

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES

SUMMER 2018

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 and Your Lake Property

Protect you Wisconsin Lake Property Values by learning all you can about Aquatic Invasive Species by joining FCAL at our Fall Forum, our Annual Meeting, and our regular monthly meetings.

Please join us for the 26th Annual FCAL Membership Meeting. Come to JARS Bar & Grill in Laona on Saturday, October 13, 2018 by 4:30 for the business meeting, or come around 5:15 for the social hour, dinner and speaker.

FCAL's Lake Ecology Field Day

Submitted by FCAL Member Vi Lamers

On Sept. 9, 2017 Environmental Studies students from Wabeno, Crandon and Laona High Schools participated in FCAL's 5th annual Field Day at Lake Metonga's Vet Memorial Park.

These 51 students were divided into small groups for better learning and able to attend eight different educational stations manned by a variety of specialists: Invasive in Lake Metonga (Harry Resch and Les Schramm FCAL-pontoon boat); Fish Counts – Shocker Boat (Mike Pruell-Mole Lake); Lake Laws and Regulations (Officers Don Belland and Sam Wurtinger); Fish (Greg Matske WDNR Fisheries Biologist); Invasive Species (Jennifer Nadvier-Natural Resources Educator Potowatomi Community); Aquatic Macroinvertebrates (RT Krueger-Northern Lakes Service); Water Chemistry (Dr. Cindy Edlund-Crandon HS Teacher); and Using GIS in Lake Management (Shari Alloway-Crandon HS Student Teacher).

The students from the three schools were intermingled in order to get acquainted and enjoyed a picnic lunch together following completion of all stations. FCAL thanks all the specialist for volunteering their time and expertise.

Announcing the FCAL Lake Association Grant

The 2018 FCAL Board of Directors is excited to announce the opportunity for Lake Associations that are members of FCAL to apply for a \$500 matching grant to assist with a lake project. The guidelines are as follows:

- The applicant must be a member of FCAL.
- The project must be to better the quality of the lake or shore land.
- The lake must have public access.
- The lake must show proof of expenditures in excess of \$500.
- Grant requests must be submitted to FCAL President Pam Schroeder
6601 Fisher Drive, Wabeno, WI 54566 or
email: pschroeder0214@gmail.com.

The 2018 FCAL grant will be awarded at our annual banquet in October. We hope that finances will enable us to make this an ongoing grant award.

"So lovely was the loneliness of a wild lake."

Edgar Allan Poe



Upcoming FCAL Member Events

Saturday, August 4, 2018 10am-5pm

Lake Lucerne Fun Days and Auction
Food, refreshments, kids' games, paddle wheel,
raffles. 4 mi. south of Hwy. 8 on Cty Rd W

Saturday, August 11, 2018 11am-5pm

Roberts Lake Fisheree
Food, refreshments, games for kids and adults
Meat raffle, bingo, clothing

Saturday, August 18, 2018

FCAL Fall Forum at Lake Lucerne Clubhouse

Saturday, August 18, 2018

Trump Lake Walleye Fundraiser

Saturday, October 13, 2018

FCAL Annual Meeting/Program at JARS, Laona



EACH YEAR winners of FCAL's Essay Contest for 5th and 6th Graders are invited to be guests at the Annual Dinner Meeting and present their winning essays. This happy group presented at the 2017 meeting held last October and are shown with FCAL President Pam Schroeder and Essay Contest Chairman Harry Resch. The essays are on display at the Crandon Public Library and will be posted at the FCAL booth at Kentuck Day.

Loons in Winter

By Pat Schultz (Jungle Lake Loon Ranger)

Do you ever wonder, where do loons go in the winter? Like many of the human "snowbirds" who migrate to Florida and the Gulf of Mexico for the cold season, loons do the same. Before leaving in mid October, loons' colors change. No longer is their plumage the vibrant black and white that is seen in summer. Feathers change to a dull gray before the loons take off to their winter homes. When they migrate, loons fly in groups. Young loons spend two to three years in the southern coastal waters before returning to the north to claim a territorial lake.

On my lake (Jungle Lake in Forest County) the loons return from their winter habitats as soon as the ice goes out. Their haunting cries are welcome to those of us who stay in the north all winter!



