

Lake Country Journal

Newsletter of the Vilas County Lakes Association, Inc. Volume 12 Issue 2 May 2007
P.O. Box 494, Eagle River, WI 54521 Website: www.vcla.us

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Chuck Thier

LET'S CELEBRATE!

It's time again for the Annual VCLA Meeting and Picnic. This year the event will take place on June 12, 2007. It sometimes seems that the VCLA Board Members spend most of their time and effort addressing important issues to protect our lakes from things having negative affects on our Vilas County Lake environments. This past year has been no exception with the ongoing diligence regarding the spread of AIS and related funding, lake water quality being affected by leaking septic systems and other incursion of phosphates, continued zoning issues related to the possible overdevelopment of shorelines, etc. However, June 12th is the time to celebrate our Vilas County Lakes and the wonderful year around activities that they support. All VCLA members, friends, visitors and guests are invited to join in the Celebration.

This year's program plans vary considerably from the past. Although the event will center at the Trees for Tomorrow Campus in Eagle River, most activities will take place at various locations throughout the County. Many of the day's events will begin at nine in the morning and end about noon so that all participants can then attend a general session and picnic at Trees. The day's program of events appears inside this newsletter. Prospective participants should note that there will be reservations required for a number of the events as participants must be limited. Also there may be a fee involved for things such as kayak rental, etc. Also this year, it is necessary to charge a \$10.00 fee for the picnic. VCLA has limited income and past experience of asking for donations to cover food costs has left a considerable dent in our scant budget

PLEASE JOIN VCLA AT ANNUAL CELEBRATE LAKES DAY!

8:30 am to 1:00 pm: Field and Classroom Experiences.
Reservations required. See inside for more details.

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm: LUNCH (hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, cold slaw, potato salad and beverages). \$10.00 fee, reservations required. See back page reservation form.

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm: KEYNOTE ADDRESS: "Savor the North"
A Conversation with Author John Bates and Photographer Jeff Richter

4:00 pm: VCLA Annual Meeting, Election of Directors

4:30 pm: VCLA Board of Directors Meeting



Savor Your Lake: June 12, 2007

Nine Field and Classroom Opportunities – 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Pre-registration is required. In case of oversubscription, VCLA members will be given first preference. See registration form on back page for luncheon and afternoon program.

Lessons from Little Rock and Sparkling Lakes Research, Susan Knight/ U.W. Research Station Staff. Climb aboard to boat about Little Rock and Sparkling Lakes and learn about acidification, course woody habitat and AIS. research on these lakes located near the U.W. Trout Lake Research Station. Attendance: limited to 20. Fees: \$10.00 (includes lunch at Trees). Gear: comfortable clothes and shoes that can get wet. Directions: Hwy. 51 (north of Minocqua) to County M. to left on County N to UW Research Station on right.

Reservations contact: Dr. Susan Knight: 715-358-6452. seknight@wis.edu

Stream/River Ecology – 8:00 am to 10:00 am and 10:30 to 12:30 pm, Rollie Alger

A local Water Action Volunteer (WAV), Rollie Alger will spend time on the Deerskin River discussing and demonstrating how stream water quality is determined. Simple citizen monitoring techniques for six parameters (temperature, flow rate, water clarity, dissolved oxygen, aquatic animals and habitat assessment) will be demonstrated. These parameters, when viewed collectively, are water quality indicators. Attendance: limit of 10 per session Fees: \$10.00 (includes lunch at Trees)

Gear: hip boots or waders are optional for those wishing to get in the water. Directions: Meet at Trees. Reservations contact: Rollie Alger 715-545-2711, alger@nnex.net

Lakeshore Birding – 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, Sandy Gillum

Local ecologist, Sandy Gillum, will guide participants on a birding tour along trails and little lakes in the Nicolet. Time will be spent discussing the role of shorelines in the life cycles of migrant and indigenous birds. Special attention will be paid to loon ecology. Participants will learn how to use field markings and vocalization in species identification.

