



LAKES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Manitowoc County Lakes Association

Summer, 1999

Your President Reports

~ by Brian Robley

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At the Annual Meeting held recently, we had the honor of presenting **Eugene Schwantz** and his family an Appreciation Award for Outstanding Conservation Practices on English Lake. **Hans Pearson** gave a presentation on exotic species. Also, **Mike Green** from DNR spoke on the new boating laws. **Dan Niquette** gave an update on the Lake Classification Project. (*More about their presentations can be found in the Annual Meeting article.*)

For our next Lakes Association meeting, let's think about some projects that we as an organization, can develop together. If any members have ideas for a fundraiser, I would like to hear them!



Governor Thompson Lends Support to Wisconsin's Lakes: June 27th - July 4th Proclaimed as Lakes Awareness/Appreciation Week

Summer is an ideal opportunity to share your lake stories and educate others about the importance of lakes! Let everyone know that Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes are critically important and should be preserved for future generations to enjoy; and the best place to begin is right here in Manitowoc County.

We take pride in our lake resources and should recognize and educate others about the unique qualities of these rich water resources. Share with others your knowledge and enthusiasm for lakes and how important these resources are for their economic, natural, cultural, and aesthetic value.

Here are just a few ideas for what you can do to learn more about lakes and how to protect them:

- ☛ Organize a lakeshore clean-up.
- ☛ Plan a picnic, water festival, or other event to promote lake awareness.
- ☛ Photograph community participation in lake activities and send the photo and related caption to the local paper.
- ☛ Contact DNR (608/266-8117) to volunteer for the Lake Monitoring Program.
- ☛ Recognize areas of excessive aquatic plant growth, investigate potential reasons for this plant growth, and develop a whole-lake solution to the problem.
- ☛ Relax and enjoy your lake! ☺

Special Guests Highlight Lakes Association 2nd Annual Meeting

The 2nd Annual Meeting of the Manitowoc County Lakes Association on June 10th opened with President Brian Robley introducing **Carol Entringer** of **English Lake** to present their Water Quality Award to honor **Eugene Schwantz and Family**.

Water Quality Award

Eugene Schwantz and his family labored for nearly 50 years to stop the pollution of English Lake, including trucking manure nearly a half mile away, building wood filter walls and spending \$35,000 of their own money to stop the "phosphorus

load" from entering English Lake.

It wasn't until Northern Ecological Services (NES) of Green Bay was hired that the pollution solution called for the end of cattle and farming on eight acres near the lake on Schwantz's farm, and the construction of a water detainment basin. The basin now settles out the sediment to be utilized by wetland plants.

Late last year, Schwantz entered into an easement stipulating that no farming or cattle will be allowed on the eight acres due to its harmful effects on the environment. A consent agreement with a DNR nonpoint source water pollution abatement program funded a conservation easement. Working with a DNR Lake Protection Grant, Patrick Robinson, a wetland ecologist with NES, had a 1.5 acre detention basin and drainage system constructed.

Costs were kept low through help from many groups. The Natural Resource Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Dept., and Wisconsin DNR all played a role in the abatement program. The Wisconsin Conservation Corps planted some of the 1,400 aquatic plants to help slow down the water as it runs to the lake and use the nutrients as food. The basin is long enough that when rain and barnyard wastes run into the pond, the water is cleaner by the time the storm causes the pond to overflow.

The DNR expects English Lake to start showing signs of rejuvenation by the end of next year, but anecdotal reports are coming in that the lake is already cleaner! (Excerpt from the article by Eric Bradley as published by the Herald-Times Reporter on ____.)

Exotic Species

Unwelcome Guests: Exotic Species in the Great Lakes, was the educational slide presentation by **Hans Pearson**, Biology Professor at Silver Lake College. Following is a summary of his talk:

"The Laurentian Great Lakes have been subject to invasion by exotic species since the arrival of Europeans. Since the 1800's, well over one hundred non-indigenous aquatic organisms have become established. Many of these such as the sea lamprey and zebra mussel, have already had a significant economic and ecological impact on the world's largest freshwater resource. A secondary phase of invasion is currently being experienced with the colonization of our inland waterways in the Great Lakes Basin.

One of the most pervasive and ecologically damaging of human activities is the widespread movement of species beyond their natural range. Such human-mediated bioinvasions, which Chris Bright of the Worldwatch Institute has called '...evolution in reverse...', are becoming increasingly common and global in scope.

Public awareness of the scope and nature of the problem (which must happen first) is increasing. The take-home message is this— we can spend all the money we want waging war against exotic species and we will NOT win; Mother Nature is way ahead of us. Instead, we must understand the culture of bioinvasions and how human activity is at the very roots of the problem. Then, and only then, can we pursue real solutions."

