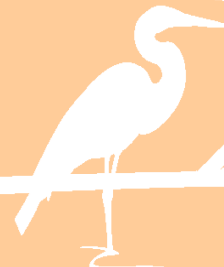


FALL 2022

VOLUME 27, ISSUE TWO



# LAKE LINES

Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association  
Burnett County Land Services  
University of Wisconsin- Madison Division  
Extension Burnett County

## GET TO KNOW YOUR REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE

By Jeanine Chell, Register of Deeds and Penny Engbretson, Deputy Register of Deeds

In the territory that was to eventually become Wisconsin, the first law establishing a county office of records was passed in 1795. The first two counties were established in 1818 while Wisconsin was still considered part of the Michigan Territory. In 1836, the Register of Deeds was established. On May 29, 1848, Wisconsin became the 30<sup>th</sup> state admitted to the union. At that time, 28 counties had been established and today, we have 72 counties in the state. In 1848, the Wisconsin constitution established the Register of Deeds as a constitutional office. Present day in the state of Wisconsin, registers are elected county officials with four year terms. The system maintained by the Register of Deeds was put in place to ensure the rights of persons who first made claims to property and that still holds true today.

Register of Deeds offices hold the history of each parcel of land by maintaining the official public property records. Property records prove ownership in a chain of title. These records provide information about each parcel of land, including legal property descriptions, easements and access rights, covenants, restrictions, and liens. The Register of Deeds offices are statutorily charged with recording, managing and providing access to these important documents. Wisconsin is a “race-to-record” state. This means documents are recorded in the order they are received, which affects lien seniority and chain of title. A portion of each document recording fee goes to county and state land information programs to modernize these programs.

Documents which are filed with the Register of Deeds office include Deeds, Mortgages, Assignments and Satisfaction of Mortgage, Easements, Plats, Certified Survey Maps, and many more document types. Most documents require a full legal description for the affected parcel to ensure they are referencing the correct parcel. There are a few different kinds of property legal descriptions:

- Metes and bounds, which describes the measurements and boundaries of a piece of property. Landmarks in a metes and bounds description might include lakes, rivers, roads, or stakes.
- Certified Survey Map (CSM), which consists of four or less parcels of land designated as lots or outlots. A CSM may be used to divide land for sale or exchange, create lots for building or other development, and clarify metes and bounds descriptions.
- Plat map, which is a representation of a subdivision, showing the division of a tract or parcel of land into lots, blocks, and streets or other divisions or dedications.

In addition to land records, the Register of Deeds office is also an outlet to obtain certified copies of vital records such as Birth, Marriage, Divorce, and Death. Wisconsin Birth and Marriage records are available on a statewide basis. Recent Wisconsin Death and Divorce records are available statewide, with older records available at the county where the event occurred. If you have questions, please contact us at 715-349-2183

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# Message from the President

*By Tim Adair, BCLRA*

## •Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association

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**Greetings!!** My name is Tim Adair. I am the new President of Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association. I have owned a lake home on Birch Island Lake for the past 25 years. I moved here permanently four years ago from Big Lake MN. I am on the board of the Birch Island Lake Association and the Yellow River Protection Conservancy. I have many friends and family in Burnett County, and like most of you, I fell in love with this area many years ago.

I believe, we, in Burnett County are facing a difficult future. How do we maintain our pristine woods and water and still accommodate modern recreation users? Many residents and visitors want high speed boats and ATV/UTVs as opposed to those who want peace and quiet in the woods and on the water. Both sides will have to compromise, but how do we get there? These are issues that we, as Burnett County residents, will have to figure out.

I will be trying to fill the shoes of Roger Noe, who has been President for the last 16 years. Roger is a true conservationist. When I was first elected to the BCLRA board, I was amazed at his knowledge of the lands and waters in Burnett County. Roger knows just about everyone in the county that is involved in protecting our lands and waters, and he knows how to get things done. His brain is an encyclopedia when it comes to where everything in the county is located. He has told me about lakes and plots of land I never knew were in the county. BCLRA He will be a hard act to follow, but with his help, I promise to try my best.

