LAKE TIDES

The newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes

Volume 25, No. 4
Fall 2000

Beyond Perrier

Go away, Perrier! Welcome, Perrier! If you drove through Adams County this summer you soon got a sense of just how divided Wisconsin is on this issue: one side deeply concerned about the effect that groundwater withdrawals may have on our precious water resources, the other side committed to bringing new economic opportunities to an area with one of the lowest per capita incomes in the state. Still others would like to ensure that all the facts are gathered before any decision is made.

It should not be surprising that this debate is so heated since groundwater is the major source of water supply in Wisconsin. We use about 759 million gallons of groundwater per day. Of course, the supplies appear great and inexhaustible. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) estimates that two million billion (2,000,000,000,000,000) gallons of groundwater are stored in state aquifers. However, these seemingly abundant supplies are not distributed evenly. Already some areas of the state, due to population growth and increasing demands for water, are dealing with declining groundwater levels.

Groundwater is increasingly being recognized not only as an economic resource, but also as an environmental resource, critical to the health of wetlands, rivers, streams and lakes. Protecting water resources is something about which Wisconsinites are very passionate, and the state has long been a recognized leader in this area.

So, what's the solution? The WDNR has recently issued a conditional approval for Perrier's proposal to operate a high capacity well in Adams County. Without diminishing the importance of the impacts, positive or negative, that Perrier's project may have on a community, we have the opportunity to think about a long-term solution and proactively address the broader issue of managing Wisconsin's groundwater and related resources.

Groundwater withdrawals are regulated in this state if the amount exceeds 100,000 gallons per day (gpd). The high capacity well law gives the WDNR the authority to deny applications for permits only if any such well(s) adversely affect or reduce the availability of water to any public utility furnishing public water supplies (§281.17, Wis. Stats.). Additional criteria apply to new wells that pump over two million gpd (§281.35(5)(d), Wis. Stats.).

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

Some Facts about High Capacity Wells

High capacity wells are not new to Wisconsin; we currently have about 9,422 of them in the state, used primarily for agriculture, municipal water supply and industry. Our awareness of the impacts these wells can have on the environment is also nothing new. Groundwater withdrawals are associated with substantial declines in groundwater levels in several parts of the state. Cases are well documented in the Lower Fox River Valley, southeastern Wisconsin, and Dane County. In Madison, water table levels have dropped three to six feet, threatening arboretum wetlands and fens. In central Wisconsin, irrigation pumping has reduced the flow of streams in the Central Sands Plain region by 25-30%; projections indicate that pumping will negatively impact the Little Plover River's aquatic ecosystem. Bloody Run Creek, a Class 1 trout stream also in central Wisconsin, has been dewatered by high capacity wells. These cases suggest that the current high capacity well laws may fall short of adequately managing and protecting Wisconsin's groundwater and interconnected surface water resources.

There are a number of ways we can improve groundwater management in Wisconsin, either within the existing framework or with new legislation.

Programs in Other States and Potential Solutions

Several other states have modernized their statutes and management practices, acknowledging that groundwater and surface waters are interconnected. For example, Florida has broadened its permitting process by involving biologists, in addition to geologists and hydrogeologists, in reviewing permits. Minnesota has provisions to adapt management programs and incorporate new information as it becomes available. Oregon and Washington address groundwater management in a broader watershed and planning context. All four states include public interest and environmental protection criteria in the permit review process. High capacity wells in Wisconsin are exempt from assessments of their impacts to surrounding environments unless over two million gpd of water is consumed.

There are a number of ways we can improve groundwater management in Wisconsin, either within the existing framework or with new legislation. Within the existing framework, citizen suits involving the public trust doctrine may be pursued. Wisconsin has developed an especially strong legal tradition of broadly interpreting the meaning of the public trust. In the most simple terms, the public trust doctrine vests the state with the duty of protecting the public's interests in navigable waters. Groundwater, which provides baseflow to navigable waters, might be included in a very broad interpretation of the state's public trust responsibilities.

