

Volume 22, No. 1

Winter 1997

JAKETIDES

The newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes

Discovering Your Lake's Underwater History

If you're interested in writing the history of your lake and you're looking for some folks who can help you carry that interest to new depths, you may want to contact the Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association. This group of dedicated divers spends their spare time researching lake history. When the above-water research is done, they locate underwater sites and perform sophisticated underwater archeology. The following two tales on the Madison lakes are from their new book, <u>Our Four Lakes: Their Legends.</u> <u>Sites & Secrets</u>.

Lost Gold

Early in November 1827, a military detachment was formed at Fort Dearborn, in Chicago, to transport two iron-bound chests of gold and silver to Fort Crawford, in Prairie du Chien. The detachment consisted of a lieutenant, a guide, and four soldiers. The detachment was to travel across southern Wisconsin in a northwesterly direction. Only the guide had made the trip before. Their progress was slow. They had only two horses, which were loaded with provisions, equipment, and the chests of gold and silver.

By the third day out, the guide believed they were being followed. He reconnoitered and reported that they were indeed. The detachment continued on with all possible speed. They were very tired by the time they reached the Four Lakes area, possibly in early December. There was no settlement here then, and they could expect no aid until they reached Fort Crawford.

Discovering that Lake Mendota was frozen over, they decided to cross it. Once they were on the lake, the detachment had no cover. The robbers, reaching shore, knew that they had been spotted and prepared to attack. Lake Mendota was not entirely frozen, and the detachment removed the chests of gold and silver from the horses and dropped them through a hole in the ice near the center of the lake. Then they fled to the north shore and escaped. The robbers gave up the chase. The next day the detachment met up with a military detail that had been dispatched from Fort Crawford.

Years later the northwestern part of the lake was dragged in an effort to recover the treasure, but the attempts were unsuccessful. The treasure has never been found.

Working on your lake history? Here's a group who can help!



Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

Ice Harvesting

Before there were refrigerators, people had to cool things "the natural way," with lake ice. Demand for ice came not only from local families wanting to keep their food cool, but from Madison's five breweries and (since this is Wisconsin) the creameries and cheese businesses. (We were "Cheeseheads" even then!)

As early as 1858, commercial ice harvesting was taking place on the Madison lakes (Albert Warren's ice house located at the foot of Hamilton and Pinckney Streets). Small, private ice houses, used for ice storage, sprung up all around the lakes. In the mid-1870's, demand increased, and the ice harvesting industry expanded to serve other cities. One source of demand



Photo credit: State Historical Society of Wisconsin

was the meat packing industry in Milwaukee and Chicago, with clients including Swift and Armour. Breweries from Milwaukee to Chicago also craved Madison's ice. By the 1890's, the industry had become a big business employing thousands of local people during a time of the year when employment wasn't always easily found.



Why the increased demand for Madison's ice? Originally, ice harvested near Milwaukee and Chicago supplied their meat packing houses and breweries, but these sources became polluted from the raw sewage that was dumped into the rivers and lakes. Secondly, the demand for natural ice was outstripping its supply, especially during unusually warm winters.

Furthermore, Wisconsin's ice (along with Maine's) was widely considered as "superior ice," with superb hardness and thickness. Quality was met with availability, and Madison's three railroads provided direct transportation to both Milwaukee and Chicago. One railroad still runs along Lake Monona near Law Park; this area became a large loading zone.

Harvesting generally took place during January and February when the ice reached the ideal thickness of 12-15 inches. In reality, however, the thickness often varied considerably. During warmer winters, ice shortages occurred and cutting might continue until the ice was no longer safe to walk on.

Ice harvesting was not a simple, one-step procedure. Before the ice could be harvested, surface snow had to be removed by horse-drawn scrapers. Next, the ice had to be marked into squares, commonly 22 x 22 inches. A horse-drawn plow with cutting teeth, known as a "marker," cut a line 3 inches deep into the ice. Then the ice had to be cut. In the early years, it was cut by hand with a large hand saw, 4-5 foot long. As harvesting techniques improved, hand saws were replaced with "ice plows," similar to the marker, but able to cut about 2/3 the way through the ice. If needed, a horse-drawn sleigh-like device, called an ice plane, scraped off the bad ice and frozen snow to produce smooth blocks of ice.

