

AKETIDES

The newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes

Making Waves Recreational Boating in the '90s--Part III The Solution?

Volume 21, No. 3 Summer 1996 In this final installment of our series on recreational boating, we will explore the path to solutions. In the past when population pressures were light, **how** people used the lakes was not that significant. But the evolution of uses of Wisconsin's waters has changed in more ways than growth. In the 1950s, fishing represented 95% of the uses of Wisconsin lakes and the customary form of propulsion was manual. The '90s have arrived with lake use ranging from SCUBA diving to para-skiing. The technology has been fossil-fuel driven and speed is a mania.

Wisconsin's lakes remain one of the last strongholds of relaxation and recreation available to most of the people in this region. Each year more and more of us head for the water "to get away from it all."

It's a shame we all can't do what we want, when we want.



Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

Past public access policy and boating regulations have predominately centered on fishing. These well-intentioned endeavors could not predict the changes in our recreational habits. There are sizable numbers of low-impact users who look to our lakes for solitude and a naturally aesthetic vista. There has also been major growth in the number of folks operating large, fast vessels and personal watercraft. Today's recreation has the potential to become highly unsettling for all lake users. If this trend continues, it could lead to disappointment and frustration during what is supposed to be one of the best experiences of your life... your time on the water.

With the swelling totals of today's users and their diverse interests, the need for some sort of compromise and understanding is evident. It's a shame that we all can't do what we want, when we want. Without some sort of tolerance and user arrangement, the frustration and anger that springs from conflict and overuse can ruin the "lake experience" for everyone.

Suitable solutions?

Without proper guidance that continually corrects for our shortcomings and unpredicted changes, our lakes might be a less satisfying retreat than they are today. We have the ability to circumvent such a fate for our lakes, but it calls for some tough decisions and a little "ground giving." Many people have solutions to assisting our society in reaching recreational fulfillment and maintaining a stable ecosystem. Some of the ingredients in the eventual solution may be found here: In the long term, the legislature may consider **combining the rules for highways and waterways** into a consistent, unified system with the same restrictions on age, alcohol, eyesight and points. A 1995 National Association of State Boating Law Administrators survey revealed six states requiring operator licensing: Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Minnesota, New Jersey and North Dakota. No states require a special boating license to operate personal watercraft. Presently, 35 states set a minimum age requirement ranging from 10 to 18 years of age; 12 is the average age.

More education about safe and courteous boating. While education and operator licensing is not usually mandated, many states have initiated public education efforts. Twenty six states certify minor boaters. Thirty six states offer boating education in public schools. Wisconsin has a mandatory boater safety program.

A system of **lake use classification**. Currently all Wisconsin lakes under 50 acres are "no wake" lakes. Most of the best decisions about lake use will probably be made over a kitchen table and a cup of coffee people **building trust and respect** and trying to make choices that are best for the lake and acceptable for its people.

Local lake users are agreeing on:

- compatible hours for lake use;
- areas sensitive to motor powered craft;
 speed limits;
- courtesy codes that encourage harmony; and
- ways and places to limit noise.

Each of our lakes has a limited "carrying capacity." Over-use or over-development will cause the environmental conditions to change. We need to look with wisdom and a fresh vision at what we want Wisconsin's lakes to be like in the years to come. The fate of Wisconsin's lakes is inevitably linked to how we perceive our environmental responsibility and our role as good neighbors.





Congratulations! to *Jeff Bode*, recently named Lakes and Wetlands Section Chief within the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Jeff has led an outstanding group of DNR Specialists as a component of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. Jeff's role has expanded, allowing him to play an even broader role in protecting and promoting clean, healthy lake environments for Wisconsin.



etting Away From It All: A New Focus on Northern Lakes Development

The desire to have a "place of one's own" on a northern Wisconsin lake can be easily understood. Most of us have experienced the calm splendor of these lakes girded with wilderness and graced with loons. Therein lies the dilemma. If all of us buy a place to get away from it all on our northern lakes, we won't be getting away from anything. Surveys indicate that lakeshore development is a top issue in the north country. The matter can be contentious with strong feeling on both sides. The increasing concern over the exceptional growth of new homes on northern Wisconsin lakes and the spiralling cost of property has triggered a number of actions in the northwoods.

