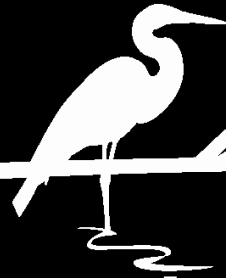


SPRING/SUMMER 2013

VOLUME 18, ISSUE ONE



LAKE LINES

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

Singing the AIS Blues: How Music is Saving Our Lakes

A new initiative at UW-Madison and the University of Wisconsin-Extension is using music to raise public awareness about aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the state. "Research shows music can influence how we respond to messages, affecting memory, emotion, attitudes, and even behavior," said Dr. Bret Shaw, Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Environmental Communication Specialist for UW-Extension. Shaw, who directed the project, recruited a group of songwriters to focus on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species, which are threatening lakes in the state. "These songs were created to encourage behaviors that will protect the quality of our lakes and rivers for future generations," said Shaw.

These songs communicate messages such as the importance of

Listen to and download the three songs at burnettcounty.com/lakeinfo.

Caution: this music may cause you to sing and dance!

Song: The Ballad of Aquatic Invasive Species

Singer/Songwriter: Scott Gatzke

This folk song reminds listeners about the importance of cleaning boats when moving them between bodies of water.

Song: One Bait, One Lake

Singer/Songwriter: Andrew Isham

This rock tune is about preventing the spread of VHS fish disease (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) by not moving bait minnows from one lake to another if water has already been added from the first lake to the minnow bucket.

Song: Clean Boats, Clean Waters

Singer/Songwriter: James T. Spartz

This rockabilly-inspired country song offers some straight-forward advice for protecting the future of our lakes.

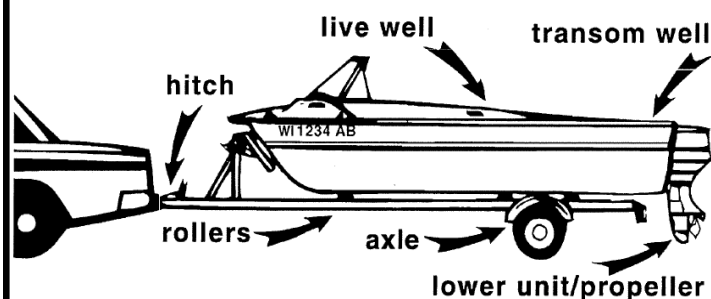
cleaning boats when moving them between water bodies and not transferring water between lakes in minnow buckets. If water from the first lake was added to the minnow bucket, emptying it into the second lake could spread the fish disease Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS). Each song was reviewed by natural resource professionals to assure scientific accuracy and consistency with current laws.

The primary target audience for these songs is 35-55 year old fishermen who are most likely to move between lakes, increasing the risk that aquatic invasive species can transfer from one body of water to another. The music was designed to appeal to this

demographic, with a focus on classic rock, country and folk.

The songs have received exposure on a number of radio stations throughout the state, and are also being distributed with help from the [UW-Extension Lakes Program](#), the [Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources](#) and [Wisconsin Lakes](#). You can help too by sharing these files on Facebook and other social media.

Watercraft Check Points





Message from the President

by Roger Noe

Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association

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About this publication:

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WOW !!!! What a good old fashion winter it has been. Lots of snow, skiing, ice fishing, snowmobiling, etc. We live in a great place to enjoy the gifts of winter. Believe it or not, the hard water will turn soft and the snow will add to the depths of our beautiful lakes. It has been a really nice winter, more typical of those in earlier years.

As you begin planning your lake calendars, Burnett County Lakes & Rivers offers you some educational and insightful opportunities. Do not hesitate to check out any or all of the following activities. They will make you appreciate your lake experience just that much more.