BCLRA has a seat on the Burnett County Natural Resources Committee and Roger has been representing BCLRA in that seat for many years. I hope he will continue representing BCLRA for a while (or longer) until I become more educated on how it operates.

Roger Noe is the kind of caring person one does not meet much these days. When my wife died six years ago, he and the board were right there ready to jump in if I needed anything. When COVID hit, he changed our meetings to Zoom meetings. This may not mean much to most of you, but we all knew Roger is not much into technology, he hated Zoom meetings. Roger has taught me so much. He taught me that our county belongs to us all. He told me once that times are changing and we can either sit back and do nothing or we can try to guide it into a better Burnett County.

Lest you think Roger is perfect, I can tell you that he is not. He tends to inflate the size of the fish he just caught, he does not like to reveal his favorite fishing spots, and I'm not sure he doesn't BUY his venison. But seriously, Roger will be a hard act to follow, but with his help, I promise to try my best.

The decontamination stations are working. Residents are following the new law about cleaning boats entering and leaving Burnett waters. Spraying them with the 2% bleach that is provided will not harm boat finishes. All boat manufacturers that have been contacted, report that spray has no effect on boat finishes.

*Continued on page 10*

## Highly Invasive Water Hyacinth found in Memory Lake Park, Grantsburg WI



Are you one that enjoys gardening and maintaining a water garden? There are so many beautiful and different plants to choose from to make your water garden complete, however, careful consideration should be made when choosing the perfect plant for your garden. Oftentimes, non-native and highly invasive plants can be someone's first choice without even knowing the consequences! Sometimes, invasive hitchhikers can accompany your purchases. It is recommended to rinse new water garden plants thoroughly before planting and dispose of the packaging appropriately.

During fall cleanup, it is crucial to properly dispose of water garden plants by letting them fully dry out, bag it, seal it and bring it out to the trash. Improper ways to dispose of water garden plants is to release them into lakes, rivers, wetlands and other natural areas because they could become highly invasive.

Unfortunately, one of the vectors of non-native plants and animals is by improper disposal. Water garden plants are often found in Wisconsin waters and across the United States. Just this spring, a highly invasive aquatic plant was discovered in one of the Memory Lake ponds in Grantsburg by AIS Coordinators from Wild Rivers Conservancy (Katie Sickmann), Polk (Colton Sorensen and Kaitlin Anderson) and Burnett County's (Emily Moore). The timing and appearance of the invasive aquatic plant was suspected to be a water garden dump before winter last year.

The species that was found is Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) native to South America and introduced as an ornamental plant to the U.S. in 1884. It is a floating perennial with thick waxy leaves that are buoyant, allowing the plant to freely float. The roots are blue black to dark purple and suspend underneath the rosette that do not root into the lakebed. The plant flowers a lavender blue with a yellow blotch.

If left unmanaged, the invasive can quickly take off making boating, fishing and other recreational activities almost impossible. Water Hyacinth can degrade water quality by blocking the air-water interface by reducing oxygen levels, essentially impacting underwater animals like fish. Due to its growth characteristics, Water Hyacinth can block out needed sun for other aquatic plants.

Luckily, the AIS Team that identified Water Hyacinth was successful in removal the invasive and have been thoroughly inspecting the area for any evidence of growth.

To reduce the potential of spreading invasive species, please properly clean, decontaminate and dispose of aquatic plants and animals and help protect the water resources we all love.

For more information on best management practices on how to clean, decontaminate, and dispose of plants contact the Burnett County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for more information at, 715-349-2109.



Above photo: Large dormant clump of the Water Hyacinth found in Grantsburg WI.

Above photo: Individual plant of Water Hyacinth.



