

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES

"If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere."

-Vincent Van Gogh

SUMMER 2019

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.

Protecting Your Investment

Protect your Wisconsin Lake Property Values by learning all you can by joining FCAL at our monthly meetings, generally held the third Friday of each month, at our Fall Forum Saturday, August 24, 2019 or at our Annual Meeting Saturday, October 19, 2019.

Citizens Lake Monitoring on Lake Metonga

Submitted by Kayla Reed

My name is Kayla Reed and I am a junior at Pulaski High School, with a cabin on Lake Metonga. I became involved in volunteering for the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network when I was around 8 years old and since then I have just become more involved. When I first started out I would just sit in the boat



while my dad did most of the work, but now my dad and I both do the tests and data collection needed. Volunteering for the CLMN is not hard or time consuming at all. In fact, it's very fast and easy to do when you understand what needs to be done. We only need to collect data two weeks after ice-out and then once a month during June, July, and August. The data that we give the Citizens Lake Monitoring Net-

work includes: observations of the lake the day testing is done, weather at that time, water temperature and dissolved oxygen as the lake gets deeper, water clarity, and two water tests that get sent into the lab to be tested for chlorophyll and phosphorus. For the water tests we use a 0-6 foot integrated sampler that grabs a certain volume of water that we bring back to the shore to further filter before sending the samples in. I became a volunteer for the CLMN because my dad got me first involved but as I grew



older I grew a love for the environment and water resources. This opportunity allows me to expand my knowledge of water resources, and doing this work

Continued on Page 2 📄

Attention!

THIS NEWSLETTER IS MAILED TO EACH RIPARIAN LAND OWNER IN FOREST COUNTY. IT DOES NOT INDICATE MEMBERSHIP IN FCAL! PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING FCAL BY COMPLETING THE MEMBERSHIP FORM IN THE BACK OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND SENDING IT IN. THANK YOU.

Continued from Page 1

makes me relaxed as it is such easy work to do and gives me a sense of involvement in keeping our water resources healthy.

In one photo, I am using a 0-6 foot integrated sampler to obtain water. After getting the water I will put it into a container. This is the last step before we go back to shore. When at the shore, we prepare the sample for two tests that are going to be run at the lab. We prep the samples and freeze and refrigerate them until we can mail them out in a special Styrofoam box.

In the second photo I am recording my observations and data for the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network. Not only are the water samples essential, but so are the dissolved oxygen and temperature readings, along with observations of the lake. This is an important part in monitoring the lake.

*"Let nature be your teacher."
- William Wordsworth*

Advice From a Loon Ranger

By Pat Schultz (Jungle Lake Loon Ranger)

Loons are not terrestrial, they cannot "stand up and walk" on land, their feet are positioned back too far and they cannot gain the necessary lift on land for flight – they are designed to work only in water. If you see a loon on land, it is likely in trouble, carefully pick it up (cover with a towel, they are not an overly aggressive bird) and take it to a large body of water and put them in the water.

Obviously, if you think it is possibly sick, injured on a paved surface, or if you are unsure, get it to or call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator asap.

The Raptor Education Group Inc. in Antigo and/or Wild Instincts in Rhinelander are places to take sick or injured loons.



Burned by Wild Parsnip

Submitted by Vi Lamers

Wild parsnip was first found in Wisconsin in 1900 having been introduced here from Eurasia and it continues to spread throughout Wisconsin and can be found in our area. Although it has a range of impacts, the greatest concern is its ability to burn the skin of people that comes into contact with its sap leaving a rash, blister and skin discoloration. The sap burns the skin when exposed to sunlight.

It is generally found nearby or along roadways. It can be confused with Prairie Parsley which is an endangered native species. When mature, wild parsnip is 4-5' tall, has large flat yellow-green flower clusters, a thick hollow stem and flowers June – July. Wear gloves, long sleeves and long pants when working with wild parsnip.

Control options include:

Mechanical

- Hand pulling and removing plants
- Cut the plant below the root crown before seeds set, and remove the cut plant
- Mow or cut the base of the flowering stem and remove

Chemical

- Use sparingly in quality habitats
- Spot application with glyphosate or selective metsulfuron after a prescribed burn, parsnip is one of the first plants to green up



"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."

