

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

A message from Tom Stram, President

2013 marks the 10th anniversary of the initial discovery of the aquatic invasive species, Eurasian water-milfoil, (EWM) in Connors Lake by Craig Roesler of the Wisconsin DNR.

This event, plus the removal of the “dam” on the south end of Connors Lake, led to the formation of the Connors Lake, Little Papoose, Lake of the Pines (Co/Pa/Pi) Voluntary Lake Association which was officially incorporated in February of 2004. Thanks to generous donations, membership dues and WDNR grants we have been able to reduce and control the population of EWM in Connors Lake. Although the vast majority of property owners would like to see a permanent structure in place to restore and maintain historic lake levels, especially during periods of drought like we have been experiencing the past 5 years, our intense and sometimes expensive efforts have been met by insurmountable WDNR roadblocks.

The lake association, through its many activities, has become your steward of our lakes. We have an excellent participation rate in dues paying members but we could use more active involvement from our members in our efforts to monitor water quality and check for invasive species at the boat landings, etc.

We know your time at the lake is limited. Please consider attending our general membership meetings on Saturday mornings of our three major holiday weekends at which time we also have an educational program. The 3rd Annual Lake Association Picnic is on July 27th. Come meet your neighbors—the food and drink are free.

Think about becoming a member of our board as we will need someone to take over the position of recording secretary of the lake association meetings in this summer’s election.

This year’s challenges include renewing our Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant. At the time this article was written the Governor’s Budget included no money for Aquatic Invasive Species Control, potentially leaving us with an annual bill of \$9,000 to \$10,000. If the Native Americans remove their entire quota of safe harvest walleyes and other fish species then we may see a drastic reduction in the daily bag limit for most fish. On the positive side, after completion of the comprehensive WDNR Fish Survey this year, we will seriously look into fish stocking in our lakes.

Enjoy our award-winning newsletter and have a great summer “at the lake”.

2013 General Membership Meetings at Connors Lake Pavilion

- Saturday **May 25** Memorial Day Weekend—Jim Halvorson, Superintendent-Flambeau River State Forest
Saturday **July 6** Association Annual Meeting—Jeff Scheirer, Fisheries Biologist, WDNR
Saturday **August 31** Labor Day Weekend—To be announced

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 fall newsletter will be mailed in November 2013. Please submit your contributions or mention items you would like to see in future newsletters by Wednesday October 16 to Sandra Lehmann. Drop off at the house, call 715.332.5101 or email slj@pctcnet.net

CoPaPi Board of Directors for 2013-2014

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	

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 Lake Association members, as well as, all lake residents, their families and friends.

Watch for more information, details and volunteer opportunities coming to you as further plans are made!

2013-2014 Memberships are due

If you haven't yet paid your membership, you will find a form in the envelope with this newsletter.

Memberships are \$50 per person for the two year period (2013-2014). Checks may be made out to CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association, Inc. and mailed to PO Box 63, Winter WI 54896. Please support your lake association by buying a membership.

2013 Cash Raffle

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

Our website is up and running thanks to the work of Gloria Lindahl. Visit us at

www.copapisawyerctywi.org

Open House/Public Meeting—Friday, June 7, 2013

Public open house meeting will be at the Flambeau River State Forest Headquarters. Staff will be here all day to answer questions you may have. We can discuss the plan, what has happened over the past year and what is planned for the upcoming year and any concerns. Hope you can stop by for a visit.

WCLMN (Wisconsin Citizens Lake Monitoring Network)

by Dave Schiotz, Coordinator

Last year I began my article with the statement, "What a difference a year makes." In 2012, the ice went out so early that we were caught off guard for our first water testing which normally occurs two - three weeks after ice-out. Most people had not put their docks or boats in yet. The first water testing includes phosphorus sampling plus the normal Dissolved Oxygen (DO), temperature, and secchi disk (clarity).

Much of the phosphorus comes from the surrounding land and enters a water body in runoff. When our abundance of snow finally melts, we would expect the phosphorus level to be somewhat elevated this year. Since phosphorus acts as a fertilizer for plant life we may experience an increased growth in algae and other aquatic plants—Time will tell!!

As in past years we normally collect water samples twice per month from late May into September. Starting in late June we also add chlorophyll as a parameter along with phosphorus. Chlorophyll is an indicator of algae growth in the water. As water warms throughout the summer, the algae concentration usually increases which produces higher chlorophyll levels.

The data our volunteers collect is very important, providing us with a more complete picture of our lakes as living systems.

We have a great group of volunteers and everything we do is because of their effort. I am hoping they will once again consent to be part of 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 & Sandy Lehmann, Rich Marusinec, Dave & Karen Schiotz and Tom Stram. We have added two new volunteers for 2013, Dave Bauer on LOP and Bob Feller on Connors.

If anyone is interested in volunteering or if you just would like to observe the sampling, please let me know. (Dave Schiotz dkschiotz@yahoo.com or 715 332-5164) or contact one of the volunteers listed above.

A special thank you to Sandra Lehmann for inputting all our data from both lakes into the DNR network.

Have a good Summer!!

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
-



Clean Boats/Clean Waters by Dave Cooley & Patty Behrenbrinker



As we look forward to this summer's relaxation and beauty that Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines provide for us, would you please consider volunteering for one or two hours to keep these resources healthy for our enjoyment now and for future generations?

The Clean Boats/Clean Waters program helps to educate boaters and inspect watercraft that are entering and leaving our local lakes. Volunteer inspectors at the Connors Lake boat landing perform boat and trailer checks, hand out informational brochures, and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Because we have a number of invasive species in Connors Lake and, most significantly Eurasian Water Milfoil, it is equally important that we inspect boats entering and leaving Connors Lake, to be sure those boaters are not transporting invasive species to another location.

Volunteers work in two-hour shifts on Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day weekends. For every volunteer hour the CoPaPi Lake Association is credited with \$12 towards our share of the grant and lake treatment costs. Our volunteering PAYS US BACK.

In order for our resource of volunteers to grow we are hoping that this year our previous faithful volunteers will BRING A FRIEND ALONG to introduce them to the CBCW program. With more interested volunteers we can begin inspections at Lake of the Pines.

