

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES

SUMMER 2012

The purpose of FCAL, Inc. is to facilitate education, research and sharing between organization, governmental bodies and the general public of Forest County to protect Forest County inland water bodies, environs and watershed for now and future generations, including but not limited to: aesthetic beauty, water quality, wildlife habitat and fisheries.

FCAL ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET

Saturday, October 13, 2012

4:30 Meeting, 5:30 Cash Bar, 6:15 Dinner, 7:00 Speaker

Celebrating our 20th year, FCAL will hold its annual meeting at T-Bob's in Laona. Once again, we will be honoring our first place essay contest winners from Laona, Wabeno and Crandon's 5th and 6th grades.

We're also excited to have an interesting and entertaining speaker - Christian Cold, Bureau of Wildlife Management, WDNR (See page 4 for bio). He will speak about "Wildlife and Your Land." By managing your property as an educated and active landowner, your support will diversify wildlife species and create more functional habitat. Learn about why we need more wildlife, predatory and prey relationships and the factors that regulate wildlife populations. Come and see some native Wisconsin Animals and realize their importance to our beautiful Wisconsin environment.

FCAL Members:

Watch your mail for your invitation to this year's annual meeting and banquet.

Protect Our Inland Waters

Submitted by Les Schramm



Invasive species can spread from the Great Lakes to Wisconsin's Inland Waters by hitch-hiking a ride on boats, trailers and other recreational equipment. Lake Metonga experienced this invasion when zebra mussels were found in lake waters in 2001.

The association in partnership with the Mole Lake Chippewa Fishery Biologist has been monitoring the mussel density levels by placing ten sampler plates around the lake on riparian owners' docks in the month of May. In September, the samplers are collected and the mussel buildup is counted. From 2001 to 2007 a continuous increase in density was observed and riparian owners were witnessing the colonization of mussels on rocks and other hard surfaces such as docks and boatlift legs. Some areas of the lake bottom also became covered with mussel shells. Swimmers needed to wear aqua socks or other protection to prevent being cut if they stepped on some shells. Since 2007 the density level has reached a plateau and held relatively constant through 2011. Sampler plates will be set out again in 2012.

Is there an affect on the fishery? This is an on-going study for the Association and the Mole Lake Chippewa Tribe. Zebra mussels are filter feeders who take water into their shell cavity. Each adult mussel is capable of filtering one gallon of water each day. During this process they remove phytoplankton,

zooplankton and algae from the water. Zooplankton is the food source for the young fish larva and prey fish which are the food source for the larger predator fish such as, walleyes, northern pike and bass.

It is every lake user's responsibility to get involved in preventing the spread of invasive species by doing the following:

1. Remove aquatic plants, mussels, and mud from equipment.
2. Drain water from your motor, bilge and live wells.
3. Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

Let's be involved lake users.

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers – In Wisconsin it is the Law

- INSPECT boats, trailers and equipment.
- REMOVE all attached aquatic plants, animals and mud before launching and before leaving the water.
- DRAIN all water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells, bait containers and all equipment before leaving the water access.
- NEVER MOVE plants or live fish away from a waterbody.
- BUY minnows from a Wisconsin licensed bait dealer.
- DISPOSE of unwanted bait and other animals or aquatic plants in the trash.

Letter from our FCAL President...

Submitted by Lee Lamers

As I write this letter, I am looking out at Roberts Lake thinking how lucky we all are to have such beauty in Forest County. In the past, I have talked about our being stewards of this legacy. Our knowledge keeps evolving in our understanding of the workings of lakes and waterways and our part in it.

Recently, I attended the Wisconsin Lakes Convention and listened to several very good speakers on interesting and relevant topics. One topic stood out the most in my mind-building community. We were reminded that our country was built, grew and prospered because of utilizing the human assets in our communities. Someone having a positive vision or goal can bring out skills and abilities of individuals in a community to achieve that vision or goal. Volunteer groups such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Food Pantries, PTO, Lions Club, American Legions and, of course, our lakes and waterways organizations or associations all work towards a positive goal. In FCAL's case, it is to facilitate education, research and sharing between organizations, government bodies, and general public of Forest County to protect Forest County water resources.