Shoreline Incentive Program (SIP). Are you interested in reducing your lakefront property taxes? If so, Burnett County's Shoreline Incentive Program may be for you. Currently over 675 lakefront property owners participate in the SIP program. Participation requires placing some of your shoreline in a "wild" setting but allows you to keep 30 feet clear for beach activity. Participants receive an initial \$250.00 incentive payment plus \$50.00 property tax rebate for the first year and every year thereafter. It really is a win/win program for the critters and for the property owners. If interested contact Dave Ferris, Burnett County Land and Water Conservationist at 715-349-2186 or dferris@burnettcounty.org.

Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference. In this annual seminar, open to anyone interested in the regions' water bodies, participants will hear from experts who work with water resources on a daily basis. The conference will be held on Friday, June 21st, at Spooner High School. If you enjoy your lake and water activities, try to attend this wonderful educational opportunity. See page 8 for more information or contact Sue Wallin at 715-259-7766 or swallin@eraparkside.com

Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Annual Meeting. BCLRA will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, June 29, 2013. The business meeting will be held from 8:30-9:00am. At 9:00am, an educational opportunity geared towards children (but fun for all) will feature Randy Korb (the "Frog Guy"), who leads a very hands-on discussion of frogs and their importance in measuring healthy habitat in our lakes and rivers. Randy's presentation is wonderful, enlightening, and entertaining for "kids". Join us if you can. For more information contact Roger Noe at 715-635-6309 or dknoe5@gmail.com.

Fish Sticks. No not Mrs. Paul's fish sticks, but a name given to an engineered piece of fish habitat created to give fish a place to gather along shorelines. This used to happen naturally when trees or limbs would fall into lakes and be left. Now it is a construction project. To view or discuss a "fish stick" project in Burnett County check out Mallard Lake. Contact Bruce Marx at 715-866-5109 or bassmarx@earthlink.net.

County to Adopt Nonconforming Use Section of State Shoreland Rules

By Michael Kornmann

Act 170, adopted by the state legislature in 2011, created changes to the Shoreland Zoning Code which are now being implemented in a revision to the County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. The primary change involves how nonconforming structures in shoreland areas are handled. Shoreland property owners, builders, and zoning administrators all had their complaints with the former “50% of value” rule, which has now been eliminated. The new rule addresses maintenance, expansion and renovation, and replacement and relocation of nonconforming structures. The proposed amendments mostly concern nonconforming structures within the standard shoreland setback.

The new shoreland ordinance, when enacted, will define:

- **Maintenance.** A nonconforming principal structure that doesn't comply with existing setbacks may be maintained and repaired within its existing envelope. This means that interior remodeling, plumbing, replacement of windows and doors are permitted. With a land use permit, up to 50% of the structural components may be replaced.
- **Vertical Expansion and Renovation within the Setback.** An existing nonconforming principal structure may expand vertically and be renovated provided that it is at least 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark. A land use permit and county approved mitigation plan are required and will conform to established standards.
- **Expansion and Renovation beyond the Setback.** Expansions of a nonconforming principal structure may be permitted both vertically and horizontally provided that the expanded area meets the setback requirements, usually 75 feet. A land use permit and mitigation plan are required and all other structures that do not comply with shoreland setback requirements shall be removed by a specified date.
- **Replacement or Relocation.** A nonconforming

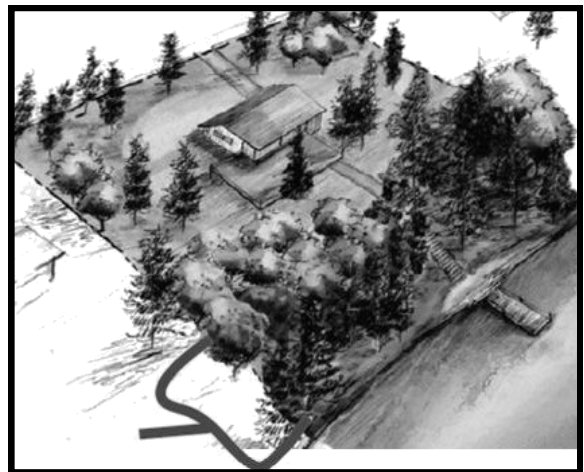
principal structure may be replaced or relocated at least 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark provided that no other location is available on the property to build a principal structure with a comparable sized building envelope.

