

Lake Lines

Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association



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Spring/Summer 2007 Issue

Birch Island Lake Leads County in Shoreland Preservation

Birch Island Lake remains the top participant in Burnett County's Shoreline Incentive Program with 42 parcels enrolled through the end of 2006. Other top lake participants include Long Lake in the Town of Webb Lake with 28 parcels and Webb Lake with 24 parcels. Devil's Lake and Rooney Lake made the top ten list last year as well.

Want to increase your lake's participation?

- ◆ Host a speaker from the Land and Water Conservation Department to tell lake residents more about the Program;
- ◆ Sign up for a site visit by calling Ann at the Land and Water Conservation Department (715-349-2186);
- ◆ Encourage your neighbors to sign up for a site visit.

Top Ten Lakes in the Shoreline Incentives Program (2006)

Lake	Parcels Enrolled
Birch Island Lake	42
Long Lake (Town of Webb Lake)	28
Webb Lake	24
Big McKenzie Lake	21
Lost Lake	20
Berg Lake	14
Ham Lake	13



Why increase your lake's participation?

The Shoreline Incentive Program encourages restoration and preservation of natural shorelines. Natural shorelines help to keep your lake clean by slowing and filtering runoff water and provide habitat for birds, fish, and animals at the water's edge. Participants receive a property tax credit, a sign up payment, and technical and financial assistance to complete restoration plantings if they are needed.

Does the program make a difference?

submitted by Cheryl Clemens

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"Ben's World"

On March 5th, Diane and I were blessed with our very first grandchild, Benjamin Mark, weighing in at 9 lbs. 13 oz. -- a nice size walleye. To be honest, I have never experienced this feeling before now. What a miracle! All of the pieces were in place and the engine was running. WOW!!!

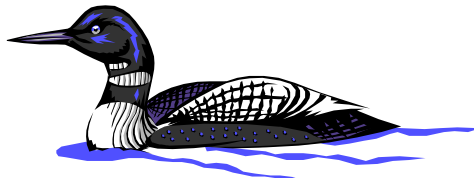
As I stared at Ben, it began to really sink in. What is this planet going to be like by the time Ben reaches 12 years of age; 15, 20, 25 and so on? Looking into his eyes, it became a fairly scary thought for grandpa.

Where exactly are we heading? A question none of us can really answer, but all of us can begin to imagine as we read and listen to news reports. Our world pertaining to the environment is not heading in a positive direction. We need to pay attention and turn environmental issues towards a different course.

Aldo Leopold, whom most of us read and know well in Wisconsin, told us back in the 1940's that we need to love in "harmony with the land." The "land ethic," as he named it, states clearly that man is not exclusive of nature. Unless we walk with nature hand in hand, the world as we know it will not survive.

It is clear what this means for Burnett County -- it's lakes and rivers. The issues seem to surface on a daily basis: Aquatic Invasive Species (i.e. Purple Loosestrife, Eurasian Water Milfoil, Rusty Brown Crayfish, etc.), shoreline habitat destruction, ground water seepage, the use of phosphorous fertilizers and use of more and larger motorized watercraft, etc. etc....

As we begin our annual treks to "the cabin" this summer, let us take note and be observant of the natural surroundings of "our lake." Let us "walk the talk." The feeling of "the lake," its sights and sounds are what brought all of us to the shores. The loons, the gulls, the eagles, all contribute to that feeling that makes "the lake." If we continue in our present direction, our world at "the lake" is going to be dramatically altered in a negative fashion... case in point - when is the last time you have seen a frog on your lakeshore? Will there be loons left in "Ben's World"?



Roger Noe

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Which Category Do You Fit In?

Most of us realize how fortunate we are to live in a state with such an abundance of lakes, rivers and wetlands to enjoy. This has become a primary reason to live or own property in Wisconsin. Maintaining our clean waters becomes more difficult with each passing year. We all have become aware that a major problem facing us today is the increase of invasive aquatic species such as Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). These are only two of the many types of invasive species that can affect our waters.

Although we used to feel confident that these problems did not exist in the "Northland," we now know that Zebra Mussels have been found in the pristine waters of the St. Croix River, as well as in the fishing waters of Mill Lacs. Until three years ago, Burnett County was free of Eurasian Water Milfoil, but we now have found that at least two of our lakes have been invaded. There are presently several counties in southern Wisconsin with as many as fifty lakes that have serious EWM problems, and it continues to spread rapidly. That's bad news.

