



# LAKE TIDES

*The newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes*

**Volume 24, No. 1  
Winter 1999**

## **Salt of the Earth** *Does Road Salt Affect our Waters?*

*The forecast is for more freezing rain turning to snow. You spread deicing salt on the sidewalks, and on the drive to work you follow a plow doing the same. The snows of our Wisconsin winter hold a record of our activities—road salt, that blue windshield wash stuff, grease, oils, traces of lead, litter and much more. Across the northern “snow belt” the use of deicing salt is common practice. Last winter 14 million tons of salt was used on roads in the United States. So where does all that salt go? Salt can enter our lakes and groundwater in a number of ways. This article will look at two of them—salting roads and dumping plowed snow directly into our surface waters.*

### **Road salt**

Deicing salt, typically sodium chloride (NaCl), is highly soluble and moves easily through soils. Consequently, salt in groundwater and surface waters is starting to be a problem in this country and across the world. Have you ever noticed the pine trees growing close to our roads are often brown in the spring? Contact with salt spray from the roads and groundwater contamination are likely to blame. Reports from Western Europe say 700,000 trees die annually due to deicing salt applications. Other impacts of deicing salts on the environment have been well documented. Some of the sodium and chlorides that seep into the soil can result in contaminated wells and water supplies.

High levels of sodium can corrode plumbing and have been implicated in the death of small animals. When people ingest high levels of sodium it can elevate their blood pressure. Studies have shown links to hypertension, and more severe problems can arise in folks with pre-existing kidney or heart trouble. The Safe Drinking Water Act (74) and Wisconsin Administrative Code recommend maximum allowable concentrations of 250mg/l of chlorides for potable water. Most people can taste salt in concentrations between 200-300mg/l. Some more cautious agencies, like the European Economic Community, have set their guidelines at 20mg/l.

A study conducted on Sparkling and Trout Lakes in Vilas County, Wisconsin, investigated the impacts of road salt on those lakes. Groundwater serves as the major link among most lakes in the region with about 90-95% of the water in the region in groundwater and about 5% in lakes. Sparkling Lake is a seepage lake, which means it receives its water primarily from groundwater and rainfall and has no surface inflow or outflow. Normal or background chloride concentrations range from .3 to .5mg/l in the Vilas County area. Concentrations above that range most likely indicate chloride loading from roads located in the watershed. In 1991 Sparkling Lake had a concentration of 3.7 mg/l, up from 2.6 mg/l when it was first tested in 1982. According to the study, that works out to be 0.15 mg/l chloride per year, which represents an average net chloride loading rate of 1200 kg/yr or a nine year average of about 2.3 tons of salt per year accumulation into the groundwater system and lakes.



**Wisconsin Lakes  
Partnership**



When snow melts, salt concentrations in high salt use urban areas can rise to levels of nearly 100mg/l. Water from roads that drain to lakes can have chlorides as high as 5000 mg/l. Chloride levels in Madison's Lake Mendota in Dane County have increased from about 3mg/l in 1910 to 25mg/l in 1980.



### Dumping Snow

Many Wisconsin communities remove snow from downtown areas each winter and dump it directly into adjacent surface waters. Snow removed from streets and parking lots can contain salt, nutrients, oil, silt, litter, heavy metals and toxic chemicals. When tons of snow are dumped directly into our surface waters, there is a potential for harm. Although snow disposal impacts on our surface waters are not well studied, we do know that elevated chloride and sodium levels can:

- reduce dissolved oxygen by preventing lake mixing;
- indirectly stimulate aquatic plant growth; and
- threaten fish and aquatic life.

And we know that other pollutants in disposed snow can:

- contribute to the contamination of lake sediments;
- introduce heavy metals and other contaminants; and
- cover habitat for fish and aquatic life.

There is no doubt that salting roads reduces accidents and spares countless injuries and fatalities. Yet the snow disposal issue poses a perplexing management dilemma. By promoting land disposal of snow we may increase the potential for chloride contamination of groundwater, and by dumping snow directly into surface waters we may increase contamination of our waterways. Fortunately, there are some things we can do to limit the impact of salts on our waters. Being aware of the pollution potential of salt is a start. Further steps include:

- Find out if your local highway department has a snow removal plan and policy.
- If not, encourage local officials to develop them. The most important feature of any plan is to avoid dumping snow where it can flow directly into surface waters or seep directly onto sites where groundwater is close to the surface. Dumping snow into wetlands and floodplains should be avoided.
- Local officials can equip spreading trucks with sensors that control salt application rates to minimize impacts. They can also reduce the amount of contaminants that get into snow by removing snow from streets and parking lots immediately after a snowfall, so it has less of a chance to get "dirty."

