

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

A message from Jim Schofield, President

As my two year term as president of the Lake Association comes to an end, it is quite rewarding for me to look back and applaud all the accomplishments the Lake Association has done. But, it is much more exciting looking forward to all the wonderful things that await the Lake Association.

We are beginning a new age with a brand new Lake Association Website and all the glamour that goes with it. Before I go on any further, I want to thank Gloria Lindahl for all her help and assistance in maintaining the old and now defunct "CoPaPi" website. Our new, and under construction, ConnorsPinesLakeAssociation Website is going to be FANTASTIC! It is in its developing stage, but it will still provide the Lake Association with attractive and numerous avenues of information and communication. A super special thanks goes to Robert Feller and his daughter, Heidi Lobraco, for all their hard and persistent work in the creation of this amazing website. For more details about the website check out the newsletter "block" in this newsletter.

In conclusion, from the surveys we gave our members last year, it was very obvious that the majority of you felt strongly that the Lake Association is worthwhile and an important factor in maintaining the health of Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines. I have often said that it takes more than \$25 a year, per member, to keep our Lake Association functioning. It also takes many of our lake members and neighbors volunteering their time to help. In order for our Lake Association to continue providing these vital services, we need your participation now and in the future. Please consider donating a few hours of your time to activities like our Adopt-A-Highway along Hwy W, boat inspection for AIS at the boat landings, taking water samples of our lakes, and helping Lorraine McNamee with our Annual Picnic to just name a few.

WE WILL BE REACHING OUT TO YOU!

Enjoy our award-winning newsletter and have a great spring and summer "at the lake".

As our by-laws state: In the event that an officer/director terminates his/her term before the term limit, a replacement may be appointed, by an affirmative vote of the Board, to fill that office to the nearest yearly election. At the nearest yearly election a replacement shall be elected to fill out the term or for a full term office whichever applies. Therefore, we WELCOME Florian Wisinski as a new member to the Lake Association Board. Florian has graciously volunteered (and been approved by the board) to take the Treasurer's position vacated by Nancy Sorensen when she bought a home in Wisconsin Rapids. Just over a year ago Florian and his wife Janet bought a place on Johnson Road. Recently retired Florian worked in sales for Cleaver Brooks, a company that is noted for making and installing industrial boilers. When Florian and Janet are not relaxing up at their Connors Lake retreat they call the small town of Kansasville, located in the southeast part of Wisconsin, their home. As a Lake Association and his neighbor, we sincerely thank Florian for his commitment and also want to welcome both Florian and Janet to our lake family.

2016 CoPaPi Lake Association Dates at Connors Lake Picnic Shelter

All meetings begin at 9:00 am

Saturday	May 28	Memorial Weekend Meeting—Speakers: Jim Halvorson and Emily Stone (Loons)
Saturday	July 2	Association Annual Meeting
Saturday	July 16	Annual Family Picnic (11:30 - 1:30)
Saturday	September 3	Labor Day Weekend Meeting

Township of Winter

Town Website: www.townofwinter.com

Chairman: David Kinsley, W7270 Thorson Road., Winter WI 54896, 715.266.2102

1st Supervisor: Terry Patenaude, Winter WI 54896,

2nd Supervisor: Ron Barnaby, W6930 County Road G, Winter WI 54896, 715.266.4461

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

The fall newsletter will be mailed in November 2016. Please submit your contributions or mention items you would like to see in future newsletters by Wednesday October 5 to info@connorspineslakeassociation.org

Thank you

From Sandra Lehmann—At the September 26, 2015, board meeting I announced my resignation from the CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association, Inc., board to be effective July, 2016. At the same meeting I announced that the 20th edition, May 2016, of the newsletter would be my last one. Both of these duties and the various positions I have undertaken have taken much of my time and I decided it was time to really retire, again.

I have enjoyed being editor of the newsletter and keeping you informed of all the association's committees and activities. Doing this has afforded me the opportunity to meet many interesting people and to research a lot of the history of the area. I have researched online, talked with a variety of people, used microfiche at different libraries, talked with and visited historical societies, obtained information from a cemetery superintendent, visited cemeteries, taken many photographs, gone tramping through the woods for CCC sites, met area postmasters and so on. I talked Dale and Nancy Sorensen into coming with me on some of these "explorations". They also were a lot of help with the folding and mailing of the newsletters. I would also like to thank those who wrote and contributed articles that appeared in the newsletter. Gordie and Bev Dukerschein of Artisans, Inc. have been tremendous in their monetary support of the newsletter and allowing it to be printed at their facility. They have been wonderful to work with and I appreciate their friendship.

From Jim Schofield—A big thank you to Patty Peloquin Behrenbrinker for her four years of service to the Lake Association Board. As the head of the extremely vital Clean Boats/Clean Waters Committee, Patty helped instruct and teach our members the importance of boat inspections for invasive species of aquatic organisms that may be attached to our boats and spread from lake to lake. Hopefully, this will be just a short "hiatus" for Patty, and we will have the pleasure of her company again on the Lake Association Board.

A great big thank you to Nancy Sorensen who has been on the Board since 2008 and is now moving back to her hometown of Wisconsin Rapids. Nancy has been our lake association treasurer since 2009, after she took over for Esther Johnson. We, as a lake association, could not have functioned without her guidance and skillful fund management. All her lake friends and neighbors will dearly miss her. We all wish her the Best!

A very special thanks to two of the lake association's CHARTER MEMBERS, Dale and Sandy Lehmann, who

Dale is also resigning from the board when his term is up in July 2016. We have both been involved with the association since its inception in 2003 and in the filing of the Articles of Incorporation with the state of Wisconsin in February 2004. Since 2003 our association has had three presidents (Gene Johnson, Tom Stram, Jim Schofield), four vice presidents (Tom Stram, Dave Schiotz, Jim Schofield, Bob Feller), two treasurers (Esther Johnson, Nancy Sorensen), four recording secretaries (Bette Fink, Carolyn Mealman, Ellen Cernjar, Sarah Belson Happe), one corresponding secretary (Sandra Lehmann) and 25 different board members. All were/are volunteers and have contributed greatly to the success of our lake association.

The lake association has accomplished much over the years. We owe a great big thank you to Gene and Deeann Johnson for all the work they did in forming our lake association—all the battles they fought and the research, time, travel and information they "fed" to us. Gene was our first president, 2003-2008. We also want to thank Tom Stram for all the work he has done in acquiring AIS grants and keeping EWM under control plus all his other undertakings. Tom was our second president, 2008-2014. Jim Schofield became president in 2014 and we are sure the association will continue to grow under his leadership.

have been on the Board since 2003 and will be leaving the Board this coming July. If there was any project to be tackled, from the placement of cement buoy bases to the clearing of walking trails, Dale would be the first to "get to it"! His skill, expertise, energy, and "get-er-done" philosophy will be sorely missed by all of us!

