

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES

The purpose of FCAL, Inc. is to facilitate education, research and sharing between organizations, 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.

"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water." Loren Eiseley



Planet vs Plastic

"Plastic pollution," microbeads discovered in staggering amounts in our waters, are having a negative impact on our health and environment – from oceans to our food chain. They are almost impossible to remove, and are highly detrimental to organisms. Inhalation causes damage to lungs and ingestion is believed to be linked to serious health issues such as endocrine disruption, weight gain, insulin resistance, decreased reproductive health, and cancer.

Research is ongoing, but a growing community of researchers investigating these questions thinks there is reason for concern.

These microplastics have been found in our drinking water, in human blood, in our bodies, in bottled water, in beer, in the air, in salt, etc. Microplastics are really, really, really tiny particles of plastic which come from many sources: they are intentionally added to common products such as cosmetics (lipsticks, microbeads in facial scrubs, etc.), detergents (for example, Tide Pods), paints, medicines, pesticides, diapers, to name a few. They also end up in



our environment through direct dumping, plastic washed down drains, litter, industrial spills and leaks. However, the main sources have not yet been clearly identified.



Take Action

- Avoid single use products: such as, plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic straws.
- Carry reusable items: such as, cloth shopping bags, stainless steel water bottles, utensils
- Support eco-friendly products and packaging
- Limit purchase of fast fashion (quickly produced large amounts of clothing at low prices to keep up with trends and eventually discarded in landfills)
- Add organic and fresh foods to your diet.

Sources: Client Earth, The Guardian, United Nations Development Programme, National Institute of Health (NIH), National Geographic, The New York Times

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 OR APPLY ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE FCAL-WIS.ORG. THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE AVAILABLE IN LARGE PART DUE TO A GRANT FROM THE MOLE LAKE SOKAOGON CHIPPEWA COMMUNITY. THANK YOU!

"A lake that is noisy cannot reflect anything." Robert Adams

Fish Stocking – Fishing Wisconsin

While the vast majority of Wisconsin lakes and streams have self-sustaining fish populations, stocking remains an important management tool for some waters. DNR fish hatcheries and other facilities produce young fish for stocking to re-establish formerly self-sustaining populations, provide research data on the effectiveness of stocking and other related practices, and expand fishing opportunities for Wisconsin’s anglers.

FISH STOCKING DATABASE:

The stocking database allows you to quickly see where fish have been stocked by DNR facilities throughout Wisconsin in past

years in case you are interested in targeting stocked waters. You will find information from 1972 to the present. These reports do not include stocking events performed by private fish hatcheries or tribes.



For information of fish stocking in Forest County: go to this website: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fishing/stocking>.

Loon Migration

Submitted by Pat Schultz, Loon Ranger on Jungle Lake

While traveling this winter, I noticed some of my loon friends in South Carolina. They were solitary and did not look like the loons we see on our lakes in summer.

Why? Loons molt out of their beautiful breeding plumage in September before they migrate south for the winter. They look similar to their chicks.

How can you tell the difference?

- Chick feathers are more rounded than adult feathers which are square shaped,
- Chick bills are light colored while adults are dark.
- Adults have a distinct white breast and chicks are light but not as white as adults

When loons migrate from Wisconsin, they fly to the Gulf of Mexico. Loons from New England states fly to



the Atlantic shores of the Carolinas and Florida. The first to leave in the fall are the floaters (loons with no mates), then the parents and finally the chicks. Some of us worry when chicks are left behind but rest assured that they are hard wired for migration and will soon follow their parents.

In the next few weeks our loon friends will return to their special lakes. Because we are experiencing early ice out this year, we may think the loons will come back sooner. But loon migration is triggered by photoperiod, or the amount of daylight. So, even though we anxiously await their return, our friends will arrive in their own

due time!

I cannot wait to hear the tremolo, hoots, yodels and wails that will tell me that my lake’s friends have returned for the summer!

Water Dancing

Submitted by Vi Lamers



Loons have two interesting water “dances.” Each dance has a different meaning.

One dance is to try to chase away other birds by “splashing the water with his wings and kicking his feet so fast that he is walking on water!