This goal is on-going as it moves forward with the skills, ideas and assets that our current and future members bring to the table. FCAL seeks to bring in new members to help keep Forest County Lakes and waterways as pristine as they are now. Our sense of community to work and play together is what has and will continue to help us reach this goal. Remember, FCAL members do not have to live on a lake. I hope you all have a great summer on the water.

Silver Lake News and Notes

Two years ago we discovered that Silver Lake had been infested by the alien invasive plant known as Eurasian water milfoil. Property owners teamed up in full force to put a plan in action with guidance from the DNR and Ontera. We are actively pursuing donations from our membership and local community to help fight the invasion. We are thrilled we have enough in-kind donations to support our first application treatment but we still need further assistance to stabilize the milfoil.

The membership committee has been putting together several fund raisers to help raise money for the cause as well. On June 30th they will sponsor a BBB Bash at the beach. It is simply Burgers, Brats, Bingo, Beer and music. The event will be held from 4:00 in the afternoon until 9:00 in the pavilion at the beach. We hope many of you can come, have fun and support our efforts.

FCAL WEBSITE

Carol Court - Site Administrator

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Barry DeWall of DeWall Web Design for helping the Association update our Web Site.

Barry has been instrumental in re-designing the site, making it more user friendly and maintaining the site. He is also teaching me and other members of the Board how to input information to keep members and the public informed about events effecting our lakes and streams

We will gladly post events of FCAL members to the site. Please give us at least 60 days notice. If an educational piece crosses your mail or e-mail that you feel our members should be aware of, please consider forwarding the information so we can add the link to the site.



Forest County Association of Lakes new website is under construction.

Watch our progress at: fcal-wi.org

"To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug." - Helen Keller

**HERE TO HELP – IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE
OR
NEED TO REPORT A VIOLATION CONTACT:**

Brad Dahlquist, DNR Warden 715-478-5610
Steve Ashbeck, Recreation Officer 715-889-1102
Or the Forest County Sheriff's Office 715-478-3331

Roberts Lake – 2012 Edition

Submitted by Lyle Weyers

As I left off with last year's article, Roberts Lake had one loon chick a week old and two eggs being sat on by another pair of loons. Well, those eggs produced a pair of loon chicks we nicknamed the twins. Thus, after 30 years of no loon chicks on our lake, we suddenly had three. We all enjoyed keeping an eye on all the chicks, watching them trying to dive, being fed by their parents, and sleeping on the backs of mom & dad. As nature has it though, one of the twins disappeared at one month old. Since it had been healthy and well cared for, it's disappearance was probably due to one of three predators: muskie, snapping turtle, or eagle. Since our eagles regularly produce two young of their own, and parents and young were patrolling the lake during mid-July, our guess was an eagle. The other two chicks did make it to adolescents.

As several residents were asking various questions concerning the loons, I will try my best to answer some of them. Our loons probably winter on the Atlantic coast or the Gulf. It is not fact that loons mate for life. It is more likely that they return to the same lake or area. The male arrives on the lake first and establishes a territory. He then waits for a female, and, if she is receptive to the location, they will mate (sounds familiar – the female get the final say). If another male decides he would like the same area or female, the males will fight for dominance with one killing the other 30% of the time. Two of us witnessed a fight of this nature, but it was right after the twins were born. A rogue loon had kept approaching the nesting site where the twin eggs were, and the male loon kept chasing the rogue off. His went on for a couple of days until the second chick was born. As we watched the rogue loon come towards the couple with their chicks, the male again chased him away. However, he came back again and as the male went to chase him off again, the protective instinct of the female must have kicked in. She dropped both chicks into the water from under her wings and went to help her mate. All three loons circled each other for awhile and then dove under the surface. I wish we could have seen what happened, but when that rogue loon came up he ran on top of the water as fast as he could for about 100 feet, rested a short time, and ran on top of the water again for another 100 feet. He didn't come back that day and we never saw him bothering those loons again.



