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ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES UNIT
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MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706



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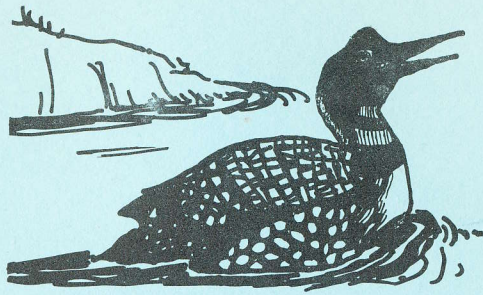
*A Newsletter for People
Interested in Wisconsin's
Inland Lakes*



*Lake
Tides*

**JUNE 1978
Vol. 3 No.4**

*Published Occasionally as a Public Service by the Environmental Resources Unit of the University of Wisconsin—
Extension, 1815 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.*



IN THE WAKE OF A LOON

Our article on the loon by Tom Sinclair (Lake Tides Vol. 3, No. 3) seems to have struck a responsive note. Several readers contacted us about the story, and the correspondence all indicates a strong sense of environmental aesthetics. By way of an editorial, we are reproducing two of those letters below.

Your comments or questions on "Lake Tides" or any lake related issues are always welcome and may be addressed to us at the University of Wisconsin-Extension, Environmental Resources Unit, 1815 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Gibson

George Gibson

Lowell Klessig

Lowell Klessig
Lake Management Specialists

Mrs. C. F. Gastineau of Pickerel Lake in Bayfield County, Wisconsin wrote to support the articles' contention that . . . "Loons aren't compatible with man's recreational use of lakes because of an instinctive reaction to disturbances near their nesting sites" . . . The letter, in part, reads as follows:

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"The enclosed copy of a news piece in our local paper brought to mind an article on loons in a recent issue of 'Lake Tides.' The wetbike would be sure death."

"Our place is on Pickerel Lake, a small lake near the Eau Claire chain in southwestern Bayfield County. Every year since we bought in 1970 there has been a pair of loons on the lake, and most years one youngster has 'made it.' Last year one of the adults disappeared mid-summer, and we heard that it had been found dead."

"I realize age could have been a factor in the loon's demise, however, we have witnessed power boats chasing down loons. Aside from the cruelty, I understand that this practice is even illegal. I would like to make people realize how fortunate we are to have loons on the lake. There are a few property owners with high powered boats on the lake -- most use them for water-skiing, and for the most part, use good judgment. The lake has a public landing on it. Has anyone ever considered posting a sign about loons, or at least distributing an article such as the one I refer to during the summer?"

"I am going to write the DNR in Bayfield County, but felt you should be alerted to this machine. I am not a 'wild-eyed' conservationist, but feel noise is as big a pollutant to the lakes as lead, nitrates, etc."

"Thank you for your attention to my letter."

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Gastineau

New Wetbike May Be Object of Controversy

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — James Bond fans may recall their hero operating a jet-propelled, snowmobile-like watercraft in the movie, "The Spy Who Loved Me." Well, now they're here: the Wetbikes.

About 2,000 Wetbikes manufactured at Arctic Enterprises in Thief River Falls, Minn. head for the national market this month. Bill Vanik, merchandising manager for Arctic's Spirit Marine division, says interest is "fantastic."

Vanik says the craft "gives you more freedom but the same basic sensations as water-skiing. It's another way for persons to express themselves on water."

However, environmentalists are concerned that one person's expression may be another's earache.

"I think the noise is a potential problem," said state Rep. Phyllis Kahn. She added that because noise carries very readily across water, Wetbikes will be more offensive and

bother more people on heavily trafficked lakes.

The seven-foot long Wetbike, which can travel up to 35 mph, has a noise level of about 81 decibels, a little noisier than a snowmobile. Minnesota law requires new snowmobiles to be no louder than 78 decibels from a distance of 50 feet. Most outboard motors are in the 70 decibel range.

Rep. Kahn calls the Wetbikes "absolutely a toy" and a "total luxury item."

Indeed, the \$2,200 price tag of a Wetbike may discourage some customers and Kahn thinks the price "may keep them from becoming a real nuisance...."

Rep. Kahn plans to sponsor legislation next year setting a \$25 three-year Wetbike license fee, compared with \$10 for a regular boat.

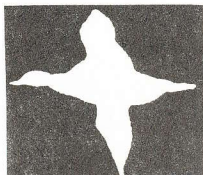
Rochester Post Bulletin
April 4, 1978, Rochester, Minnesota

Gary Cholwek (Staff Wildlife Specialist at the Sigurd Olson Institute of Environmental Studies, Northland College, Ashland, WI) has asked us to include the following announcement regarding the loon population in Wisconsin:

"The Sigurd Olson Institute is initiating a Project Loon Watch to determine the population level and reproductive success of Wisconsin's common loons. This effort will closely parallel those of other states and we are coordinating our activities and procedures to match their programs."

