



LAKE TIDES

The newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes

The Root of the Problem

"Aquatic plants at the root of healthy lakes!" Do you remember this pronouncement? It was printed on the sleeve of the 1997 Wisconsin Lakes Convention T-shirt to complement the cover of "Through the Looking Glass... A Guide to Aquatic Plants", which appeared on the shirtfront. It seems the message hit its mark in 2001. With the recent signing of the state's Biennial Budget Bill into law, Governor McCallum and Wisconsin's Legislators made it clear that they appreciate the valuable role plants play in lake health.

Volume 26, No. 4
Fall 2001

The Legislature earmarked \$300,000 and directed the state's DNR to establish a comprehensive program to protect and develop diverse and stable communities of native aquatic plants in Wisconsin's waters. More specifically, the legislation directs department staff to provide education and conduct research on invasive aquatic plants, and draft rules to regulate how aquatic plants are managed and controlled. The

establishing a beachhead in lake after Wisconsin lake.

Lake communities spend hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to recapture the lake they knew before the aliens' arrival. Preventing their entry—in hindsight—seems like such a simple solution. Can we stop the invasion at boat landings? Well, it's worth trying, is what our lawmakers decided. DNR will hire inspectors and contract with access providers to reinforce the media message: "Cleans Boats - Clean Waters" as they patrol watercraft launch sites. Lawmakers allotted seed money for a small program patterned after the one that's proved so successful in Minnesota.



New requirements for old traditions
(Courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society)

budget also secured a long-awaited measure making it unlawful for anyone to launch a boat with aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached.

The budget represents an initial investment in the war to be waged against exotic aquatic species invading state waterways. Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels and other nonnative species hitch rides on boats, motors, trailers and bait buckets, coming from waters infested with these species and

Education tops everyone's list of activities most likely to succeed in preventing the spread of Wisconsin's "most-unwanted" species, and it made lawmaker's lists, too. A good share of the \$132,000 allocated in each of the two years will pay for an outreach coordinator hired through the University of Wisconsin-Extension. That person will be charged with working closely with DNR staff, UW-Extension, and the UW-Sea Grant Institute to better coordinate and maximize their efforts. Information and education efforts will target water users needing to change their ways and will teach lake residents how to cope with aquatic exotic species established on their lakefront. A special effort will be made to inform nursery and retail plant outlets, fish farmers and aquarium suppliers who see the good



Wisconsin Lakes
Partnership

The Legislature allotted \$300,000 per year from the Water Resources Account of the Conservation Fund. This fund is generated from the tax collected on the sale of gasoline purchased to fuel motorized watercraft. Four activities were designated for funding:

- Watercraft Inspection - \$50,000
- Information and Education - \$132,000
- Monitoring and Reporting of Invasive Species - \$50,000
- Biological-control of Purple Loosestrife - \$68,000

side of plants and animals that cause ecological harm when accidentally spread to natural waterways.

Money for monitoring made the state's funding package too, as did money for moving the biological control of purple loosestrife from research and development into management. Raising and releasing beetles to control Wisconsin's most seductive destructive invasive wetland plant species has proven its worth to those engaged in ridding purple loosestrife from the landscape. Our state will step-up this very popular and effective activity for school groups, municipalities and wetland owners across the state.

The budget's stress on education and monitoring also extended to enforcement. Finally, Wisconsin has a strong law prohibiting the launching of boats with aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached. No person may place or use a boat or boating equipment in lakes or rivers if there is reason to believe that any aquatic plants or zebra mussels are attached. The owners of all public boat access sites must post a notice of this new law on signs made available from the DNR.

The roots of this legislation were first planted with the state's legislature in 1989 when DNR staff pitched legislation similar to that adopted at the time by our Minnesota neighbors. Rather than creating a law, then Governor Thompson required DNR staff to prepare a report to the Legislature on the status of Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussels in

Wisconsin and to develop a plan to prevent and control the invasion and spread of these species in our state.

Department staff, working closely with our citizen partners in WAL and UW educators and scientists, set goals and recommended a comprehensive prevention and control program for Wisconsin's waterways. The report concluded that a healthy lake ecosystem with good water quality is the best protection against the spread of invasive species. Lakes with native plant populations in an undisturbed state are more resistant to invasive species gaining a foothold. Unfortunately, many Wisconsin lakes suffer from a history of misuse and overuse. For lakes where natural defenses are no longer strong, the report recommended citizens and professionals work together to restore the integrity of aquatic plants on these lakes while preventing the entry of invasive species.



Legislative language to implement the report findings was submitted to lawmakers at that time, but they failed to act on the department's proposal before the end of the legislative session. The Legislature did, however, pass subsequent legislation establishing lake planning and lake protection grant programs and modifying the Recreational Boating Fund program to help communities tackle aquatic plant problems. Lawmakers also later endorsed a "Shallow Lake Initiative" submitted by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. This initiative provided

Lakes with native plant populations in an undisturbed state are more resistant to invasive species gaining a foothold.



funding to the department to shift lakes from a turbid, algal- dominated condition to a clear, healthier lake ecosystem by reestablishing native aquatic plant communities.

In 2000, the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership drafted “The Water Way,” a 10 year plan for protecting our state’s lakes. The plan set a goal of managing lakes for healthy lake ecosystems and quality outdoor recreation. Specifically, the partnership stated our commitment “to help pass legislation to protect and promote diverse, stable, native aquatic plant communities including prohibition of launching watercraft with any aquatic plant attached and requiring posting at publicly-owned boat access sites.” With the signing of this legislation, the partnership accomplished this objective.

In addition to prohibitions on launching watercraft with aquatic plants attached, the new law directs and authorizes the department to establish rules to regulate aquatic plant protection and management. It gives DNR the authority to designate “invasive aquatic plants” if the species has the ability to cause significant adverse changes to desirable habitat or native

chemical use to control aquatic plants, DNR staff are charged with developing new rules to regulate all methods to control aquatic plants including manual removal, and use of biological agents, physical and mechanical means to cut, remove, destroy, or suppress aquatic plants. The department was also



A harvester piles plants along the shoreline.

given the authority to regulate the introduction of nonnative plants into lakes, rivers or wetlands. The law also gives DNR authority to require an aquatic plant management plan for introducing or controlling aquatic plants.

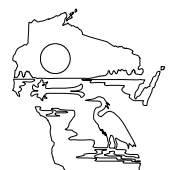
The department will again engage the partnership in writing these rules and will seek input from riverine and wetland interests as well as the regulated community and providers of aquatic plant management services and equipment. Rules will need to be established before next summer to regulate the introduction of nonnative plants, to waive manual removal in riparian zones, to allow mechanical harvesting operations, and to set forth requirements for aquatic plant management plans. The department hopes to complete a more comprehensive rewrite of all rules governing aquatic plant management and protection activities by the end of next year.

*By Jeff Bode, Section Chief, Lakes and Wetlands,
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

Aquatic Plants at the Root of Healthy Lakes

- Home and harbor for lake life
- Food and oxygen for fish and other aquatic animals
- Stabilize lake bottom sediments preventing murky water and eroding of lake shorelines
- Competes to prevent unsightly and oxygen-depriving algal blooms
- Easy on the eye

vegetation. The legislation listed Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed and purple loosestrife as invasive aquatic plants and set a forfeiture of not more that \$100 for a person who distributes these plants. The law further directs the department to establish and administer rules regulating the issuance of aquatic plant management permits. Now, in addition to the authority to regulate



Are There Sponges in Your Lake?

Yes, there are sponges among us! Freshwater sponges are common in lakes and streams around the world, and thrive in our clear Wisconsin waters. Though they are not as colorful or as large as sponges you may have seen snorkeling in the Caribbean or diving in Australia, sponges are beautiful and important in many lake ecosystems.

Our Wisconsin sponges are usually green, hardly move and die back to almost nothing in the winter. Does it surprise you to learn they are animals? Sponges are animals for the same reasons other animals are animals – they ingest food for their nutrition, their cells have no cell walls and they have other

One of the most fascinating features of sponges is their partnership, or symbiosis, with algae.



features of reproduction and metabolism characteristic of animals.

What do they look like? Could they be living in my lake? Freshwater sponges are invertebrates but do not have a shell like a snail or an exoskeleton like a crayfish. Sponges may be encrusting (forming a thin layer on a rock or branch) or they may have finger-like projections or they may be club-shaped and lumpy. Most often, they are green and attached to submersed logs or branches or clinging to a branch of a shoreline shrub dangling in the water. Their texture is somewhat similar to that of an ocean bath sponge – but with a huge difference. Many ocean sponges are soft and tough because of a supporting protein called spongin. Freshwater sponges are supported by glass needles called spicules providing a fiberglass-like scaffolding and are most unsuitable as a bath sponge.

Sponges have three kinds of spicules. The large megascleres and smaller microscleres, provide the main framework of a sponge. Gemmoscleres form part of the resistant coat of gemmules, the overwintering bodies (see more below). Megascleres are simple and needle-shaped but every sponge species has its own characteristic microscleres and gemmoscleres. These spicules come in a magnificent variety of shapes including dumbbells and stars and provide an ideal tool for sponge identification

Sponges are very common, especially in northern Wisconsin, but the habitat must be right. A lake or stream must have enough dissolved silica (the main ingredient in glass spicules), or the sponges will be limp or not present at all. They require transparent, not turbid, water and usually need some sort of substrate to which they can attach. They are also common in clear, shallow streams where they often form a thin crust over a rock.

How do they work? Sponges are suspension feeders: they filter living cells such as algae and bacteria out of the lake or stream water coursing through the sponge. Water is drawn through the pores, enters into a central cavity, and eventually exits out a larger hole called the osculum. Lining the inside of the cavities, special cells called choanocytes or collar cells have a flagellum, or whip-like structure, generating the current to propel the water through the sponge. These collar cells also trap, and engulf (eat) the food particles.

Why are they green? One of the most fascinating features of sponges is their partnership, or symbiosis, with algae. Sponges are green because they harbor a huge population of algae - not as food for the larder but as paying guests. With the help of chlorophyll, (the stuff that makes algae green), the sun's energy, water and carbon dioxide, algae make sugar by the process of photosynthesis. The sponge provides algae with protection from would-be algal grazers



and nutrients essential to algal growth. In return, the algae contribute sugars and can account for 50 to 80% of sponge growth in some species. Sponges, then, are nourished both by particles caught by filter-feeding and by sugars produced by their algal guests.

Not only do sponges harbor algae, but invertebrates, such as some flies and mites also find refuge in sponges where they may live part or all their life. As is true in marine systems, predators rarely eat freshwater sponges. Apparently, spicules are tough on everyone's digestive system and sponge chemical toxins repel many predators. Unfortunately for the sponge, these free-loaders don't give anything back.

Is there sponge sex? Sponges are male or female and, as an added twist, can change sex from year to year. Populations of sponges produce eggs or sperm and release them at the same time. Thanks to those

collar cells and their busy flagella, sperm are drawn into the female sponge by the same water currents that bring them food, to achieve fertilization. The resulting larvae swim out of the sponge and eventually settle on a suitable substrate to begin life as a new sponge.

Through the year with sponges. Like the bells tolling midnight for Cinderella, falling lake temperatures signal the end of the growing season. As sponges become dormant, there is a complete transformation of all active sponge tissue into gemmules - masses of cells surrounded by a resistant coat (made, in part by those decorative gemmoscleres). In spring, gemmules will hatch and our lakes will once again be full of glorious sponges.

*By Susan Knight, Trout Lake Station, UW-Madison
Center for Limnology and Wisconsin DNR*

***Look to your
community for lake
leaders.***

In Search of a Lake Leader

We love our lakes in Wisconsin. Yet it is clear that no one state agency or unit of government can independently provide the attention that each deserves. So how do we fill the void? Look to your community. Local lake residents and lake lovers have a long tradition of volunteering their skills and talents to the stewardship of our lakes.

Special leaders are needed who are willing to become involved in important decisions and assist with issues of local and state-wide significance. Crewmembers learn about lake ecology, water and land use law and local government processes, and ethics, to name a few areas. Participants learn in an environment where discussion is encouraged, trust builds, and friendships are forged. If you know someone that would thrive in this setting and demonstrates a commitment to the protection of Wisconsin lakes, please consider nominating that person for Crew 4 in the upcoming Lake Leader Institute, which convenes in May of 2002. Selection for the program is based on past involvement in lake management issues and on the potential for leadership at county, watershed, and state levels.

In an e-mail or letter, please nominate a person you feel would gain by participating in this program. In this letter please include the individual's address and other pertinent contact information. Send nominations to uwexlakes@uwsp.edu or The UWEX Lakes Program at the College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point, 1900 Franklin Street, Stevens Point, WI, 54481-3897.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact the UW Extension Lakes Partnership Office at 715-346-2116, your county Extension office, a DNR Regional Inland Lake Coordinator, or a board member of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.



Wisconsin Lakes Convention
March 7-9, 2002
Green Bay, Regency Suites

How's the Water?
Water Recreation in Wisconsin



It is time to mark your calendars for the 24th annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention, March 7th through the 9th at the new Regency Suites, KI Convention Center in Green Bay. The oldest and largest state lakes conference in the nation has a new look and a new location for 2002. The Conference is a wonderful opportunity for you to expand your knowledge and share your experiences on lake issues with some of the nation's leading authorities on issues ranging from aquatic plants to shoreland zoning. This year's conference will focus on an area of great concern to Wisconsin's citizens... the spiraling increase in the levels of recreational use on Wisconsin waters.

If you're new to the lake or a seasoned convert, this is a great opportunity for you and your lake organization to learn and gain much in a short period of time. It is a great time to answer your questions about lake management, meet new friends and catch up with old ones. Look for a detailed agenda in the next edition of *Lake Tides*, the Lake Connection, and in your own lakes newsletter. Invite a fellow lake enthusiast that has not yet had the experience.

The Thursday pre-conference workshop will explore the issues, solutions and future of recreational use on Wisconsin waters. A host of effective speakers from across the nation, representing advocacy groups, the water recreation industry and government agencies, will join us to answer questions and explore solutions to the growing demand for space on the lakes. The workshop will provide a unique opportunity for you to increase your understanding of various recreational issues as well as how to deal with them: personal water craft, water toys, boating, tournament fishing, light and noise pollution, and conflict resolution. Join us and bring your neighbors to the convention in March of 2002!

Lake Associations take note! A booth at this year's conference will offer lake associations the opportunity to determine if their bylaws and incorporation papers meet lake planning and protection grant eligibility criteria. Staff will provide a one-on-one assessment of your organizational papers and offer suggested revisions if necessary. (See the last issue of *Lake Tides* for a list of the criteria necessary to gain "qualified lake association" status.) The Lake Association Organizational Application (Form 8700-226) and the associated documentation may be sent in to your Regional Environmental Grants Specialist for review at any time.

Complete the registration form for an early bird discount on the cost of the conference. Send your check in by January 15th and save! Additional agenda information and another registration form will be printed in the next issue of *Lake Tides*.





How's The Water? - Water Recreation in Wisconsin

24th Annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention, March 7, 8, 9, 2002

Early Bird Registration

Green Bay

Early Bird Registration



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

I am representing (Lake) _____ County _____

My lake has sent a rep. to the Convention _____ times. I have personally attended _____ times.