A Wisconsin Fish Fry Recipe for Our Gluten Free Friends

Submitted by Vi Lamers

INGREDIENTS:

Panfish such as bass, bluegill, pike or walleye
scaled, filleted and rinsed

Spicy Mayo: 1 C mayonnaise, ¼ C spicy chili sauce
(Sriracha for example), 1 lemon/lime juiced,
2 tsp. chopped fresh cilantro

Egg Mixture: 2 eggs, ½ C milk, 1 tsp lemon juice

Dry Batter:

1 C gluten free corn flake crumbs

¼ C gluten free all purpose flour mix

¼ C almond flour

½ tsp pepper

½ tsp lemon pepper

¼-½ tsp dill weed

½ tsp paprika

¼ tsp garlic salt

¼ tsp salt

Pinch of cayenne (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Combine the ingredients for the spicy mayo and set aside.

Whisk eggs, milk, and lemon juice together. Coat fillets in egg mixture.

Put the ingredients for the dry batter in a shallow bowl with a lid and shake to combine. Place first batch of fillets in dry batter and toss to coat all sides evenly.

Heat enough oil on med-high in heavy (preferably cast iron) pan so fillets will be nearly submerged. Oil is ready when drops of water sizzle and crackle immediately upon contact.

Place fillets skin side down in hot oil and fry for a few minutes on each side or until batter is crispy and fillets are firm and flake apart. Note: gluten-free batter will not brown up like other batters so you may need to go by feel more than color.

Place cooked fillets on paper towel to drain. Dip in the Spicy mayo and enjoy! Suggested side dishes are: quinoa salad, corn on the cob and coleslaw.

(Source: Recipe submitted by Jon Hansen of Madison, Wisconsin in "Healthy Dishes with Wisconsin Fishes")

Message From the President

by Pam Schroeder

The highlight of the FCAL year for me is always the WI Lakes Partnership Conference in Stevens Point. I learn so much and meet so many interesting and dedicated people. One of my goals has been to find new and interesting presenters for our Annual Meeting and banquet in October. I found several this year. The topic choices are: Bobcats, Loons, Mushrooms or Raptors. Which one sounds most interesting to you? Email me your choice at pschroed0214@gmail.com.



We purchased two children's books at the conference to donate to Forest County public libraries. The titles are Fish Hotel and The Magic Goggles. Vi Lamers and I will be delivering them over the next several weeks. The picture above shows our delivery to Stephanie Schmidt, the new director of the Crandon Library. Borrow these books for your children and begin their education about shoreline ecology.

This year I was so proud to be present as our own Harry Resch received the prestigious Stewardship Award in the Educator category at the annual awards banquet. The award is prestigious because the competition comes from throughout the state of WI. That's a lot of Lake organizations and a lot of competent employees and volunteers to compete against. It is not the first time that FCAL has received one of these awards. Les Schramm was chosen previously for his work fighting Eurasian Milfoil on Forest County lakes. We have an awesome group of volunteers here in Forest County and I am proud to be a part of this great organization.

That being said, none of us are getting any younger. We have been without a secretary since December and our Treasurer has promised us only one year of service so we will be needing a new volunteer for that position in October. Please consider becoming a volunteer for FCAL. You will learn a lot and meet other exceptional people who care about our beautiful lakes and streams. You can check us out by coming to a board meeting any 3rd Friday at 9AM in the lower level of the Crandon Library. Also encourage your lake leaders to attend the FCAL Fall Forum on Saturday, August 18th at the Lake Lucerne pavilion.

Enjoy your lake this summer and come visit us at Kentuck Days, July 28th.