The state could also expand upon nuisance common law. In *State v. Michels Pipeline Construction, Inc.* (1974), the court clearly recognized the role of increasing scientific understanding in changing what is considered a nuisance. The linkages between groundwater and surface water are the focus of research; new knowledge and a scientifically based rationale might allow for considering particular groundwater withdrawals to be public or private nuisances.

Wisconsin could also exercise agency discretionary authority to enforce existing statutory or administrative language. The Wisconsin Statutory Code uses strong language in directing the DNR to protect the waters of the state and the state's environment. Section 281.11 of the state statutes provides that "The department shall serve as the central unit of state government to protect, maintain and improve the quality and management of the waters of the state, ground and surface, public and private." The mandate is broad and, given that courts traditionally grant considerable discretion to agencies in the interpretation of their own code, the possibilities of using the existing groundwater code may be worth pursuing.

Any new legislation for improved groundwater quantity management should address several issues. The statutes should recognize that groundwater and surface water are interconnected. The basis for reviewing high capacity

well permits could also be broadened to include, at least, protection of public rights and environmental resources related to interconnected surface water. Cumulative impacts and future uses can be addressed through planning: an assessment of groundwater resources and development potentials and threats can be conducted as part of preparing or modifying plans.

Adequate information is necessary for effective long-term management. Continuing research support is essential to better understand the state's groundwater and related resources.

Also, by targeting attention to particular resources and regions, managers can more efficiently deploy the limited personnel and fiscal resources that are available. Monitoring and reporting requirements associated with high capacity well permits should be enforced. Most states exempt one or another category of wells from state regulation (e.g. domestic uses, which are presumably low-volume compared to high capacity wells). But regulatory exemptions and review limitations in high capacity well legislative proposals create loopholes that can seriously impact surface water and related resources.

The Perrier operation has captured public attention. But what about the next groundwater withdrawal proposal that stirs up local controversy? Or the one after that? We need to be thinking seriously beyond these singular issues to issues that address the inadequacy of the state laws pertaining to groundwater withdrawals and protection of public resources. As the new century begins, Wisconsin has the opportunity to be proactive in addressing these issues and enhance protection of the quantity and quality of its "buried treasure."

For more information on Wisconsin groundwater, see the WDNR's groundwater web page: http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/index.htm

By Marilyn Leffler, Graduate Student, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, UW-Madison.

This article is based upon a project undertaken in a Water Policies and Institutions seminar at UW-Madison last spring. See, Born, S,.Leffler, M., Reese, T., Veltman, R., Wieben, A. & Zeiler, K. (Eds.), Modernizing Wisconsin Groundwater Management: Reforming the High Capacity Well Laws, (URPL Extension Report No. 2000-1). Madison, WI: UW-Madison (Extension, Dept. of Urban & Regional Planning, 60 pp.) The full report is available on-line at:
http://www.wisc.edu/urpl/facultyf/bornf/projectsf/hicaplaw.pdf

The report can also be purchased for $7 per copy from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, UW-Madison/ Cooperative Extension, 112-A Old Music Hall, 925 Bascom Mall, Madison, WI, 53706;
e-mail (pacantre@facstaff.wisc.edu)

Irrigation has reduced stream flows in the Central Sands Plain.

Reincarnation In Wood: Leadership for Woodlands

For those of you that may own woodland property, a new leadership program modeled after the Lake Leaders Institute and directed by Lowell Klessig may interest you. The program will consist of a Woodland Leaders Institute and Master Woodland Managers program. CREW I will shove off in May of 2001. Like the Lake Leaders Institute, this program will likely consist of three two-day sessions.

