



Alternative Lawn Care Practices for WI

by Doug Soldat, UW-Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Dept. of Soil Science, UW-Madison

Ask a lake ecologist what a shoreland homeowner should do with their yard to help protect their lake and the response will likely be "protect or restore the native buffer, don't grow lawns on slopes that drain to the lake, and do all you can to infiltrate runoff." This advice is sound, but looking around our lakes there appears to be a deep affinity for grass lawns among property owners, one that science will not sway. The question then becomes: what lawn care practices should homeowners use to minimize their impact on the lake? It's an important question, since whatever is on and in those lawns (i.e. fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, etc.) will be carried by stormwater to the lake. This article highlights some of the key steps that homeowners can take to attain a healthy lawn without placing their lake in jeopardy.

When you go to the grocery store, you can find USDA Organic versions of all kinds of foods. Organic producers use methods that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. While organic products tend to be a bit more expensive, the quality is equal to, or better than, conventionally-grown products, and consumers have come to expect and appreciate having the choice. Unfortunately, the same choices are not yet available for your lawn. The primary obstacle to a healthy organic or alternative lawn is a healthy soil. If you ask an organic farmer or gardener the secret to growing organic food, she'll tell you it's all about the soil. But our lawn soils were heavily disturbed when our homes were constructed. Chances are the original twelve inches of topsoil was stripped and sold and the basement clay was spread around the property and compacted. Then, two inches of topsoil was spread around and a cheap species of turf was planted. It's no wonder many people constantly struggle with weeds, insects, and drought.

(Continued on page 2)



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Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

(Alternative Lawn Care, cont.)



Free download from the
UWEX Learning Store or
\$1.00 for a hard copy



Free download from the
UWEX Learning Store or
\$2.50 for a hard copy

The turfgrass research program at UW-Madison has been investigating ways to maintain healthy grass with fewer inputs for decades. In fact, we've earned a national reputation for leading the way in environmental turfgrass research. Drawing on that wealth of knowledge, two new publications are available at the UW-Extension Learning Store: *Do-it-yourself Alternative Lawn Care* (A3964) and *Organic and Reduced Risk Lawn Care* (A3958). The former intended for homeowners and the latter for lawn care professionals.

It should come as no surprise to learn that focusing on soil health is the first key to success for alternative lawn care. The best defense against weeds, insects, and diseases is a healthy plant; and healthy plants need a good soil. For new areas, we recommend planting into at least 6 inches of good topsoil for roots to thrive. If the roots can only explore the top few inches, turf density suffers, weeds encroach, and the lawn goes dormant at the first sign of drought. If you are

dealing with an already established lawn on a poor soil, you can core aerate each fall and add compost in the spring and fall each year to slowly build up the root zone.

