

# ...From the Lake Shores

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Volume 23 | November 2017

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT | Bob Feller

The last time I wrote a President's message, I was waiting for spring to arrive.....and now I'm wondering how I'm going to find time to get things done before the snow flies.

Now for a look back and what's ahead:

- Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) – Again our main focus is on keeping it in check and we had a good year. Lake of the Pines remains free of EWM. Connors Lake had less than 3 acres in Muskie Bay. Under the guidance of Tom Stram and using the survey data, he recommended that we not treat this year and that strategy was successful. As you know we had a lot of rain this past year and with lower water clarity it may have held back the EWM from developing.
- Thanks to all of you who purchased or sold raffle tickets, and those that volunteered for checking boats for Clean Boats/Clean Waters. We also had a good turnout for our Adopt A Highway pickup crews. Your donations of time and money help us to leverage our effect and add up to make a big difference.
- Take a look at our website! [connorspineslakeassociation.org](http://connorspineslakeassociation.org) We've made some changes and hopefully it is more user friendly and informative. The "contact us" page is new and you can send us messages and pictures. We will always be looking for ways to improve it. So send us your suggestions. We did have a problem with our email service and had our website person set up our own email account. Look for a message from us to make sure we are communicating with you, and check us on Facebook.
- This coming year we are turning our attention to improving the fishery habitat. Read the article from Dave Bauer in this newsletter. We'll be sharing more information and asking for members input as we take on this project.

I hope all of you had a summer where you were able to enjoy our beautiful lakes with your friends and families. I'm going to take time to sit on the dock around sunset and soak up the silence and fall color on a mirrored glass still lake.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays! See you in the Spring!

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## LAKE ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

**OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS** | Officers and Directors are elected for two-year terms. Their terms shall expire after the annual meeting or upon the election of new Officers and Directors, whichever occurs later. The term of office of President, Vice President and four (4) at-large directors expire in even-numbered years. The term of office of Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and four (4) at-large directors expire in odd-numbered years. The past-president serves as a board member at large.

### Officers

<i>President:</i> Bob Feller, <a href="mailto:rfeller@tds.net">rfeller@tds.net</a>	Term ends 2018
<i>Vice President:</i> Dave Bauer, <a href="mailto:dbauer9255@gmail.com">dbauer9255@gmail.com</a>	Term ends 2018
<i>Treasurer:</i> Florian Wisinski, <a href="mailto:fjwisinski@aol.com">fjwisinski@aol.com</a>	Term ends 2017
<i>Recording Secretary:</i> Sarah Belson Happe, <a href="mailto:sbhappe@msn.com">sbhappe@msn.com</a>	Term ends 2017
<i>Corresponding Secretary:</i> Toni Slack, <a href="mailto:flambeauforestinn@gmail.com">flambeauforestinn@gmail.com</a>	Term ends 2017

### Board Members at Large

Dave Cooley, <a href="mailto:dcooley1@prodigy.net">dcooley1@prodigy.net</a>	Tom Deinhammer, <a href="mailto:deintj@charter.net">deintj@charter.net</a>
Tom Eckels, <a href="mailto:teeckels@gmail.com">teeckels@gmail.com</a>	Mark LaVick, <a href="mailto:marklavick@gmail.com">marklavick@gmail.com</a>
Dave Schiotz, <a href="mailto:dkschiotz@yahoo.com">dkschiotz@yahoo.com</a>	Tom Stram, <a href="mailto:twrcstram@frontier.com">twrcstram@frontier.com</a>
Jim Schofield, Past-President, <a href="mailto:schofieldje@hotmail.com">schofieldje@hotmail.com</a>	