• A group has convened to develop a Lakes and Shoreland Implementation Program as part of the DNR's Northern nitiative. Individuals representing Wis-Jonsin realtors, Native Americans, local and federal government, the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, the Nature Conservancy, DNR, UW-Extension and other interested parties will identify and develop strategies which can be used to enhance protection of our northern lakes, rivers and shorelands. The approach will involve a fresh look at the delivery of technical assistance, distribution and development of educational programs and materials, and voluntary conservation practices. The recommendations of this group will be presented to the Natural Resources Board in the fall.

• Over the past year another group with similar membership took on the task of identifying and developing a program for possibly acquiring some of the few lakes that remain in a wild condition with no structures on their shores. Based on the results of a 1995 aerial survey, it

s estimated that three out of five lakes that were undeveloped in the mid-1960s now have one or more dwellings. At the current rate of development, calculations show that all "wild" Wisconsin lakes may be gone by 2015. Some owners of entire lakes or those who own large parcels of shorelands are interested in finding ways to continue their stewardship philosophies. Some of these owners have been contacting DNR Fisheries Supervisor Bruce Swanson at 715/779-4030.

 The Governor's Council on Natural Resources is holding a series of roundtable discussions called "Focus on Our Shorelands." The purpose of the meetings is to explore the ramifications of shoreland development. The meetings are open to the public. The Governor's Council on Natural Resources was created by Governor Thompson in 1990. The mission of the Council is "to study and recommend policies and practices to properly manage and ensure the availability of the natural resources of Northern Wisconsin," to the Governor and the Natural Resources Board.

A number of northern Wisconsin counties have been investigating the concept of lake classification. The idea is to design the type of development that can occur on shorelands in concert with the lake's environmental sensitivity. Lakes easily impacted by development could have larger lot sizes, less vegetation removal, buildings concentrated in non-sensitive areas, greater setback of buildings, and larger buffer zones to help protect the lake ecosystem. The level of protection would be determined by a classification of the lake's environmental sensitivity. The less sensitive the lake to human disturbance, the less restrictive the building standards.

If all of us buy a place "up north" to get away from it all, we won't be getting away from anything.

No Longer Possessed Contributed by Sandy Engel of Woodruff, Wisconsin

Folks once knew lakes by who lived there. They stopped to rest at the lake's sole cabin, fished with the lake's sole owner, married into the lake's sole family. Mann's Lake meant the shallow lake by Highway M where John Mann lived about 1900. Halverson's Pond once flooded a valley in Iowa County where the Halverson brothers farmed a halfcentury earlier. Grahl's Pond was a fishing spot on an old mink ranch owned by Frank Grahl of Boulder Junction.

That's how many lake names appeared, each bearing an apostrophe to show possession, each apostrophe bearing honor and respect. But no more,

Many people who lent their names to a lake have since died. So, too, have the folks who knew them. Later, those who knew the lake but not the people dropped the apostrophe, turning Mann's Lake into Mann Lake and leaving you to guess whether Wolf Lake honored a howling tetrapod or a homesteading biped.

Other lakes were named for people who lived miles away or were just plain famous. Chief Escanaba, for example, might have camped near Escanaba Lake a century ago but was better known for his Star Lake Hotel seven miles away. Even John Mann was best known for his two-story log hotel built four miles north at the old logging camp of Trout Lake. Jamie Prochaska, who died of leukemia in 1986, now has Jamie Lake southwest of Presque Isle named after her.

Dropping the apostrophe from lake names, turning possessives into compound nouns, perhaps signals the end of an era when lake shores had but one cabin, neighbors knew neighbors no matter how distant, and people thought of lakes as possessions rather than as natural wonders to use . . . for a while.