Studies have shown that, overall, sodium chloride levels in our lakes are nowhere near the concentrations that should impact wildlife or humans. However, it is apparent that the levels have been creeping higher and higher over the decades. So the real "threat" for the foreseeable future is probably to trees, our drinking water, and maybe the non-mobile critters in the direct zone of application (roadsides) and non-mobile stream critters directly in the snow dump zone.

We will probably not live long enough to see sodium levels high enough to affect our lakes. We don't want to sweep this lurking problem into the future for those that follow to deal with. When we have the opportunity we should try to limit the





amount of salts and contaminants that enter our groundwater and surface waters.

*Thanks to Bob Young and Ken Schreiber of the Wisconsin DNR for review and assistance with this article.*

For assistance with water pollution prevention or choosing a snow removal dumping site contact the Department of Natural Resources office near you. Ask for DNR Publication "Where to Go With the Snow," Publ-WR-154-95REV. Snow disposal inquiries are usually managed case by case by the DNR. In future issues of LT we will look at the impact of water softener salts on our waters.

## Wisconsin Waters Initiatives

The National Association of Home Builders announced an all-time high in new home sales in May 1998, the highest in 22 years. A booming economy, low mortgage rates and low fuel costs add up to real-estate fever. Land use issues are the talk of the nation. Our nation is prosperous and one sign of the good times is new homes on the margins of our lakes and rivers. Currently the amount and intensity of water related development has outstripped the capability of state or local agencies to fulfill their roles in protecting the resource.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has administered Wisconsin water law since 1968. Initially, fisheries biologists were assigned to review proposed lake and river alterations. By the mid-1970s local governments were adopting shoreland and floodplain zoning, and specialized positions were created by the DNR to work with landowners and local governments to help protect habitat. Formal proposals to physically alter waterways grew from hundreds annually in the early 1980s to nearly 5000 a year by 1990. Recognition of the critical role that wetlands play as habitat, flood storage and pollutant filters resulted in new wetland zoning and water quality standards. Today 42 staff in DNR field stations work with an estimated 10,000 landowners who are considering waterway alterations.

The DNR is well aware of the significance of development pressures on our state shores. Secretary George Meyer's top budget priority item for fiscal year 1999-2000 is the Wisconsin Waters Initiative. This budget package will focus

people, dollars and technical assistance on this growing dilemma.

- Not enough people to do the job in a timely fashion is a widespread refrain. A staffing analysis showed that DNR has only 37% of the personnel needed to make permit decisions and assist local staff. The budget request includes funds for 12 staff positions to work with landowners and developers to help remedy this staffing shortage.
- Information is hard to obtain. A request for \$892,000 will provide computer technology and electronic access to water information.
- Another \$80,000 would be used to consolidate and thus speed up state and local permit processes. An estimated \$2.9 million savings in land holding costs are expected through reduced permit decision time.

In our hands we hold the potential to protect or harm our state's waters. Every one of us has an impact and an opportunity to help protect the future economy and quality of life in this great Water State. Wisconsin isn't the only place where people are looking for solutions. Across the land governments are gearing up to provide assistance on land use issues, particularly in the hottest of hot spots—our shorelands.

*If you want to make comments on this Budget Item, direct them to Secretaries Meyer (DNR) or Bugher (DOA) or Governor Thompson. If this initiative is included in the Governor's proposed budget in late January, comments would be most effective if directed to legislators or members of the Joint Committee on Finance.*

***To learn more about the Wisconsin Waters Initiative check the DNR Web Site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us>; click on Natural Resources, then Fisheries and finally the Wisconsin Waters Initiative or contact Mary Ellen Vollbrecht at 608/264-8554.***





# Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Agents

## Coming Soon to a Neighborhood Near You?

by Tim Grunewald and Brock Woods, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

*Our best estimates indicate that over 40,000 acres of Wisconsin's wetlands are now infested with purple loosestrife. This beautiful, but environmentally destructive, exotic plant is replacing native vegetation wherever it occurs. In an attempt to find a control method that is less costly and more effective than traditional controls like digging, cutting, and chemical applications, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has been investigating the use of biocontrol agents.*

Evaluations of the effectiveness of the release of leaf eating beetles imported from Europe into stands of purple loosestrife in Wisconsin have been very encouraging. These beetles have done extensive damage exclusively to purple loosestrife.

