



LAKE TIDES

The newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes

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Spring 2003**

Little Fly

West Nile Virus...A Concern for Lake Users?

Those of us that like watery places have learned to love or live with most of the denizens that reside there, but one drives us buggy...the mosquito. We understand the idea of a food chain and the need for all creatures to exist to keep an ecosystem in balance; we have even found some level of détente with those pesky mosquitoes. Sometimes they force you inside on a summer evening and at their worst, a lone intruder will find your ear and drive you crazy in the middle of the night. Mosquitoes have always been annoying but we know that they are an important part of the water environment. Now we are hearing that there is a danger carried by mosquitoes, more than just an itch...West Nile Virus.

The word, mosquito, is Spanish for little fly. Mosquitoes are insects belonging to the order Diptera, the True Flies. Like all True Flies, mosquitoes have wings, but unlike flies mosquito wings have scales. There are over 2500 different species of mosquitoes in the world but only around 50 species of mosquitoes make their home in Wisconsin. A mosquito's principal food is nectar or a similar sugar source. Only female mosquitoes bite, they require a blood meal to breed. For 30 million years they have been sharpening (pardon the pun) their skills at finding a blood meal. Just about all mammals and birds give off carbon dioxide and lactic acid. Mosquitoes can detect these gases from as far as 100 feet away. If you are wearing clothes that contrast with your background and you are moving, mosquitoes can more effectively zero in on your person. Mosquitoes can also detect heat, sweat and body odors. Some species of mosquitoes can fly 15-30 miles from their breeding sites in search of a meal.

History

West Nile (WN) virus has emerged in recent years in temperate regions of Europe and North America, presenting a threat to human and animal health. The most serious

manifestation of WN virus infection is fatal encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) in humans and horses, as well as mortality in certain domestic and wild birds.

West Nile virus was first isolated in the West Nile District of Uganda in 1937. The virus became recognized as a cause of severe human meningoencephalitis (inflammation of the spinal cord and brain) in elderly patients during an outbreak in Israel in 1957. It has been reported in most parts of the world, but first appeared in North America in 1999. Since then, the disease has been spreading rapidly across the U.S. At this time it has been reported in all but four western states. Wisconsin health officials reported activity in sixty-five of Wisconsin's seventy-two counties in 2002.



Raptors such as this osprey can be carriers of the West Nile virus.

How does it spread?

Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds, which may circulate the virus in their blood for several days. Infected mosquitoes can then transmit West Nile virus to humans and animals while biting to take blood. The virus is located in the mosquito's salivary glands. During blood feeding, the virus may be injected into the



**Wisconsin Lakes
Partnership**

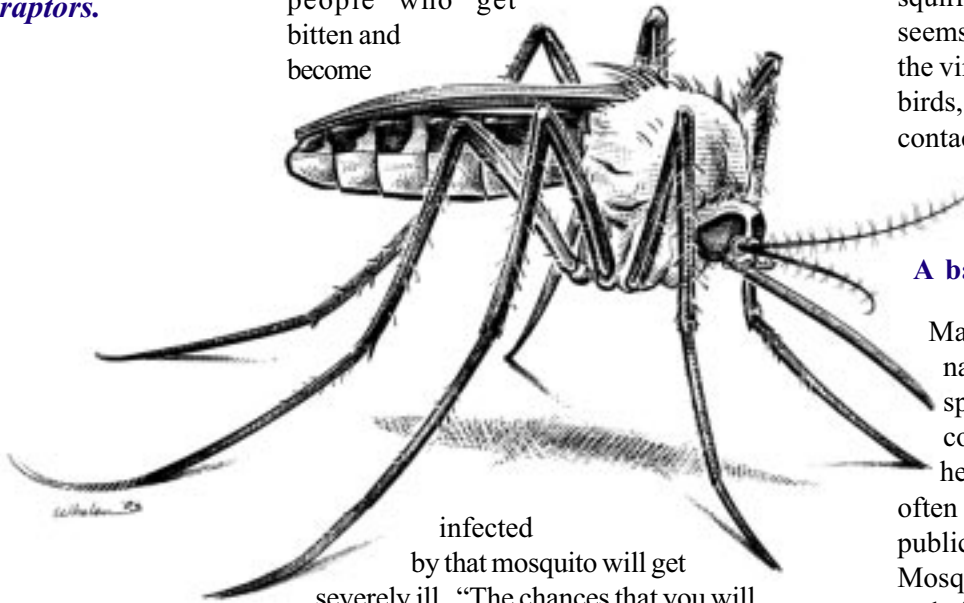
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animal or human, where it may multiply and possibly cause illness.

