FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES

SUMMER 2016

The purpose of FCAL, Inc. is to facilitate education, research and sharing between organization, governmental bodies and the general public of Forest County to protect Forest County inland water bodies, environs and watershed for now and future generations, including but not limited to: aesthetic beauty, water quality, wildlife habitat and fisheries.

FCAL Annual Meeting/Banquet/Program

Do you want to do something different on a Saturday night instead of watching reruns of the Lawrence Welk Show? Well then, join us for the 24th Annual FCAL Membership Meeting. Come to T-Bob's on Saturday, October 1, 2016 by 4:30 for the business meeting, or come around 5:15 for the social hour, dinner and speaker.

This year we are once again fortunate to have Christian Cold as our speaker. The theme will be Wildlife Ecology and Management (wetland and forest emphasis). We will also be joined by our essay contest winners who will have an opportunity to read their essays.

Hope to see you then.

Field Trips - 188 Amazing Adventures

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin is offering 188 field trips in 2016 for your enjoyment. The complete listing can be found at their website: wisconservation.org/2016-guidebook/. For any questions or to check availability, call Michelle Milford at 608-261-4392 or email her at michelle.milford@wisconsin.gov. We've listed some in our "neck of the woods," but you will find many others that may be of interest to you. Some may already be done but have been listed to pique your interest for next spring. Enjoy the great outdoors.

Register at https://www.cvent.com/events/nrf-field-trips-2016/registration-ddbc590e064d4d23a833f70238309a29.aspx.

FOREST COUNTY

153. Hiking Old-Growth in Forest County

Hike through scenic old-growth in the Franklin-Butternut Wild Lakes & Hardwood Forest SNA. Spy hidden lakes & old-growth hemlock trees with a super-canopy of white pines. Learn about old-growth ecology, history & archaeological sites dating back to 9,000 B.C. on this 3-mile hike.

Friday, August 19, 9AM - NOON
Eagle River, Forest Co.
Leader: John Bates
Limit: 15
Cost: $25, per person

ONEIDA COUNTY

28. Tomahawk River Paddle: Ecology & Turtle Research

Paddle the scenic Tomahawk River to explore a mosaic of habitats, including upland pines, dense forest, lowland marsh, open savanna & meadows. Listen to bird songs, look for wildlife along the banks, and learn about an on-going river turtle research project. You must bring your own canoe/kayak & be an experienced paddler. Ages 10+

Friday, May 13, 9AM - 2PM
Harshaw, Oneida Co.
Leader: Carly Lapin
Limit: 12
Cost: $15 adult, $5 child, per person

144. Bass in Northern Lakes: Pontoon, Fishing & Fry

Get your fishing poles at the ready! Enjoy a pontoon cruise on Lake Tomahawk to learn about bass ecology & management in northern lakes. Throw your lines in the water to fish for bass, and enjoy a shore-side dinner prepared from the day's catch (included in fee). Fundraiser for NRF.

Thursday, August 11, 12:30 - 7PM
Woodruff, Onieda Co.
Leader: Scott Craven
Limit: 14
Cost: $75 per person

151. Wolf Howl in Oneida County Forests

Join the pack as we learn about wolf ecology! Enjoy an evening bus ride through wolf territory with stops along forest back roads to look for tracks & listen for wolves. Learn to tell different wolf ages by their vocalization & howls. Dinner & bus included. Fundraiser for NRF & wolf monitoring.

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Saturday, August 13, 3PM-Midnight
Rhinelander, Oneida Co.
Leaders: Nathan Libal, David MacFarland, Jane Wiedenhoeft
Limit: 20
Cost: $55 per person

VILAS COUNTY

122. Paddling Nixon Lake SNA & the Manitowish River

Nixon Lake SNA harbors beds of wild rice, with birds & wildlife aplenty. Circumnavigate this shallow lake, then paddle two miles on undeveloped Nixon Creek & on into the scenic Manitowish River. Experienced paddlers only. You must bring your own canoe/kayak.

