

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

A message from Tom Stram, President

Seems everyone was talking about the weather this summer. First of all, summer arrived 3 to 4 weeks early. "Ice out" on our lakes was much earlier than normal. Ruth and I have a time-share in Door County in May, predominantly to witness the fabulous wildflower display. This spring we found the Trilliums were done blooming and in their place found other wildflowers blooming like Yellow Lady Slippers that are usually found in mid-June. The cherry and apple trees in the Door blossomed early and were severely damaged by a devastating frost resulting in a marked decrease in the cherry and apple harvest. Likewise, the early summer and the resultant prolonged warm weather resulted in an explosion of aquatic plants. I found it impossible to use my Aquabike and was constantly cleaning my outboard motor of aquatic weeds. My observations revealed that the abundant growth of native aquatic plants, including native water milfoil, was not associated with abundant growth of invasive non-native Eurasian water milfoil. Second, we are officially not in the drought area but the lake level this fall seems to be much lower than it has been for years.

The long awaited fisheries evaluation of our lakes has begun. The WDNR's Fishery Team from Park Falls set fyke nets in Connors Lake and LOP in early October to evaluate the abundance of common species of fish found in the lakes. The study will continue next year after ice out and, when completed, will hopefully result in specific recommendations on how we can improve our fisheries. The Lake Association would probably have to ante up the costs of fish stocking if that is recommended by the study. The chair of our Fish Committee, Tom Deinhammer, will keep us informed of their progress. The second annual Lake Association Picnic was well attended. All of the food and beverages were donated. Plan to attend the next picnic on Saturday July 27, 2013. The fall Raffle, our only fundraiser, was a financial success. Congratulations to the winners.

Again, I would like to thank all of the officers and the board of directors of your Lake Association who religiously attend the board meetings and also contribute their time and talent to our water safety, water quality and boat inspection programs and also to the fish, raffle, website and picnic committees. The production of this newsletter is a Herculean task performed by Sandra Lehmann. I am sad to see Carolyn Mealman, a very special and talented person, retire from the board. THANK YOU!! We welcome Patty Pelouquin Behrenbrinker to the board and plan to put her to work soon.

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

2012 General Membership Meetings at Connors Lake Pavilion

- Saturday **May 25** Memorial Day Weekend—
- Saturday **July 6** Association Annual Meeting—
- Saturday **August 31** Labor Day Weekend

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

Township of Winter

Chairman: James Genrich, N7009 Fender Rd., Winter, WI 54896, 715-266-6011

1st Supervisor: David Kinsley, W7270 Thorsen Road, Winter, WI 54896, 715.266.2102

2nd Supervisor: Helen Dennis, N4437 Lake Winter Road, Winter, WI 54896, 715.567-0445

Clerk/Treas: Lori Van Winkle, P.O. Box 129, Winter, WI 54896, 715.266.3131

Town Mailing Address: Town of Winter, P.O. Box 129, Winter, WI 54896, Phone: 715.266.3131, email: townofwinter@centurytel.net

Town Website: www.townofwinter.com

The spring newsletter will be mailed in May 2013. Please submit your contributions or mention items you would like to see in future newsletters by Wednesday April 17 to Sandra Lehmann. Drop off at the house, call 715.332.5101 or email sjl@pctcnet.net

CoPaPi Board of Directors for 2012-2013

Officers

President	Tom Stram	term ends 2014
Vice President	Jim Schofield	term ends 2014
Treasurer	Nancy Sorensen	term ends 2013
Recording Secretary	Ellen Cernjar	term ends 2013
Corresponding Secretary	Sandra Lehmann	term ends 2013

Board Members at Large

Dale Lehmann, Tom Deinhammer, Dave Schiotz, Patty Peloquin Behrenbrinker	term ends 2014
Dave Cooley, Mark LaVick, Dave Bauer, Bob Feller	term ends 2013
Gene Johnson—Past President, Esther Johnson—Past Treasurer	

Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

Tom Stram	715.384.8348	twrcstram@frontier.com
Jim Schofield	715.723.2011	schofieldje@hotmail.com
Nancy Sorensen	715.332.5624	plato@pctcnet.net
Ellen Cernjar	715.878.4672	gecernjar@yahoo.com
Sandra Lehmann	715.332.5101	sjl@pctcnet.net
Dave Bauer	920.915.1101	dbauer9255@gmail.com
Dave Cooley	920.832.1424	dcooley1@prodigy.net
Mark LaVick	715.332.5399	cabinatconnors@pctcnet.net
Bob Feller	608.849.7449	rfeller@tds.net
Dale Lehmann	715.332.5101	sjl@pctcnet.net
Dave Schiotz	715.235.9322	dkschiotz@yahoo.com
Tom Deinhammer	715.835.6588	deintj@charter.net
Patty Peloquin Behrenbrinker	715.332.5344	pbehrenbrinker@gmail.com
Gene Johnson	715.536.0219	genes.johnson@verizon.net
Esther Johnson	715.332.5223	

HOLD THE DATE!! Saturday—July 27, 2013
CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association
Old Fashioned Family Picnic
Connors Lake Picnic Park 11:30 am-1:30 pm
The event is free and open to all lake residents,
their families and friends.
More information in the Spring Newsletter

CoPaPi T-Shirts for Sale



Order form on back page of newsletter

Cash Raffle was held on Saturday, September 15, 2012, at Jake's Flambeau Forest Inn. The CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association would like to thank everyone who participated in and bought tickets for our cash raffle. Congratulations to the winners.

1 st prize	\$2500	Chris Teigen	2 nd prize	\$1000	Nathan Teigen
3 rd prize	\$ 500	Peggy & Denny Grabovic	4 th prize	\$ 250	Jeff Kaiser
5 th prize	\$ 100	Mark LaVick	6 th prize	\$ 100	Glen Schilling
7 th prize	\$ 100	Mark Stram	8 th prize	\$ 100	Nolan Gifford
9 th prize	\$ 100	Rich Summerfield	10 th prize	\$ 100	Shawna Schultz

Birth Announcement: A daughter, Alexa Margaret, was born to Jake and Angie Nelson on Tuesday, October 16, 2012, at 7:35 pm. Alexa was 19" and weighed 7# 9.6 oz.

Obituary: Viola (Molly) Ironside, age 97, passed away on Saturday May 12, 2012 at her home in Winter, Wis. She was born in the Town of Sigel (Wood County) on June 25, 1914 to Frank and Mary (Mrs) Ladick. She worked in the OB Dept. (infant care) at Riverview Hospital in Wisconsin Rapids for many years. On October 20, 1954, she married J.W. Daniel Jack Ironside in Hayward, Wis. They then moved to Connors Lake near Winter, Wis. Later, they operated "Ironside's Resort" for 32 years. Viola is survived by her daughter-in-law, Fran Magee, and by many grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and special friends, which meant so much to her. Viola loved them all. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Jack Ironside, her one and only child (and the love of her life), Robert "Bob" T. Magee, her sister, Sylvia, her two brothers, George and Joe Ladick and her grandson, Robert "Bobby" F. Magee. Inurnment will be next to her husband, Jack Ironside, at Forest Hill Mausoleum, Wisconsin Rapids.

WCLMN (Wisconsin Citizens Lake Monitoring Network) by Dave Schiotz, Coordinator

Most of us have attended a reunion of one type or another and noticed that the people looked different from what you remember—they have aged! You look in the mirror and notice that “things” have sagged or they are not where they used to be or something might be missing or thinner than it once was. There are certain stages of aging that we go through such as youth, young adulthood, middle age and elderly; each identified by certain characteristics.

Lakes are living systems too and go through an aging process as well. There are three primary stages of life for lakes. OLIGOTROPHIC are those we think of as “young.” They typically do not have extensive weed growth due to lower nutrient levels. The water is usually quite clear and is rich in oxygen throughout the water column. As nutrients increase, plant growth intensifies and the lake slides toward middle age—MESOTROPHIC. Here we see more weed growth as well as increased animal species, higher phosphorus and chlorophyll levels and possibly reduced clarity. The truly old lakes are referred to as EUTROPHIC. These bodies of water are rich in nutrients, therefore, in plankton and thick shore land vegetation and related animal life. The more nutrients that are introduced into a lake, either naturally or by human activity will speed up the aging process.