Risks and Symptoms

All residents of areas where virus activity has been identified are at risk of contracting West Nile encephalitis; persons over 50 years of age have the highest risk of severe disease. At this time it is unknown if immunocompromised persons are at increased risk for WN virus disease. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), even in areas where the virus is circulating, very few mosquitoes are infected with the virus. Even if a mosquito is infected, less than 1% of people who get bitten and become

West Nile virus may be one of the most significant factors now causing mortality to many species of wild birds, including raptors.



infected by that mosquito will get severely ill. "The chances that you will become severely ill from any one mosquito bite are extremely small," says Dr. Mohammad Almoujahed at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Most WN virus-infected humans show no symptoms. A few develop mild symptoms such as body aches, rash, fever, and swollen lymph nodes. Less than one percent of people develop more severe illness. These symptoms can include headaches, high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma and tremors. There is no specific treatment for WN virus, nor does a vaccine exist to prevent it.

There is no scientific evidence indicating that people can be chronically infected with West

Nile virus. What remain in a person's body for long periods of time are antibodies and "memory" white blood cells (T-lymphocytes) that the body produces to fight the virus. Antibodies are what many diagnostic tests look for when clinical laboratory testing is performed. Both antibodies and "memory" T-lymphocytes provide future protection from the virus. It is assumed that immunity will be life-long; however, it may wane in later years.

The vast majority of animal infections have been identified in birds. In fact, West Nile virus may be one of the most significant factors now causing mortality to many species of wild birds, including raptors. As a wildlife disease, it may be having devastating effects. The virus has also been shown to infect horses, cats, bats, chipmunks, skunks, squirrels, and domestic rabbits. While there seems to be no evidence that a person can get the virus from handling live or dead infected birds, people should avoid bare-handed contact when handling *any* dead animals and use gloves or double plastic bags to handle the carcass.

A balancing act...mosquito control

Many federal and state agencies across the nation have geared up to monitor the spread of WN virus. The questions that come with mosquito control and public health needs are difficult ones. What is often required is a balancing act between public health and ecosystem health. Mosquitoes can be killed with a number of techniques: larvicides, Malathion, Naled, and Synthetic Pyrethroids. A new tool, *Bacillus thuringiensis* variety *israelensis* (BTI), takes the form of a microbial pathogen. It kills the larvae of mosquitoes, black flies, and midges. A team of researchers at UW-Madison is also working to genetically manipulate mosquitoes so that they will not carry diseases.

We understand that everything in nature is a part of a whole. If you open up a trout's belly you may find it filled with mosquito larva. Mosquitoes, like many insects in all stages of life (egg, larva, pupa and adult), provide a very important food source for fish, turtles, frogs, birds, dragonflies and bats. Mosquitoes also pollinate flowers. Often the impact of pesticides and larvicides (like those listed



Most water lovers know that preventing every mosquito bite outside and near water may be next to impossible. Reducing the bites instead of the bugs may be the single most effective way to reduce the risk of WN. Many outdoor people have a war chest filled with ways to keep mosquitoes at bay...let's review a few.

Insect repellents help people reduce their exposure to mosquito bites. DEET is the most effective and best-studied insect repellent available. DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide) is an ingredient used to repel pests like mosquitoes and ticks. The more DEET a repellent contains, the longer it lasts to protect against mosquito bites. A higher percentage of DEET in a repellent does not mean that protection is better—just that it will last longer. DEET concentrations higher than 50% do not increase the length of protection. Be sure to read and follow the directions and precautions, especially when applying DEET to children.

- Wear protective clothing, including long pants and long sleeved shirts.
- Bug jackets made from netting can be effective (bug jackets are often used by paddlers and hikers where bugs can be extreme.)
- Stay away from mosquito-laden areas at dusk.
- Limit standing in stagnant water found in rain gutters, old tires, water gardens, rain barrels, or other containers.
- Change water often in wading pools and bird baths.
- Aerate or keep fish in ponds.
- Repair screens.
- Replace outdoor lights with yellow bug lights.

