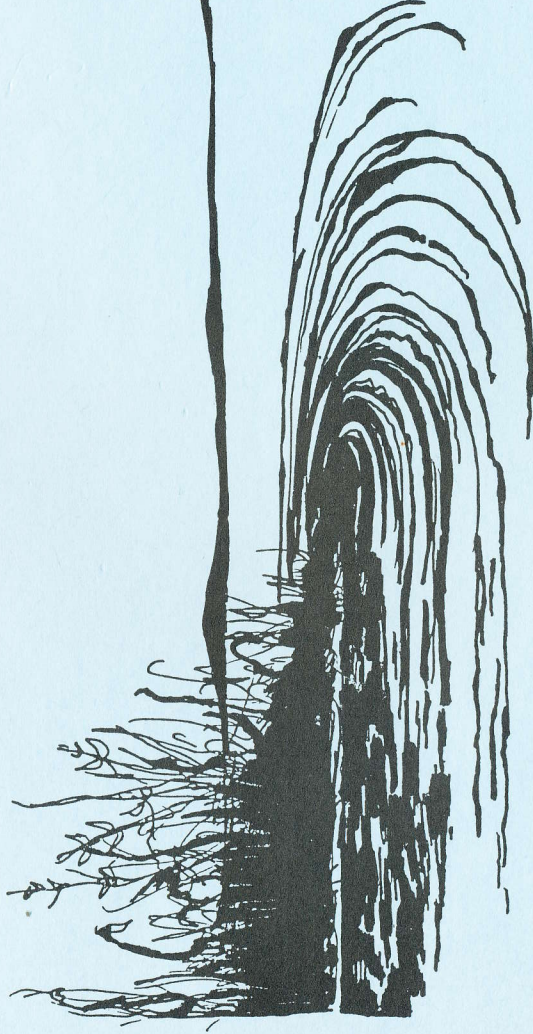


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WU-EX COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE • UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION

*A Newsletter for People
Interested in Wisconsin
Lakes*



Lake Tides

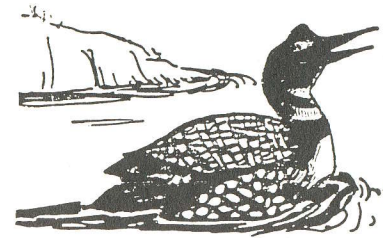
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • WISCONSIN COUNTIES COOPERATING



IN THE WAKE OF A LOON: AN EDITORIAL

Happy 1986! Each year at this time, we look back on the accomplishments and disappointments of the past year and ahead to the challenges of a new year.

The year just ended was a good year for lakes:

Clean Water Act moved close to reauthorization in Washington.

*The State of Wisconsin made a modest reinvestment in lake management.

*The large number of enthusiastic participants at the 1985 Wisconsin Lakes Convention provided vivid proof of the interest of local property owners in their lake.

*Wisconsin was proud to host the International Symposium on Applied Lake and Watershed Management.

There were disappointments as well. At the national level, another year went by without a comprehensive strategy to deal with acid rain. At the state level, direct financial assistance to help local communities manage public lake resources was not seriously considered.

The list of challenges could fill the rest of this newsletter. I will list a few select ones:


*Implement the modest program funded by the Legislature as part of the DNR biennial budget.

*Enhance the attention given to lakes among natural resource professionals, public officials, and citizens in general.

*Develop a long-term strategy to control acidic precipitation.

*Most importantly, maintain the interest of local property owners in protecting and enhancing the lake in their community.

In response to that final challenge, I look forward to seeing you at the 1986 Wisconsin Lakes Convention on March 7-8.


Lowell L. Klessig, Specialist
Cooperative Extension Service
Professor

SELF-HELP MONITORING PROGRAM
by Carolyn Rumery
Bureau of Water Resource Management, DNR

This year, the Department of Natural Resources will begin a "self-help" lake monitoring program. We would like to invite lake property owners such as you to participate in this program. You will learn more about your lake and collect valuable data on your lake's water quality.