Sandy has been the Corresponding Secretary since the beginning of the lake association in 2003. She has also been the main force behind and editor of our Award Winning newsletter "...from the Lake Shores". Her many hours of hard work and professional diligence relating to our membership accountability and lake association business have contributed greatly in making our lake association strong and viable. I can speak for our Past President, Tom Stram, and myself in saying that Sandy provided us with a wonderful "safety net" during our terms as president. Her shoes will truly be difficult to fill! We wish you both, Sandy and Dale, an enjoyable and relaxing "retirement"!

Our gratitude and many thanks to these Board Members who have left or are leaving the Board this coming July.

From Jim Halvorson and Diane Stowell to the association—In today's world everyone is always so busy. Running children to activities, work, traffic and the general hustle and bustle of life. When you come up north, this is your escape, and time hopefully slows down for you. So when you come forward with donating your time or donations in helping us on the Forest you all deserve a huge thank you. We have always looked at your association as a very important part of the State Forest. Your ownership in the Forest is what makes it successful and will help us continue in the future. So here is a big **THANK YOU** to all that you have helped us with over the years.

From the CoPaPi Lake Association Board—Thanks Jim Halvorson for all your years of service to the FRSF (since 2003) and best wishes upon your retirement. We have enjoyed our relationship and working with you.

CoPaPi Board of Directors for 2016

Officers

President	Jim Schofield	term ends 2016
Vice President	Bob Feller	term ends 2016
Treasurer	Florian Wisinski	term ends 2017
Recording Secretary	Sarah Belson Happe	term ends 2017
Corresponding Secretary	?	term ends 2017

Board Members at Large

?_____, ?_____, Tom Deinhammer, Dave Schiotz	term ends 2016
Ellen Cernjar, Mark LaVick, Dave Bauer, Tom Stram	term ends 2017
Gene Johnson—Past President	

Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

Jim Schofield	715.723.2011	schofieldje@hotmail.com
Bob Feller	608.849.7449	rfeller@tds.net
Florian Wisinski	414.559.2196	fjwisinski@aol.com
Sarah Belson Happe	952.473.9645	sbhappe@msn.com
?		
Dave Bauer	920.915.1101	dbauer9255@gmail.com
Ellen Cernjar	715.878.4672	gecernjar@yahoo.com
Mark LaVick	715.332.5399	marklavick@gmail.com
Tom Stram	715.384.8348	twrcstram@frontier.com
?		
Dave Schiotz	715.235.9322	dkschiotz@yahoo.com
Tom Deinhammer	715.835.6588	deintj@charter.net
?		
Gene Johnson	715.536.0219	genes.johnson@frontier.com

Saturday—July 16, 2016

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 interested residents,
their families and friends.

**Memberships in CoPaPi Lake
Association**

A membership is \$25 per year per member.
Membership forms can be found on our website.

2016 Cash Raffle

Tickets will be available at the Memorial Day weekend meeting. Only 100 tickets will be sold at \$100 each. Please support our lake association and buy raffle tickets.

This year we are holding the raffle drawing on Saturday, September 3rd at 10:00am at the Connors Lake Picnic Area shelter. This coincides with our 9 am Labor Day weekend meeting.

Contact Flambeau Forest Inn or a board member to purchase tickets
Tickets will also be available at all general meetings

CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association would like to say

WELCOME

to all new people in our lake area.

Please consider becoming a member in 2016.

Facebook

Dave Bauer has set up a Facebook page. The name is **Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines Lake Association**. Following the page will keep you up to date with the association.

Policy concerning e-mails and member information

Past and present member information contained in the CoPaPi Lake Association File will not be used or disseminated for any reason other than relating to official association purposes.

WCLMN
Wisconsin Citizens Lake Monitoring Network
by Dave Schiotz, Coordinator

2016 will be a year of change! Three of our long-time CLMN volunteers have decided to “retire”. They are Tom Deinhammer on the Lake of the Pines team and Sandy & Dale Lehmann on the Connors Lake team. In addition to the water testing, Sandy has input all our data into the DNR/CLMN network which is an important aspect of our work.

I am very happy to report that we have two new volunteers to replace the “old timers”—Don Bauer on Lake of the Pines and Thomas Eckels on Connors Lake. We appreciate their willingness to help out.

History is a record of change and CLMN has changed throughout the years. In 1986, a program called “self - help Lake Monitoring” was started. To begin with only Secchi disk readings, to determine water clarity, were recorded. This was done by early volunteers on 126 lakes. Today, over 850 lakes are monitored with over 1100 active volunteers. Over the years a substantial database has been established for these lakes and it is used by limnologists and resource planners.

In the early 1990’s, CLMN evolved and volunteers were given the opportunity to sample more parameters. Our teams collect water clarity and chemical data (dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, chlorophyll and temperature). This information allows DNR managers to assess the health of our waters.

Within two to three weeks after ice out, or whenever we have our boats ready, we sample for phosphorus and clarity. This year it seemed like we would be able to get an early start but Mother Nature wasn’t quite ready to relinquish winter! I know our teams are ready to go. Schedules and information will be coming out in early May and we will be out on the water for another year.

If anyone is interested in becoming a CLMN volunteer or just wants to see what is involved, contact me.
Dave Schiotz dkschiotz@yahoo.com or 715.332.5164.

See you on the water!!

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. Scroll down to find Sawyer County and click on it
3. Find Connors Lake or Lake of the Pines
4. In the Report column click on Details

Announcing Our New Website

Visit us at

www.connorspineslakeassociation.org

This site includes: Who we are, How you can take action, Photos, and Events and Announcements. The new website is up and running, but still under construction! So please excuse our dust, as we get our ducks in a row.

If you happen to go to the old website you will get re-directed to the new site automatically.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters

by Patty Behrenbrinker



As we look forward to the relaxation and beauty of Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines provide for us, please consider volunteering 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 lakes. Volunteer inspectors at the Connor’s Lake and LOP boat landings 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 the lakes, to be sure those boaters are not transporting Milfoil.

Volunteers work in two-hour shifts on Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day weekends. For every volunteer hour, the CoPaPi Lake Association receives a monetary credit which we apply towards the lake treatment costs. Our volunteering pays us back!