It's important to note the new definitions that help to clarify the ordinance language. “Renovation” means alteration to no more than 50% of the structural members but not requiring a building permit under the uniform dwelling code. “Reconstruction” means alteration to more than 50% of the components other than the foundation such that a building permit is needed under the commercial or uniform dwelling code.

Not addressed in this revision are rules from N.R. 115 including the regulation of impervious surfaces; meaning surfaces that release a majority of precipitation that falls on them. Those changes, along

with revised mitigation standards, will be made at a later date after further proposed revisions to those sections of NR 115 are complete.

At the time this article was written, the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Amendments were passed by the Land Use Committee and recommended to the County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors is likely to vote on the amendment at its April 18, 2013 meeting.



To learn more about the new nonconforming use shoreland rules, contact Jim Flanigan, Zoning Administrator, at 715-349-2138.



Score Your Shore

Burnett County Land and Water
Conservation Department and UWEX

FREE SHORELINE VISITS AVAILABLE

Protecting Lakes With Natural Shorelands

Natural shorelands provide property owners with many benefits:

- Protect shorelines from wave erosion
- Hold soils in place and prevent erosion during heavy rains
- Safeguard lake water quality by keeping soil and nutrients out of the lake
- Attract song birds and other wildlife
- Provide more privacy
- Reduce maintenance

This assessment will help you determine if there is more you can do to protect your lake. For each question, circle the number of points that match the condition of your shoreland. The shoreland area extends from the lake edge to 35 feet upland.

Is there natural ground cover* within the shoreland area?			
circle one	2	1	0
	Heavy to very heavy Unmowed plants cover about 3/4 of this area.	Moderate Unmowed plants cover at least 1/4 but less than 3/4 of this area.	Absent to sparse 3/4 or more of this area is mowed or bare soil.
Are there shrubs** on your shoreland area?			
circle one	2	1	0
	Heavy to very heavy Shrubs cover about 3/4 of this area.	Moderate Shrubs cover at least 1/4 but less than 3/4 of this area.	Absent to sparse Few to no shrubs present in this area.
Are there trees on your shoreland area?			
circle one	2	1	0
	Heavy to very heavy Trees cover about 3/4 of this area.	Moderate Trees cover at least 1/4 but less than 3/4 of this area.	Absent to sparse Few to no trees present in this area.
Does your shoreline show erosion?			
circle one	2	1	0
	Light to none Little to no erosion visible.	Moderate Erosion and soil loss is noticeable, sediment may be visible in the water.	Heavy to very heavy Active erosion is occurring - gullies, incutting of the shoreline, and visible sediment in the water.
Add the total points circled			

If your total points are:

- 0 - 3 points:** Call today to schedule an appointment. Your lot is a great candidate for a site visit!
- 4 - 5 points:** Consider a site visit. There are likely some minor changes to think about to improve lake quality.
- 6 - 8 points:** You are doing a great job managing your property and likely have little impact on the lake. If you are interested in learning more to attract wildlife to your property go to www.burnettcounty.com/shoreline.

* Natural ground cover includes unmowed vegetation, like grasses and wildflowers that grow beneath trees and shrubs.
** Shrub cover includes woody plants that don't have a main trunk, but have several stems coming from a clump.

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The Impact of Impervious Surfaces on Property Values and Fishing

By UW-Extension Center for Land Use Education

The health of our lakes and streams is a direct reflection of our actions as landowners. When we develop waterfront lots, trees and native plants are replaced by impervious (hard) surfaces. Driveways, rooftops, and other hard surfaces decrease the ability of the shoreland area to serve its natural functions. Removing trees and native plants eliminates the food sources and shelter on which wildlife depend. Water can no longer soak into the ground, which increases stormwater runoff and carries pollutants to lakes and streams. Although the effects of developing one lot may not result in a measurable change in the water quality of a lake or stream, the cumulative effects can be substantial.

