



LAKE TIDES

Autumn 1989
Vol. 14, No. 4

Community Focus

Honey Lake: A Community With Determination

by Debra Dillon

The Honey Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District is comprised of a chain of man-made lakes, Honey, Tahoe, and Del Monte, located in Walworth and Racine Counties in south-eastern Wisconsin. Honey Lake is approximately 44 acres, with the others being 7-9 acres in size.

The lakes were formed in the 1920s with the intent of creating a resort area; brochures were sent out, property was sold as vacation sites, and cottages were built. As the area became more developed, riparian residents formed Honey Lake Homeowners Association, which took over the ownership of the roads and the half-mile long earthen dam.

In 1976, the Honey Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District was formed for the purpose of reclaiming the lakes. Honey Lake had gone from a maximum depth of 10 or 12 feet to a maximum depth of approximately 3 feet due to siltation from the Sugar Creek watershed which feeds into the lake. The district took over ownership of most of the roads and the dam, and care and maintenance of two beaches.

During the next ten years, the district financed and implemented numerous changes on the chain. These improvements included asphaltting of the roads in the Racine County side of

the neighborhood; installation of street name and regulatory signs; planning, ownership, and maintenance of a beautiful community park; a neighborhood watch program; and implementation of a long awaited lake dredging project.



Before dredging, the lake shallows looked like a field.

After a series of setbacks, the project commenced early this year. Due to the lack of state and federal funding and local government support, the people of the community have taken on the responsibility of footing the bill for the \$690,000 project. The project includes the dredging of all three lakes, construction of a sediment trap, and mandatory repairs ordered by the DNR to the earthen dam. Most of the work on Honey Lake and Del Monte Lake has been completed, with some contouring and seeding left. The project is scheduled to be completed by July 1990.

The restoration of our lakes has been a hard earned achievement, and the residents here take great pride and satisfaction in seeing it finally come to pass. However, the work is



After dredging, we are ready to begin aquascaping and enjoying the lakes again.

not over; the lake district's next undertaking is to persuade the DNR and local governments to designate Sugar Creek Watershed as a priority watershed. Then the Honey Lake community could look forward to the possibility of some financial assistance as well as the expertise of the DNR to help us prevent future sedimentation to our beautiful lakes.

Debra Dillon is Secretary of the Honey Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District.

Harvest Time for Nominations

It's not too soon to think about the 1990 Wisconsin Lakes Convention. It will again be held at the Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, as 79 percent of people voting preferred that location. In planning for the 1990 convention please do three things:

1. Mark March 30-31, 1990, on your calendar.
2. Make a reservation for lodging at the Holiday Inn. Ask for the Wisconsin Lakes Convention block. Convention rates also apply if you extend your stay in either direction: \$49 single, \$57 double, \$61 triple, \$65 quad.
3. Nominate your group for the Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award or nominate an individual who has been committed to enhancing the community lake resource.

As summer draws to a close and thoughts turn to harvesting the bounty of the land, think about your group or some individual

who labored through another season to make the lake a better place to live and play. Then send a letter of nomination with supporting documentation (newspaper articles, reports, supporting letters) to Diane Lueck, UW-Extension, College of Natural Resources, Univ. of Wisconsin, Stevens Point WI 54481.

Calendar

September 17-22, 1989. AWRA 25th Annual Conference, "Water Laws and Management" and Symposium "Wetlands: Concerns and Successes," Tampa, FL. For information: Kenneth Reid, 5410 Grosvenor Ln. #220, Bethesda MD 20814-2192 (301/493-8600)

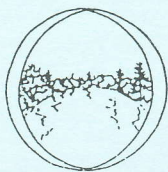
October 7, 1989. Wisconsin Federation of Lakes Fall Meeting. Midway Motor Lodge, Green Bay WI. For information: Elmer Goetsch 7524 Island View, Three Lakes WI 54562 (715/546-2340).

November 7-11, 1989. "Multiple-Use Management of Reservoirs." North American Lake Management Society. For information: Charles Dvorsky, PO Box 220, Austin TX 78767 (512/473-3372).

March 30-31, 1990. Wisconsin Lakes Convention. Stevens Point Holiday Inn. (See "Harvest Time for Nominations.")

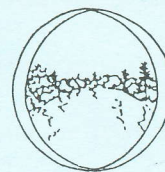
Publications

Nutrient and Pesticide Best Management Practices for Wisconsin Farms; UW-Extension publication #A3467; Available from your County Extension Office.



Eco-Note

Protecting Our Wetlands



Phosphorus Analysis Alert

by Richard Wedepohl

Department of Natural Resources staff are often asked to interpret lake water quality data collected and analyzed by others. Such information can be extremely valuable if the analysis is done correctly.