Pre-Conference

Look for additional agenda information in the January Lake Tides

Early Bird Postmarked by January 15, 2002

Thursday, March 7, "How's the Water?" (includes materials & meals) \$45.00 Early Bird \$40.00

Conference

Friday, March 8 (includes materials, meals and social)..... \$60.00 Early Bird \$55.00

Saturday, March 9 (includes materials, meals and social)..... \$50.00 Early Bird \$45.00

Full Conference (Friday, March 8 & Saturday, March 9)..... \$110.00 Early Bird \$100.00

Pre-Conference & Conference (Thursday, Friday & Saturday)..... \$155.00 Early Bird \$135.00

Vegetarian meal request Subtotal _____ Subtotal _____
There will be no separate meal tickets issued

Workshop

Friday, March 8 (1:30 pm-4:30 pm, limit 25) **Aquatic Plants at the Roots of a Healthy Lake Eco-System.**
A hands-on approach to aquatic plant identification. Take this unique opportunity to learn more about aquatic plants and work with state experts while learning to identify Wisconsin's common aquatic plants. Includes your aquatic plant collection kit..... \$30.00

Late Registration Fee (After February 25, 2002)..... \$10.00

No refunds issued after February 25, 2002 **Total Registration Fee Enclosed** _____

Lodging information: KI Convention Center/Regency Suites, 333 Main Street, Green Bay, WI 54301 (800)236-3330 or (920)432-4555. Rates are: \$91 double occupancy (\$20 for each additional person up to a maximum of 6); \$101 king double occupancy (\$20 for each additional person up to a maximum of 6). Price includes full breakfast and 2 hours of complimentary beverages in the evening. Please refer to the Wisconsin Lakes Convention when reserving your room.

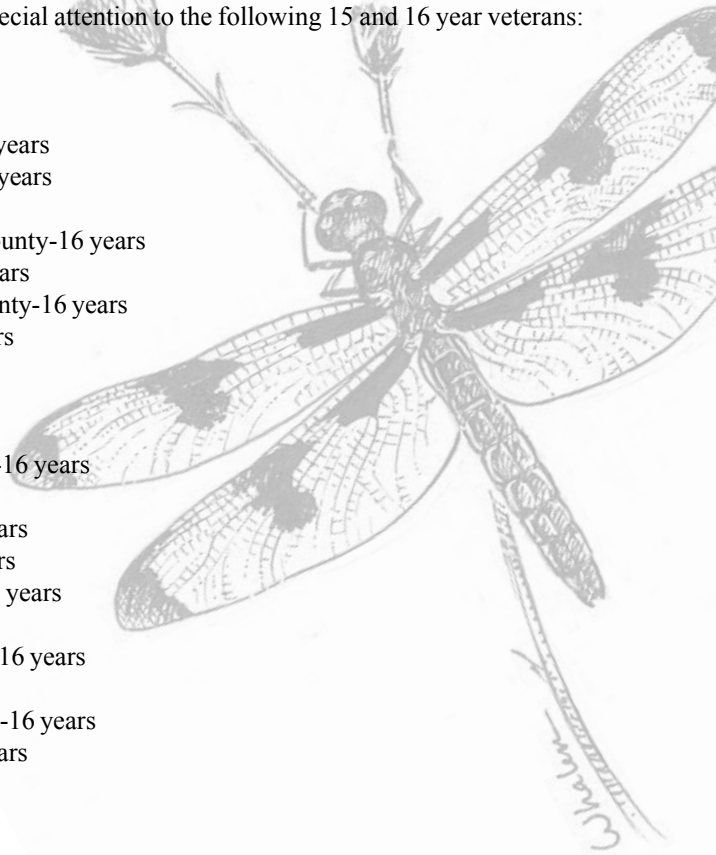
Mail form and check payable to UW-Extension, to: UWEX-Lakes, 1900 Franklin St., CNR-UWSP, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Phone (715)-346-2116, e-mail uwexplakes@uwsp.edu. Sorry - no telephone or credit card registrations accepted.

You will receive confirmation and additional information upon registering

Self-Help's 15 and 16 Year Volunteers

The end of this monitoring season marks the end of Self-Help's 16th season. As this season draws to a close, we would like to acknowledge a very special group of volunteers-those volunteers who have been monitoring since Self-Help began in 1986. These volunteers will be receiving special awards this spring. In addition, in the next issue of Lake Tides, we will recognize the rest of the Self-Help award winners for this season (5 years, 10 years, etc.). For this issue, however, we would like to draw special attention to the following 15 and 16 year veterans:

Jean Adamson-Deer Lake, Polk County-15 years
 Robert August-Lake Chetek, Barron County-15 years
 Roland Boettcher-Beaver Lake, Washburn County-16 years
 Mary Jane Bumby-Green Lake, Green Lake County-16 years
 F.D. Cook-Sand Lake, Rusk County-16 years
 Lois & Nils Dahlstrand-Mt. Morris Lake, Waushara County-16 years
 Gordon Dobbs-Pleasant Lake, Walworth County-16 years
 Douglas Dunlap-Little Sissabagama Lake, Sawyer County-16 years
 William Flader-Witters Lake, Waushara County-15 years
 Gary Fredrickson-Prairie Lake, Barron County-15 years
 Steven Frey-Cedar Lake, St. Croix County-16 years
 Ed Girzi-Lake Nebagamon, Douglas County-15 years
 Joyce & Martin Haavisto-Indian Lake, Oneida County-16 years
 Dale Jalinski-Bear Lake, Oneida County-16 years
 Gary Kirschnik-Lake Keesus, Waukesha County-15 years
 Howard Lang-Green Lake, Washington County-16 years
 Kevin Mackinnon-Delavan Lake, Walworth County-16 years
 James March-Goose Pond, Dane County-16 years
 Boris Marohnich-Whitewater Lake, Walworth County-16 years
 Betty Peterson-Bass Lake, Vilas County-16 years
 Gerald Ptaschinski, Sr.-Porters Lake, Waushara County-16 years
 Bob Radtke-Weyauwega Lake Waupaca County-15 years
 Tom Rulseh-McDonald Lake, Vilas County-16 years
 Kay Scharpf-Franklin Lake, Forest County-16 years
 Elaine Spees-Lake Huron, Waushara County-15 years
 Loren Swanson-Big Hills Lake, Waushara County-15 years
 James Vennie-Fish, Indian & Devils Lakes, Dane & Sauk County-15 years
 Bill Whyte-Webb Lake, Burnett County-16 years
 Gary Wichgers-Forest Lake, Fond Du Lac County-15 years
 Stanley Young-White Lake, Marquette County-16 years



Lost and Found

As the old saying goes, it was business as usual doing water testing that morning of July 29, 2000. We packed the pontoon, headed for East Lake, collected samples and pulled anchor to leave. It was, however, while pulling anchor that things changed and a bit of the past came up from the deep.

At the 50 foot depth we began to see white line over our yellow rope. Red lines along with a clothes pin in perfect condition marked various depths. The numbers 10', 25', etc. were very clear and readable. Then a black and white, round disk - a secchi - rose from the bottom.

The big question? When did someone lose a secchi disk? We've been testing for five years and it wasn't one of ours. Knowing that our predecessor Bob Wilson, a former physics professor at Ripon College,

kept meticulous water-testing records, we searched for a possible answer.

There it was, in an old monitoring journal: "6/28/93 lost secchi to bottom of lake." Another more specific note read, "#2, 10:45, lost secchi." How many times in 50 feet of water could one drop anchor in the same spot that seven years earlier had received a little round disk in its weedy bottom?

We would have liked to return it to Bob, but unfortunately, he and his wife Barb were tragically killed in an auto accident in 1997. For Jim and I the marked line, the clothespin showing depth, and the disk itself were a poignant reminder of Bob's dedication to keeping a healthy lake.

*Contributed by Pudge Edinger
 Big Archibald lake, Oconto County*



How do you start an Adopt-a-Lake Project?

Just ask Don Zirbel, Lake Planning Committee Chair of North and South Twin Lakes in Vilas County. Don attended the spring Vilas County Lakes Association meeting and found out how Adopt-A-Lake would benefit both the lake and the community in Phelps. Don took the initiative and contacted Dawn Nordine, Phelps School District Superintendent about getting the Phelps School involved in local lake issues. The 7th grade students are now actively working with the North and South Twin Lake Association to learn about aquatic plants and managing the menacing Eurasian water milfoil. During the initial “Meet the Lake” pontoon classroom, students and lake residents collected and identified aquatic plants. Then the students returned to the classroom to press and preserve the plants for future studies.



