

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

A message from Tom Stram, President

We are all looking forward to some quality time "up north" this summer but as I am writing this article there are still several feet of ice covering our lakes. Let us hope and pray the drought ends this summer.

Two meetings relevant to our lakes took place this winter. On September 27, 2008 a meeting was held to hear public comments concerning the development of the Flambeau River State Forest Master Plan on topics including the river corridor, ecosystem management, ATV trails, camping and connectivity to other public lands. The second meeting, held on December 6, 2008, was to develop goals and objectives for a Fishery Management Plan for the lakes of the Flambeau River State Forest (FRSF). The initial presentation on the history and status of FRSF lake fisheries by Dave Neuswanger and Jeff Scheier of the WDNR was informative. Thanks to Tom Deinhammer for arranging this meeting. Unfortunately, the goals and objectives of the plan will not be implemented for several years.

Those of you who are interested in learning more about lake issues might consider attending the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership meeting held every March in Green Bay, Wisconsin. A mini version of this meeting called the NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference is held the end of June at Telemark Lodge in Cable, Wisconsin.

The Lake Association has not forsaken the low lake level issue and solicits your ideas in the enclosed survey. We are looking for more volunteers to serve as officers and board members, boat inspectors, water quality testers and more. Start your volunteering by spending two hours at the boat landing helping us keep our lakes free of aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels or helping tabulate the results of the lake survey included in this newsletter or setting up a web site for the lake association—to name just a few.

Remember to perform Lake CPR—Be Courteous, Polite, and Respectful

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

2009 General Membership Meetings at Connors Lake Pavilion

Saturday May 23	Memorial Day Weekend
Saturday July 4	Association Annual Meeting—Independence Day Weekend Election will be held for terms ending in 2009
Saturday September 5	Labor Day Weekend

All meetings will begin at **9:00 am** (note the time change from previous years)

The fall newsletter will be mailed in November, 2009. Please submit your contributions or mention items you would like to see in future newsletters by October 21 to Sandra Lehmann. Drop off at the house, call 715.332.5101 or email sjl@pctcnet.net

Important Wisconsin Legislative Information

Phosphorus lawn fertilizer bill passed by Governor Doyle

Governor Doyle signed the "Clean Lakes" bill into law on April 14th. Wisconsin now has a statewide law which prohibits the display, sale, and use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus, with certain reasonable exceptions. Passage of this bill has made Wisconsin a national leader and a model for other states. The bill is 2009 Wisconsin Act 9 and is available online at (click "fertilizer" in the subject index in the left hand navigation bar):

<http://nxt.legis.state.wi.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&d=indxacts&jd=top>

The prohibitions against display, sale, and use of phosphorus lawn fertilizer will take effect next year. The delay gives retailers time to order phosphorus free lawn fertilizer for next year; many stores place inventory orders a year in advance.

The Wisconsin Association of Lakes member lake associations, lake districts, and concerned citizens from across the state worked together to advance this bill, which is modeled after Dane County's existing and successful county ordinance.

Nutrients like phosphorus—a common ingredient in lawn fertilizer—are degrading 90% of Wisconsin's inland lakes. Plants don't absorb more phosphorus than they can use, and excess phosphorus from lawns washes directly into our lakes and streams, causing smelly algae blooms, fish kills, and declining water quality.

Aquatic invasive species transport bill

The Legislature has introduced a bill ([SB 123](#) and companion bill [AB 162](#)) that would improve regulation of aquatic invasive species. On April 22 the Natural Resources Board unanimously approved the Invasive Species Classification rule (NR 40). The rule will now move forward to the legislature for approval.

This bill offers some technical changes to improve upon the "illegal to transport" language that was passed in the supplemental budget bill in May of 2008. Current law prohibits "invasive species" from being transported on a highway. This bill would prohibit the transport of aquatic plants or animals on a vehicle of any kind on a public highway.

This bill would prohibit the launch of watercraft (expanded to include any vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object of any kind) with aquatic plants or animals attached. Authority for law enforcement officials is also broadened under this bill.

This bill would give the Department of Natural Resources authority to respond to invasive species that are new to Wisconsin, or are an increasing threat to Wisconsin resources.

Slow-no-wake bill passes Legislature!

A bill ([SB 12](#)) that will establish a statewide slow no wake zone for motorboats within 100 feet of a lake's shoreline awaits the Governor's signature to become law. This bill is a positive step forward to preserve water quality, prevent shoreline deterioration, and improve public safety for citizens who are fishing, swimming, and paddling on our shorelines.

Boating too close to shorelines can contribute to shoreline erosion problems, reduce water clarity by stirring up lake bed sediments, release phosphorus—the nutrient responsible for algae blooms—from lake bed sediments, and harm fish habitat when propellers uproot shore land plants.

A provision within the bill allows local boating ordinances to extend slow-no-wake zones farther away from the shore (for example, 200 feet as Dane County has done). Local boating ordinances may also specify slow-no-wake zones that are less than 100 feet from the shoreline. This provision recognizes that there are some locations where a more localized approach may be desirable to accommodate recreational use. An exemption is also included for water-skiers pick up and drop off zones.

Independent DNR Secretary bill

A bill has been introduced ([AB 138](#)) that would have the appointment of the DNR Secretary decided by the Natural Resources Board rather than the Governor. The bill has broad bi-partisan support with 68 legislators signed on as co-sponsors. Many conservation groups, including the Wisconsin Association of Lakes support this initiative.

Governor Doyle has publicly supported an Independent DNR Secretary both as Governor and as Attorney General, but has recently reversed his position in a March 3, 2009 letter to citizens. If this issue is important to you, we encourage you to contact the [Governor's office](#) with your opinion.

2009 Cash Raffle
Will be similar to last year with
tickets available Memorial Day
weekend. Please support our lake
association.

WCLMN (Wisconsin Citizens Lake Monitoring Network) by Dave Schiotz

WCLMN is a group of volunteers that sample our lakes for various parameters and submit this data to the DNR. Each lake has its own Identification Number so that any data collected for Connor's Lake or Lake of the Pines would be specific to that lake and used by the DNR for future recommendations.

WHAT DATA DO WE COLLECT?

Secchi Disk Reading—Twice/month, May - early October. This device measures the water clarity.

Phosphorus—Once/month, May - August, during the last two weeks of the month. Phosphorus is the major nutrient influencing pl.

Chlorophyll A—Once/month during the last two weeks of June - August. The amount of chlorophyll present in lake water depends on the amount of algae and is therefore used as a common indicator of water quality and growth in 80% + of our WI lakes.

Temperature Profile—Any time, May - October, usually in conjunction with Secchi and Dissolved Oxygen measurements. Temperature is measured every five feet at the deepest part of the lake. Measuring the temperature of a lake at different depths determines the influence temperature has on the physical, biological, and chemical aspects of a lake. Water temperature affects the rate of decomposition, nutrient recycling, lake stratification and dissolved oxygen near the bottom. Temperature can have an effect on the type of life found in a lake.

Dissolved Oxygen—Taken with temperature, May - October. Dissolved oxygen (DO) is a vital characteristic of a lake because the level of oxygen influences the lake's biological, chemical, and physical characteristics. The amount of oxygen in the water at various depths is directly influenced by temperature, atmospheric pressure and the interaction of aquatic plants.

WHY DO WE DO THIS?

It is FUN and interesting! It is also important to have baseline data for our lakes so that any changes can be noted and investigated by DNR scientists. In the development of a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan, data we have been collecting will be very important.

WHO ARE OUR LAKE MONITORS for 2009?

Connors Lake—Jeff and Sherry Hansen, Dale and Sandy Lehmann, Dave Schiotz, Tom Stram, and Hal Woolworth. **Lake of the Pines** (new this year)—Tom Deinhammer and Jim Schofield

Sandy Lehmann inputs all of our data to the DNR which is really a big help.

