

From the Lake Shores

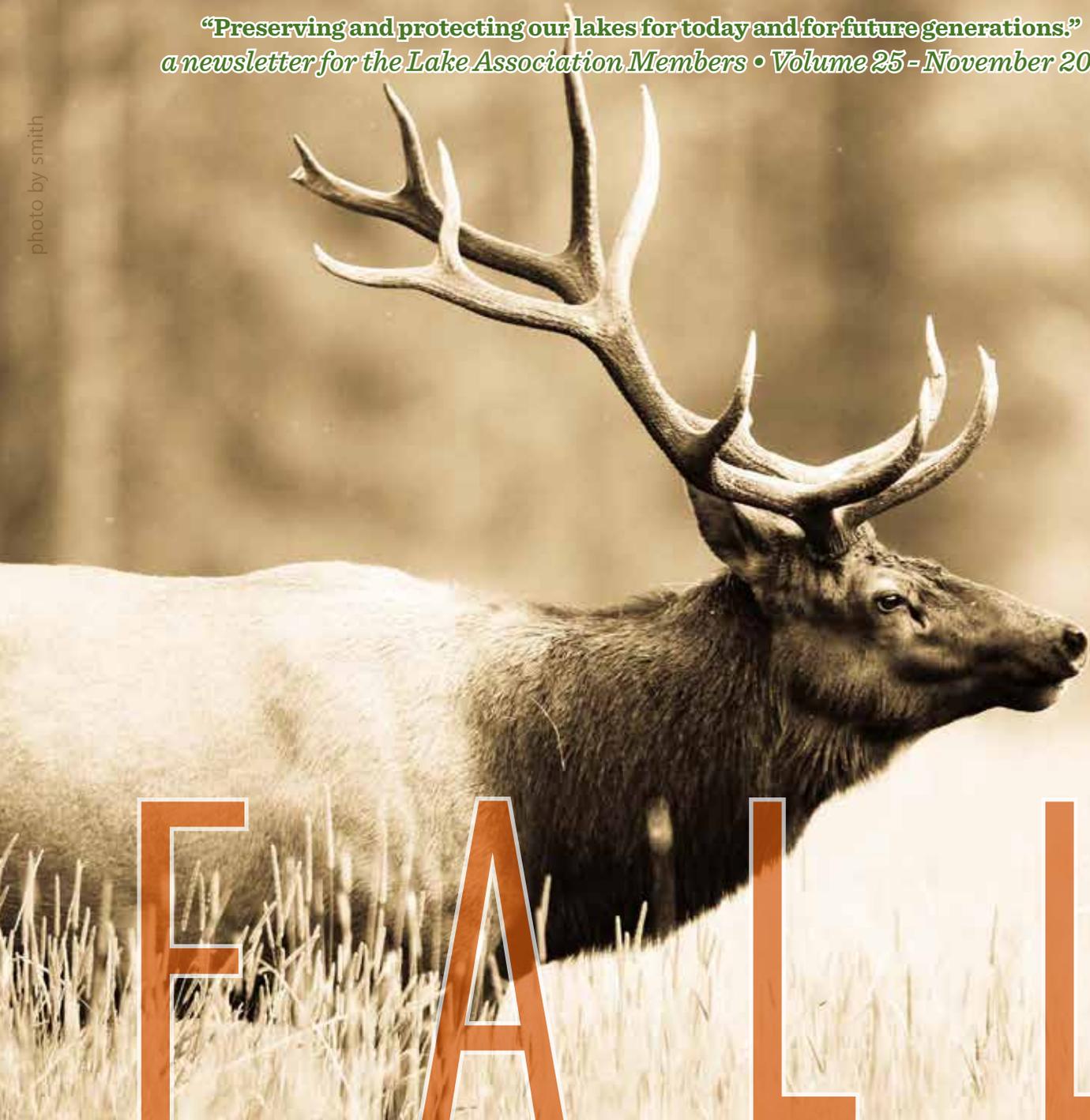
Connors Lake • Lake of the Pines

LAKE ASSOCIATION



“Preserving and protecting our lakes for today and for future generations.”
a newsletter for the Lake Association Members • Volume 25 - November 2018

photo by smith



FALL

WATERS | VOLUNTEERS | ELK | FORESTRY

MESSAGE FROM DAVE

CLEAN BOATS & CLEAN WATER

Another summer at the boat landings is in the books! Cumulatively, we volunteered 12.5 hours at the boat landings. Ideally, we need more than 40 hours in order to contact enough people at the boat landings to make an impact. Thank you to the following volunteers that worked at the boat landings this summer: **Sarah Happe, Tom Stram, Ed and Dianne Peters, Kim and Mike Poncek.**