### 2017 50/50 CASH RAFFLE WINNERS

<b>1st Prize \$2040</b>	<b>Dave Bauer</b>	<b>2nd Prize \$680</b>	<b>Mike Lewis</b>
<b>3rd Prize \$204</b>	<b>Len Ironside</b>	<b>4th Prize \$ 68</b>	<b>Cate Stram</b>
<b>5th Prize \$ 68</b>	<b>Tom Deinhammer</b>	<b>6th Prize \$ 68</b>	<b>Larry Veadegan</b>
<b>7th Prize \$ 68</b>	<b>Audrey Bluhm</b>	<b>8th Prize \$ 68</b>	<b>Jim Schofield</b>
<b>9th Prize \$ 68</b>	<b>Les Klomsten</b>	<b>10th Prize \$ 68</b>	<b>Rich Summerfield</b>

*Thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket(s) to support our lakes.*

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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS (CBCW) | Dave Bauer

I hope everyone had a great summer and could enjoy the lakes. For me it seems I can't spend enough time here. I am sure that we all feel the same way. We need to remember that things are constantly changing with mother nature and it seems that more invasive species have the potential to harm our lakes.

A great way that we can help prevent the spread to our lakes is to provide boat inspection at the boat landings. Volunteers provide education and awareness about our lakes, as well as, the importance of not spreading invasive species to other waters. Please consider volunteering in the future. The lake association receives \$15 per volunteer hour that helps to pay for ongoing surveys of the status of Eurasian Water Milfoil in Connors Lake. This summer we had 32 hours of our 45-hour goal for volunteer hours. This is not enough to cover the cost of the lake surveys. I hope that we can get our volunteers numbers up next year. I can assure you that you will enjoy yourself!

Lastly, I want to thank all the volunteers for donating your time. Another thank you to all who donate money and spend money on our raffles. We do our best to make sure the money is spent appropriately.

*"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart."*

Elizabeth Andrew

### Just in Time for Christmas.... Shop for Gifts at the Online Store

We have opened another store for the association members for some very nice winter gear!

The store will be open for purchases until Christmas! The final order will be compiled on December 1 and shipped before Christmas.

We are offering a free pick-up (not delivery) from the Flambeau Forest Inn. You will be charged a smaller shipping fee to pick your items up at the Flambeau Forest Inn. The delivery charge will be determined by the amount of items you purchase. So for instance if we have a delivery charge of \$20.00 for the bulk order and there were a total of 20 items in the shipment you will be charged only \$1.00 per item. You will have to pay for the shipping when you pick up your order. You must pick them up at the Flambeau Forest Inn within 30 days of delivery...they cannot store your items. If you have any questions you can email us.

Go to: [www.brandlonlinestore](http://www.brandlonlinestore), Click on the Community Store link, Find the Lake Association, Password: lake2017

Or use this link <http://www.brandlonlinestore.com/product-category/access/la2017/>

If you want to pick-up at the Flambeau Forest Inn select "FREE PICK UP".

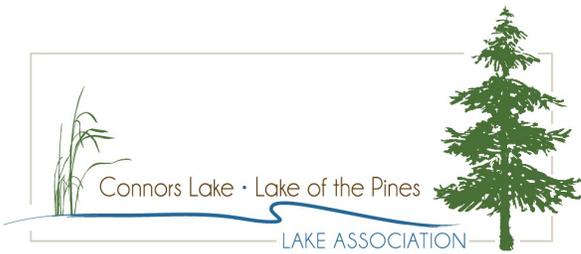
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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### CITIZENS LAKE MONITORING NETWORK | Dave Schiotz

Lakes are living systems just as humans and other organisms are. There are three primary stages of life for lakes.

- OLIGOTROPHIC are those lakes we think of as “young.” They typically do not have extensive weed growth due to lower nutrient levels. The water clarity is usually quite good and is rich in oxygen throughout the water column.
- As nutrients increase, plant growth intensifies and the lake slides toward “middle age” -MESOTROPHIC. During this stage we see more weed growth, increased animal species, which are related to higher Phosphorus and Chlorophyll levels. Later in the summer the Oxygen level may be reduced lower in the water column.
- The truly “old” lakes are referred to as EUTROPHIC. These bodies of water are rich in nutrients, thus in plankton and shore land vegetation and related animal life. During the summer, bottom water is depleted of most oxygen and primarily warm water fisheries exist in these lakes.

