



Lake Wausau Association Newsletter

May, 2011

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Aquatic Invasive Species brought in from other areas have no natural predators and typically are able to out-compete native species in the system

Message from the Executive Board

I am truly honored to serve as President for the Lake Wausau Association. It's refreshing to meet and work with so many individuals that are passionate about cleaning up our lake for the good of everyone. A special thank you is in order for Kathy Beatty and Nathan Birchler. On April 12th they responded to a call from a concerned citizen regarding the remnants of an ice shack that was left behind. It's not our responsibility to clean up ice shacks, but they went beyond expectations to chip out the shack floor and clean up all of the debris (screws, insulation and siding) before it sank to the bottom of the lake.

The association has many challenges this year as we work towards reviving all operations and addressing the immediate concerns with weeds and algae blooms. The support from members, businesses, the UW Extension and the DNR are bringing us closer to our goals and is much appreciated. The upcoming events that are planned should be rewarding and fun too!

I hope everyone finds the newsletter and new website (www.lakewausau.org) to be informative. The Board is always looking for suggestions to further improve Lake Wausau and this association, so please don't hesitate to contact us. Enjoy the Summer and I'll see you on the lake!

Sincerely,
Bill Goetz

The Bigger Picture

This article from the Marathon County Conservation, Planning & Zoning Commission points out the importance of stewardship and diligence in overseeing the quality of the water in Lake Wausau.

Aquatic Invasive Species in Marathon County
Shawn Esser—Conservation, Planning & Zoning
VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2

In 2010 Marathon County, in cooperation with the Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D), received a grant to conduct an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inventory on all of the smaller lakes in the county. AIS brought in from other areas have no natural predators and typically are able to out-compete native species in the system. This disrupts the natural balance of a native community, altering it forever, usually in a negative way. The Golden Sands RC&D will inventory, and update the inventory as new species are found, as well as provide education to students and other interested organizations on identification and management of AIS. During the summer of 2010 there were 14 lakes inventoried in Marathon County. AIS were found in half of those lakes. The most significant find was Eurasian Water Milfoil in both Mission Lake and Wadley Lake. Since this species spreads easily, and is very difficult to control once established, eradication efforts began immediately.

To learn more: www.co.marathon.wi.us/ or call Shawn Esser: 715-261-6000
Marathon County and the Golden Sands RC&D are in the process of contacting local school districts in an attempt to get an AIS lesson put into the fifth grade class schedule. We are also working with local lake organizations and other citizens interested in volunteering to participate in the Clean Boats, Clean Water and the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network programs.

Lake Wausau Association Board of Directors

Elected Officers

Bill Goetz, President
Nathan Birchler, Vice President
Kathy Beatty, Secretary
Theresa Graveen, Treasurer

At-Large Directors

Dave Dalum
Russ Graveen
Holly Kohl
Jim Nauta
Rick Parkin
Travis Wistrom

Social Events

The 2011 Member Picnic is scheduled for July 31st at 1:00 pm. at Oak Island Park. The picnic will be the Association's first fund-raising activity and will be a great opportunity to bring members together for some fun on Lake Wausau!

The first social event of the 2011 season will be the **Social/Open Forum** gathering at Gulliver's Landing on Lake Wausau at 1701 Mallard Lane by Snake Bridge at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21. If you have not already returned your By-Laws voting ballot by that meeting, plan to submit it to Kathy Beatty, Secretary, at that time.

The **2011 Annual Member Picnic is scheduled for July 31st at 1:00 pm at Oak Island Park.** The picnic will be the Association's major summer social event and will be a great opportunity to bring members together for some fun on Lake Wausau! For upcoming details on this event see **Calendar of Events/Meetings** at www.lakewausau.org.

