



## NEWS FROM ONEIDA COUNTY

by Bob Mott, District 7 County Supervisor and Town of Schoepke Supervisor

### **Oneida County: Setback Amendment**

The Oneida County Planning and Development Committee forwarded a resolution to the County Board to amend Chapter 9.92 of the Oneida County Zoning and Shoreland Protection Ordinance. The amendment changes the setback from 15 feet to 5 feet for shoreland/wetland applications, regarding grading.

There were some statements in the amendment that were open to question:

(1) “...protecting a shoreland wetland with a properly installed and maintained silt fence has no more impact at 5 feet versus 15 feet.” (2) “...the Planning and Development Committee has carefully studied the proposed changes, considered the impacts pro and con to this change, and considered the comments made at the public hearing...” (one written comment and two verbal comments – all against) “...and recommends approval ...”

As Chairperson of the Conservation Committee, I have two problems with the above. The first is with the statement about the impact 5 feet versus 15 feet. When asked for proof, none was offered. The second is that when asked about the “careful study” of the pros and cons, as well as for a listing of the pros and cons, none were available.

The Conservation Committee suggested a delay to see what information was available, one way or the other. The County Board denied that delay and passed the change, with only three (3) dissenting votes. The arguments were based upon property rights and revenue for the county, regardless of possible harm to wetlands.

### **Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)**

There has been an ongoing discussion concerning CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations where over 1,000 animal units are confined for more than 45 days) in the county. Oneida County passed a one-year moratorium on the establishment of any CAFOs. Bayfield County passed an ordinance that prevented a large-swine CAFO from being established in their county. The problems presented are: (1) how to handle the manure produced; (2) how to protect wells and waterways from runoff generated; and, (3) how to deal with the smells produced. Current thinking suggests that there will not be a CAFO ordinance, but rather an adjustment to zoning districts, to deal with the concerns.

### **Metallic Mineral Exploration**

Another hot topic these last several months has been metallic mineral exploration in the Town of Schoepke. Badger Minerals has been granted a license to explore for minerals. Their exploration will initially have ten (10) drilling holes at a total of up to 4,000 feet. The drilling will occur east of Pelican Lake, near Stockley Creek and the Wolf River. All exploration will be on private lands that are either owned by Heartwood Forest or by Badger Minerals. Access will be from Browns Road to the north, and from Meister Stockley Road to the south. At the Town of Schoepke Board Meeting on March 10, 2020, Karl Jennrich, Oneida County Zoning Administrator, and Tracy Benzel, of Benzel Soil Services (representing Badger Minerals), answered questions regarding this exploration. A large group of people from Mole Lake participated, as well as local residents. The original timetable for drilling was two months, February and March, but that will possibly be delayed because of road-weight limits. The Planning and Development Committee will have to approve a mining license as well, but the only reason they would not is due to a failure to provide requested information.

## NEWS FROM ONEIDA COUNTY (continued)

PFAs are a man-made chemicals that have been used in manufacturing around the world since the 1940s. Over time, these chemicals don't break down and can accumulate in the human body and environment. Stain and water repellants for fabrics, non-stick cookware coatings (like Teflon), polishes, waxes, paints, and firefighting foams (often used at airports and by the military) contain PFAs.

There is evidence that exposure to PFAs can lead to adverse health outcomes. Low birth weights, negative effects on the immune system, some cancers, and thyroid-hormone disruption are possible problems related to PFAs. PFAs build up over time in fish, animals, and humans. Although these chemicals are no longer made in the US, they are still used in production in other parts of the world. PFAs and possibly PFOs have been found in wells near the Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport. It has been suggested that the use of foams to fight fires at the airport has caused PFAs and possibly PFOs to appear in these wells. The airport is working to prove that this is not the case.

The Schoepke Town Board passed a Metallic Mineral Ordinance at their Board Meeting on March 10, 2020. This ordinance has specific provisions that govern any mine in the Town of Schoepke. Any mining that would take place in the township would have to be approved by the Town of Schoepke via the issuance of a mining license.

### **Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board**

I was recently elected to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board. The Wisconsin Land and Water Association and the Conservation Board support the efforts of 450 Land and Water Conservation Committees and 350 staff in 72 counties across Wisconsin. The Board consists of 11 members, three state agency leaders, and five governor-appointed members who represent urban, rural and river management, natural-resource areas, and three County Land and Water Conservation members from the state. The Board is attached to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), and will serve to advise DATCP and the DNR.

### **ONEIDA COUNTY LAKE-CLASS GRANT**

Excerpts from a Michele Sadauskas E-Mail, 02-21-20

The Oneida County Land and Water Department applied for a Lake-Class Grant and learned in February of this year that the grant was awarded. What does this mean? It means that the OCLW Department will be devoting lots of time to promoting lakeshore restoration.

Their goal is work closely with lake groups (like the PLPOA) to promote lakeshore restoration, identify homeowners who are interested in restoring their shorelines, and implement the projects onto the landscape. Their intent is to complement the work, protect water quality, create wildlife habitat, and reduce shoreline erosion. To make this happen, they will offer cost-share money to assist homeowners with their shoreline projects, as well as tap into money that the Healthy Lakes Initiative offers.

This is good news for Pelican Lake residents who wish to help protect Pelican Lake by restoring its shoreline! To learn more about how to have monetary help with a restoration, please contact Baerbel Ehrig at [behrig@co.oneida.wi.us](mailto:behrig@co.oneida.wi.us) or call the Oneida County Land and Water Department (715-369-6101).



# 2019 JULY STORM: PELICAN LAKE!

WEC Energy Group: Leah Van Zile, Corporate Communications

## “July severe weather caused widespread power outages; Pelican Lake area heavily damaged.”

July 19 and 20, 2019, was a weekend we won't forget any time soon. That weekend, severe storms, straight-line winds and a few small tornados ravaged the state and left a path of destruction behind. Downed trees were tangled in the power lines, power poles were snapped in half or leveled, and customers' homes were badly damaged. The severe weather left over 290,000 WPS and We Energies customers without power for multiple days. Power was restored to a majority of the more than 100,000 We Energies customers, mainly in the Fox Valley area, by Wednesday, July 24. The last of the more than 190,000 WPS customers affected by the outages had their power restored by Saturday, July 27. Some of the hardest hit areas included Stevens Point, Mountain, Pickerel, Elcho, and Pelican Lake.

As part of an unprecedented restoration effort, nearly 1,000 workers from WPS, We Energies and utility crews from around the Midwest teamed up to rebuild circuits and remove debris from equipment that was destroyed by the hurricane-force winds and intense lightning. They replaced or repaired over 900 utility poles, 600 transformers, 125,000 fuses, and 925,000 feet of wire – enough wire to stretch from Green Bay to the Wisconsin/Illinois line.



As our line technicians worked around the clock for a week restoring power to the affected areas, our office personnel also worked tirelessly to coordinate field personnel, equipment, food, and lodging. However, since this occurred during one of the busiest weeks of summer, lodging was at a premium or non-existent, which presented additional challenges. We were so thankful when groups and locations such as Elcho School District and Camp U-Nah-Li-Ya opened their facilities to us and provided lodging and food for our additional crews. And, as our technicians restored power to these highly devastated areas, our customers demonstrated the same generosity by offering snacks, water, and Gatorade.

WPS and We Energies sincerely appreciated our customers' patience and understanding during this time. We also appreciated the many emergency-response personnel who gave the public their safety support, and the local businesses and residents who provided resources for our crews as they worked around the clock to safely restore power.

## TOMMY TORNADO

by Janeen Weith Sullivan

Shortly after the July, 2019 tornado, my daughter, Dawn, saw a gentleman on Hwy. 45 placing a chainsaw-carved wooden bear by the road for removal. The bear was missing his entire back, a foot, and an eye, and was riddled with woodpecker holes. Dawn asked the gentleman if he would donate it to the PLPOA for their 2020 Summerfest. He eagerly agreed.

So, Dawn loaded the bear into her car, and continued to the Schoepke Town Hall for a meeting. Several gentlemen there looked at her "treasure" and stated that it was beyond repair. Oh, those naysayers! I spent the next 6 weekends and over \$80 in materials to painstakingly restore him.

Well, each weekend, as I saw the progress being made, I fell a little bit deeper in love with my bear, so he became my "Tommy Tornado." He is now very handsome!