Harry Resch Wins Wisconsin Lakes Stewardship Award

(Excerpts from his acceptance speech)

"After teaching chemistry and math at Crandon High School for 36 years, I retired in 2001. Shortly after that Les Schramm asked me to join the Forest County Association of Lakes (FCAL) as a board member. And then, shortly after THAT, I was asked if I would help with the essay contest FCAL runs each spring with the 5th- and 6th-grade students from Crandon, Laona and Wabeno schools. Another FCAL initiative with



students that I am involved with is their Lake Ecology Field Day. Through the leadership of Lee Lamers, this "environmental day" was started. Lee asked me to help organize this because of my connection with the schools and my love for students for so many years. After contacting Dr. Cindy Edlund at the Crandon High School, she worked with the instructors who taught environmental studies at Laona and Wabeno to set up this event during September of each year on beautiful Lake Metonga... The professionals and experts involved all volunteer their time and are happy to make it an educational and fun day for the students. "

Resch thanked FCAL President Pam Schroeder, Lee and Vi Lamers, Dr. Cindy Edlund and husband Mike, Les Schramm, his daughter Jodi and husband Russell, son Wayne and granddaughter Karissa and his best friend and partner, wife Janet. He would also like to thank Mike Preul

"In closing I want to say I am honored to accept this award and I truly do enjoy the work I do with the essay contest and our Lake Ecology Day to share my love of our lakes with our young people."

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

Robert Swan

2018 Legislative Update

1. Wisconsin's moratorium on mining has been repealed effective July 1st. County ordinances must be enacted prior to July 1, 2018 if the County intends to control metallic mining within its borders. Ref. 2017 Act 134 / AB 499/ SB 395.

2. Non-Conforming Structures in shoreland zoning buffer zones may be maintained, repaired, replaced, restored, rebuilt, or remodeled if the activity does not expand the structure's original footprint and **if specific project criteria are met.** Ref. 2017 Act 68/ AB 480/ SB 388. *Please go to our website: fcsl-wis.org for further details for items 2, 4 and 5.*

3. Lakes funding remains stable in WI 2018-2019 budget with \$500,000 additional being allocated for AIS grants. Forest County's new Land & Water Resources Technician Al Murray introduced himself at FCAL's April board meeting. Please contact Al to inform him of any lake or forest projects as there may be matching grant money from different sources available to help with funding.

4. It is now possible to install new RipRap on 200' of frontage or repair up to 300' on inland lakes and streams **under a general permit if specific project criteria are met.**

5. Isolated wetland fill of up to 1 acre in urban areas or up to 3 acres in rural areas **may be possible with minimal permit reviews if specific requirements are met.** Ref 2017 Act 183/ AB547 / SB 600

6. A new general permit that streamlines approvals for small-scale dredging in the state's lakes, rivers and streams has been finalized after a public comment period and is now available for applications. The new general permit outlines standards and conditions for the dredging of lakes and streams that have to be met in order to be considered for coverage under a general permit and replaces the prior small-scale dredging general permit for rivers and streams. Property owners should contact the local Water Management Specialist for your county for more information.

7. County and property owners may be eligible for additional land and water conservation grant money if county considers combining programs to show actual county contributions toward conservation activities.

"A lake carries you into recesses of feeling otherwise impenetrable."

William Wordsworth

GLRI Funding From EPA Allows WRISC to Expand with Equipment

Submitted by Lindsay Peterson & Pam Schroeder

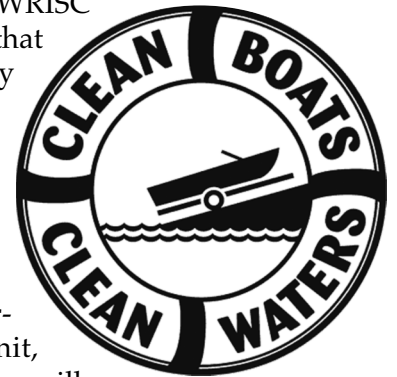
This past year, WRISC was awarded a grant from the EPA through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) fund in the amount of \$204,000. These funds will allow WRISC to purchase equipment and greatly expand their aquatic monitoring and management capacity throughout the five counties of WRISC's service area.

Currently under construction is a vDASH unit, or versatile diver assisted suction harvester. This unit is essentially a pump system typically mounted on a pontoon boat, which is set up to a system of hoses. The hoses are lowered into the water where a diver is able to selectively remove invasive aquatic plants that are then sucked up the hose to the surface where they can be bagged and later disposed of. This is a great alternative to chemical treatment in local lakes and can select for the invaders, leaving native aquatic species to thrive. The WRISC vDASH will be unique in that it can be easily disassembled and reassembled and is mounted on a cataraft which is easily carried by a few people. This will allow WRISC

to service many lakes that might not have quality access, preventing them from being accessed by a larger pontoon boat and trailer. Another tool in the new arsenal is a submersible ROV, or remotely operated underwater vehicle. This unit, equipped with a camera, will provide a more efficient way to detect the presence of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in local lakes and rivers as WRISC utilizes it to conduct survey work.

