

Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association Newsletter



Fall/Winter 2004 Issue

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Lake Lines

President's Column



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Burr! Guess that summer is done for another year. The docks, boats and lifts are rapidly disappearing from the lakeshores all over the county. We still have about a month for the hard core fishermen to be out there on the water before freeze up. Probably the time of year that many of you love for its quiet beauty, to say nothing of the abundant color we have in our fall trees.

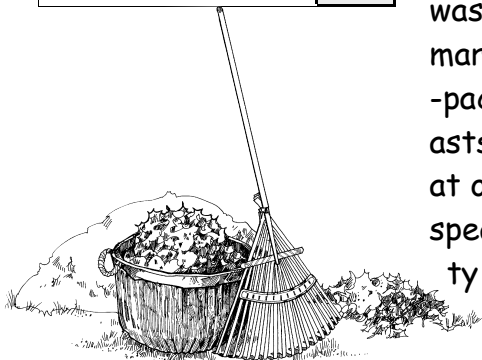
This summer, we were able to sponsor two Boater Safety classes. Hopefully, we can continue to promote these in our county. Another great event happened at Cable, WI this summer. The Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference was held on June 25 at the Telemark Lodge. It was a day of action-packed activities for lake enthusiasts. The governor addressed us at our noon meal; also several top speakers, addressing a wide variety of lake issues. If you were not

able to attend this year, keep the last Friday of June open for 2005. NWLC will be back bigger and better than ever. Burnett County Lakes & Rivers is one of the sponsors for this event and is heavily involved in the planning.

One more meeting of the BCL&R board (and interested members) will be called this year to discuss plans for river (and lake) water monitoring in the future. The meeting will be held November 6 at the BC Government Center beginning at 10:00 a.m. For more information, please call UW-Extension Mike Kornmann at 349-2151.

On the messy subject of waterway permits in Wisconsin, I want to call your attention to the article in this issue titled, "Revised Emergency Rules for Waterway Permits."

Continued...see page 2



Presidents Column—continued

There are three good contacts listed in the article for specific questions that you may have. It is a complex subject and the article is straight forward. Basically, you still need to do a lot of checking before you start a shoreline project in Burnett County and anywhere in Wisconsin.

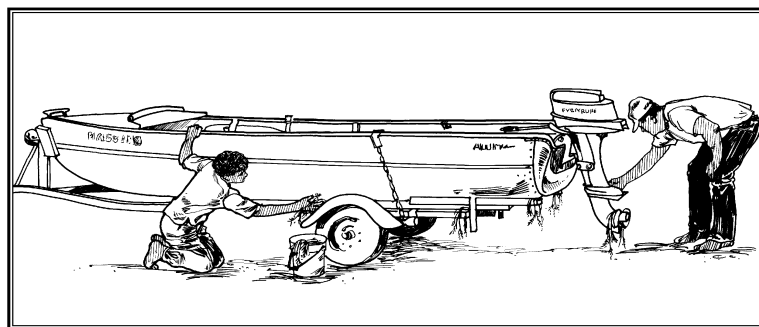
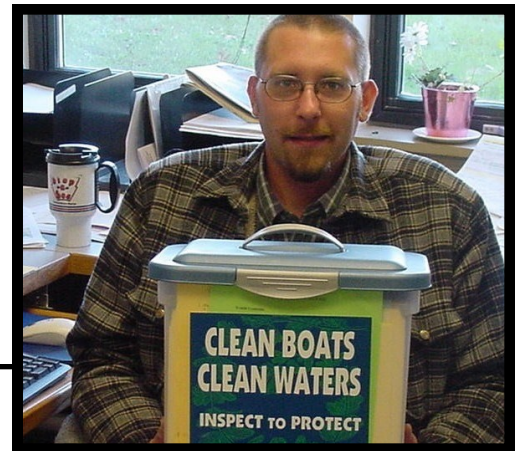
You will notice a big change in this newsletter. UWEX has had budget cuts like most government agencies in Wisconsin. Starting with this publication, we will be using advertising to offset the cost of getting the newsletter out. The Board asks that you show your support of these advertisers by thanking them and visiting their businesses when you are shopping. Plans are to continue to do the usual two issues per year.

Burnett County Lake leaders and lake lovers may continue to contact me at frkruger@discover-net.net. This group of Lakes & Rivers people will get only timely information in an abbreviated format. If you would like to be added to this group, please e-mail me at the above address and I will add you to this list.

