

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

## A message from Tom Stram, President

Anyone who is born with anxiety about the weather is going crazy this spring. The ice went out on the lake April 1, earlier than ever according to long time residents of the lake. In some parts of the state the spring ephemerals are flowering four to five weeks sooner than normal. Unfortunately, the only constant weather feature is the severe drought located in a narrow band in NW Wisconsin, including Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines.

It has been two years since I assumed the office of President of the Lake Association following Gene Johnson's excellent leadership in our early years. With lots of support from your officers and board of directors we have established two programs which are Clean Boats Clean Waters (to monitor the boat landings for aquatic invasive species) and Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (to monitor lake quality). We will start monitoring Lake of the Pines for the first time this summer. We could use more volunteers for both programs. This year we plan to locate two more warning buoys on Connors Lake and investigate a fish-stocking program.

It would greatly enhance the visibility of our lake association if we had a CoPaPi website. Would someone please step forward and establish and maintain a website for our association.

Unfortunately, even though we have established a good working relationship with the DNR there is probably little hope of restoring the dam, especially since we suffer from the severe drought. Another disappointment has been the response of the Eurasian water milfoil that I will go into in more detail in a separate article.

The theme of this year's Wisconsin Lakes Partnership meeting in Green Bay, which I was able, to attend was "Fringe Benefits: Restoring Wisconsin Shorelands and Shallows". An article in the last "...from the Lake Shores" Newsletter by middle school student Lucas Stiemann called "Balance and Harmony on the Shore" introduced us to this subject. The health of our shorelines exponentially affects the health of our lakes. 90% of the living things in our waters are found along the shallow margins and shores. Fish, frogs and ducks lay eggs; songbirds and loons nest, bass and panfish hide in the shade and toppled trees etc. All we need to do, with just a little help, is turn a portion of our lakefront over to nature. It will enhance the beauty of our property and improve the overall health of the lake.

You have a very dedicated group of officers and board of directors. Most all of them are present at our quarterly meetings, both winter and summer. Annual elections are coming up soon and we need some new blood and new ideas from our general membership. Thank you for your continued generosity and support in the form of dues and donations.

## 2010 General Membership Meetings at Connors Lake Pavilion

Saturday **May 29**

Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday **July 3**

Association Annual Meeting—Independence Day Weekend

Election will be held for terms ending in 2010

Saturday **September 4**

Labor Day Weekend

All meetings will begin at **9:00 am**

A **special feature** at our **May 29** meeting will be a slide presentation on the common loon and their aquatic habitats through education, monitoring and research. Lorna Wilson, who works with the Loon Watch Program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin, and her husband, Roger, will be our guests. This is a "kid friendly" educational opportunity, so bring your youngsters. Educational materials will be available.

The fall newsletter will be mailed in November, 2010. Please submit your contributions or mention items you would like to see in future newsletters by Wednesday, October 20 to Sandra Lehmann. Drop off at the house, call 715.332.5101 or email [sjl@pctcnet.net](mailto:sjl@pctcnet.net)

## CoPaPi Board of Directors for 2009-2010

### Officers

President	Tom Stram	term ends 2010
Vice President	Dave Schiotz	term ends 2010
Treasurer	Nancy Sorensen	term ends 2011
Recording Secretary	Ellen Cernjar	term ends 2010
Corresponding Secretary	Sandra Lehmann	term ends 2011

### Board Members at Large

Gordie Dukerschein, Dave Cooley, Mark LaVick, Al Schneider	term ends 2011
Dale Lehmann, Brian Fink, Tom Deinhammer, Carolyn Mealman	term ends 2010
Gene Johnson—Past President, Esther Johnson—Past Treasurer	

### Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

Tom Stram	715.384.8348	<a href="mailto:twrcstram@verizon.net">twrcstram@verizon.net</a>
Dave Schiotz	715.235.9322	<a href="mailto:dkschiotz@yahoo.com">dkschiotz@yahoo.com</a>
Nancy Sorensen	715.332.5624	<a href="mailto:plato@pctcnet.net">plato@pctcnet.net</a>
Ellen Cernjar	715.878.4672	<a href="mailto:gecernjar@yahoo.com">gecernjar@yahoo.com</a>
Sandra Lehmann	715.332.5101	<a href="mailto:sjl@pctcnet.net">sjl@pctcnet.net</a>
Gordie Dukerschein	715.322.4481	<a href="mailto:gpdukerschein@artisansinc.com">gpdukerschein@artisansinc.com</a>
Dave Cooley	920.832.1424	<a href="mailto:dcooley1@prodigy.net">dcooley1@prodigy.net</a>
Mark LaVick	715.332.5399	<a href="mailto:cabinatconnors@pctcnet.net">cabinatconnors@pctcnet.net</a>
Al Schneider	715.339.3899	<a href="mailto:alfredschneider@pctcnet.net">alfredschneider@pctcnet.net</a>
Dale Lehmann	715.332.5101	<a href="mailto:sjl@pctcnet.net">sjl@pctcnet.net</a>
Brian Fink	715.332.5217	<a href="mailto:careful47@hotmail.com">careful47@hotmail.com</a>
Tom Deinhammer	715.835.6588	<a href="mailto:deintj@charter.net">deintj@charter.net</a>
Carolyn Mealman	715.332.5267	<a href="mailto:cesm@pctcnet.net">cesm@pctcnet.net</a>
Gene Johnson	715.536.0219	<a href="mailto:genes.johnson@verizon.net">genes.johnson@verizon.net</a>
Esther Johnson	715.332.5101	

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Summer is almost here

Please **drive slowly** down our roads.

Watch for adults, children and pets.

We live in a perfect area for jogging, walking, biking, roller blading, and riding a scooter, etc. Be especially careful on Cty Hwy M, Old Lodge Lane, Cty Hwy W, Lake of the Pines Road, and Johnson Road.

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### 2010 Cash Raffle

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

Teddy Acker is at an assisted living complex right on Hwy 13 just 1 block south of the Hwy 29 overpass. He is lonesome and loves company. He really misses being here on the lake. He's made awesome progress in the past year and he'd love to have visitors.

Ted Acker, 1110 N. Division Street, Apt 119  
Colby WI 54421 715-223-2872

Household trash has again been being dumped in the DNR's refuse containers at Lake of the Pines campground and at the DNR office on Cty Hwy W. This is illegal and you could be ticketed for doing so.

## Important Wisconsin Legislative Information

### Lead Fishing Tackle

A resolution recommending that Wisconsin ban lead fishing tackle passed the Executive Council of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress 23 to 1 on January 8. Lead in the environment is poisonous to wildlife. This proposal is designed to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning (lead toxicosis) in waterbirds, shorebirds and secondary poisoning of raptors, such as eagles and ospreys by reducing the amount of lead added to Wisconsin waters due to lost fishing tackle. Studies have shown wildlife is most likely to ingest fishing tackle measuring less than 2.5 cm (1 inch) length and 25g (1 ounce) in weight. Removing lead in fishing tackle of this size would be the most effective way of protecting wildlife.

### Ban on phosphorus is law

On Nov 12, 2009, Governor Doyle signed legislation prohibiting the use of phosphorus in dishwasher soaps (AB 281). This new law banning phosphorus in dishwasher detergents is one more step to protecting and restoring our lakes so they may continue to be enjoyed by all. This bill is the second in a series of legislative initiatives to improve water quality.

Earlier this session the "Clean Lakes bill" (AB 3) passed with widespread, bi-partisan support. It was signed into law April 14th, 2009. This bill creates a statewide law regulating phosphorus in lawn fertilizer and will prohibit the display, sale, and use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus, with certain reasonable exceptions.

Nutrients like phosphorus are degrading 90% of Wisconsin's inland lakes, causing smelly algae blooms, fish kills, and declining water quality.

### Boating Safety

Wisconsin lakes are a public resource enjoyed by boaters, anglers, swimmers, and others for fun in the sun. But some of these recreational activities can lead to a conflict of safety concerns for other groups of users. WAL has supported initiatives to protect sensitive areas and keep Wisconsin lakes safe for everyone.

In 2005, WAL supported and advised on the drafting of Assembly Bill 248, which requires persons born after January 1, 1989 to have completed a boater education course before operating a boat. This bill was approved by the legislature and signed into law.

