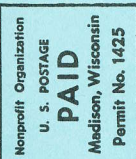


BULK THIRD CLASS



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION
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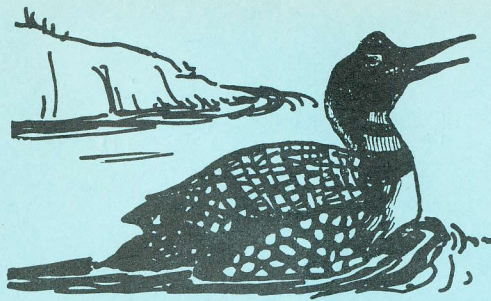
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION



Lake
Tides
JULY - 1979
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*A Newsletter for People
Interested in Wisconsin's
Inland Lakes*

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IN THE WAKE OF A LOON--THE STATEWIDE CONVENTION

Five years ago this summer, the first regional meetings were held to explain Wisconsin's Lake Management Program. Many of the community and lake association leaders who crowded into those first five meetings are now public officials--lake district commissioners. Many of these same people were in Stevens Point on March 29-30 for the first statewide convention.

Most of the 115 lake districts in the state were represented among the 200 commissioners who attended. Commissioners took special interest in the reports on lake projects presented by fellow commissioners. Other highlights included:

- Recognition of the Founding Fathers of the Program
- Award to the community of Marion in Waupaca County
- Business meeting where commissioners decided to form an association of lake districts (more on this development in coming issues of Lake Tides)

It was obvious at the convention that commissioners are beginning to identify with each other and are proud of their role in making Wisconsin the foremost state in lake management. No other state can claim such involvement by local property owners.

Commissioners asked for regional workshops in 1980 and another convention in 1981 or 1982.

Sincerely yours,

George Gibson *Lowell Klessig*
George Gibson Lowell Klessig
Lake Management Specialists

SPRING CLEANING AT LAKE EAU CLAIRE

Ron Rulien*
Lake Eau Claire Association

In March of 1978, Mr. & Mrs. Myron Crooker appeared before the Lake Eau Claire Association Board of Directors meeting requesting help in organizing a clean-up day for Lake Eau Claire. Mrs. Ida Crooker was appointed chairperson of the committee and was promised full cooperation from the Board.

She broke down the lakeshore into 14 blocks and appointed a block leader for each. After getting a commitment from each block leader by telephone, she got a promise from two people who owned pick-up trucks on the northside of the lake and two from the southside to haul the refuse. She made arrangements with the local landfill to accept the four trucks hauling the refuse.

Then she contacted the lake association secretary who agreed to send out notices by mail to all lake cottage owners regarding date and time and details on picking up all debris from the lakeshore, islands, and the two town roads that serve the entire lake.

She also contacted two 4-H clubs who policed the three public boat landings, the public swimming beach, and two county parks on the lake as work projects.

And, finally she had notices of the Lake Eau Claire clean-up day placed in the local Augusta Times and the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram. The papers carried the ads as a public service--no charge.

It was a great success! We hauled a total of eight loads of cans, bottles, etc. to the dump.

Our second annual clean-up day was held on June 2, 1979 and again it was a success.

If your lake group takes on a project like this: (1) do it before the grass grows over the debris; and (2) make sure people understand that the clean-up is for the lake only, not for personal garbage accumulating on their property.

* *Editor's Note: This spring, when we updated our mailing list and asked for comments, Ron suggested that we ask readers to "share the wealth" of their experiences in regard to lake care. Ron provided us with this excellent example. We urge you to also send us a short description of your efforts as a concerned property owner, as a lake association, as a lake district, or as a governmental unit.*



ECO NOTES*

IS THERE ANYTHING INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNERS CAN DO TO IMPROVE AND MANAGE THEIR LAKE?

First and foremost, at the personal level, you should learn what you can about lake systems. Be informed, then take action. An excellent source of personal information (aside from Lake Tides and UWEX bulletins such as "Understanding Lake Problems") is a little paperback book called "The Algal Bowl, Lakes and Man" by John R. Vallentyne, 1974 (Misc. Publication #33, Canada Department of the Environment, Fisheries and Marine Service, Ottawa, Canada). Other references can also be found at your local library or bookstore and include: "Ecology of Inland Waters and Estuaries" by George K. Reid, 1961, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., N.Y.; "Eutrophication: Causes, Consequences, Correctives" by the National Academy of Sciences, 1969, Washington, D.C.; "Fundamentals of Limnology" by Franz Ruttner, 1952, University of Toronto Press; and "Limnology" by Robert G. Wetzel, 1975, W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia.

After expanding your limnological horizons, you may wish to take a new look at your home and community with an eye to lake protection practices.