- Ansel Adams

President's Message 2019

by Pam Shroeder

April 10-12 were the dates this year of the WI Lakes Partnership Convention in Stevens Point. This is my annual educational and newsletter prep event. These were also the dates of our last big blizzard and so the number of events I was able to attend was shortened a bit. This is such a great educational forum for issues that affect our WI lakes and streams. It is also a bit pricey to attend but all power point presentations from the workshops are available on-line at UWEXLakes/pages/programs/convention. A very brief recap of the workshops I attended follows.

I. State Budget & Water Policy Update: Tony Evers has declared this Wisconsin's "Year of Clean Drinking Water" (see article in this newsletter). Water Quality Task Force public hearings are taking place around the state throughout the summer and all are encouraged to attend and express your concerns. His budget is currently being debated in the State Senate. This is a bi-annual budget that will cover July 2019 – June 2021. Relevant budgetary items include: increasing County Conservationist funding by \$1.4M; adding 5 positions to oversee CAFOs (mega dairy farms); creating a new bureau with 5 scientists to do clean water and energy research; \$4M to fund water quality cost share project grants; and \$1.5M more towards lake and river protection. Although we have a new governor who is pro-environment, it is likely that the Joint Finance Committee will toss out the entire Evers budget. The good news is that it is likely our backwards momentum regarding protecting our clean air and water will revert to maintaining the status quo.

II. Wakeboats: Balancing Enforcement, Education and Regulation: Every year there is a new generation of bigger, faster and more powerful toys. Wakeboats are recreational boats that create wakes large enough for people to surf behind them. They are gaining attention on a legislative level because, with the higher water levels in our lakes and streams, there are many reports of shoreline erosion, reported swampings of paddle craft, people being knocked off of docks and piers by the waves created and concern about near shore fish habitat being in jeopardy. If you operate a wakeboat on more than one lake, you are at high risk for transferring aquatic invasive species because of the large ballast systems on these boats. The key here, as always on our lakes, is to work together to balance everyone's interests. Wakeboats are not safe for small lakes or narrow streams. Remember the existing laws (WI Statute 30.69) which state that it is illegal to operate within 100ft of the shore, docks, other watercraft

and/or swimmers. That's pretty hard to do on a small lake with a big boat. Consider the size of your lake before investing in a Wakeboat.

III. Blue-green Algae and What They Mean for Your Recreation in WI Lakes: Higher water temperatures and longer ice-free growing seasons have led to some reports of Blue-green Algae (cyanobacteria) blooms in smaller, more stagnant northern waters. These blooms are traditionally associated with fertilizer runoff and have been rare in Forest County. We have reports of "swimmers itch" and of some pets getting sick after swimming in algae infested water. There are naturally occurring algae that may also turn your lake a green color. By putting some of your algae infested water in a clear glass jar, you can conduct an easy test. If the algae sinks to the bottom of the jar, it is true algae and if it forms a floating layer on top of the water, it is the bad stuff. Pollen can also look like cyanobacteria, but it is pale yellow and you will see yellow dust accumulating on surfaces on land. Your lake water will have a "pea soup" appearance when in cyanobacteria bloom. If you suspect you have Blue-green Algae on your lake, contact the DNR (DNRHABS@wisconsin.gov). Provide bloom location, size, duration and photos. Do not swim in the lake or let your pets near the water. It will make you sick, cause skin irritation and can even cause death in small mammals.

IV. Pay It Forward! This was the theme of this year's conference and I would like to thank those of you who are "paying it forward" through your volunteerism. 14 of the lakes in Forest County (there are 384 named lakes) have Citizen Lake Monitors keeping track of the health of their respective lake's water. 23 of those 384 lakes have associations that are also FCAL members. 18 of those FCAL Lake Association members are represented on the FCAL Board of Directors. So...more of the 384 lakes need CLMs and there's room on the FCAL BOD for representation from more of those 23 member lakes. To those of you already actively involved, "Thank-you!" You are making a difference.



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

"A Lakeside Companion" by Ted Rulsch

"Our Living Ancestor" by John Bates

"Bringing Nature Home" by Doug Tallamy

"Death and Life of the Great Lakes" by Dan Eagen

"Birdscaping in the Midwest" by Peter H. Raven

Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, Better aka CLM

(Source: www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes/clmn)



There are five kinds of activities from which a CLM volunteer might choose.