## A Burnett County Internship Experience

By Olivia Hansing

Hello! My name is Olivia Hansing; I'm going into my junior year at the University of Minnesota studying fisheries, wildlife, and conservation biology. My areas of focus are wildlife biology, conservation, and handling. This summer, I had the opportunity to work for Burnett County Land and Water as a conservation / aquatic invasive species intern.

The majority of my time in this position was spent conducting lake surveys. There are three main surveys the county provides: early detection surveys, which sample a point intercept grid for aquatic invasive species; meander surveys, which use visual scans and sample six pre-selected points; and full macrophyte surveys, which sample a point intercept grid and identify every plant found. Additionally, I assisted with collecting zebra mussel veliger tows on a variety of lakes and that was also something I didn't have any experience doing.

Given my experience with wildlife biology—and inexperience with aquatic plant biology—I was initially apprehensive about a job that deals entirely with plants! But we started slow; I learned invasive identification first, and slowly eased into native identification as well. By the end of the summer, I was able to identify all the plants for the full macrophyte surveys!

Aside from aquatic invasive species monitoring, I also experienced methods on how to control riparian and terrestrial invasive species, like Yellow Flag Iris and Japanese Knotweed.

Another big part of my position was lake conservation. I spent a couple of weekends throughout the summer monitoring boat landings as part of the Clean Boats Clean Water program; I had the opportunity to help educate boaters about the effects of invasive species, the laws pertaining to them, common vectors of transmission, and how they can help! Beyond boaters, I helped work with and educate lakeshore landowners about issues such as erosion, rainwater runoff, and shoreline restoration.

One of my favorite parts of working in natural resources is public outreach; I love talking to and educating the public about issues they might be completely unaware of! Some of my favorite days in this position were spent helping out with workshops on plant identification and surveying skills. Having a novice at these workshops can be a great resource; the more seasoned you are, the more difficult it can be to remember just how hard everything is when you're new to it all!

If you are interested in working outside during the summer with varying job duties that will open the doors to new found skills in conservation, consider applying for the Burnett County Land Services internships offered every summer! For more information please contact our office at 715-349-2109.



## End of Season Dock Removal

It isn't every day that someone has the ability to look underneath their dock and see what is happening on their structure. That rare opportunity will present itself as summer gives way to autumn and lake residents and lake service providers start to remove boats, docks and piers from the water. Why would anyone want to take a look at the bottom of the piers?

Zebra mussels attach to hard surfaces like docks and piers. Zebra mussels have been found in less than 5% of Wisconsin lakes predicted to be suitable for zebra mussels. Unfortunately, Zebra Mussels were found here in Burnett County in October 2016 and now occupy Big McKenzie and Middle McKenzie. Lake shore owners should get in the habit of inspecting NEW and OLD equipment every time you put in and take out for the season.



Zebra mussels attached to a floating dock. Credit: Sandy Kemsley (Creative Commons)

**It's very important to check for any invasive species, including Zebra Mussels, since a small plant fragment or any other unusual plant or animal that you find during dock removal could be an invasive.**

To protect Burnett County's lakes and rivers, we're asking landowners and contractors to carefully examine piers, boats, boatlifts, rafts and any other equipment that has been in the water for a prolonged period of time for signs of zebra mussels during removal.

In addition to a visual inspection, citizens/contractors are encouraged to feel smooth surfaces of equipment to check for juvenile zebra mussels as they may have a "sand-paper like" feel and are often invisible to the human eye. If zebra mussels or other new invasive species are found:

Check that the invasive species has not been previously found on the waterbody by visiting <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/AISLists.aspx?species=ZM>

Note the exact location where the animal was found.

Take a digital photo of the animal in the setting where it was found (if possible). Then collect up to five specimens of varying sizes. Place in a jar with water; put on ice and transport to refrigerator.

Bring or send in the sample to your local DNR office or county land and water department for verification.

