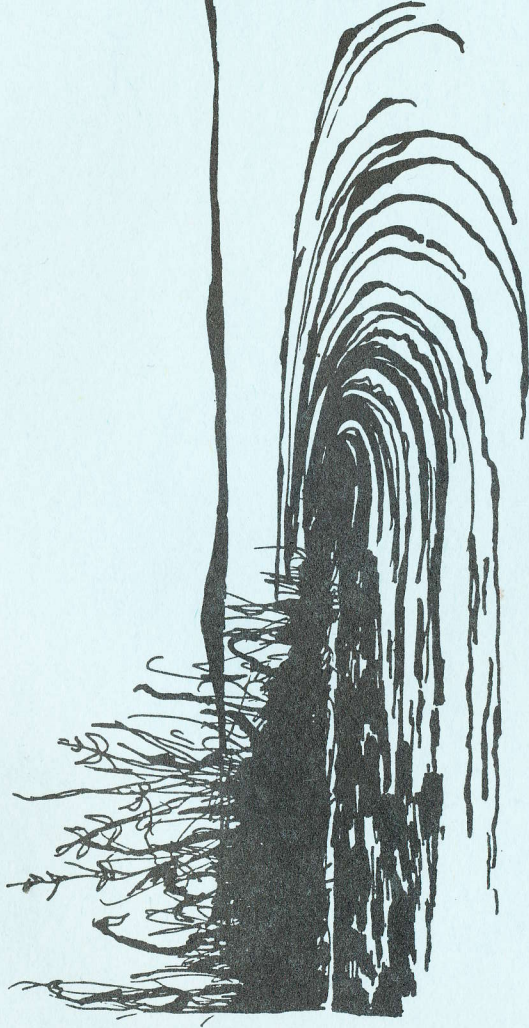


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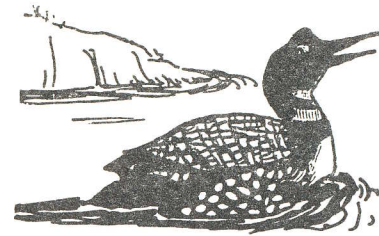
*A Newsletter for People
Interested in Wisconsin
Lakes*

Lake Tides

FEB. 1984

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IN THE WAKE OF A LOON:

AN EDITORIAL

Welcome to 1984 and Volume 9 of Lake Tides.

In 1948, George Orwell painted a grim picture for those of us who would share the planet this year. However, in terms of general economic outlook and interest in lakes, 1984 should present a brighter picture than recent years.

A new initiative is underway in the Legislature to restore some of the funds for technical assistance. The federal Clean Lakes Program is surviving with new parental support from EPA.

The Wisconsin Federation of Lakes and Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts are discussing their mutual interests and will be co-sponsoring the Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Stevens Point in April.

I look forward to working with you in 1984--some of you for the 15th year. And, I hope to see you in Stevens Point on April 13th and 14th.

Sincerely,

Lowell L. Klessig
Professor

WISCONSIN LAKES CONVENTION--1984

Mother Nature has conceded. If we move the convention all the way to April 13th-14th, she has agreed not to serve up a blizzard.

A planning committee composed of Ken Lay (Wisconsin Federation of Lakes), Bill O'Connor (Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts), Dick Wedepohl (DNR), and Lowell Klessig (UW-Extension/UWSP) have put together a strong two-day program.

Governor Earl and DNR Secretary Besadny have been invited, as have Representatives Holperin, Potter, and Stower. They will address the willingness of the state to invest in lake management.

Several lake associations and lake districts will report on local projects dealing with agricultural runoff, aeration, weed control, and fund raising. (Tours of the Sentry Insurance Complex will also be available.)

Friday evening will feature product and service displays by commercial firms and the Stevens Point Barber Shoppers.

The Saturday program will focus on septic systems, dams, acid rain, natural history and lake district boundaries.

In the afternoon, participants will meet in geographic groups to discuss the availability of services and sharing of experiences.

