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# Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) News P.O. Box 494 Eagle River, WI 54521-0494

Winter 2014

# **Presidential Pebbles and Pearls**

There is a phrase that I have always liked because it grounds me. It is; "our lakes, our legacy". I believe that its groundedness comes from my life-long love of engagement in water-related activities. As a young lad, I would think nothing of hopping on my bike and riding 3-4 miles outside of the small southern Illinois town where I lived and spending the entire day exploring a woods behind a cemetery called Warren's Grove. It had a stream running through it and I invariably got wet. But, I was happy. I found Indian-heads in the stream gravel and I marveled at the aquatic life in the calm water of eddies. As I think back on these adventures, the stream was sparkling and crystal clear. But, was it? Good memories tend to be positive and happy.

When a teenager, our family moved to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The only addition to my explorations was a fishing rod on bike trips to the Fond du Lac River or Lakeside Park on the shore of Lake Winnebago. There was now a difference, the water was not crystal clear. The fish I caught during the white bass runs didn't taste just right. And, as a Sea Scout, taking our boat out on the lake in August, I was appalled at the pea-green surface scum and chunks of algae. We were told not to swim in the water. There were days in late summer when the swimming area of Camp Shaginappi on the lake was closed because of the scummy water.

In hind-sight, these experiences were key to my decision to select biology as a college major and ultimately focus on the study of lakes (limnology) in my advanced studies. I needed to know why and how could the water quality in lakes and streams be so different. Sadly, I learned that while nature has cycles, man usually impacts these cycles in a negative way. Does it have to be this way? Obviously "no". We can mitigate our negative impacts in many ways.

This past summer I was asked by a friend to come to Kentuck Lake (Vilas County) because there was a green scum on their shoreline water. Wow! Lake Winnebago all over again. I identified the algae causing the algal bloom and contacted the local DNR algae expert. He was aware of the algal bloom and had identified several other species of blue-green algae that were present. Ultimately, public health signs were posted on public boat landings cautioning lake users.

While my life experiences have shown me that lakes and streams are wonderful and beautiful, my experiences have shown me that we can cause them great harm by thoughtlessness, ignorance and willful acts of selfishness. How can we quickly judge how our lakes and streams are doing? Simply by remembering back—are they better or worse today than they were?

As lake associations and lake districts, we need to carry the torch for the quality of our lakes. Have we conducted a baseline study (water chemistry, aquatic plant inventory and distribution) of our lake to describe in measureable terms the health of our lake now? If not, why not? We have the capacity to make a difference—a positive difference in our lakes and streams. What is the legacy of your lake going to be? Will you have a positive impact on that legacy??

Rollie Alger

VCLRA President

### Algal Blooms: From Wisconsin DNR website—July 24, 2013 (dnr.wi.gov/lakes/bluegreenalgae)

It seems that each summer we hear more about nuisance algal blooms and complaints from lake property owners to do something about them. These blooms (rapid rates of algal reproduction when temperature and nutrients conditions are right) cause concerns because they are unsightly, sometimes toxic and sometimes smelly. The most common nuisance blooms are blue-green algae also known as

Cyanobacteria. This is a group of photosynthetic bacteria that many refer to as "pond scum". Blue-green algae are most often bluegreen in color, but can also be blue, green, reddishpurple, or brown. Blue-green algae generally grow in

"Concerns associated with blue-green algae include discolored water, reduced light penetration, taste and odor problems, dissolved oxygen depletions during die-off, and toxin production. "

lakes, ponds, and slow-moving streams when the water is warm and enriched with nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen.

Blue-green algae, like true algae, make up a portion of the microscopic plant life in many water bodies. However, blue-green algae are not generally eaten by other aquatic organisms, and therefore are not important to the food chain. However, true algae (e.g. green algae) are very important to the food chain.

