FOREST COUNTY ASOCIATION OF LAKES ANNUAL MEEMBERSHIP MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2014
T-BOB'S, LAONA, WISCONSIN

CALL TO ORDER President Lee Lamers called the 21st annual membership meeting to order at 4:45 PM. Membership roll call followed. 20 members present and 6 guests.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A motion was made by Greg Hilbert, seconded by Carol Tomasi to accept the agenda as printed. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Cliff Haskins, seconded by Rich Wickersheim to accept the minutes from last year's annual meeting as printed. Motion carried.
- Treasurer Sue Koshere presented a review of the past year's budget. A motion was made by Les Schramm, seconded by Bruce Court to accept the report as presented. Motion carried. Membership is at 199. Koshere told that 10 copies of the Wildlife Federation Paper that comes to our post office address. Let her know if you are interested in receiving it. She will be sending out membership forms early in November. FCAL will be putting an ad in the paper to drum up membership.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Appreciation: President Lamers began by thanking all the members who participated in FCAL events this past year.
- Projects undertaken in 2014

  Board of Directors met 9 times
  Sent representatives to Wisconsin Lakes Convention
  Conducted the annual Essay Contest: topic "My Favorite Memory on a Forest County Lake or Stream"
  Published, Printed and Distributed the annual Newsletter
  Had booth at Kentuck Day in conjunction with John Pruess Tri-County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator and Emily Anderson from WRISC
  Contacted Jeff Mursau about regulations relating to wells, and use of atrazine
  Wrote request and received a grant from the Potawatomi for $2000 and from Mole Lake for $3000.
  Held Fall Forum –Presenters were Mike Preul, Jim Kreitlow, John Preuss, and Emily Anderson
  Held Annual Meeting
  Conducted the 2nd annual High School Environmental Science Field Trip for the three county high schools on Lake Metonga
  Conducted the 1st annual Photo Contest for high school students
  Formed Budget Committee
  Donated funds for the AIS placemats used in some area restaurants

OLD BUSINESS

- Les Schramm gave an informational presentation about Spiny Water Flea. They eat zooplankton which is the same food the juvenile fish need to eat. They have no native predators. (A handout on the entire report is attached to the end of these minutes.)
- Reminder that it is no necessary to live on a waterway in order to be a member of FCAL.
- Reminder that the website address was changed last year to: fcal-wis.org

NEW BUSINESS

- Elections to the Board of Directors were held to reelect Quentin Velicer and Pat Schultz. A motion was made by Carol Tomasi, seconded by Les Schramm to close the nominations. Motion carried. Velicer and Schultz were elected by unanimous vote.
- Lee Lamers and Vi Lamers indicated that this would be their last term as officers but will remain as board members.
- President Lamers gave a brief review of tonight's program speaker, Christian Cold. (Handout attached.)

MOTION TO ADJOURN

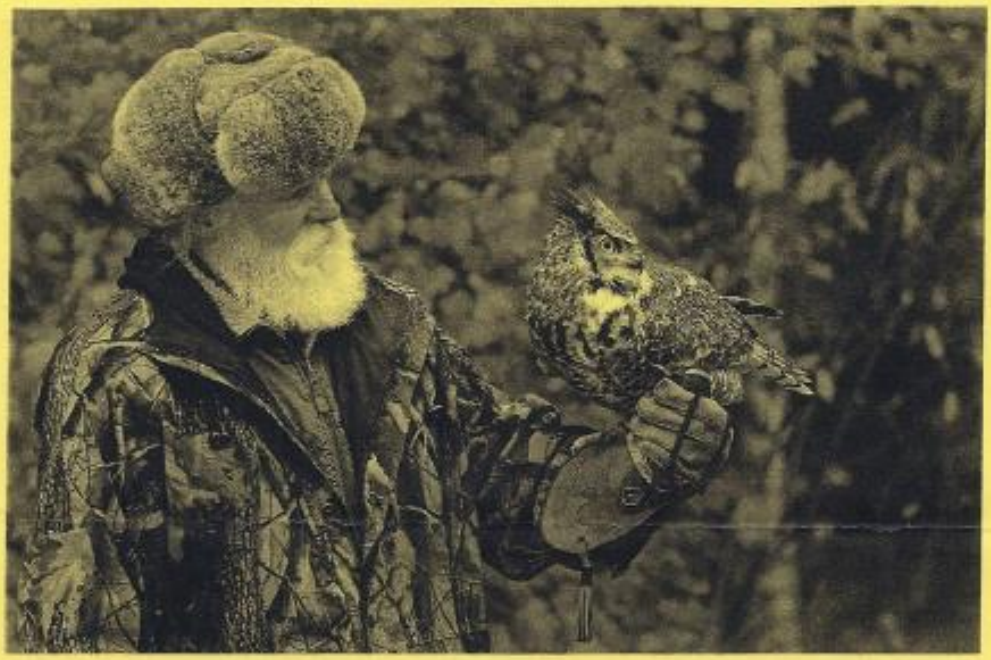
- A motion was made by Cliff Haskins, seconded by Quentin Velicer. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:30.

