



# LAKE TIDES

*The newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin lakes*

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## On The Cutting Edge

Silver Lake Leaves

*Ice harvesting came and went. But Silver Lake refused to quit. Steel and skill would lead this Kenosha County lake and town from cutting ice to cutting leaves. This two-part series ends with the rise of aquatic plant cutting from 1903-1960.*

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Silver Lake by 1903 had become an ice colony, one with all the hustle of a logging camp. Men with horses scurried about the lake, scraping and grooving and cutting the ice into sheets. Other men poled the sheets toward shore, where the ice was split into 200-pound cakes and stored in 200-foot icehouses. Railroads then took the frozen sweat to Chicago for cooling food and drinks, even candy and cadavers.

Women were busy too. They worked the kitchens and laundries of lakeside boarding houses. Others mended hats and coats and gloves for the Chicago homeless who worked the ice.



*Courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society*

### Old and New

Steel had become king. Chicago skyscrapers, framed in steel girders, surpassed ten stories. Suspension bridges,

with arching steel cables, spanned rivers and ravines. Boats. Tractors. Railroads. Haymowers. Even horseless carriages. All were being built with steel.

But the ice trade stuck to hand tools and horse-drawn plows made of wood and wrought iron. Some 60 different ice tools had been developed, mostly in New England, from tools used in mining, farming, logging, and other trades. Forged in open hearths or Bessemer furnaces, such ironware became dulled and dented on the ice fields. Their repair fell to tool makers and village blacksmiths.

Among Silver Lake's 50 residents was John Ludwig. "With large and sinewy hands... as strong as iron bands," Uncle John shod horses, mended bobsleds, and fixed wagon wheels. Morgans, Percherons, and Clydesdales became his clients. At winter's ends, he would recast the plows, reshape pike poles, and sharpen chisel bars for next year's ice harvest. He was the brawny backbone of a brawny ice crew.

One day, when Uncle John was pounding a red-hot ice spud on his anvil, a child passing the shop after school asked what he was doing. Ludwig replied, "Hammering a glass of cold lemonade."



Wisconsin Lakes  
Partnership

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Not long after, Silver Lake gained a second smith. Chester Hockney had opened a shop one week, before Farmer Hotz came by. He brought the wiry 22-year-old a draft horse with a bloodied leg. “Must I shoot it?” the farmer asked.

“Walk the horse back and forth,” Hockney instructed. Watching its lame foot hit the ground gave the neophyte an idea. He trimmed the hoof and reshaped the shoe so the horse’s weight fell on less painful points. Next he cleaned the leg and sent the farmer home, advising him to walk the horse for the first two miles and then run it at a slow trot.

The horse recovered. Soon everyone heard about the clever blacksmith. “Dad had learned his trade well,” wrote son George. “He was the guy you turned to when something special had to be built.”

Not content to shoe horses, Hockney turned to steel and skill to fix a different sort. Fords, Packards, and Studebakers became his clients. But another fate awaited the young mechanic.

### Helping a Harvest

Weather played a whimsical game with the ice crew, a game they seldom won. Warm weather delayed ice-up and kept the ice thin, forming “punk ice” that gave way underfoot. Droughts were even worse.

Without rain, the lake’s shallows became boot-sucking mud flats. Water plants, like sago pondweed, reached for the sun and crowded the lake surface far offshore. When winter came, the foliage would freeze into the ice and spoil the ice crop. Chicago meat packers then relied on Madison for lake ice and the Old South for factory ice.

Fearing another mild winter, Jim Boyle of the Boyle Ice Company—one of several ice conglomerates on Silver Lake—called on Chester Hockney for help.

“Chet, here’s 150 bucks,” said Boyle. “Build me a machine that will get rid of weeds. We just got to cut clean ice near shore.”

### A New Path

For cutting water plants, Hockney studied saws and shears and sickle bars. Then he modified a haymower so it floated on water. Mounted on pontoons, his cutter was propelled through the water by a gasoline engine that turned a rear paddle wheel. But the contraption looked so much like a McCormick reaper, it was denied a patent. That didn’t stop Hockney.