Training is available to help with the equipment etc. so anyone can do it! If you are interested in helping please contact me, Dave Schiotz, N3216 Johnson Road, 332-5164.

Fishery News by Tom Deinhammer

Greg Cernjar, Jim Schofield, and I make up the fish committee. We have been very busy since fall.

Fishery Meeting with WDNR—December 6, 2008

This was a local stakeholder meeting to develop goals and objectives for a Fishery Management Plan for lakes on the Flambeau River State Forest (FRSF).

Dave Neuswanger, WDNR (Hayward) presented perspectives on fishery management planning and Jeff Scheirer, WDNR (Park Falls) presented the history and status of the FRSF Lake Fisheries.

Seventeen interested people were present including the fish committee and many of our lake association board members. We were able to discuss, with Dave and Jeff, what the people in the FRSF would like to see accomplished in our area.

Several items were discussed at the meeting. The WDNR is going to put in a new boat landing on Evergreen Lake and hopes to have it done by this summer. We established and voted on what types of fish we would like to see in our lakes. There will be a full survey and fyke netting done in 2011 or 2012. Jeff Scheirer has noticed a decline of walleyes in Connors Lake and is wondering if there is a big population of largemouth bass in the lake. If that is the case they may have to plant larger fingerlings of walleye.

Lake of the Pines will have early netting done this spring to see how the muskies are doing. When we talked to Dave Neuswanger in September we asked him if we could do anything to help improve the spawning activity such as rock reefs, gravel bars on windy points and log cribs. He gave us studies of those types of structures used in different lakes in our area with varying results. It has been a very interesting past few months working with Dave and Jeff and we look forward to many more very good meetings with them. They seem to be very willing to work with us and we hope that continues.

You can access lake monitoring 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 Sandy 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 has recorded the 2008 data and you can also look at the 2007 data.

Interesting Lake Happenings by Carolyn Mealman



LOON WATCH

Our nesting loon pair produced one chick last year—mother and chick left early in September. The males leave later and the young spend three years in the south before returning to the north. Three loons initially came back, but one left in mid-summer.

I attended a Winter Lakes Alliance meeting the first Saturday of September last year as they were having a program on loons. According to research, migrating Wisconsin loons use the flyway to the Great lakes and then make their way to the Atlantic Ocean where they fly down the coastline to winter in Florida.

As of this writing, April 17, there are two loons on the lake. I am hoping our pair has returned. We will see when nesting time comes. I hope I don't see people on PW's harassing the waterfowl this year as I did in 2008. These young birds have no defense as they do not get their flight feathers until late summer.



RETURNEES

This spring several people have spotted Otters lounging on the ice before it, melted. The otters then dive into a hole and disappear. The usual menagerie of wildlife is starting to return including two very chubby raccoons and Woodie Woodchuck. No Mrs. Yet.

TURKEY TALK

On Thursday, March 26, as we were eating lunch, a hen came into our bird feeders. Not long after, (we thought we'd seen everything the ice covered lake had to offer) two gobblers came sliding across the lake from the other side. They made their way to shore a couple of doors to the north. The very next day a tom, jake, and seven hens came in to visit. A few are still coming to enjoy what is in our feeders.



ICE OUT

Those of us who live here all year really look forward to watching the ice disappear. We left on Tuesday, April 14th with the majority of the lake covered with ice. When we drove by the park at 4 p.m. all we could see was blue water. Last year the ice didn't go out until April 26. Mother Nature always finds a little different way of melting the ice each year.

Ice out means the opening of fishing season is not far away. Since my accident, the fingers on my right hand are still numb and tingly and my grip isn't the best. So, I have been thinking of a way to tie a tether line from my rod to an "anchor" place in case I cast my rod. Can't you just see me pulling my tow line in with a big fish attached to my lure, peeling out the line in the other direction? Wow! What fun!

THANK YOU—*I do want to thank the many lake residents for all the prayers and many acts of kindness during my recovery. I have more healing to do, but am doing well.*

Clean Boats/Clean Waters by Dave Cooley



You have probably noticed Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteers checking boats at Connors boat landing. Boat inspectors perform boat and trailer checks, hand out informational brochures and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

This summer we hope to add Lake of the Pines to our boat inspections. We need volunteers to work in two hour shifts on Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day weekends. For every volunteer hour, the CoPaPi Lake Association is credited with \$12 that is subtracted from our share of the grant and lake treatment costs.

Sign up sheets are at the lake association general meetings or you can email me ahead of time at dcooley1@prodigy.net. If you like, we can pair you up with a past volunteer. Many thanks to those who have volunteered in the past and we hope you are available again this summer.

Emerald ash borer in Wisconsin

Submitted by Sandra Lehmann

The Emerald ash borer, an invasive, wood-boring beetle that attacks ash trees, was positively identified for the first time in Wisconsin in August 2008. The beetle and beetle larvae were found at a private home in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

Officials with the Wisconsin Dept of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Dept of Natural Resources announced on April 7, 2009, that the emerald ash borer (EAB) has been confirmed in Vernon County. The tiny, invasive beetle, whose larva destroys North American ash trees, was discovered in Victory, a small community along the banks of the Mississippi River, about 20 miles south of La Crosse. State officials were made aware of the infestation by an observant property owner. Vernon County becomes the third infested county in Wisconsin. EAB was discovered in Ozaukee and Washington counties last summer.

The adult emerald ash borer is a metallic green insect about one-half inch long and one-eighth inch wide. The adult female deposits eggs on the bark of ash trees. The larvae hatching from the eggs chew their way through the bark, and into the soft layer of wood just beneath. There, they eat their way through the tree's vascular system, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients in the tree, leading to decline and eventual death of the tree. EAB is native to Asia and is thought to have arrived in the United States in the early 1990s in suburban Detroit.

EAB has also been found in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia, Missouri and the Canadian Provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

To learn more about the Emerald Ash Borer visit <http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/index.jsp>

Thrills & Chills: Fireworks on Our Lakes

Submitted by Tom Stram

It was a black and sultry night. Not a breath of air was stirring. The lake's surface was as flat as glass. The first starburst lit up the sky in a wild and sizzling display of crimson and white. The water mirrored an exact duplicate, doubling the visual thrill...the Independence Day celebration had begun.

How do you remember the Fourth of July at the lake? Barbeques, sparklers, boat parades around the lake? Here, at the UW-Extension Lakes office, phone calls about the Fourth of July sometimes go like this: "What can I do about my neighbor? My canvas boat awning burned off from falling hot fireworks, my beach is full of a nasty procession of scorched cardboard and plastic remains, the smoke makes us sick and I haven't seen my dog in two days! Not to mention what that noise is doing to the loons!"

Fireworks around Independence Day are certainly an American tradition. Firing them over the water seems to be a "no brainer" as far as fire safety is concerned; yet doing so can cause human explosions. So what about fireworks around the lake?

Fireworks are big business in the USA. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the value of fireworks imported from China in 2003 was \$163.1 million, representing the bulk of fireworks imports to this country. In 2003, the U.S. consumed 220.8 million pounds of fireworks. Fireworks consist of a wide range of products with a highly variable composition. Although the available safety and environmental effect data on fireworks are often incomplete, issues with fireworks usually fall into the categories of noise, accidents, property damage and pollution.

Noise—Complaints of noise caused by fireworks are common around lakes in the beginning of July. The sounds of fireworks going off at all hours of the day and night can be more than just an annoyance. The blast can terrify pets and wild animals alike, causing them to seek a place to hide or be overcome with physical effects such as trembling. The noise from exploding fireworks can top 130 decibels (dB). According to acoustic health specialists, exposures to 105 dB for one hour can cause hearing damage. The typical lake environment has noise levels from 30 dB to 50 dB.

