

FALL/WINTER 2011

VOLUME 16, ISSUE TWO



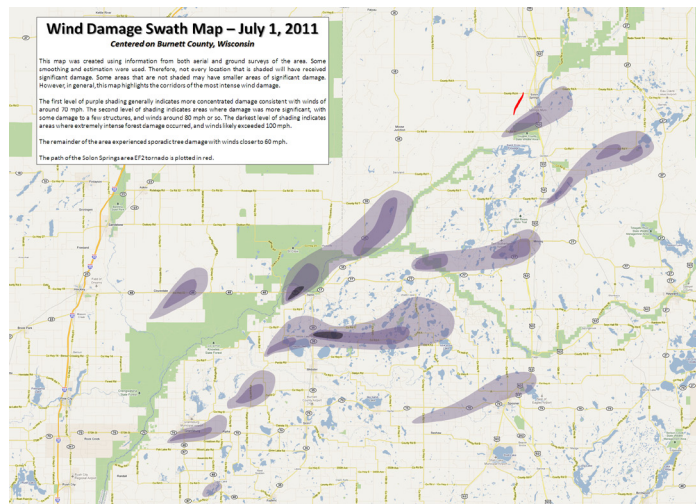
# LAKElines

Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association  
University of Wisconsin-Extension/Burnett County

## Your Lake Shore: After the Storm

by John Haack, Natural Resources Educator - UWEX

The line of severe thunderstorms that moved through Burnett County, Minnesota, and northwest Wisconsin on July 1st produced widespread, straight-line (non-tornadic) wind damage from gusts in excess of 60 mph with small pocket of intense winds in excess of 100 mph. The damage included areas of very intense forest blow down along lakeshores. The National Weather Service in Duluth storm damage map below shows the primary areas of storm damage.



The highlighted areas on the map indicate where the majority of the tree damage occurred. In the lightest level of shading, damage was concentrated, and these were areas where many trees were damaged or blown over. Winds in those areas were likely closer to 70-80 mph. In the next level of shading, there was a combination of more intense tree damage and damage to a few structures. Winds were likely between 80 and 100 mph in those spots. And in the darkest level of shading, corridors of severe forest blowdown leveled trees. Winds in those areas

likely exceeded 100 mph according to the National Weather Service. Areas outside the shaded zones were also hit but in a much more spotty pattern.



Some lake owners suffered significant damage and tree loss. Photo: Stacy Hopke, Burnett County Sheriff's Dept.

Left in the storm's path are hundreds of property owners removing dead trees from roof tops, driveways, yards and lake shore areas. If your lake shore property was damaged consider the following tips:

### Manage your fire hazard:

The 2012 spring's fire season is coming soon, so be sure to think about the fire-fuel downed trees will create next spring. Focus on cleaning up dead trees and branches close to your home and driveway, removing the fuels that will create a fire hazard near your buildings first and foremost. If you burn, be sure (e.g. leaves, brush, and pine needles) you obtain an annual burning permit and then call or check on-line on the day you burn for the daily burn restrictions. These no-cost permits can be obtained at local Ranger Stations, Emergency Fire Wardens,

**(Article Continues on Page 4)**

## Message from the President *by Roger Noe*

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THIS TOO SHALL PASS.....

**W**OW!! A summer to remember to say the least in Burnett County. Just as things were recovering from 5 years of drought, Mother Nature decided to thin that which was very brittle from the lack of precipitation. Hopefully at this time you are recovering and moving on. Time for some good news.....

In early July, Burnett County was notified that the Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association ( BCLRA ) had been chosen as the recipient of the 2011 Wisconsin Idea Award presented by the University System of Wisconsin Extension Chancellor. For those of us not familiar with the Wisconsin Idea Award, it has been an interesting educational experience. It seems that Wisconsin has been a national leader in promoting cooperation between education (the university system) and the common good of all society. Teddy Roosevelt in 1912 touted the effects being made in Wisconsin to aid the common man through the university system. The Wisconsin Idea appears to have been a model for the United States.