The harvester next had to open a channel to float the ice to storage houses or railroad loading ramps. Ice blocks would be broken loose with a break-off bar (it looks like a huge tuning fork) or ice chisel, which was a heavy duty variation of what modern ice anglers use. These ice rafts would be towed by a horse or poled by men using pike poles until they were broken into individual 22 x 22 inch blocks and poled onto steam operated elevators (or ramps for smaller operations). They were then loaded into the ice house or into railroad cars.

Madison's lakes had small private ice houses all around their shores. Knickerbocker Ice Company had ice houses on both Lake Monona and Lake Wingra (near Monroe Street). Swift had an ice house near McFarland on Lake Waubesa. Mendota wasn't the most popular lake for harvesting (even though it was less polluted than Monona), due to its larger size and the resulting lack of wind protection. The greater distance to railroad loading areas was another factor. Despite this, Conklin & Sons had a large house at the present-day James Madison Park. It first burned down in 1915, was rebuilt and finally torn down in 1939. Other Lake Mendota ice houses were located at Maple Bluff; a Chicago-owned ice house was built in the town of Westport; and a locally owned one was built at the east end near the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, Lake Monona was popular because of the railroad tracks by Law Park. Two ice house operations were located at where today's Olbrich Park is, one at the East Side Businessmen's Association and the other by the sledding hill.

Just how big a business was Madison's ice harvesting? In 1890, 300,000 tons of ice was harvested -- enough to keep many a beer chilled! Half went to the nine local

houses, and half was shipped to Chicago and New Orleans.

By the 1920's, natural ice harvesting was nearly finished as a commercial enterprise. The perfection of mechanically produced, non-polluted ice, along with smallscale mechanical refrigeration, were the chief culprits. More seriously, natural ice was facing quality problems. In 1886, a Madison ordinance required harvesting to take place more than 1300 feet from sewer outfalls. (At the time, this was the common way to dispose of sewerage!) By 1908, only ice harvested from Lake Wingra was allowed into the Chicago market. Yet another culprit was competition by wheat and coal for space on the railroads. The "last straw" against natural ice harvesting was a legal one -- prohibition. No beer, no ice!

Divers can see evidence of ice harvesting on lake bottoms. Over sixty different tools have been discovered, including various pike poles, large and small ice tongs, breaker bars and chisels. Old-fashioned (though functional) ice saws are sometimes used by ice divers. Since there weren't convenient places to tether horses, "horse anchors" were needed, and these, too, can be seen on the bottom by the observant diver.

Reprinted with permission from <u>Our Four Lakes:</u> <u>Their Legends, Sites & Secrets</u>, ©1996, Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association. Prohibition was the "last straw" against natural ice harvesting... no beer-no ice!

Want help in discovering your lake's underwater treasure?

The Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association may be just what you need to help unearth the cultural riches hiding beneath the waves. WUAA is a nonprofit association of individuals and organizations who are interested in studying and preserving the underwater cultural resources and historical sites of Wisconsin. They publish a quarterly newsletter and hold meetings twice a year, as well as support members' research and publications projects. Annual membership dues are \$15/year. For information on membership or getting help with diving, contact WUAA, PO Box 6081, Madison WI 53716 or call Tom Villand, President, at 608-221-1996. WUAA's spring meeting is April 26-27 in Madison.



Rule Changes to Lake Grant Programs

New Protection Grant Deadlines

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board has approved a package of rule revisions to the Lake Planning and Protection Grant programs. Organizations planning a lake project should take special notice of changing the Protection (implementation) Grant application deadlines from November 1 to April 1 of each year. This means that the **next deadline for application is May 1 of 1997 - THIS SPRING!** After which, a whole year will pass before the next deadline on May 1, 1998. The change was proposed to coincide with other DNR grant cycles that deal with land acquisition to improve customer service by improving project coordination. Grant awards under these new deadlines should usually be made sometime between July 1 and September 1. Planning Grant deadlines are unchanged (February 1 and August 1).

Other important rule changes include allowing donations of services and volunteer labor as part of the local match for both types of grants and increasing the \$50,000 lifetime per lake cap on planning grants to \$100,000. For more information contact the lake coordinator in your DNR Region office.

Northern Lakes Receive More Funding

Two years ago a focus group from the Lakes Partnership met in Rhinelander to brainstorm on the special protection needs of lakes in northern Wisconsin. After a few meetings, a 13 point strategy was developed and immediately began being implemented. While effort continues to put some of the plan to work (much of the strategy has been enveloped in Secretary Meyer's Northern Initiative) a recommendation calling for more grant activity north of Highway 29 can be qualified as a success.