He built more cutters and sold them to other ice companies. Soon lakes throughout the Midwest were abuzz with saw boats. Plants were snipped in late fall and allowed to drift ashore where workers raked and burned the dried shoots.

Hockney also built an ice cutter by modifying a Ford Model-T engine. He mounted the engine on a sled behind a steel circular saw. The saw ripped a groove 8-12 inches deep, leaving the ice ready to be split into cakes. One or two workers could cut an entire field. Mechanics on other ice lakes built similar machines. By January 1920, steel had replaced horse-drawn ice plows...and legions of Chicago laborers.

### Paddle Wheeling

Hockney continued to tinker with weed cutters, trying new ways to snip the plants or drive the machines. He built bigger boats that cut lanes 5-10 feet wide and up to 5 feet deep through plant beds. He designed a sickle bar for use on rowboats and added a rake to skim the clippings ashore.

But not all his ideas worked. He built a three-sided boat to reduce water resistance on the bow. It floated on steel drums but tended to tip and almost threw him overboard. And despite his rake attachment, clippings rafted away or stormed the shore and needed to be hand raked.

Then, one day, a pair of mallards gave Hockney an idea. “He noticed the action of their webbed feet,” wrote George. “Their toes were held tight when extending the legs...but spread apart when retracting the legs for propulsion.” And so the Duck Paddle

*Water plants, like sago pondweed, reached for the sun and crowded the lake surface far offshore. When winter came, the foliage would freeze into the ice and spoil the ice crop.*



Drive was invented, with two paddle wheels for legs.

His ideas and tinkering culminated in the Amphibian Cutter, a paddle wheeler with removable sickle bars that converted into a tractor. Built in 1924, it could be driven down a road and onto a lake, though the front wheels and steering column had to be removed before launching the craft.



*Plant cutters have come a long way.*

These and other weed cutters went on to snip lake plants around the world. But gasoline ice cutters came too late to save the ice trade. Cutting leaves had replaced cutting ice.

### **A Cold Reverie**

As the icehouses burned or crumbled in the 1920s, improved roads and cars beckoned Chicago back: this time to boat, fish, and swim. Lake lots were sold and developed.

A dam was built to drown the trampled shores; sewers were added to carry off the treated excess. Silver Lake had become an urban escape.

John Ludwig and Chester L. Hockney retired from working iron and steel. Hockney sold the business to his son George and died in 1960. By then another Wisconsin tinkerer, Matt E. Grinwald, was building fancier machines that could snip, gather, and unload lake plants. Soon harvesters, transporters, and shore conveyors (resembling ice lifts!) would be buzzing about lakes. But that's a story for another time.

As I gaze upon an icebound lake and feel the boreal breeze, those Silver Lake days come to mind. Men and boys on the ice scraping and sawing; women and girls in the boarding houses cooking and cleaning. I hear the ping of a hammer striking iron, the whirl of a paddle wheel kicking mud. For a moment, I'm no longer alone on that frozen lake but amid harvest and history. Before me lies a world both hard and frail that stood, not once but twice, on the cutting edge...of ice harvesting and plant management.

*By Sandy Engel.*

*Weeding through words to tell the story of Silver Lake had been a labor of love.*

*You can reach this wordsmith at:  
P.O. Box 648, Woodruff, Wisconsin.*

*These and other weed cutters went on to snip lake plants around the world.*

We would like to introduce Sveindis (pronounced Swen-dees) Meyer. Sveindis has lived in Wisconsin for the past 20 years, but was born and raised in Iceland. Her father moved here 25 years ago and Sveindis used to spend her summers with him until she decided to stay for good. She worked for the Daily Tribune in Wisconsin Rapids for 12 years, first as the Accounting Assistant, then as the Office Manager. When the newspaper was sold and the restructuring started, Sveindis decided that it was time to move on. She views her new employment with the Lakes Program as office manager as an excellent opportunity to learn more about the lakes in our state. Sveindis brings great enthusiasm and talent to the UWEX Lakes Program and we are very happy to have found her. Welcome aboard Sveindis!