JUST TWO WILL DO

It is very important that we have volunteers working the boat landings. There are more invasive species that are popping up in Wisconsin lakes. If you are not volunteering for other Lake Association programs, we're asking that each member volunteer two hours a summer at our boat landings. It's easy, and it can even be fun. Just two hours out of your summer could prevent the spread of invasive species to our lakes. I've included information below on one invasive species that we are trying to prevent getting into our lakes. Spiny and fishhook water fleas have already been found in nearby counties. And once they're in your lake, they're there to stay. Let's work together and prevent these and other invasive species from showing up in our lakes. Again, just two hours a summer will do!

SPINY AND FISHHOOK WATER FLEAS

Ecological Threat

- Spiny and fishhook water fleas are predators - they eat smaller zooplankton (planktonic animals), including Daphnia. This puts them in direct competition with juvenile fish for food.
- Young fish have trouble eating these water fleas due to their long, spiny tails.
- The spiny and fishhook water fleas produce rapidly through parthenogenesis, commonly known as asexual reproduction, which means that no males are required and populations can explode in number.

Identification

Body: The Spiny Water Flea has a 1/4"-1/2" long, translucent body, making it hard to spot unless gathered in a large cluster. The species is also characterized by a long spine that extends from its abdomen, giving reason for its name. In addition, the Spiny Water Flea has a dark black eye that can easily be seen against its contrasting light body.

Spiny water fleas were found in the Gile Flowage (Iron County) in 2003, Stormy Lake (Vilas County) in 2007, and the Madison Chain of Lakes (Lake Mendota, Lake Monona, Lake Waubesa, and Lake Kegonsa in Dane County) in 2009.

Unfortunately, at this time no effective strategy is available to control the spiny water fleas once they are introduced to lakes.

Dave Bauer
President



Dave Bauer



Dear Connors Lake & Lake of the Pines Members and Residents,

We are looking for volunteers to donate at least 2 hours of their time this year and in 2019 so we can complete some great projects! We have been struggling to find volunteers and your Board of Directors have been doing most of the volunteer hours. As a board member we all donate on the average of 100 hours per year to the projects. We cannot do it all ourselves and we need your help to maintain and start new projects that we have been doing so we can continue to improve our beautiful lakes! If we do not get some extra volunteers, we will have to scale back on some of our projects. We have been looking at doing 2 fish habitat projects with Walleyes for Tomorrow (WFT) and we are discussing the possibility of having to scale back to 1.

This is a fantastic opportunity for high school students that need volunteer hours for college, time to spend with family and teach children or grandchildren the importance of giving back, meet some of your neighbors, learn about lake management and what the Lake Association is all about, or just spend some time outdoors. Here are just a few of the projects that will help everyone PRESERVE & PROTECT our amazing lakes!

• Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW)-We need people/families at the Connors Lake boat landing and teach boaters how/where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride on watercraft and warn them where milfoil is present on Connors Lake. We receive \$12 an hour for everyone there-3 people for 1 hour means we get paid for 3 hours of volunteer time! There is a short training video available (on our website) or one of the board members can help you. Dates: anytime, Volunteer Time: 2 hours, Where: Connors Lake Boat Landing

• Fish Sticks-We are working WFT to construct and improve the walleye and fish habitat on both lakes. We need people to help with fish sticks (trees brought in, placed along the shore line, and anchored in place). Date: Feb. 9, 2019, Volunteer Time: 4-6 hours starting @ 8:30 am, Where: Connors Lake

• Rock Drops-This is also to improve fish habitat and being done with WFT. We bring in rocks and place them on the ice. When the ice goes out they fall into the water and provide better spawning ground for the fish. Date: Jan. 23, 2019, Volunteer Time: 3-4

hours starting at 8:30 am, Where: Connors Lake

- Adopt a Highway- We start at The Cabin Restaurant and clean up the litter on the roads and in the ditch lines from the DNR office to the Fire Tower. We provide the bags, gloves, sticks and that pick-up trash. Dates: Late April & Late Summer, Volunteer Time: 1-2 hours, Where: Hwy W
- Spawning Beds- You need a boat and flashlight and then travel around the shorelines to find spawning beds. While you are out you have some very minimal paperwork to fill out. Dates: In the spring when the ice goes out. Amount of time: 1-2 hours. Where: Both Lakes
- Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN)- Pairs go out and measure the lakes for different parameters. Training and materials are provided. Dates: May-September, Volunteer Time: 1-2 hours, Where: Both Lakes

You can let us know which projects you are interested in by either responding to this article and naming the area that you would like to help with, contact a board member (see list at the bottom), or go to our website www.connorspineslakeassociation.org and click on the Take Action or Contact Us button.