### Slow no-wake legislation becomes law

This bill was signed into law July 10, 2009 (SB 12 became Wisconsin Act 31), and took effect February 24, 2010. Under current law, no person may operate a motorboat (includes personal water craft) in excess of slow-no-wake speed within 100 feet of buoyed restricted areas or structures such as piers.

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.

### Shoreland zoning rule (NR 115) revisions

Forty years after they were first adopted, state shoreland development rules have been updated to better protect lakes and rivers while allowing property owners more flexibility on their land.

The state Natural Resources Board adopted revisions to the rules Nov. 13, 2009. The final, official rules are expected to be officially published in early 2010. County governments will have two years from that time to update their shoreland development rules to be consistent with or exceed the state's rules.

For now and after the rules are enacted locally, owners of existing homes and buildings can keep what they have. They will not have to do anything different unless they propose a major change on their property, like remodeling their home, expanding it, or paving or covering more surfaces. Then, they may have to take steps to offset the potential impacts from their project: increased water runoff and pollutants, loss of plants to filter runoff and provide wildlife habitat, and impacts on their neighbors' lake and river users' scenic views.

### Chapter NR40

The Wisconsin Legislature directed the DNR to establish a statewide program to control invasive species, and to publicize rules to identify, classify and control invasive species.

Chapter NR 40, Wisconsin's Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule helps citizens learn to identify and minimize the spread of plants, animals and diseases that can invade our lands and waters and cause significant damage.

Invasive species are non-native plants, animals and pathogens whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic, or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive species can alter ecological relationships among native species and can affect ecosystem function and structure, economic value of ecosystems, and human health.

There are many non-native plants that are invasive in forests, grasslands, wetlands, lakes and rivers. They displace native species and disrupt wildlife habitat. Invasive species threaten Wisconsin's traditions, environment and economy in every corner of our lands and waters.

### Illegal to Transport Legislation

On October 28th, Governor Doyle signed the aquatic invasive species transport bill ([SB 123](#)) into law ([2009 Wisconsin Act 55](#)). 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. All aquatic plants and animals are now required to be removed from boats or any other equipment before being transported on public highways. Seaplanes are also prohibited from taking off when plants or animals are attached.

## WCLMN (Wisconsin Citizens Lake Monitoring Network)

by Dave Schiotz, Coordinator

On Saturday, March 27, I attended a CLMN workshop in Spooner. The purpose was to pick up our expendable supplies for the season, ask questions and receive any new information relating to our work. I am happy to report that I was able to pick up equipment for Lake of the Pines (LOP). We will now be able to monitor chlorophyll and phosphorus there as well as in Connors. In addition to recording chlorophyll and phosphorus, we also monitor water clarity with the secchi disk, and water temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) with the oximeter.



Lowering the secchi disk into the water to test for water clarity.

The University of Wisconsin has a satellite imagery program which will monitor over 8,000 lakes in Wisconsin. Our volunteers will try to take a secchi reading on the days the satellite passes over our lakes. Our readings will be recorded and will be compared to satellite imagery of all 8,000 lakes. The U of W will then be able to approximate the clarity on lakes where no readings were actually taken. It really sounds neat!!!!

Results from our work last summer showed the average (July - August) Secchi reading for Connors was 12.56 feet and LOP was 7.2 feet. The average for lakes in our region was 9.7 feet. Our chemistry readings showed the average summer chlorophyll was 3.4 mg/1 (milligrams/liter). Regional lake average was 14.7 mg/1. Total phosphorus for Connors was 15 mg/1.



Tom Stram getting ready to use the temperature recording device. We record at 5'0" intervals to a depth of 80 feet.

Lakes with more than 20 mg/1 may experience noticeable algae bloom. The Tropic State index (TSI) for Connors suggests that the lake is approaching Middle Age!! (Mesotrophic). It seems that our chlorophyll level (algae) is well below the regional average and our phosphorus (fertilizer) level is acceptable. What caused our algae bloom last summer???? We don't know!!!! We will keep monitoring.

My call for volunteers at our Labor Day meeting was great! Two more were added for LOP and six more for Connors. Volunteers for Connors this summer will be Don Bauer, Greg & Ellen Cernjar, Tom Chemler, Gordie Dukerschein, Jeff & Sherry Hansen, Dale & Sandy Lehmann, Rich Marusinec, Dave & Karen Schiotz, Al Schneider and Tom Stram. Volunteers for LOP are Larry Anderson, Tom Deinhammer, Carl Edwardson and Jim Schofield.

At our first general meeting, on May 29, I will again have all the equipment available for people to examine and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have. After our meeting I will have a training session for new volunteers and anyone else that is interested.

As always, a special thanks to Sandy Lehmann who inputs all our data into the state network. Thanks to all our volunteers, we couldn't do this important work without you!!!

The data we collect becomes more important each year as it gives us a more complete picture of what is happening to our LAKES.

Have a good summer!

You can access WCLMN reports at [www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes)

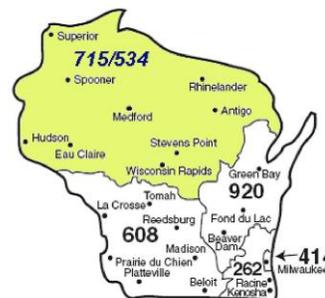
1. On the left side, under Popular Topics, click Citizen Lake Monitoring
2. Under Monitoring Results click Reports & Data
3. Scroll down and click on Sawyer County
4. Find Connors Lake—over on the right you will find Reports, click on Reports
5. Under Annual Report, click on Create Reports

## New WI 534 Area Code will share the same region as the existing 715 Area Code

To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) has approved the addition of the 534 area code to the geographic region currently served by 715—this is called an Area Code Overlay.

Beginning **July 17, 2010**, you **must** dial the full 10-digit telephone number. This means that all calls from the 715 area code that are currently dialed with 7-digits will need to be dialed using the **area code + 7-digit telephone number**. Beginning **August 14, 2010**, new telephone lines or services may be assigned numbers with the 534 area code.

You may have to reprogram some calls on your phone to include the new dialing procedure. Your telephone number, which includes your area code, will remain the same. You will still dial just three digits to reach 911.



So, if you want to call your neighbor at the lake you will have to dial 715 first.

This system has been in place since last October 17 but you must use it beginning July 17, 2010.

## Clean Boats/Clean Waters

by Dave Cooley, Chairman

Bring a Friend along this year!



With a new fishing and boating season upon us, we all look forward to the relaxation and beauty that Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines provide for us. To keep these resources healthy for our enjoyment now, and for future generations, the Clean Boats/Clean Waters program helps to educate boaters and inspect watercraft that are entering and leaving our local lakes. Volunteer inspectors perform boat and trailer checks, hand out informational brochures, and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

There is a new law in Wisconsin that prohibits transportation of ANY aquatic plant or animal; not just the non-native invasive species. Considering that we have a number of invasive species in Connors Lake, most significantly Eurasian Water Milfoil, it is equally important that we inspect boats leaving Connors Lake, to be sure that boaters are not transporting milfoil to another location.

Volunteers 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 put towards our share of the grant and lake treatment costs. Our volunteering PAYS US BACK. This year we are hoping that our previous, faithful volunteers will BRING A FRIEND ALONG to introduce them to the CBCW program, so that our resource of volunteers will grow. We would also like to expand our inspections to the Lake of the Pines boat landing.

Sign-up sheets are at the Saturday, May 29 Lake Association General Meeting, or you can email me ahead of time at [dcooley1@prodigy.net](mailto:dcooley1@prodigy.net).

Many thanks to those who have volunteered in the past, and we hope to see you again this summer.



Boat Inspection

## Fishery News

by Tom Deinhammer, Chairman

Fish committee members: Tom Deinhammer, Greg Cernjar, Jim Schofield, Lee Swanson, & Lloyd Lindahl.

