



Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) News

P.O. Box 494 Eagle River, WI 54521-0494

Winter 2012

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Presidential Pebbles and Pearls

As you read this, 2011 will be in the history books. There were a number of noteworthy accomplishments for our association in the past year. These include;

- Changing our name to Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association (VCLRA)
- Updating our website (www.vcla.us)
- Sponsoring the creation of a lake shoreland class for middle school students
- Writing a successful grant for the creation of a shoreline plant guide and training on its use for shoreline restoration projects
- Working closely with our partner Wisconsin Lakes to monitor lake-related legislation and get information out to our members in a timely manner
- Awarded Blue Heron Shoreland Stewardship Awards to three individuals and two organizations for their efforts to protect, maintain and/or restore their shoreland area.

As we move into 2012, we look forward to our continued efforts to partner with and serve lake and stream property owners in Vilas County.

Have a great 2012 and enjoy our lakes and streams responsibly.

Rollie Alger

VCLRA President



Private Potable Water Well Quality Testing in Vilas County

The Vilas County Land and Conservation Department gathered potable water samples from owners of scores of private on-site residential wells in towns throughout Vilas County during August of 2011. The Department selected a limited number of wells (132 wells in total) to be sampled from a list of volunteer homeowners. Homeowners obtained sampling containers and instructions for sampling from Department personnel in early August. Homeowners then collected their own samples from indoor water faucets according to the instructions. Department personnel then gathered the collected water samples from homeowners and submitted them to the Water and Environmental Analysis Laboratory, Center for Watershed Science and Education, U.W. Stevens Point. The Lab tested for a variety of criteria, including Bacteria-Coliform, Hardness, Alkalinity, Conductivity, pH, Saturation Index (Ca), Nitrogen-Nitrate/Nitrite and chloride, and tested also for eleven heavy metals.

County Conservationist Carolyn Scholl then organized meetings at the end of August to distribute the results to subject homeowners and to

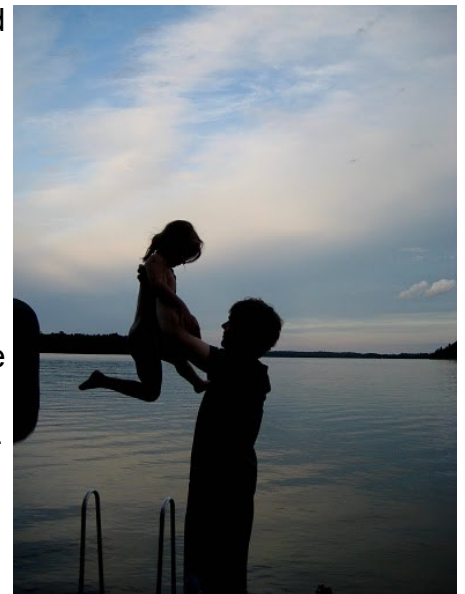
These values are useful both as a “snapshot” of the condition of each homeowner's water quality and condition, but also as “baseline” values so that future testing can determine if tested values are moving in any direction.

help the homeowners interpret the meaning of the results.

At the meetings, homeowners learned that tests such as for Bacteria-Coliform determined the sanitary condition of their wells. Other values, such as hardness, are instructive to describe well water attributes other than sanitary concerns.

These values are useful both as a “snapshot” of the condition of each homeowner's water quality and condition, but also as “baseline” values so that future testing can determine if tested

values are moving in any direction. The results also allow a water quality and water condition “mapping” of the county, so that geographic variations of water qualities can be established.



Joint County Lakes Associations to Meet June 15th at Nicolet College

On Friday, June 15, 2012, a joint county lakes association meeting will be held at Nicolet College in Rhinelander, WI. The meeting is scheduled from 9 – 12. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ben Beardmore who will discuss the impact of lake protection efforts on property values. This will be followed by a workshop on establishing,

training and implementing lake AIS early detection and monitoring teams. This will be followed by a time period for county lake associations to meet with individuals from their county. The Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association will hold its annual meeting at this time. This meeting is free and open to the interested public.

