



LAKES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Manitowoc County Lakes Association

Summer, 1998

Your President Reports

~ by Chris Zigmunt

1998-99 Officers:

President

Brian Robley
758-3161

Vice-President

David Pozorski
758-2314

Secretary

Mark Kohlmann
682-6284

Treasurer

Todd Brotski
684-6091

Director

Doug Fogle
758-2857

Director

Don Glaeser
853-3437

Director

Al Meyer
773-2543

Director

Gene Weyer
758-2897

Past-President

Chris Zigmunt
683-3792

From the start of this organization on February 10, 1997, at the Newton Town Hall, the Manitowoc County Lakes Association has grown to represent: established lakes associations, sportmen's organizations, and individuals of Manitowoc County.

In its year and a half of existence, it has received three grants totaling approximately \$70,800; maintained aeration on Carstens and Weyers lakes, purchased an oxygen sensor for monitoring the lakes, developed work plans, participated in Earth Day, and created an atmosphere of unity among our lakes in Manitowoc County.

As the outgoing president, I would like to thank all that have given of their time to make this organization viable. I do believe in numbers there is strength, and that this organization is on the verge of doing some very favorable projects for Manitowoc County in its fight to maintain healthy lakes and better habitat and drinking water. ☼

The New President's Aim

~ by Brian Robley

As a group we can accomplish many good things. We have a common goal – TO CLEAN AND PROTECT OUR WATER WAYS.

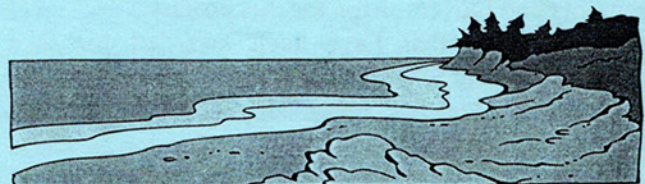
I believe an active group is a strong group. I look forward to working with you in the future. ☼



Get in Tune . . . To Your Lake!

A lake is much more than an individual body of water – it's a reflection of how we use the surrounding land. What you do to the landscape directly affects the water quality of lakes and can heighten such problems as unsightly algae blooms, nuisance weeds, siltation, reduction of wildlife habitat, and loss of natural shoreline.

In succeeding issues, we will spotlight some helpful tips on how to keep your lake clean and healthy. Whether you're a lake user or lakefront property owner, be aware of your actions and help keep Wisconsin's 15,000 blue jewels blue!



EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS ANNUAL MEETING

The 1st Annual Meeting of the Manitowoc County Lakes Association became history on June 18th, 1998. Following a welcome by President Chris Zigmunt, *The Living Shore*, a video describing management of shoreline vegetation, was shown. Education was the focus throughout the evening.

The *Value of Shorelines for Wildlife Habitat* presented by Jeff Pritzl, DNR Wildlife Biologist, stressed the importance of improving water quality to provide food, shelter, space and water needs for fish and wildlife. Even though different species have specific needs, the special food factories that are available where the water meets the land stimulate bio-diversity. Insects, songbirds, fish, amphibians and mammals all do well and create a balanced ecosystem. People need to help and create these environments.

The *New Boating and Jet Ski Rules to Help Protect Shoreline Habitat* which go into effect on 8/1/98 were explained by Lance Burns, DNR Conservation Warden. There are 21 new boating rules to improve safety due to increased lake traffic. "No wake within 200 feet of islands and shorelines" is one of the major rule changes. Enforcement will be stepped up as needed; but first, efforts to educate the public will be made.

Riparian owners were reminded that they hold title to the land bordering state waters. Permits are required for work occurring in the water, except for piers up to three feet wide and located in water less than three feet deep.

Updates from several of the individual Lake groups were given. That information can be found within the *Lake Reports* section.

Tom Ward, Soil and Water Conservation Director, commended landowners who have helped to improve the lakes. Proposals for wetland and buffer areas are continually being presented to landowners within the watersheds.

The Lakes Association has proposed the creation of vegetative buffer strips that will filter sediment and runoff before it reaches streams and lakes. The Manitowoc County Fish and Game Protective Association has appropriated \$2,500 to develop easements and buffers strips for this project.

Other grants that have been awarded for lake protection are: 1) \$800 for the oxygen sensor from the Manitowoc Co. Fish & Game Assn.; 2) a \$10,000 DNR grant for Weyers and Carstens lakes to develop an action plan to improve water quality; 3) and a \$50,000 DNR grant for lake classification study along with an additional \$15,000 match from the Manitowoc Co. Fish

& Game Association toward a base study for future environmental work. This study will look at: algae blooms; winter kills; what combinations create bad water situations; and to identify which lakes will get worse in the next ten years due to boating and fishing pressure, housing development, the effect of new ordinances and regulations, rezoning issues and more.

