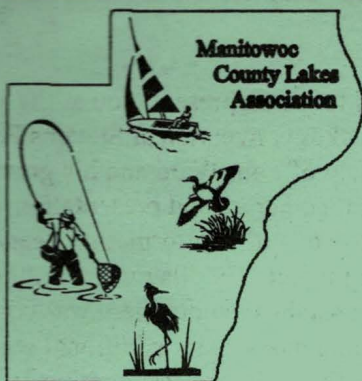




LAKES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Manitowoc County Lakes Association

Spring, 2001

Agenda Set for Lakes Spring Membership Meeting

**TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2001
ROOM 300
MANITOWOC COUNTY OFFICE COMPLEX
4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc**

2000-2001 Officers:

President
Dave Pozorski
758-2314

Vice-President
Chris Zigmunt
683-3792

Secretary
Marilyn Burns
758-2762

Treasurer
Todd Brotski
684-6091

Director
Al Meyer
773-2543

Director
Gene Weyer
758-2897

Director
Jerry Dick
758-3555

Director
Kenneth Schuler
920-894-2632

Past-President
Byron Robley
758-3161

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a short social where snacks and refreshments will be available. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. with the following program agenda:

- ▶ 7:00 - Fish Contamination
- ▶ 8:00 - Awards and Presentations
Congratulations Hall of Fame
Inductee - Chris Zigmunt
- ▶ Call to Order - Dave Pozorski
- ▶ 8:10 - Business Report
 - * Secretary's Report
 - * Treasurer's Report
- ▶ New Business
 - * Land Survey on Carstens Lake
 - * Requesting each Lake and Association to appoint a representative and alternate to the Board
 - * Hall of Fame Membership
 - * Requests for demonstration sites
 - * Any other business
- ▶ Old Business:
 - * Area Lakes Association Reports
- ▶ Adjournment



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

This year's convention at Stevens Point was named, "The Water Way: Wisconsin Lakes-the Next Ten Years". This is a strategy, developed by the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, the University of Wisconsin-Extension, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, that will guide cooperative efforts and set priorities for working together for the lakes and the people of Wisconsin.

Governor Scott McCallum welcomed attendees on Friday and Senators Jim Baumgart, Brian Burke, Bob Cowles and Representative Scott Gunderson answered questions from the audience on pressing lake issues. DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell discussed the Ten-Year Strategic Plan for the Wisconsin Lake Partnership and Supreme Court Justice David Prosser addressed the topic of "Lake Issues in the Supreme Court".

The convention dealt with topics that included: Smart Growth; Land Use Planning; Influencing Zoning and Land Use Decisions Through Involvement; and Permitting Processes for Local Water Classification Projects.

Throughout the convention the emphasis was placed on personal involvement and building a positive relationship with your local officials. Finding out how the local systems work is basic to being able to have input and influence the decision makers. Issues addressed include: Who makes the decisions? What are the rules of the game? How does the decision or plan affect your lake?

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The W.A.L. Annual Meeting on Saturday Included a Vote Taken on the Following Four Issues.

- * Wetlands issue, Senate Bill 37 -----193 - 1
- * Fair Re-allocation of Motor Boat Tax ----- 194 - 0
- * Uniform 200 ft Slow No-Wake ----- 124- 64
- * Definition of 50 Acre Slow No-Wake Lakes- 135 - 57
(50 usable acres within 200 ft of shoreline)

REFLECTIONS

by Al Meyer

Chairman of the Fish and Water Quality Committee

Several years ago I was appointed Chairman of the Fish and Water Quality Committee. Our first undertaking was a very ambitious one, and to say it was a learning experience would be a gross understatement. The assigned task was to investigate the extent and effects of jet skiing activity on Manitowoc County lakes. Every step of this project has been well documented and publicized, so there is not time to go over old ground. With the help of some key players such as Carol Entringer and Don Glaeser, and the support of the County Lakes Board of Directors and the Soil and Water group, we muddled our way through the primary phases.

We put together a lake survey, which was well received, and which became the basis for all further actions. I believe we found from the outset that while there were problems, especially from a safety standpoint, there were also some preconceived opinions on the part to the committee, which needed to be sorted out and resolved before we could hope to act in a manner which truly reflected the needs and wishes of those people we were mandated to represent. This included property owners, casual lake users, as well as the jet ski community itself. [Once aware of the problems, they need to be responsive, to the extent of governing their activity, similar to what snowmobilers have done to a large extent]

We were invited to give a presentation at the Wisconsin Association of Lakes convention at Stevens Point and again with the help of Tom Ward and his group, we were able to put together a good presentation, explaining the process we use to gather information needed to give substance to our project. By this time, the 200 ft. zone had already been established but there was considerable pressure from some quarters for additional legislation to further restrict both jet ski and fast boating activity. I can honestly say that I always felt those views to be premature, based on the information we had at that time. I applaud the County Lakes Board of Directors for sharing this view at that time, which allowed us to go to the convention with the information we had, but without any specific recommendations, based on the lack of a clear mandate in the survey results, other than safety concerns.