Where are our lakes in their life cycle? To determine approximately where we are on this sliding age scale, the DNR uses a measurement called the Trophic State Index (TSI). TSI includes the average Secchi disk reading, chlorophyll content and phosphorus level for the summer. The TSI level for this year was 43 in Connors and 47 in LOP. This number places our lakes in the middle of the Mesotrophic stage (middle age).

Some other parameters that we look at are average temperature and average Secchi disk reading. This year the average temperature in Connors was 0.5 degrees higher than in 2011, and the average Secchi reading was down slightly. The chlorophyll (algae) concentration was elevated this summer over 2011, which may have affected water clarity.

We don't have as complete a picture of what is occurring in Lake of the Pines (LOP). We hope to have better data collection next year. We can say that the water temperature in LOP is about 3 degrees warmer than in Connors and the Secchi reading is between 4 and 6 feet, which is considerably less.

Everything we do is because of the great group of volunteers on our CLMN team. On LOP we had Larry Anderson, Tom Deinhammer, Carl Edwardson and Jim Schofield. On Connors we had Greg & Ellen Cernjar, Gordie Dukerschein, Jeff & Sherry Hansen, Dale & Sandra Lehmann, Rich Marusinec, Dave & Karen Schiotz and Tom Stram. We have added Bob Feller on Connors and Dave Bauer to help on either lake for next summer.

Turkeys have poor night vision.

Anyone else that is interested , for either lake, please contact me at dkschiotz@yahoo.com or by phone (715) 332-5164 or (715) 235-9322.

As always, a special thank you to Sandra Lehmann for inputting all our data from both lakes into the WDNR network. Check out the web site listed below and find all the information listed for our lakes.

You can access WCLMN reports at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn>
Do not key in www, just http://

1. Citizen Lake Monitoring page opens.
2. Find Sawyer County and click on it
3. Find Connors Lake or Lake of the Pines
4. In the Report column click on Details

CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association Picnic by Ellen Cernjar

The 2nd annual CoPaPi picnic was held on Saturday, July 21st, at the Connors Lake Pavilion. It was a lovely summer day and many people attended the picnic for a great lunch that was provided by The Cabin at Connors Lake, Flambeau Forest Inn and Red's Big Bear Lodge and camaraderie.

Various lake association committees were represented and they were able to answer questions and provide education and awareness regarding their work to monitor, maintain and improve our lakes. Thanks to Mark LaVick for chairing this fun event.

Fishery News

by Tom Deinhammer, Chairman

Netting for Black Crappies was done by the WDNR on Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines on Oct. 3-5th this year. I was invited to accompany them to retrieve the nets and participate in the process. Due to my level of back pain I was only able to do one day and one lake. I chose Lake of the Pines and went with the crew on Oct. 5th.

The nets used were 50' to 75' in length and were 5' in diameter at the deep end which was marked with a DNR flag. Five nets were placed in various locations on each lake. As the nets were pulled to the DNR boat a large dip net was used to scoop the fish out that were captured. They were then placed in a tank in the boat that was approximately 30"x48"x36" deep. After they had retrieved two nets, they counted and measured each fish. Only panfish over 5" were measured. A scale from each Black Crappie was saved and placed in an envelope. The age of the fish is determined by this. The largest musky caught was 42.4". The DNR ran a device from the eye back to the gill plate to check for a Brandon Jacobs chip which would mean that it was a planted fish. The largest walleye was 26.6".

At ice out, in the spring of 2013, our two lakes will be the first to be netted. The DNR target will be for Northern Pike, Musky, Walleye and Yellow Perch. Again they will be on the lakes for 2 or 3 days. About Memorial Day they will be shocking both lakes for three shoreline miles to arrive at a large and smallmouth bass population. After these results are completed the DNR will be able to give us a more accurate count of the fish in our lakes. When this becomes available next summer, I will have a copy for anyone interested in the report. Both the DNR and I were surprised at the high count of bluegill and pumpkinseed fish in Lake of the Pines.

The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters
by Dave Cooley, Chairman



Many thanks to all 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).

Thank you to all of these helpers who took time on the busy, holiday weekends to spend time at the boat landing helping to keep AIS from entering or leaving Connor's Lake: Dave Bauer, Ellen Cernjar, Dave Cooley, Bob Feller, Gail Gruneberg, Sarah Happe, Sandra Lehmann, Laura Marusinec, Carolyn Mealman, Nancy Sorensen, Tom Stram and Lee Swanson.

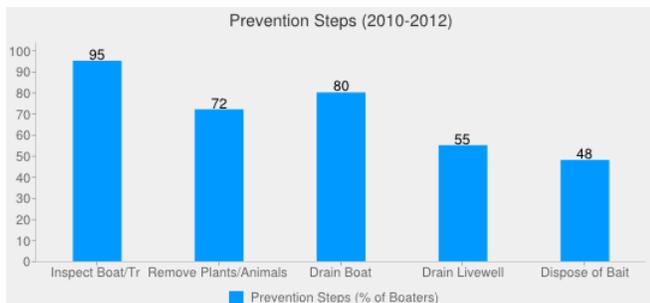
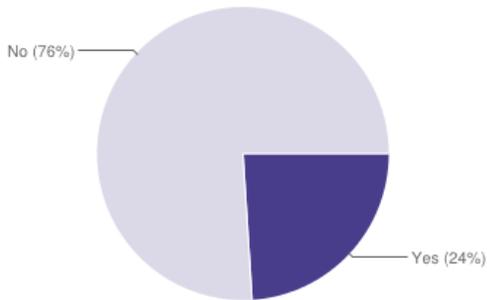
Another great benefit of this program is that our Lake Association is given credit towards our portion of the grant to treat Eurasian Milfoil in Conner's Lake at \$12 for each volunteer hour. Also, good fishing tips and opportunities to meet new faces and names from around the lake are often exchanged 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. Information is also available on the website:

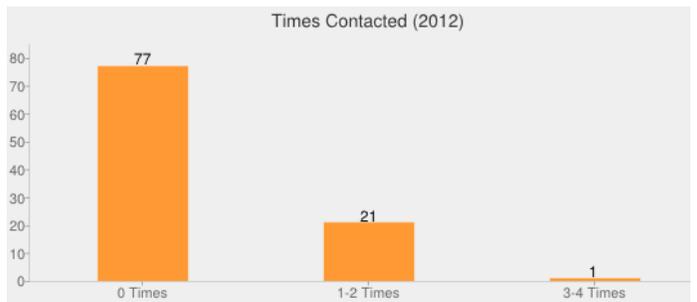
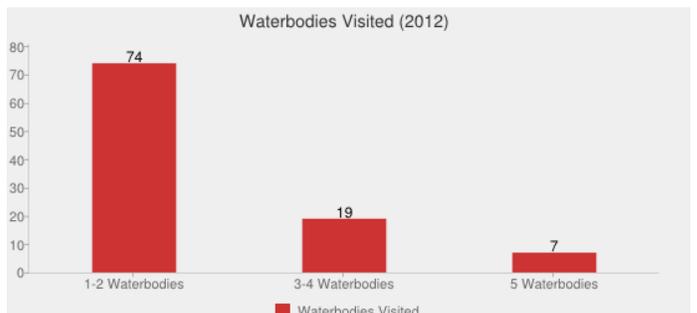
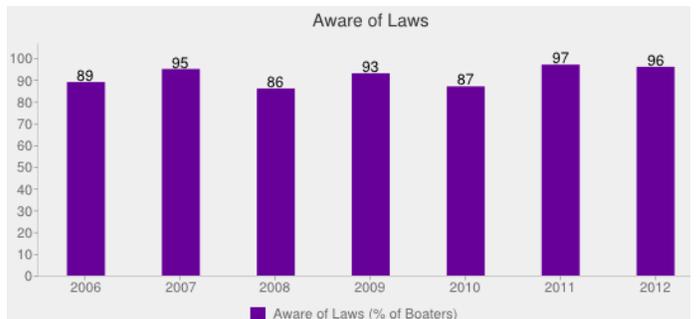
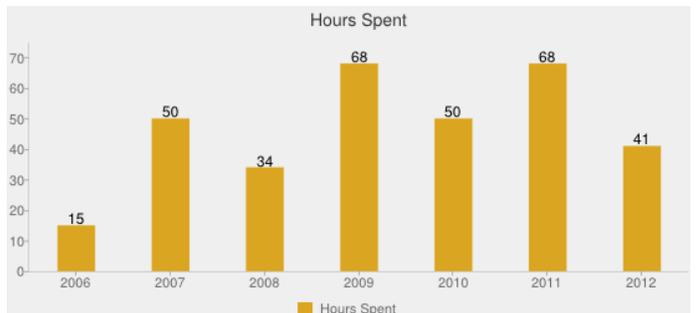
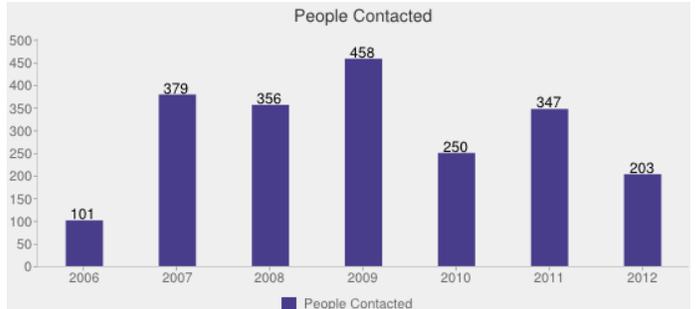
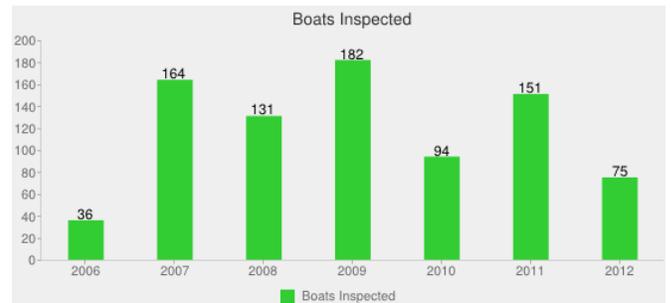
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/CBCW