Property Values. We are drawn to shoreland properties for a variety of reasons. Often, people choose to purchase a waterfront property based on how they plan to enjoy the water – be it for enjoying the peaceful, natural setting or the abundant fishing, swimming, or boating opportunities. A recent study that tracked over 1,000 waterfront property sales in Minnesota found that when all other factors remained equal, properties on lakes with clearer water commanded significantly higher property prices. A similar study conducted in Maine found that changes in water clarity of three feet can change lakefront property prices by as

What can you do to minimize the effects of impervious surfaces?

Minimize hard surfaces like rooftops and driveways on your property

- Share driveways with neighbors where possible
- Use narrow driveways
- Minimize building footprints - build "up" instead of "out"
- Remove unneeded hard surfaces, such as extra parking spots

Use pervious materials where possible

- Green roofs
- Mulch walkways
- Permeable pavers for walkways or driveways

Capture or infiltrate runoff

- In rain barrels
- In gutters & downspouts
- In rain gardens

Control erosion during construction and after development

Minimize fertilizer use

- Have soil tested first to see if fertilizers are needed, and use as little as possible

Maintain or restore shoreline plants to slow runoff and provide habitat

- Maintain or restore at least a 35-foot wild shoreline buffer
- Let nature reestablish the shoreline!



Photo by Sarah Congdon

much as \$200 per frontage foot. This means that a three foot increase in water clarity could increase the property value by as much as \$20,000 on a lot with 100 feet of water frontage. Perhaps more importantly the amount for an identical decrease in water clarity would decrease property values by significantly more than \$20,000.

Fishing. Fishing gives us a chance to sit back, relax, and visit with friends and family while waiting for the familiar tug of an unseen fish on our fishing pole. Many of Wisconsin's lakes and rivers are prime destinations for walleye, bass, musky, or crappie fishing – making this a popular pastime for many of us. Many of the fish that anglers pursue are sensitive to changes in their environment. Runoff from impervious surfaces that carries sediments, nutrients and other pollutants into lakes and streams leads to decreased populations of those fish we enjoy catching.

To learn more about how impervious surfaces affect property values, fishing, and wildlife, go to www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/publications or call 715-346-2116 and order your free 20 page brochure!

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Northwest Lakes Conference

Friday, June 21, 2013, 8:00 am-3:00pm
Spooner High School, Spooner, Wisconsin
Registration Deadline: June 14, 2013
Conference Cost: \$40, students free

The 2013 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference will take place on Friday, June 21, 2013 at the Spooner High School in Spooner, Wisconsin. The conference is sponsored by the lakes and rivers associations of Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties, the University of Wisconsin-Extension, Wisconsin Lakes, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The conference cost of \$40.00 includes continental breakfast, lunch, and materials. Students attend free of charge. A vegetarian lunch is available.

Register with and send payment to: Wisconsin Lakes at 4513 Vernon Blvd., Suite 101, Madison, WI, 53705. Checks and credit cards are accepted for payment. The registration deadline is Saturday, June 14, 2013.

The conference brochure with more information may be accessed at <http://www.burnettcounty.com/lakesconference2013>.

Conference Agenda

- 8:00 am *Registration, Continental Breakfast and Exhibits*
- 9:00 am **Welcome, Opening Remarks and Recognition** - Russ Robinson, Gilmore Lake
- 9:15 am **Citizen's Role in Conservation** - Christine Thomas, UW Stevens Point College of Natural Resources
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:45 am **SESSION I**
Almost Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Lakes - Alex Smith, WDNR & Pamela Toshner, WDNR
Aquatic Plant Identification Workshop - Frank Koshere, WDNR
Enforcing Shoreline Laws - Jon Hagen, WDNR & Dan Harrington, WDNR
Frogs and Salamanders of Northwest Wisconsin - Randy Korb (a.k.a. Frog Man), Biologist