Fred Kruger, President

Clean Boats, Clean Water Kits

The Burnett County Land & Water Conservation Department would like to remind any lake association that didn't attend the "Clean Boats, Clean Water" workshop that a couple of extra kits are available for use. The kits do not include the "full blown" training that was provided at the workshop, but gives a short version that will get you started on protecting your lake from Eurasian Water Milfoil and other aquatic invaders. If interested, call the Burnett County Land & Water Conservation Department at 715-349-2186.



Watercraft Inspectors Stop Exotic Plant From Entering Pelican Lake

Rhineland--During voluntary inspections of boats and equipment entering the lake for a fishing tournament last Saturday, inspectors found Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) on a boat trailer.

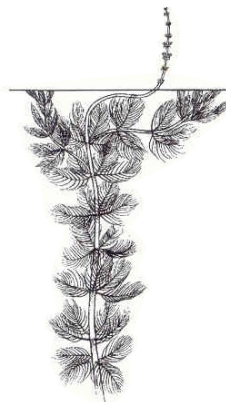
Using flashlights in the pre-dawn hours to look over the boats and trailers, Lori Regni, DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Program technician joined Pelican Lake Property Owners Association volunteers, Steve Sharon, Paul Schmidt and Andrew Litke in conducting inspections at two of the landings. Regni found the plants on a trailer that was used the previous weekend on Dane County's Lake Waubesa, known to harbor EWM.

"This illustrates the need for boaters to be extra diligent in examining their equipment," said Regni. The owner, who was obviously mortified, reported that he and his father had inspected and removed what they thought were all the plants present on the boat and trailer. Thirty-three boats were inspected; five had plant material.

Pelican Lake Property Owners Association members, along with other lake associations and individuals, had taken a course in Clean Boats - Clean Water offered by the University of Wisconsin and the Department of Natural Resources.

"We cover tow of our landings during peak times on holiday weekends and now fishing tournament events," said Steve Sharon. "We were originally concerned about lakes infested nearby, like Lake Metonga and, now, Enterprise Lake, never imagining that plants would hold on to equipment from as far away as Madison.."

Eurasian Water Milfoil can form dense colonies in lakes, impeding boating, swimming and fish migration. Each Milfoil strand can grow to 20 feet long. All it takes is about a three, says Regni, hitchhiking on boating equipment, to start a new plant in a new waterway. Statewide over 400 lakes have been battling the plant and the goal is to stop the spread from lake to lake.



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Fighting Eurasian Milfoil- How Lake Associations Can Help

Our beautiful state of Wisconsin is blessed with 15,081 lakes. These wonderful waters present us with many avenues for enjoyment and a quality of life that becomes more important and more challenged each year. One of the latest challenges places our lakes and rivers under attack from many forms of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). For many years we've read and heard about problems arising from lamprey eels attacking fish in the Great Lakes, zebra mussels clogging rivers and streams (now in the St. Croix as far as St. Croix Falls), purple loosestrife and Eurasian milfoil overtaking lakes such as Minnetonka.

We in Burnett County and Northwestern Wisconsin have felt fortunate that these problems have had minimal impact on our waters so far. But guess what - the AIS have found us and we no longer can be passive about the problems they bring! Unless we take a strong, pro-active approach, we run the risk of suffering the same fate as much of southern Wisconsin, where some counties have as many as 50 lakes with AIS in the form of Eurasian milfoil. Two years ago, Burnett County had no lakes with Eurasian milfoil - in 2004, we have three lakes being attacked by Eurasian milfoil, an AIS that can grow two inches per day up to 20 feet long.

The DNR and UW-Extension have developed a program called Clean Boats, Clean Waters, dedicated to combating the effects of AIS. Seminars regarding this program were held across the state this year, and members of the Love Lake Association attended the Burnett County seminar. Volunteers received educational materials for distribution, as well as training in how to do boat inspections and communicate with boat owners in a friendly and non-threatening way. The Love Lake Association chose one day during the 4th of July holiday, and stationed rotating teams of volunteers at the boat launch area from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. These volunteers were able to reach a total of 44 boat owners with material and information on the AIS problem, and all were very receptive and appreciative of these efforts to keep our waters clean. Love Lake volunteers have continued to monitor the boat launch area throughout the summer.

The goal of the Clean Boats - Clean Waters program is to fight the threat that AIS brings to our waters through the use of education and outreach in 2005. Placing trained groups of volunteers at as many launching sites as possible can be an excellent and successful tool in accomplishing this goal. Anyone can become involved - Lake Associations, Scout groups, school groups, etc.