Who May Get Involved?

Anyone who lives on a lake or who visits a lake at least once every two weeks between May and September is a potential volunteer. The volunteer must have access to a boat and be willing to spend a few hours every two weeks collecting data. Once a volunteer makes the commitment to participate in this program, they will be trained by the DNR lake management specialist who lives nearest them. Sometime in April or May the lake management specialist and the volunteer will get together at the site. The volunteer will be given a Secchi disc and taught how to use it, and taught how to read a staff gauge.

What is a Secchi Disc? How is it Used?

The Secchi depth is a very simple test to conduct, yet is the most commonly used indicator of lake water quality. Water clarity is influenced by several factors, including the amount of algae and sediment present, as well as the natural color of the lake water. If the Secchi disc disappears within a foot of the lake surface, there is probably a lot of algae present. On the other hand, if the Secchi disc disappears at 10 feet, there isn't much algae present. You would most likely rather swim in the second lake than the first.

There are a lot of sophisticated tests that indicate the water quality of the lake. However, the Secchi disc measurement is one test that citizens can conduct without sophisticated equipment or chemical reagents.

What is a Staff Gauge? What does it Measure?

A staff gauge is a long metal ruler marked in inches or fractions of feet. It is firmly anchored and referenced to a DNR established benchmark. It will not move during the normal ice-free season, but needs to be rechecked each spring. The staff gauge is used to measure changes in a lake's water level.

The volunteer will take a staff gauge reading on the same date the Secchi disc data is collected. The data will be used to see how your lake level changes throughout the summer months.

What Happens to the Data Collected?

The volunteer will record the data on a post-paid postcard and mail it to the DNR office in Madison. There the data will be stored on a computer and will be summarized in a table and graph at the end of the sampling

season. Each volunteer will receive a report about their own lake. A sample graph is shown below.

The data from all the lakes around the state will be put together in one annual report so that comparisons can be made from one lake to the next. Thus, the data will help us better understand some of the 15,000 lakes in Wisconsin. Each volunteer will also receive a copy of that report.

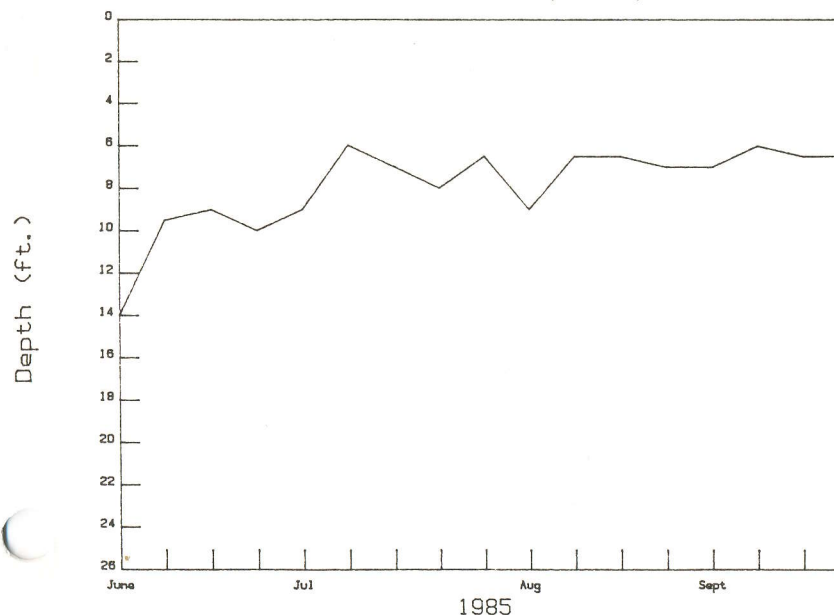
What About Next Year?