Concerns associated with blue-green algae include discolored water, reduced light penetration, taste and



odor problems, dissolved oxygen depletions during die-off, and toxin production. Blue-green algal toxins are naturally produced chemical compounds. These chemicals are not produced all of the time and there is no easy way to tell when blue-green algae are producing them and when they are not. Treatment of water that is experiencing a blue-green algal bloom with an herbicide or algaecide may kill the blue-green algae, but any toxin(s) will be released at once, resulting in a high concentration of toxins in the water. There are no quick or easy remedies for the control of blue-green algae once they appear in a lake. Reducing the amount of nutrients that wash into our lakes will eventually reduce the fre-

quency and intensity of bluegreen algal blooms, but it may take a long time and a lot of community involvement to effectively change the nutrient concentrations in a water body. This is because there may still be large amounts of nutrients in

the sediment at the bottom that may continue to serve as food for the growth of blue-green algae.

Several ways to reduce nutrients washing into a water body are;

- Only use phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers where truly needed (most soil in our county contains sufficient, naturally occurring, nutrients for grass growth).
- Minimize activities that cause erosion.
- Maintain native vegetation along shorelines as buffer areas.
- Fix leaking septic systems
- Use only phosphorus-free detergents in dishwashing machines.

Several measures you can take to protect yourself, you family and your pets include;

- DO NOT swim or play in water that looks like "pea soup" or has a scum layer on the surface. Do not let pets drink scummy water.
- DO NOT boat, water ski, etc. over such water (people can be exposed through inhalation.
- DO NOT treat water with herbicide or algaecide.
- ALWAYS shower after coming in contact with any scummy surface water.

# VILAS COUNTY LAKES COURTESY, SAFETY AND INVASIVE SPECIES CODE

Common Sense Courtesies:

### **NOISE – Sound travels over water**

Recommended water ski and personal watercraft hours 10AM to 6PM. Quiet hours please after 10pm

### SPEED – Give other lake users a break.

Slow down for safety, and to protect shorelines from erosion. Watch for no-wake zones and speed limits

### WILDLIFE – Keep your distance.

Observe loons, eagles and other wildlife from a long distance.

### **CLEAN LAKES – Leave no trace.**

Litter kills wildlife – if you carry it in, please take it out (CITO). Use of non-lead fishing tackle is recommended [ingested lead kills loons/wildlife]

### It's State Law:

### **SAFETY** – Wisconsin boating laws.

Boaters – Stay at least 100' from swimmers, divers, snorkelers, anglers, other watercraft, rafts and docks. Personal Watercraft – Stay at least 200' from shore when operating faster than "slow-no-wake" speed. Waterskiing and personal watercraft – not permitted after sunset. One wearable personal flotation device required for each boater.

### **INVASIVE SPECIES – IT'S STATE LAW**

Before launching your boat & before leaving the boat launch – YOU MUST: \*INSPECT boats, trailers and equipment; \*REMOVE all attached aquatic plants and animals; \*DRAIN all water from boats, vehicles and equipment; \*NEVER move plants or live fish away from a waterbody; \*STORE catch on ice, NOT in livewell.

### DEVELOPED AND APPROVED BY VCLRA - SEE WEBSITE - WWW.VCLRA.US

### The Manitowish River, Rest Lake Dam and Water Flow Regulation

Naturalist John Bates and former Wisconsin DNR water flow regulator Bob Martini discussed the Manitowish River, the impacts on the river from one of the dams controlling the river's flow known as Rest Lake Dam, and water flow regulatory principles, on the morning of September 21, 2013 at the Mercer Community Center. The presentation was organized and sponsored by the Iron County Lakes and Rivers Alliance.

### John Bates

John began the discussion by describing the river and its influence on plants and wildlife. The 46-mile-long Manitowish River begins at High Lake on County Highway B in Vilas County, and ends at the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage in Iron County. Along the way it forms a combined river and lake waterway system. The river system formed a route for fur-trade voyageurs, and today it has been designated an Exceptional Resource Water which serves several State Natural Areas (SNA's) such as Papoose Pines SNA and the Manitowish River Wilderness Area.

The Rest Lake Dam, existing today where the river intersects Vilas County Highway W, was built in the year 1887 as a temporary aid to logging companies so that logs floating downriver could have the necessary free-board to reach lumber mills. The dam raised the surface water level of the Manitowish River, and the associated lakes, by a total of from nine to thirteen feet. The current dam operator is Xcel Energy. There is no potential for electric power generation by this dam and the impounded waterway upstream; the dam's primary purpose at this time is to protect piers from winter ice damage. A dam operation order was generated in the year 1937 specifying that impounded water above the dam should be drawn down 3 ½ feet in the autumn and should then be raised by a total of four feet during the following May. But in reality, at present, the operators begin increasing the impounded water levels as soon as ice has disappeared.