A brochure will be sent early in March.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!! APRIL 13-14, 1984

We also suggest making your motel reservations now.

Holiday Inn (Business 51 North)	341-1340
Royale (Hy 51 and Hy 10 East)	341-5110
Point (Business 51 North)	344-8312
Road Star (Business 51 North)	341-9090

DAM INSPECTION FEES

Many Wisconsin lakes have been formed or their water level has been raised by dams. Dam ownership of the 3,500 dams in Wisconsin varies from private parties to power companies to local units of government including lake districts.

Responsibility for dam maintenance and water level control has often been the subject of local controversies.

DNR has been involved through safety inspections. The Department has also held local hearings and established water level ranges for many dams.

The Legislature has directed the Department to develop a program of inspection to be paid by fees collected from dam owners.

The proposal for a regular program in inspection every 10 years is in the form of a draft Administrative Rule NR 335. The draft can be obtained from:

Richard Knitter
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

The fees would be \$745 for a dam of six feet or less. Each additional foot of dam height would increase the fee \$40.

Very small dams which impound less than 50 acre-feet of water would be inspected upon complaint or discretion of DNR. A 25-acre impoundment averaging less than 2 feet deep or a 10-acre impoundment averaging less than 5 feet would meet the 50-acre feet exclusion.

The dam would be inspected every 10 years. After receiving the report of the inspector, the fee would be payable in 30 days and the DNR could also order necessary repairs.

Comments can be sent to the Natural Resources Board, care of Mr. Knitter. Hearings are expected to be scheduled in February.

Mr. Knitter will be on the program at the Convention in Stevens Point.

RUMBLINGS IN THE ROTUNDA

The phosphate bill discussed in recent issues has been passed, signed by the Governor, and has gone into effect.

Assembly Bill 284, which would allow lake districts to obtain state trust fund loans from the State Board of Commissioners of Public Funds has passed the Joint Finance Committee on 6-5 vote and is in the Rules Committee. A companion bill (AB 285) would allow town sanitary districts to borrow from the same fund. The interest rate for municipalities borrowing from the fund is somewhat lower than commercial rates. The prospects for the bills in the short 1984 session is questionable.

State Representatives Cal Potter, Jim Holperin, and Harvey Stower have spearheaded an effort to rebuild part of technical assistance staff in DNR that was cut in 1983. As this is written, a bill is being drafted which would provide funds for a limnologist, an engineer, and an aquatic biologist. In order to clear the committees and both houses in a two-month session, the bill must have the strong support of the Governor.

Two new programs in the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection will benefit some lake districts. The Farmer's Fund (Ag 165) provides \$1,000,000 in grants to farmers for construction of animal waste storage facilities in counties that participate in the program. A sister program for soil erosion control (Ag 160) provides funds to counties that have identified priority areas with county erosion control plans.

At the Federal level, the Clean Lakes program is apparently surviving the reauthorization process and, with the prodding of North American Lake Management Society, modest annual appropriations can be expected.

The Department of Revenue is proposing that all lake district boundaries be redrawn to include whole units of property. This will have serious implications for many districts. Contact your legislator for a copy of LRB 4656.

OLMD--OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT HISTORY AND OPERATION

by

Kay Matschnig and Steven Stenholt

Lake associations, especially in the State of Wisconsin, have been formed, reformed and resurrected, when necessary, since homes have been built on lakeshores. In most cases, these associations were formed because there was a problem, or problems, shared by riparian owners and a common bond of interest because they chose to be there. What were cottages or just vacation homes have now become, in many cases, retirement or year-round dwellings (especially lakes near a city allowing people to commute). Membership was voluntary and dues had to be collected to survive. With united strength in numbers, associations were able to go to town boards, city officials, etc. (whoever they were paying their taxes to) and be heard. Unfortunately, many associations died a natural death until a new problem or controversy came up.

