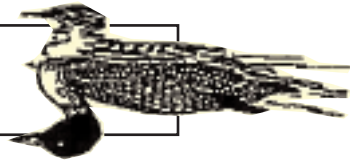


NOTE: If there is a red dot on your mailing address, your dues for 2009 are due.

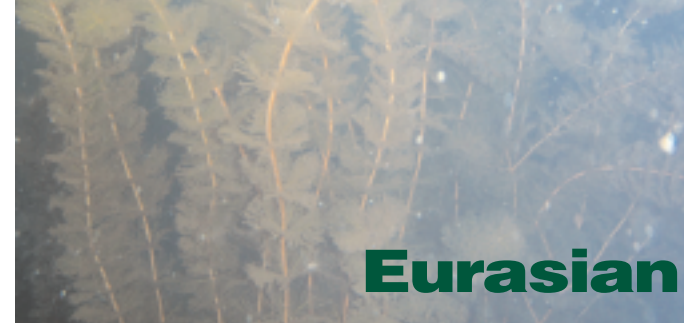


Crescent Lake News

August 2009



Photos courtesy Stephanie Boismenu, Squash Lake



Eurasian Water Milfoil

Squash Lake will Crescent Lake be next?

At the July Crescent Lake Annual Meeting, we announced that Squash Lake almost certainly has Eurasian Water Milfoil. The samples came back from the DNR with positive results. Squash Lake is infested with this fast-spreading invasive. We need everyone's help to protect our lake from a similar fate.

The Squash Lake Association Board, including President Pat Dugan and their AIS Coordinator Stephanie Boismenu are working closely with WI DNR Lakes Management Coordinator, Kevin Gauthier to formulate a management plan. In the meantime, they have increased their efforts to monitor watercraft, as should we.

Please contact Joel Flory or Glen Peterson and volunteer to help inspect boats at the landing. We should have inspectors present EVERY HOUR of daylight. If we get this invasive, our property values will plummet and the pleasure we get from our lake will be seriously impacted.

Read more in this newsletter.

what does Eurasian Water Milfoil look like?



Northern Water Milfoil (native - fewer leaflet pairs)

Eurasian Water Milfoil (non-native - 12-21 leaflet pairs)

Eurasian water milfoil is a submersed aquatic plant with feather-like leaves arranged in whorls (circles) on the stem. The leaves have a distinct featherlike appearance, with the lower leaflet pairs about half the length of the midrib.

Branching is abundant in water 3 to 10 feet deep. The only part of the plant that may grow out of the water are the flower stalks, which are only a few inches tall.

Eurasian water milfoil threatens native aquatic
Continued on page 3



Right, map showing GPS locations of the EWM on Squash Lake, courtesy Stephanie Boismenu



Help support our Crescent Lake Association

Please send your annual dues to:

The Crescent Lake Association
PO Box 265
Rhinelander WI 54501

Annual Dues are due

\$ _____ Annual Dues (\$10 per voting member; limit 2 per household) Fiscal year: January 1 - December 31

\$ _____ Fireworks Donation: **PLEASE HELP FUND!**

\$ _____ Total

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please help us compile a complete list of email addresses.





message
message
from Eileen

photo, courtesy Mike Jewell

Hi Neighbors,

Happy late summer days to you. It's been an odd summer, weatherwise, here at Crescent Lake. When I saw the ads for "back to school" bargains, I thought, what, we haven't even had summer. We've set quite a few records for cold summer nights, in the 30's and 40's, and cool summer days in the 50's. But then I remembered that there are officially 92 days of summer from June 21, to September 21st. So there's still time to bask in the sun, float in the breezes, ski and swim and make warm memories with family and friends (we hope)!

The Association's boat parade, fireworks and annual pot luck meeting all added happy memory bank deposits. I really love the way all the boats glide silently into place for the fireworks display. No one fights for position or revs the motors. Every vantage point is wonderful and Mother Nature provides a beautiful sunset to add to the mood and anticipation of the artistry to come. Thanks to the Hibbards for starting and continuing this tradition.

