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# Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) News

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

**SPRING 2017**

## Presidential Pebbles and Pearls

The ice is off the lakes and another season of enjoying the “soft water” of Vilas Counties’ 1,300 plus lakes is under way.

The legislative situation in Madison is basically on hold until the state budget is passed somewhere around the end of June. At that point possible legislation attempting to roll back some of the worst parts of Act 55 will hopefully be introduced. Please see the article from the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative in this newsletter.

The attempt by the DNR to relax the dredging requirements in the state has passed both houses but has not yet been signed by Governor Walker. We will continue to monitor. The attempt to get our Vilas County Board to pass a resolution opposing the loss of local county shoreland zoning control has stalled, but we will continue the attempt.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, please see the draft agenda for the multi-county lakes workshop we will once again co-sponsor with OCLRA at Nicolet College on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. It promises to be jam packed with good current information; and as always is free to all with no pre-registration required. Plan to attend!

We continue to talk with our counterparts at OCLRA on ways that we can collaborate to greater effect. Various outreach and marketing efforts have been discussed so far, to include possible new educational publications and brochures. With strength residing in numbers, this effort will continue.

Please take the time to renew your VCLRA membership at your earliest opportunity. The form is located in this newsletter and can be printed off our website. VCLRA will continue to act as a conduit for pertinent information as it becomes available throughout 2017.

## CONTAINED IN THIS ISSUE:

Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative Update

Membership Benefits

Multi-county Lakes Workshop Agenda

Membership Form

Blue Heron Nominations Open

I Wish I Wish I was a Fish

Get Started on a Lake Management Plan Ad

*Steve Budnik*  
President VCLRA



# Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative Update

Summary by Steve Budnik

As of this writing in early May, the legislature is deep into the debate and discussion regarding the 2017-2019 state budget. That budget is likely not to be passed until late June at the earliest. During that time, The Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative will be working to offer remedial legislation that will restore local control of riparian property to the counties, where it has historically resided, and to recover the lake classification system as the foundation for shoreland zoning that will protect the quality of the lakes of our state.

Proposed Legislation being drafted by the Legislative Reference Bureau would include:

- Allow counties to implement & utilize lake classification for purposes of shoreland zoning if the county had previously adopted a lakes classification ordinance prior to July 13, 2015/the effective date of Act 55.
- Allow counties to apply setback averaging as an option for shoreland zoning. Further, to remove the mandatory requirement for using setback averaging.
- Allow counties to regulate riparian lighting by ordinance with the advice and consent of lake associations and/or lake districts. Further, repeal the prohibition on local control of riparian property lighting.

Other issues being tracked for possible legislation and/or administrative rule change include: small permit dredging; rules & regulations concerning non-conforming structures; assistance with invasive species control; and the ability of county zoning departments to effectively certify zoning compliance.

Please contact WSI at: 414-587-3760 and [wisconsinshoreland@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinshoreland@gmail.com), for additional information.



**June 9, 2017**  
**Multi-county Lakes Workshop**  
**“Doing the Right Thing”**

**Draft Agenda**

**8:00** - Table set-up

**8:30** - Networking, coffee, and snacks

**9:00** - Welcome

Legislative and policy updates from Mike Engleson of Wisconsin Lakes  
and John Richter from Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative.

**9:30** - Doing the Right Thing. Introduction from Patrick Goggin/UW extension

**9:45** - Shoreland Stewardship & the Individual Property Owner-Dan Butkus  
Healthy Lakes & Healthy Economies-Dave Noel & Quita Sheehan  
Lakes & the Community/Government-Bob Mott & Dan Butkus

**10:45** - Break/Networking

**11:00** - Interactive Session

God's View

Introduction to comment session-Mike Engleson

Comments/feedback from session attendees

**12:00** - Workshop adjourns.

Individual Countywide annual meetings.

**12:45** - Final adjournment

**Note:** times are approximate. Not all speakers are confirmed as of this writing. The workshop will be conducted in the same building at Nicolet College as last year's workshop. No pre-registration required. As always, workshop is free and open to all.

## Blue Heron Stewardship Award Nominations Now Open

### BLUE HERON



**Shoreland Stewardship  
Award Program**

Do you know someone who makes a conscious effort to preserve an outstanding natural shoreline?

We want to recognize them for their effort! The Blue Heron Award was created for exactly this reason.

It also creates awareness, educate lake property owners on the importance of shoreland stewardship, and showcases good examples of lake-friendly waterfront development.

To nominate someone, please visit our website:

<http://www.vclra.us/home/blue-heron-shoreline-stewardship-award-program>

Or call **Carol Warden** at **715-356-9494**.