Two weeks later another pontoon classroom was held at Sand Lake, the purpose of which was to learn how other lakes were handling Eurasian milfoil. The students collected samples of the Eurasian milfoil and are presently designing informational posters for the community. On the third trip, students and residents continued mapping sites with milfoil presence on North and South Twin Lake. The three trips will give the students plenty of material to work with through the winter months. This series of pontoon classrooms was such a resounding success that the kindergarten and 6th grade are jointly adopting Long Lake and the second grade is adopting Lac Vieux Desert. What an effort! It is through the commitment of folks like Don and Dawn and the support of Laura Herman, Rhinelander DNR, and Tiffany Lyden, Vilas County lakes specialist, which ensures a strong and active Adopt-A-Lake program.

What great benefits are derived when youth and adults learn about the lakes in Wisconsin! For information on how you can become involved with Adopt-A-lake, contact Laura Felda at 715-346-3366.

River of Words

The summer issue of *Lake Tides* featured a poem by a 9 year-old boy who had won recognition in the River of Words contest. River of Words (ROW) is an international organization dedicated to promoting literacy and environmental awareness. ROW is headquartered in California, but has a network throughout the U.S. and other countries. Mary Pardee in the Project WET office coordinates the ROW program in Wisconsin.

ROW was founded in 1995 by then-U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Haas and writer Pamela Michael. The organization sponsors an annual free poetry and art contest for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Each year, eight Grand Prize winners, an International winner and ROW's Teacher of the Year win a trip to Washington, DC with their families, where they are honored at The Library of Congress. Each child who enters the contest receives a “Watershed Explorer” certificate.

Although the international ROW contest has been promoted in Wisconsin for many years, the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership plans to take the program one step further. After being judged in the international competition, Wisconsin entries will be sent to the Partnership, where Wisconsin winners will be chosen. Those winners will be recognized in *Lake Tides* and at the annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention.

ROW is a great way to promote community awareness and support of watersheds. The program can be implemented easily by a lake organization, school district or classroom, water utility, state or local agency, library, youth group or a multitude of other organizations. Students can also enter on their own.

For further information on the River of Words art and poetry contest, contact Mary Pardee at 715/346-4978 or mpardee@uwsp.edu.



Dockominiums in Court

The Wisconsin Court of Appeals ruled against the legality of dockominium developments in *ABKA Limited v. Department of Natural Resources*, (Ct. App. 2001). This case involved the Abbey Harbor Condominium Association's plans to convert a public marina to a condominium form of ownership. Under the proposed arrangement, each dockominium owner would acquire title in fee simple to a lock box and would also gain rights to the exclusive use of a pier slip. The Court focused on the issue of whether the dockominium development placed riparian interests over public interests in state waterways and whether the arrangement was in violation of the Public Trust Doctrine. The Public Trust Doctrine maintains that navigable waters are to be held in

Under the Public Trust Doctrine, the state holds Wisconsin's waters in trust for the public.



*Public rights in state waterways are well established
(Courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society)*

trust by the state to protect the public's right to use the water for navigation, fishing and other forms of recreation. In a much awaited opinion released on Aug. 22, 2001, The Court stated that the "plan purports to create permanent rights in an area of public waters" and that property owners would have an expectation of "vested private rights in public waters." In a concluding statement the Court observed that "ABKA's dockominium proposal allows ABKA and the Association to transfer ownership of public waters to private individuals and therefore is in direct conflict with the public trust doctrine." This decision is currently on appeal.

Future issues of *Lake Tides* will include additional articles on the law of navigable waters and the Public Trust Doctrine.

Notable Web Site

Are you thinking about incorporating as a lake association? Or maybe you need to amend your Articles of Incorporation?

Be sure to check out the State of Wisconsin's Department of Financial Institutions web site at www.wdfi.org/corporations for nonprofit corporate forms, links to the state statutes, and other useful information.