For more information about Clean Boats - Clean Waters, contact:

Laura Felda, Volunteer Coordinator, Invasive Species Program
UW Extension Lakes
1900 Franklin Street
Stevens Point, WI 55481

Phone: 715-346-3366
e-mail: Lfelda@uwsp.edu

For more information on how the Love Lake Association organized their efforts, call:

Buck Gooding 715-656-7628 e-mail: lovelake@centurytel.net

Revised Emergency Rules for Waterway Permits in Effect Now

Revised emergency rules are in effect now to help the state carry out new legislation that exempts riprap replacement, riprap repair and 16 other waterfront activities from environmental review unless those activities are planned for sensitive waters.

Habitat protection officials encourage property owners who want to proceed with any of those 18 activities to fill out a request form to have state habitat experts determine whether the project is exempt for permitting under the revised emergency rules.

Upon receiving a request form, the Department of Natural Resources has 15 days to determine whether the project is exempt from permitting under 2003 Wisconsin Act 118. The forms, known as "exemption determination requests," can be obtained at DNR service centers or found on DNR's website [Http://dnr.wi.gov/org/waterwaypermits/exemptionrequest.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/waterwaypermits/exemptionrequest.pdf)

On August 16, the Natural Resources Board approved revised emergency rules that the legislative committee subsequently approved. The rules have been published in the state newspaper of record and became effective August 24.

The revised emergency rules shorten the list of sensitive waters, effectively allowing the 18 activities to proceed on more waters without DNR review. But the emergency rule revisions now in effect add more design and location specifications for people to meet for their projects to be exempt on lakes and rivers not on the sensitive waters list. The additional standards, including some prohibitions on doing some work during certain fish spawning seasons, are intended to ensure the project doesn't harm critical fish habitat, water quality, natural scenic beauty and boating, according to Mike Staggs, director of DNR's fisheries management and habitat protection program.

The revised emergency rules affect Natural Resources Chapter NR1, 310, 320, 328, 329, 343, and 345 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. The emergency pier rule, Chapter NR 326, remains suspended. DNR is now working with a group of waterfront property owners, anglers, realtors, marine operators and other stakeholders to develop proposed permanent rules governing piers.

Biological shore erosion controls, replacement or repair of culverts up to 24 inches in diameter, fish cribs, pilings, riprap repair or replacement, and seasonal boat shelters, boat lifts, boat hoists and wildlife habitat structures are among the 18 activities 2003 Wisconsin Act 118 exempted from DNR's permit and review process unless those activities were proposed for sensitive public waters.

Until DNR is able to update its online databases and other materials, filling out an exemption determination request form is the easiest and safest way for property owners to understand how their waterfront plans are affected by the revised emergency rules. The revised emergency rules will be in effect for at least six months, and likely through the spring until the state adopts permanent rules to carry out Act 118.

Contacts:

*Mike Staggs
(608) 267-0796*

*Mary Ellen Vollbrecht
(608) 264-8554*

*Todd Ambts
(608) 264-6278*

Turf vs. Trees What's Best on the Lakeshore?

"Reprinted from Lake Tides" Summer 2004 v.29(3)

The escalation of shore land development in northern Wisconsin has brought with it the concern that this domestication of our shores may impact lake-water quality. In order to assess the effects of development on lakes, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the U.S Geological Survey conducted a study to explore the differences in nutrient movement to lakes, from lawns and forested areas near lakes in northern Wisconsin.

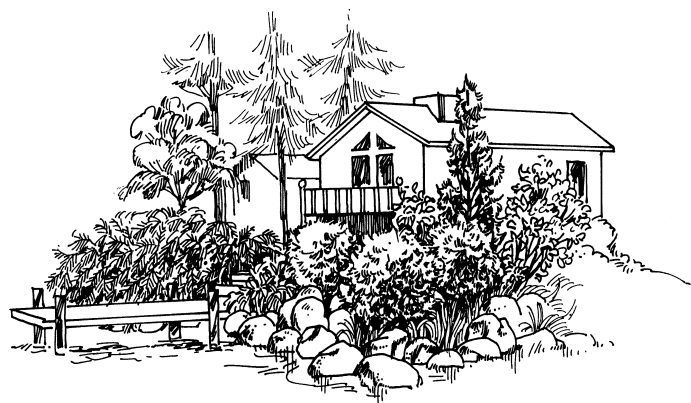
The study monitored adjacent lawns and wooded areas continuously for a 23-month period. Data was collected on precipitation, surface and ground-water flow, water quality, soil temperature and moisture. The study examined paired sites on Lower Nine Mile, Butternut, Anvil and Kentuck Lakes in Forest and Vilas counties. The lawn sites consisted mainly of turf grass but did include a portion of a porch at one of the sites. The wooded sites consisted of varying mixtures of mature and immature, deciduous and coniferous trees, plus a ground cover of leaf litter and other decaying organic matter.