## VCLRA Membership Benefits

VCLRA is an informational education network that helps lake associations and individual citizens make wise decisions in their effort to preserve and protect the unique waterways of Vilas County, now and well into the future. From its inception, VCLRA has established and maintained strong cooperative relationships with the Wisconsin DNR, UW Extension, and Vilas County government. With the help of these partnerships, VCLRA is able to provide benefits to lake association members and individuals who do not have lake associations.

VCLRA provides the following to its member associations and individuals:

- Providing information and assistance on lake related problems and issues,
- Sponsoring and participating in educational programs,
- Providing yearly Blue Heron Awards for recognition of individual property owners' shoreline stewardship,
- Publishing newsletters for our membership,
- Developing Shoreline Covenant Program for property owners,
- Organize a yearly Lakes Day symposium for our members and partners to strengthen their partnerships and gain new knowledge,
- Helping in the formation of new lake associations,
- Assisting with direction to or interaction with partner agencies,
- Assisting with grant applications when an association may not qualify,
- And monitoring state and county government activities.

VCLRA is a constructive citizen group that has earned the respect of the local and state community. We encourage you to contact us with questions, concerns, or ideas. We will answer them to the best of our ability, or direct you to someone who can.

The purpose of the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association is to educate, communicate, and promote cooperation among organizations, individuals, governmental bodies and the general public of Vilas county; and to preserve, protect, and enhance our lakes and waterways for present and future generations

*Anne Kretschmann*

Treasurer





# Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

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

## Type of Membership:

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

## Section A: Individual/Family or Associate/Supporting Membership

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wish to receive newsletter via email? Yes No  
 Wish to receive occasional email alerts on lake issues? Yes No  
 Name of Lake of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Lake Organization (if established): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other affiliation (i.e. town chairman, county commissioner, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

## Section B: Lake Organization (Lake Associations and Districts) Membership

Please submit the names and contact information of organization officers/ board of directors/commissioners, each will receive the VCLRA newsletter. If person and contact information is the same as prior year write "NC" after name. Please indicate a **Key Contact Person**, ideally with email, this is used occasionally when legislative updates or call-to-actions occur.

Lake organization name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Website \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate number of individuals represented by lake organization \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach additional  
board members, directors,  
or commissioners, if needed.

### President/Chairman

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Wish to receive newsletter via email? Yes No  
 Name of Lake of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Receive occasional email alerts on lake issues? Yes No  
 Key Contact Person? Yes No

### Secretary

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Wish to receive newsletter via email? Yes No  
 Name of Lake of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Receive occasional email alerts on lake issues? Yes No  
 Key Contact Person? Yes No

### Vice-President

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Wish to receive newsletter via email? Yes No  
 Name of Lake of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Receive occasional email alerts on lake issues? Yes No  
 Key Contact Person? Yes No

### Treasurer

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Wish to receive newsletter via email? Yes No  
 Name of Lake of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Receive occasional email alerts on lake issues? Yes No  
 Key Contact Person? Yes No

Please make checks payable to: Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA)  
 Return completed form with annual dues before **June 1st** to: VCLRA; PO Box 494; Eagle River, WI 54521

Wondering how your lake works? What do you do if an invasive species shows up in your lake? To answer these questions come to the **Get Started on a Lake Management Plan** Workshop! June 16, from 9am to 1pm in Boulder Junction!

Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Staff invite Lake Organizations to a Lake Management Plan Development Workshop on June 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 1pm at the Boulder Junction Community Center. This workshop is for members of your Board, your Planning committee, and anyone who wants to get started on a Lake Management Plan for your lake.

Why develop a management plan for your lake? When your plan is complete you will have all the known lake data collected in one place. That will give you a picture of the ecology, history, and current use of your lake. The plan will also identify any issues, current or potential, on your lake and in your watershed. In addition, if any problems with invasive species, pollution, or fish populations crop up, you will have a blueprint for action!

You will leave this workshop with all the information you need to educate your lake group members about the need to develop a lake management plan. We will provide you with information on grant funding, contractors, and a list of steps to get started with this summer.

For more information please contact Quita Sheehan at the Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department - 715-479-3721, [mashee@co.vilas.wi.us](mailto:mashee@co.vilas.wi.us)

# I Wish I Wish I was a Fish

By: Carol Warden

Carol is an Aquatic Invasive Species expert with UW Trout Lake Station, a UW-Madison field station in the Northwoods.