Town Lakes 2011 Highlights

Cloverland Town Lakes Committee:

Honoring volunteers, ending a townwide project, looking toward the future

As Cloverland's townwide lakes project, CLASS, officially ends, Boot Lake is sizing up two different approaches to combatting Eurasian Water Milfoil, and the Town Lakes Committee continues to offer all town property owners a role in keeping the towns' lakes and waterways healthy.

Stepping up - During 2011 over 70 Cloverland property owners came forward this past summer to take on important roles as CBCW inspectors or CLMN monitors to maintain the quality of the town's lakes and waterways.

They were all honored at a Volunteer Recognition Picnic held in the Town Hall on August 20. TLC Chairman Marty Ketterer presented Special Recognition plaques to Rich Drallmeier of Pickerel Lake, Carl Pfeiffer (Nelson Lake), and Ed Kroggel (Muskellunge Lake).

Two EWM treatments to choose from - The members of the Boot Lake Association have a double dose of good news to deliberate on. They now have two methods to choose from to combat the lake's Eurasian Water Milfoil infestation.

In early October the association got word that it had been awarded a \$24,397 AIS Control Grant by the DNR. That grant would provide funds for herbicide applications beginning next spring.

Within weeks of that news, the association's board learned that Boot Lake could be included in a 10-lake research project that would use milfoil weevils to control the EWM.

Some funding for the weevil project would be provided by a DNR research grant. The weevils are native to the Northwoods and their natural food is the native northern water milfoil. But biologists report that the weevil prefers the Eurasian milfoil and will focus on that when it's present.

On Dec. 7 lake association leaders will learn more about the project when they meet with representatives from the DNR, U-W's Center for Limnology, Environscience, Inc., the company that would provide and manage the weevil treatment, and the Town of Cloverland. Shortly after that meeting they will be deciding upon what course of action is best.

Townwide project ends, caring for Cloverland's lakes goes on - The three year CLASS (Cloverland Lakes Aquatic Species Survey) grant awarded to the Cloverland Town Lakes Committee in April of 2009 will conclude on Dec. 31.

This almost \$200,000 grant funded the collection of scientific data from 21 of the 26 inhabited lakes in the township and provided lake related education to all interested township residents. Topics presented from 2009 through 2011 included aquatic plant identification, preventing the spread of invasive species to healthy lakes, septic systems effects on water quality, understanding algae, low lake levels, managing lake fisheries, and shoreline restoration, as well as important training for Clean Boats, Clean Waters inspections and Secchi disk readings.

Seventy-five per cent of the project was funded by the WDNR. The Town Lakes Committee was required to provide 25 percent, \$53,208, as its share of the funding. This was "paid for" entirely through volunteer hours and small individual contributions.

This is what we have learned about the lakes in the Town of Cloverland.

1.) No two lakes are the same. Every lake is different because of the size of its watershed, the make up of the land cover which surrounds the lake, and the size and depth of the lake.

2.) Additional factors that differentiate each lake show up through water quality monitoring showing phosphorus and chlorophyll levels, and plant community monitoring showing the number of species and density of the plants, as well as the lake's shoreline and how each parcel is cared for by property owners.

Unfortunately volunteer hours decreased in 2010 and 2011. As a result, an emphasis to recruit and celebrate volunteers who do important lake tasks began this past summer. It will continue in 2012.

All Cloverland residents and property owners are asked to volunteer. Interested residents are needed to carry on the work that was begun three years ago. "We have come a long way," points out Justine White-Richards, the CLASS coordinator. "To say that we 'are done' could see us sliding back to pre 2009 years." Any interested person can contact Cloverland Town Lakes Committee Chair Marty Ketterer (715) 479-9426, mket@newnorth.net, about opportunities to volunteer.



Town of Washington,

Water Resources Committee:

Town of Washington was awarded a Lake Protection Grant that will continue and expand the Anvil Lake watershed studies that began under a prior Lake Planning Grant. The work is coordinated by Jeff Thornton, Ph.D. a lake ecologist with Environmental Horizons and several principals from the U.S.G.S. office in Middleton, WI. The Anvil Lake watershed is positioned at high elevation next to a continental watershed divide. The dynamics of this system is of particular interest as it responds to drought, climate shift with fewer days of ice cover, warmer average water temperatures, loss of thermocline (cold water bottom layer) and absence of turn over. The U.S.G.S. is studying this watershed with its ground water system and intends to use the information gained to help offer management decisions for similar type lakes found across Wisconsin's northern counties.