**2012 Watercraft Inspection
Connors Lake**

Boat Used During Past 5 Days On Different Waterbody? (2010-2012)



Mashed potatoes, pumpkin pies, popcorn, milk, corn on the cob, and cranberries were not foods present on the first Thanksgiving's feast table.

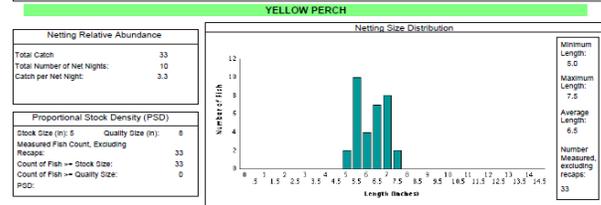
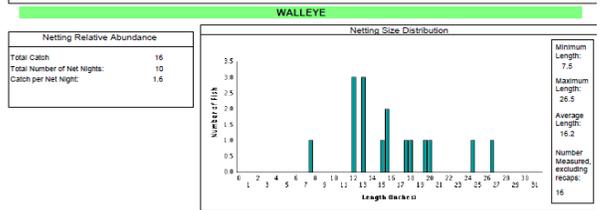
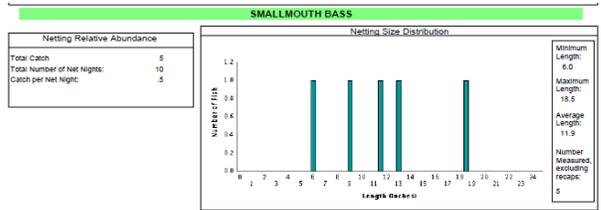
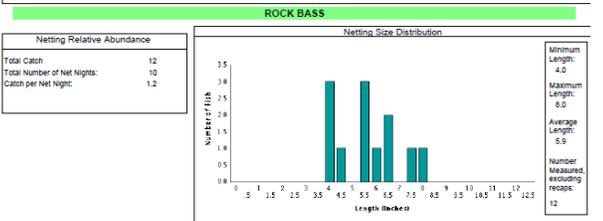
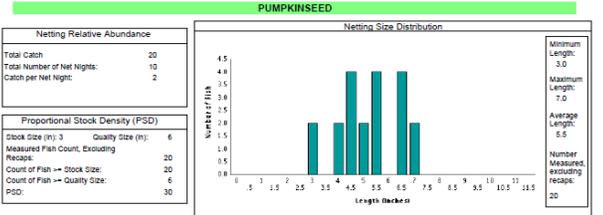
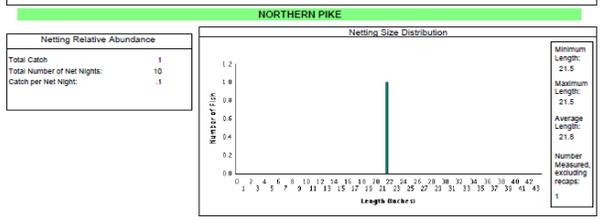
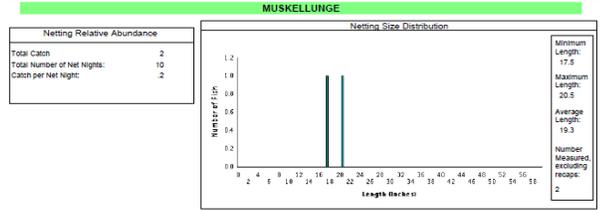
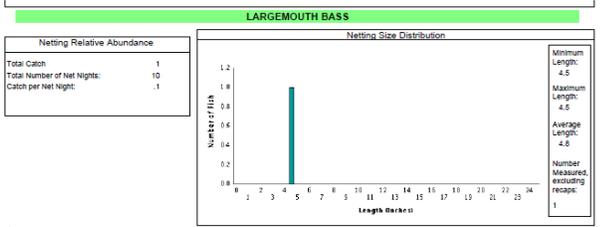
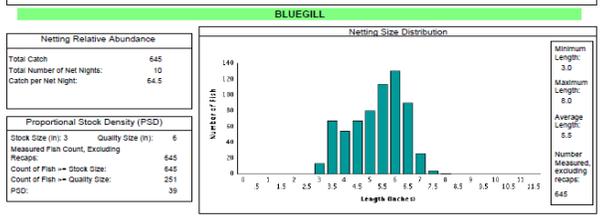
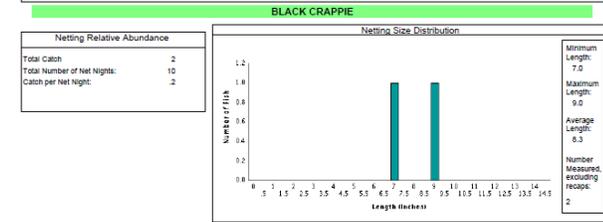


More Fishery News

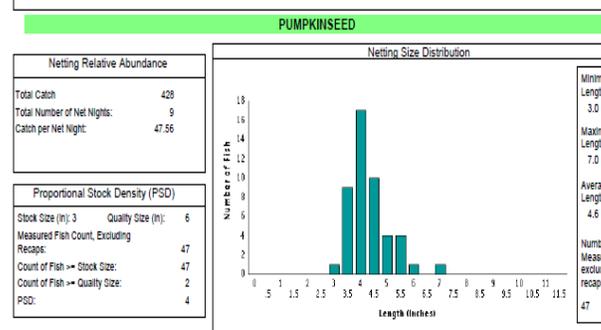
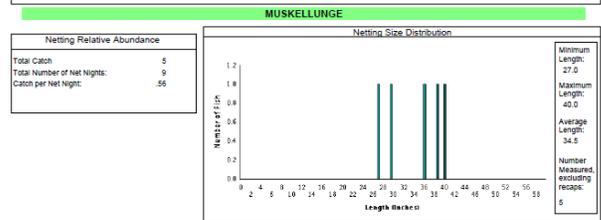
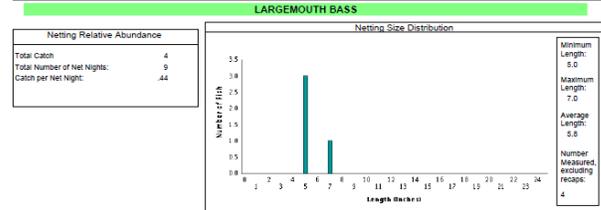
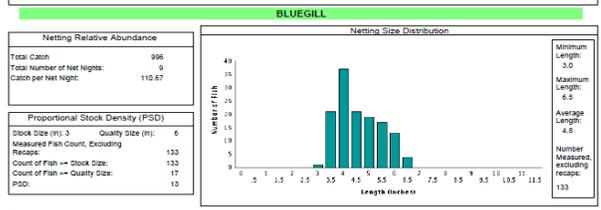
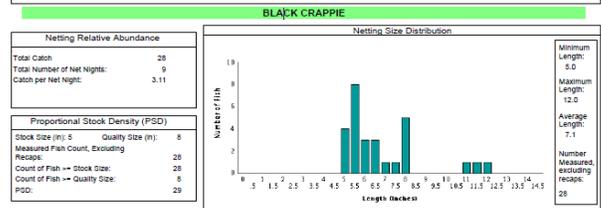
by Tom Deinhammer, Chairman