Dave Bauer, dbauer9255@gmail.com -Fish Sticks, Rock Drops, CBCW, Spawning Beds

Dave Cooley, dcooley1@prodigy.net -Adopt-A-Highway

Dave Schiotz, dkschiotz@yahoo.com -CLMN

Tom Stram, twrcstram@frontier.com -CBCW

Thank You in Advance,
Toni Slack
Corresponding Secretary



Toni Slack

Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. (CLMN)

By Dave Schiotz

The important work of monitoring the water of our two lakes could not be done without this dedicated group of volunteers. On Lake of the Pines (LOP) we have Larry Anderson, Dave Bauer, Don Bauer, Carl Edwardson, Jim Schofield, and Perry Slack.

Working on Connors are Gordie Dukerschein, Bob Feller, Jeff & Sherry Hansen, Rich Marusinec, Dave & Karen Schiotz and Tom Stram. Two of our volunteers are no longer in the area so we could use some new people for next summer, on both lakes. Materials and training are provided. If you are interested in helping, contact me at (715) 332-5164 or e-mail: dkschiotz@yahoo.com.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, is an article about comparing some of the parameters we sample. Three of the five we record on data sheets provided and are inputted into the CLMN data log.



Phosphorus and Chlorophyll samples are sent to the State Laboratory of Hygiene in Madison for analysis. We process our samples according to strict guidelines and ship them to the State Lab in a special insulated container. The results are sent back to us in the CLMN network, specific for each Lake, and become part of the annual narrative report. When we sample Phosphorus, we analyze for Total Phosphorus. This shows the potential productivity of a lake as Phosphorus acts as a “nutrient” for aquatic plants. The results of our Phosphorus analysis will allow us to consider this question: “are our lakes potentially susceptible to algae bloom?” Lakes with more 20 micro/grams/liter can experience noticeable algae bloom.

This winter as you sit by the fire or fish through the ice think about the above question and how important our lakes are!!

If you want to examine the data we have collected it is available on the CLMN website. Go to:

WI DNR CLMN
 Citizen Lake Monitoring Network: dnr.wi.gov
 Sawyer Connors—details; or LOP—details

Information from our lakes is there to view! Check it out!

Comparing Our Lakes. CLMN

There are five parameters that we sample that are very important to our lakes and natural water in general. They are Clarity (Secchi Disk), Chlorophyll (algae), Phosphorus, Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature. These values do vary, possibly daily and certainly annually. We can average the values we get for Clarity, Chlorophyll and Phosphorus for the July - August open water period and compare them to the regional averages which are determined by the DNR. These comparisons can indicate the general health of Connors and LOP to each other as well as other lakes in our region.

The chart below does just that for this current year and the past two years.

We will be examining some of these five parameters in greater depth in future newsletter articles, watch for them!

2018			
SECCHI DISC			
An opaque disk, typically white, used to gauge the transparency of water by measuring the depth (Secchi depth) of which the disk cease to be visible for the surface.			
Regional Average	Connors Lake	Lake of the Pines	
105 ft	Average 11.3 9.6 ft	Average 5.75 5.0 ft	
Chlorophyll (aglae)			
A green pigment present in all green plants and in cyanobacteria, responsible for the absorption of light to provide energy for photosynthesis.			
Regional Average	Connors Lake	Lake of the Pines	
8.5	Average 4.4 5.1	Average 8.2 10.6	
Phosphorus			
Phosphorus is a nutrient important for plant growth. In many lakes Phosphorus acts as a limiting nutrient, which can directly influence plant growth.			
Regional Average	Connors Lake	Lake of the Pines	
200	Average 16.5 16.6	Average 21.6 25.7	

	2017	2018	2019
	Regional Average	Connors Lake	Lake of the Pines
SECCHI DISC	9.75	9.25	4.5
CHLOROPHYLL	10.1	4.4	15.8
PHOSPHORUS	20.0	26.2	24.0