mammals and birds in the summer and early fall and then are inactive until the next spring when they molt into nymphs. Nymphs feed on small rodents and other small mammals and birds in the late spring and summer and molt into adults in the fall, completing the 2-year life cycle. Larvae and nymphs typically become infected with Lyme disease bacteria when they feed on infected small animals, particularly the white-footed mouse. The bacteria remain in the tick as it changes from larva to nymph or from nymph to adult. Infected nymphs and adult ticks then bite and transmit Lyme disease bacteria to other small rodents, other animals, and humans, all in the course of their normal feeding behavior. Domestic animals may become infected with Lyme disease bacteria and some of these (dogs, for instance) may develop arthritis.

**What to do if Bitten By a Tick**

Remove the tick as soon as possible. The easiest method is to grasp the tick with fine tweezers, as near to the skin as you can, and to gently pull it out. You do not want to squeeze the tick; the bacterium that causes Lyme disease lives in the gut of the tick and

may be injected into you. If you do not have a tweezers, a knife may be used to scrape the tick off. You may want to save the tick in a small jar for later identification. If you can, wipe the bite with an antibiotic ointment or iodine. If you get any symptoms of Lyme disease in the following week to several months, see a physician immediately. Be sure to tell the doctor that a tick bit you. A blood test may help determine if you have been exposed to Lyme disease. If the tick is removed within 24 hours of attachment, Lyme disease is unlikely to occur.

Part II of this article can be found in the summer issue of Lake Tides. To read the entire article now, go to the UW extension web site at: [HTTP://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/publications.asp](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/publications.asp)

We extend our thanks to the Wisconsin Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases (Atlanta, Georgia) for information and assistance with this article.

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**Symptoms and Signs of Lyme Disease**



**Early Lyme Disease:** The early stages of Lyme disease are usually marked by one or more of the following symptoms and signs:

- \* fatigue \*chills and fever \*headache \*muscle and joint pain
- \*swollen lymph nodes \*a characteristic skin rash, called *erythema migrans*

*Erythema migrans* is a red circular patch that appears usually 3 days to 1 month after the bite of an infected tick at the site of the bite. The patch then expands, often to a large size. Sometimes multiple patches appear and may vary in shape, depending on their location. Common sites are the thigh, groin, trunk, and the armpits. The center of the rash may clear as it enlarges, resulting in a bulls-eye appearance. The rash may be warm, but it usually is not painful.

Not all rashes that occur at the site of a tick bite are due to Lyme disease. For example, an allergic reaction to tick saliva often occurs at the site of a tick bite. The resulting rash can be confused with the rash of Lyme disease. Allergic reactions to tick saliva usually occur within hours to a few days after the tick bite, it usually does not expand, and normally disappears within a few days.

**Late Lyme Disease:** Some symptoms and signs of Lyme disease may not appear until weeks, months, or years after a tick bite:

- \* Arthritis is most likely to appear as brief bouts of pain and swelling, usually in one or more large joints, especially the knees.
- \* Nervous system abnormalities can include numbness, pain, Bell's palsy (paralysis of the facial muscles, usually on one side), and meningitis (fever, stiff neck, and severe headache).
- \* Less frequently, irregularities of the heart rhythm occur.
- \* In some persons the rash never forms; in some, the first and only sign of Lyme disease is arthritis, and in others, nervous system problems are the only evidence of Lyme disease.



## The Water Way— 2001 Lakes Convention

*Secretary Bazzell unveiled "The Water Way", a strategic plan that will give direction to the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership for the next decade.*

Another convention slips into the history books... An overflow crowd of over 600 attended the 2001 Lakes Convention in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The 23rd annual Lakes Convention was full of "firsts" this year. It was the first time Wisconsin's new Governor Scott McCallum spoke to the state lake community. The Governor spoke about the future of Wisconsin's lakes and wetlands. It was also the first time that recently appointed DNR Secretary, Darrell Bazzell, addressed lake convention attendees. Secretary Bazzell unveiled "The Water Way", a strategic plan that will give direction to the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership for the next decade.