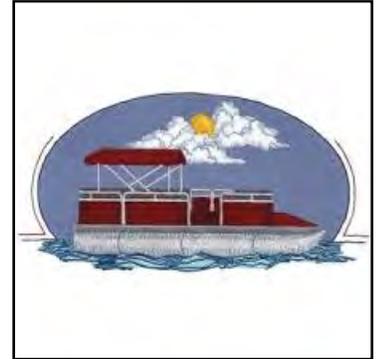
After all my hard work, I realized I couldn't part with him. It would have been like giving away my pet! Instead, he will be on display at Summerfest 2020 and there will be a donation made to this year's Summerfest in his honor.



## **AFTER THE BIG STORM: ON MY WAY TO REPAIR** by Jim Frymark, 09-28-19

What a comedy of errors a simple trip to take my pontoon out turned out to be! It all started on a Saturday, when I needed to have my pontoon cover repaired. The repair shop in Eagle River closed at 2 p.m., so I had to hurry to get there on time.

When I went to get the pontoon trailer, I saw that the crank for the scissors lift on the pontoon trailer was locked. Not having the key for the lock, I wondered why anyone would lock the scissors part of the trailer and not the trailer itself. A friend of mine thought that we could still load the pontoon, so while he drove to Keeler Landing to meet me, I took my pontoon across the lake. I wasn't too eager to cross the lake that day because it was really windy and there were huge whitecaps, the largest that I've seen in my two years at the lake.



It was scary crossing the bay, but once on the other side, I hugged the shoreline where the wind hadn't had a chance to stir up any whitecaps. My friend was waiting for me at the landing and we attempted to load the pontoon onto the trailer. No luck. When he backed the trailer in, it dropped out of sight into a washed-out area, probably made from loading power boats. No way were we going to be able to load my pontoon onto my trailer.

So, my friend took the trailer back to the cabin while I boated backed across the lake. I met up with him in my driveway to tinker around with the trailer and wondered again why anyone would lock the scissors lift. And guess what? The lock wasn't locked, after all! It was just held in place by the coddle pin. We could have simply pulled out the pin, removed the rod, and adjusted the trailer's rack to load up the pontoon. By now it was 1:30 p.m. - hardly time to get to Eagle River before 2 p.m.

This story only gets better: When I went into the cabin and put my keys on the counter, I discovered that the lock's key was on my keychain all along. Had we discovered earlier that we could have used the lock's key or that we could have simply pulled out the coddle pin, everything would have been fine. Duh. Just not my day!

## **NATURE HAD ITS WAY WITH US** by Lynn Anderson

We'll all remember the storm of 2019. Trees down everywhere. That was the power of nature unleashed. I predict that nature will be back in the spring with renewed power. The big trees are gone, but new and more interesting plants will emerge from the soil. We can watch and shape these new children as they grow into adults.

I surveyed the buffer zone by Schoepke Town Hall after two large trees were removed. The smaller trees the PLPOA planted look fine and the roots of the flowers and shrubs escaped by being buried deeply in the ground. With more sunlight, these trees and plants will do even better than they've done in the past. That's the way with nature.



I remember the buffer zone before it was replanted. How much more interesting it is today!



I'll end my pitch for letting nature take care of your yard, with a little direction for you. Look and plan ahead. Those small trees and plants that struggled will flourish with more space and sunlight. I'm so anxious to see what treasures will erupt from the soil around my house. Nature will have its way!

## WALLEYES IN OUR LAKES

August 27, 2019 - [wjfw.com](http://wjfw.com)

**NORTHWOODS** - People come to the Northwoods for our beautiful lakes, often full of fish waiting to be caught. But one popular fish is not as abundant as it used to be: the walleye.

The UW Center for Limnology is conducting an experiment to find out what's happening to the walleye in our lakes. Steve Carpenter, UW free-range scientist, and other UW researchers are trying to find out why populations of walleye have been decreasing in recent years. They're looking at McDermott Lake in Iron County because it's a small lake with a once-large population of walleye. *"We realized we needed to do experimental studies of some ideas to see if they pan out,"* said Carpenter.

Carpenter found that right after walleye eggs hatched, the lakes were full of the fish, but that later that changed. *"At the beginning of winter we have hardly any,"* said Carpenter. *"It's a whodunit, who murdered the baby walleyes,"* said Carpenter.

Now in its second year, their study tests if removing potential predators to young walleye will help revitalize the species. The types of fish researchers are looking for are warm-water fish, which can be captured near the shore where the water is warmer. *"We set a trap or a net during the day and the next day we go retrieve it, empty it, and reset it,"* said Associate Research Specialist Aly Andersen, who helps collect data for this experiment.



The researchers use three types of traps to collect pan fish and bass and take them out of the water. *"Per day, it ranges from 1,000 to 2,000 [fish] with some days more, some days less,"* said Andersen.

As the winters get shorter and the lakes get warmer, more of these warm-water fish are appearing in lakes, potentially threatening the walleye. The research team will collect data for a few more years before coming to any conclusions, then any data will go to the DNR.

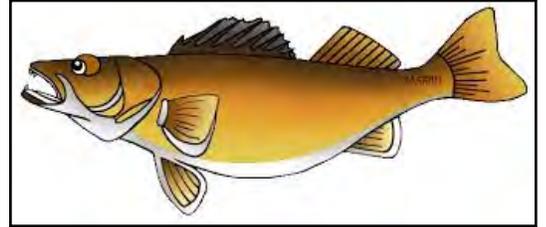
*"I'd say we are reaching a point where we need to decide whether walleye, this iconic fish, is going to continue to be a part of our experience in the lakes here,"* said Carpenter.

## Walleye Recruitment Status of Pelican Lake

Zach Woiak, Oneida County Fisheries Biologist, 01-19-20

Walleye recruitment, the number of young fish entering the population, is monitored with fall electrofishing surveys. During these fall surveys, the entire lake shoreline (including islands) is sampled, specifically targeting juvenile gamefish. Age-0 walleye have made it through their first summer and are typically 4 to 8 inches in length. Walleye recruitment is indexed by using the number of age-0 walleye captured per shoreline mile. Age-1 walleye are also targeted during fall electrofishing surveys and indexed by the number captured per shoreline mile. Age-1 walleye have made it through two summers and are around 8 to 11 inches in length.

The WDNR, the Mole Lake Band of Chippewa, and the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, have cooperatively surveyed the natural recruitment of walleyes in Pelican Lake annually for nearly three decades. Survey results through the years show that Pelican Lake remains one of the top producers of walleye natural reproduction in Oneida County. The average catch of age-0 walleye from 1991-2019 is 42 per mile of shoreline, which represents strong natural reproduction. The northern WI average during that same time frame is 28. Natural reproduction sometimes produces a surplus of fish; an age-0 catch of around 15 per mile is enough to produce a noticeable year class.



Walleye recruitment is variable from year to year. We only need to see one moderate to strong year class every few years to sustain a population. Similarly, the average number of age-1 walleye from 1991-2019 is 12 per mile of shoreline, which represents strong age-1 year classes and is above the northern WI average of 10. The 2019 fall recruitment survey showed another year of strong recruitment. Age-0 walleye were documented at 52 per mile; age-1 walleye were documented at 21 per mile.

The walleye fishery of Pelican Lake continues to sustain itself through strong natural reproduction, a true sign of a healthy fishery!

### NEW FISH CRIBS FOR PELICAN LAKE

by Jeff Griffey, PLPOA Vice-President

I'd like to introduce you to our new project, the *Pelican Lake Wooden Fish-Crib Reef Project*. This project is a large-scale effort to energize our lake. Through this project, the old fish cribs that have deteriorated and rotted away will be replaced by new fish-crib reefs.

Here are the specifics of what we are building:  
–5 wooden fish-crib reefs, each approximately 60' to 100' long.  
–20 fish cribs per reef, each fish crib approximately 4' x 6' x 8'.

Starting in early April and going full-scale shortly thereafter, we began to build. Construction took place at Lakeview Apartments (across the road from Lakeview Restaurant on Co. Rd. G) in the lower parking lot area that's behind the apartments, and will continue until all the cribs have been built.

We plan to drop the fish-crib reefs into the lake in late summer/early fall. So that everyone can watch this event, "*Crib-Drop Days*" will be announced via websites. This event will have a party atmosphere and will be something for all to enjoy.