	2016	2017	2018
	Regional Average	Connors Lake	Lake of the Pines
SECCHI DISC	9.3	9.45	4.67
CHLOROPHYLL	11.6	6.5	17.3
PHOSPHORUS	20.0	21.7	23.6

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Dave Bauer
dbauer9255@gmail.com

Vice President: Robert Feller
rfeller@tds.net

Treasurer: Florian Wisinski
fjwisinski@aol.com

Recording Secretary:
Sarah Belson Happe
sbhappe@msn.com

Corresponding Secretary:
Toni Slack
flambeauforestinn@mail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Edward Peters
edward.j.peters@gmail.com

Dave Schiotz
dkschiotz@yahoo.com

Mark LaVick
marklavick@gmail.com

Jim Schofield
schofieldje@hotmail.com

Dave Cooley
dcooley1@prodigy.net

Tom Stram
twrcstram@frontier.com

Steven Lindahl
lindahltd@live.com



connorspineslakeassociation.org

Fisheries Committee Report: Ed Peters

First of all I want to thank Tom Dienhammer for all his conversations and information over the past years. I hope that I can do as good a job keeping the membership informed about the fish populations in Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines. These are big shoes to fill and I for one will miss Tom very much. I am also glad to have Jeff Sheirer close by to talk to about the fish populations and management programs that the Park Falls office of the DNR has for these lakes. As I mentioned at the meeting Jeff and his crew will be conducting an electrofishing survey on September 26 to evaluate the recruitment of Walleyes to the population in Connors Lake. They also hope to add an electrofishing survey in Lake of the Pines on October 3 to look for natural recruitment there. They want to do this prior to the stocking of large fingerling Walleye on October 8 so that there is no possibility for confusing natural reproduction with stocked fish. Because of the timing, the results of these activities will have to wait until the next newsletter.

This past spring (May 12-14) the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) sampled the Walleye in Connors Lake using electrofishing. They marked fish with a fin clip on May 12 and 13 and did a survey on May 14 where they examined all the fish (Walleye) for marks. During these surveys they measured all of the fish that they caught and identified whether they were male or female (where possible). The data were compiled into half inch length categories. From these data (Table 1) we can estimate the population of Walleye and the size distribution for the Walleye population in Connors Lake.

Table 1: A summary of data from the spring Walleye sampling, Connors Lake, May 12 to 14, 2018.

Length Interval	Number of Walleye Marked May 12 and 13, 2018 (M)			Number of Walleye Caught May 14, 2018 Recapture Survey (C)			Number of Marked Walleye Caught in the Recapture Survey (R)		
	All (unk)	Males	Females	All (unk)	Males	Females	All (unk)	Males	Females
10.0-11.9 inches	3 (0)	3	0	1 (0)	1	0	0 (0)	0	0
12.0-14.9 inches	97 (10)	87	0	16 (1)	15	0	3 (1)	2	0
15.0-19.9 inches	161 (58)	74	29	55 (33)	18	4	5 (5)	0	0
20.0+ inches	20 (1)	0	19	7 (0)	0	7	2 (0)	0	2
Total	281 (69)	164	48	79 (34)	32	11	10 (6)	2	2

Population Estimate:

This is a good example of what is known as a mark and recapture population estimate study (or experiment). The study is divided into two parts; the marking portion (May 12 and 13) and the recapture portion (May 14). The objective of the first portion of the study is to get as many marked fish (M) into the population (N) as possible; in as short a time period as possible. The objective of the second portion of the study is to estimate the ratio of marked fish in the population to the total number of fish in the population. The best (and only estimate) of this ratio is the ratio between the number of marked fish caught in the second portion of the study (R) to the total number of fish examined for marks (C) that were caught on May 14.



Many studies, over a long period of time have found that the equation that most accurately estimates the actual population present is:

$$N = (M + 1) (C + 1) / (R + 1)$$

For this study the overall best estimate of the Walleye population in Connors Lake would be:

$$N = (281+1) (79+1) / (10+1) \text{ or } 282 \times 80 / 11 = 2,051$$

Even though that is the best estimate that we have, biologists know that there is an element of chance to getting the same results if we were going to do that same recapture survey again. The recapture survey may catch a higher or lower ratio of marked fish to unmarked fish. “Friendly” statisticians would consider the total number of marked fish in the recapture survey to be a random variable and they have come up with some tables that show the range in the number of recaptures that we might expect if we did the same survey multiple times. In this case, with 10 recaptures the “friendly statistical tables” say that in 95 out of 100 times we could expect to catch between 5 and 18 recaptures.