Friday, July 22, 8:30AM-NOON
Boulder Junction, Vilas Co.
Leader: John Bates
Limit: 15
Cost: $25 per person

130. Catherine Wolter Wilderness Hike & Service

Hike remote areas of beautiful Catherine Wolter Wilderness to discover scenic trails & lovely vistas. Stop along the way to pull invasive plants & help make a significant difference in the ecological health of this beloved native landscape. Ages 12+

Sunday, July 24, 9AM-4PM
Presque Isle, Vilas Co.
Leader: Dan Wallace
Limit: 20
Cost: $15 adult, $5 child, per person

Forest County Land & Water Resources Citizens Advisory Committee

Submitted by Lee Lamers

Last fall I was asked to serve on the Forest County Land and Water Resources Citizens Advisory Committee. The committee was made up of seven citizen advisors and county staff. The purpose of the committee was to identify areas of concern and prioritize them This list was to be given to the North Central Regional Planning Commission, and represented the areas that would be worked on over the next several years. The priorities that were identified are as follows in order of current importance.

1. Remove or reduce the cause of lake eutrophication.
2. Reduce phosphorus and nitrogen loading to surface waters.
3. Slow the spread of invasive and nonnative nuisance species.
4. Increase the amount and quality of information available concerning land and water in Forest County.
5. Promote well planned development.
6. Maintain and healthy and vigorous forest.

There are grants that the county can apply for from the state to address these issues. They can receive up to $200,000.

Eu.tro.phi.ca.tion *n* the aging process of a body of water choked by plant life: evolution into a marsh, with the depletion of available oxygen, followed by eventual disappearance. Eutrophication is often speeded by human activities that add too many nutrients.
(Source: Webster's Dictionary of the English Language)

Eutrophication. Nine months ago I had never heard of the word and now I find myself being asked to speak about it. I feel somewhat justified in my ignorance as I had to go to Webster's "Encyclopedic Edition" to even find the word defined. With the help of many board members, our illustrious county zoning officer and the WI Lakes Partnership Conference, I now understand that eutrophication is not the lake lover's friend.

Those of us who have visited the same lake over the course of our lifetime have seen that lake diminish in size and clarity. This is evidence of the eutrophication process. Your beautiful lake is filling with leaves and aquatic plant life. The plant life along the shore is encroaching on your beachfront. That once clean, sandy bottom is now obscured by layers of decaying plant life which we lovingly call "muck". Your dock stretches farther and farther out into the lake so that you can still gain access with your boat. The kids won't swim in the shallow, mucky water so you need to anchor a raft in the deeper water for them to swim from. Your lakefront property diminishes in value as the quality of the lake itself diminishes. This is the result of natural eutrophication.

There is a controversy among our FCAL members as to whether or not riparian land owners have a right to try to arrest or even reverse the process of eutrophication on their lakes. You see, we don't own the lake itself. That belongs to everyone. We just own the property that surrounds the lake and that is all we are legally able to manage. And yet, the DNR will ask your lake organization about its' lake management plan as a first step in assessing your organization's qualifications for receiving grant money to address invasive species issues.

The 2015 WI legislative session drafted a bill that included the right for lake property owners to dredge 300 cubic feet of lake bottom in front of their homes annually, without having to apply for a permit to do so. Many FCAL members asked us to write to our representatives in favor of this bill. By the end of Feb, however, that part about dredging had been deleted from the bill and so it became a non-issue for us legislatively. Or did it?

As requested by the BOD in January and again in March, your FCAL President did draft a letter that could be used as a template by member lake organizations or individuals, asking our state senators and representatives to keep this issue on the table and to allow us to work with them to draft new legislation around this issue. The letter was not a "slam dunk" and has been tabled for approval and further discussion at upcoming meetings.

I believe we FCAL members need to dialogue to the point of reaching consensus on this issue of whether or not riparian landowners should have the right to keep their beachfronts clean and navigable. At what point does our desire to use the lake for recreation interfere with the health of the lake as a fishery? Please come to our monthly meetings to express your concerns and share your ideas. Our communal decisions carry a lot of clout so let's create a clear and unified vision. FCAL will then be a vehicle to share that vision with our legislators.