Water Clarity Monitoring: This involves a volunteer lowering an 8" diameter, black and white disc (Secchi disc) into the deepest part of the lake to determine how far down they can see the disc as it is lowered. Water clarity monitoring is done every 1-14 days throughout the open-water season. Water clarity is a quick way to estimate lake health, and it plays an important role in determining the types of plants and animals that a water body can support.

Water Chemistry Monitoring: Water chemistry volunteers measure phosphorus levels, chlorophyll – A concentrations (a measure of algae growth in the water), water clarity, and a temperature profile from the top to the bottom of the lake. This type of monitoring is done four times per year, and requires several hours of time during each monitoring event. Chemistry monitoring helps determine if nutrient pollution is occurring in a lake, or if seasonal fish die-offs may be a possibility due to low oxygen levels.

Ice-on/ Ice-off Monitoring: This is a simple type of lake monitoring. Volunteers simply record the date that ice completely covers the lake in the fall, and record the date that the ice is completely gone from the lake in the spring. This information is used to track changes in the open-water season, which is useful in many different types of lake-related research projects.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Monitoring: AIS monitoring involves searching the lake for aquatic invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, rusty crayfish and others. The frequency that volunteers perform AIS monitoring varies, but most volunteers do this a few times per year. Most volunteers conduct AIS monitoring in high-risk sites around their lakes (like boat landings) to detect early populations of AIS. Early detection of AIS is crucial for effective, inexpensive managements, so these volunteers are incredibly valuable.

Native Aquatic Plant Monitoring: This type of volunteer lake monitoring involves collecting data on a lake's native aquatic plant community. These activities are repeated every 2-3 years to track changes in the abundance and distribution of these species. The training is provided by the Statewide or Regional CLMN Coordinators, usually at the lake being monitored. Native plant monitoring is broken down into three levels, which a volunteer can choose from depending on their familiarity with aquatic plant identification and the amount of time they have available.

The data that is collected by these volunteers is shared with the neighbors, supports management decisions, supplements research data and improves local and state policies or legislation.

If you love to fish, value water activities, and care about the quality of your lake, please consider becoming involved in this worthwhile cause. Interested parties may contact Paul Skawinski at (715)346-4853 or at paul.skawinski@uwsp.edu.

"Time wasted at the lake is time well spent." -Unknown

Wisconsin's Clean Drinking Water

Submitted by Rebecca Klemme, Lake Lucerne

Earlier this year Governor Evers declared 2019 the "Year of Clean Drinking Water in Wisconsin." The Department of Health Services has informed us that 47% of private wells do not meet the acceptable health standards. Some of the contaminants we are worried about are bacteria, nitrate, arsenic, lead, and more. There are many ways our drinking water can become contaminated including natural occurring elements in the ground, agricultural runoff, the type of piping of the plumbing, and more. Being exposed to these contaminants at high levels can lead to health risks. For example, being exposed to arsenic at high levels can lead to certain types of cancer, high blood pressure, nerve damage, stomach upsets, and skin changes. If you are concerned about your drinking water the UW Oshkosh Environmental Research and Innovation Center (ERIC Lab) offers a wide variety of testing for drinking water. The ERIC Lab offers convenient shipping and lower cost testing. The ERIC Lab can be reached at (920) 424-3148 or ERIC@uwosh.edu.

WRISC's Clean Boats Clean Waters Program Underway for 2019 Season!

Submitted by Lindsay Peterson, WRISC Coordinator



The 2019 boating season is starting to ramp up as the warm weather finally arrives. Unfortunately that's not the only thing arriving....Aquatic Invasive Species (ASI)

have set a course to our local lakes! But don't panic! We can work together to stop these aquatic hitchhikers!

The Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) is once again deploying our watercraft decontamination units, or boatwash stations, at landings throughout our 5-county service area (Forest, Florence and Marinette in WI; Dickinson and Menominee in MI). These high-temperature pressure washers are ideal for cleaning boats and other recreational watercraft and gear (kayaks, tubes, jetskis, and trailers). This cleaning helps remove AIS, in the form of plant fragments or microscopic organisms, which may be hiding on your boat. This in turn keeps the invasives from being introduced to our local waterbodies. What's even better is that our boatwash service is FREE! Just pull up to one of our stations and trained WRISC staff will be available to wash down and decontaminate your boat, which only takes a couple minutes.

