

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

A message from Tom Stram, President

I would like to thank those who voted for me in the July election even though I was the only one on the ballot for president. The only advantage to being unopposed is that no money was spent on campaigning or negative attack ads on an opponent. I would not have considered putting my name back on the ballot except for the dedicated and hardworking Officers and Board of Directors of your Lake Association. The lack of participation by its officers and board of directors essentially paralyzed a neighboring lake association whereas all (12 of 12) of our officers and board are present at most meetings.

Nature is very unpredictable, as we all know. For seven years we have been in a severe drought zone. Starting on June 22nd we experienced one deluge of rain after another. Basements have been flooded. Driveways have deep crevasses requiring repair. Piers and boats have floated off. Tannin stained water flowed into, instead of out of, Connors Lake. Only now is the water clarity slowly improving.

This year's accomplishments have included placing our second and third warning buoys. Thanks go out to Gene Johnson for his long and sometimes frustrating fight with the establishment to get the buoys in place. We treated another 17 acres of previously resistant and persistent Eurasian water milfoil and appear to be winning the battle. Another successful Raffle was held this year. We have had informative speakers at our general membership meetings on topics including Loons, Flambeau River State Forest Master Plan and Area Deer Research study. The work of the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network and Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteers continues although the interest in the CBCW work is waning when the numbers of invasive species is waxing. We desperately need some new faces in our volunteer pool. Start by spending time with an experienced volunteer. I find the experience to be fun, educational and you get to meet your neighbors and other interesting people who use our lake.

We continue our dialog with a representative of the Department of Natural Resources. I believe they will re-study the riverbed below the dam next spring. Again, we need to refrain from manipulating the dam on Connors Lake. There is increasing evidence that this outlet is part of a healthy ecosystem for both Connors and especially Lake of the Pines. The Fish Committee would love to respond to the desires of the fisherman by stocking walleyes and other species but feel it is best to wait for the formal study of fisheries in our lakes scheduled for 2012. Plans are being developed for our first lake days picnic next summer and possibly a CoPaPi website.

On Wednesday October 13th I attended the Winter Township meeting to introduce my self and our Lake Association to the Board of Supervisors. The President of the Board of Supervisors, Wayne Geist, lives on Connors Lake. Also attending the meeting was Jim Genrich, president of the Winter Lakes Alliance and we shared some of our common problems and accomplishments. Hopefully we can work together on some projects of common interest in the future. Check out their website. It is www.winterlakesalliance.com

Enjoy your award-winning newsletter and have a great fall and winter season.

2011 General Membership Meetings at Connors Lake Pavilion

Saturday **May 28**

Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday **July 2**

Association Annual Meeting—Independence Day Weekend

Saturday **September 3**

Labor Day Weekend

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

The spring newsletter will be mailed in May 2011. Please submit your contributions or mention items you would like to see in future newsletters by Wednesday April 20 to Sandra Lehmann. Drop off at the house, call 715.332.5101 or email sjl@pctnet.net

CoPaPi Board of Directors for 2010-2011

Officers

President	Tom Stram	term ends 2012
Vice President	Dave Schiotz	term ends 2012
Treasurer	Nancy Sorensen	term ends 2011
Recording Secretary	Ellen Cernjar	term ends 2012
Corresponding Secretary	Sandra Lehmann	term ends 2011

Board Members at Large

Gordie Dukerschein, Dave Cooley, Mark LaVick, Al Schneider	term ends 2011
Dale Lehmann, Tom Deinhammer, Carolyn Mealman, Jim Schofield	term ends 2012
Gene Johnson—Past President, Esther Johnson—Past Treasurer	

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Ellen Cernjar	715.878.4672	gecernjar@yahoo.com
Sandra Lehmann	715.332.5101	sjl@pctcnet.net
Gordie Dukerschein	715.322.4481	gpdukerschein@artisansinc.com
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Jim Schofield	715.723.2011	schofieldje@hotmail.com
Tom Deinhammer	715.835.6588	deintj@charter.net
Carolyn Mealman	715.332.5267	cesm@pctcnet.net
Gene Johnson	715.536.0219	genes.johnson@verizon.net
Esther Johnson	715.332.5223	



Thanks to Al Schneider for taking the photos

Cash Raffle

The Cash Raffle was held on Saturday, September 18, 2010, at The Cabin on Connors Lake. The CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association, Inc. would like to thank everyone who participated in and bought tickets for our cash raffle. Congratulations to the winners.

2010 CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association Raffle Winners

1st Prize	\$2,500	Bob Cervenka
2nd Prize	\$1,000	Joel Szymanski
3rd Prize	\$ 500	Larry Dukerschein
4th Prize	\$ 250	Mike Stram
5th Prize	\$ 100	Jerry Boson
6th Prize	\$ 100	Megan Austin
7th Prize	\$ 100	Kathy Bogdanovic
8th Prize	\$ 100	Debbie Cervenka
9th Prize	\$ 100	Esther Johnson
10th Prize	\$ 100	Ron Guarascio

WCLMN (Wisconsin Citizens Lake Monitoring Network)

by Dave Schiotz, Coordinator

Once again we had a busy and interesting summer monitoring the water in Connors and Lake of the Pines (LOP). In August and September of 2009, we had an unexpected blue-green algae bloom on Connors which dropped our clarity (secchi disk reading) to an average of 12.56 feet. This bloom did not affect LOP to any great extent.

This summer, with the monsoon rains beginning on June 22, our secchi readings fell from a high of 24 feet on June 20 to a low of 4.25 feet on August 23. While the lake water has remained quite clear, the water color has turned a dark brown. The lakes have remained very high from late June into October, which has not happened as long as I can remember. LOP, which normally has darker water, had a pretty consistent secchi reading of between three and four feet.

The main cause of the dark water color this year was the tremendous amount of rain (unofficial total at Heizler's Court was over 41 inches from June 22 to early October) and the tannins that washed into the lakes. Tannins are naturally occurring compounds found in wood, bark, leaves, fruit, and roots, of most plants but are particularly abundant in hemlock, oaks and sumac. I am sure there were some suspended soil particles contributing to the dark color as well.

How long will the dark color last? I certainly don't know but I do feel once the tannins stop flowing into the lakes and we maintain our flow out of the lakes via Connors Creek that the water clarity will improve. It will be interesting to see how long it takes!

Thanks again to our great group of volunteers. I will try to do a better job of training and working with the LOP volunteers next summer so that we can have more consistent results. On Connors, we actually have a few extra volunteers so some of them didn't get a chance this year. We only have so many sampling dates. Maybe next summer we can have a team approach so everyone who wants to can do some monitoring. I'm open for ideas!

A special THANK YOU to Sandy Lehmann who inputs all our data into the DNR website. This is a very important job and she does it well!!

Sometime this fall or early winter we should have a summary of the 2010 monitoring data. In the May newsletter I will try to interpret the data for you as we ready for a new season on the water.

Have a good winter!

You can access WCLMN 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
-

GO WITH THE FLOW!!!