Submitted by Pam Schroeder, 2016 FCAL President

Bats in Danger

Submitted by Heather Stricker Orlovsky,
Certified Wildlife Biologist & Wildlife Resources Program Manager for the Forest County Potawatomi Community

Vampires, rabies, and "flying rodents" are often the first things that come to mind when people think about bats. In reality, bats (which are more closely related to primates than rodents) are one of the most beneficial species in our northern ecosystems, and provide positive effects for forests, humans, and even lakes. Voracious eaters of insects, bats suppress insect populations as much or more than birds. Studies have shown that some bats eat more than 127 different insect prey species, many of which are destructive agricultural and forest pests such as gypsy moths, tent caterpillars, coneworms, and cutworms. This ravenous appetite for insects has an estimated value to the forestry and agriculture industries in the U.S. of roughly $22.9 billion annually. Species such as the little brown bat can consume anywhere between 600-1200 mosquitoes (and similar sized insects) in a single hour, significantly contributing to the control of vector insects (for example, mosquitos) that can carry human viruses such as West Nile, Zika virus, malaria, and various forms of encephalitis. While bats consume the insects that carry human viruses, they do not become infected with these diseases themselves. In fact, although many people believe that bats are high carriers of the rabies virus, the fact is that most bats do not have rabies. While they can carry rabies, fewer than 1% of all bats actually have the disease.

But bats are in trouble nationwide. Habitat loss, direct killing by humans, and wind turbines all contribute to bat declines, however white-nose syndrome (WNS), a recently-introduced fungal disease, is now the main source of mass bat mortality and is devastating bat populations across the country. This is particularly true of cave-dwelling bats, which account for 5 of the 8 species of bats in Wisconsin. First documented in New York in the winter of 2006-2007, WNS has spread rapidly across the eastern United States and Canada, and the fungus that causes WNS has been detected as far south as Mississippi. WNS reached Wisconsin in 2014. WNS has killed more than 6 million bats in eastern North America. In some states, 90 to 100 percent of bats have died. WNS syndrome causes increased potassium in the blood, leading to increased thirst, and causes winter-hibernating bats to become restless during hibernation, losing critical fat stores and devastating their metabolism and life-sustaining processes.

This is highly concerning, as bats are not only highly beneficial to forests, agriculture, and human health, but bats are also highly beneficial to lake ecosystems. Bat guano provides vital nutrients for soil and cave ecosystems, and is often the starting point of important food chains. Bat guano is used by micro-organisms and invertebrates, which in turn becomes food for fish, salamanders, frogs, and other animals. Bats also help to control destructive insects that can become major forest defoliators, therefore if we lose our bats, the demand for chemical pesticides will rise, causing increased levels of harmful chemicals to reach our streams and lakes.

What You Can Do?

While a cure for WNS is currently under development, and is probably the best solution to this devastating bat decline, homeowners and land managers need to do their part to protect critical breeding habitat for these bats. Bats will travel out of their winter hibernacula (typically caves, old mines, or sometimes buildings) to their summer habitat for giving birth and rearing pups. The preferred habitat for birthing and rearing pups are dead or dying trees with peeling bark and/or cavity holes, known as roost trees. Protecting roost trees for bats is critical for population growth both before and after the devastating impact of WNS. Because mature trees with holes and cavities are vitally important to female bats raising pups, it is extremely beneficial to wait until after the pup-rearing season (after the summer months) to remove any trees on your land (particularly mature, dead, and dying trees), when possible (i.e. not a hazard to human safety).

If you have bats in your home or a building that you want removed, it is best to call a professional bat removal company to remove the bats without harming them. The services provided by these companies is relatively inexpensive (although it depends on the size of the building), and they typically will not only remove the bats, but also clean up guano, fix entry holes, and do periodic checks to make sure their services were effective. These companies are available throughout much of Wisconsin.

Homeowners can also install bat boxes on their property. Bats readily use man-made bat boxes for roosting and rearing pups during summer months. Effective bat boxes are relatively flat and wide, with 1-3 chambers inside. Interestingly, bats are not typically drawn to bat boxes that are mounted on trees. The boxes are more effective when they are mounted on a flat surface, such as on the side of a building or a large piece of plywood mounted on a pole, in areas that receive ample sun. Areas near lakes or other water bodies are exceptionally suited for bat boxes, so that females with pups in the bat house do not have to go far from their pups for feeding and drinking.