The required flow downstream of the dam specified by the operation order is 40 cubic feet per second (cfs). This 40 cfs flow rate was not expected to protect plant and animal life, but rather was designed to sustain waste water discharge. This flow rate barely sustains

### The Manitowish River, Rest Lake Dam and Water Flow Regulation (continued)

river-dependent life. Left to nature, the river would have high flow in spring of the year. However, because of the operation order, spring flow below the dam is curtailed, to fill the impoundments above the dam. Then, in the fall of the year, waters are released over the dam to reduce surface levels in the above-dam impoundments, increasing downstream flow rates. The operation order is thereby affecting the timing of river levels and flow rates precisely opposite to natural levels and flow rates. The operation order delivers low spring flow downstream, and high fall flow downstream; if left to nature, there would be high spring flow, low fall flow. When the chain of lakes is at high water, the river and lakes system contains 4392 acres of surface water area. At low water level, the chain contains 3736 acres of surface water area.

This reverse-time-order river operation causes dewatering, freezing and thawing of wetland regions exactly backwards of natural forces. The low flow rate of 40 cfs leaves many riverside habitats dry at the worst time, stranding fish. This backwards cycle therefore negatively affects reproduction of desired fish such as pike, muskie, pan fish and sturgeon. For example, in just four days after a spring dam adjustment, downstream sturgeon eggs can be exposed to air and frequently die soon thereafter. Desirable nesting waterfowl are also affected negatively, as they settle in upland wetlands, only to be exposed to predators when protective vegetation dries up and dies. Muskrats and beavers, mussels, dragonflies and damsel flies also struggle to survive when subjected to the reverse-order water levels and flow rates. Other mancontrolled operations such as cranberry farms also cut into river flow rates.

Dams, when operated counter to naturally timed rhythms, can fragment habitat, alter transport of sediment, add to suspended solids and reduce biological diversity. And, when used in attempts to mitigate flooding, can take away the regeneration provided by natural flooding such as control of sedimentation, promotion of infiltration and support for biodiversity.

### Bob Martini

Bob opened his discussion by defining the need for regulation of activities affecting wildlife as an action to provide sanctions against the defiling of natural habitat. Generally, environmental regulations spring to life to correct observed problems. Bob then cited four examples where regulations arose to ameliorate negative impacts on waters and water systems in Wisconsin, and where in three instances the regulatory solutions improved the businesses of those regulated:

#### 1. Wisconsin River

In the year 1976, cleanup of the Wisconsin River began on a 40mile stretch where sludge from paper mills amounting to as much as 430,000 pounds per day produced dissolved oxygen levels in the river that at times measured zero. These efforts followed the 1972 enactment of the federal Clean Water Act. The goal set by the Wisconsin DNR was to have all rivers fish-able and swim-able by the year of 1983. Wisconsin paper mill managements claimed this cleanup could not be done and would drive Wisconsin mills out of business. After initially opposing the cleanup, Mead Paper's CEO, George Mead, reversed his stand and responded that his company would clean its discharges to twice the cleanliness required by Wisconsin DNR. Mead Paper accomplished this goal, within the DNR time table, and found that the changes to its production systems to clean up discharges actually improved productivity in the mill. In fact, Wisconsin paper mills generally reported that these changes in production processes made them all more competitive by cutting production and handling costs, and by realizing new revenues from new products made from the former waste streams. The entire Wisconsin River system now meets water quality standards.

#### 2. Acid Rain

During the period from 1979 through 1986, rainfall measurements in Wisconsin revealed from ten up to one hundred times more acid levels than normal. Electric power generating plants were identified as the major sources contributing to acid rain. As the Wisconsin DNR began formulating methods to reduce acid rain contributions, power companies claimed that curtailing the emissions to control acid rain was not feasible. Wisconsin DNR established a goal of 50 per cent reduction in sulfur dioxide from power plants, and promoted the use of low sulfur coal fuel as the preferred technique. Wisconsin power plants then established long term purchase agreements (thirty-year contracts) with low-sulfur coal suppliers at a time when no other power plants in the country were pursuing low sulfur coal supplies. As a result, Wisconsin power producers enjoyed lower fuel and generating costs than power producers in other states, with long-term guarantees of price, and also met the acid rain reduction goal. Wisconsin power users thereby also enjoy resultant less expensive power and purer surface waters.