By Dave Schiotz

I'm writing this to give you something to think about over the winter while you are ice fishing, skiing, snowshoeing or sitting by the fire! The views expressed here are my own and should not reflect on the CoPaPi Board or any other aspect of the Association.

Early on in our CoPaPi Association, I supported a "water level control" structure at the mouth of Connors Creek to help regulate lake levels. I felt, at that time, it would not be to detrimental to our three lakes (LOP, Papoose and Connors).

Several things happened this spring / summer that caused me to re-evaluate my position. I have been working with the lake monitoring program (CLMN) for the past few years. I have been directly involved on Connors and this year helped on LOP three times. Shortly after ice-out, in early May, the two lakes were high and extremely "dirty". I rode my bike down to the outlet, saw the 'obstruction' across the rocks and saw that Connors Creek was virtually dry! Nothing was flowing out of the lakes!

On May 15, the secchi reading was 6.0 feet. About that same time the DNR removed the "obstruction" from the mouth of the creek. On May 30, the secchi reading was 21.5 feet; June 16, 21 feet; June 20, 24 feet. Two weeks later, after our first major rain on June 22, the secchi reading was 6.5 feet. During this extremely heavy rain, the creek was actually flowing INTO the lake for a short period of time, thus creating a "dam".

There is a natural flow from two streams entering LOP, to Papoose, into Connors and out Connors Creek into the Flambeau River. Add to this all the springs that provide additional water to the lakes.

A secchi reading of over 20 feet is something to cherish and protect! When "mother nature" gives us several dry years, some of you will be inconvenienced as some were in this year of very high lake levels. This year we saw the effects of what an "obstruction" to the flow can do.

I am more convinced than ever that a "water level control structure" will have a detrimental effect on our lakes.

Depending on nature, we may have high water, low water or normal water but let's keep it FLOWING and give our lakes a chance to be as clean and clear as they can be!

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.
John Muir

Domesticated turkeys cannot fly; however, wild turkeys can fly up to 55 mph over short distances. Turkeys can drown if they look up when it is raining. A turkey's field of vision is 270 degrees, one of the main reasons they are able to elude some hunters.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters by Dave Cooley, Chairman

"THANK YOU"



Many thanks to the volunteers that donated time to the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program this summer. This program focuses on education of boaters and inspection of boats, trailers, and other watercraft for aquatic invasive species (AIS).

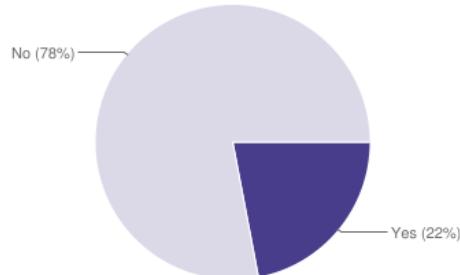
Special thanks to all of these helpers who took time on their busy holiday weekends to monitor the boat landing, helping to keep AIS from entering or leaving Connors Lake: Ellen Cernjar, Dave Cooley, Harold Cooley, Gordie Dukerschein, Hudson Echelard, Robert and Patricia Feller, Sarah Happe, Sandy Lehmann, Laura Marusinec, Carolyn Mealmann, Robyn McCree, Nancy Sorenson, Tom Stram, and Lee Swanson.

Another great benefit of this program is that our Lake Association is given credit towards our portion of the grant to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil in Connors Lake at \$12 for each volunteer hour. Also, good fishing tips are often exchanged from boaters at the public landing. This program relies on many people involved, so please consider volunteering for an hour or two next summer to keep our lakes clean.

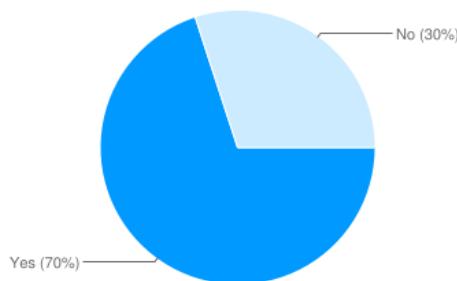
For more information or to help with Clean Boats, Clean Waters, please contact Dave Cooley at 920.832-0755 or dcooley1@prodigy.net.

Watercraft Inspection Connors Lake

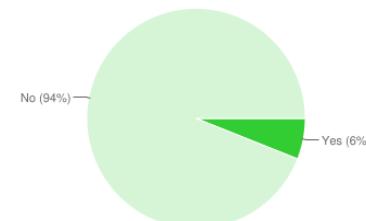
Boat Used During Past 5 Days On Different Waterbody?



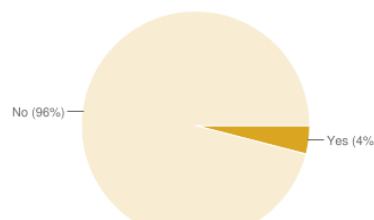
Would You Use A Wash Station?



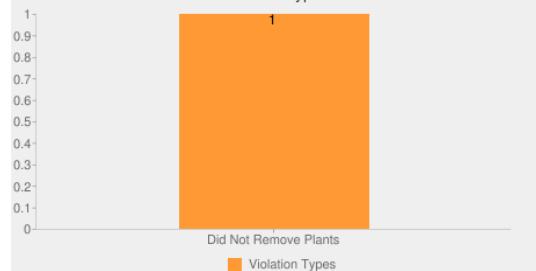
Plants Present?



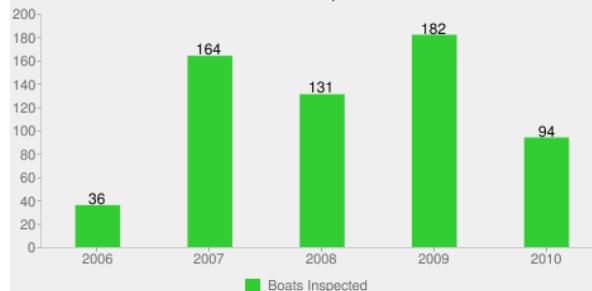
Violation Occurred?



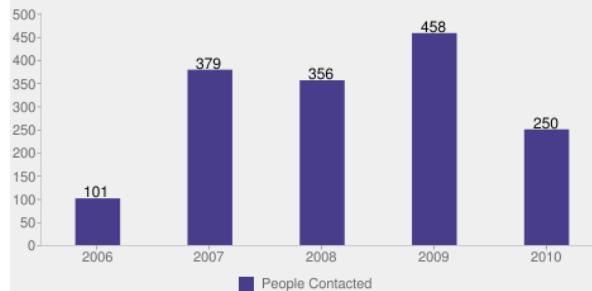
Violation Types



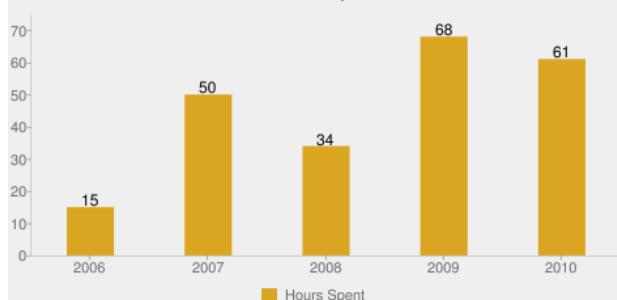
Boats Inspected



People Contacted



Hours Spent



Fishery News

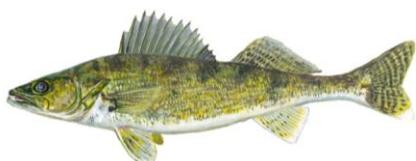
by Tom Deinhammer, Chairman

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

The fish committee has been hard at work trying to come up with some good ideas but we will have to see what happens. Some of the ideas include putting small fish cribs in both lakes if the DNR and the current permit holder agree with this plan. Another plan is to see if the DNR agrees with us as to the fact that the population of walleyes is close to what they believe it should be according to their netting. We need to come up with a plan on how we will plant walleyes in both lakes and we should have the DNR's final netting results by 2012. I have also asked Jeff Scheirer to speak to us at our meeting May 28, 2011. If there are more ideas about these issues please contact us so we can work with them to increase our fish population in our lakes.