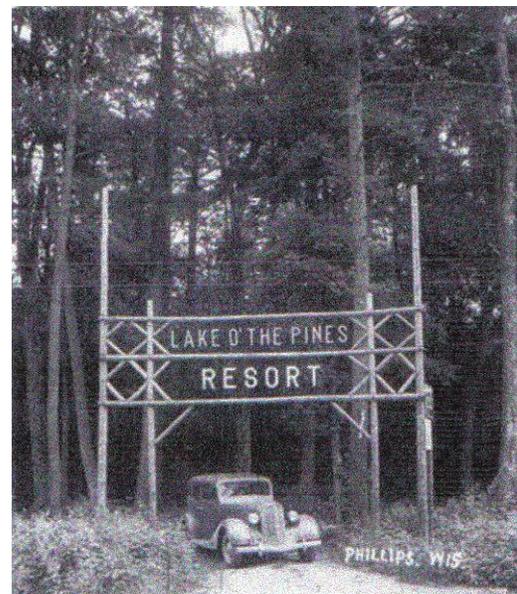
Your fish committee has been investigating having our lake association stock the lake with walleye. What we found out follows. For a walleye stocking program to be effective there are several elements that need to be in place. They are:

1. Accurate data pertaining to current fish population is extremely important. This data should include the carrying capacity of the major fish populations of the lake as well as population densities.
2. The lake should have a low density of large mouth bass population.
3. Larger fingerlings should be used.
4. Stocking should take place from mid June to the beginning of October.
5. Stocking should be from more than one area of the lake.
6. Stocking rate should be based on the projected carrying capacity of the lake system.
7. An obvious need must be seen by means of using the data obtained in #1.

By us not using the steps listed above and by using stocking rates that are too low or too high, we may negatively affect the stocked fish or the fish community of the lake. The negative effect may include survival rates, growth rates, increasing large mouth bass populations, and reducing the productivity of the naturally reproducing walleye population.

In short, research and studies dealing with the stocking of walleyes in small lakes with a reproducing walleye population state that the stocking of walleyes should not be taken lightly. Unanticipated outcomes should be expected! With this in mind, the old saying of "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." should be used. Unless we are sure that the lakes need fixing we should not attempt to stock the lakes with walleyes.

Jim Schofield's brother had this postcard.



Any ideas on where or when this was taken?

## Rainbow or Sundog?

By Sandra Lehmann

On New Year's Day the Esther Johnson family reported seeing a "rainbow" across the lake. It lasted for about 10 minutes. Was it really a rainbow or was it a sundog?

A sundog, also called a mock sun, may appear as a colored patch of light to the left or right of the sun, sometimes with the colors of a rainbow. It is an atmospheric phenomenon that creates bright spots of light in the sky. Cirrus clouds, which are made of ice crystals, are generally in the sky to create sun dogs. The ice crystals bend rays of light coming from the sun by 22 degrees. If the right kind of clouds or ice crystals are on both sides of the sun, you'll see sun dogs on both sides. They can be seen anywhere in the world during any season, but they are not always obvious or bright and are most conspicuous when the sun is low.



A rainbow is an optical and meteorological phenomenon that causes a spectrum of light to appear in the sky.

We probably call any kind of display of more than one color in the sky a "rainbow," especially if it is curved. It turns out that deciding whether or not you are seeing a rainbow is the easiest thing to do, just apply the rainbow rule.

The rainbow rule: To see a rainbow or even a small part of a rainbow, the sun has to be directly behind you. Water drops have to be in the air where you see the rainbow. The drops could be falling rain in the distance, a waterfall, a lawn sprinkler, a fountain, or some other source of falling water drops.



Rainbow photo is courtesy of our daughter, Jeanine, who lives in Hawaii and sees rainbows most every day.

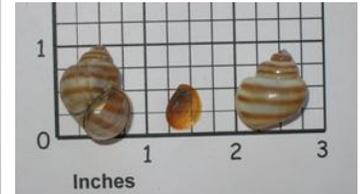
## Invasive Species

By Sandra Lehmann

Connors Lake has four invasive species: Banded Mystery Snail, Curly-Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water Milfoil and Rusty Crayfish.

Lake of the Pines has three invasive species: Banded Mystery Snail, Chinese Mystery Snail, and Rusty Crayfish.

The Flambeau River has one invasive species which is the Chinese Mystery Snail.



The Chinese mystery snails and the banded mystery snails are non-native snails that have been found in a number of Wisconsin lakes. There is not a lot yet known about these species, however, it appears that they have a negative effect on native snail populations. The mystery snail's large size and hard operculum (a trap door cover which protects the soft flesh inside), and their thick hard shell make them less edible by predators such as rusty crayfish.



Curly-leaf pondweed is an invasive aquatic perennial that is native to Eurasia, Africa, and Australia. It was accidentally introduced to US waters in the mid-1880s

by hobbyists who used it as an aquarium plant. The leaves are reddish-green, oblong, and about 3 inches long, with distinct wavy edges that are finely toothed. The stem of the plant is flat, reddish-brown and grows from 1 to 3 feet long. The plant usually drops to the lake bottom by early July. New plants form under the ice in winter, making curly-leaf pondweed one of the first nuisance aquatic plants to emerge in the spring.

It becomes invasive in some areas because of its tolerance for low light and low water temperatures which allow it to get a head start on and outcompete native plants in the spring. In mid-summer curly-leaf pondweed plants are dying off. Plant die-offs may result in a critical loss of dissolved oxygen. The decaying plants can increase nutrients contributing to algal blooms. Curly-leaf pondweed forms surface mats that interfere with aquatic recreation.



Rusty Crayfish were introduced to our waters by anglers who used them as live bait. They eat small fish, insects, and fish eggs.

They also eat aquatic vegetation, damaging underwater habitat that is important for fish spawning, cover, and food. They are aggressive and displace native crayfish. Rusty crayfish are prolific; females lay from 80-575 eggs!

## **Eurasian Water Milfoil** by Sandra Lehmann

EWM is one of the four invasive species found in Connors Lake. So far, it has not been spotted in Lake of the Pines. EWM is a submersed aquatic plant and is the only non-native milfoil in Wisconsin. Like the native milfoils, the Eurasian variety has slender stems whorled by submersed feathery leaves and tiny flowers produced above the water surface. The flowers are located in the axils of the floral bracts, and are either four-petaled or without petals. The leaves are threadlike, typically uniform in diameter, and aggregated into a submersed terminal spike. The stem thickens below the inflorescence and doubles its width further down, often curving to lie parallel with the water surface. The fruits are four-jointed nut-like bodies. Without flowers or fruits, EWM is nearly impossible to distinguish from Northern water milfoil. EWM has 9-21 pairs of leaflets per leaf, while Northern milfoil typically has 7-11 pairs of leaflets.



### **Notice of** **Aquatic Plant Management on Connors** **Lake Sawyer County**

Northern Aquatic Services hereby notifies, as specified per Chapter NR 107, WI Administrative Code, that it intends to treat approximately 19 acres of Connors Lake with aquatic pesticides to control nuisance aquatic vegetation *Myriophyllum spicatum* a.k.a. Eurasian Water Milfoil. The proposed treatment would occur during the spring and summer of 2010.

Northern Aquatic Services will conduct a public informational meeting on the proposed treatment if five or more individuals, organizations, special units of government, or local units of government request one. Any request for a public meeting on this treatment must be made within five days after this notice is published. The request must specify the topics to be discussed at the meeting, including problems and alternatives, and must be sent to: Northern Aquatic Services, 1061 240<sup>th</sup> Street, Dresser WI 54009 and to the WDNR, 810 W. Maple Street, Spooner WI 54801.

