

# Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) News

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

Spring 2013

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alger427@yahoo.com

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630 985-8472  
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715 542-3108  
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715 617-0080  
curriefam@gmail.com

## Presidential Pebbles and Pearls

As I pen this message, the sap is running and winter is tenaciously hanging on. I am hopeful that we will have ice-out before the opening of fishing season. I am ready for the lake season to begin. Last year at this time, the dock was in and I was looking forward to another summer of great recreational activities on the lake.

The VCLRA board is planning an interesting "Celebrating Lakes Day" for you on Friday, June 14, 2013 at Conserve School west of Land O' Lakes. The agenda for the event and directions to the school are contained in this newsletter. Our keynote presentation will feature representatives from the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC). They are the entity that controls the many dams that regulate water flow into the Wisconsin River. They will discuss the challenges of regulating water levels to keep everyone happy, especially during drought periods as we have experienced the last number of years.

Another presentation will feature a Class A trout stream, the Deerskin River, and the monitoring that takes place and improvements made to the river to maintain it as a great fishing experience. We will also hear from representatives of the Black Oak Lake Association and how they have established monitoring teams to prevent the establishment of invasive species in their lake.

We think this will be an interesting morning for you at a beautiful facility in the northwoods.

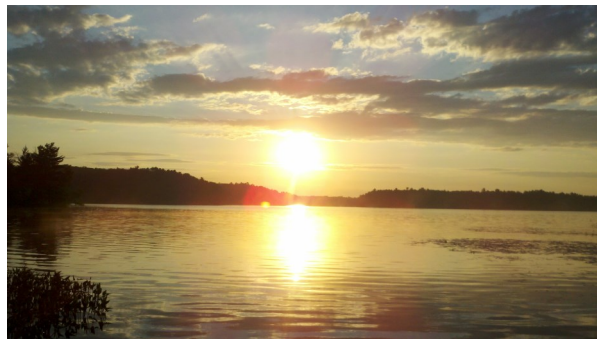
We are also establishing a list of speakers on a variety of lake-related topics for you to access if you have a meeting and need a presentation.

That list is included in this newsletter with the phone numbers of the presenters. These presentations are free and are intended to help lake and river property owners learn more about their waterbodies.

We now have the capability on our VCLRA website ([www.vclra.us](http://www.vclra.us)) to answer any questions you might have about anything you read in our newsletter or general questions about lakes. If you have any questions we can be contacted at [info@vclra.us](mailto:info@vclra.us).

Have a wonderful summer enjoying your lake.

Rollie Alger



# **BLUE HERON SHORELINE STEWARDSHIP**

## **AWARD WINNERS- 2012-2013**

Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) is pleased to announce four Blue Heron Shoreline Stewardship Award qualifiers for 2012-2013. They are: Paul and June Lewandoski on Rosalind Lake in Presque Isle; Steven Bartling on Alder Lake in Manitowish Waters, Jim and Marj Steiner on Big Bass Lake in the town of Washington; Dick and Joan Fahning on Ike Walton Lake in Lac du Flambeau. These property owners will be given their awards during VCLRA's Annual Meeting, Friday, June 14, 2013 at Conserve School., directly following the speaker's program.

Plan to come, see slides of their properties and meet the winners.



Each year VCLRA asks Lake Associations and districts to nominate shoreline properties that they believe make excellent examples of living on a lake while preserving shoreline habitat for native plants and animals. Now is the time to nominate yourself or someone you know. For a nomination form, go to VCLRA web site, [www.vclra.us](http://www.vclra.us), and click on Blue Heron---, or contact Sue Drum at [adrum@centurytel.net](mailto:adrum@centurytel.net) or phone 715-686-2655

If your property is chosen, you will meet a team of lake biologists who come to evaluate your property according to five general Sections: 1. Driveway and Parking Area 2. Structures and Septic System 3. Yard and Recreation Area 4. Shoreline Area – primary buffer (shore to 35 feet inland) 5. Entire Lot Area. The biologists will discuss criteria under each section with you and offer suggestions if needed. As a result of the team's visit you will receive a detailed evaluation of your property in all 5 sections.



This is a practical way for VCLRA board members to meet our association members and officers of their Lake Associations. Blue Heron winners also provide valuable examples of how to enjoy your lake while protecting its health.