Senators Baumgart, Burke, Cowles and Representative Gunderson discussed current lake issues with convention participants and Supreme Court Justice Prosser spoke of the Wisconsin Courts' role in shaping water law at the luncheon. Matt Pesko, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Shell Lake, captured the crowd's heart

with his award winning speech, "You don't know what you've got till its gone." A host of great speakers discussed a range of critical topics, from Kathy Webster's talk on global warming to the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF) national team of aquatic plant experts who conducted a special symposium on aquatic plant management. The convention always provides an opportunity to explore state of the art technologies, gain useful information from experts in the field, and speak with decision-makers about issues vital to lakes. This year's convention also offered a unique opportunity to work with web masters and experts at the UWSP computer lab for hands on web site development training.

Thursday's workday entitled, *Of the People, By the People, For the People*, explored ways in which citizens can work effectively with local government. Judy Jooss welcomed workshop participants and introduced speakers such as Dave Ceislewicz, director of 1000

### 2001 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award Winners

The Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards are presented annually to individuals and groups that have made outstanding contributions in time and effort towards the preservation and protection of Wisconsin's lake ecosystems. Those who are nominated join a long and distinguished list of women and men whose dedication, vision and commitment ensure that Wisconsin's legacy of lakes will be valued for generations to come. **Winners for 2001:**

**Group ... Legend Lake LPRD.** Legend Lake is a 1300-acre water system located in southeastern Menominee County in the heart of the Menominee nation. The folks on Legend Lake have worked hard to build partnerships and have initiated a number of successful programs. **Individual ... Jim Brakken** has provided volunteer citizen leadership in lake management and protection activities at the local level for years. Jim has been particularly active in encouraging the involvement of young people in the stewardship of lakes. **Public Service ... William Pray O' Connor** has been a tireless and distinguished champion of Wisconsin lakes for decades. Bill has been instrumental in the passage of legislation that has protected Wisconsin lakes and is viewed as a key figure in Wisconsin water law. **Special Legislative Leadership...** **Senator Rob Cowles** has demonstrated leadership in the protection of natural resources and the unique Wisconsin landscape. Senator Cowles led the first comprehensive river and stream protection initiative and was coauthor of significant wetlands mitigation legislation. **Youth and Adopt A Lake ... Hartford Union High School** students have worked in partnership with their teachers and the folks of the Druid Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (LPRD). The students have experimented with purple loosestrife biocontrol and have demonstrated a commitment to the stewardship of Druid Lake.

*We want to bring special attention to the folks at Annabelle Lake, Vilas County, and the outstanding work these individuals are doing to preserve their lake. They were nominated for a lake stewardship award but due to a mail error, their nomination was delivered to the wrong address. It was not found until after the Lakes Convention. Annabelle Lake's nomination has been added to the 2002 list of Nominees.*

**Recognize the hard work of your lake stewards at the 2002 Lakes Convention in Green Bay. Go on-line for a form or contact the UWEX Lake office at UWSP or WAL for a nomination form.**



Friends, and Rick Stadleman of the Wisconsin Towns Association. A number of experts from the UW Extension, regional planning commissions, the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, and county government worked with the group and shared their insights and experiences.

The Wisconsin Lakes Convention represents a tremendous opportunity to learn and share with fellow citizens and lake enthusiasts. However, the large numbers of participants has necessitated a move to a larger facility. In 2002 the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention will convene at the New KI Convention Center at the Regency Suites in Green Bay, March 7-9.

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## Charting a Course for the Next Ten Years Wisconsin Lakes

In the spring of 2000, a group of people concerned with the future of Wisconsin lakes gathered in Rhinelander to chart a ten year course for the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. The resulting plan, "The Water Way", consists of a set of visions and goals, proposed strategies to implement the objectives, and performance measures.