The further we got into the project and the continuing increase in involvement, and not legislation, was the real key in addressing those issues of concern, namely environmental, noise and water safety issues. It was with this thought in mind that I supported more representation from lake groups on our board of directors. I believe we are already seeing some of the good effects of this move.

As we heard reports from the DNR Warden, County Traffic and Lake Association people this Fall, indicating what a safe and relatively uneventful year we had on county waters, I like to believe that part of this is due to the awareness we helped create. Obviously awareness is only the first step in eliminating, or at least controlling a problem to some extent. Improvement can only be accomplished through the actions that awareness generates. In this regard, we need to recognize the efforts of Lake Association people, County Traffic, DNR personnel, the jet ski community and the general public as well.

As with any new activity there needs to be a learning and educational process. It must be determined what effect such activity has on non-participants and resultant problems resolved in an equitable manner. I believe we are well on our way in that direction. I take this opportunity to thank all those who have given of their time and efforts in helping to make this meaningful process.

ARE MANITOWOC COUNTY'S FISH SAFE TO EAT?

By Tom Ward, Director

Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department

Recently DNR issued mercury consumption advisories for fish.

People who frequently eat fish that are high in mercury can accumulate levels that may be harmful to their health. Fish is the main source of mercury in the human diet. At low doses, it can harm the developing nervous system in fetus cardiovascular and immune systems. In adults, at high levels, mercury can trigger such health problems as memory loss, slurred speech, hearing loss, lack of coordination, loss of sensation in fingers and toes, reproductive problems, coma, and possibly death.

The following waters in Manitowoc County have mercury advisories for fish consumption: Bullhead Lake, Pigeon Lake, the Manitowoc River, East and West Twin Rivers, and the Branch Rivers. The specific consumption advisories for fish species and size can be found by logging on the DNR's Web site www.dnr.state.wi.us.

The Manitowoc County Lakes Association is sponsoring a program on fish health advisory, Tuesday, May 1, starting at 7:00 P.M. at the Manitowoc County Office Complex, 4319 Expo Drive in Manitowoc. Jim Amrhein, Toxicologist with DNR, will discuss contamination levels of fish in area lakes and streams, and answer questions regarding how fish are sampled. Jim Blaha, Manitowoc County Health Officer will discuss the potential health effects from various contaminants and the area fish advisories.

Mercury contamination is not to be confused with PCBs, which is stored in the fat. Trimming away the fatty areas and properly cooking your fish can reduce PCBs. Mercury is stored in muscle tissue or the meat of the fish. Careful filleting and cooking heat does not reduce mercury levels. You can reduce mercury in your body by spacing the meals of fish you eat over time.

PCBs like mercury can pose a health threat to developing fetus and young children. It has also can be linked to immune dysfunction and cancer in adults.

Because PCBs build up in your body over time, it is important to reduce your lifetime exposure to PCBs. The rivers in Manitowoc County have PCB contamination and advisories.

Are fish I buy in a store contaminated too? Most have low levels of contamination, however the Food and Drug Association has recommended that pregnant women do not eat swordfish, shark, king mackerel, and tilefish, and limit consumption to no more than 12 ounces of tuna per week. If you regularly eat fish caught from local waters, in addition to fish you buy at the store, than you should follow the fish consumption advice for safely eating fish.

The advisories do not mean you should stop eating fish. You should eat the recommended amounts of fish. Smaller fish such as perch and bluegills have less mercury contamination than larger predator fish such as walleye, pike or bass. Maybe catch and release may also be good for our health.

Are mercury levels getting worse in area fish? Can I swim in waters with advisories? What is going to happen to my children or me if I have eaten contaminated fish? Answers to these and other questions will hopefully be addressed at the Lake Association's program on May 1.

Wisconsin Public Television will be showing the DNR production:



"FOREST STORY: Restoring Wisconsin's Treasure"

DATE: Thursday, May 24, 2001

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

**This will air in the Madison, Green Bay,
Appleton, Wausau, Rhinelander and
LaCrosse markets.**

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MANITOWOC COUNTY LAKES ASSOCIATION

The organization was formed in 1997 in response to a need to turn aerators on two county lakes. DNR and the County Fish & Game Protective Association had refused to assume legal responsibility for operating the aerators on two lakes that did not have Lake Associations. The oxygen levels in the lakes were fast reaching critical levels and the two parties that had operated the aerators in the past would not accept the liabilities.