Our community of lake shore owners in Vilas County is tied together by their strong interest in protecting riparian habitat. Like the many tourists who visit Vilas, lake shore owners understand the unique values still offered by our rare collection of lakes, wetlands and forests. As urban living spreads, the beauty and solitude of nature amid thousands of acres of uncrowded public land and water, as found in Vilas County, becomes ever more rare and more important to human well being.



# My Best Day Ever

Last summer, I went to the Eagle River Guide's Fishing Day for Kids. I had a lot of fun! There was a casting contest, prize drawings, and finally, a drawing for a fishing trip with a professional guide. When it was my turn to cast, I grabbed the rod, aimed for the hoop, and let go of the button, but I did not land close to the hoop. That didn't matter, because there was more to go.

Now it was time for the prize drawings. Names were drawn, and I thought I wasn't going to get a prize. (I've always wanted a fishing rod, but the rods dwindled down, and a little girl took the last rod—it was a tiny princess rod.) Then my name was called, and a man gave me a cool box of lures, and a fishing hat. I was so happy!

It was now time to draw names for who would go fishing with a guide. I was so nervous. Like a dream, my name was drawn. I was even *happier* now! I ran to see the big fishing boat—the motor was as big as me. My Mom and Grandparents took pictures of me, the other girl that won, and the guide, in front of his big bass boat. We got in his truck and drove off to Deer Skin Lake. We didn't catch anything at first, but then, I got a nibble, and the bobber went under the

water. I pulled up on the rod, bringing up the BIGGEST bluegill I've ever seen! This bluegill was, by far, the biggest bluegill I ever caught. I also caught a 14-inch bass. When our time was almost over, I got a nibble. I waited for the bobber to go under, and it did. I jerked up the line, reeling in as fast as I could, but I felt no weight

on the line. I reeled up all the way, and then noticed that the end of the line was bitten off. Our guide said that the fish that bit it off was probably a Northern Pike, Muskie, or a Tiger Muskie. Our guide taught us a lot about fishing and about lures. The guide took my picture with the bass I caught.

That day was definitely my best day ever! This year, I won't be able to go because I will be going to Covenant Point Camp in the Upper Peninsula with my friend. I hope that everyone who goes to the

Eagle River Guide's Fishing Day for Kids this year will have their best day ever like I did.

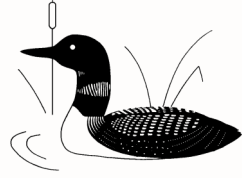
-Chloe Fanning, age 11  
(Walta's granddaughter)



## Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association

Friday, June 14, 2013

Conserve School—Land O' Lakes



### Celebrating Lakes & Rivers Day

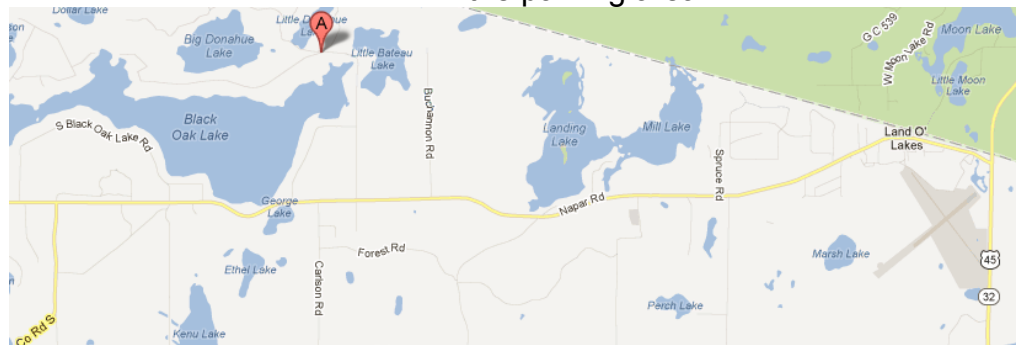
<b>8:15 – 9:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>	<b>Gathering Room</b>
<b>8:30 – 9:00</b>	<b>Optional Building Tour</b>	<b>Gathering Room</b>
<b>9:00 – 10:00</b>	<b>Wisconsin Valley Improvement Co.</b> (Peter Hansen and Ben Niffenegger)	<b>Community Room</b>
<b>10:00 - 10:20</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Gathering Room</b>
<b>10:20 – 11:00</b>	<b>Session 1: Deerskin River Study</b> (Dick Oehler, Rollie Alger, Mike Peczynski-USFS)	<b>Community Room</b>
<b>11:15 – 12:00</b>	<b>Session 2: Early AIS Lake Detection Monitoring Teams</b> (Black Oak Lake Assoc-John Annin, Walt Bates & Joe Beers)	<b>Community Room</b>
<b>12:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Blue Heron Shoreland Stewardship Award Presentations</b>	
<b>12:30 – 1:00</b>	<b>VCLA Annual Meeting—all are welcome</b>	