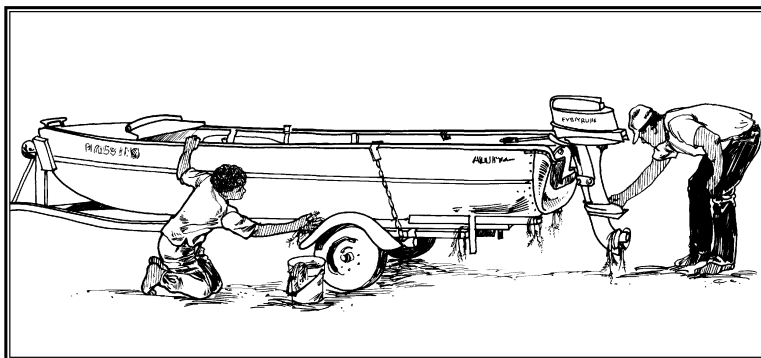
Caption describing picture or graphic.

The good news is that we **can** stop the spread of EWM and other invasive species by following some good conservation methods. The state of Wisconsin developed a preventative program called Clean Boats/Clean Waters in 2004. Sponsored by the Wisconsin DNR, UW-Extension and the WI Association of Lakes, this program has been very successful in combating the spread of invasive species. After four years and 53 workshops, there are now over 1,000 volunteers statewide who are working as watercraft inspection teams at boat landings. Several of our associations were involved last summer. The goal is to educate boaters on how and where invasive species are most likely to "hitch a ride," and how to rid their boats and trailers of vegetation.

The statewide data collected in the summer of 2006 indicates the following results:

- ♦ Volunteer watercraft inspectors logged 11,000 hours at boat landings.
- ♦ Volunteers inspected 23,000 boats and made contact with 54,000 boaters.
- ♦ Unfortunately, 28% of all surveyed boaters indicated they **do not** take preventative steps when leaving the water.

The big question is which category are you in? Are you part of the 72% who do take a minute or two to check your boat and trailer each time you leave a lake, or are you part of the 28% who do not? If you don't do it, only you can change that. Please become part of the majority of boaters who remember that the most important two minutes of boating are the last two minutes. That's the time it takes to clean all vegetation from your boat and trailer and eliminate water from live-wells. Remember also that unused bait should not be released into the water, but should be placed in a trashcan or on land a safe distance away from the water. Following these simple procedures can greatly reduce the spread of invasive aquatic species and help maintain our beautiful Wisconsin waters for the enjoyment of all citizens!



Citizen Scientists Monitoring Streams



Youth of Burnett County 4-H clubs are volunteering to monitor water quality in our streams. Through this partnership between the UW-

Extension 4-H program and the county's Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD), data will be collected from area waterways. The data will establish a baseline to be used by the LWCD to determine future changes in water quality and also entered into a statewide database that houses information collected by citizen monitors throughout the state of Wisconsin.

The youth are being trained through the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) program. It is a statewide program for Wisconsin citizens who want to learn about and improve the quality of Wisconsin's streams and rivers. Citizens, civic groups, 4-H clubs, students and other volunteer groups are participating in WAV

Lake Monitoring Training

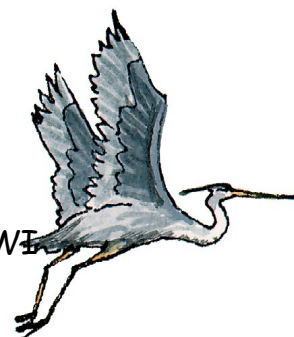
Want to learn something new this summer?? The Burnett County Land & Water Conservation Department, in conjunction with the WI Department of Natural Resources, will be conducting a lake monitoring training session to be held sometime during the summer of 2007. This session will teach participants how to conduct secchi disk readings, along with other lake & water monitoring techniques as well. For more information contact the Burnett County LWCD at 715.349.2186, or email us at: lwcd@burnettcounty.org

programs across the state.

Participants are learning how to measure and keep track of six stream parameters: flow, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, habitat and the macroinvertebrate biotic index. Each of these parameters tells us something about the health of a stream. Because all of Burnett County is within the St. Croix River Basin, all of the streams within the county flow to the St. Croix and join the waters of the Mississippi. It's a long journey, but eventually the water flows into the Gulf of Mexico. The ways we use our land and water in Burnett County affect people and wildlife for many miles downriver. By participating in the WAV program, our young citizen scientists will learn about the workings of watersheds, the science of water quality, the fun of being outdoors, and perhaps most importantly, that they can make a positive difference.