Still, I wonder if any perch survived last winter in Mann's Lake, if the bass still bite in Grahl's Pond, if the dam will be rebuilt in Halverson's Valley.



The theme of the 1997 State Lakes Convention in Steven Point will revolve around the history of Wisconsin lakes. We look forward to looking back at our inland lakes. All the topics normally discussed at the Conference will have the theme of history woven into them.

We need you to send us pictures (old boats, swimmers, buildings, etc.), stories, and articles about lake life in the past—the older the better. We will present these experiences and show the pictures at the conference.

If your lake organization would like to bring old artifacts or give a talk or a poster session on the history of your lake, please contact Robert Korth at UWSP (715-346-2192). If you send items that you want returned, please include a self addressed stamped envelope. Write your name and a description on any slides or photos and we will make every attempt to return them as quickly as we can duplicate them.



To see where the future will take us, it is wise to look back at where we have been! Send your histories and slides: attention Dorothy Snyder, UWEX-Lakes/CNR, 1900 Franklin Street, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, Stevens Point WI 54481.

Dropping the apostrophe from lake names perhaps signals the end of an era...

Wisconsin's Endangered Aquatic Plants

by Susan Borman, Wisconsin DNR Aquatic Plant Specialist

In the last issue of *Lake Tides* we discussed the rare aquatic plants of Wisconsin and identified the categories of rare plants as <u>Endangered</u>, <u>Threatened</u>, and <u>Special Concern</u>. A **Wisconsin Endangered Species** is any species whose continued existence as a viable component of the state's wild plants is determined by the DNR to be in jeopardy on the basis of scientific evidence.

Here, we'll examine in detail those submerged plants considered **Endangered** by the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory.

Lake Cress, Amoracia aquatica

Lake cress is an aquatic member of the mustard family that also includes water cress. It is most closely related to the terrestrial horse radish plant (*Armoracia rusticana*). It has only been found at a few scattered locations in eastern and northern Wisconsin, including sites in Lake Superior estuaries and quiet lakes and stream.

The stems of lake cress have extremely variable leaves and are usually found floating on the water. The submersed leaves are generally finely divided while those that stick out of the water may be entire or lobed. The flowers are small and white, and produce an inflated, ovalshaped fruit.

Recent sightings of *Amoracia aquatica* have been reported in Ashland, Bayfield, Marinette and Winnebago counties. Historic records of occurrence exist for Brown, Green Lake and Lincoln counties.

Floating Marsh Marigold, Caltha natans

The floating marsh marigold is a northern relative of the more common and widely distributed marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*). It ranges from Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota to Alaska, but is rare and local in distribution. The stems of *Caltha natans* are slender and float out over the water with kidney-shaped leaves. The flowers are about 1 cm wide and range in color from pink to white. The fruiting structure is distinctive with about 30 follicles (dry fruits that split along one margin) in a dense head, each follicle about 5 mm long and nearly straight.

The only documented site for *Caltha natans* in Wisconsin is in Douglas County.





Spotted Pondweed, Potamogeton pulcher



What distinguishes *Potamogeton pulcher* are the black spots on the stem and leaf stalks. The stem is usually rather short and unbranched. The submersed leaves (8-15 cm long, 1-3 cm wide) are lance-shaped and wavy along the margins. The floating leaves (4-8 cm long, 2-5 cm wide) are oval, broad and somewhat heart-shaped at the base. The leaf stalks of these floating leaves are stout and marked with black spots. The fruiting stalk is thicker than the stem and 5-12 cm long. The spike is a 2-4 cm cylinder with achenes that are about 4 mm long and have 3 sharp dorsal ridges.

Spotted pondweed grows in shallow water and mud flats of low pH lakes. Recent occurrence of *Potamogeton pulcher* has been reported in Barron County. Historic records of occurrence exist for Lincoln, Sauk and Sawyer counties.