There is currently an opportunity for a variety of organizations to become involved with the release of these insects in their local wetlands. The WDNR has reserved 10,000 purple loosestrife leaf eating beetles from Cornell University for 1999. These beetles will be made available as "starter kits" of 100 beetles to organizations who qualify. If successfully propagated on your site, these 100 beetles will produce up to 15,000 beetles by late summer. These can then be distributed to at least five new release sites. The cost of these "starter kits" is \$110. There will also be some additional materials to purchase, totaling around \$90, to get your propagation efforts up and running.

Please be aware that biocontrol may not be the best control option at all sites. Traditional control can still be very effective at smaller sites and where the interested organization has the resources to apply selective herbicides, dig and/or cut individual plants. The introduction of the leaf eating beetles, however, seems to be an effective long-term solution. And this is especially true for sites that are likely to be reinfested by seeds from purple loosestrife plants in adjacent areas or further up the watershed.

Biocontrol using these beetles isn't as easy as simply releasing the insects into a wetland. There will be a need for someone in the organization to take care of a host of details such as writing up a site plan, sending the money to reserve the beetles, purchasing supplies, potting 15-20 purple loosestrife plants, constructing sleeve bags to go over the potted plants, tending developing larvae, releasing the insects to the control sites in July/August, and monitoring the site. The group will also need to overwinter the insects for subsequent releases and submit reports.

The control of purple loosestrife is likely to require a long term effort here in Wisconsin. None of us can do this alone. There will be a need to have interested partners help with the distribution of insects on a landscape scale. This is our first attempt to take this effort operational. We hope you can help.

If your organization is interested in attempting biocontrol of purple loosestrife at a site in your area, or to see if you qualify please contact Brock Woods (WDNR Research Ecologist) **before February 15** by e-mail at "woods@dnr.state.wi.us" or call (608) 221-6349. Requests for insects will be granted to qualifying organizations on a first come, first served basis. If for some reason the insects are not available from Cornell in 1999, your money will be refunded.





**Wisconsin Lakes Convention**  
**March 11, 12, 13, 1999**  
***A Common Vision... Looking toward the future***  
Stevens Point Holiday Inn and Convention Center



**W**e have come a long way together and still have a ways to go. This year's convention theme is **A Common Vision... Looking Toward the Future**. For twenty-one years, lake folks have been gathering together in the early spring to share information and ideas. Nineteen ninety-nine marks the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the state lakes convention—the largest of its kind in the nation. We will gather together the wisdom and knowledge of the many people concerned with the future of our great state's lakes. This is an excellent opportunity to learn and share, make new friends and reminisce with old ones.

New this year is inclusion of the Self-Help Monitoring workshop in the general convention activities. Do you have questions about the Secchi line, comments about the data sheets? Do you have questions about what your lake data means or are you dying to meet your self-help coordinator? If so, the Self-Help Chat table will be the place to ask questions, make comments, visit with the Self-Help staff and have a Secchi cookie. Also, be sure to check out the student presentations within each of the workshop streams. Here's a great opportunity to see our future lake leaders in action.

Our lakes are an investment. Each year we spend many hours working to make sure that the investment is safe and sound. Here is one particular tool that is simple to use and a time-saving device when it comes to this "fiduciary" lake relationship... attend or send a representative to the state convention. In three days you will find more answers, meet more people and develop more solutions than you could in a year at home. We encourage you not only to attend, but to also invite a friend or another group whose vision will play a role in the future of Wisconsin lakes. ***Attend all or part of the convention, but come ready to learn and anxious to share.***

**The 1999 closing ceremony will feature the music of Thunderchief. Help us celebrate "A Common Vision" as we close the convention on Saturday from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with music, refreshments, and predictions of our lakes' futures.**





## Wisconsin Lakes Convention – Tentative Agenda

### Thursday, March 11—Technical Session: Shoreland Habitat and Shoreline Restoration

8:30am – 5:00 pm Join the experts as they discuss the critical habitat within the riparian zone... the ribbon of life around your lake. Discover the critters that make this area their home and learn about the link between the quality of the lake and the quality of their lives. Learn how to restore this riparian zone: assess what's already there, discover various planting techniques and find ways to fund your shore restoration project. A panel of experts will be available to answer your technical questions. **Pre-registration required; space limited to 150 participants.**

### Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Wisconsin Lakes Convention: A Common Vision

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 8:00 am      | Registration and Exhibits Open   |
| 10:00 am     | Welcome/Introductory Remarks   |
| 10:30 am     | What it means to be a lake leader/Lake Leaders Institute presentation                    |
| 10:45 am     | Our future lake leaders speak out/Cambridge H.S. Ecology Club                            |
| 11:00 am     | Legislative Update: Looking at the year ahead  |
| 12:00        | Recognizing Our Lake Leaders: Stewardship Luncheon/Governor Thompson                     |
| 1:30-5:00 pm | Lake Classification Open House – Projects and Information from Counties                  |
| 1:30 pm      | Workshop 1 (choose from 7 topic streams listed below)                                    |
| 3:00 pm      | Workshop 2 (choose from 7 topic streams listed below)                                    |
| 4:15 pm      | A. Celebrate Lake Monitoring/Self-Help Get Together (Maureen Janson and Scott Szymanski) |
|              | B. Where Have All the Cheetahs Gone? Animals in Southern Africa (Jo Ellen Seiser)        |
|              | C. Reflections on the Washburn County Lake Planning Project (Beverly Stencil)            |
| 5-7:00 pm    | Exhibitors Social and WAL Raffles  |
| 7:00 pm      | Wisconsin Association of Lakes Annual Meeting  |

### Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>—Wisconsin Lakes Convention continues

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 7:00 am      | Topic Table Breakfast  |
| 8:30-10:45am | Lake Leaders Institute Information Sessions                            |
| 8:30 am      | Workshop 3 (choose from 7 topic streams listed below)                  |
| 9:45 am      | Workshop 4 (choose from 7 topic streams listed below)                  |
| 11-12:30     | Closing Ceremony: Reflections and Music from Thunderchief/Refreshments |

#### Workshop Streams:

**Water's it Worth? Economic Value of Water** – Alternative Evaluations, Market Forces, Case Studies

**Flushing Out The Truth--Septic Systems in Wisconsin's Future** – Local regulation, Code review, New Systems, Water Quality Impacts

**Beauty, Bugs and Buffers: Aquatic Plant Management** – Restoration, Landscaping, Purple Loosestrife Control

**The Public Zone: Where Water and Law Mix** – Insurance, Lake Law, Land Acquisition and Easements, Piers and Moorings

**Catch of the Day!** – Fish Management, Dam Issues, Grant Management

**Making Sense of Lake Science** – Lake Ecology, Self Help Lake Monitoring (will repeat on Friday and Sat.)

**Tool Time** – Exhibitors present new products and projects





## Wisconsin Lakes Convention, March 11-13, 1999

**Registration Form—Pre-register by February 25th or pay a \$10 late fee.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I am representing \_\_\_\_\_ Lake in \_\_\_\_\_ County

My lake has sent a rep. to the Convention \_\_\_\_\_ times. I have personally attended \_\_\_\_\_ times.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, Technical Session: **\$35.00** includes materials, lunch/breaks

**Pre-registration required; limited to first 150 registrants.**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Convention Day 1: **\$35.00** includes materials, lunch/breaks

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, Convention Day 2: **\$25.00** includes materials, breakfast/  
breaks

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Package Fee for Friday-Saturday: **\$50.00**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ K-12 Student Fee: **\$5.00/day** (meals not included) \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Extra meal: Fri. Lunch (3/12) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00; Sat. Breakfast (3/13) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Meals Requested

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **\$10.00 late registration fee (registration must be postmarked by Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>)**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Total Registration Fee enclosed**

Mail form and check payable to UW-Extension to: **Dorothy Snyder, UWEX-Lakes, 1900 Franklin St., CNR-UWSP, Stevens Point WI 54481.** Sorry, no telephone or credit card registrations accepted.

\_\_\_\_\_ My non-profit lake organization would like a display table/poster space (name of contact person for table/poster \_\_\_\_\_ --Phone: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the WAL Youth Scholarship Fund (make check payable to WAL Youth Fund).

My prediction for my lake in the year 2100 is: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Best visions will be shared at the convention closing ceremony!)

Final conference agenda will be sent with confirmation of your registration.