Calendar

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| June 2 nd | <u>BCLRA Board Meeting</u> | Burnett County Government Center |
| June 21 st | <u>Northwest Lake Leaders Conference</u> | Telemark Resort, Cable, WI |
| July 14 th | <u>BCLRA Annual Meeting</u> | Burnett County Government Center |
| July 21 st | <u>Woods, Water and Wildlife Conference</u> | Webster High School |



Burnett County Woods, Water, Wildlife Conference

Learning opportunities about our land, water and wildlife are being offered by a coalition of organizations interested in promoting natural resource stewardship. The Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association, Wisconsin Woodland Owners, UW-Extension Burnett County, and Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department are sponsoring the one day conference. Visit the website or call UWEX for more information at 715-349-2151.

The **keynote speaker** will be **Chris Cold** from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He will present a 60-minute slide presentation portraying the primary wildlife and plant communities in the Upper Great Lakes Region, and the methods employed in their management. The controversial issues of clear-cut forestry, animal damage, predator control, animal rights and the practices of hunting, trapping and fishing will be discussed in a manner which distinguishes facts from opinions, while being sensitive to the values and philosophical positions of all participants. Mr. Cold will be accompanied by a couple of **live native Wisconsin raptors** and perhaps a local reptile.



Laura Erickson has been doing her "For the Birds" radio show on Minnesota Public Radio since 1986.

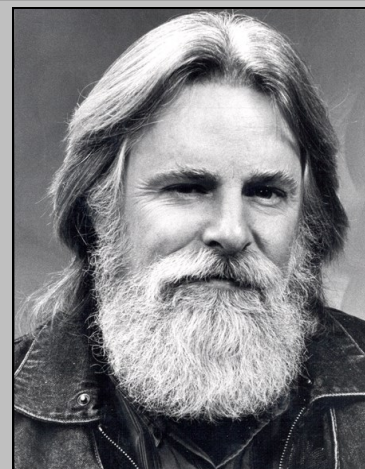
Conference Session Titles

- ◆ Managing Your Timber For Wildlife and Revenue
- ◆ Why and How To Start a Lake Association
- ◆ GPS Tools for Land Management and Recreation
- ◆ Get the Lead Out! Preserve Our Loons
- ◆ The Good, The Bad and The Ugly: Understanding timber harvests and selecting timber contractors
- ◆ Shoreline Preservation Primer
- ◆ Preserving Loonie Tunes On Our Lakes
- ◆ Wood Ducks Up Close
- ◆ Frogs in Your Face
- ◆ Wildlife and Your Land—**Chris Cold**

Visit Website for
more information

First 50 Burnett County property
owners to register receive one
free air photo of their property!

Location:
Webster



Chris Cold , Wisconsin DNR

Registration

Cost: \$20/ Adult \$10/Youth 16 and Under

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Burnett County Property Address and Fire Number _____

Legal Description (Burnett County Property) _____

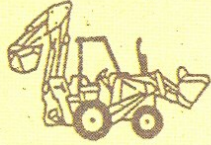
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NORTHWEST WISCONSIN LAKES CONFERENCE- BIGGER AND BETTER!

The 9th Northwestern Wisconsin Lakes Conference will be held at Telemark Resort and Conference Center in Cable on June 21 and 22, 2007. It will be attended by approximately 270 lakeshore property owners, business supporters, non profit groups, local and state elected officials and others interested in the protection and enhancement of the economic, natural, scenic, and recreational values of northwest Wisconsin's lakes and shorelands.

Patty Loew will provide an insightful historical perspective of Native American treaty rights in her keynote address, *First Stewards, First Nations of Wisconsin*. Loew is producer for WHA-TV (PBS) and co-host of *In Wisconsin*, a weekly news and public affairs program that airs statewide on Wisconsin Public Television. Her work in environmental reporting and video documentary production has earned her numerous awards. Loew is also associate professor of Life Sciences Communication at UW-Madison and a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe.

A series of sessions at the conference will inform lake communities about the proactive steps they should take to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Following the discovery of Eurasian Water Milfoil in two lakes, citizens from the Town of Barnes in Bayfield County mobilized a large scale effort to prevent infestations in other lakes. The Barnes Eau Claire Lakes Association will share their experience in launching a Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, public education campaign, and aquatic plant surveys of 27 lakes in the township.

