

## Fall/Winter 2002 Issue

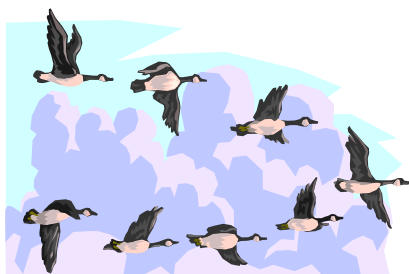
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# Lake Lines

## President's Column



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Hello Once Again:

The summer was a busy time. I hope you enjoyed every minute. The Northwest Lake Leaders Conference, held on June 28 at the Schwan Center was a resounding success. Plans for next year's conference last Friday in June (27) at the Schwan Center are underway. If you missed the opportunity to participate this year, mark your calendars NOW to send a delegate from your association to this educational & enlightening day. You'll be amazed at the knowledge you can receive.

Another event well worth your time is the Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention held in Green Bay, April 10-12, 2003. Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association will sponsor one member to participate. The registration and lodging will be paid. Nominate one of your lake association members by February 21. A drawing will be held on February 28 to pick a delegate. Send your nominated member's name to: Mike Kornmann, UW-Extension, 7410 County Road K #107, Siren, WI 54872; or fax to: 349-2102; or email to: [mike.kornmann@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:mike.kornmann@ces.uwex.edu).

be held on the last Saturday in April (26), at 9:30 am, Room 165 in the Burnett County Government Center. An excellent agenda is planned, including lunch and networking with fellow county lake association members. Mark your advanced planners for this.

The annual meeting in July brought two new board members into our association. Please welcome Lois Dornfeld and Tom Twinning. Greta Michaels has volunteered to stay one more year as secretary. We are always searching for "new faces" to join the BCLRA Board. Anyone willing to volunteer precious time to our organization will be extremely appreciated. Contact any member of the board to volunteer.

As the year draws to a close and we start "buttoning up" for winter, there are some events to consider for next year—2003. Whether you are a year-round resident or a summertime resident, I hope you keep up a commitment to preserve this wonderful area. We are not owners, but stewards of this beautiful place that we call ours.

With regards, 



The spring meeting of the Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association will

# Questions Concerning Shoreline Preservation

Paul Cook, Project Manager  
Big Wood Lake Priority Watershed

Staff from the Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department are routinely asked to speak at lake association meetings. As Conservation professionals, a significant amount of our time is spent trying to pass on the best information available, so landowners can make informed decisions as stewards of the land, yet some questions remain: Have landowners really modified their land use practices in the interest of protecting the quality of our water resources? How do we pass along a message of conservation to those landowners not actively involved in lake associations?

Burnett County has signed up more than 380 separate waterfront parcels in the Shoreline Incentives Program. This is a program that offers a tax incentive for landowners leaving a natural zone of vegetation between their home and the lake. This would indicate some measure of success, however there is much more work to be done. Those 380 parcels are merely a fraction of the total number of waterfront properties in Burnett County. As we speak with lake association members throughout the County, most of what we hear is support for these programs. However, as we survey the waterfront properties on certain lakes in Burnett County, the green, lush, mowed grass to the water's edge still dominates parts of our shoreline.

Our heavily developed lakes usually have active associations. If you are able to make it to most of the meetings, you probably see many familiar faces from

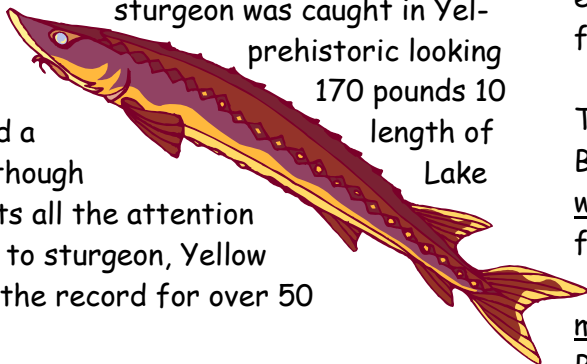
around the lake. Next time your association is planning another gathering consider this: How can you reach out to those property owners on your lake that do not take an active part in your association? Would you be able to welcome them knowing that they may not share all of your viewpoints on what is best for the lake? Does your membership consist of the same people year after year? For your next meeting make a point of inviting a person whose face may not be so familiar.

Take a moment this fall to really look at your shoreline property. While you may identify water quality as a major concern for the future of our lakes, do your own land use practices reflect this? What's the distance from the water to where your mowed lawn begins? The standard for shoreline restoration calls for a minimum of 35 feet of natural vegetation consisting of trees, shrubs and a ground cover layer. Also, re-evaluate the membership of your lake association. What have you done to reach out to those unfamiliar faces on your lake?