WRISC puts priority on early detection and rapid response, and as we gear up for the 2018 field season, we are looking forward to using these pieces of equipment to assist with the detection and management of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.

FCAL is a partner of the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) and represent Forest County on the WRISC Board of Directors. WRISC employees and equipment are available resources to the lakes and lands in Forest County. Please contact Lindsay Peterson at 906-396-8127 or Pam Schroeder at 715-473-3803 with any questions or requests you may have regarding invasive species in your lake or on your lake property.



Rising Salt Levels in our Freshwater Lakes

Submitted by Vi Lamers

Since the 1940s Wisconsin has used salt on winter roads to deal with snow and ice. We are not alone in this practice. Today 20 million metric tons of sodium chloride is used on roads in North America each year. A good deal of the dissolved road salt quickly runs off and is absorbed by our lakes, waterways, soil and ground water. The resulting chloride pollution degrades lake ecosystems and is toxic to small aquatic life.

Less than 1% of impervious surfaces within 500 meters of a shoreline strongly correlate to increased chloride levels in our lakes. Chloride levels in Madison lakes in the 1900s were 2 mg/L but are now 50mg/L in Lake Mendota and over 100 mg/L in Lake Wingra. The threshold for chronic chloride exposure (230 mg/L) as set by the EPA could be reached by many lakes in the next 50 years.

Municipalities are aware of the corrosiveness (think rusty cars and bridges) and some are switching to a mixture of beet juice and some a mixture of sand and salt. Those present problems of their own.

But do private citizens and businesses realize how much they are throwing down? It is in our own best interest to be conscious of how we de-ice our walkways and parking lots. It takes very little salt to do an effective job.

Keeping our freshwater lakes “fresh” is invaluable as this water is used for drinking, fishing, recreation, irrigation and aquatic habitats. Chloride in water never breaks down. What a sobering thought. Want to help? Use only what you need and remember that it does not work below 15 degrees.

(Sources: motherboard.vice.com; pnas.org; news.wisc.edu)

Clean Drain Dry with WRISC's Clean Boats Clean Waters Program

WRISC has begun planning for the 2018 Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) season and it will be a busy one!

Keep up to date with where our units are located throughout the summer by checking us out on Facebook or on our new Instagram! We'll regularly post where we're at so if you're in the area you can stop by and get a FREE wash!

Interested in helping keep our waters free of invaders? Become a Clean Boats Clean Waters volunteer! WRISC will provide training and materials to you or your group for FREE! Contact us today at wildriversscwma@gmail.com.



Emerald Ash Borers in Forest County?

Submitted by Vi Lamers

Hang on to that Louisville Slugger you may have lying around as it may become a collector's item. They have traditionally been made out of white ash, but the white ash and other ash trees are in danger.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has not been identified in Forest County yet but they are getting closer all the time. The Emerald Ash Borer is a beetle native to Asia that was first seen near Detroit in 2002 and may have arrived in wood packing materials from cargo ships and airplanes. As of August 2017, it has now been identified in 31 states, Ontario and Quebec. It was first identified on August 1, 2008 in southeast Wisconsin.

The adult beetles eat the foliage which doesn't affect the tree much but the larvae feast on the inner bark which interferes with the delivery of water and nutrients, and may eventually kill the tree. In fact, it is responsible for killing hundreds of millions of trees in North America; costing property owners, nursery operators, municipalities and the forest product business hundreds of millions of dollars. The USDA has set up quarantine areas and set fines to stop possibly infested trees and logs from being transported out of EAB infested areas.

In Wisconsin, as of December 4, 2017, 48 of Wisconsin's 72 counties are now infected including in the Northwoods, the counties of Douglas, Sawyer, Eau Claire, Oneida, Marinette, Marathon, Portage and Chippewa.

What to look for: D-shaped holes in the tree's bark, cream-colored larvae feeding under the bark, metallic-green adult beetles about ½ " long on the tree and S-shaped patterns on the inner bark.