Note: Bug zappers do not attract mosquitoes!

above) on humans is not that well understood. No pesticide can be considered 100% safe. Pesticides often do not discriminate and when used for mosquito control, can kill most insects including honeybees, butterflies and other insects that pollinate flowers, plus many other organisms, including fish.

Being near the water is important to us and questions relating to control of mosquitoes and other pests are challenging. Trying to eliminate the mosquito from our world using today's mosquito control tools may do more harm than good. Most folks realize that any attempts to eliminate mosquitoes would be inadequate in a rural environment. However, simple but effective yard awareness (removing old tires, etc.) may tip the scales. Clearly, life on the lake is often a balancing act. We must weigh today's legitimate human health concerns relating to West Nile virus with concerns for maintaining a healthy environment. Ultimately, we must keep in mind that human health is dependent on a healthy environment.

Where can I get more information?

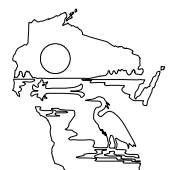
For more information on mosquito control, see our web site at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes. In your area, contact your state or local health department. Other resources for information on public health, disease control, and mosquito control include the following:

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services: http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/dph_bcd/westnilevirus

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/westnile/qa/overview.htm>
Tel: 970-221-6400
Fax: 970-221-6476
E-mail: dvbid@cdc.gov

West Nile Virus Resource Guide: <http://npic.orst.edu/wnv/>

American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA):
<http://www.mosquito.org/>
Joseph M. Conlon, Technical Advisor
Tel/Fax: (904) 215-3008
E-mail: amca@earthlink.com



The 2003 Wisconsin Lakes Convention Comes to a Close



The 2003 Wisconsin Lakes Convention marches officially into the history books! This year's conference was significant for several reasons. First, in celebration of the 2003 Year of Water, Thursday's workday was devoted to a discussion of the issues of significance to all Wisconsin's waters. The Wisconsin Groundwater Association, Wisconsin Wetlands Association and the Wisconsin River Alliance joined the Wisconsin Association of Lakes in hosting discussions on a wide spectrum of topics, from bottled water proposals, new nonpoint source rules and restoration efforts to the challenges associated with water quality monitoring and organizational development. Evening workshops also offered opportunity for enrichment. Attendees could perfect skills in photography, gain instruction in fly-tying and develop other talents.

Photos by Lisa Conley



Paul Wozniak, an environmental historian from the Fox-Wolf Project, leads a walk of the Green Bay riverfront.



Todd Ambs, Representative Scott Gunderson, and Senator Rob Cowles answer questions for the audience.

Representative Scott Gunderson joined Senator Rob Cowles and newly appointed Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Water Division Director Todd Ambs for a panel discussion on key lake issues during Friday's plenary session. Bill O'Connor considered the resilience of the Public Trust Doctrine and representatives of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership reflected on the history, the accomplishments and the many relationships carved by over 20 years of working in partnership! Over this three-day period, six hundred and fifty one individuals attended day and evening workshops. Session topics were many and varied as were the number of educational and business exhibits.

The Convention culminated with the significant Wisconsin Lakes Stewardship Awards luncheon. Yvonne Feavel from Waushara County was awarded the Stewardship award in the "Individual" category. The Pigeon River Watershed Stakeholders Group received the Stewardship award for the "Group" category. Bob Korth received the "Public Service" award. William Genthe was recognized for the "Special Lifetime" award. The "Lake Watchers" Adopt-A-Lakes Team achieved kudos in the "Youth" category. Eco-Building and Forestry LLC received the Stewardship award in the "Business" category. Congratulations to all!

Join us next year for the 26th Annual Lakes Convention in Green Bay, Wisconsin on April 15-17, 2004.



Help Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species by Seaplanes

Seaplanes are a relatively common sight in Wisconsin. A still Wisconsin inland lake affords a smooth landing and many seaplane pilots have honed their skills landing and taking off from Wisconsin waters. Close to 52 seaplanes were registered in the State of Wisconsin in the year 2001 and the numbers appear to be growing. Very much like a boat, a seaplane may involuntarily transport an aquatic plant or animal on any one of the multiple parts in contact with water. Guidelines for boaters are posted at boat landings throughout the state.