Where are our lakes in their life cycle? To determine approximately where we are on this sliding age scale, the DNR uses a measurement called the TROPHIC STATE INDEX (TSI). Total TSI includes the average Secchi Disk reading, Chlorophyll (algae) content, and Phosphorus level for July - August each year. The TSI level for this year was 46 in Connors and 56 in LOP. Lakes with a TSI between 20 and 40 would be considered “young” lakes. TSI of 40 to 50 would be Mesotrophic (middle aged) and 50 - 80 in the EUTROPHIC (old age) stage.

New this year is a Trophic State Index Graph for each lake which shows the relationship of all three parameters (Secchi disk TSI, Total Phosphorus TSI and Chlorophyll TSI). The graphs come from the WI DNR CLMN website and we credit them for using this information.

**Follow this link to see the graph for Connors Lake:**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/reports/tsigraph.aspx?stationid=583204>

For LOP we do not have data for all three parameters prior to 2012, but since then we have complete information.

**Follow this link to see the graph for Lake of the Pines:**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/reports/tsigraph.aspx?stationid=10028991>

While you are sitting by the fire this winter with nothing to do, pull out your newsletter and get to know our two lakes by examining the links to the TSI graphs.

Thank you to the great group of volunteers on the CLMN TEAM. On LOP we have Larry Anderson, Dave Bauer, Don Bauer, Carl Ewardson, Jim Schofield and Perry Slack. On Connors we have Greg & Ellen Cernjar, Gordie Dukerschein, Tom Eckels, Bob Feller, Jeff & Sherry Hansen, Rich Marusinec, Dave & Karen Schiotz and Tom Stram.

Have a Good Winter!

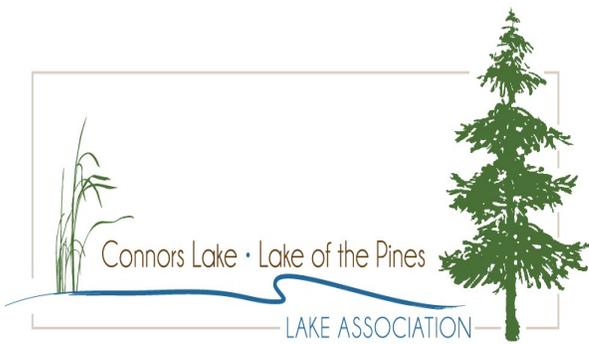
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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Aquatic Invasive Species | Tom Stram

This past summer we decided not to treat the invasive species Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) with the usual granular herbicide 2,4-D. This decision was based on several factors including the fact that the amount of milfoil in Connors Lake has been stable (with herbicide treatment) for the past 5 years at a level of 3 -5 acres and it is confined primarily to Muskie Bay with only a couple of plants observed outside of the bay. According to DNR Water Resources Specialist Michelle Nault, an expert in AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) pursuing no active management is an option if the population of EWM is localized and causing no recreational/ecological issue. (On the other hand, the explosion of our native population of aquatic plants has become a real nuisance). Many lakes in Wisconsin where milfoil populations are currently low can remain low over time without active management. Taking a year or two off of active management does not preclude or hinder future management. In addition, DNR research has also shown that repeated herbicide treatments of EWM can result in increased resistance and the development of a hybrid form that is also more resistant to treatment with chemicals. Small scale treatments can result in quick dissipation of herbicide, lower contact time and lower herbicide efficacy than occurs with whole lake or large scale treatments. Research has shown possible impacts to some species of fish from repeated 2,4-D treatments. The DNR recommends that we wait until there is significant amounts of Eurasian water milfoil in Muskie Bay and then treat the whole bay (large scale) with the liquid form of 2,4-D which is cheaper and probably more effective than granular herbicide.