Submitted by S.S. Gillum, co-chair TOWWRC

Phelps Town Lakes Committee:

The Phelps Town Lakes Committee represents 41 lakes that are in part, or wholly, within the town boundaries. During 2011, our focus was on educating lake property owners on the county septic system regulations that will go into effect in 2013. A presentation was provided in June on this topic as well as a presentation on loons from LoonWatch. Unfortunately, the presentations were poorly attended.

In July, the town lakes committee again provided its support to the annual Long Lake Regatta. This event was well attended with more than a dozen sailboats competing in the Sun Fish races. A canoe, kayak and paddle board race was also held. A picnic followed the races where a good time was had by all.

The Phelps Town Lakes Committee successfully budgeted six thousand dollars to be used by three town lakes engaged in AIS treatment programs. This level of town support is proposed to continue for 2012 however, we will be helping to support the needs of four lakes.

The point of contact for this committee is Dave Roberts (Committee Chairperson); robertsd54521@peoplepc.com.

Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee:

The Lac du Flambeau Town Board established the Town Lakes Committee (TLC) in March 2005, charging it to Protect the Lakes from Aquatic Invasive Species. The TLC then adopted a planning process, Focus on the Future, which includes three goals; Prevent AIS Infestations, Manage AIS Infestations, and Administer Efficiently and Effectively; and numerous objectives and activities that are revised annually. The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians has been the TLC's primary partner. Local lake associations and other community organizations have also been very helpful.

Goal #1 Prevent AIS Infestations. In 2011, the TLC conducted its second full day conference on Lake Stewardship, which included training on limnology, aquatic plant identification, lake monitoring techniques, and stewardship. In addition by the end of October, TLC volunteers conducted more than 660 hours of watercraft inspection, 1185 hours of lake monitoring, and 1362 hours on other TLC activities. Considering time at \$12/hour and travel at .58/mile, TLC volunteers contributed more than \$43,000 donations. The TLC issued one newsletter, a TLC brochure, several Lake Steward Bulletins; participated in Lac du Flambeau's Lakes Fest and Fourth of July festivities; hosted an annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception; distributed AIS materials throughout the community, and participated in several outreach activities such as presenting a session at the WDNR Convention in Green Bay and hosting a booth at the VCLA Conference.

Goal #2 Manage AIS Infestation. In 2011, TLC volunteers worked to contain several infestations of Purple Loosestrife by raising 100 plants and at least 100,000 beetles at its Beetle Farm for distribution among the infestations. The effort was highlighted in a broadcast on Chanel 12.

Goal #3 Administer Efficiently and Effectively. In 2011, the TLC accomplished the activities noted for Goal #1 and Goal #2 by following its planning process. This also included administering a small planning grant approved by the WDNR for implementing the Lake Steward Program and hosting a full-day conference. In December, the Town Board approved the TLC's plan for 2012, including the three goals, 8 objectives, and 50 activities.

Town Lakes Highlights Cont.

Plum Lake Town of Lakes Committee :

The Lakes Committee of the Town of Plum Lake had another busy season during the summer of 2011. Lake Monitoring, Clean Boats/ Clean Waters boat inspections, a plant survey of one of our town's lakes, water quality studies on Plum Lake by Chris Wise and crayfish studies are some highlights of our work.

Training programs for shoreline Lake Monitors were again presented to Plum Lake, Star Lake and the Ballard, Irving and White Birch Lakes lake associations. Over the past several years nearly 100 volunteers have been trained. In 2011, twenty volunteers, who worked a total of 124 hours on nine lakes, completed "End of the Year Monitoring Reports which were forwarded to the DNR. We are pleased to report that no new AIS were found.

Clean Boats/ Clean Waters boat inspections, which were coordinated by Jan Wise, were held from before Memorial Day through the Labor Day weekend at the seven lakes which receive the great majority of the boat traffic in the Town. Volunteers and student interns spent a total of 641 hours at these landings. Generally, lake users were very cooperative when asked to remove plants and drain water from their equipment. Most were pleased to know that this work was being done to help prevent the spread of AIS. No invasives were found during inspections.

