



# Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

P.O. Box #301 • Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190



## 350 Attend Wisconsin Lakes Convention

350 people attended the 2009 Wisconsin Lakes Convention held in March, featuring a symposium on this year's theme of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Eurasian Milfoil, Curly-Leaf Pondweed, Zebra Mussels, Purple Loosestrife, and Rusty Crayfish have all been found in Walworth lakes with two of these prevalent in Whitewater-Rice. Experts from around North America gathered in Green Bay to discuss the research, management, education and policy needed to deal effectively with this issue. The goal of the symposium was to share this knowledge with government agency staff, lake citizens, businesses, elected officials, and others to help get our lakes "back to balance." Workshops offered hands-on training and discussion on lake topics including AIS, lake ecology, volunteer monitoring, lake district commissioner training, interpreting and using lake data, working with local partners for lake protection, and running a more effective lake group. Other speakers presented shorter sessions on a range of topics including AIS smart prevention, water law, global environmental changes,

regional partnerships to protect lakes, citizen involvement, and the economic value of water. People from over 50 Wisconsin counties, 8 other US states and one Canadian province participated. The 2010 conference will be announced later this year on the UW extension website [f://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions). Presentations, videos, handouts and working material from the conference may be viewed by clicking the website's convention archives. Contact Rich Charts [rich@whitewaterlake.org](mailto:rich@whitewaterlake.org) for additional details.

The Wisconsin Lakes Convention is sponsored by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, a consortium of the Wisconsin DNR, the University of Wisconsin Extension, and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL), of which we are a member. These groups provide research, support, lobbying and education to the associations, districts and concerned citizens of the over 15,000 lakes in Wisconsin. These groups have also provided grants to assist us in our lake management. ➤

## Visit the Website

Get on your computer and stop by our website at [whitewaterlake.org](http://whitewaterlake.org) or [www.awlnoa.org](http://www.awlnoa.org). The Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District and the Greater Whitewater Lake Property Owners Association have been building a one stop center for anything to do with our lakes and surrounding environment. Minutes and news from both organizations can be found on separate menu selections. Announcements are displayed as you enter at the top of the front page. A calendar of events is below the announcements with information updated at least monthly throughout the year and often weekly during more active seasonal times.

On other pages information for living on the lake is provided about disposal, burning, fire regulations, safety regulations, assessments, contact information and various topical news. Regional activities, places to go, and lifestyle are other selections available and/or being further developed. Shirley Wickersheimer, Nancy Vondrak and Nancy Dynkowski are developing lifestyle presentations that will be updated during the summer.

For those of you wanting to find everything there is about lake ecology or limnology, follow up on the links page, which has entries to many resources. If you wish to offer content or assistance, contact [shirley@whitewaterlake.org](mailto:shirley@whitewaterlake.org). For technical or design suggestions, contact [rich@whitewaterlake.org](mailto:rich@whitewaterlake.org).

Rich Charts, Commissioner

### ANNUAL MEETING

**August 22, 2009 9:00 A.M.**

**Lakeview School Auditorium**

#### Agenda Items

##### Potential Changes to Lake District By-Laws

1. Number of Candidates Needed To Stand for Election to Board
  - Current By-Laws — # of vacancies plus one with names made public at least 45 days prior to annual meeting
  - Proposed Change — equal to number of vacancies with nominations allowed from the floor at the annual meeting
2. Required Written Notice of Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing
  - Current By-Laws — mailed 10 days in advance to all homeowners or published twice in local paper
  - Proposed Change — mailed 30 days in advance to all homeowners and published once in local paper
3. Length of Terms of Board Commissioners
  - Current By-Laws — does not specify an exact number of two-year and three-year terms
  - Proposed Change — establish three 3-year and two 2-year terms

# Whitewater/Rice Lake Management District Annual Meeting of August, 2008

Following the August, 2008 Annual Meeting, the duly elected three commissioners appointed Rich Charts and Brian Morris to the vacant to positions for a term of one year in accordance with the existing by-laws. The board members then elected Brian Morris as Chairman until the next Annual Meeting in 2009.

Your board has set out the below initiatives to be accomplished prior to the 2009 Annual Meeting:

1. Arrange to have an updated 10 Year Lake Plan prepared by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Council (SEWRPC). A current Lake Plan is a required by the DNR in order to both chemically treat and harvest weeds as necessary.
2. Have informational meetings with various DNR departments to create and maintain open lines of communication.
3. Update the Whitewater-Rice Lake Management District By-Laws and ask for a vote of approval at the August 2009 annual property owners' meeting.
4. Do a complete safety check of all equipment owned by the lake management district and make all necessary repairs.
5. Meet with the lake management district's insurance carrier to ensure that all of the district's equipment is

adequately covered.

6. Continue aggressive bog removal to enhance boating safety and minimize potential liability should someone injure themselves.
7. Be sure that a sufficient number of people stand for election for board position vacancies as prescribed by the district's By Laws.
8. Attend Whitewater-Richmond town meetings as informational.