For the past 15 years, BCLRA in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin Extension, Burnett County Land & Water Conservation Dept., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Burnett County Board of Supervisors has made significant contributions to the health and well being of life in Burnett County, specifically its lakes and rivers. Comprised of a handful of volunteers, the BCLRA is the umbrella for 40 lakes & rivers in Burnett County. Its mission..... serve and protect the waters of Burnett County by acting as a network agent for local lakes and rivers connecting them to each other and county and state resources. An example of BCLRA's hard work was the passage of a county ordinance which led to a state law prohibiting the transfer of aquatic vegetation on boat trailers.

Congratulations to Burnett County and The Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association on receiving the 2011 Wisconsin Idea Award. A group of volunteers in northwest Wisconsin working closely with government agencies to improve life in Burnett County..... The Wisconsin Idea.



*Front Row: Chancellor Ray Cross, Roger Noe, Rep. Nick Milroy, Susan Wallin.  
Back Row: Hud Gelein, Mike Kornmann, Bob Baker*

# Conflicts Abound

by Kim Peterson, Edward B. Nelson, and Dreux J. Watermolen,  
WDNR (Adapted from *Lake Tides* Vol. 36, No.3)

We asked boaters if others on the water caused problems or interfered with their activities in any way. Most of the problems identified arise from encounters with other boaters. They frequently talked about “interference,” and described how the actions of others detracted from their boating enjoyment. The primary causes of interference: 1. lack of consideration, 2. lack of knowledge, and 3. the size, depth and shape of the lake. Key finding of the boater survey are summarized below:

## Lack of Consideration

It appears that some boaters do not consider the rights and needs of others or the environment. Survey responses concerned behaviors on the water, as well as at boat launches and landing sites. Complaints similar to the following were common:

- “Coming too close and fast to where I was fishing”
- Fishermen dropping anchor in our ski path after we started skiing”
- Fishermen with oars out won’t give way to sailboats under sail”
- People at the boat landing swim and lounge there and don’t get out of the way when I put my boat in”

## Lack of Knowledge

Some boaters appear to be unaware of rules, laws, or procedures, or may not demonstrate common sense. This survey documented several complaints of boaters not abiding by the new (as of 2009) statewide laws:

- It is illegal to transport invasive species.
- It is illegal to operate a boat within 100 feet of the shore of any lake at greater than slow-no-wake speed.
- There were several who listed alcohol consumption as a problem.

## Size, Shape and Depth of the Lake

Some water bodies, particularly smaller lakes, cannot adequately accommodate human demand

without crowding and user conflicts. This concept is explained in depth in the book “How’s the Water? Planning for Recreational Use on Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers” (T. Dudiak, R. Korth, 2002) as “carrying capacity.” The term “Social carrying capacity” refers to the number of people that may be on the water at any given time before an individual begins to feel crowded and the quality of the experience is diminished. A similar term “Biological carrying capacity” is used to describe the level of use a lake can withstand before signs of degradation (such as fewer fish and wildlife or lower water quality) begin to appear.

## Expectations and Perceptions

Comments from the survey suggested that some boaters simply lack respect for the rights of others. Having a great time on the water depends on our expectations and our own personal biases and experiences. This is very apparent in the following statements from the survey:

- “Just because I’m a jet skier, boats think they have the right to cut me off.”
- “Pleasure boaters who have no respect for the anchored or drifting fisherman.”
- “In my opinion, the typical bass fisherman has no respect for pretty much anyone else on the water.”

A seemingly uneven application of laws or perception of prejudice creates hard feelings and may lead to more conflict:

- “Jet & Water skiers are extremely rude; never follow any of the rules. We’ve never seen any of them boarded and checked; it’s always fishing boats.”
- “Boats seem to get away with anything and everything while jet skis get picked on. Laws don’t seem to get applied to boats as they are with jet skis.”

