

OCLAWA NEWS

TO PROMOTE AND PRESERVE THE LAKES AND RIVERS OF OCONTO COUNTY
Summer 2014

GREAT WORK BEING DONE ON AIS

By: Amanda Strick

Happy summer! I wanted to take some time to reflect on all the great work that has occurred already this summer in regards to AIS prevention and education efforts.



During the 2014 field season, early detection surveys were conducted by Oconto County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on five lakes. These lakes included: Montana, Leigh Flowage, Chute Pond, Bass (Townsend), and Waupee Flowage. These lakes were monitored using the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative monitoring techniques. Additional monitoring and training is available to lakes interested in learning how to identify lake vegetation, contact Amanda Strick for more information.

This year's Clean Boats, Clean Waters program has continued to provide strong outreach efforts to visitors and residents alike in Oconto County. Peter Framnes and Ian Woest began working in early May and so far this summer, nearly 800 boats have been inspected and well over 1,500 people have been spoken with at boat landings!

The county had a good turnout for the 4th of July Boat Landing Blitz. The lakes that were staffed over the 4th of July weekend included: Bass Lake, Bear/Munger Lake, Boulder Lake, Chain Lake, Crooked Lake, Grindle Lake, Paya Lake, Leigh Flowage, Kelly Lake, Maiden Lake, Machickanee Flowage, Lake Michigan, Townsend Flowage, Wheeler Lake, Waubee Lake, and White Potato Lake. **Thank you for making the 2014 4th of July Landing Blitz such a success for Oconto County!**

This summer the county's AIS Program has provided a free boat washing station at five fishing tournaments based out of the city of Oconto. The Southernline 4-H group was present at two of the fishing tournaments to wash boats and speak with anglers post-tournament. These efforts were well received and anglers expressed appreciation of the free boat wash and the 4-H's involvement.





Additional updates for Phragmites treatments on the bay: In 2011 and 2012 the Wisconsin DNR implemented a grant to control Phragmites on the west shore of the Bay of Green Bay using aerial herbicide applications. Although this herbicide application was very successful in some cases Phragmites persisted or plants were missed. Oconto County Land Conservation Division is working with the Wisconsin DNR and Ducks Unlimited to implement a new 2 year project to continue follow up treatment of the area and is expected to start in

late summer of 2014 with a follow up ****Special Reminder****: 2014 is the last year of Oconto County's current AIS Grant Program. In December the county will be submitting a grant application to continue the work that is being done in Oconto County to educate and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. If you or your lake organization would like to write a letter of support to continue these efforts these letters can be sent to: 111 Arbutus Ave., Oconto, WI 54153. If you have questions please email or call Amanda Strick: amanda.strick@co.oconto.wi.us or 920-834-7155

The Prez Says:

As we are already chasing those fleeting days of summer I wanted to briefly review OCLAWA's activity to date. We've begun to address financial solvency with our first brat fry and sales of our first raffle tickets to conclude Labor Day weekend. Please purchase a ticket if you have the opportunity. These will allow continuance of our mission of AIS education and awareness in our partnership endeavor with Lakewood Super Valu and our donation commitment to the Terry Rank Education Foundation. Hopefully your lake association projects have had similar starts and success. This also offers an opportunity to address needed support from our membership this Fall/Winter 2014/2015 for continuance of our Lake Specialist position in Oconto County. The grant supporting this position is already coming to fruition. Amanda Strick and Ken Dolata will need our support in their endeavor to reapply for grant continuance and garner financial support from the Oconto County Board. Be prepared to offer letters of support, attendance at OC committee meetings, etc. I will stay in touch with Amanda and Ken to coordinate support from our membership and keep all informed of needs and progress in this matter.

All have a wonderful safe summer!