The other dance is done when the loon “is very upset.” He does the “penguin dance.” With his wings folded against his body, he looks like another waterbird – the penguin. Loons do this dance when they have been disturbed by people coming too close to them.

All loons need privacy from humans. So, observe and enjoy loons from a distance. Never get too close to them or their nests. They may fly away and never return. Then their eggs won’t hatch. Remember: without loons there can be no loon magic.

*Source: “Loon Magic for Kids” by Tom Klein
ISBN I-55971-121-3*



FCAL President's Message from Pam Schroeder

Greetings Lake Lovers!

One of the perks of FCAL membership is also being a member of The WI Lakes Assoc. WI Lakes, in conjunction with UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources, WAV (Water Action Volunteers), WI DNR and UW Ext.-Madison, annually hosts the most amazing conference that I am privileged to attend. This conference is attended by Lake Association and Lake District leaders from around the state. It is open to all interested attendees. Check out the agenda at wisconsinwaterweek.org, or click on the link to WI Lakes provided on the FCAL

website: fcal-wis.org. Next year's conference is already scheduled for March 26-28, 2025.

It always amazes me to see, meet and learn about the work being done by volunteers throughout the state to maintain our healthy lakes, streams and groundwater. It's hard to compete with the business money put into lobbying our representatives. All we have is passion and commitment. Our major weapons are research, education and communication.

The issue FCAL receives the most calls and questions about is the use of Wake Boats on our area lakes and this issue bubbled to the top of most of the workshops I attended at the conference. FCAL was established to facilitate education and communication between lake groups, riparian landowners and local government agencies. We are not a lobby but we can help you to find the information that will enable you to understand issues and affect change.

The lesson learned in 2023 was that passing state legislation regarding an issue like the use of wake boats is not necessarily a good thing. A state statute has to be broadly drawn and, once a state law is established, local government bodies cannot establish a law that is more restrictive. If you live on a small, inland lake, laws established for larger lakes may not be practical at all. So... regarding the use of wake boats, we are being encouraged to approach our town boards to establish local ordinances to govern their use. DNR publication 317-319, "A Guideline for Creating Local Boating Ordinances" is available for us to view online and was recommended as a starting point. One can also review WI State Statute #30.77 regarding how to create ordinances but we were warned that the state statute is written in "legalese" and hard to understand for those of us who are not attorneys.

The Town of St. Germain passed a boating ordinance in 2020 that is available to view as a template by going online to townofstgermain.org/ordinances. One of the presenters is a St. Germain board member who helped to draft this ordinance and he offered himself to any interested person as a resource. He can be contacted via email at rsshell@msn.com

Sounds like a lot of work for faithful volunteers? Yes, but no one is going to do it for us.

"Stay close to the serenity of a lake to meet your own peace of mind." Munia Khan

Enjoying the Water in a Considerate Manner

Submitted by Pete Davison

Lake lots and homes are expensive, property taxes high. We all want to recreate and enjoy our water sports on the lakes. Section 9 of the Wisconsin Constitution declares that the State holds all the lakes and rivers in common for ALL the residents of the state. So, while we own our cabins, homes, and toys, we do not have exclusive claim to the water.

So, it would seem appropriate that we use those waters responsibly. Being a good neighbor in this regard means



respecting everyone's privacy, limiting excessive noise, wave action – ensuring that safety and dock zones are considered.

Whether we are fishing, waterskiing, jet skiing, or boating, there is an obligation to consider the impacts of our noise and actions on all the other residents on a body of water.

Being aware of how sound travels over open water, and how close we are to other boaters or piers are common sense features of making time on the water enjoyable for all.

Changing Patterns Affecting Wisconsin's Wealth of Water Resources

A recently released report on climate impacts to water resources in Wisconsin from the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) shows that warming temperatures and changing precipitation patterns are impacting Wisconsin's wealth of water resources. The last two decades have been the warmest on record in Wisconsin and the past decade has been the wettest.

"The warming climate is having an impact on water resources in Wisconsin. We need to increase the magnitude and urgency of actions to protect and restore habitat and enhance water quality to make Wisconsin's waters more resilient to climate change." Katie Hein, WICCI Water Resources Working



Group Co-Chair.