**Lodging Information:** A block of rooms is being held at the Holiday Inn (800/922-7880 or 715/241-1340) until **February 10, 1999**. Rates are \$52.00/single, \$82.00/double. Be sure to ask for the Wisconsin Lakes Convention block. Other nearby hotels include: Comfort Suites (715/341-6000); Super 8 (800/800-8000); Road Star Inn (800/445-4667); Budgetel (800/428-3438); or contact the Stevens Point Visitors Bureau at 800/236-4636 or 715/344-2556.







## Lake Monitoring Tradition Continues

by Maureen Janson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

In its thirteen-year history, Self-Help Lake Monitoring has more than quadrupled in volunteer participation. It may come as no surprise, then, that across the state many youth are involved in Self-Help, securing the protection of Wisconsin lakes well into the future.

Young people discover lake monitoring in many ways. For the past three years, science teacher Todd Kohlhepp has introduced young high school students to lake monitoring techniques through Self-Help. Freshman and sophomore natural science students at Fall Creek High School in Eau Claire County study water conservation, groundwater and water pollution. As a part of this unit Kohlhepp introduces the class to water clarity monitoring, then takes them out on Coon Fork Lake to collect data. "It's the perfect way to apply what we study about water," says Kohlhepp. "By getting the students out on the lake, they can see the effects of run-off, erosion and industrial pollution first hand." As lake monitors, students learn steps that can be taken to maintain the quality of their lake and watershed.

Fall Creek High School fully supports student monitoring and purchased a boat for student activity. "As soon as the weather gets warm enough, we get out there and we sure make it fun," admits Kohlhepp. "On the nice days, we combine monitoring with fishing or swimming."

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**"What I enjoyed and learned most was taking the water samples with the neat equipment we got to use. I also enjoyed trying to find the bottom of the lake and recording the information. I really liked working with this activity and hope to continue."** Joe Langford, a sophomore at Fall Creek High School.

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Among the numerous other teachers statewide who have taken a lead in generating interest in water clarity, Margie Winter acts as advisor to the Goodrich High School Environmental Club (GEC) in Fond du Lac County. As an extra curricular activity, the GEC monitors the southern end of Lake Winnebago. For their dedication, they recently received a Clean Bay Backer Award from the Lower Green Bay/Fox River Remedial Action Plan honoring their outstanding efforts to restore and protect their water resources.

Youth have also learned of lake monitoring through such community groups as Kountry Kids 4-H on Mary Lake in Marinette County. And some adult monitors have introduced Secchi discs to their children, making monitoring a family activity. Youngsters catch on to monitoring techniques quickly and easily as Herb Cihla, Self-Help monitor from Oneida County knows. After sharing monitoring outings on Boom Lake with his son Jake, Herb has turned over the readings to the ten-year old, who is sharing the tasks with his younger sister.

Self-Help Coordinator Susan Graham is thrilled about youth involvement in the program. "Kids have so much to contribute and to gain by monitoring lakes," she says. "Not only are they learning about protecting the environment, they can be proud of taking an active role in real-life science and have fun while they do it." Youth dedication to lake monitoring insures enjoyment of our precious waters by many generations to come.



## A New Year, A New Beginning...

### Welcome Laura Felda, New Adopt-A-Lake/WET Coordinator!

As the lakes of Wisconsin freeze over and the life under the ice begins to prepare for a new growth, so will I embark on a new beginning. As the new Adopt-A-Lake coordinator for the state, I look forward to the challenges this program holds. As a former educator and youth environmental advisor, I bring with me the expertise of working with a diverse group of people. As a lake resident, I realize the importance of water quality, habitat protection and land use in helping maintain Wisconsin's most valuable resource, water. As the Adopt-A-Lake coordinator, it is my goal to provide environmental education to school groups, youth organizations, teachers and lake organization members. If you are interested in finding out more about Adopt-A-Lake or looking for a new project, please call me. I look forward to meeting and working with you!

*Laura can be reached at 715/346-3366 or e-mail [lfelda@uwsp.edu](mailto:lfelda@uwsp.edu).*

### Adopt-A-Lake Project Updates and Convention Poster/Presentation Proposals

In November, Project Update and Lakes Convention Proposal forms were sent out to our list of Adopt-A-Lake project coordinators. We have not received many of these forms back yet. You are encouraged to reply with an update of your Adopt-A-Lake project. These completed forms will be used to determine the 1999 Youth Lake Stewardship Award winner, which includes an Adopt-A-Lake sign for your lake or community. In addition, there are still some openings for student presentations and posters at the March 12 & 13 Lakes Convention. If you did not receive these update forms, please call Dorothy Snyder at 715/346-2116.