Accidents & Property Damage—Fireworks are dangerous. They can cause burns, loss of limbs and sometimes death. They are extremely hot -- sparklers can burn at temperatures of over 1800 degrees. On average, annually about 9,000 people are injured severely enough by fireworks to require hospital treatment. Forty-five percent of those injuries occur to children younger than 15 years old. Annually, fireworks cause over 30,000 fires nationwide, resulting in millions of dollars of property damage. Reports of fires caused by fireworks on Wisconsin lakes are most frequent in July.

Pollution—Some researchers believe heavy metal fallout from exploding fireworks poses a threat to the environment and us. Currently toxicological studies on the effects of fireworks on the environment are limited and vary in results. The solid reaction products that give us the pretty colors and special effects include a nasty bunch of chemical additives. The unknown factor is the concentrations needed to cause a problem.

Fireworks are often propelled by charges of black powder (which contain carcinogenic sulfur-coal compounds). Ammonium perchlorate, which can cause problems with the human thyroid gland, is another ingredient used in fireworks and is not a good thing to find in our water. Ammonium perchlorate has been found in ground and surface water in California, Nevada, Utah and West Virginia. White phosphorus is another toxic substance used in fireworks. Its residue can persist in aquatic environments and has caused die-offs of fish and waterfowl.

Fireworks contain a number of other toxic metals that are used to create a range of colors. Strontium produces blazing reds; copper compounds burn blue; magnesium, titanium and aluminum create brilliant white sparks. Sodium chloride generates orange-yellow fire; boric acid burns green; potassium and rubidium compounds produce purples and burning lithium glows red. Glittering greens are produced by radioactive barium. These ingredients drift on the winds and settle into our water and soils.

During the Stockholm Water Festival in 1996, air pollutant levels were measured before and after the fireworks display. Levels of airborne arsenic were found to be twice as much as normal, while levels of mercury, cadmium, lead, copper, zinc and chromium were as high as 500 times above normal. Concern about these effects on their waters and people caused organizers to switch to a more environmentally-friendly laser light show.

Another type of pollution commonly complained about on Wisconsin lakes is the fireworks packaging materials such as cardboard, wood or plastic tubes and structural parts that drift up on shore or settle on the lake bottom.

Like so many other activities that we enjoy, watching fireworks comes at a price. Some of those costs, such as the noise and cardboard waste, are immediate and visible. Others, such as the carcinogenic chemicals let loose to contribute to the pollution of our soil, water and air, are not visible and often not thought about. Celebrating this Independence Day can be more enjoyable for everyone if we are all respectful of our neighbors and wildlife, cautious in how we use fireworks and concerned with the potential impact they may have.

For information on the regulation of fireworks in Wisconsin, see Wisconsin Statute 167.10.

Lyme Disease

What is Lyme disease?

Lyme disease is an illness caused by a bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, transmitted to humans by a tiny tick named *Ixodes scapularis* (commonly called the deer tick). Lyme disease may cause signs and symptoms affecting the skin, nervous system, heart, and/or joints of an infected person. More than 12,000 cases of the disease have been reported in Wisconsin residents since surveillance for Lyme disease began in 1980.

Why is it called Lyme disease?

The first cluster of human illnesses associated with this bacterium was described near the town of Lyme, Connecticut during the mid 1970's.

Who gets Lyme disease?

Males and females of all ages can get Lyme disease but children less than 16 years old and adults more than 40 years old appear to be at higher risk. People who spend time outdoors in tick-infested environments are at increased risk of exposure and exposure can occur whenever the temperature at ground level is warm enough for ticks to be active. In Wisconsin, most cases have occurred among persons living in the western half of the state.

How is Lyme disease spread?

In Wisconsin, the disease is acquired by a tick bite from an infected deer tick. The bite of a tick is usually painless. Only nymph and female adult deer ticks transmit Lyme disease to humans and the tick must be attached for at least 24 hours to transmit the disease.

What are the symptoms of Lyme disease?

Most Lyme disease case patients report their symptoms beginning during the late spring and summer months (May through August). The illness often, but not always, starts as a roughly circular reddish rash (called erythema migrans) around or near the site of the tick bite. The rash expands in size over a period of days or weeks. During the rash stage, other symptoms such as fever, headache, fatigue, stiff neck, muscle and/or joint pain may be present. These signs and symptoms may last for several weeks. If left untreated, complications such as meningitis, facial palsy, heart abnormalities, and arthritis may occur within a few weeks to months after the initial onset of symptoms.

How soon do symptoms occur?

Early symptoms usually begin within a month of exposure. Arthritic, cardiac, and neurologist complications may take weeks or months to appear in untreated persons.

Does past infection with Lyme disease make a person immune?

Although past infection provides some immunity, this immunity is relatively short-lived. Therefore it is possible for a person to get infected more than once.

What is the treatment for Lyme disease?

The disease is treated with oral or injectable antibiotics. Lyme disease is more easily treated when detected early. Exposed persons should monitor their health and promptly see a health care provider if signs and symptoms consistent with Lyme disease (such as erythema migrans rash) develop. Remember, an infected tick must be attached for more than 24 hours to successfully transmit *B. burgdorferi* to humans.

Is there a vaccine to prevent infection?

No. Although there had been a vaccine against human Lyme disease, this vaccine is no longer marketed.

What can be done to prevent the spread of Lyme disease?

If you are in areas where ticks may be present, the following precautions may reduce the risk of acquiring Lyme disease:

- Insect repellents containing 0.5% permethrin or 20-30% DEET have been shown to be effective in repelling deer ticks. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions on the label.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and high socks with pant cuffs tucked into the socks. Light colored clothing will make ticks easier to find.
- Walk in the center of mowed trails to avoid brushing up against vegetation.
- Conduct thorough "tick checks" on yourself and your children after spending time in tick-infested areas. Prompt removal of ticks, even after they have attached, can drastically reduce the chance of Lyme disease transmission.

How should a tick be removed?

To remove an attached tick, grasp it with narrow-bladed tweezers or forceps as close as possible to attachment (skin) site, and pull upward and out with a firm and steady tension. If tweezers are not available, use fingers shielded with tissue paper or rubber gloves. Do not handle with bare hands. Be careful not to squeeze, crush or puncture the body of the tick which may contain infectious fluids. After removing the tick, thoroughly disinfect the bite site and wash hands. See or call a doctor if there is a concern about incomplete tick removal. It is important that a tick be properly removed as soon as it is discovered.



The Nelson Report by Jake Nelson and the crew at the Flambeau Forest Inn

Greetings lake home owners, visitors, and passers by. Spring has finally hit with a vengeance in the north woods and we thought we would highlight some of the events from the past year. We would also like to inform you about some of the new laws and regulations in the works for the 2009 fishing, hunting, and four-wheeling season and other upcoming events.

The 2008 fishing season turned out to be one of the best walleye bites we have seen in recent years. The early season and early ice was just the ticket for the Flambeau crew. May and June brought forth many nights and early morning double digit catches. When Memorial weekend came the musky season began and, sadly, many of the other species got neglected. We had an average year with our biggest, a 47 incher, coming from a local lake not too far from here. After many nights fishing with great people from all over the country we called it a season with a tally of 52 legal muskies--most caught during the full moon period in late July.



Lake of the Pines

Small mouth bass fishing has also turned out to be some of the best in our state. Have any of you seen those big football looking things swimming around your pier? That is most likely a big smallmouth wreaking havoc with your local minnow population.



