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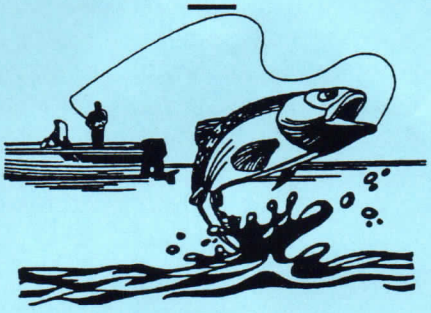


PINE LAKE NEWS

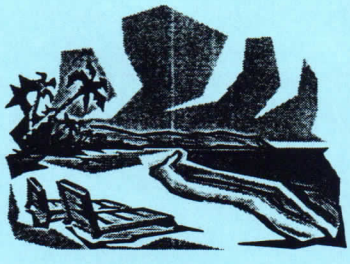
The Official Publication of:
Pine Lake Recreation & Rehabilitation District

Hiles, Wisconsin

LAKE LEVELS QUESTIONED

By Commissioner Patrick J. Coraggio

There has been a lot of controversy regarding whether Pine Lake should be raised or lowered before it freezes over for winter. This is a question that the Commissioners have pondered for some time. In the spring of 1995, many landowners on Pine Lake experienced soil erosion and shore damage. The question of wether or not the lake should be lowered to avoid shore damage was put to the Commissioners on many occasions. This was combined with a concern by many residents regarding what lowering the lake would do to the fish population. There are advocates on both sides of the question. Will lowering the lake save the shoreline? Will lowering the lake have an adverse affect on the fish population? These were questions that were put to Pat Zatopa of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Steve AveLallement, Fisheries Biologist for the DNR who is responsible for Pine Lake.



The following is the response that was received from Steve AveLallement:

In response to our recent phone conversation and your letter of April 2, 1996 to Pat Zatopa, I provide the following information.

Water levels on Pine Lake, Forest Co. were set at a maximum elevation of 91.0 feet and a minimum of 90.0 feet by the Public Service Commission (PSC). These levels are referenced to the PSC benchmark which is a bronze benchmark set on the top of the right upstream abutment of the bridge and dam at an elevation of 96.65 feet.

Responsibility for operation of the dam within the set minimum and maximum are the responsibility of the owner of the dam which is the Town of Hiles.

I also have some comments relative to fisheries and aquatic plants and water levels. Aquatic plants will grow to a depth of 1.7 times the secchi disk reading for a lake. The secchi disk measures depth of light penetration in a lake. Since Pine Lake has a self-help monitoring program, secchi disk readings are taken frequently. Secchi disk readings in 1994 ranged from 9.0 to 10.8 feet. Thus plants would grow to a depth of about 17 feet in Pine Lake. Since the lake is shallower than this, aquatic plants will grow anywhere in the lake as you are well aware. Raising the lake level to its maximum elevation of 91.0 feet would do nothing to reduce aquatic plant growth. In fact, it is possible that lowering the water level to the minimum of 90.0 feet in the winter could freeze out seed beds in dewatered shoreline area. Ice breakup in the spring may also scour out the dewatered areas.

Your letter also indicated concern that lowering water levels will have a negative impact on fish populations particularly during the winter. We have monitored dissolved oxygen concentrations on Pine Lake this winter. They held up pretty well until April. Pine Lake is likely to experience some winterkill of fish this winter but I don't think it will be real bad. We will see for sure when the ice goes out. The potential for winterkill in lakes like Pine (shallow and weedy) is primarily related to the length of time ice cover stays on the lake and snow depths over that ice. ***In my opinion, the potential for winterkill on Pine Lake would not be***

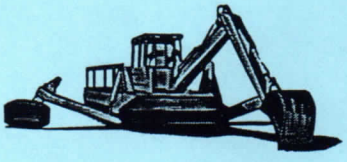
affected raising or lowering the lake the one foot allowed between minimum and maximum elevation.

In the long term, the health of fisheries and aquatic plant communities in Pine Lake is really dependent on the continued efforts of Pine Lake residents to control the influx of nutrients to the lake from septics, fertilizers, run-off and sedimentation.