### Field Involvement: Research by Science Teachers (FIRST)

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, and funded by the National Science Foundation, FIRST is designed to increase the content and understanding of the nature of science through field research during the summer. FIRST is open to K-12 teachers who wish to expand their field research techniques, work with mentor scientists, and involve their students in the research. Team projects will focus on water quality issues using biotic indexing and environmental monitoring using plants, such as milkweed. Participants attend seminars and in late summer show their preliminary findings during a workshop. For more information about this program, contact Dr. Gary Lake, WI Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, 1922 University Ave., Madison WI 53705-4099 or call 608/263-1692. Applications will be accepted until the program is full. Those received by February 14 will receive priority.

### GREAT LAKES STUDENT SUMMIT

**May 12-14, 1999, Buffalo NY**

Whether your classroom is just beginning to explore some of the diverse issues affecting the Great Lakes Basin or your students are already active participants in a local watershed research project, this conference is for you! If you are looking for a chance to showcase and acknowledge the hard work of your students, then here is a great opportunity to do so! Students are invited and encouraged to present existing or new environmental science projects and student research relating to issues affecting the Great lakes ecosystem, their watersheds and communities. **If you would like to present a topic or project, or need information on registering to attend the summit, please contact John Hood at 716/858-8846.**





# A Lust for Lists Lest All Be Lost

by Marilyn Leffler

*Are you one of those people who like to make lists? Maybe you make a list of things to pack for a trip, or a list of groceries. Perhaps you create "honey-do" lists for anyone in your household who dares to be bored. Why do we make lists? We list things so we don't forget them.*

Wisconsin has a very important list—the Endangered and Threatened Species list. Animals and plants that are in danger of extinction or likely to become endangered in the state are included on this list. There is also a federal list that considers the species' status across the country. Some species are on Wisconsin's list but not on the federal list because their population is not threatened at a national level. State Statute defines an endangered species as any species whose continued "existence" as a viable component of the state's wild animals or plants is in jeopardy.

Our state laws require that the Department of Natural Resources make that determination based on scientific evidence.

Wisconsin lakes are among the preferred habitat not only for humans

but also for several species on the state's Endangered and Threatened Species list. While we have the ability to live elsewhere, some fish, amphibians and reptiles do not. For them, it is a matter of life and death; not just death as an individual, but death of an entire species. The Blanchard's cricket frog (*Acris crepitans blanchardi*) is in danger of extinction in this state. Although Wisconsin is at the northern edge of its range, which might attribute to its scarcity, its population declined rapidly in the 1960s and 1970s. The Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), longear sunfish (*Lepomis megalotis*), and pugnose shiner (*Notropis anogenus*) are all likely to become endan-

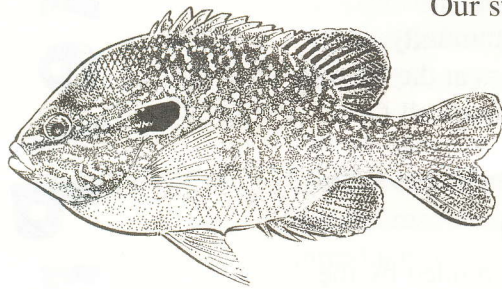
gered in Wisconsin. Some reasons for species becoming endangered or threatened include habitat loss due to development, pollution, turbidity and siltation.

Having the ability to literally bring an end to a living species is a sobering thought. Most folks respect the rights of all living things and would not knowingly cause them harm and thus initiate their addition to the Endangered and Threatened Species list. Consequently, along with lists come laws. State and federal laws try to protect endangered and threatened species from local and worldwide extinction by making it illegal to take ("take" is a legal term which includes many things such as killing), have them in your possession, transport, process, or sell them. If someone wants to use an endangered plant or animal for research, education, or the propagation of more of the species, it may be done if the reason is justified and a permit is obtained.

We need to remember the animals and plants on our list and work together to protect them if we hope to keep them in and around our lakes. Take the time to learn more about the species on Wisconsin's list. A good place to start is the DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/info.htm>. You'll learn how to identify these important species, the habitats they require, and where they range in the state. Strive to protect their habitat. You may be sharing your property with the last of these species.

Our State Legislature has found that the preservation of whole plant and animal communities is of the highest importance. The legislature urges all persons and agencies to fully consider all the decisions they must make with that in mind.