Connors Small Mouth Bass

The ice fishing season also turned out to be successful. Red and a few other fishermen tried to clean the lake out of perch but after days and days of sitting in the shanty they decided it was impossible. Don't worry, the Connors Lake perch population is alive and well! Lake of the Pines also put out some very nice crappies with the majority of them coming in the month of January. We sold about 400 tickets for the fisheree held on February 28. Walleye, northern, and pan fish were caught. Everyone enjoyed the free food that came with their ticket purchase.

The 2008 bear season was also very successful. In case you haven't noticed, the local bear population is higher than it has been in a long time. Many of you have had a bear on your porch or have seen one at your birdfeeders or enjoying the contents of your garbage container. The biggest bear registered at the restaurant this season turned out to be a 475 pound bruiser taken by the Hanson group. We also saw many other nice ones throughout the season with total registration numbers between 20 and 30.



Grouse season was good last year but we think the population took a hit with a very cold, wet, and late spring. During the 2007 season the Flambeau Forest Inn crew were flushing anywhere from 40 to 50 birds daily. 2008 turned out to be substantially less. So far, cross your fingers, the 2009 spring has been ideal. Up to this time there have been multiple sightings and drum counts which is very promising. With warm dry weather we have perfect conditions for a successful hatch.



Deer season 2008 was a tough one. The population seems to be down substantially, although there have been some very nice shed antlers found this spring. No matter what, we will always have whitetails to chase around and the vast forests in the area always seem to hide a trophy or two.



There are some new regulations in the works. At the spring hearings there was a vote to allow tree stands on state lands over night. This passed by an overwhelming vote of 2 to 1 statewide. This issue will go in front of the Natural Resources board and hopefully will be passed.

We have also heard rumors of canceling the early antler less season. This would definitely be a big help to the local population. Years and years of t-zone seasons and one earn-a-buck season have taken its toll. One can add to that a growing wolf population and high bear numbers along with two harsh winters in a row. Maybe the does and fawns will get a break this year.



Pat Zimmerman-early bow season



Four-wheeling has also become a popular pastime. This year we are hoping to see the completion of the Georgetown loop trail, allowing riding from the Flambeau Forest into the Soo Lake area. If you have questions on the completion date of this trail contact Jim Halvorson at the State Forest Headquarters.

The 2009 outdoor season is upon us. We wish you a safe, enjoyable and, most of all, relaxing summer and fall. Good luck and we'll see you on the water or in the brush.

Northern Lights by Tom Stram

A good friend of mine and I have an unwritten agreement that if we should ever see Northern Lights we promise to call each other no matter what time of the night they occur. Once you have seen this celestial phenomenon of bands, curtains or streams of colored light in the northern sky you too will want to call all your friends and share their unforgettable beauty.

Polar lights occur in the northern and southern sky. In the northern latitudes, polar lights are called aurora borealis, named after the roman Goddess of dawn, Aurora, and the Greek name for north wind, Boreas. Southern polar lights are called aurora australis. Aurora borealis occur most often in spring (March to April) and fall (September to October) when geomagnetic storms that ignite auroras are most common. These large magnetic storms are most common during the peak of the eleven-year sunspot cycle or during the three years after that peak. Because the sunspot activity is at its lowest point now you will have to be closer to the poles where the night skies are cold and darker.

The energy source of the aurora is the solar wind flowing past the earth. The sun gives off clouds of high-speed, high-energy particles or plasma called solar wind. This solar wind travels through space and interacts with the edge of the earth's magnetic field most prominent at both poles. Some of these particles get trapped in the magnetic field and follow the lines of the magnetic force down into the earth's ionosphere (earth's atmosphere above 50 miles) colliding with gases in the ionosphere and start to glow producing the spectacle known as the auroras. The polar lights are constantly in motion and show an array of colors consisting of red, green, blue and violet. The colors depend on the different gases involved, level of solar activity and altitude.

Solar winds can generate up to 1,000,000 megawatts of electricity and can cause interference with power grids, radio and television broadcasts and satellite communications. Northern lights can be predicted with some degree of accuracy. Refer to Today's Space Weather at www.swpc.noaa.gov/today. You can even pay \$4.95/month and sign up for a phone call and e-mail whenever auroras appear over your hometown at www.spaceweather.com. Finally, it is possible to make excellent images of auroras with standard film of ISO speed 400 and a single-lens reflex camera with full aperture and exposures of 10 to 30 seconds.



Non-native Invasive Species Invading Your Backyard

By Maggie Haas, FRFS Forester

Eurasian Water milfoil, Dandelions, Asian Ladybeetles, Burdock, Dutch Elms Disease these are all non-native invasive species that are very common. Did you know that there are hundreds of other non-native invasive plants, animals, insects, diseases that are just waiting to invade your "backyard"? These invasives threaten the health of your backyard and native communities. Insects such as the Emerald ash borer and the gypsy moth can kill our beautiful ash and oak trees. Plants such as garlic mustard, reed canary grass, buckthorn, and honeysuckle displace our native plants like trillium, serviceberry, maidenhair fern, spring beauty, and violets. Invasive plants such as forget-me-not and purple loosestrife displace wetland plants like blue flag iris, boneset and joe-pye-weed. Animals such as the zebra muscle, rusty crayfish, silver carp, and the feral pig destroy native habitats, affect the food chain, and displace other animals.

Don't get discouraged about the rate that invasive species are invading your local community. There are things that one can do to protect their "backyard". First be conscious about moving firewood from long distances. Buy garden plants and trees from local growers that sell native species. Make sure not to transfer firewood farther than 50 miles. Be aware of what invasive plants, animals, and insects look like. Notify your local DNR forester if you locate any invasives and bring in a sample for identification. (Be cautious, some invasives can cause harm to humans and pets)

By being aware of exotic plants, animals, and insects together we can slow the spread of invasive plants. The DNR is committed to keeping our forests, waterways, and native plants and animals healthy. The DNR is committed to eliminating any new invasives from entering the state. If you have any questions about invasive plants, animals, or insects please contact Maggie Haas, your local WDNR Forester at (715) 332-5271 or stop in at the WDNR forest office.

Tidbits

How do birds know how to build a nest and then lay their eggs in it, and then sit on them for two weeks?

It is the male robin that has the dark orange breast—the female's breast is a lighter orange. She may even have mud on her breast from turning and forming the round layer of mud in her nest.

Robins are fussy when they start nest building. They do not start until the humidity is 50 % and the temperature ranges from 45-65 degrees.

The female makes the nest. The male brings the nesting material.

About 50 % of the bird nests are not successful—this means that many young birds die every year, many before they leave the nest.

The Johnson's in the Flambeau River State Forest and on Connors Lake

By Gene Johnson

Upon being nominated to write about our family history, I looked back at all that has occurred at this wonderful place we simply call "The Lake" and pondered where to begin. With pen and paper, I started to make a list of stories of the good old days. After the list became a page in length, I thought to include a variety of old and new stories which will help tell how my family came to live on and love Connors Lake—so here are a few.

The Johnson Family history in the Flambeau Forest goes back prior to the establishment of the Hugh Johnson Family on Connors Lake in 1944. Back in the 1900s, both of my grandparents worked in various positions at the logging camps, primarily as cooks. This was rare since women were not normally allowed to work at the camps. Although the logging camps moved with the cutting of the timber, the later camps were located about a mile past Mitchell's Corner on the way to Winter.

In the earlier days, the lakes and surrounding areas looked very different. When my family first came to the forest, it was a dense cover of virgin pine and hemlock trees as far as one could see. As many early stories and photos note, the dense tree canopy would allow a squirrel to start in Michigan and make its way to the Minnesota border tree-to-tree. This timber was later clear cut to provide lumber for the many structures built in Midwest cities from Milwaukee to St. Louis. The forest resembled a wasteland rather than the lush green forest with lakes and rivers as we know it today. The loggers left their mark with rows and rows of stumps as far as the eye could see. It was from Hines Lumber Company, in 1944, that the Johnson family purchased the lake lot on which we reside today.