This does not mean we did not have any expenses related to AIS control this summer. The DNR strongly recommended we update our Aquatic Plant Management Plan first written in 2007 as a precursor to applying for and receiving our AIS Treatment Grant which ran from 2008 to 2013. The cost of a consultant to write this plan was \$3,134. In addition we also had a biannual (pre and post treatment) aquatic plant survey of both of our lakes which this year cost \$1,410. Fortunately, 3/4 of the costs totaling \$4,544 was covered by our DNR AIS Education Grant. The Fall 2017 aquatic plant survey revealed "very little" EWM in Muskie Bay and zero in Lake of the Pines. We made the correct decision!!

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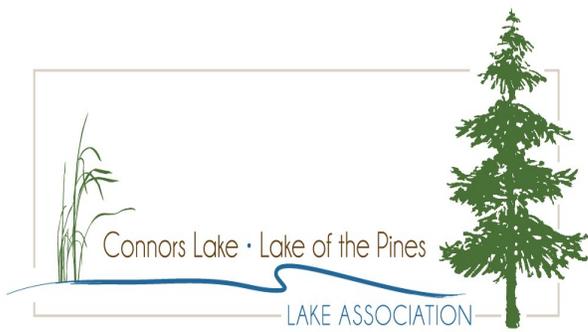
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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY | Dave Cooley

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY. This is a new way to get involved and volunteer to make our lake vicinity (even more) more beautiful. We clean-up the sides of the road on Hwy W from the Intersection of Hwy M (Fire Tower) to the DNR Headquarters.



Thanks to those that helped this year: Jim Biser, Don Bauer, Dave Bauer, Don, Cody, Brianna, Sue and, Hunter Bluhm, Greg Cernjar, Tom Eckels, Bob and Patti Feller, Steve Luptak, Laura and Rich Marusinec, Mike and Kim Poncek, Dave Schiotz, Valerie Schultz, Jim Schofield, Tom Stram. (If I've miss anyone I apologize-let me know if I missed you and I'll give special mention next newsletter.).

This is a great way to encourage concern for the welfare of our local natural resources. Adopt-A-Highway is an activity that families can participate in together; children that are at least 11 years old or the 6<sup>th</sup> grade can participate. We will be out for the Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up 2-3 times a year; in late April after the snow is gone; in July after the county mows along the sides of the roads; and the last time will be sometime in October.

If you would like to get your name on the volunteer list to be contacted for the next highway clean-up, please contact Dave Cooley at (920) 428-0755 or [dec54914@prodigy.net](mailto:dec54914@prodigy.net).

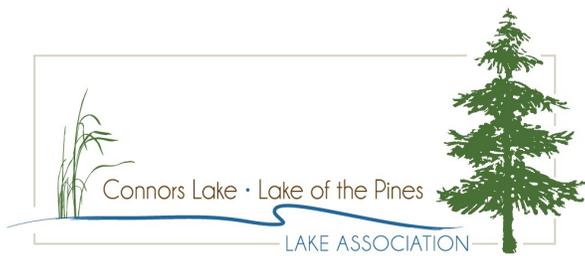


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## HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

### PLANS FOR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT | Dave Bauer

The Lake Association has decided to take on a new mission of improving our fish habitat. We have partnered with *Walleyes for Tomorrow*. *Walleyes for Tomorrow* will help us fund our fish habitat projects and give us all the information we need to be able to do the projects. We have talked about fish habitat at our general meetings this summer, so some of you are familiar with this new adventure. There is a lot of work and learning that must be done before we can proceed. At this time, we do not have a specific project picked out but we do have a plan to get to that first project.