- 11:45 am Luncheon and Exhibits
- 12:45 pm **SESSION II**
Changing Water Levels - Patrick Goggin, UWEX
AIS Smart Prevention and Risk Assessment - Jake Vander Zanden, UW Madison
Updates for Water Regulations and Zoning - John Keckhaver, Wisconsin Lakes & Heidi Kennedy, WDNR
Citizen Science and Loon Research - Mike Meyer, WDNR & Erica LeMoine, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute
- 1:45 pm Break
- 2:00 pm **SESSION III**
Science of Shoreline Habitat - Mike Meyer, WDNR
Citizen Lake Monitoring Overview - Laura Herman, UWEX
Short-term Lakeshore Rentals - Eric Olson, UWEX
Fishing Has No Boundaries - Kathy Overman & Tammy Grage, Fishing Has No Boundaries
- 3:00 pm Adjourn



Wetland Critters for Kids - The Mink

By *Christian W. Cold - Wildlife Technician,
WDNR - Ladysmith*

What is a mink? A mink is a dark, chocolate-brown weasel with a long body and short, sturdy legs. It is about the size of a large squirrel.

The word “Mink” comes from a 15th century Swedish word “menk” which meant “a stinking animal in Finland”. The mink’s Latin name is *Neovison vison*. “Vison” is Latin for “mink” so the scientific name means “new



mink mink”

Where can I find a mink? Mink like to be near water. Some folks call them water weasels. You can find them along small streams, creeks, rivers, marshes, ponds, and lakeshores.

What does a mink eat? Mink hunt small mammals such as mice, rabbits, and muskrats. They capture birds as small as sparrows and as large as geese. Mink also eat frogs, snakes, turtles, crayfish, and large insects. They are strong swimmers and can even catch fish.

How many mink live in Wisconsin? Wildlife biologists believe that there are 160,000 to 180,000 mink in

Wisconsin.

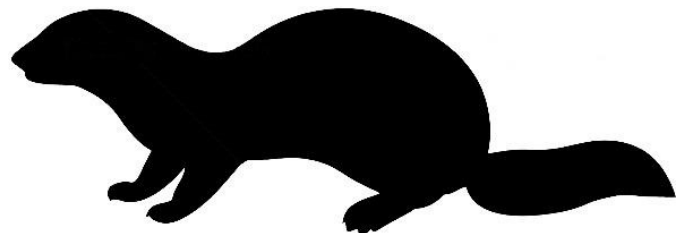
Are there any threats to mink? Mink can easily become sick from pollution and chemicals which poison our waters. The liquid metal mercury is especially dangerous to mink. They can also fall ill to diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, and parasites (fleas, ticks, mites, and tape worms).

What “good” is a mink? As little hunters, mink harvest mice, which would quickly become too numerous if nobody was eating them. Licensed trappers harvest mink, then prepare and sell their fur (pelts) for special clothing. Sometimes we are lucky enough to see a mink in the wild. This can be a “good” experience.

One last word... Never harm or destroy any animal unless you are protecting yourself or your property, or if you intend to harvest and use it for a good purpose. It is important that we respect all life (including ourselves and each other). Mink (like all animals) have a special purpose and rightful place in the great Circle of Life.

Did you know?

People started raising mink on ranches before the Civil War (about 150 years ago). Today, about half of the mink pelts used in the fur industry are from ranch-raised mink.





Keeping Lakes/Wetlands in the Family: Sharing the Magic Through Stories

Compiled by Lynn Markham, Center for Land Use Education

By protecting wetlands we protect the water quality of our lakes and safeguard our property values. Stories are a great way to learn about nature and bond with our children and grandchildren.

Who lives here? Wetland Animals

Written by Deborah Hodge
Illustrated by Pat Stephens

Wetlands are home to amazing animals whose bodies are built for living in or near the water. This book showcases wetlands to bring kids closer to animals that live there - a perspective seldom seen by human eyes. It explains that moose, bullfrogs, and hippos all have special ways of finding food, staying safe, and raising their young in a watery habitat. Detailed illustrations appeal to younger children while maintaining scientific accuracy.