Other sessions highlight topics which affect the health of fisheries in our area lakes. Representatives of Musky, Inc., Smallmouth Bass Alliance and Walleye for NW Wisconsin will describe their efforts to enhance fisheries and discuss ways in which lake shore owners and lake organizations could work with them to improve aquatic habitat and water

quality.

Members of Wisconsin Conservation Congress and the Natural Resources Board will explain how citizens can be involved in making changes to fishing and boating regulations and other DNR rules affecting lakes and shorelands.

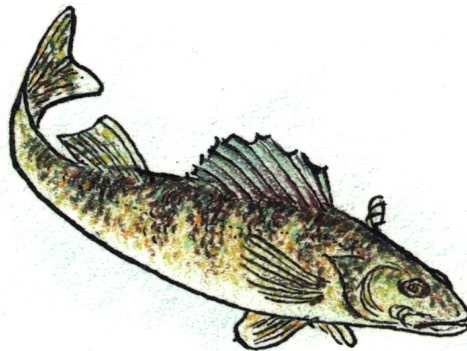
State Representatives Frank Boyle, Gary Sherman and Ann Hraychuk and Senator Bob Jauch will discuss lake-related law and policy issues and actions taken in the current legislative session.

Hands-on workshops and networking opportunities are offered on Thursday, June 21:

- Monitoring for aquatic invasive species beyond the boat landing, and the Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer watercraft inspection training program
- Fundraising for nonprofit organizations
- Pontoon Classroom on Namakagon Lake

On Thursday evening, following a BBQ picnic, Bob Korth of UWSP will present "Kenya Dance," an inspirational talk about Wisconsin Lakes.

The 9th annual conference is planned by volunteers from the countywide lake associations of Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties with assistance from the UW-Extension and Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL).



walleye

Please join us this year! And bring a friend!

Program details and registration are provided on the following page of this newsletter or you may visit WAL's website:

www.wisconsinlakes.org or call the WAL office for a brochure (800-542-5253 or 608-662-0923).

2007 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference

Friday, June 22, 2007 - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Telemark Resort & Convention Center, Cable, WI



Program Topics

- **Kenya Dance - An Inspirational Talk about Wisconsin's Lakes - Bob Korth, UWEX**
- **Get the Lead Out - Stacy Schaefer, Loon Watch**
- **Citizens Voices Will Be Heard - Dave Clausen, Natural Resources Board and Joe Weiss, Conservation Congress**
- **Geology of Northwest Wisconsin Lakes - Professor Howard Mooers, UM-Duluth**
- **Aquatic Plant Management and Aquatic Invasive Plants - Susan Knight, WDNR**
- **Sport Fishing Groups of Northwest Wisconsin - Dave Arbuckle, Small Mouth Bass Alliance; Mike Perrson, Musky Inc.; and Steve Hawthorn, Walleyes for Northwest Wisconsin**
- **Who Owns the Waters - Cathie Erickson, Washburn Co. Lakes & Rivers Association and Kathy Swingle, Retired Surveyor**
- **Water Levels and Lakes - Tim Asplund, WDNR**
- **Lake Superior - A Gateway for Invasive Species - Phil Moy, UW-Sea Grant Institute**
- **101 Ways to Help Song Birds - Laura Erickson**
- **Legislative Panel - State Senator Bob Jauch and State Representatives Frank Boyle and Gary Sherman**
- **Shoreland Stewardship Practices for Lake Friendly Living - Lynn Markham, UWEX**
- **Aquatic Invasives Case Study - Town of Barnes - John Kudlas, Barnes - Eau Claire Lakes Area Property Owners Assoc.**



THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2007 PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

- **** Pontoon Classroom on Lake Namakagon**
- **Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring and Clean Boats, Clean Waters Boat Inspection**
- **Fundraising for Nonprofit Organizations**
- **BBQ and Social Hour**

Keynote: *First Stewards, First Nations of Wisconsin* - Patty Loew, "In Wisconsin" Public Television Weekly News and Public Affairs Program Producer and Co-host

2007 NWLC Registration Form

Name(s)* _____
 Address _____ City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____ County _____
 Lake Organization _____

*(submit names and addresses for each registrant) No. attending _____ x \$40 = \$ _____

Thursday Workshops (space is limited)

Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring & Clean Boats, Clean Waters Boat Inspection	_____ x \$10 = \$ _____
Fundraising for Nonprofit Organizations	_____ x \$10 = \$ _____
BBQ and Social Hour	_____ x \$15 = \$ _____
	Total \$ _____