The plan for fish habitat:

- We have been invited by Solberg Lake Association to join them on their fish habitat projects this winter. An email will be sent when this date is chosen, so that you can join the work crew or just observe!
- Please attend the Walleye's for Tomorrow Banquet in Phillips, this spring. It is very important that we support them. Some of the money raised will come back to us to improve fish habitat.
- Walleye spawning survey – we will be going out again this spring to find out where the walleyes are spawning. This information is critical to doing projects. We will be asking for volunteer help this spring so be watching your emails.
- We will need to have fish project paperwork handed in to *Walleyes for Tomorrow* before July to get financial support.
- We plan on discussing the fish habitat project at the Memorial Weekend meeting so don't miss it.

Most people I have talked to about fish habitat projects have been very excited and looking forward to improving the fish habitat. Some people have had some concerns about having fish sticks placed on their shoreline. Please do not worry about this. We would need your permission to put fish sticks on your shoreline. However, we will need people willing to have wood habitat placed in front of their place since Connors Lake is primarily surrounded by private property. Lake of the Pines is a different story with very little private property on the lake.

I just would like to say that it is very important that we keep wood in the water. This not only helps the fish but the whole lake ecosystem so if possible keep the wood in the water.

Please read more about fish habitat on the next page.

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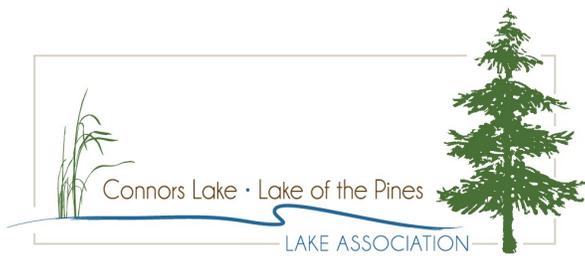
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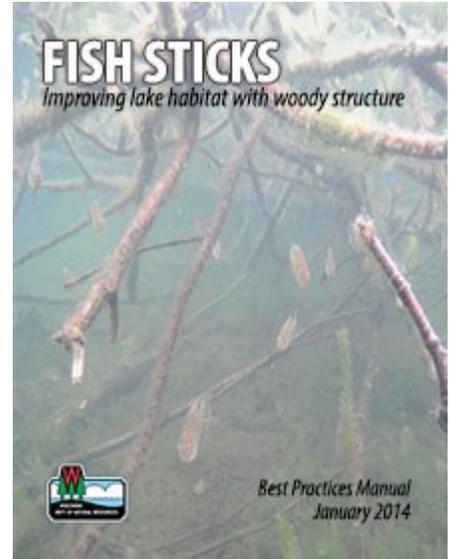
## HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

### Fishing Wisconsin Fish sticks: Improving lake habitat

Trees have been dropping naturally into Wisconsin lakes since the glaciers receded. Fallen trees provide shelter and feeding areas for a diversity of fish species and may also provide nesting and sunning areas for birds, turtles and other animals above the water. Nearly all fish species use woody habitat for at least a portion of their life cycle.

#### What are fish sticks?

“Fish Sticks” projects are intended to restore woody habitat in lakes by adding trees to the near-shore area. They are large woody habitat structures that use either single trees or trees grouped together. Fish sticks structures are anchored to the shore and are partially or fully submerged near the shoreline of a lake. Fish sticks projects are completed to provide additional fish habitat, as well as to expand fishing opportunities by anglers and provide protection to shorelines. Additional information on fish sticks and the fish sticks implementation process can be found in the [Fish Sticks Best Practices Manual](#). [\[PDF\]](#).



Fish sticks projects generally include a variety of cooperators: lakefront property owners, lake associations or districts, DNR permitting and fisheries staff, county land and water conservation departments and possibly federal agencies.

To learn more, go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/outreach/fishsticks.html>

### Lakeshore Woody Habitat in Review

by Max Wolter, WDNR Fisheries Biologist Sawyer County

Benefits of coarse woody habitat (CWH) to the fish communities (with particular emphasis on fisheries issues in northern Wisconsin) and notes on the placement, maintenance, and degradation of woody structures are detailed in this seven page document.