NEXT MEETINGS: November 14, 2014 changed due to deer hunting.

No December meeting.
January 16, 2015
No February meeting.
No March meeting.
April 17, 2015
May 15, 2015
June 19, 2015
July 17, 2015
August 21, 2015
September Fall Forum
October Annual Meeting
November 13, 2015

Time Changes: 10:00 AM September through May and 9:00 AM June, July, Aug.
President's Report

Respectfully submitted,
Vi Lamers, FCAL Secretary



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 1991 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 former bird bander (28 years). In his spare time he maintains a fleet of educational animals, takes nature hikes, hunts, fishes, wades & snorkels in area streams, reads natural history, and collects fossils, insects and other natural history objects. He lives near the Flambeau River with his wife Susan.

10/11/14 – FCAL ANNUAL MEETING

SPINY WATER FLEA

The card that we handed out is a picture of the Spiny and Fishhook Water Fleas. Both water fleas are predacious crustaceans that threaten aquatic ecosystem and fishing by competing with native fish for food and fouling the fishing gear.

Why did I pick this invasive specie to share information with you? Because Spiny Water Fleas were recently found in Butternut Lake in Forest County only 15 miles away as the crow flies. I'd like to briefly cover the following:

A. **Where did this invasive come from and how did it infiltrate Butternut Lake?**
B. **How can we identify a Spiny Water Flea?**
C. **Results of having this invasive in our waters.**
D. **What can we do?**

Where did this invasive come from and how did it infiltrate Butternut Lake?

1. **It came from European ports, especially St. Petersburg, Russia, on board freighters that take products to Europe and return empty. In order to keep the boats stable, the empty freighters take on a lot of water in the hold area of the ship. Small organisms and even small fish are pumped in with the water. Once ships reach North America and proceed down the St. Lawrence River into the Great Lakes stopping in ports in the Great Lakes including Milwaukee in Lake Michigan, the water is discharged and organisms are released into the water as the ship takes on product. The United State and Canada are pressing for preventive action.**

2. Water transfers should be done in the Ocean before entering the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The IMO (International Maritime Organization) has adopted performance standards for control and management of ballast water.

D1 - Open ocean water exchange reduces the risk of introducing species as deep ocean war tends to contain fewer organisms and these generally have more difficulty surviving in coastal and port environments when discharged.

- Replace at least 95% of water. At least three times the volume should through each tank.

D2 - Standard for discharged ballast water.

- Fewer than 10 viable organisms = to 50 micrometers is a cubic meter of water.

<u>Options being considered for ballast-water treatment include:</u>

- Mechanical filtration and separation
- Treatment methods such as sterilization
- Chemical treatment
- A combination of these methods

Research is still being conducted into these methods, although it is agreed that any treatment must be safe, environmentally acceptable, cost-effective and must work.

3. Water fleas spread to every Great Lake by 1987 and from Lake Michigan have spread to inland lakes in Wisconsin on fishing boats and recreational equipment which is how they entered Butternut Lake.

How can we identify Spiny Water Flea? (Post enlarged photo)

1. **Spiny Water Flea are crustaceans, a relative of the shrimp, lobster and crayfish.**

2. **They have a long, sharp, barbed tail spine which is 70% of the tail spine.**

3. **They are large zooplankton, measuring about 1 centimeter in length to about ½ inches long, but about 70% of the total length is the tail spine.**

4. **Juveniles have one pair of barbs on the tail spine and as they grow can have up to 4 pairs of barbs.**

5. **The fishhook water flea has 3 pairs of barbs and the tail spine has a characteristic "S" shaped loop at the end.**

6. **Their body is composed of a head, dominated by a large black eye, jaws, 4 pairs of legs and pair of branched antennae. The first pair legs is used to catch prey and the other is used to hold the prey as it is being consumed.**

7. **They rapidly reproduce in the summer because adult females can produce young without mating when water temperature is just right at a rate of 10 young every two weeks. It's a process called parthenogenesis which requires no fertilization and the offspring are clones of the mother. In the fall females mate and produce resting eggs which live through the winter.**

8. **Life span is several days to a week.**

DON'T BE FOOLED!!