** Pontoon Classroom on Lake Namakagon (\$30 fee - to register contact NRF directly at www.nrfwis.org or (866) 264-4096.

For additional information or to register on-line at www.wisconsinlakes.org or by phone at 1-800-542-5253 in Wis. or by surface mail to: WAL, One Point Place, Suite 101, Madison, WI 53719-2809. **Make check payable to WAL-NWLC**

Shoreland Protection Rule Revisions Move Forward: Focus Groups Finalize Recommendations

This article was first published in UW Extension's Land Use Tracker (Center for Land Use and the Environment)

By Toni Herkert, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Focus groups have been busy working on recommendations to change Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Program (NR 115) and shoreland zoning laws. If all goes as planned, the public will have a second chance to comment at statewide public hearings this summer.

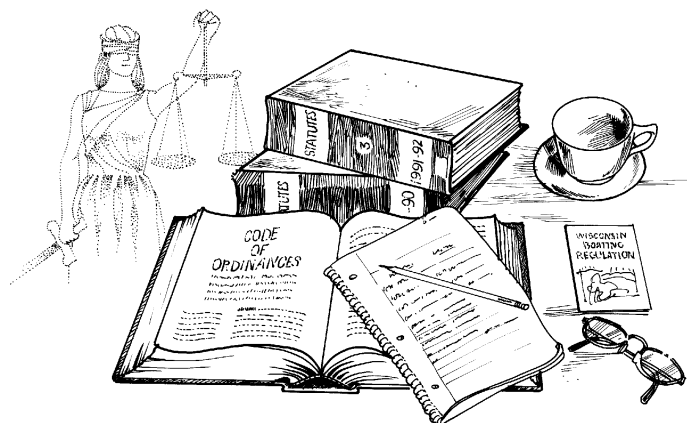
The focus group recommendations shift how the state seeks to prevent polluted runoff from entering lakes and rivers. Currently, regulations are based on how, when and where shoreland structures were built. The new recommendations call for regulating new or remodeled structures based on their size and amount of impervious surface.

To illustrate, different amounts of rain run off structures based on the structure's size and the amount of native plants, trees and shrubs left intact around it. Under options developed by the focus group, a property owner would be required to divert a portion of the expected runoff from a new structure or addition so that it could soak into the ground rather than entering lakes or rivers. They could achieve this goal by implementing various techniques, such as creating a rain garden, replacing a driveway with porous materials, or making sure gutters flow onto land rather than hard surfaces. Measures would also be required during construction to prevent exposed soil from entering lakes or rivers, such as lying mulched construction waste wood over bare soil. Projects not able to meet the minimum standards for reducing impervious surfaces or runoff would have to take measures to offset or "mitigate" polluted runoff coming from the site.

These requirements comprise what's called an "impervious surface standard." To make this standard easy to apply and consistent with other standards, it's based on requirements for new construction that occurs away from lakes and rivers.

These changes to the shoreland zoning law are still in the recommendation stage. In January 2007, these suggestions were reviewed by a subset of county code administrators who will examine whether these ideas can be easily implemented and enforced on shoreland properties.

Whether or not the focus group ideas are incorporated into NR 115 and become law, these approaches benefit Wisconsin's lakes and rivers and the people who live along them. They



What can be done about mosquitoes?

by Frank Koshere, WIDNR

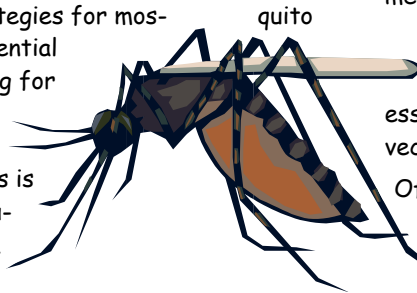
As sure as the snow melts and the lilacs begin to bloom, a new season of mosquitoes will come with. Mosquitoes have always been part of the water-rich lands we inhabit, and they have been cursed by newcomers and residents since the first Europeans traveled it. It's no different today, with many "newcomers" living in rural areas where natural mosquito breeding habitats abound. People naturally want to enjoy the outdoors "bug free." A common expression to hear is, "the bugs are driving us crazy." And that becomes not all that far from the truth, given people's intensity of emotions and desire to do something. And now, fears of disease like West Nile Virus add to the frenzy for bug relief. However, efforts to control mosquitoes need to be carefully considered for their effectiveness and for the harm and disruption control activities may have on other parts of the environment. In rural areas, the most effective measures still focus on avoidance measures.