## State Fish Records in Burnett County

Burnett County currently holds two state fish records. September 22, 1947 is the date when the record lake sturgeon was caught in Yellow Lake. The prehistoric looking fish weighed 170 pounds 10 ounces and had a length of 79 inches. Although Lake Winnebago gets all the attention when it comes to sturgeon, Yellow Lake has held the record for over 50 years!



The bigmouth buffalo record is also held in Burnett County. A carp-like fish without the carp lips, the big mouth buffalo record was caught in Burlingame Lake on June 10, 1988 weighing 54 pounds and measuring 49 inches long.



### New Outdoor Page Looking for Volunteers

Early this fall the Burnett County web page has moved from [www.mwd.com](http://www.mwd.com) to [www.burnettcounty.com](http://www.burnettcounty.com). The move has also incorporated improved navigability, new graphics and new information.

One of the highlights of the new web site is an outdoor page with a "Brag Board" for trophy fish and game. Also featured is a link to Jim Evrard's North Country column in the Burnett County Sentinel. The site looks to provide educational resources to residents and visitors alike. A weekly fishing and hunting report is also in the works.

Volunteers will be needed to serve as "field reporters." Their task will be to contact area sporting goods and bait shops to get the story on what's biting and on what. Please contact Mike Kornmann at 715-349-2151 or at [mike.kornmann@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:mike.kornmann@ces.uwex.edu).

Only three other counties hold more state fish records than Burnett: Vilas and Columbia each hold three, while Kewaunee County holds four state records.

To see more Burnett County fish, visit the Brag Board on the County's web site at [www.burnettcounty.com](http://www.burnettcounty.com). It's conveniently found on the Outdoor Page. Please submit your photos of fish and game to [mike.kornmann@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:mike.kornmann@ces.uwex.edu) or mail them to Burnett County Development Association, "Attention: Brag Board." 7410 County Road K, #129, Siren, WI 54872. Please include the date, name of angler/hunter, home town, lake caught in, species name and size of the fish or game. Photos will be returned only if requested.



### **Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association Board Members**

Susan Wallin  
President

Fred Kruger  
Vice -President

Greta Michaels  
Secretary

Buck Gooding  
Treasurer

Dick Golding  
Past President  
& Board of Directors

Lin Lehmicke  
Board of Directors

Shirley Sandquist  
Board of Directors

Lois Dornfield  
Board of Directors

Steve Jensen  
Board of Directors

Jim McLaughlin  
Board of Directors

*Michael Kornmann*

## Landing Signs

submitted by Buck Gooding

Does your lake have a public landing? If so, would you like to have an attractive, professionally painted sign at your public access? Several lake associations have done this with very favorable results. The signs may vary somewhat, but usually address issues like Slow-No Wake regulations, checking boats & motors for milfoil, zebra mussels or other exotics, treating loons and other wildlife with respect, and providing contact information for local authorities to call regarding violations.

The first step is to design the sign to present all the information you wish to convey in the best possible way. Diagrams of your lake should be accurately drawn, and the language should be clear and concise. Try to get your message across with a minimum of words.

The sign is constructed from a 4 ft x 8 ft sheet of M.D.O. 3/4 inch plywood. M.D.O. is a smooth surface plywood that is suitable for painting. Before painting the design, you need to apply one coat of a light colored primer and three coats of a satin base in whatever light color you desire for the background. The sign is now ready for the design.

There are many professional sign painters from which to choose. Several lake associations have used Ann Cunningham to do their signs. She does an excellent job and is reasonable in cost. Ann has indicated that she would be glad to answer any questions a lake association might have regarding her work. She lives near Spooner, phone number 715-635-3465.

The last part of the project involves building the structure that holds and displays the sign. Probably the best way to do this is to study signs already in place at boat landings in the county. Some examples can be found at the following landings: North Sand Lake off County Road A, adjacent to the Sand Bar; Long Lake and Des Moines Lake, both found at the end of Arbutus Road off Long Lake Road close to Roamers Inn; Love/Minerva/Cranberry Lakes on CCC Road across from Houman's Resort; Middle McKenzie Lake, at the northwest corner of the lake off McKenzie Road on Racine Road; and Big McKenzie Lake, on the north shore of the lake at the public landing.

We are always looking for ways to educate the public about lake etiquette, good conservation concepts, and universal lake regulations that help to preserve our lake waters, shorelines and waterfowl. These signs are just one of the many ways to accomplish this goal.