Small Yellow Water Crowfoot, Ranunculus gmelini var. hookeri

The small yellow flowers of *Ranunculus gmelini* can be spotted just above the water surface, while the finely-divided submersed leaves fan out in the water below. This aquatic buttercup is most similar to the more common yellow water crowfoot (*Ranunculus flabellaris*) but differs in some noticeable ways. Both plants have submersed leaves that are divided into many narrow, flat, ribbon-like divisions and both have classic yellow buttercup flowers. However the petals and fruits of *Ranunculus gmelini* are considerably smaller (petals of *R. flabellaris* 6-17 mm long, petals of *R. gmelini* 3.5-5 mm long; achenes of *R. flabellaris* 2.5-3.5 mm long with a corky margin, achenes of *R. gmelini* 1.5-2 mm long without a corky margin).

Small yellow water crowfoot can grow in a variety of habitats from flowing streams to shallow water or muddy shores of lakes, ponds or ditches. However, it is currently only known from one site in Wisconsin in Douglas County. There are historic records of occurrences in Ashland, Bayfield, Door, Marinette and Vilas counties.

As with any rare or endangered plant you encounter, please notify the DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources through your local DNR Office. Do not collect these specimens, but document their existence by taking close-up photographs of leaves, flowers and fruits, and their surrounding habitat.

Pressure-Treated Wood: Some Cautions on Its Use

A consumer information sheet published by the EPA that outlines use-site and handling precautions should be available at your local home center or lumber yard.

There are several different types of pressure treated wood available on the market for use in construction. The pressure-treating process uses EPA-registered pesticides that contain inorganicals, arsenic or pentachlorophenol (used mainly for pilings or telephone poles), to protect it from insect attack and decay. Wood treated with these compounds should be used only where such protection is important. The chemical CCA (chromated copper arsenate) is most commonly used for treated lumber, however others like ACZA (ammonia-cal copper zinc arsenate) and ACA (ammoniacal copper arsenate) are also used. These chemicals penetrate deeply into the wood and remain for a long time. Exposure to these chemicals may present certain hazards, so precautions should be taken when handling the wood and determining where to use and dispose of treated wood.

To determine which chemical was used for treatment, check the quality mark on the end of each piece of lumber. Other markings give information on a host of criteria for proper use ranging from retention levels of chemicals to correct applications. To find out details, ask at your lumber yard or contact the American Wood Preservers Institute Web Site at http://www.awpi.org

Use-Site Precautions

Logs treated with pentachlorophenol should not be used for log homes. It should not be used in residential, industrial, or commercial interiors except for laminated beams or for building components which are in ground contact and are subject to decay or insect infestation and where two coats of an appropriate sealer are applied.

Wood pressure-treated with waterborne arsenical preservatives may be used inside residences as long as all sawdust and construction debris are cleaned up and disposed of after construction.

Wood treated with pentachlorophenol should not be used in the interiors of farm buildings where there may be direct contact with domestic animals or livestock which may bite or lick the wood.

Wood treated with pentachlorophenol should not be used where it will be in frequent or prolonged contact with bare skin (chairs or other outdoor furniture) unless an effective sealer has been applied. Urethane, shellac, latex epoxy enamel and varnish are acceptable sealers for pentachlorophenol-treated wood.

Only treated wood that is visibly clean and free of surface residue should be used for patios, decks and walkways.

Treated wood should not be used where it may come into direct or indirect contact with public drinking water, or drinking water for domestic animals or livestock.

Handling Precautions

Dispose of treated wood by ordinary trash collection or burial. Treated wood should not be burned in open fires or in stoves, fireplaces, or residential boilers because toxic chemicals may be produced as part of the smoke and ashes.



Avoid frequent or prolonged inhalation of sawdust from treated wood. When sawing and machining any wood materials, wear a dust mask. If possible, these operations should be performed outdoors to avoid indoor accumulations of sawdust. Wear goggles to protect eyes from flying particles.