I have formed a working committee of people to head up this grand-scale project. I will be organizing workshop dates throughout the summer and fall in order to complete 100 cribs total. Food and refreshments will be provided on these workshop days. Any and all help is needed and greatly appreciated! Check the PLPOA Facebook page and the Pelican Lake Chamber of Commerce page for dates. Please contact me ([jgriffey123@outlook.com](mailto:jgriffey123@outlook.com)), if you have any questions (cell: 920-819-1472).

## SUMMERFEST VOLUNTEERS 2019

Without the help of the following volunteers, our 2019 Summerfest Fundraiser Picnic would not have been a success. These volunteers not only helped plan the event, but also solicited donations, helped with the setup, baked cookies, sold tickets, sold food/drinks/raffle tickets, displayed their cars, and/or helped with the cleanup. Thanks to each of these volunteers for helping with our big event!



Anderson, Lynn  
Augustiniak, Auggie  
Augustiniak, Peggy  
Beran, Ann  
Beran, John  
Brautigam, Bob  
Brust, Jim  
Bunker, Dan  
Bunker, Debbie  
Cook, Yvonne  
Cyr, Cathy  
Cyr, Dave  
Dantoin, Rich and Kris  
Davis, Dave  
Diny, Debbie and Family  
Duschel, Dawn  
Fink, Sarah  
Frymark, Jim  
Groeger, Barb

Herman, Jeff  
Herman, Joy  
Hogue, June  
Hogue, Porky  
Howard, Ed  
Kocakulah, Janine  
Kress, Butch  
Lemerond, Craig  
Lemerond, Peggy  
Linden, Joan  
Lodholz, Lud  
Mommaerts, Joel  
Moss, Larry  
Moss, Lou  
Mott, Bob  
Mott, Judy  
Peeters, Aaron  
Peeters, Wendy  
Peiffer, Kathy  
Peiffer, Jack

Reim, Dan  
Roach, Jean  
Roberts, Sonja  
Sage, Joan  
Schmit, Cheryl  
Schowalter, Mary Lou  
Shellestad, Kay  
Smith, Vicki  
Sullivan, Erika  
Sullivan, Janeen Weith  
Taylor, Julie  
Tomczak, Paul & Wm. Kolsch  
Tuminello, Ray  
Upthegrove, Richard  
Van Dreser, Sue  
Vanden Heuvel, Dennis  
Vanden Heuvel, Sandy  
Wallis, Chris  
Wallis, Scott

# VOLUNTEER AT SUMMERFEST 2020!

by Dawn Duschel

Why volunteer? Even for an hour? Because it's fun, you meet new people, and you get to enjoy fantastic food, games, raffles, a car show, live music, dancing, and libations. Plus, there are all sorts of fun jobs to do, even for that one hour. You can help out the day before, the day of, or the day after the picnic, even if it's just for an hour.

Every attempt will be made to utilize you in an appropriate volunteer position, from sit-down front-door positions (based upon need), to helping guests fill out their raffle tickets, to selling raffle tickets. Simply contact me ([dd40018@gmail.com](mailto:dd40018@gmail.com)) or attend the **Annual Meeting on June 27, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.** at the Schoepke Town Hall on Hwy. 45 to learn more.

**Friday, July 24, 4-7 p.m.:** unpack supplies; set up tents, tables, picnic tables, chairs.

**Saturday, July 25, Event Day, 3-9 p.m.:** Please report 10 minutes before your scheduled time.

–Front Door: 3-8 p.m., 4 seated positions per hour: pull and tear tickets.

–Indoor Bucket Raffle: 3-7 p.m., 1 seated position per hour: assist guests with questions.

–Outdoor Rapid Raffle: 3-5 p.m., 2 standing/walking positions per hour: pull and tear tickets.

–50/50 Raffle: 4-7 p.m., 3-4 walking positions per hour: pull and tear tickets.

–Courtesy Volunteer: 3-8 p.m., 1 walking position per hour: refill paper towels, t. p. in restrooms.

–Food Tent: 3-8 p.m., 2-3 standing positions per hour: serve food, collect money, cleanup at end.

–Beer Tent: Call Auggie (715-551-5353), if interested in helping.

–Car Show: Call June/Porky Hogue (715-487-5041), if you have a car to display.

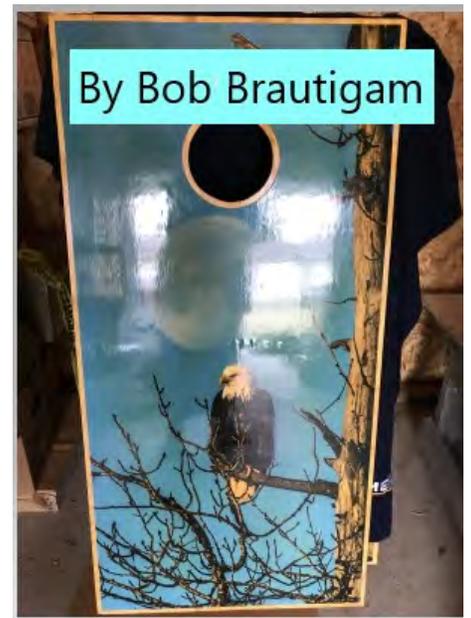
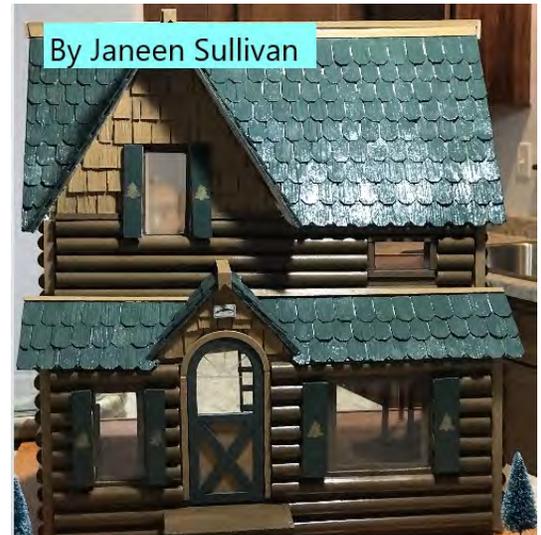
**Sunday, July 26, 9-11 a.m.:** clean, pack, sort recyclables, sweep floors, etc.



## SHARE YOUR WARES by Dawn Duschel

Calling all crafters, woodworkers, and artists! We're looking for donations for our 2020 Summerfest Fundraiser Picnic's raffle tables. Your items will be displayed, with a sign crediting you for your contribution, then raffled off at the end of the evening at our indoor bucket raffle. (See below for some examples of previous donations.)

I am thrilled that we have so many talented supporters of our lake. If you are interested in donating, please contact Dawn Duschel ([dd40018@gmail.com](mailto:dd40018@gmail.com)) *prior to July 24<sup>th</sup>*. Don't forget to mark your calendars for July 25, 2020, our annual Summerfest Fundraiser Picnic. This event is open to the public. Feel free to bring your family and friends!



## REQUEST FOR SUMMERFEST DONATIONS by Dawn Duschel

In addition to artistic works, the PLPOA is in search of gas cards, gift certificates, gift baskets, booze, food, crafts, wood items, Up-North items, etc. If you or your business would like to donate to our annual Summerfest Fundraiser Picnic to be held July 25, 2020, you can take your donations to our Annual Meeting at the Schoepke Town Hall on June 27, 2020, or contact Dawn Duschel ([dd40018@gmail.com](mailto:dd40018@gmail.com)).

# The Importance of Water Clarity

OCLRA Website

Better lake-water clarity has a meaningful impact on the value of lakefront properties in Oneida and Vilas Counties, according to a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Department of Economics.

The study, “*The Impact of Water Clarity on Home Prices in Vilas and Oneida Counties, Wisconsin,*” estimates gains in residential property value, related to the improvement in water clarity on 60 lakes in the two counties. The study correlated data on water clarity from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with data on 271 residential home sales. The researchers concluded that an improvement of one meter (just over three feet) in water clarity (based upon Secchi-disc clarity readings) would improve the market price of an average residential lake property in the two counties by **\$8,090!**



The Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association (OCLRA) has consistently argued that the protection and enhancement of lake-water quality is important to the continued economic prosperity of Northwoods communities. And the PLPOA’s mission to protect the health of Pelican Lake includes the clarity of the water.