In order for our resource of volunteers to grow, we hope that this year our previous, faithful volunteers will bring along a friend to introduce them to the CBCW program. With more volunteers, we can generate more funds.

Sign-up sheets will be at the Saturday, Memorial weekend Lake Association General Meeting, or you can email me ahead of time at pbehrenbrinker@gmail.com. Many thanks to those who have volunteered in the past and we hope to see you again this summer.

Fishery News

by Tom Deinhammer, Chairman

The Indians speared Connors Lake on April 15. They are allowed to take 93 walleyes and 3 muskies out of Connors, 107/3 out of Evergreen, and 100/3 out of Mason. There is no spearing on Lake of the Pines. A warden is on site during the spearing. Because spearing occurred on Connors Lake shocking will be done this summer.

In a recent phone call to Jeff Scheirer I found out that the WDNR is just starting to do netting on the lakes for their muskie surveys. Tim Parks will be doing LOP and Connors this year.

Last fall when they netted our lakes they found that the muskie population was at 2.2 muskies per acre and they would like to have the numbers at about .4 muskies per acre. They will be doing one more year of stocking muskies for their study on spawning in LOP. This study was started by Dr. Jenning, who now works in Minnesota. The WDNR is working on a plan to get the number reduced so we will see what that is going to be. They said before anything is done we would be having a meeting to come up with a plan to get those numbers in line. This fall LOP will be getting another 1900 extended growth walleyes planted.

If anybody has a suggestion on how to get the muskie population down to what the WDNR wants or if you have any questions about our lakes give me a call at 715.835.6588 and I will try to help you out.

Have a good summer.

Aquatic Invasive Species Report by Tom Stram

In June, 2015, 3.46 acres of Invasive Eurasian water-milfoil was treated in Musky Bay with Navigate or 2,4-D granular herbicide. The fall 2015 EWM Survey/Treatment Analysis revealed a marked decrease in both the frequency and density of the EWM in Musky Bay. No significant amount of the non-native water-milfoil was found outside Musky Bay. I have observed single plants of EWM scattered around Connors Lake outside of Musky Bay but no dense colonies.

In addition, an aquatic plant survey performed independently by the Wisconsin DNR this past summer revealed copious amounts of native pondweed, Coontail, and Northern water milfoil. This occasionally is so dense it interferes with navigation. Healthy native aquatic plant communities help prevent the establishment of invasive non-native plants.

In consultation with our herbicide applicator, Dale Dressel and surveyor, Steve Scheiffer we recommend no herbicide treatment this summer, 2016, with the stipulation that the lake be surveyed in both spring and fall. If large, dense beds of EWM appear we will then recommend treatment.

Other factors considered in the decision not to treat is that prevailing winds tend to keep the EWM fragments (that can start new colonies) in Musky Bay and the depth drops off precipitously outside the bay. The cost of treatment (\$5,000 plus) has not been a consideration in the equation not to treat. We are looking into the possibility of placing buoys at the periphery of Musky Bay warning boaters of the presence of Aquatic invasive weeds.

FYI—Since EWM arrived in Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota, in 1987 it has spread throughout the lake, impairing boating and swimming in many areas and stopping it in others. Two drownings occurred after the swimmers became entangled in Minnetonka's EWM. One was a University of Minnesota swim athlete. Waterfront owners have seen a reduction in property values, up to 50%, because of EWM. During the boating season, hundreds, sometimes thousands of boats launch and land each day on Lake Minnetonka. Some of these boats carried EWM to many other lakes in Minnesota, a state that now has over 800 lakes afflicted with EWM and Wisconsin which has 540 lakes with EWM.

Please contact me by phone 715-384-8348 or e-mail (twrcstram@frontier.com) if you have any questions.

You can look up the lakes in your WI County that have invasive species by keying in

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives>

Under Data & Maps (on the right side) choose Lakes & Rivers with Aquatic Invasive Species. In the location line click on the check box and choose your county. You will find interesting information.

From "Saving Our Lakes and Streams" by James A. Bracken;

"Row where you go! Canoes, kayaks, rowboats and sailboats are all lake-friendly. Grab your paddle. It's good for you and it's good for the lake".

"Never doubt that the work of a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead (1901-1978)



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Interesting Lake Happenings by Carolyn Mealman

The winter of 2015-16 was uneventful for the most part. Ice Over was January 2, 2016, and Ice Out was March 31 for the north end. The earliest I have recorded was March 20, 2012. There was not even much ice fishing on our end, except for the FFI fishing contest the last Saturday of February. From hearsay, it sounded like a great success and from the local radio station (WCQM); a lot of prizes were won.

Our single loon was here until December 20. On March 30 I'm pretty sure, by the coloring, I saw that the same loon was back. I was hoping it would have a mate this time. It must like staying single.



We have the usual birds at our feeders but a pileated woodpecker decided to try our suet on March 2 and has been returning almost every day. It does a pretty good balancing act on the small square cage. It is a very striking bird which gives us four different kinds of woodpeckers now,

The chippies came out to replenish their stash on March 9 and we see them off and on depending on the weather.

The geese clan arrived on March 8 followed by the mallards on March 15. It has been interesting to watch the ducks figure out the on again, off again skim ice that has been forming on these cold nights. There are



usually a few openings where they can land and swim (which makes one realize how light they are) and can sit on the edge. The group moves in closer to shore as the ice melts. They seem



kind of hesitant about walking very far. In the flock of about 40, they have been challenging for mates and there are 12 "couples" now that seem to think our shoreline is the place to mill around during the day. Where do they go at night? It is almost like they are waiting for warmer weather to start nesting.

A beautiful pair of swans swam by on April 11. By their coloring I couldn't tell what kind, maybe teenagers.

New Panfish Rules By Sandra Lehmann

New DNR regulations took effect April 1 on 93 Wisconsin lakes and Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines are part of the 93. The two lakes have a 25 daily bag limit, of which only 10 can be of a single species or group.

Three different experimental bag limits are being applied to 93 lakes to determine which is most efficient at improving panfish size. DNR fisheries biologists have posted signs at boat landings and public fishing spots on the affected lakes.

For a complete list of lakes that will be governed by the experimental regulations, check out the fact sheet in the 2016-2017 Guide to Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations.

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Born to the Purple, the blue flag wild iris Submitted by Tom Stram

Some of my favorite flowers are orchids (Orchidaceae). Many orchids bear a resemblance to irises that are also showy and colorful. The iris has a lofty and regal history. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote of the flower.