To nominate someone or to obtain an informational brochure or application form, contact Barb Borski, 715-346-3783 or e-mail: bborski@uwsp.edu at the College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

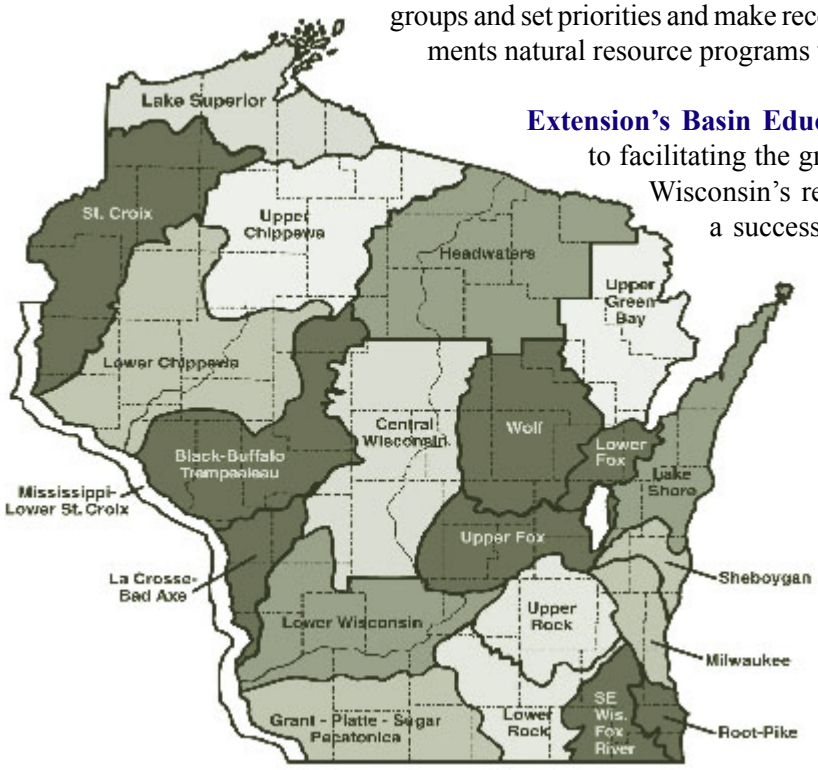
Wisconsin Has Moved to Basins

In past issues of Lake Tides we have discussed the reorganization of the Department of Natural Resources and the formation of Basin Teams. The reorganization forms a critical part of a major state initiative to manage land and water quality protection programs on a watershed or basin scale. New unit boundaries called Geographic Management Units (GMUs), and commonly referred to as basins, now follow the state's major watersheds and form the basis for the new management regime.

Basin Educators play a lead role in developing ecosystem-based educational programs.

This "basin" approach was developed in response to federal and state-level changes in various conservation programs. It is part of an overall restructuring of the DNR and is designed to focus more on citizen-led decision making in resource management policy. The University of Wisconsin-Extension is providing educational support for the basin initiative and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is also providing assistance to the basins. Additional support for the citizen-led process comes from the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) and the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE).

Each basin has a "Partner Team" with local representation from both government agencies and private groups. These teams work with other local groups and set priorities and make recommendations as the DNR implements natural resource programs within the basin.



Extension's Basin Educators. Basin Educators are key to facilitating the grassroots planning that is making Wisconsin's resource management partnership a success. The first seven positions were established in 1997; today, 15 basin educators provide statewide educational assistance to all 21 of Wisconsin's major river basins.

Basin Educators play a lead role in developing ecosystem-based educational programs through the following mechanisms:

- conducting educational needs assessments of clientele,
- developing basin-wide land and water education strategies that address priorities identified by stakeholder groups,
- facilitating team building with agency staff.

Perhaps the most critical part of the basin educator's job and the key to the success of the river basin approach to natural resources management is assisting the WDNR with the Partner Teams. Now, three years into the program, Wisconsin's Basin Educators are demonstrating that the multi-agency, grassroots based approach to land and water resources management does work.

Is your lake organization working with your basin team on lake issues? If not contact your Basin Educators:

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2001
March 8,9,10
Wisconsin Lakes Convention

The People, the Politics and the Partners
The Next Ten Years

Join us for the 23rd Annual Lakes Convention.

It is time to mark your calendars for the Mother of All Lake Conferences, the 23rd annual Wisconsin Lakes Conference, March 8th 9th and 10th at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. This is the oldest and largest state lakes conference in the nation. This is a tremendous opportunity for you to expand your knowledge and share your experiences on lake issues with some of the nation's leading authorities on issues ranging from **A**quatic Plants to Shoreland **Z**oning. This year's conference will feature the unveiling of the next ten year strategic plan for Wisconsin lakes.