There are also specific laws lake property owners and contractors must follow to prevent the spread of AIS. Prior to transporting any equipment Wisconsin law requires you to:

**INSPECT boats, trailers, boat lifts, piers, rafts and equipment.**

**REMOVE all attached aquatic plants and animals.**

**DRAIN all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.**

## Local Area Information

### DAM SAFETY

With more than 15,000 lakes and 84,000 miles of rivers and streams, Wisconsin has an abundance of water resources. Many of these water bodies have water levels that are controlled by dams. A dam is a barrier that impounds water and generally serves the primary purpose of retaining water. Wisconsin law defines a dam as "any artificial barrier in or across a watercourse which has the primary purpose of impounding or diverting water and includes all appurtenant works, such as a dike, canal or powerhouse." (Chapter NR 333, Wis. Adm. Code)

Burnett County has many privately owned and several county owned dams. There are approximately 3,900 dams currently in existence in Wisconsin - 60% of the dams in Wisconsin are owned by a company or private individual, 9% by the State of Wisconsin, 17% by a municipality such as a township or county government, and 14% by other ownership types.

The federal government has jurisdiction over most large dams in Wisconsin that produce hydroelectricity – approximately 5% or nearly 200 dams. The DNR regulates most of the remaining dams in the state. Some dams or dam-like structures are not regulated by the state because they are not on a watercourse, impound a liquid substance other than water or are associated with a cranberry operation.

Burnett County would like to remind everyone to exercise caution when recreating close to any dams. We encourage residents and visitors to enjoy the lakes, streams and flowages near the County dams, but please stay safe by following these safety tips:

- Obey all warning signs, barriers and flashing lights, horns and sirens
- Wear a life jacket      • Always stay away from restricted areas near dams      • Never swim or wade near a dam
- Never boat or fish alone when near a dam      • Leave your boat motor running to provide maneuvering power
- Stay clear of spillways – changing currents and "boiling" waves can make boat control difficult near dams
- Be aware that reverse currents occur below dams and can pull a boat back toward the dam into the spillway and capsize it
- Never anchor boats below a dam as water levels can change rapidly      • Set an example for children

For more information on the Burnett County dams, please contact the Land & Water Conservation Division at [lwcd@burnettcounty.org](mailto:lwcd@burnettcounty.org) or 715.349.2109.



*County-owned Large Scale dam on the Clam River*



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## Does your lake turn green during the summer?

Critical to aquatic foods, freshwater algae are photosynthetic organisms – in other words, they derive energy for growth from the sun. All types of creatures enjoy these microscopic goodies for a treat during the hot summer days. Unfortunately, some algae species can explode in growth as the water temperatures begin to warm up rapidly, causing an algal bloom. Depending on the species of algae, an algal bloom may produce bad-smelling scum, foam or a paintlike slick. They can also be many colors, including blue-green, yellow, brown, pink or red.

One question that gets asked is, “What causes freshwater algal blooms and what are their impacts?”

The major contributor to algal blooms is caused by human activities. **Nutrient pollution** like nitrogen and phosphorus are natural nutrients in aquatic ecosystems, however, when these nutrients run off urban and rural surfaces and flow into aquatic ecosystems the nutrients fuel growth of algae, aquatic plants and bacteria. The most important best management practice to help limit the amount of nutrient runoff is to have a runoff plan – mainly focusing on, where is the water flowing and where will the water end up, in an agricultural, wastewater treatment facilities, lakeshore setting.

Certain algae species like cyanobacteria can produce harmful effects on human health, pets and wildlife. There’s a wide-variety of exposure levels during peak bloom times, including inhalation, contact or drinking the water. Pets are very vulnerable to harmful algae blooms if coming into contact with algae bloom conditions, such as a pea-soup color or blue-green foam. If the lake you live on experiences these types of conditions, its best to avoid jumping in for a swim and contacting the DNR bloom hotline at [DNRHABS@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRHABS@wisconsin.gov) or the Burnett County Land Services Department at 715-349-2109, with concerns and photos.

## Monarch Butterfly Now Considered an Endangered Species

The migratory monarch butterfly has been categorized as “endangered” by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), joining its “Red List” of threatened species.