"To achieve our goals, we need to locate project cooperators throughout the loon's breeding range in Wisconsin. If you are interested in assisting us with this vital project or know of anyone else who might be, please contact me here at the Sigurd Olson Institute by either mail or phone at your earliest possible convenience. The telephone number is: (715) 682-4531, EXT. 292."

Sincerely,
Gary Cholwek



STATE AIDS TO LAKE DISTRICTS

In the past year, the Office of Inland Lake Renewal has made the following awards for lake district management projects:

Bugle Lake (Trempealeau Co.)	\$190,000
Lake Decorah (Juneau Co.)	190,000
Henry Lake (Trempealeau Co.)	135,110
Little Muskego Lake (Waukesha Co.)	190,000
Lake Noquebay (Marinette Co.)	190,000

Technical assistance applications were received from the following districts:

Amnicon-Dowling Lakes (Douglas Co.)
Angelo Pond (Monroe Co.)
Blake Lake (Polk Co.)
Half Moon Lake (Bayfield Co.)
Hills Lake (Waushara Co.)
Long Lake (Polk Co.)
Mid Lake (Oneida Co.)
Mud Hen Lake (Burnett Co.)
Muskellunge Lake (Lincoln Co.)
Pretty Lake (Waukesha Co.)
Puckaway Lake (Green Lake Co.)
Rice Lake (Barron Co.)
Silver Lake (Waupaca Co.)
Tichigan Lake (Racine Co.)
Wyona Lake (Columbia Co.)

Because sufficient information already existed for three lakes, no feasibility studies will be conducted. The median state grant made for feasibility studies in 1978 is \$7,000 representing 60% of study costs.

LILLY LAKE DREDGING STARTS IN MAY

By: Donald J. Puchalski
Lake Resident, Lilly Lake
Kenosha County, Wisconsin

"They ought to dredge this lake. They should take care of this lake." For more than thirty-five years I have heard these ideas voiced here. The problem was -- who are they, and why should they do it? Over the years our community leaders periodically spurted with activity trying to do something to help the lake. It seemed only antagonism among ourselves, the town officials, and the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials resulted. The lake, and the community along with it, was dying. Then, in 1971 after a major effort to form a sanitary district around the lake failed, a small group of interested residents and property owners formed and decided to use the existing legislation to effect a major dredging project without any state or federal aid. Roughly detailed engineering feasibility studies were produced. The people, through the township, petitioned the DNR for a dredging permit. Using persistence and some political pressure, a dredging contract with the state was finally granted in August 1973. This was just a start to the years of planning and work that finally resulted in the project.

When the new lake management law permitted lake rehabilitation districts to be formed, the people around the lake formed such a district through the town board. The Lilly Lake Rehabilitation District in the Town of Wheatland became one of the first districts formed in the state. Because the proposed project was dredging, an environmental impact statement became mandatory. District personnel wrote their version based on what guidelines were available. This work was then completed by the state agency. The

people voted to tax themselves up to \$225,000 to dredge the lake. State aid of \$130,000 became available and was received. Then federal aid became available through the efforts of Congressman Les Aspin and the Office of Inland Lake Renewal at DNR. Lilly Lake was among the first set of federal grantees to receive Clean Lakes grants from the Environmental Protection Agency. Our district was awarded \$273,000 from that federal program.

For two years, engineering plans were reworked. The disposal of the spoils -- the greatest problem throughout the whole project -- was solved by a combination of gravel pit filling and direct land application on farmer fields through spray irrigation. A total of 550 acre feet of lake bottom is to be removed to these sites and will result in deepening the lake from an average depth of about three feet to an average depth of about 11 feet with a maximum depth of 20 feet. Work will start in May, 1978 and end by November. Come see it if you are interested. And finally, the key to success here, as I see it, can be summed up in one word -- PERSISTENCE!



RUMBLINGS IN THE ROTUNDA

The Legislature has adjourned for the year and the Rotunda is quiet. However, the echoes of the last hectic days of the sessions can still be detected. Several bills of interest to lake people were enacted.

On the last day of the session and in a flurry of parliamentary maneuvering, the phosphate bill was passed. The Federation of Wisconsin Lake Property Owners Associations and several lake districts had taken an active interest in the bill which requires that detergents sold after July 1, 1979 may contain no more than one half of one percent phosphorus. Excessive lake phosphorus is generally blamed for algae blooms and weed problems.