Born in the purple, born to joy and pleasance
Thou dost not toil nor spin
But makes glad and radiant with thy presence
The meadow and the lin

Iris versicolor, commonly known as the northern blue flag, is a clump-forming iris native to marshes, swamps, wet meadows, ditches, rivers and shorelines. It is found just north and south of the US/Canada border from Newfoundland west to northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. It prefers moist or wet soils and full sun to part shade and is hardy from zones 3 to 8. The 2-3 foot erect-to-arching, narrow stalk has sword-shaped, blue-green leaves that are 24" long and 1" wide that emerge from clumps of tough creeping rhizomes. Each stalk produces 3-5 bluish-purple 4' wide flowers with bold purple veining. Three falls or sepal have a central yellow blotch surrounded by a white zone.

The blue flag lives in wetlands frequently surrounded by rushes and sedges. The "flag" part of name comes from the Middle English word flag meaning rush or reed. The flowers have both male and female organs, which are self-fertile but require insects to facilitate pollination. The showy blossoms flag down many passing bees. They also attract hummingbirds and other birds.

The iris flower is said to symbolize power with the three parts representing wisdom, faith and courage. The American Blue Flag rhizome or root is considered poisonous although a powdered extract called Iridin or Irisin is an official drug in the US Pharmacopoeia. Blue flag was one of the most important medicinal plants of native North American Indian tribes. In modern herbalism it is mainly used to detoxify the body: increasing urination and bile production and has a mild laxative effect.

The name comes from the Greek goddess Iris, who was a messenger between humans and the gods atop Mount Olympus. Wherever she went, a rainbow followed her. Whenever the ancient Greeks saw a rainbow in the sky, it was a sign that Iris was delivering a message to someone or guiding the souls of dead women to the afterworld. Other names for iris versicolor are poison flag, liver lily, snake lily, dragon flower or dagger flower. Mixed with water, blue flag flowers can produce a blue dye that acts like litmus paper, turning red when exposed to acid or back to blue if the substance is alkaline.

Wild irises are not common but I have seen them along the shores of Connors Lake and Papoose Lake. Please do not pick them or attempt to transplant them.

"It belongs to the meadow and ornaments it much",
David Thoreau.

Reference, among others: "The Secrets of Wildflowers"
by Jack Sanders



Important Notification

Northern Aquatic Services
1061 240th Street Dresser WI 54009
715-495-5252 cell 715-755-3507 home/office
Professional Aquatic Weed Control Services

April 1, 2016

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 a spring plant survey will be done and my treatment will be based on their findings. Fall 2015 surveys showed sparse ewm populations, the spring 2016 survey will give us a better idea of current populations. 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 spot treatments could occur throughout the spring and summer of 2016.

If you have any questions or would like to see a copy of the permit application, you may contact Northern Aquatic Services at 715-755-3507, or the Wisconsin DNR's Aquatic Plant Specialist Mark Sundeen at 715-635-4074. Chemical fact sheets are available upon request or at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants/>.

Sincerely,
Dale Dressel

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention

Submitted by Dr. Ed Peters

At the end of March I travelled down to Stevens Point to attend the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership convention. This was the first time that I attended this meeting and I am really glad that I was able to go, if even just for one day. It was interesting and indeed inspirational. The mix of conversations, presentations and discussions made for a recharge for the coming year. There were, however, many more presentations than one person could take in or attend. For most of the day on Thursday, there were six concurrent sessions at one hour intervals from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM, with a couple of breaks in between for a plenary session and lunch.

My day started in a session on freshwater research that included presentations by DNR biologists, Greg Sass and Andrew Rypel. Greg presented his studies and proposed work on coarse woody habitat in lakes and Andrew discussed his work on sustainable panfish populations. I have known Greg and his work for several years and I have "met" Andrew through his research publications.

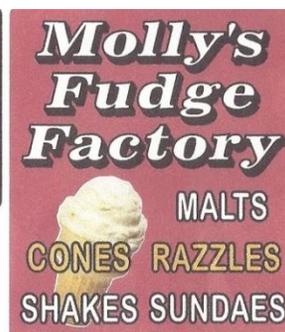
The next session that I and a lot of others attended was an update on legislation from 2015 and what is expected in the next legislative session in Wisconsin. This was, as I expected, pretty depressing even though the presenter, Mike Engleson, tried to lighten it up as he talked about some of it. Most of the legislation on lakes seemed to follow the pattern of "take away from local control and county standards to statewide control" under the myth of "uniform standards are best". The real problem here, as I see it, is that we now fit under the "lowest common denominator" and this will almost certainly lead to an overall degradation of our lakes in the north so that they wind up like southern Wisconsin lakes. There also seems to be a swing in the legislative actions in the name of individual private property rights away from the public rights doctrine that is written into the Wisconsin constitution. The general tenor of comments from the audience seemed to be that most lake associations work on the basis of a community sense of property rights that can protect the resource and land values simultaneously. This could be the subject of a much more extensive article.

The presentation "Think Outside the Lake" by Jim Miller from the Deer Lake Conservancy talked about how this group has used land management to reduce phosphorous loading by 55% that has resulted in Secchi disc improvements by 300-400%. They accomplished this mainly by encouraging land treatments that provide permanent cover within the watershed of the lake. They have planted prairie grasses and developed water gardens that slow runoff and improve infiltration of water before it reaches the lake.

The last presentation that I attended was by Paul Garrison, a research scientist from Onterra, who talked about lake sediments and what they can tell us about the history of a lake and the impacts of land use on the water quality. By following the changes in certain chemical and biological markers, the sediments can tell a lot about how agricultural and forestry practices and lake shore development have and will impact a lake. The information was fascinating, but the price tag for a detailed study is sobering.

In addition, there were many booths from vendors that provided information about the different types services that are available and there was an extensive display of posters that summarized research on a variety of topics. There was also the opportunity to meet people from around Wisconsin who are deeply involved in the protection and management of the lakes that they love. On that note, I also got to meet James Brakken whose new book "Saving our Lakes and Streams" was available for sale. This book is well worth the price and, in addition to being a good introduction to lakes, it provides 101 practical things that you can do today to protect the water and water bodies that we enjoy. One quote from the first paragraph of the book seems to sum up why this book is important. "Yes, we love our lakes and streams. Maybe, though, we love them too much. Perhaps we are loving our lakes and streams to death."

I think that James Brakken would be a great speaker at one of the Co-Pa-Pi meetings.



Fire Season

Fire season arrives shortly after the snow cover disappears.

