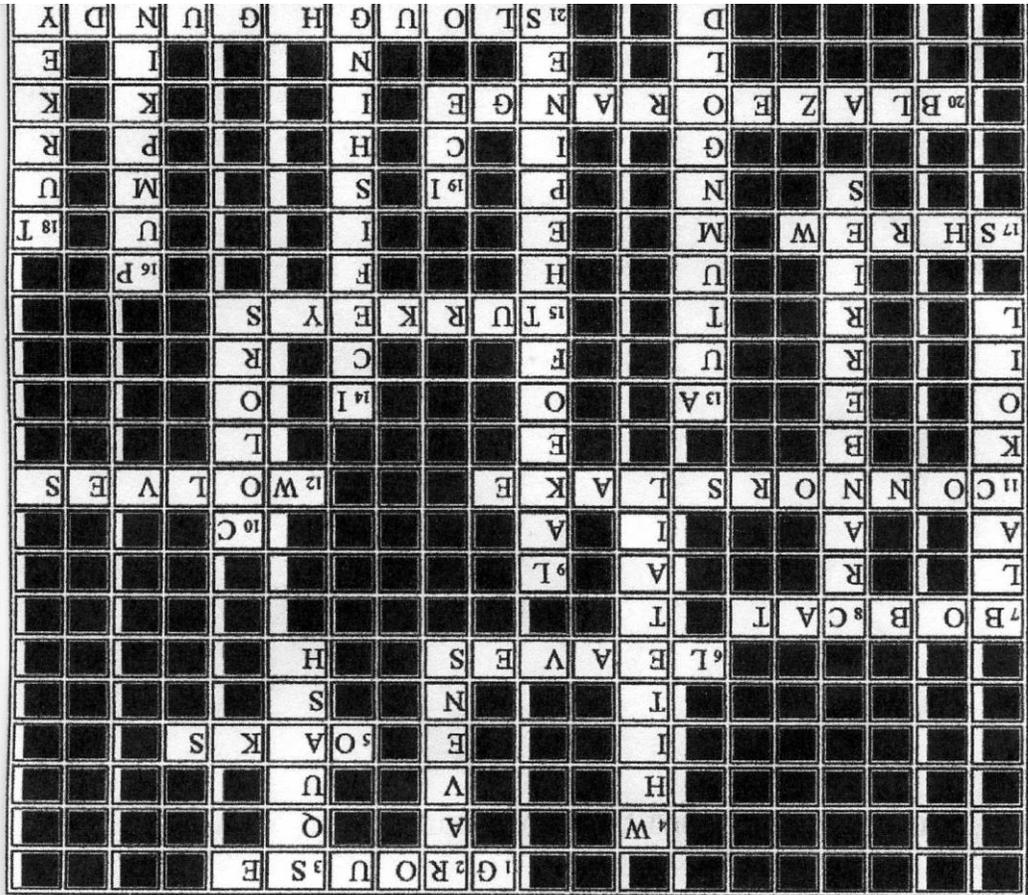
To solve the cryptogram fill in the letter that corresponds to the numbers below the blanks

____ 15 18 ____ 8 21 4 4 15 7 11 11 18 ____ 18 14 6 8 13 ____ 13 8 11

____ 6 23 11 21 13 ____ 25 10 3 25 16 14 18 ____ 23 14 24 11 24 ____ 15 10 13 ____ 15 22

____ 13 8 11 ____ 25 10 3 25 16 14 18 ____ 25 21 13 5 8

Answer Keys



THE PUMPKIN PATCH
 13 8 11 25 10 3 25 16 14 18 25 21 13 5 8

GREAT PUMPKIN RISES OUT OF
 6 23 11 21 13 25 10 3 25 16 14 18 23 14 24 11 24 15 10 13 15 22

ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT THE
 15 18 8 21 4 4 15 7 11 11 18 18 14 6 8 13 13 8 11

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
21	19	5	20	11	22	6	8	14	17	16	4	3	18	15	25	26	23	24	13	10	1	7	2	9	12

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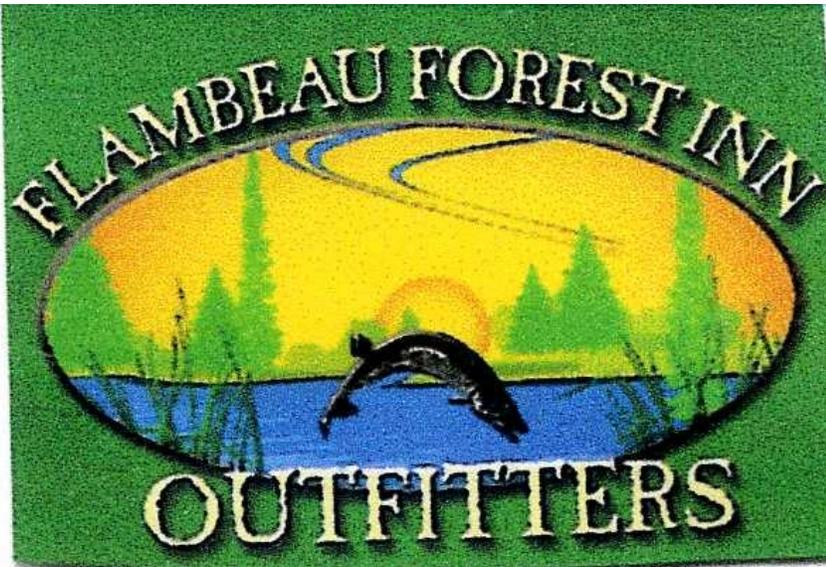
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