Household Activities: One significant personal responsibility both to your lake and your health is the careful maintenance of your septic tank/waste disposal system. To ensure that nutrients and possible harmful bacteria are not being discharged to the groundwater and the lake, you should have your tank inspected every few years by a licensed septic tank service and pumped as necessary. Pumping is needed when sludge fills one-third or more of the tank volume, and in most households is necessary about every three to five years. If you have a garbage disposal, a tank pumping will have to be more frequent. Be alert also to signs of drain field failures such as sewage at the surface, odors, perpetual wet spots in the lawn, greener grass over.

**Editor's Note: In the process of updating our mailing list, we received a number of requests to provide suggestions for individual lake property owners. This Eco Note is a response to those requests.*

the drain field lines, or water standing in the drain field vent pipe for prolonged periods of time. If such problems develop, the system should be inspected and repaired or replaced promptly. By the same token, storm drains, footing drains, downspouts, sump pumps, washing machines, and water softeners should not be drained directly into the lake. Any waste water generated by the household, such as toilet wastes or any rinse water must be discharged through the sanitary system. Further, recent studies have shown that it may be beneficial to have your water softener discharge into the septic tank during the recharge. This helps balance the ions in the system and improves waste treatment.

Erosion control is another important element of lake water quality protection. Soil particles washed into the lake not only contribute sediment to it, but also carry phosphorus nutrients attached to them. Eroding lakeshore slopes or gullies anywhere on lake front property, or property which drains to the lake should be graded or terraced and stabilized with grass or other native vegetation. Remember, many lakeshore management activities of this type require a DNR permit.

Lake Front Management: Another element to consider is the protection and encouragement of a vegetative buffer zone along the water's edge. By allowing and even encouraging the growth of phreatophytes (moisture loving trees, grasses and shrubs) near the shore on your property, you can control erosion as well as reduce wave and ice damage. The root system of these plants also interrupts nutrient-laden runoff and groundwater which would otherwise enter the lake. This buffer zone enhances the appearance of the lakeshore by masking structures, gives a more natural profile to the shoreline, and encourages the growth and diversity of song bird and other wildlife populations. The easiest way to restore such a natural buffer zone is to simply leave untouched a strip of land along the lake front, perhaps 15 or 20 feet wide (more if possible). As this area grows up to native shrubs, trees, and grasses, selective pruning and thinning will permit you to leave openings for a view of the lake. Access to the beach or dock can be preserved with an "S" shaped path or other contoured approach which doesn't encourage erosion or direct runoff to the lake.

If it is necessary to restore a natural area, we can help you obtain lists of desirable species to plant and inquiries should be addressed to "Lake Tides" in care of George Gibson.

Whether you preserve or restore the natural shoreline vegetation on your property or not, you should avoid or at least reduce use of lawn and garden fertilizers. Much of the fertilizer riparians religiously apply to their lawns is washed into the lake with the first good thunderstorm where it contributes to algae or weed problems. If the lawn runs right down to the water's edge, then that fertilizer practically has a straight shot to the lake. If you feel compelled to fertilize, contact your County Extension Agent first to find out the best fertilizer combination, amount, and season to apply. A soil test is the first logical step to determine which nutrients, if any, are needed.

The same idea applies to raked leaves and lawn clippings. Both have a phosphorus residue and should not be disposed of by dumping in or near the lake. They can be much better used as garden mulch. At this point, you may note that the "buffer zone" vegetation also will drop leaves and other debris in or near the lake. This is true and it may be difficult or impossible for you to rake them away. However, it is a small price to pay for the erosion and nutrient control otherwise to be accomplished. Besides, the nutrients in the leaves are derived from phosphorus which might have otherwise drained into the lake during the growing season. If you work to control leaf fall elsewhere on your property, this contribution to the lake can be accepted.

In the Lake Itself: In front of your property, there are also some common sense practices you can apply. Aquatic weeds may be interfering with boating or swimming (some weeds are essential if you want good fishing). If you decide to cut or uproot these nuisance weeds, be sure to remove them entirely from the lake. (Add them to your compost pile or garden mulch of lawn clippings and raked leaves.) Many aquatic plants, especially Eurasian Milfoil can be spread and reestablished from just a few small floating stem fragments. Spraying chemicals on the weeds will also control them, but this must be done by a licensed contractor and the dead plants will release most of their nutrients back into the lake. Another personal and public service you can perform for your lake (even though incidental) if you happen to live on the downwind side, is to remove the windrowed blue-green algae which may occasionally collect on your shore. While it's tempting to let the stinking stuff wash back out with the next change of the wind,

you'll be passing up a chance to remove both nutrients and some of the cells of future algal blooms in your lake. This, too, can be added to your compost pile, but you may want to get it worked into the soil rather quickly!

Boat maintenance is another incidental, but appropriate, point to consider here, too. Keep your boat bilges dry and ventilated, engine tuned, and outboard engines and portable fuel tanks stored on land when not actually needed. These are not only good safety practices, but also reduce the amount of oil and gasoline pollutants discharged to the lake. In addition, an uncluttered, well-maintained dock or storage shed painted in muted colors presents a much more attractive view from the lake.