A burning permit is required. Anyone found responsible for causing a wildfire is liable for all suppression costs and potentially any damages.

For more information search the word "fire" on dnr.wi.gov

Wisconsin Fire Towers and Connors Lake Fire Tower

by Sandra Lehmann

Thanks to Jennifer Peterson of the Winter DNR Ranger Station for contributing some of the information.

In December, 2015, after finding that the fire lookout towers scattered throughout the state cost more than they're worth, the WDNR announced plans to discontinue using them. The towers are in need of refurbishing, which would come with a \$25 million price tag, because the support beams are cracking and infrastructure and the decking on most needs to be rebuilt. Last year there were spotters in about 60 of the remaining towers. Ceasing staffing of the towers will save about \$100,000 annually, and it is planned that the money will be used to pay for aerial surveillance of fires.

The towers were built in the 1930s and 1940s (roughly 100 feet above the forest floor), when forested areas of northern Wisconsin were less populated and somewhat more prone to fires following the cutting of the pine forests. Some of the towers have ladders and some stairs with more than 100 steps. These lead to the trapdoor which must be pushed open and then re-secured once the spotter is inside the small room or "cab" (7 by 7 foot) at the top. Windows lined all sides and there was no heat. The seasonal spotters would spend eight to ten hours a day watching for signs of smoke or flames at which time they would use a special measuring device (called an alidade) which provided the spotter

with the appropriate coordinates of the fire. The spotters were not allowed to take reading materials with them or have a radio; they had to keep their eyes on the horizon at all times. It would be impossible to estimate how many acres of forest were saved by the timely reports provided by the spotters.

The Connor's Lake Fire Tower's location is marked on a 1939 map of the area and, according to the Historical Society, it was built in 1935. It was originally in the care of the Park Falls Station; however, they no longer have any files on the tower. The Warranty Deed shows that the State of Wisconsin purchased the property in and around the Connors Lake Fire Tower on April 9, 1941. It was purchased from the Tomahawk Kraft Paper Company. The Wisconsin Historical Society archives show a picture of a towerman's cabin that was located at the base of the tower. Because of radio equipment on the tower it will remain intact for a few more years. The plan is to build a new tower specifically for the radio equipment. A date has not been set for that. In some cases and in some locations there might be a possibility of leasing the DNR towers to communication companies such as cell phone or Internet providers.



Living quarters for the Towerman

From the Wisconsin Historical Society— This one-story, astylistic utilitarian tower cabin features a rectangular shaped plan configuration, a concrete block foundation, a frame construction, a half-round board exterior, a wood trim, and an asphalt shingled gable roof. The interior is finished with insulation board and paint. The floors in each of the three rooms are made of maple. This structure, which was built during the C.C.C. program, is in good condition. The Park Falls Ranger Station tower cabin has functioned since its 1935 date of construction as the living quarters for the towerman. Between January and July of 1973, the fire tower was moved from its original site at Connor Lake, where it was not used, to the Area Headquarters where the storage space was more needed.



This one-story astylistic utilitarian pit toilet features a square shaped plan configuration, an earthen foundation, a wood frame construction, a wood trim, and an asphalt shingled shed roof. Drop siding covers the exterior walls.



Photo from fire tower, down M and Connors Lake.

1939 Map
→



Connors Lake
Fire Tower
April 2016

Flambeau Forest Inn 715.332.5405

Starting May 10 - Open 6 days a week at 11:30 am
 Kitchen opens at: 11:30 am – 9:00 pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Sunday
 11:30 am – 10:00 pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday

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- Monday Closed
- Tuesday Burger of the Month or Meatball Hoagie
- Wednesday Broasted Chicken—All you can eat
- Thursday Steak Night—2 for 1 Pork or Beef Ribeye
- Friday Fish Fry—Broiled or Deep Fried
- Saturday Prime Rib



See you this summer!

Like us on Facebook for specials and event info
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www.flambeauforestinn.net

The Flambeau Forest Inn is a DNR licensing & registration station

The “dog days of summer” refer to the weeks between July 3 and August 11 and are named after the Dog Star (Sirius) in the Canis Major constellation. The ancient Greeks blamed Sirius for the hot temperatures, drought, discomfort, and sickness that occurred during the summer.^m

Ice Out

It has been a very different spring this year for ice going out on the lake. The ice on the south end is usually out one day after the north end but not so this year.

Ice Out on the north end of Connors Lake was on March 31. It wasn't completely out on the south end until April 10.



Adopt A Highway

By Dave Schiotz

CoPaPi Voluntary Lake Association

Do you want to get some exercise and do something positive for the environment??

The CoPaPi Board of Directors is starting an Adopt A Highway project along Highway W east. We are hoping that this will be an on-going project and participation will grow.

All materials will be provided by the DNR (vests, plastic gloves, garbage bags etc.). We have divided our area into three segments: DNR HQ to Flambeau trail head (.7 mi.); Trail head to Johnson Road (.9 mi.); Johnson Road to M south (1.0 mi.).

More information will be available at our first general meeting on May 28th.

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Summer skies

Wisps of white up in the blue,
 swirled 'round like angel wings,
 Is the sky that makes us pause and look
 and a bird stops and sings.
 Summer skies change constantly;
 we think we've seen the best
 And then, in awe, we look again
 as another painting crests.

FLAMBEAU RIVER STATE FOREST

From the Superintendent—Jim Halvorson

What a mild winter this was. It came late and left early. It saved on the heating bills and it was easy on our wildlife, particularly the deer. Driving into work this morning I was reflecting on what a beautiful, peaceful area we live in. We sure are protected from all the turmoil around the world. Our biggest concern might be that pesky woodchuck digging under our cabin or that woodpecker waking us up when it is looking for that tasty grub. I am a bit sad as this will be my last letter to you as the Superintendent. I am hanging up my hat and plaid jacket after a 39 year career with the State of Wisconsin. It has been one of the best careers a person could ever have. A lot of that comes from people like you that I have met over the years. Remember this is your forest, take good care of her. I will be here to the end of July, so I hope you can stop in to say goodbye.