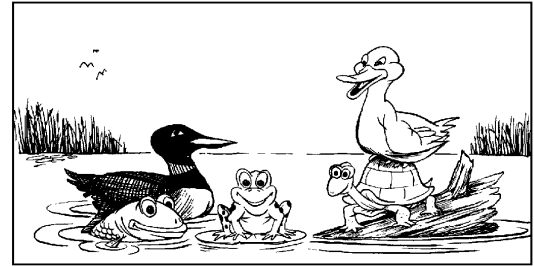
# Lake Talk

## LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



The 35th Annual Bean Feed fund raiser was held at Hackers' in Frederic on Saturday, August 31 and was attended by well over 300 people.

The proceeds are equally shared by our four member lakes for projects of their choosing. Trade & Round Lakes bought & maintain marker buoys. Spirit and Long Trade Lakes do selective weed treating to maintain navigation channels. All four lakes have July 4 holiday parades and/or picnics. Trade



Lake funds security lights at the public access and all four lakes undertake projects to improve/preserve the resources and recreation as the occasions arise.

Our association sends representatives to the WAL Convention as well as Northwest Lakes Conference (held this year at the Schwan Center) and is a charter member of the Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association. We have 227 members this year and represent a great percentage of lakeshore occupants on each lake.

submitted by Shirley Sandquist

## LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION (WEBB LAKE, WI)

Our lake association spent this year planting trees and bushes along the south end of Long Lake, adjacent to Long Lake and Long Lake Road. Long term, we think it will make a nice difference in restoring the lake's beauty at that end of the lake.



To add a little more of a social atmosphere, we had a boat parade, followed by an Ice Cream Social on the 4th of July. We gave out prizes for the best decorated boat, which was a tough pick. Fifty boats showed up for the parade and 185 people for the ice cream social. The weather made the great turn out.



Late summer, the Board started cutting and spraying purple loose strife, our reason for starting our lake association! We commercially sprayed for two years with little or no results. Now, we are planning to spray the plant after we cut the flowering portion off the plant and put that into a black bag. After two summers of this, we plan to introduce beetles that eat the purple loose strife plants. For more information, contact Dave Ferris at the Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department. Dave is the County's conservationist.

submitted by Dennis Larson

Long Lake President



## Attack On Long Lake!

This has been by far the strangest year for the loons on our lake. First, I was told that loons nest between the last week in May and the first week in June. Well, I put out the north end platform on May 2nd and the loons were swimming around and under it while I was adding the nesting material to it and they were on it before I got out of the bay!! The new baby loons came into the world on May 31. They must have had an early interlude?



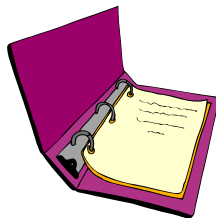
The second thing that happened was there were seven male loons in the middle of the lake one day. As luck would have it, our papa loon went out to run them off and was pecked to death by the "gang" of loons. The DNR has the loon to confirm the reason for death, but there is little doubt, based on the loons head. The next thing that happened was an eagle got one of the babies. Boy, Mother Nature is not helping with the stress part of this job.

In closing, from time to time we have had as many as nine male loons out on the lake at one time. I think they are trying to figure out who is going to be the next suitor for our widow loon. We also have had from one to two loons almost all summer at the south end of the lake. I think we have a good chance of having two nesting pairs on our lake for the first time next year. Time will tell! I know this, I will be bringing out the loon nesting platforms earlier next spring.

*taken from Long Lake News*

## NORTH SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION

Our lake association membership is currently at an all time high. We hope it is because the association is doing positive things to preserve and better the lake.



One of our most significant projects was to develop a property owner's handbook that covers almost everything needed to know about living on the lake, but did not know who to ask. It contains a listing of names and phone numbers for the lake association officers & board members, township officials, county board representatives, electric company, sheriff, county zoning and many others. Included are do's & don't's for septic systems. Also included are several publications from the UW-Extension office.

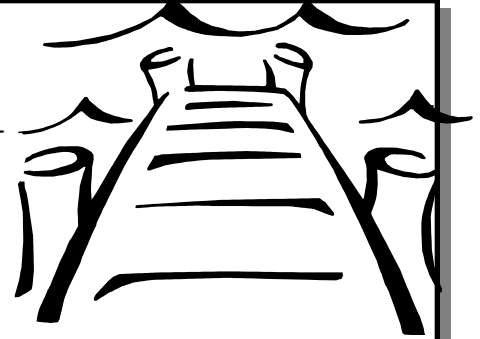
All is packaged in a three ring binder with an 8 x 10 color picture of the sign at our public landing. Distribution is being made to all North Sand Lake property owners at no extra cost.

The association also sends its newsletter to all property owners. Two general meetings are held each year with guest speakers & topics pertinent to all property owners. It is a time to gain valuable knowledge and a time to visit with your lake neighbors. We feel that education and information is the key to maintaining the quality of our life and the quality of our lake here in northwestern Wisconsin.

submitted by Roger Larson



### High Court Rules "Dockominiums" Unconstitutional July 16, 2002



A seven-year legal battle ended today with a decisive victory for the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) and all of Wisconsin's waters. In a decision released today, the Wisconsin Supreme Court agreed that the dockominium form of ownership "violates the public trust doctrine because it transfers ownership of public waters to private individuals." (For the opinion, go to ABKA Limited v. DNR, 99-2306 supreme.)