So, if we use those values for R in our equation we come up with:

$$N = 282 \times 80 / 6 = 3,760 \text{ and } N = 282 \times 80 / 19 = 1,187$$

Those values would be considered to be the 95% confidence limits of our population estimate, but our best estimate is still 2,051, which equals 4.78 Walleye per acre and even the low end of the 95% confidence interval range is 2.77 per acre and close to the goal of 3 to 5 Walleye per acre.

Size Structure of the Walleye Population:

All but four of the 370 Walleye caught during the survey of May 12 – 14, 2018 were over 12 inches long. That is probably a good thing for small Walleye, because it would probably be dangerous for them to be associating with the larger individuals. They use different habitats for a reason.

Fisheries biologists use graphs or tables to portray what they call length frequency distributions as one way to judge the health of a fish population. We expect to see more individuals in the smaller (younger) size classes and progressively fewer larger (older) individuals. To compare among populations, many fisheries biologists and fisheries agencies have adopted the use of what are called, Stock: Density relationships. These depend on criteria to distinguish size categories. For Walleye; Stock size is any fish 10 inches and longer, Quality Size is any fish 15 inches and longer, Preferred Size is any fish 20 inches and longer and Memorable is any fish 25 inches and longer. The number of fish in each of these size categories then used to calculate what is known as the Proportional Stock Density for a population using the formula:

$$\text{Number of fish Quality size or greater} / \text{Number of fish Stock size or greater} = \text{PSD (Quality)}$$

The total number of individual Walleye (longer than 10 inches) that were captured in May 2018 was 350 (Stock Size). Of these 235 were over 15 inches (Quality Size); 24 were over 20 inches (Preferred Size) and 2 were over 25 inches (Memorable Size).

From these numbers we can calculate the PSD's for the Connors Lake population of Walleye:

$$\text{PSD (Quality)} = (235 / 350) \times 100 = 67 \quad \text{PSD (Preferred)} = (24 / 350) \times 100 = 6$$

$$\text{PSD (Memorable)} = (2 / 350) \times 100 = < 1$$

So, what does this mean? The Connors Lake Walleye population that was sampled in 2018 seems to be a bit short on the number of younger individuals. Therefore, it will be very interesting to see the numbers of Young of the Year (age 0) fish that Jeff Sheirer and crew find in the survey this fall. It also, may make the installation of gravel on the spawning habitat particularly significant. Only time will tell. On the other hand, the overall density of Walleye in Connors Lake seems to be good, so there must have been good reproduction in the past. Additional information on the age of different size classes of Walleye, along with their length: weight relationship (also known as their condition). I am contacting Dr. Greg Sass and Dr. Dan Iserman to see if there would be some possibilities for them to include Connors Lake in their research projects.

It is my opinion that Walleye are only one of the species that we need to consider in Connors Lake, Lake of the Pines and nearby lakes in our area. I hope we can learn more about how these species interact to make these lakes inviting to all anglers. Also, since we have such excellent information on the limnology of these lakes, we have the opportunity to explain why we may be seeing changes in fish populations and water quality that affect all aspects of these beautiful gems that we are fortunate enough to enjoy.



Cedar Rapids by Jim Kuchler

The Aquatic Invasive Species Report Fall 2018

We have used no herbicide treatment for Eurasian water milfoil in Connors lake for the past 2 years (2017 and 2018). The frequency of occurrence of the milfoil in Muskie Bay was 7% in 2016, 14% in 2017 and 27% in 2018. Although this is not a dramatic increase I have observed some pretty dense beds in the bay this summer. As you can see, the frequency of occurrence has doubled from 2017 to 2018. Our recently updated Aquatic Plant Management Plan states we cannot treat with herbicide until the bay has a 50% occurrence. However, a sharply delineated 8.8 acre section of the bay has a 50% occurrence and maybe the DNR would allow an exception to treat with herbicide.

Another recently developed and highly popular method of treatment is called DASH or diver assisted suction harvesting. See TSB Lake Front Restoration for a video of DASH. We would need a permit for DASH and the cost (\$11,500) is more than double that of herbicide treatment (\$5,000). DASH is expensive but effective for smaller areas of infestation. Herbicide treatment is cheaper and more effective but as I said the DNR may not let us treat at this level of occurrence. Your board of directors will carefully ponder the choices before making a decision. Not doing any treatment is still on the table. Again there is no significant EWM found in other parts of Connors lake nor Lake of the Pines. However, we must be continually vigilant for invasive species because purple loosestrife was recently found at the boat launch on Lake of the Pines.