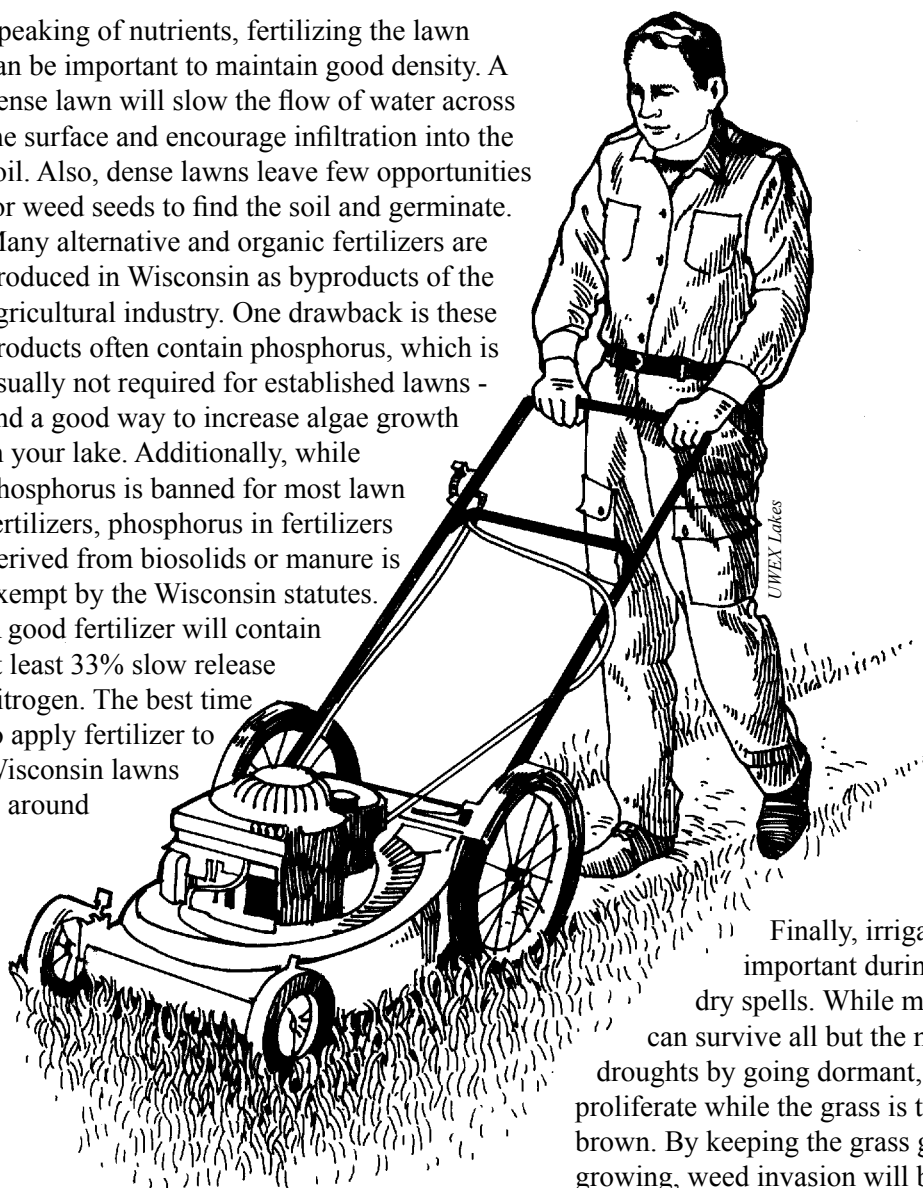
Another important consideration is grass type. Some grasses are better suited for low maintenance situations than others. For example, fine and tall fescue do very well with little fertilizer and water. They both are acceptable under shade. However, fine fescue will not tolerate much traffic, or wet, compacted soils. Tall fescue will not tolerate ice cover. Talk with a turfgrass specialist to determine which grass species and cultivars are right for your specific situation.

After you have a good soil and the right grass, mowing it properly will ensure its continued success. Mowing is a stressful event for grass, so make sure the mower blades are sharp to minimize injury to the grass blades and try not to mow more than one-third of the grass blade off at any one time. Finally, the grass clippings should be mulched back to the lawn to

provide nutrients. Returning grass clippings to the soil is usually equivalent to one or two fertilizer applications.



Speaking of nutrients, fertilizing the lawn can be important to maintain good density. A dense lawn will slow the flow of water across the surface and encourage infiltration into the soil. Also, dense lawns leave few opportunities for weed seeds to find the soil and germinate. Many alternative and organic fertilizers are produced in Wisconsin as byproducts of the agricultural industry. One drawback is these products often contain phosphorus, which is usually not required for established lawns - and a good way to increase algae growth in your lake. Additionally, while phosphorus is banned for most lawn fertilizers, phosphorus in fertilizers derived from biosolids or manure is exempt by the Wisconsin statutes. A good fertilizer will contain at least 33% slow release nitrogen. The best time to apply fertilizer to Wisconsin lawns is around



Before getting too invested in fertilizing, stop by your County Extension office to learn about soil testing kits that can provide detailed nutrient recommendations.

Memorial Day and Labor Day. Before getting too invested in fertilizing, stop by your County Extension office to learn about soil testing kits that can provide detailed nutrient recommendations.

Organic or alternative pest control relies on the use of hand-pulling weeds or the use of products with limited efficacy like corn gluten meal for pre-emergent weed control or products containing chelated iron that control (but may not eliminate) many broadleaf weeds. The optimum time to apply corn gluten meal is when soil temperatures reach 55°F. If you don't have a soil thermometer, it's about the time Forsythia are blooming or when the leaves emerge on the invasive and ubiquitous Honeysuckle.

Finally, irrigation may be important during extreme dry spells. While most grasses can survive all but the most extreme droughts by going dormant, weeds can proliferate while the grass is temporarily brown. By keeping the grass green and growing, weed invasion will be minimized. Keep in mind that the deeper and healthier the soil, the longer your turf will stay green during the year.