Phosphorus is usually the most critical nutrient in defining the health of a lake. Phosphorus concentrations in lakewater as low as 0.01 milligrams per liter (mg/l) are sufficient to stimulate algal blooms.

Unfortunately, most laboratories are accustomed to running water analyses for industrial or municipal wastewater. Wastewater has high concentrations of phosphorus, often between 1.0 mg/l and 5.0 mg/l; therefore laboratory equipment is usually set up to detect concentrations greater than 0.1 mg/l. Their instruments are often not properly calibrated for lake water unless you ask them specifically to do so. A lake scientist is interested in phosphorus concentrations between 0.004 mg/l and 0.1 mg/l, while a wastewater engineer is more interested in values between 1.0 mg/l and 10.0 mg/l.

Many state-certified laboratories may not be licensed for low level phosphorus analyses. It's important that you notify any laboratory doing analytical work for you that they should be running *low level* phosphorus analyses on your lake sample.

To ensure that your lake rehabilitation project is based on accurate data, be sure to provide the following specifications to your laboratory and request that they precisely follow the procedures. In addition, quality control information should be requested from the lab.

Specifications for Quality Control

I. Sample Containers and Preservation

A. The laboratory shall provide the appropriate containers and preservatives as specified in s. 219.04(2), Wis. Admin. Code.

B. All samples submitted for analysis shall be analyzed within the holding time specified in s. 219.04(2), Wis. Admin. Code.

C. All total dissolved phosphorus samples shall be field filtered and filter blanks should be taken to determine contamination from filtering samples.

II. Methodology

A. The laboratory shall use the appropriate methods of analysis from s. 219.04(1), Wis. Admin. Code. If there is no method given, an appropriate method from Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 16th edition, shall be used.

B. For phosphorus testing, the laboratory shall use EPA Method 365.1 or Method 4240III and 424G from Standard Methods, 16th edition.

1. The laboratory shall be able to obtain a detection limit of 0.004 mg/l.

2. The following standards shall be used to calibrate the spectrophotometer:

Blank	0.100 mg/l
0.005 mg/l	0.150 mg/l
0.050 mg/l	0.200 mg/l

III. Quality Control

A. The laboratory shall follow the quality control procedures specified in s. NR 149.14, Wis. Admin. Code.

B. For phosphorus testing, the following quality control specification must be met:

Quality Control Check	Specification
Blanks	Not detected
Duplicates	\pm 0.004 mg/l
Spikes	90-110% recovery
Known Standards	0.050 mg/l
Blind Standards	Once during study range 0.005-0.050 mg/l

Richard Wedepohl is an environmental engineer in DNR's Lake Management Program.

Protect Your Community Lake: Chippewa County's Example

by Laura Katzman

Is your community lake in jeopardy?

If the decks, stairways, and cabins on your lake are being constructed without an awareness of the consequences to the lake, the future of your lake could be adversely affected.

Chippewa County set an example in acting to protect the lake's scenic beauty and water quality after learning from a lake survey that many shore developments in their area did not meet zoning standards. (See article by Eric Macbeth, Spring '88 *Lake Tides*.)

Renewed enforcement of the existing ordinances met with some opposition. Lakefront property owners "want to see beautiful, manicured lawns--not a natural lake," explained a Chippewa County zoning administrator. Other reactions were that "I pay high taxes on this property and should be able to use it as I want to," and "I don't live on a wild lake and it shouldn't be zoned that way."

Chippewa County tried different approaches to convince the public that shoreland zoning is in their best interest. A brochure "Shoreland Zoning: What the Landowner Needs to Know" was sent to every county resident. Public meetings were held to explain zoning to the people directly affected. A local newspaper carried a string of articles with periodic updates. An area grocer lent the video "Protecting Wisconsin's Lakes Through Shoreland Zoning" to concerned townspeople.

While enforcing the ordinances, the Chippewa County zoning staff discovered that many standards were not sufficiently defined. To make sure that all landowners are treated fairly, changes have been proposed that help clarify vague areas in the ordinances. For example, the current local ordinance does not clearly describe the kinds of stairs or walkways to the lake that are allowed. A proposed amendment specifies structure size. Proposed ordinance changes, along with other zoning efforts, will help prevent the deli-

cate shoreline from crumbling away and disappearing into the bottom of the lake.

The proposed changes are not without controversy. Whether they are adopted or not, Chippewa County residents are more aware of the impacts of their actions upon the shoreline. Chippewa County has taken action to protect the valuable resource that is bringing people and money to their county. Future generations will be likely to appreciate the county's foresight and efforts to buck the tide of lackadaisical zoning enforcement.

Contact your county zoning administrator to find out how your community can evaluate its shoreland zoning situation. "Don't ignore zoning problems," advises Chippewa County's administrator, "try to get them resolved as soon as possible or they will begin to mushroom. One person sees another's deck and wants one." And another and another. Act now to protect your lake.