NOTE: Lake-related agencies and organizations are set-up in the Gathering Room. Please take time to visit them. These include:

Vilas County Invasive Species Coordinator  
Vilas County Land & Water Conservation  
North Lakeland Discovery Center  
Citizen Lake Monitoring Network  
Wisconsin Action Volunteers  
Trees for Tomorrow  
Loon Watch  
UWEX  
VCLRA

#### Directions to Conserve School

Take CTH "B" west out of Land O' Lakes to North Black Oak Lake Road (4.4 miles). Turn right on North Black Oak Lake Rd and follow that to the gatehouse (1.3 miles). Follow signs to the parking area.



# VCLRA Speaker List

Topic	Speaker
Aquatic & Terrestrial Invasive Species	Ted Ritter (479-3738) Carol Warden (356-9494)
Lake Ecology 101	Patrick Goggin (365-8943) Rollie Alger(545-2711) Carol Warden (356-9494) Gretchen Watkins (588-4162)
Clean Boats Clean Waters	Ted Ritter (479-3738)
Bog Ecology	Pat Goggin (365-8943) Carol Warden (356-9494)
Citizen Lake Monitoring Network	Carol Warden (356-9494) Gretchen Watkins (588- 4162) Clyde Owens (479-7032) Tom Ewing (630-251-0247) Steve Budnik (686-7852) Chris Wise (542-3108)
Stream Monitoring	Rollie Alger(545-2711) Dick Oehler (477-3211)
Loons (Loon Watch Presentation)	Rollie Alger(545-2711)
Shoreline Restoration/Maintenance	Carolyn Scholl (479-3738) Quita Sheehan (479- 3747)
Lake Water Level Monitoring	Al Drum (686-2655) Anne Kretschmann (543-2085)
Lake Association/District Formation	Carolyn Scholl (479-3738)
Lake Property Rezoning	Al Drum (686-2655)

## VCLRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL - 2013

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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 \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ (    )

#### Director/Commissioner

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ (    )

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

# VCLRA Annual meeting: June 14, Election of Board of Directors

## Sue Drum

For ten years my husband, Alan, and I have lived on Horsehead Lake in Presque Isle. I've been President of Horsehead Lake Association for the past two years. To learn more about lake issues I completed a Clean Boats/Clean Waters course and joined Lake Leaders Institute in Crew VI.

In 1964 I received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree (DVM) from the University of Illinois and practiced small animal medicine and surgery for over 25 years in Illinois and Wisconsin. After practice I became part of the academic staff at the U. of WI-Oshkosh and taught laboratory sections of Human Physiology, Human Anatomy and Ecosphere in Crisis.

## Chris A. Wise

Chris is a full time resident of Sayner WI, living with his wife Jan on Plum Lake. Active in community affairs including the Vilas County Commission on Aging, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, The Lakes Committee of the Town of Plum Lake (Chairman) and a member of the Board of Directors of the Plumlake Riparian Property Owners Association. Retired attorney, having spent most of his career working in the areas of estate planning and investments. On the Vilas County Lakes Association Board of Directors since 2009.

## Tom Ewing

Tom is a senior scientist and associate director at Argonne National Laboratory, a national science lab operated by the University of Chicago for the Department of Energy. He received his Ph.D at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, plus the Ewing's have had a cabin on Finger Lake near Eagle River for over 20 years. As a consequence, although Tom and his wife, Charlotte, maintain primary residence in the Chicago area, they consider themselves dual citizens of Illinois and Wisconsin. An avid fisherman and amateur photographer, Tom has a strong passion for Wisconsin's outdoors, and has been president of the lake association at Finger Lake for a number of years, where he has championed lake awareness and stewardship practices. During his tenure as lake association president, membership has grown significantly to near full participation. Tom and Charlotte have three grown children who also enjoy spending as much time at the cabin as possible.