Sign-up sheets will be at the Saturday, May 25, Lake Association General Meeting, or you can contact me ahead of time at dcooley1@prodigy.net or (920) 832-0755. Beginning with the July 4th Holiday, your contact for the Clean Boats Clean Waters program will be Patty Behrenbrinker, pbehrenbrinker@gmail.com, 612-419-6896.

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

Wisconsin laws prohibit launching a boat or placing a trailer or boating equipment in navigable waters if it has aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached.

For more information about the "Clean boats, Clean Waters" program go to the website:
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/CBCW



Fishery News

by Tom Deinhammer, Chairman

On October 5, I was on the boat with the WDNR Fisheries Team from Park Falls. Five nets were placed in each of Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines. The boat had two holding tanks for the fish. From each net the fish that were over 5 inches in length were put in separate tanks to be counted and measured. The Muskellunge were measured and a device was moved across the head to determine if the fish was planted by Martin Jennings for his musky study. When both tanks had fish, from separate nets, in them we found a quiet place to go and do the counting.

The results from Connors Lake were Black Crappie-2, Bluegill-645, Largemouth Bass-1, Musky-2, Northern Pike-1, Pumpkinseed-20, Rock Bass-12, Smallmouth Bass-5, Walleye-16 and Yellow Perch-33. The fish from Lake of the Pines were Black Crappie-28, Bluegill-996, Largemouth Bass-4, Musky-5, Pumpkinseed-428, Rock Bass-13, Smallmouth Bass-2, Walleye-8 and Yellow Perch-37.

Jeff Scheirer thought there was a good amount of feed to support more fish in LOP but I didn't ask him about Connors Lake as we were on LOP at the time. Jeff Scheirer will be at our July 6th membership meeting to answer any questions we might have. As soon as the ice goes out on the lakes they will be back to net for Northern Pike, Muskie, Walleye and Yellow Perch. That study will take five days.

I spoke with Jim Genrich, President of the Winter Lakes Association. They stock Walleye in several lakes in that area in early October when the fry are larger and survive a lot better. He also said that in the lakes where they stock Walleye the panfish are larger and more can be caught from shore. He offered to help us with the permits and when the time was to do that. He also said the WDNR would have more ponds for the Walleye, because they are not stocking as many trout and salmon in Lake Michigan. They will have more room for Walleye so there should be no cost for Walleye fry.

The WDNR will be on our lakes around Memorial Day to do shocking for Large and Smallmouth Bass for two nights of five shoreline miles. They also will do a fall netting to see what the fish recruitment was for the year. When this is done we will have a good idea of the fish population in our lakes.

Canada Geese Concerns

By Diane Stowell, Flambeau River State Forest

We are trying to get a jump ahead of the geese at the Connors Lake Picnic Area (CPA) and the Connors Lake Campground beach (CLC). I contacted the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for the procedure we need to follow to help contain the population of geese who nest and use the CPA and the CLC.

Canada geese are beautiful waterfowl, and I for one, enjoy seeing the adults and their goslings. However, over the past year their population has increased on Connors Lake. They have overgrazed the grass at the CPA, added hundreds of work hours cleaning up

gallons of droppings and feathers in the public-use areas and create the potential to foul the water in the swimming areas

If we do not attend to this issue it may lead to the public beach area becoming possibly contaminated and questionable for public safety which may also lead the FRSF having to close down the beach area until safety standards have been re-met. This year we would like to be proactive and aggressively try to deter the Canadian geese from using this area.

The Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS) manage Canada geese as part of its authority under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This agency sets the rules for how the public and other agencies can interact with geese. Wildlife Services (WS) helps manage damage related to Canada geese. As a State Forest we are required to comply with the WS and use an integrated damage management plan to deter goose usage at the CPA. Some of these integrated methods are as follows:

- No-feeding policies
- Landscape modification
- Barriers
- Light and sound scaring devices
- Herding dogs
- Egg-and-nest treatment
- Oral contraceptives
- Depredation permits etc.
- Scaring and hazing methods

Using a variety of methods is important because, typically, no single technique seems to provide a long-term solution to damage problems. We will be using a number of these methods to curtail goose damage at the Connors Lake Picnic area and the Connors Lake campground beach. It's crucial to be on top of this as soon as possible, as some of the mated pairs of geese may already be nesting. They just need small dry, snow free patches to nest.

We have made application for a Canada Goose Nest and Egg Depredation Permit (Form 2300-314). This will allow the "permittee" (FRSF) to remove or destroy Canada goose nests and eggs on the Flambeau public areas (CLC & CPA). One of the methods we intend to use on nests that we find will be to rub vegetable oil on the eggs to prevent the hatch. If we destroy the nest or remove the eggs, chances are the mated pair will re-nest. We are waiting for the issuance of the permit before we are allowed to do this. If you are aware of nest sites on your property and you would like us to treat the eggs, please contact us at 715-332-5271 ext.101 with permission and location of nests on your property.



Important Notification

Northern Aquatic Services

1061 240* street Dresser WI 54009
715-495-5252 cell 715-755-3507 home/office

Professional Aquatic Weed Control Services 2013

Dear Connors Lake Riparian Property Owner,

The intent of this letter is to **notify you** that the Connors Lake Association has hired Northern Aquatic Services, a herbicide application company for hire, to chemically treat the nuisance exotic aquatic vegetation (Eurasian watermilfoil) in Connors Lake this growing season.

The Association has hired a consultant to survey the aquatic vegetation and draft an Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Connors Lake. My treatment will largely be based upon that plan. In accordance with the Aquatic Plant Management Plan this year calls for the treatment of about 2 acres in several different areas of the lake. In a proactive effort, I will also treat any other areas found to have Eurasian watermilfoil as the spring and summer progress.

Since there is no way of knowing where these areas may occur at this time the intent of this letter is to **notify each property owner** that a treatment may occur in front of or adjacent to your property. The herbicides I will use are 2,4-D based and all are approved for aquatic use by the Environmental Protection Agency. Any water usage restrictions for the treated area will be posted on yellow signs in that area. I will try to treat early in the week to minimize water usage conflicts. The 2-acre treatment will likely occur in May, the spot treatments could occur throughout the spring and summer of 2013.

If you have any questions you may contact Northern Aquatic Services at 715-755-3507, or the Wisconsin DNR's Water Resources Management Specialist Jim Cahow at 715-537-5046. Chemical fact sheets are available upon request or at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants/>.