Walleye

By Sandra Lehmann



Scientific name: *Sander vitreus* (Sander refers to the German common name of the European relative and vitreus means "glassy", referring to the large eyes).

Common names: walleye, walleye pike, yellow pike, grass pike, glasseye, perchpike, dory, jack

It is believed that the walleye was originally confined to the larger lakes and waterways in Wisconsin. The extensive stocking of walleye fry and fingerlings that occurred early in many Wisconsin waters partly obscured the original distribution of the species. Today the walleye is present throughout Wisconsin.

The spawning migration of walleye begins soon after the ice goes out, at water temperatures of 38 - 44° F. Spawning in Wisconsin generally occurs between mid-April and early May, although it may extend from the beginning of April to the middle of May. Walleye spawning ordinarily reaches a peak when water temperatures are 42 - 50° F. The walleye is not a territorial fish at spawning time; they usually broadcast their eggs and exercise no parental care.

The walleye is one of the most highly prized game fishes in Wisconsin. Thousands are caught each year during their spring spawning runs. Walleyes are primarily minnow feeders, but leeches, small bullheads, nightcrawlers, and various small plugs are favorite baits. In clear waters, walleyes usually stay in deeper areas during the day, moving into the shallows at night. In more turbid waters, they can be caught throughout the day. The large, unusual eyes of the walleye are designed to help them easily find their prey.

Americans feast on 535 million pounds of turkey on Thanksgiving.

Aquatic Invasive Species

by Tom Stram

The past several years we have seen less than ideal results from our herbicide treatments of the aquatic invasive species, Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) in Connors Lake. The milfoil was covered with algae before and after treatment and did not curl-up and sink to the bottom in 4–6 weeks, as is usually the case. The year following the treatments the milfoil appeared to come back in the same areas. On June 1, 2009, we treated 16.6 acres of EWM in Muskie Bay and in seven other areas measuring larger than 0.2 acres, that were scattered around the lake, with the herbicide 2,4-D.

At the urging of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers we monitored the residual herbicide concentrations at the treatment sites daily, for one week following treatment, to test whether or not our previous failures were due to inadequate herbicide concentrations. Michelle Nault of the WDNR Aquatic Plant Survey Team surveyed the lake on July 12 and July 13 and did not find much invasive milfoil. Kristi Maki, Sawyer County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, did a visual check of the treatment sites in September and stated that the result of the treatment "looks good". Our paid consultant, Steve Schieffer, performed a comprehensive survey of Connors and he also found very little EWM. Good news all around.

Interesting Facts

By Sandra Lehmann

What is the difference between a wolf and a coyote? Wolves generally weigh between 50 and 100 pounds, while coyotes weigh between 20 and 40 pounds. Wolves are generally 26 to 32 inches at shoulder height, while coyotes are less than 20 inches at the shoulder. Wolves also have longer legs and larger feet than coyotes. Tracks of wolves range from four to five inches long, whereas coyote tracks seldom reach three inches.



Wolf



Coyote

The cottontail rabbit's white tail has a purpose. When a hunter spots a rabbit, he focuses his attention on the white tail and not on the rest of the body. Upon stopping, the rabbit squats and hides his tail from view. The hunter becomes baffled, for with the disappearance of the tail, the image of the entire rabbit disappears.





Buoys on Connors Lake

by Gene Johnson

Hello fellow neighbors, waterfront riparians, and friends.

I write this article with pride and frustration.

One of the goals of the CoPaPi Lake Association is to provide safe waters. One way we have tried to achieve this is via the installation of marker buoys off some bars/shallows on Connors Lake. These buoys provide a visual marker by day and a dust to dawn solar powered strobe by night to alert boaters of the areas of danger.

Earlier this year, after a lot of paperwork and jumping through hoops, the DNR granted CoPaPi a permit for two additional buoys. Two buoys have been installed on Connors Lake to complement the original buoy installed

approximately five years ago. It is great that the Lake Association has been granted these permits so we can provide for safer boating and the prevention of boating accidents and damage to boat motors.

CoPaPi Lake Association has purchased three buoys at an approximate total cost of \$2,500. The last two buoys cost about \$860 each (\$600 for the buoy + \$135 for the strobe (both including shipping), plus \$125 for the chain, anchor, and lock). This does not include the time it took to prepare the anchoring devices or the actual placing of the buoys on the lake.

This is a substantial amount of money for our Lake Association but we felt it was worthwhile. With that said, this is where the frustration begins. Installation of the first buoy used concrete anchors which were dropped in the lake to hold the buoy in place. This installation lasted two years and during the winter/spring the anchors were taken. The following year over 350 pounds of cement anchors were installed in their place. These made it one season. About three weeks after the ice was out, the marker jugs were still present. About a week later the jugs, anchors, and cable were gone. To reduce or eliminate future losses an auger style anchor with 4 to 6 feet of pipe were installed as a semi-permanent anchor in place of the cement jugs.

Safety vs. Recreation

The permits that have been granted by the DNR to CoPaPi Lake Association are for buoys to mark shoals/bars to warn boaters and the general public of these hazards. Since these locations have state approved marking devices (buoys) and are on state designated hazard areas, the use of these buoys by others for the purpose of swim toys, boat anchor points, or other is prohibited. Over the 4th of July weekend, 2009, and Memorial Day, 2010, pontoons and boats were noted as being anchored to and using these buoys as swim toys and tie offs for fishing.

Enforcement

Fines for playing or anchoring on buoys can be assessed by simply gathering boat I.D. numbers or the physical location where the craft is housed on the lake. This information can then be forwarded to a DNR Warden. Damaging, dragging, or removing the buoy equipment elevates the fine amount substantially.

If you know of a neighbor or friend who has mistakenly used these buoys for any of the above purposes, please inform them that doing so violates state regulation. Our hope is that the majority of these occurrences are due to a lack of knowledge about rules and regulations. Though it is hard to understand why someone needs to drag the anchors away—multiple times.

I hope making everyone aware of this problem will curb it from happening in the future. These buoys are being provided by your Lake Association as a service to all those who choose to enjoy our lake. I hope you have a safe and happy day on the water.