If you're a member of the Association and are interested in helping us coordinate the member picnic, or are interested in joining one of our standing committees, or have matters which you'd like our committees to address, please contact us at lakewausau@gmail.com. We cannot achieve our goals without active and involved members, so be prepared to get involved with at least one of our volunteer committees (See the profiles below.) New volunteers are needed and welcomed on all standing committees. We look forward to hearing from you!

Committee Profiles

The Association is organized with various committees to assist with important operational activities and business matters. Committee positions are strictly voluntary positions. Our standing committees, current volunteer members, and current activities/responsibilities are as follows:

The Executive Committee chair is Bill Goetz. Other members include Nathan Birchler, Theresa Graveen, Russ Graveen, Kathy Beatty, Dave Dalum, Jim Nauta, Holly Kohl, Rick Parkin, and Travis Wistrom. The committee consists of elected officers and at-large directors of the Association and is the driving force behind the Association. It represents the interests of Association members and manages the administrative and operating activities of the Association.

The Finance Committee chair is Nathan Birchler. Other members include Theresa Graveen, Bill Goetz, Fred Heider, and Jeff Jarvenpaa. The committee prepares an annual budget for approval by the Board of Directors, recommends and/or organizes fund raising activities, selects a disinterested firm or person(s) to audit the financial accounts of the Association, and periodically reviews and reports to the Board of Directors the budgetary status of the Association.

The Membership Committee chair is Kathy Beatty. Other members currently include Bill Goetz, Nathan Birchler, and Travis Wistrom. The committee initiates and coordinates actions to gain new members and to regain members in arrears.

The Civic Affairs Committee chair is Bill Goetz. The other member is Travis Wistrom. The committee attends and reports on meetings of the town board, the school board, and when appropriate, the county board and is entitled to speak on behalf of the Association at these meetings, and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The Weed and Algae Control Committee chair position is currently open. We are looking for someone in the membership to assume this position. Other members include Rick Parkin, Holly Kohl, Jeff Jackson, Jim Wagner, Sherri Wagner, and Dave Dalum. The committee recommends action to control weed and algae, organize and supervise control activities conducted by the Association, and reports on progress to the Board of Directors and general membership. The committee is expecting to meet in May for the first time to discuss and create an action plan for weed and algae control, including DNR grant application.

The Zoning and Pollution Control Committee chair position is currently open. We are looking for someone in the membership to assume this position. The other member is Jeff Jarvenpaa. The committee attends town and county public hearings relating to zoning, drinking water, and sanitation in the vicinity of Lake Wausau and is entitled to speak on behalf of the Association at these meetings when another elected officer is not present to speak. The committee will coordinate with public officials and riparian property owners on current or potential zoning, pollution, and other water quality criteria, and will report conditions and progress to the Board of Directors and general membership.

The Recreation and Lake Use Committee chair position is currently open. We are looking for someone in the membership to assume this position. Other members are Dave Dalum and Russ Graveen. The committee attends town and county public meetings relating to recreational and other lake use matters on Lake Wausau; obtains information from and communicates Association concerns to law enforcement, DNR, and other public officials relating to fishing and boating on Lake Wausau; organizes and/or assists in boating safety and fish stocking/habitat activities; and reports conditions and progress to the Board of Directors and general membership.

News Flash

The Board is currently working on revising our by-laws so we are compliant with current 501 (c)(3) requirements necessary to receive grants from the DNR for our cleanup efforts. The first grant we are working towards is a study on the makeup of weeds and algae in Lake Wausau. This study is imperative to our efforts as we need to know what areas of the lake and weed species need to be addressed. Members have or will receive a copy of the revised by-laws along with a ballot to approve the changes. The main revisions focus on making membership available to everyone and insuring that all members have a voice as it pertains to quality of Lake Wausau and its uses. **Ballots can be submitted by email, U.S. mail or in person at the Social Event/Open Forum at Gulliver's Landing on June 21 at 6:30 p.m.**

General Membership Meeting Minutes

LAKE WAUSAU ASSOCIATION SPECIAL MEMBER MEETING March 22, 2011

A special meeting of the Lake Wausau Association Members was held at Howard Johnson's in Wausau, Wisconsin, on March 22, 2011 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was called to order and presided over by Bill Goetz, President of the Board. The following Directors were present: Bill Goetz, Theresa Graveen, Russ Graveen, Rick Parkin, Holly Kohl, Jim Nauta, and Dave Dalum. The following Directors were absent: Nathan Birchler, Kathy Beatty, and Travis Wistrom.