Laura Katzman is a student intern with DNR's Lake Management Program.

Some helpful resources are available for your use through your DNR District Lake Management Coordinator or Area Water Management Specialist.

1. Shoreland Zoning: What the Landowner Needs to Know. Brochure explaining common zoning questions.
2. Protecting Wisconsin's Lakes through Shoreland Zoning. 20-minute video describing zoning procedures, benefits, and purposes.
3. Turning the Corner--Sound Decisions on Zoning Variances. 20-minute video promoting uniform interpretation of variance guidelines. (Available in 1990)



Capitol Report

by Susan McMurray

In the 1989-91 state budget bill, the Governor had originally proposed to link funding for lake clean-up activities with the DNR's Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement efforts. The DNR already has the authority to use Nonpoint funds for lakes, but the Governor recommended \$750,000 of motorboat gas tax revenues (from a segregated account) specifically earmarked for "priority" lakes.

In the past, few lakes qualified for Nonpoint aid for a variety of reasons, but particularly because lake pollution abatement was not considered a primary goal of the Nonpoint program.

The Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts (WALD), the Wisconsin Federation of Lakes (WFL), and others suggested seed money be made available to pay for gathering data to assess the nature, scope, and source of water quality problems of lakes. The information would be used to develop long-term lake management plans, and to help some watersheds qualify for Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement money.

With this goal in mind, State Representative Jim Holperin modified SB 31 with an amendment to create a "lake management" planning grant program in the DNR. The grants will be available to lake districts, lake associations, and local government units seeking to identify lake water quality problems and to plan clean-up activities. To be eligible, lake associations must be tax exempt as described in 501(C)(3) of the IRS code.

As many as 65 lakes could receive grants of up to \$10,000 each in the next two years. The source of funding for the grant program is the motorboat gas tax formula created by the Legislature in 1985.

The legislation also earmarks \$300,000 of existing Nonpoint aids to be focused on lakes and lake watersheds during the coming biennium.

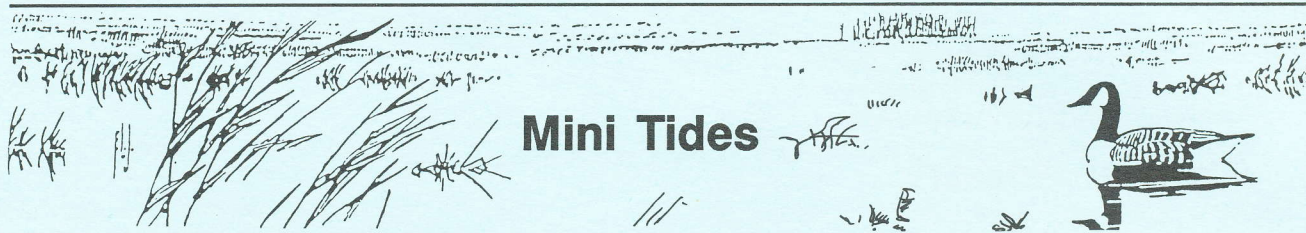
Holperin's amendment also provides money for two UW-Extension lake specialist positions and three DNR field staff positions to give lake districts and others the guidance needed on developing lake management plans.

The third feature of the package makes changes in the Wisconsin Waterways Commission. The Waterways Commission makes grants to lake districts and local government units for public access and other recreational boating projects. The Waterways Commission currently distributes money generated by the motorboat gas tax formula for recreational boating projects, approximately \$3 million annually.

Currently, inland lakes receive 30% of the grant money, Great Lakes projects receive 30%, and the remaining 40% is for projects in either category. Holperin's amendment increases the share for inland and Great Lakes to 40% and provides 20% for discretionary projects.

Funding has also been made available for repair of dams, up to \$200,000 per project. DNR will investigate structures and define priorities.

Susan McMurray is Legislative Assistant to Rep. Jim Holperin.



Anti-pollution Project Underway

edited from Appleton Post-Crescent

BROTHERTOWN--Cooperation was the key word used at the ceremony marking the initiation of the East Shore watershed pollution reduction project at Lake Winnebago.

DNR Secretary C.D. Besadny, on hand for the ceremony, emphasized that this is a joint effort between the state Dept. of Ag., Trade, and Consumer Protection and the DNR to better use tax dollars funding the project.

The plan was completed through the cooperation of about 100 individuals who identified pollution problems along the lake.

The commitment of state funds to clean up water emptying into the state's largest inland lake will cost \$1-\$2 million.

Barnyard and pesticide runoff will be controlled, and field and streambank erosion reduced, resulting in less nutrient-rich runoff which contributes to excess algae growth, a factor in the recent extensive fish die-off along the eastern shore. Urban construction erosion and storm sewer drainage will also be considered.