Wisconsin Wetland Gems

Contributed by Tom Stram

A wetland is an area of land whose soil is saturated with moisture either permanently or seasonally. The water may be saltwater, freshwater or brackish. In the northern areas of North America, wetlands exist where as little as 6 inches of rain fall each year. Most of the world's wetlands occur in zones where the summers are warm and the winters cold but are not extreme.

Wetlands play a key role in the health of waterways throughout Wisconsin. They remove nutrients, filter phosphorus and nitrogen, break down toxins, and trap sediments that would otherwise enter our lakes, rivers and streams therefore helping to maintain a clean and healthy water system. Wetlands minimize flood damage by storing and slowly releasing rain and snowmelt. One acre of wetlands can store 1½ million gallons of water. They provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife. 75% of Wisconsin's wildlife species use wetlands during some stage of their lifecycle.

In spite of the benefits of wetlands, they have historically been treated as wastelands and were drained and filled to make way for farms, cities, roads and factories. Nearly half of Wisconsin's original 10 million acres of wetlands have been destroyed and a large portion of the remaining 5.3 million acres have been altered or degraded. Though federal and state wetland laws have slowed wetland loss, many of them remain threatened by development pressures and other land use activities.

Wetlands vary based on three factors: soil type, hydrology (the timing, frequency and level of flooding or soil saturation each year) and vegetation. The Wisconsin Wetlands Association (www.wisconsinwetlands.org) has a classification of 12 different wetland types. They include: open bog, coniferous bog, fen, lowland hardwood swamp, floodplain forest, coniferous swamp, marsh, alder thicket, sedge meadow and low prairie.

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education and advocacy. They have compiled a list of 100 Wisconsin Wetland Gems. One of the Gems is the **Flambeau River State Forest** that includes the following wetland types: ephemeral pond, floodplain forest, coniferous swamp, coniferous bog, marsh, alder thicket, lowland hardwood forest and forest seep.

Flambeau River State Forest Wetlands

Ecology and Significance—The North and South forks of the Flambeau River meet in this State Forest, which comprises more than 90,000 acres of protected public lands. The Forest is characterized by many high quality and beautiful water features including diverse and extensive wetlands. While the site has excellent examples of various northern wetland types, the site is recognized as a Wetland Gem largely because of the many examples of ephemeral ponds found here. Because of their small size and transient nature, ephemeral ponds are typically not recognized by the

public as wetlands though they are protected under state law in Wisconsin. The Flambeau River State Forest, which has protected these lands since the 1930s, boasts many ephemeral ponds embedded within the forest matrix and associated with the Flambeau River floodplain.

Flora and Fauna—High quality and diverse wetland habitats are associated with both forks of the Flambeau River and the site's several streams and lakes. Mason Lake, Evergreen Lake and Swamp Lake, located in close proximity in the northeastern portion of the site, are surrounded and connected by a variety of wetland habitats.

Swamp Lake, for example, has a marshy shoreline surrounded by coniferous bog habitat dominated by tamarack and black spruce trees underlain by leatherleaf shrubs, sphagnum moss and other northern bog species. The shoreline habitat also includes small areas of alder thicket dominated by speckled alder. Other areas of this site feature coniferous swamp habitat characterized by white cedar, hemlock and yellow birch and with scattered ephemeral ponds.

The Forest supports a number of rare wetland plants including swamp pink, blunt-lobed grape fern, assiniboine sedge, sparse-flowered sedge, swamp bedstraw and the state endangered mountain cranberry. Ephemeral ponds are highly productive with floating and emergent vegetation during their short wet periods. During the wet period they provide critical fish-free breeding habitat for many species of invertebrates, frogs and salamanders. They also provide feeding, resting and breeding habitat for a variety of songbirds and a source of food for many mammals.

Ephemeral ponds contribute in many ways to the biodiversity of the Flambeau River State Forest. Mammals found at this site include white-tailed deer, raccoon, black bear, otter and wolves. The site provides habitat for waterfowl and game birds like ruffed grouse. Rare birds using the site include bald eagle, osprey, redshouldered hawk, Louisiana waterthrush, cerulean warbler, Connecticut warbler and Cape May warbler.

The Forest's wetlands are important to maintaining healthy riverine and lake habitat for a diversity of fish, including musky, sturgeon, trout, walleye, bass and various pan fish.

Threats—Wetlands at this site are high quality because they are embedded within such a large area of protected land. Recreational use may impact the site's sensitive resources. Heavy deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifer trees, particularly white cedar. Invasive species like common reed, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass and watercress also threaten native wetland plant communities at this site.

Access—Spring is the best time to view ephemeral ponds at this site. Other areas of the site provide excellent paddling opportunities. Visit the State Forests website: www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/StateForests.

Interesting Lake Happenings (2 pages)

by Carolyn Mealmann



Loon Watch

Our returning loon pair chose a very poor location for their nest this year. It was right across from the boat landing and out in the open so it was a curiosity sight for all boaters. During the very busy Memorial Day weekend a lot of busy water activity caused the loon to vacate the nest for periods of time to reveal two eggs. During one of those hiatuses, I believe a very frequent visitor to our lake, an eagle, had a good lunch so the clutch was lost again this year. Since then, the pair has made only occasional visits and the remaining single loon has been here alone. I did spot 5 loons on Connors Lake a couple of times. They will be leaving for their summer home soon.

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service's "Consolidated Fish and Wildlife Collection Report," as of July 17, 2010, 3,269 birds had been collected from the oil spill. Fifteen of those were juvenile loons. Past migration studies show that approximately half of the loon population from the Midwest uses the Gulf of Mexico as their winter habitat. Loons do not recognize the sheen of oil on the water as anything dangerous. Oil can strip a bird's natural waterproofing causing feathers to become waterlogged, putting the bird at risk of hypothermia or even drowning. That, coupled with size of the affected area, makes it difficult to know exactly how many loons, and other birds, have been lost to the oil spill.

How the Loon Got Its Song

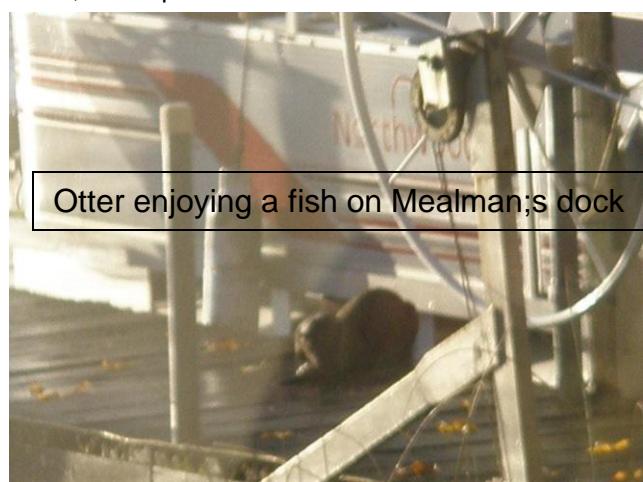
A great warrior of near-god stature wanted a messenger he could send between the worlds of god and men. He called to the loon on the lake and asked him if he would act as this messenger. "But how will I call for you?" asked the loon. "I will give you a song to sing so that I will know it is you who calls and not my enemy," said the warrior. The loon agreed and the warrior taught the loon his song as he sings it now. But as it happened, soon after this, the great warrior became displeased with the people he had created on the earth and he chose to leave them. The loon called after the great warrior trying to convince him to return. He calls still.