There are only a few feasible strategies for mosquito control - personal avoidance, residential breeding source reduction, spraying for adults, and applying larvicides to breeding areas. Avoidance and reducing breeding sites near homes is a low-cost effort that involves education and individual responsibility. Controlling adults with ultra-low volume pesticide spray equipment is usually a community-based project. Treating breeding areas with larvicides is expensive and needs to be a well-planned and detailed project that may only be effective when done at the community or county level. Public health agencies stress using personal avoidance measures and reducing artificial breeding sites at your home that are favored by species that are disease carriers.

Mosquitoes spend a part of their life as larvae in water, and then emerge as flying adults. Control strategies are entirely different for each stage. Controlling adults targets those mosquitoes that have emerged from their breeding sites and are then killed with insecticides. Mosquito "spraying", sometimes called fogging, is done on the site shortly before people will be using the site. Depending on winds, duration of control may be short as new mosquitoes will fly and be carried into the site and not be affected by the earlier fogging.

Larvicide treatment is much more complex. It involves locating breeding sites and timing treatment with an insecticide, termed larvicide, to kill larval mosquitoes before they reach adulthood and fly off. This method requires knowledge of mosquito species, an inventory of breeding sites, monitoring

larval numbers and growth stages, and an ability to treat many breeding sites over large land areas. A control plan covering townships or counties is needed because control efforts are not immediately negated by the fly-in ability of surrounding adults. Generally, an effective mosquito control program is done by a responsible unit of government such as a county. Usually it is focused on certain species that are disease carriers and control is not planned for general nuisance relief. To be effective, a larval control program needs a trained staff with sufficient manpower and budget to locate and survey breeding sites in a large geographic area, monitor larvae numbers and development, treat breeding sites, and monitor results. In rural areas, mosquito control will not likely be economically feasible. Much of Wisconsin's human population lives widely surrounded by myriads of natural breeding sites and within easy fly-in range from surrounding breeding areas. In outlying areas, the benefits of mosquito controls will very difficult if not impossible to measure and may be a poor use of public funds.



Where disease control is the goal, it is absolutely necessary to know what species of mosquitoes are involved as vectors and to identify their breeding sites.

Often, disease carrying mosquitoes are breeding in habitats created by yard and home activities. Flowerpots, rain-gutters, pet watering bowls, tires, litter, bird-baths, pools, and storm drains are all breeding sites for disease carrying mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are called container breeders and fly only short distances. These "container" habitats are unlikely to have the normal and abundant assemblage of natural insect predators that are found in wetlands and other naturally wet areas, and are therefore significant breeding sites. These species can also be carriers of West Nile Virus, so eliminating these artificial breeding sites is one of the more effective measures communities and homeowners can take.

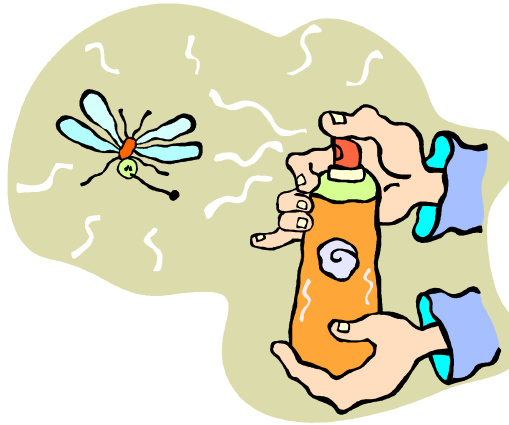
While reducing artificial breeding sites near the home is important to reduce disease carrying species, control for general nuisance reduction will require a much greater effort. Where done, these are detailed control plans implemented by a public agency. These plans require treating natural wetlands and should consider what non-target species other than mosquitoes may be harmed. A nuisance control program must treat all important breeding sites within hundreds or thousands of surrounding acres to stop larvae from developing, and to do it in a large enough area that adults can not fly in or be carried in with winds. Given that adults may live for a month and may fly 15-20 miles from their breeding sites, one can easily see how large of a surrounding effort is needed to achieve control within a designated control zone. To reduce mosquitoes for nuisance con-

tol, control activities will need to extend beyond normal flight distances to the core nuisance reduction area.