A specific vision of "The Water Way" is to make education accessible to all and easy to understand, with a goal of educating for lake leadership and informed decision-making at all ages.

Times are changing! We face social and cultural shifts that decade after decade, have resulted in fewer youth participating in outdoor activities. Demographic and technological changes now make it easy and interesting for children to stay in front of their computer or television. Although Wisconsin is already working to give youth outdoor opportunities, possibilities are being missed.

Although we have many effective water education programs, we still need more fun, hands-on opportunities for young people. Wisconsin youth deserve a well-designed water curriculum and well-trained adult youth leaders. By instilling certain environmental values, we stand to encourage the positive use of our water resources. Ultimately, the numbers of responsible lake stewards will grow.

One method to achieve effective water education may consist of the development of a Youth Leadership Program. The Youth

Leadership Program will be modeled after the successful Lake Leaders Institute. Youth participating in this program will draw from a combination of field experiences, classroom activities and discussions with lake experts. A wide variety of topics will be offered and the course curriculum will address history, geology, water quality, watershed management, pollution threats, environmental stewardship, artistic expression and student initiatives.

The goal of this program is to focus on challenging environmental and scientific issues, enhance appreciation for the diverse natural, cultural, and historical resources of Wisconsin's inland lakes, and promote personal involvement in creating solutions.



*Future lake leaders enjoy the view.*

The Youth Leadership program will be held at retreat centers around the state. A large number of youth from around Wisconsin will develop personal lake stewardship plans, forge friendships and exchange ideas with peers.

*A copy of "The Water Way" may be obtained from the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the UW-Stevens Point lakes program. Comments should be sent by June 1, 2001 to Jeff Bode, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster St., Box 7921, Madison, WI, 53707-7921, via FAX at 608-266-2244 or email at [bodej@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:bodej@dnr.state.wi.us).*



## The Future of Self-Help Citizen Lake Monitoring

The Partnership’s ten year strategic plan, The Water Way, seeks to **“improve the Partnership’s ability to recruit, train and support volunteers as the backbone of meaningful data collection, water education and informed advocacy for lake and watershed issues.”**

Citizens and limnologists have a symbiotic relationship that works for Wisconsin lakes. Citizen volunteers tell us they monitor to learn more about their favorite lake and to contribute information for future management. Lake researchers and managers rely on the quality data dedicated volunteers provide to reveal lake trends and to identify issues early on in need of management. There are approximately 1,000 citizen lake monitors in Wisconsin; these individuals are key to effective lake and watershed management. The Partnership seeks to expand the volunteer force and continue to build the relationship between professional and citizen lake managers.

To meet our goal of expanding the citizen monitoring force, the Partnership realizes that our current model for recruiting, training and supporting volunteers must change. The number of volunteers has leveled off in recent years due to DNR’s inability to keep pace with the growing interest from new volunteers. Furthermore, the appetite of the existing volunteer force is grows more keen. Volunteers are looking to learn more about lake ecosystems and are interested in learning about new metrics and collection techniques to stay on top of evolving lake issues. Citizen monitors are interested not only in water clarity, but monitoring water quality and eutrophication; in identifying lake plants, fish and other aquatic life; in recording habitat observations, water level and water flow and in documenting water use changes.

The following represent four key areas for future expansion that will more effectively train and support Wisconsin self-help citizen lake monitors:

1. We will bring the “Power of the Partnership” and engage new partners to train and support citizen lake monitors.
2. We will seek additional funding and new funding mechanisms.
3. We will use modern technology.
4. We will engage common interests.

### Power of the Partnership

The successful expansion of Self-Help Lake Monitoring will bring the “Power of the Partnership” to citizen lake monitors. We will look to WAL to recruit new lake monitors and enhance the networking among volunteers and lake organizations. The UW-Extension with its link to our state’s educational system will seek new approaches for training citizen monitors and integrating newsletters and other communications within the Partnership. The DNR will continue to provide technical guidance, information management and reporting.