## How Do Boaters Respond?

As drastic as this seems, some boaters have bought new boats or plan to sell the one(s) they have in response to on-water problems. Reasons ranged

*(Article Continues on Page 7)*



## Your Lake Shore: After the Storm

*(Continued from Page 1)*

online, or by simply calling 1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876). Burning when the ground is snow covered is the by far the safest option. Covering brush piles with a tarp will keep them dry prior to burning when the ground is snow covered and on a day when calm winds won't blow the smoke over a busy road or into your neighbor's house. Keep brush piles a safe distance from buildings, sheds and over head utility lines. For those of you owning larger property with extensive damage you can find helpful information at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/stormrecovery/>.

### Leave downed trees for fish wildlife

Downy woodpeckers, wood ducks, chickadees, flying squirrels and a host of other wildlife species use tree cavities in dead or dying trees. Consider leaving a few dead trees (those that don't pose a hazard) and enjoy watching the wildlife that move in. If you had a tree fall into the lake consider leaving it. Dead and downed trees in lakes are important habitat features for fish and wildlife. They are used by many different species for hiding, feeding, roosting and basking in the sun.



*Downy woodpecker searching for insects on dead tree limb.*

### Replant trees

Consider replacing your lost trees with seedling trees. The Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department offers a variety of native "bare root" trees for sale each spring. They include red pine, red oak, red maple and white pine. Because they are bare root they need to be picked up and planted in a timely

manner. Call Ann Lane at 715-349-2186 if you would like a tree order form. The trees are three year old transplants and are 10 to 16 inches tall. You can also print the order form yourself by going to [www.burnettcounty.com/treesale](http://www.burnettcounty.com/treesale).

Local nurseries typically offer bare root trees early in the year for a few days and then offer a variety of potted seedling and sapling sized trees throughout the growing season. Check with local nurseries and if they don't carry what you want, ask if they can order them for you.

Various mail order nurseries sell and ship bare root trees and shrubs, but you need to order early and be prepared to plant them when they arrive. An internet search will locate several larger nurseries in Wisconsin that ship bare root trees just after the spring thaw.

### Plant Shrubs

Shrubs are typically more resistant to wind damage than large trees, they provide great wildlife habitat and provide attractive fall colors for home owners. For information on the Top 10 Wildlife shrubs and other native Burnett County plants and trees contact Ann at 715-349-2186 to receive your free Top 10 Shrub booklet. The American hophornbeam (*Ostrya*) and the American muscle wood are two tree-like shrubs you might consider as replacement plantings and landscape features around the yard. They both grow to 20 feet or more, have colorful fall leaves, they don't spread by suckering, and have interesting flowers.

Schedule a shoreland site visit. In addition to helping guide your tree and shrub planting needs you can get expert advice on controlling erosion on your property and receive a free no-strings attached shoreland planting plan tailored to fit your property and your needs while protecting the lake and providing wildlife habitat. Contact Ann at the Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department to schedule a FREE visit with a shoreland restoration expert 715-349-2186 or [alane@burnettcounty.org](mailto:alane@burnettcounty.org).

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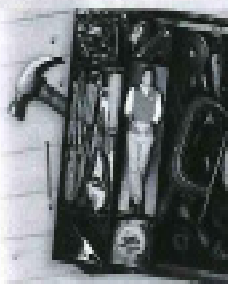
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# When a Tree Falls in the Water...

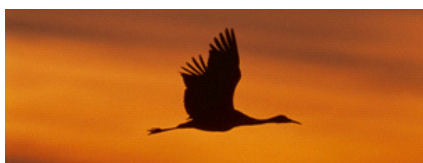
*Adapted from Lake Tides Article When a Tree Falls in the Water , Volume 27, No. 3 Summer 2002*

The trees along our shores provides home to all sorts of critters. If we are lucky enough to have one of those trees fall into the water, that role continues and the tree quickly becomes a home for host of creatures ranging from freshwater sponges, wood ducks, turtles, crappies, muskellunge and more.