Look for more articles on the endangered species that live in and around our lakes in future issues of *Lake Tides*.



**Longear Sunfish**  
(*Lepomis megalotis*)



The Bureau of Endangered Resources encourages you to share with them your observations of endangered and threatened species. To obtain reporting forms, contact the Bureau of Endangered Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 [608-266-7012]. You are also encouraged to report violations of wildlife laws by calling the Wisconsin DNR Emergency Hotline at 1-800-847-9367.



**Letter to the Editor:**

As an active lake leader (past President of our lake association and past chairman of our lake district), and a long term member of our local Town Planning Commission, I was very disappointed with the one-sided and very misleading commentary on Shoreline Zoning in the Fall 1998 issue of Lake Tides. The commentary showed little real knowledge and experience with the subject. Those of us working in the field know that some of the biggest issues include:

1. Enforcement. Counties view Shoreline Zoning as an "unfunded State mandate" and are not willing to provide staff for enforcement. Consequently, only about five percent of the 100 shore yard construction projects accomplished on our lakes each year are reviewed for compliance. They are just done without application for a building permit, and our County has no staff or budget to stop them. Lake Districts and Lake Associations, on the other hand, have serious concerns and a willingness to fund enforcement, but no authority.
2. Definitions. Without definitions, each County is free to permit various shore yard structures as they see fit (e.g. large satellite dishes).
3. Boat Mooring density rule. The State (DNR) refuses to establish a formal boat mooring density Rule (through the legislative process), and continues to randomly enforce its boat mooring density (Pier) Guideline. Lauderdale Lakes has a Township boat mooring density Ordinance and uniformly enforces it, but we never know when DNR will decide to enforce its more restrictive Guideline. A Rule is needed that is applicable to all.
4. Riparian Involvement in the process. Why weren't Lake Districts and Lake Associations involved this last summer in the questionnaire process? The author appears to have gone out of his way to avoid input from the one group that is closest to the subject—those owning lake shore property.

By failing to address, or even acknowledge, the above issues, the author has guaranteed that his questionnaire results will be meaningless.

*Gerald Petersen, Lauderdale Lakes, Elkhorn, WI*

### **Incorporated Lake Associations and Voting**

A question on association membership and voting rights reached our office the other day. Specifically, the inquiry sought to determine if specific provisions setting forth who was a "voting member" were required in the association's bylaws.

Incorporated lake associations are organized under chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes. According to state law, an association may have one or more classes of members (s. 181.11 Stats). If the nonprofit organization chooses to have one or more classes of members, it should specify in its bylaws the qualifications, rights, and acceptance criteria for members of each class (s. 181.11 Stats). Unless the bylaws provide otherwise by limiting, enlarging or denying the right to vote for one class or certain classes, the assumption is that all members of all classes have the right to vote (s. 181.16 Stats). An incorporated lake association, then, is not required to address who is a "voting member" to pass muster under state law. However, if the association intends to distinguish between classes of members with respect to voting rights, these distinctions should be explicit in the association's bylaws. Qualified lake associations are organized under ch. 181 and are required to abide by certain additional state mandated standards. Qualified lake associations may not limit or deny the right of any member or class of members to vote (s.281.68(e)).





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### THE ICING - FINALLY

No more the morning steam of fall.  
No more the tardy southbound mallards.  
No more canoe fishing in December,  
Now that the icing is on Little Lake - FINALLY.

In some years there's a six-month seal.  
In some years ice fishing precedes the big hunt.  
In some years we loathe that April ice,  
Until the icing is off Little Lake - FINALLY.

Every year I am impatient for the solemnity.  
Every year impatient to walk on water.  
Every year the stresses of life build and build,  
Until I walk on Little Lake - FINALLY.

Describe Little Lake as small and shallow.  
Describe Little Lake as panfish and bass.  
Describe Little Lake as a blue jewel in a piny green setting,  
And then add it to the list when Christmas comes - FINALLY.

Ice is a great filter of weaker souls.  
Ice and icy weather eliminates most anglers.  
Ice and snow screens out the rest,  
Until wilderness is all around - FINALLY.

So I walk off with the wind and drifting snow.  
So I walk off to listen to the talking ice.  
So I walk off to look for a better fishing hole,  
But it's just a pretense to be by myself - FINALLY.

*Lowell L. Klessig is an educator, who also farms and writes at Amherst Junction, Wisconsin.*