Sincerely,

Dale Dressel, Northern Aquatic Services

Burning Permits

It's your responsibility to have a permit available and ready to show to law enforcement personnel or firefighters if requested at any time while burning. Failure to obtain a permit or comply with the daily restrictions could result in a citation.

If your fire escapes and starts a wildfire, you may be held liable for all suppression costs. Any person, whose property is injured or destroyed by your fire, may also recover, in a civil action, the value of timber or damages suffered.

Safety Buoys on Connors Lake

Gene Johnson has placed three buoys on state designated hazard areas on Connors Lake. Please keep away from the buoys and **do not** use them to anchor your boat or as a swim toy.

Wisconsin Boating Regulations

Personal Watercraft operators must obey all boating regulations.

No person may operate a PWC from sunset to sunrise.

No person may operate a PWC faster than slow-no-wake within 200' of shore.

All persons riding a PWC must wear a PFD.

Persons at least 12 but under 16 must be in possession of a valid boating safety student certificate to operate a PWC.

It is illegal to operate a PWC facing backwards.

There is no towing of persons engaged in water skiing or similar activities unless the PWC is designed to seat 3 people.

Know your "operation within 100 feet" rules.

No person under the age of 10 may operate a motorboat.

No person under 12 may operate a PWC.

If you are towing a person there must be a competent person in addition to the operator in a position to observe the activity of the person being towed.

To stay up-to-date on Wisconsin Boating Laws contact WDNR. Call 1.888.936.7463 or visit the website at dnr.wi.gov

Aquatic Invasive Species Report by Tom Stram

In the spring and summer of 2012 we performed two spot treatments on 5/23 (3 acres) and 6/26 (1 acre) with Navigate (2,4-D).

A post-treatment survey in the fall revealed 3.66 acres of Eurasian water milfoil in Connors Lake. Muskie Bay and the point across from the boat launch remain troublesome areas. This spring/summer we plan to do two or three spot treatments totaling up to 7 acres.

As mentioned in my President's letter, our grant runs out this year and we may have to pay a lot more for the treatments. We are in the process of applying for another Aquatic Invasive Species management grant. Good news, the fall survey revealed no EWM in Lake of the Pines.





Lake Survey
Wisconsin Department
of Natural Resources

We are conducting a fishery survey on Connors/Lake of the Pines this year. Beginning as soon as the ice goes out and continuing throughout the summer and fall you may see DNR personnel running nets and operating electrofishing boats. Beginning with the opening of fishing in May a creel survey clerk will be on the lake interviewing and counting anglers. This creel survey, or angling survey, will run throughout the open water and ice fishing seasons until March 1 of next year.

Just what will be done? Here's a short explanation of the survey process:

Fyke netting – Large trap nets called “fyke” nets are used to capture gamefish and panfish. These nets are stretched from the shore out to a flag buoy as much as 150 feet off shore. The fish captured in these nets are measured, sexed, aged, possibly marked with a fin clip, and then released. This information will tell us about the growth rates, abundance, and health of these fish populations. You're welcome to come out and watch us handle the fish.

Please stay a good distance from the nets when we are not present so as not to alter the survey results.

Electrofishing – Electrofishing is done starting late evening and into the night. You may see large boats, with bright lights and poles extending from the front, moving slowly along the shore. These boats momentarily stun the fish so they can be captured. The fish are then measured, recorded, possibly marked with a fin clip, and released unharmed.

Creel Survey – The creel survey will give us estimates of fishing pressure, angling effort directed at each species of fish, approximate numbers of fish caught and harvested, and their lengths. The creel survey clerk will ask you a few questions about your fishing, usually at the end of your outing. At times it may be necessary to interview you while you're still fishing. It will take a few minutes. Your time and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your interest in the lake survey! The information gathered, combined with information from previous surveys, will allow fisheries biologists to determine the best management plan for your lake. We encourage your questions. The creel survey clerk will be able to answer many of your questions and can direct you to the right person for other information.

For more information about the survey, and to request survey results and reports, contact:

Gene Hatzenbeler, Fisheries Biologist
WDNR Spooner Office
810 West Maple Street
Spooner WI 54801
(715) 635 4095
gene.hatzenbeler@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin's Friday night Fish Fry Tradition
Submitted by Tom Stram

Nowhere except Wisconsin is the Friday Night Fish Fry so closely identified with a state and its people. It is a tradition or institution in which food, history, geography, ethnicity and religion intertwine in a unique expression of regional culture. With 15,000 lakes, 44,000 miles of rivers and two of the Great Lakes Wisconsin is a fisherman's paradise. 45% of the state's residents fish as compared to a national average of 29%. Native Americans were very dependent on the bounty of fish available and introduced the immigrants to this affordable abundant resource.

The Fish Fry appears to have taken off in the 1920's and 1930's in Catholic centers like Green Bay and Milwaukee because of the Lenten Friday meat eating ban. Prohibition was another influence because taverns offered “free lunches” of cheap fish and the sale of alcohol under the table. Germans also adopted the Fish Fry but added the phenomenon of *gemutlichkeit* or festive party culture. Today more than 1,000 taverns, churches, supper clubs and non-chain eateries offer a weekly Friday Night Fish Fry consisting of a salad bar, French fried potato, potato salad, German-style potato pancakes, coleslaw (creamy or vinegar-based), rye bread, beer battered deep fried fish and tartar sauce. The beverages of choice are either beer or a Brandy Old Fashioned. Fish choices include walleye, perch, cod (occasionally pan fish) and along the Mississippi, catfish. Scandinavians in Door County favor the fish boil of whitefish, potato, onions and melted butter. “Fish is the miracle food” so goes the song in the highly popular Wisconsin musical “Guys on Ice” premiering in 1998.