We would like to see data collected on each lake for a period of years so that trends in water clarity can be detected. If it appears that water clarity is decreasing, that is an indication that more algae or sediment are in the lake. At that time, we might recommend that more sophisticated water quality tests be conducted by a professional to help understand why a problem is developing and start to think about potential solutions.

How Do You Sign Up?

If you are interested in becoming a self-help monitoring volunteer, contact Carolyn Rumery, DNR, WRM/2, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Phone: 608/266-8117. You can also contact your area or district DNR office listed in the phone book, and ask to speak to the lake management coordinator, water quality specialist, or fish manager.

Fishtrap Lake
Secchi Disc Transparency



1986 WISCONSIN LAKES CONVENTION

WHEN: March 7-8, 1986 (1 p.m. Friday - 3 p.m. Saturday)

WHERE: University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

WHAT: An educational program featuring the following topics:

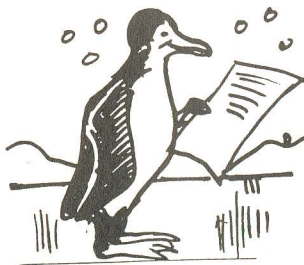
- .Federal Clean Water policies
- .Acid rain
- .Use of gasoline taxes for lakes
- .New DNR lake management program
- .Lake management in Massachusetts
- .Legislative Panel and Open Forum
- .Fish stocking
- .1985 Weed Control Survey
- .Lake Stratification
- .Self-help monitoring
- .Encouraging wildlife in and around lakes
- .Community Reports from Big, Round, Church Pine and Puckaway Lakes
- .Permits and zoning
- .Manpower assistance
- .Sparking enthusiasm in your organization

HOW MUCH: \$16.00 includes materials and Saturday lunch.

HOW TO REGISTER: Send check payable to UW-Extension to Lowell Klessig, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

WHERE TO LODGE: Lodging and parking information will be sent to preregistrants. Special conference rates may be available. If you want to stay at the Holiday Inn, call them as soon as possible (715/341-1340).

SPONSORS: Wisconsin Federation of Lakes
Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin



DREDGE SPOILS PROVIDE FERTILIZER

Early in the 1980s, dredge spoils from Lilly Lake were applied to farmland in Marathon County. Tom Wilson (Extension Resource Agent) and Leo Martin (Extension Farm Management Agent) conducted field trials on the Jim Kulas farm near Elderon during the 1984 growing season.

The control area received no dredge spoils and was fertilized with 300 pounds per acre of 17-17-17 fertilizer.

The treatment area received dredge spoils and 200 pounds per acre of the same fertilizer.

The yield on the control area was 115 bushels per acre. The yield on the treatment area was 123 bushels per acre.

The exact dollar value of the dredge spoils cannot be estimated from small research effort. However, the results indicate substantial fertilizer value from the material. Soils low in organic matter also benefit from the increase in humus.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION CARD

Providing security for seasonal residences always presents special problems. The Greater Whitewater Property Owners Association developed a card which is filed with the local (Walworth County) sheriff's department. If you are interested in such a program, contact your sheriff's department and offer to develop the cards (with their help) and coordinate distribution. The Whitewater Lake card is reproduced below:

NAME _____ FIRE # _____
LAKE ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
PERMANENT ADDRESS _____
CITY-STATE-ZIP _____
PERMANENT PHONE _____ # OF CHILDREN _____
WORKING HOURS PHONE _____
NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE OF SOMEONE TO CONTACT IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY OTHER THAN YOURSELF.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION CARD FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/ FIRE
DEPARTMENT.
OFFICIAL USE ONLY

THE ALMA-MOON OF VILAS COUNTY
by John Seibel

In the spring of 1970, the property owners of the Alma and Moon Lakes decided to form an Association. With volunteer help, they developed articles of incorporation and filed with the State of Wisconsin.

In the ensuing years, the Association petitioned the Town Board of St. Germain for:

- .Single Family Zoning
- .Skiing Hours on Moon Lake
- .Boating Speed Limits on Alma Lake
- .A Septic Tank Dye Testing Program.