The Commissioners have asked the DNR to have someone at our July annual meeting to answer questions. As of this newsletter, we have not received a response, except for Mr. AveLallement who indicated that he will be out of the State on business at the time of our annual meeting. The Commissioners are interested in getting answers for all of your questions and encourage your questions and comment so that we can continue to work towards our goal of having a lake that can be enjoyed by everyone.

WEED HARVESTER ANALYSIS

Below is an excerpt from the Lake Tide Newsletter that is published as a result of a joint effort between the University of Wisconsin Extension, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.



It is a very interesting article which relates to the day to day operations of having a weed harvester. It is uncanny how realistic this article is when looking back at what we have experienced on Pine Lake with our weed harvester.

So... You Want To Buy A Harvester

Little Lake is having big problems. Eurasian water milfoil has invaded. Bays are becoming weed-choked and impassable. Recreational boaters and anglers are upset. Shoreline property owners see their lakefront deteriorate and know that something must be done. The Little Lake Association takes action and purchases a weed harvester. The problem is solved! The water quality improves! Large pike are again caught in abundance, loons return to nest, and property values soar! Everyone is happy!

Sound like a fairy tale? It is! Although weed harvesting can do much to help improve the long term quality of a lake, the key words here are *help* and *long term.* Anyone that enters into a harvesting program must realize that there are no miracle cures for an aging lake and that harvesting alone will not improve water quality or change the nature of their lake. Hard work, patience, and tolerance are all required for a successful program. With those things and a little luck, lake resident will still be talking to each other after the first few years of the program.

Lets take a look at a few things that other lakes have found beneficial in starting and continuing a harvesting program.

A Management Plan

ONE that sets realistic goals and objectives is not only good sense but it is required for state funding. A good plan will define how the harvesting program will work and look at water quality issues that may affect weed growth. The plan may be done with the help of the Department of Natural Resources or an outside consultant, but must have input from local residents. All lake residents must see the plan and understand it. Without resident support, the program, will fail.

The harvesting operation must be clearly defined

Key elements would include information on what areas will be harvested or not cut at all. What species of plants will be the target? What will be done about floating weeds that are cut by the harvester or motor boats? How will the areas between the piers be maintained? What happens when the wind blows out of the same direction for two weeks and the windward shoreline can't be cut? What about dead carp? Sound like strange questions? They will all be asked.

The operation of the machine must be defined

Past experience says that the fewer people that run a harvester, the fewer maintenance problems you will have. Can you afford to have full time staff? If volunteers run the machine, who will tell them where to cut? Who will be in charge of the daily machine maintenance? What is the procedure for breakdowns, and where will the machine be repaired?

Breakdowns and weed harvesting are synonymous. Harvesting is sometimes like trying to mow a yard full of rocks at night, without a moon or any lights. A good program will have enough money set aside to replace items like cutter bars, hydraulic pumps and motors, conveyor belting, control cables, etc. What is the plan if the diesel engine blows up? Not only should a financial plan for emergencies be in place, there should also be a list of parts

suppliers, welders and repair personnel. If repairs are done in-house, who will do them? People understand that things break, but likely lose patience when the harvester sits on shore for days while the weeds grow in front of their homes.

The management plan should also address ***what happens to the weeds now that they are harvested.*** Is a transport required to get them to the shore conveyor or will it be just as efficient to drive the harvester back and forth? Are unloading sites available and if so, do the neighbors understand about the noise and the times of operation? What do you use to haul the weeds? Some lakes use trucks and some use trailers that are pulled by a truck or tractor. If a truck is used, does the driver need a commercial driver's license?

Now that the weeds are on the shore, where will they be dumped? It is best to have several sites in reserve just in case someone doesn't like the smell of rotting weeds. Dump sites must be chosen that do not allow runoff to pollute your lake or someone else's. Choose a site that has some drainage or it may become a muck hole when the water starts running out of the weeds.

While all this activity is taking place during the summer, be sure to keep daily records of areas worked, the types of plants cut, the number of loads and down time due to breakdowns. It is important to communicate this information to all the lake residents. Keep them informed in whatever way you can on the what, why, and how of the operation. Communication and education are the two most important aspects of a successful operation.