Seaplane pilots! Guard against the transport of exotic passengers! Please take the following guidelines to heart:

Before take-off –

- Remove aquatic plants and animals (e.g., zebra mussels) from floats, rudders, cables, transom, chine, wheel wells, and step area.
- Pump water from floats.
- Avoid taxiing through heavy growths of aquatic plants.
- Raise and lower rudders several times to free aquatic plants.

After take-off –

Raise and lower rudders while over waters you are leaving or over land. If plants remain, return to that waterbody to remove.

Regular Maintenance –

Use following methods below:

- Spray floats with high pressure one or more of the water.
- Dry floats by storing aircraft on land for at least 5 days.
- Scrub or scrape undersides of floats (when spraying or drying is not possible) especially if moored for more than a day.

Contributed by Doug Jensen, Exotic Species Information Center Coordinator, University of MN Sea Grant, and Mandy Beall, Aquatic Invasives Education Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Extension

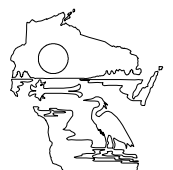
***Protect Your Property
and Wisconsin's Water Resources!***

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Are You Ready?

This year Wisconsin lake residents have a fantastic opportunity to educate folks on invasive species through their boat landings. Youth from Minoqua/Hazelhurst/Lake Tomahawk Middle School, the Milfoil Masters, have designed a boat launch monitoring and educational tool kit.

Currently, 46 lakes and 25 counties are participating in this boat launch education program for the summer of 2003. Residents of these lakes have received training on the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil and other invasive species that can affect lake quality. At the workshop, participants are trained to monitor their boat landings with adult and youth teams. These teams encourage boaters to check their trailers, bait buckets and bilge water for potential invasive species.

If you would like to begin a boat launch program, contact Laura Felda, Adopt-A-Lake Coordinator, at 715-346-3366.



A Tax Flaw?

Use Value Assessment and Property Tax Implication

In addition to providing governments with operating revenue, tax laws have long been used to encourage or discourage certain changes or social behaviors. Unfortunately, recent changes to Wisconsin's property tax law have been designed in such a way that they now discourage actions designed to restore and protect conservation lands, riparian habitat and water quality. Did you know that if you take lands out of agricultural use, even if done for conservation purposes, you could be penalized by seeing your property taxes increase?



Use value assessment was designed to provide tax relief to Wisconsin's farmers.

Examples: A couple in northeastern Wisconsin were shocked when they discovered that the taxes on their 120-acre parcel of land had doubled and increased from \$3500 to \$7000. What they had done to deserve this surprise was replace the cornfields on their land near the trout stream with natural buffers and repair erosion damage caused by livestock. When they queried their local tax assessor, they learned they did have a few options to reduce their tax bill. They could either return the restored lands to cropland or find a way to re-pasture the land. If the land were returned to pasture, their taxes would drop from \$7000 to only \$125. Not a bad incentive to restore cows to a field.

In southwestern Wisconsin, Burton and Janice Lee own a 306-acre conservation farm in Vernon County. They too have been surprised by significant property tax increases over the last 3 years. Despite making no improvements or changes to their property, they have seen their property tax bill increase from \$3,442.87 in 1999 to \$7,123.67 in 2000, and from \$8,240.53 in 2001 to \$9,303.80 in 2002.

The Lees were also advised they had some options to lower their taxes. Town officials told them that they could either enroll their woodland into the Managed Forest Law or find a way to pasture the land.

Use value assessment: What is it?

For many years, farmers have been able to receive property tax relief through the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation property tax relief program and the farmland property tax credit provision of the Wisconsin Code. However, believing these programs were not providing adequate property tax relief to farmers, the Wisconsin Legislature added additional property tax relief to owners of "agricultural" land by shifting the local tax burden to woodlands, open lands, residential, and other property. This new taxation strategy is commonly known as use-value assessment.

The Wisconsin Constitution's uniformity clause was changed in 1974 to allow for the preferential assessment of agricultural and conservation land for property tax purposes. Some 20 years later, with passage of the state's 1995 Budget Act, this provision was used to change the way agricultural land, but not conservation land, was assessed. Agricultural land is now assessed at its use value, i.e. its theoretical value to grow crops, rather than its fair market value. What the legislature did not consider was the impact these legislative changes would have on lands serving conservation purposes, such as those sensitive or marginal lands that had been restored or left undeveloped.