For more information on alternative and organic lawn care practices (like specifics on application rates, compost, etc.), check out the new publications at the UW-Extension Learning Store (A3958 and A3964). This should get you off to a good start for maintaining healthy turf with fewer inputs. ♡

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Cash4Wetlands

Financial Assistance Available for Wetland Restoration on Private Lands



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Partners for Fish and Wildlife) offer a wetland habitat program which provides cost sharing for the restoration of altered and drained wetlands on private lands in Wisconsin. Wetlands have been traditionally drained by surface ditches or sub-surface drainage tiles for highway construction, housing development, and agricultural uses such as growing row crops, pastures, and hay fields. These wetlands have lost their ability to hold and retain water. In turn, this reduces their value as wildlife habitat, for flood water retention, to filter sediment, and to provide countless recreational spaces to hunt, fish, trap, and view and photograph wildlife.

If you have a wetland or know of a neighbor or friend that you feel may be eligible for development and restoration, there are programs available for cost share up to 100%. Restoring altered wetlands involves the filling of surface ditches, breaking sub-surface drain tiles, and/or constructing earthen embankments. These wetland programs do not provide funding for the construction of ponds or deep pools,

which are not cost effective and provide little benefit for most forms of wildlife.

Cost share is also available for native grassland restorations which serve as upland nesting habitat for both waterfowl and grassland birds. Grassland restorations are often completed in conjunction with wetland restorations which maximizes wildlife benefit.

At your request, a biologist will inspect your land to determine restoration potential and eligibility, provide advice on management for game and non-game species, design specifications, and determine project location. If eligible, and with your approval, a Private Lands Habitat Development Agreement will be established which identifies project goals, objectives, and costs. A biologist will oversee the project to completion. Habitat Development Agreements are developed for a minimum of 10 years - no public access is required - and you retain full control of your property.

If you think you may be eligible and want to participate in a wetland restoration program, please contact Brett Olson, DNR Private Lands Biologist (262.794.2142) or Caitlin Smith, Private Lands Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (715.246.7784).



R. Korh

Fishing Tournament Organizers are Valuable Partners in AIS Prevention Efforts

By: Allison Howell, Graduate Project Assistant, Department of Life Sciences Communication, UW-Madison and Bret Shaw, Environmental Communication Specialist, UW-Extension & Assistant Professor, Department of Life Sciences Communication, UW-Madison

R. Korth

Each year, fishing tournament organizers interact with a large number of anglers. In fact, fishing tournaments in Wisconsin attracted over 75,000 participants in 2011. The popularity of these tournaments puts the organizers in a unique position to communicate with other lake users on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS).



On the whole, fishing tournament organizers are aware of AIS and are working to share information with their participants, according to a study conducted in the fall of 2011. The study explored the role that Wisconsin tournament organizers play in communicating information to anglers and boaters about AIS.

Results showed that 97 percent of tournament organizers had heard about AIS and the steps to prevent their spread. Organizers generally felt that tournament anglers are among the most informed of all lake users and they consistently perform AIS-prevention steps, such as inspecting boats and equipment, removing visible plants and animals, and draining all water from their boats.

The study also revealed some commonly shared attitudes toward AIS among tournament anglers. Nearly 60 percent of those surveyed say that AIS have both positive and negative effects on the quality of fishing. For example, several report that Eurasian water-milfoil has improved fishing in lakes infested with that particular invasive plant because it offers increased habitat for fish. Overall, tournament organizers appeared to view AIS as more negative than positive. However, the apparent short-term benefits may outweigh negative consequences that are difficult to observe, which may be a barrier in performing AIS-prevention behaviors.

(Continued on page 14)



R. Korth



It's Your Choice

Wearing a PFD Could Save Your Life

by Cathy Scheder, Aquatics Risk Management Expert

A. Kowalski

A few months ago, I was catching up with some of my Facebook friends and read a comment posted on a former camper's page: "Times, dates and locations for the memorial services for [Michael] and [Jamie] are posted on the blog," and she then gave a link to that site. Something about that statement made me stop and click to follow the link. Long story short,

a father and his five-year-old had left on a canoe outing to give Mom a break on her birthday, only to have it end in tragedy. Without knowing the details, it can only be assumed that somehow both ended up in the water and drowned.