Okauchee Lake has had several lake associations, the latest being the Okauchee Civic Association formed in the early sixties when a group of riparian citizens stormed the Town Hall of Oconomowoc protesting public access on a farm in Stumpy Bay. There are two townships bordering the waters of Okauchee Lake, both the Town of Oconomowoc and the Town of Merton; 900 plus families in one and 180 plus families in the other, respectively.

In the early sixties, the Town of Oconomowoc collected a special assessment from Okauchee Lake riparian owners and purchased a cutter and barge. These pieces of equipment were shared for weed cutting on Okauchee Lake, Fowler Lake, Lac Labelle and Ashippun Lake during the summer months. Since Okauchee Lake is almost 1,200 acres, it was apparent the lake could not cut its shoreline adequately with the time allotted it, and no spraying program was in progress at that time. As a matter of fact, a small group was against any spraying at all. It was then the Okauchee Lake Civic Association, in the early seventies, decided to do their own weed cutting.

The Town Board of Oconomowoc gave what they felt was a proportionate share of money to Okauchee Lake and loaned the association money. A cutter and barge were purchased in 1972. Unfortunately, this became very complicated as the entire Township of Merton and only half of the Township of Oconomowoc were involved. The Town of Oconomowoc which operated and maintained the equipment claimed the entire Township owned the equipment, not only the riparian owners (who paid for it). The Town of Oconomowoc also still serviced weed cutting on the portion of the lake not involved in the purchase. A few years later, the Town of Oconomowoc sold the equipment to the City of Oconomowoc, leaving the portion of the lake serviced by them without weed cutting services. The problem was temporarily taken care of by the Okauchee Lake Civic Association weed cutter equipment, but the charges were inequitable to the other part of the lake. In the interim, the association looked into the possibility of forming either a Sanitary District, which would finance a weed cutting operation, or a Lake Management District. After intensive study, it was decided to take the route of Lake Management because in that way everyone on the lake would be involved. The weed cutting operation would be on a legal taxing basis (until that time the association had been collecting special assessments illegally, because an association has no taxing powers). A lake management district gave the riparian owners a vehicle to manage their lake. After a feasibility study was made, there was no question as to the status of the lake. We were exceptionally fortunate because of the lake's depth and its geological makeup, we had a rather clean lake except for its intense lakeshore dwellings. Since the late fifties and early sixties, Okauchee Lake's riparian owners have seen the area become a "bedroom community." Year round homes became more common. (Okauchee Lake is approximately 30 miles West of Milwaukee, fifty miles east of Madison and located between Hartland and Oconomowoc.)

On January 1, 1976 the Okauchee Lake Management District, OLMD, was officially formed with a county appointed board to serve one year until an annual meeting could be held for election of

members of the board. One board member is a Waukesha County Supervisor, Mr. Roland Merz, and is our permanent county representative. Another board member is a Town of Oconomowoc Supervisor (the Township of Oconomowoc is larger than that of Merton), and three elected members. Proper bylaws were drawn up, including a stipulation that no board member would collect any salary for his or her services. The first order of business was to work with the Okauchee Lake Civic Association and its weed cutting operation. An "Equalization Committee" was formed to see all riparian owners owned the cutting equipment equally, since part of the lake, Merton members, had paid one half, part of Okauchee Lake, Town of Oconomowoc, paid the other half, and about one third of the lake (Town of Oconomowoc) had to be involved. This took a little better than two years to accomplish and a period of three years on special assessments to equalize ownership. Last year was the final year of this project.

During this time, the original barge was converted into another cutter, another smaller barge (second hand) was purchased, a van for tools was purchased and a special barge built. A boat with motor was purchased last year.

The weed cutting operation contains all phases of any small business: hiring of weed cutting personnel, maintenance personnel, directing personnel, purchase of supplies, necessary equipment (with limitations approved by the OLMD board, weed hauling (at one time the Townships assisted in this area, but no longer do so), location and maintenance of dumping sites on the lake, storage of equipment, winter and summer maintenance and storage, handle complaints and problems, etc. Reports of its operation are made each month at OLMD's regular business meetings held every second Monday of each month. The secretary, Kay Matschnig, has held the position of liaison since its inception. Until last season there was no paid director of weed cutting services. Kay donated her services with no salary. Now OLMD is looking to the future when she will no longer be there. This past year for the first time, a paid director was hired.