Attendance: limited to 20 Fees: \$10.00 (includes lunch at Trees).

Physical level: medium due to uneven trail terrain. Gear: binoculars and appropriate dress for any weather condition.

Transportation: your auto to site and return, Directions: Meet at Trees Educational Building Reservations contact: Sue Drum 715-686-2655, drumsa@centurytel.net

Lakeshore Stroll -10:00 am to 12:30 pm, Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Lake Specialist,

Imagine....a leisurely stroll along a beautiful Northern Wisconsin Lakeshore. Observe the native vegetation, admire the clear blue water. Participants will learn how native vegetation along shorelines provides a vital link to sustaining the health of the entire lake ecosystem. They will learn to identify some common lakeshore plants and about different methods of restoring vegetation and vital wildlife habitat along deficient shorelines.

Attendance: limit of 15. Fees: \$10.00 (includes lunch at Trees)

Gear: accommodate the weather Physical level: easy. Transportation: your auto to site and return, Directions: meet at Trees for Tomorrow.

Reservations contact: Carolyn Scholl, 715-479-3747, cascho@co.vilas.wi.us

Clean Boats/clean Waters - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Laura Felda- Marquardt

The Clean Boats/Clean Waters watercraft inspection program provides an opportunity to learn how and why educational awareness is so important in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. During the workshop, UW-Extension and Department of Natural Resource Specialists provide an overview of aquatic invasive species, instructions on how to organize an effective volunteer watercraft inspection program and hands-on training for watercraft inspections and invasive species identification. Attendance: limited to 25 Fees: \$35 (includes a handbook and Resource tool kit as well as lunch at Trees). Directions: 519 Sheridan St., Eagle River, WI.

Reservations contact: Tom Pauley 715-356-3296, kinsale@nnex.net

Organizing Lakeshore Property Owners - 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Pat Goggins, Vilas County Conservationist

This is for people wondering how to go about creating different kinds of lake groups, including informal and formal lake associations as well as lake districts. Issues and projects that bring people together for stewardship activities on their lake will be addressed. Pat will also provide examples of tools that some groups have employed to become effective champions of their lakes. Obstacles and hang-ups to organizing functional lake groups will be discussed. Handouts will be available to participants. The session will conclude with an opportunity for participants to ask questions about forming lake associations and districts. Attendance: limited to 25. Fees: \$10.00 (includes lunch at Trees)

Directions: 519 Sheridan St., Eagle River, WI

Reservations contact: Sue Drum 715-686-2655, drumsa@centurytel.net

Canoe Design and Construction - 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, Jerry Loomis

Everything you ever wanted to know about canoe design and construction from the raw wood to the finish coat. Jerry will entertain and inform you in his own St. Germain workshop.

Attendance: limited to 12 people Fees: \$10.00 (includes lunch at Trees)

Directions: 9107 State Hwy. 70. West from St. Germain to road leading to the Whitetail Estates (just before the Shell station). Turn left and after passing the model home office, the Jerry Loomis home is 3d on the right.

Reservations contact: Sue Drum 715-686-2655, drumsa@centurytel.net

Paddle the Headwaters of the Wisconsin – 8:30 am to 12:00 noon, Bob and Merrill Horswill

Travel a serene stretch of the Wisconsin from Rohr's Outfitters to the bridge at Hwy. G. Enjoy the flora and fauna from the relative comfort of a kayak or canoe.

Attendance: limited to 14 Fees: Single kayak rental \$30, double \$35 or use your own, canoes rent for \$35. There is a \$10 ferry charge if you use your own canoe or kayak. Lunch at Trees \$10. Gear: life jackets (provided) and comfortable clothes that can get wet.

Directions: 5230 Razorback Road, Conover, WI. Turn west on Runnels Road, three miles north of Conover on Rte. 45. Cross the bridge and turn on Razorback Road for .9 of a mile.

Reservations contact: Clyde Owens by May 29, 2007, 715- 479-7032, jcowens2@verizon.net. A \$10 reservation fee required.