WRISC's boatwash units are also available for events you may be hosting on your lake! Boat parades, fishing tournaments, and more are great fun but also invite a lot of boats to your lake and some may be carrying invasive species. To ensure these events can still be enjoyable in the future, and to keep AIS out of your lake, call WRISC today to schedule a boatwash for your event! Staff will set up and operate the unit before, during, and after your event to make sure those nasty AIS won't be hitching any rides in or out! We try to be as accommodating as possible for events, but our schedules fill up quick, so call to schedule yours today or visit our website at www.wrisc.org/clean-boats-clean-waters.

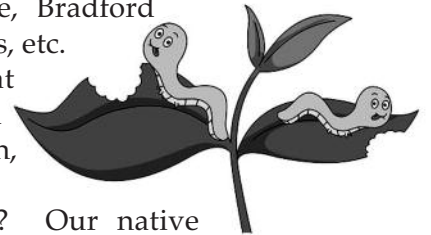
WRISC recently held the 10th Annual WRISC Partner Meeting. This event was open to all. Host presenters discussed the latest invasive species issues and technology and discussed organizational updates and presented on all of our ongoing invasive species projects.

For questions about Clean Boats Clean Waters, or to register for the Annual Meeting, please contact Lindsay Peterson (WRISC Coordinator) at (906) 774-1550 ext.102 or email wildriverscwma@gmail.com

Why We Really Do Need Those Pesty Insects

Submitted by Vi Lamers

Invasive plants (non-native), such as Russian olives, oriental bittersweet, Japanese barberry, Creeping bellflower, Kentucky bluegrass, Japanese honeysuckle, Bradford pears, Norway maples, etc. have shown up at garden centers all over North America, including in our area.



Why the concern? Our native insects will not or cannot use these and other alien plants for food, causing fewer insect populations in those areas with non-native plants.

Still sounds good, right? My grandson would love a world without insects. But consider this – lots of animals depend in part or entirely on insects for food. "... a land without insects is a land without most forms of higher life" (Wilson, 1987). The terrestrial ecosystems we humans depend on cannot function without our six-legged friends. "Most insect herbivores can only eat plants with which they share an evolutionary history." (Bringing Nature Home, Douglas W. Tallamy, p.13)

Although it is tempting to landscape with new unique ornamentals, beware of the dangers to our biodiversity. All of us, not just butterfly and bird lovers, need to focus on planting with native plants. Good sources to check before purchasing new plants: "JOnline.com>life>garden>2018/05/25 or Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Special Collections: Wisconsin/NPIN, or www.kb.jnplants.com>native plants.

Final words: grow native plants, skip insecticides.

Learn to recognize invasive species (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasive/> and <http://www.wrisc.org> are good sources of information) Avoid areas that are infested with invasive species. Carefully clean your boots and shoes after you have been in an area known to have invasive species (sometimes, boot brushes are provided at natural areas for this purpose!) Clean ATVs and other equipment before and after use. Inspect and clean hair, clothing, shoes, gear and pets before and after recreating. Remove all plants and wash your boat after you get off the water and before you leave the boat landing.

(Source Forest County Potawatomi Land and Natural Resources Quarterly Newsletter January – March 2013)

Butternut Franklin Lakes Association

Submitted by BFLA President Kathy Babcock

Invasive species, aquatic and terrestrial, know no borders – whether those borders are between states or between continents, between Upper Michigan and Wisconsin or between the Black Sea and Butternut Lake, invasive species find their way into waterways and forests. This is why your lake association should consider partnering with Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC). WRISC can help you educate your members about present and encroaching invasive species while also supporting your efforts to manage infestations you currently face.

Although WRISC has been around for over ten years, it has only been in the last two years that Butternut Franklin Lakes Association (BFLA) has reached out for help from them in our efforts to manage a garlic mustard infestation. Since then, Lindsay Peterson, coordinator, and the WRISC crew have come out to our area to map garlic mustard sites and to join our community Garlic Mustard Pull. Had fallen trees from a massive windstorm not gotten in their way, they would have participated in our community Garlic Mustard Spray, too. This summer we will build on the success of this partnership by doing more of the same work and by making periodic use of their Clean Boats Clean Waters Boat Wash Team in the BFLA's continued efforts to keep aquatic invasive species out of our lakes.