The purpose of this article is to challenge our readers to submit their favorite fish recipe. Mine comes from the now defunct “Wisconsin Trails” magazine for Pan-fried walleye.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Seasoned flour blend: | Egg Wash: |
| 3 cups all-purpose flour | 1 whole egg |
| 1 tbs. paprika | 1/2 cup milk |
| 1 tsp. Lawry's Seasoned Salt | 1/2 cup water |
| 1/2 tsp. white pepper | Fish: walleye fillets |
| 1 tsp. garlic powder | Vegetable oil for frying |
| 1tsp. onion salt | |

Combine seasoned flour ingredients in a shallow dish and whisk egg wash in a bowl; set both aside. Reheat a skillet (preferably cast-iron) over medium to medium-high heat, adding only enough oil to coat the bottom of the pan and keep the fish from sticking. Dredge fish fillets in the flour mixture, dip in egg-wash and dredge once again in the flour. Place fillets in heated skillet, taking care not to overload the pan, and drizzle a small amount of oil over the fish. Cover for five minutes, turn fillets and cover for five more minutes. Remove from heat and serve immediately.



Wood Ducks By Jim Schofield



The Wood Duck is one of the most beautiful birds in the Flambeau River State Forest. They are very common in eastern North America, but almost became extinct in the early 1900's because of over-hunting and habitat destruction. There was a 23 year moratorium on hunting them from 1918-1941. Through successful conservation policies, the wood duck population is now very stable and even increasing. In fact, they rank right behind the mallards, in numbers, shot during the duck hunting season.

The Wood Ducks are one of the first ducks to return from their winter migration. The male and female pair up in January prior to returning, and therefore, are quickly on the hunt for a nesting site as soon as they arrive in the spring. Wood Ducks nest in tree cavities or Wood Duck boxes from 5 to 50 feet above the water or ground. They may even nest in cavities 70 feet above the ground. Wood Ducks are the only North American duck that regularly produce two broods of ducklings in one year. These ducks have strong claws that allow them to grip bark and to perch on tree branches.

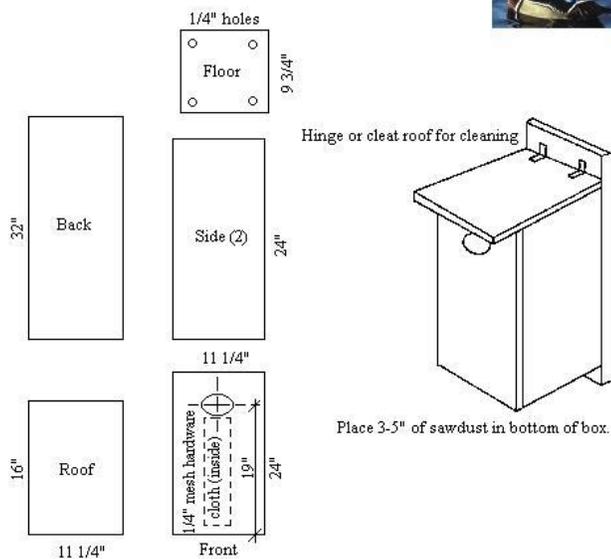
Each year the female will return to the area where she was hatched. Once the female has chosen a nesting site in a tree cavity or nesting box, it will take her several weeks to lay 9-12 eggs. These nesting sites can be up to a mile away from the closest water source. She will only begin setting on the eggs when all the eggs are laid. In this way, all the ducklings will hatch at the same time. Only the female duck tends to the incubation and care of the young. This is a good thing too because the highly colorful male would attract a lot of attention from predators. The off-white eggs will hatch in about 30 days. When the ducklings hatch, they become imprinted upon the mother and will recognize her from now on. Within 24 hours after the ducklings hatch, the mother duck will leave the nest and begin calling the young to follow her. One by one, each will climb up to the opening of the cavity and jump. Even jumping from 100 feet high cavities, very few ducklings get hurt. The hen will wait until all the ducklings have jumped before she starts leading them to water. So, if you see a duckling by itself, leave it alone! The mother hen is somewhere nearby waiting for the other ducklings to jump.

Once in the water, it will take the ducklings about seven weeks to learn to fly. During this time they will eat a variety of water bugs, fish, and vegetation. 90% of the young will not live to become adults. Many will become prey to such things as foxes, hawks, largemouth bass, turtles, and, oh yes, muskies. The mother duck will hide and protect her duckling until they can fly.

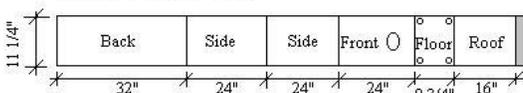
Below is an easy plan for the creation of a Wood Duck nesting box. There are many more plans on websites. Read the suggestions of good locations for your nesting box, and hopefully, next year you too can experience the pleasure of seeing the most beautiful bird in the Flambeau River State Forest.

Wood Duck Nest Box Plans

Entrance hole is 3" high by 4" wide



Lumber: One 1" x 12" x 120"



Wood Duck Nesting Box plans can be found at
http://www.shawcreekbirdsupply.com/plans_wood_duck.htm

Interesting Lake Happenings

by Carolyn Mealman



Loon Watch

I am very happy to report that our territorial nesting pair of loons hatched two chicks in 2012 and they

grew to be teenagers and left the lake in November of the Fall. They will stay down south for 2 or 3 years and hopefully return to our lake. Most migrating loons return to within 30 miles of their birthplace. We still had one loon on the lake November 24th and some merganser ducks in December. Connors Lake still had a lot of open water until December 22nd when it looked like "ice over".

Loons are the most primitive bird, having existed long before humans and they swim low in the water because their bones are heavy. Their webbed feet, which are back on their body further than a ducks, allow them to reach depths of 200 feet in their average dive of 42 seconds—some can go three minutes. A loon cannot just raise their wings and take off like a duck. It may take them a quarter of a mile to get airborne. Some can reach a speed of 75 miles an hour.

Wisconsin has some good news regarding numbers. According to Loon Watch, the count has risen from 3,017 in the year 1995 to a 4,010 estimation in 2010. On average it takes two to three loon pairs to successfully fledge one chick. Also good news is the fact that the 2011 survey showed the Gulf oil spill wasn't a factor for Wisconsin loons.

Because of mercury exposure, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Illinois have imposed reduction rules. Wisconsin coal-burning electric utilities are required to cut mercury emissions by over 70% by the year 2015.

Loons are a good indication of a lake's ecotoxicology and health. People have a truly emotional connection to loons because they are very alluring and are a symbol of the north. They are known as "spirit of the wilderness".

Loon Watch Research Projects

Northland College students are capturing loons at night and banding them with different colored I D's.