University of Notre Dame Environmental Research Center (UNDERC-E) Tour: 11:00 am to 12 noon,
Research Center Staff

The UNDERC-E encompasses 7500 acres near Land O' Lakes, WI. and has 30 lakes and bogs with a combined surface area of 1350 acres. To avoid disturbing the ongoing research and its many sensitive habitats, access is strictly controlled. This is a unique opportunity to see the teaching, research laboratories and learn about current research projects.

Reservations contact: Dan Anderson 715-545-1100, klotilde1@frontiernet.net

Attendance: limited to 20. Fees: \$10 (includes lunch at Trees) Gear: comfortable clothing Directions: will be provided upon registration

PLEASE NOTE:

RESERVATIONS FOR MORNING PROGRAMS MUST BE MADE THROUGH THE PARTY LISTED UNDER EACH ACTIVITY.

RESERVATIONS FOR LUNCH AND AFTERNOON PROGRAM MAY BE MADE BY COMPLETING THE REGISTRATION FORM ON THE BACK PAGE. PLEASE INCLUDE A CHECK FOR \$10.00 TO COVER LUNCH PAYABLE TO VCLA.

PLEASE SEND RESERVATION FEES TO: VCLA P.O. BOX 494 EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521

Articles in Brief

Find more information

on the VCLA website: www.vcla.us

Membership Dues Increase

At the June 2006 Annual Meeting, the membership voted a dues increase. Enclosed is a 2007 VCLA Membership Application or Renewal Form. Please complete all applicable sections (especially Section B if you are an association) and mail along with your dues to the address on the form. The membership form is also on the website.

Vilas County Board of Supervisors Passes Statewide Ban of Lead Fishing Tackle Resolution

On March 20, 2007, the Vilas County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2007-37 requesting that the State of Wisconsin adopt regulations that phase out the sale and use of lead fishing tackle on the lakes, streams and rivers of Wisconsin. Be sure to thank your supervisor for their environmental vision and support for this resolution. This resolution was patterned after VCLA's Resolution 2006.2 that was forwarded to the county board last year.

VCLA Resolution 2006.1

VCLA continues to work at the state and local level to phase out phosphorus-containing lawn fertilizers. Although the county board did not adopt a resolution in support of our resolution to "Phase out Phosphorus-Containing Lawn Fertilizers to Improve Lake Water Quality" (2006.1), we remain hopeful that the preponderance of empirical evidence collected over the last several decades will convince local political leaders to craft a resolution similar to our 2006.1 to protect the water quality of our lakes.

VCLA Position Papers

VCLA has taken position on three issues.

- To increase state funding for aquatic invasive species (AIS) research and treatment via a \$3 annual AIS sticker.
- To include terrestrial invasive species as well as aquatic invasive species in the job of Vilas County Invasive Species Coordinator
- To depoliticize the position of Secretary of the DNR by having that position appointed by the Natural Resources Board (NRB) instead of the governor

Long Lake (Town of Phelps) Lake District District Petition Approved

On March 20, 2007, the Vilas County Board of Supervisors approved a petition by many Long Lake landowners to form a Lake District. Congratulations to all who participated in this effort to develop a coordinated means to address water quality issues on Long Lake.

Recommended Changes in the Vilas County Lakes Association Bylaws

Article 1 General : No changes recommended

Article II Membership

Section 2: revised to read: DUES

Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors. To remain a voting member of the Association, dues shall be paid by June 1st of each year.

Article III Voting

Section 1: delete final sentence

Section 3: add the words or electronic to follow the word mail in line two

Article IV Meetings: No changes recommended

Article V Board of Directors

Section 1: revised to read: ELECTIONS
Elections for the Board of Directors shall be conducted at the annual meeting. In the event of a contest for an office a written ballot shall be provided.

Section 2: revised to read: MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, 8 (eight) at large directors and the Past President who will act as ex-officio, nonvoting member.

June 2007 is Wisconsin's 3rd Annual Invasive Species Awareness Month!!



CANDIDATES FOR VCLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rollie Alger

I have been a member of the VCLA Board for the last two years and have served as Treasurer. I am also Secretary-Treasurer of the Phelps Area Lakes Association and President of the Imogene Lake Association. I am semiretired and have been engaged in many lake-related activities for years. I am a lake monitor with the Wisconsin Volunteer Citizen Monitoring program, a stream monitor with the Wisconsin Action Volunteers program, a Loon Ranger with Loon Watch, a member of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, and I chair one of the work groups for the Vilas County AIS Committee. I also volunteer for archaeological digs with the National Forest Service and am on the Trees For Tomorrow Advisory Council. I also work with area educators and their classes on water-related activities.

Walt Bates

I am a fourth generation resident on Black Oak Lake in Land O' Lakes. I retired after 38 years as a United Airlines captain in 2003 and have high altitude experience in observing fresh and salt waters worldwide. Our Black Oak Lake Riparian Owners Association was started in 1976 and I have served two terms as President. I am currently in charge of lake safety for our installed slalom course, our Independence Day Boat Parade, and administer our website at www.blackoaklake.com.

In 2004/5, I lead a successful effort to rezone the entire lake to R-1 Single Family Residential. I am interested in water clarity (we have some of the highest Secchi readings in the state) and keeping Eurasian watermilfoil out of the lake.

Alan Drum

As an engineer and land surveyor in the state of Wisconsin, I worked with state, county and town authorities from 1973 until retirement in 2005. As a Registered Land Surveyor, I prepared over 15 land subdivisions and over 100 Certified Survey Maps, many for riparian landowners. As a Registered Professional Engineer, I managed operations of industrial manufacturing process dust control collection equipment and discharges of manufacturing operations process waters. I investigated groundwater and soil pollution from petroleum discharges, prepared storm water management plans for land subdivision projects, prepared bridge removal and culvert installation permits for townships, and participated in dam inspections and determinations of regional flood

level elevations. I served as expert witness in civil court for surface water runoff damage and prepared a study for the Town of Washington, investigating the cause of flooding potentially affecting Duck Lake.

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, University of Illinois and a Masters in Business Administration, University of Chicago. My wife Sue and I reside in Presque Isle.

Sue Drum

My husband, Alan, and I built a home on Horsehead Lake in Presque Isle and have invested their retirement years in a fight to uphold a Leopold-like Land Ethic. I have served as VCLA Secretary for the past two years and am a member of the DNR ATV Stakeholder group. Eager to learn about lake issues in the northwoods, I completed a Clean Boats/Clean Waters course Lake Leaders Institute, Crew VI. I earned my Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1964 from the University of Illinois and practiced small animal medicine and surgery for over 25 years in Illinois and Wisconsin. I authored the 1991 publication of Women in Veterinary Medicine. I directed veterinary care of racing greyhounds at the Kaukauna Greyhound Track as Veterinarian for the Wisconsin Gaming Commission. When the track closed in 1993, I became part of the Academic Staff at the U. of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, and taught laboratory sections of Human physiology, Human Anatomy and Ecosphere in Crisis.

Charles Thier

I have been a St. Germain home owner since 1985 after having vacationed in Vilas County since the late 1950's. I am a retired as an Illinois school administrator in 1999 after spending thirty eight years in education. I have been a contract lobbyist representing 50 Illinois school districts in the Illinois Legislature on educational issues for four years retiring in 2004;

I am a founding member and current Chairman of the Found Lake Property Owners Association since 2000 and organizer of and current planning committee member of three annual St. Germain Lakes Fairs; I have been a member of the Advisory Committee for Trees for Tomorrow, having now served as the Chairman of that Committee for the past eight years; a member of the Board of Directors of the Sayner, St. Germain Wildlife Club for the past seven years and a member of the Town of St. Germain Lake Committee since its inception. I am currently completing my fourth year on the VCLA Board of Directors, serving as President this last year.