If all this sounds like I'm trying to discourage you from a harvesting program, that is not the case. I truly believe that a good harvesting program is the best way to fight nuisance aquatic plants. If you can answer the questions above and avoid the pitfalls that some of us have run into, ***you will have a good harvesting program.***

Submitted by Charlie Shong, Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District. Charlie manages the lake's aquatic plant management program. Lake Pewaukee annually budgets $100,000 for aquatic plant harvesting and $25,000 for wetland restoration as part of their aquatic plant management plan.

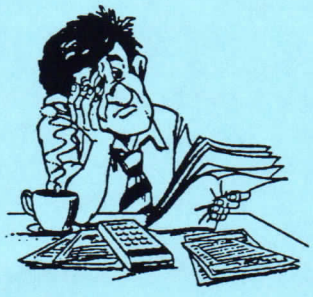
Editors Note: The above article accurately depicts the trials and tribulations of owning a weed harvester. Pine Lake District members are very fortunate to have a hard working dedicated work force to run our weed harvester. The Lake District Commissioners and the employees who work on the weed harvester welcome your questions and cooperation. Have an enjoyable summer.

CHAIRMAN'S BABBLE

BY: VIC BURKEY

Hi ! Hope every one had a healthy winter. Are we ready for summer yet? Maybe it'll stop snowing by July 4th. I just saw some loons floating in mud puddles.

Last year the District purchased a weed harvester and our cutting program went quite well. This year, with a matching grant, we purchased a transporter to haul weeds away from the cutter. This will allow the cutter to work more efficiently.



One of our plans for this year includes cleaning up Pine Creek. The transporter will be used to haul debris away. We will be calling this "***TAKE A STAKE IN THE LAKE***" and will be asking for volunteers to help with the project.

Much concern has been directed to the ice and oxygen levels this past winter. We should address the issue of purchasing an aerator and we have had the DNR involved in this matter. We will probably have a small fish kill which may help by eliminating some of the overabundance of small fish.

We are planning a boat parade around the 4th of July, more details to follow. The Board of Commissioners is looking forward to helping address concerns of the District members. Remember *'it's up to you to keep it blue'*. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

FERTILIZERS & WISCONSIN LAKES

DON'T FEED THE AQUATIC PLANTS & ALGAE

Fertilizers contain nutrients (phosphorus, nitrogen and potash) which feed plants. The nutrients, especially phosphorus, feed the plants that grow in lakes. When you fertilize your lawn it is important to know exactly what the nutrient needs of your lawn are. If excessive amounts of fertilizer are applied you are fertilizing the aquatic plants in lakes

and streams near your community.

If you feel that you must fertilize consider using non-phosphorus. Studies have shown that lawns rarely need phosphorus.

If it is necessary to fertilize to maintain a ground cover in order to prevent erosion try using small amounts of nitrogen fertilizer. The idea is to have the grass use the nitrogen so it will remain vigorous and minimize the amount of undissolved fertilizer on the lawn surface capable of washing into the lake.

An alternative to use of fertilizer is periodic watering of lawns with lake water which already contains a fair amount of nutrients.

Why Are Soil Tests Important?

The most economic and ecologically sound method of knowing if your lawn needs fertilization is to have a soil test run. A soil test will tell you if you need to fertilize, what type of fertilizer to use and the amount your lawn needs. This test can save you money and time. More importantly, it will keep fertilizer out of lakes and streams where they simply add to excess aquatic plants and algae. These aquatic plants and algae reduce the recreational and aesthetic values of our lakes and streams.

For more information on how and where to bring your soil sample contact your local county extension office. They will send you instructions and methods for sampling lawns. Extension agents can also assist you in interpreting the results of the tests.

How Much Fertilizer Should I Buy?

The soil test will tell you how much fertilizer of a certain type to buy per square foot of lawn. This rate multiplied by the number of square feet you plan on fertilizing will tell you how much to buy. Buy only as much as you need.

When And How To Apply Fertilizer

The best time to apply fertilizer is in the spring and early fall when grasses are actively growing. Use a spreader that can be calibrated. A calibrated spreader will ensure uniform distribution of fertilizer and helps prevent over-use.

What Do The Numbers On The Bag of Fertilizer Mean?

The numbers on a bag of fertilizer refer to the percentages of plant nutrients, nitrogen, phosphorus and potash in the material. In a 100 pound bag of 5-10-10 mixture for instance, there would be 5 percent or five pounds of nitrogen, 10 percent phosphorus and 10 percent of potash.

