LAKE ECOLOGY WITH PAUL



Paul Garrison Bureau of Science Services





WATERSHEDS, LANDUSE, AND SHALLOW LAKES

- Why does the lake care what you do on the land?
- Does the depth of my lake affect the water quality?

HISTORY IN THE MUCKING

• Have our lakes always been like this?

LAND USE AND WATERSHED IMPACTS











Phosphorus Export Coefficients

Wisconsin Values



WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT PHOSPHORUS?





Phosphorus Distribution Dane County - Farm 1



Dane Co. Soil Test P Data 1974-1994



(after Combs et al. 1996 as reported in Bennett et al. 1999)

WATER BUDGET

SURFACE WATER



Photo by Paul Garrison







WATER AND NUTRIENT BUDGETS

NUTRIENT BUDGETS





BENTHIVOROUS FISH



SHORELAND DEVELOPMENT



Undeveloped – Apr.-Oct. phosphorus/sediment runoff model

- maple-beech forest
- 6% slope to lake
- sandy loam soil



ON LAKE (April - Oct.)

IMPACT

- 1,000 ft³ runoff to lake
- 0.03 lbs. phos. to lake
- 5 lbs. sediment to lake

Source: Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources 1995 John Panuska





1940s development – Apr.-Oct. phosphorus/sediment runoff model

- maple-beech forest
- 6% slope to lake
- grass corridor 20'-wide
- cottage 700 ft² perimeter
- gravel drive 800 ft²
- 35'-wide buffer strip



IMPACT ON LAKE (April - Oct.)

- 1,000 ft³ runoff to lake
- 0.03 lbs. phos. to lake
- 20 lbs. sediment to lake

Source: Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources 1995 John Panuska



1990s development – Apr.-Oct. phosphorus/sediment runoff model







Restoration and Management of Shallow Lakes

Paul Cunningham Bureau of Fisheries, Wisconsin DNR



Clearwater state

Clearwater state

Turbid state, Beaver Dam Lake

Shallow Lake Ecology Clear State Turbid State

Abundant Rooted Plants Lower Phosphorus Clearer Water Gamefish Dominate

Frequent Algal BloomsHigher PhosphorusSuspended SedimentCarp & Crappies Dominate



Biomanipulation

Seasonal Levels CONVEX or CONCAVE ?

Water levels are Often Managed for Navigation Rather than Plants, Resulting in High Summer Levels, *Opposite* What Nature Intended.

Paleolimnology or

History in the Mucking

HOW DO YOU COLLECT SEDIMENT CORES?

Gravity Corer

Piston Corer

FALLOUT FROM ATMOSPHERIC BOMB TESTING

BLUE-GREEN and **GREEN** ALGAE

Green Lake

SHORELAND DEVELOPMENT

Shift in the ratio of isoetids to elodeids

1930s: 50/50

2000s: 30/70

Susan Borman and Ray Newman-U. of Minnesota

Little Bearskin Lake

CHANGE IN PHOSPHORUS

PHOSPHORUS

CLIMATE CHANGE

5,000-12,000 yrs BP

CHANGING WATER LEVELS

Berry Lake, Oconto County

LAKETIDES

Winter 2007

Paleolimnology History in the Mucking

Lake folks often get into lively discussions over what the lake used to be like...more plants, fewer plants, clear water, murky water... Is there any way to really know for sure? Well, the answer is yes! In fact we can have a good idea of what lakes used to be like hundreds of years ago with a science called Paleolimnology.

Winter 2008

Paleolimnology A Reflection of Our History

An article in Lake Tides (vol. 32, no. 1), "Paleolimnology: History in the Mucking," discussed how sediment cores are taken and utilized to understand past changes in lakes. This article will take us on a historical journey that links changes on the landscape with environmental impacts to our lakes, which are revealed in the lake sediments.

on the land. The opening of the forest allowed large amounts of sediments and nutrients to be exported from the land to the water.

Major events in the history of our country, like World War II, had definite impacts on our lakes. World War II marked another period in which agricultural practices intensified. To