3. Central Sands

Groundwater under lands cultivated by potato growers began to accumulate pesticides used by the growers to protect potato crops from certain insects. Upon completing extensive studies, Wisconsin DNR researchers concluded that potato growers did not need to destroy all of the insects attacking their crops. In fact, researchers discovered that if growers eliminated completely a particular pesticide, the surviving bugs would have little or no impact on crop quality and quantity. Skeptical growers tried this practice and found that surviving insects indeed did not affect their potato crops, and that the resultant savings from eliminating the pesticide markedly improved costs and profits.

#### 4. <u>Dams</u>

The Wisconsin DNR recently reviewed licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to dams in Wisconsin generating electric power. Reviewers had in mind that these dams perhaps should have in place an operating document called a **Public Interest Flow Regime** (Flow Regime), that may be required by an old piece of federal legislation known as the Federal Power Act of 1920. The Flow Regime document specifies operating principles of each dam. These principles should ensure that the dam flow rates, the upstream and downstream watercourse levels, and the conditions leading to adjustments in these features contribute to the aggregate best interests of all users and stakeholders upstream and downstream. Users and stakeholders include humans, wildlife and natural vegetation. The DNR may be considering requiring creation of these Flow Regimes for many of Wisconsin's existing and operating dams that currently do not have one. The dam Flow Regime should protect public and wildlife rights, while at the same time, for owners of

### P a g e 5 The Manitowish River, Rest Lake Dam and Water Flow Regulation (continued)

hydroelectric dams,

should promote production of electric power and return on investment for the dam owner. Wisconsin presently has 3800 licensed dams (only a small fraction of which are hydroelectric producers), that may need a Flow Regime specific to each dam.

In particular, the stakeholders affected by Rest Lake Dam, described above in John Bates' presentation, would benefit greatly from the creation of a Flow Regime document.

Bob suggested parameters that could be part of a Rest Lake Dam Flow Regime:

• A draw-down of water surface level above the dam in the amount of one foot between October 1 and October 15 each year

• A flow rate of 230 cfs to benefit sturgeon and other lifeforms downstream of the dam

• During drought, flow rate should be at least 125 cfs, to maintain sufficient wetland protection

• Changes in flow rate should be no more than 25 to 50 cfs per day, to prevent shocking the system

Creating this Flow Regime is likely to be contentious, and gaining acceptance for specific dam operating parameters such as those listed above may be difficult. But creating operating principles for the dam after consulting stakeholders should result in compromises that give all users some protection.

# **Grandparents Corner**—

### If you can't beat them join them at computer games and learn about lakes with:

### **Citizen Science Online Game**

Citizen Science is a new innovative online game developed at UW-Madison that integrates citizen science, aquatic invasive species, and water quality education.

http://citizenscience.eriainteractive.com/

The player in this computer adventure game is a young adult who becomes concerned about the health of a local lake threatened by eutrophication. Based at Lake Mendota in Madison, WI, players first travel back through time to the 1960's. They uncover and solve pollution problems faced by Lake Mendota with the help of a fictional lake spirit and talking muskrat. After they have learned from and worked to correct decisions of the past, players return to the present time and find out that the future of Lake Mendota continues to be threatened by eutrophication. The game goal is to restore the lake to a condition more suitable for human use.

The purpose of Citizen Science is to help players develop a conceptual understanding of lake ecology while giving them experiences of confronting pressing ecological issues, conducting scientific inquiry to address these issues, and taking action in the (virtual) world to affect change. The game asks players to adopt the lens of science within a worldview similar to their own so as to enact changes that they might see as useful. Citizen Science was designed so that playing it might support players in questioning why the lake is currently unfit for human use, provide experiences of affecting change through direct and legislative action, and potentially direct students towards broader efforts and actions that are preventing local lakes from becoming eutrophic.