The Partnership will approach the UW and the Technical Colleges of Wisconsin to explore opportunities for training citizen lake monitors. Volunteers are interested in knowing more about lakes and watersheds and how they function as systems. Citizens need detailed training in the use of lake monitoring equipment, sample collection and preservation techniques and standardized observation and recording to assure quality results. Creating this link between citizens and community education centers should prove beneficial to both and will create the capacity locally to deal with evolving lake and watershed issues in the community.

### Funding

Wisconsin Lake Planning Grants will be used to support volunteers who want to monitor more than water clarity. In order to apply, an eligible community or lake organization must sponsor citizens, but there will be no cost to the volunteer or the sponsor. The volunteer’s time will be used as a match for state grant funds. Grant funds will be available to cover the cost of education, training and monitoring equipment. The DNR will pursue federal Clean Lakes Program funds to cost share with state dollars for contracts with WAL and UW-Extension as well as to support the state’s lake information database and reporting system. The Partnership will also ask the Wisconsin Legislature for increased grant and operation funds from the Water Resources Account of the Conservation Fund.

### Modern Technology

The Partnership will continue to research new techniques to better capture and interpret lake ecosystem trends and conditions. The Partnership will invest significantly in the development of the statewide lakes database to allow on-line data entry and report generation. Information systems will continue to be linked with other essential lake and watershed information including lake maps and aquatic and terrestrial biological inventories. On-line “ask an expert” and lake interpretive tools will be developed to support the volunteer network.

### Common Interest

The Partnership will explore relationships with other citizen (e.g. Loon Watch, Water Action Volunteers, youth initiatives) and professional natural resource monitoring efforts. Our goal is to network with these monitors and link with the information bases they generate. The Partnership will support and contribute information to Wisconsin’s developing Aquatic and Terrestrial Resource Inventory (ATRI), the Environmental Protection Agency’s STORET database system and other public information systems.

*By Jeff Bode, Chief, DNR Lakes and Wetlands Section*





## Enhancing Lake Fairs and Picnics

Now is the time of the year when lake organizations begin to plan annual lake meetings, fairs and picnics. Whether it's the business at hand that needs to be addressed or the once a year neighborhood networking, why not add an educational twist to the plans?



A lake fair can improve the general public's understanding of lake related issues by combining opportunities to learn with fun activities. Participants gain hands-on experience, meet new people, and build relationships

within the community.

After choosing a setting, planning committees should identify a theme and objectives. The next step is to decide which educational activities would be appropriate. There are many choices: demonstrations, speakers, workshops, displays, informational booths with state and local agency personnel, vendors of lake management equipment, soil and water testing, hands-on activities, or videotapes, to name a few. Let's look at several examples where lake organizations brought adults and youth together to learn and found it to be a worthwhile effort.

Water insects (macroinvertebrates) are favorites of all ages. Small mesh nets, boots and buckets used to discover life at the water edge was all that **Minocqua/Kawaguesaga Lakes Protection Assoc. Inc.** needed to help folks understand that aquatic vegetation

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### Making a Splash in Water Education!

Schmeckle Reserve in Stevens Point was the site of a Project WET Facilitator Training on March 22-23. WET facilitators are volunteers around the state who lead workshops in using the Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide. They may lead workshops for classroom teachers, scout or 4-H volunteers, agency personnel, lake group members, or more often, a combination of all the above. The 16-hour facilitator training includes gaining experience with many WET activities as well as facilitation and workshop planning skills. Currently, 66 certified WET facilitators work hard to bring water education to Wisconsin.