In the summer of 1978, a committee was established to study a lake management district. Subsequently, the committee proposed boundaries and petitions were circulated. In October, 1979, these petitions, representing over 80% of all landowners, were presented to the Vilas County Clerk. A public hearing was scheduled. At the public hearing, all present favored the creation of a district, and the Vilas County Board approved the creation of the Alma-Moon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District in January, 1980.

Our first Annual District Meeting was held in July, 1980, and commissioners were elected for one, two, and three-year terms. At least one of the commissioners had to be a year-round resident. The by-laws were adopted after being put into legal form, and the commissioners meet three times per year in addition to the annual meeting.

The commissioners elected at the first meeting prepared both long and short-range plans based on input from the district members at their first meeting.

Many worthy projects were brought forth; but the commissioners decided that maintaining water quality in our lakes should be our main concern, so we embarked on the following:

- .The District offered free drinking water testing for all landowners in the district.
- .Volunteers, under organized direction, built oak log cribs during the winter months, and put them on the ice before spring thaws. (We later learned that it was necessary to attach cement blocks to get them to sink properly.)
- .The commissioners reviewed the DNR fish stocking program, and asked for a shocking program to determine what type of fish were thriving in our lakes.
- .With assistance from the DNR office in Rhinelander, nutrient samples, alkalinity, pH tests, and dissolved oxygen tests were done on both lakes at different depths and locations.

All this information was put into our computer data bank. At the last annual meeting, the data were color graphed and made available to all district members. We now have a better idea what types of fish to stock in our lakes or other measures to take.

For the past two years, we have also been cooperating with the WALD-sponsored Secchi disc/water level testing program with the U.S. Geological Survey. These results are also being put into our computer.

In cooperation with the DNR, we have helped our town board rewrite our skiing hours ordinance on Moon Lake. It is in proper legal form to allow enforcement. We now have excellent cooperation from all residents and guests.

After two years, we hired a professional diver to survey our cribs. He reported good fish life in better than 90% of the cribs. We are seriously contemplating additional cribs.

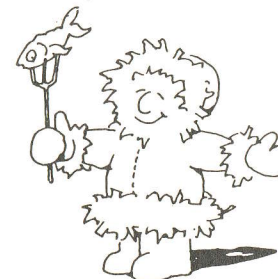
This year, we built two loon nesting rafts, and have posted Loon Alert signs on both lakes. We again arranged for free water testing of all wells in the district. These results are also being put into our computer for comparison purposes.

Our computer services are being donated by a local landowner. Other volunteers include our project workers, our legal assistance, and much of our professional assistance.

Our lake association is still active and sponsors our Annual Family Picnic in August of each year--an event which is fast becoming a FAMILY tradition.

Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society
1986 Annual Meeting
The Abbey, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

For more information contact:
R. Bauer
7150 Summerville Drive
Dayton, OH 45424



KNOW YOUR ACRONYMS

All organizations have a tendency to create more programs and bureaucratic divisions than lazy tongues want to constantly repeat. Thus, the modern vocabulary grows, not with creative words for the expression of new ideas, but with a tasteless alphabetic soup of abbreviations commonly known as acronyms. Some of the more common ones you may encounter are shown below:

ACP (Agricultural Conservation Program): a USDA program to promote certain land uses and conservation measures with federal cost sharing.

ASCS (United States Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service): local county offices to administer USDA program funds.

BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand): a measure of the amount of organic material in a water system that will use oxygen as it rots. Most commonly used to measure the effluent from industrial and municipal treatment plants.

CNR (College of Natural Resources): part of the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point.

CALS (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences): part of the University of Wisconsin Madison.

DNR (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)

DO (Dissolved Oxygen): a measure of the amount of oxygen dissolved in a water system and available to sustain life. Most often measured in late winter on lakes that might experience winterkill of fish.

EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency): Region V office is located in Chicago.

LCC (Land Conservation Committee): a standing committee of the county board that replaced the Soil and Water Conservation District, provides county funded technical and financial assistance to landowners.

RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development Program): select multi-county regions that provide special funding for conservation and economic development, administered by SCS.

SCS (United States Soil Conservation Service): part of USDA with local county offices to provide technical assistance to landowners.

USGS (United States Geological Survey): part of the Department of the Interior, with a state office in Madison.

UWEX (University of Wisconsin Extension)

WRM (Water Resources Management): Bureau in the DNR that includes the new lake program and related programs.

U.S. CLEAN WATER ACT

The House and Senate have both passed bills reauthorizing the Clean Water Act. However, the bills are different and a conference committee must work out the differences.

The conference committee will likely be meeting by the time you receive this newsletter. A strong reauthorization is important to the country and to Wisconsin. Particularly crucial will be the non-point pollution control and clean lakes sections. If you have not communicated with your Congressman and Senators, they may still be able to influence the conference committee.

Until the Clean Water Act is reauthorized, Wisconsin communities will not be eligible for EPA Clean Lakes funds. In recent years, only communities with federally funded studies could apply for project grants. Since Wisconsin feasibility studies were funded with state and local funds, communities have not been eligible. The annual appropriation for 1986 is \$5,000,000.

NEED A MAP?

Lake Maps. (Variable scale). Maps and map indexes are available from: The Clarkson Company, 724 Desnoyer St., Kaukauna, WI 54130. Price is \$.85 each plus mailing charge. (Phone 414/766-3000). Bound book of County maps "guide to Fun in Wisconsin," \$8.00.

County Highway Maps. Scale 1/2" = 1 mile @ \$.45 each; 8 1/2 x 11" county maps @ \$.25 each; 8 1/2 x 11" booklet of all counties @ \$4.50. They are available from: Dept. of Transportation, Div. of Highways, Document Map Sales, 3617 Pierstorff St. (Truax Field), Madison, WI 53707. (Phone 608/246-3265)

Planimetric and Topographic Maps. (Available for the entire State.) 1:250,000 scale @ \$3.25 each, other scales of 7 1/2 or 15 minute quadrangle maps @ \$2.00 each. An index for ordering can be secured from University of Wisconsin, Geological & Natural History Survey, 3817 Mineral Point Rd., Madison, WI 53705 (Phone 608/263-7389). Also available are Wisconsin wetlands maps @ \$2.00 each. Please give legal description and county when ordering.

Aerial Photographs. Available from Wisconsin ASCS State Office, 4601 Hammersley Rd., Madison, WI 53711 (Phone 608/264-5323). Prints of aerial photos are available from the ASCS office in each county (scale variable).

County Plat Books. Available from Rockford Map Publishers Corp., Box 6126, Rockford, IL 61125 (Phone 800-435-0712).

Additional Maps Available. Highway maps, navigation charts, aerial photos, county plat books: Milwaukee Map Service, Inc., 4519 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53208 (Phone 414/445/7361).

NEWSLETTERS AND YOUR LAKE ORGANIZATION
by Bernard J. Kasierski, Resource Agent, Green Lake County
Cooperative Extension Service*

Newsletters are an important communication method for lake organizations--informing citizens of current events and happenings.

CONTENT: Newsletters should create a positive attitude and a feeling of anticipation within the organization. The reader should feel good about what is being done for the lake and anticipate progress reports in each forthcoming issue. Content is the core component of any newsletter. Some key content categories include the following:

- Information on meetings: dates, time, place, and agenda items
- Project reports and updates
- Current activities
- Editorial column or comment
- Progress reports
- Annual review and report
- Meeting reports
- Financial report
- Educational topics related to lake management
- Resource information
- Reports from other lake-related state and federal agencies
- Reports from other lake organizations
- Committee reports
- Volunteer activities
- Items of local interest.