Yet, there is hope. The WICCI report suggests solutions to prepare for and minimize climate impacts to water resources, like increasing water storage across the landscape, installing green infrastructure, protecting wetlands, building outside of flood zones, and installing flood warning systems. Visit the Water Resources Working Group at: <https://wicci.wisc.edu/water/resources-working-group/> to learn more. There is

hope, but it is up to us.

WICCI is a nationally recognized collaboration of scientists and stakeholders, working together to help foster solutions to climate change in Wisconsin.

FCAL UPCOMING EVENTS 2024 - Benefitting Forest County

ANNUAL FCAL GRADE 5-6 ESSAY CONTEST

May 2024

PUBLICATION/DISTRIBUTION OF FCAL ANNUAL NEWSLETTER TO RIPARIAN LANDOWNERS IN FOREST COUNTY

June 2024

KENTUCK DAY EDUCATIONAL BOOTH – FCAL/WRISC (Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition)

Sat., July 27, 10:00 am-3:00 pm • Crandon Courthouse Lawn

FALL FORUM – DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS, CONCERNS AND SUCCESSES

August 16 • 4301 County W, Lake Lucerne Advancement Association Pavilion • Bd Meeting 8:30-9:30 am; Forum 9:30-11:30 am

FCAL'S SPONSORED ENVIRONMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD TRIP ON LAKE METONGA

September 2024 • For Crandon, Laona and Wabeno High School Science Students

Promoting Education and Protection Of Forest County Water Bodies

FCAL ANNUAL MEETING

Sat., October 25 • Mole Lake Casino, Lodge and Conference Center - 4:00 pm Meeting; 5:00 pm Program; 6:00 pm Dinner

In addition to these events, FCAL provides lead free sinkers at Kentuck Day and is developing a plan to make discarded fish line containers available at boat landings.

FCAL MEMBER LAKE EVENTS:

ROBERTS LAKE ASSOCIATION

ROBERTS LAKE FISHEREE – Sat., August 10 • Roberts Lake Clubhouse

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – May 25 and August 31

LAKE LUCERNE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION

LLAA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING W/BOARD POSITION NOMINATIONS June 15 • 9:00 am-11:00 am

Please consider becoming a member so these valuable events are able to continue for the betterment of Forest County Lakes.

5K-ISH RUN & WALK CHARITY FUNDRAISER July 27

FUN DAY Sat., August 3 • Lucerne Clubhouse 10:00 am-4:00 pm

LLAA ANNUAL MEETING August 31 • 9:00 am-11:00 am

LLAA GOLF OUTING September 5 • 1:00 pm

LAKE METONGA ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING Sat., June 29 • Crandon High School 9:00 am

BOAT PARADE/PICNIC Sun., July 5 • 1:00 pm Charlie's Lake Metonga Resort

WEEDS N' WALLEYE BANQUET Sat., October 19 • Mole Lake Conference Center

Check out the new FCAL website for Up-to-Date news, events and resources at: <https://fcal-wis.org/>

“Protecting Our Waters: We’re All Connected!”

Northwoods Six-County Lakes Meeting Set for July 12

“Protecting Our Waters: We’re All Connected” is the theme for the annual Northwoods Six-County Lakes Meeting, set for Friday, July 12, at Nicolet College.

Lake association leaders and members along with the general public will convene to learn about and discuss our interconnected water resources and our human connections to each other and to our lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater.

A committee with representatives from Oneida,



Vilas, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, and Iron counties is at work developing plans for the meeting. The program will include a five-member panel discussion on the connections among water resources and the people who use them, along with presentations on the impacts of climate change and drought on our water resources and fisheries, and the problem of PFAS in the environment.

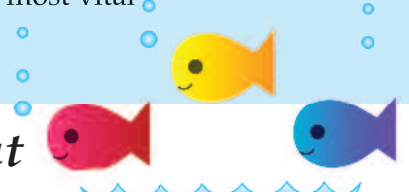
There will also be exhibits from educational and nonprofit organizations and excellent opportunities for networking. The meeting will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon. All are welcome; there is no charge and no need to register. More details and a full agenda will be announced as the meeting date approaches.