DNR Update

Manitowoc County's new DNR Warden, **Mike Green**, spent a bit of time updating us on the new boating regulations. He distributed an informative packet of materials which included the insert page in the newsletter this month, "*Protection of Navigable Waters in Wisconsin*" and "*Water and Shoreline Activities Regulated by Wisconsin's DNR*".

Mike stated that a number of lakes in the County are presently being stocked with 3-4 inch walleyes. There is also a Creel Census being done on Bullhead and Long lakes. The findings of this census could possibly determine if bag limits should be lowered for pan fish.

Lakes Classification Project

Dan Niquette of Aquatic Solutions revealed his findings on the Lakes Classification Project through various handouts and a slide presentation. Lakes were classified into groups by level of development and potential for future development. The need for protection versus restoration was discussed for lake groups.

Annual Meeting Highlights (continued)

The issue of town ordinances was also covered. There is a possibility of changing town ordinances as far as No-Wake zones, speed restriction, hours of use for boating, along with water-skiing restrictions and swimming times. Enforcement might be provided by County Patrol or the Town Constable.

Shoreline Protection Advisory Committee

A 24-member Citizen Planning Committee has been formed in Manitowoc County to develop recommendations on changing the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance to better protect our area lakes and streams. A classification system has been developed to examine the need for protecting our lakes from future development and loss of habitat and natural beauty. The focus has been on protecting the undeveloped portions of lake shoreline and restoring habitat on developed areas. The committee has met three times and will be releasing its' recommendations for public comment sometime this fall.

Fishing/ Water Quality Committee

Al Meyer and Don Glaeser reported for the Fishing/Water Quality Committee. In response to a Board of Directors' decision, Lake Associations were provided with three survey questions:

- 1) Are you satisfied with the existing laws governing boating and jet skiing activity?
- 2) Do you feel that further legislation is required?
- 3) If so, what would you like to see?

It was asked that safety, noise and environmental issues be considered. **Bill Pautz** and the **Pigeon Lake Group** were thanked for a very comprehensive report. Long Lake's preliminary report favored restricting jet ski activity to 50 acres of "continuous, usable water". English and Wilke lakes have yet to meet this month and Cedar Lake will be scheduling a meeting. Results will be discussed by the Board of Directors as they become available.

A more comprehensive survey, based largely on input provided by Carol Entringer, will be reviewed by Dan Niquette. It was felt that by modifying and adding further questions, the survey would provide valuable information to his Lake Classification Committee as well.



By-Law Changes

The proposed by-law changes on dues and multiple voting were both passed at the meeting. They are again, as follows:

Article II - Membership,
Section 2 - Dues: **Dues shall be:**

\$25 for an Organization; \$15 for adults 16 years and older; and \$5 for an individual already enrolled in a member Organization; to be paid annually on a calendar year basis.

Article III - Voting, Section 1, Multiple Voting: **Any individual member may cast only one vote on any question called to a vote. Only one individual may represent an organization; and each individual paid unit may cast one vote on any question called to a vote.**

Election Results

A unanimous ballot was cast following a single nomination for each of the offices up for election. Elected to positions for the County Lakes Association this year are: **Todd Brotski**, Treasurer; **Marilyn Burns**, Secretary; **Doug Fogle**, Director. We wish these dedicated individuals a fulfilling year with the Association.

New Business

Chris Zigmunt's motion for the Lakes Association to join the Manitowoc County Hall of Fame carried. **Winnie Spring** of the Citizens to Protect the West Twin River, suggested that a letter be written to the Manitowoc County Board of Adjustment to express the importance of their work and to use the rules written as their guidelines. The motion passed and a letter will be drafted for the Board's approval.

The individual lake group reports as presented at the meeting or submitted in the weeks following are covered in the **Lake Reports**. ☉

Mark Your Calendar
LAKE ASSOCIATION MTG.
Wednesday, August 18th
5:00 p.m.

LAKE REPORTS

The ponds on the east side of *English Lake* seem to be doing what was expected—contain the water so that sediments can settle and the runoff is filtered before entering the lake. The lake is very clear and as of now, algae is only located near other water entrances to the lake. A grant for lake monitoring will be applied for so that further testing will help determine the results of the pond and determine the need for other lake management strategies.

Over the years, natural changes in lakes and streams continue to fascinate. Because of the low water level on the *West Twin River*, we have observed a more natural setting. We see fewer jet skis, more leisurely boat traffic, canoes and paddle boats have returned, as well as more men and youngsters fishing. The lush growth of the

marshes is beautiful and even reflections of the various daylights seem more placid.



Pigeon Lake has worked with the DNR for the past two years to control purple loosestrife. The growth is concentrated on Little Pigeon with a small amount in and around Pigeon Lake. Working with a permit from the DNR, the association purchased the recommended herbicide to spray on the plants; others have been pulled and cut. Because one area of infestation is impossible to reach, the association purchased insects for biological control. The beetles are being propagated and will be released sometime in July or August. The other methods of control will continue as well.