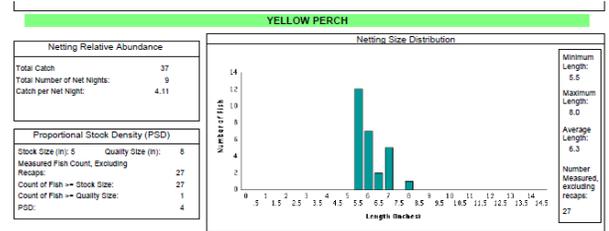
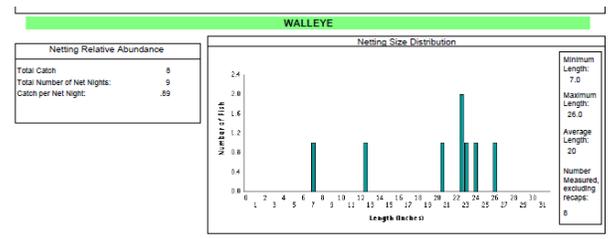
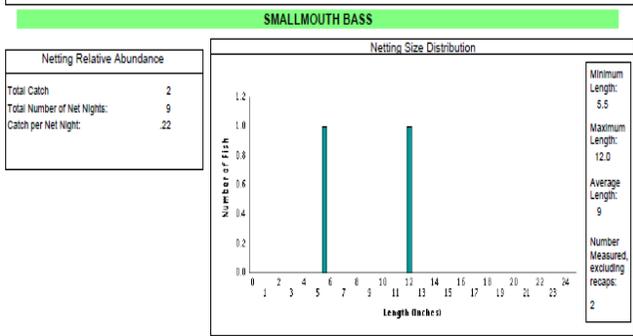
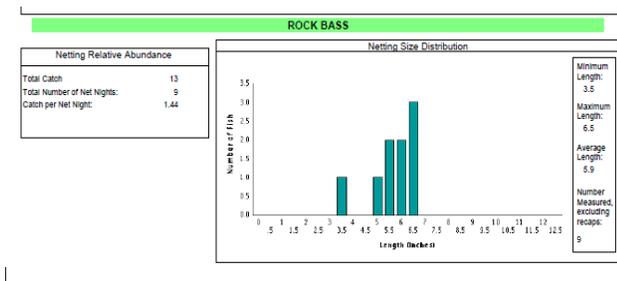
I received the following email on Oct 24 from Kendal L. Patrie (DNR): *Attached are the results from our survey that we conducted on Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines. In this survey we were targeting black crappie. In the spring we will be back to target other species during their spawning period. That allows us to get a better sample.*

Connors Lake Results



Lake of the Pines Results





Aquatic Invasive Species Report by Tom Stram

You might recall in my spring newsletter report that the fall 2011 post-treatment aquatic invasive species report performed by Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Service revealed 1.47 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in Connors Lake.

This past summer our herbicide applicator, Dale Dressel of Northern Aquatic Services, and I applied for and received a permit to do spot treatments of the invasive milfoil. Two treatments, totaling 3.97 acres, were performed on May 23, 2012, and June 26, 2012. We found that it requires more herbicide to treat many small isolated communities of milfoil than one big area. We decided not to do a third treatment because of the effectiveness of the first two treatments.

The exact numbers (acres of EWM) are not available from Steve but the "good news" is that the Connors Lake numbers should be low (less than 1 acre) this fall. More good news is that a thorough survey of Lake of the Pines, again, found no invasive milfoil. Some people have noticed a lot of milfoil this summer but it is the non-invasive native form.

After our recent extension through 2013, we have enough money left in our DNR AIS treatment grant to last one more year. It costs the Lake Association about \$2,500/year to keep the EWM under control.

Grant money availability is not keeping pace with the increasing demand and, therefore, we may face the possibility that the entire bill for treatment and surveying would have to be born by the Lake Association to the tune of \$10,000.

Again, the good news is that the DNR does not want to lose the hard fought battle for EWM control in Connors Lake and therefore will make every effort to have money available. There are other sources of grant money available to us other than the WDNR.

What is EWM by Sandra Lehmann



To refresh our memory, EWM is an exotic plant, introduced to the U.S. by the aquarium industry. It is rapidly becoming a major nuisance throughout North America. It is capable of rapid dispersion, principally by fragmentation of plant parts.

Each fragment is capable of growing roots and developing into a new plant.

Eurasian Watermilfoil is quite competitive with native species and may completely dominate a plant community within a few years after introduction. Due to the plant's ability to form dense growth, water use activities may become severely impaired. These plants are of little value to wildlife or fisheries. Watermilfoil (or milfoil) occurs in patches that tend to crowd out all other growth. Feather-like leaves are finely dissected to midrib and whorled around the hollow stem at intervals along the entire length of the plant.

Milfoil stays submerged except for a stalk of tiny flowers, which can extend above the surface. All milfoil species are easily identified as a group because of their distinctive feather-like leaves, but individual species are hard to differentiate from one another. DNA or pigment analysis may be necessary to tell individual milfoil species apart.

Milfoil can winter over in frozen lakes, thrive in warm pond waters, and live in acidic and calcium rich waters, slow moving waters of lakes and ponds and some rivers. Milfoil is found in a variety of sediments, light levels, temperatures, and depths up to 20 feet.

Marsh Marigold by Tom Stram

Marsh marigold is the yellow wildflower seen so often in the wet ditches along the side of the road in early spring. Marsh marigold or *Caltha palustris* (cup of marshes) is found in wet meadows, swamps, marshes, and along streams and creeks throughout Wisconsin. It is a succulent plant with ½ - 1 ½ shiny yellow flowers with 5 to 9 sepals. The leaves are widely heart shaped and glossy with thick, hollow, branching stems. This native perennial is 1 – 2' tall and flowers in April to June, tolerates sun to part shade and goes dormant in the summer. The marsh marigold, also called Cowslip, is one of the first spring flowers. The name Cowslip is from the Anglo-Saxon word *cuslyppe*, meaning, "cow slop" or "cow dung".

The wildflower is neither a true marigold nor a true cowslip (an English primrose). Marsh marigold is a cousin to the buttercup or *Ranunculus* species of flowers. They are also found in Europe and Asia and have many names including King's cup, water blobs (bubble), horse blobs, Soldier's buttons, Leopard's foot, cowlily, cowbloom, Drunkards, meadow gowan (gold), Palsy-wort, capers, Crowfoot, and more. The sap was used to treat warts and therefore the name, *Verrucaria*. Cowslip was considered the friend of the farmer because he would boil the leaves in a couple changes of water, producing greens that were considered better than spinach.

English peasants would pick the marsh marigolds on April 30 and then throw them on the doorways of cottages and farmhouses on May first or May Day. They were thought to protect homes from witches. The leaves were used to treat anemia, because they contain high amounts of iron but they should be cooked first or they are poisonous. The plant was also used to loosen mucous and phlegm from the throat.

The Burgess Flower Book for Children by Thornton W. Burgess talks of marsh marigolds as "Peter Rabbits Gold"

"Peter laughed happily. They are my gold he cried. See how they shine! And they are full of golden meaning, for now I know that truly Mistress Spring is here to stay. I hoped I would find the very first one. And I guess I have. Once more Peter kicked up his heels for pure joy".



Wisconsin's all-time, lowest temperature is -55°F on February 2 & 4, 1996, near Couderay (Sawyer Co.). Readings of -30°F or colder have been recorded in every month from November through April.