Wisconsin Public Trust Doctrine (Shaped by the Court)

Over the 158 years of Wisconsin statehood, the state Supreme Court, the Legislature, the Executive Branch (now through the Department of Natural Resources), and the citizens of the state have been responsible for administering the public trust established in the Constitution. The Wisconsin Supreme Court has been active in upholding the trust doctrine. Citizens have routinely brought violations of the Public Trust Doctrine to the court seeking remedies.

Wisconsin Supreme Court cases that have helped to shape and clarify the public trust doctrine are as follows;

- Willow River v. Wade, 100 Wis. 86 (1898) – recognized the right of the public to fish in navigable waters.
- Diana Shooting Club v. Husting, 156 Wis. 261 (1914) – recognized importance for travel, recreation and hunting and fishing.
- Nekoosa Edwards Paper Co. v. Railroad Commission, 201 Wis. 40 (1930) – notes that many navigable waters “have ceased to be navigable for pecuniary gain.”
- Muench v. Public Service Commission, 261 Wis. 492 (1951) enjoyment of scenic beauty is a public right.
- Reuter v. DNR, 43 Wis. 2d 272 (1969) right to clean, unpolluted waters. Held that before any water regulation permit could be issued, we must look at water quality impacts.

The Wisconsin Legislature has also codified [in statute] many Common Law Limitations related public trust doctrine. Some include; wharves, swimming rafts, piers, boathouses, houseboats, bridges, bank grading, ponds, and dredging. Many of these statutes have been amended by recently enacted WI Act 118 (2004).

However, the Courts have also made it clear that there are limitations on all parties, including the Legislature, in allowing activities to occur in public trust waters without appropriate oversight to assess the impacts on the public trust (Priewe v. Wisconsin State Land and Improvement Co., 103 Wis. 537 (1899)).

Several more recent Court cases provide further clarification of the public trust doctrine.

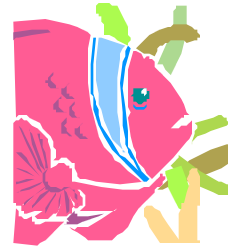
- Sterlingworth v. DNR, 205 Wis. 2d 702 (ct. App., 1996) – provides modern support for the concepts of cumulative impacts and recognizes that the resource issues which have been identified by the Department (fishery habitat, wildlife habitat, aquatic plants, invertebrates, water quality, cumulative impacts) are legitimate

factors to be considered when reviewing such projects.

- Gillen v. City of Neenah, 219 Wis. 2d 806 (1998) held that citizens have an independent authority, under the public trust doctrine and the statutes, to challenge violations of the public trust doctrine and may constitute public nuisances.

Challenges to the public trust doctrine are occurring due to the expansion to more quiet and scenic areas. This movement is viewed by some as an opportunity to push development limits and by some municipalities as an enhancement to their tax base. The Court will be very important in coming years to defining what the public trust really means.

*Cain, Michael J., “Wisconsin’s Public Trust Doctrine and the Administration of Chapter 30, Stats., Relating to Surface Waters”, October, 2006. (Mr. Cain is a Staff Attorney for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.)



Researchers Find Cleaner Water Increases Lake Erie Waterfront Property Values

Ohio Sea Grant researchers Drs. Elena Irwin and Tim Haab have discovered that cleaner shoreline water can bring higher returns when selling a waterfront property on Lake Erie.

Like much of the waterfront property around the country, the demand for shoreline property bordering Lake Erie's eight Ohio counties has skyrocketed over the past 20 years, with average home prices starting at \$500,000.

Irwin looked at whether environmental amenities like clear lake water and nearby beaches contributed to rising housing prices. "People view houses not as one good, but as a bundle of goods: house size, number of bathrooms, school district, and proximity to retail are a few of the factors that potential buyers evaluate when purchasing a home," explains Irwin, Associate Professor at Ohio State University's Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics. "We added an environmental variable like water quality."