Jeff Wilson received the 2012 Loon Research Award with his observations of "Who is the Culprit" study. The objective was to determine what predator species are responsible for nest failures. In this sampling, using digital cameras, the team recorded raccoons, mink and otters in a section of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage.

CLMN volunteers help as Loon Citizen Scientists on Lakes in Vilas, Iron, Forest and Oneida Counties. This project now has 50 persons who are trained in workshops. They monitor the nests and record data. This group is led by experienced field biologists and save a cost of about \$10,000.

Kevin Kenow, a research wildlife biologist with the U.S.G.S. studies common loon migration by tracking the birds' movements and habitat use along their migrating routes. He is also studying type E botulism in water birds using the Great Lakes. From the years 2000 to 2010, in all the lakes, 49,500 mortalities of fish eating water birds were attributed to botulism, of which half were loons.

Winter Lake Activity

Things have been pretty quiet on our north end of Connors Lake this winter—both humans and four legged critters. Not as much activity fishing as has been in the past. The winter seemed long to me. Our "ice over" was late on December 22nd and our snow started late; it seemed it snowed a little every other day. We had a long cold spell, although the temperature didn't hover around those minus 20 degree days and lower.

On November 22nd, Crazy, a male red cardinal showed up at our feeders and decided this was a good place to spend the winter. When he first arrived, he kept seeing himself in the glass and attacking our windows by the back door. Finally, we put up some newspapers, but did this defer him? No! The crazy bird just moved to two different windows. I kept telling him he had his seasons confused. I guess he defended his territory, as no other cardinals came and the bird finally quit the action. Crazy flew away around April 3rd to find a sweetheart.

The feathered friends, especially the finches and chickadees, have been "eating us out of house and home" this winter. On Friday, March 29, robins, red-winged blackbirds, cow-birds and the crackle crowd arrived and skeins of geese are flying overhead. The wildlife is trying to tell Old Man Winter to move on!

Friday, March 22nd was a beautiful sunny morning with the temperature sitting at minus 2 degrees and more than a foot of snow on the ground when I spotted a chippie that just had to see what was going on with the weather this year, since it was already the 3rd day of spring. On April 18th two sea gulls landed on the ice—where's the water? Our visiting otter caught an 8" bass for lunch.

I am eagerly awaiting the report of the fish netting survey to be done early after "ice out". This will certainly be a winter for the record books.

Another Aesops Fable

The Dove and the Ant

An Ant, going to a river to drink, fell in, and was carried along in the stream. A Dove pitied her condition, and threw into the river a small bough, by means of which the Ant gained the shore. The Ant afterwards, seeing a man with a fowling-piece aiming at the Dove, stung him in the foot sharply, and made him miss his aim, and so saved the Dove's life

From Wisconsin Natural Resources

A quote by Greg Konop

"Each moment on the lake is an occasion to appreciate how small I am and how grand Mother Nature is."



Interesting Lake Happenings-continued

Elk

From a report by Laine Stowell

At the end of December 2012 there were 169 elk in the Clam Lake herd, with anticipation of 38-43 calves this year. Plans are, pending legislation outcome, to place 75 elk at a Black River forest and to expand the range of the present herd in parts of Sawyer, Rusk and Price Counties.

As of May 15, 2012, approximately 154 elk were present in the state, comprised of the main herd near Clam Lake and a second smaller herd located near Butternut. The herd has grown at an average rate of 13 percent annually; however, growth rates have varied from as high as 30 percent to as low as -16 percent since 1995. Primary causes of mortality include predation by wolves and bear and vehicle collisions. Carolyn says that according to several local newspaper reports there was no hunting in 2012. Biologists would like the herd number to reach 200 before hunting is allowed. The crew continues to collar, follow movement with trail cameras and present educational opportunities for the public.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation announced, as of March 26, 2013, that the new chairman of the board of directors is Lee Swanson. Lee and Jacqui live at Cross Plains WI on a 500 acre former farmland, called Swamplovers Nature Preserve, where work is being done to restore and preserve rare plants and animals and provide educational opportunities for people. They also own a cabin on the south end of Connors Lake and belong to our lake association where Lee, along with his sister Carolyn, participates in the CBCW project.

For those of you who may not know, the Foundation is the leading conservation initiative that protected or enhanced habitat on more than 6.2 million acres—an acre larger than Yellowstone, Great Smoky Mountains, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Yosemite and Rocky Mountains National Parks combined. It is also a strong voice for hunters in access, wildlife management and conservation policy issues.



Hepatica - "Gem of the woods"

Submitted by Tom Stram

Hepatica nobilis is the earliest wildflower of spring, if you exclude skunk cabbage as a wildflower. It is a member of the Ranunculus or buttercup family and is found in rich woods of the Eastern US blooming from March to June. They are found throughout Wisconsin.

The buds or future flower stalks push through the leaves or snow clothed in a protective fur coat to insulate them from the cool temperatures. The flower stalks are 4 -6" in height and produce just one flower also covered by fine hairs. The colorful parts of the flower are called sepals, not petals. There are three green sepals beneath or behind the flower which is composed of 5 to 9 one inch wide sepals in a range of colors from white to pink to light or deep lavender, blue and purple. The flowers only last several weeks and are occasionally fragrant. The dark leathery, furry, mottled three lobed heart shaped leaves usually appear at the base of the plant after the flowers are produced.

There are two subspecies of hepatica based on the shape of the leaves: round-lobed (*H. nobilis obtuse*) and shape-lobed (*H. nobilis acuta*). The leaves produced in the spring of one year remain evergreen throughout the year and into the next spring's flowering season. They are available during the summer to manufacture food to store in the roots and jump start growth the following spring. The dying leaves resemble a liver in color and shape and hence Hepatica comes from the Greek word for liver.

Centuries ago herbalists used the shape, color or form of a plant as a sign for what it might be used for, a practice known as the Doctrine of Signatures. Hence with hepatica, the leaves are shaped like a human liver therefore it should be effective in treating diseases of the liver. Chippewas used hepatica to treat convulsions in children. Cherokees used hepatica tea to banish dreams of snakes. Other Indians used it to treat cross-eyes. Hepatica tea was used to treat bronchitis and as a diuretic. A once popular laxative called Sal Hepatica or liver salt used the name but not the plant. Most modern herbalists don't recommend it for anything.