Mr. Goetz announced Scott Provost of the DNR was in attendance to give a presentation on the Wisconsin River and Lake Wausau. This presentation is the highlight of the special meeting and was previously presented to the Rib Mountain Business Association and the Town of Rib Mountain. Subsequent to Mr. Provost's 20 minute presentation, the floor would be open to Members for Question & Answers.

Mr. Goetz announced the Lake Cleanup Project on March 6th, organized by the Board in an effort to remove garbage and debris before the melting of the ice, was a success. There was a great response to the Cleanup Project and Mr. Goetz personally walked around the lake and noted no trash left behind on the Lake. Mr. Goetz thanked Veolia for the donation of the dumpster located at Rookery Park. The Association plans to hold the clean up again next year.

Mr. Goetz announced the executive board is currently reviewing the Association By-Laws for amendments to match requirements of the DNR for purposes of qualifying for grants for clean up or activities that DNR will be involved in. Attorney Jim Low has volunteered to assist us with any changes to the by-laws. The only noted change at this time is to the Membership definition and voting rights which will be modified to allow all members equal voting rights. Within the next 30 days, voting ballots will be sent to all members explaining the change and asking for votes on the change. After being voted in, the by-laws will be amended so we can begin applying for available grants to aid in the cleanup weed and algae growth.

Mr. Goetz announced the Association is currently developing a website for Members to stay connected. Currently, Mr. Goetz is using his business website to communicate Association information (www.outdoor-exchange.net). The domain for the Association's website under construction is www.lakewausau.org and is expected to be available for viewers in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Goetz announced we are in the process of creating a quarterly newsletter that will be mailed out to members. The newsletter will include meeting minutes from the executive board meetings, scheduled events, information regarding algae and weed clean up, and other Lake information, and goals of the Association including increasing membership, seeking volunteers for committee positions, and other initial projects of the Association. Our Vice President, Nathan Birchler, is looking at records of past Association projects to determine which projects should be reopened or continued by the Association.

Mr. Goetz introduced Mr. Scott Provost from the DNR who presented on Lake Wausau and the history of the Wisconsin River, as well as how we got to where we are now and what will happen in the future. Mr. Provost shared information regarding nutrient (or phosphorus) loads in our Lake water and the contributing sources of those nutrients. Phosphorus is abundantly present... it's all over agricultural land, our streets, the entire city... everywhere. Mr. Provost described various point sources and non-point sources of phosphorus and how difficult it is to manage. He explained the more nutrients in the water, the more plant and algae growth there is (1 pound of phosphorus results in 500 pounds of algae). Fish are not found in algae dominated areas, and too much algae can be toxic. The fewer nutrients in the water, the less plant and algae growth there is. Accordingly, there must be a balance of nutrients to maintain the desired balance of plant growth. The balance of nutrients is affected by weather conditions (i.e., rain, early snow melts, storms that contribute to the run-off into our river system) and development (i.e., changes in root systems in the shorelines that affects the amount of phosphorus being taken out of our river system). Mr. Provost explained that a long-term plan to maintain a good balance must be implemented and the DNR has grant funds available to help with the implementation of Aquatic Plant Management (APM) options. The DNR will pay up to 75% of one of these plans, and 25% can come back in a match of in-kind services. A written plan to address APM is required. Mr. Provost explained the appropriate steps involved in this process are 1) form a lake group or association, 2) obtain a Habitat Aquatic Plant Survey (HAPS), 3) develop an APM plan (can use a consultant, the county, or many others who are willing to work with us), 4) develop interest in "Total Maximum Daily Load" (TMDL) which is a long-term study done by the DNR to pinpoint where impairments to our Lake water is coming from, and 5) support implementation and execution of TMDL (public citizens must do this). In implementing TMDL, he suggests building alliances with rivers downstream because if our Lake is clean, theirs will be clean as well (we must think in terms of the river system). Lake Wausau Association and community citizens should educate others about lake issues and how to control and reduce the amounts of phosphorus entering our Lake. Mr. Provost explained the grant deadline for