The OCLRA website ([www.oclra.org](http://www.oclra.org)) has the entire UW-Eau Claire study available.

## KNOWING YOUR SHORELINE: EROSION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Excerpts from “*Lake Tides,*” Vol. 45, No. 1, Winter/Spring  
by Patrick Goggin, Lake Specialist, Extension Lakes

Have you noticed erosion along your shoreline? This is a challenge many shoreline property owners face. The best way to identify and assess erosion problems is to check your shoreline regularly and monitor changing conditions.



### **Warning signs of accelerated erosion problems include:**

- \*A noticeable recession of the shoreline over time.
- \*Leaning or downed trees with exposed roots on the shoreline.
- \*Nearshore gullies caused by rainwater runoff from rooftops and driveways.
- \*A large area of bare soil along the shore (especially on a steep/high shoreline bank).
- \*Large patches of unusually cloudy water near the lakeshore.

### **What to do:**

- \*Plant (or leave) native plants along the shore to create a *no-mow zone*.
- \*Allow aquatic plants to re-establish in the nearshore area.
- \*Limit the amount of foot traffic to, and along, the water’s edge. Create a path instead.
- \*Create a rain garden to capture rainwater runoff, letting it soak into the ground.
- \*Make a rock-infiltration pit along your roof drip lines and/or your driveway, capturing rainwater runoff that would otherwise move downhill to the lake.

## RESTORING OUR SHORELANDS by James A. Brakken

Following WW II, as the US population grew, and prosperity and personal mobility increased, many Americans invested in seasonal cabins, especially avid fishermen. As the decades passed, these small lakeside cabins became too small, especially for those spending more and more time at the lake. The seasonal cabins of the 1950s became the half-million-dollar-or-more waterfront homes of today, structures that line our lakes and streams.

Manicured lawns, similar those in suburbia, replaced trees, shrubs, and native flowers. Clearing, mowing, and fertilizing of these lawns added new nutrients to the soil. Paved driveways, large rooftops, and other impervious surfaces resulted in increased runoff, carrying unwanted nutrients and sediments to the lake. These altered the water chemistry, brought increased algae blooms, changed the aquatic plant life, and affected fish and nearshore wildlife populations. Our lakes were changed forever. Many birds, frogs, and other wildlife no longer were able to live near the shoreline.

### What can you do to help restore our shorelands?

- ***Just don't mow!*** Especially in the shoreline area.
- ***Restore your shoreline.*** Start small: eliminate a small patch of grass, then plant native plants there. As the years go by, increase the size of this "buffer zone," adding even more native plants, then settle back and watch the local wildlife enjoy it.

## HEALTHY LAKES GRANT by David Hardt

I am making another plea to you, the shoreline owner, to apply for a Healthy Lakes Grant to improve the beauty of your property and retard the flow of phosphorus into the lake. If your lakefront property has even the slightest slope towards the lake, there are many types of healthy-lakes projects that will slow down that flow.



Phosphorus naturally occurs in our rain and, during rainfall, gravity pulls the runoff water towards the lake. We need to slow down the flow of this runoff water so that it can soak into the soil and fertilize our land's plants, shrubs, trees, flowers, and grass. If land plants can be made to utilize the phosphorus of the runoff, then phosphorus can be kept out of the water

ecosystem. Higher levels of phosphorus increase algae blooms, which are an eyesore to begin with, but also feed Chinese Mystery Snails, which are hosts to Swimmer's Itch and grubs in panfish. Less phosphorus will maintain or even improve the quality of our wonderful lake.

Some homeowner projects can reduce the flow of phosphorus-filled runoff water, improve the beauty of their property, increase the value of their property, as well as aid in the survival of neighboring wildlife, plus be mostly funded by a Healthy Lakes Grant. Here are some examples of qualifying homeowner projects:

- (1) Shoreline Restoration: a 35' x 10' area of flowers/shrubs to slow down and absorb the phosphorus flow.
- (2) Fish Sticks: small areas just offshore where woody vegetation can act as a fish nursery.
- (3) Rain Garden: a place to capture water runoff from downspouts and rooftops.
- (4) Diversions: an obstacle/speed bump on a hard surface to stop the flow of water.
- (5) Rock Filtration: a pit filled with filter fabric and rocks to store and absorb excessive phosphorus runoff.

Should you choose to do one of the above projects, your costs would be minimal because:

- (1) The Healthy Lakes Grant **will pay for about 80%** of the approved project.
- (2) The Pelican Lake Property Owners' Association **will pay for another 10%** of the approved project.
- (3) The property owner will pay for only the final 10% and this 10% can be paid via in-kind work such as the planning of the project and planting.

***Thus, a \$1,000 improvement to your property might cost you \$100 or less.***

I can help you navigate the application form for these projects. There are approved plans and plants that need to be addressed, but these are easily taken care of with ample planning. If you are the least bit interested in looking into applying for a grant, please contact me ([dhardt1@mac.com](mailto:dhardt1@mac.com)), or to learn more, go to <https://healthylakeswi.com> (their website).

# Boat-Landing Monitor Report

by David Hardt

I am pleased to report that the 2019 boat-landing monitor experience was a success! Education is a vital part of this program. Our boaters need to understand the safe practices needed to keep aquatic invasive species out of our lake.

Our hard-working monitors, *Baker Branson*, *Fran Branson*, *John Cahak*, *Kathy Handt*, *Perry Miller*, *Joel Mommaerts*, and *David Nichols* did an incredible job of manning the landings this past year. They manned all the time slots on Fridays, 2 PM – 6PM, and on Saturdays and Sundays, 6 AM – 6 PM. Rain or shine, wind or calm, these monitors were out there, educating and protecting our lake. This is a labor-intensive job and our wonderful monitors should be commended for their service. Stop by and say hello to them some weekend and share a Coke or spend a few moments chatting with them during a down time. John and Joel are moving on in 2020 to other pursuits. We thank them wish them the best of luck.



Our monitors put in **1,547 total hours** last season, while checking **3,125 boats**, and educating and contacting **6,677 boaters**. All this was covered by a variety of grants.

Each landing's total is as follows:

Keeler Landing: 548 hours manned, 989 boats and trailers inspected, 2,003 boaters contacted and educated.

State Landing: 556 hours manned, 1,940 boats and trailers inspected, 4,236 boaters contacted and educated.

Town Landing: 443 hours manned, 196 boats and trailer inspected, 438 boaters contacted and educated.

Due to its lower use by boaters, it may seem that the Town Landing is less important than the others, but that is not the case. It is important to monitor this landing because its location near the hotel, where many out-of-area boaters stay, makes inspections even more important.

In 2020 the PLPOA's new ILIDS System will be used to cover the days when our State Landing is not manned by monitors. The goal is to ensure that our lake is protected as much as possible from aquatic invasives that hitchhike on dirty boats, in undrained live wells, in bilge pumps, and on trailers.

Part of our State Grant is based upon volunteer hours, so if you would like to volunteer for a few hours at one of the landings, we can always use the help. Help with simple recording of data or with visual inspections - both are needed. If interested, please contact me at [dhardt1@mac.com](mailto:dhardt1@mac.com) to schedule a time and place, and so I can record your hours as volunteer hours for the grant.

**REMEMBER!**  
**THE ANNUAL MEETING IS SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH!**



**AND SUMMERFEST IS SATURDAY, JULY 25TH!**

## AIS: ONEIDA COUNTY

by Stephanie Boismenu, AIS Coordinator, Oneida County

It isn't every day that someone has the ability to look underneath their dock, boat lift, swimming raft, and/or water irrigation hoses to see what's happening on their structure. That rare opportunity will present itself this fall as lake residents, resort owners, lake service providers, marinas, and other water-related contractors start to remove equipment from the water. Why would anyone want to look at the bottom of the pier?

Any type of equipment installed in a lake can provide an excellent home for aquatic invasive species (AIS), such as quagga and zebra mussels, to attach themselves to and colonize. It's difficult to thoroughly inspect a structure while it's in the water; however during removal, anyone involved with the process can easily monitor for aquatic invasive species (AIS).

