



"Our purpose is to protect, preserve and improve the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the Eau Claire Lakes Area Watershed including the lakes, rivers, shorelands, wetlands, forests and attendant wildlife resources."

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~ Save The Date ~

ECLAPOA Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 20, 2013
Barnes Town Hall
8:30 a.m.
Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m.
Business Meeting
10:15 a.m.

The Natural History and Culture of the Eau Claire Lakes Area
Dave Thorson
"Down to Earth Tours"
ALL ARE WELCOME

ECLAPOA Summer Gathering

Saturday, August 24, 2013
Barnes Town Hall
8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
Program: "Food from the Lakes"
Demonstrations of how to find/catch and then prepare tasty local foods.

Please send requests to change, delete or add an address to the newsletter mailing list to: Carolerusch5@gmail.com
Letters to the editor can be sent to the same address.

What's Your Lake Story?

We all have them. Catching your first fish with your dad or granddad, tipping over in your canoe, spending an early morning monitoring a boat landing...Share your stories, poetry and photos in the fall edition of our newsletter.

Share your love of the lakes and support our lake community. Send your contribution to carolerusch5@gmail.com or Carole Rusch, 14088 Sunny Shores Dr., Gordon, WI 54838.



Dam Dam Dam



The Mooney Dam May 30, 2013



The Lock and Dam on the Eau Claire River between Middle and Lower Eau Claire Lake.



The Upper Dam, a log and stone structured dam on Outlet Bay.

Three dams, located at strategic points on the Eau Claire chain of lakes, maintain the water levels on the 11 lakes as well as the water level of the Eau Claire River.

The Eau Claire Chain makes up the headwaters of the Eau Claire River, which flows out of the Upper Dam at Outlet Bay, through the Lock and Dam on the Eau Claire River between Middle and Lower Eau Claire Lake, and, finally over the Mooney Dam at the end of Lower until it empties into the St. Croix River in Gordon.

The dams are an important part of the infrastructure of the area, and after the Lake Delton flood in 2008, the state of Wisconsin developed more rigorous standards for public and private dams inspections and repairs.

Mooney Dam At the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, the vast timber resources of the Eau Claire Lakes area were of great interest to large timber companies. It was at this time that the first dam was built on Lower Eau Claire Lake. Known originally as the Chase Dam, constructed of logs and rocks, it greatly expanded the surface area of Lower Eau Claire Lake and increased the water supply for all the timbering operations along the Eau Claire River and downstream into the St. Croix River and eventually to Hudson, WI and Stillwater, MN.

In the 1900's after the vast stands of virgin timber were depleted, the dam was abandoned and allowed to deteriorate. The property where the dam was located changed hands several times before being purchased by James L. Mooney and his wife Julia A. Mooney. Mr. Mooney was a captain of the Chicago Police Department who chose to build a vacation home in the area.

In 1938 the Mooneys deeded 1.11 acres to Douglas County with an agreement in place stating that construction of a dam would begin within a year. Making good on the agreement, Douglas County worked with the

federal government through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to build the present dam structure in 1938, completed in August of that year.

The current structure is a gravity dam of earthen construction that supports the 802-acre Lower Eau Claire Lake to the east and marks the headwaters of the 15 mile Eau Claire River to the west.

It has a structural height of 2 feet, an overall length of 60 feet, and a 40 foot spillway with four 9 foot wide stop log bays.

The Mooneys donated an additional 3+ acres to be used as a park and to be operated by the Douglas County Department of Forestry.

The Mooney Dam, classified as a large low hazard dam, was scheduled for inspections every 5 years.

Presently, LHB Architecture, Engineering and Interior Design of Duluth are working on plans for repairs, to be completed in 2014. (Excerpted from Douglas County Forestry MDP-2011)

Lock and Dam The Mooney (Chase) Dam and the Locks and Dam (Smith) Dam control water levels on the Middle and Lower. In 1925 with the rise of lakeshore property prices, the Town of Barnes saw the wisdom of placing a dam on the Eau Claire River between Middle and Lower to maintain lake levels.

In the 1930's when Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs were established, both the Chase Dam (Lock and Dam) and the Smith Dam (Mooney Dam) were rebuilt. The Lock and Dam was completed in 1939, called that because water was diverted into the locks while the dam was being built. The locks are hand operated and will accommodate narrow boats to pass through.

Bayfield County is responsible for the maintenance of the Lock and Dam and has almost completed, with the cooperation of

the WDNR, a dam hazard analysis. The Town of Barnes maintains the bridge and road.

Upper Dam When the last log went through the 'gap' above Stillwater, ending the river drives that had been going on in the St. Croix for 75 years, dams fell into disrepair and the water levels on the lakes fell.