Avoid frequent or prolonged skin contact with pentachlorophenol-treated wood; when handling the treated wood, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and use gloves impervious to the chemicals (vinyl-coated gloves).

After working with the wood, and before eating, drinking, or smoking, wash exposed areas thoroughly. Launder work clothes separately and often if sawdust and oily preservatives accumulate on clothes.

Using treated lumber or wood preservatives has become an economical and frequently used method to assure a long lasting structure when building near the water. There is, however, some concern over the use of wood preservatives and other chemically treated products near the water. So what other options do you have for docks and woodwork near the water if you want a long-lasting structure? A number of tree species do well in wet conditions: cedar, tamarack, oak, ash, and redwood. On the down side, the price for these woods is far greater than treated lumber and their use may evoke other environmental concerns. Other options include steel or aluminum, recycled plastic lumber, stone or concrete. **Be sure to check with your County Zoning Administrator or the Department of Natural Resources before building any structure on or near the water**.

☆★☆★☆

August 3-Florence County Lake Fair [Mike Kroenke, 715/528-4480]
August 3-7-5th National Volunteer Monitoring Conference, Madison WI [Celeste Moen, 608/266-8117]
August 10-Rock Lake Fair, Jefferson [Ron Kroner, 414/674-7115]
August 12-Project WET Workshop, Riveredge Nature Center, Newberg [Terrie Cooper, 414/675-6888]
August 17-Four-Corners Lake Fair, Shell Lake [Beverly Stencel, 715/635-3192]
August 17-Neenah Creek Watershed Tour [Richard Toebe, 608/339-4268]
August 29-30-Stormwater Management Modeling with the USEPA SWMM4 Model, Halifax, NS [Lyn James, 519/767-0197 or e-mail: info@chi.on.ca]
November 13-16-NALMS International Symposium, Minneapolis Radisson South Hotel [Steve Heiskary, 612/296-7217]
January 28-31, 1997-Zebra Mussell & Aquatic Nuisance Species Conference, New Orleans, LA [Conference Administrator, 1/800-868-8776 or check the conference website at http://www.foxfiresys.com/zebraconf/]

People, Lakes and the Land: Puzzling Relationships

The North American Lake Management Society 1996 International Symposium, November 13-16, 1996 at the Minneapolis Radisson South Hotel will bring together scientists and citizens from around the world working in the field of lake management. This is a rare opportunity for folks in the Great Lakes States to spend time with some of the best experts the world has to offer on all sorts of lake subjects. If you are interested in what other states are doing about boating conflicts, or want to know the latest science on combating Eurasian water milfoil, this conference is a must. Contact Barbara Timmel at 608-233-2836 for more information about the conference, co-hosted by the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.

Calendar of Events



"Inquiring Minds Want to Know"

Has a Lake District ever been sued?

The only suit we are aware of happened a few years ago. The Wind Lake District conducted a large-scale dredging project. Almost a year after completion, a resident adjacent to the project claimed major shoreline damage. After investigation, the Lake District and project engineer found no signs of erosion. The landowner disagreed and decided to sue the District. Because the District is a governmental unit, he had to file a notice of claim that was turned over to the District's insurance company. Their claims adjuster also determined there was no damage or erosion.

Even though the lawsuit seemed to have no merit, it proceeded. Depositions were taken and documents submitted. The lawsuit cost the District's insurance company more than \$15,000 to defend, and similar costs were incurred by the engineer and contractor. Because additional costs were expected in order to take the case to court, the contractor and engineer decided to settle with the landowner. The Lake District's insurer refused to settle. In the final mediation, the landowner paid the District's statutory legal costs of over \$2,000.

A lake district has some level of protection from lawsuits in the state statutes, but it still costs time and money to defend a lawsuit. Wind Lake District was gratified to learn the level of support and commitment from its insurer.

As organizations become deeply involved in lake management activities, it is easy to forget about things like insurance. However, it only takes one incident to add thousands of dollars in legal costs to an annual budget. Wind Lake District saved at least \$10,000 in local tax dollars even after factoring in 11 years of insurance premiums.