In 2010, according to the US Coast Guard, there were 4,604 reported boating accidents in the US. Of those, 672 resulted in death and 75% of those were death due to drowning, usually by unexpected entry into the water. Of those that drowned, 88% were NOT wearing a Personal Flotation Device or PFD. Locally, in 2011, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 23 drowning incidents were reported in Wisconsin and of those 77% were not wearing PFDs.

Not wearing a PFD is a risk for everyone, but particularly for children. Our kids learn these lessons through the adults in their lives. We have a responsibility not only to follow state and federal boating regulations, but also to model how to safely enjoy the water. While federal law requires children 12 and under to wear PFDs on federally navigable



waterways, we are one of only two states that does not require this on most inland waterways (Virginia is the other). Statistics don't lie. People can drown when they don't wear PFDs while enjoying the water.

Even if you think you can swim as well as Michael Phelps or Dara Torres, it may not be enough. Falling into an open water environment, such as one of the 15,000 lakes Wisconsin is noted for, is totally different when you are clothed, soaked, scared, disoriented, intoxicated, too far to get to your drifting boat, perhaps trying to rescue a child or a friend, or any distance from shore that is greater than the center of a pool. If you think you can help your five-year-old once they're in the water, scared and panicked, try treading water with 50 pounds of additional weight. Kids are strong, especially when they panic, and they'll grab you wherever they can – and in the water, that means your head. PFDs are designed to do one thing when properly fitted – keep your head above water. Some are specifically designed to turn an unconscious victim face up.

How Michael and Jamie ended up in the water will more than likely never be known.

Wisconsin Rules

Wisconsin and Virginia are the only two states in the U.S. that do not require young children to always wear a life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD) while on a recreational boat or watercraft. State lawmakers proposed a bill in 2009 to add such a requirement, but it was not successfully adopted.

Since 2003, the U.S. Coast Guard has required all children under 13 to wear a PFD on waterways that the Coast Guard patrols. In Wisconsin, this includes: Big Green Lake, Black River, Castle Rock Lake, Chippewa River, Lake Delton, Fox River, Kinnickinnic River, Koshkonong Lake, Menominee River, Pentenwell Flowage, St. Croix River, Wisconsin River, Wolf River, and the Winnebago system of lakes.

You can learn more about boating safety in Wisconsin at <http://www.boat-ed.com/wi/handbook/index.htm>





The tragic part, other than neither had been wearing their PFDs, was that the canoe was found with two PFDs in the bottom with the boat still upright. Two lives cut tragically short by a simple choice - to not wear their PFDs. As a five-year-old, Jamie was just following Dad's lead. Choosing to have the PFD in the boat, which is required by state law, and not wearing it, is a little like jumping out of a plane without a parachute. The day could have ended with Jamie helping to blow out Mom's birthday candles. Instead, that mom had to plan a memorial service, her life now turned completely upside down. When it comes to you, your kids, or your grand kids wearing PFDs for activities on and near the water, what's your choice?

For more information about how to choose the right life jacket for you or your child, please visit www.safekids.org or the link on Cathy's website. 💧

Bio: Cathy Scheder has been educating multiple audiences about aquatics risk management related to natural bodies of water for almost twenty years. She is an international, national, and regional speaker, and author related to aquatics risk management in recreational settings. She lives and works in Stevens Point and can be reached at CampAquatics@gmail.com. Visit her website at www.CampAquatics.net.

Resources:

United States Coast Guard – Recreational Boating Statistics, Published June 2011
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Wisconsin Boating Fatality Summary – 2011 Season.

Wisconsin to Host NALMS International Symposium



The 32nd International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) is taking place November 7-9, 2012 at the Monona Terrace in Madison. The theme of this year's Symposium is **Lakes in the Landscape: Values > Visions > Actions**.

In these tough economic times, the values we place on our natural resources, including lakes, becomes more important than ever. These values are brought into focus by our vision for lakes, essentially what we want as an outcome of successful management. Finally, turning these visions into actions requires partnerships, good science, and perseverance! Hear from state, national and international lake professionals about the science of lakes in the landscape, ranging from in-lake to watershed to global, as well as approaches that facilitate lake management...from satellites to surveys to shorelines. A great opportunity right in our "backyard!"

Share Your Values, Visions, and Actions!