The plant survey on Stewart Lake by Dr. Bill Sloey and intern Andy Coons was the 30th, of the 37 lakes in the township, surveyed since 2006 when we started the program. No invasives were found on Stewart Lake. All plant, crayfish and snail surveys have been filed with the DNR in Rhinelander.

We plan to survey Spruce and possibly one other lake next summer. Five town lakes are not currently scheduled to be surveyed as they are either dry or so close to it that aquatic plant surveys would be very difficult and almost meaningless.

Also, for the second straight year, we trapped crayfish on Star and Plum Lakes. Volunteers placed thirty six traps in each lake and collected them twenty four hours later. All crayfish trapped were identified as the invasive Rusty crayfish which have been known to be in Plum and Star since the 1970's. Volunteers counted, measured, identified and then sexed each of the 800 plus crayfish. One crayfish from each trap was dissected and its liver was inspected under a microscope. The crayfish from both lakes were found to have larvae of the parasitic fluke *Microphallus* in their livers. *Microphallus* has been implicated in DNR studies by Craig Roelser as likely being connected with the decline in rusty crayfish populations in the Eau Claire chain of lakes in Bayfield County and elsewhere. We found far fewer parasites in the livers of Star Lake crayfish than we found in those

trapped from Plum Lake. Crayfish counts per trap were about the same in Star Lake as they were last year, while smaller numbers per trap and generally smaller sized crayfish were found on Plum. At the time of this writing our final report from this summer's trapping has not been completed.

The members of The Lakes Committee of the Town of Plum Lake and our other volunteers intend to continue and hopefully expand our efforts next year.

Chris Wise, November, 2011

Presque Isle Town Lakes Committee -

A Brief History

The Presque Isle Town Lakes Committee (PITLC) was created by the Presque Isle Town Board in September 2005. Starting from a small core group, PITLC has evolved to about 30 volunteers from 10 lake associations.

PITLC's mission is to learn all it can about invasive species, to apply for as much grant money as the DNR will give for projects, to find out what is and is not in Presque Isle lakes, to monitor the higher traffic lakes, to educate the public, and, should any invasives be found, undertake treatment plans while any invasion is still in its infancy.

To that end, PITLC has established Clean Boats/Clean Waters and shoreline inspection programs on a number of the lakes plus has developed a children's Invasive Species Awareness Program. In addition, PITLC has successfully applied for four WDNR grants: in 2006 a \$44,841 Lake Study Grant was awarded to study 9 lakes; in 2008 a \$41,841 Lake Study Grant was awarded to study 8 lakes; and in 2009 a \$100,000 Lake Study Grant was awarded to study 12 lakes and 2 rivers. In addition, in 2008 PITLC was awarded an educational grant which rebuilt 6 landing kiosks.

To encourage discussion and to promote the positive story happening in Presque Isle, PITLC has presented two programs at the Wisconsin Association of Lakes conference in Green Bay. The first highlighted the Children's Invasive Species Awareness Program, which was subsequently adopted by the WDNR, and the second introduced PITLC's Wilderness Waters Program. The Wilderness Waters Program is a concept in which the entire township's water resources – both lakes and rivers - are combined under an umbrella program of study, methodology, education and awareness.

In 2012 and beyond, PITLC hopes to apply for follow up WDNR Lake Study grants to try to determine how the lakes and rivers have changed in the 5 years since each of the lakes and rivers was originally studied.

Teaching Local Students About Lake Protection

Invasives, shoreline protection, fishery enhancement - all topics you may have learned about in workshops sponsored by your local lake associations or the DNR or VCLRA. But what do students in Vilas County schools learn about these and related topics? That question has led to the development of "Lake Learning" a three-hour unit designed for the area's middle school students.

Lake Learning was developed over the last year and a half by Rob Wiener of Trees for Tomorrow and the VCLRA Education Committee. It includes a puzzle role-playing activity and a PowerPoint component. It is designed to be used as a half-day learning unit to help students better understand the ways people can augment or damage the current health of area lakes and waterways.