Submitted by Tom Stram



Connors Lake has gone to the "Labs".

UP COMING EVENTS

Join Us!



Fish Habitat Projects:

Spawning Reef Saturday January 26th

(we will need at least 20 volunteers, if can help show up)

8:30am | Meet at the Flambeau for coffee and donuts
9:00am - Noon | At the Connors lake Boat Landing
Noon | Lunch or when finished lunch at the Flambeau

Equipment to bring: (still come if you do not have equipment)

- Snowmobile
- ATV
- UTV
- Large otter sled
- Rake to level stones

Fish Stick Saturday February 9th

8:30am | Meet at the Flambeau for coffee and donuts
9:00am - Noon | At the Connors lake Beach
Noon | Lunch or when finished lunch at the Flambeau

Equipment to Bring:

- 4WD truck with chains on tires
- Winch
- Pulley

In case of bad weather projects will be postponed to the following week of that project. An email will be sent out in case we postpone.

Questions: dbauer9255@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook: [Connor Lake and Lake of the Pines Lake Association](https://www.facebook.com/connorslakeandlakeofthepineslakeassociation)
www.connorspineslakeassociation.com | info@connorspineslakeassociation.com



Winter Skiing
Jim Kuchler



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Wetlands are like Diamonds – Small but Extremely Valuable.

On a global scale, wetlands occupy less than 9 percent of the Earth's land area. Locally, Wisconsin has retained 54 percent of the wetland area that was mapped in the 1780s, while neighboring states to the south and east have retained about 15 percent of their historical wetland area.

Wisconsin treasures its sedge meadows, fens, woodland swamps and marshes. They are not just beautiful rare gems, they also support nature and human well-being.

Here's what wetlands are doing for me today: Wetlands are busy cleaning up muddy stormwater runoff after recent heavy rainfalls. On Aug. 20, the Madison area received record rainfall for a 24-hour period, and local lake levels rose to the 100-year-flood mark.



Jim Kuchler

slowing surface water, and keeping basements drier than they might be without upstream wetlands.

In between storms, wetlands produce tons of food for wildlife and water birds, provide habitats that support diverse plants and animals, and feed larval fish until juveniles grow big enough to move into the adjacent lake where anglers can harvest the marsh nursery's bounty. And wetlands serve all who enjoy nature by sight-seeing, photographing, sketching, hiking and canoeing.

And there's more. Just by being wet, the soil becomes anaerobic and the organic matter decomposes very slowly. As a result, carbon-containing materials accumulate as peat, and the more carbon stored in peat the less carbon escapes as greenhouse gas.

Did you notice the brown water in the street gutters, creeks and streams? It was carrying various materials, especially soil that washed off fields and construction sites. Due to health threats, all Madison-area beaches were closed. As I write, wetlands are making turbid water clear by removing materials that would otherwise cause more pollution downstream.

Wetlands are also removing things we cannot see, including nitrogen and phosphorus that feed blooms of algae, toxic heavy metals and pesticides that poison our streams and lakes, and germs. Some of these pollutants are being soaked up by wetlands, and some are being denatured by friendly wetland microbes.

Thanks to wetlands, our lakes and beaches will be safe again, sooner than without wetlands. And just by collecting water, wetlands are reducing floods,

Without peat-forming wetlands, the Earth would be even warmer, with more big storms. Wetland soils also denature nitrogen, returning human-made fertilizers back to the air as harmless nitrogen gas. Without upstream wetlands busily removing nitrogen, the Gulf of Mexico would have an even bigger dead zone.

Inland freshwater wetland services are estimated to be worth about \$10,500 per acre per year. All of these benefits are great reasons to protect the wetlands that remain and to restore more of what has been drained or filled. Wetlands might be small, relative to uplands and deep waters. But like diamonds, they are extremely valuable and deserving of our utmost care.