In 1922 Louie Pease, who had the only resort in the area, constructed a log dam at the river outlet of Upper to raise and maintain the lake level for lakeshore protection and for boating safety, but still allow for fish spawning. This structure is still partially in place some 87 years later. Scott Lundberg, who is the present owner of Upper Dam, recalls that the first dam in this location was built in the late 1800's as a logging dam. "Every year the logging company would dynamite the dam and the big pines would float down to the mill, each log carrying the logger's stamp to assure an accurate count. The next year the dam would be rebuilt. Every so often logs will float up with the logger's stamp still visible."

Lundberg is responsible for the maintenance of the dam which at the last inspection required the removal of large trees whose roots were intruding into the dam area and then spreading gravel, sand and black dirt and seeding the area.

The dam had a 4' drop, a bridge, and is the most natural and quiet of the three dams.

Besides being critical to lake level maintenance, the three dams add a historical background to the lakes and provide recreational opportunities to property owners and visitors. They have lasted over a century, and with proper inspection and maintenance, will continue to ensure the levels of our lakes and river.

Carole Rusch
David Thorson

Fishing Excellence in Wisconsin: The Case For Expanded Local Regulation

The following letter was written to key officials responsible for the regulation of fishing in Wisconsin lakes and streams. It urged that local authorities be allowed to make decisions to maximize the unique characteristics of local lakes and streams. The recommendation, drafted by Ron Carlson, has received the approval of Jerry Kaiser and the officers of the Conservation Club and Tom Boman, president of the Eau Claire Lakes Area Property Owners Association.

It is no secret that harvest pressure has dramatically reduced numbers and size of fish taken from Wisconsin waters. Continuation of the trend threatens the future of many fisheries, as well as the economies of countless towns and resort areas.

DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp said it well when addressing the need to limit nearly 200

lakes to a single walleye daily bag limit. This limitation impacts local business in a severe way. The April press release by Secretary Stepp observed that 2013 marked a drastic increase in the number of waters subject to this one-fish limit. She continued, "As we have stated publicly, the reduced bag limit has the potential to drive down angler participation throughout the summer, decreasing tourism to the lakes of northern Wisconsin, and impacting local economies. These are economies that are already suffering the impacts of reduced winter recreation and summer visits."

Walleye are not the only fish subject to stringent limitation on some waters. Absent prudent fisheries management, other species are in danger of going this direction. Strong and swift action is required. Revised think-

ing and innovative approaches are essential. One of the measures which needs to be considered is individual lake management. By this we mean increased authority for area fish managers to put into practice appropriate standards for individual lakes. This affords the local fisheries biologist the opportunity to exert hands-on influence on habitat improvement, fishing regulations and stocking regimens adapted to a body of water's individual potential.

Slot limits are another potential methodology for resource preservation. Slot limits are length regulations which limit angler harvest to only fish above or below a specified size. Consideration should also be given to reposing authority in the fishery biologists for setting quotas for any form of

(Continued on page 3)

Property Owners Association Ongoing Efforts For Protection And Improvement Of Our Lakes

By: Fred Haueter

The Property Owners Association, Inc. Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Area is a lake association that is over 20 years old. Our mission is to protect and preserve the natural environment, lakes, rivers, streams and forests of Eau Claire Lakes Area in Bayfield and Douglas Counties.

Throughout the history of the organization we have undertaken numerous efforts to educate property owners in the Eau Claire chain of lakes and all other lakes in Barnes, WI area on proper stewardship of the lakes and shorelines. Education efforts include holding seminars, having guest speakers at our meetings, and the distribution of pamphlets/newsletters to property owners. Our education efforts are directed at the following subjects: *lake water clarity and quality, sources of pollution/runoff and how to prevent and mitigate, rain gardens and native plant landscaping, shoreline habitat restoration – buffer zones and fishsticks, proper shoreline lighting, fish populations, aquatic invasive species – identification and prevention measures.*

We also coordinate and support (with volunteer time and money - \$1,342 in 2012) an ongoing program to educate 7th grade students at Drummond Middle School on the need for preservation of our lake resources. The semi-annual field trips on the Eau Claire Lakes, which is part of this program, provides the students an opportunity to experience nature, understand it more deeply, and to learn how to preserve and protect it.

In addition to education efforts, the Property Owners Association directly funds programs and provides volunteers who work to improve the Eau Claire and Barnes area lakes and protect them against invasive species. The programs in recent years include: the placement of fishsticks for improved aquatic habitat, funding for the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program by collecting and passing on donations from our members (\$2,970 in 2012), providing volunteers as boat landing monitors for the CBCW program, providing volunteers to assist in invasive species removal efforts (Eurasian Milfoil on Sand, George and

Tomahawk Lakes, Curly Pondweed in U. & M. Eau Claire), providing volunteers in the

DNR shoreline monitoring and the water sampling programs.



critical component in controlling the spread of invasive species in our lakes is early detection.