The Legislature also amended Chapter 33 relating to the creation and operation of lake districts. The principal features which will be discussed at the June workshops include:

1. New districts created by town boards must proceed through the steps of petition, notice and hearing.
2. Jurisdiction in multi-county districts is given to the county with the highest evaluation within the district.
3. The provision for special user charges is clarified.
4. The financing powers and procedures of lake districts were made consistent with general municipal laws.
5. Bids are now required on lake district or sanitary district work or material in excess of \$2,500 (previously \$500).

ECO NOTES

LAWN FERTILIZERS AND LAKE ENRICHMENT

With the arrival of spring, lake residents have started the annual ritual of house cleaning and lawn maintenance. One aspect of this maintenance is the application of lawn and garden fertilizers. The careful use of these materials can save you time and money as well as helping protect your lake from unnecessary eutrophication.

Homeowners tend to apply far more fertilizer to their lawns than the grass really needs. We tend to approach lawn fertilization with the attitude that if the recommended spreading rate is good, a little more is much better. This isn't so and results in wasted money, fertilizer, and time that could be used enjoying the lake. Even worse, the first rains may wash all that extra fertilizer into the lake. When this happens for every lawn in the community, a phenomenal loading of entirely unnecessary and preventable nutrients may enter the lake. Consider the consequences if just 10 pounds of excess fertilizer is applied to each lawn in a 50-home lake community. Five hundred pounds of material especially formulated for optimal plant growth may enter the lake and become available to algae and aquatic weeds. To carelessly allow lawn fertilizer to run off to the lake is akin to negligent sabotage.

If you feel you really should give some help to the lawn at your lake property, contact your County Extension Office or Soil Conservation Service Office before fertilizing. They can tell you how to go about having your lawn soil tested to determine just what management it really needs. It may be that the soil phosphorus levels are fine (especially if you have fertilized in the past) and what you really need is

only additional nitrogen or some other soil conditioner. The results of a soil test will not only tell you if you need to fertilize at all, but also what kind of fertilizer to use and at what rate to apply it.

Irrespective of your lawn's needs or extent of grooming preferred, it is always wise to leave a strip of natural vegetation along the lake edge. This can be easily accomplished if there are no major erosion problems, by simply leaving that area of the lawn alone. The Wisconsin Shoreland Protection Ordinance of 1967* (Section 8) requires a 35-foot wide zone of natural vegetation at the shoreline. Developed property predating this law may incorporate a narrower strip, but to be effective, it probably should be at least 15 feet wide. Types of water-loving terrestrial plants which normally grow at the lakeshore, called phreatophytes, will eventually come in of their own accord. This "buffer strip" of natural vegetation will then intercept many nutrients which would otherwise drain into the lake. The buffer strip also enhances the natural appearance of the lake, reduces ice damage to the lawn, and reduces the amount of lawn you have to cut in the first place. The extent of the "buffer strip" obviously should be managed to accommodate your own needs; and adjustments for boat landings, swimming, view of the lake, and insect control are entirely appropriate. The Shoreland Protection Ordinance also recognizes the need for these adjustments and allows cutting of the buffer strip up to a total length equal to 30 percent of front footage.

The curtailed use of lawn fertilizers based on informed judgments made from soil testing, together with the encouragement of a natural plant buffer strip

*Note: This statute requires development and enforcement of regulations at the county level. For detailed information at your lake, please consult your county zoning administrator.

at the lakeshore should lead to a cleaner lake for all. This can be accomplished at a savings of time, labor and money, allowing you more leisure to enjoy your lake.

ROADSHOW TIME AGAIN -- MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Every office has a jargon. In our office, the term "roadshow" refers to the regional conferences or workshops that we have held every year since the new lake management law was passed in 1974. We travel to all parts of the state throughout the year to attend various meetings of lake communities, county boards and lake districts. However, once a year we attempt to organize a series of conferences or workshops and bring experts from several state agencies and universities. Because we pile those people and handout packets into a couple of stationwagons, hold a session in one region and then bounce down the road to the next session the next day, we call the whole affair our "roadshow."

The sessions this year are designed for both lake property owners and lake district commissioners. They will be held:

Eau Claire (June 20th)	Waupaca (June 22nd)
Fifield (June 21st)	Waukesha (June 23rd)

Topics will include fish, weeds, septic tanks, barnyards, lawn fertilization and permits as well as a report on some of the completed lake district projects.

You should have received a brochure. Additional brochures can be obtained at your County Extension Office or from our office. Since your neighbors are probably not on our mailing list, please share the brochures with them. Better yet, bring them along to the session nearest to you.