Highlights

- **Timber sales** on the State Forest remained strong. The logging season however was 4-5 weeks shorter than normal. The woods did not freeze-up until mid-December and thaws came in February. Our annual harvest remains constant between 2,000–2,400 acres per year. Presently we have 41 sales under contract, estimated at a value of \$3.8 million. As in the past we will try to keep roads open to completed sales to allow for firewood cutting until the soils get too wet. If you are interested, stop in and we can direct you to these sites. This summer we will be reviewing with the public areas that we may re-designate as forest production areas.
- **Access improvements** continue on the forest. State grants have been allocated to the Townships of Lake, Draper, Winter and Rusk County amounting to \$245,000.00. These grants are used to assist townships financially to upgrade roads that provide direct benefits (access) within the Flambeau River State Forest. Work during this upcoming summer will involve a large culvert replacement and asphalt repair on West Lane. This past summer we saw the completion of a major reconstruction of Skinner Creek road, Camp 41 and Beaver Dam landings within the forest. ATV trail reconstruction will take place on the northern half of the forest from Hwy 70 to Co. Hwy EE, along with a 1.5 mile connector on the southern end of the forest into Rusk County. Presently the forest maintains 62 miles of improved roads, 48 miles of snowmobile trail, 58 miles of ATV/UTV trails and 76 miles of mowed hunter/walking trails. Our access infrastructure will also be re-visited this summer as we continually look for ways to improve it, while still maintaining the backcountry experience that we try to maintain.
- **Insects and Disease**—Two key bugs that we will continue to watch for--emerald ash borer and gypsy moth. The attached map shows counties presently where emerald ash borer has been found. Again be careful in moving firewood. 30% of the forest is comprised of ash. It will have a major impact to the area if it gets a foothold. Gypsy moth numbers remain low. Unless we go into an extended drought I feel we are relatively safe from any gypsy moth outbreak.

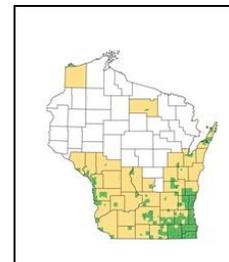
- **Projects for this Summer**

Other projects we will be working this summer include:

- Placement of informational Kiosk at 14 boat landings
- ATV/snowmobile trail renovation Hwy 70 S. to Co. Hwy EE, (2.2 mi)
- Grill and fire ring replacement at campsites
- Mowing 120 miles of access roads, State Forest Roads, ATV/Snowmobile trails and Hunter/walking trails
- Construction of new ATV trail from Fisherman's Landing to Co Hwy. M (1.5 mi.)
- Sand renovation of Connors Lake Picnic area beach
- Construct group camping site at Cedar Rapids
- Replace vault toilet at Lake of the Pines Campground
- Repair and renovation of picnic pavilion
- Crack sealing of parking areas and asphalt roads
- Graveling Oxbo Road

If you have any questions on any of the projects give me a call.

- **Events**—This year we have decided to reduce our **nature programs** on Saturdays to only three programs (outdoor cooking, elk bugling and Smokey the Bear's birthday). Low participation has necessitated this reduction. Times for these activities will be posted on our Kiosks. If you have any ideas on how we can improve participation, I am open to suggestions. The **candlelight ski** this year was a great success. Approximately 400 attended. Thanks to all that came and brought treats. The weather was great.
- **Law enforcement** activities continue on the Forest. We are still short on law enforcement staff and will be bringing on a limited term ranger to help out this summer. If you come across violations please give our Rangers a call at 715-332-5251 ext. 102 or 112, your help is appreciated. New walleye and panfish limits have been posted at the landings. If you are unsure of the rules stop by and we will be glad to help interpret them for you. At times they can be confusing.



- **Wildlife** activities on the Forest will continue this year. Surveys on grouse, wolf, bear, eagle, osprey, goshawk and animal tracks either have been done or will be completed this spring. In addition, amphibian and deer studies continue on the forest. If you would like details on any of these give me a call. Laine Stowell, the States Elk wildlife biologist, has an article in this newsletter. In general the herd is doing great, with an additional 75 proposed to come from Kentucky. Within a few years elk will be a very common sight on the Flambeau River State Forest.

Open House/Public Meeting

Public open house meeting is planned for Friday, June 3, 2014, at the Forest Headquarters. Staff will be here all day to answer questions you may have. We can discuss the upcoming projects, including options, as they relate to the access plan and forest production areas. Hope you can stop by for a visit.

Details of the Master Plan for the Forest can be viewed on line at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/StateForests/flambeauRiver/>

Hope you have a GREAT summer

The Northern Elk Herd

By Laine Stowell

Elk news for the Expanded Range which is the 508 square miles of elk range south of Highway 70.

Our efforts over the past years to expand the elk herd into this area are paying off. We've got a good mix of over 20 elk in the area and, with having had a mild winter; we expect several calves to be born this spring. There are eight to nine cows of prime breeding age that we hope are pregnant. We've had a very mild winter this past season, following a year with an abnormally long growing season which should translate to strong healthy cows giving birth to strong healthy calves, all with likely greater probability of survival.

We lost three animals in the past year to vehicle collision, including one to a train which is a first for the project. We also know from personal sightings, tracks and trail camera pictures that three calves born last year in this area are still alive. This adult and calf survivorship is excellent for a newly established population. We have not had a verified wolf loss with this part of the herd since July 2014.

Furthermore, we've been working to prepare for the coming of Kentucky elk in 2017. In 2014 and 2015 we created about 60 acres of forest openings and hope to create another 24 acres of openings in 2016, along with mowing over 100 acres of openings this coming season.

Plans to build a 6.5 acre quarantine pen on the FRSF for upcoming Kentucky elk shipments have been approved and site preparation started. We expect to complete this pen this summer in anticipation of Kentucky elk arriving during the spring of 2017. To protect these elk and help us comply with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection animal health testing regulations we will be closing the area immediately around this quarantine facility while elk are within this quarantine pen. It is our hope to release up to 75 Kentucky elk from this pen over the two to three year period beginning in 2017.

After these releases in the years to come, we are planning to capture and move some of the new elk up to the Clam Lake area to mix new genetics with the existing herd. Local residents can help by not feeding the elk. Feeding activities make elk vulnerable to vehicle collisions and disease risks and is illegal. Enjoy any incidental sightings of the elk, but please don't pressure the elk. Any undue disturbance will force elk out of areas they've found secure and might push them into areas of greater predator or accident risk. Thank you for your support of Wisconsin Elk!

Not only is Lake Superior the largest of the Great Lakes, it also has the largest surface area of any freshwater lake in the world. It contains almost 3,000 cubic miles of water, an amount that could fill all the other Great Lakes plus three additional Lake Eries. With an average depth approaching 500 feet, Superior also is the coldest and deepest (1,332 feet) of the Great Lakes. The lake stretches approximately 350 miles from west to east, and 160 miles north to south, with a shoreline almost 2,800 miles long. The drainage basin, totaling 49,300 square miles, encompasses parts of Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ontario. Most of the Superior basin is sparsely populated, and heavily forested, with little agriculture because of a cool climate and poor soils.