Mike Winius

The Way I See It by Matt Marty

I have never been one to buy raffle tickets in the past and still am somewhat restrained when it comes to that type of gambling. However I believe I am in the minority. I recently sat at a table at the Archibald Lake Association Annual meeting and sold 21 of my 25 OCLAWA raffle tickets in about a half an hour. I was amazed. I wondered why I was so successful. Did being very visible help? I sold them at a meeting with over fifty people in attendance. Was it the cause? "OCLAWA needs the money to help pay for projects such as grocery bags at Lakewood Super Valu". Was it my wonderful presentation? "You don't want to buy a raffle ticket do you?" Was it that people like to gamble? "Only three hundred tickets are being sold." Was it a very desirable prize? "\$500 on a \$10 bet is a pretty good return." Or was it more of an individual thing which may amount to a little of all of them for some people. I am inclined to believe that with most people it probably was some of all of them. I think the cause may have influenced some; the fact that only three

hundred tickets were being sold greatly raised the odds of winning for others; and some may have even been influenced by the seller who did make a pitch for the raffle at the meeting. So it is my belief that visibility before a concentrated gathering; a good cause; an enhanced chance to win; and possibly familiarity of the seller all influence people to buy tickets.

I hope by now that many of you have seen our message on the grocery bags at Lakewood Super Valu. I am wondering what you think of the message? It should be noted that I did not see the message in its final form before it went to the printer so I am not sure how they came up with the message they used. Do you like the message? Do you think it gets our points across about AIS? If not, what changes would you make? I will be doing a survey of Super Valu customers at the end of summer to see how effective our effort was. If it was effective, it certainly is an inexpensive way to communicate with the public.

If you have any suggestions please email me at: marwigs@chorus.net.

A Permanent Solution To Keep Asian Carp Out of Great Lakes

Edited from the Defender Spring 2014

With Asian carp knocking on the door to the Great Lakes, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released a report last December detailing options to keep these invasive species out of our precious lakes. With a \$7 billion fishing industry at stake, the report was published two years ahead of schedule, showing how important it is to move quickly. Of the eight options outlined, Clean Wisconsin and many others are in strong support of options 5 and 6, permanent separation of the Mississippi River and Great lakes basins.

Clean Wisconsin has long pushed for permanent separation for several reasons. For starters, Asian carp consume up to 40% of their body weight each day. They eat plankton and vegetation, the same diet that sustains many of our favorite native fish, and they feed on the eggs of native species, wiping them out before they have a chance to develop. In addition, Asian carp have very few predators because they grow so large so quickly. Thriving in the shallower waters of rivers, it's a guarantee that as soon as Asian carp become established in Lake Michigan, they will invade any connecting tributary.

With all this in mind, it's clear that permanent separation is the best solution to prevent the spread of dangerous Asian carp and other aquatic invasives.

Researchers from the University of Notre Dame have already discovered Asian Carp DNA in Lake Michigan, but it's not too late to prevent these and other invasives from becoming established in the Great Lakes. And we already have some serious political backing. On March 14, 11 U.S. senators sent a letter to USACE seeking quicker movement toward short- and long-term solutions.

USACE took comments on the report through the end of March; Clean Wisconsin advocated for permanent separation of the two water systems to prevent future invasive species introductions.

In the near future, there will be opportunities to contact your federal legislators, and we hope you'll do just that because the Great Lakes deserve a great legacy and together, we can keep it that way.

News From Around the County: What are other lakes doing?

Anderson Lake:

Annual Association Meeting: Saturday, May 17th @ Waters Edge, 9am.

Boating Blitz: Inspections and Information for Boaters at Public Landing at random times over July 4th weekend. Annual Association Picnic on Saturday July 26th

Archibald Lake:

The Lake Association reported good news at its annual meeting in June. We received a second WDNR EWM grant and the 2013 chemical treatment and manual removal teams were very successful. The early summer 2014 EWM survey results of the lake shows a significant reduction in known EWM plants. However, we did find some small EWM plants in the east lobe of the lake for the first time. We will continue to survey, chemically treat and manually remove known plants this year. A manual removal guideline and tools to remove EWM has been developed by association member, Steve Fleming, and is available for viewing on our website: www.archibaldlake.com

Our other aquatic invasive species, flowering rush, has been greatly reduced in treated areas as well. We have a WDNR research grant to find the best chemical to eradicate this plant. So far Diquat has given us the best results. Steve Fleming, who has been our leader in both the EWM and Flowering Rush treatment efforts, was invited to present our flowering rush chemical treatment results to the Northern Rockies Invasive Plant Council Symposium in Spokane, Washington. Flowering rush is a more prevalent invasive in Minnesota and areas in some Western states. Steve sent some rhizomes and leaf materials from our lake to Montana and Switzerland for potential bio control analysis.

We continue to monitor our boat landing with Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteers. We also have volunteers inspect our shoreline for EWM plants with our Adopt a Shoreline program. EWM manual removal teams are assigned areas of the lake to remove the plants that are identified by the Adopt a Shoreline volunteers.

We also plan to have fun this summer with our Annual Picnic and Volunteer Recognition Picnic, both in August. In addition to the volunteers getting together to celebrate their efforts, we honor them with a Clean Boats, Clean Waters and an overall Association Volunteer of the Year award. Our social calendar for 2014 will end with a golf outing and end-of-season dinner at McCauslin Brook Country Club in September.

Berry Lake:

I wanted to let you all know that I recently submitted a revised proposal on the use of weed barrier mats for EWM control to Brenda Nordin of the WDNR. We had submitted one to the WDNR Peshtigo office back in 2011, and despite the evidence of its success in other states our request was denied at that time. The WDNR rejected our proposal back in 2011 stating that the mats would kill everything underneath creating a bare lake bed which EWM would most likely re-inhabit. Our response at that time was that chemicals and hand-pulling (the only 2 methods that our WDNR allows here in Wisconsin) would also create bare lake beds with the same result.

Oconto coordinator Amanda Strick suggested that I submit another proposal this year, and this time to Brenda Nordin. Before preparing this revised proposal, I checked again with Doug Freeland of Ace Diving to see if any changes had been made in the way they did things three years ago in the 5 western states that he manages (Idaho, Montana, Nevada, California, and Washington). We had a long phone conversation and he was nice enough to forward me references (which included video documentation and newspaper articles) on the success of mats in controlling EWM. In Emerald Bay of Lake Tahoe, where they were not allowed to use chemicals and could only use mats to control the EWM, the mats were 100% successful in eliminating the EWM there as of this June. Doug stated that mats are a "necessary tool in the control of EWM".

Berry Lake is in the process of having our APM plan done by Onterra, and we're hoping that the use of weed barrier mats can be included in that plan. Mats would work well in the boat traffic lane area around the perimeter of the lake where they could be installed and removed with minimal effort by swimmers and/or divers. In other not-so-accessible areas, chemicals could still be used as a control method as permitted by the WDNR. I'm hoping that if we have a "plan" in place that the WDNR will consider them as another option for EWM control here and allow us to use them.

Many of our residents here are concerned about the long-term use of chemicals (not to mention the cost); these mats are constructed from PVC pipes and landscape fabric and can last up to 10 years. They're 10'x10' and are easily installed and removed, and MUCH LESS expensive. If any of your lake associations would like more information on the use of mats or our proposal to the WDNR, please contact me. I'd be happy to share the documentation provided to me by Doug and others on their success in controlling EWM. And I'll keep you all posted on what the WDNR has to say this time around. They may be more likely to listen if several lakes stand behind this (BTW they also work great to kill Phragmites on the shoreline).

Kay Rankel, Secretary-Treasurer
Berry Lake Property Owners Inc.
berrylakewi@gmail.com

Maiden Lake:

The Bass tournament was a success, around 20 boats entered, a large number of Large Mouth Bass were caught, many in the 2 to 3 pound range. 1st place to the Dan Exferd boat with both the largest Bass and most fish caught. Around \$1000.00 was raised for Walleye stocking. Big thanks to MJ at the Maiden Lake Supper Club for running this event.

The Maiden Lake Association recently purchased Please Slow Down signs for around Maiden Lake. The signs will be up Memorial though Labor Day weekend. Due to the high number of walkers, bikers, hikers, and runners, it was felt traffic was moving too fast around the lake, if anyone wants info on the process of installing the signs, contact Joy Nelson at denjoy32@gmail.com.