Bill O'Connor, a Madison attorney who represented the WAL said that he was "tickled pink" by the decision. "This is a decisive victory for the people of the state of Wisconsin. The high court has refused to allow Wisconsin's lakes to be subdivided and sold to the highest bidder for private profit. Were dockominiums legal, they would spread like wildfire, ruining water quality and harming fishing."

Donna Sefton, the Executive Director of WAL, was also pleased. "Wisconsin's lakes are an important resource for everyone, not just those who would like to buy pieces of them," she noted.

WAL has long objected to projects, including dockominiums, which turn lakes into superhighways which destroy near-shore habitat, an area necessary for fish and invertebrate reproduction. Sefton noted, "Wisconsin's lakes can only withstand some pressure, and when the pressure on a lake exceeds its carrying capacity, the lake is destroyed for everyone."

Justice William Bablitch concurred in the Court's opinion. He wrote, "It is axiomatic that the public waters of this state belong to the public. The public is entitled to the full reasonable use and enjoyment of these waters, including the enjoyment that comes with the natural beauty of the waters. One can easily imagine the damage to the aesthetic appeal of our lakes if this concept is allowed."

Justices Diane Sykes and David Prosser dissented.

The case began in 1995 when the ABKA limited partnership decided to sell the boat slips at its Geneva Lake marina for up to \$70,000 each. In order to do so, ABKA set up a scheme where purchasers would buy a post office box located on land. The post office box carried with it the rights to a portion of Geneva Lake large enough to dock a boat at a pier. It called this scheme "dockominium" or condominium of the lake.

ABKA and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) agreed that ABKA would apply for a permit authorizing the conversion of the marina to a dockominium.

The Geneva Lake Conservancy objected to the permit application because a dockominium authorizes the sale of lakes, which are owned by the people of Wisconsin, not private persons. Because of the objection, the case was assigned to an administrative law judge for decision.

The WAL joined the battle before the administrative law judge, arguing that dockominiums were an unconstitutional sale of Wisconsin's lakes. The judge did not agree, but limited the sales of the slips to 120 of the 407 slips. The judge ruled that 287 slips must remain as yearly rentals.

ABKA appealed to the Walworth County Circuit Court, which affirmed the administrative law judge. ABKA appealed again to the court of appeals. The Court of Appeals agreed with the WAL that dockominiums were unconstitutional. ABKA's final appeal was to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which agreed with the Court of Appeals that dockominiums were unconstitutional, though for a different reason than that of the court of appeals.

The Supreme Court said that the post office boxes were "phantom units" which do not meet the correct definition of a condominium. The Court said, "It is a sham to suggest that these four-by-five-by-six inch lock boxes are being conveyed for such independent uses as are stated in the declaration."

taken from the Wisconsin Lakes Association website

# WE CAN ALL HELP:

- ### Home Owners

  - Install native plant buffer strips
  - Use lower phosphate fertilizers
  - Minimize pesticides in ditches
  - Clean up after pets
- ### Lake Users

  - Run boat engines efficiently
  - Observe no/low wake zones
  - Dispose of trash properly
  - Refuel away from water
- ### Land Owners

  - Control soil erosion from fields
  - Keep livestock out of streams
  - Control manure runoff
  - Carefully manage nutrients and pesticides



A lake is a magnificent water resource. The quality of its water is a reflection of what happens on the land that surrounds it. Rain and melting snow flow across fields, towns and roads, picking up pollutants along the way...

## TAKING CARE OF OUR LAKE

Bulk Rate

Postage & Fees Paid

USDA

Permit No. G268

**UW Extension**

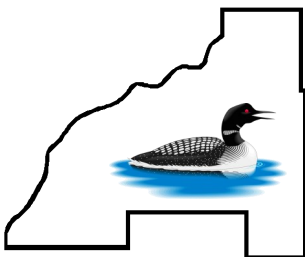
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**BURNETT COUNTY  
LAKES & RIVERS  
ASSOCIATION**



THE LAKE  
NEWSLETTER FOR  
BURNETT COUNTY  
RIPARIANS

### The Watershed

Project provides funds for improving agricultural practices, stabilizing shorelines and educational activities. Each barnyard, home, street, field or boat engine may produce only a little polluted runoff, but together they all add up to a big problem for our waters.



into the lake.  
its water  
drains or sheds  
the land that

To protect  
the lake we must  
protect the "watershed,"