## DNR Makes Improvements

Whitewater and Rice Lakes started the 2009 spring in the same fashion they finished 2008 with both lakes over their respective spillways. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) made three nice changes around the lake building an asphalt walkway from the swimming beach area all the way over to the Whitewater Lake Dam, cleaning up the hillside just above the walkway, and constructing three fishing piers in the same area to accommodate people without a boat.

**For 2008-2009, your elected commissioners are:**

Rich Charts - Financials

Jim Felland - Equipment

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Weed Harvesting

Whitewater and Rice lake management team commissioned SEWRPC to do an aquatic plant survey and study which is required by the DNR every ten years. The SEWRPC team spent a total of five days on both lakes in July 2008 conducting their survey which consisted of taking weed samples, doing site surveys, recording lake owners shoreline structures, taking inventory of watercraft that homeowners have on their lifts and piers.

Unfortunately their findings were found inconclusive and the survey will have to be redone this July. SEWRPC'S reason for the re-do is "that last year was such an unusual year in many ways". The cost for conducting the survey is approximately \$5,000 which the DNR has granted our district \$3,750 to help defray the cost. There is only one charge for the survey despite having to do it again this summer. Brian Morris and Don Wickersheimer met with representatives of the DNR at their Waukesha office on December 2,

2008. The discussion focused on obtaining chemical treatment, and weed harvesting permits for the 2009 summer season. Bog removal was also a topic reviewed as well as the dam on Whitewater Lake.

Brian and Don, along with Bill Watts met with Dr. Jeff Thornton at the SEWRPC Waukesha office on December 3, 2008. Discussions centered on SEWRPC completing the DNR required aquatic

plant survey and study as soon as possible. Weed harvesting this summer of both lakes will not be allowed until the DNR reviews and ok's what SEWRPC'S findings revealed. On June 3, 2009 a rough draft of the plan was delivered to the lake management team permitting weed harvesting once the required permits have been processed by the DNR and returned to the district. 🐟

### Equipment Report

The Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District Equipment is all in good working order. This year as in years past we replaced the 90 HP Outboard Engine on the weed transporter. Many of you may question why we do this on a yearly basis when the weed load has steeply diminished and the Engine being replaced is far from worn out. Our justification for this is as a Lake Management District we are able to purchase the replacement engine at wholesale cost (approximately \$5800.00) and the engine being replaced is sold at very near the replacement engines cost thus keeping the district within continuous Warranty.

We are going to be replacing one of the two pickup trucks used for weed transport and equipment towing. The truck being replaced is coming to a point where maintenance and safety issues warrant its replacement. The Lake Management District already has the capitol in reserve for the purchase. The replacement truck will be of like kind, (4 Wheel Drive, Dual Wheel, 8 foot Box) and approximately two to three years old.

Jim Felland, Commissioner

# Whitewater-Rice Lake Information

## Volunteers Needed for Goose Egg Oiling and Other Initiatives

Please read Dave Cleven's report on goose egg oiling and his volunteer committee in this issue of the newsletter. Others who want to get involved with the lakes to make them better places to live and play are encouraged to come forward. ➤

## Greater Whitewater Lake Property Owners Association (GWLPOA)

This is the social organization for Whitewater and Rice Lake area property owners. It sponsors numerous events during the season as a way to get people together, share ideas, have good times, and improve the lakes. Examples of their work are the placing of several sitting benches at the beach area and assisting the towns of Whitewater & Richmond with the purchase of new no-wake buoy contact Val Vesely, President-svesely@ameritech.net. ➤

## Minneska Ski Team

The team is an integral part of Whitewater lake and its history giving local youth a place to display their water skiing skills as well as providing Saturday entertainment during the summer. Please contact them for schedules etc. P.O. Box 434, Whitewater, WI 53190 or at their website: [www.geocities.com/bkelly145/index.htm](http://www.geocities.com/bkelly145/index.htm). ➤

## All Five Lake District Board Commissioners Up for Election

As of this writing four of the five current board members plan on standing for re-election: Brian Morris - Chairman, Richard Charts - Treasurer, James Felland - Equipment Chair, and William Watts - Chemical Spraying Chair. The district's by-laws require that the number of candidates standing for election be equal to the number of vacancies plus one. So, at least two more people need to be willing to run. Interested parties are kindly requested to contact Brian

Morris at [morrisbamorris@sbcsglobal.net](mailto:morrisbamorris@sbcsglobal.net). ➤

## Ownership of the Whitewater Lake Dam

At the September 2008 monthly lake management district board meeting Shane Crawford, Deputy County Administrator for Walworth County, spoke to the board and guests about the ownership of the dam located near Parkside Marina. Presently Walworth County owns the darn but would like the Whitewater/Rice Lake Management District to take over ownership and also make the dam handicap accessible. Shane stated that this is the only dam that the county owns. The commissioners agreed to research the pros and cons of taking over ownership and will make a presentation at the Annual Property Owners Meeting in August 2009. It is important to note that the district's current by-laws prohibit the district from taking ownership of the dam. The Rice Lake dam is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. ➤

## Floating Bogs

Several years ago it was determined that the bogs which come up on the lake in mid-August should be removed due to their being deemed a safety and health hazard to boaters and the lake in general. Last September (2008) a record setting 420 loads were removed and this aggressive approach will continue this fall as well.