Individual leaders from the sportsman organizations and concerned lake owners quickly formed and incorporated a county-wide association under the Wisconsin Inland Lake requirements. Liability insurance was purchased by the newly formed Association and the aerators turned on within days of averting a major winter fish kill on the two lakes.

The following items have since been accomplished by the Association:

- *Obtained 501 C status to umbrella all lakes in the county that were unable to form a lake association.
- *Sponsored Carstens and Weyers lake to conduct a Lake Management Plan.
- *For the first time interfaced riparian landowners and lake users or interested citizens in lake management decisions.
- *Interfaced with the County Fish & Game Protective Association that represents over 30 sportsman clubs.
- *Immediately conducted surveys to identify County lake needs as perceived by the public.
- *From those survey issues, developed a proposal that looked at the boating shoreline set backs and the resulting usable boating areas of lakes larger than 50 acres, to illustrate boat safety concerns created by irregular shaped lakes.
- *As a result of the Set back analysis on the lakes larger than 50 acres, proposed a definition that a lake should have 50 usable acres before motorized boating is allowed.

*Proposed the definition of usable acres to the State Lakes Association and survived all the county Lake association residents. *Surveyed*

*To address the safety issue locally, sponsored the County Sheriff and DNR wardens to speak before the membership regarding the effort to control boat traffic and safety.

*Inventoried county Lake ordinances to encourage continuity and uniformity in county lakes law enforcement.

*Encouraged and participated in the County Lakes Classification project.

*Sponsored a Waters Edge Workshop to encourage shoreland restoration.

*Prints and distributes over 3000 newsletters to all county riparian lake property owners, and County Lake Association members to encourage networking between existing lake Associations.

*Sponsored a speaker on threats of exotic species introduction to area lakes.

*Sponsored presentation by Bay Lakes Regional Planning on environmental corridor mapping to encourage protection of sensitive areas of wetlands on county lake and river watersheds.

*Encouraged Lake owner participation in Town Landuse Planning to protect area lakes.

*Purchased oxygen meter to monitor county lakes.

*Sponsor annual awards and recognition of County Lake leaders and watershed landowners that are helping to protect water quality.

*Representing county lakes on the DNR Basin Planning Teams.

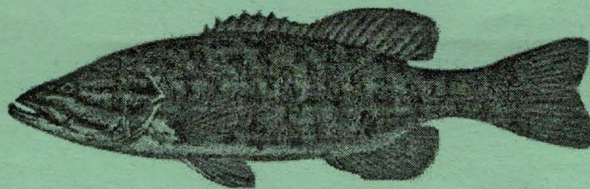
*Currently organizing a program on toxic contaminates to area waters.

MERCURY = PCB = DDT

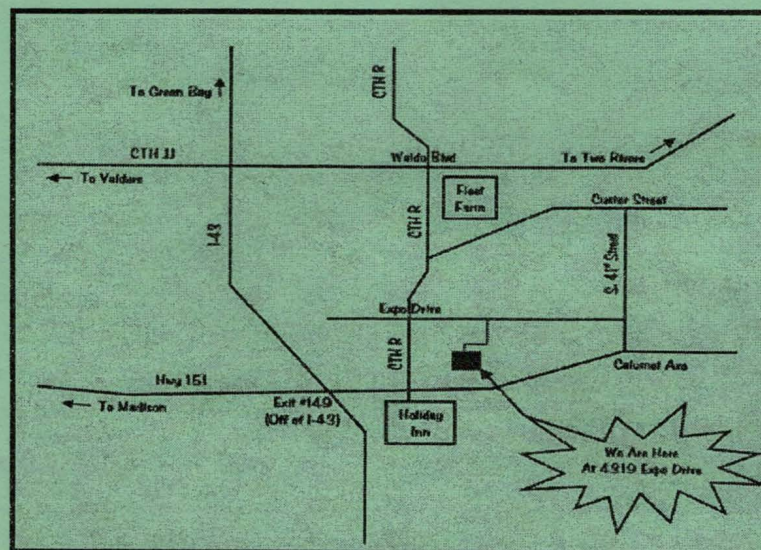
- Can you eat what you catch?
- Are contaminants in fish decreasing or getting worse?
- What are the health effects of contaminants?

The Manitowoc County Lakes Association
is sponsoring a seminar on Tuesday, May 1,
starting at 7:00 p.m. in the
County Office Complex
4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc

- **Jim Amrhein**, Toxicologist with DNR, Madison, will discuss contamination levels of fish in area lakes and streams, and answer questions regarding how fish are sampled.



- **Jim Blaha** from the Manitowoc County Health Department will discuss the potential health effects of various contaminants and the area fish advisories.





Manitowoc County
Soil & Water Conservation Department
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Manitowoc WI 54221-0578

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Manitowoc County Lakes Association Newsletter



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