President Abraham Lincoln established the original date for our National Thanksgiving Day celebration in 1983.

Otters

Our river otters have been prolific this season. We have seen from 1 to nine feeding in front of our place. Sometimes they like to get up on docks and roll, scratch, and preen a bit. They are curious and social creatures. The other day, as I was eating breakfast, one returned to our dock and I wondered why it was back. As I continued to watch, I saw it was juggling a 10" – 12" fish. It was not about to share it with its buddies, taking 20 minutes to finish it. If they return to the river this winter, they should have easy traverse down the creek. Otters can stay under water for as long as a 1/4 mile and use their tail to steer. Young otter pups must be "introduced" to the water by their mother. In no time they are graceful acrobats and learn to catch fish, dive for crayfish, and outsmart frogs. They communicate with chirps, grunts, whistles, snarls, and squeals.



Otter enjoying a fish on Mealman's dock

Bats

I know that these hibernators are probably not your favorite pets, but a fatal disease is rapidly spreading that is causing death to them and they eat a staggering amount of insects. The White-nose syndrome is spreading in bats as they cluster in caves. This can have an unprecedented consequence on ecosystem health throughout North America. The number of insects consumed annually by one million bats is equal to 694,456 tons. Scientists in Wisconsin have only a short time to figure out and apply any management for conservation effectively, or there is a threat of extinction. There are eight species in Wisconsin. Five are cave dwelling, which makes them most susceptible to white-nose syndrome, and three are migratory.





Wisconsin's Badger

According to an article in the October issue of Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine, not much is known of our official state animal: how many there are, where they live in the state, their habitat or what they survive on.

A few years back we had a badger dig a hole into our crawl space basement. A call to the WDNR netted us the idea of using ammonia in the hole. Nope! We tried the trapping method. No luck! We finally hooked up the hose so we could run water into the basement to chase the culprit to the outside. Out it came! Our son was waiting to yell at it all the way beyond the yard. It has not returned. (Woody woodchuck has – but doesn't stay anymore). It is indeed a ferocious creature as it hissed and growled at us. Researchers are now collecting information from citizens for genetics study. If you would like to participate: call 414-229-4245 or E-mail badger@umw.edu.

Toilet Tissue Purchase

On average, each American uses about 23.6 rolls of toilet paper a year, 95 percent of them made with fiber from virgin timber. Although an increasing amount of this pulp comes from tree farms in the Southern U.S. and other parts of the world, thousands of tons still come from boreal forests. So, what is an environmentally conscious consumer to do? One good choice is to buy paper made from recycled paper. The Natural Resources Defense Council estimates that if every household in the U.S. replaced a single roll of virgin fiber toilet paper with a roll of 100% recycled paper, the wood saved would add up to 423,900 trees. Conserving and managing our forests also helps save habitat for wildlife.

The Eagle

I have seen our national symbol, the eagle, perched atop a high electric tower on either side of Cty. Hwy. W. It was just before the river on the way home from Phillips or after the river on the way in. I also spied one doing "fire duty" on the tower at the intersection of W & M at the top of the hill.

As I was fishing on the pontoon, while docked, one evening I had a visit by an eagle. I had just caught a very hungry 6" perch. It was too small to keep, so I threw it back into the water and it struggled a bit to survive. Just then, no more than 6 feet from my shoulder, this big bird swept past and retrieved that fish and took it off to a tree branch down the shore to consume it. What a sight! It is amazing what you see when you reside at the lake.

Another day I was coming from the kitchen, with a piece of pie, when I sighted a big white head on the lake a ways out. Putting my pie down, I got my binoculars and peered out. It was an eagle flopping in the water. I thought it was struggling to keep from drowning but, as I kept watching, it was trying to lift a

large sized fish for dinner. It tried several times to get airborne but the fish was too heavy and wiggling. Then the eagle looked like it was swimming to shore. Finally the eagle had to give up and fly off without its prey. I am sure it was tuckered out. According to a site on the Internet, eagles are very good swimmers. They just misjudge the size of the fish and try to drag it on shore.

I imagine all the high water this year had caused a change in the places where our flying friend goes to look for fish and perhaps hunting was better on land.

January of this year, 2010, the weather stayed so cold in St. Louis, Missouri and Alton, Illinois that the bald eagles were cruising over houses in hopes of a quick meal. They could not access fish that were at the bottom of the river and had gathered together. Some kind souls decided to feed the eagles so they would survive the cold spell, so they gathered fish and fed the group as they huddled on the shore.



I hope all of you have recovered from the windstorm and all the rain: washouts from hills, underwater docks, road washouts, filled boats and paddleboats, flooded basements and a flooded creek we can almost swim across. Please consider giving an hour or two to help with boat inspections next year. We get credit for all our volunteer hours for lake education and reporting, which helps keep our lake clean and useful for the future. It is good to see many of you at our general meetings. The board is encouraged that so many of you are interested in being good stewards of our lakes.

Steps underway to protect Wisconsin's bats from deadly disease

Weekly News Article Published: September 21, 2010 by the Central Office

MADISON -- Wisconsin's four species of cave bats are under imminent threat from the always deadly disease known as white-nose syndrome. The state Department of Natural Resources will ask the state Natural Resources Board on Wednesday to approve measures aimed at protecting bats before the disease gets a foothold in the state.



Wisconsin bats are threatened by a new disease called white-nose syndrome. "If we act quickly, we can meet this extinction threat head on and deal with it," says DNR Secretary Matt Frank. "White-nose syndrome in Wisconsin is likely, so we need to take action now to slow the spread and to conserve as many bats as possible."

Wisconsin has the largest concentration of bats in the upper Midwest. The most common Wisconsin bat – the little brown – is particularly susceptible to the disease and faces extinction.

"Bats are critical to our ecosystems and our economy," Frank says. "A single little brown bat eats up to 1,000 insects per hour, consuming large numbers of agricultural pests which nationally would cost farmers and foresters billions of dollars a year." Bats also keep mosquitoes in check, minimizing mosquito borne diseases such as West Nile virus. White-nose syndrome has spread across 14 states and two Canadian provinces in just three years, killing as much as 90 to 100 percent of bats in infected hibernacula. The disease is currently 200 to 300 miles from Wisconsin's borders, well within the 280-mile migrating range of bats. The disease could be detected in Wisconsin caves this winter.

DNR is proposing two actions to protect bats, which currently have no protections in Wisconsin. DNR will ask the Natural Resources Board for an emergency order and for permission to hold public meetings:

- Designate cave bats as a threatened species – prior to the population collapse in hopes of preserving as much of the population as possible. DNR will immediately create a broad or blanket incidental take permit that would allow for the taking of state listed cave bats that may occur as a result of specific public health concerns, bat removals, building demolitions, forestry activities, bridge demolitions, miscellaneous building repairs taken to minimize impacts on bats.

- By creating a broad incidental take permit, DNR is making sure that people would not need to do any paperwork or get any sort of written permit to kill a bat in their living quarters. If there's a health worry about rabies, people would be able to kill a bat to have it tested. They would, however, have to follow simple procedures in order to remove bats from attics if they have a colony there.
- Designate the fungus associated with White Nose Syndrome as a prohibited invasive species, so that controls can be put in place for activities and equipment that might transport the fungus.

"We are already working with cave and mine owners, recreational cavers, businesses, farmers, and others to identify hibernacula to protect from disease introduction, but with the disease so close, we need to rapidly ramp up protections," Frank says.

White-nose syndrome is a devastating disease of bats. It gets its name from a white fungus that grows on nose, ears, muzzles and wings. Scientists say the disease can be transmitted from bat to bat or to bats from a cave that has been infected, likely from a human introduction on shoes or equipment. It kills up to 75 percent of bats in the hibernaculum the first year; 90 to 100 percent the second. Scientists believe the syndrome causes bats to act abnormally and use up reserves when they should be hibernating, causing death. All four of Wisconsin's cave bat species (little brown, northern long-eared, eastern pipistrelle, and big brown bats) are mortally susceptible to the disease.

For more information see the Saving Wisconsin Bats page of the DNR website.

Tidbits By Sandra Lehmann

Why don't oak leaves fall?

The leaves of the oak trees are still on the tree and will be for most of the winter. Have you ever wondered why? In late summer, most trees grow a double layer of corky cells at the base of leaf stalks where they join the twigs. Little by little, this corky layer grows thicker and cuts off the flow of sap. When this job is done, the pipelines of the leaf are severed and it takes only a gust of wind or a shake of the tree to bring the leaves down.

With some oaks, however, this "cutting off" doesn't happen, and the leaves remain all winter until new growth pushes them off.

Colored tail feathers

Male ruffed grouse may drum all year, not just in the spring. It is not uncommon to hear them drumming in the fall. It is thought that they drum for exercise or for just sheer pleasure.

There may be as many as 62 color variations in the tail feathers. There is a red (sometimes called brown) phase, a gray phase, and a mixture of both known as the intermediate phase. The color, in part, is due to genetic control.

Lodge at Flambeau Forest Resort Destroyed by Fire

Newspaper article from August 5, 1959, submitted by Esther Johnson

Photos submitted by Mrs. John Heizler, Jr. (Connie)

One of the show places so far as resorts of this area are concerned, was burned to the ground a week ago Wednesday evening. The building which was destroyed by fire was the main lodge of Flambeau Forest Resort, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. John Heizler, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. John Heizler, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Art Heizler. The resort is located about 20 miles west of Phillips on county Hwy. W in the heart of the Flambeau state forest. The resort was established 13 years ago.

The work at the lodge had just been completed that evening after the serving of dinners to 21 guests, and Mr. and Mrs. John Heizler, Sr., had gone to the new tavern they and their sons own about a mile away. Visitors, who had come from Long John's Resort at Soo lake, were the first to notice smoke at 9:00 p.m. Mrs. John Heizler, Jr. checked immediately, and opening the door to the attic located above the large porch, found the whole attic was in flames and there was little which could be done.

Mrs. Heizler, Jr., rushed to the tavern, and in spite of fire extinguisher usage, there was no way to check the flames. Wesley Johnson, of the fire protection division in the Flambeau state forest, rushed to the protection headquarters three miles away and he contacted the Winter fire department, by getting connections through Exeland. A truckload of visitors and resort people from Big Bear Lodge, across from the headquarters, hurried to the scene to give assistance. The Winter fire department was at the scene by 9:20 and valiantly fought the fire by using the water from a nearby pond. Neighbors aided in the fight which kept the fire from spreading to other buildings nearby.

Only the large fireplace remains after the fire. All of the equipment within the lodge was lost. Some clothing and small articles were saved, but one can say the destruction was practically total. A rain that night aided the fire fighters and kept the fire from spreading into the trees nearby.

The smoke from the fire was actually seen by fishermen on the Lake of the Pines a half hour before it was discovered at the lodge. The fishermen figured someone had started a bonfire and did not investigate.

The guests staying in the lodge saved most of their belongings. The cabins of the lodge were without electricity and water Wednesday night, but repairs were made Thursday morning.

A 10,000 gal. tank containing gas for heating was far enough away from the fire so it did not catch fire. The gas supply was shut off. A house trailer, in which one of the sons and his wife lived, was moved to safety by the large water tank outfit of the conservation department.

The loss was only partly covered by insurance, the owners stated this week. Just what will be done in rebuilding is not known, but there will be no building this year, according to Mr. Heizler. Mr. and Mrs. John Heizler, Sr., are now making their home in part of the new tavern which has not been completed.

The cause of the fire is unknown. Some of the wiring to the cottages on the lake went through that part of the lodge where the fire seemed to start, although it cannot be said that wiring started the blaze. A large transformer on the pole near the lodge carried the load to many of the cottages. This enabled shutting off the power that night and quick restoration the following day.



Mrs John Heizler, Sr.
(Martha)

