

As children, good friends brought me and my brother to Lower Long Lake for weekends of swimming, fishing, frog and crayfish safaris, and cooking out (no frogs of course). A trip to the lake was always an exhilarating proposition. When our parents purchased an old cabin on the north side of the lake, our visits took on a more regular schedule. It was living and working near the lake at Camp Manitou when I discovered how important a body of water can be in a person's life. When I was approached about chairing the Lake Association's property committee this fall, I was excited at the idea of working with others who share a commitment to a healthy lake community.

Most of us are drawn to the lakes and surrounding forests by their natural beauty and abundant wildlife. Ironically, those of us who love her most must tread very carefully because we impact the surrounding ecosystem more than those who stay away. Although some shoreline alterations seem insignificant and benign, when every property owner does the same, the consequences mount. It is necessary to educate ourselves about the environment in which we live if we are to live responsibly.

This winter, take the time to think about your property and how landscaping, docks, and other alterations

have affected the shoreline. Neat lawns and impermeable surfaces send rain carrying fertilizer, pet wastes, lawn clippings and other pollutants into the lake fueling algae blooms. Sand beaches cover valuable gravel and silt spawning sites. Removing shoreline shrubs, aquatic plants and deadfalls for swimming also removes habitat for bass and panfish, loons, turtles, songbirds and ducks. Usually there are steps we can take to prevent these losses,

**"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is the earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."
-Thoreau, *Walden***

including incorporating buffer zones, planting native vegetation, and re-establishing aquatic plants. Luckily, the most vital action is inaction. Allowing property to go "wild" takes little effort beyond restraint. We are often surprised

at the ability of an ecosystem to manage itself.

A change in perspective to include fallen trees, mucky or gravelly bottoms, aquatic "weeds" and wetlands in our concept of what is beautiful is challenging. The benefits are an increased understanding and appreciation of the ecosystem of which we are only a part.

As you are thinking this winter, curl up with a good book and learn more about the lake. There are several books which offer excellent insights into responsible land stewardship. A classic is Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*. Another well-known book is *A Sand County Almanac* by Wisconsin native Aldo Leopold. If you are looking for information on freshwater ecosystems presented in an interesting and easy way to understand, Michael J. Caduto's *Pond and Brook; A Guide to Nature in Freshwater Environment* is outstanding. Information on last year's Restoring Shoreland Habitats Workshop can be found at the DNR's Eau Claire office, or by calling 715-839-3794. Another informative pamphlet, *The Water's Edge*, can be obtained from the Minnesota DNR by calling toll free: 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367).



The Lower Long Lake Foundation has had many meetings this past year. The center of focus has been Camp Chippewa Bay. We have met with individual prospective buyers and governmental officials, all who have assured us that they would support our goal of preserving and protecting the integrity of the natural environmental system of our lake and the land surrounding it.

We continue to work with individuals who are contemplating a cash or land donation to the foundation. This is the perfect time of year to take advantage of the tax deduction for either your cash donation or the appraised value of your donated land. With everybody's help, we can succeed!

-Jake Farrell Secretary-Treasurer, LLLF

As of right now, the Lower Long Lake Foundation has received donations totaling \$15,705.95!

Keep up the good work!!!

What do rooftops, driveways and roads all have in common? All three are impervious surfaces which prevent water from soaking into the soil. As a result, they cause runoff. When water runs off of impervious surfaces, it transports pollutants and sediment to nearby lakes, rivers and streams. This is in sharp contrast to when water soaks down into the soil and is cleaned by physical and biological processes.

A study of phosphorus input on Lower Long Lake showed that a 1940's style home with a narrow grass corridor did not result in an increase in phosphorus input over that of an undeveloped shoreline. A 1990's style development in which an entire property is converted to lawn increased phosphorus input by 700% over that of undeveloped shorelines. This is the result of more impervious surfaces and

the removal of natural shoreline vegetation. A 1994 review by the Center for Watershed Protection showed a marked decline in aquatic plants, insects and fish when impervious areas reached only 10-15%.