Throughout my life I've been surrounded by water. Whether it was lakes, rivers or the sea, the water and I have had an intimate relationship. I remember thinking as a child, "These fish are so lucky; they never have to get out of the lake. They get to swim all day. How do they breathe underwater and what's stopping me from doing it?"

A fish depends on oxygen just like we do except fish breathe oxygen that is dissolved in water. Instead of having lungs to breathe, a fish has gills. Lungs and gills have the same purpose; they both supply the body with oxygen. Unlike human lungs that sit inside our bodies, gills of a fish are on the outside of their bodies. They sit right behind the mouth on both sides of the fish like where an ear is on our head. On some fish, the gills curve from the eye to the mouth. On other fish like sharks, the gills look like slits from a knife on the side of their bodies.

Most fish can open their mouths and let water in then when they shut their mouths the water is forced out past their gills and the gills absorb the dissolved oxygen in the water. Other fish, like tuna, don't have the best system to force this water out and so they have to swim continuously so water is constantly passing over their gills.

Gills are very delicate, almost paper-like structures that depend on the buoyancy of water to remain open. The fragile gills will collapse if the fish is taken out of the water because air doesn't have the same density and buoyancy water has to keep the gills open and functioning. This is why a fish cannot live outside the water. Gills also have much more surface area proportionate to their bodies than our lungs do proportionate to our bodies. This added surface area allows the fish to be very efficient at removing oxygen from water. Since water only holds a fraction of oxygen air does, it is important for fish to be really efficient breathers. Some fish can remove up to 85 percent of dissolved oxygen from water.

Alas, I will never be able to join the fish and swim all day. Gills are great for air and water exchange while our human lungs are only adapted to exchanging air. Therefore, if our lungs were on the outside of our bodies like fish, we would lose too much water from our bodies because we don't have constant replenishment of moisture like fish do living in

Continued on Pg. 9



water. The same is true for a fish out of water. Even if their gills did not collapse, they would eventually lose too much water from their bodies to survive. They require a constant flow of water over their gills to absorb dissolved oxygen and to keep their gills moist. Also, our lungs do not have enough surface area to pull out the amount of oxygen from water that we humans require to live. I'm condemned to a life on land.

## **21st Annual Lakes Fest**

### **Lac du Flambeau, WI**

This will be our 21st Lac du Flambeau Annual Lakes Fest Event "Keepers of the Waters" on **Saturday, June 17th, 2017 from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.** The Event will be held at the **Tribal Natural Resource Building/Campground area on the shore of Flambeau Lake (2549 State Highway 47 North, Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538).**

This year's theme is **"Let's Keep the Lakes Picture Perfect"**

Lakes Fest features many Tribal/Federal/State/Community & School Programs and activities with the purpose of educating and informing the public about Mother Earth "Aki" and the cultural importance of clean water, air and land.

A large tent is provided for exhibitors and the event will be held rain or shine. We will have tables available for your displays. Other activities include free hotdogs, brats & refreshments, canoe races, free raffles, petting zoo, child games and activities, live music and much more

Any questions, Call **Celeste Hockings, 715-588-4163**

or email: **[Chockings@ldftribe.com](mailto:Chockings@ldftribe.com)**

## Mark your Calendar

**June 9, 2017:** North Central Counties Lake Associations Workshop and VCLRA Annual Meeting at Nicolet College in Rhinelander. See draft agenda in this issue. Contact Steve Budnik at 715-686-7852 and [skbudnik@centurytel.net](mailto:skbudnik@centurytel.net).

**June 17, 2017:** Lake Fest in Lac du Flambeau from 10am to 3pm. Contact Celeste Hockings, 715-588-4163 for more information.

**July 24, 2017:** VCLRA summer board meeting. St. Germain Community Building 9am.

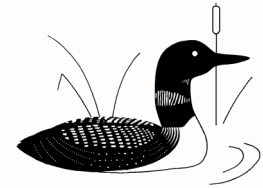
**October 7, 2017:** Cran-a-Rama, Manitowish Waters 9:00am to 3:00pm

**October, 2017:** Fall VCLRA Board Meeting; date to be determined.

### Join VCLRA Today! Forget to Renew?

See membership form inside this issue or go to our website at [www.vclra.us](http://www.vclra.us) and print the membership form.

**Your support helps protect the lakes!**



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Website: [www.vclra.us](http://www.vclra.us)

### **In This Issue**

A membership renewal form  
Benefits of Membership Summary  
Blue Heron Stewardship Award Information  
Multi-county Lakes Workshop Agenda  
I wish I was a Fish  
Shoreland Stewardship Covenant Update  
Other Lakes Related Information