CREDIBILITY: Credibility can be the key to the success or failure of your lake organization newsletter. A newsletter must be credible. This can be achieved by paying particular attention to the following items:

- Accurate information
- Current information
- Useful information.

Other factors that can contribute to the success of a newsletter are:

- Professional appearance
- Attractive design and display of articles
- Editorial column
- Timeliness
- Regular publication schedule.

USEFUL ASPECTS: As a communications tool, newsletters have many important functions other than informing citizens of current events and happenings. Newsletters can:

Keep all lake area residents in communication with the officers of their organizations.

Educate citizens on a variety of lake-related topics.

Keep the local area in contact with seasonal and other part-time residents.

Inform other organizations of the activities and programs occurring on and about your lake.

Generate support for lake activities.

Be used for conducting surveys or public opinion polls.

Create unity within the lake area.

Keep the local news media informed on lake activities.

Reduce or eliminate ill-founded rumors.

Be mass produced for area-wide coverage and distribution to local residents, taxpayers, organizations, resorts, campgrounds, agencies, news media, and any other group or individual that needs to receive accurate information on lake activities and projects.

EDITOR: Whether or not a lake organization newsletter succeeds will ultimately depend on the individual who serves as editor. Every newsletter will require an editor who has perseverance, a positive attitude, a time commitment, some communication skills in writing and editing articles, and patience.

Editors should also make use of volunteers. Volunteers can assist in many tasks, such as news article writing, assembling, mailing, updating mailing lists from tax rolls, preparing mailing labels, and distribution.

Good newsletters take time to produce. Once accomplished, they can be one of the best communication tools available to lake organizations.

*Bernard J. Kasierski serves as editor of Lake Puckaway Protection and Rehabilitation District Newsletter. Samples are available from Bernie at the Courthouse, Green Lake, 54941, or from Lowell Klessig.

WEDEPOHL: PRESIDENT-ELECT OF NALMS

In recent balloting, the North American Lake Management Society has chosen Richard Wedepohl as its President for 1987. Wedepohl will serve on the Executive Committee for one year in his capacity as President-Elect before assuming the Presidency. Wayne Poppe of the Tennessee Valley Authority is currently President.

Dick Wedepohl is an environmental engineer and has worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources since 1972. He has responsibility for implementing Wisconsin's renewed commitment to lake management.

A second Wisconsinite serves on the Board of Directors of the North American Lake Management Society. Lowell Klessig was elected to the board when the Society was chartered in Maine in 1980. He is completing the third year of his second term. In November, he was the recipient of the Society's Distinguished Service Award.

Wedepohl's election and Klessig's award were announced at the International Symposium on Applied Lake and Watershed Management. The annual Symposium is organized by the North American Lake Management Society. The 1985 session was hosted by Ted Peters and Will Gross at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

The North American Lake Management Society is comprised of professional lake managers, community organizations, firms involved in lake management activities, and individuals interested in the future of lakes. More information is available from Judy Taggart, Executive Secretary, 11700 Swarts Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or from Dick or Lowell.

PRETTY PICTURES ACTION SHOTS

If you have high-quality prints or slides of your lake or management activities in the lake or watershed, please send a copy to Dick Wedepohl, DNR, Box 7921, Madison, 53707.

Please label prints or slides with the name of lake, county, date, and name and address of photographer. The best photographs will be enlarged from the slide or from a negative to be requested from the submitter.

LAST CHANCE

After this mailing, the current mailing list for Lake Tides will be discarded. We need to clean up our list at least once every five years.

Therefore, if you did not send in the form in the last issue, send in the form below to stay on the list.

I want to continue to receive Lake Tides.

☐ My address, as shown on the address label on the reverse side, is accurate.

☐ Please correct my address as shown below.

Name: _____

Street (P.O. Box): _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Send this page to:

Lowell Klessig
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin
Stevens Point, WI 54481