AIS are non-native plants and animals that threaten Wisconsin's waters by causing environmental and economic harm. One example, *zebra mussels* (see photo), can clog water intakes and pipes, encrust piers, boats and motors, and their sharp shells can cut the feet of swimmers. Thus far, zebra mussels have NOT been confirmed in any waters within Oneida County. However, they have invaded 273 of Wisconsin's waterbodies including Crandon's Lake Metonga (Forest County), and the threat of anglers and boaters transporting this invasive species into the county is very real!

**How to Help:** To protect our lakes and rivers, it's important for waterfront property owners and water-related contractors to **examine everything coming out of the water and remove anything that shouldn't be attached**. This includes checking all areas of watercraft, docks, piers, boat lifts, swimming rafts, inflatables, water toys, irrigation systems, and any other equipment that has been in the water for a prolonged period of time. Also, check all support posts, beams, cables, wheels, bunks, pads, ropes, chains, and filters.

In addition to a visual inspection, feel the smooth surfaces of equipment to check for juvenile zebra mussels as they may have a "sand-paper like" feel and are often invisible to the human eye.

There are specific laws that everyone must follow to prevent the spread of AIS. Prior to transporting any equipment away from a water access site or other shoreland property, even if you intend to put it in storage for the winter, **Wisconsin law requires you to:**

- INSPECT boats, trailers, boat lifts, piers, rafts and equipment.
- REMOVE all attached aquatic plants, animals, sand, and mud.
- DRAIN all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.
- NEVER MOVE plants or live fish away from a waterbody.

If you think you have discovered an AIS that has not already been confirmed in your lake, please contact me: 715-369-7835; e-mail: [sboismenu@co.oneida.wi.us](mailto:sboismenu@co.oneida.wi.us).



## TIME TO GET TOUGH! by Ted Rulseh, 08-09-19

Imagine how you would feel if you went to the doctor for a routine checkup, only to find out you had a serious illness. It must feel somewhat like that to wake up one morning and learn that your lake has an invasive species. That happened just recently to two more lakes here in the north.

[Spiny water flea](#) (photos at left) was discovered in Vilas County's **Plum Lake**. In an Oneida County lake that's among

my favorites for fishing, [Eurasian water milfoil](#) (photos at right) was found. Take one guess where. That's right, near the boat landing! In all likelihood, the milfoil rode into the lake on an irresponsible angler's boat or trailer.

To me, these two events illustrate how inadequate our protections are against aquatic invasive species (AIS). At best, public boat landings are staffed by Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) volunteers part-time, mostly on weekends. Some private landings are never staffed and don't even have signs warning visitors to clean their boats.



If I had to hazard a guess, I would say that in Vilas and Oneida counties, collectively, landings are staffed less than 10% of the time. Does anyone believe that that's sufficient? The doors to invasive species are, for the most part, wide open.

AIS prevention is a tough problem – tougher than, for example, keeping Asian carp out of Lake Michigan – because the entry points are so numerous. Our inland lakes are arguably the most important natural resources our state has. And yet, programs to protect them are seriously understaffed and underfunded.

The time has come for sterner measures! Maybe, as a condition of getting a boat license or renewal, the owner should have to take and pass an exam about AIS prevention. Certainly state funding for staff at landings should be increased dramatically. Technology solutions like boat-landing monitoring stations should play a role.

Perhaps lake associations, whose members have the most to lose from AIS, need to step up their efforts. In doing so, they should be able to look to state, and perhaps county governments, for more assistance.

In addition, we, as anglers, need to accept that AIS prevention means a great deal more than pulling the weeds off our trailers before we leave a landing. Pests like spiny water fleas and zebra mussel veligers can travel in just a little bit of water inside an outboard motor, a boat bilge or live well, or a bait bucket.

Maybe, as anglers, we need to give up the practice of lake-hopping and limit ourselves to one lake per day. Maybe we all need to own a hot-water power washer so that we can clean our boats properly every time we come home. Maybe we have to make it a point to learn all the CBCW precautions and follow them to the letter, without fail. That includes attending a CBCW clinic put on by our county AIS coordinator.

Our lakes are under constant threat from invasive species. Prevention is much cheaper and much more effective than mitigation. We have a tough fight on our hands. Is it time to take the gloves off? Residents of newly infested lakes would likely answer yes!

# ONEIDA COUNTY STEWARDSHIP AWARDS BANQUET

by Lud Lodholz

On August 22, 2019, the 11th annual Oneida County Stewardship Awards Banquet was held at Holiday Acres in Rhinelander. Guest speaker, Brent Hanson of Hanson's Garden Village in Rhinelander, gave a presentation on shoreline-habitat restoration. Then Zachariah Woiak, WDNR Fisheries Biologist, spoke about Fish Sticks, a program that involves adding wood structures to the lake as a way of providing good habitat for the fish.

The Pelican Lake Property Owners' Association was well-represented at this banquet by nine members: Von Cook, Dawn Duschel, Joy Herman, Lud Lodholz, Judy Mott, Bob Mott, Lucy Nelson, Vicki Smith, and Richard Upthegrove. Six of our CBCW Monitors also were present to represent our lake: John Cahak, Baker Branson, Fran Branson, Kathy Handt, Perry Miller, and Joel Mommaerts. Also attending were PLPOA members, Ann & John Beran.



In addition to a lovely dinner and interesting, informative speeches, PLPOA's **David Hardt** received an *Exceptional Lake Stewardship Award*, as well as a *Five-Year Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Award*. We all were so pleased that he received this recognition!

*Photo, L to R:* Von Cook, Lud Lodholz, Joy Herman, Dawn Duschel, Bob Mott, Judy Mott, Richard Upthegrove, and Vicki Smith.

## AIS EDUCATION AT ELCHO SCHOOL

by Lucy Nelson

Third to fifth-grade students at Elcho School, when asked if they knew what aquatic invasive species were, answered, "Something invasive." Good answer!

As I explained to the students what caused AIS (Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels, red spot on crabs, purple loosestrife, spiny water fleas, etc.), I showed them the DNR 3-D cube specimens of AIS. Everyone was eager to see and touch the specimens. We then talked about the weeds that are found on boat trailers, motors, live wells, jet skis, and water toys. Finally, we played the game of Fish, using DNR cards. In order to play, the students had to pronounce the AIS names. A unique way to get them to learn.



## AIS EDUCATION CLASS

by Lucy Nelson

At this year's class, we received updated education about AIS on boats, boat trailers, boat motors, boat carpets, live wells, jet skis, water toys, etc. In addition, we watched a very-informative slide show and received brochures and paper data to share with our lake residents.

*Photo, L to R:* Dave Hardt, Kathy Handt, David Nichols, Fran Branson, Baker Branson, Lud Lodholz, Lucy Nelson, Joel Mommaerts, and Stephanie Boismenu, Oneida County AIS Coordinator.

## Our Boat-Landing Monitor Program by David Hardt

On January 20, 2020, two PLPOA Board members had the pleasure of accepting \$5,000 from the Sokaogon Chippewa Community at Mole Lake. Joy Herman and David Hardt were present at the ceremony in which the community gave out almost \$100,000 to area volunteer organizations such as animal rescues, volunteer fire departments, Chambers of Commerce, and snowmobile clubs, just to name a few. This was a wonderful example of the generosity of the tribe.

Mike Preul, Fisheries Biologist for the Sokaogon Chippewa Community at Mole Lake, worked hard to find a federal grant to aid in our boat-landing monitor program. Thanks to Mike's efforts, we are now better able to run our PLPOA weekend monitoring program during the 2020 season. This money, when added to our State Grant for the landing monitors, will go a long way towards paying for our monitoring program.

For a number of years, Mike has found this federal money for us. This is a precious resource for helping our efforts to keep Pelican Lake clean and free of new invasive species. A special thanks to Mike for his efforts!



(L to R): Garland McGeshick, Chairman, Sokaogon Chippewa Community; Vickie Ackley, Tribal Treasurer; David Hardt, PLPOA Board member.



Mike Preul, Fisheries Biologist at Mole Lake.

## THE SUICK FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT

Dear Suick Family Members:

On behalf of the Pelican Lake Property Owners' Association, please accept my sincere appreciation once again for your Suick Family Grant. This generous grant allows us to continue our commitment to protecting the health of Pelican Lake. In this PLPOA Newsletter you will receive updates on many of our activities that pertain to lake protection for our lake.