The Maiden Lake boat parade was held July 5th, with the theme: Commercials. Not a large number of entries, but some great floats.

We also held a Kayak and Canoe night on the Lake. Around 20 craft explored hidden spots on the lake. Food and Drink were served after at the Nelson Cabin.

Coming up Saturday Aug 9th at 3:30 at the Maiden Lake Supper Club deck, will be a Gilligan's Island Party come by boat (the SS Minnow) or land. All are welcome. Come dressed as your favorite character. We'll pick the best overall crew, prizes for the best look alike.

Everyone is having fun on Maiden Lake. See you on the water, be safe, enjoy.
Maiden Lake Association



Paya Lake:

Another active summer on Paya Lake. Summer started out slow but the 4th of July brought out a host of activity on the lake. The water clarity test performed on the 4th allowed visibility down to 27 feet so the water is still very clear for mid-summer. The loons are still active, and a pleasure to see and listen to. This summer we again are having our lake party at one of the owner's home. He is graciously supplying a number of samples of specialty beers from The Milwaukee Brewing Co. This is always a good opportunity to meet new people on the lake. The website Payalake.org is slowly gaining more activity but we need to promote more participation to gain momentum. We had a speaker from the DNR at our annual meeting over Memorial Day and she discussed some of the invasive weed issues at nearby lakes, and what was being done to deal with it. There are also a couple testing stations looking for Zebra Mussel activity. To date no reports of invasive weeds or Zebra Mussels so we are all happy for that.

Townsend Flowage Association:

We entered a float in the annual Townsend July 4 parade.

21 students graduated from our Boater Safety program on June 21.

The Townsend Flowage Association donated \$1000 to Pickerel Chain Lake Association. PCLA plans to install aeration systems to eliminate winter kill of the fish. A long, cold, snowy winter causes dissolved oxygen to be depleted. We are happy to help our neighbors on the Pickerel Chain and challenge other lakes to do the same. "Until we can restore and sustain this formerly prolific fishery, these fishermen will have to pressure other local lakes or not come to the Townsend area at all".

We will be holding our annual Corn Roast/Family Fun Day on Saturday, August 2, from 11 am until 6 pm.

Bounce House, Kids Saw Dust Hunt and Dunk Tank. Lots of good food and bucket raffles. Please support our brat stand at the Super Valu store on July 10 and Aug. 8. Dawn and Renee at My Bar graciously offered to host a golf outing on Tuesday, August 26 with proceeds going to the Townsend Flowage Association.

FISH CHOWDER

Edited from L.L. Bean Game and Fish Cookbook by Cameron and Jones

If the chowder is made in camp milk made from powdered milk its fine without the cream.

The Fish Stock

If you've kept, say, three smallmouths of 1-1/2-2-1/2 pounds; skin them and use the heads and tails of all three fish and half of the meat of the smallest one.

Fish trimmings to make about a pound	1 chopped of thinly sliced carrot
3 cups of water	1/4 tsp. thyme
1 cup white wine	a clove or two
1 small onion sliced	1 bay leaf
1 rib celery with leaves chopped	4 pepper corns
	salt

Combine the ingredients in a saucepan, bring to a boil, and simmer for 30 minutes. Strain and set the stock aside. In camp you can make the stock one night and use it for the chowder the next to keep it from being too big a chore.

The Chowder

2 1/2" square salt pork cut in 1/2" cubes	2 bass, deboned, with the meat cut into chunks
1 medium onion sliced thin	2 cups milk (at home make it half cream)
4 peeled potatoes sliced, diced	salt and pepper
4 cups fish stock	

Fry out the salt pork cubes over low heat in a skillet until the chitlins are crisp and brown. Set them aside.

Pour off all but 3 tablespoons of the salt pork fat, and in a soup pot sauté the onion in the fat. Sit in the potatoes. Add the fish stock and fish chunks to the pot, cover and simmer until the fish is just tender, about 15-20 minutes.

Stir in the milk and bring to hot, but not to boil. Check for salt and pepper.