Researchers as well as folks who fish or enjoy wildlife watching know that fallen trees and logs provide important habitat for lake edges. According to researchers at the Wisconsin Center for limnology, woody cover from fallen trees is important especially for small lakes- providing feeding, protection and breeding habitat for a variety of lake life.

The area along the shore which grades into shallow water (called the littoral zone) is the area where most human activity takes place and research from Wisconsin and Minnesota shows as we develop shorelines we tend to remove the trees and logs in the water and along the shore to make room for docks, swimming areas or just to tidy things up a bit. Over the decades the result is that developed lakes have up to 10 times less wood in the water than comparable undeveloped lakes. For the long term we should also consider the living trees on the shoreland that are the sources of future in-lake fallen trees.

If your lake property is lacking trees along the lake consider planting some this coming spring. If you had a tree blow into the lake in the big July storm consider leaving it there and let it start its second life in the lake. The neighbors that are likely to move into this low cost, simple option that can make your lake a better place while providing great wildlife watching and perhaps better fishing for you and your family.



*A group of painted turtles (called a bail) basks on logs in early spring to warm their cold blooded bodies in preparation for the breeding season.*

## Conflicts Abound (Continued from Page 3)

from

- “[buying] a bigger boat for my kids’ safety [because of] all the other boaters racing around making big waves”
- to “[selling a jet ski] because people automatically think I’m dangerous...and assume I’m an idiot!”

Many boaters have simply restricted or modified their on-water activities, only venturing out during no-wake hours or before/after the weekend rush. Anglers and swimmers reported yielding to power watercraft by utilizing bays and shorelines during busy times. It was reported that some water users, however, have employed a more passive/aggressive approach to ‘guard water turf’ by obstructing others with anchored boats and rafts. Managing recreational water use conflicts around your lake or river can be a complex task, and keeping things in perspective is critical. Remember that no matter how angry we get, we have the great fortune to live in a country where we have the luxury of arguing over how to play! (How’s the Water, T. Dudiak, R. Korth, 2002)

## Need Help? Top Ten Tips for Recruiting Leaders and Volunteers to Your Lake Organization

**M**ost Wisconsin lake organizations are wholly dependent on volunteers to carry out their mission. For many reasons, volunteers need to be replaced on a regular basis and recruiting new people can be a daunting task if you don't know where to start. Here are ten tips that might help your lake group grow and flourish.

**1** Ask "Who's not here?" Understanding the make-up of your lake community allows you to analyze the leadership pool and know when a section of the community isn't represented. Your answer to "Who's not here?" helps you develop a plan to increase involvement and target needed areas.

**2** Look for skills, not names. Rather than depending on the same people again and again for help with certain tasks, take a look at the skills needed for the job at hand and seek out a new helper. By looking at skill sets rather than names, you can discover others' leadership potential and involve new people in your lake organization activities.

**3** Encourage involvement in degrees. Ask for assistance with small, simple tasks that allow people to grow into larger commitments. Gradual involvement aids in the emergence of leaders and also builds a cohesive group.

**4** What's in it for me? Match your recruiting style to the personal motivation of new leaders and volunteers. Seek to understand why prospective volunteers might be motivated to contribute to your lake group.

**5** Use a wide-angle lens. Keep in mind that even the smallest, most limited volunteer effort can be part of the leadership activities of your lake community. What's important is seeing how each contribution fits into the whole lake stewardship and management picture.

**6** Define the task. The simple technique of recruiting new leaders by asking for help becomes very effective when the task is well-defined

by the time commitment needed. Identifying the skill sets to be used in accomplishing the task and recognizing the contribution that the completed task will make to your lake community's efforts can further motivate people to become involved.

**7** Use current leaders to recruit new leaders. Current leaders and volunteers are in the best position to draw new leaders and volunteers into lake community activities. Visibility, position or authority, and leading by example are powerful tools when persuading others to become involved and take on some responsibility with your lake work.