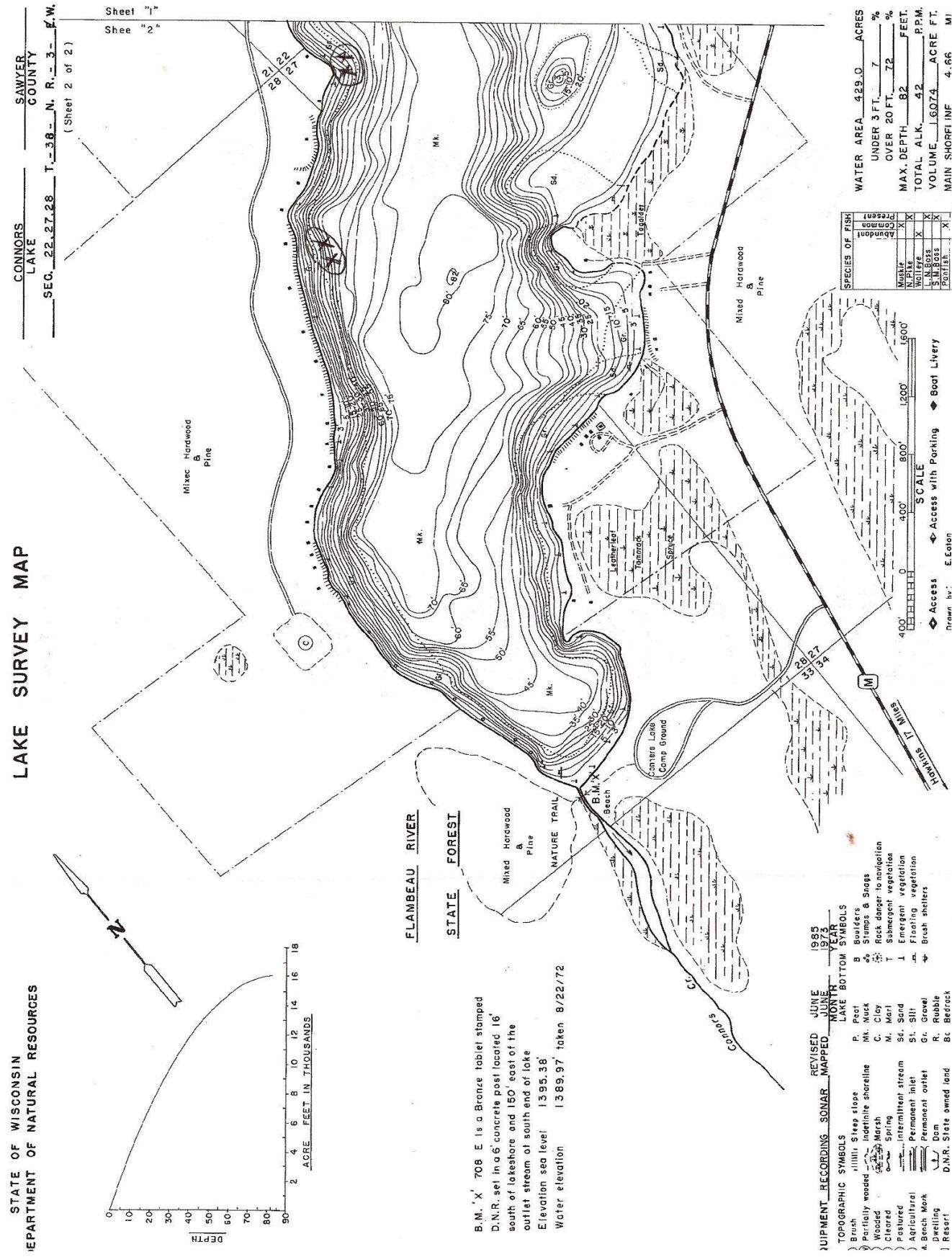


Photo below:
John Heizler, Jr.
& niece petting a
deer. Lady is the
niece's mother.

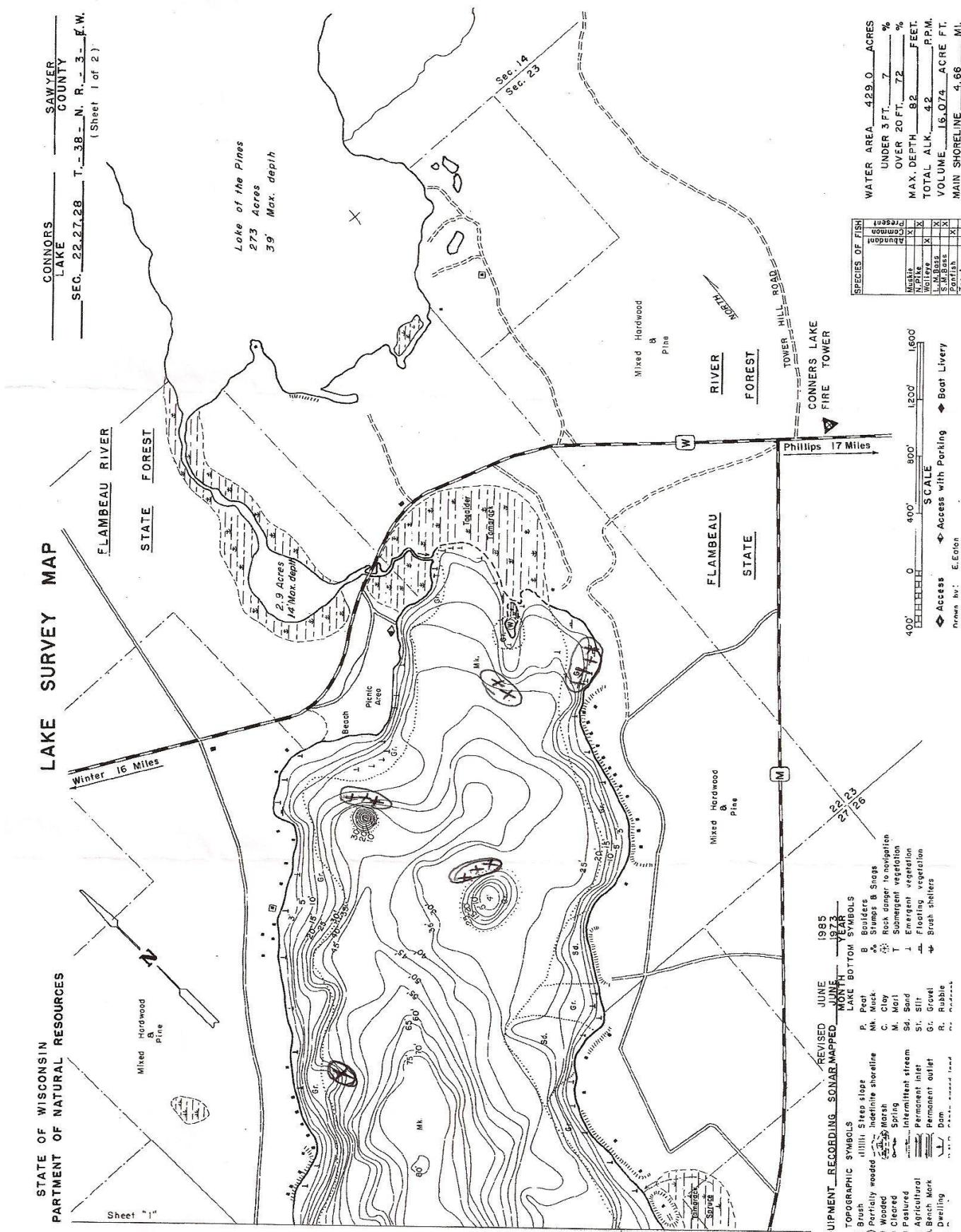


This is the lodge dining room (knotty pine) with a fireplace. There were 5 lodge rooms upstairs plus 6 or 7 cabins on the property. Meals were included with lodging. After the fire part of this foundation was used for the house that now stands. Art Heizler built the rec room on the property. The new tavern where the Heizler Sr.'s lived after the fire is what we know as the Flambeau Forest Inn.