The migratory monarch butterfly is a subspecies of the monarch butterfly, known for its migrations from Mexico and California in the winter to summer breeding grounds throughout the United States and Canada. According to the IUCN, **the species’ population has shrunk by between 22-72% over the last decade.**

Each of us can help turn the tide for these magnificent butterflies. Here are some ways to support fall-migrating monarchs, from the National Wildlife Federation at <https://blog.nwf.org/2020/08/six-ways-to-support-fall-monarch-migration/>:

1. Plant fall nectar sources - <http://nwf.org/Garden-forWildlife/About/Native-Plants/MonarchNectar-Guides>

2. Don’t use pesticides - Avoid spraying any insecticides in your yard. Don’t fall for marketing claims of mosquito spray companies that say their sprays will kill mosquitoes but not beneficial pollinators such as monarchs.

3. Avoid pre-treated plants - Before purchasing plants, ask at your local nursery or garden center if they’ve been treated with neonicotinoids, toxic chemicals that affect insects and other organisms.

4. Plant Trees - Migrating monarchs often gather in trees at night or during periods of high winds and bad weather. Planting native trees in your yard can provide this important habitat for the butterflies.

5. Support monarch-friendly agriculture

For more information on pollinators and creating suitable habitat, please contact the Land & Water Conservation Division, 715.349.2109, or [lwcd@burnettcounty.org](mailto:lwcd@burnettcounty.org).



*Monarchs on butterfly weed*



## Lake Association Updates

**Webb Lake:** This year the association has had fundraisers every month for our cameras at the two landings. Also we just got done with cutting and spraying of Loosestrife at the Webb lake campgrounds with the help of volunteers from the campground. Me and Tom Rolgolski do Secchi disk readings every month and put the info into the swims account along with volunteer hours. We will unfortunately be cutting and spraying the Loosestrife for years to come! -- Gary Meysman representing Webb Lake

**Des Moines:** Removed Purple Loosestrife in a low bog area on Arbutus Dr by volunteers – Mark Michel, Chris Franken and Holly Huso. Des Moines has signed up to complete an Aquatic Plant Management Plan with the Burnett County Land Services for next year. It will be their first Aquatic Plant Management Plan with us and will allow the county, lake association and residents of the lake to understand the health of the lake. – Chris Franken, representing Des Moines Lake.

**McKenzie Chain of Lakes:** This year it was time to renew our 5-year APM Plan (our first 5-yr Plan was in 2011!). Seven MLA member volunteers representing the three McKenzie Lakes and Emily Moore, Burnett County AIS coordinator, formed the APM committee. Sections to target in the updated plan are concerns regarding zebra mussels, yellow iris, and Chinese mystery snails. View “goals and objectives” on our web site [www.mckenzielakes.com](http://www.mckenzielakes.com). You may also review prior McKenzie Lakes’ plans at [www.burnettcounty.com/1120/Past-Projects](http://www.burnettcounty.com/1120/Past-Projects). The APM field team completed their on-site work on the three lakes this summer; compiling the data and writing the Plan will continue through the winter, with the final plan to be approved by the DNR early winter/spring 2023. – President Sandy Swanson, representing McKenzie Lakes.

### **Lipsett Lake:**

Lipsett Lake put in a pressure-washing station that has been operational since the Fishing Opener May 7. The workers report that lake users much prefer the pressure washer to the pump sprayers with bleach solution that we have used previously. Not a single boater has refused to decontaminate their boat/trailer this season. We will keep the pressure-washing station open until frost becomes an issue, probably sometime in late October. Best wishes. President -- Bob Baker, representing Lipsett Lake.

*Continued from page 2 “Message from the President”*

Lipsett Lake has installed a pressure washer that is working well, and the Fish Lake association is also looking into a similar one.

The new power loading ordinance is working. In fact, the County Conservation Department is adding an electric winch on their boat, which I would recommend anyone with a bigger and heavier boat look into. The land owners just cannot continue to repair all of the landings being destroyed by power loading.