**8** Create a history of efficient use of time. Practice good time management by keeping meetings focused and well-organized. A reputation for efficiency always helps recruiting efforts in the end.

**9** Offer membership "premiums". What are the advantages and rewards of assuming a leadership role? A "premium" can be anything from a trip to a convention or a workshop to a certificate of appreciation presented at an annual lake group meeting.

**10** Market your wares. Build on the reputation of your organization as effective and important to the lake community. Reports, newsletters, newspaper submissions, radio spots, and other public awareness campaigns can do this formally, and word of mouth works great too. *Taken from: "Making grassroots grow: building and sustaining byway organizations." Tele-workshop fact sheet.*





# 2011 Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program

*by Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department*

**T**he Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department hired two student interns as part of the 2011 aquatic invasive species (AIS) internship position, as a part of the county's AIS education and prevention program. Interns implemented the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program at public boat landings to educate boaters and ensure they are not transporting AIS from lake to lake.

Throughout the summer, boaters were contacted when entering and leaving public boat landings. Boaters were surveyed and boats and trailers were cleaned of aquatic plants. Boaters were informed about laws, problems, and prevention of AIS.

As of July 2009, Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was confirmed to be present in Little Trade Lake in the Town of Trade Lake. In addition to Round and Ham Lake, Little Trade was the third lake in Burnett County confirmed to have EWM. These lakes and surrounding lakes are considered a high priority for the use of a Clean Boats, Clean Waters watercraft inspector. Although other lakes were also monitored, staff spent most of their effort in the Trade Lake area; (Trade, Little Trade, Round, Big Wood, and Little Wood Lake).



*Eurasian Watermilfoil*

## New Aquatic Invasive Species Signs Installation

One of the many tasks conducted to help prevent spread of AIS in Burnett County during the summer of 2011 was to replace all AIS signs at boat landings with new ones. The new signs will help to prevent the

spread of AIS by reminding boaters to check their boats and equipment.

## Early Detection Lake Monitoring Surveys

Part of effectively dealing with AIS is identifying them soon after they are introduced into a lake. A list of lakes susceptible to being hosts to different AIS species was compiled. The AIS we were looking for included spiny waterfleas and zebra mussels, rusty crayfish, Chinese mystery snails, purple loosestrife, curly leaf pondweed, and Eurasian water milfoil.

Lake monitors surveyed each boat landing and searched the shallow water zones for any AIS. Five random search spots were selected to look for AIS near shore. Tow nets were used to collect samples to look for spiny waterfleas and zebra mussel veligers. The goal of the monitoring was to find out if any lakes had AIS present. With better knowledge of the location of AIS, we can more effectively prevent their spread.



*Mike Wampfler and Matt Wood, AIS Program Summer Interns, collect samples from the tow nets.*

## Wetland Critters for Kids

By Christian W. Cold - WI DNR - Ladysmith

### Osprey • *Pandion haliaetus*

(mythical Greek king) (sea eagle)

#### What is an osprey?

Also called “fish hawk”, the osprey is a large, brown and white, fish-eating raptor (bird of prey) with long, crooked wings. Ospreys soar, glide, hover and dive (plunge) into water to grasp fish with their feet.

#### Where do ospreys live?

Ospreys can be found anywhere in the world, where oceans, coastlines, lakes and rivers support a healthy fish population. Your best chance of seeing one in Wisconsin is on a large river or reservoir – like the The Yellow River, Yellow Lake, Clam River and St. Croix River.

#### How many ospreys live in Wisconsin?

There are approximately 600 known breeding pairs of ospreys in Wisconsin (2011).