So the next time you are out on your dock or your boat, take comfort in that little creature buzzing around above your head. Don't worry, it won't get caught in your hair, and it's actually doing you a favor by eating the bugs that are attracted to your body heat! But hold that memory dear – we may not see bats in the numbers we are used to again in our lifetimes.

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How to Build a Bat Box

1. Use the roughest sides of the wood on the inner areas of the house. It is also a good idea to attach non-metal screening to provide toe holds.
2. Caulk all outside seams to limit air flow. This helps trap the bats' body heat inside the house.
3. Paint black or place tar paper or dark shingles on the top and 4 to 6 inches down the side to increase inside temperatures. Nursery roosts often require temperatures of 90 degrees F or more. A dark stain also helps increase the temperature.
4. Hang houses 10 to 15 feet above ground. South and southeast exposures are best for providing maximum thermal gain. Bats prefer houses that get at least 6 hours of sunlight a day.
5. If possible, protect the house from prevailing winds.

Small Bat House Diagram

A. Roof 4"x14"

B. Upper front 12"x20"

C. Lower front 12"x10"

D. Back 12"x36"

E. Spacers (1) 2"x12", (2) 2"x301/2"

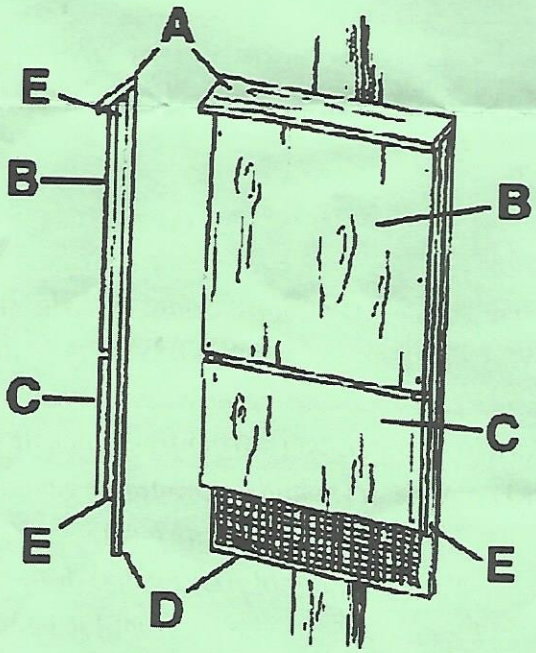


Image source: ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&q=325964

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better"

~ Albert Einstein

Galerucella Beetles Control Purple Loosestrife

Submitted by John Preuss,
Lumberjack Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Purple loosestrife is an invasive wetland plant that crowds out native species and offers little habitat or food for wildlife. The plant has light purple flowers on a tall spike and has square stems. On average the plant produces one million seeds annually, but can produce up to two million seeds. Luckily for wetlands there is a beetle that likes to eat the invasive plant and it is the Galeruccella beetle.

Galerucella beetle are a member of a leaf feeding family of beetles that are native to Europe and Asia. The beetles are roughly 3-6 mm in length and half as wide as they are long. They are light brown to tan with a dark stripe on each side of the beetle. These beetles feed only on the invasive purple loosestrife.

The beetles have four life stages. The adults eat small holes in the leaves, newly hatched larvae feed on growing shoot tips, killing them and larger larvae produce a windowpane feeding pattern on the leaves. Larvae damage to flower and shoot buds reduce plant growth, inhibit flowering and often cause plant death from stress. This opens up the area for the return of native species that were originally pushed out by the invasive purple loosestrife. Once the loosestrife patch is gone the beetles will move onto the next patch.

Area lake associations, citizens and volunteers can help control purple loosestrife by raising beetles. Volunteers dig plants and grow the plants until they are two feet in height. When the plants reach this height 10 beetles are added to the potted netted plant. These beetles will turn into approximately 1,000 beetles once mating is complete. These beetles are then released onto area wetlands that are infested with purple loosestrife.

In 2016 we are looking for volunteers to raise these beetles. If this interests you, you know a purple loosestrife population in Forest County, or you have purple loosestrife and want to control it, please contact John Preuss at the 715-369-9886 or johnpreuss@frontier.com.