Take the time to monitor the aquatic species on your lake front, looking especially for:

- Eurasian Water Milfoil
- Curlyleaf pondweed
- Purple Loosestrife
- Zebra Mussels

If you find one of these species, or are uncertain about the identity of a particular vegetation, place a small specimen in a plastic bag and take it to one of the CBCW monitors – they will be on duty every weekend throughout the summer at the Middle, Upper and Lower Eau Claire Lakes landings. Or you can take it directly to Lee Wiesner, the Barnes Invasive Species Rapid Response coordinator -715-795-3156.

Visit the following website for identification tips and pictures:

<http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais>

Help keep our lakes free of invasive species and your name will be entered in the CBCW drawing.
You could win one of three \$25 gift certificates to an area restaurant!

Drawing will take place October 31st, 2013.

1. Enter the hours you spent each month monitoring your shoreline for invasive species and general vegetation.
2. Mail this form to the EWM committee by September 15th to have your name entered in the drawing.

_____	May, 2013
_____	June, 2013
_____	July, 2013
_____	August 2013
_____	September, 2013
_____	Total Hours 2013

Name: _____

Lake monitored: _____

Phone number after September 20th: _____

Mail To: EWM Committee, Barnes Town Hall, 3360 County HWY N, Barnes, WI 54873

POA Members -

The Town of Barnes Board of Supervisors is considering repealing the watercraft ordinance that limits water skiing, boarding, and personal watercraft use between the hours of 10:00 am and 5:00 pm. It could come up before the Town Board as early as the June

18 Board Meeting.

If you have an opinion on this, you need to act now. We suggest you email or write to the five town supervisors with your opinions. The Town of Barnes official website lists names and address of the town supervisors.

Treasurer's Report: April 30, 2013			
Property Owners Association, Inc. Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Area			
	2011	2012	2013
Income			
Memberships			
Associate \$15			45.00
Basic \$20	2,840.00	2,280.00	1,080.00
Contributing \$50	3,150.00	2,050.00	1,250.00
Sponsor \$100	2,500.00	2,100.00	1,100.00
Sustaining \$200			800.00
Patron \$400	2,400.00	2,000.00	400.00
Fund Donations			
Clean Waters/Clean Boats	3,300.00	1,965.00	725.00
Education	360.00	725.00	175.00
Environment	420.00		
Fish Sticks			
Phyllis Hudler Conservation Fund			
Misc Donation	180.00	520.00	1,130.00
Grants			
Douglas County Land & Water Cons			
DNR Education Grant			
CD Interest	40.61		
Total Income	15,190.61	11,640.00	6,705.00
Expense			
Fund Expenses			
Clean Waters/Clean Boats	(1,800.00)	(2,970.00)	0.00
Critical Habitat	0.00	0.00	0.00
Education	(2,708.55)	(1,342.40)	(1,861.73)
Fish Sticks	0.00	(192.51)	0.00
Phyllis Hudler Conservation Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	(358.73)	0.00	0.00
Advertising	(289.18)	(739.47)	0.00
Newsletter	(3,703.64)	(3,988.35)	0.00
Administrative Expense	(2,675.97)	(2,517.13)	(1,323.61)
Donations and Memberships	(875.00)	(780.00)	0.00
Conservation	0.00	(1,093.72)	0.00
Total Expense	(12,411.07)	(13,623.58)	(3,185.34)
Yearly Net Income	2,779.54	(1,983.58)	3,519.66
Income carryover from previous years:			16,974.60
Cash Balance: Drummond State Bank 4/30/13			25,838.01
Outstanding Checks			(200.00)
Total Cash Balance			25,638.01