If found, cutting all of the infested trees is no longer considered a treatment because it is expensive, ineffective and removes benefits still provided by the trees. Benefits include holding back runoff, filtering air pollution, changing carbon-dioxide to oxygen and cooling the environment. Some pesticides are effective but have neurotoxins that are harmful to bees and other insects. For now, treating ash trees and replacing infested trees with a different variety of trees is being encouraged.

If you suspect an Emerald Ash Borer infestation in ash trees in your area call (800) 462-2803 or email eab@datcp.stste.wi.us.



Bishop Lake News Flash

Submitted by Jean Koshere Ponfil

By now those of us with seasonal cottages/cabins have completed the annual ritual of getting it ready for summer enjoyment. We look forward to fishing, viewing wildlife and spectacular sunrises and sunsets, reconnecting with neighbors and reflecting on fond memories of those that have passed.

Before I report on the "news flash", I do have an important item to share.

As an officer of the Bishop Lake Association, my spring ritual includes planning the annual lake association meeting. A Forest County Association of Lakes (FCAL) report is always provided by our president covering the meetings, Fall Forum and annual dinner meeting he has attended. As a reminder, the FCAL objectives can be viewed at www.fcal-wis.org.

Why is Bishop Lake a member of FCAL? The benefits include being a part of a bigger group that keeps us informed and up-to-date on all items related to the lakes of Forest County and have resources available. Dues are minimal for an individual and lake organization membership. I have learned a wealth of knowledge regarding invasive species, riparian rights and regulatory requirements. And a bonus, you meet some very nice people and make new friends. The 26th annual dinner meeting will be in October. The guest speaker always provides an interesting presentation. I encourage you to attend for an informative meeting, good dinner and overall fun evening.

I would like to close with a Bishop Lake update. Some of you will recall my article in the Summer 2017 FCAL Newsletter "The Boats of Bishop Lake". Remember that four year old sibling in the ol' wooden row boat who, as an adult, purchased an old wood boat to refurbish? News flash... you will continue to see her in the old aluminum boat! The idea of refurbishing dwindled quickly and she sold the old wood boat. The thought of refurbishing was short lived!

Have a great summer and enjoy your special place on one of Forest County's great lakes.

Welcome Al Murray

FCAL is happy to introduce many of you to our new Land and Water Conservation Technician for the Forest County Land and Water Conservation Department, Mr. Al Murray. Al was born in Laona and is the owner and operator of Al Murray Forestry Services in Laona. He received a B.S. Degree in Forestry Management from the University of

Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1991.

Al's personal goals for the Land and Water Conservation Department are to increase communication and working relationships with partner groups, including the Forest County Association of Lakes. Through this increased communication he plans to establish a network of on the ground people who are willing to bring ideas and concerns to his office. With these ideas he plans to try to assist with finding solutions. He also plans to establish the use of the County Geographic Information System (GIS) as a priority tool for land use and land planning decisions within Forest County.

He takes pride in the accomplishments made while serving the communities where he has worked, such as: working with partner groups to build parks and ballfields, working with community departments and EMS volunteers to upgrade equipment and facilities, and working with partners to increase active management of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

As Laona Town Chairman his motto has been, "Don't ask why taxes are so high, ask what you get for your money," while maintaining a flat town tax levy for nearly 15 years. He can be reached at 715-478-3893 or by email at lcc@co.forest.wi.us

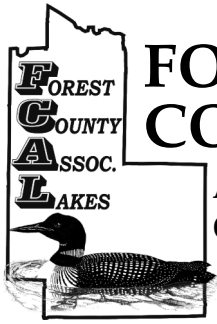


Word Hunt: "Common Fish Baits"

Y	U	S	R	E	L	G	G	I	W	W	S	C	G
E	X	S	U	C	K	E	R	S	O	S	P	Y	F
Q	T	R	S	F	S	M	R	O	W	R	N	E	N
K	W	D	S	D	W	J	I	M	P	E	A	Q	A
S	A	S	E	S	R	C	V	L	H	L	I	K	B
G	U	M	H	M	F	R	E	R	M	W	E	W	G
U	K	S	C	R	S	A	R	R	I	A	A	H	R
B	W	E	E	O	O	Y	C	G	N	R	Z	Q	O
K	M	I	E	W	Y	F	H	G	N	C	U	E	I
C	D	Z	L	X	P	I	U	W	O	T	V	D	B
I	B	U	C	A	Q	S	B	A	W	H	Y	Q	S
T	P	O	D	W	U	H	S	I	S	G	J	O	I
S	K	M	N	F	Z	C	Y	Z	T	I	E	E	A
U	W	D	F	L	M	N	S	R	E	N	I	H	S