Wis State Journal, 9/30/2018
By Joy Zedler, Aldo Leopold Professor Emerita, UW-Madison Botany Department and Arboretum



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Jim Kuchler
northernvestigeimages@gmail.com
www.northernvestigeimages.com
262-389-4343

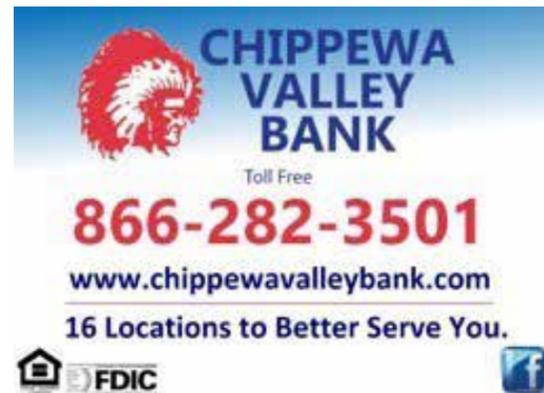
The Life and Death of the Great Lakes

by Milwaukee Journal reporter Dan Eagan

I just finished reading a very good book that is a lesson for us about the importance of preventing more aquatic invasive species from invading our rather pristine lakes. The Great Lakes accounts for 20% of the world's fresh water. The invasion of the lakes all started with the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 and accelerated by the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959. It opened the lakes to international shipping vessels who can hold up to 6 million gallons of ballast steady water which is discharged and contains millions of potential invasive species detrimental to the Great Lakes ecology. Remember the vampire-like sea lamprey of the 1940s which was brought under control with a designer poison. Then in the 1950s it was the small bug-eyed fish called the alewife which was combated with Coho and Chinook salmon from the Pacific Northwest. Then came the more destructive zebra and quagga mussels from the Black Sea that are still with us today and cost Great Lakes communities \$250 million annually. This figure does not include the significant loss of a once vibrant fishing industry.

The mussels have cleared the water but have sucked up microscopic phytoplankton necessary for a healthy food chain. Many of the Great Lakes invasives including zebra mussels have spread west via the "back door" or the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal. The feared Asian carp that reeked havoc in the Mississippi river are knocking at the "back door" prevented from entering the Great Lakes via an electrical barrier.

The Trump administration's budget will gut or eliminate the \$300 million program to restore the Great Lakes ecology. The author of the book also thinks we should close the Seaway to international shipping. Help keep invasives out of our lake, volunteer 2 hours for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program.



Elk on the Flambeau River State Forest

Both Wisconsin and Kentucky elk are doing great. There's about 70 of them right now, and right now most cows are either with Wisconsin Bull 321 (southern portion of the range), or with Wisconsin Bull 305. Wisconsin bull 298 is trying hard to win some cows from Bull 305, but so far the "females" seem to prefer bull 305. Rut activity was rather tame for this year's FRSF elk tour with just one faint response bugle, but subsequent tours were fantastic . . . 42 charter school kids with 7 chaperones saw 8 cows with bull 305 at less than 100 yards, 15 wildlife society participants saw bull 298 at 30 yards and bull 305 at 60 yards, and another 2 tours saw 305 with a big group of cows and calves during the last 2 weeks.

There were 38,494 applicants for the 4 bull elk tags available this year. As of this date tribal hunters have harvested 3 satellite bulls and are looking to fill their last 2 bull tags. State hunters start on October 13, running to November 11, then again, have a chance from December 13 to December 21. All tribal and state hunters have promised to stay north of Highway 70. Impacts to breeding will be minimal. Rut activity continues to be strong.

We estimate that 42 calves were born this year. We plan to capture 50 cows this coming January in Kentucky, bringing them back to the Meyer's Farm quarantine facility. With Kentucky elk, and new calves in 2019, we should be approaching 140 elk in and around the Flambeau near the end of June next year.

We completed about 200 acres of habitat mowing this year, mowing at least 18 openings and we are committed to service excellence.

Best Regards,

Laine R. Stowell
Elk Biologist - Wildlife Management/
Fisheries, Wildlife and Parks
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
10220N State Hwy 27, Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: (715) 563-9997
Cell Phone: (715) 563-9997 [if applicable]
Fax: 715-634-9232
[laine.stowell@wisconsin.gov]

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

In 1995,
25 elk were
reintroduced to
Clam Lake, WI
The last native
elk in Wisconsin
was 1886.



FORESTRY & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

There are currently 5 active timber sales going on within the forest right now. Seven timber Sales went out for bids this fall, with the fall bid opening occurring on October 11th, 2018 at 1:30PM at the Forest Headquarters. This year, the State Forest added an additional one mile of road to the forest road network. The road is located off of Price Creek road, and has been named "Lost Mile Road." Speaking of road names, you may have noticed that many of the forest roads have street signs put up on them with the road names. This is an ongoing project, and all forest roads are anticipated to be signed with a name by the end of the next year. The purpose of this is to give visitors a better reference of where they are at & for emergency response as well. New maps are in the process of being made that will reference all of the roads by name to ease navigation. There are also some plans for some additional roads to be opened up within the next year for forest access. As good stewards of the land, please remember & remind others to stay on designated roads and trails to keep this wonderful place intact.