There are small outlets through which water leaves Lake Superior. It takes two centuries for all the water in the lake to replace itself.

Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely within the borders of the United States.





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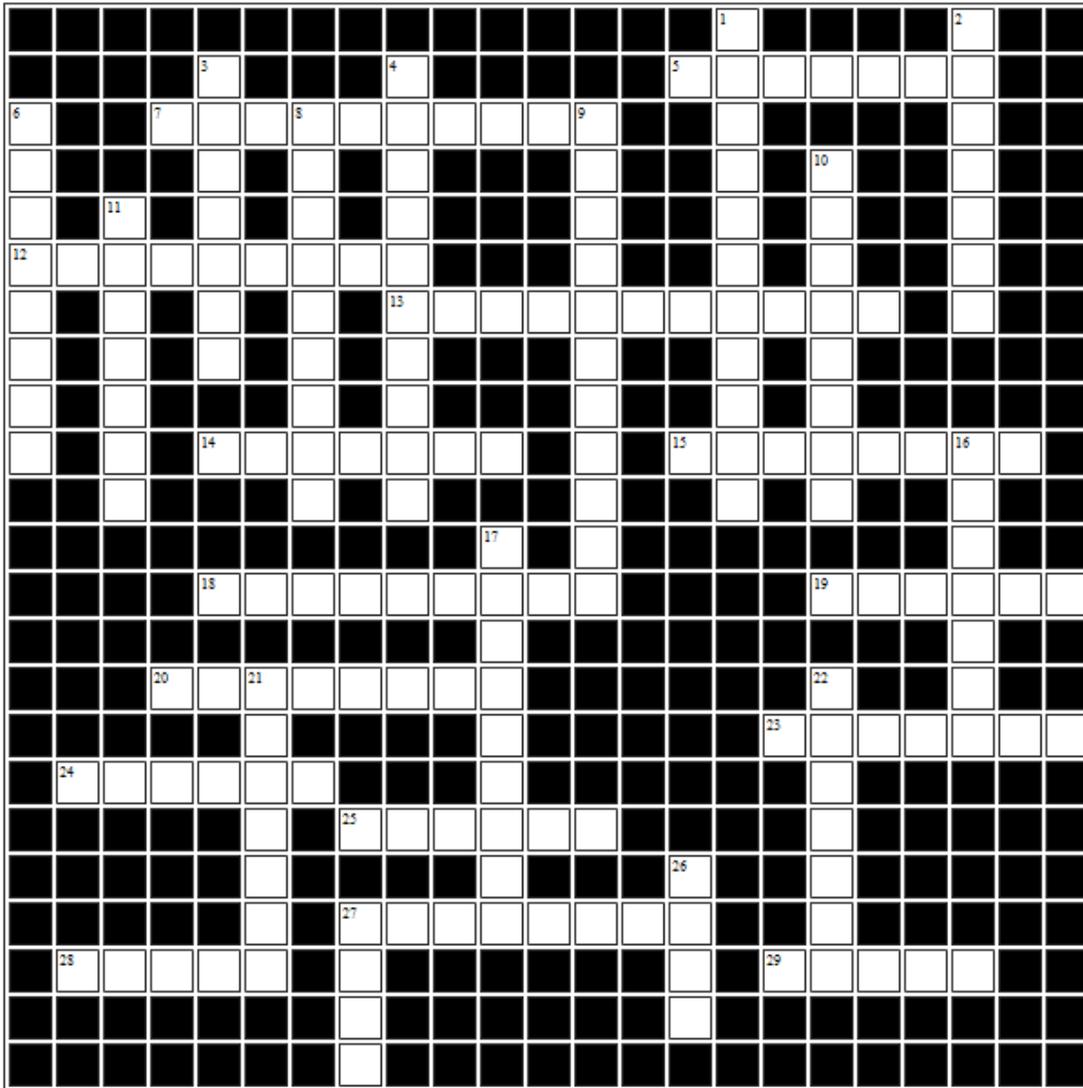
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You will find the answers to the crossword puzzle clues somewhere in this newsletter.