The event is jointly sponsored by the Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association (www.oclra.org) and the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (www.vclra.org). For more information contact Ted Rulseh by phone or email: 920-242-8671, trulseh@tjrcommunications.com or Tom Ewing at 630-985-8472, president@vclra.org.

W A T E R

- ◆ “Water is life, and clean water means health”
- ◆ “When the well is dry, we know the value of water”
- ◆ “Water is life's matter and matrix, mother and medium. There is no life without water”
- ◆ “Once you carry your own water, you will learn the value of every drop”
- ◆ “You don't drown by falling in the water; you drown by staying there”
- ◆ “Water is the only drink for a wise man”
- ◆ “Water is the most neglected nutrient in your diet but one of the most vital”

Simple Steps We Can Take to Increase Fish Habitat



For the long-term health of lakes, we must first change our perception of what shoreline features are healthy and thus desirable. Accepting the look of “natural” shorelines with many trees and shrubs will be the first step toward restoring habitats for animals using these areas on shore, as well as fish using the trees when they fall in the water.

- ❖ Leave trees that fall in the water in place.
- ❖ Do not cut branches of trees that stick above the water, even during winter as fuel for ice fishing. These branches will become valuable habitat as the tree settles further into the lake.
- ❖ Do not cut branches that are in the water to create pockets in branches for easier fishing.
- ❖ Leave natural trees, seedlings, and saplings along lakeshores intact and allow them to mature.
- ❖ Where trees have been removed along shorelines, and in particular, where understory trees (small trees that can tolerate shade and grow under the crowns of taller trees) seedling and saplings are gone, plant trees and shrubs, which will become fish habitat for future generations. Partial shoreline restoration is better than none.
- ❖ Learn to appreciate more natural shorelines rather than highly manicured sites and encourage others to do the same.

Source: DNR Publication WT-1004, UWEX Publications GWQ072, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point



Rethinking Lawns Because...

Submitted by FCAL Board Member Vi Lamers

One hour of watering lawn uses 1,000 gallons + of water. Nationwide in a day that adds up to 9 billion gallons. Keep in mind all the states that now find themselves with drought conditions.

Gas garden equipment (lawn mowers, leaf blowers, etc.) used 3 billion gallons of gas in 2018. That is about the same amount as used by 6 million cars for a year.

A car driven for 45 miles creates the same amount of pollution as a gas lawn mower when run for an hour.

The fertilizer used on lawns releases more nitrous oxide (a greenhouse gas) than agricultural crops. They run off into our waters creating algae blooms.

The use of herbicides and pesticides on our lawns disrupt the food chain killing beneficial insects and plants.

Rethinking Lawns by Doing This...

Consider "No Mow May": A movement spreading across the country. Not mowing in May helps early season pollinators find food. Or just mow every other week and stop mowing entirely in fall.

Take just a small part of your lawn and try a border of flowers. Then next year maybe a patch of vegetable garden. Add a walking path, a bench, a birdbath, rocks.



Replace grass with native shrubs and wildflowers. Native shrubs create sheltering habitats for birds and provide berries and nuts. The blooms provide easy foraging for pollinators. Shrubs are frequently hot plants, which are plants that generate heat in the air above them. It is widely believed that this heat helps attract pollinators to the plant, as well, and play an important role

in the life cycle of numerous butterflies and moths. Easy to grow, many native shrubs tolerate a wide range of growing conditions and provide excellent fall color and winter interest.

No need to go big – just small steps will help conserve our water and feed the tiny living things on which the birds and other animals depend.