#### Welcome to our newest facilitators:

Howard Aprill, Wehr Nature Center, Franklin – 414/425-8550  
Nan Calvert, Nature in the Parks, Oak Creek – 414/761-1151  
Tim Ewing, Navarino Nature Center, Shawano – 715/758-6999  
Beth Fetterley, Urban Ecology Center, Milw. – 414/964-8505  
John Haack, UW-Extension, Spooner – 715/635-7406  
Amanda Hilger, Marinette Cty. Land & Water,  
Marinette – 715/732-7784

Cindy Ice, Crandon Middle/High School, Crandon – 715/478-3713  
Jane LeCapitaine, United Water, Milw. – 414/747-3849  
Larry Mancl, Tri-County School District, Plainfield – 715/335-6366  
Michelle Nickels, Nicolet Distance Education Network, Rhinelander – 715/365-4420  
Juli Speck, Girl Scouts of Black Hawk Council, Madison – 608/236-2710  
Heather Weigelt, Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, Menasha – 920/720-9349



If you are interested in bringing Project WET to your area, please call a facilitator in your area or the Project WET-Wisconsin Coordinator, Mary Pardee, at 715/346-4978.

*Adopt-A-Lake/Project WET*



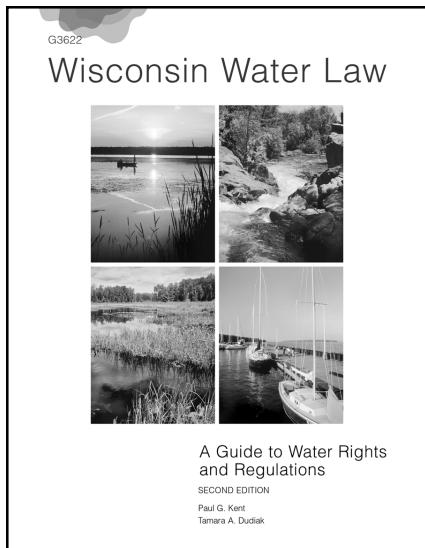
is necessary to support a healthy fish population.

**Pine Lake, Waushara Co.**, demonstrated fishing techniques, knot tying and casting, and discussed which fish are legal and safe to eat. The local "We Care" fishing organization and Wisconsin's Angler Education program provided equipment and assistance to help make a lasting impression.

Lake water testing equipment can be obtained from many resources. For example, local county conservation offices, DNR stations, the Adopt-A-Lake program and Water Educational Resource centers are potential sources for "loaner equipment."

Don't forget about the arts! Many local artists could design a special mug or pin for the event. Students of **New Auburn High School, Chippewa Co.**, are well known for their abilities to create artistic ceramic pins and mugs. Just ask Governor Scott McCallum! He was the recipient of a special mug representing all the active youth working on Wisconsin lakes.

If you are interested in spicing up your lake fair, picnic or meeting and need assistance in planning or activity selection, call Laura Felda, Adopt-A-Lake (715-346-3366) or Mary Pardee, Project WET (715-346-4978).



## Publication Announcement!

Is your property on or near Wisconsin waterways? Do you have questions about dams, wetlands, and your rights in navigable waters?

If any of these questions are familiar to you, we would like to introduce you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of a UW Extension publication, "Wisconsin Water Law: A Guide to Water Rights and Regulations." This publication is designed for use by anyone with an interest in water law and it is written in a manner that is easy to read and understand. This book is a comprehensive guide to water law in Wisconsin and discusses a range of issues, from riparian rights to wetland regulations and drainage districts.

Copies of Wisconsin Water Law are available from the UW-Extension Publications Office at the cost of \$15.00 per copy. For ordering information, call 608-262-3346; 877-947-7827; [www.uwex.edu/ces/pubs/order.html](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/pubs/order.html).

## C A L E N D A R

- May 16** - Wisconsin Water Law and Policy Conference. Stevens Point.
- June 6** - Vilas Cty. Lakes Assoc. Annual Picnic. Contact Mary Platner at 715-479-9091.
- June 6** - Manitowish Waters Lake Fair. Contact Gayle Strand at 715-384-9825.
- June 16** - Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Assoc. Annual Meeting and Potluck. Hazelhurst Town Hall. Contact Robert Hagge at 715-356-9660.
- June 16** - Marinette Cty. Water Festival. Contact Amanda Hilger at 715-732-7784.
- June 23** - Washburn Cty. Lake Fair. Contact the Extension office for more information at 715-635-4444.
- July 12** - Cable Lake Fair. Contact WAL at 800-542-5253.
- July 24** - Project WET Workshop. Kewaunee. Contact Mary Pardee at 715-346-4978.
- Oct. 19-21** - Midwest Environmental Education Conference. Contact Christy Allar at 715-346-2796.
- Nov. 7-9** - North American Lake Management Society, 21st International Symposium. Local host: Wisconsin Association of Lakes. Madison.