Results

The volume of water that ran off the wooded areas was generally an order of magnitude less than the volume that ran off the lawns. The low runoff observed in the wooded areas may have been due to a number of factors:

- The tree canopy probably intercepted a portion of the precipitation.
- The thick organic-matter layer and leaf litter at the surface may have absorbed the rainfall.
- The upper soils may have been able to absorb more moisture because they would be less compacted than lawns. The forested areas would have a natural increase in porosity caused by such things as worm holes, root tunnels, and insect borings.

The nutrient concentrations of the lawn runoff were compared to the adjacent woods runoff concentrations. In most cases, concentrations of nutrient in lawn runoff were not significantly different from concentrations of runoff in adjacent woods. Because of the greater volume of runoff from the lawn areas as compared to the wooded sites, the total amount (or mass) of nutrients lost from the lawn sites was much greater than from the In the case of phosphorus, the difference was approximately eight-fold.



Conclusions

The study points out the significant role of water movement in the transfer of nutrients from land to water. Less water is absorbed by the lawns therefore more water flows over the lawns than over the wooded areas. In this study the amount of nutrients coming from lawns was significantly greater than the amounts of nutrients coming from the wooded areas.

This study indicates surface-runoff from the wooded sites will have less effect on the lake water quality than the surface-runoff from the lawn sites. Runoff volumes were the most important factor in determining whether lawns or woods contributed more nutrients to lakes. The higher the volume of water flowing over the land, the more nutrients it can carry.

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What You can Do

If you must have a turf grass lawn, choose wisely. Resist the urge to grade to the lake, limit compacting the soil and use landscaping techniques such as swales and rain gardens that slow or stop water flow toward the lake. It will also help if you limit the existence of lawns that run to the water's edge.

You can reduce the adverse effect of the lawn on lake-water quality by having natural vegetation buffering areas between any lawn and the lake. For complete details of this study go to <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/wri/wrir-03-4144/>

Study finds nutrient loss from near shore areas in northern Wisconsin is 8 times greater from turf than from trees..

[//water.usgs.gov/pubs/wri/wrir-03-4144/](http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/wri/wrir-03-4144/)

Attack of the Rusty Crayfish: Fish and Vegetation Threatened

How often do you think about crayfish? How much threat could a crayfish be anyways, right? Well, there are several kinds of crayfish and a new kind in area lakes is creating a threat to our fish, vegetation, and recreation on our lakes. The rusty crayfish, much bigger than our native crayfish, has rusty spots on each side of its carapace. It's claws area also much bigger.

The rusty crayfish is of concern because it competes with native species and destroys aquatic plant beds. Because of their size, the rusty crayfish displace native crayfish from cover that makes them then very vulnerable to predator fish. Rusties also are so aggressive they have been known to turn and fight predator fish. One scientist noted seeing a smallmouth bass swimming with a rusty clamped onto its mouth. Unlike native species, the rusty is not good food for fish. Their shells are thick and a lower quality of food. Rusty crayfish also affect important vegetation by eating it significant portions of it.

Recreational fisherman may see the affects of the rusty crayfish in lakes through a reduction in the number of fish. Of course the effects will not be seen for some time and will take even more time to restore. Preventative actions are crucial to limiting the impact of this invasive species. When out on area lakes, watch for signs of the rusty crayfish and only use native bait or artificial lures when fishing. If you suspect you have rusty crayfish in one of your favorite lakes, contact your local DNR office or County Conservation Department.



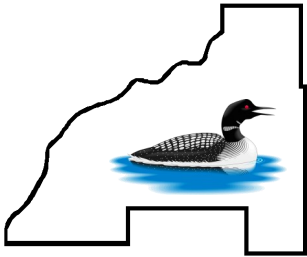
Rusty crayfish can be identified by their robust claws, and by dark, rusty spots on each side of their carapace. The spots are located on the carapace as though you picked up the crayfish with paint on you forefinger and thumb. The spots may not always be present or well developed on rusty crayfish from some waters.

Water Quality Sampling
Workshop
November 6, 2004
10:00 am - 11:00 am
Burnett County Government Center
Room 165

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