What Do I Do With Spilled Fertilizer?

Sweep up an fertilizer you may spill on a hard surface. Any fertilizer left on black top or concrete will be carried, with the first rainfall into lakes and streams.

When To Water

Water the lawn after applying the fertilizer just enough to wash the fertilizer off the grass leaves and into the soil in order to eliminate any possible danger of salt burn and to make sure the fertilizer gets into the soil where it is needed.

Where Can You Obtain Phosphorus Free Fertilizer?

Check with your local nurseries and farmers cooperative. If it is not available locally contact LakeSide Lawn Fertilizer, PO Box 132, Caledonia, Michigan 49316. Ordering the fertilizer as a lake association or district should also be considered.

Reprinted from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Management Program, PUBL-WR-163-87.

WISCONSIN LAKES CONVENTION

By: Charles Struebing

Again this year our Board attended the Wisconsin Lakes Convention. Vic, Pat, Charlie and our wives split up and attended two days of seminars on shallow lakes, living in the riparian zone, shore landscaping, life in the lateral zone and more. During this event we were able to meet with DNR personnel, representatives selling weed harvester equipment and lake products. We learn by listening to our lake neighbors and in many cases we can foresee our future problems by observing the over-used and over-populated lakes in the southern part of the state. The solutions proposed for many of these lakes will help in improving life on lakes like ours.

Our group returned with many excellent informational documents and brochures, and we will be making these available to our fellow District members at our July annual meeting.

made by Pat and seconded by Vic. It passed unanimously. It was noted that the Lake will pay Mike the full $20.00 per beaver and the Town will reimburse $10.00 to the District.

The next quarterly meeting will be at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, 1996 and will be followed by the annual meeting at 1:00 p.m. The Board is trying to bring in the DNR as the guest speaker at that meeting.

Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Charlie. It passed unanimously.

NORTHWOODS LAKE FAIR

"SHARING THE WATERS"

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1996

10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

HODAG PARK, RHINELANDER

An educational and entertaining lake experience for the whole family.

Kids Fishing Day
Lake Water Testing Demos
WI Game Fish Aquarium
Lake Specialists
Music by "Whitewater"
Antique Boat Exhibit
Kids Trout Fishing Pond
Lake Management
Lake Education Programs
Loon Watch Program
Food
Aquatic Wildlife
Shoreland Landscaping
Kids T-Shirt Painting
Exhibits & Equipment Vendors

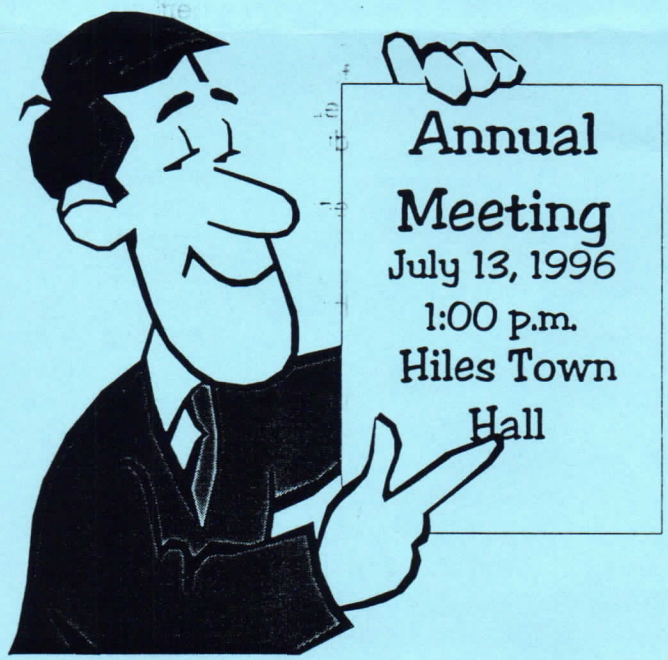
Plan on attending.....for more information contact John Czarnezki, Resource Agent, Oneida County UW-Extension, PO Box 1208, Rhinelander, WI. 54501 or call [715] 365-2750.

WHEN FISHERMEN MEET

DO WE REALLY TALK LIKE THIS WHEN FISHING? YOU BETCHA!