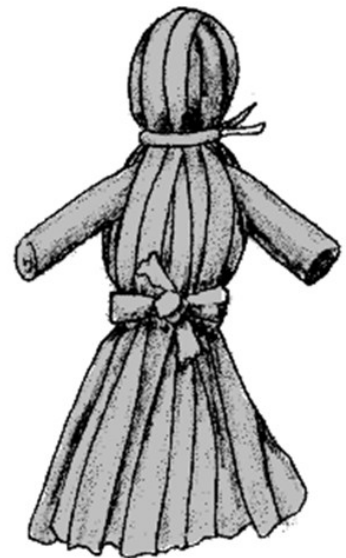
"The key thing we want students to take away from Lake Learning is that lakes are a system of parts that all need to be healthy to support the fish, birds or what ever part we love, and it is our job to keep them healthy," said Gretchen Watkins, a VCLRA Education Committee member.

The PowerPoint developed for Lake Learners was modified for grade school level students from UW Extension's "Limnology 101" class. The Education Committee, Watkins, Rollie Alger and Jeff Currie, fashioned the overall lesson with Rob Wiener support. An educator from Trees for Tomorrow will teach the unit and VCLRA will assist with the fee for each presentation. "We think Lake Leaners is well worth the cost," said Alger, "because students will learn to protect the lakes for the coming generations."

Grandparents Corner—Learning activity to do with your family

Aquatic plants are not only used by animals, humans have used them for as long as can be remembered. Native and modern people use them for food, medicine, and crafts. Here is an activity to do with your little ones that they will love, and give you a chance to talk about why plants are important.

1. Gather cattails in late summer. Cut just above the water-line to leave the root of the cattail intact. Dry the separated leaves in the shade or partial sun for 1 to 3 days. Soak the leaves in warm water for a half hour to an hour before using them.
2. If the cattails are very wide, it may be necessary to split them down the middle.
3. Cut off the brittle leaf tips, and cut off and save quite a bit of the thick end to make ties at the doll's neck and waist. Cut the remaining cattails down to half their length, or about 10 inches (bent at the center, this will be the size of a 5 inch doll).
4. To form the doll's head, bend 10 - 16 cattail strips (alternating their directions so they radiate from the top of the head) over a small cylinder (little 'pillow') of rolled up cattail. Tie tightly a piece of split cattail or other string below the doll's head, creating a neck.
5. Use a section of cattail center stalk for the arms. Place the stalk section (3 - 4 inches long) under the neck tie with a roughly equal number of leaves in front and in back of the 'arms'.
6. To form the body, use another small rolled 'pillow' of cattail under the arms (inside the leaves) and tie the waist area tightly.
7. Flair the doll's 'skirt' slightly by spreading the cattail leaf ends. Trim the skirt ends so they are even across the bottom.



Cattail Doll

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Native American Technology and Art.
Internet URL: <http://www.nativetech.org>

NR 115 Delayed

A year ago, this newsletter reported that the statewide compliance date for NR 115 was Feb. 1, 2012. As readers of this newsletter may know, that compliance date has been pushed back to Feb. 1 of 2014.

Why the delay? And what difference does it make?

Let's talk time: Forty-six years.

In 1966 Wisconsin enacted legislation requiring counties to adopt zoning regulations meeting standards set by the DNR to protect all shorelands in unincorporated areas.

Those shoreland zoning regulations had to:

- further the maintenance of safe and healthful conditions;
- prevent and control water pollution;
- protect spawning grounds, fish and aquatic life;
- control building sites, placement of structures and land uses; and
- reserve shore cover and natural beauty.

The DNR standards are set out in the Wisconsin Administrative Rule known as NR 115.

As the Wisconsin Lakes website points out, over the past 46 years those laws have not changed. But some things have changed. Since 1966 development of lakefront property has increased 216 percent, not a surprise, I think. (When did you and your neighbors build, add to or otherwise enhance your or their lakefront or riverfront property?) Along with increased shoreland development, comes the need for stronger shoreland protection.



Let's talk time: Thirty-two years, August of 1980.

That's when Wisconsin last updated its Shoreland Protection Program, i.e., NR 115. Chapter NR 115 as it existed on July 31, 1980, was repealed and a new chapter NR 115 was created effective August 1, 1980.

That tweaked version of Wisconsin's Shoreland Protection Program is the program in effect today, though a thorough revision of the NR 115 did officially go into effect on Feb. 1, 2010.