Disposing of Domestic Waste by Sandra Lehmann

The permit process for all ground treatment systems, both septic and mound, was shifted by the state legislature to counties. The county administers a strict code set by state administrative rule. Soil borings are now required of every application.

Septic Systems provide non-electrified gravity flow soil absorption sewage treatment. Sewage effluent flows from the plumbing connections of the building into a "tank" buried in the ground just outside the house/cottage. The tank has an outlet positioned below a baffle system to retain greases at the tank top, and to encourage settlement of grits and solids to the tank bottom. The goal is that only clear effluent exits the tank via the outlet. Greases and solids are intended to break down inside the septic tank via microbial action, and gradually dissolve and become part of the clear effluent.

The outlet from the septic tank connects to a series of drainage tile placed through a layer of gravel that has been dug into or placed upon the surface of the unpaved natural ground surface. Schedule 40 plastic piping is used. As the effluent seeps out of the tile lines into the gravel, microbial action on the gravel surfaces continues to purify the effluent of disease organisms. The effluent is then supposed to soak into the ground and return to being a part of the ground water systems.

Mound Systems are basically septic tank/tile fields with two added features: (1) storage and then surge electric pumping of the effluent from the tank into small diameter Schedule 40 type tile lines; (2) special suitable sandfill soils trucked onto the site to become the absorption field.

In theory, if effluent is collected in the tank and then forcefully discharged over the entire absorption field, that pressurized discharge utilizes the treatment and soaking action of the whole field, not just the portion nearest the tank. Using the whole field also allows the field to dry out between discharges. By trucking in proper sandfill soils, and mounding them up on the natural soil surface (hence the name "mound system") some inadequacies of the underlying natural soil may be overcome.

Holding Tanks. In cases where a tile field is not practical (inadequate lot size, such as cottages on small lake lots), or soils and water table levels do not meet the state sanitary code, holding tanks are authorized under the state code.

A holding tank is simply a tight, leak-proof steel drum that acts as a temporary collection for all sewage effluent. When the tank nears its full point the tank contents are then pumped into a truck operated by a state licensed waste hauler. The effluent is trucked to the nearest community having a public sewage treatment system, and dumped under permit via a special metered manhole into that system for treatment.

All pumping and disposal records are monitored by the county sanitarian department, as well as the receiving municipality, which will invoice the hauler for the number of gallons being received and treated.

Interesting Lake Happenings

by Carolyn Mealman



Loon Watch

Our pair of nesting loons hatched two chicks this spring. I couldn't find the nesting sight – I'm just glad it wasn't

out in plain sight across from the boat landing. The parents were very protective of the young amidst the traffic and from other predators. The mom and chicks stayed together for quite a while (father visited), finally learning to dive, to call, and eventually learned to fly. They then used the whole lake, went visiting to close by waters, and returned often to Connors. They might still be around until November, depending on weather.

I was very happy to be able to report to the Loon Watch Program in Ashland that our two juveniles will hopefully make the migration to the south and maybe return to our lake in two or three years.

In 2011 325 volunteers monitored 340 lakes in Wisconsin. A total of 400 territorial pairs produced 229 chicks. Of those 229, 183 were observed after 4 weeks and 166 after 8 weeks. The oldest loon to be banded was 25+ years old. The chick survival rate is not good (50% & under).

Rainbows

On May 27th, during a spring rain, a big double rainbow appeared in the sky. It was really gorgeous and enjoyed by us as there has been a shortage of them this year.

The Trouble With A Rainbow

Violet, blue, green, amber and pink,
A rainbow is magnificent.
And as the legend says
A treasure can be found
If one can only find the end.
Are you on your way
To reap your "pot of gold?"
The trouble, as you discover, is:
By the time you hurry to and fro,
And your goal is almost within reach
The rainbow beams have disappeared!
Your chance vanished once again.
But, just maybe, the real reward, is:
To behold this phenomenal display
And if luck is on your side
A double one will be in sight!



The heaviest turkey ever raised was 86 pounds, about the size of a large dog.

Paper Wasps

One day in early June when I went down to do some fishing from the pontoon, I engaged in some territorial rights with some flying insects. I went about baiting my hook and these creatures began to be very insistent that I not be there. Several of them ganged up and stung me. It was not until I backed up that I spotted a nest under the table. They were paper wasps. Immediately I ran up to the house for first aid and to get my trusty can of spray. Usually I let creatures have their territory outside, but this was now war, as this was my fishing spot before they arrived!

That afternoon we took a ride and when we got back to the dock a huge queen wasp was there looking for her nest. My trusty can had taken the ride also – just in case.



Spiders

One evening as I was watching TV, I noticed a small spider engineer at work, spinning a very peculiar web complex in a very precarious place at the end of a pine tree branch. I thought of all the places I'd seen webs and started to wonder, why do they sometimes pick the places they do, like this one, when as soon as the wind blows, there goes all the work?

A spider web is a device built by a spider out of proteinaceous spider silk extruded from spinnerets. Spider webs have existed for at least 141 million years. Insects can get trapped in them, providing nutrition, however, not all spiders build webs, some pounce on prey, others chase. There are 5 different kinds of webs. They put out a fine adhesive thread and hope that a breeze catches it and it sticks to a surface and then it carefully walks along it with a second thread. After strengthening the first thread, the spider will continue to make a Y-shaped netting and continue the construction. After a lot of touching up, it waits.

Other Wildlife

This summer the viewing has been pretty usual with spotting of white pelicans, otters, muskrats, different waterfowl, many birds, and 4 legged critters. We really had a lot of hummers in late August. These little fliers migrate alone even though they seem to leave about the same time, going across the Gulf of Mexico to warmer countries. We still had a purple grackle, robins eating seeds and red headed and red bellied woodpeckers chowing down for the trip. Have you all seen dad and mom eagle and their offspring? We were watching them watching us.

One Last Note

An article From Our Files

The Bee, 25 years ago – 1934

The Connors Lake Woodticks are the champions of the softball league, being undefeated for the season.

A Summer Visitor

Carolyn submitted a series of photos taken when a fox visited her place this summer.



Recon



Good Morning



Breakfast



Grooming



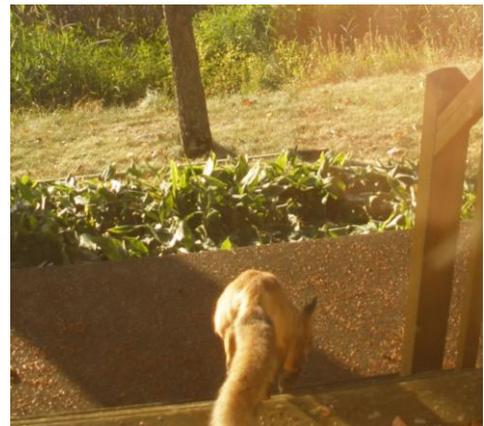
Scratching



Rolling



Lake Recon



Good Bye

Frank Strouf, aka Skunk Frank
Contributed by Sandra Lehmann



Photo courtesy of Esther Johnson archives

I started researching Skunk Frank over one year ago. My first lead was to purchase the book OUISCONSIN (which is the common French spelling of Wisconsin): *The Dead in Our Clouds* by Bryan Tomasovich. This book is a poetic investigation into the private lives of Wisconsin people. There are four pages on Skunk Frank episodes, e.g., *Skunk Frank's fishing hole on the Flambeau River is marked/by an alert pine draft/when standing in the ruins of the old Indian feller's shack./Go make yourselves at home/our Grandpa Frank'd say...log frame/tin billboard walls, tar paper/tumbled down and mossy/as the river but colder/home-canned jars, melted fork/bottles plenty, granite chimney shards/but not a feather./Friends like this...our grandpa Frank is a real puzzle.*

This fall Dave Bauer pointed me to a Milwaukee Sentinel article from August 17, 1959, about a stone marking the grave of Skunk Frank. This led me to make two trips to the Ladysmith Public Library which had a copy of Skunk Frank's diary. His diary consisted of some newspaper articles and remarks made by visitors who had come upon his shack. I then looked up other newspaper articles on microfiche and made a trip to the cemetery in Glen Flora to photograph Skunk Frank's gravestone. Following is what I found.

Mr Frank Strouf—The Hermit of Beaver Dam—Skunk Frank
March 29, 1954, by R B Mac Donald

The Flambeau twist and turns we say, Through forest lands along its way.
Its ripples produce a brilliant spray.