The call for presentation and poster session ideas is open until June 1. For more information or to submit an oral or poster presentation abstract, go to www.nalms.org click on "Conferences," then choose "2012 NALMS Symposium."

November 7-9, 2012 Madison, WI



Red-winged Blackbird

by Simone LaMarche, student, UWEX Lakes

R. Korth



A dark swoosh, a flash of bright red. It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... well, you were right the first time; it's a bird.

What do you call that black bird with the red on its wings? A red-winged blackbird of course! However, if you're a scientist you might identify the species as *Agelaius phoeniceus*, Latin for "deep red." If you had lived as a French fur trapper in Canada, you may know the bird as *carouge à épaulettes*, translating roughly to "blackbird with shoulders." If you're lucky enough to enjoy the clement winter months

in Central America, you may find good company in a *Tordo alirrojo* or "redwing thrush" (allaboutbirds.org). Being Native to America, these birds have names that date back hundreds of years before the Europeans. Native Americans belonging to the Odawa language in South West Ontario and Michigan have branded our red-marked, feathery friend *memeskoniinisi*, meaning "bird with a red [patch on its wing]." The bird is also called *memiskondinimaanganeshiinh* by a majority of Ojibwa language dialects. This name translates directly to "a bird with a very red little shoulder-blade" (avianweb.com).

No matter what language you speak it, the red-winged blackbird's name comes from the distinct red and yellow patches found on its wings. These red shoulder patches, or

"epaulets," can be seen on male birds in flight, fight, and mating rituals. In fact, the male red-winged blackbird is a particularly aggressive animal. If they feel territorially threatened, red-winged blackbirds have been known to attack much larger birds including: crows, ravens, and other birds of prey. They are so aggressive that they will ride the backs of these larger birds and peck them furiously! (Harrison).

The female red-winged blackbird is a small, brown creature. Though not as flashy as her male counterpart, the female is a master craftsman. She can construct a basket nest of grasses, sedge, moss, and mud. Moreover, these nests are constructed into low-lying, living vegetation in close proximity to water, such as cattails, reeds, and grasses. The growing vegetation can shift a poorly-made nest enough to dump it and its contents into the water (Harrison). Cattails are a particular favorite of red-winged blackbirds and indeed, the stereotypical image is one of a brightly colored male perched atop a swaying cattail. Recently, however, red-winged blackbirds are being seen more and more in upland habitats nesting in shrubs, trees, and even on the ground (Pistorius).

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With a habitat that goes as far north as the Yukon and as far south as Guatemala, it's no surprise that the red-winged black bird is one of the most abundant birds in the United States. One estimate puts the red-winged black bird population at around 450 million. Never does the sheer size of the blackbird population become more evident to humans than when these birds join starlings and grackles in a large, migrating winter flock (Pistorius).

Flocks of these birds can number in the millions, causing the sky to darken from thousands upon thousands of feathery, little bodies (Harrison). Giant flocks can very easily wipe out farm fields and are therefore seen as agricultural pests. They cause between six and ten million dollars of damage to sunflower

crops in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota each year (Harrison). There is a great deal of controversy surrounding blackbird-eradication for agricultural purposes.



Among all the signs of spring, few are as distinct as the male red-winged blackbird's conk-la-REE! backed by a chorus of the female call: chit chit chit chit! (avianweb.com). Herald in the new summer with this amazing little bird. As a symbol of the wetlands, the red-winged blackbird is a beautiful, brave songstress and craftsman. 💧

Resources

Pistorius, Alan. "Totem spirit of the marsh." Country Journal 27.5 Sept. (2000): 16-19. EBSCOhost. Web. 3 May 2012. <http://web.ebscohost.com>

Harrison, George. "The Lord and Master." Birder's World 17.1 Feb. (2003): 42. EBSCOhost. Web. 3 May 2012. <http://web.ebscohost.com>

allaboutbirds.org. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, n.d. Web. 3 May 2012. www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/red-winged_blackbird/lifehistory

avianweb.com. N.p., n.d. Web. 3 May 2012. www.avianweb.com/redwingedblackbirds.html

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R. Korth





Do Your Part to Help Slow the Spread of AIS

2012 Spring/Summer Workshops

The Citizen Lake Monitoring Network and the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Watercraft Inspection Program are in full swing with trainings this year. Is there a training near you? Find out by visiting the UWEX Lakes web site at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes. Click on the icon of the program you're interested in and then click on "Workshop Schedule." If there is nothing listed in your area, click on the "AIS Contact List" and let your local coordinator know you're interested.