Go to: [http://derekogle.com/NCNRS349/modules/MgmtCWH/Wolter\\_2012\\_CWHreview.pdf](http://derekogle.com/NCNRS349/modules/MgmtCWH/Wolter_2012_CWHreview.pdf)



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## Natural Connections-Emily Stone

### ANOTHER SEASON HAS FLOWN

“Another season has flown,” wrote Lois Nestel, the Museum’s founding naturalist and director, more than three decades ago. “We watched its passage in the flight of warblers appearing from nowhere to feed and move like phantoms, ever southward. We saw it in the gathering of flocks of restless robins, in drifting parachutes of milkweed seeds and swirls of falling leaves. We heard it in the strident notes of crickets and in the droning of great slow bumblebees on the last frostbitten flowers. But most of all we saw it in the wedges of geese winging across the autumn sky. Summer rides their wings and with them it will vanish to return only when they come again to herald another year.”

Some things never change. This fall I watched those same flocks of birds, drifting seeds, and swirling leaves. I took a net to the cold-hobbled bumblebees and gathered specimens for use in our next exhibit. And, on one deep-blue evening, as a glorious pink sunset shot through the clouds, a pair of geese swung down out of the tentative stars. Their wild honking sent a chill down my neck, and I let the kayak paddle rest while they dipped lower and lower toward my bow. Powerful wings sent ripples scooting across the lake’s glassy surface, and then lifted the geese back up just long enough to reach the far, dark shore of the lake, where they vanished. As I turned to paddle home, a half-moon sent its own ripples across my path.

Lois continued, “It is difficult to explain the feeling of nostalgia, of longing, yearning, created by the sight and sound of flying geese. What sound turns eyes skyward more surely than the calling of wild geese? The eyes follow their passage and as the voices fade and forms become receding, wavering motes, we turn again to everyday affairs with an inward sigh of vague, unexplainable regret.

“Summer has gone, and we deplore its passing. But the transient, delicate beauty of flower and leaf is not lost forever; it is simply laid aside temporarily to be superseded by other beauties, different but equal. Falling leaves disclose the graceful structure of trunk and limb as lacy networks against the sky. Leaf-darkened woodlands are once again open and airy, and one can see deep within places that a short time ago were walls of green.

“Birds’ nests, once well hidden, now hang openly on naked branches, revealing by their architecture the nature of the builder. The nests of hornets and the cocoons of the great moths are also exposed to seeing eyes.

“With summer’s ending, nature has not closed her book but has merely turned the page, and the stories written on the fallen leaf and snow are as thrilling and delightful as those written on summer’s green page.”

Among the seasonal changes of field and forest, humans set about their own complementary autumnal routines. I don’t have a fireplace or woodstove, so I content myself with smelling other people’s morning fires on my way to work. Then at home in the evening I bundle up in a down vest and put a flannel bag full of rice, heated in the microwave, by my feet. Lois had a much nicer way to keep her toes warm.

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## Another Season has Flown, continued

She wrote, “The now familiar energy crisis has many connotations; most of them unpleasant, but for me there is one very positive aspect, based as much on sentimentality as on practicality. This is the swing back to wood as fuel and the accompanying sight and scent of woodsmoke.

“Especially on chill evenings there is something very comforting in the sight of smoke rising from neighboring chimneys and the fragrance of different kinds of wood mingling on the frosty air. This is nostalgia time, for one of the treasured memories of childhood is walking home from school in the winter twilight and seeing across the snow-covered fields the lamplight glowing softly from kitchen windows and smoke rising from chimneys—the first warm breath of home fires with their promise of warmth and security.

“It also meant, of course, wood boxes to fill before dark: one for the kitchen stove, another for the living room heater. For in those days, wood was not a supplementary fuel, but the only fuel. Now, again, woodpiles grow in back yards and the crack of the splitting axe rings through the air.