## Al Drum

As an engineer and land surveyor in Wisconsin, I worked on projects affecting the air and water environment, which often required contact with municipal, township, county and state regulatory authorities. These activities included preparation of land subdivisions and Certified Survey Maps, management of industrial manufacturing process dust control collection equipment and discharges of manufacturing operations process waters, investigation of ground water and soil pollution from petroleum spills, preparation of storm water management plans for land subdivision projects, permitting of bridge removals and culvert installations for townships, participation in dam inspections and assisting in determination of regional flood level elevations. I served as expert witness in civil court for surface water runoff damage and prepared a study for the Town of Washington, investigating the cause of flooding potentially affecting Duck Lake.

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, University of Illinois and a Masters in Business Administration, University of Chicago. My wife Sue and I reside in Presque Isle.

## Rollie Alger

I have been a member of the VCLRA board for the last six years. During that time, I have served the organization as its Treasurer (4 years) and President (two years). I am also the Secretary for the Phelps Town Lakes Committee, President of the Imogene Lake Association, I serve on the LoonWatch Advisory Council and am a past member on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Lakes. I am also a lake monitor for the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network and a stream monitor for the Wisconsin Action Volunteers. In my spare time, I enjoy kayaking, fishing and spending time with the grandchildren. My wife and I reside on Imogene Lake in southeastern Vilas County.

## W. Terry Howard

Terry is a retired professor, after 29 year career at the University of Wisconsin— Madison's Department of Dairy Science. He served 6 years on the Board of Directors of ST Coletta School, Jefferson, WI, and served as President for one year. Terry is a charter member of the Snipe Lake Association, and currently serves as the board's secretary. Professionally, he serves twelve dairy farms as their dairy cattle nutritionist.



# Lake Leaders Institute Crew IX and VCLRA

VCLRA is pleased that two of our Board of Directors, Carol Warden and Steve Budnik, along with Quita Sheehan our advisor from the Vilas Land and Water Conservation Department, graduated from Lake Leaders Institute crew IX this past October. All participated in a series of three two day seminars scattered around Wisconsin from Green Lake to Kemp Station in Oneida County to their final meeting in Baraboo at Durward's Glen Retreat & Conference Center.

The Lake Leaders Institute was created in 1996 by Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, a team made up of the UW-Extension, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Wisconsin Lakes. This program develops leadership skills in citizens interested in active stewardship of Wisconsin lakes, and teaches them how to work with state and local governments. With over 15,000 lakes in Wisconsin there are not enough trained DNR staff or government units to protect all lakes. Currently there are over 200 Lake Leader graduates to help guard our waters.

Crew 9, following the tradition of preceding crews, graduated October 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Aldo Leopold shack on the banks of the Wisconsin River in Central Wisconsin. Afterwards they toured the Leopold Center, headquarters for the Aldo Leopold foundation with a visitor center and meeting facility. Features like solar power, geothermal and sustainable building materials make this one of the "greenest" buildings in the world. It is also the first building ever to be certified as "carbon neutral". It was constructed to meet Aldo Leopold's concept of the land ethic.

Steve feels that an important highlight of all 3 Lake Leader sessions was the close camaraderie among his 29 "crew-mates". From day one, when most of the people were strangers, there was an electricity and level of enthusiasm that was unbelievable. In the second two day meeting at (Lake Tomahawk), Steve liked the "lake management" planning exercise. A complete "lake management" plan included far more information than Steve realized. As Steve says, "There are always some things you can do; even for lakes and lake chains that seem in very good health." Steve lives on the Turtle Chain in Winchester. After Lake Leaders, he feels the good health of his chain, so far, has been blind luck. "I received more information than I ever dreamed of getting." Next year Steve will try to promote some form of a lake management plan to the Turtle chain Board of Directors, a board on which Steve serves.

— Sue Drum

## Lessons Learned from the Lake Leaders Institute

"I was very impressed with the seamless flow of the programs and the breadth of the instructors and guest lecturer's knowledge. It was great to connect with people from other parts of the state and other walks of life." — MARIQUITA SHEEHAN



## Lessons Learned from the Lake Leaders Institute. Continued

"A recent survey of lake data from around the world shows that lake temperatures are warming faster than air temperatures – especially for northern temperate lakes including Lake Superior. This could presage bad news for our lakes. However we are lucky in two ways compared to other parts of Wisconsin. First, our lakes are buffered by their relatively undeveloped watersheds. Most of the land use in Vilas County is forestry and the majority of that is public land. Second, we have a very strong community of lake associations and citizens committed to caring for their lakes."