With this change, the law now directs assessors to classify all land in the state into one of seven classes: Residential, Commercial, Manufacturing, Agricultural, Swamp & Waste, Productive Forest Land, and Other. (Note: Despite the term being commonly used, there is no "Recreational" land classification. Also, how land is zoned has no bearing on how it is assessed for use-value property taxation.) In addition, the bill directed the Department of Revenue (DOR) to write rules to describe in greater detail how the law should be implemented. The rule they developed, Chapter TAX 18, was adopted using emergency procedures and became effective on December 6, 1995.

Unlike all other property, which is still valued at its fair market value, agricultural land is now valued by using published values that estimate what the land is worth to grow crops.

So what land qualifies as being assessed agricultural? TAX18 provides those definitions. It states, in part, that agricultural land "will typically bear physical evidence of agricultural use, such as furrows, crops, fencing or livestock, appropriate to the production season." Some, but not all, lands enrolled in federal programs also qualify for treatment as being in agricultural use. For example, lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program qualify, but others such as those enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program, even if they were cropped prior to their enrollment, do not qualify.

Are Tax Savings Enough Incentive to Change Land Use?

Property tax reduction incentives are leading to changing land uses and it's not hard to see why that is happening. If property is located in an area where land is highly valued, tax savings by converting land to an acceptable agricultural use can be huge. Example: You own 40 acres of land located near a developing area. The fair market value of the land is \$10,000 an acre. Using a typical mill rate of \$25 per \$1,000, you would be paying \$10,000 of property taxes each year on your 40 acres. But if you have enough cows on

the land to satisfy your assessor, you would see your annual property tax bill drop to less than \$100!

In the Town of Coon, where the Lees live, many farmers have already taken their town board supervisor's advice by clearing and cropping marginal lands or by re-pasturing their woods. In 2000 alone, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) estimates that 1,400 acres of land were converted to pasture in the Town of Coon alone. This town also saw applications to enroll in the Managed Forest Law greatly increase, with an additional 637 acres being added in 2000 to the 2,514 acres previously enrolled.

Over the past 70 years, great strides have been made in adding conservation practices to Wisconsin's rural landscapes.

Conservation, Loss of Habitat and Other Negative Considerations

Embedded in the present use-value taxation policy are these conservation disincentives, some of which will lead to broad scale environmental degradation and certain public health and safety implications if left unresolved. Over the past 70 years, great strides have been made in stressing conservation practices for Wisconsin's rural landscape. The extensive reforestation of



Should cows roam these streambanks?

poor farm lands, removal of cattle from steep hillsides, along with the installation of soil-saving conservation practices have been credited as the primary reason environmental gains have been seen in much of the state. It would be unfortunate if these gains were reversed.

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Competing messages, it seems, are now being sent to many landowners.

Before adopting alternative land management practices, individuals need to consider that practices such as the pasturing of woods will cause increased soil compaction, reduction of water infiltration and a decrease of the cold water base flow to nearby streams needed to maintain quality trout fisheries. Episodic flooding events will also increase as a result of decreased water infiltration and loss of detention capabilities. Increased soil erosion and habitat loss, associated with other land use changes, will also lead to reduced water quality and wildlife and fisheries potential.

Who Decides? Role of the Farmland Advisory Council and Legislature

Competing messages, it seems, are now being sent to many landowners. Ever since the days of the great Dust Bowl disaster in the 1930s, landowners have been encouraged to prevent soil erosion, restore woodlands, and recognize the benefits associated with taking marginal land out of production. While most agricultural and forest governmental programs have had conservation considerations embedded in them, Wisconsin's new use-value assessment program has none.

The legislation authorizing use-value assessment provided for the creation of a Farmland Advisory Council. The Secretary of the Department of Revenue chairs the 10-member council, whose members are appointed by the governor to represent certain special interests. The Legislature has charged this council to provide recommendations and to annually report to the legislature on the effectiveness of use-value assessment.

Although the Legislature recognized that certain adjustments may be needed, nothing legislatively has yet been done. The Farm Bureau, which has been the primary proponent of the use-value assessment law, has said it is working to bring woodlots and wasteland, which are parts of a farm operation, under the use value system. Unfortunately such an action would not provide tax benefits to landowners that owned a limited amount of cropland. In addition, concerns have been expressed by DOR that constitutional issues could prevent the use of such an approach. The argument is that such a change could be viewed as going beyond the limits of the constitution's uniformity clause by having non-agricultural lands valued differently, dependent upon whether or not the land owner also happened to own other agricultural lands.