Disguise (don't be fooled by look-alikes):

The spiny water flea looks similar to some harmless zooplankton which is the valuable food source for juvenile fish , so get out your hand lens to look carefully. Our native harmless zooplankton is called Water Flea or Daphnia.

Results of having this invasive in our waters:

Because spiny water fleas eat zooplankton like Daphnia, they compete directly with small juvenile fish that also need to eat zooplankton. Research shows that perch aren't growing like they should and some young perch can't survive because of the lack of food. The problem is that a decrease in small fish populations could also take away a food source for larger sport fish like bass, walleye and northern pike that are in our Northern Lakes.

Spiny water fleas could be controlled if fish could eat large quantities of them, however, their sharp spine can only be swallowed by larger fish. Smaller fish can't swallow them and can have problems getting a spiny water flea free-meal. Because the fleas don't have many predators, their populations grow rapidly as they continue to eat up much of the zooplankton.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Refer to the steps on the card.

Spiny and Fishhook Waterflea WATCH

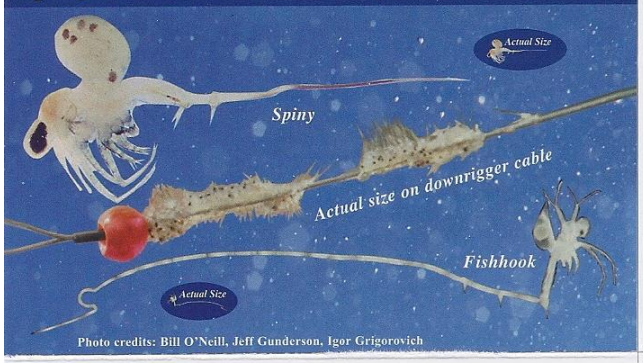


Photo credits: Bill O'Neill, Jeff Gunderson, Igor Grigorovich

What you can do

- **Learn** to recognize these waterfleas on fishing gear (see front cover).
- **Inspect** and remove aquatic plants and animals, including gelatinous or cotton batting-like material from lines, especially where they meet a swivel, lure or downrigger ball connection (plucking like a guitar string helps).
- **Drain** lake or river water from livewell and bilge before leaving access.
- **Dispose** of unwanted live bait in the trash.
- **Report** new sightings – note exact location; put specimen in a sealed container with rubbing alcohol; and call the WI Sea Grant Program, (920) 683-4697; the WI DNR, (608) 267-3531 or a local DNR office; or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (715) 682-6185 or (920) 866-1717.

REMINDER: Know the rules!

Specimens are needed to confirm sightings, but some jurisdictions prohibit possession of invasive waterfleas and other aquatic animals and plants. Contact your local natural resource management agency for instructions. Unauthorized introduction of fish, crayfish, or plants into the wild is illegal. Protect your property and our waters.

Spiny and Fishhook Waterfleas

Spiny *(Bythotrephes longimanus)* and fishhook *(Cercopagis pengoi)* waterfleas are small predacious crustaceans that threaten aquatic ecosystems and fishing by competing with native fish for food and fouling gear. Both arrived in ships' ballast water from Eurasia. Spiny waterfleas were discovered in Lake Ontario in 1982, then spread to all of the Great Lakes and some inland lakes. Fishhook waterfleas were first discovered in Lake Ontario in 1998, then spread to parts of lakes Michigan, Erie, and the Finger Lakes of New York.

Anglers often discover new infestations. Both waterfleas collect in masses on fishing lines and downrigger cables (see cover). These masses can clog the first eyelet of rods, damage a reel's drag system, and prevent fish from being landed. They can spread to inland waters when fishing gear is contaminated with egg-laden females. While females die out of water, under certain conditions they produce eggs that resist drying, remain viable, and can establish a new population. Eradicating established infestations is impossible. Your help detecting and reporting new infestations is vital for preventing their spread.

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