That update of NR 115 was the result of ten or more years of deliberation and debate. In its Fall 2007 newsletter, the River Alliance of Wisconsin reported: "After many years in the making, endless stake-holder meetings and multiple public hearings, the DNR is about to send their new proposal for NR 115...to the Natural Resources Board for its consideration. The drawback of a statewide rule that affects so many properties with such varying characteristics is that it will never make everyone happy, and how well the rule is followed and enforced will be on the shoulders of each county. Nonetheless, the new proposed rule sets the stage for a much

greater level of protection of our waterways from the impacts of development than the current...rule provides."

The stronger provisions of NR 115 were announced in 2009 at a press conference where then DNR Secretary Matt Frank was joined by representatives of Wisconsin Lakes, the River Alliance,

the Wisconsin Builders Association, and Wisconsin Realtors Association.

The revisions of NR115 would provide stronger shoreland protection, if that protection were in place.

Let's talk time: Now.

Reported in the Lakeland Times, Aug. 15, 2011: "Some county zoning staffs undoubtedly heaved a sigh of relief last Wednesday, as the Natural Resources Board approved a two-year delay in the implementation of the state's revised shoreland administrative rule, NR115.

The vote was 7-0. DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp sought the extension through approval of an executive order. Counties had had to comply with the NR115 standards by Feb. 1, 2012; they will now have until Feb. 1, 2014."

What's another two years?

Some people are pretty happy at the delay. Door

County real estate agent

Connie Erickson posted this on her firm's website:

"CONTROVERSIAL ZONING REGULATION DELAYED!"

The implementation of the controversial zoning changes (NR115) that will affect shoreland property owners has been delayed for two years!

"...This is GOOD NEWS for waterfront property owners."

Earlier in the year the state's Joint Finance Committee had voted to require an economic impact analysis of the shoreland zoning regulations contained in NR115, and the Aug. 15 Lakeland Times story included this information, "Expect revisions to the revisions. Agency staff will review concerns presented to the department, and some lawmakers are also looking at statutory changes that would force rule modifications. The depth of the problems with the

shoreland code depends upon whom you ask, but the vast majority of a packed July 26 public hearing in Minocqua registered as opposed to the rule."

On the other hand, a number of counties have already been working on ways to comply with some of the key provisions of the updated NR 115, like rules about impervious surfaces and mitigation. Vilas County's Shoreland Ordinance already contains many provisions adopted in NR 115. In addition, the DNR provides an updated model ordinance for counties to work with as they craft their own revised ordinances. And a guidebook for implementing NR

115 is available from the Wisconsin County Code Administrators (WCCA).

Ninety-five percent of Northwoods wildlife during all or a portion of its life depends on



Photo: Loss of fish habitat due to construction

healthy near-shore areas.

Shoreland zones are also highly

desirable waterfront property. On Page 6 of this issue, you can read about a newly developed classroom unit for middle schoolers that will help them better understand this reality, and will also let them grapple with it a bit.

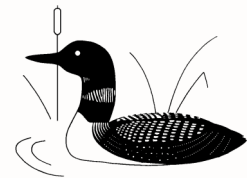
But it's not an academic question.

The DNR estimates that all lakes of 10 acres or more will be developed in the next 20 years.

Compliance with the 2010 updates of NR 115 - the result of a decade of deliberation among stakeholders around the state - has been delayed until Feb. 1, 2014.

When *will* Wisconsin actually have an effective statewide Shoreland Protection Program in place for the 21st century?

VILAS COUNTY LAKES and RIVERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 494 Eagle River,
WI 54521-0494



January 2012

Happy New Year!!

Just a reminder from the Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association (VCLRA) that 2011 has come and gone and it is now time to renew your membership for 2012. This year promises to be an exciting year.

2011 was a very busy year. You will note first of all that we changed our name to more appropriately reflect the constituents we represent. VCLRA is pleased with the progress made to protect our lakes. We have worked closely with our partner on the state level, Wisconsin Lakes (WL), to support efforts to protect our lakes and maintain our shorelines. Within the county, we have worked with many lake associations and districts to bring greater awareness of the importance of lake shoreland to overall lake quality. In support of this, VCLRA presented **BLUE HERON Shoreland Stewardship Awards** to encourage lake associations/districts to recognize their members who have worked to retain, maintain and restore shorelands. Two county lake property owners and two organizations were recognized with this award in 2011 and there will be three lake property owners recognized in 2012.