# What about Lake Trails

Next year is the year of the trail. Are you ready?

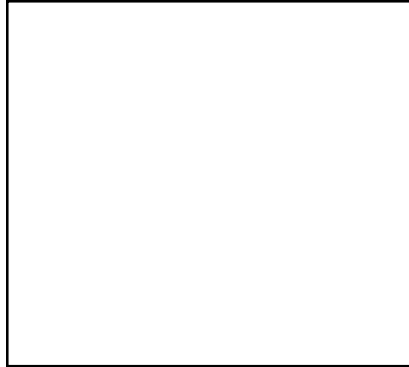
Maybe you already have one-a quiet cocktail route along the shore where you and your friends and family putt slowly along, sipping and munching and checking out the new homes or the critters on the lily pads? Have you ever hiked a lakeshore trail? Or paddled into the nooks and crannies of your favorite lake?

As someone who has lived on Lac La Belle for over 30 years, I often think how much more there is to share than most lakeshore cruisers realize. I wonder how many of our current residents know about these things?

- The old Indian camp on the north shore with Indian mounds and artifacts;
- The locations and stories of the historic Victorian summer homes from the days when Oconomowoc was a fashionable destination;
- The habitat improvement sites our lake district has worked on over the years;
- The marsh the DNR purchased to safeguard our northern spawning area;
- The osprey nest;
- The bay where you might see freshwater jellyfish;
- The wonderful stories and poetry Joe Weix wrote about the lake;
- The old mailboat channels;
- The last remaining reed beds-remnants of the vast areas of the lake they once covered, and why they are important;
- The little bay full of exotic pink lotus someone brought back from the orient; and
- What indicators to watch for that show our lake is healthy or has problems.

It might be fun to put together a lake trail that would introduce residents and visitors to our lake, perhaps a watery self-guided nature and historical trail. The trail could be described in pamphlet form, on an audiocassette tape complete with music, or downloaded from a website. A good map could be supplemented with shoreline markers or numbered buoys.

A few weeks ago, a few lake trail enthusiasts convened to discuss what forms lake trails could take. Participants all liked the concept and each had a slightly different idea of how a lake trail could be realized - maybe each trail could be as different as the lakes themselves.



*Courtesy of Wisconsin Historical Society*

The Wisconsin DNR will be designating 2002 as State Trails Year to focus attention on the recently approved State Trails Network Plan. A statewide Trails Conference is being organized and DNR will be highlighting the State's hiking/biking trails and some water trails too.

State lake planning and protection grants fund a variety of projects across the state. Educational activities, such as developing an interpretive water trail, are eligible components. In fact, the new small-scale education grants (cap of \$3,000) can focus solely on education activities. A water trail might be one of the best ways to educate lakeshore owners and lake users about the mini-geography lessons on your lake.

The Wisconsin DNR and UWEX is interested in collaborating with other parties to improve educational and recreational water trail opportunities. So, if you already have a lake trail on your lake, or have a good idea for one, let us know. **Call 715-346-2116 or email [uwexplakes@uwsp.edu](mailto:uwexplakes@uwsp.edu) to discuss water trails. Also see, [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes).**

*By Lisa Conley*

*“As someone who has lived on Lac La Belle for over 30 years, I often think how much more there is to share than most lakeshore cruisers realize.”*



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## *Reflections*

The last word in ignorance is the person who says of a plant or animal: "What good is it?"

*-Aldo Leopold*