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| crayfish | mouzies | shiners | waxworms |
| leeches | nightcrawlers | stickbugs | wigglers |
| minnows | riverchubs | suckers | worms |

*"Adept the pace of nature: her secret is patience."
Ralph Waldo Emerson*



FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.

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.

Visit Forest County Association of Lakes at: www.fcals-wis.org

Garbage and Sustainability for Our World
How long does it take for each of these items to degrade?

Submitted by Vi Lamers

1. **Paper Bag**
a) 1 month b) 2 months c) 6 months
2. **Milk Carton**
a) 6 months b) 1 year c) 5 years
3. **Aluminum Cans**
a) 100 years b) 20 years c) 10 years
4. **Batteries**
a) 500 years b) 100 years c) 25 years
5. **Disposable Diapers**
a) 500 years b) 10 years c) 1 year
6. **Foam Cup**
a) 50 years b) 5 years c) 500 years to forever
7. **Plastic Bags**
a) 40 years b) 1 million years + c) 100 years
8. **Aluminum Foil**
a) 1 million years + b) 200 years c) 500 years

(Source: STEM SCOUTS Leaders Guide, Meeting 4: Meddling Midden, Activity 3: Digging Through Garbage)



- Answer Key**
- A 8.
 - B 7.
 - C 6.
 - A 5.
 - B 4.
 - A 3.
 - C 2.
 - A 1.



FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC. 2018 Membership Application

New Renewal

NAME(S): _____ PHONE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

LAKE/RIVER: _____ LAKE ORG.: _____

SUMMER ADDRESS: _____ FROM: _____ TO: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

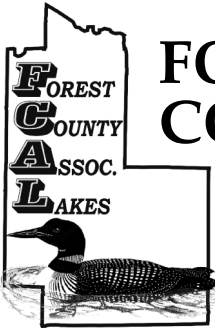
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Check appropriate membership category)

Individual/Families (\$15/One yr.) Lake Organization (\$25/yr.) Business Org. (\$50/yr.)
 (\$30/Two yrs.)
 (\$45/Three yrs.)

Make checks payable to : FCAL, Inc.
Return application and check to: Treasurer, FCAL, Inc.
P.O. Box 68 Pickerel, WI 54465



Members do not need to live on water.



FOREST COUNTY

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

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
EAGLE RIVER WI
PERMIT NO 7

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- Fish Cribs: Why They Work, and Why They Fail*

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

This newsletter and other interesting information can be viewed online at: www.fcals-wis.org



(Source: Fishhiding.com)

- Local conditions and a good understanding of your lake's ecology and specific dynamics will help, immeasurably, in deciding the best locations for your cribs!
- Have no space underneath for fish to swim
 - Have Christmas trees or few branches packed in the center
 - Are placed alone
 - Are in lakes with abundant structure and weeds

Submitted by Mike Henderson

Fish Cribs: Why They Work, and Why They Fail

Fish cribs are NOT fish habitat! They are artificial constructions designed to concentrate large numbers of fish in a small area so fishermen can catch them. Cribs do not, normally, provide the elements fish need for spawning or nesting. In lakes with an abundance of fish habitat, even the best-made, best placed cribs will go ignored by fish in favor of natural structure. In summary, fish cribs work best in lakes where there is little or no natural structure for fish to use.

Effective Cribs

- Are placed in relatively shallow water (10-15 feet)
- Receive ample sunlight to promote algae and organic growth
- Sit on a hard bottom
- Built at least 4 feet tall (the taller the better)
- Have space for fish to swim under the base
- Are thickly packed in the center with long and complex branches extending away from the crib
- Are placed together with other cribs
- Are put in lakes that contain little natural structure

Ineffective Cribs

- Are set too deep or too shallow
- Are set on a mucky bottom
- Are less than 4 feet tall