projects in 2011 is August 1st. Mr. Provost also mentioned that concerns regarding algae in the water or the quality of the water should be called into the Health Department, which triggers DNR testing. For storm and sewer re-routing matters or concerns, calls should be made to the City of Wausau. Mr. Provost explained that if debris or trees have fallen into the water and is causing a hazard it can be removed; however, the DNR will not come out to remove.

Mr. Goetz announced his closing remarks related to an upcoming Lake Cleanup effort which the Association will be a part of. Further information will be available on that project. The Board will provide information to members about changes to the By-Laws so we can apply for the grants that are available. Mr. Goetz also mentioned he will start working with the DNR to determine whether we can still obtain an aquatic plant survey this year. He asked that anyone email us any concerns regarding the matters discussed during the meeting so we can begin to compile a list of matters to address. Email him directly at sales@outdoor-exchange.net or visit our website at www.lakewausau.org.

Lake Use Activity Profile: Fishing Tips

By Dave Dalum

Now that the regular Wisconsin fishing season opener was on May 7, several fishing patterns should be in play during the early fishing season:

Walleyes: Since water has remained high up the Rib River due to all the rain we have had, fish should still be up the Rib River. As the spawn comes to a close, however, these fish will start to migrate back down river, to the reservoir. These fish migrate all the way to Rib Falls to spawn. I caught a 30" Walleye under Hwy. 51 on the Rib River during opening day of the 2009 season using jigs with big minnows. (See picture at the left) Now is the time to start to using large minnows!

Pike: When looking for Northern Pike, look for green weeds, the thickest, shallowest weeds you can find. You can use sucker minnows on jigs, or under bobbers. Use any plastic jig that can be rigged weedless. I like bass style spinner baits, or my favorite is a #5 Mepps Musky Killer. I use Chartreuse and Black. But when they are on, color doesn't seem to matter much.

Crappie and Bluegill: As of this writing, Crappies have been showing up. Look for Pan Fish in shallow green weeds, and shoreline wood, docks and overhanging trees. I use a Flu Flu jig, or Minnie Mite, a 3/32 oz. jig under a bobber, nothing fancy.

On May 28th, the **Wisconsin Musky Season** opens. As the season opens, it should be a Bucktail, and Topwater bite. Muskies will be staged near their spawning areas, where there is availability for food. As the season wears on, it will transition to a Jerkbait, Glidebait, and Bulldog bite. Fish will start to moved around due to fishing pressure, and boat traffic. So, this is a good time to cover a lot of water.

Good luck and enjoy your fishing.

Upcoming Events

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| May 13 | 2011 Wisconsin River Clean Up |
| May 21: | Wisconsin Valley Bass Busters
Lake Wausau open Bass fishing tournament. |
| May 28: | Wisconsin Musky Season opens. |
| June 5: | Water Ski Show begins. Runs every Sunday evening till
Labor Day. Show starts at 6 p.m. |
| June 7: | Lake Wausau Tuesday Night Musky Fishing League starts |
| June 21 | Social Event/Open Forum at Gulliver's Landing at 6:30 p.m.
Vote on By-Laws if you have not already submitted
your ballot by email or U.S. mail |
| July 31: | Lake Wausau Association Member Picnic at Oak Island Park
At 1:00 p.m. All members are welcome. |