The Yellow River Protection Conservatory is an organization that was formed to protect and preserve the Yellow River. They are a very active group that is dedicated to preserving the Yellow River which is one of our premier rivers to canoe, kayak, and fish. This summer they sponsored a Manoomin, Wild Rice Event, and they support “reasonable rules for modern campgrounds.”

I hope everyone has a great fall and a good winter. See you in the spring!

One last thought, for those of you who go to warm places in the winter, please don’t send emails about the weather to us when its 20 below zero here and 85 where you are. ☺

## Winter Fun in Burnett County

There are many things to do in Burnett County in the winter. Here is a sample of fun activities. Enjoy Winter!!

**Ice Fishing:** Your lake or another with a public access. Many of the same species as summer fishing, just some different equipment which is easy to get at the local sport shops. They can tell you where to fish as well.

**Snowmobiling:** Over 300 miles of trails winding through wooded and open areas provide ample snowmobiling opportunities in Burnett County. This trail system connects to all surrounding counties, including Pine County, Minnesota. From December 1 through March 31 you may operate your snowmobile on state-funded winter trails when a 4-inch groomed snow base is present and trails have been officially opened. Snowmobile trails are marked with orange blazers. Please refer to Trails and Licensing for maps and regulations. Go to Trail Updates for current conditions and to sign up for email or text notifications.

**Winter ATV/UTV:** Burnett County has approximately 59 miles of Summer all-terrain vehicles (ATV)/utility vehicles (UTV) trails; almost 97 miles of Frozen Ground ATV/UTV trails; and over 130 miles of Winter ATV/UTV trails. Additional miles of ATV/UTV routes provide connections to some of our neighboring counties.

All ATVs/UTVs must be registered or licensed.

ATVs/UTVs are not allowed on the Gandy Dancer Trail except from December 1st through March 31st once trails are officially open. For trail conditions, please visit: <https://www.burnettcounty.com/135/ATV-Trails>

**Cross Country Skiing:** Scenic cross-country skiing at its finest can be found in all areas of the county. No matter what your skill-level is, you can find the kind of skiing experience you are looking for at one of seven trails. Seventy-five kilometers of trails are available and can be skied in either classical or skating techniques. Cross-Country Ski Trails Overview

Trail Maps and Info can be found at: <https://www.burnettcounty.com/283/Cross-Country-Skiing>

**Winter Mountain Biking:** Lake Country Pedalers Bicycle Club has developed and maintains the Keizer Lake Bike Trails in the Town of Jackson Lake Country Pedalers—contact Webster Cog & Sprocket at 715-866-8600. This trail system consists of a combination of constructed single-track mountain bike trails totaling approximately 3 miles in addition to several miles of existing logging road connector trails.; Timberland Hills offers a 4.4 mile trail for fat bikes, hiking, snowshoeing, and skijoring. This trail uses the county's existing tote road system; The Webb Lake Men's Club developed and maintains the Dogtown Cluster and Big Bear Trails in the Town of Webb Lake. These trails total approximately 31 miles.

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### THANK YOU!!

The Burnett County AIS Program would like to thank all lake associations and their volunteers that helped preserve Burnett County's waters in 2022. Volunteers participated in Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW), the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN), statewide programs such as AIS Snapshot Day, decontamination station maintenance, monitoring for AIS, and much more. Volunteers put forth their own time and effort to help keep Burnett County's waters healthy for all to enjoy. Thank you volunteers! While volunteering, these hours can also be used to help Burnett County meet our AIS grant match requirements – another big help! Interested in volunteering in the future, please contact Burnett County for more information at 715-349-2109 to become a Lake Steward today!





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Burnett County Lakes & Rivers  
Association

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## LAKELINES

FALL 2022

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*LakeLines is now featured online at [www.burnettcounty.com/LakeLines](http://www.burnettcounty.com/LakeLines)*