#### Are osprey destructive to fish?

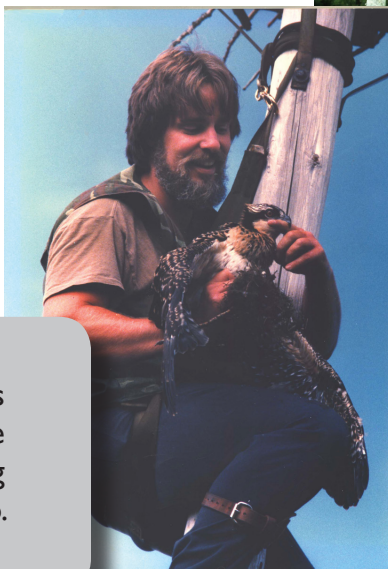
Rarely – if ever. Ospreys are seldom found in such numbers that they destroy a fish population. Occasionally, an individual bird might cause a bit of mischief at a private fish farm... but the damage is rarely severe- enough to justify “removal” of the offending bird.

#### What “good” is an osprey?

Yikes! This type of question always makes me cringe! But people always want to know the “value” of a critter ...

The osprey serves us as a sentinel – who reveals the presence and health of a local fishery. If the fish are there and their health is good...ospreys remain healthy too. If the fish are sick or contaminated by pollution, osprey health suffers.....we notice.....and investigate the cause of the problem. Ospreys have warned us in the past about dangerous chemicals in our environment in this way. (see DDT)

Earlier in my career, I banded hundreds of young and adult ospreys in Wisconsin. Birds are banded to learn about their migration and movements. A few snapshots of my “good old days with ospreys” .....



#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Ospreys are more closely related to kites than hawks or eagles. To further complicate things...their enormous, blue-gray, grasping feet have a reversible toe - much like owls do.



# Protecting Property and Helping the Lake

by John Haack, Natural Resources Educator - UWEX

"It looked like a waterfall flowing off the driveway down the steps and into the lake" according to Dick and Arlene Gritton of Long Lake, as they described the rain runoff that was causing soil erosion. Back in 1959 Dick's father built the cabin overlooking the lake and over the years soil erosion on the steep slope between the lake and cabin grew. "We were concerned about losing our property and perhaps even our home because it just continued to erode" said Arlene.

The Gritton's picked up a couple of free shrubs at a local nursery last spring after receiving a coupon from the Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department for a free "Top Ten Wildlife Shrub". To view a copy of the Top Ten Shrubs for Wildlife go to [www.burnettcounty.com/shoreline](http://www.burnettcounty.com/shoreline). After planting their free shrubs they became even more interested in really fixing the erosion problems so the Gritton's stopped by the Land and Water Conservation office for advice. They learned about the free site visits for waterfront property owners and decided to schedule one for their property in hopes of getting advice to solve the erosion problems.

After every rain Dick shoveld 3-4 wheelbarrows of eroded sand from the edge of the driveway above the stairs going to their dock. Help came with a free site visit and plan by an expert from the county. They followed the plan and hired a local landscaper to solve the water flow problem in a way that fit their landscaping. The landscaper installed a large rock pit that infiltrated all the water running down the driveway and a rain garden that caught runoff from the neighbors on the other side of their property. With the erosion under control, they decided to plant native shrubs and plants on the steep slope above the lake. "The Land and Water Conservation Department was willing to do our site as a special demonstration and offered to help install the plants and shrubs- we were hooked. We really loved all the help and like how it turned out. We are getting older and don't really want to keep mowing the slope area and weren't able to plant it. We should have done this years ago but we had kids in college and

never seemed to find the time or funds to get it done" explained Arlene.

"Keeping a viewing corridor to the lake is really important to us and we loved the way the site plan and planting reflected our needs" said Arlene.

Schedule your shoreland site visit and receive a free plan prepared by an expert by calling Ann Lane at the Land and Water Conservation Department at 715-349-2186.



*Planting the steep slope with native plants and shrubs at Dick and Arlene's Long Lake property.*

## TOP TEN NATIVE SHRUBS FOR WILDLIFE

1. Nannyberry
2. Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle
3. Red Osier Dogwood
4. American Hibush Cranberry
5. Black Chokeberry
6. Gray Dogwood
7. Snowberry
8. Pagoda Dogwood
9. Juneberry
10. Chokecherry





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