In analyzing lake grant activity, the focus group found that historically nearly 2/3 of the grants went to organizations south of Highway 29 despite the fact that the vast majority of the state's lakes lie to the north. In response, rule changes were proposed to address conditions unique to the northern part of the state. An effort was also made to improve awareness of the grants, particularly with the counties. The efforts have paid off.

In the last planning grant cycle (Fall '95 and Spring '96) more grants were awarded north of Highway 29 than south for the first time in the program's history! Continued effort is needed to make sure this balance is maintained and spreads to other elements of the Lake Partnership. Protection Grants still lag behind in the North but, hopefully, will be boosted by the increased planning activity.

Do you have the Lake Leaders Handbook?

This publication has been a huge success! The Handbook contains the largest collection of lake management information, customized for citizen leaders, ever brought together in one document. It concentrates on the who, what, why, where and how of running a lake organization (both districts and associations) from start-up through day-to-day operation. With 12 sections and 22 chapters of information in a ring-binder format, the Handbook is a handy sourcebook for all lake leaders. Get your copy now by sending \$20 (\$15 + \$5 s/h; checks made payable to UW-Extension) to: UWEX-Lakes Partnership, CNR-UWSP, 1900 Franklin St., Stevens Point WI 54481. Don't delay–send for your copy today!





Wisconsin Lakes Convention April 3-5, 1997–Stevens Point

Did you know that your Lakes Convention is one of the largest of its kind in the nation? If you haven't done it yet, mark April 3rd, 4th and 5th on your calendar. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership (Wisconsin Association of Lakes, University of Wisconsin Extension, and Department of Natural Resources), the 19th Annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention is an exceptional learning and sharing opportunity.

We are calling this year's convention *Water From Another Time* the theme... the rich history of Wisconsin's lakes. Focusing the 1997 Convention on the history of Wisconsin lakes has created tremendous curiosity and enthusiasm. A sincere thanks to all the folks who have sent books, letters, pictures and stories on their lake histories. Please bring more to share at the convention.

Thursday's special pre-conference workday will focus on one of Wisconsin's most pressing issues... **Lakeshore Development**. Experts and affected folks from around the state will focus on the tools available and latest ideas to help lake comunities deal with the spiralling demand for waterfront homes.

A special highlight of the Convention will be a **Thursday evening** dinner theatre presentation of **"On Golden Pond."** Funds raised by the play will assist lake youth programs through the Wisconsin Association of Lakes League of Students (WALLS).

The Convention begins on **Friday** and will feature a multimedia journey through time and lakes with live music by White Water. **Governor Tommy Thompson** has been invited to present the keynote address and discuss Wisconsin's Lakes—Past, Present and Future. Folklorist James Leary will share tales and details of the people and incidents that make our lakes illustrious. A panel of legislators will provide an update on water issues and the State's strategies to resolve them. Workshops covering topics from Aquatic Plants to Zoning will round out the convention to educate and enlighten you on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Visit the Exhibit Hall to explore new products, talk with consultants and socialize with your fellow lake leaders. Be sure to stay for **Saturday's** closing ceremony to **celebrate the future of our wondrous waters.**

At no time in the year will more information on lake issues be available in one place. Plenary sessions and workshops will cover a variety of subjects important to your lake community. Learn about land trusts, the economic value of lakes, lake law, dams, fishing, fund raising and much, much more.

Serve your lake and lake neighbors by attending this time honored event.

Lodging: Blocks of rooms are being held at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn until March 13, 1997. Call 1-800-922-7880 or 715-341-1340 and ask for the Wisconsin Lakes Convention block. Rates are \$52/single; \$72/double; \$82/triple or \$92/quad. Other nearby hotels include: Super 8 (800-800-8000); Road Star Inn (800-445-4667); Comfort Suites (715-341-6000); Budgetel (800-428-3438); or contact the Convention & Visitors Bureau (800-836-4636 or 715-344-2556) for additional lodging.

Photo credit: State Historical Society of Wisconsin.