Are we who live on the Big Lake second class citizens? You never write articles about the Great Lakes. The most important lake in Wisconsin is Lake Michigan, and those of us who live on its shores could use some of your advice about water clarity, reducing algae, lake stewardship, etc. Perhaps we rate a special column in Lake Tides, but we as a group do have common problems.

There is no question that Lake Michigan is a Wisconsin lake, and we share your concern over the future of the Great Lakes. But the reason you don't see Lake Michigan or the other Great Lakes mentioned directly in Lake Tides has to do with funding sources and legislative direction, not a lack of concern for the Great Lakes. Many of our state's citizens raised their concern that the dollars. staff and the number of programs intended to deal with the issues impacting the Great Lakes far outweigh the dollars and programs directed to deal with similar issues on inland lakes. Because of this concern, Wisconsin's work on inland lakes and the Great Lakes is typically paid for by separate and distinct funding sources. Lake Tides is one of the limited "tools" charged with Wisconsin's inland lakes

That's why you don't find specific mention of the Great Lakes in our text. We hope you still find the information useful, and can forgive our lack of reference to Lake Michigan.

New Headquarters and Personnel for Wisconsin Association of Lakes

WAL has officially opened its new office in Stevens Point and recently hired *Jo Ellen Seiser* as Administrative Coordinator. The new office address is **PO Box 126**, **Stevens Point WI 54481** and is located in Nelson Hall on the UW-SP campus. Jo's office hours will be from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. The phone number remains 1-800-542-LAKE (5253). Four new directors were elected at the annual WAL meeting: *Bonnie Banaszak*, Rice Lake Assn; *Yvonne Feavel*, Long Lake Assn; *Jim Slagle*, Vilas County Assn of Lakes; and *Roy Holly*, Long Lake Assn. Re-elected were *John Seibel* and *Chuck Dykman*.



QUERY OF THE SEASON

Submit your questions to Lake Tides, Query of the Season.



Lake Tides - 8534

College of Natural Resources University of Wisconsin 1900 Franklin St. Stevens Point, WI 54481 715/346-2116

Vol. 21, No. 3 Summer 1996

	Making Waves Part III1
D	Congratulations2
())	Northern Lakes
	Development3
S	Lake Names4
	1997 Convention4
	Endangered Plants5
()	Pressure-Treated
	Wood7
	Calendar8
	NALMS Internation-
	al Symposium8
	Query of the
	Season9
Z	WAL News9
	Reflections10

BE000BIOGR BETSIE GRAHAM BIOLOGY UWSP 00000

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.







Published Quarterly Editor: Robert Korth Managing Editor: Dorothy Snyder Associate Editor: Bob Young DNR Coordinator: Carroll Schaal Artwork: Carol Watkins Photography: R. Korth

The contents of Lake Tides do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of UW-Extension, UWSP-CNR or the Wisconsin DNR. Mention of trade names, commercial products, private businesses or publicly financed programs does not constitute endorsement. Lake Tides welcomes articles, letters or other news items for publication. Articles in Lake Tides may be reprinted or reproduced for further distribution with acknowledgment to the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact our office.

Reflections:

Escape to Freedom

The movement of a canoe is like a reed in the wind. Silence is a part of it, and the sounds of lapping water, bird songs, and the wind in the trees. It is part of the medium through which it floats, the sky, the waters, and the shores. A man is part of his canoe and therefore part of all it knows. The instant he dips his paddle, he flows as it flows, the canoe yielding to his slightest touch and responsive to his slightest whim and thought . . . There is magic in the feel of a paddle and the movement of a canoe, a magic compounded of distance, adventure, solitude, and peace. The way of a canoe is the way of the wilderness and of freedom almost forgotten, the open door to waterways of ages past and a way of life of profound and abiding satisfaction.

- Sigurd F. Olson, The Lonely Land

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 19 Stevens Point, WI