We are well on our way planning for our annual meeting and workshop to be held on June 15, 2012 at Nicolet College in Rhinelander. This will be a joint nine-county lake association workshop. We will have a keynote speaker addressing issues that have an impact on lake property values. Additionally, we will focus on the development, training and implementation of lake early detection aquatic invasive species monitoring teams. More information to follow about this workshop in our May newsletter.

On the backside of this letter is a 2012 membership renewal form. Please complete it and submit with your remittance to the address above.

Also, check out our website at <http://sites.google.com/site/vilascountylakesassociation/home> or www.vcla.us for the latest.

Don't forget the Wisconsin Lakes Convention April 10-12, 2012 at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay. Go to www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions to register.

Enjoy the beauty of your lake. It has something unique to offer every season of the year.

Regards,

Rollie Alger

VCLA President



Preserving, protecting and enhancing our Vilas County lakes
and waterways for present and future generations

VCLRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL - 2012

To apply for membership in **Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association**, please submit **annual dues payment before June 1st**. Every individual, family, supporting, or lake organization board member will receive the VCLRA newsletter. Please make checks payable to **VILAS COUNTY LAKES and RIVERS ASSOCIATION (VCLRA)** and return, with completed form, to **VCLRA; P. O. Box 494; Eagle River, WI 54521-0494**.

Please check which type of membership you are applying or renewing:

___ **Individual/Family \$25** ___ **Lake Organization \$50** ___ **Associate/Supporting \$75**

Provide permanent mailing address of Individual, Family or Supporting Memberships. Individual members will automatically be Key Contacts, if they have email. Lake associations and districts please indicate the name/address of a **Key Contact person, an officer or board member with email**. **Key Contacts are used for quickly transmitting pertinent or time sensitive information such as legislative updates or call-to-actions.**

For **Individual, Family and Associate/Supporting Memberships**, please complete Section A only and note your lake of residence and indicate if a lake association is established and its number of members. If you do not have email or do not wish to receive occasional Key Contact information, check here [].

For **Lake Organization Memberships**, complete Sections A & B below.

Section A: PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY—Thank you. * If you wish to receive our newsletter via email, Check (x) in the box after email address.

Name _____ ph _____
Address _____ fax _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ e-mail* _____ ()
Name of Lake Organization: _____

Number of individuals represented by your lake organization: _____

If you are applying or renewing a Lake Organization Membership, please submit the names and addresses of your organization officers and board of directors/commissioners. Each officer, director/commissioner will receive the newsletter. **If an officer/director/commissioner is the same as last year, and has no information changes, please enter "NC" for no change after their name. Please return by June 1st.**

Section B: PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY—Thank you.

President/Chairman

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
e-mail _____ ()

Vice-President

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
e-mail _____ ()

Secretary

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
e-mail _____ ()

Treasurer

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
e-mail _____ ()

Director/Commissioner

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
e-mail _____ ()

Director/Commissioner

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
e-mail _____ ()

Place the names of additional Directors/Commissioners on a separate sheet. Thank you.

Lake Water Level Monitoring by Citizen Scientists in Vilas County

The North Lakeland Discovery Center continued its lake level monitoring program in 2011. Anne Kretschmann, Lake Level Coordinator for Discovery Center, expanded the total of citizen lakes to 20 lakes, plus six additional lakes on the Conserve School campus. In addition, Anne expanded the communication in the program by gathering monthly lake level data from many volunteer scientists via the internet, preparing graphs of water elevation for each lake, and sending the graphed data back via internet to each volunteer.

The program begins in the month of May, when Anne arranges on-site meetings with volunteers who own and live on lakefront properties. During this meeting, Anne and another citizen volunteer place the water level "staff gauge" in a location suitable to the citizen volunteer, along the volunteer's waterfront, in about two feet of water. Anne then establishes the elevation of the zero mark on the installed staff gauge with respect to a stationary and permanent on-shore benchmark, typically a heavy galvanized lag bolt inserted into a tree near the shoreline. Anne uses a tripod-mounted surveyor's level to establish this calibrated staff gauge elevation by sighting both the shoreline bench mark and the partially submerged gauge. The volunteers then observe each week where the water level touches the gauge, and record the value in a field book.