## **Timeline** **of our treatment of EWM** by Tom Stram

The following is a Time Line of our Eurasian Water Milfoil treatments

1. Craig Roesler, of WDNR, first identified 23 acres of EWM on Connors Lake in October, 2002.
2. We received a treatment grant in spring, 2005 and treated 32 acres of dense EWM with 150#/acre of 2,4D.
3. In fall, 2005, an additional five acres was treated.
4. Five more acres were treated in spring, 2006.
5. These initial treatments were outstanding with most of the areas free of significant milfoil to this day.
6. EWM then started growing in another area, well suited for rapid growth, in a place called Muskie Bay.
7. In spring, 2007, the Lake Association assumed the entire bill for treatment of 10 acres in Muskie Bay. The milfoil became covered with a green slime (later identified as filamentous algae). It appeared "half dead and half alive" with fused leaves. Much of the milfoil showed viable growth at the terminal 3-6 inches.
8. Two surveys were done in fall, 2007. The EWM had fallen to the bottom and only 0.5 acres was identified.
9. Because of those findings no treatment was planned or performed in 2008.
10. In summer, 2008, EWM reappeared in Muskie Bay. It was again covered with algae with even some, but not all, of the previously untreated areas covered with algae.
11. A plant survey in fall, 2008, revealed 22.5 acres of EWM infestation.
12. The same scenario occurred again in spring, 2009, with algae covering the previously treated milfoil.
13. 25 acres of milfoil in Muskie Bay and four other areas were treated with 175#/acre instead of the usual 150#/acre of 2,4D herbicide. Again, for the third straight year, the same sequence of events occurred with the milfoil being covered with algae and showing signs of being effected by the herbicide but not falling to the bottom of the lake until late August.
14. A group of concerned individuals consisting of John Skogerboe, Jim Kreitlow, Kristi Maki, Dale Dressel and myself went out on Connors lake in early September, 2009, but by then there was very little EWM visible on or near the surface. In conjunction with this phenomenon there was a significant but very unusual blue-green algae growth in the lake.
15. Analysis of the EWM revealed that it was not a hybrid form of milfoil. Results of the fall 2009 plant survey are pending.

Connors Lake is one of 26 lakes being surveyed and studied as part of the "Long-term Trends in Eurasian Water-milfoil Management" study lead by Dr. Jennifer Hauxwell of the WDNR and I have asked for their input and observations.

## Interesting Lake Happenings by Carolyn Mealman



### Loon Watch

We sighted our first loon of the year on April 3 (I hope our others come soon). Ice out was on April 1, so our water fowl had plenty of place to land and all showed up early—an early Spring!

Loon Watch of Sigrid Olson Institute is conducting their five year survey of loons on July 17 and is looking for volunteers. Our Lake of the Pines is on the special list so if anyone can help, call 715.682.1220 or [www.northland.edu/loonwatch](http://www.northland.edu/loonwatch).

Several studies are being conducted to evaluate the impact of climate change and conditions that might undermine the habitat quality in the state. The majority of the loon population is living north of a line across the state at about Wausau.

Loons historically nested as far south as Iowa, Northern Illinois and Northern Indiana. By the 1970's loons were only found breeding in the northern third of Wisconsin and farther north. Water quality and clarity, shoreline development, and loss of suitable nest sites will result in change.

Please don't forget to clean out your tackle box of all lead jig heads. It only takes 1 lead sinker to kill a 12 pound loon. Last year 20 trumpeter swans, 15 bald eagles, and five loons were treated for lead poisoning by the Raptor Education Group, Inc.

### Returnees

So far, we have seen only one otter heading in the direction of Lake of the Pines. Chippies were out in early March and "Woody" woodchuck was here on April 8. Most of our feathered friends are back. We had a bear in our yard April 10 and saw another on our way to Phillips on April 11.



### Bird Watchers

On our way to Phillips, on March 17, we spotted some geese at Rehberg's farm. You will also see wild turkeys there which seem to be plentiful all over now. If you like to "bird watch" there is a place where eagles usually perch. As you leave Phillips go five miles west on W or one mile from Flemings Rapids Rd. There is an "open" area on the right and if you will look right across the river, at the almost dead big tree, you might see an eagle or two. The pair was around all winter. Going east the open area is just "a block" after the really old little cabin and on the left.



### Winter Outdoor Life

Our winter in The Northwoods was pretty mild this year. Snowmobile trails remained good throughout the season and the ice on the lake was thick enough for all form of vehicles to traverse on for fishing or pleasure.

We watched, at all times of the day, as two to seven white tails made their way across the lake. The last time we saw them they came across from Musky Bay to the west side. We wonder which side of the lake they ended up on and how they know when the ice is okay for traveling. Maybe they watch our vehicles and figure out if it's okay for them then the ice will hold four legged creatures.

As I sat in my chair on Tuesday, March 30, when there was still ice on the lake, I could see an eagle flying on the other side. I got up to see what had attracted it to our area. Out on the ice, a short ways from shore laid a dead deer. How it came to be there is a mystery because we didn't see it all winter. Anyway, feasting on the carcass were three eagles and several ospreys. All were gone the next day.

### Field Trips

This year the Natural Resource Foundation is sponsoring 30 different bird trips, 25 trips to state national areas, 12 canoe & kayaking adventures and 18 family friendly rips. To find out more go to [www.Wisconservation.org](http://www.Wisconservation.org) for the "citizen sciences" opportunities to learn and participate in research that will benefit our understanding of Wisconsin wildlife.

### "Water for Thought"

According to National Geographic:

1. 97.5% of earth's water is salty
2. 2.5% is fresh—2/3 of that is frozen (or 70%)
3. 2/3 of our water is used to grow food

There will be 83 million more people on the earth each year. Water demand will keep growing unless we change how we use water.

Americans use about 100 gallons of water at home each day while millions of the world's poorest live on less than five gallons for all uses. One in eight people lack access to clean water. In 15 years, 1.8 billion people will live in regions of severe water scarcity.



## THE LOON NECKLACE-- A Tsimshian Indian Legend

Submitted by Carolyn Mealman

An old man who was recently blind lived with his wife and young son near a salmon stream. Because it was winter and he could no longer hunt, the old man and his family were starving. One morning the wife went searching for dried berries, leaving the boy to care for his father. The unhappy old man sat remembering when he was a great hunter and was feeling miserable that he no longer could provide for his family.

Suddenly, the youth spotted a bear on the other side of the stream and had an idea. Taking his father's hand, he took him to the edge of the stream. There he put a bow and arrow in his hands. He said, "I'm going to help you kill a bear."

"How can I aim?" his father replied. "I will be your eyes," the boy said.

Standing on a rock, the boy pointed the arrow at the bear's heart. "Shoot!" he cried. The old man pulled hard and the arrow sailed through the air. It hit the bear's heart, killing it instantly and it toppled over dead.

Before the boy could tell his father that the bear was dead an old hag appeared. She lived alone near their clearing and was feared for her magical powers. She had been watching the two as they killed the bear and thought of all those meals it would give her, lasting through the winter. She told the old man he had hit a log.

The woman called to the boy, "Come with me." Afraid, the boy got into the canoe and they crossed the stream. She had threatened the boy. The old woman and the boy skinned the bear and then made a fire to cook some meat. She said, "Why should the old man have any food? He is blind and useless anyway." The boy hid some pieces of meat in his clothing.

When he got back to the clearing and the old woman had disappeared with her meat, the boy told his father that he had killed the bear, but the woman had threatened him. "Here, father, is some meat I saved for you." His father would not touch it for he was ashamed that his son should have to steal to feed him. "Keep it for your mother."

Then he stood, resolved, and reached for the boy's arm. "Take me to the lake," I will visit Loon there. Loon is a wise and magical bird who might help me." At the shore, the old man said, "Now leave me." "Let me stay with you", said the lad. "Go, your mother will return soon", said the old man."

Alone, the aged man sang about being miserable and helpless. "Ho-no ha-no hi-hi-ye-ee!" he chanted. "My heart is breaking with grief."

After many hours, another song reached his ears. The song was sad and lonely and the old man smiled because he knew it was the song of Loon. It became louder and louder till it was just off shore.

"You sing of troubles." Loon said. "How can I help you?" Old man replied, "O Loon, I am old and blind. My family is starving and I can't feed them. I do not ask to be young, but I would not be so helpless if I could see. I would give my most priceless possession to see again."

Loon said, "Enter the water with me. Hang onto my wings as I dive and bury your eyes in my feathers." So the two dived deeper and deeper and then they floated toward the surface. Just as he thought his lungs would burst, the old man and Loon reached the surface. Loon asked, "Can you see?" "Just a little, I can see the shape of some trees." "Dive with me again," said Loon. This time they went deeper. Suddenly, as they came up the man cried, "I can see, I can see!"

The old man pulled a shell necklace from his neck and tossed it over to Loon, where it fell onto its neck, while a sprinkling of loose shells scattered on his back. Where the white shells touched the black feathers, white markings appeared. Loon preened itself admiringly and swam away.

The old man returned to the clearing, rejoicing in his returned vision. It began to rain just as he reached his lodge to find his wife consoling their son. Comforting his son about the beating by the old hag he said, "Forget the beating, I am now able to see and we will not want for meat and that woman will not hit you again."