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		Theatre Group Dinner Production
Join us	on Thursday, April 3 at 6:30 pm	for an excellent dining experience and a
	es League of Students (WALLS).	oceeds will benefit the Wisconsin Association
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		play @ \$25.00 (advance tickets only)
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Conference Agenda

	April 3–Pre-Conference Technical Session	
An Uncertain Inheritance–History and Implications of Humans on Wisconsin's Lakes		
8:00 am	Registration	
9:30 am	Introduction	
	A. History of Development on Wisconsin Lakes:	
	 From Settlement to Cottage Home and Beyond 	
	- Development Trends: Past and Present Impact on Wisconsin Lakes	
	B. Measuring the Impacts of Development:	
	 Lake Water Quality and Watershed Disturbance 	
	- How Different Lakes React/Computer Models	
-	• Where Did the Loons Go?	
	- The Influence of Shoreland Development on Fish and Wildlife	
	C. What Can be Done?	
	Lake and Lakeshore Preservation	
	- Acquisition: Examples and Opportunities	
	- Voluntary Conservation: Tools to Support Local Initiatives	
12:00 pm	Lunch: Rewriting Douglas County's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance	
1:00 pm-	 Planning and Regulating Lake Shore Development 	
4:00 pm	- Lake Classification	
	- Shoreland Zoning–Options and Upgrades: County Innovations	
	- Controlling Dockominiums and Pier Development	
-	- Cluster Development and Conservation Development	
	 Shoreland Landscaping and Restoration Initiatives 	

Wisconsin Lakes Convention: "Water From Another Time... The History of Wisconsin Lakes"

Thursday April 2.	
Thursday, April 3: 2:30-6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7-8:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open " <i>On Golden Pond</i> " A Dinner Theatre Presentation Convention Registration Check-in
Friday, April 4: 7:00 am 8:00 am 9:30 am	Exhibit Hall Open (until 7:00 pm) Registration Check-in Opening Ceremony–Multimedia production/music by White Water Introduction "Wisconsin's Lakes–Past, Present and Future," Gov. Thompson (invited) Keynote: Folklorist James Leary Legislative Update
12-2:00 pm 2:00 pm 3:00-3:30 pm 3:30 pm 4:30-7:00 pm 8-9:30 pm 8:00 pm	Wisconsin Lakes Stewardship Awards Luncheon Workshop A–Seven concurrent streams feature a variety of topics Break with Exhibitors Workshop B–Seven concurrent sessions Exhibitors Social with WAL Silent Auction Wisconsin Association of Lakes Annual Meeting Wisconsin Association of Lakes League of Students Introductory Meeting
Saturday, April 5: 7:30-8:30 am 8:45-9:45 am 10-11:00 am 11:15-12:15	Topic Table Breakfast –Discuss timely issues over breakfast Workshop C–Seven concurrent sessions Workshop D–Seven concurrent sessions Closing Ceremony–Wishes and Hopes for the Future of our Lakes
9:30 am - 3:00 pm	DNR Self-Help Monitoring Workshop (contact Susan Graham, DNR for more information at 608/266-3599)

Twenty-Eight Workshops Covered in Seven Topic Streams: **Wisconsin's Recreational and Industrial Heritage—Its Influence on Our Lakes:** People, progress and productive power are the ingredients that fashion Wisconsin's lakes and rivers. Explore the impacts and potential of dams, boating, logging, cranberries and fishing on our state's lakes.

An Uncertain Inheritance—History and Implication of Development on Wisconsin Lakes: Take an in-depth look at critical development issues not discussed on Thursday. Topics include: understanding the economic value of lakes; paleolimnology—a window to the past and a tool for the future; issues facing lakes in the North and the DNR's Northern Initiative; and working with realtors for a better lake community.

Wisconsin Water Law... A Historical Framework: This popular stream will update you on current legislation impacting Wisconsin lakes and provide information to assist you in understanding your legal options for lake management, including current legislation, lake organization law, land trusts, and more.

Aquatic Ecosystems... A Wisconsin Legacy: Survey the past, present and future of aquatic ecosystems, how they work, why they are important and what to do if things go wrong. Limnology, aquatic plants, natural shore-landscaping, and improving and maintaining a healthy ecosystem will be highlighted.

Tales of the Lakes... Fascinating Folks: Listen to the stories that make our lakes extraordinary. Folks from around the Badger State will share the tales that legends are made from: the history of Wisconsin lakes before 1848; writing your own lake history; the impacts of fishing lures on waterfowl; and more.

Unearthing Your Most Important Resource: The lake community is large and diverse. Some of us love speed and the snarl of horsepower while others prefer quiet and the power of the paddle. Some of us want to leave the lakes alone and others develop their attributes. Reaching the potential of your lake community is what this stream is all about: Grants and fund raising; assessing and limiting conflict; discovering and motivating volunteers; and community assets mapping.