Source: Readers Digest, March/April 2023. "Lawns Gone - Is It Time to Ditch Your Yard" by Dan Zak and Karuna Eberl

Reduce Water Use in House

Activity (per person)	Circumstances	Water Used	Total
TOILET 4 flushes per day	Ultra-low flush	1.6 gallons / flush	6.4 gallons*
	Conventional	3.5-7 gallons / flush	14-28 gallons
SHOWER Once a day, 5 minutes	Low-flow showerhead	2.5 gallons / minute	12.5 gallons*
	Conventional head	3-8 gallons / minute	15-40 gallons
BATH Once a day	Tub ¼ to 1/3 full	9-12 gallons	9-12 gallons*
	Full tub	36 gallons	36 gallons
SHAVING Once a day	One full basin	1 gallon	1 gallon*
	Open tap	5-10 gallons	5-10 gallons
BRUSHING TEETH Twice a day	Wet brush and rinse	¼ to ½ gallon	Less than 1 gallon
	Open tap	2-5 gallons	4 – 10 gallons
WASHING HANDS Twice a day	One full basin	1 gallon	2 gallons*
	Open tap	2 gallons	4 gallons
COOKING** Washing Produce	1 full kitchen basin	1-2 gallons	1-2 gallons*
	Open tap	5-10 gallons	5-10 gallons
DISHWASHER Once a day, full load	Short cycle	8-12 gallons	8-12 gallons*
	Standard cycles	10-15 gallons	10-15 gallons
HAND DISHWASHING Once a day	Full basins, wash/rinse	5 gallons	5 gallons*
	Open tap	30 gallons	30 gallons
LAUNDRY Two full loads per week	Portion of full load	10-15 gallons	10-15 gallons*
	Full load	35-50 gallons	35-50 gallons

* Total with water conservation practices = about 50 gallons per day per person
 ** Real cooking figures will be higher to include boiling water, rising utensils, etc.

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC. 2024 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 (\$25/One yr.) Lake Organization (\$50/yr.) Business Org. (\$50/yr.)
 (\$100/Five yrs.)

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

Additional Donations _____

Members do not need to live on water.



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

**Be sure and support
these business
sponsors as they
continue to support
FCAL and
Forest County.**

**Schaefers IGA
Associated Bank
Laona State bank
Johnnies Resort
Tamarack Outfitters
Northern Lakes Service
CoVantage**

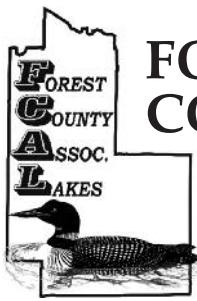
**Sokaogon Chippewa Community – Mole Lake
Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
WRISC – Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition**



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.fcal-wis.org



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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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

Check out the new FCAL Website for up-to-date news, lake events and resources. Go to www.fc-al-wis.org

Effects of Wake Boats on Lake Ecosystem Health

- As wake boats become increasingly popular, their impacts on Wisconsin's lakes intensify.
- We've reviewed the science to prepare these pro-conservation recommendations, supporting recreation uses of lakes while protecting the health of lake ecosystems.*

Concerns

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)



Wake boats spread AIS like Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Milfoil between lakes in their ballast and bilge water, degrading ecosystem health.

Shoreline Erosion



With wakes 2-3 times bigger than regular boats and up to 12 times more energy from wave action, wake boats accelerate shoreline erosion even at extended distances (<60 ft) from shore.

Sediment Suspension



Wake boats resuspend sediment from lake bottoms >15 feet below the surface, reducing water clarity and habitat quality.

Impacts to Aquatic Plants



Deep hulls and propellers (30" below the waterline), powerful engines, and large wakes can damage and uproot plants and impair plant growth.

Impacts to Birds and Fish



Proximity, noise, direct wave strikes, and turbulence can disturb nesting waterfowl like loons and negatively affect fish populations.

Recommendations



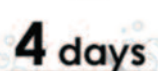
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Wake boating requires at least 40 contiguous acres (that are >600 ft. from shore & >20 ft. deep) to minimize impacts.

Water depth of entire contiguous area must be at least 20 ft. to minimize sediment resuspension.

Any point of the contiguous area needs to be at least 600 ft. from any shoreline to minimize shoreline erosion and impacts to plants.

At least 4 days between visiting unconnected waters with full wash and dry to limit spread of AIS.

Informational signs and trainings for wake boaters and other lake users on best practices

*Read the full report "The Effects of Wake Boats on Lake Ecosystem Health" by David Ortiz for Wisconsin's Green Fire.

About the author: David Ortiz is a PhD candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for Limnology. He holds BS and MS degrees in Environmental Science from Iowa State University. He prepared this report as a Conservation Fellow for Wisconsin's Green Fire.



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