It began to rain harder with lightning flashing and the thunder deafened them. The two adults blocked the entrance to the lodge to keep it dry. Between the claps of thunder, they heard the old hag outside their door. She was trying to get out of the storm and the couple would not answer or let her in.

The storm cleared and everything was washed clean and the old woman gone. But the old man saw an owl which he had never seen before. That night the owl screamed all night keeping them awake and for three more nights, so the family moved to a new clearing. They were sure the owl was the old hag. With the old man's returned vision, they were no longer hungry and when they heard Loon call from far out on the lake, they were grateful and it seemed the Loon's cry was no longer always sad. Often they heard the Loon's long happy thrill. "Loon is laughing," the old man exclaimed. "Loon is pleased with his new necklace."



## Lichens of the Northwoods

by Tom Stram

Lichens are all over the Northwoods but nobody sees them unless you look closely. They are usually gray-green in color but some are orange, yellow, slate blue or black. They are the most obvious overlooked component of our landscape. One taxonomist called them the “poor trash” of vegetation. Some have medicinal value, some have food value, they have nesting value for hummingbirds, some are used as oils and perfumes, some are used as natural dyes and lichens are indicators of air pollution.

Lichens usually grow on tree parts but are also found on dead wood, soil, rocks, tombstones and other sunny places. They are fascinating, complex and unusual organisms that consist of two totally unrelated organisms, an algae and a fungus that live together in a mutually beneficial way called symbiosis. The algae are green plants that can photosynthesize and provide energy. The fungus contributes by obtaining water and minerals and by protecting the algae from drying out.

There are about 700 species living in the northwoods. Lichens are divided into four types of growth forms. Foliose forms look like leafy growths, Fruticose forms have bushy or shrub growths, the Crustose form looks like dry crusty paint, and Squamulose forms are scaly lichens made of numerous small rounded lobes. An excellent reference is “Lichens of the North Woods” by Joe Walewski. Look for them the next time you go out the door of your cabin. They are right in front of your nose and just a few steps away.



Foliose



Fruticose



Crustose



Squamulose



## Important New Disease Threatens Some Species in the Northwoods

by Sandra Lehmann

Back in 2005, an important study was released from the USFS's North Central Research Station revealing a curious new disease complex of **bitternut hickory**. Hickories across the upper Midwest were dying in massive numbers, and forest managers had no management tactics available to control this die-off. Recent research results indicate not only is this disease complex killing hickories, but it seems to be involved with the large number of declining aspen stands in the Northwoods (previously reported to be suffering due to drought and a host of native pathogens and insects).

Current research is investigating the possibility that this disease is a result of a bacterial species associated with, not only declining bitternuts and aspens, but also dying red pines previously thought to be infected by the fungi *Heterobasidion annosum* and/or *Armillaria*. Researchers have now confirmed this new species is not associated with oak wilt.

Oak wilt spreads over land when insect vectors pick up oak wilt spores from fungal mats on infected oaks and transport them to freshly cut living oak wood. The fungal mats are usually produced under the bark of infected oak trees in the spring. In general, fungal mats are not produced in Wisconsin until sometime in early April. However, warm weather can promote earlier-than-normal fungal mat production and vector activity. With the warm weather we've been experiencing we can assume the fungal mats and vectors are active.

## Wildlife Resources of the Flambeau River State Forest (FRSF)

By Laine Stowell, Sawyer County Wildlife Manager

According to Pierre Radisson, who was the first white man to visit the Flambeau watershed, the Flambeau River basin was an important ungulate wintering area where local Ojibwa would hunt deer, elk and moose. Deer are still common along the North and South Forks of the Flambeau River that run through the FRSF. Elk, from the Butternut Subgroup of the Clam Lake Elk Herd, have been seen crossing the North Fork during winter [the portion of the FRSF north of STH 70 is within the Clam Lake Elk Range]. A few years back even a bull moose visited the Price Creek area in the FRSF. Along with the deer are their predators—wolves, coyotes, bobcat, bear, and humans.

A wide variety of northern mammals make the FRSF home, including snowshoe rabbits; long-tailed weasels, mink, muskrat, beaver, otter, red squirrels, red backed voles, etc. The variety of forest habitats, from white-cedar swamps, to northern hardwood forests of maple and basswood, to trembling aspen stands, to pine plantations, and all the varieties of habitats resulting from timber management of these stands, create a vast variety of habitats for most of Wisconsin's northern forest mammal and bird species. Local lakes and rivers are home for resident Canada geese, mallards, wood ducks, bald eagles, osprey and the multitude of migrants traveling through in spring and fall. Even flocks of the recently returned wild turkey have taken hold and prospered in the FRSF. The opportunities abound for the hunter, birdwatcher, and otherwise just general wildlife watcher on river, on road, on trail or in the woods!

## Squirrels by Sandra Lehmann

Do you have a love hate relationship with squirrels? It is fascinating to watch their "high wire" acts as they race through the tree branches. It dawned on me that they have their own highway system. Sometimes, the way they jump, I am sure they are going to fall but they never do.

The tree squirrel is a very special animal. It is one of very few wild animals that have adapted to humans and learned to coexist with man. It can live on both natural foods and hand outs. Its determination to find a way to get seeds from a so called "squirrel proof" bird feeder is amazing.

The **Gray squirrel** has been traced back 50 million years, from a fossil record made in North America. There are over 365 species of squirrel's or squirrel like mammals through out the world. These are divided into seven families. The three most common squirrel families are the ground squirrel, the flying squirrel and the tree squirrel. The Gray squirrel is probably the most common of the tree squirrels. The average Gray squirrel is fifteen inches long and weighs about one pound. Its diet consists of nuts, seeds and fruit. They will eat scraps from the trash including bread, meat and even snack food. The life span of the squirrel is approximately six years. Most city squirrels do not reach their first birthday because of automobiles. Rural squirrels often perishes from the lack of food.

There is also the very annoying **Red squirrel**. They are smaller then the Gray being eight to ten inches in length, with fur that ranges from red to black. Most will have a white belly and a long fluffy red tail. The Red squirrel is found in coniferous forests, where it feeds on the seeds and cones of the Pines, Fir's and Spruce trees.

Squirrels are the most active in late winter, when the mating season begins. The males will chase females, as well as, chase off other suitors. This ritual of chasing, occurs through the trees at top speed while they perform some of the most breathtaking acrobatics imaginable. The period of gestation varies from 33 days in the smaller species of pine squirrels, up to 60 days for the larger species such as the common gray and fox squirrels.

Squirrels are usually born in the early spring. The average litter consists of four. This varies with climate and location. A second litter can occur in mid summer, if there is an adequate food supply.

In the summer squirrels are most active two to three hours after sunrise, and then they'll rest in the afternoon, resuming activity again two hours before sunset. The squirrel will retire to its nest well before dark, and will rarely leave the nest in the dark. In the winter, the squirrel will complete its activities between dawn and mid-day, and will remain in or around the nest until the next day. During winter storms, or severe cold, the squirrel may not leave the nest for days. But, the tree squirrel does not hibernate!

An adult squirrel normally lives alone. But will, in severe cold, share its nest with other squirrels to conserve body heat. Once the temperature rises, the guests will be on their way.

Squirrels eyes are located high, and on each side of their head. This allows them a wide field of vision, without turning their head. The male tree squirrel takes twice as long, as the female, to groom itself. They are the cleanest animal in the rodent family. Squirrels teeth grow continuously. Their incisor's will grow six inches per year, but stay short due to the constant wear they receive.

Squirrels chew on tree branches to sharpen and clean their teeth. That's why you may see many small branches on the ground around large trees. They will also chew on power lines for the same reason; this has caused many major power outages throughout the country. A squirrel's brain is about the size of a walnut.

The average adult squirrel needs to eat about a pound of food a week to maintain an active life. Squirrels communicate through a series of chirps. The frequency, and the duration of the notes communicate everything from laughter to alarm. These sounds, when used in conjunction with tail gestures, form the basis for squirrel communication.

We also have **Flying squirrels**, which are nocturnal. Flying squirrels glide from tree to tree by spreading their legs and stretching their flight skin, which acts as a sail. They pull upright at the last instant to land gently, using the tail as a rudder.