Were you a wild duck, where would you go?

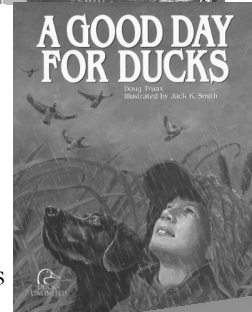
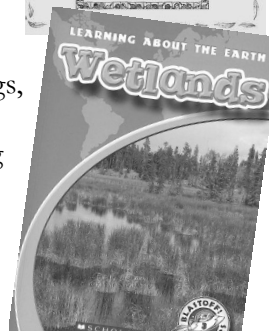
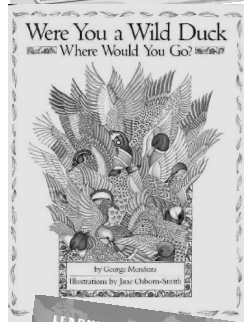
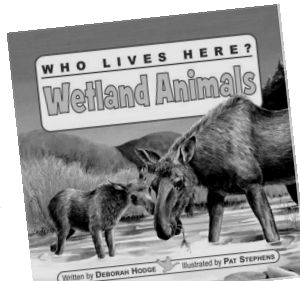
Written by George Mendoza
Illustrated by Jane Osborn-Smith

A wild duck narrator looks at the past when the environment was bountiful, searches through today's polluted environment for a home, and encourages saving and restoring the environment for the future.

Wetlands

Written by Hollie Endres

Clear, simple text with great photos that explain the plants, animals and basic functions of wetlands.



A Good Day for Ducks

Written by Doug Truax
Illustrated by Jack Smith

It's fall in the suburbs, and as Justin gazes out passively at his cold, rainy, gray neighborhood, he bemoans the fact that the weather's bad and there's nothing to do. All that changes when Grandpa shows up the next weekend and takes Justin to his duck cabin in the Northwoods. There the boy discovers the joys of being an active participant in the natural world. When Justin finally returns home, he takes back with him life lessons that he will never forget. Justin learns how ducks migrate and about the need to conserve wet places - the lakes, ponds, and marshes - where ducks are found. And most importantly, he has begun to see the world in a whole new way.

Wetland Plants

Written by Terri Sievert

This book brings wetland plants to life for children - not an easy task. Wetland plants that can be eaten as food include seeds, rice, and eelgrass for birds and wild rice, cranberries, and arrowhead roots for humans. Also provides an engaging example of how wetland animals depend on the plants. Since half the wetlands in the U.S. and Wisconsin have been destroyed, the author stresses the dangers to the ecology caused by building and draining wetlands. Wraps up with a section about what is being done to protect wetlands.

Wetlands: Soggy Habitat

Written by Laura Purdie Salas
Illustrated by Jeff Yesh

What lives in a wetland besides flamingos, ducks, and other birds? How do plants survive in the soggy soil? This book answers these questions and more. People drain wetlands to build houses or farms, but we should be protecting the wetland ecosystems because each of them makes this planet an amazing place to live. The attractive pictures do a good job of expanding the information in the text.



Odds and Ends

“Frog Guy” To Appear At Annual Meeting. Children experience amphibians during Randy Korb’s popular, uniquely hands-on, emotionally engaging and highly educational frog programs. Young participants hold, feed and listen to the calls of frogs, toads and salamanders—from tiny spring peepers to big bullfrogs. They also meet Blinky, a gray tree frog and an accident survivor! Children have fun while learning animal concepts: habitats, hibernation, predator/prey, the life cycle, body structures, coloration, movement and more. **Annual meeting is June 29, 2013, at Forts Folle Avoine Historical Park. Annual meeting at 8:30 a.m. and Frog Guy program at 9 a.m. Free.**