A Different Neighborhood - Lake & Surroundings

In the 1940's, things were very different on the lake and the surrounding area. Only five structures were on Lone Pine Lane (northwest side of the lake). On the northeast shore line was Connors Lake Lodge & Cabins (Belsons). On the east side of the lake resided the Bodinus-Hanke families, on the island was a lodge (Peloquins), and to the southeast was Suchys (Bebaks). Hwy M was a trail through the swamps south of the lake only passable by foot. The roads as we know them today were nonexistent. Lake of the Pines Rd, Tower Hill Rd, and many others had not yet been established. Trails took the path of least resistance, often winding past structures and on to the next location via a swamp edge or an old skidding trail. Rough and tumble, by today's standards, was considered the norm and part of the way of life of the day.

Horses Fall Through Thin Ice

The water ways, Connors, Little Papoose, and Lake of the Pines, were normal skid routes for many log sleighs. Many loads of logs were taken from the surroundings and loaded on sleighs. The sleighs would either head to the north end of Lake of the Pines or south to Hines Grade to meet up with the railroad spurs. Of all the many loads which crossed Connors Lake there is the story of one that did not make it. After a heavy snow fall blanketed the area, two sleighs headed north with a load of pine logs from the south end of Connors Lake. They headed across Musky Bay to a spot close to the current boat landing. The first sleigh noticed the spring in Musky Bay and broke the common pull track skirting the dangerous area. Unfortunately, the second sleigh was not aware of the danger. It proceeded in the same common track but crossed on top of the spring, causing the team of horses to fall in followed by their sleigh.

Little Falls Log Jam

In the logging days, the river was a valuable asset to get goods to market. During the winter, with the river frozen, sleighs were used to move a lot of the wood. The areas close to the rivers were short skidded and logs were stacked on the steep river bank sections until spring. As spring came, the ice gave way to water flow, and the logs were let loose. Surge after surge of logs tended to plug the river and huge stacks of logs became jammed. One of the largest log jams—and most likely remembered due to the loss of life—occurred just south of the lake on the south fork of the Flambeau north of Little Falls. After many attempts to dynamite the log jam, one of the notables from Hines crew came in to free the log jam. As the days continued to elapse, the log jam became larger in length and also gained in elevation. It is noted in a number of articles that it stretched for miles; however, the actual height varies depending on the source. As noted by the grandparents, the height in spots neared some tree tops. After waiting for supplies of dynamite, the lead man lit the fuses on over a dozen cases of dynamite. Since the wall of logs was so high and wide, it was impossible to get away from the blast and still have a successful blasting sequence. The farewell salute was given by the lead man as the blasts started. Success was gained as the log jam was freed; though, many men gave their lives in turn.

Floating Fish - Train Trestle Removal

As the main logging operation came to a close, the rail irons, ties and equipment were removed or, if deemed unpractical, left on site. The train bridge which crossed the North Fork of the Flambeau near Bear Creek had one of the largest trestles. When the railroad pulled out, the structure was left. This trestle became a popular fishing spot—likely due to the pilings in the water. The task of removing the structure was assigned as part of one of the earlier CCC projects. In the day, anything that could not be moved by horses/steers was removed using dynamite. After word got out that the trestle was to be removed, many locals showed up on the day of demolition. It was almost like they knew what the final outcome would be and a large number of people gathered below the trestle with boats, canoes and tubs. After a few blasts debris, along with hundreds of fish, was floating down stream. It was noted that the locals took advantage of the floaters and loaded the catch in the awaiting tubs, boats and canoes.

Mr. Sundberg Cleared the Way for Truck Traffic

As the railroads were slowly replaced by trucks, the need for improved trails/roads became apparent. In the rough and tumble day, dynamite was still the norm to remove stumps and help the early bulldozers make paths for the intended roads. Blasting was completed year round, though it was most effective during the summer since the ground was not frozen and one could see the stumps that lay in the intended path. One problem with blasting in the summer months was the heat. Dynamite becomes unstable and sweats when it is warm. Mr. Sundberg was clearing a track (now known as Tower Hill Road) and came back to the ice house during the middle of the day for another box of sticks. After a short lunch, he noted his concern of the sweating of the sticks, but went on with his duties. A few hours later, a large blast was heard from the direction he was working. After not returning to camp that evening, only a few patches from his shirt and pants were found.

The Making of a Sandy Beach - Park Area

Another early project of the CCC was the Connors Lake Picnic Park. Many of the current residents look at the park and see a nice grass area flanking a shallow swim area. Prior to work by the CCC, the now sandy beach contained the same small type of vegetation found adjacent to the boat landing and heading towards the inlet. It was filled with bogs, tag brush, grasses, wet soft soils and a mucky lake base. Construction of the park started in the winter with removal of the tag brush and some muck. Areas that were extremely wet were removed via dragline and filled in with sand. After a couple of years spent removing the mucky base and refilling it with sand, the park began to take shape. The signature long sandy beach area was retained at the original water line; though removal of the alders and brush allowed for the straightening of the current sand beach. Over a couple more years, the beach (water area) was coated with a layer of sand to provide the sandy base found all the way out to the current swimming marker buoys. This was completed during the winter with trucks and graders.

Connors Lake (South End)

In the very early days, the south end of the lake, specifically the creek area, was used by the Ojibwa & Menomonee Indians for drying and storing meat. The area was a convenient corridor to travel from the river onto the lakes. This, coupled with the stepped creek bank, made it an ideal open area for drying various game. This was one of the few areas in the forest where the tree canopy was not complete due to the creek parting the forest floor.

Connors Lake and the shallow areas of the outlet offered the Indians a unique location for spearing fish or for driving fish into the outlet. Very early notes comment on the various traps and/or retainment area just south of the log bridge which crossed Connors Creek adjacent to the outlet.

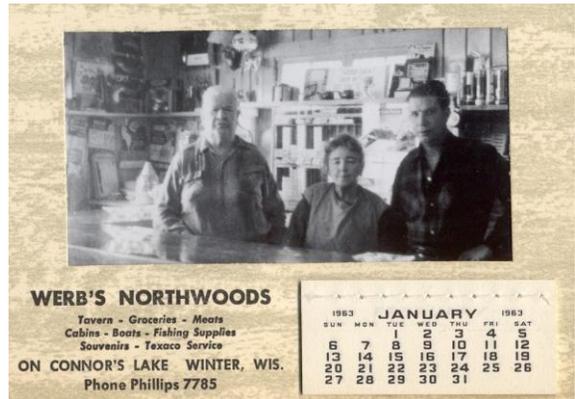
In the years to follow, as early logging progressed, the structure became a full log bridge for the sleigh followed by truck traffic. When this log bridge decayed, and with the USGS's approval, the DNR replaced the rotten log structure with a rock structure. The rock structure continued to serve as a water retainment device until its removal in 2003. Water was likely retained here back to the days of the Indians since there are notes about being able to navigate around both Islands on Connors Lake. Further, the depth in the creek is documented in earlier photos by submerged fish traps.

Lone Pine Lane

In the early days, many of the logging camps or local gathering areas left a single marker tree so one could see the different camps or taverns from a distance. These spotter trees were often a nice sight especially the ones found at Ray's place (currently Big Bear) and Werb's (currently The Cabin). The lone pine which was located on the intersection of Hwy W and the west side of Connors Lake became known as "Lone Pine" and the short road which headed south as far as the current Dukerschein property was known as Lone Pine Lane.