Eagles

Submitted by Mike Henderson

Eagles weigh 6 to 13 lbs. as adults. They can soar 10 to 15 thousand feet into the air, flying up to 65 mph and swooping to 200 mph. They have a wingspan of 7 feet, and can spot prey up to a mile away with their excellent eyesight.

Eagles communicate with chirps, whistles and chatters. A group of eagles is referred to as a convocation or aerie. There are 59 species of eagle, with their young known as eaglets or fledglings, which have about a fifty percent chance of making it to adulthood.

They mate with the same partner for life and use the same nest as well. Their main predators include "nest robbing" gulls, crows, hawks or owls, as well as bobcats, bears and raccoons.

The average size of an eagle's nest is about five feet across and two feet deep, although in St. Petersburg, Florida a nest was found that was 9 ½ feet across and weighted 4,400 lbs.

Greetings from your 2016 FCAL President Pam Schroeder!

It's high time I introduced myself to you. Not only am I new to this position of leadership, I am also pretty new to FCAL and so I have much to learn and appreciate all of your help and guidance. Lee Lamers, your amazing President for the past 6 years and his wife Vi, your equally amazing secretary, have promised to mentor me through this first year of service.

I have been a permanent resident of Forest County since 1989 but I have always worked at a job that kept me on the road Monday – Friday. 2016 marked the beginning of my 3rd year of retirement and it is only now that I am finally getting to know my "neighborhood". In Forest County I live with my husband Allen on Little Long Lake. I moved here from Neenah, WI where I grew up on Little Lake Butte des Morts. The very property I played on as a kid is now the home of the company that is dredging the toxins off of the bottom of that lake. You can well imagine how much I appreciate the amazing resource these clean lake waters of Forest County represent.

One of my first goals as the President of FCAL was to learn the location of the lakes in our county. I have since modified my expectation to that of learning the location of the lakes represented by our FCAL board members and become familiar with the issues of personal concern to those members. I would like to attend as many Lake Association meetings this year as possible so that I can meet our members and learn about your lakes and your concerns as riparian land owners. Please let me know when your Lake Association meets this spring via email: pschroed0214@gmail.com or phone# 715-473-3803 and I will make every effort to attend and introduce myself and FCAL to your Association.

Silver Lake News

Submitted by Cliff Haskins

Silver Lake Protection Association will be voting on a draft copy of a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan for Silver Lake. This plan has been created through the collaborative efforts of the Silver Lake Planning Committee and Ecologists/Planners from the water resources firm, Ontera LLC.

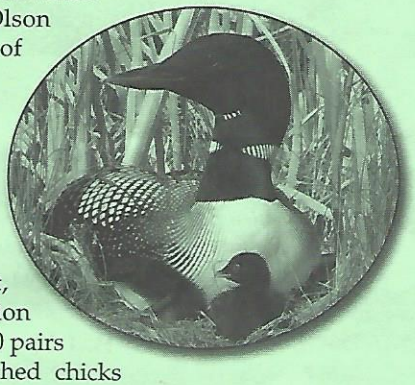
This draft plan contains Four Basic Goals with seventeen pages of detailed implementation and action steps. These goals are basically aimed at preserving the natural quality of Silver Lake. the plan represents the path the Silver Lake Protection Association will follow in order to meet their lake management goals. These goals include the results of surveys, and many communications between the Planning Committee members and the lake stakeholders. The Implementation Plan is a "living document in that it will be under constant review and adjustment depending on the condition of the lake, the availability of funds, level of volunteer involvement, and the needs of the stakeholders."

Lake Management plans are increasingly being required for Wisconsin lakes, especially the lakes that are requesting or receiving financial grants from the DNR for lake protection or improvement projects.

Report From a Loon Watcher!

Submitted by Pat Schultz of Jungle Lake

On a Saturday morning last July, two friends and I trudged along the shore of Deep Hole Lake as part of the five-year loon count, sponsored by the LoonWatch Program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College.