The adult loons start leaving the chicks alone for short periods once they are about six weeks old. Chicks can swim only minutes after they are born, but cannot fly until they are two to three months old. The adult loons start migrating south

in September, leaving their young to fend for themselves. Chicks need the extra time to build up their strength and endurance by eating heavily, and will finally head south in October or November. The young chicks will not return for two or three years, when they are ready to mate. Then, of course, the males must find a territory, or fight for one, and the females must find an available bachelor. Since the legs of loons are so far back on their body, they have a difficult time walking. Therefore, their nests are very close to the water and are made from what materials are in close proximity. Nesting platforms, on which all of our chicks were born, are placed out in the water, providing better protection from egg-eaters such as raccoons, skunks, or fishers. Our loons are back again and we look forward to another summer of watching new chicks be born and grow on our lake.

Legislative Update

A Review of the 2011-2012 Legislative Session



- **2011-2013 State Budget**

Priority funding items were protected:

- Lake Classification Funding
- Aquatic Invasive Species Funding
- Bonding Authority for Best Management Practices in the Targeted Runoff Management Program

- **Administrative Rule-Making (Act 21)**

Expands power of the Governor over the rule-making process, requires business impact analysis to be completed, no health or environmental analysis required, etc.

- **DNR Permitting Processes (Act 167)**

Includes timetable for DNR completion of permit application review, existing piers grandfathered- registration of those no longer required, etc. Final bill differed significantly from original version (removed default approval of applications, high capacity well, mining, and oil and gas exploration permit approval provisions among other items).

- **Wetland Permitting Processes (Act 118)**

Removes requirements that developers must first consider alternative sites that do not contain wetlands, mitigation may occur far from wetlands being filled, etc.

- **Nonconforming Structures (Act 170)**

Counties prohibited from enacting shoreland zoning ordinances regarding nonconforming structures more restrictive than DNR statewide regulation.

- **Water Pollution Trading Credits (Act 151)**

Allows someone who has obtained a water pollution permit to discharge more than they would normally under that permit if that person reaches agreement with another person who reduces the amount of pollution they are discharging or if payment is made to the DNR or the local government for water pollution reduction efforts.

- **What didn't pass?**

- Mining Permitting Reform
- Turf Fertilizer Retailing Revision

Hey, Can I Eat This? – Fish Consumption Advisories in Wisconsin

“Nearly all fish contain traces of contaminants from either human caused activities or the natural environment. This may have you wondering... ‘Is it safe for me and my family to eat fish?’ The answer is a definite yes, but with caution. Pollutants make their way into many of the foods we eat and fish are no exception. It is important to know where your food comes from, including where your fish was caught, and follow Wisconsin’s fish consumption advisories to minimize your exposure to contaminants in fish and related health risks.



Health experts like Dr. Henry Anderson of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services have concluded that the benefits of eating fish far outweigh the risks if you follow the fish consumption advisory. Eating 1-2 meals of fish every week can contribute to a healthy and balanced diet. Fish are high in protein, low in fat and contain a number of vitamins and minerals that are important for good health. Some fish are a good source of healthy fats that are important for regulating blood cholesterol and normal brain function.”

(Source- Lake Tides, Volume 37, No. 1 Winter 2012)

Christian Cold to Speak at FCAL Annual Meeting

Christian W. Cold is a wildlife technician and educator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Wildlife Management. Based at Ladysmith, he serves as a mobile, non-formal educator, who travels extensively throughout Wisconsin offering programs on wildlife and related topics of natural history to schools and adult audiences.

Mr. Cold is a graduate of UW-Stevens Point, with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management & Wildlife, with an emphasis in Environmental Education.

He is a licensed falconer (since 1970) and bird bander (since 1984). In his spare time he fishes, takes nature hikes, wades & snorkels in area streams, reads natural history, and collects fossils and other natural history objects.

Wisconsin AIS Laws

Submitted by John A. Preuss

Lumberjack Aquatic Invasives Coordinator

It used to be a common site to see a truck pulling a weedy boat down the road and there wasn't anything we could do about it. It was legal and no laws were being broken. Circumstances have changed and this occurrence is becoming less and less



common. One reason is the implementation of regulations designed to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Wisconsin has regulations in place that are designed to slow the spread of these dangerous species.

In Wisconsin you must remove all aquatic plants, animals and mud from boats, trailers, and equipment before transporting away from the boat landing. All water also must be drained from your boat, motor, bilge, transom wells, and livewells before leaving the boat landing. Also fish cannot be moved away from a waterbody alive. A live fish is a fish still in water. Drain water from all containers containing your fish including pails, coolers, livewells, and bait buckets. Frozen water bottles or ice can be used in place of water to keep fish fresh.

Minnows also have the potential to spread aquatic invasive species. Minnows cannot be used from a state other than Wisconsin. When purchasing minnows in Wisconsin it must be from a licensed Wisconsin bait dealer. Unused minnows may be transported away alive from a waterbody and used again on the same waterbody or on a different waterbody if no lake or river water or other fish was added to their container. If lake or river water or fish were added to the container the minnows can be taken home BUT only used again on the same waterbody.

"We never know the worth of water till the well is dry." - Thomas Fuller

Greetings from Jungle Lake!

As we experienced an early spring this year, the ice left our lake in late March. Migrating birds stopped in for a visit on their way north, including geese and a variety of ducks. After these visits our loons returned and are calling daily from their home on the lake. It's a welcoming sound reminding us all of the warm days and nights of summer.

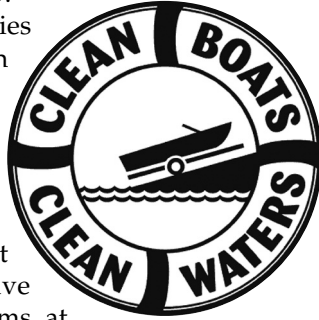
On Jungle Lake we are looking forward to a healthy lake season, with decent water levels and respectful visitors!

Clean Boats Clean Waters Training Workshops

The Clean Boats Clean Waters program is a useful tool to educate people about aquatic invasive species. A CBCW workshop was held on Tuesday, May 29 at the Crandon Public Library. Registration was from 5:00 p.m. until 5:30. The workshop ran from 5:30 until 8:00 p.m. John Preuss, Aquatic Invasive Species coordinator for Lincoln, Langlade and Forest Counties, conducted the workshop.

Topics included invasive species identification, boat inspection procedure, regulations and the inspection form. There was a boat on hand to practice inspections and a new inspection form for 2012 was reviewed and used.

Performing boat inspections at boat landings on lakes that have aquatic invasive species (AIS) aims at preventing the spread of AIS beyond those waters. Inspecting boats at landings on lakes not infested with AIS aims at preventing AIS from entering those waters. Inspection at both points is of value since many lakes do not have inspection programs.



News from Trump Lake

Submitted by Quentin Velicer

Trump Lake has reached 100 members in the Trump Lake Protective Association. This is out of 160 lake residents. Will be working to get it up to 100%.

Had Chris Hamerla, the AIS Coordinator, do an invasive species survey on Trump Lake last summer. He found our lake had a healthy balance of plant life and clear water. Chris found no evidence of harmful invasive species.

Forest County Fish Biologist, Greg Matzke and his team conducted their study on two nights in May. The findings were 1.) The lake has a dense population of large mouth bass. 2.) 50% of the bass were 12.0" to 13.9." 3.) 97% of the bass were under 14.0." 4.) The walleye restocking of 6" to 9" seems to be improving the walleye numbers. We had a walleye fund raiser last August to stock 1500 6" to 9" walleyes. New fishing regulations for bass will go into effect spring of 2014. We now have a one 18" bag limit per day.

A member survey was sent to members requesting feedback on Association activities and fund raising options. This will be brought up at our annual meeting May 28, 2012.

"If one way be better than another that you may be sure is Nature's way." - Aristotle

Forest County Cost-Share Program

What is the Cost-Share Program?

- A program administered by the Forest County Land and Water Conservation Dept.
- Grant money is provided by the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection (DATCP) to fund the program.
- Landowner pays for all project costs and is reimbursed up to 70% for eligible practices.
- Standards of DATCP (Chapter ATCP 50) & the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) must be followed

What Does the Program Involve?

- Restoration of the buffer zone with native plants, shrubs, and trees.
- Erosion control methods such as rip rap, biologs, & other bio engineering methods (as permitted by the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR).)

What is Covered by the Program?

- Native vegetation for buffer
- Erosion control materials
- Excavation costs
- Labor for installation – costs for a contractor can be reimbursed or landowner labor can be reimbursed at a rate of \$10.00 per hour.
- Geotextile fabric

What is NOT Covered by the Program?

- Removal or installation of docks/piers.
- Removal or installation of steps, walkways, lifts, etc.
- Materials such as wood, brick, plaster, blacktop, or demolition material for rip rap use.

How do I Enroll in the Program?

- Interested landowners can obtain an application from the Forest County Website (www.co.forest.wi.gov) under the Land Conservation Dept. or by contacting the Land Conservation Dept. at (715) 478-7796.
- Once the application is received a site visit will be done by county staff to determine eligibility and consult with the landowner(s).
- If property is determined eligible:
 - Survey of shoreline will be conducted.
 - A plan will be designed
 - Landowner approval of plan(s)
 - Landowner obtains permits from appropriate agencies (DNR, Corp of Eng., Local Zoning)
 - Landowner obtains two (2) bids for project to be submitted for approval from committee
 - Contract and maintenance plan signed by owner
 - Project may begin!

FCAL Essay Contest

Submitted by Harold Resch

Each year, the fifth and sixth grade students at Crandon, Laona and Wabeno participate in an essay contest during the month of April to raise their awareness of the importance of our waterways and their part in being good stewards of those waterways. This year there were 47 students that wrote essays at Crandon, 39 at Laona, and 18 at Wabeno.



This year's topic was, "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly in Forest County Lakes and Streams and What the Future Holds." Judges selected first, second and third place winners who will receive cash rewards of \$100, \$50 and \$25 respectively.

The Crandon winners were; first, Ben Kreonberger, second, Alyssa Ingram and third, Jakob Hoyt. The Laona winners were; first, Kaylea Clark, second, Trevor Cleereman, and third, Halle Gazzeroni. The Wabeno winners were; first, Hailee Powers, second, Hannah Christianson and third Ryann Mason.

The Forest County Association of Lakes would like to thank all the schools for their cooperation and participation in this contest. The teachers and administration are to be commended for the great job they did in running this essay contest.

How Many Can You Answer Correctly?

(Answers can be found below)

- 1.) How many trout streams are in Wisconsin?
915 or 2,989 or 9,200
- 2.) About how many Wisconsin Fishing licenses were sold in 2011?
1,300,000 or 900,000 or 500,000
- 3.) On Average, how many fish are caught annually during the ice fishing season in Wisconsin?
25 million or 14 million or 10 million
- 4.) Before Settlement by European immigrants, Wisconsin had about 10 million acres of wetlands. How many are left?
8 million or 3 million or 5 million
- 5.) Which uses the most water in the United States?
electric power production, households or agriculture