The Association is currently seeking sites to demonstrate proper maintenance on lake frontage. This could include selecting the best plants for shoreline and aquatic benefits. Grants may be available for the project.

It was also reported that Wisconsin will be adding 18 wardens to the DNR staff. Reedsville will have a station as of Fall, 1999. Boat patrol hours will be increased with 75 percent of the funding coming from boat registration fees.

Election of officers yielded these results:

President – Brian Robley

Vice-President – David Pozorski

Directors – Don Glaeser, Al Meyer, Gene Weyer

Lakes Association Announces Agenda for Upcoming Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Lakes Association will be meeting on **Wednesday, September 9th at 7:30 p.m. at the Manitowoc County Office Complex.** The tentative agenda is as follows:

- 1) Reorganize work committees.
- 2) Purchase minnow as forage base for Carstens
- 3) Reports:
 - Aerator repair
 - Draft Carstens Lake plan
- 4) Appreciation Awards
- 5) Demos on shoreland landscaping.

Members are welcome to attend the meeting. If there is an item or concern that you feel should be taken up by the Lakes Assn., please contact one of the officers and ask that it be added to the agenda.

LAKE REPORTS

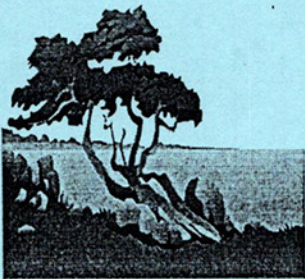
English Lake reports that a permanent Conservation Easement has been signed on an eight-acre site and the cows have already been removed from this area. They will be in receipt of a \$1,500 grant toward the creation of a detention basin project to handle the contaminants draining from this area. Work will begin as soon as all permits are received. Gary Van Vreede of the Fish and Wildlife Commission in Green Bay is working with them.

Secchi Disk readings are done every 7-14 days by a volunteer. Last year, the best clarity reading was a depth of 15 feet, with the worst reading at 4 feet. The average was 8-9 feet.

Dye tablets/solution will be purchased and distributed to property owners to test their septic systems to check for failing systems prior to having the state test them. This will allow landowners to budget for the replacement of a failing system.

Leonard Yindra's name has been submitted for appointment as the English Lake Constable.

Copies of "Life on the Edge", will be purchased for all present property owners and will be given as a "welcome to the lake" gift to new purchasers. This book is written for Wisconsin lake property owners and includes much pertinent information.

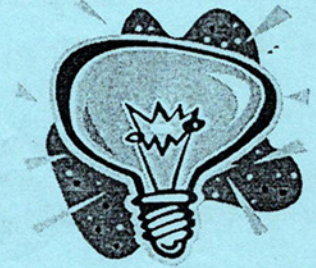


Carstens Lake experienced a partial winter kill of bass and pan fish. Fish shocking results showed a survival of northerns and mud minnows. A lake plan is being worked on and goals for the lake will be set in July.

Pigeon Lake has eliminated parking on the north side of the road by the boat landing.

Hartlaub Lake reports that the water quality is pretty good this year. The landowners in the watershed have helped to improve lakes. Proposals for wetlands and buffer areas are being presented to landowners in the watershed. ☉

IDEAS WANTED



How do you like the newsletter so far? The picture and name coincide with the stationery letterhead that the Lakes Association has been using. BUT, we'd like a unique name and a logo for the newsletter. Can you help us out?

How about something "catchy" with a picture of a fish on a line or a net indicating the networking of the lakes with a descriptive name? (Just thought we'd get you going!) Any ideas that will present the Lakes Association image in an interesting and symbolic way.

So, put on your thinking caps, grab a pen (or your computer) and start designing. The winner will receive a one-year membership in the organization. Any age can submit an idea!

Send your suggestion(s) to:

Manitowoc County Lakes Association
c/o Soil & Water Conservation Dept.
P.O. Box 578
Manitowoc WI 54221-0578



Entries
are due by
September 8th.

LAKE SURVEY RESULTS

Six lake groups responded to the Lakes Association survey that was mailed out early this summer. Following are the comments/results of the survey:

1. YOUR MOST SATISFYING ACTIVITY

Bullhead noted it was the planting of walleye and perch in the lake; whereas for **English**, of course, it was the removal of cattle from a nearby farm and initiating the construction of a water basin to collect farm runoff. **Hartlaub** is encouraging each other to improve the lake and had a clean-up day. The **Long Lake** Board Directors mount signs on their personal boats stating "Long Lake Safety Patrol." It appears to be working as more boaters are following the posted rules resulting in a safer lake. **Pigeon** is cleaning up the shoreline throughout the year as well as Pigeon Lake Road through the Adopt-a-Highway program. They also raised over \$1,000 through food sales for "Christmas at Sinawa". **West Twin** is testifying at a zoning hearing to oppose an asbestos warehouse along the shoreline. They've also contacted the Town Board and Coast Guard regarding irrational use of the river.