The project's long-term research questions include:

1. Does participation in scientific role-playing games produce robust conceptual understandings of core scientific ideas?

2. Does participation result in an increased desire to pursue careers in science?

3. Does participation result in more sophisticated understandings of contemporary scientific issues?

4. Can scientific role-playing games be used as a tool for assessing 21st-century thinking skills?

# Aquatic Invasive Species Research in the Northwoods

The term "aquatic invasive species" or "AIS" is a familiar one to us. Yet for how much we talk about them, we still have a lot to learn about these buggers to determine the best ways to manage invasions and prevent new invasions from occurring.

In the Northwoods, we have many research projects

underway that will lead to more knowledge about AIS and how to manage them. UW Trout Lake station embarks on many research projects revolving around AIS. Here is an update on some of those projects.

"UW Trout Lake Station embarks on many research projects revolving around AIS. Here is an update on some of those projects."

Desiccation of aquatic plants is important business when it

comes to learning about how long plants stay alive when they travel with us on our boats and trailers. Researchers at UW Trout Lake studied the drying times of Eurasian Water-milfoil (EWM) and Curly-leaf Pondweed turions (CLP winter buds). In one experiment they positioned EWM around PVC pipe to replicate how plants would wrap around a boat motor. They learned that in this layered and damp environment, the plants could remain viable for up to 72 hours. The researchers also conducted an experiment where they dried out CLP winter buds for two weeks. Two of the 20 turions sprouted new buds after being rehydrated.

Non-chemical methods for treating AIS have gained interest in the Northwoods. UW Trout Lake is in the middle stages of conducting an experiment to determine whether a robust population of a milfoil-eating weevil would make an impact on the density of EWM in lakes. Weevils damage EWM by mining into their stem and creating damage that affects the plant's growth. The experiment just finished its second year of a four-year study. During the second year, researchers deposited weevils into EWM beds on four northern lakes. Results were inconclusive. Though the researchers did find guite a bit of damage on EWM stems, plant biomass as a whole was variable and didn't necessarily change from the first year to the second, after the manipulation. They will continue to observe any changes starting in the summer of 2014.

Any fisherman in the Northwoods knows the relaxation and also excitement that comes with fishing. Even up here, our fisheries face problems. The invasive rainbow smelt is one of those problems. This fish is known for decimating perch and walleye populations, so UW Trout Lake is currently conducting an

experiment on Vilas County's Crystal Lake to see if they can eradicate the damaging smelt population there. In lab experiments, water reaching 70°F is lethal to smelt. These fish require cold water to survive. Over the last two summers, researchers have used a water-mixing system to raise the temperature of the lake

from top to bottom. In 2012 they warmed the lake to just over 70°F and in 2013 to about 69°F. Before the lake was mixed, smelt showed to have a natural mortality rate of 45%. In the first year of mixing, that went to 93% and to 72% the second year. Though many of the smelt did die off, a small yet seemingly viable population of smelt remains. The experiment is only halfway finished so as the next two summers unfold, researchers will have a better understanding of the impacts lake-mixing will have on smelt populations.

Finally, UW Madison and its UW Trout Lake field station are looking at how best to detect an invasion of spiny water fleas (SWF). SWF are a predatory, microscopic zooplankton known for eating our native zooplankton that would otherwise be eaten by young fish. Because they are so small, they are hard to detect. Yet like many microscopic things in our world, they could have a big effect. Researchers are using fine-meshed nets to sample already-invaded lakes to determine what methods detect their presence the quickest. They are also sampling lakes to monitor changes in density for the invasive zooplankton. No results are known at this time as this experiment is just starting to synthesize its findings.

#### Carol Warden

Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist UW Trout Lake Station Center for Limnology

# Kids Don't Float

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) introduced a program on selected lakes this past summer called "Kids Don't Float". The DNR hopes to replicate the successful life jacket program

started in Homer, Alaska, in 1996 to combat that state's high rate of child and youth drownings. Alaska started the program with several boat landings stations where life jackets were available to be borrowed at no cost and returned after use. Today, Alaska has more than 500 loaner stations statewide.

"This program is all about keeping everyone—especially kids—safe while out enjoying Wisconsin's many rivers and lakes," says Chuck Horn, the DNR acting boat law administrator and former conservation warden heading the effort. "There are cases when people launch the boat thinking they have a life jacket for each passenger, and they don't. This program will help ensure all in the boat will have one, as the law requires."