If you're new to the lake or a seasoned lake lover, this is a great occasion for you and your lake organization to learn and share much in a short period of time. It is a great time to answer your questions about lake management, meet new friends and catch up with old ones. Look for a detailed agenda and registration information in the next edition of Lake Tides, the Lake Connection and in your own lakes newsletter. Invite a friend that has never had this experience.

The Thursday pre-conference workshop organized by the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) will focus on "Working Effectively with Local Governments." A host of great presenters will provide a unique opportunity for you to increase your understanding of various land use planning tools, local government and zoning boards functions, and the potential for your involvement. David Ceislewicz of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin will speak on "Smart Growth and Long Term Implications for Wisconsin Waters". Rick Stadleman with the Wisconsin Towns Association will discuss "Working with Local Governments and Influencing Decisionmakers". There will also be a special meeting of countywide/areawide lake associations on Thursday afternoon. Join us!

Much Ado About Mussels

Zebra mussels have spread to 17 inland lakes in Wisconsin. These small mollusks colonize docks, floats and boating equipment; their sharp shells can injure swimmers. They form dense colonies, up to 65,000 individuals per square foot, that can interfere with water supplies, disrupt food webs and alter ecosystems.

Zebra mussels are established in these Wisconsin inland waters:

Lake	County	Lake	County
Silver Lake	Kenosha	Nagawicka Lake	Waukesha
Waubeesee Lake	Racine	Oconomowoc Lake	Waukesha
Racine Quarry	Racine	Lac La Belle	Waukesha
Big Elkhart Lake	Sheboygan	Little Muskego L.	Waukesha
Beulah Lake	Walworth	Lower Nashotah L.	Waukesha
Delavan Lake	Walworth	Lower Nemahbin L.	Waukesha
Lauderdale Lakes	Walworth	Upper Nemahbin L.	Waukesha
Lake Geneva	Walworth	Lake Winnebago	Winnebago
Big Cedar Lake	Washington		

The juveniles and adults can attach to any hard surface that is submerged for a prolonged period of time.

Like many other recent Great Lakes invaders, the zebra mussel is native to the Baltic region of Europe and was carried to our shores in the ballast water of ocean-going freighters. Zebra mussels were originally introduced to Lake St. Claire in the mid 1980's. Since then, zebra mussels have spread throughout the Great Lakes region, into the Mississippi River, down to the Gulf of Mexico and into Canadian waters. They are spreading to inland lakes in many states including Wisconsin.

How Do They Spread?

Zebra mussels on a clam

Zebra mussels are prolific breeders; a single female can produce tens of thousands of eggs annually. Eggs and sperm are released into the water column. After fertilization, the microscopic larvae, called veligers, float about in the water column for up to a month. At that time, the larval mussel transforms into a juvenile and settles to the bottom. Once settled, it adheres to a hard surface by means of sticky fibers called byssal threads.

Zebra mussels are able to spread easily due to the planktonic larval form and the adhesive adult form. The larvae can be carried in bilge water, live wells, bait buckets, or anything else that holds water such as dive gear. The juveniles and adults can attach to any hard surface that is submerged for a prolonged period of time including boat hulls, floats, anchors and lines, piers, swimming platforms, rocks, wood and vegetation. Adults are easily seen with the unaided eye; juveniles feel like sand or grit on the surface of boat hulls, motor or other submerged parts. Larval mussels can only be seen with a microscope.

The larvae need to remain wet to survive, but adults and juveniles can live out of the water for several days. A boat carrying adult or juvenile zebra mussels on the hull, larval zebra mussels in the bilge, live well water or plants tangled on the trailer can easily introduce zebra mussels from one lake to another.

Environmental Effects

Zebra mussels are filter feeders; they filter planktonic food from the water around them. Each zebra mussel can filter a liter (over a quart) of water per day. As they feed, they remove plant and animal plankton from the water. These tiny animals form the first food for the larvae of many desirable fish and are the food for other native species. As zebra mussels take plankton from the water, they compete with our native species for this food.