Slow the Spread by Boat and Tread

June is Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) in Wisconsin! Join your fellow lake lovers and enthusiastic staff in sharing this year's theme – slow the spread by boat and tread. A variety of workshops, field trips, and lectures will be offered around the state on the impacts of invasive species in Wisconsin. To find events in your area and learn more about how to get involved, visit: <http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness/>.



BUYING A LICENSE OR REGISTRATION?

Donate \$2 to aquatic invasive species research and control

Where does my \$2 go?



75% goes to WDNR's Lakes Segregated Account to directly fund AIS research and control projects

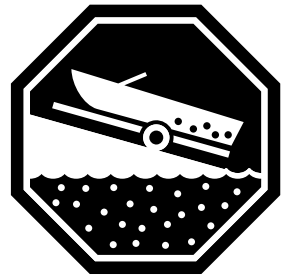
25% supports your local merchant

Even when these projects do not take place on your local water body, the knowledge gained is applied to benefit ALL Wisconsin waters! For more information and examples of research paid through this fund, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/sayyestolakes/>.



Jump on Board

Take Part in the 2012 Landing Blitz



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

With yearly losses, damages, and control costs of AIS around \$6.6 billion in the U.S. alone, clearly the best offense is a good defense.

With the summer boating season fast approaching, we are gearing up for another successful mid-summer landing blitz. This year's blitz will take place over the 4th of

July week when boat traffic is high and the potential to spread aquatic invasive species (AIS) is great. University of Wisconsin-Extension is partnering with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and counties across the state to provide an increase in media coverage surrounding aquatic invasive species along with an increased presence of inspectors at landings throughout the state.

The goals of the 2012 Landing Blitz are to build on the success of last year's efforts, expand boater awareness of Wisconsin AIS laws, increase their voluntary compliance, and prevent the spread of AIS. With yearly losses, damages, and control costs of AIS around \$6.6 billion in the U.S. alone, clearly the best offense is a good defense.

The 2012 Landing Blitz will begin Friday, June 29 and continue through Sunday, July 8. Once again this year, we are encouraging all *Clean Boats, Clean Waters* watercraft inspectors to get out on their landings and share AIS prevention information with the boaters and anglers enjoying the lakes! Join your fellow inspectors around the state in demonstrating the

required prevention steps boaters must take, providing stickers for boaters to place on their trailer posts to remind them of these steps, and educating boaters and anglers on Wisconsin's invasive species laws.

Contact Mike Putnam at the DNR if you or your lake organization plans to be a part of this year's efforts to increase AIS awareness during one of the busiest weeks of the boating year. DNR is asking partners to focus their inspection efforts on either the weekend leading up to the July 4th holiday (Friday, June 29th through Wednesday, July 4th) or the weekend following the 4th (Wednesday, July 4th – Sunday, July 8th), depending on when boat traffic is elevated at a particular lake. Partnering organizations will be provided with *Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers* towels to hand out at the landings, and media resources to help highlight local efforts. 💧



Golden Sands RC&D

As a reminder, boaters, anglers, and others enjoying Wisconsin waters are required to:

- INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment
- REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals
- DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment
- NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody



Convention Wrap-up

Over 430 lake lovers came together in Green Bay to learn, share, and create ideas for protecting one of Wisconsin's most valuable assets – its lakes. The 34th annual Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention was another in a long line of great gatherings that recharged the spirits and raised our collective understanding of the task before us.

Tuesday's keynote speakers included Darby Nelson, Lisa Conley, and George Meyer. These three enlightened, inspired, and motivated convention attendees with their insights into lake science, sustainability, and politics. Wednesday's keynote, John McKnight, provided everyone

with a new and unique way to think about leadership. In John's view, effective leaders are those people who are initiating projects on the ground, not necessarily commanding them from above. Leaders use their knowledge and skills to bring together more people – often creating connections where previously there were none – to take on community tasks.

The concurrent sessions this year included topics such as lake advocacy, aquatic invasive species, lake management, native plants and animals, and county land and water resource offices. In one of the more popular concurrent sessions, the White House Council on Environmental Quality's Asian Carp Director, John Goss, provided an update on federal efforts to prevent Asian carp from becoming established within the Great Lakes. Other sessions went into detail on subjects ranging from blue-green algae to iron mining.