Again, thank you!

Larold H. Lodholz, President  
Pelican Lake Property Owners' Association

Photo: Phyllis Suick and Larold Lodholz.



## ONEIDA COUNTY GRANTS

by Bob Mott, Oneida County Board Supervisor, District 7

Stephanie Boismenu, Oneida County AIS Coordinator, recently announced that three new grants have been awarded to Oneida County, amounting to nearly \$100,000,000. Overall, in this grant cycle, there were applications for \$4.4 million dollars, with \$2.8 million being awarded. Oneida County received full funding for its requests.

Oneida County's first grant is a *DNR AIS Education, Prevention, and Planning Grant* of **\$44,000** to help with the education and prevention of AIS in Oneida County. This grant allows for the hiring of three limited-term employees.

The second grant is a *Lake Classification Grant* for **\$45,000**. It is for shoreland-restoration work, with the focus on the Tomahawk and Pelican Lake areas.

The third, and final grant, is a *River Planning Grant* of **\$10,000**. It is for surveying stream crossings in five towns, trying to determine the best stream flows and the best culverts to help stream fish.

Congratulations to Oneida County Conservationist, **Michele Sadauskas**, and to Oneida County AIS Coordinator, **Stephanie Boismenu**, for securing these funds to help Oneida County!

## PLPOA NEW MEMBERS: 03/31/19 through 03/31/20

Berg, John & Ann		2103 Kabel Road
Blaha, Tim and James Blaha		2653 West Bay Road
Braeger, Bill		2013 Sabinois Point Road
Butler, Troy & Billi Jo		520 Eagle Lake Road
Clark, Dick & Mary		1971 Sabinois Point Road
Donohue, Dennis & Jill		2464 South Shore Road
Held, James & Marlene		1887 & 1889 Manitowoc Street
Hyer, Jayme and Brian Schneider		701 US Highway 45
Jakel, Frank & Maria		3145 County Road Q
Johnson, Todd & Kate		1761 County Road Q
Johnston, Patrick and Howard Johnston		2672 South Shore Road
Kenaga, Kyle		3237 County Road Q
Leffler, Larry & Susan		1749 Loon Crest Road
Skaradzinski, Bob		2471 Norway Point Road
Steffens, Dave & Rachel		1916 County Road B
Sullivan, Erika and Dave Ward		1081 Weith Drive
Taylor, Paul & Julie Paul		918 US Highway 45
Warpinski, Mike & Linda		1789 County Road Q

## TO GO, OR NOT TO GO?

by Lynn Anderson



The Pelican Lake Property Owners' Association presents an Annual Meeting every summer. Typically, the agenda includes a financial review, updates on grant status, old business, and new business. In addition, there is usually a guest speaker on various topics of interest to the lake-area residents.

The annual newsletter, which you are reading now, offers a wealth of information pertaining to the Pelican Lake area. It is truly a valuable tool for educating us all on how

to be better stewards of our property and our lake; however, it is not a two-way communication. It is a supplement to the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting is very important because it gives every property owner the opportunity to voice comments/concerns, etc. While you can, of course, approach any Board member at any time, this meeting allows immediate feedback by the community.

Every voice around the lake is important, and suggestions and comments can only improve future actions. Hope to see you **June 27<sup>th</sup>!**

### 2020 PLPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Larold Lodholz	715-409-9488
Vice-President	Jeff Griffey	920-819-1472
Secretary	Dawn Duschel	715-487-5307
Treasurer	Joy Herman	920-590-3496
Board Member	Jim Frymark	715-771-9793
Board Member	Barb Groeger	262-923-0527
Board Member	David Hardt	414-324-1160
CBCW Program	David Hardt	414-342-1160
Membership	Vicki Smith	715-487-5960
Newsletter Editor	Vicki Smith	715-487-5960
Phone Directory	Vicki Smith	715-487-5960
Accountant	Lori Regni	715-487-4888
Webmaster	Dawn Duschel	715-487-5307
Grant Writer	Bob Mott	715-487-4212

## PLPOA ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 27, 2020

**Registration: 9:30 a.m.**  
**Meeting: 10 a.m.**  
**Schoepke Town Hall**



# IN MEMORIAM

SUMMER 2019 - SPRING 2020



*Donated by:*

Augustiniak, Peggy & Lloyd  
 Barta, Maggie & Pete  
 Barta, Maggie & Pete  
 Barta, Maggie & Pete  
 Birr, Marvin  
 Brodzik, Douglas P. and Deborah A. Sobczak  
 Broker, Peg & Mike  
 Broker, Peg & Mike  
 Carver, Patti & Blake  
 Cyrs, Cathy & Dave  
 Donohue, Jill & Dennis  
 Duschel, Dawn  
 Else, Barbara  
 Fasbender, Joyce  
 Haese, Gertie and Jennie & Nick Wisnefske  
 Hart, Jenny & Darryl  
 Herman, Joy & Jeff  
 Hill, Antoinette (Toni)  
 Kniech, Laurel & Jim  
 Kocakulah, Janine & Mehmet  
 Lancaster, William; James Lancaster, Cathy Olesuk  
 Laureti, Loren W.  
 Meyer, Ted and Linda & Eric  
 Miller, Gladys  
 Morones, Patty & John  
 Neville, Sue & Greg  
 Pahl, Nicole & Ben  
 Rettler, Katie & Rick  
 Ristow, Lisa & Jim  
 Ristow, Lisa & Jim  
 Ristow, Lisa & Jim  
 Roach, Jean & Joe  
 Scharf, Richard & Nicholas Scharf  
 Smith, Vicki  
 Smith, Vicki  
 Stauber, Dina & Tony  
 Steffens, Rachel & Dave  
 Suick, Pat Benz & William (Bill)  
 Suick, Pat Benz & William (Bill)  
 Suick, Pat Benz & William (Bill)  
 Ulickey, Chet  
 Ulickey, Chet  
 Van Asten, Jeff  
 Van Dreser, Sue & Jann  
 Vandenberg, Pam/Willemsen's Golden Sands Beach Resort  
 Vandenberg, Pam/Willemsen's Golden Sands Beach Resort  
 Wefel, Mary & Gary  
 Zelm, Mary & Dave

*In Memory of:*

Maxine & Rolland Pukall  
 Shirley & Bob Barta  
 Beulah Hicks  
 Ruth Suick  
 Carole Birr  
 Dorothy & Ervin Brodzik  
 Marcella & David Broker  
 Terese Ulickey  
 Mary & Carter Hathaway  
 Jeanne & Art Carter  
 Jean & Bruce Beiersdorf  
 Vickie Weith  
 Merle & Bud Else  
 Harvey Fasbender  
 Greg Haese  
 Merle & Bud Else  
 Jeff Dantoin  
 George E. Hill  
 Grace & Rudy Rudolph  
 Angela & Marvin Wood  
 Ruth & William Lancaster  
 John Kautzer  
 Mary Jo & Bill Meyer  
 Dean D. Miller  
 Joe Tuminello  
 Ila Mae & Roland Ziesmer  
 Gilbert (Gib) Pahl  
 Laura & Harold Rettler  
 Joe & Ruth Altschaefl  
 Jean & Bruce Beiersdorf  
 Rollie Sage  
 Margaret & George Kinzfogl  
 Joyce Scharf (d. 07-10-18)  
 Doris Beyer  
 Lucille & Clarence Vauk  
 Joe Tuminello  
 Wayne Porath  
 Shirley & Bob Barta  
 Beulah Hicks  
 Ruth Suick  
 Terese Ulickey  
 Hilda & Dick Gutoski  
 Lois Van Asten  
 Janie & Bill Podoll  
 Danielle Vandenberg  
 Andy Willemsen  
 Sally Miller  
 Sally Miller



## MEMORIAL BUOYS

by Dawn Duschel

Are you looking for a way to memorialize a family member who loved the lake? You can do that by purchasing/donating a Memorial Buoy that will replace an old buoy. The price will vary based upon the market at the time.

Your new buoy will be a one-time placement. Over time, the names may fade and your buoy may have to be removed, but until that happens, you will be able to search the lake to see where your loved one's buoy ends up each year.

The Towns of Schoepke and Enterprise are in charge of the placement and removal of the buoys. The Pelican Lake Property Owners' Association has volunteered to repair the buoys (paying for parts as needed), as well as to replace buoys that are no longer serviceable. We had an additional 3 memorial buoys donated last year which allowed us to replace 3 failing buoys.