Zebra mussels also make the water clearer. Though we often think of clear water as better water, clear water means there is less food for our native plankton-feeding organisms. Clear water also makes it possible for submergent vegetation to grow in areas that were previously too turbid to allow plant growth. This can contribute to weed-choked shorelines and changes in the food web and fish populations.

Preventing the Spread

Lakes are usually identified as being colonized only after the mussels have been present for some time, perhaps years. People using boats, personal watercraft and diving in these and other waters may have unknowingly been vectors for the spread of zebra mussels into other lakes. Likewise, lakes not yet known to be colonized may already have zebra mussels in them. For this reason we need to take precautions to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species every time we plan to move from one lake or river to another.

Precautions

- Drain water from bilge, live wells and motor.
- Remove weeds from trailer, rudder, centerboard, anchor, motor and other areas.
- Rinse mud from anchor and line.
- Dispose of live bait.
- Remove plant parts from the intake and run personal watercraft and jet boat engines for a few seconds out of the water.
- Let boats, trailers and equipment dry for 5 days before moving to new waters.

Round Goby

As you pull docks, swim floats, anchors, lines and boats from the water, look and feel for zebra mussels on surfaces that were submerged through the summer season. Juvenile mussels may not be easily seen, but will feel like grit on the surface. Larger mussels are easily seen and may occur in groups or as separate individuals. If you find zebra mussels in a lake not known to be infested, save some of the specimens and please contact Wisconsin DNR, UW Extension or Wisconsin Sea Grant at the numbers below.

What other invaders ?!

Other Invaders

Zebra mussels are not the only invaders trying to find their way into our inland lakes and streams. Last summer, round gobies were found near Sturgeon Bay and in Milwaukee harbor; the fishhook water flea, a large predacious species of zooplankton, was found in Lake Michigan near Waukegan. If these and other species find their way into our favorite lakes they may forever alter the ecosystem as they already have in Lake Michigan.

The Zebra Mussel Attack Pack

Wisconsin Sea Grant has developed a unique program for high school students to teach elementary school students about aquatic nuisance species like the zebra mussel, the round goby and purple loosestrife. For more information about this self-contained teaching kit, contact Phil Moy at 920-683-4697, pmoy@uwc.edu; Laura Felda, UWEX, at 715-346-3366, lfelda@uwsp.edu; or Ron Martin, WDNR, at 608-266-9270, martir@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us. Also check out the Nonindigenous Species page at the Sea Grant web site: www.seagrant.wisc.edu/outreach.

By Phil Moy, Wisconsin Sea Grant, Manitowoc, Wisconsin

New Equipment Pilot Study for the Self-HelpVolunteer Lake Monitoring Program

By Laura Herman, Self-Help Monitoring

The Self-Help Lake Monitoring Program is considering a change to new chlorophyll and phosphorus monitoring equipment. The objective of this move is to make chemistry monitoring easier, less time consuming, dryer, less costly and more accurate. Working with the Bureau of Research, we have developed a pilot study to look at new monitoring equipment.

During the 2000 sample season, 50 volunteers were asked to collect water samples as they have done in the past (with the van dorn) as well as collect samples with the new integrated water sampler. Fifty lakes were selected by Research to represent a whole range of conditions: from spring lakes to flowages, nutrient poor (oligotrophic) to nutrient rich (eutrophic) and from small lakes to the 1,000+ acre lakes.

The State Lab of Hygiene is still analyzing some of the samples. When all samples are analyzed, research will look at the comparison data (50 volunteer samples) to see if the "new" data is comparable or can be statistically adjusted to be comparable to the existing data collected over the life of the Self-Help program.

Laura Herman dips the new integrated water sampler with skill.

Once the pipe is lifted, the ball falls back into place preventing the collected water from draining out of the pipe. Once the pipe and water are back in the boat, the pipe is drained into modified "juice jugs".

Since all chemistry volunteers also collect water temperature profiles, we had to find an inexpensive temperature meter that will work equally well in deep lakes. This has proven to be one of the largest obstacles in the whole study. After months of looking at various thermisters and temperature probes, we found 3 styles that we thought held promise. We piloted the equipment in conjunction with the integrated water samplers and had research run temperature comparisons on the equipment. Preliminary data are in and the outcome looks promising.