Fish of Wisconsin

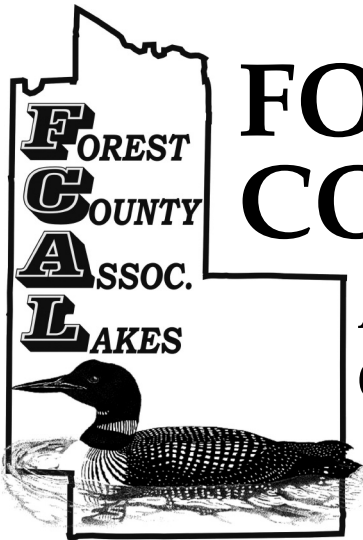
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s a l m o n s m e l t i u
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o r c a t f i s h h g c e
r k n o e g r u t s b a g
y e l l o w p e r c h l i
e y b o g d n u o r i b l
m u s k e l l u n g e l l

rockbass	blackcrappie	bluegill
brownbullhead	catfish	sturgeon
musky	northernpike	yellowperch
pumpkinseed	salmon	trout
walleye	muskellunge	smelt
roundgoby	whiteperch	

"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

ANSWERS: (1.) 2,989 (2.) 1,300,000 (3.) 14 million (4.) 5 million (5.) electric power production



FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.

FCAL Background...

In 1992, 30 people met representing 17 lakes to look at the possibilities of organizing a county-wide association of lakes. Of primary concern was whether this diverse group representing diverse interests could come to agreement on some common goals and objectives to work on collectively.

Forest County was the fourth county in Wisconsin to form a countywide association of lakes. Since then, several additional counties have formed associations and others are in the process including Vilas and Washington Counties.

FCAL Objectives...

- 1. Education/Sharing...**To educate the Forest County public and riparian owners on issues and to facilitate dialogue between organizations and governmental bodies.
- 2. Long Range Planning...**To participate in long range planning efforts regarding the water resources of Forest County.
- 3. Regulatory/Enforcing...**Facilitate efforts of the governmental bodies to enforce regulations which affect inland water bodies usage and water quality.
- 4. Cooperative...**Provide a vehicle for greater cooperative efforts between riparian owners, riparian users, appropriate governmental agencies and the citizens of Forest County.

County lake associations are well suited to carry out a number of services. A county association can offer educational programming on a more extensive basis than individual organizations. It can provide a mechanism for lake groups to share with each other. A countywide lake association can also help local groups who may wish to form a lake organization with planning efforts including application for grants and funding for area lake management programs.

"Look deep into nature, and you will understand everything better."

- Albert Einstein

Visit Forest County Association of Lakes: www.fcal-wi.org

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC. Membership Application

NAME(S): _____ PHONE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

LAKE/RIVER: _____ LAKE ORG.: _____

SUMMER ADDRESS: _____ FROM: _____ TO: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Check appropriate membership category)

Individual/Families (\$15/yr.) Lake Organization (\$25/yr.) Business Org. (\$50/yr.)

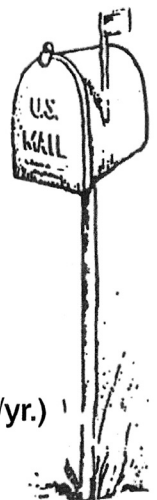
Make checks payable to : FCAL, Inc.
Return application and check to:

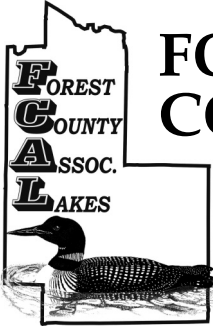
Treasurer, FCAL, Inc.
P.O. Box 68
Pickerel, WI 54465

New

Renewal

You do not need to live on water to become a member.





FOREST COUNTY

ASSOCIATION
OF LAKES, INC.
PO BOX 68
PICKEREL, WI 54465

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
EAGLE RIVER WI
PERMIT NO 7

This newsletter and other interesting information can be viewed on line at...
www.fcsl-wi.org

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- How Many Can You Find?*

PLEASE REMEMBER...

- Thoroughly clean and dry fishing equipment, bait buckets, boats and trailers before using again.
 - Empty all water from equipment before transporting.
 - Remove all mud, plants and aquatic life from equipment.
 - Do not move fish or plants from one body of water to another.
 - Be respectful and courteous to one another on all lakes and waterways.
- With appreciation from the Forest County Association of Lakes