The annual picnic on July 18th was hosted by the Hibbards and Heereys on South Rifle Road. About 70 attended. It's so good to see old friends and meet new residents and realize that our lake is populated with kind, considerate, generous folks who care so much about keeping our shared water treasure a healthy vibrant jewel of a lake. They also are some excellent cooks and bakers as witnessed by the sumptuous buffet table.

The members expressed deep appreciation to our officers and board members who have

worked really hard to comply with the terms of our grant money, to educate residents of our lake and the general public about the dangers of aquatic invasive species. Our goal is to continue to be in the preventive mode rather than have to find ways to eradicate invasive species. Many nearby lakes, such as Squash, Oneida and Manson are already dealing with trying to eliminate the Eurasian Water Milfoil. Be sure to educate any of your visitors who may be launching a boat here or merely bringing in a bait bucket from another lake. The milfoil can be transferred from boat bottoms and buckets very, very easily, so inspecting and removing vegetation is a must.

Enjoy the rest of summer!

– Eileen Ronyak



A family of geese on the point by the Totem Pole, courtesy Margaret Behmer (taken May 2009)

what is a good neighbor?

Those of us who snowmobile on the lake know that cutting across the Grandpa Schroeder property makes a great shortcut to the BP gas station. After several years of damaged lawn, Kurt Schroeder had enough. But, instead of stretching a snow fence across the entire property frontage, Kurt created a fenced corridor for snowmobiles to leave the lake, get onto South Rifle Road, and make their way to gas.

This is my idea of a good neighbor. Kurt, thank you so much.

– David Hibbard



Trillium on Crescent Lake property, courtesy Glen Peterson (taken May 2009)

water 380

Treehaven summer session on Crescent Lake

–John Heusinkveld
Treehaven Assistant Director

Perhaps in recent summers you have seen an odd looking boat motoring the shallows of the more undeveloped shorelines of Crescent Lake. A big silver jon boat with a high railing in the front, a center console, strange banks of lights across the bow and stern, a low sound emanating from an accessory generator and an odd apparatus of long boom arms extending from the bow with cable leads dangling in the water like the tentacles of some space age octopus.

What you are observing is a "boom shocker", named for the long "booms" extending from the bow. This boat is staffed by college students surveying fish populations using electroshock as part of a weeklong class from "Treehaven", the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point College of Natural Resources field station, located between Rhinelander and Tomahawk.

In their sophomore year, all CNR majors must, as part of their degree requirement, either attend a 5 week European Studies course or, more commonly, attend the six weeks of Summer Session at Treehaven, an outstanding interdisciplinary and hands on approach to the natural resource fields they will eventually be working in. For 25 years Treehaven has run this program (previously held at Clam Lake), and the 1400 acre property was the generous donation of the Vallier family, whose many conservation efforts have benefitted people all across Wisconsin.

Over the six weeks, each student participates in forestry, water, wildlife and soils classes and takes a rigorous exam identifying by common and scientific name 150 or so native plant species. Emphasis is placed on learning to use the tools and equipment specific to each discipline, and unavailable in a traditional classroom setting. After the 4th of July, Treehaven receives another 100 students, so doing the math will tell you that chances are better than not that if you know someone working in natural resources, they probably attended Treehaven, and it was likely one of the more important and valued experiences of their college career.

The weeklong class of "Water 380" spends two days on a stream, and then two days on a lake environment, with a different location and different group of students rotating through each week. A class is commonly composed of 16 students divided into 4 person "crews", who work together complet-



Above, UW Stevens Point students on the Treehaven "boomshocker" jon boat.

Right, holding tank on board.



ing exercises and compiling reports. Crescent Lake is commonly sampled once each summer as part of that rotation.

The students study both chemical and physical properties of the water, measuring among other things pH, dissolved oxygen, clarity, topographic charting, aquatic invertebrates (or bugs), macrophytes (plants), conductivity, temperature profiles, and, of course, fish.

Fish are non-lethally sampled through static "fyke nets" set from shore or by pulling seine nets. The boomshocking boat is an exciting culmination of their week, and this method temporarily stuns the fish for quick measurement and species identification before re-release back into their home water. (A DNR crew in an official survey might be clipping fins or implanting tags or radio transmitters for monitoring populations.)