The project area extends from State Park Road in the Town of Harrison to the middle of Fond du Lac and back from the lake to include all creeks emptying into it.

The state will pay up to 70% of the costs for eligible farmers to reduce pollution-causing situations and pay additional staff salaries to get the work done. Calumet County was named the lead agency because Fond du Lac is already involved in two similar projects.

All improvements are voluntary, noted Nick Neher of the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and will improve agriculture conditions as well as lake quality.

Ingersoll Sues Lake District

from Little Muskego Lake Assn. Newsletter

Little Muskego Lake District commissioners have taken the position that since the city has approved the Bay Breeze Condo development for 74 units, the lake district would assess the proposed development for 74 on-lake units. Ingersoll's suit indicates that he feels that the benefits derived from the weed spraying and weed harvesting programs are not worth the assessments and do not add value to his property. He also feels that even though he can build 74 units he should only be charged for one unit because all of the condos will be built on one lot as a Planned Unit Development (PUD). He feels that he is being discriminated against. He has asked the judge to void his charges, or at least to consider his 74 units as off-lake lots. The commissioners will discuss on June 15 what action if any the district should take in regards to this matter.* However, it is at this time their unanimous feeling that the lake management programs undertaken by the district for the protection and rehabilitation of Little Muskego Lake will directly benefit the Ingersoll development. The argument for off-lake status is questionable since plans call for a large pier with multiple boat slips.

*At time of this writing, the issue has gone to the county court.--LT ed.

Pressure-Treated Lumber and Docks

from Waterworks, NY's newsletter

As many lake residents know, a dock is not forever. The constant exposure to harsh lake and weather conditions often results in dock stability suitable only for tightrope walkers. With the rise of prices for cedar, redwood, and other naturally resilient woods, many concerned dock owners have turned to pressure treated lumber. Pressure treatment can increase the life expectancy of lumber more than five-fold.

The three pesticide chemicals most frequently used in the pressurizing process are inorganic arsenicals (compounds of arsenic), creosote (referring to several coal tar derivatives), and pentachlorophenol.

There is legitimate concern about the fate of these chemicals in lakes and ponds. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that leaching may occur when these pesticide-treated woods come into contact with water. Given the suspected tumor causing nature of these chemicals, the EPA concluded in a 1984 position document that pesticide-treated wood should not be used where it may come into direct or indirect contact with public drinking water except for uses involving incidental contact such as docks and bridges.

The statement regarding "incidental" contact refers to pressure-treated wood which is not in continual contact with the water, but may by chance or inference contact the water, such as rainwater running from the deck of a dock. Therefore, it was concluded that any part of the dock which is either submersed, immersed, or in contact with drinking water (such as the vertical support posts of the dock) should not be pressure-treated with pesticides.

Pesticide-treated lumber should not be used for docks contacting lakes used for a drinking water source, and also should not be recommended for use in lakes used as an irrigation water source.

Using lumber not treated with pesticides (either through pressure or non-pressure treatment methods) is the best way to avoid pesticide contamination of lakes. As noted earlier, there are a number of more naturally-resistant woods which can provide some protection against pests and weathering. Other materials such as steel, plastic, or concrete may have applications for support posts.

Everyone wants their dock to last forever. Unfortunately, a permanent dock brings its side effects. It may be somewhat of a burden to occasionally replace dock posts and to pay a little extra for the effort, but this effort will lead to improved water quality free from pressure-treatment pesticides.



Reflections

Outside the window, the last yellow leaves of the birch drift to the ground. Beyond them, through the red-barked pines, I can see the clear blue waters of Sunset Lake. The sparkling surface reflects the auburn golds and browns of autumn. A cluster of laughing children pass by, armed with dip nets and pans. They are returning from the pond where they spent the morning exploring the mysterious wet world of muck and dragonflies. The crisp, cold wind and the rosy cheeks of the children reminds me that soon the whiteness of winter will blanket the lake.

by Joe Passineau, The Sunset Gazette, newsletter of the Central Wisconsin Environmental Center.



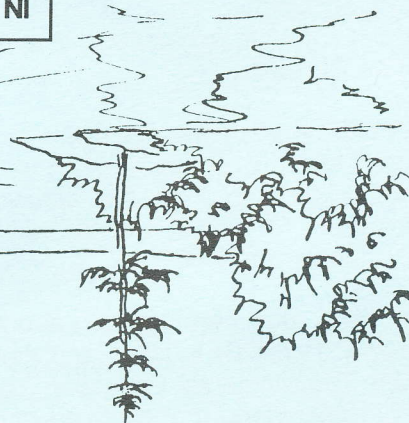
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A newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes



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