"To my mind this is a great opportunity for us to **become leaders in watershed stewardship**. Examples of watershed stewardship include: developing partnerships between up and downstream community residents, getting involved in Federal State and County management of forest lands, and participating in local zoning and land use planning in our watersheds." — MARIQUITA SHEEHAN

"Since Lake Leaders draws people from all corners of Wisconsin it provides insight on lake management, advocacy, partnering and leadership skills that help participants deal with AIS in the north or any where in Wisconsin."

"I really enjoyed the personality test"... "Often we're under the mistaken impression that our thought process is the right one and **people are either like us or they are nuts. That simply is not the case.** If we relate to people on their terms, if we reach out in a way that suits their personality, we will develop more ideas, together, to protect our lakes."

"We also need to be involved in the political process when it comes to protecting our lakes. Many politicians don't fit the strict political lines we're led to believe they do. Whether they are Democrat or Republican, it is worthwhile to build a rapport with our elected officials."

"There are big issues both global and local that need to be tackled if we want to keep the Northwood lakes an economic resources for the community." — CAROL WARDEN

## Grandparents Corner: Dichotomous Keys and Fish ID

A dichotomous key is a classification tool used to sort, organize and identify a collection of objects or living organisms. It is made up of a series of questions with two choices. Each choice leads to another question. By making choices and progressing logically through the key, users follow a path that ends with the correct identification of the organism.

Fish have distinguishing characteristics that provide clues about where a species typically lives and what it eats. For example, fish in the sturgeon and sucker families have downward oriented mouths that enable them to find food along the lake or stream bottom. Using the Key to identify fish you have caught or want to catch will help you learn about the fish and how to catch another one.

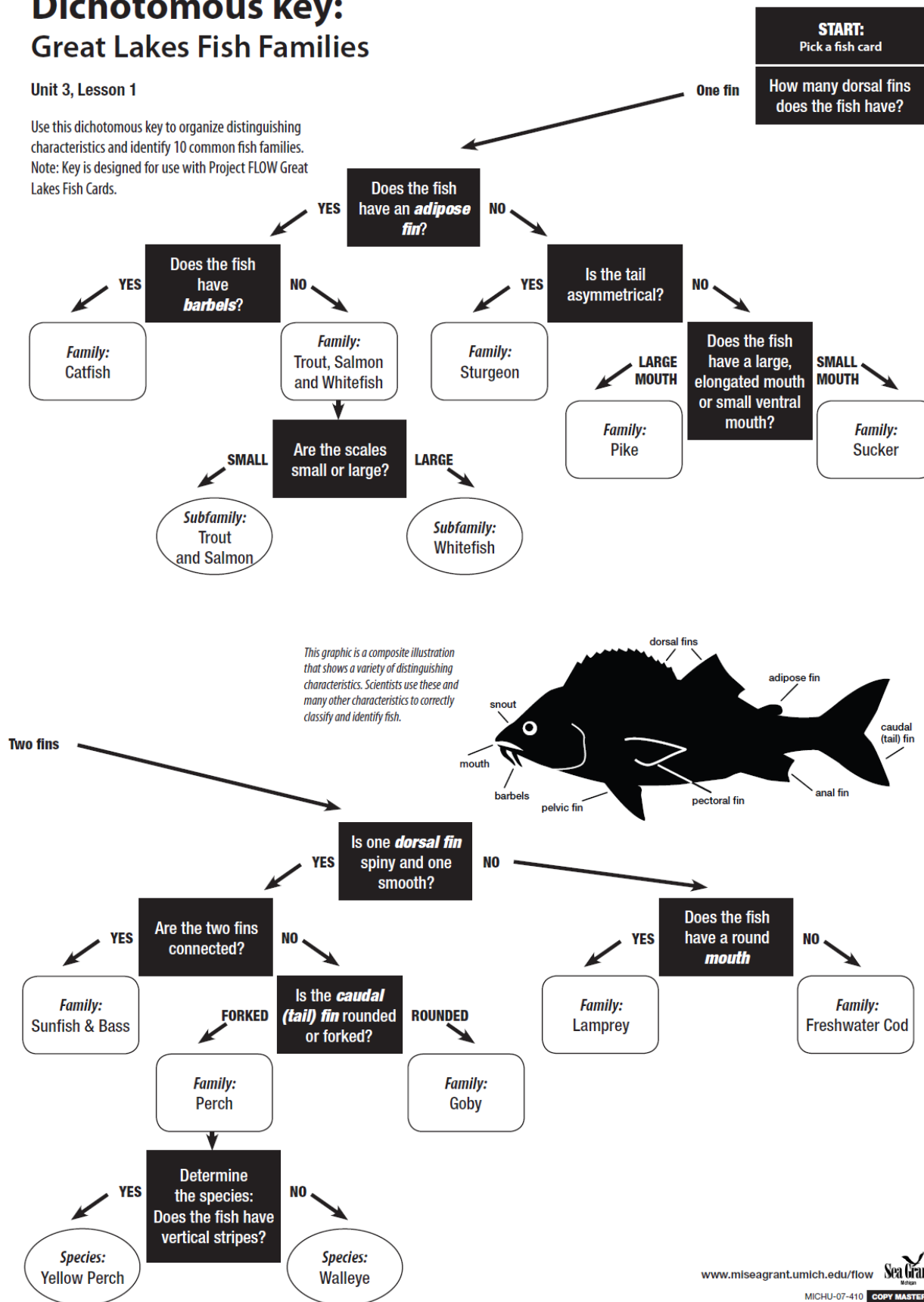
With your grandchildren use the key on the next page to identify fish and talk about the distinguishing characteristics and why you think the fish has each characteristic.