Hiyamac!	-	Lobuddy!
Binearlong?	-	Coplaours.
Ketchanany?	-	Gotafew.
Kindarthay?	-	Bassancarp
Ennysizetoum?	-	Cuplaowns.
Hittin'ard?	-	Sordalike.
Whatchouzin?	-	Offawurms
Fishanonboddum?	-	Rydonabaddum!
Watyadrinkin?	-	Shot'nbeer
Igaddago!	-	Tubad!
Seeyaroun!	-	Yatakidezy.

Solungangudluk ! ! !



PLN/Spring96/reb

WISCONSIN'S LAKE COURTESY CODE

CURBING CONFLICT

More and more of us are attempting to enjoy Wisconsin's waters in a wide variety of ways. Some are looking for peace and quiet and a little bit of nature. Some are looking to let it all hang our and test skills. How do we share our small world with the creatures that need to live there and the people who prefer to live there?

How can we lower our stress and increase our pleasure? The answer is easy....before you go out on the lake, think through the following:

HOW WILL WHAT I DO AFFECT OTHERS?

CAN I BE . . . .
- CONSIDERATE
- RESPECTFUL
- POLITE
- UNDERSTANDING

THINK ABOUT

NOISE	SILENCE IS GOLDEN
SPEED	WATCH YOUR WAKE
LITTER	LEAVE ONLY RIPPLES
SPACE	GIVE CRITTERS ROOM

THINK MORE - REACT LESS ! !

PINE LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF AUXILIARY MEETING

APRIL 13, 1996

BY: CHARLIE STRUEBING

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Vic Burkey at 1:00 p.m. Also in attendance were Board Members Pat Coraggio and Charlie Struebing.

First item of business was walkie talkie purchases for the weed harvesting crews. Pat Coraggio researched the issue and received bids on Motorola Walkie Talkies, and was able to receive a municipality discount. A package of three VHF walkie talkies, two trickle chargers, one fast charger, three cases and three lapel mikes at a cost of $2,383.10. After discussion with the weed cutter crew that was present at the meeting, Charlie Struebing made a motion to purchase, Pat Coraggio seconded and it passed unanimously.

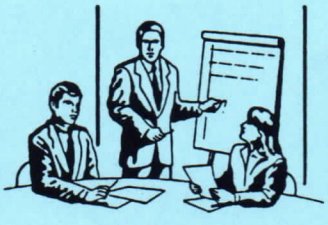
Second item of business was the arrival of the week transport. It is scheduled to arrive June 1, per Charlie's visit to Aquarius Systems on April 11. Within the next two months, it will be necessary to find a place to dock the transport. It was also discussed that we will again dock the harvester at the boat landing as was done last year. Also, Al Bukovic has been contacted by Vic and has again agreed to allow us to dispose of weeds on his land as we did last year.

Any other matters that which may lawfully come before the Commission were as follows:

A discussion on wages for weed cutter employees was decided on as follows: New employees $8.00 per hour, returning employees $8.50 per hour and $9.00 per hour for Larry Handeland for supervision. Pat offered a motion to accept this wage scale, Charlie seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

Larry Handeland was asked to submit a list of spare parts he would acquire this summer and it was decided on a budget of $2,000.00. Charlie made a motion to accept this amount, Pat seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Pat submitted an insurance quote from Laub Group for the 1996 year with total annual premium at a cost of $1,918.00. The Board decided to retain the Laub Group again this year.



The annual audit of the Pine Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District will be done this year as required by law by Mr. Wayne Link of Crandon, WI.

Pat reminded the Board that the spring edition of the Pine Lake News will be printed in May and any articles are required to be to Pat by May 4 for his processing.

Charlie suggested the District should start looking for land suitable for weed cutter and transport docking and storage. Vic said that the Hiles Fire Department was also looking for a place to have picnics and their Ice Fisheries. It was decided to place a notice in the upcoming Pine Lake News.

Vic relayed to the Board that the Mike Bukovic approached the Hiles Town Board regarding the trapping of beaver in Pine Creek to eliminate the problem of the beaver dams. It was suggested that the Hiles Town Board pay $10.00 and the Lake District pay $10.00 per beaver. It was decided to limit it to twenty beaver, with a motion