Other names for Hepatica include liverwort, liverleaf, liver-moss, mouse-ears, crystalwort, herb trinity and squirrel cup. Hepaticas have survived because they are hearty and spread easily. They are easily transplanted (NOT!!) and are easy to grow from seed. Ants help spread the seeds. Hepatica is a symbol of confidence and a quick cure.



Spring Turkey Hunting

Submitted by Jake Nelson

For those of you who haven't tackled spring turkey hunting you are missing out for it is a great time of year to cruise through the woods. Turkeys may not have the brain power of a deer, elk, bear or other big game animals, but they totally make up for it in their eyesight.

Springtime brings many great changes to our northern forest and with the change comes the exciting sound of a Tom turkey gobbling in his roost at daybreak for hens to respond. Spring is breeding season and once the hens respond, it's go time. It is when calling a Gobbler in to you is your best chance.

Most calls are designed to mimic a hen and get the Tom to come to you. Much of the time they will respond to your call but expect you (the hen) to come to them. A dominant bird will even come to a gobble if he's in the fighting mood. The competition is fierce for a hen that's ready to breed, and a dominant Tom does not like other birds interfering with his girlfriends!

Turkeys detect movement at an unbelievable distance. About fifty percent of the time he will make his way to your position, but it is quite the rush to try and pursue a bird on foot. We like to use the term run and gun.

Most of the time I will use a box call, a nice slate, or a mouth call which is a great choice when the bird is in close. A hands free call, when you are by yourself, is nice. Mouth calls take practice and will limit your movement. I still have a tough time with them. A great tactic is to have a partner do the calling so you can have your gun ready when the turkey struts into shooting range. Another nice thing to have is a portable ground blind which lets you move around freely without getting detected. I like to use a blind early in the morning or late afternoon.

Good luck, have fun and enjoy the outdoors for it is the reason most of us live in the northwoods.

Whodunit ! ! ! !

Submitted by Dale Lehmann

The tree in this photo is truly a "classic" in that the perpetrator was on a much focused mission. The telltale rectangular shaped damage is the work of the Pileated woodpecker. I was lucky to see one Pileated woodpecker up close in Bauer's field on Johnson Road and found it to be a very beautiful and majestic bird.



The Pileated woodpecker has some amazing traits. The beak is of industrial strength and the skull is the thickest bone per weight of any living creature. The eyes open between pecking to focus on where it is pecking and they close before striking—otherwise the eyes would pop out of their head from the force and impact of their beak. The tongue extends up to ten inches from the beak and has barbs and a sticky substance to extract insects. When the tongue brings in the insects it has a solvent which dissolves the stickiness so the tongue is not swallowed with the insect. The brain is protected and cushioned by a thick skull and the feet have two front toes and two rear toes so it can crawl or climb in any direction. As it clings to the tree, its spongy tail fans out and provide a stable platform for doing its work in procuring food.

The Pileated woodpecker's diet includes carpenter ants, wood beetle larvae, fruits, nuts and berries, including poison ivy berries. They also forage on or near the ground near fallen and dead trees.

The Pileated woodpecker is 16 to 19" long, has a 26 to 30" wingspan, similar to a large crow, weighs 8.8-14 oz and has a tail measurement of 5.5 to 6.9". The bird makes a drumming sound like a hammer hitting a tree. It excavates large nests, which may have multiple entrance holes in dead standing trees. They do not use the same nest again. The nesting cavity is bare except for wood chips. Both parents incubate three to five eggs for 12 to 16 days with an average clutch size of four per nest and may take a month to fledge. They have been known to abandon their nest and create a new one if their eggs fall out. Males and females raise their young together and stay together all year long. They do not migrate.

The bird is protected under the U S Migratory Bird Act and the oldest known bird was 12 years, 11 months old.

Predators of their nests include American martens, weasels, squirrels, rat snakes and grey fox. Flying birds may be taken down by Cooper's hawks, northern goshawks, red tailed hawks, great horned owls and barred owls. The bird will defend its territory in all seasons by chasing, calling (similar to loud laughing), striking with wings and jabbing with their bill. The coloring is black with a red crest. Adult males have a red line from bill to throat and females have a black line from bill to throat.

Take a short ride on Cty W between Cty M and Johnson Road and see if you can find the Whodunit tree.



Male



Female

Wisconsin's first conservation warden Rolla Baker: New Yorker who fought in Civil War

By John Daniel

Retired Conservation Warden

Submitted by Sandra Lehmann

Rolla Baker was born on June 14, 1833 in Sackett's Harbor, New York, located on the shores of Lake Ontario, 20 miles from the Canadian border. He was one of eleven children of Daniel and Nancy Baker. The picture at the right was taken, about 1879, in the old state capitol building. This is indicated by the carpeting and white pillar. The old capital building burned in 1904.



In the early 1800s, the local industry was wooden ship building, along with a heavy presence of military units stationed in various forts. In late 1864, Rolla joined Company B of the 186th New York Infantry. In less than a month, his unit joined the siege of Petersburg, Virginia. On April 2, 1865, Union forces, including Rolla's unit, attacked Fort Mahone suffering heavy casualties. One in four soldiers was killed or wounded storming the fort. The war ended on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, with General Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. For two days on May 23-24, 1865, the Grand Review of the Armies Parade was held in Washington, D.C., and Rolla participated with his Company. On June 2, 1865, Rolla was mustered out of the Grand Army of the Republic at Alexandria, Virginia, after attaining the Rank of Sergeant.

Sometime between 1871 and 1875, Rolla and his wife, Mary, moved to Bayfield, Wisconsin. There, he worked in the commercial fishing industry. In 1879, he made a career change. "The State Commission of Fisheries has successfully convinced the State Legislature to adopt new laws relating to outlying waters and the harvest of undersized fish, and the set size of mesh of nets that could be used. The bill, Chapter 192, also created a new position, "a fish warden," to enforce these new restrictions. This position could only be offered to a resident of Ashland, Bayfield or Douglas Counties." It is not known how many people applied for the position, but Rolla's Civil War service record and his work as a commercial fisherman caused the commission to appoint him. He was given authority equal to a sheriff or constable to enforce the commercial fishing regulations. He was 46 years old at the time.