Irwin and Haab and graduate student Shihomi Ara collected historical housing information from four residential Lake counties and data on water quality on Lake Erie beaches.

Research found that when water clarity increased, property values increased by 4-5%.

Average waterfront properties also increased the closer to the beaches. A house's value rose by nearly \$12,000 (or the resale value of adding a fireplace) when that waterfront home was within 10 miles of a Lake Erie beach.

"This research shows a direct link to environmental amenities and increased economic value—if we increase the Lake's water quality or if a house is close to a beach, property owners can profit by a specific dollar amount," concludes Irwin.

For more about this research, go to:
http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/_documents/twinelne/v28i4.pdf

What Others Are Saying:

Wisconsin State Journal editorial 1/22/07 Fulfill commitment to reduce pollution

Dead fish, poisoned wells and weed-choked lakes are sending Wisconsin a warning: Control polluted runoff now, or let the problems build into an environmental catastrophe later. It's the same warning the state heard more than four years ago, when it adopted rules to start reducing runoff from farms, a major source of water pollution. Those rules gave Wisconsin an opportunity. But that opportunity immediately shriveled when a state budget shortfall took away most of the money required to help farmers comply.

This year, it's time for Gov. Jim Doyle and the Legislature to listen to the warning again. It's time to start providing the money needed to control polluted runoff from farm fields and livestock lots.

A coalition of conservation groups is asking Doyle to provide an added \$8 million a year in the 2007-09 budget for farm runoff control. That would be the first installment. The three following state budgets would each have to add another \$8 million annually to reach an adequate funding level.

Though the state budget remains tight, Doyle should find a way to accept the groups' proposal. This is not about committing more taxpayers' money to a new program. This is

about fulfilling a commitment made to a program four years ago. It's also about saving our lakes, rivers and streams for wildlife habitat and recreation, and it's about preserving the quality of our drinking water. It's far cheaper to act now, before it's too late, than to try to revive a dead lake or find new sources of drinking water later.

In 2002 Wisconsin adopted rules that made the state the nation's leader in policies to control polluted runoff. A major focus was on runoff from farms. The rules provided that because the benefits of controlling runoff would extend statewide, the state would share the cost with the farmers. Consequently, existing farms were not required to follow the rules unless they could be offered money to partially offset the expense of installing conservation practices. Such practices range from building manure storage structures to adopting field tillage methods that minimize erosion.

Because of state budget woes, the money has been in short supply. The most critical shortage has been in money for manure management and soil erosion control. The annual appropriation needed for cost-sharing in those areas is estimated to be between \$24.6 million and \$38.2 million. The actual cost share allocated this year is \$2.5 million.

As a result, the state that demonstrated leadership in policy has come up short in practice. The governor and Legislature should correct that mistake, starting with the next budget.

WI DNR/Natural Resources Foundation **CITIZEN LOON SCIENTIST WORKSHOPS**

Learn about Loon Monitoring with classroom and fieldtraining experiences

MAY 14 Trees For Tomorrow, Eagle River
9 am

Register for this workshop at:
www.wisconservation.org

May 19 Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters
1:30 pm

Open to the public in conjunction with
Midwest Bird Festival

To receive more information contact:
Mike Meyer at 715/360-4062
michaelmeyer@Wisconsin.gov

RESERVATION for 2007 CELEBRATE LAKES DAY SAVOR YOUR LAKE

Tuesday, June 12th 8 am to 4:30 pm, Trees for Tomorrow, Eagle River

Please clip and return form by June 5, 2007 to VCLA PO Box 494, Eagle River, WI 54521. Please print clearly as we make name tags from form. Use additional space if needed.

This reservation form is only for those people signing up for the lunch and/or afternoon portion of the program

Name-----Ph.-----

Address-----

Lake Association-----

Name-----Ph.-----

Address-----

Lake Association-----



Lake Country Journal

Volume 12 Issue 2 May 2007

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• **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

◇ **JOIN TODAY!!**