The U. S. Coast Guard and Wisconsin law require a boater to carry one wearable life jacket, also known as a PDF (personal floatation device), for every passenger on board, including the operator. Boats that are 16 feet and longer must have a throwable type PDF—such as a ring buoy or Type IV cushion. The cushion must be square and have handles on the side.

"This is definitely an honor program. If you need a jacket, take one before you launch and simply return it to the station once you're off the water." Horn says the DNR will provide



the plans and materials for the loaner station along with a starter supply of loaner jackets. "And, the program would gladly accept donated life jackets. If the pilot grows into a program, the jackets will be needed."

In the Phelps area, a loaner station was set-up at the North Twin Lake boat launch

last spring. The station was constructed by students from the Phelps School under the direction of teacher Andy Richards.

The loaner stations seem to be working well. Early concerns about life jackets being stolen have not occurred. Most stations have more PDFs at the end of the boating season because of the kindness and generosity of boaters and sportsmen.



### Lake Volunteers

There are many lakes in Vilas County that are fortunate to have volunteers as part of the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN). The CLMN is a DNR Program designed to gather lake data and input it into the DNR's data system.

Dissolved Oxygen and temperature profiles are two of the more common lake characteristics measured. In the "good old days" volunteers had to use a modified titration method consisting of chemical packets and/or pillows and eye droppers that came in a kit. Others used a Dissolved Oxygen (DO) meter that was cumbersome because it had a Saran wrap-like membrane that had to be immersed in liquid continuously. Technology has finally come to the rescue with a simple probe/meter that uses light to determine DO levels.

The Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association wrote a grant last year to purchase a DO probe/ meter. This DO probe/meter is kept at the UW Trout Lake Station for CLMN volunteers in the western part of the county. Several years earlier, the Town of Phelps Lakes Committee wrote a grant to purchase the same DO probe/meter for the eastern part of the county. This probe/meter is kept at the Phelps Public Library. Below are the usage data for the summer of 2013 for both meters.

	<u>Phelps</u>	<u>Trout lake</u>
Number of times checked out.	21	18
Number of different users.	8	10
Number of different lakes/streams sampled.	9	12
Average length of time meter checked out.	1.17 days	1.44 days
Range of length of time checked out.	.5 – 3 days	.5 – 5 days
Beginning check out date.	5 – 11 – 13	5 - 23 – 13
Ending check out date.	10 - 14 – 13	9 – 25 - 13

# 2013 Clean Boats Clean Waters Data – Vilas County

The following information comes from Ted Ritter, Invasive Species Coordinator for Vilas County.

Ted analyzed the 2013 data for Vilas County boat landings and they are impressive! Based on information in SWIMS as of November 11<sup>th</sup>, the following summarizes the collective effort across Vilas County for this boating season:

- Hours logged at boat landings:
  - o Paid 6,303 (80%)
  - o Volunteer- 1,607 (20%)

Total – 8,210

o Of the paid 6,303 hours, 4,700 (75%) were accomplished by college students provided by UW Oshkosh through a program coordinated by the Vilas Land & Water Conservation Dept.

Vilas hours logged as percentage of regional and state:

o 18 county Northern Region – 41,869 (Vilas accounted for 20%)

o Statewide - 62,707 (Vilas accounted for 13%)

# 2013 Clean Boats Clean Waters Data – Vilas County (continued from page 8)

- Boats inspected 12,888
  - Vilas boats inspected as percentage of regional and state:
    - o 18 county Northern Region 52,921 (Vilas accounted for 24%)
      - o Statewide 104,283 (Vilas accounted for 12%)
- People contacts 27,355
- Vilas people contacts as percentage of regional and state:
  - o 18 county Northern Region 131,611 (Vilas accounted for 21%)
  - o Statewide 225,928 (Vilas accounted for 12%)

### Vilas County Lakes & Watersheds Program September 2013

Vilas County

Land and Water Conservation Department was recently awarded a WDNR Lake Classification Grant to study the current status of county and citizen lake protection efforts. In the past decade or more, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has contributed tens of thousands of grant dollars to lake groups across the state (including Vilas County), for the purpose of gathering baseline data and creating lake management plans. "What's discouraging", says Carroll Schaal, WDNR Lakes and Rivers Section Chief, "is that once a group receives the grant money and a consultant has long since been paid for services rendered, the resulting management plans often get placed on a bookshelf and forgotten." Those once valid and helpful lake resource plans are of no value to anyone when a significant time period has lapsed.