Back to the Future... The Next Generation of Lake Leaders: Uncover the future of Wisconsin's lakes and hear what the heirs to our legacy of lakes have to share. What are they doing, how are we assisting them, how can we work together toward a better tommorrow? Learn about Adopt-A-Lake and other educational opportunities, participate in student talks.

Individuals and organizations who have done outstanding work on behalf of Wisconsin lakes will be recognized at the **1997 Lake Stewardship Awards** luncheon at the Lakes Convention in Stevens Point on April 5. Nominations for these awards are needed now. If you know a person or organization who deserves recognition, send your nominations to **Barb Borski**, **UWEX-CNR**, **UW-Stevens Point**, **Stevens Point WI 54481**. The deadline for nominations is <u>March 1, 1997</u>.

Awards are presented in three categories: **Individual** (for outstanding citizen volunteers), **Organization** (for lake management or other organizations that have made significant contributions to the protection of lakes), and **Public Service** (for elected officials and public employees). All nominees will be recognized at the luncheon. Nominations can be submitted in narrative form. If available, attach appropriate background material such as newspaper clippings or other letters of support. If possible, slides or photographs would be nice (we'll return these). Be sure to clearly identify the nominee and provide a current address and telephone number.

Stewardship nominations due March 1st!



Don't let this opportunity to recognize deserving people and groups slip by!

Dear Editor:

Thanks so much for sending the copy of <u>Lake Tides</u> (Vol. 21, No. 4–Autumn 1996). I read the article, thinking that it was very interesting and a little surprised that you would know that Bill and I were so interested in lakes. Then I read that it was Bill's article from 1959! I could hardly believe it. Bill read it and said, "It sounds pretty good, doesn't it!"



Letters to

Lake Tides

Constance Fuller Threinen

[Editorial note: We received this note from Connie and Bill Threinen after re-printing an article that Bill had written for the Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin in December 1959 discussing the need for planning and cooperation between government units.]

С E Δ Ν D A R March 8: Natural Landscaping Conference. Milwaukee Audubon Society, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee [414/375-1565] March 8, 9: Southeast Regional Land Trust Conference/Seminar-Milwaukee. Gathering Waters [608/251-9131] March 12: Strategic Planning: Charting Your Course for the Future. Distance Education Series, The Learning Institute [1-800-214-8326] March 14-15: The Northern Initiative: Keeping the North the North-A Midwinter conference sponsored by WAL and the Cable Lakes Assn., Cable, WI [715/859-2844 or 715/237-3012] March 16-18: Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Conference. Madison, WI [608-524-4014] April 3-5: Wisconsin Lakes Convention, Stevens Point [715-346-2116] April 5, 6: Northeast Regional Land Trust Conference/Seminar-Appleton. Gathering Waters [608/251-9131] April 9: Marketing: Effective Communications in a Noisy World. Distance Education Series, The Learning Institute [1-800-214-8326] April 15-17: Stormwater Management for Engineers, New Brunswick NJ. Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education [908-932-9271] April 26-27: Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association Spring Meeting, Memorial Union, UW-Madison Campus. Tom Villand [608-221-1996] May 1: Community Water Education for Youth: Focus on Watersheds. National live interactive satellite videoconference, 12:45-3:00 pm. University of Wisconsin-Cooperative Extension. [1-888-WATERWI (toll-free)] May 14: Resource Development: Effective Fundraising... Ideas that Work. Distance Education Series, The Learning Institute [1-800-214-8326] May 31, June 1: Northwest Regional Land Trust Conference/Seminar-Hudson/Osceola. Gathering Waters [608/251-9131]



Boating, Muskego Lake Resort State Historical Society of Wisconsin photo



Lake Tides – 8534

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

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.



Published Quarterly Editor: Robert Korth Managing Ed.: Dorothy Snyder Associate Editor: Bob Young DNR Coordinator: Carroll Schaal

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If we could shrink the Earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people - with all existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like this:

There would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere (North and South) and 8 Africans.

- 51 would be Penale; 40 would be male
- 70 would be non white; 30 white.
- 70 would be non-Christian; 30 Christian,
- 50% of the entire world's wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people and all 6 would be residents of the U.S.
- 80 would live in substandard housing.
- 70 would be unable to read.
- 50 would suffer from malnutrition. /-
- 1/would be near death, 1 would be near birth

Only one would have a conege education.

When one considers our world from such an incredibly compressed perspective, the need for both tolerance and understanding becomes glaringly apparent. . .