**Black Squirrels** are quite common here. They can exist wherever grey squirrels live. Grey mating pairs may produce black offspring, and in areas with high concentrations of black squirrels, mixed litters are common



Flying Squirrel



Grey Squirrel



Red Squirrel



Black Squirrel

# The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

Contributed by Sandra Lehmann

The **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)** was a public work relief program for unemployed young men age 18-24. It provided unskilled manual labor related to the conservation and development of natural resources in rural areas of the United States from 1933 to 1942. It was proposed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) and was designed to provide relief for unemployed youth who had a very hard time finding jobs during the Great Depression. The following is a biography of Guy Christianson who served at Connors Lake.

## **CCCman, Co. 1610, Camp Connors Lake, Phillips, WI, Park Falls, WI, Loretta, WI**

My name is Guy Christianson and I served in the CCC at Camp Connors Lake, WI. Also was at side camps in Park Falls and Loretta. These are some of my experiences in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

I graduated high school in 1932 and really would have liked to go to college but the depression got in the way of that—money was scarce and jobs even more so—so I hopped on a freight train and became a "bum" for awhile. The trains were full of young fellows like me, riding around the country looking for work. It was quite an exciting life, and a little dangerous at times. I finally returned home to New Richmond, WI, and was looking for something so I could settle down in one place for awhile.

I first joined the CCC in the spring of 1934, as a young man of 20. It was my Mother who put me onto the CCC, she kind of pushed me into it and I was never sorry for going. This was an opportunity to make a decent living and be able to send some money home to my Mother and younger brothers and sister.

I lived well while there and was able to send money home for the family. I had two younger brothers and a kid sister at home. Life in the CCC was good, three squares a day, and my experience in cooking and cutting hair was put to good use. I learned all about cooking for a crowd from my Grandmother, on the farm. She needed help and I was too young for the fields, so I got elected. I could flip pancakes with the best of them by the time I was six years old. My father cut hair; he cut all the neighborhood boys. One spring day, the gang all came over for their spring buzz. My father was late coming home and they got restless so I got out his stuff and started cutting. He came home when I was almost done. From that day on I did all the guys haircuts.

After I joined the CCC, I was sent along with others to start a CCC camp near Phillips Wisconsin. We had been given uniforms and gear and sent to our camp. All of the uniforms worn in the Wisconsin CCC were old army issue. The "pea" coat, wool shirt and pants with the tighter legs were the standard issue, left over from WWI. We took to sewing in wedges of wool from army blankets up both side seams on the legs, to make them wider and more comfortable, hence the "first bell bottoms" and the Navy thought they invented that!! We never had any insignia, badges or patches that I recall.

We first set up camp at Connors Lake, in rural northern Wisconsin near Phillips, in June of 1934. That was to be the main camp for the area. There were only 25 or 30 fellows in the group at first. We slept in old army surplus tents while we built the camp buildings. Our main job at that time was to pick gooseberry bushes, believe it or not! There was a blister root disease running through the woods at that time and gooseberry was the host plant for that disease, as well as currant bushes. Our job was to eradicate that strain of blister root.

By the time Camp Connors Lake was completed and filled to capacity, there were about 300 men living there.

Lucky for me I was a country kid, used to the hardships of working in the fields and the woods. A lot of the fellows I came to know were from the streets of the cities, they had a hard time of it at first, but they caught on.

Camp Connors Lake is located in State Forest land west of Park Falls and Fifield, on highway 70. Park Falls side camp was just on the south side of the city behind the old ranger station, on the hill where the hospital is now. The fire tower is still there. Our side camp at Loretta, was located ten miles east of Winter WI. There also was a camp on Moose Lake, near Loretta. These were federal camp sites on National forest lands. The camp at Loretta was located just outside of Loretta, WI. It was the 648th company. There was another camp called Sawyer, which is the name of the county where both Winter and Loretta are located. These camps were in the Chequamegon National Forest. There was a side camp on the outskirts of the city of Park Falls and a larger camp located near Phillips, WI, some twenty miles to the south. There was a camp east of highway 70 also, called Riley Creek Camp. This whole area was dotted with CCC camps.

Camp Connors Lake had the responsibility of making fire control more manageable in those thickly forested areas. A lot of the area had been cut over by the huge lumber companies and the new growth was mixed with decaying wood left behind, a virtual tinderbox ready to flame. We built fire lanes throughout the forests, put in telephone lines for communication, and erected fire towers in several different locations around the area.

Before the CCC there was only the railroad and narrow logging roads providing access to the forests of rural Wisconsin. When the first big loggers came to make their fortunes, by harvesting the virgin timber growing here, they worked fairly close to the waterways. The massive logs could then be pulled by teams of horses to the rivers where they would be piled along the river banks. The rivers were ice covered for most of the long, cold winter months, but when the spring thaw came, they would be rolled into the water and floated down stream to the lumber mills or railroad cars waiting to take them to the far corners of the country. As the forests located near waterways disappeared, the loggers were forced to move farther and farther into the forest, and that is when the railroads became so important.

The area is still marked by a network of railroad beds, where rails once connected the lumber camps. The logging roads were pretty crude and not maintained after the crews moved on. An opening was punched in that was just big enough to allow them to drag out the trees to a branch of a railroad. Many of the fire lanes we

built followed those old logging roads. Some of them had strange names that made one wonder at the stories behind them. There was one road, located near Oxbow that was called Snoose Boulevard, and still is to this day. From County W to State Highway 70, the three Price Lakes and Lake Letourneau, all were joined by those fire lanes, still in use today.

As Camp Connors Lake grew we branched out into nearby areas. In the summer of 1935 twelve of us were sent to the small logging community of Winter, Wisconsin. We set up our camp in old army tents and began to build a Ranger Station. That cement block building still stands today, right in the town of Winter. I love to drive by when we're in the area, just to look at it and remember how it was that summer. The stone mason they hired for the job was from a nearby town called Ogema. He brought his machinery with him to the site and began to teach us how to make our own cement block. Most of the blocks were rough faced on one side, giving the building a nice look from the street, almost like hand hewn rock.

There was no such thing as refrigeration, all we had was an icebox and a block of ice, which kept things from spoiling for only two or three days, at most. I was the cook. I can still remember what it was like to feed those hungry guys three squares a day. Boy, could they eat! Many of the recruits came to us looking as if they had not been fed a square meal in weeks, and I guess that was true for most of them. A lot of these boys were from the cities, and food was scarce on those city streets during the Depression. At least the country boys could go out in the woods and shoot a meal, if they could get a gun and some ammunition, or they could snare a rabbit or two. Those guys from the big cities had no such luxury, if you want to call it that. They were lean and hungry, and at first you couldn't fill them up!

Finding groceries for that crew was always a challenge. There was a fellow that lived out in the country and raised New Zealand rabbits. Now you may not believe it but, no fooling, those rabbits weighed about 20# apiece, and when I could get one we really had a feast! That is one thing I knew how to cook was rabbit. Other supplies were purchased from area stores. Donnalyn's store, in Winter, had a big walk-in cooler. Almost every day I made the run into the store for supplies. Some of the store owners delivered and they always stopped by the kitchen for coffee and some of my homemade cookies. Big dunkers tasted great with a cup of coffee.

Every day about noon I would run lunch out to the tower man, the fellow who's job it was to sit up inside the little room at the top of the tall towers we built, and watch for forest fires. If I could borrow a gun and some ammo, I would hunt along the way. Then the guys would have fresh partridge for their supper, baked in a cream sauce. The area around here is still known for its partridge hunting, only now they call them grouse.

We spent most of our off hours either in Winter or out at one of the area bars/dance halls. Most of us didn't have much money in our pockets, so we never had to worry about being "over-served". The majority of the fellows liked to dance and we'd all pile in the back of the camp pickup truck and be off to the nearest dance hall whenever we could get the free time.

Every side camp had its own baseball team in those days, and we all enjoyed playing a game of ball. If you were pretty good at it, the different camps would vie for getting you signed on to their camp. A few of the guys, who were really good, went on to play ball for area teams and eventually landed jobs in whatever town wanted them to play for their teams. Baseball was a big thing back then.