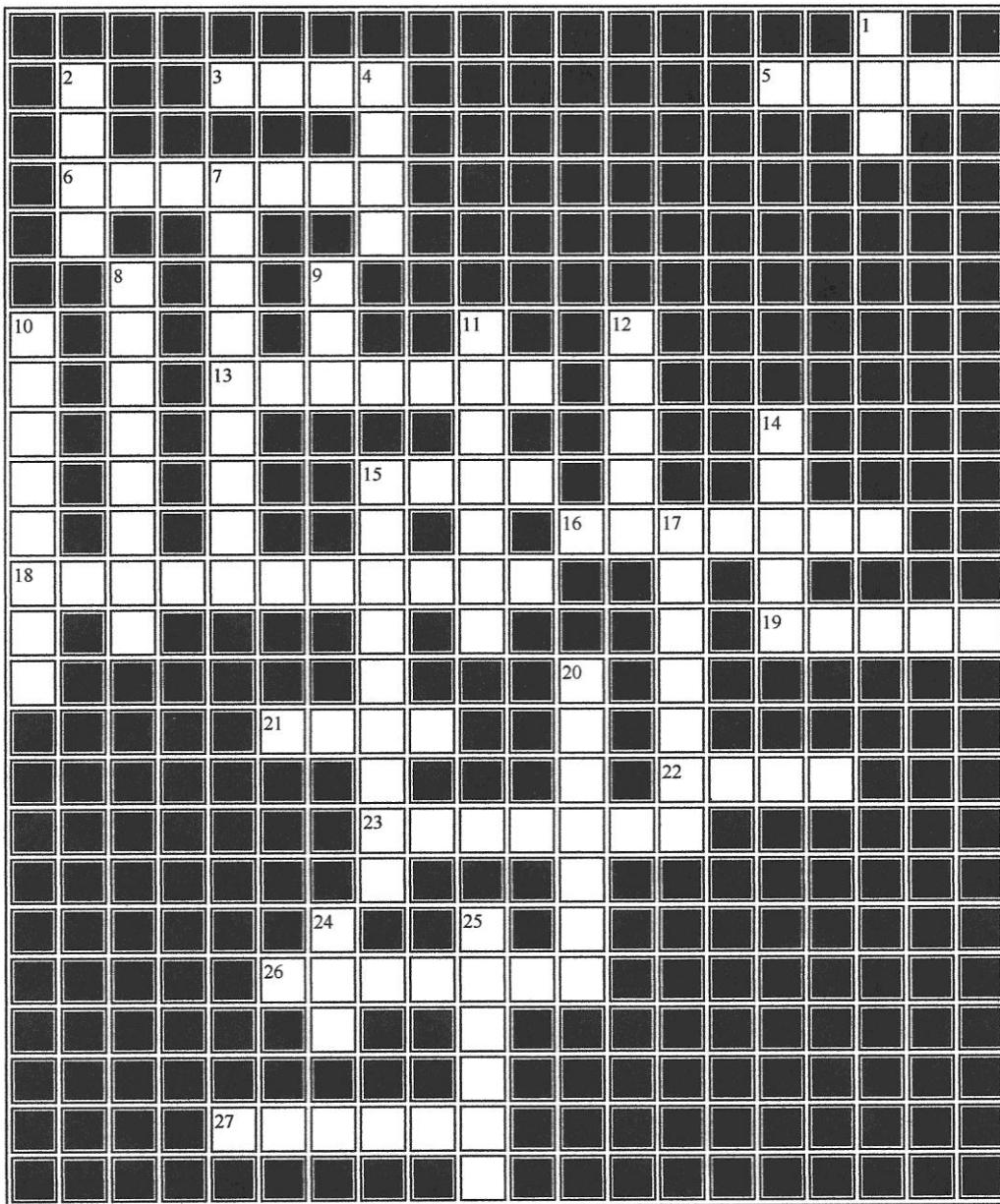
Location of Fish Cribs—part of Connors Lake to Connors Creek



Location of Fish Cribs—part of Connors Lake leading into Lake of the Pines



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

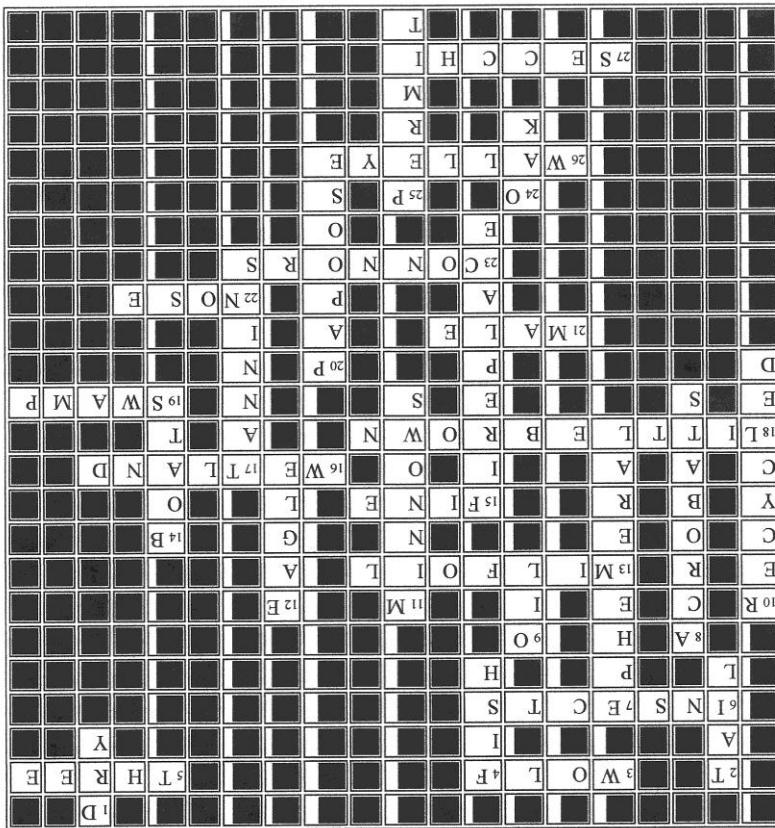
Across

- 3 Which is larger--a wolf or a coyote?
- 5 We have placed _____ buoys on Connors Lake.
- 6 Bats eat a lot of _____.
- 13 EWM stands for Eurasian Water _____.
- 15 A _____ can be assessed for playing or anchoring on buoys.
- 16 An area of land whose soil is saturated with moisture is called a _____.
- 18 The _____ is Wisconsin's most common bat.
- 19 _____ pink is a wetland plant.
- 21 _____ ruffed grouse can drum nearly all year long.
- 22 White _____ syndrome is a devastating disease of bats.
- 23 Fish crib maps included in this newsletter are on _____ lake.
- 26 One of the most highly prized game fish in Wisconsin is the _____.
- 27 _____ readings tell us the clarity of the lake water.

Down

- 1 This spring Connors Creek was very _____.
- 2 The cottontail rabbit's white _____ has a purpose.
- 4 Otters like to eat _____.
- 7 _____ ponds are found in the Flambeau River State Forest.
- 8 Otters are graceful _____.
- 9 _____ can strip a bird's natural waterproofing.
- 10 Americans should replace their virgin fiber toilet paper with _____ toilet paper.
- 11 Many fish feed on _____.
- 12 Our national symbol is the _____.
- 14 Clean _____, clean waters educates boaters.
- 15 Only the large _____ remained after the fire at Flambeau Forest Resort.
- 17 _____ are naturally occurring compounds found in wood, bark, leaves, fruit, and roots.
- 20 The little "lake" between LOP and Connors is called _____.
- 24 The _____ tree has leaves on it most of the winter.
- 25 Before putting buoys on the lake we had to obtain a _____ from the DNR.

Crossword Puzzle Answer Key



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