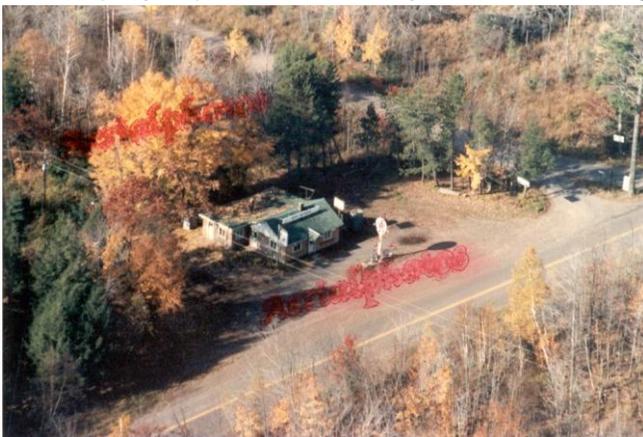
The intersection was unique as the road made a Y around the tree, making it part of the road. After being struck by lightning several times and after improvement to the town's road base, the tree was cut down in the early 1980s. At that time the road was renamed Johnson Road.



Leonard Annie George

Werb's

On the corner of Lone Pine Lane (Johnson Road) and Hwy E (Hwy W) was Werb's. This place was an icon of the north woods. The Leonard Werb family owned the corner and bay area from the park to the Foxes (Meyers). The Werb family rented out two log cabins and one stone house, off the lake shore.



While I am certain many stories have been forgotten about the earlier days, George, the son, made many of his own. George was a single bachelor who was not the neatest person in the world. He often relied on others to do the chores or pick things up for him. As time went on George did not keep up the buildings and they decayed.

Some of the more unique things remembered about Werb's are: use of the indoor bath tub to hold minnows for sale, cats that would walk the bar and paw at the money until it fell to the floor, the till that was filled with shredded bills because the mice had made a home within, and the nightly flights of bats in the bar and the fun of taking swings at them with rackets.

The Saturday Dump Run was a celebration of not taking the garbage to the dump, but rather the opportunity to drink the day away and return home with the same garbage you left home with earlier in the day. Werb's was an experience, one which was not only viewed, but also shared with all the characters who frequented the establishment, and most of all remembered for the smell—especially in the later years.

Ray's Place (currently Big Bear)

In the early days, Ray's place was just a single story (basement) which was usually flooded with the spring run off. Ray's was the place to come and enjoy a cold one. It was also the in thing to wade into the bar with the water rising during the melt.



The old days -



Ray's Bar - Flooded

As times changed, Ray installed one of the first indoor lavatories. It was advertised as one of the modern amenities to the north woods. Only the locals knew of the inside joke as the indoor john had a lady mannequin, wearing a big dress, using the facilities. Many out-of-towners would open the door, immediately apologize, and go back and have another one. As the night went on, the locals would gather in the cramped bar area and talk about the indoor lavatory and how it was so great to use, egging on the out-of-towners to get in line.



I hope you enjoyed these stories, which have been told to me by my grandparents, parents and other family members and friends. How lucky I am that my family came to live in this part of the state so many years ago. Being part of the CCC/DNR for 36 years, my father instilled in me a love for the forest and our lake. It is wonderful to be able to tell my children about all the things their grandfather had a hand in to better the forest for all of us. After traveling across the country, I have come to find Connors Lake to be one of the greatest places on earth. Often we take for granted the quiet and abundance of wild life found here in the forest. Connors Lake ("The Lake") and The Flambeau River State Forest are certainly the place where I, my children, and hopefully their children will enjoy the serene setting and a simpler way of life.

Tidbits about the area

Area Cabins in the 60s:	Big Bear Lodge (Ray Henderson), Bebaks (Suchys), Heizlers on Lake of the Pines, Ironsides, Belsons (Emil Birth - Connors Lake Lodge), The Cabin (Werb's)
Price County Telephone	Established service to the lakes in 1960.
Price County Electrical	In 1984, only recorded two outages for the year.
Downburst of July 4, 1977	A major wind storm went thru the area, killing only one. This started a ten year timber clean up. Electrical power was out for 14 days.
HWY W	Use to be Hwy E but was renamed since Price County already had a Hwy E
Connors Lake	Connors Lake once had six DNR employees residing on it.
CCC	The CCC camp, located about 3 miles south on West Lane, was the predecessor to the DNR. In the day, the compound housed over 200. It included bunk houses, a mess hall, garage, power house, steam house and a small hospital.
Connors Lake	The north and south end of the lake were typically used as access points to remove block ice for the ice box or ice house (freezer). The blocks would be sawed and loaded on sleigh. Since the north and south ends provided the least elevation change these became the preferred travel routes. Both lakes were used in the winter time for water sleighs, which gathered water to deposit on the various skidding routes.
Connors	The Indians referred to the lake as the Big Clear One - due to the water clarity.
Lake Depth	Connors and Lake of the Pines were first mapped for depth in 1932. In 1950 & again in 1952 a grid of holes were made in the ice to cover the lakes completely.



Information from Jim Halvorson, Superintendent Flambeau River State Forest



Plans are in the works for a new office building to be located on the other side of the current parking lot. It will complement the current building which has become much too small for the forest staff. Construction will start in spring 2012 and will include attached pay showers to serve the campers and those on the river. The “old” building will become an interpretive center with several wildlife and forest displays and will be open during the day.

Master Plan

Last fall you were asked to give input concerning the forest master plan. We received 140 written and electronic comments. The questionnaire sought your comments on five specific topics: the river corridor, ecosystem management, ATV trails, camping, and connectivity to other public lands. Overall, there is broad support for the current management of the forest.

Over the course of last winter and this spring, the Department has been developing alternatives and preferred alternatives for resource and recreation management. Your comments will be used to inform the Alternatives Phase of the planning process. A public release of preferred alternatives will be available in mid June. Public meetings will be held June 26 in Park Falls and June 27 in the Connors Lake area. These meetings will give you another opportunity to provide us with your comments.

The master plan is overseen by me and it is followed based on state funding. It can be viewed at <http://dnr.wi.gov/master%5Fplanning/flambeau/>

Please visit our website for more information on the master planning process or to check current conditions on the forest for your next visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/stateforests/SF-Flambeau/>

Changes on the River

The forest recreation team’s focus on the river is to bring the river campsites up to code and provide group campsites as well as family campsites. This will be a big improvement for the river campers.

Campgrounds

Lake of the Pines campground was closed all winter and opened for the season on May 1.

Connors Lake campground opens Memorial Weekend.

Trails

A new loop (about 2 miles) trail has been developed by Hwy 70—plus a new parking lot on the south side of 70. If you go up Price Lakes Road turn left on 70 and if you go north on Hwy M (off W) turn right.

Candlelight Ski was February 7, 2009

We had the best weather in several years with about 125 people attending. Many skied while some visited and all enjoyed the bon fires and good food—hot Russian tea, chili, chips, cookies, bars. Kudos to the forest office staff, it was a perfect winter activity.

Playground Equipment

We received a grant from the WDNR stewardship fund for \$29,000 for playground equipment. We will locate it between the sand volleyball court and the restrooms at Connors Lake Picnic Park. The equipment will include 1 tube slide, 1 bridge transition, 1 challenge ladder with loop rings, 1 curve, spiral or wave slide, 2 platforms with roof, 1 backhoe digger, 1 climbing wall, 1 crawl tube, and 1 spring toy, and will be geared for children in the 5 to 12 year age groups. It will look similar to the picture below.



The following abstracts were submitted by Dr Ed Peters, Professor Emeritus in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE. He taught fisheries and natural resources classes and with his students he conducted research on river, stream and reservoir ecology in Nebraska for 30 years before moving back to Wisconsin in 2005. He now lives in Loretta. He will bring handouts of these articles to the Memorial weekend meeting.