Donnalyn's store had something special for the times and had outdoor movies every Wednesday night. Those movies were pretty popular and the whole town would show up for them. My favorite one was written by a local boy by the name of Dietz. This fellow wrote about a true story that had happened to his family when the dam on the Thornapple River was blown up. This was all about the big lumber barons and the feuds they had with local landowners during the time of the logging days in that country. It was a true story and would sure make a good movie, even now. Young Dietz made it into a movie himself, and it sure was popular. Donnalyn showed it more than once. I suppose because folks around there had lived through those times, and remembered how it was, and the Dietz family got a lot of sympathy for it.

Another favorite haunt of ours was Peterson's Tavern, on Saturday night. Now Saturday night was traditionally lumberjack's night on the town. A big glass of beer was 5 cents, and the bar was usually packed. If you can imagine a bar full of lumberjacks and a bunch of sunburned, fresh-faced CCC kids, you can just about imagine the fun we had. There are so many stories I could tell!

I can still recall a few names, George Edburg was the Tower man boss—he was a forester from the Hayward area. A fellow by the name of Hank Johnson brought his little bulldozer in to break trail for us, so we could get into fight fires when necessary. I have a picture or two of Hank on his bulldozer. I was an amateur photographer at the time, and was always snapping pictures. We had a set-up right in camp, so we could develop them ourselves. Many of them we gave to the guys as they mustered out, so they would have some record of it all. I kept a few for my own album. One thing I did was to write names on the backs of the camp photos, so I would remember the names.

My hitch in the CCC ended in June of 1936. I learned an awful lot in those two years, about myself and about life. We learned so much in the CCC and had a good time doing it. I still have my photo album and enjoy looking at the pictures I took of all the guys.

I decided to stay on in the area and found a job. It was nearing the end of those hard times and jobs were becoming available. I married a pretty little Irish girl and made a good life out of it. I still think about those days sometimes and I enjoy talking about them to whoever will listen. Guess that is the mark of an old man!



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

Greetings from The Northwoods to all lake home owners, visitors, passers by and interested lake people. Spring has sprung and we are preparing for another beautiful summer. Just wanted to give you a quick update on what has been happening around here and what's going on this summer.

Winter is over and we are all very happy to see it disappear. It was an interesting season with enough snow for snowmobiling, skiing, and other activities. The snow came early, around Christmas, and it turned out to be our biggest storm of the winter. In fact, since mid January, there hasn't been much precipitation at all. The drought continues here and there doesn't seem to be an end in sight. Again expect river and lake levels to be down considerably.

On the last Saturday in February we had our annual ice fishing contest. It was a success with many happy fishermen. The Robinson group was the big winner with two nice walleyes. We are still trying to figure out their hotspot, they kept it kind of quiet! We had over 400 people registered and it turned out to be a fun weekend for all. The ice fishing for the rest of the year seemed to be a little slow but reports from all over the state and into Minnesota were very similar to our area. Let's hope this spring and summer has much better results.

On a sad note, Todd Perrett passed away. He found out he had kidney cancer in late December and was gone in March. It happened very fast and it still hasn't sunk in for most. Todd and his family were a big part of the area for a very long time. Alissa and Todd ran the Flambeau Forest Inn until her passing in December, 2002. They have four children between the two of them—Whitney, Kerstyn, Ben, and Lauren—ranging in ages from 12 to 21. On April 10 the Flambeau Forest Inn, with help from many, held a fundraiser for the children and raised close to \$10,000.00. This was a great testament to the people from near and far on what can be done when people are in need of help. Although the money raised will be a huge help in insuring their children's future, it is only a drop in the bucket. We have set up an account in Todd's name at Mid-Wisconsin Bank in Phillips. We are also doing a ticket raffle with the help of the Tuscobia Trails A.T.V. Association. All proceeds from this will go directly to the children. Thank you so much for the support, Todd will be missed.



Pig Roast at Todd Perrett's benefit

The same day of the benefit for Todd we held a redhorse contest. This was a blast; the winning team, Josh Schuelkes crew, caught 85 pounds of horse. The Fort Flambeau crew caught the biggest, a 6 lb monster. Both donated their winnings to the Todd Perrett fund—Thank you guys.

Everyone is out hunting turkeys the last couple of weeks. R.J. Guarascio shot a 22 lb Tom one of the last days of April. The woods are alive with grouse and if this is any indication of what's to come this fall, I think there will be many happy hunters out there. This spring has been ideal for nesting, warm weather and dry is the key, keep an eye out for broods when you get here. With summer coming we look forward to seeing everyone and hope you all had a great winter.



Red horse weigh in during Todd Perrett's benefit



Steve Schneider  
13 1/2 lb 31inch walleye



Jake Nelson—31 inch walleye

We wish you a safe, enjoyable and, most of all, relaxing summer and fall. Good luck and we will see you on the water or in the brush.



## Information from Jim Halvorson, Superintendent Flambeau River State Forest



The Flambeau River State Forest (FRSF) is located in north central Wisconsin in Sawyer, Price, Rusk, Ashland, and Iron Counties and surrounds portions of the North and South Forks of the Flambeau River. The forest is one of the largest public lands and has a little over 90,000 acres.

The FRSF includes large acreages of northern hardwoods and remaining stands of old-growth hemlock. The forest harvests approximately 2,200 acres annually. It is popular with canoeists, kayakers and campers. Hunting and fishing are also popular along with motorized trails for ATVs and snowmobiles.

On Saturday, April 17, 2010, a FRSF Master Plan Public Meeting was held at Big Bear. The Master Plan outlines how the property will be managed, used and developed, and the benefits it will provide. It states the forest management practices, recreational uses, other land management activities, and items concerning the future use and development of the forest with an emphasis on the next 15 years. The last master plan for the forest was approved in 1980. The department knew it was time to revise the plan because of changing ecological, economic, and social conditions. It was also necessary to incorporate new information learned since that time.

Some highlights of the master plan include:

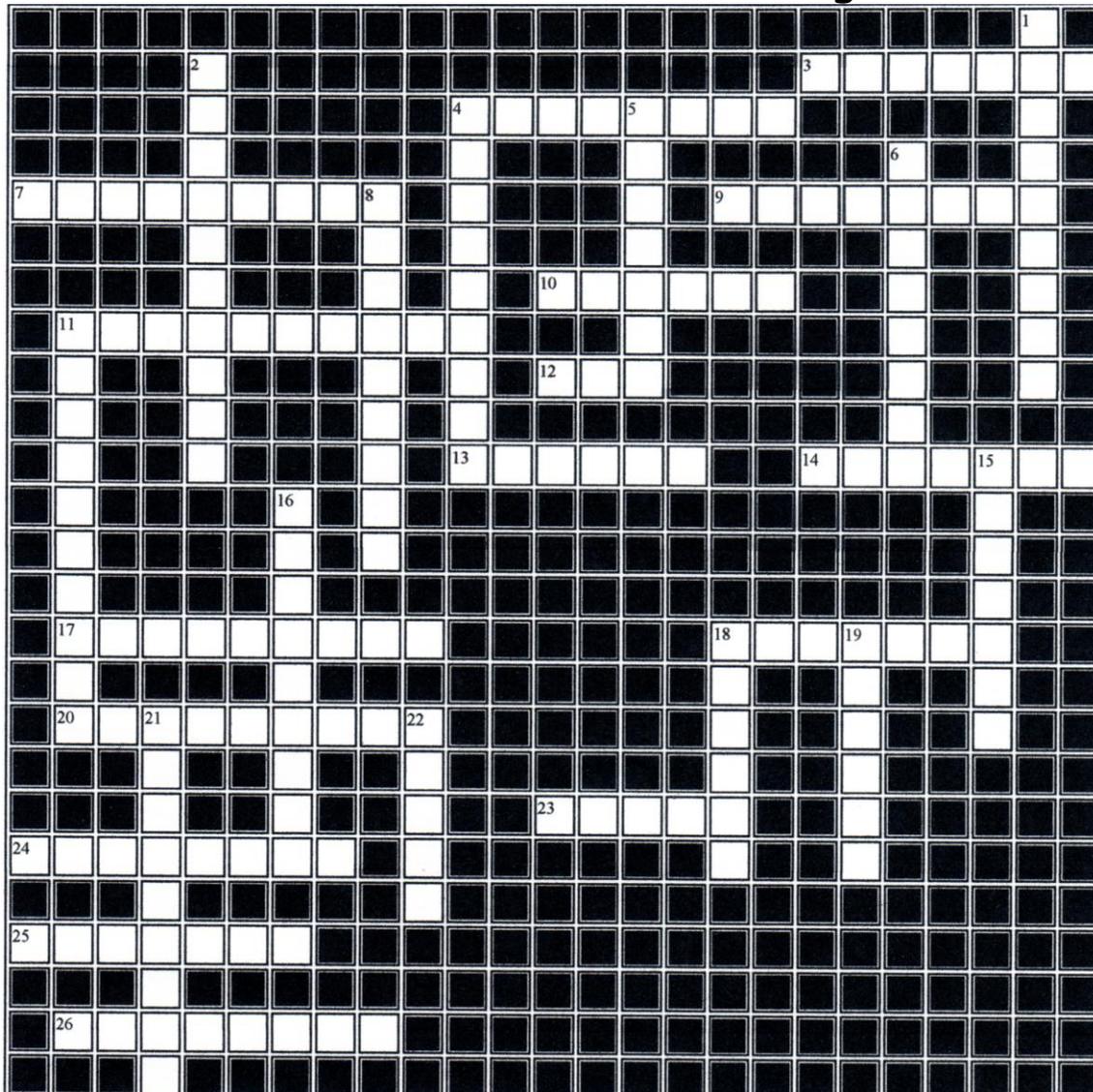
1. Approximately 17,000 acres along both sides of the Flambeau River will be designated as a scenic management area.
2. Over 61,000 (67%) acres are managed for forest production. Approximately 35,000 (40%) acres is classified as northern hardwoods.
3. Approximately 8,000 (8%) acres will be in native community management. The emphasis will be on hemlock-hardwoods, red and white pine, and yellow birch.
4. Rare, threatened, and endangered species of wildlife will continue to be protected by improving and maintaining habitat. A 4,000 acre habitat management area is proposed near the southern end of the property with an emphasis on species such as aspen for ruffed grouse habitat.
5. A percentage of campsites at Connors Lake Campground will be upgraded with modern amenities and three new reservable walk-in-only campsites with lake access will be developed. Lake of the Pines campground will remain rustic. A portion of campsites will be added to the statewide reservation system.
6. River campsites and landings will be renovated or redeveloped as needed. There will be additional primitive river campsites, small group campsites, and a small rustic campground near the forest headquarters.
7. Day use areas will be increased. Slough Gundy will be developed and improved for day use. Connors Lake picnic area will receive some new amenities. Hervas Landing (a river camp) will be restored and redesignated as a day-use/picnic area. A day use picnic area will be added near the new forest headquarters.
8. The Flambeau snowmobile/ATV trail will be upgraded and extended to the south and east forest boundaries. An auto tour route is planned to interpret forest resources and management, and educate visitors about public benefits and opportunities.
9. A river hiking/backpack trail will be developed to parallel the river and run the length of the forest. Campground nature trails will be redone. A new interpretive trail is being planned using an existing trail to the Bass Lake Wilderness area.
10. Hunter walking trails will increase.

Currently

1. There is a new used dock at Lake of the Pines.
2. A muskie survey was done on Connors Lake the week of April 5, 2010.
3. Lake of the Pines boat landing—Jim is fairly confident the boat landing will get funded and construction is anticipated for late summer or fall.
4. Our kiosk will go up at Lake of the Pines as soon as the boat landing has been moved.
5. The DNR office no longer sells licenses or permits. Get them from Jake at the Flambeau Forest Inn.
6. The fire tower will not be manned this summer due to funding. The shift is to aircraft flights. Most of ours come out of Siren, WI.

Please visit our website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/stateforests/SF-Flambeau> to view or obtain a copy of the *Draft Master Plan and Environmental Analysis*.

# Fun for kids of all ages



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

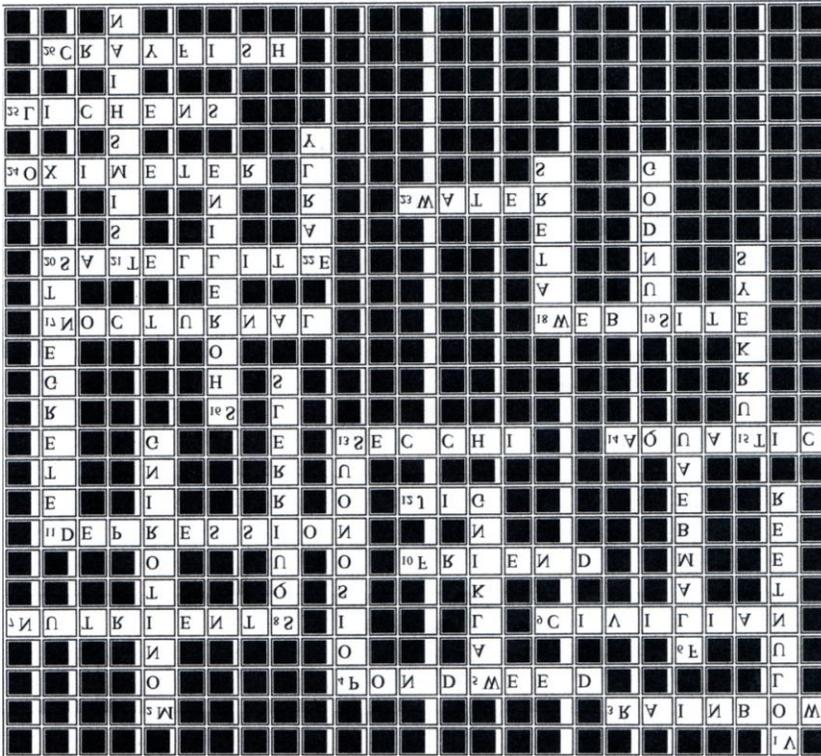
## Across

3. A phenomenon that causes a spectrum of light to appear in the sky is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Curly-leaf \_\_\_\_\_ was used by hobbyists as an aquarium plant.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ are degrading 90% of Wisconsin's inland lakes.
9. CCC stands for \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation Corps.
10. This year our motto of CBCW is Bring a \_\_\_\_\_ Along.
11. The CCC was designed to provide employment during the \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Clean out your tackle box of all lead \_\_\_\_\_ heads.
13. A \_\_\_\_\_ disk is used to test for water clarity.
14. All \_\_\_\_\_ plants must now be removed from boats before they are transported.
17. Flying squirrels are \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Would someone please set up and maintain a \_\_\_\_\_ for our association.
20. UW has a \_\_\_\_\_ imagery program to monitor all 8,000 lakes.
23. The demand for \_\_\_\_\_ will keep growing unless we change how we use it.
24. An \_\_\_\_\_ is used to measure dissolved oxygen in the lake.
25. \_\_\_\_\_ are called the poor trash of vegetation.
26. Rusty \_\_\_\_\_ are aggressive and very prolific.

## Down

1. \_\_\_\_\_ inspectors perform boat and trailer checks.
2. CLMN stands for Citizen Lake \_\_\_\_\_ Network.
4. Lead in the environment is \_\_\_\_\_ to wildlife.
5. People go \_\_\_\_\_ on our roads.
6. Pierre Radisson was the first white man to visit the \_\_\_\_\_ watershed.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ are the greatest acrobats of the forest.
11. Phosphorous is being banned in dishwasher \_\_\_\_\_.
15. You will most likely see geese and \_\_\_\_\_ on Cty W.
16. Boaters must now maintain 100 feet from the \_\_\_\_\_.
18. CBCW stands for Clean Boats Clean \_\_\_\_\_.
19. A \_\_\_\_\_ may appear as a colored patch of light to the left or right of the sun.
21. The story "The Loon Necklace" is a \_\_\_\_\_ Indian legend.
22. The ice went out on the lake \_\_\_\_\_ this year.

## Crossword Puzzle Answer Key



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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, or [cabinatconnors@pctcnet.net](mailto:cabinatconnors@pctcnet.net).

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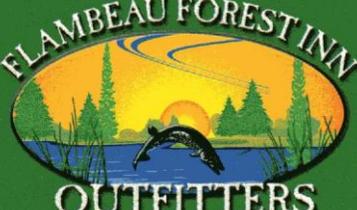
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