Workshops on the first and last day of the convention were once again a popular way for people to get more hands-on and in-depth lake education. The most popular workshop was "Lake Planning and Assessment," presented by staff from the DNR's lakes program in Madison. The poster session was also a big hit, as more folks than ever took time to read a wide variety of research and outreach projects, asking questions one-on-one with the authors.

Planning is underway for the 35th Lakes Partnership Convention, set to take place April 9-11, 2013 at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay. If you would like to be a part of planning the convention or have suggestions, contact Eric Olson at eolson@uwsp.edu.



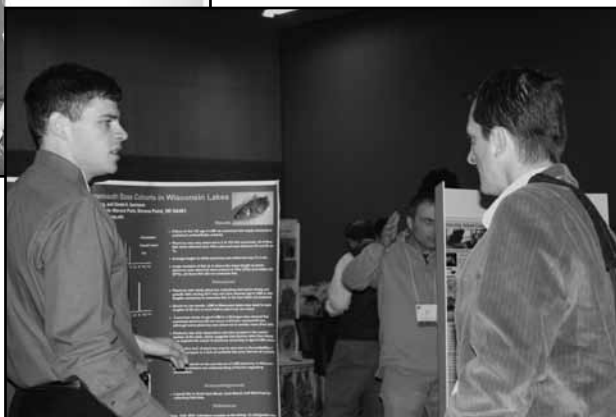
A. Kowalski



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Online Archive

Make sure to check out the 2012 Convention Archive to view many of the session presentations, materials, and speaker contact information at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions



A. Kowalski



2012 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Photography Contest Winners

The photography contest featured over 70 entries and included a great variety of subject matter and styles. Winners included:

Natural Features In and Around Lakes and Underwater

- 1st – *Green Heron* by Ruth Jean Kringle
 2nd – *Blandings Turtle and Friends* by Paul Skawinski
 3rd – *Foggy Sunrise* by Jake Pipp
People's Choice - *It's a Social Structure* by Bill Stagner and
Blandings Turtle and Friends by Paul Skawinski

People Enjoying Lakes

- 1st – *Peace on the Water* by Glenda Henning
 2nd – *Joy* by Mark Picard
 3rd – *Untitled* by Paul Muggli
People's Choice - *Reflections* by Ruth Amoth



Check us out on
 Facebook to see these
 photo contest winners
 and other photos from the 2012
 Convention - just search for
 "Wisconsin Lakes Partnership."



Peace on the Water
 by Glenda Henning



Green Heron
 by Ruth Jean Kringle

Save
 the
 Date!

April 9-11
 2013

WI Lakes
 Partnership
 Convention

Green Bay, WI

2012 Lakes Stewardship Award Winners

Citizen category

Ted Ludwig
 (Tainter-Menomine Lake
 Improvement Association)

Public Service

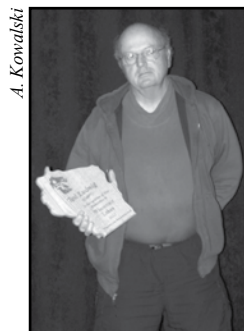
Dave Ferris
 (Burnett County
 Conservationist)

Youth

Dave and Patty Zenger
 and their **Reel 'em In Club**

Organized Group

**Rusk County Wildlife
 Restoration Association**
 (Accepted by Jerry Carow)





(Fishing Tournament Organizers, cont.)

There were also mixed views about the ways AIS can be transmitted. For example, several organizers mentioned the possible role of migratory birds in spreading AIS, although early data show that waterfowl are unlikely to spread AIS. However, it is known with certainty that boaters who move between lakes do have the potential to spread AIS. These questions are fairly common in discussions about AIS, even among the most informed. Uncertainty about AIS transmission may contribute to apathetic attitudes about AIS-prevention if the problem is perceived as too great, or if prevention efforts appear futile.

The good news is that fishing tournament organizers, as community leaders, have the potential to positively influence other lake-users by modeling good behavior. Most tournament organizers are already doing a good job communicating information about AIS with their participants, and nearly all expressed a willingness to do more. Additionally, a majority of tournament organizers acknowledge they play an influential role with anglers and their communities.