As irksome as mosquitoes can be, many individual people will be tempted to try desperate measures in hopes of controls.

Before doing so, consider the following mosquito facts:

- ◆ Wisconsin is host to 40-45 species of mosquitoes: each has its own breeding locations, hatches in different seasons, and is active at different hours of the day.
- ◆ Mosquitoes may over winter in the adult, larval, or egg stage, depending on species.
- ◆ Adults live for about one month and can travel 15-20 miles from a breeding site, and clouds of emerging adults may be carried more than 60 miles on favorable winds.
- ◆ Mosquitoes may lay up to 300 eggs if they have fed, or 10-20 eggs if they have not.
- ◆ Eggs may hatch in as short a time as 2-3 days in warm temperatures. Eggs may remain dormant for months or years, and then hatch within minutes of being flooded.
- ◆ Breeding areas includes any wet area, and water in containers or debris.
- ◆ Many species of mosquitoes breed best in areas of only two to six inches of water.
- ◆ Just one square foot of breeding site may produce up to 100 mosquitoes per day, or put another way --- up to 4,356,000 adults per acre per day!



Some people are quick to condemn natural wetlands as "mosquito swamps" and argue on the single issue of mosquito control as reason to fill wetlands. Most likely, there are other motives for filling wetlands. The mosquito to argument ignores the environmental values of wetlands for flood control, contaminant runoff retention to lakes and streams, groundwater recharge, plant and wildlife habitat, green space, and natural areas. The environmental benefits to human health and welfare from wetlands far exceed the risks posed by mosquitoes. Ironically, our own residential developments may be the greater cause of disease carrying mosquitoes. Artificial containers that hold even ounces of water, urban trash and litter like plastics and cans that hold or pond water, and urban street drains are favored breeding sites for many primary disease causing mosquitoes. A community-based education program to reduce residential breeding sites is a

primary method to minimize disease risk, and is probably among the most cost effective efforts. In contrast, wetlands host an array of predators that are natural checks on mosquitoes, such as tadpoles, minnows, other insects, and birds. A healthy marsh is often surprisingly mosquito free.

The most reliable way to avoid mosquitoes and protect one self from potential disease is to use personal protection strategies. These include proper use of repellents (the biggest problem

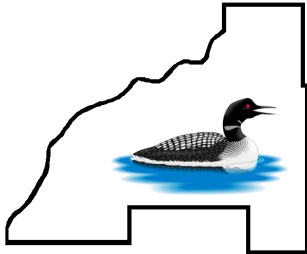
with use of repellents is people don't read the label and use the products correctly, especially on children). Long clothing, hats, and jackets made from bug netting can all reduce mosquito problems. And, planning outdoor activities away from dense vegetation and avoiding dusk periods will help. The biggest help may be a change in attitude. When you are outdoors to recreate, one has to accept and deal with what nature has to offer, whether it be mosquitoes or a rainstorm.

Homeowners "driven mad by the bugs" can be easy prey to more than the bloodthirsty mosquitoes. Many products are sold to appeal to people's urge to find relief, but few will be worthwhile. It pays to heed the warning "buyer beware." One pesticide-based product is a larvicide sold as floating donuts or briquettes and advertised to control mosquitoes. These pesticide briquettes contain a bacterium fatal to mosquito larvae when eaten by the immature larvae. They do nothing to control existing adults. The active ingredient must be eaten by the larvae. Larvae just inches away from the briquette will not be affected if they do not eat the dissolving material. For nuisance relief, the few mosquitoes you could prevent by controlling larvae on your property will be like "a drop in the bucket" compared to infestations of adults from surrounding areas. For practical purposes, larvae control by private individuals on small areas will have no measurable effect on the general mosquito population. It is illegal for anyone to place a pesticide in non-containerized standing water without a permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

People often ask, "what good are mosquitoes?" Mosquito larvae are a significant food to breeding and young waterfowl, providing essential proteins for reproduction and growth. Both larval and adult aquatic insects such as dragonflies prey on mosquitoes. Larval amphibians such as frog tadpoles and salamanders depend on mosquitoes as food. As adults, they are an important food source to many critters we enjoy such as dragonflies, birds, bats, and other wildlife. They are a natural and large part of the food chain. Though annoying to us, mosquitoes are part of the aquatic habitats around us that provide many of the sites, sounds, and experiences we enjoy. In that regard, mosquitoes are a sign of a healthy environment. It's probably no coincidence, the deeper one travels into

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