Although we only saw one loon, we helped to provide important data regarding the status of our black and white bird friends. According to the 2015 monitoring report, which collected information from 354 Wisconsin lakes, 420 pairs were counted and 360 hatched chicks were reported! These figures represent a higher than average year for chick production. Of these chicks, 78% survived after eight weeks which is crucial to their ability to migrate in the fall to their wintering places along the Gulf of Mexico.

So, let's continue to enjoy our beautiful, vocal friends and respect their territories by giving them the space they need to live and breed. Loons continue to be a gift from nature that none of us should take for granted!

This quote was inscribed on a loon carving by Gene Reineking that I (Pat Schultz) saw at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau. I thought both the sculpted piece and the words were beautiful!

Northern Singer

On steady northwest winds,
you come south from the land of little trees.
Wings ripping the air at 250 beats per minute
carry you out of the empty lands.
Northern singer, you spring from ancient stock.
Unknowable years and uncountable generations
have honed your form.
You know not of friction and drag.
Like an arrow loosened from the bow,
you are the terror of little fishes.
Loon, your tremelos mingle
with the howl of the wolf.
You speak of distant, open, endless horizons.
Your chicks do not follow this year.
They are in the belly of the pike.

Citizen Scientists are Hard at Work

Thirty years ago this year the Self-Help Lake Monitoring program was born. This program was developed to help Lake Specialists with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources learn more about Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes by enlisting citizen volunteers to collect water clarity information. After the first year, one hundred and twenty six volunteers had been trained to collect water clarity data using a Secchi disk (an 8-inch diameter disk painted black and white). Water clarity is a quick way to estimate lake health and look at water quality trends through time.

Today, the DNR still partners with volunteers. The program changed its name to Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) but still provides equipment and training to people who have an interest in learning more about their lake. Twelve hundred volunteers collect water clarity and water chemistry on Wisconsin lakes.

CLMN has expanded, and volunteers collect not just water clarity readings, but chlorophyll (the amount of algae in the water) and phosphorus (the nutrient that fuels aquatic plant and algae growth) samples. Volunteers are also asked to monitor their lake for native aquatic plants and non-native aquatic plants such as Eurasian water milfoil and curly leaf pondweed and purple loosestrife.

How is Volunteer Data Used?

- Mike Meyer, a DNR Loon Researcher, has always used volunteer data to research loon behavior.
- Volunteer data is used to create the impaired waters listing. Every two years, the Clean Water Act requires states to publish a list of all waters that do not meet water quality standards. This list is known as the Impaired Waters List.
- Volunteer data is used to make management decisions on lakes. Long term trends in water quality can be looked at using the Secchi and trophic state (nutrient enrichment) graphs that are found on the CLMN web site: dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/
- Perhaps the most important job that volunteers perform is making information on water quality available to people that live on the lake with them and helping them to make wise water quality decisions.
- You can decide where you want to fish or where you want to go scuba diving. People use the CLMN web site to decide which lake to use for underwater photography or which lake to buy a house on.

Data collected by volunteers and agency staff is available to the public. You can take a look at water quality on most lakes in Wisconsin by going to the DNR web site and putting CLMN in the search bar.

Volunteers monitoring their lake for invasive species are often the first ones to find Eurasian water milfoil or curly leaf pondweed.

More recently, we have enlisted volunteers to help survey water levels. Volunteers also keep track of ice on and ice off dates and are tracking water temperature.

Twenty lakes in Forest County were monitored in 2015 for water quality. Kay Scharpf on Franklin Lake has been collecting data since the program started in 1986!

If you would like more information on how to become a CLMN Volunteer please contact Sandy Wickman, CLMN Coordinator, at 715-365-8951 or by email at sandra.wickman@wisconsin.gov.

A recent study of over 1,000 waterfront properties in Minnesota found that when all other factors were equal, properties on lakes with clearer water commanded significantly higher property prices.

Ten things you can do to promote healthy lakes and good water quality:

1. Curb pollutants at their source – fertilizers, household toxins and eroding soils.
2. Cut the amount of runoff that picks up pollutants such as phosphorus and carries them to the waterway by minimizing the hard surfaces that create runoff.
3. Capture and cleanse pollutant carrying runoff before it reaches the waterway – with shoreland buffer, rain barrels or rain gardens.
4. Inspect and maintain your septic system regularly.