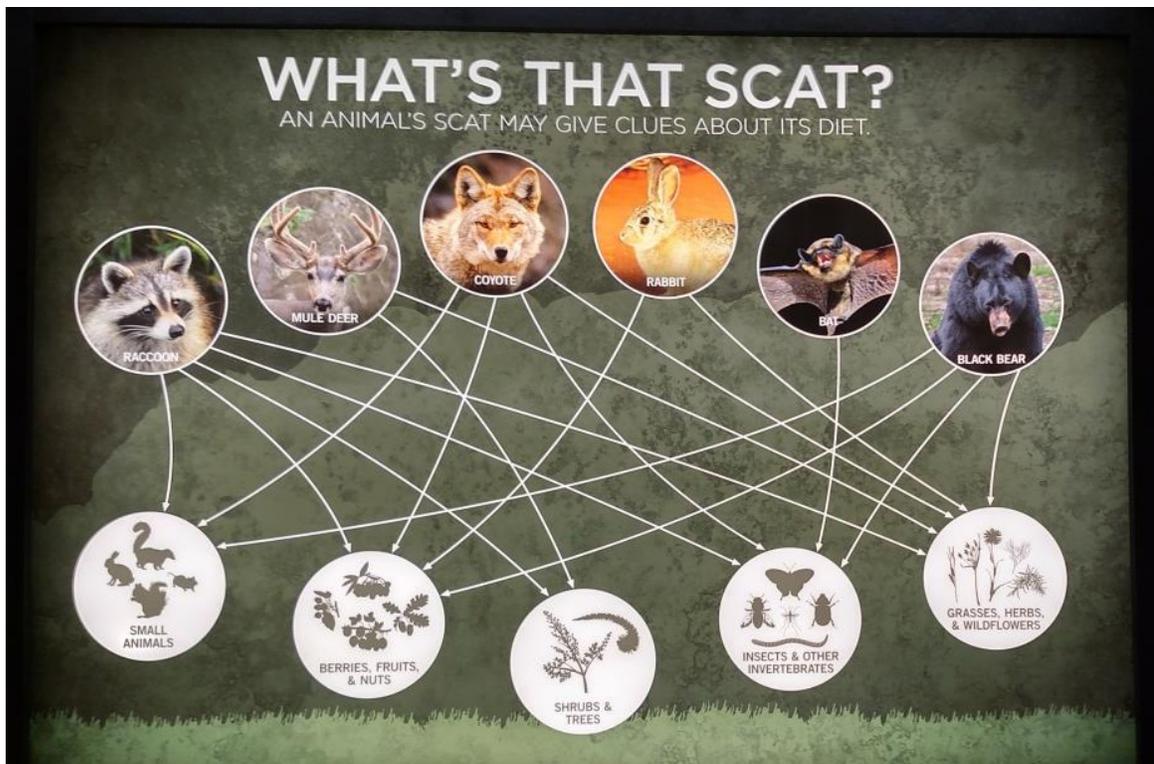
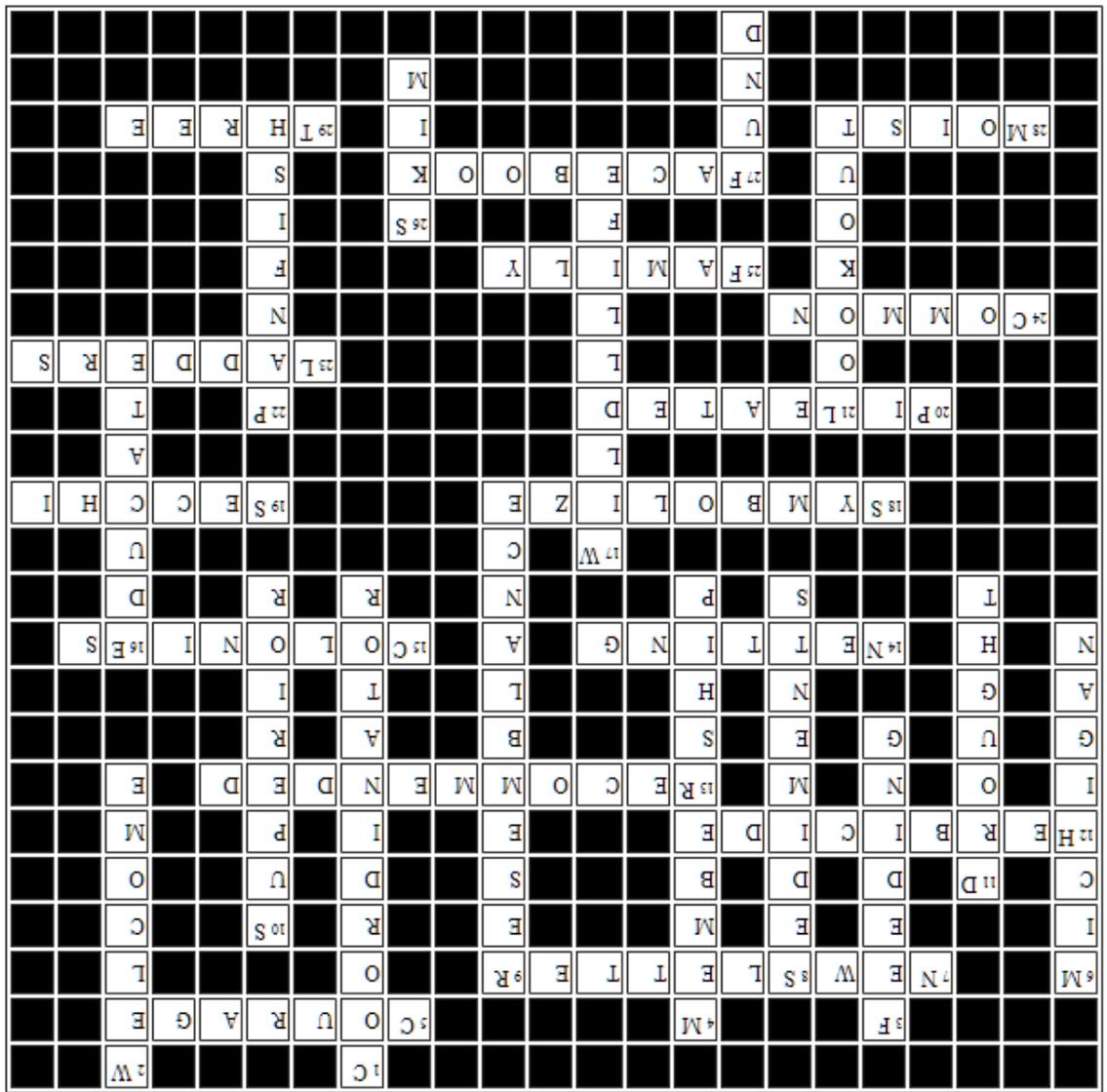
Across

5. The three parts of the iris flower represent wisdom, faith and _____.
7. An award winning publication of our lake association is the _____.
12. Dale Dressel is our _____ applicator.
13. It is _____ we do not treat for EWM this summer.
14. WDNR is starting to do _____ on the lakes for muskie surveys.
15. There have been no dense _____ of EWM in the lake.
18. The iris flower is said to _____ power.
19. In the beginning of WCLMN days only _____ disk readings were taken.
20. _____ woodpeckers like suet feeders.
23. Some of the fire towers have _____ for access.
24. Wild irises are not _____.
25. We will have a _____ picnic on July 16.
27. We now have a _____ page.
28. The iris prefers _____ or wet soils.
29. _____ volunteers are retiring from monitoring the lakes.

Down

1. Dave Schiotz has been our _____ for WCLMN.
2. We always say _____ to new people in our lake area.
3. _____ the elk is illegal.
4. A _____ notice is sent each year in spring.
6. Lake _____ is entirely within the borders of the US.
8. Lake _____ can tell us about the history of a lake.
9. Many orchids bear a _____ to the iris.
10. Lake _____ is the largest of the Great Lakes.
11. Unless we go into an extended _____ we are safe from gypsy moths.
16. CBCW helps _____ boaters about invasive species.
17. _____ surveys will continue in the forest.
21. Fire _____ towers will be discontinued.
22. New DNR regulations affect the _____ rules for fishing.
26. Several mornings this spring we have seen _____ ice on the lake.
27. As a _____ raiser we hold a cash raffle each year.

Crossword
Puzzle
Answer Key



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LAKE ASSOCIATION



Spring Revisited
The morning sun is smiling down
and bids me look around
To see what miracles there are,
just waiting to be found.
Yesterday, where only tiny
shoots of green did doze,
Today, are jewelled crocuses,
in their most-promising pose.
While tulips, hyacinths, daffodils
still slumber in their bed,
The crocus, I think, is the surest sign
of spring revisited.