If you're interested in funding a Memorial Buoy, please contact Paul Tomczak of Salty Dog Services, LLC, 414-418-3567 ([t-zak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:t-zak@sbcglobal.net)). If you're interested in helping to maintain the buoys, please donate to the Pelican Lake Property Owners' Association.

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

by Jean Roach

Have you ever thought about giving our lake a present? At last fall's Vilas County Lakes Partnership Meeting, a Lake-Association leader told of how he had asked members to make it a point to do "*one thing*" this year for the lake's benefit. What a wonderful idea! We could all do something like that for Pelican Lake. What might that "*one thing*" be? Here are some possible ideas:

- Create a shoreline buffer strip to capture runoff and limit the flow of nutrients to the water.
- Recruit a new member to our Lake Association.
- Make a donation, beyond your dues, to the Association's Treasury.
- Get a septic-system inspection.
- Do a better job of picking up pet waste.
- Plant a rain garden or other infiltrative area to capture runoff.
- Get rid of lead-fishing tackle and use non-toxic equivalents.
- Learn to be a Clean Boats Clean Waters volunteer inspector.
- Check your lake for the presence of invasive vegetation.

Christmas in July could be the best thing you do for our lake this year!



## What Is REGI? Who is Marge Gibson?

by Jean Roach

We, at Pelican Lake, were very lucky when Marge Gibson returned to her roots in Antigo upon retirement. Why? Because Marge has rescued and saved numerous Pelican Lake injured birds, including the loons, various ducks, and Bald Eagles that so many of us enjoy every day. She and her recently deceased, beloved husband, Don, founded REGI, Raptor Education Group, Inc., in 1990. It's a non-profit organization dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of injured or orphaned native-bird species, as well as to the public education of wildlife issues.

Marge is a native of Antigo, having attended grade school and high school in the Antigo Public School system. She left for college to study wildlife management and then worked with wildlife around the country for over 30 years. She began her work with raptors as a field biologist. She has worked with many high-profile field projects including the *California Condor Recovery Team*, and as Team Captain of the *Bald Eagle Capture and Health Assessment Program* in Valdez, Alaska, following the Valdez oil spill.

Marge's work goes on year-round. Her staff grows in the summer months to accommodate visitor tours and also to help care for the injured birds during her busiest season. Every year she has interns from University programs who live in a dormitory on site. She is committed to educating the next generation - something we can all appreciate.

As you enjoy outdoor activities on our lake, you may come across a sick or injured bird. Thanks to Marge and her late husband, help is close by. Call REGI at 715-623-4015 or e-mail [help@raptoreducationgroup.org](mailto:help@raptoreducationgroup.org) for help with the bird.

As a non-profit organization, tax deductible donations are always needed and can be sent to REGI; P.O. Box 481; Antigo, WI 54409, or online via Paypal ([raptoreducationgroup.org](http://raptoreducationgroup.org)).

Another way you can help is by purchasing items for REGI from the REGI Wish list on Amazon. In addition, the REGI website has lots of suggestions for how you can help.

Visit REGI at their facility near Antigo! Educational tours, suitable for adults and children, are offered during the summer. Call **715-623-4015** for dates, times, and reservations.



## WHY BREAD IS BAD FOR BIRDS

by Jean Roach, from an article by Melissa Mayntz in "The Spruce"

Many birders, lake residents, and visitors were first introduced to the joys of wildlife by feeding ducks bread at a local park, pond, or lake. While we may have thought this was an environmentally responsible and cute way to dispose of old or stale bread, *offering bread to ducks is actually unhealthy and potentially dangerous* for the ducks and other birds.

Bread and similar products such as crackers, rolls, chips, donuts, crusts, cereal, and popcorn are great sources of carbohydrates, but they offer little nutritional value for ducks, geese, swans, and other birds. In fact, bread is the equivalent to junk food. Just like humans would suffer from a diet of nothing but candy and sugar, too much bread can lead ducks to obesity and malnutrition, as well as many other problems.

Not only can bread be fattening to ducks and make it harder for them to fly and otherwise evade predators, bread can also lead to other serious problems. These problems include duckling malnutrition and loss of natural behavior. The most noticeable problem is a physical deformity called *Angel Wing* which prevents them from flying, thus crippling them and leaving them vulnerable to predators.

**What to Feed Ducks Instead of Bread:** Wild ducks and waterfowl can live longer, healthier lives by relying on natural food sources such as aquatic plants, seeds, grasses, nuts, and insects, rather than taking handouts from well-meaning humans. If you still want to feed the ducks, which can be an enchanting experience, there are many healthier alternatives to offer instead of bread. Great foods to feed ducks include:

- **Grapes** (cut in half to prevent choking).
- **Cracked corn, barley, oats, birdseed, or other grains.**
- **Frozen peas or corn kernels** (defrost first, but no need to cook).
- **Duck feed pellets** (available from farm-supply stores).

(Melissa Mayntz has been a birder and wild bird enthusiast for 30+ years, with over 16 years of experience writing about wild birds for magazines and websites.)



## Loon Count on Pelican Lake by Jean Roach

**LoonWatch**, a program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College, is dedicated to the protection of our region's loon populations through education, monitoring, and research. In order to better understand the status of Wisconsin's loon population, LoonWatch orchestrates a state-wide loon population survey once every five years. This survey is vital to assessing the effectiveness of current conservation efforts with the loon population.



Pelican Lake volunteers have participated in this citizen-centered survey since 2005. We are signed up with LoonWatch to participate once again in 2020.

In 2020 our survey will take place from **5:00 a.m. – 10:00 A.M.** on **Saturday, July 18**. During this time, volunteers will record the number of adult loons and loon chicks. This information will be used to estimate the loon's state-wide population and breeding success.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Jean Roach at [jmroach@me.com](mailto:jmroach@me.com). All you need to have is paper/pencil for recording your observations, and a pair of binoculars. There will be a short meeting to coordinate boats, people, and areas of the lake to cover. That date will be communicated to the volunteers in June.

# Loons, Loons, Loons!

Compiled by Vicki Smith from the website, [allaboutbirds.com](http://allaboutbirds.com)

## Songs and Calls

Their best-known calls, mostly heard at night, are the (1) *tremolo*, a loud, wailing laugh which often signals alarm and attempt to defend its territory; (2) *wail*, a mournful, haunting call that loons give back and forth to figure out each other's location; (3) *yodel*, a male loon's territorial claim; and, (4) *hoot*, a short call often used between a parent and a chick.



## Bodies

Loons are unable to walk easily on land because their legs are located far to the rear of their bodies, making them powerful swimmers. They cannot take off from land; they need water for take-off, running and pushing to become airborne (*see photo at left*).



## Courtship

Loons court each other by dipping their bills into the water, rearing up to a vertical position with wings partly spread (*see photo at right*), and racing side-by-side across the surface of the water.



## Chase Behavior

Chases are possible if one loon has been displaced from its own lake or has not managed to find a territory yet and, thus intrudes upon another bird's territory.

## Nesting and Eggs

First breeding occurs when loons are 2 years old. Their nesting territory is claimed by the "*yodeling*" song, as well as by flying in circles over their territory with loud calls. Loons have one brood per year: usually 2 eggs, rarely just 1. The nest is built by both sexes on a site that is always very near the water, on an island or shore, and partially hidden by surrounding vegetation. This nest, often re-used from year-to-year, is a mound of grasses, twigs, and reeds. Both adults sit on the nest (females a little more), for 24-31 days.



## Young

Young loons leave the nest within 1-2 days of hatching, and can dive and swim underwater at 2-3 days. They are tended and fed by both parents and, when small, sometimes ride on a parent's back (*see photo at left*). About 10-11 weeks after hatching, young loons are capable of flight.

## Feeding Behavior

Loons dive and swim underwater, propelled mainly by their feet, looking for food. Before diving, they may swim on the surface, with their heads forward and partly submerged, to peer underwater. Small fish are swallowed underwater; larger items are brought to surface and eaten there (see photo at right).

## Diet

Their diet consists mostly of small fish, including fish up to about 10" long, such as minnows, suckers, perch, gizzard shad, rock cod, and killifish, but they will also eat crustaceans, mollusks, aquatic insects, leeches, frogs and, at times, aquatic plants such as pondweeds and algae.