Frog Guy, Randy Korb, introducing kids to frogs

2013 Paddle Namekagon Sponsored by St. Croix River Association. This is a partially supported event. SCRA hauls your overnight gear, offers shuttle service from Danbury to the put-in spot in Cable, and supplies enough kitchen equipment for you to cook your evening meals if you so choose. Registered participants will also have discounts to local eateries and educational events along the route and in the evenings. Expect to unplug and reconnect with the natural world. You’ll challenge yourself, be inspired, and build lasting relationships with a new community of paddlers. Every night you can expect to camp, with educational programs to inspire you. **For details visit www.SCRApaddle.org.**



Fish anywhere in Wisconsin for free. Weekend: June 1 - 2, 2013. Fish anywhere in Wisconsin without a license or trout stamp on Free Fishing Weekend. This includes all inland waters and Wisconsin’s side of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River. Other [fishing rules](#) apply, such as limits on the number and size of fish you can keep and any [seasons](#) when you must release certain fish species. So, pack up the family or call your friends and head to the water for fishing fun. Pssst! We also have a Winter Free Fishing Weekend. Next year it will be on January 18-19, 2014.

Wisconsin Lakes Legislative Agenda, 2013-14. The detailed legislative agenda can be found at <http://wisconsinlakes.org/> (click on current legislative and legal issues). Primary focus areas include: aquatic invasive species, phosphorus and polluted runoff, shoreland management, building a watershed approach to public policy, and educating citizen advocates. Wisconsin Lakes is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to conserving, enhancing and restoring Wisconsin’s lakes by fostering responsible lake stewardship and by promoting effective, beneficial environmental public policy.

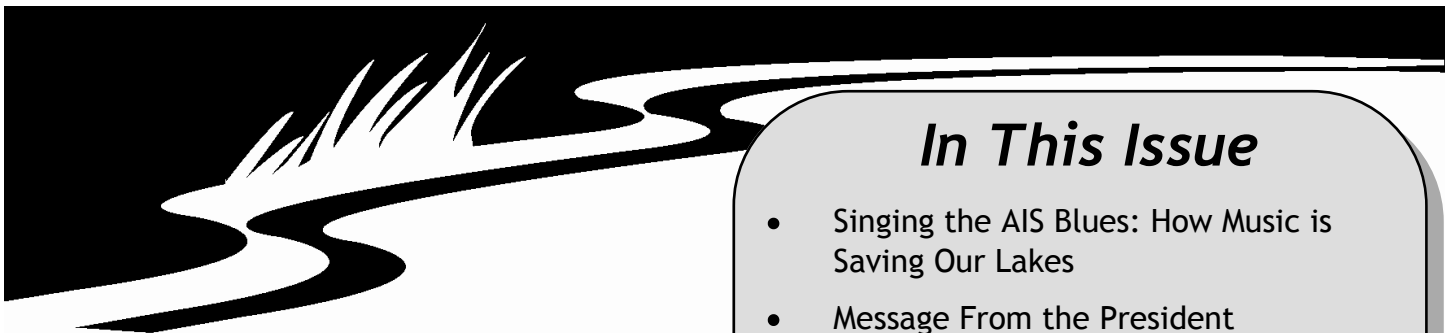


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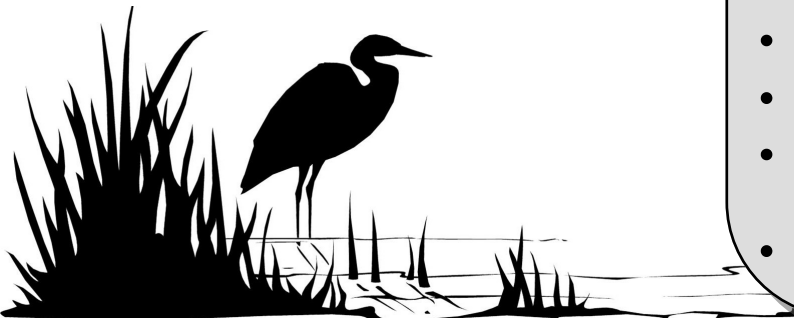
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LakeLines is now featured online at <http://burnett.uwex.edu>