This activity is adapted from [WWW.projectflow.com](http://WWW.projectflow.com) and can be found in full on the webpage along with images of fish to classify and hewn your fish ID skills.

## Dichotomous key: Great Lakes Fish Families

### Unit 3, Lesson 1

Use this dichotomous key to organize distinguishing characteristics and identify 10 common fish families.  
Note: Key is designed for use with Project FLOW Great Lakes Fish Cards.



## Legislative Review

The last day of the 2013 WI Lakes Convention featured a legislative review by John Keckhaver, Wisconsin Lakes lobbyist. The following is a summary of that review.

John stated that in general, there is less natural resource legislation in the queue than last year. He mentioned that the WI Lakes legislative agenda for this year consists of: AIS; groundwater management; phosphorus & polluted runoff; shoreland management; building a watershed approach to public policy; educating citizen advocates; mining; and lake level management.

Regarding the AIS Proposal which is the #1 priority of members surveyed; the budget process is currently underway. Despite a widely held belief that funding should increase, preliminary budget numbers have held at last year's level as various funding mechanisms are explored. Simply too early to tell where this winds up.

Two Assembly bills were mentioned as being watched as they make their way through the legislative process. AB 75 deals with the applicability of county shoreland zoning to annexed or incorporated lands. AB 84 deals with exceptions to

requirements for fishing licenses and aquatic plant management permits.

The NR115 redo is currently underway. Too early to tell which direction it's headed as we have not gotten to the comment period yet. Lots of counties were having trouble with the legislation passed a year or two ago. Various inconsistencies with Act 170 "non-conforming structures" needs to be ironed out.

As far as the mining bill recently passed, we are now in the phase where administrative rules will need to be developed. Legal challenges to the law will surely follow.

Lastly, John mentioned that a great deal of the current legislative session will be taken up with the comprehensive administrative rules review currently underway. That and the next biannual budget will contribute to less new legislation being considered.

Steve Budnik

VCLRA Board Member



## Mark your Calendar

**June 14, 2013; VCLRA Celebrating Lakes Day at Conserve School—Land O' Lakes**

### **JOIN VCLRA TODAY! FORGET TO RENEW?**

Please find form on page 6 of this newsletter or go to our website and print the membership form at:

**<http://www.vclra.us/home/membership>**

and send in your membership:

Individual/Family \$25 Lake Organization \$50 Associate/Supporting \$100

**Your support helps protect lakes!**



## **Lake County Journal**

Volume 20 Issue 1 Spring 2013

Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association, Inc.

PO Box 494, Eagle River, WI 54521

Website: <http://www.vclra.us/>

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