Walleye Prey Selection in Lake McConaughy, Nebraska: A Comparison between Stomach Content Analysis and Feeding Experiments^a

Mark T. Porath^b and Edward J. Peters

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

101 Plant Industry Bldg.

Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0814

Abstract

We investigated walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum*) prey selection by comparing results from feeding experiments and stomach content analysis. Walleye captured from Lake McConaughy, Nebraska in June through September, 1995, were presented treatments of three prey species-yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), white sucker (*Catostomus commersoni*) and either alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) or gizzard shad (*Dorsoma cepedianum*). In the feeding experiments, walleye selected white sucker and yellow perch over alewife and gizzard shad. However, alewife were the most abundant prey species in walleye stomachs and not significantly different from their proportion in the natural prey fish assemblage. Differences in prey selection between experiments and field studies suggest that walleye altered their foraging behavior to take advantage of vulnerable or more accessible prey.

Use of Walleye Relative Weights (W_r) to Assess Prey Availability

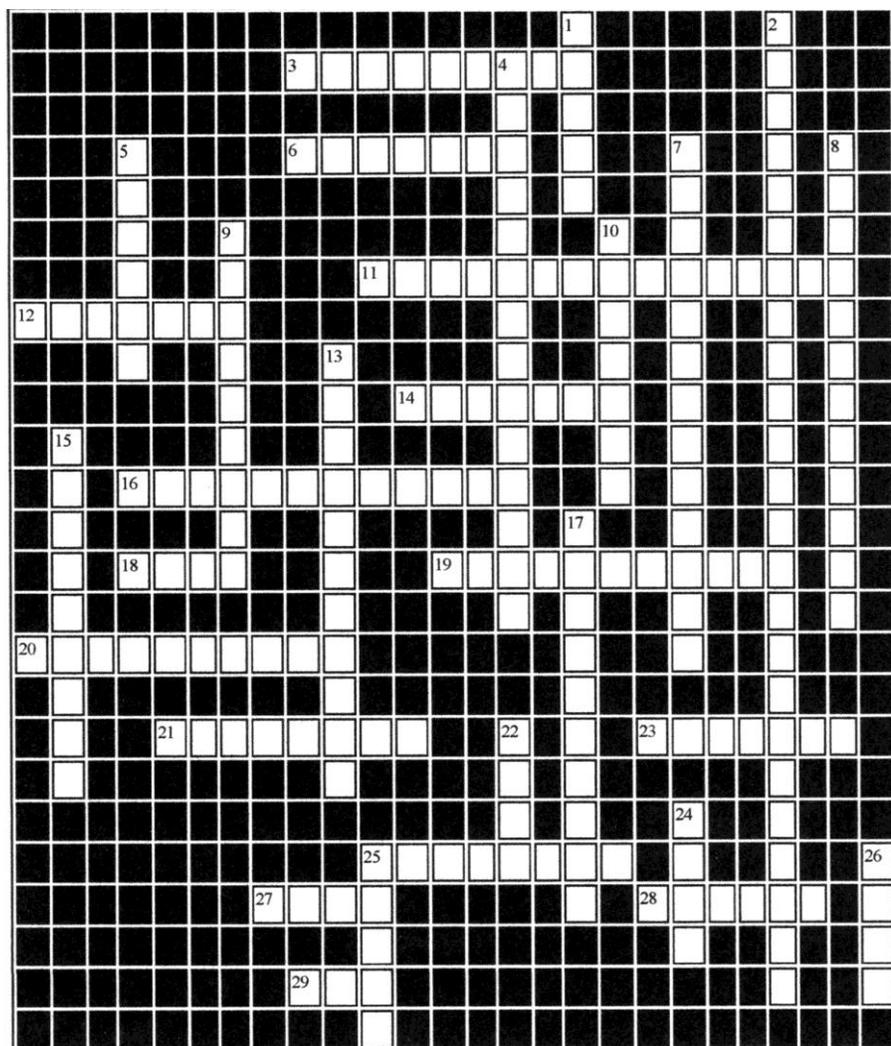
MARK T. PORATH¹ AND EDWARD J. PETERS

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

101 Plant Industry Building, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0814, USA

Abstract.—We investigated the effects of prey availability on relative weights (W_r ; the ratio of fish weight to the weight of a standard fish of the same length) in populations of walleye *Stizostedion vitreum* from two reservoirs, Lake Ogallala and Lake McConaughy, in western Nebraska. Partitioned by season of capture and 50-mm length-classes, walleye W_r was compared with the abundance of prey fish by length-class. Walleye W_r changed seasonally and was heavily influenced by prey size availability. In Lake Ogallala, where smaller prey were abundant, there was no significant difference in W_r across length-classes by fall. In Lake McConaughy, where more than 90% of all prey fish were over 170 mm, there was a distinct trend by fall. Small walleyes (250–400 mm) exhibited the lowest W_r (92.0 ± 0.84); and large walleyes (550–700 mm) had the highest W_r (104.0 ± 1.57). Examining changes in walleye W_r among length-classes across seasons was more informative than using a mean population W_r because it was sensitive to changes in prey availability for individual walleye length-classes. We aggregated adjacent walleye length-classes with similar W_r values to form W_r -groups to determine the length-groups that were experiencing prey limitations. Identifying walleye length-groups with common W_r structure from standardized fall surveys may be a cost-effective method of detecting prey fish deficiencies in reservoirs.

Fun for kids of all ages



You will find all the answers to the crossword puzzle clues somewhere in this newsletter.

Across

3. Years ago the south end of Connors Lake was used by the _____ Indians.
6. This year the ice on the lake was out _____ than last year.
11. What was once an active cranberry farm is now called _____.
12. What is "Be courteous, polite, and respectful?"
14. Many people fish for _____.
16. A popular pastime is _____.
18. _____ Lake is a beautiful walk-in wilderness lake for fishing.
19. One of the largest log jams occurred just south of Connors Lake at _____.
20. A chemical used in lawn fertilizer that is now illegal is called _____.
21. It is illegal to transport _____ species on a highway.
23. More and more _____ are eating from our bird feeders.
25. Rock reefs, gravel bars, and log cribs will help to improve fish _____.
27. _____ disease is transmitted to humans by a tiny tick.
28. Years ago _____ fell through the thin ice on Connors Lake.
29. Connors Lake Picnic Park was developed by the _____.

Down

1. The _____ sometimes destroy our bird feeders.
2. FRSF stands for _____.
4. Bands, curtains or streams of colored light appearing in the northern sky are the _____.
5. The level of _____ in the water influences the lake's biological, chemical, and physical characteristics.
7. An invasive species you might find in your backyard _____.
8. Johnson Road was first named _____.
9. _____ can be very dangerous and pose a threat to our environment.
10. _____ lodge use to be called Ray's Place.
13. The _____ is a long vertical fish with "tiger" stripes.
15. An invasive species you might find in your backyard is _____.
17. _____ equipment is coming to Connors Lake Picnic Park.
22. We like to hear the song of the _____ on our lakes.
24. A new _____ trail has been developed by the forest service off of Hwy 70.
25. The _____ disk measures water clarity in the lake.
26. The Ojibwa Indians use to dry and store _____ at the south end of Connors Lake.

Looking for something to do on a cloudy, rainy, or cold day in the summer with your children or grandchildren?

Visit the library! Visit some of the other areas in the FRSF!

Libraries

Winter Public Library on Main St in Winter

call for information 715.266.2144

Hours are 9 am to 5 pm Monday – Friday 9 am – noon Saturday

Winter Public Library has a Summer Reading Program with activities and all children are invited to join in. They have no scheduled story hour for the summer.