May 2013 Executive Board, POA

Name	Mail Address	Phone Number	Email	Term Expires
Ron Carlson Secretary	283 Skyline Parkway Athens, GA 30606 P.O. Box 28 13340 S. Urban Rd. Gordon, WI 54838	715-376-4531 706-542-5186	leecar@uga.edu carlson4058@att.net	'15
Tom Boman President	1231 Maryland Street Duluth, MN 55811	218-724-2317 218-491-4595	tboman@d.umn.edu	'13
Leslie Hall	51320 S. Call'o Wild Rd. Barnes, WI 54873	715-795-2525	campleslie@yahoo.com	'15
Fred Haueter Treasurer	2645 Lake Road Barnes, WI 54873	715-795-3492	fwhaueter@yahoo.com	'13
Ted Eastlund	13920 E. Mail Rd. Gordon, WI 54838	715-376-4681	deastlund@salud.unm.edu	'14
Bob Hershey	12647 Executive Acres Rd. Brainerd, MN 56401	715-795-2803	rhershey@q.com	'14
Carol Person Membership Chair	26 S. 30th Ave. E. Duluth, MN 55812	715-795-2951	settlecase@charter.net	'13
Cris Neff	50510 Martin Rd. Barnes, WI 54873	715-795-3227	cneff86@gmail.com	'15
Thom Storm	6270 Smith Lake Road Barnes, WI 54873 1906 W. Kent Rd. Duluth, MN 55812	715-795-2974 218-728-6368	peacepark2@aol.com	'13
Carole Rusch	14088 Sunny Shores Drive Gordon, WI 54838	715-376-4274	carolerusch5@gmail.com	'14
Carl Heltné	49235 E. Shore Rd. Barnes, WI 54873	715-795-2124	cehmd@cheqnet.net	'15

Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference

Friday, June 21, 2013
Spooner High School, Spooner, WI
\$40.00 Lunch included
8:30 Continental breakfast
Morning and afternoon sessions

The Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference is one of Wisconsin's premier lake events. To be held this year at Spooner High School, the all day program will again be a great opportunity for lake enthusiasts, local government officials and others interested in protecting our water resources to take in a number of educational presenta-

tions, visit informative exhibits, and network with conference attendees.

This year's keynote address will be presented by Christine Thomas, Dean of UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources, who will speak on the "Citizen's Role In Conservation." Other presenters include representatives of DNR, UW-Extension, UW-Madison and others speaking on topics such as aquatic plant management, enforcing shoreline laws, changing water levels, aquatic invasive species, lake science & wildlife, lake policy, and more.

Think Twice Before Using Fireworks (excerpted from Bayfield County Lakes Reflections)

"Some people think using fireworks is patriotic. There is nothing patriotic, however, about U.S. consumers sending millions of dollars to China for fireworks, then using them to pollute our woods and waters and risking the safety of themselves and others."

*Fireworks present a fire danger to the surrounding area and are a safety hazard for children and pets.

*Fireworks create air, light and noise pollution.

*Permits are required for fireworks that leave the ground or explode. It is suggested they not be used, except, perhaps, near the Fourth of July and not be shot over the lake or late at night.

Remember, fireworks are pretty for an instant; the beauty of our lakes is forever.

The Watercraft Ordinance

Legend has it that back in 1948 famed outdoor writer and property owner on the Middle Eau Claire lake, Gordon Macquarie, got together with some buddies over coffee at the Coffee Cup (now Maki's Family Restaurant) to discuss a problem on the lake. They worried about the advent of big new outboard motors developed during World War II that were now appearing on the Middle Eau Claire Lake and pulling water skiers. These new motors were loud and the wake upset small fishing boats. So they proposed a solution. Water skiers could have access to the lake starting at 10:00 am and use it until 5:00 pm. Before 10:00 and after 5:00 it was time for the fisherman and anyone else using small motors or quiet craft like canoes. That seemed to be an acceptable compromise and they sold the idea to the Town of Barnes supervisors. The supervisors passed a town ordinance that established what we now call the "Watercraft Ordinance". The ordinance covered all of the lakes in the Town of Barnes. The ordinance now includes wake boarders, and jet boats in addition to water skiers. And the hours remain as in the original ordinance: Water skiers, wake boarders, and jet boats can frolic to their hearts content between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Sometime in the 1990's, the Town of Gordon also passed an ordinance similar to the Town of Barnes to solve the dilemma for the Lower Eau Claire Lake that had half the lake with a watercraft ordinance and half that did not given that the west half of the lake is in Barnes Township and east half in Gordon Township.

Most people who now own property on any of the Eau Claire Lakes chain likely bought their property after the ordinance was

in effect. And many of those owners made the decision to buy because of the ordinance - they valued the peace and quiet of the time before 10:00 and after 5:00 that the ordinance provides.

But there are folks who would like to water ski and jet boat before 10:00 or after 5:00, especially after 5:00. And now and then they approach either the Barnes or Gordon town supervisors with the idea to modify, or repeal, the watercraft ordinance. Whenever that has happened in the past, the town boards have polled the lake owners and those lake owners have supported the ordinance. So the ordinance hours have prevailed.

There is now a new group of folks who would like to repeal the ordinance. They have brought the issue of repeal before the Town of Barnes supervisors. The chair of the Town of Barnes Board, Tom Krob, has indicated that he would like to take some time to study the issues and hear from his constituents and lake property owners before putting the issue formally on the agenda.