Just before you serve, stir in the chitlins.

*The world is, rude, silent, incomprehensible at first,
nature is incomprehensible at first.*

*Be not discouraged, keep on,
there are divine things well envelop'd,
I swear to you there are divine beings
More beautiful than words can tell.*

Walt Whitman

Taken from: Heron Dance Book of Love and Gratitude

Under the Lens

SO FINE

Fine particulate matter affects air quality, public health

By Tyson Cook, Staff Scientist Clean Wisconsin “Defender Summer 2014

With such a strong early allergy season this year, many people have taken to checking pollen counts on their favorite weather site. If this is you, you may have also noticed information on air quality, like the EPA’s Air Quality Index, which monitors and forecasts ozone and fine particulate levels, most people recognize and know ozone, but what are fine particulates?

Fine particulates (or fine particulate matter) are a subset of a type of air pollution called particulate matter, or PM. This pollution consists of any sort of very small solid or liquid particles floating in the air, including some of those plant pollens that cause many outdoor allergies. While pollens can range widely in size, the PM pollution of most interest for human health is small particles less than 10 microns in diameter, about one-fifth the width of a human hair. These are often referred to as PM10. They are a concern because they are small enough to inhale and get into our lungs, and once there, they can be difficult for our body to remove. As a result, they can cause a number of respiratory problems like aggravated asthma and decreased lung function.

The fine particulates shown on the Air Quality Index are smaller still: less than 2.5 microns. Also called PM2.5, these particles are less than one-twentieth the width of a human hair. Like PM10, the health impacts of these tiny particles are the direct result of their size. They are so small that they can get deep inside our lungs when inhaled, and some can even get in our bloodstream and be carried throughout our bodies. As a result, the health impacts from inhaling fine particulates are not isolated to our respiratory systems; they affect our cardiovascular systems, increasing the risk of heart disease and heart attacks. Children, the elderly and people with existing lung or heart conditions are at particular risk for complications from breathing in these fine particulates and are highly advised to monitor the Air Quality Index for their area to minimize exposure.

Fine particulates can come from many sources and be made of a wide variety of compounds. For example, some PM2.5 is directly emitted as soot and other compounds from fires or burning fossil fuels; as

tire and brake particles from highways; or as mineral particles from things like mining or construction sites. Other PM2.5 is formed in the air through chemical reactions of sulfur dioxide or nitrogen oxide pollution that comes from power plants and automobiles.

Even with all the types and sources of PM2.5, there are many ways to control the amount in our air. The EPA limits the amount of PM2.5 that large facilities are allowed to emit, as well as compounds like sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, which has made a huge difference for our air quality. Additionally, other environmental regulations can indirectly reduce PM2.5; for example, the EPA's newly proposed standards to cut carbon emissions from power plants will likely reduce the amount of electricity we get from coal in favor of cleaner alternatives like natural gas, renewables and efficiency. And as we switch to more fuel- and energy-efficient practices, we will reduce PM2.5 even more.

4 tips to reduce your PM exposure

1. **On days with poor air quality:** Reduce travel, avoid vigorous outdoor physical activity and avoid using your wood stove and fireplace.
2. **Avoid** prolonged outdoor exertion near high-traffic areas.
3. **Do not** burn leaves and other yard waste.
4. **Subscribe** to state air quality notices at dnr.wi.gov/topic/AirQuality/Status.asp

I have come to believe *that most of us have experienced some lonely spot, some private nook, some glen or streamside scene that impressed us so deeply that even today its memory recalls the mood of a lost enchantment. At the age of eighty, my grandmother used to recall with delight a lonely tract she called "Beautiful Big South Woods." There, as a girl one spring day, she had seen the whole floor of the woods, acre on acre, carpeted with the blooms of bloodroot and spring beauties and blue and pink hepaticas. She had seen the woods only once but she never forgot it.*

Edwin Way Teale, from *The Lost Woods*, Taken from *Heron Dance a Book of Love and Gratitude* p. 22

- Publication of the Oconto County Lakes and Waterways Assoc.
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