2. COMMENTS OR RESULTS

FROM YOUR ANNUAL MEETING

Bullhead says their good relationship with DNR is very constructive. **English** included their comments in the Lake Reports. **Hartlaub's** general concensus is that lake clarity is improving along with fishery. Discussion at **Long Lake's** Annual Meeting dealt with the Eur-Asian water mil-foil, personal watercraft and poor fishing. They indicated frustration in dealing with authorities regarding fish population and other problems. **Pigeon** decided to donate \$500 to the St. Nazianz Fire Dept. for a "thermal imaging camera." **West Twin** has not yet had a formal annual meeting.

3. AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT

Bullhead would like to prevent farmland runoff from coming into the lake. **English** wants to improve water quality by educating people about good management practices on the lake. **Hartlaub** feels they need quicker action to finalize long-term actions such as filtering ponds. **Long Lake** needs to improve their fish and weed situation, but feel the new boating laws will control the personal watercraft problems. **Pigeon** needs increased

boat patrol from Sheriff's Dept. Jet skis are a major problem. **West Twin** would like to reach out for new members and try to interest "old" members in being more actively involved.

4. THE REPORT CARD

Scoring A = 4 Working Well B = 3 Improving C = 2 Losing Ground D = 1 Not Working	Bullhead	English	Hartlaub	Long	Pigeon	Average Grade / Comment
GRADES						
Improved Exotic Weed Control	-	B	B	C	A	3.0 Improving
Improved Nutrient Controls	B	-	B	B	-	3.0 Improving
Shoreline Buffering	B	C	B	-	-	2.7 Improving
Septic System Maintenance	A	B	-	-	-	Improving
Public Access Maintenance	A	A	C	A	A	3.6 Working Well
Algae or Water Clarity	A	D	B	B	A	3.0 Improving
Lake User Conflicts	B	C	-	C	D	2.0 Losing Ground
Lake Fisheries	B	C	A	-	A	3.2 Improving

5. QUESTIONS RAISED

English is wondering how they can control the loss of fish beds and shoreline when their own property owners use jet skis to blow out the algae along their shorelines? **Long Lake** is wondering how others have the "No Wake" hours posted and is it working? **Pigeon** is wondering if increased boat patrol could possibly be a service of the Lakes Association? **West Twin** had questions as to how to handle reckless water traffic; the use of variances on wetland protection; and where storm sewers of industrial parks are emptying?

Please drop us a line if your lake group has encountered these same problems and found a solution. This newsletter is your avenue to sharing what you've done, asking for advice, and perhaps 'bragging' a little along the way! ☼

"Watershed Property: Ownership and Stewardship Responsibilities" is Topic of Upcoming ETN

When you buy waterfront property, you assume part of the responsibility of caring for a public resource. This ownership responsibility, or stewardship, requires an understanding that what we do on the land as well as in the water affects our lakes and rivers and our enjoyment of them.

Guests for this ETN are Robert Korth and Tamara Dudiak, Lake Specialists UWSP/UWEX. During this session, discussion will include the following topics:

- ▶ Lake and river types and how the different types may affect you;
- ▶ Landscaping techniques that preserve the natural character of your property;
- ▶ Methods to limit shoreline erosion;
- ▶ Living with wildlife;
- ▶ Things you can do at home to protect the environment;
- ▶ Zoning of shoreland and wetlands;
- ▶ The role of aquatic plants in preserving a healthy environment.

Plan to attend this informative ETN on **Friday, September 25th**, from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m. at the **Manitowoc County Office Complex**, 4319 Expo Drive, Room 110. There is no cost for the ETN, but due to limited seating, a reservation is appreciated. To reserve yourself a spot, call Laurie, UWEX, 683-4170. ☼



Following are descriptions of the current committees of the Lakes Association. Please read them over and mark it on your membership enrollment as to where you'd like to get involved. **Together we can accomplish much!**

Membership Committee: Attract and encourage a diversity of involvement and membership to the Association i.e. farmers, riparian owners, business, and businesses associated with water recreation through the means of flyers, logos, newsletters, recruiting, etc. **Needs:** Chairperson.

Land Use Committee: Work with lake groups and individuals to clean up/reduce runoff. They are presently completing a work plan for Carstens and Weyers lakes which includes developing goals and a land use inventory map, doing water sampling, and reviewing lake management options. **Needs:** Members to implement Carstens Lake plan; a representative of each lake on the Town Land Use Committee.

Fishing and Water Quality Committee: Look at the possible effects of boating, jet skis and other things affecting fish spawning success, and are presently reviewing options of local ordinances to protect sensitive areas. **Needs:** Chairman; members with boat traffic problems.

Ad Hoc on Lake Aeration for Carstens and Weyers Lakes: Will monitor oxygen levels, turn on and maintain aerators, monitor barriers during aeration and advise Board. **Needs:** Members to do oxygen testing on all area lakes using the Association's oxygen meter. ☼

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