Sources of Additional Information

The Department of Revenue's website is an excellent source for information. If you do not have web access most publications and information can also be obtained, for a small cost, by calling them directly at 608/266-7750.

The following publications are found at DOR's website at <http://www.dor.state.wi.us/html/govpub.html>:

Agricultural Assessment Guide for Wisconsin Property Owners
Guide for Property Owners

Property Assessment Appeal Guide For Wisconsin Real Property Owners

Use-Value Guidelines for Agricultural Assessment – 2002, which contains information on location specific use-values for agricultural lands is found at DOR's website at <http://www.dor.state.wi.us/html/stats.html>

To obtain a copy of the Farmland Advisory Report to the Legislature you can contact your legislator directly. Contact information, along with access to the administrative rule TAX 18 and its authorizing statutes, can be obtained from the legislature's web page at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>. The legislative hotline number is 800/362-9472.



How do you instill in people the belief that treating the land with a conservation ethic has merit? New land taxation strategies often make this difficult. Burton Lee says, “Unfortunately, we believe that severe damage has already been done to the conservation ethic in our neighborhood. Our immediate neighbor to the north bulldozed many acres of steep woodland and converted it to fields where the taxes will be lower, the erosion will be greater, but he will receive income from the land.”

Richard Wedepohl is an owner of woodlands in Iowa and Grant counties. He is also Chief of the Dam Safety, Floodplain, Shoreland section of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Reprinted in part from an article in Woodland Management, a publication of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association.

Youth: Keepers of the Vision

Problems, issues, or challenges, no matter what term you use, we all have them. Many lake organizations struggle with the need to make decisions on a broad range of vital lake issues. Have you ever thought about engaging youth in decision-making roles?

What! Involve youth in lake issues that deal with adults! Youth do not have the experience adults have! Youth would never be interested in sitting through long meetings about lake management issues. Youth are too busy to be involved with dry, stuffy, boring meetings. We meet on Saturday mornings and most kids have a sporting event to attend. We just don't have that kind of interested youth around our community. Youth speak their own language and they just wouldn't fit in! Do these comments sound familiar? Perhaps most importantly, do they prevent you from engaging youth in lake management?

For a moment, consider the benefits of involving youth on your lake management team. Youth may offer a fresh perspective and be less afraid to challenge existing organizational solutions. Youth are energetic and productive, which can be contagious to other members of the organization. Youth are action-oriented and their energy can launch an organization to new levels of activity and achievement. Youth are not jaded and are less inhibited by social norms, which allows creativity to flourish. Youth bring connections and links to other youth in the community, which directly expands the reach and, ultimately, the impact of the organization. Generally, the energy youth brings can be used to propel an organizational vision into a reality.

Adults, like youth, bring many attributes to the table and that is the beauty of this idea. Adults have knowledge gained through years of experience and lessons gained through life. Adults have access to a host of resources: human, financial and community that are not necessarily available to youth. Adults have administrative and programming skills that youth have not developed. Adults are just more experienced!

There are numerous benefits associated with creating partnerships with youth. Effective partnerships result in youth making meaningful contributions to their community, feelings of mutual respect between adults and youth, open and honest youth/adult communication, and adults actively supporting youth in their community. Communities that involve youth nurture a richer pool of future leaders with skills, experiences and commitment. New youth role models are created which demonstrate to other young people that real opportunities for advancement, self-fulfillment and social justice exist in their world.

Is your organization ready to bring youth to the table?

Try this activity to assess your readiness for youth involvement. Send out a questionnaire before your scheduled meeting. Have the members answer these questions prior to the meeting date:

1. What is your vision for youth in the program?



Youth can be great partners in lake issues.



Youth are action-oriented and their energy can launch an organization to new levels of activity.

Youth-Adult Partnerships

Let's look at the characteristics that make a healthy Youth-Adult partnership.

A strong Youth-Adult partnership takes commitment from both young people and adults. A working team demonstrates respect, open communication, time investment and meaningful involvement.

Respect shatters stereotypes based on age and allows everyone the opportunity to act on their dreams and learn from their mistakes. Young people respect adults who listen and who ask challenging questions. Adults respect young people who invite them to share their skills, experiences and resources.