The Board of Directors of the Eau Claire Lakes Property Owners Association has discussed the ordinance and has voted unanimously in support of the present ordinance and have transmitted that support to the members of the Town board.

If you have an opinion, you should do likewise. One suggestion is to email the members of the Town of Barnes supervisors. You can find their names and address on the Barnes website. Or, you can write them directly and address your letters to: Town of Barnes Clerk, Brenda Blake, Town of Barnes, 3360 Co. Rd. N., Barnes, Wisconsin 54873.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Update 6/1/13

Lee Wiesner, Town of Barnes AIS Rapid Response Coordinator

Tomahawk Lake- Several patches of Eurasian Water-milfoil (EWM) still persist. Spot chemical treatment is planned this spring. Many plants are just starting due to the late ice out. Post treatment visual surveys will be conducted.

Sandbar Lake- Patches of EWM are present in many locations around the lake. A whole lake chemical treatment is planned this spring. Post treatment visual surveys will be conducted.

George Lake- George Lake was treated with chemical last June, this spring no EWM has been found yet. Visual surveys of the lake will continue with the efforts by volunteers.

Upper Eau Claire Lake- Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) was discovered last spring. Five small patches were found in the shallow water in Pease Bay. Hand pulling was done by volunteers but some plants persisted. A survey done, by a contractor, on May 26, 2013, turned up more deep water plants in Pease Bay in about 14 feet of water. These plants are adjacent to water in the 30 foot depth range making chemical treatment very tricky due to the dilution factor. A plan of action is being developed now and may not include chemical treatment this year as the scheduled summer survey will provide more information on plant distribution and density. For now only continued hand pulling is scheduled for this summer.

Middle Eau Claire Lake- Last spring 5 small patches of CLP were found in the south

bay of the lake. Three were very close to the boat landing and two straight across from the boat landing. Volunteers pulled on all 5 patches several times, but some plants remained. No other CLP plants were found during the contracted lake survey done on May 26, 2013. As of this time CLP has been found in only 2 of last year's 5 patches. A summer survey by the contractor should provide more data to determine our plan of attack. For now, only continued hand pulling is scheduled for this summer.

The Clean Boats Clean Waters Boat Landing monitoring is in place and more volunteers would be welcomed. Contact Sally Pease (715-795-2936) if you would like to volunteer some time at the boat landings.

Currently we have approximately 60 shoreline monitors who inspect 30 area lakes for AIS. Please contact Lee Wiesner (715-795-3156) if you would like to learn how to become a shoreline monitor or what is involved.

A shoreline monitor training session presented by Jeremy Bates, Bayfield County Invasive Species Coordinator, will be held again this June. Invitations will be sent out to the shoreline monitors who did not attend the training last June. Class size is limited to 30, thus the need for invitations.

If your busy schedule does not permit time for volunteering, please consider a monetary contribution through the POA for the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program.

POA Annual Meeting July 21, 2012

President Tom Boman called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. at the Barnes Town Hall. The minutes of the 2011 meeting had been printed in the June, 2012 Association newsletter, and they were approved. Fred Haueter presented the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$22,413.55. Carol Person was introduced as Membership Chair, and Carol described plans for membership expansion, enhancement of donations, and the need for funds to advance environmental objectives. A bylaw revision was approved which added the Membership Chair to the Executive Committee of the Association's board of directors, an addition to Article VI, Section 4.

Election of Board Members Retiring board members Charles Ledin and Shelby Woodard were replaced by Ted Eastland and Carl Heltné. Also approved by the membership were new terms for Cris Neff, Leslie Hall, and Ron Carlson.

Milfoil and AIS Report Ingemar Ekstrom circulated a sample of milfoil, and he reported on the course of treatment of milfoil on infected lakes, including George Lake, Tomahawk and Sandbar. The Clean Boats/Clean Waters program needs volunteers, Ingemar pointed out. He also covered the ways citizens can help to identify and protect against the spread of milfoil. The Bayfield County AIS coordinator was present, and Lee Wiesner recognized him for a description of milfoil, to assist in making identification of invasive plants. Pondweed was addressed by Lee as he described how it grows, and the work of volunteers in pulling pondweed from Middle and Upper lakes. He also mentioned a potential survey to locate the presence of curly leaf pondweed, and a grant application (Early detection and rapid

response) to help spot the location of invasive plants. Shoreline monitoring is also important, Lee said, and an educational program to assist these monitors is in place.