In Chippewa County the number of lakeshore structures has doubled from 1960 to today. Redevelopment and addition to existing lakeshore cottages has also increased dramatically. This increase in impervious surfaces has a collective impact that results in increased runoff of pollutants and erosion that in turn causes a decrease in water, habitat and fish quality.

The Chippewa County Lakes and Streams Advisory Group is addressing the question of how to allow development and redevelopment while protecting our lakes and streams for enjoyment by existing residents and the

general public. The group is developing standards that encourage people to limit the areas that they cover with impervious surfaces and use simple techniques to treat the runoff from impervious surfaces. These standards as well as standards on lot sizes, nonconforming lots and structures, shoreline buffers and shoreline aesthetics will be included in a County Lakes and Streams Management Plan. The advisory group will conclude their work on standards development in December. The plan will serve as the basis for future education and incentive programs and ordinance changes. Prior to adoption, the plan will be presented for public input at open houses.

Ice Fires

Winter is coming, so pull out your snowshoes, skis and sleds and gear up for the snow!!!!

Ever since I can remember, it has been a local custom with ice fisherman and others to have bon fires at night on the frozen lake. What irritated some land owners at first was the fact that people would go to shore and harvest the dead and downed trees for these fires. It struck some that the people were trespassing and taking wood without permission. Most residents simply shrugged it off and let it go so as to avoid a confrontation with people enjoying their winter sport.

More recently I've noticed an increase in the number of bonfires on any given winter night. One of my favorite activities is to take an evening snowmobile ride around Long and Herde Lakes and into Dark Lake. One evening in January of 1999, I counted 13 bonfires on the ice. Now enlightened as to the effects of

-Pat Kelly

Phosphorus and nutrient loading, and what it means to a lake, trespassing appears to be the least of our worries.

It turns out that wood ash is being promoted as a substitute for agricultural soil amendments. It is full of potassium, phosphorus and elements like copper whose concentration as low as 1ppm in water can be toxic to invertebrates! Uncontained ice fires are one of the worst things we can do to our lake.

In addition to the dangers that fires cause the lake, they also cause hazards to boaters, swimmers and skiers when the ice melts in the spring and the unburned logs float free.

It is illegal to burn on the ice but Game Wardens have their hands full with game violations. Let's hope that education and concern for the lake are the best enforcement.

Picnic and Annual Meeting

We had another wonderful Lake Picnic this year. So many people showed up, and we were all able to meet new neighbors. Everyone enjoyed hamburgers grilled by Don Granger and dozens of salads and other dishes provided by each other. It was a sunny day with a bit of wind, but a perfect day for meeting new and old friends. We are already looking forward to the Third Annual Lake Picnic next summer and hope you will be there, too!

The annual meeting at the Sampson Town Hall also went well. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. with business quickly attended to. Minutes and the LLLPRD budget are enclosed. There was much discussion and concern about zoning on the lake and about the fate of the Chippewa Bay Girl Scout Camp which has been announced for sale.

Lake News

LLLPRD

LLLPRD
28286 149th St.
New Auburn, WI 54757



L.L.L.P.R.D. ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

July 31, 1999 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: John Killey - Chairman, Tom Doyle - Secretary Treasurer, Jan Frase - Commissioner.

Minutes: July 25, 1998, approved as read.

Treasurer's Report and Presentation:

Balance as of July 25, 1998 was \$2,576.41.

Tax Levy - 1998 : \$2,400.00

Expenses - 1989-99: \$1,164.48

Balance as of July 27, 1999 is \$3,676.48.

Budget unanimously passed and is enclosed.

Chairman's Report: WALS has been formally joined and is very valuable. Review of district history and purpose as mandated by state statute reviewed. Number of individuals provided early leadership in district development designed to preserve and protect the lake. Zoning ordinances of Chippewa county are being updated to rewrite wording including building and remodeling codes and shoreline zoning (Chap. 16 & 17). Discussion about public vs. state involvement; district desires to limit access to the lake. Joe Curz: state mandates for use of land by all citizens.