Wisconsin's Groundwater Guardian Program

Denise Kilkenny-Tittle is the new Statewide Groundwater Guardian Program Coordinator at the UW-Extension Central WI Groundwater Center in the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point. Groundwater Guardian is a national program which connects and recognizes communities that take action to protect groundwater and educate the public about groundwater. The program is sponsored by the Groundwater Foundation in Lincoln, Nebraska.

“Groundwater supplies drinking water for 95% of Wisconsin communities,” Kilkenny-Tittle said. “But we’re seeing increasing problems for some communities with groundwater quality. In addition, some communities are faced with declining water levels in their wells. So it’s natural that people would want to come together to help protect groundwater, and the Groundwater Guardian program is an easy and organized way to do that.” Kilkenny –Tittle will be recruiting new communities into the program as well as facilitating communication among the seven Wisconsin communities already participating (Eau Claire County, Chippewa Falls, Marathon County, Waukesha, Green Bay, Portage County, and Marshfield).

People wanting more information on the Groundwater Guardian program or the Portage County groundwater web site can contact Denise Kilkenny-Tittle at (715) 346-2722, or at dkilkenn@uwsp.edu.

New efforts are underway to protect groundwater.

Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards

The Wisconsin Lake Stewardship award recognizes individuals and groups whose outstanding contributions of time and effort have made a positive difference in the well-being of Wisconsin’s lakes. This year we will be adding youth and business leadership to the present categories of awards. Winners of this prestigious award will join a distinguished group of lake leaders that have made their mark on Wisconsin lakes. Please include the following items with your nomination:

- Letter of recommendation from the sponsor.
- Three letters of support from individuals representing varied interests.
- Supporting information in the form of letters, newspaper articles and other materials that support the nomination.

Winners of the Lake Stewardship award are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Participation in a diverse range of activities.
- Demonstration of benefits to a lake or lakes and a willingness to share skills and information.
- A commitment to developing relationships and teaching others about lake stewardship.

Submit your nominations to UWEX-Lakes, 1900 Franklin St., College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481 by February 15, 2002.

C A L E N D A R

Nov. 7-9, 2001 - North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) Conference. Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison.

March 7-9, 2002 - How's the Water? Wisconsin Lakes Convention. Regency Suites, Green Bay. Call 715/346-2116 for information.

April 10-12, 2002 – “Trails: Connecting People, Places and Open Spaces” workshop. The Alliant Energy Center, Madison. See <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/trails/sprgconf.html> for more information.



Lake Tides -- 905021
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1900 Franklin St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715/346-2116

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 19
Stevens Point, WI

Volume 26, Issue 4
Fall 2001

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Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership



Published Quarterly

Internet: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/>

E-mail: uwexlakes@uwsp.edu

Editors: Tamara Dudiak, Robert Korth

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DNR Contributor: Carroll Schaal

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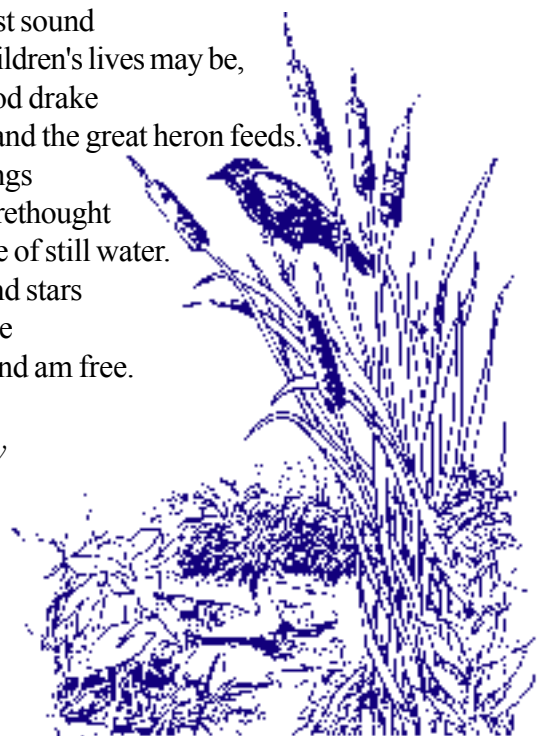
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Reflections

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Wendell Berry



Happy Holidays!