Phillips Public Library, 286 Cherry St in Phillips

call for information 715.339.2868

Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Monday – Friday Closed on Saturday

Phillips Public Library summer program is titled Be Creative at your Library. It kicks off July 1 at 1 pm at the Phillips Municipal Building. All ages are invited. During the month of July (starting Tuesday, July 7) there will be special programs for the kids. Tuesdays at 1 pm will be for ages 5 to 8 and Thursdays at 1 pm will be for ages 9 to 12. Story hour will be Wednesdays at 10:30 am.

The library has many games puzzles, puppets, and a Thomas the Tank train set for the kids to play with any time the library is open.



Summer Nature Programs

The programs are held in the Connors Lake Picnic Area in the Flambeau River State Forest with the first one starting Saturday afternoon of Memorial weekend. The schedule will be posted on the kiosk at the picnic area and in the campgrounds. They are free of cost and the public is invited to attend. The full schedule will also be on the state forest website.

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/StateForests/SF-Flambeau/>

Click on Recreation on the left side of the screen

Explore the Flambeau River State Forest

Hiking and Biking—In the summer, Flambeau Hills Ski Trail doubles as a hiking and biking trail. The Flambeau Hills Trail is marked and the hiker will encounter a wide variety of flora and fauna. This trail is also open to mountain bikers, but hikers should have no problems when encountering them as this trail is wide and there is room for both to enjoy. Please stay to the right of the trail when approaching blind hills and corners

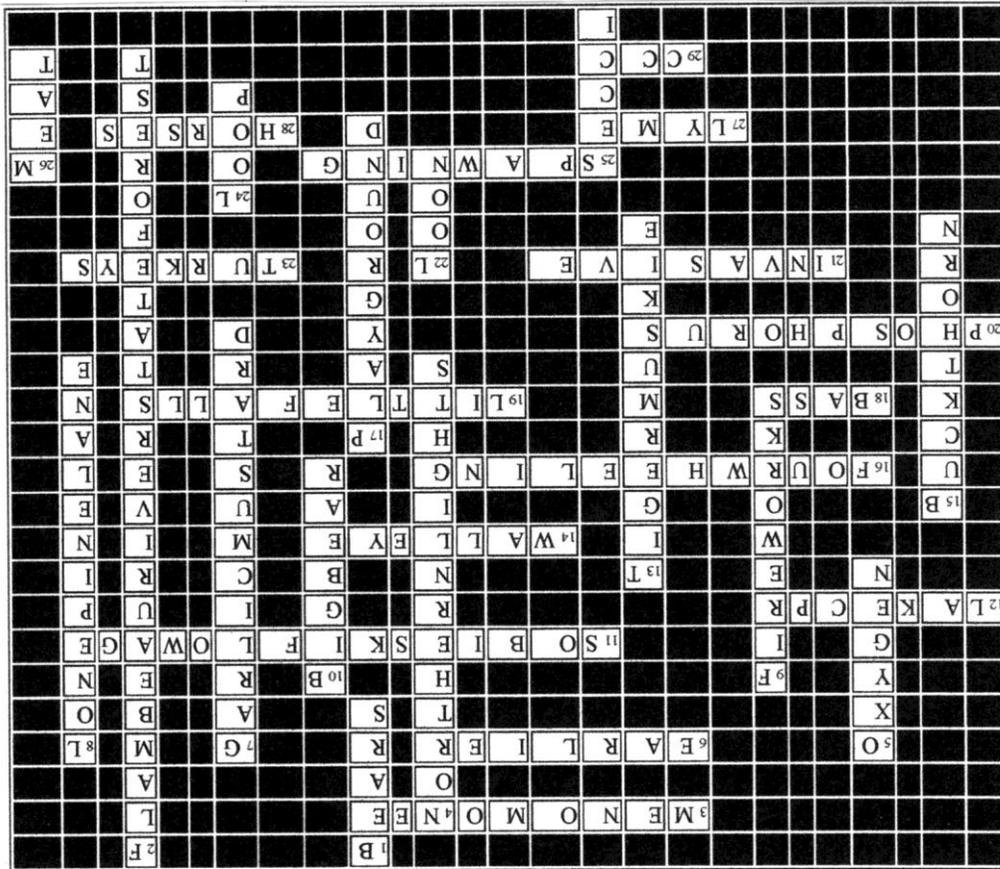
Nature Trails—Connors Lake Campground and Lake of the Pines Campground both have nice nature trails. The Connors Lake one is a little more level than the Lake of the Pines one. Both are fun to take.

Little Falls/Slough Gundy—a great spot for viewing the whitewater of the South Fork of the Flambeau River. Has bathroom facilities. 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 hiking, fishing, hunting, and sightseeing. Take the road by the fire tower, park in the parking lot, and enjoy a short walk into Bass Lake.

Crossword Puzzle Answer Key



CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association, Inc. thanks the Sawyer County Gazette and the bp Food Mart & Sports Shop for supporting our lake association by advertising in our newsletter. Please support them when you have the opportunity.

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Winter, WI**

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CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association, Inc. thanks the Winter Co-Op, Big Bear Lodge and the Winter Insurance Agency for supporting our lake association by advertising in our newsletter. Please support them when you have the opportunity.

SPRING and SUMMER HOURS May 1 - September 6
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Thursday, Friday, Saturday 7 am to 8:30 pm
Sunday 8 am to 6 pm

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CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association, Inc. thanks Flambeau Forest Inn and The Cabin at Connors Lake for supporting our lake association by advertising in our newsletter. Please support them when you have the opportunity.



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|-----------|--|
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Stop in and ask Andrea to put something together for you.

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Restaurant
& Bar**



Located Midway between Winter and Phillips on County Road W, The Cabin at Connors Lake offers a unique dining experience in the heart of the Flambeau River State Forest. A scenic and relaxing drive to the southeast corner of Sawyer County will reward you with wonderful combinations of intimate dining, casual atmosphere, and refreshing setting.

Changing with the seasons, our menu offers creative selections. From appetizers, sandwiches, pizzas, or the skillfully crafted entrees and sauces, to our home made desserts, all of our menu items are prepared to order with only the best ingredients and presented with great attention to detail, quality, and service. To enhance your dining pleasure, we offer a fine selection of wines, beer and spirits.

We're open year around at 4:30, and also available for private parties, business retreats, or family celebrations.

For more information, hours, or daily specials, please call us at 715-332-5399, or visit us at W1115 County Road W, Winter, WI 54896.



**SERVING FROM 4:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY
THRU SUNDAY,
ALL YEAR-ROUND**

FEATURING
HOMEMADE SOUPS
PRIME RIB
FRIDAY FISH FRY
PASTA DISHES
DAILY SPECIALS

*Call (715) 332-5399
for information regarding
Private Parties, Business Retreats
or Family Celebrations*

**16 miles east of Winter on County Road W,
20 miles west of Phillips on County Road W**

CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association, Inc. thanks Bev and Gordie Dukerschein and Artisans of Glen Flora for supporting our lake association by printing our newsletter.

Please support them when you have the opportunity.

Enjoy the area's best shopping destination!

Artisans OUTLET
www.artisansoutlet.com

You'll Discover...

- True outlet pricing on nationally renowned Artisans apparel
- A lovely variety of gifts and home decor
- The largest jewelry and accessory selection in the area

Store Hours:
Monday-Saturday 9-5
Sunday 11-4

Located 11 miles east of Ladysmith on Hwy. 8 in Glen Flora.
Stop in today and see why everyone says...

Sometimes Great Things Come Out of Nowhere...

The advertisement features a central photograph of the store's interior, showcasing various items including green and blue shirts, a blue bag, and several colorful balloons (green, blue, and yellow). The background of the ad is a textured, light-colored surface with illustrations of butterflies in yellow, purple, and blue.