This squatter camped along the shore, A fellow filled with logging lore
For many years has kept the score, Of all who floated by his door.

The scenic wonders at his stand, Would make you, exclaim ain't it grand?
Yet how he loved to shake your hand, This Hermit of the Flambeau Land

Frank lost a leg, yet on a wooden peg, He could put all other guides to shade
And never did you walk or wade, For he could POLE just any grade

The beverage found behind Frank's door, Would make you sleep hours twenty-four
And make you dream as well as snore, Of Musky, Pike, and Flambeau Lore.

His camping place on that Flambeau shore, At Beaver Dam, that folks all did adore
Has lost some of that friendly score, For Hermit Frank is there no more.

This character, this well-known guide, With a big heart, and a black bear hide
Could ride the Rapids at high tied, To watch him made you thrill inside

The memory of "SKUNK FRANK" folks now acclaim, For to Beaver Dam Rapids he added fame
Yet the thrills and spills are not the same, Without the Flambeau Hermit—Skunk Frank the name.

Trapper's Body Found Near Spring

Frank Strove, Who Lived on Flambeau River For Past 35 Years, Found Dead On Shore of River

Frank Strove, 63, trapper, guide and picturesque figure in the woods of the Flambeau river for the past 35 years, was found dead lying near the spring up-river from his cabin at Beaver Dam, 20 miles northeast of this city, Sunday morning. Frank had apparently poled his boat up to the spring the day before, beached the boat and fallen dead, face downward, on the ground just after stepping on shore.

Some young men from the CCC camp discovered the body and as soon as possible sent word to Ladysmith authorities. Sheriff Carl Nelson and H. A. Dimock, who acted as deputy coroner as Coroner J. P. Pederson was out of the city, went up to the trapper's cabin and thence up the river to get the body shortly afterwards. The cause of Frank's death and the manner in which it happened was obvious and no inquest was deemed necessary.

Funeral At Glen Flora

The body was brought to Ladysmith and taken to Glen Flora Tuesday where funeral services were held that afternoon at the Glen Flora Methodist church. Rev. Grandy officiating and interment was made in the Glen Flora cemetery.

Frank, who spelled his name Strove, although the family name is Strouf, woodsman, hunter, trapper and guide for so many years, had thousands of friends throughout the northwest who had made his acquaintance on the well-known canoe trips down the Flambeau river or else been guests of Frank during hunting and fishing seasons. Years ago Frank had a homestead at Cedar Rapids on the Flambeau and also a camp at Beaver Dam, but for the past 15 years or more he has made his home solely at the Beaver Dam cabin. Here on the banks of the river he loved so well he lived alone, and there he died, as he had often expressed the wish to die, by the Flambeau.

A register kept in the Beaver Dam cabin for the past eight years or so recorded the names of hundreds of visitors who stopped at Frank's cabin while going down the river. The roster of names includes many high government officials and many prominent businessmen.

Five years ago, following a gangrenous infection in his left foot, Frank lost his left leg by amputation at the knee. Although equipped with a wooden limb, Frank was far from being as active as in his earlier years. In the past year his other foot had begun to bother him.

Through the familiar appellation "Big Skunk," Frank was known to hundreds of Bunk county folk by no other name. Years ago he was a busy trapper and gathered hundreds of pounds of wild ginseng, made maple syrup in the spring, guided hunters in the fall and fishermen in the spring. In the last few years of his life, because of his disability, he had been more circumscribed, but he still kept his love for his old haunts.

Adolph Strouf, Frank's brother, of St. Paul, Adolph's two sons, Dan and William, of Racine, and Mrs. Henry Covey, of Hayward, sister of the deceased, attended the funeral services.

Cat Waits in Vain for 'Old Frank,' Hermit

By Special Correspondent.

LADYSMITH, Wis., June 4—Only a cat, a big gray and white fellow with doleful, mysterious eyes, remained today on sentinel duty inside the rough shack at Wildcat Rapids, beside the Flambeau river in the wild north woods.

The cat, whose head had been patted by the notables of Europe and America as they came to the strange shack where "Old Frank" Strove, picturesque hermit at the rapids, kept open house for all, trotted cheerfully to the door to receive sardines and milk from a stranger today, because "Old Frank," who lived alone for years in the shack with the cat, is dead.

FOUND DEAD.

Frank was found yesterday, dead beside the spring near his shack. A party of Chicago friends who made the discovery made a final entry in the visitors' book "Old Frank" had kept for years, a book bearing the names of many great and near great. They wrote simply:

"Taking Frank down the river in a boat. So long, old boy."

So now the friends down the river are planning the rites tomorrow. They will bury "Old Frank" at Glenora, 12 miles east of here. A sister who lives in Hayward came up today to assist with plans. A brother who lives in Racine is expected later in the day.

For more than 30 years, so the story goes, "Old Frank" lived in that shack. "He just didn't care about civilization," said Under-sheriff Wilson here today. He knew "Old Frank" for years. Frank's travels never took him beyond the timber and cutover, yet he was known throughout the world. Thousands visited his shack and left their names in his book.

INTERESTING ENTRIES.

Many of the entries indicate the visitors arrived while "Old Frank" was off hunting or fishing. Yet, so well known was his hospitality, no one hesitated to tarry, eat his food and talk with his amiable kitty.

Sen. F. Ryan Duffy's name was one of the last, a note telling of the senator's pleasant call with his two sons.

A tragedy was recalled by this entry:

"Farewell—unless we spill in the rapids."

That was written Oct. 23, 1925, by Arthur Rindlisbacher, Chicago aviator and American Legion notable. He "spilled in the rapids" and drowned.

DESERVED SUPPORT.

A party of European notables visited Frank's cabin in 1930 and left this entry:

"Frank's cabin deserves the support of the Red Cross. We ate his food, burned his wood, petted and loved his delightful cat and departing, blessed him for his strange notion of living here and providing such cheer."

The note was signed by:

"Mauer, of Berlin, Mrs. Mauer of London and two Greens of the United States."

There are notes written in German, French, Spanish, Greek and the Scandinavian tongues. Frank cherished them all and once to a friend here made the remark that summed up his philosophy:

"Guess we'd all be better off if we acted more neighborly when folks come around t' see us."

The register is closed now. The big, fluffy cat, whose age no one dares guess, looks dolefully about the place. He can't read that last entry in the register, but he has an understanding look in his slate eyes.

You will notice different spellings of Frank's last name. Frank spelled his name Strove but the family name is Strouf and his grave stone is spelled Strauf.

Death Closes Famous Book of River Hermit

'Found Frank Dead, So Long Old Boy,'
Last Entry in Record of Flambeau
Recluse, Host to Notables.

LADYSMITH, Wis., June 3—(Special)—"Old Frank" Strobe, picturesque hermit of the Wild Cat rapids, died today in his backwoods shack beside the Flambeau river.

Friends came to the shack; they made a final entry on a register that is one of the most famous documents in the world—just, "so long, old boy, you've journeyed on to the happy hunting grounds"—and then they closed the book that has been open in Frank's rough home for decades.

For three score and five years, "Old Frank" lived alone beside the river; his journeys never took him beyond the timber and the cutover, and yet he is known from coast to coast and throughout the world. He has entertained governors, senators, bankers, famous physicians and attorneys and men and women from all walks in life.

MANY FAMOUS NAMES.

The names of these persons are all inscribed in the famous register which contains uncounted thousands of signatures and hundreds of stories of fishing trips, journeys down the Flambeau river, hunting expeditions of the great and near great and stories of love, adventure, happiness and tragedy.

It contains, too, stories of visits made at his cabin when he himself was not present but happened to be out hunting or fishing when visitors arrived. But his hospitality was so well known that these visitors stayed, ate his food and enjoyed the use of his shack and then left a note in the register to say they had called.

SEN. DUFFY A VISITOR.

One of the latest entries in the register was that written by U. S. Sen. F. Ryan Duffy, who, like thousands of others, stopped at Frank's place while making a canoe trip down the river. This said:

"The 'Duffy's three' have had a most enjoyable time. Ryan Jr., 12

and Haydon, 10, and the old man will long remember a most enjoyable time fishing and shooting the rapids."