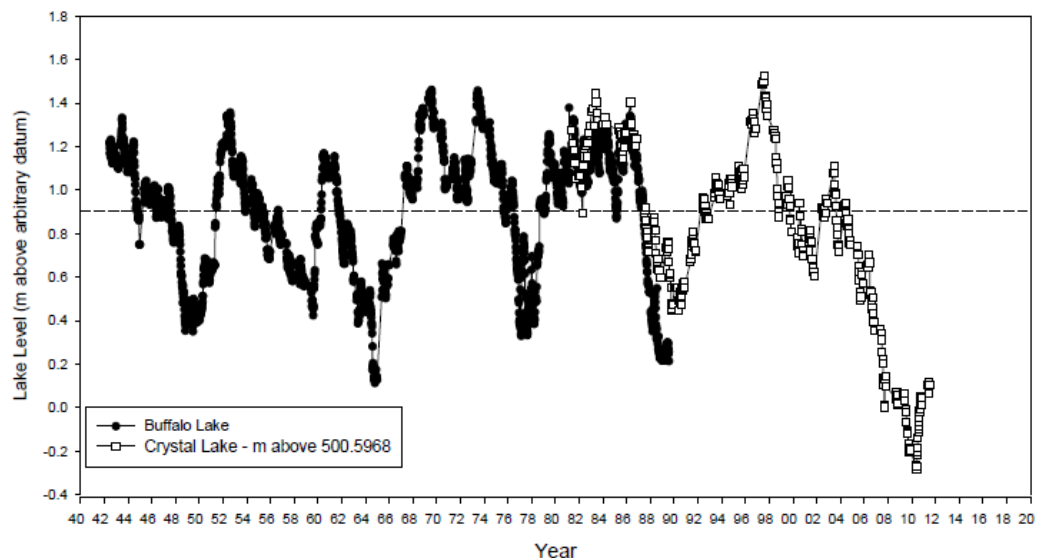
In late October, Anne then visits each site, and takes a final calibration reading between benchmark and staff gauge using the surveyor's level, to assure that the gauge has not moved up or down during the recording season. Following the final calibration, Anne removes the gauge, and collects each volunteer's field book. Since all staff gauges are referenced to the stationary bench mark on shore, each season's lake level readings are directly comparable to other season's readings for a particular lake. Since each lake has its own discrete bench mark, lake level readings are not transferable from lake to lake.

In December of 2011, Anne presented a poster presentation describing the Vilas County Lake Level Citizen Scientist Monitoring Program at the American Geophysical Union Conference in San Francisco. The trip was financed by a grant from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Anne reported from her poster that "Long-term lake level monitoring through the Trout Lake Research Station indicates that lake levels have risen and are currently at 2008 levels" (Figure 1). Anne reports that some exciting things are going on with respect to citizen scientist lake projects. One initiative Anne learned about was the mounting of a camera on a lakefront dock to collect photos from multiple directions that could be compared to images taken from space. Another was the tracking of the Phrenology of plants using citizen observations. And, Anne talked at the Conference with a doctoral student from Michigan Tech (Houghton, Michigan) who sounded interested in implementing a project similar to the Discovery Center Vilas County lake level project for her doctoral work.

Anne's poster (named EDU23C) can be viewed online at <http://eposters.agu.org/poster-search/>

This lake level monitoring program will continue in 2012.

Figure 1: Provisional plot of the historic trend in lake levels, Buffalo Lake and Crystal Lake through July 2011.



Mark your Calendar

April 10-12, 2012; Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Green Bay

June 15, 2012; VCLRA Celebrating Lakes Day in Rhinelander

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Lake County Journal

Volume 17 Issue 1 Winter 2012

Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association, Inc.

PO Box 494, Eagle River, WI 54521

Website: www.vcla.us

In This Issue

- President's message
- Well Testing
- Celebrate Lakes Day
- Town Lake Committee Highlights:
 - Cloverland
 - Washington
 - Phelps
 - Lac du Flambeau
 - Plum
- NR 115 Zoning Update
- Lake Learning Class
- Grandparents Corner
- VCLRA membership
- Lake Level