Other Business Educational efforts by the Association include a fishing forum which will be open to the public, on August 25 at 9 a.m. in Barnes Town Hall. Speakers are scheduled to address walleyes, muskies, and projected future populations of various fish species in our lake areas. Jerry Kaiser discussed educational outreach to area students. The Association has an active and vigorous program which includes getting students into canoes for environmental field trips. Building awareness on the part of students for lake preservation and water quality protection is an important aim. Jon Harkness circulated the 2010 Report of the Ad Hoc Lake District Committee, and discussed issues involved information of a lake district.

Loon Program Fred Haueter introduced Lorna Wilson, loon ranger who speaks for Loon Watch. She moved to our lakes area in 2002 from New York, and banded loons in the boundary waters. Lorna described the work of Loon Watch, and she explained why loons nest close to shore. Loons can dive to 210 feet, and can stay down for 2 minutes. When they fly, they can attain a speed of 70 m.p.h. Loons live from 25 to 30 years old. Loons are among the first birds to return from migration in the Spring. Two eggs per season is the average reproduction cycle. The topic of how to promote loons came next, including improving water clarity, restoration of shoreline, septic system updates, and keeping lead out of lakes.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.
Ron Carlson, POA Secretary

ECLAPOA Membership Committee Report 2013

	2010#	2011#	2012#	2013#	
Memberships					
Associate \$15			4	3	*
Basic \$20	143	142	63	143	*
Contributing \$50	42	63	38	16	*
Sponsor \$100				10	*
Sustaining \$200	17	25	19	4	*
Patron \$400	6	12	5	5	*
Total	208	242	125	181	

* Note- There has been a change in membership categories and category rates for the year 2013.

As of May 19, 189 forms (households) have been returned and paid through Dec., 31, 2013
Carol Person, Chair

Fishing Excellence in Wisconsin:

(Continued from page 1)

fish harvest.

All of this will result in the enactment of special fishing regulations, an inevitable byproduct of this proposal. We think this is desirable. Wisconsin lakes are not a one-size-fits-all resource. Adaptation to local conditions will result in increased fish populations, and sizes.

How can we be confident about the accuracy of the foregoing conclusion? Because the process has already been tried, and proven. Today, about 250 lakes and more than 80 streams are subject to special fishing regulations in Minnesota. These regulations, similar in several respects to what is being requested for Wisconsin, are a strategic approach for producing bigger fish, and more fish. Minnesota DNR is enthusiastic about the results, and so are many local anglers. As reported in a recent Minnesota DNR release, Walker (MN) fisheries supervisor Doug Schultz noted an improvement in the quality of pike, bluegill and crappie populations where special regulations have been used. Schultz added these improved populations are attracting anglers from other areas, including out of state. "This has been great for the tourism-based businesses in northern Minnesota."

What specifically is required to incorporate the "special regulations" model in Wisconsin? Existing restrictions which hamper prompt action by area fish biologists need to be swept aside. It is anticipated that these specialists will consult relevant local groups as the biologists establish new rules. Such groups might include organizations

like conservation clubs or lake associations. LeRoy Wiesner, formerly with Wisconsin DNR, has observed that currently the process to set a local bag limit or size limit dedicated to a particular lake "takes at least 4 years." The 3 to 4 year timeframe is highly unsatisfactory. "Fish population dynamics change so rapidly on some lakes that the rule that was proposed 4 years ago is no longer the proper rule for the lake," Wiesner concludes.

Recommendations We are asking that angler, civic, lake association and other public interest groups join us in this plea for enlarged flexibility for area fish managers. Shaping guidelines for each lake's unique qualities is a potent weapon in the fight for fisheries excellence. Communicating your approval of this approach to two state officials is a recommended approach. Those most directly involved are DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp, and DNR Fisheries Section Chief Mike Staggs. We are sending them, "Fishing Excellence in Wisconsin: The Case for Expanded Local Regulation." You can simply tell them that you endorse the ideas contained in this paper, or draft your own document. Thanks for your consideration of our ideas to preserve Wisconsin fishing.

Conservation Club, Barnes, WI
Eau Claire Lakes Area Property Owners Association

Addressees:
Secretary Cathy Stepp, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Email: DNRSecretary@Wisconsin.gov
Bureau Director, Mike Staggs, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Email: mike.staggs@wisconsin.gov



What is it?

~ Remember The Date ~
Annual Meeting
July 20, 2013
"Food from the Lake"
August 24, 2013

2013 POA Membership Form		
Please send to: Property Owners Association Inc. Eau Claire Lakes Area 50490 Wisconsin Hwy 27 Solon Springs, WI 54873-4402		
Name(s)		
Home Residence Street		
City	State	Zip
Phone Number	Email	
Lake Area Residence		
Nearest Lake		
Address	Zip	
Home Phone Number	Email	
Cell Phone Number		

Membership Level – Check One		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Basic Membership - \$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contributing Membership- \$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining Membership - \$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron Membership - \$200	<input type="checkbox"/>

CBCW Sponsor Contribution		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weekend Sponsor - \$200	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Half Day Sponsor - \$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Day Sponsor - \$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Amount- \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

<input type="checkbox"/>	Education Fund - \$ _____
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We are willing to help with these environmental protection projects:	
Comments:	

Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop: History Of Aquatic Invasive Species And Treatments In The Eau Claire And St. Croix River Watershed



Joann Zosel, science teacher in the Solon Springs Schools and her students help prevent the spread of invasive species locally.



John Kudlas, Fred Haueter and Scott Peterson were instrumental in organizing the AIS Workshop held at the Barnes Town Hall.

A workshop on current developments in managing invasive species was held Saturday, April 20, at the Barnes Town Hall. Speakers addressed the history, as well as recent findings and plans to control the spread of invasive plants such as Purple Loosestrife (PL), Yellow Flag, Eurasian Water-milfoil (EWM) and Curley-leaf Pondweed (CLP), in the watershed. The Upper St. Croix-Eau Claire Rivers Watershed Alliance, which includes Upper St. Croix Lake, St. Croix River, and Flowage, as well as the Eau Claire Lakes and Eau Claire River, including waters in both Douglas and Bayfield Counties, sponsored the event.

Concerned local residents as well as state AIS professionals attended the four hour event, co-sponsored by the Eau Claire Lakes

Area Property Owners Association (ECLAPOA) and the Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters (FOTSCH) and coordinated by Scott Peterson and Fred Haueter.

Speakers included Joanne Zosel, science teacher in the Solon Springs School District, and her high school students, who spend time and effort every year to control the spread of Purple Loosestrife and Yellow Flag in the St. Croix Lake watershed. Her students dig up bulbs of PL along the roadsides and wetlands in Solon Springs and capture and then release PL beetles in areas of infestation.

Lee Wiesner, AIS area Rapid Response Coordinator for the Eau Claire Lakes area, outlined the history of AIS in the Eau Claire Lakes chain as well as Tomahawk, George, and Sandbar Lakes located in northern

Barnes. EWM was found in Tomahawk and Sandbar Lakes in 2004 and in George Lake in 2011. It continues to be a challenge despite a series of chemical treatments.

Purple Loosestrife was found in the Lower Eau Claire Lake and in the Cranberry Lake channel as early as the 1990's and has been consistently dug and chemically treated. This quick jumpstart has limited the spread of PL to nearby wetland areas.

Curley Water Pondleaf was found at the Middle Eau Claire Lake boat landing in May, 2012, by a Drummond 7th grader participating in an Eco-Education Day, and then found shortly later in Pease Bay of Upper Eau Claire Lake. As a result of all of these findings, the Barnes AIS Committee established a shoreline monitoring program to educate residents and help them monitor the lakes for

AIS. So far, 46 property owners have volunteered to monitor shorelines on over 30 lakes in the Eau Claire Lakes area. Lakes, with approximately half of those volunteers going through a formal training session. Another formal training session will be held on June 22.

Matt Berg, who has completed extensive aquatic plant surveys within the watershed, and who teaches science in the Grantsburg School District, brought his senior science students and together they talked about water quality in area lakes and about minimizing human impact on lakes and rivers, providing the audience with a "tip sheet" useful to all those who value water quality.

Other speakers included Carrie Sanda who explained Douglas County's AIS control program in the Lake Superior Watershed, as well as Roger Wilson, from the St. Croix Flowage Assn., who reviewed early responses to EM in the Flowage.

Exhibitors included: Diane Daulton, Lake Superior AIS Specialist for the Lake Superior Watershed; Pamela Roberts from Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Assn.; Sally Pease from Clean Boats Clean Waters (Barnes); Scott Peterson, Aquatic Plants Visual Identification Field Guide; Pam Toshner, Critical Habitat Designations and Recommendations of the Eau Claire Lakes Area.

AIS are becoming an increasing problem in the watershed, and pro-active steps are being taken by professionals and volunteers to combat them.

Another Successful Eco-education Day or "LEEP Day"



Volunteers for L.E.E.P. Day



7th grade science students from Drummond Schools took tree borings to determine ages of trees.

Formerly the Eco-education program, the Lake Ecology Education Program or LEEP has once again combined local resources for the education of our youth. Professional educators, Eau Claire Lakes Area Property Owners Education Committee members, and local community members worked together to provide 22 Drummond 7th graders with an activity filled, hands-on lake stewardship experience on Lower Eau Claire Lake. The seventh graders arrived by bus at Camp Andresen on a drizzly May 14th morning with 7th grade science teacher Andy Arthur, 7th grade English teacher Tori Kane and four Drummond High School students, Mitch Bonk, Gunner Peterson, Bryan Levandoski and Evan Semrau, who served as junior faculty and safety monitors.