Back in Oct. 28, 1928 there was written into the book the tragic story of the death of Arthur Rindlisbacher, one time Chicago aviator and active Legion leader. A visitor at the camp, just before he "shot the rapids," the aviator described his trip and then wrote this message to "Old Frank":

"Farewell—unless we spill in the rapids."

A NOTE OF TRAGEDY.

Rindlisbacher "spilled in the rapids" and was drowned and the story of the search follows in the entries made by friends and relatives of the aviator.

Back in 1930 foreign visitors came into the rapids and "spilled." They were cared for at Frank's camp and wrote:

"Frank's cabin deserves the support of the Red Cross. We ate his food, burned his wood, petted and fed his cat and, departing, blessed him for the strange notion of living here."

This was signed: "Mauer of Berlin, Mrs. Mauer, of London, England, and two Greens of this country."

Then there are such entries as were made by Donald H. Verhulst and Thomas H. Thomas, of Sheboygan, who were among the visitors. The entry by Verhulst said:

"Fishing so poor that we're bringing sardines along next trip."

ONLY BITES FROM TICKS.

To which Thomas added:

"The only bites we're getting are from the woodticks. They're having a good time."

There are notations by young couples on their honeymoon. There are notes written in German, in Spanish, Greek and in the Scandinavian languages. Addresses show visitors came from such points as Alaska, South America, South Africa, Mexico and from all points in Wisconsin and Illinois and the middle western states. Many prominent Milwaukeeans are included on the roster of Frank's visitors.

And then the last entry, "Found Frank dead at the spring at 10:40 a. m. Taking Frank down the river in a boat. So long, old boy."

The register is closed.

Stone Finally Marks Grave Of Renowned State Hermit

GLEN FLORA, Wis., Aug. 16 (Special) An illiterate woodsman who never got more than 30 miles from his home, yet was internationally known, finally has a tombstone to mark his resting place.

But Frank Strouf, who was found dead at his Flambeau River cabin June 3, 1934, has suffered in death, even as in life, from having his name misspelled.

The simple, yet beautiful, gravestone installed this spring through the efforts of former friends, read, "Frank Strauf, 1866-1934, The Hermit of Beaver Dam."

CALLED 'SKUNK FRANK'

The story of "Skunk Frank" nobody today remembers where or how he got that nickname—goes well back into the last century, when loggers slashed their way through the Wisconsin North Woods and the Flambeau River was famous for its canoe trips through quiet forests and treacherous rapids.

Strouf had a cabin beside this stream, at a spot known as Beaver Dam Rapids, north of Glen Flora. As far as is known, he never was farther from this cabin than Ladysmith, little more than 20 miles away.

Yet the meek and mighty had stopped at his cabin to replenish supplies, seek shelter or just to sign his diary.

It was actually a misnomer to call it a diary, because Skunk Frank could neither read nor write. It was more of a logbook of canoe trips down the foaming, swirling river.

Photostatic copies of the "diary" are kept today in the Ladysmith public library, the Ladysmith high school and by E. M. Dahlberg, retired Ladysmith teacher, conservationist, former member of the Conservation Commission and close friend of Strouf.

Page after page is filled with names and brief comments penned by his visitors. They came from every state in the union and many foreign countries.

There were honeymooners, governors and senators. There are inscriptions in German, Spanish, Greek and Scandinavian languages.

LAST REMARK

There is the tragic comment of Arthur Rindlisbacher, made on Oct. 28, 1923: "Farewell—unless we spill in the rapids." That's just what happened. They didn't find Rindlisbacher's body until next spring.

The final entry was made June 3, 1934, by Jack Plummer. He and a companion, O. F. Frankenbush, found the hermit's body beside the spring.

The last previous entry had been made four days before, on May 30. Skunk Frank had died sometime in those four days.

His passing was noted in column-long stories in newspapers across the land. Again his name was misspelled, even as it often had been in his diary. This time they called him Frank Strobe.

It also revived memories among his many Rusk County

friends, who invariably refer to him as a friendly and completely harmless man, "who's greatest joy was providing shelter or food for a passing canoeist."

Strouf was buried in an unmarked grave in the far corner of the Glenview Cemetery at Glen Flora, at county expense. There was not even a slab to mark the spot.

Several years ago, at an old-timers' gathering someone said something should be done, but it remained until this spring, when Mrs. W. C. Weldon of Ladysmith began stirring things up. The Weldons had operated a hotel at Glen Flora for many years, and she often did Strouf's washing when he came to town.

COLLECTED \$53

With the help of Otis Lear of Glen Flora, she distributed signs announcing a campaign to raise funds for a grave marker. It wasn't long until \$53 was collected, mostly from the hermit's old friends.

The stone was put in this spring at a cost of \$40. The rest will go for upkeep of the grounds around the grave.

And Frank Strouf, the hermit of Beaver Dam and friend of the forest traveler, is properly memorialized.



Sampling from Skunk Frank's Diary

Dec. Day DOC FRECK
1934 HANK WEBER } COLUMBUS WIS

June 3, 1934. Full moon just with
C & Frank and Jack Plummer on trip.

June 3, 1934 Found Drank Road at the Spring
at 10.40 A.M. Jack Plummer and
I went back to the C & Frank camp where
the caretaker notified the Sheriff.
Tough on old Skunk's Drank. He was
quite a noted character. So long old
boy.

C. E. Drank
Jack Plummer

June 7, 1934 Spring Frank's down river
in boat

Skunk

June 13

Noted at Beaver Section
by Mr. Bill Houston. Got the
green beam case up at once
to take care of the flag and
his belongings that were in
some one's possession to claim
for the plot 50 years
ago. Mr. Houston
found him in the Happy Hunting
Grounds.

Heinäkuu 19, 1931
Tämä oli minun ensimmäinen
tämäinen matka, ja minä tykkäin
siinä kovin, ja alettiin OXBoston
ja mennään Lady Smithiin -
nähtiin hyvin monta peuran
mutta ei saatu muuta kuin
kaksi kalaa hyvin huonoasti
on kai ollut lämpen kuumaa ja
joessa ei ole oikeen paljon vettä
ja meidän moanskaari puki on
ja tykyä -
Hakma, Hovi, Kumpulainen
Opaank ali Jack Donihue

Heinäkuu 19. Paim.
Kujoitin muutaman rivin tästä
että jos saattuu että tulee mita
suomalaisia jokia muuten alas niin
näkevät että täällä on samaa
natunaa ja ollut. Kappale otettiin
tuhka täyteen mutta kun tykkäsi se
oltti. Mut pitää mennä kuurin suin
koti mutta toivon että se on sekin
ja saattuu suomalaisia lukemaan
tämän niin pientäkin myöskin
muutaman sanan. Kujoitin
Jack Donihue Emil Niemi
Ducker Owen Wix

Mrs. & Mrs. H. St. Aug. June 3, 1934
Blanche Coney
Servant to tell Aunt Mary hello
and also Nellie Phelps.

Frank

July 1 - 1931

Put in at Babo Island
caught a number of fish and
walked up to small of muskie and
one weighing 16 1/2 pounds
saw 26 deep water loon
with plenty of wind both can
shot Beaver.