The Bayfield County Press reported the following local news items for 1879:

January 29 – Rolla Baker is awful proud over the advent of a bouncing baby boy (Jessie) at his house;

May 7 - We learn by Monday's mail the Mr. Rolla Baker has been appointed Fish Warden for three counties;

June 21 – Yesterday morning Fish Warden Baker, Jack Ayre and Bert Bowker started up the lake shore in a small boat to inspect pound nets in use between here and Duluth. They will probably be gone for a week.

July 26 – Fish Warden started on another trip up the shore Tuesday morning.

August 2 – The fish warden found everything up the shore all right on his last trip.

October 11 – Rolla Baker's new residence is progressing rapidly.

January 10, 1880 – Fish Warden Baker contemplates a trip out to the Brule to look after some law breakers from Superior who are said to be taking large quantities of brook trout from that stream."

An 1880 federal census form showed Rolla's occupation was fisherman. It also listed his wife Mary, three daughters and two sons. A third son was born later. Research could not uncover any arrest records he filed with the Madison Office or Bayfield County Courts. Annual reports were submitted to the Fish Commission on what was happening in the three counties he had authority to patrol. In 1885, he was replaced by Fish Warden James Chapman of Bayfield after 5 ½ years of service as being the first fish warden in the State of Wisconsin.

In 1897, the Bayfield County Press reported Rolla was living in Ironwood, Michigan. He died in 1911 at the age of 78 and is buried in the Greenfield Cemetery in Bayfield.

Wisconsin Black Bears—submitted by Sandra Lehmann

With spring and the warm weather finally here bears across Wisconsin are waking up from a long winter's sleep. The WDNR says if you see a bear on the roadway or in your backyard, the best thing to do is to simply leave it alone. It's moving through for food. The WDNR warns not to feed the animals, as it is illegal, and that getting too close to bear cubs can cause mama bear to abandon her young.

The WDNR says people should take down their bird feeders, even during the day, and rinse food cans before putting them in the garbage to reduce odors. Garbage cans should be kept in closed buildings, if possible, grills should be kept clean and pet food should be kept inside. Don't be throwing out your "garbage" or your scraps from cleaning fish. If you eliminate the food source you eliminate the bear problem.

If you spot a bear near your home, wave your arms and make noise to scare it away. If you come across a bear in the woods, back away slowly.





**Information from Jim Halvorson, Superintendent
Flambeau River State Forest
Open house/public meeting—Friday, June 7, 2013
Flambeau River State Forest Headquarters on Cty W**



Welcome back everyone. It has been a long drawn out winter. It started late and just did not want to let go. Here are some highlights of the past and what's coming down the road.

Timber sales: This is the engine that runs many of the programs we enjoy. It provides a major source of income to our local logging contractors, raw resources to our local mills and income to our local business. It remains the major industry in our area. It also is the major tool used in providing habitat for a variety of wildlife—both game and non-game species. Logging activity was very strong this past winter, as you poke around through-out the forest you'll most likely see some changes. For this upcoming year our establishment goals are 2,500 acres. It will be spread over approximately 25 sales. If you are interested in any details or specific maps stop by the office or call me.

River Recreation: Work has started in the renovation of our river sites. Wannigan, which was one of our most eroded rocky sites, has received a face lift. Rock steps coming up from the river have replaced the eroded bank. The rocky campsite, where it was difficult to find a level spot, has been converted into a group site with new picnic tables, a gathering area by the river and benches. We also added a new campsite at Georges Island. We have started separating campsites from each other to provide additional solitude for the campers. This year we will be starting work within the Cedar Rapids campsite area. This has become a major destination point for our river users.

Hunter/walking trails/Remote camping: We have mowed and cleared 60-70 miles of gated trails last year. This year we will be doing minor trail repair and improve parking associated with these trails. The remote deer camps will also see improvement for our fall visitors.

Snowshoe trails: This past year 2 snowshoe trails were created (Slough Gundy/Little Falls & Lake of the Pines) with one remaining to be improved in the Oxbow area.

Motorized Trails: ATV trail improvement will be focused on the northern and southern end of the forest. On the north side it will be focused between Co. Rd. EE and Hwy 70. On the southern side improvements may start from Fishermans landing to the Georgetown ATV trail in Price County pending funding. Discussions to connect with Rusk Co. continue as alternate routes and trails are being discussed. In addition, 2.5 miles of snowmobile trail will be constructed connecting Tower Hill Road with Price Lake Road.

Campgrounds: Both Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines will have minimal work done this summer. Other than general maintenance there are no major improvements planned.

Boat and Canoe Access: LOP boat access is still on hold pending funding. I have been stalling putting up the kiosk that was paid for by the Association as I wanted to place it at the new landing when it was built. I have waited long enough and will place it at the existing landing till the new one is funded. With the recent purchase of land surrounding Mason/Evergreen Lake we will also be making some minor improvements to the access road leading into the now public landing.

Boundary Expansion: The former Hines property surrounding Mason/Evergreen Lake was purchased last year. What gem to have been added to the State Forest. It falls in the center of the property and will protect the primitive shoreline around two 200 acre undeveloped lakes. Future plans are to do minor improvement to the landing and provide remote camping on the lakes.