## Sleeping

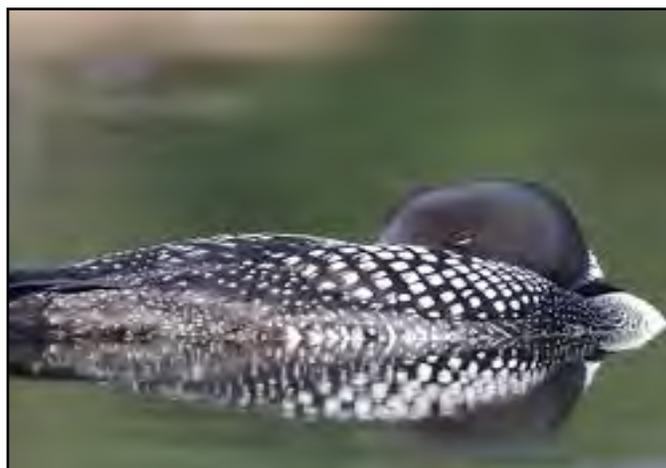
Because they are not well-built for life on land, loons typically sleep in the water. To sleep, a loon turns its neck and folds its head down to rest it on its back (see photo at right).

## Migration

Loons migrate singly or in small flocks, flying just offshore, often low over water, but flying higher when migrating over land. They head for coastal waters and large southern lakes. Pairs may migrate independently, but often return to the same lake each year.

## Life Span

Loons are a long-lived bird, having a life span of up to 30+ years.



# LOON ALERT

Keep this lake safe for loons.

**STAY BACK 200 FEET**  
from loons on the water and shoreline area used by loons.

Wildlife harassment is illegal. Please report violations to the local Department of Natural Resources office or call toll free 1-800-TIP-WDNR.

For loon information write to LoonWatch, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Northland College, Ashland, WI 54806 or visit [northland.edu/spei](http://northland.edu/spei) or email [loonwatch@northland.edu](mailto:loonwatch@northland.edu).

**LOONWATCH**  
SIGURD OLSON ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE  
NORTHLAND COLLEGE



# LEAD ALERT

Lead fishing tackle kills loons, eagles, swans, and other wildlife due to lead poisoning. Please use non-lead tackle when fishing this lake!

Prevent wildlife death and entanglement. Discard unwanted fishing line in a trash receptacle and lead tackle at a local hazardous waste collection site.

Get the Lead Out!

**LoonWatch**  
SIGURD OLSON ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE  
NORTHLAND COLLEGE

**WDNR**  
WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**FREGI**  
FISH RESTRICTION AND ENFORCEMENT GROUP

For more information, visit LoonWatch at [www.northland.edu/loonwatch](http://www.northland.edu/loonwatch) or the WI-DNR at [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov)



# The Bat Report: White-Nose Syndrome

by Vicki Smith

If you don't like mosquitos, learn to like bats! They help keep the mosquito population at bay, and are a vital part of our ecosystem. They are important pollinators and seed-dispersers for many plants.

*White-Nose Syndrome* (see photo) first appeared in caves near Albany, New York, during the winter of 2006-2007. This disease has since spread steadily west, and was identified in Wisconsin in 2014. Scientists believe that *White-Nose Syndrome* is "the most devastating wildlife disease we've had in recorded history."



Annual summer bat counts of little brown bats in Wisconsin have shown significant declines since 2016. Several of our little brown bats have died from *White-Nose Syndrome*, a disease which kills them by waking them up frequently during hibernation and depleting their fat reserves.

Healthy bats arouse from their hibernation about once a month to excrete urine and other toxic metabolic metal byproducts. Badly infected bats might arouse every 7 to 10 days. This increased arousal frequency has dire consequences for the bats' tiny bodies. Most bats don't go into hibernation with three times the amount of fat that they need to make it to spring, so they burn up precious fat each time they come out of hibernation and reach their typical body temperature. With not enough fat reserves left to survive, they die.

People think of bats as mice. They think of mice as having these really high reproductive rates, but that's really not the case with bats. While bats in the wild can live a long time (the record is somewhere around 40 years), it's surprising to learn that they are a very slow-reproducing species, giving birth to just one pup per year, with survivability to adulthood very low. Thus, they need to stay healthy to keep the species going.

How can you help? *Leave bats alone!* Keep a safe and observant distance when you encounter them. Stay away from caves. Attend educational programs and volunteer opportunities at visitor centers.

P.S. (by David Hardt): A recent study has seen a drop in deaths in bats having the White-Nose Syndrome. Many bats are still dying, but there has been an increase in the number of bats that get the disease and yet survive. There is some hope that some random bats may be genetically such that the disease does not kill them. There is some hope that bat populations may increase again. For a full read of the study go to [https://wildlife.org/some-bats-are-adapting-to-white-nose-syndrome-study-finds/?fbclid=IwAR1fQ\\_yZgn\\_AcZO5N67j1i3l7H7q3cTYMKfMsLk8HfqBN8sAI32H6FfosUc](https://wildlife.org/some-bats-are-adapting-to-white-nose-syndrome-study-finds/?fbclid=IwAR1fQ_yZgn_AcZO5N67j1i3l7H7q3cTYMKfMsLk8HfqBN8sAI32H6FfosUc)

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## PLPOA WEBSITE NEWS by Dawn Duschel

The Pelican Lake Property Owners' Association's website ([pelicanlakepoa.org](http://pelicanlakepoa.org)) is undergoing a change at the helm. I have recently assumed the responsibility for its maintenance.

I would like to thank Dan Miller for starting and maintaining our website for all these years. While I normally work with creating end-user electronic medical records' encounters, the task of building and supporting a website is a different animal. PLPOA members Janine Kocakulah and David Hardt will help me as we update our content and, potentially, update the platform.

If there are any PLPOA members who do this for a living or have experience with it, we would welcome their input. We'd even welcome a college-aged student because we all know that most younger people are up-to-date on today's technology and latest trends. If interested, please contact me ([dd40018@gmail.com](mailto:dd40018@gmail.com)).

### AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, OUR THANKS GO TO:

**Bob Mott**, Grant Writer: State of Wisconsin CBCW Grant for \$12,000.  
**Mike Preul**, Fisheries Biologist, Sokaogon Chippewa Community State Grant for \$5,000.  
**Suick Family** for their donation (in memory of James Suick) of \$2,500.  
**Vectren Corporation** for their donation (Jean Suick Wojtowicz) of \$2,500.  
**Oneida County AIS Office** for working with us on the CBCW program.  
**Resort/Campground owners** for educating their customers about AIS.  
**Town of Schoepke** for use of their facilities.  
**Musky Mart (Wade Novak)** for annual support of our Summerfest Fundraiser Picnic.  
**Barb & Scott Krueger** for free use of a storage unit.  
**PLPOA members** for generous lake-health donations.



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Under removable covers

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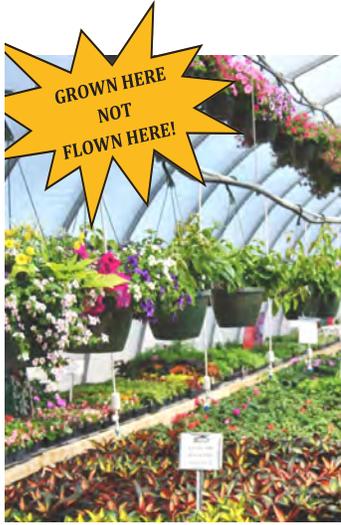


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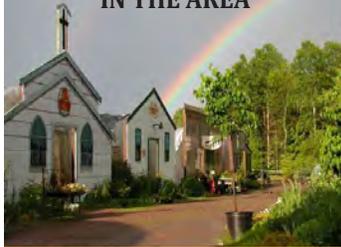


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### MISSION STATEMENT

*The purpose of the PLPOA is to preserve, protect, and enhance the water of Pelican Lake, Wisconsin, through the undertaking of various activities, including advocating and facilitating communications through sharing of information between individuals, environmental organizations, and state and local governmental bodies. This includes involvement in various educational and special projects aimed at good stewardship and wise use of our waters, their natural wildlife habitats and fisheries both for us and future generations.*

#### NEWSLETTER STAFF 2020

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