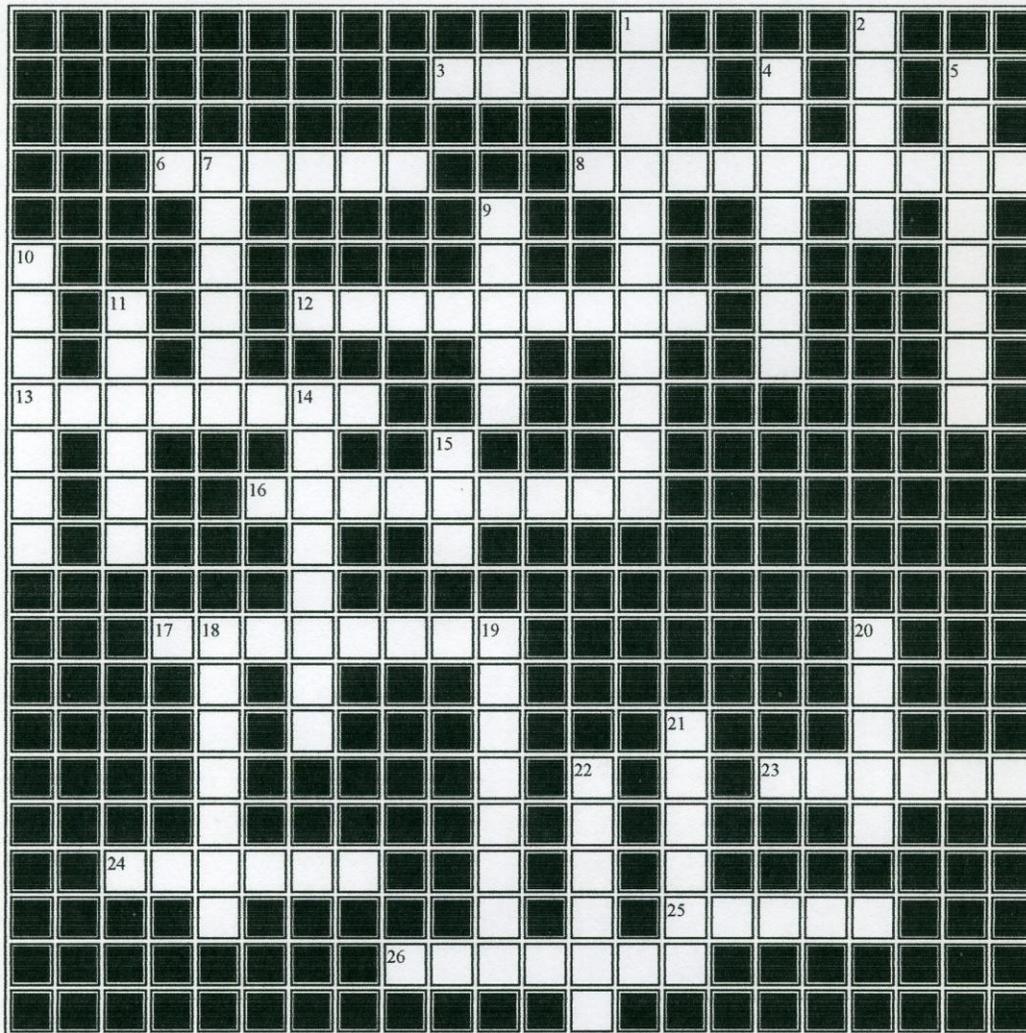
City slicker Fred Beck on his
first fishing trip caught a
small mouth bass which had
the fight of his life. Found
Frank and Herb are fine

Fred Beck
Frank Eymann
Chicago Ill. Rep. Herb Kinn
Bill Farrell
Jack Plummer
Ben Plumme

July 25, 1931

I have heard a lot about
Frank's place for a number of
years, but this is my first
personal contact with his
cabin, himself & his stoves. I
plan to make this trip again
when the river is higher. There
is wonderful country with
mosquitoes the size of large
buggards, rapids that sound as
loud as a boiler factory going
about as smooth as sand
in Eau Claire. Put in at
nine mile creek dam & camped about
6 or 7 miles above OXB. Monday
evening we rowed us at Wahnigen
Rapids. Took my time today &
arrived here at 2:00 P.M.
I am in a bit of the Beaver Falls
District. Singer - Eau Claire Wis

Fun for kids of all ages



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

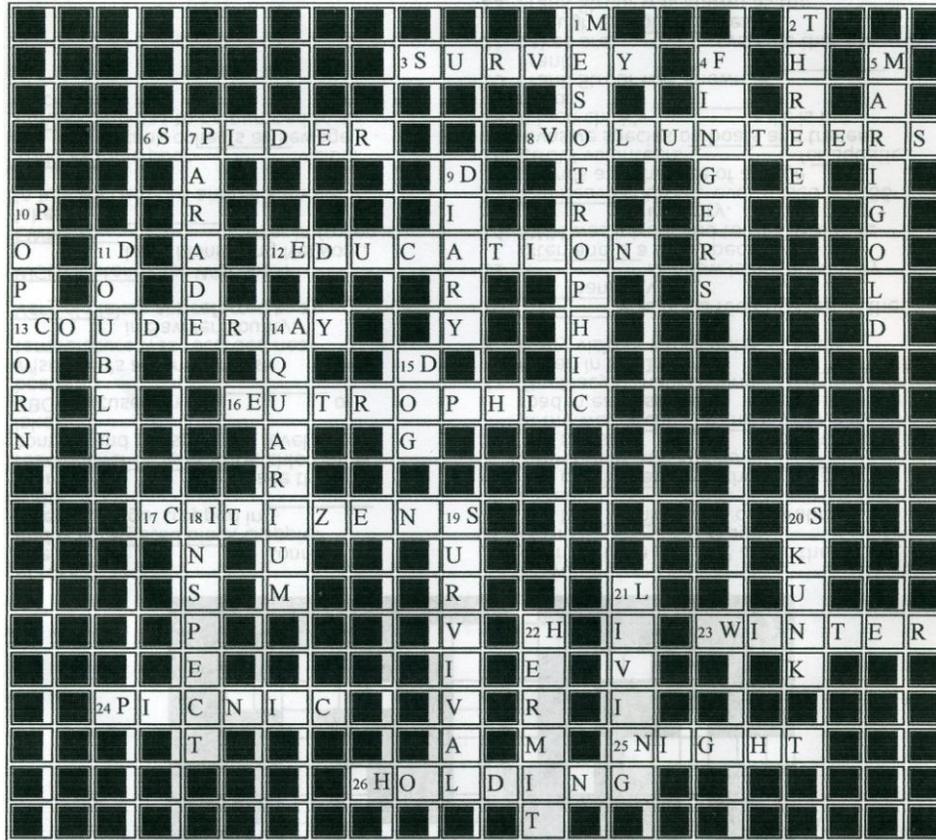
Across

- 3 The fish _____ on Connors and LOP targeted black crappie.
- 6 Insects can get trapped in _____ webs.
- 8 A group of _____ take the lake readings for temperature, chlorophyll content and phosphorous level of our lakes.
- 12 CBCW focuses on the _____ of boaters.
- 13 Wisconsin's all-time lowest temperature was recorded near _____ in Sawyer County.
- 16 Very old lakes are referred to as _____.
- 17 WCLMN stands for Wisconsin _____ Lake Monitoring Network.
- 23 EWM can _____ over in frozen lakes.
- 24 In July we held our annual summer _____.
- 25 Turkeys have poor _____ vision.
- 26 A _____ tank collects all sewage effluent and has to be pumped to a truck.

Down

- 1 Connors Lake and LOP are in the middle of the _____ stage.
- 2 The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted _____ days.
- 4 The pilgrims ate with their _____ plus spoons and knives.
- 5 The marsh _____ is often found in the wet ditches on the side of the road in early spring.
- 7 The Macy's Thanksgiving _____ began in the 1920's.
- 9 Many visitors wrote notes in Frank's _____.
- 10 _____ was not a food present at the first Thanksgiving.
- 11 A _____ rainbow is not seen very often and is a very special site.
- 14 EWM was introduced to the US by the _____ industry.
- 15 The heaviest turkey ever raised was 86 pounds and the size of a large _____.
- 18 CBCW volunteers _____ for aquatic invasive species on boats and trailers.
- 19 A loon chick's _____ rate is not good.
- 20 Frank Strouf was known as _____ Frank.
- 21 Lakes are _____ systems that go through an aging process.
- 22 Frank Strouf was known as the _____ of Beaver Dam.

Crossword Puzzle Answer Key



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The pilgrims didn't use forks; they ate with spoons, knives, and their fingers.

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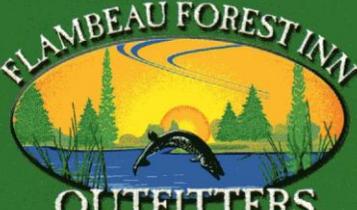
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HOMEMADE PIES & JAMS

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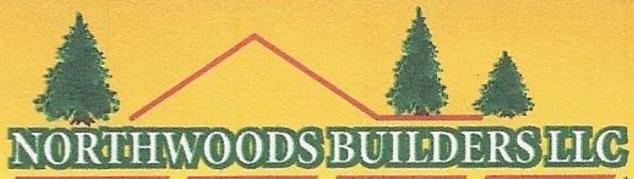
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Sunday	Nightly Specials	
Monday	Cooks Choice	
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Wednesday	Broasted Chicken—All you can eat	
Thursday	Steak Night—steak specials weekly	
Friday	Fish Fry—Baked or Deep Fried	
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