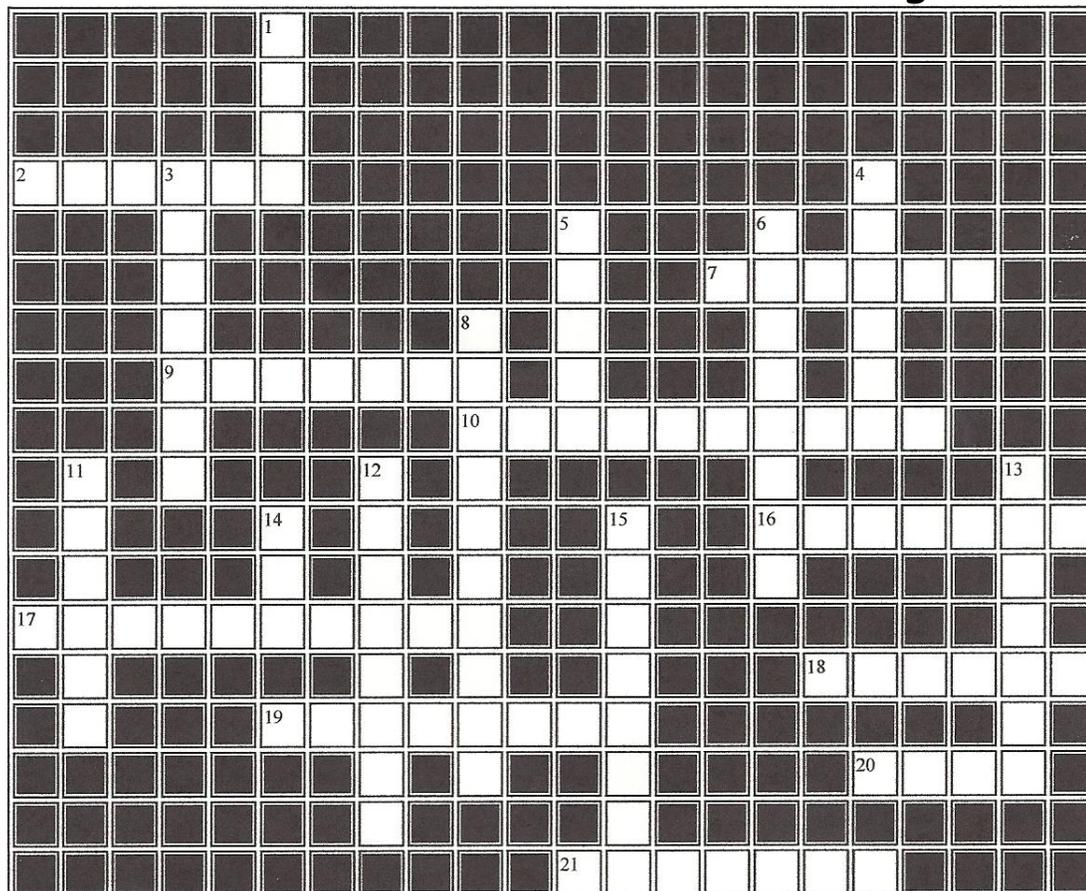
Road Management: This year we will see the completion of improving our road infrastructure on approximately 60 miles forest roads. This network of roads will now become the base of the forests road infrastructure for years to come.

Forest Headquarters: A new forest headquarters building and visitor station has been approved. Construction may start as soon as this fall. The new building will be accessible by river, ATV, snowmobile and car. Shower facilities will be available to the public using the forest. The log cabin we are now in will be converted in the future to an interpretive/education building.

Wildlife: Goose population on Connors Lake and problems associated with is discussed in the CoPaPi newsletter. I'll be at the May 25th meeting to discuss any concerns and options. Also there is discussion involving dispersing a portion of the existing Cable elk herd to its southern range, which the State Forest is part of. Hearings were held this past winter in Phillips. Keep tuned on this, as we may have elk on the forest in the future.

Details of the Master Plan for the Forest can be viewed on line at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/StateForests/flambeauRiver/> select the management and business tab then select master plan then select Flambeau River State Forest. It will load as a pdf file.

Fun for kids of all ages



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

Across

2. Each year we hold a cash _____.
7. On July 27 we will have our lake association _____.
9. CBCW helps to _____ boaters.
10. _____ remains a troublespot for EWM in Connors Lake.
16. The _____ of the dam led to the formation of the lake association.
17. _____ monitor boat landings to inspect boats.
18. Loons have _____ feet.
19. Turkeys have unbelievable _____.
20. Adult _____ pileated woodpeckers have a red line from bill to throat.
21. WCLMN collects water _____ twice a month.

Down

1. Large trap nets called _____ nets are used to capture gamefish and panfish.
3. You should take down your bird _____ in the spring.
4. _____ geese are causing a problem in the Connors Lake picnic area.
5. _____ are waking up from a long winter's sleep.
6. A Friday night tradition in Wisconsin is the _____.
8. We would like you to buy a _____ this year.
11. Wood Ducks produce two _____ of ducklings in one year.
12. Turkeys detect _____ at great distances.
13. The Winter Lakes Association stock _____ in several of their area lakes.
14. Do _____ use the buoys on Connors Lake as a swim toy.
15. _____ is the earliest wildflower of spring.

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Thank You from Jake Nelson

Hello everyone—First of all, as many of you may know by now, we have sold The Flambeau Forest Inn. Angie and I would like to thank everyone for being customers and most of all, great friends of ours. We have enjoyed getting to know you through the past ten years.

The Flambeau is a very special place and it will always be near and dear to our hearts. Perry and Toni Slack, the new owners, look forward to meeting you and are excited to carry on the great tradition of The Flambeau Forest Inn.

This last year has been very exciting for Angie and me. In October we had a baby girl named Alexa. She is an amazing little girl and already is fully stocked up on camo. I have a nice little backpack for her and can't wait to start dragging her around the forest.

We are definitely staying in the area and I am going to continue the things that I have started over the past ten years. I am looking forward to spending a lot more time guiding fishermen and hunters around our beautiful area. I will be doing multi species fishing with an emphasis on Muskies. I will also be doing bear hunts and the Grouse trips in October.

Hopefully, by the time you read, this spring will have sprung and everyone can get back to enjoying the great northwoods. I look forward to seeing you again and have a great summer.

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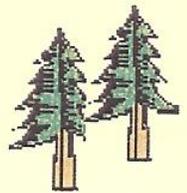
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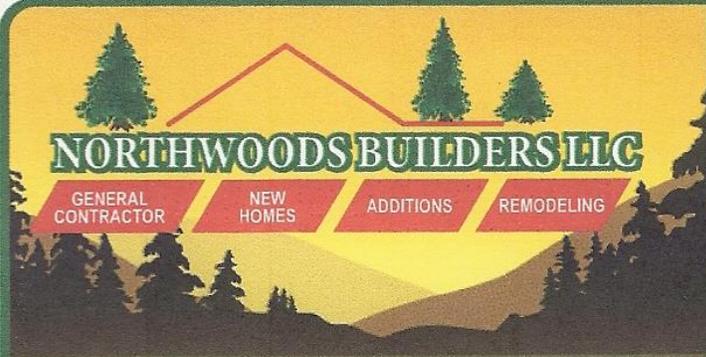
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