Although the data gathered is not empirical in that the emphasis is on teaching students how to use equipment, it nonetheless provides an interesting "snapshot" of the health of a lake at a given point in time. In spite of its heavy usage, Crescent lake has a healthy population of fish,

and the crews have over the years turned up some nice walleye, smallmouth and musky (and some trophy perch that just might surprise you!), and is considered a "higher quality" body of water for its clarity and general profiles.

In particular, the undeveloped shorelines which provide incidence for natural woody debris in the shallows and native weedbeds such as potomegeton amphipholius ("musky cabbage"), are key to sustaining fish life, and should be carefully preserved for the important natural habitat they provide.

So if you see such an unusual boat, give us a wave, and perhaps we can show you a fish or two or have the students tell you about their interesting exercises on your wonderful lake.

A-1 SEPTIC SERVICE

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Party Room Now Available

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crescent lake association board

PRESIDENT

Jim Gehrke

VICE PRESIDENT

Glen Peterson

TREASURER

Joanne Hibbard

SECRETARY

Connie Anderson

BOARD MEMBERS

Terry Goldbach

Al Heerey

Mike DeWolff

committee appointments

To be updated next newsletter

MEMBERSHIP:

Joanne Hibbard

Pat Heerey

Peter Brazionis

LAKE & COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT:

Glen Peterson

Jim Voborsky

PROGRAM, REFRESHMENTS &
ACTIVITIES:

Glen Peterson

AUDIT: Joanne Hibbard

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*Mention this ad & get your
2nd bucket of balls FREE!*

Call **282-6565**
for reservations or tee times

eurasian water milfoil

Continued from front page

plant communities and forms thick underwater beds of tangled stems and vast mats of vegetation at the water surface. These dense beds cause loss of plant diversity, degrade water quality, and may reduce habitat for fish, invertebrates and wildlife. They also hinder boating, swimming and fishing.

how does it spread?

This prolific plant spreads by shoots and runners that creep along the beds of lakes and rivers. New plants also grow from small fragments transported from one water body to another.

Commonly it's transported by boats and trailers but could also be transported on water skis, scuba gear, or waterfowl. EWM has become a successful invader primarily by means of its stem fragments. A single fragment can take root and form a new colony.

EWM is most successful in water disturbed by cultural developments such as shoreline construction, watershed runoff, aquatic invasive species control, or heavy boat traffic.

To help prevent the spread of EWM and other invasive species, please take the following steps:

- Inspect your boat and remove any visible mud, plants, fish, or bugs before transporting
- Drain water from equipment (boat, motor, trailer, live wells) before transporting
- Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash

Wisconsin laws prohibit launching a boat or placing a trailer or boat equipment in navigable waters if it has aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached.

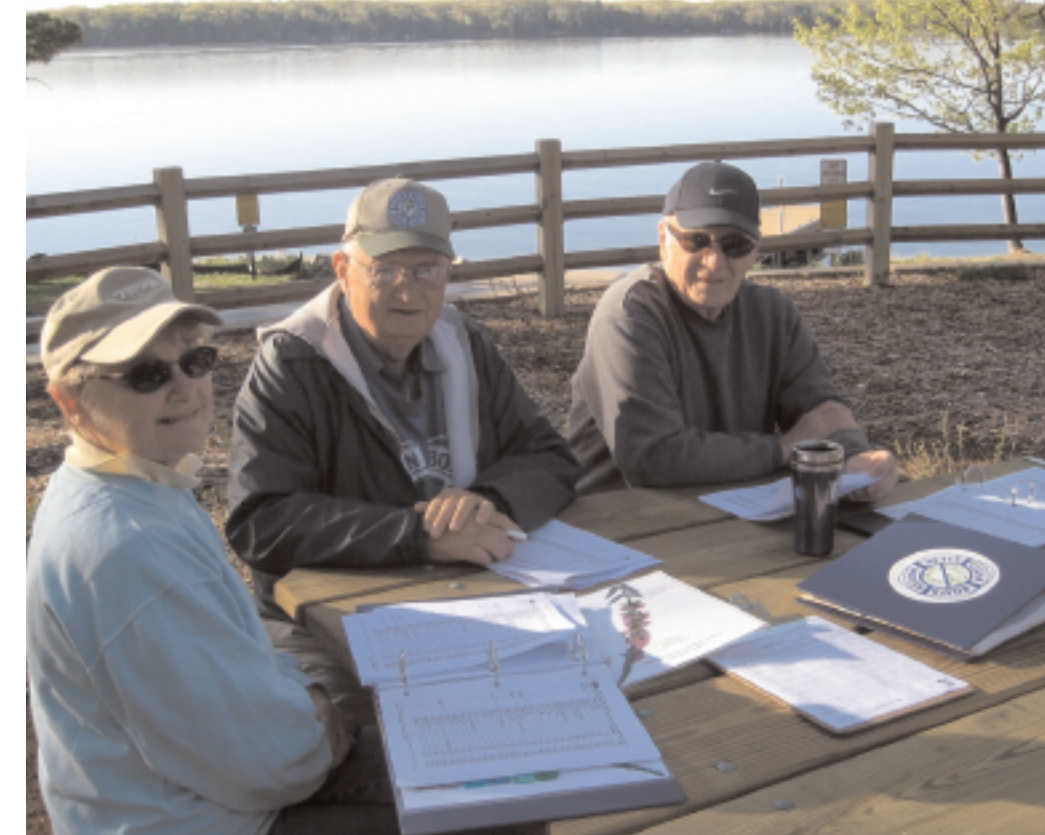
would you like this newsletter emailed?

Many of you enjoy receiving this newsletter via email, instead of by mail. It arrives faster, saves money and work for the volunteers who fold, tape, stamp, and mail - and saves a tree!

The email looks just like this print newsletter, with all the pictures included! Plus, we can send you quick updates between newsletters. Help us save - plus get more!

Please contact Jim Gehrke with your email address: kayjimg@charter.net

**get your news by
email - fast, easy!**



Glen Peterson, center, training Carol and Rick Hitchcock on boat inspection

clean boats clean water we need your help

Watercraft inspections continue this year with the addition of a few new volunteers. A very big THANK YOU to all those who have come forward, expressed interest, and attended a training session this summer.

Many of our volunteers have probably received a call from me this summer asking if you would be available for certain dates. I don't enjoy putting folks on the spot and asking for their help over the phone, but the response to the numerous emails is pretty limited. If some of you would prefer a phone call and would sign up that way, please let me know and I'll do that.

I would ask those volunteers who are trained to please schedule your dates prior to the beginning of the month. Too often, I'm making phone calls on Friday night, trying to get someone for the weekend. I don't mind covering a shift at the landing occasionally,

but when I work down there, the Crescent Lake Association does NOT get credit toward the grant in the way of matching funds. It is in our best interest to have Volunteers staffing the landing.

For those new volunteers, or those who haven't done it in awhile and would prefer to do shifts with another person, just let me know and I'll make sure we have 2 volunteers on those days. The more the merrier!

Also, besides the weekend shifts, we need to get 6-8 hours/week in from Mon.-Fri. Any time spent at the landing doing watercraft inspections counts! Education is our main focus and will be our best defense in keeping the waters of Crescent Lake free from Aquatic Invasive Species. Thanks for your support!

- Joel Flory
Clean Boats/Clean Waters Volunteer Coordinator
715-490-3039



next Association meeting date

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20
7:30 p.m.
location TBD

address changes

Contact Joanne Hibbard with your address changes (local and home, if different).

Call Joanne at 282-5922 or email davidandjoanne@charter.net



photo, courtesy Glen Peterson

lake monitoring report

On a beautiful morning in June a group of dedicated volunteers met at the boat landing and carefully wrapped two pontoon boats in plastic in preparation for one of our two annual outings to rake up vegetation and identify it. Connie Anderson, Joel Flory, Jim Gehrke, Dick and Shirley Lower and Glen Peterson with the help of Joel's son Bridger and daughter Sage manned the boats, the rakes, the GPS's and the identification sheets to carefully comb the lake bottom. **THE GOOD NEWS IS WE DID NOT FIND ANY VEGETATION THAT WE SUSPECTED OF BEING AN INVASIVE SPECIES.**

We sent one boat in each direction from the boat landing and met each other about four hours later near the home of Greg and Cheryl Edwards where the creek leaves the lake. We threw out the rakes about 400 times and recorded the names of the plants found with the corresponding locations. If no vegetation was found we recorded that as well. We also recorded a number one, two or three to indicate the density of the vegetation; three = high density and one = low density. We also noted on the chart if the bottom is muck, sand or rock.

We have now done similar monitoring for four years and will eventually try to make suppositions about the growth of types of plants. This spring we found abundant green algae. This is not an invasive and is not a toxic variety of algae. It is concerning to many lake users because it looks slimy and makes wading less pleasant. According to a water vegetation expert from the DNR, it is not necessarily an indication that the water is polluted. In fact, this type of algae is sometimes found in lakes that are not inhabited by people and have no home sites on them. He said that several other lakes have brought in samples this year because of an increase of this green algae. If it seems that this algae continues to spread and become more dense, we will search for additional information as to the reason. It may be cyclical and our monitoring next spring may show less dense growth.

If any of you would like to help with the next monitoring activity, call Jim Gehrke (282-5924) or Joel Flory (282-7093).



2009 summer on Crescent Lake



Left, some of the wonderful boat entries in our 2009 Crescent Lake Boat parade.

Above, Annual Meeting: officers Connie Anderson and Jim Gehrke giving reports and president Jim Gehrke with Pat Heerey, 2009 Friend of the Lake.

another grant?

At our Annual Meeting, President Jim Gehrke reported that AIS Control grant monies are no longer available for prevention. We are pursuing partnering with Squash Lake for AIS management funds.

In the meantime the Lake Association agreed that we should continue our preventive efforts out of our current association budget.

fireworks thanks

Responsible parties holding licenses from the ATF for the Crescent Lake fireworks include Dave Hibard, Jim Gehrke, Steve Mabry, and Kerry Hanson. Thanks to them for coordinating another wonderful July display.

Thanks also to Bob LeFebvre's welding class for fixing our fireworks rods and to the Bible Camp for their moving rendition of our National Anthem.

Also appreciation to the pickup crew who made sure everything was cleaned up the next morning.



Above, Fireworks setup crew. Below, David Hibbard with Jim Gehrke, setting up fireworks



septic systems

At our July Lake Association Annual Meeting, Bob Hintz reported on the status of compliant systems on properties surrounding Crescent Lake. Oneida County Zoning Technician Kurt Bloss has identified old systems before mid-1980; these are grandfathered systems not required to be inspected every 3 years.

Of 220 parcels with potential septic systems, there are 81 properties with old or non-existent systems. Oneida County currently has no funds for inspecting systems.

boat parade

Thanks to everyone who participated in the annual July 4 Boat Parade; many wonderful creations and lots of enthusiasm made this a memorable event we shared with our families and our lake neighbors. All participants deserve an award!

MOST PATRIOTIC AWARDS

■ Binder Family for their representation of the branches of the military and live Statue of Liberty

■ Zarzecki Family for their re-enactment of the War for Independence between the British and the colonies

MOST CREATIVE AWARDS

■ Shandley Family for their tribute to Michael Jackson and choreographed dance to Thriller

■ Polzen Family for their tribute to the Wisconsin Badgers

WILD N CRAZY AWARDS

■ Boresma Family for their National Lampoon theme

■ Moran Family for their grass skirts and polynesian theme complete with palm tree

hodag musky hunt

We have received a response from the Rhinelander Chamber regarding our concern that Crescent Lake is partnered with lakes with invasive species.

This year they will stipulate that participants will be able to start fishing at Crescent Lake, but are unable to transfer to Crescent from other lakes. This from Kim Swisher, Executive Director of the Rhinelander Chamber of Commerce.

eagle cove request denied

The Oneida County Planning and Zoning Committee has refused to issue a conditional use permit to the Jaros Brothers who want to build Eagle Cove Camp and Conference Center, a bible camp on Squash Lake.

The project includes plans for a large building complex that would house a chapel, classrooms, a dining hall, lodging facilities and a multi-purpose room/gymnasium for a year-round bible camp.

The Jaros family plans to appeal the decision.