RECREATION: The summer recreation season is well behind us, and we now begin to phase into the fall hunting season and then into the winter sports season. Overall, this year was a pretty good recreation season for the Flambeau. The traditional campgrounds had a bit higher attendance than the last few years. On the river, it appears there is more use by larger groups than smaller groups, with the overall usage down slightly. Our recreation staff faced a number of challenges this year due to being well understaffed, but we were able to accomplish a number of improvements, such as:

- Placing a new fishing pier at the Lake of the Pines Boat landing with a paved accessible walkway. This has been well received by the public and has been well utilized by people of all ages.
- A solar light was placed at the Lake of the Pines lower restroom to provide for lighting. No electricity exists in the campground, so this was a great way to provide light for comfort & security of visitors at night.
- Solar lights were also put in at the Flambeau Hills Trailhead in the kiosk to provide for all-night lighting of the kiosk. This will give ATV/UTV/Snowmobile and silent sport users the ability to get the information they need at any time of the day.
- A new picnic area sign was installed to replace the old deteriorating sign.
- Some rock work was done at Little Falls-Slough Gundy to prevent any future erosion on the well-used trail system.
- A few of the River sites saw some updates as well. The headquarters camp was

converted to a group site to accommodate large groups coming down the river. Boyscout had some site work done to prevent erosion & make it easier to access the site from the river.

Overall, it was a great year, and we look forward to a change in the seasons to provide new opportunities! As a heads up, docks at Connors and Lake of the Pines will be pulled out for the season by the end of the month. We hope you had a great summer, and we hope that you stay warm this winter and see you all back next year.

And remember, always feel free to contact us if you have questions!

We are committed to service excellence. Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Chris Bender

Phone: 715-332-5271 Ext. 112 Christopher.Bender@Wisconsin.Gov

Did you know that wood ticks don't like wood chips (and some plants)?

By Mitchel Block, UW-Stevens Point Student

The weather might be cooling off a bit as kids go back to school: Halloween items start appearing on the shelves of stores, and you start thinking about making chili and that pumpkin spice latte. But beware, the weather is still plenty warm for an atrocious arachnid waiting right outside your door, ready to suck your blood...the tick!

These tiny pests are hosts to all sorts of bad bacteria and diseases, including Lyme's disease. Since 1980, over 38,000 cases of Lyme's disease have been reported in Wisconsin, and an estimated 75% of those cases were contracted right in residential backyards. Ticks aren't easy to stop either. They can easily survive through the frigid Wisconsin winters and can even survive underwater for over two weeks!

So, what can stop these pesky parasites from finding their way into your backyard? Well, it turns out simple wood chips are able to do the trick. Amazingly, ticks are afraid of getting lost in the wood chips and dehydrating, so they avoid them altogether! A strip of wood chips just a few feet wide is enough to create an impassable barrier that stops ticks in their tracks. Wood chips aren't the only strange way of stopping the bothersome blood suckers. Plants like lavender, sage, or chrysanthemum, or strips of cedar mulch with cedar oil have also all been suggested to prevent the spread of ticks.

DYK



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY THANK YOU.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with our 3rd year of ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY. This is a new way to get involved and volunteer to make our lake vicinity (even 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: Cynthia Aigner, Don Bauer, Dave Bauer, George Bogdanovic, Bob and Patty Feller, Sarah Happe, Steve Luptak, Laura Marusinec, Mike and Kim Poncek, Dave Schiotz, 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 6th grade can participate. We will be out for the Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up 2 times a year; in late April after the snow is gone; and 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.





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Thursday thru Sunday: Open 11:30^{AM}

Kitchen Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday: 4:30^{PM} - 8:45^{PM}
Thursday & Sunday: 11:30^{PM} - 8:45^{PM}
Friday & Saturday: 11:30^{PM} - 9:45^{PM}

Specials

Tuesday, Comfort Food
Wednesday, Chicken *All You Can Eat
Thursday, 2 for 1 Ribeyes
Friday, Fish Fry Cod or Walleye
Saturday, Chef's Choice

Sunday, 1/2 Rack of BBQ Ribs & 2pc. Broasted Chicken
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Check out flambeauforestinn.net for more fun events.

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*Thanks for a great 2018 Season!
We look forward to serving you next year.*



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