Brian Morris, Chairman

## Fish Stocking

To improve recreational fishing, the lakes will again be stocked with sustainable hybrid bluegill and fat-head minnows in the late fall. According to Doug Welch, Senior DNR Biologist of the Wisconsin DNR, WWL and RL have a very health population of Large Mouth Bass and Northern Pike which is augmented every other year with stockings of Walleye and Northern Pike. ➤

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## Canadian Goose Nest and Egg Depredation Program 2009

*Whitewater Lake:* In 2009, Dave Cleven with the help of Andy Wojdula, Nancy & Jim Vondrak, George Wood, John Currie, Pat and Tom Koppelman, Tom Potrykus, and Fran Cleven oiled a total of 470 eggs in 68 nests. The vast majority of the nests were found on the Nature Land Island, Parkside Island, Isabella Island, Camp Joy Island, and the Tamarack Swamp Islands. We visited each nest three times from April 15th-May 19th.

*Rice Lake:* In 2009, Bernie Tangney & Don Sorenson oiled 70 eggs in 14 nests.

*Totals for Whitewater & Rice Lakes Combined:* Totals for Whitewater and Rice Lakes for 2009 were 540 eggs in 82 nests.

We didn't miss many nests but we will always miss a few that are hidden especially well under a deck or in a hidden area. Please notify me next year in early to late April with the location of any nests that you see in your area of the lake! (608-883-2483 or [dfcleven@earthlink.net](mailto:dfcleven@earthlink.net)).

Canadian Geese have a life expectancy of about 20 years. Besides the 164 Resident Canadian Geese on our lakes that belong to the 82 nests, there are additional Resident Canadian Geese that have no mates or are too young to have their own nest yet. As a guess, I would estimate that we probably have about 200 Resident Canadian Geese on our lakes.

The mature Canadian Goose deposits about 2-1/2 pounds of feces each day in our lakes and shoreline. If we are successful in eliminating 540

eggs, that is tons of feces not in our lake or on our shores. In addition, those Resident Canadian Geese which have no goslings to take care of tend to spend much of their time each day flying to nearby farm fields. This reduces tremendously their nuisance to our lakes and shores.

Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management Board has taken the next step to start the process of lowering the population numbers for the lake's Resident Canadian Geese. Our Board in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (USDA) will this summer start a program of capture and removal of some of our Resident Canadian Geese. From approximately June 15 to July 7<sup>th</sup> each year, the adult geese lose their flying feathers and therefore cannot fly during this period of time. The USDA, along with our help, will come to our lakes and capture many of our Resident Geese. They will then send these geese to a food processor to make goose patties which will be donated to Wisconsin food pantries for the hungry. This certainly will be something positive that comes out of our Canadian Goose Problems.

With the capture of these Resident Canadian Geese, we should start to see a reduction of the number of pairs on our lakes next year that are building nests and laying eggs. If we continue this capture and removal every year, this should make a significant reduction in our Resident Canadian Geese population.

Dave Cleven, Committee Chairman

## 2008 Annual Meeting

*(Continued from page 2)*

Brian A. Morris - Chairman 262-473-6081

Bill Watts - Chemical Applications

Don Wickersheimer - Weed Harvesting

### **Governor Signs Two Bills To Improve Wisconsin Lakes**

As of this writing Governor Doyle has signed two significant pieces of legislation that apply to all Wisconsin lakes. First, no-wake buoys must be placed at least 100 feet from the shoreline; however, our local town ordinance supersedes the state regulation and the buoys on W WL and RL will continue to be placed at 150 feet from the shore in most places. In addition, the governor signed a Clean Lakes bill which, with certain exceptions, prohibits the display, sale and use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus. This law will not take effect until 2010 thereby giving retailers time to order phosphorus-free fertilizer for next year.

### **Chemical Spraying Greatly Reduced This Year**

This spring the DNR required that a plant survey of

both lakes be conducted before the chemicals would be allowed to be applied. Lake and Pond Solutions, Inc. did a survey and found that both lakes were way down on the presence of Eurasian Milfoil so they only proposed that 28.93 acres be treated compared to about 138 acres the two previous years. The area on Rice Lake was only treated for Eurasian Milfoil. On Whitewater Lake two areas on the south lobe were treated. The westside was treated for Eurasian Milfoil while a larger area on the eastside was treated for both Eurasian Milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed.

Overall, Lake Pond Solutions had a hard time finding any Eurasian Milfoil but did find plenty of curly-leaf pondweed. Their recommendation was to treat curly-leaf on the eastern portion of the south lobe because of how shallow it is. They believe that the rest of the curly-leaf in the lake should be able to be topped properly by harvesting. Total cost for this treatment including, product, application, and basic service fees was a little over \$18,000.

Bill Watts,  
Commissioner