Communication is an honest and open exchange of ideas and opinions. All ideas are heard and valued. Young people are best heard when adults step back, while adults are best heard when they are forthright and explain the basis for their opinions.

Investment in the future takes time, patience, courage and accepting young people as the leaders of today. In order to succeed, young people and adults must first set their fears aside and take a chance on each other. Adults must provide young people with the information, training and support they will need to succeed. Young people need to commit their time and energy to do the work and be willing to learn from adults.

Meaningful Involvement requires that both young people and adults make decisions together. Young people and adults should hold each other accountable for all their decisions and actions. Adults need to remember to support young people in taking on responsibility based on what they can do, not what they have done.

2. What is your motivation for involving youth in your program?
3. What expectations do you have about young people?
4. What roles will young people play?
5. How do youth already fit into your organization?
6. What resources exist to ensure success for involving youth in the organization?

During the meeting, set aside time for members to discuss youth involvement. To get the discussion going, suggest that each participant write the mission or purpose of the organization at the top of a piece of paper. Have each draw an organizational flow chart beneath the mission statement. The map should include individuals, departments, programs and people affected by the programs, with lines between any connected people or projects. Have each highlight where youth would fit into the chart. What roles do they play? How do they fit within the overall mission and activities of the organization? Are they volunteers? Recipients of services? Committee members? Participants in events? Lastly have the group discuss the possibilities for changing or expanding youth involvement. Consider how young people may contribute to the work of the organization.

If the answer is NO to a partnership, don't give up. There are still things that can help

move groups to another level. If the group believes that youth are best served as recipients of services or need to be directed continuously through the life of a project, use an indirect way to keep the potential of a partnership alive. Model meaningful involvement of youth in your own work, use a newsletter and other media to recognize youth contributions to groups and continue to ask questions that encourage adults to consider the youth view.

If the answer is MAYBE to a partnership, the door is open to the potential for youth involvement. This is an opportunity for a small group to explore how a partnership might work and set some initial goals and plans.

Remember, when youth are involved in decision-making, young people will start to recognize their influence on the community in which they live and become more vested in it. The community benefits from the development of skilled leaders for tomorrow, and active, contributing community members today.

If you are interested in getting youth involved in your lake management team, contact Laura Felda, UW-Extension Lakes, Lake Youth Educator/Adopt-A-Lake, 715-346-3366, lfelda@uwsp.edu for more information!



The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Photo Contest Winners 2003

Congratulations and thanks to the following individuals for bringing color, life and artistry to the 2003 Wisconsin Lakes Convention.

1st Place James Hughes
\$100 Kathy King

2nd Place Nancy Field
\$50 Jim Imse

3rd Place Donna Bennett
\$25 Maggie Bailey

Honorable Mention

Ralph Griffin
Chris Krieg
Jenny Swintek
Carmen Wagner (2)
Bev Halmar
Ilse Ehlert Wagner
James Hughes
Lisa Conley



"Cloud Reflections" by James Hughes



"Man's Best Friend" by Kathy King

C A L E N D A R

May 20, 2003 - 3rd Annual Wisconsin Groundwater Guardian Meeting, UW-Stevens Point. Contact Denise Kilkenny-Tittle at 715/346-2722.

May 28, 2003 - Wisconsin Water Law Conference, University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison. Call 800/355-5573 or 608-262-3834 for more information.

June 7, 2003 - Green Lake Association Annual Meeting. Contact Nancy Hill at nhillgla@charter.net.

June 16, 2003 - Focus on Your Lake Seminar. Schwan Center, Trego, WI. Contact Michael Norris at 715/865-5412.

June 27, 2003 - 5th Annual WAL Northwest Lakes Leadership Conference. Schwan Center, Trego, WI. Contact Sybil Brakken at 715/798-3163. Registration deadline is June 14. For more information, go to www.wisconsinlakes.org.

July 26, 2003 - Mercer Lake Annual Meeting. Contact Ann Baxter at 608/233-7337.

August 9, August 23, September 20, September 27 and October 18, 2003 - Wisconsin River of Words: Connecting Kids with their Watersheds through Poetry and Art - Educators Workshop. Various locations statewide. For information, see www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes/row or call Mary Pardee at 715/346-4978.