“Blue-white smoke rising from chimneys not only speaks of warmth and comfort within, but tells wind direction and strength and, to some degree, the atmospheric conditions. In years past this was my only barometer.

“For many, wood is not just a supplement to ease the burdensome expense of gas or oil. A few have gone all the way and reverted entirely to wood as fuel. Cooks are learning once again the satisfaction of soups and stews and bean pots simmered long and slow on a wood range and the comfortable sound of a teakettle singing on the back of a stove.

“There is a saying that wood warms you twice, once when you cut it and once when you burn it. I think a third warmth could be added—the deep heart-warmth that glows like embers within and rises like smoke on a still day to gladden all surrounding souls.”

Happily, those who are lucky enough to have fireplaces kindly share the sight and smell of their woodsmoke with the rest of us.

**Special Note:** Emily’s book, *Natural Connections: Exploring Northwoods Nature through Science and Your Senses* is here! Order your copy at <http://cablemuseum.org/natural-connections-book/>.

Listen to the podcast at [www.cablemuseum.org/](http://www.cablemuseum.org/)!

For 50 years, the Cable Natural History Museum has served to connect you to the Northwoods. Come visit us in Cable, WI! Our new exhibit: "Better Together--Celebrating a Natural Community" is now open!

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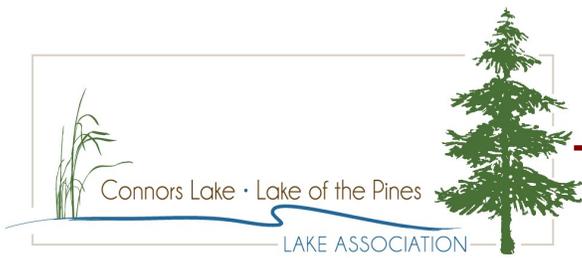
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## FLAMBEAU RIVER STATE FOREST

*Submitted by Chris Bender, Ranger and Acting Project Manager*

It has been a busy year on the Flambeau and we were able to accomplish quite a bit of work out there this year.

Here are some of the things that we have been working on:

- Constructed a new trailhead kiosk at the Flambeau Hills Trailhead
- Signed our forest roads with street signs to match our publications
- Working on finishing construction of a new 1 mile segment of ATV trail from fisherman's landing to the Rusk county line.
- Resurfaced a 4 mile stretch of ATV trail from Oxbo to HWY EE
- Put a new dock in at the LOP landing
- Cleaned up the Connor's Picnic Area by brushing out overhanging limbs and taking out some dead/diseased spruce along the road.
- Extensive cleanup of trees at both campgrounds.
- Completely remodeled the Cedar Rapids river sites and formed 4 new sites, and converted the three existing sites into one group site, for a total of 5 sites.
- Put in a new Concrete Vault Toilet at LOP Campground
- Have two projects ready to go for next spring to redo Fisherman's and Nine Mile Landings
- Working on completing a new hiking trail by the Office Headquarters.

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*Other news from Diane Stowell:*

- **A review of the FRSF Elk Bugling Program**

Unfortunately, folks did not get to see or hear any elk during the program, mainly because it was too warm. They did however get an elk tour with lots of new and upcoming information and a tour of the holding pen for the Kentucky elk. Some folks that were at the program did go down river after the program in canoes and were able to see a cow, calf and young bull cross the river in front of them. The bull was after the cow and those folks were delighted to hear him bugle and display.

- **The Candlelight Ski will be held on Feb. 3, 2018.**

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Phone: 715.266.3131 email: [townofwinter@centurytel.net](mailto:townofwinter@centurytel.net)

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PH. 715-266-2102

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Supervisor:

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PH. 715-266-4461

### 1<sup>st</sup> Supervisor:

Terry Patenaude

N5090 Crawford Street Winter, WI 54896

### Clerk-Treasurer: Lori Van Winkle

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