We cannot speak highly enough about the work WRISC does. Take it from us and join the growing list of WRISC's partners.

Respectfully,
Kathy Babcock, BFLA President

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B	O	T	Q	H	J	R	N	C	O	A	A	Y	R	N
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Fishing Jokes!

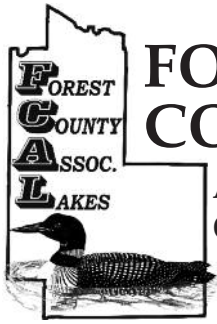
- Allen: Why is it so easy to weigh fish?
Neal: I don't know. Why?
Allen: Because they have their own scales!

Tom: How do you communicate with a fish?
Russ: I don't know.
Tom: Drop it a line!

Word Hunt: "Birds of Wisconsin"



- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------|
| BLUEJAY | BOBOLINK | CRANE |
| DOVE | GROSBEAK | GULL |
| HAWK | HUMMINGBIRD | KITE |
| LOON | NUTCRACKER | ORIOLE |
| OWL | PLOVER | SPARROW |
| SPOONBILL | STORK | |



FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.

Here are Some Interesting WI Fish Records
A Partial List of Wisconsin State Record Fish



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

	Lbs.	Oz.		Lbs.	Oz.
Bass (largemouth)	11	3	Northern Pike	38	0
Bass (smallmouth)	9	1	Perch (white)	1	5.4
Bass (rock)	2	15	Perch (yellow)	3	4
Bluegill	2	9.8	Pumpkinseed	1	2
Crappie (black)	4	8	Sunfish (green)	1	9
Crappie (white)	3	13.1	Walleye	18	0
Muskellunge	69	11			
Muskellunge (tiger)	51	3			



Thanks to Our Forest County Businesses Supporting FCAL:
Laona State Bank
Charlies Lake Metonga Resort
Schaefers Food Mart

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC. 2019 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.)

 Make checks payable to : FCAL, Inc.

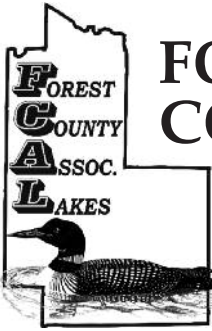
 (\$45/Three yrs.)

 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
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EAGLE RIVER WI
PERMIT NO 7

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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.fcsl-wis.org



Submitted by Diane Braunreiter **Phragmites**

1. Map areas of phragmites
2. Make action plan with municipalities
3. Expand Michigan success into Wisconsin
4. Work with Ducks Unlimited for larger wetland projects
5. Raise awareness regarding how to ID
6. Locating landowners and getting permission to allow treatment
7. Prioritize efforts and goals
8. Follow-up monitoring
9. Native seeding

This project is a long-term effort that will require co-operation and landowner stewardship. Partnership with WRISC will help them get funding. Remember they have boat wash units available for use in Forest County.

Challenges WRISC Faces:

- 1.) Organizing partnerships, 2.) Funding, 3.) Info Sharing, 4.) The sheer amount of phragmites, 4.) Staffing (only 3 year-round employees do this work), 5.) The small window of action time in September. Learn to ID, report to www.misn.msu.edu

(Source - Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition - WRISC)

Phragmites is here. Be on the look-out! It is an invasive species that impairs biodiversity, spreads quickly, competes with native plants, reduces wildlife diversity, blocks views, and restricts swimming and fishing. Animal species cannot nest in it. It restricts access to water and impacts property values.

80% of the plant is underground, 20% above. Control methods involve use of two chemicals (glyphosate and imazapyr - like Roundup Pro) which impacts all plants. The first kill gets 97% of plants. After the chemical treatment, plants are knocked down. This helps facilitate regrowth of other plants. Plants should not be moved. Just knocked down and left. Follow-up treatments are needed for several years. Mid-September is the best time for treatment as the plant is the weakest then. It can be transported by logging.

Other methods are hand swiping, aerial or boom sprayer, backpack foliar sprayer, and amphibious vehicles. Spot treatment is important because of the rhizome roots.

From 2011 to 2016 the DNR spent \$3.5 million on 8,000 acres along Lake Michigan. Lake Lucerne is a high priority site. Education is a part of management, also working one on one with landowners.

WRISC's Future Projects to address this problem include: