



A Newsletter for People
Interested in Wisconsin's
Inland Lakes

Lake
Tides
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WLEX COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION

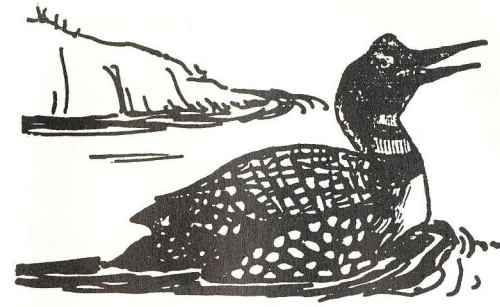
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IN THE WAKE OF A LOON

The referendum question has been decided. The legislation which allows all property owners, as well as all residents, to participate in lake district decisions was ratified by a large majority of Wisconsin voters.

Some lake districts would probably not have survived if the referendum had failed. About half of Wisconsin's lake districts are composed primarily of seasonal residents. For instance, Largon Lake District in Polk County has only one permanent resident.

Many of these districts worked hard to promote the referendum. Some purchased ads, some passed resolutions, many wrote letters to the editors, and thousands of property owners talked to neighbors, relatives, and friends. The Wisconsin Federation of Lakes supported the referendum as it had supported the original passage of Chapter 33 in 1974.

The referendum was conducted in the best traditions of democracy. Both the opponents and the supporters conducted themselves with dignity. There was no name-calling, no charges and countercharges. The referendum generated little controversy. Citizens had an opportunity to learn of the referendum through the media, the efforts of DNR and University Extension, and the activities of lake property owners. The decision was made calmly.

The vote means more than a guarantee of voting rights for seasonal residents. In the nature of such votes, the endorsement or the rejection is usually perceived more broadly than the specific issue. Many voters probably were voting on Wisconsin's Lake Management Program or even on the importance of lakes per se.

To the extent that the vote represents a judgment on lakes and Wisconsin's program of management, results indicate a strong endorsement.

In a recent study, 60 percent of Wisconsin adults said they were "very interested" in water quality. Sixty-five percent reported using lakes sometime during the past year.

When these survey results are combined with the referendum results, the conclusion is clear. Lakes are very important to Wisconsinites, and the mandate for management of these important public resources has never been stronger.

Sincerely,

George R. Gibson *Lowell L. Klessig*
George R. Gibson, Jr. Lowell L. Klessig
Lake Management Specialists



ECO NOTE

SOME DO'S AND DON'TS OF WINTER RECREATION AT THE LAKE

Now that winter outdoor activities are entering full swing, it might be wise to consider some precautions and common courtesies when enjoying winter sports at the lake.

- * For any outdoor winter activity, sensible precautions should be taken to avoid the risk of frostbite or hypothermia. With regard to frostbite, avoid constricting clothing or footwear which might reduce blood circulation. Keep your gloves or mittens on. Change to dry socks promptly if your feet get wet to avoid both blisters and frostbite. And watch for grayish-white patches of skin on exposed face or hands; this is the first sign of frostbite. Carefully and gently rewarm the exposed area to body temperature; do not rub with anything, including snow. Hypothermia or cold exposure was discussed at some length here at this time last year and a brief rereading of that Eco Note might be in order. (If you didn't store these "valuable words of wisdom" away for reference, first aid pamphlets on cold water exposure are again available through Lake Tides in care of George Gibson.) For more details about either frostbite or hypothermia, consult a current Red Cross first aid text.
- * If you're going out on the ice--fishing, skating, snowmobiling or skiing, check first with the local DNR office to make sure it is thick enough. The ice should be at least 4 inches

thick for safe use. Even then, stay away from ice over flowing streams, river systems and tributaries where the normally thick ice over still waters may be expected to thin out and weaken. Remember, a fresh snow may conceal thin ice where a stream or spring enters the lake, near shore, or where a hole was recently cut.

- * Despite the characteristic appearance of the fishing shanties and the convenience of a hole in the ice, they are not intended to double as restrooms. "Don't do it in the lake." Show a little consideration and whenever possible, go ashore to proper facilities when nature calls. The exercise will be good for you. By the same token, that ice hole is not a trash receptacle either. Take your cans and bottles back home and recycle them.
- * Another point to remember is that unused live bait fish should not be released into the lake at the end of the day. You may be stocking your favorite lake with a nuisance species that could contribute to the decline of fishing later.
- * When you finish fishing, push the accumulated ice chips and snow back into the hole to promote quicker refreezing and to smooth the surface for skiers, snowmobilers and skaters.
- * Snowmobilers: don't buzz the fishermen! Sportsmen should respect one another. By the same token, take care to avoid residences when snowmobiling at night so others may sleep peacefully. Your consideration will be repaid by community support.

- * Finally, all sportsmen should respect property rights. To enter and leave the lake, use the traditional public access sites. The convenience of a frozen shoreline does not justify trespassing.

The above tips are some of our suggestions for a safe and courteous winter outing at the lake. You folks are welcome to write in your own comments, suggestions or pet complaints about lake use activities. All responsible letters will be reprinted in the next issue of "Lake Tides."

Have a Happy and Safe New Year!!

George R. Gibson
Environmental Resources Unit
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QUESTIONNAIRES TO BE CIRCULATED TO LAKE DISTRICTS

By the time some commissioners get a copy of this "Lake Tides," they may already have received an envelope in the mail from us. It is a request to complete a questionnaire we sent out to help assess our services to the lake districts. The information you provide will help us determine what programs to conduct in the future and will also be used to prepare a "Directory of Wisconsin Lake Management Districts" for your use. In the rush of other activities, please take time out to complete and return this important material.

REFERENDUM RESULTS BY COUNTY

On November 4th, the following question appeared on the ballot for all Wisconsin voters:

Shall state law be amended to permit persons who own property in a public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district and who are U.S. citizens and 18 years of age or older to vote at meetings of the district.

The results follow:

County	Yes	No	County	Yes	No
Adams	4,141	1,946	Iowa	5,622	1,965
Ashland	4,137	1,935	Iron	2,385	848
Barron	11,655	4,566	Jackson	5,275	1,836
Bayfield	5,033	2,028	Jefferson	18,440	5,984
Brown	49,365	14,091	Juneau	6,402	2,507
Buffalo	4,335	1,821	Kenosha	25,633	7,492
Burnett	3,942	2,029	Kewaunee	6,141	2,603
Calumet	8,884	2,345	La Crosse	21,977	6,922
Chippewa	12,808	4,341	Lafayette	4,784	2,018
Clark	9,397	3,351	Langlade	6,457	2,386
Columbia	14,879	4,376	Lincoln	8,025	2,656
Crawford	4,792	1,759	Manitowoc	24,326	7,942
Dane	96,164	29,151	Marathon	31,977	11,032
Dodge	19,888	6,323	Marinette	11,206	3,548
Door	8,504	3,009	Marquette	3,730	1,461
Douglas	10,261	2,489	Menominee	556	257
Dunn	9,318	2,883	Milwaukee	172,903	35,690
Eau Claire	19,969	4,490	Monroe	10,173	3,504
Florence	1,336	548	Oconto	9,663	2,902
Fond du Lac	20,718	6,448	Oneida	11,109	4,092
Forest	2,624	1,079	Outagamie	31,639	7,572
Grant	14,557	5,347	Ozaukee	20,757	4,609
Green	9,311	2,896	Pepin	1,874	646
Green Lake	6,192	2,191	Pierce	9,890	3,888

County	Yes	No	County	Yes	No
Polk	10,036	4,537	Sheboygan	25,814	5,788
Portage	13,462	5,722	Taylor	5,758	2,297
Price	5,285	1,896	Trempealeau	7,559	2,562
Racine	43,558	9,877	Vernon	7,869	3,108
Richland	5,218	1,965	Vilas	6,894	2,176
Rock	33,437	9,095	Walworth	21,593	7,134
Rusk	4,706	1,998	Washburn	4,511	1,651
St. Croix	14,489	5,126	Washington	25,165	6,719
Sauk	12,762	4,923	Waukesha	73,709	17,534
Sawyer	4,810	1,426	Waupaca	13,505	4,472
Shawano	9,690	3,209	Waushara	5,692	2,143
			Winnebago	35,325	8,362
			Wood	16,451	5,502
TOTAL				<u>1,210,452</u>	<u>355,024</u>

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LAKE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS CONVENTION

Please mark your calendars for March 20-21, 1981. Two years ago nearly all districts were represented. Some districts sent their entire commission. Plan now to attend! Invite fellow commissioners or an interested lake property owner along to the Stevens Point meeting this year.

March 20th--On Friday, the topic will be acid rain. We will be exploring this in greater depth than we could at the workshops last year and will also report on recent research results. We expect a variety of folks, in addition to lake district commissioners, to attend the Friday session.

March 21st--If you are not interested in acid rain or cannot attend a weekday meeting, plan to be present for a full Saturday session focusing directly on lake districts and their projects. The tentative

agenda includes fish stocking, loons, financial assistance, drinking water, aeration, dredging, weed control, and protection activities.

* * *

CONSULTANT DISCIPLINED

On a number of occasions, the Wisconsin Lake Management Program has had to deal with consultants who did not perform the duties required by their contract with a lake district.

Most of those problems have been worked out through special assistance by the DNR's Office of Inland Lake Renewal.

Little Arbor Vitae Lake District was faced with a particularly difficult problem. After years of patience, the District and the Office of Inland Lake Renewal took the case to the Examining Board of Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing, "Jerome A. Hagen, Professional Engineer, (was) suspended for 1 year effective June 1, 1980. Hagen, of Menominee, Michigan violated state law by his repeated failure to provide periodic progress reports and to meet completion deadlines for a lake improvement feasibility study."

* * *

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COURSES OFFERED IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Many lake property owners will be interested in some of the new environmental education courses UW-Extension is offering in central Wisconsin this winter and spring. These courses usually consist of one or two classroom sessions for background information followed by

a field trip to observe and study the subject in a natural setting.

Twelve courses are planned for the period of February through May. The titles of these courses are:

1. Plants in Winter Disguise
2. Owl Watch
3. Home Landscaping Design
4. Maple Syrup: Its History, Production and Management
5. Natural Landscaping in a Rural Setting: An Alternative to the Mowed Landscape
6. Your Home Water Supply: Understanding Its Source and Quality
7. Prairie Chicken Sunrise Serenade
8. Spring in the Marsh
9. Wisconsin Peat Mosses
10. Spring Birds: An Adventure in Sight and Sound
11. Touch a River
12. Nature's Small Worlds: An Introduction to Close-Up Color Photography

People attending are sure to learn more about the natural landscape around them and have fun in the process. For more information, please contact:

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