Committee Reports:

Lower Long Lake Foundation, Inc: Donations posted and discussed. Camp Chippewa Bay and its future discussed. Board membership explained based on a two year rotation. Jake Farrell and Tom Doyle appointed. Call Wally Schulenberg for information.

Fish and Water Quality Committee: Pete Scolaro resigned position. His long time contributions were applauded and a letter of appreciation from the district approved. Lou Frase has assumed the role of water quality inspector. He explained Secchi disc and is now taking readings every two weeks. Clarity relative to algae growth, phosphorus and nitrogen were discussed. Data is reported to DNR and may be assisted by Camp Manitou. Results over years indicate stable clarity.

Recreational: Kelly Svoma not present, but reports fishing improved in limited areas with increased growth. Small perch increased as did Northern activity. Overall activity is same or better. Discussion about North American milfoil plants. They are abundant - please do not chop and spread with propellers. Use caution.

Long Range Planning Committee: No meeting. Jake Farrell is the chair. Recommend change in focus and a unity with property committee. Connie Heinrichs

suggested a focus/idea.

Lake Property Committee: Will possibly merge with Long Range Planning Committee.

Publicity Committee: Marie Evans resigned as chairperson. Lesley Sauls will chair publicity committee. Please provide information if you would like to be a part of the newsletter or any publicity.

Old Business: Tom Doyle discussed Liability Insurance. We are all financially responsible as owners if adverse judgement were rendered, even with \$50,000 state liability cap and for defense expenses. Cost would be about \$12.50/unit/year. No action taken.

New Business: Jan Frase discussed Adopt-A-Lake and projects. 23 fish cribs have been sunk and a sign prepared and in place at the boat landing by BHS students. Suggestions requested for future student projects. Discussion about no wake areas and night skiing. An ordinance by Town of Sampson would be needed. Jan read Rusk County zoning standard and recommended that we petition Town of Sampson and Chippewa County to zone Long Lake independently to restrict development due to sensitivity and was approved. Committee meetings every other Wednesday at Chippewa County Court House starting August 11, 1999.

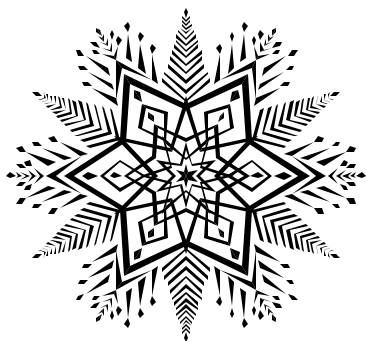
Election of Officers: Wayne Sauls was elected commissioner.

Speakers: Lynn Markham - lake classification. Long lake is highly sensitive in 3/4 categories. Total shoreline 11.7 mi. with 135 structures = moderate development. Most dramatic sensitivity criterion is 5-8 year flushing index for Long Lake making Long a highly vulnerable lake. Joe Kurz - fish management to encourage small mouth bass in spite of crayfish. Report on Spring Rules Hearings: Bass 18" min., 1 daily bag limit. Panfish: 10/day bag limit expected to be in effect Apr. 2000. Access for perch transfer lost temporarily but may be regained next year. Plan fish survey in 2000. Management plan is to do Dark, Herd and Long Lakes as one unit.

Adjournment: 11:15a.m. after plaque of appreciation given to John Killey.

PROPOSED 1999-2000 BUDGET

	'98-'99	Proposed '99-'00
Publicity expenses (newsletters, mailings, etc.)	\$379.92	\$600.00
Fish stocking (recreation committee)	\$31.25	\$100.00
Property Committee	\$0	\$50.00
Picnic	\$114.29	\$150.00
Adopt-A-Lake (bill outstanding)	\$51.69	\$250.00
WALS meeting and membership	\$400.13 +\$187.50	\$500.00 +\$187.50
TOTAL	\$1164.78	\$1837.50
Current Checkbook Balance		\$3676.48



**Have a Wonderful
 Turn of the
 Millenium!
 Happy Winter!**