A weed spraying program has been operating in conjunction with the weed cutting operation. Through trial and error, it

was learned certain species of weeds multiply after cutting. Since the operation is mainly shoreline trimming, it was advisable to combine the two. There is approximately 30 miles of shoreline and it would be impossible to keep up with weed growth for the summer without the combination.

There is also an algae program which is hired out to Marine BioChemists. Weed spraying has come a long way since the day when anyone put what they wished into the water. Only approved chemicals can be used (no arsenic) and DNR supervises.

The Lake Management District has afforded the riparian owners of lakes, the Department of Natural Resources, the County, State and Federal governments to work together to protect and manage a valuable resource, especially in Wisconsin. We are part of that "everyone has a right to the lake" but go above the call of duty with time and money to do this. Prior to this time, there was very little communication between the above mentioned parties.

The loss of funds promised us before we could implement projects was traumatic and unfair, but OLMD is attempting to implement some of it on its own. A dredging project, Tearney Lake channel, to keep the small tributary lake from dying, has been undertaken, as well as a seawall undertaking in Martinique Bay.

With an annual budget of \$86,000, the OLMD board has worked hard in keeping the entire lake clean, safe and protected for all. It is involved in helping the Townships update lake ordinances, manage and work out problems created by a public access, and work closely with all bodies of government involved. It is active in looking into and preparing for the future, both in management and financially. OLMD has replaced a civic association making everyone a member and having a voice in their affairs. It takes on the burden and responsibility of its own problems and solutions, assisting and enabling town boards, villages, cities, etc. to be free of many "headaches" and does it so willingly.

Come and visit our Okauchee Lake and see for yourself what has been done--with weed cutting, spraying, projects, lake ordinances (we are very overused and abused) and we will be proud to show you.

Okauchee Lake Management District
P.O. Box 526
Okauchee, WI 53069

NEW PUBLICATIONS ON LAKES

Limnological Characteristics of Wisconsin Lakes by Richard Lillie and John Mason "is primarily intended to serve as a technical reference for professionals." However, lake district commissioners might also find it interesting.

Wisconsin lakes are a treasure of diversity which inhibits generalizations. Most Wisconsin lakes are small--under 100 acres. However, the state also has 1,100 lakes over 100 acres.

Lakes also vary widely in depth, amount of nutrients, oxygen levels, and clarity.

No conclusive evidence was found of a permanent pH change. However, southern Wisconsin lakes have experienced an increase in chloride concentrations. These increases are likely to be the result of road salt use and septic systems. The movement of chlorides suggests that other pollutants may also be using the same routes to the lakes.

The 116-page DNR publication is Technical Bulletin 138.

My Lake--Your Lake by Phil Fogle is written from the perspective of a local lake manager. From 1972 to 1980, Phil served as director of the Geneva Lake Watershed Environmental Agency.

The 135-page book, a blend of education and advocacy in an informal writing style, is available for purchase by writing to Phil Fogle, 111 Jewel Drive, Williams Bay, WI 53191.

The Lake In Your Community by Lowell Klessig, Nicolaas Bouwes, and Douglas Yanggen provides a non-technical exploration of lakes, their problems, what can be done about lake problems, and who can undertake various management efforts.

The 24-page bulletin also provides an analysis of the costs and benefits of lake management efforts.

Participants in the 1984 Wisconsin Lake Convention will receive a copy. Additional copies are available from County Extension offices.

USE OF DIQUAT PROHIBITED

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has recently announced that the new labeling of Diquat prohibits its use in public waters (water not totally under the control of the applicator). The new label resulted from negotiations between the manufacturer (Chevron) and EPA. Other herbicides are not affected.

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