What does this mean for all of the existing chemistry volunteers? If the new integrated samples are comparable to the van dorn samples, we will begin to switch over to the new sampler. As we can afford to purchase the new thermometers, we will give existing volunteers the option of using the new equipment. As the old van dorn style samplers break, we will replace them with the new equipment.

We will keep you updated on progress through future newsletters. Let us know if you have suggestions for new temperature monitoring or dissolved oxygen monitoring.

We are always looking for ways to improve our service to the volunteers!

Opportunities? Youth groups looking for funding.

New Auburn School High School Lakes Project has been a strong advocate for building lake awareness and protection in northern Wisconsin, especially Round Lake in Chippewa County. Since 1996, under the direction of Jim Brakken, instructor at New Auburn high School, WALS (Wisconsin Association of Lakes League of students) has participated in the Adopt-A-Lake program, developed lake users surveys, and published newsletters for Round Lake and other local lakes. These students have also published their own newsletter *FISHTALES.* This newsletter has helped other youth understand and consider water courtesy, art projects, and water safety.

Two sophomore students from WALS, Jenna Super and Brittany North, will travel to Washington D.C. in September to present testimony to the EPA urging then to restore funding to Section 314, the Clean Lakes Program. Clean Lakes was established in 1972 as section 314 of the EPA Federal Water Pollution control Act. It provides $140 million in research and protection grants. Since 1995, the Clean Lakes Program has not been funded. Wisconsin needs this funding to protect the 15,057 lakes that are important to us all.

Jenna and Brittany are preparing their presentation to focus on the importance of lakes to young people, both today and into the future. These future lake leaders are in need of funding to offset their expenses and would appreciate contributions. *If you want to support the future lake leaders in Wisconsin, contributions should be sent to New Auburn High School Lakes Project, 704 East Street, New Auburn, WI 54757.*

Lake Organizations have money for education, but no takers?

Are you a lake organization or community member that realizes education is key to lake preservation? Consider designating money in your budget for youth education programs! Twin Lake Public Inland Lake & Rehabilitation District and Powers Lake District have allocated $1000-$1500 in their annual budget to encourage youth lake stewardship programs. Currently both lakes are involved in lake planning grant projects. Education is a key component of the grant as is maintaining a healthy lake and ecosystem. Twin and Powers Lake are hoping to interest youth in the area in the use of their lakes as study sites. They are willing to provide transportation, water access and equipment to interested educators in the Kenosha area. Often it is difficult to find just the right contact to begin building the partnership of Lake Stewardship. If you are finding that you are experiencing difficulty in "finding" a youth partner, call Laura Felda at 715-346-3366. I have a listing of all schools in Wisconsin. We should be able to find someone to fit your needs.

In the meantime, consider hosting your own educational program at your annual meeting or lake fair. There are many developed programs available through the Wisconsin Lakes Partnerhip office. Remember we are only a phone call away! Best of luck in developing your personalized education program!

Let's support our youth. They are the future of Wisconsin lakes!

A Friend of Wisconsin Lakes

The Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) is launching a new program called "Friends of Wisconsin Lakes "

Be a friend !!
of Wisconsin Lakes

WAL has traditionally been an association of lake organizations, with over 300 general voting member organizations representing lake property owners. This new "Friends of Wisconsin Lakes" program will reach out to individuals who care about and use Wisconsin lakes.

The "Friends of Wisconsin Lakes" program will provide anyone interested in Wisconsin lakes with the opportunity to support WAL's mission of providing a voice for Wisconsin inland lakes and waterways and their beneficiaries as well as participate in the work of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. "Friends" can participate in implementing the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership strategic plan, which includes managing for healthy lake ecosystems and quality outdoor recreation. They can also stay up to date on lake news and legislative and legal issues through WAL's newsletter (The Lake Connection) and the website at www.WisconsinLakes.org.