Vilas County wants to change and reverse that trend - and intends to start with this lake classification grant project. Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Conservation Department Administrator said "we would like to focus lake conservation and protection efforts where they are needed and guide our future work plans for most efficient use of our limited personnel and financial resources." Begin-

ning in the Fall of 2013, county staff will inventory the status of existing grant funded lake management projects. Information collected during the inventory phase will include 1) who has received grant funding; 2) what type of project was funded and did management recommendations result; 3) where does the lake data exist now; and 4) if management implementation projects were started at all, when were they completed?

Once the Phase I inventory is finished, the Conservation Department will be able to easily identify where additional management efforts would be most productive within the boundary of the county. County Conservation Department staff will then work with those lake groups who are most in need of completing lake management plans or lend technical assistance during management plan implementation efforts.



If you know of a lake group that could use a push in moving ahead with a lake management plan, please contact Carolyn Scholl of the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department at <u>cascho@co.vilas.wi.us</u>

### VILAS COUNTY LAKES and RIVERS ASSOCIATION P.O. Box 494

### Eagle River, WI 54521-0494



January 2014

Happy New Year!!

Just a reminder from the Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association (VCLRA) that 2013 has come and gone and it is now time to renew your membership for 2014. This year promises to be another exciting year.

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 the lake shoreland to overall lake quality. In support of this, VCLRA again presented **BLUE HERON Shoreland Stewardship Awards** to encourage lake associations/districts to recognize their members who have worked to retain, maintain and restore shorelands.

We are well on our way planning for our annual meeting and workshop to be held on Friday, June 13, 2014 at Nicolet College in Rhinelander. This will be a joint nine-county lake association workshop. The tentative agenda is to have a keynote speaker address how lake property owners can place a stewardship covenant on their property if they desire to protect it and maintain it within county or state shoreland zoning, whichever is more protective. More information about this work-shop in our May newsletter.

On the backside of this letter is a 2014 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 <u>www.vclra.us</u> for the latest.

Don't forget the Wisconsin Lakes Convention April 24-26 (Thursday – Saturday), 2014 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. Go to <u>www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions</u> to register.

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

Regards,

Rollie Alger

VCLRA President

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

### **VCLRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL - 2014**

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 <u>Key Contact person</u>, an officer or board member <u>with email</u>. Key Contacts are used for quickly transmitting pertinent or time sensitive information such as legislative updates or call-to-actions. For <u>Individual, Family and Associate/Supporting Memberships</u>, please complete Section A <u>only and note</u> 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 t	he box after	email address.
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Name			Phone	Phone	
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 <u>Lake Organization Membership</u>, 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/Chairma	<u>n</u>	Vice-President		
Name		Name		
Address		Address		
City		City		
State	Zip	State	Zip	
e-mail	( )	e-mail		( )
Secretary		<u>Treasurer</u>		
Name		Name		
Address		Address		
City		City		
State	Zip	State	Zip	
e-mail	( )	e-mail		( )
Director/Commission	oner	Director/Commi	<u>ssioner</u>	
Name		Name		
Address		Address		
City		City		
State		State	Zip	
e-mail	( )	e-mail		( )
Diago the newson of	Fodditional Directory/Commis	alamana an a aanarata	heat Thealesses	

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

# Mark your Calendar April 24-26, 2014; Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Stevens Point June 13, 2013; VCLRA Celebrating Lakes Day at Nicolet College And more.... More information will be provided in the spring newsletter. Contact Clyde (715 479 7032 or <u>owensacres@gmail.com</u> or Rollie (715 545 2711 or <u>al-</u> <u>ger427@yahoo.com</u>) with any questions or requests. JOIN VCLRA TODAY! See membership form inside this issue or Please go to our website and download the membership form http://www.vclra.us/home/membership

### Lake County Journal

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