By necessity, the herbicide was purchased in a large quantity. If any other lake is being plagued with purple loosestrife and is interested in purchasing some, contact Pigeon lake Association President Bill Pautz (920) 773-2464.

Some lake residents have become concerned with the excessive algae growth on Pigeon Lake. Any other lakes having this problem?

Hartlaub Lake reports improved water quality compared to two years ago. There are more bull rushes and lily pads and less algae. Water clarity is currently at six feet. The County Ordinance on manure spreading is

being followed by area farmers and we expect continued water improvement.

A real bright spot is the fishing activity. The DNR (*thank you, Steve Hogler*) has planted lots of bass and pike. Most are close to legal size. We have noted almost all fishermen practicing catch-and-release. A concern is the huge population of foot-long carp that we expect to start spawning in the next couple of years.

Again, Hartlaub Lake is much improved compared to a couple of years ago. We have the Soil & Water Conservation Dept., Dept. of Natural Resources Fisheries, and also the local farmers to thank for the turn around.

An aerator was installed on *Carstens Lake* in 1989, thanks to the generosity of the Manitowoc Fish & Game Association. The lake had a major fish die-off in the winter of 1998, but they seem to be making a slow recovery. As of this writing, Carstens Lake is in full algae bloom and the clarity of the water is very poor.

Wilke Lake reports that the fishing has not been too good. They've been using their weed harvester at least 40 hours per week since late May, so the lake is pretty weed-free. The Wilke Lake District met in both May and June, and their Annual Meeting is scheduled for Labor Day weekend.

Spring fishing at *Bullhead Lake* has been very good! This morning, July 7th, there were eleven boats on the lake at 9:00 a.m. catching alot of nice-sized bluegills. The bass fishing is fair to good; you'll probably catch a half dozen 10 to 13½-inchers before you get a legal one. All in all, it's a great place to fish especially if you have a youngster with you. They like the action!

The water this spring has been very clean; but when you have clean water you have sun penetration, and therefore the weeds grow. I would like to thank the fishermen for their observance of the slow/no-wake ruling. This makes a beautiful place to fish even better!

We welcome *Long Lake* landowners to our mailing list this month. If you'd like your lake membership to receive this County Lakes Newsletter, just send a copy of the member list to us.



Congratulations to the *Cedar Lake Association* as they plan their 50-Year Anniversary Celebration this summer.



The Manitowoc County Lakes Association



PLEASE don't throw this paper away, this might be of some interest to you. If you are a boater, fisherman, swimmer, conservationist, or just love to look upon our Manitowoc County lakes, we are in need of your help and interest.

The purpose of our organization is to maintain, protect, and enhance the quality of the lakes, streams, and surrounding watershed in conjunction with the surrounding counties for the collective interest of the members and the public.

Membership is open to any individual, family, business, or organization that subscribes to the purpose of the association and own or leases property in the area of a lake or is a user of a lake.

Membership enrollment

Adults 16 years and older...\$15.00

Organization/lake groups...\$25.00

Members already enrolled in a group.... \$5.00

Mail to:

*Todd Brotski, P.O. Box 267, Francis Creek WI 54214
(Make checks payable to: Manitowoc County Lakes Assoc.)*

Name _____

Address _____

Committee Choice: Your participation means improved lakes in Manitowoc County
☐ Membership ☐ Land Use ☐ Fishing/Water Quality ☐ Aeration for Carstens/Weyers Lakes



PROTECTION OF NAVIGABLE WATERS IN WISCONSIN



If you have property on a Wisconsin lake or stream, or are concerned about public access, you will be very much interested in the following summary.

DO YOU KNOW:

Permits or Approvals	Many activities affecting navigable waters require permits or approvals from Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Some of the physical alterations to navigable waters which require permits are listed on the back of this sheet. The appropriate DNR office should be contacted for further information and assistance in initiating permit applications for certain activities. The attached map shows district boundaries and the location and address of district offices.
Historical Perspective	The water laws of Wisconsin are based on the State Constitution. The Constitution established the "public trust doctrine," which maintains that all navigable waters are held in trust by the state for the public.
Natural Lakes	The beds of <u>natural lakes</u> are owned by the state and held in trust for the public. Owners of adjoining upland have title to the land above the ordinary high watermark and a qualified right in the exposed lakebed in front of their property.
Rivers and Streams	On <u>rivers</u> and <u>streams</u> , the owner of the adjoining upland owns the streambed to the center thereof, but his rights to use the stream are subject to regulation.
Navigability	Any lake or stream or other body of water which is navigable in fact is open to any member of the public for purposes of navigation, including <u>boating</u> , <u>swimming</u> , <u>hunting</u> , <u>fishing</u> , or other recreational purposes. In exercising such rights, the public may not trespass upon private property. Waters are <u>navigable</u> in fact under the law if, for example, the smallest recreational craft can be floated on a regularly recurring basis from year to year.
Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)	Is the point on the bank or shore where the water is present often enough so that the lake or streambed begins to look different from the upland. Specifically, the OHWM is the point on the bank or shore up to which the water, by its presence, wave action or flow, leaves a distinct mark on the shore or bank. The mark may be indicated by erosion, destruction of or change in vegetation or other easily recognizable characteristics.
Other Sources of Permits	Some activities require permits from other sources such as county zoning administrators, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and local municipalities.
Shoreland and Flood Plain Zoning Ordinances	Section 59.971, Wisconsin Statutes, requires counties to adopt and administer regulations to control development along the shorelands of lakes and streams and within flood plains. <u>Shoreland control</u> is confined to lands within 1,000 feet of a navigable lake, pond or flowage, or within 300 feet of a river or navigable stream or to the landward side of the flood plain. Section 87.30, Wisconsin Statutes, also requires counties to adopt and administer regulations to control development in flood plains. Shoreland and flood plain zoning ordinances adopted by some counties govern: Permitted use of shorelands, flood plains, and wetlands; lot size; setbacks of buildings from navigable waters; tree and shrub cutting along shorelands; and location and size of waste disposal systems. County zoning administrators should be contacted in the county in which the contemplated work will be completed.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has regulatory authority to control encroachments in navigable waters of the U.S. and the discharge of dredged and fill material in coastal and inland waters and wetlands. District offices of the Corps and the DNR should be contacted for a more detailed summary of the Corps regulatory authority.

WATER AND SHORELINE ACTIVITIES REGULATED BY WISCONSIN'S DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

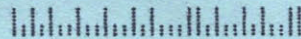
ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	STATUTORY AUTHORITY	PERMIT REQUIRED	PERMIT EXEMPTIONS & MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS
Dredging	Removal of any material from the beds of any navigable or non-navigable waterway.	30.20	Yes	Contract required for removal of material from the beds of lakes.
Ponds, Enlargements	To construct, dredge or do any work on any artificial waterway, canal, lagoon, pond, or similar waterway where the purpose is ultimate connection with an existing navigable water, or where any part of such artificial waterway is located within 500 feet of the ordinary high watermark of an existing navigable water.	30.19	Yes	This section does not apply to the construction and repair of public highways or to any agricultural uses of land, nor to any navigable body of water located wholly or partially in any county having a population of 50,000 or more.
Grading	Grading, filling, landscaping or otherwise removing topsoil from the bank of any navigable water where the area exposed exceeds 10,000 square feet.	30.19	Yes	The bank is defined as "any continuous uninterrupted slope that leads to the water's edge".
Channel Changes	To change or straighten the course of a navigable stream.	30.195	Yes	Does not apply to municipal or county-owned lands in counties having a population of 500,000 or more.
Bulkhead Lines	A legally established artificial shoreline intended to regularize the shoreline.	30.11	**	**Established by municipal ordinance, approved by DNR.
Sand Blankets	A thin layer of sand placed on the bed of lakes for improving the condition of the beach.	30.12(3)(a)1	Yes	When possible, it is suggested that small gravel be used in order to make good spawning areas for fish.
Structures	Placement of any structure upon the bed of any navigable water.	30.12	Yes	"Structure" means any artificial creation which has utility and form.
Riprap	A layer of loose rock or other material placed to prevent erosion.	30.12(3)(a)3	Yes	
Pipelines	The placement of a pipeline on or in the bed of a navigable waterbody.	30.12 30.20	Yes	Pipeline crossings on bed - 30.12 permit. Pipeline crossings on bed - 30.20 permit.
Diversions	The temporary diversion of surplus water of any stream for the purpose of maintaining water levels or for irrigation.	30.18	Yes	Water other than surplus water may be diverted only with the consent of existing users.
Level and Flow	DNR may regulate and control the level and flow of water in navigable waters.	31.02	Yes	DNR may investigate any waterway or dam; may order dam to be equipped with special devices.
Dams	Permits required to construct, operate and maintain public and private dams in navigable waters.	31.05 31.06	Yes	Approvals required under Section 31.33 for dams on non-navigable waters.
Dam Abandonments & Dam Transfers	To abandon, alter, remove or transfer ownership of a dam.	31.185	Yes	
Piers	Generally, no permits required for construction of piers or wharves in navigable waters to aid navigation if it meets certain design standards.	30.13	No	30.12 permit required for construction of a solid pier or a pier which extends beyond a pierhead line or for piers in a marina.
Bridges	Private bridges over navigable waters.	30.123	Yes	



Manitowoc County
Soil & Water Conservation Department
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Manitowoc County Lakes Association Newsletter



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