The well prepared, curious and energetic students quickly divided into 2 groups of 8 and one of 6 for three simultaneous rotations of 45 minutes each with a cookie/water break in between the first two rotation segments.

ROTATIONS

*Macro Invertebrates supervised by John Kudlas, assisted by Jeremy Bates, Bayfield County AIS Coordinator, and Sally Pease, Clean Boats/Clean Waters Boat Landing Coordinator, and Ted Eastlund, who added a new session on plankton. Students used waders and boots to collect and identify Macro Invertebrates, and canoes provided by Scott Peterson and Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters (FOTSCH) to paddle out on the bay and collect samples to analyze for water temperature, water quality and plant life. The Mooney Bay area of Lower Eau Claire

offered great examples of critical habitat for fish, birds and animals.

*Tree Study with clinometers and tree borers supervised by Larry Hanson and Fred Haueter and assisted by Jack Gribble, and Pam Roberts, Bayfield County Land and Water. Students identified trees and learned to use tree borings to tell tree age and the clinometers to estimate height measurements of trees.

*Shoreline Restoration, supervised by Travis Tulowitzky, Bayfield County Land and Water, assisted by Sue Jansen, and Carrie Sanda, Douglas County AIS Coordinator. They helped students understand the value of restoring and/or maintaining natural shorelines. The students were given the opportunity to plant white pine seedlings as well as other native grasses and plants that reduce erosion and runoff on the shoreline.

Lunch was followed by the Afternoon Scavenger Hunt. This added a further element of fun and encompassed the topics from the fall 7th grade LEEP day as well as the Spring indoor and outdoor labs. Food/Energy Relationships were an area of particular interest to the students as they applied their investigative abilities to the mystery of locating, identifying and collecting data for herbivores, omnivores, carnivores in various phyla along with producers and decomposers, while traversing the littoral zone of the Eau Claire River by the Mooney Dam.

After the Scavenger Hunt the day's events were brought to an exciting close with the students demonstrating the canoe skills they had developed during the Fall and Spring

LEEP field trips. The eleven canoe teams challenged each other to a race around 4 pre-placed buoys. Despite a brisk wind that had picked up (this was the afternoon of the forest fire) all of the canoe teams

successfully made it back in record time. Following a highlighting of the day's lessons

Ice And Fire

"Some say the world will end in fire, Others say in ice"
Robert Frost "Fire and Ice"



Fishermen had a hard time navigating through the ice on May 5th, open day of the fishing season in WI.

Northwest Wisconsin experienced both ice and fire in quick succession. On the Fishing Opener, May 5, 2013, this photograph was taken on Mooney Bay of Lower Eau Claire Lake (LECL). Three boats left the boat landing on Lower that day, got to the channel by Clearwater Resort and discovered the ice blocking the entry to LECL. They did a little fishing in the bay and left.

The ice did not go out on many of the larger lakes until the second week of May. And then came fire...

The Germann Road Fire started on Tuesday, May 14 at 2:45 p.m. one mile north of CTH Y.

learned, the students displayed great enthusiasm picking up and loading equipment before returning to the bus and school.

This Spring a photo journalism component has been added to the LEEP curriculum and creatively modified by Tori Kane. Students can choose to present their adventures of the day through the photographs they took using underwater cameras in a variety of genres, for example, a television ad or a bedtime story.

The curriculum for LEEP Day is available on the Town of Barnes Website under Eau Claire Lakes Area Property Owners Association thanks to the efforts of Education Committee members Jerry Kaiser, John Kudlas, Cris Neff, Robert Hershey, Fred Haueter and Ted Eastlund.

The temperature was 82 degrees with S-SW winds of 12-21 mph.

Logging equipment being used in the area caused the fire.

Eventually, the fire destroyed 8,131 acres (12.7 square miles and was the largest fire in the area in 33 years. 77 structures were saved and 47 lost, of those, seven were residences. Containment was declared at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15.

Forty fire departments and 28 cooperating agencies cooperated to fight the fire, along with 4 planes and a number of helicopters that scooped water from nearby lakes to dump on the fire.

Colin Nowaczyk (DNR) Barnes Ranger Station also reported precipitation figure for the Barnes area:

January	.98 (.02 above average)
February	.83 (9.03 below average)
March	1.03 (.55 below average)
April	4.38 (1.85 above average, mostly in the form of snow)

Total rainfall up until May 18th was 4.60, 2.23 of which fell on May 18th helping tremendously to put out the fire.

Colin Nowaczyk and Carole Rusch