Given that organizers are already an aware and active audience, how can we support them in getting the word out? First, tournament organizers already have several effective communication channels in place that they may agree to leverage to share AIS information. During tournament promotion, word of mouth is the most common pathway for information,

followed by electronic communications like websites, emails, or social networking sites, such as Facebook. Promotional posters or flyers posted in bait shops, grocery stores, or other tournaments are also common. Most tournament organizers use a combination of all these strategies.

Another opportunity for information exchange takes place during communications with participants at the tournament itself. Organizers control the information that tournament participants receive—either via print or via face-to-face interactions (i.e. the tournament meetings or during the weigh-ins). AIS-prevention professionals, leaders, and volunteers can make sure organizers are well equipped with AIS materials and information for their participants, including current procedures for cleaning boats and equipment.

The content of AIS-related information can be just as important as the communication channels. As this group appears to be aware of the issue, communication materials may be more effective if they emphasize changing attitudes or behaviors, rather than simply increasing awareness. For example, messages can increase confidence that personal actions really do make a difference. Additionally, as this group feels they are influential to recreational anglers and the general community, communication efforts should help empower tournament organizers and participants to serve as role models to all anglers.

Our study suggests that fishing tournament organizers and anglers can help in the effort to prevent the spread of AIS. Moreover, it is important to acknowledge their collective knowledge and influence on other lake users. Using a strategic approach for engaging this audience may help build a unified partnership to combat the spread of AIS. 💧

It is known with certainty that boaters who move between lakes do have the potential to spread AIS.

Our study suggests that fishing tournament organizers and anglers can help in the effort to prevent the spread of AIS.



Q&A Lake Districts

We often get phone calls and emails from Lake Tides readers with a variety of questions about lake districts. Do you have a question about lake districts that you would like to see answered in Lake Tides? Send it to uwexlakes@uwsp.edu so we can include it in a future issue.

Q: What qualifications are needed for a person to be a lake district commissioner for a lake district in Wisconsin?

A: To serve as an elected lake district commissioner, a person must be a U.S. citizen, eighteen years of age or older, and either an elector (resident voter) or an owner of property within the district [Wis. Stat. § 33.01(9)(b)]. In order to qualify as an elector, a citizen must be a resident of the district [Wis. Stat. § 6.10]. A person who is an official representative of an organization which is an owner of property may hold office as a commissioner even though the person does not own property within the district or qualify as an elector [Wis. Stat. § 33.285]. At least one commissioner must be a district resident, unless no resident is willing to serve. If no resident is willing to serve, this requirement is waived until the end of that term [Wis. Stat. § 33.28(2m)(b)].

For more information on lake districts, see *People of the Lakes: A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations*, www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/districts.

CALENDAR

June 1: Abstract Deadline for NALMS International Symposium

Details on page 7.

June 1: Rachel Carson Intergenerational Poetry, Essay, Photo, and Dance Contest

Get all the details at www.epa.gov/aging/resources/thesenseofwonder/index.htm

June 5: Land Trust Alliance Midwest Program - Where Land and Water Protection Converge, Madison, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

This one-day training focuses on leveraging conservation funding and partnerships.

For more information: www.lta.org/leveragepartnerships

June 14: Invasive Species Education Summit, Horicon, WI

Interested invasive species education and outreach specialists are encouraged to come together for this free gathering to share projects, resources, and ideas.

To register: <http://5.selectsurvey.net/DNR/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=863H518>

June 15: 2012 North Central County Lakes and Rivers Associations Workshop, 9-11 am

This event is **free and open to the interested public**, and specifically designed for individuals and lake associations from the counties of Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Oneida, Price, Taylor and Vilas. Held at Nicolet College in Rhineland. Registration and networking begin at 8:30 am.

June 22: 2012 Northwest WI Lakes Conference in Spooner, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Dave Zentner, twice named National Conservationist of the Year, will present "Citizen Conservation During Divisive Political Times," and award winning author, naturalist, and wildlife photographer Stan Tekiela will discuss *Fascinating Loons*, one of the many books he has authored. Only \$40 for the day! For more information: www.wisconsinlakes.org

August 1: Lake Planning & AIS Control Grants Application Deadline

For more information about these grants contact your WDNR Lake Coordinator or go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/grants/>.



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Reflections

*Behold, my friends, the
spring is come; the earth
has gladly received the
embraces of the sun, and we
shall soon see the results of
their love!*

~ Sitting Bull