The Community Approach: One final element of individual attention to your lake is to talk-up these suggestions with your neighbors. In spreading the word, your discussions may lead to others applying your ideas and generating new ones helpful to your lake and community. Not the least of these ideas may be expanding your efforts to a group approach whereby you can encourage local governments to pass and enforce needed ordinances, practice erosion control at construction sites, or reroute drainage systems. You can also undertake certain group activities which improve the quality of life in your neighborhood and promote a sense of pride. For an example, see the description of the Lake Eau Claire Clean-Up (p. 2).

In short, there are things you as an individual can do to help your lake and every little bit always helps. Don't wait for others to act; set the example yourself.

TEN FEASIBILITY STUDIES BEGIN AT THIRTEEN LAKES

Lake	County
Amery Lakes Pike North Twin South Twin	Polk
Crystal	Trempealeau
Deer	Waushara
Fall Creek	Eau Claire
Greater Bass	Langlade
Long	Waushara
Phantom Lakes Upper Lower	Waukesha
Pretty	Waukesha
School Section	Waukesha
Shell	Washburn

The Office of Inland Lake Renewal (DNR) is cost-sharing the studies at 60 percent. The average cost per study is \$12,000. These districts applied last year and their study will begin later this year. Communities that would like to start a study in 1980 should apply for technical assistance within the next few months.

CLEAN LAKES AND US

A new booklet on lake management produced by the University of Wisconsin-Extension has just been published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Clean Lakes and Us is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$1.20 (Stock #055-001-01085-1). Bob Johnson (EPA, 401 M Street S.W., Washington, D.C.) has a limited number of complimentary copies.

WETLANDS

Our last issue carried an article by Jim Harris on "The Values of Wetlands." Since March, a great deal of public debate has centered on the topic.

University Extension sponsored several educational meetings around the state as well as a three-part series on the Educational Telephone Network (ETN).

Assembly Bill 515, with Rep. David Kedrowski as chief author, was introduced. The bill (1) would enlarge the scope of shoreland zoning to include the entire wetland if part of it fell within 300 feet of a stream or 1,000 feet of a lake and (2) would allow local government or DNR to place restrictive orders on alterations of certain wetlands. Several agricultural groups are actively opposed. Most opposition has centered around the definition of wetlands and the provision allowing five people to initiate the proceedings for a restrictive order. Sportsmen's Clubs and environmental groups have supported the bill. The Assembly Environmental Resources Committee has held hearings in Sheboygan and Stevens Point and plans to hold a hearing in Madison on July 9th. A substitute amendment will be introduced following the hearings.

Also in July, the DNR will hold hearings on amending the Wisconsin Administrative Code (NR 115) pertaining to the shoreland management program. The amendments are designed to clarify the authority and increase the attention paid to wetlands in shoreland zoning. The dates and places follow:

July 17th	1:00 p.m.	City Hall (Council Chambers) Rice Lake
July 18th	9:00 a.m.	City Hall (Council Chambers) Wausau
July 19th	11:00 a.m.	Courthouse (Lounge Room) Oshkosh
July 20th	9:30 a.m.	State Capitol (321 NE) Madison

For more information, contact: Joe King (608) 266-8035.

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

1. The Unemployment Compensation Law (Chapter 108) was discussed in the March issue of Lake Tides. Since that time, we have met with officials in the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations. They have recognized that filing quarterly reports would mean unnecessary red tape for most lake districts. Jim Wilson has been very helpful in this regard and has sent us a letter indicating that his office will not require the quarterly UC-101-N reports. However, lake districts are covered under the law and must file reports if they hire employees. Commissioners who receive a small annual compensation are not considered employees under this law. If and when you hire payroll employees as a lake district, please notify Jim at:

Unemployment Compensation
201 E. Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53707

2. Workmen's Compensation Law (Chapter 102) provides a mechanism for employers to protect themselves from the claims of their own employees and sets limits on liability. The insurance is purchased from a private carrier. No filing is required with the state unless and until an accident occurs. Then form WC12 is used. While lake districts are clearly employers and commissioners would be included under the definition of employee, lake districts apparently have the option of self-insuring (consciously assuming the risk as a lake district). If you purchase Workmen's Compensation Insurance, make sure that commissioners are included under the coverage. If they are treated as volunteers rather than employees, then they can sue under common law for damages that resulted from an accident which occurred while they were acting in the capacity of commissioners.

3. Investment of temporarily unneeded funds is a sound policy for any organization. Lake districts can invest in time deposits (up to 1 year) in any bank, savings bank, trust company or savings and loan association or in government bonds or securities (Sec. 66.04[2]). Although we have not received an absolute answer, it appears that "Money Mart" certificates are not appropriate. However, lake districts can invest in the local government pooled investment fund. The earnings in the pool for the first quarter of 1979 were 9.4%. For more information, contact:

Solveig Sorenson
Office of State Treasurer
111 West State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702
(608) 266-1716