The Wisconsin Law Review (July, 1999) stated that the Wisconsin Association of Lakes is a "growing, well-educated, and respected force within the state, in a position to generate an informed and active citizen network on both a lake-by-lake and a statewide basis."

The Wisconsin Association of Lakes mission statement is: "To be a voice for the preservation and protection of our waterways for generations to come..."

For more information on WAL's Programs, contact: Debra Gayle Sweeney, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, (1-800-542-5253 or 608/662-0923); www.WisconsinLakes.org

Lake Communication Goes Electronic!

Lake Communication is Only A Click Away!

The Lake List…

What better way to answer a question than by contacting some one from the 700 lake organizations that operate across the state? Or, why not talk to a professional who has experience handling a particular lake issue? The Lake List is an important tool used to assist lake organizations communicate more effectively with one another. The Lake List is a directory of lake organizations, businesses, agencies and local government representatives and is published at the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership offices at UWEX-Stevens Point. This publication is now available online at (http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/lakelist/default.asp). *If you haven't returned your listing of new officers and contact people, you will be getting a reminder in the mail. The 2001/2002 Lake List will be mailed to lake organizations and will be available at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention in March 2001.*

To notify us of any updates to the Lake List, please e-mail us at uwexlakes@uwsp.edu or mail to: UWEX Lakes Program, CNR Building, 1900 Franklin St., Stevens Point, WI 54481.

And Lake Tides…

Lake Tides has been in print for 24 years and our readership has increased to nearly 24,000 people. Ten years ago, we would never have dreamed that some day this newsletter would be available electronically. But here we are! Some past and all future issues of Lake Tides will be posted on our web site at (http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/laketides/default.asp). If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of Lake Tides via a link to our website, instead of a paper copy, please e-mail us at uwexlakes@uwsp.edu.

Incentives Abound in Burnett

Earlier this year, an innovative shoreland protection program went into effect in Burnett County that provides incentives to landowners to restore and maintain well-vegetated lakeshore buffers. The program reflects an on-going effort in Burnett County to comprehensively address the loss of wildlife habitat, diminished shoreland beauty and increased levels of polluted runoff commonly associated with shoreland development.

This initiative marks an effort to combine revised shoreland zoning regulations resulting from lake classification with measures that are more voluntary and educational in nature. Shaped by public opinion surveys, focus group sessions and the cooperative work of a number of public and private entities such as the Burnett county land and water conservation department, Burnett county UW-Extension, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Dragonfly Consulting, the program quickly took shape.

County Gives Tax Credits For Maintaining A Buffer

A property owner that decides to participate in the shoreland restoration program is rewarded with a one-time payment of $250.00 and annual $50.00 tax credits thereafter. In turn, the property owner is expected to maintain a 35 ft vegetated buffer by way of a recorded deed restriction. For properties that require significant restoration work, Burnett County will cover up to 70 percent of the cost of replanting the area with native vegetation, up to a total cap of $1,200 per site. A lake protection grant and monies from county funds are being used to finance the program. The success of this project shows that there are many innovative ways, nonregulatory in character, by which we can address the issue of the disappearing shoreland buffer.

Contributions from Dave Ferris, Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Office and Jim Bloms, Burnett County UW-Extension.

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Upcoming Events!

January 27, 2001: The Southeast Wisconsin Lakes Workshop will be held January 27 at the State Fair Park, Milwaukee County Extension Youth Center, West Allis, WI. Call Wisconsin Association of Lakes at 800-542-5253

March 8 - 11, 2001: Wisconsin Lakes Convention.Come join us for the 23rd Annual Lakes Convention at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.

May 5, 2001: Washburn County Shoreland Restoration Workshop. Contact the Washburn County Extention Office for more information at 715-635-4444.

June 23, 2001: Washburn County Lake Fair. Contact the Extension Office for more information at 715-635-4444.

November 7 - 9, 2001: North American Lake Management Society, 21st International Symposium. Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin. Local Hosts: Wisconsin Association of Lakes.

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Reflections

The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways, and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the said territory, as to the citizens of the United States and those of any other states that may be admitted into the confederacy, without any tax, impost or duty therefor.

-Article IV, Northwest Ordinance of 1787.