For more information, check-out
"Protecting Your Waterfront Investment."
www.clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/waterfront.pdf
Or contact: sandra.wickman@wisconsin.gov

"Water is the driving force of all nature"
~ Leonardo de Vinci

Lost Lake Update

Submitted by Mark Smith, Lost Lake Association President

Lost Lake is a 79 acre lake which is for the most part private. We have a small area of public access but only by foot.

As with many lakes in this area, we are dealing with a muck issue. The muck problem has gotten considerably worse over the course of the 20 years I have been here. During that period, we have had numerous thought and discussions about how to deal with it.

Being as we are a "no wake" lake, which is great for being peaceful, does no help the situation much.

We have finally gotten some positive action in dealing with the muck problem. It appears the best course of action is aeration, which is very expensive. Since we only have 12 lake members, the cost is a big downside.

I am currently getting the muck tested, and then may go the route of "muck reducing pellets." It is a much cheaper option, and no permits seem to be needed. I plan to do a trial this summer to see the results and will report back.

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.

FCAL Objectives...

1. Education/Sharing... To educate the Forest County public and riparian owners on issues and to facilitate dialogue between organizations and governmental bodies.

2. Long Range Planning... To participate in long range planning efforts regarding the water resources of Forest County.

3. Regulatory/Enforcing... Facilitate efforts of the governmental bodies to enforce regulations which affect inland water bodies usage and water quality.

4. Cooperative... Provide a vehicle for greater cooperative efforts between riparian owners, riparian users, appropriate governmental agencies and the citizens of Forest County.

Visit Forest County Association of Lakes at:
www.fcal-wis.org

Legislative Update

Information Source:
Water Battles at the State Capitol: A Legislative Update presented at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention, March 31, 2016 by Michael Engleson, Executive Director of Wisconsin Lakes. Website mengleson@wisconsinlakes.org

The challenge for Wisconsin citizens is to find a balance between our rights to do what we want with our property and the obligation of the state to manage the states' resources for the good of all. Add to that the "Community" sense of property rights. "What others can do that damages my property, or my property values, or my ability to enjoy my lake, is itself an assault on my "property rights".

This past year until now has seen the authority of local decision making reduced. The State Budget continued funding for county conservationists; for non-point, polluted runoff work; and for Stewardship Funding for land purchases. It cut funding for DNR science and educator staff (18 in the Science Services and 11 educators); cut funding for state parks making all their revenue fee-based; cut partnership funds to conservation organizations; and made remarkable changes to shoreland zoning laws.

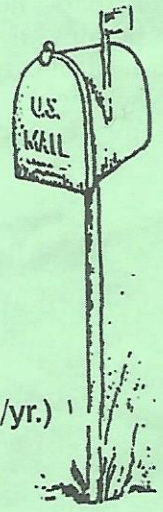
The Budget's effect on shoreland zoning includes" prohibiting counties from "enforcing any ordinance or provision of an ordinance that is stricter than shoreland zoning standards in NR 115 or the statutes; significantly limits "county oversight of repairs and reconstruction to non-conforming structures;" and "invalidates decades of work by many counties."

Legislative decisions include:

- Allows increased use of boat shelters, clarifies uses of some
- Relaxes oversight of repairs and reconstruction of sea walls
- Changes permitting of wetlands which could allow easier development
- Establishes a new method for DNR to designate sensitive natural areas in lakes
- Courts must weigh their decisions in favor of private property rights
- Exempts artificial water bodies from navigable waters laws.

In summary, this year's budget and legislation have had drastic changes. As citizens, it is both our right and our responsibility to become involved in the legislative process and make our voices heard. It truly makes a difference.

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
Membership Application



NAME(S): _____ PHONE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

LAKE/RIVER: _____ LAKE ORG.: _____

SUMMER ADDRESS: _____ FROM: _____ TO: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Check appropriate membership category)

☐ Individual/Families ($15/yr.) ☐ Lake Organization($25/yr.) ☐ Business Org. ($50/yr.)

Make checks payable to : FCAL, Inc.
Return application and check to:

Treasurer, FCAL, Inc.
P.O. Box 68
Pickerel, WI 54465

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Members do not need to live on water.