

Crescent Lake News

March
2008

message message from Eileen

Hi Lake Neighbors,

Whether you're here at the lake or you've escaped to warmer climes, it's an exciting time of year. We can look back at most of the winter and now enjoy the longer hours of sunshine and the little hints that the big chill is leaving us and Mother Nature's version of Extreme Makeover, is just around the corner.

We've had almost sixty inches of snow and days and days of below zero weather. We've skied and sledged and snowmobiled and ice fished and marvelled at the beauty of the black and white landscape.

The lake froze over on November 28th and the ice presently is about two feet thick. The ice fishing shanties have to be off the lake by the first Sunday after the 13th of March, so it's a pretty sure thing that Spring is coming and that the two feet of ice will melt into the clear sparkling lake we love.

The loons, (avian type,) are down in Florida but they'll time it just right to be back right after the lake liquifies. Last year the ice went out on April 5th, but we'd have to have some pretty warm weather and some rains to have it happen that early this year.

Our Lake Association hasn't rested on the laurels of having received that grant that studied the lake. What a wonderful group of officers and board mem-

continued inside . . .



Please send us your lake photos so we can print your views of our beautiful lake in future newsletters. – heerey@charter.net



Juvenile eagle on Crescent Lake. Photo taken by Gil Gillespie

Come to our March Meeting!

March 18, 2008

7:30 p.m.

Town of Crescent
Fire Hall
Turn south off Hwy 8 at
entrance to Northwrod
Golf Course

new grant proposal

Join us Tuesday evening, March 18, for an information-filled evening of issues and news about our lake since our meeting last October.

President Jim Gehrke is presenting an overview of our 2008 grant proposal to the DNR. Funds requested include monies for lake shoreline monitoring, community education about invasive species, and recognition for volunteer help. One of the exciting proposed projects is a calendar featuring your Crescent Lake images. *(See more about the grant proposal inside.)*

Mike Jewell from the Bible Camp will address his rezoning request. *(More inside.)*

Hear updates and exciting upcoming events. See you on Tuesday, March 18.

A-1 SEPTIC SERVICE

- Pumping of Septic & Grease Traps
- Sewer & Drain cleaning (city & rural)
- Sewer Rodding - Steam Thawing
- Holding Tank Contracts
- Portable Toilet Rentals (day, week, mo.)
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Jim Voborsky

Al Heerey

committee appointments

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Peter Brazionis

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Glen Peterson

Kathy Muntner

Jim Voborsky

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Kathy Muntner

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Joanne Hibbard

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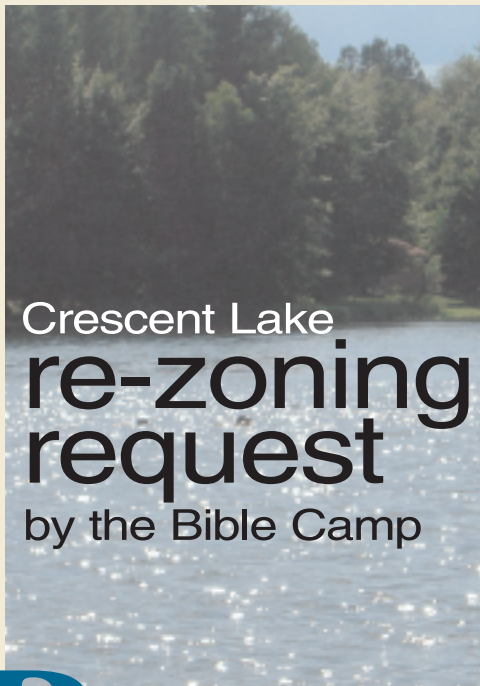
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Crescent Lake re-zoning request by the Bible Camp

Recently the Crescent Lake Bible Camp has requested that the Town of Crescent change a parcel of land owned by the camp from recreational to general use. The reason for the request is so that the camp can build an office building on their property just off Crescent Road.

When the request came to the town planning

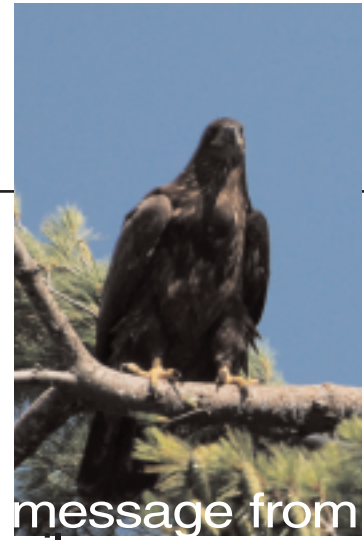
commission, the commission was informed of events leading to the camp being placed in the recreational category. At the time (Nov. 2001) the county asked the Bible Camp and the lake association to work out some compromise that would permit the camp to expand and not cause camp neighbors and lake residents to become concerned about additional traffic or development on or near the lake.

Since the lake association was part of the original decision-making process, the town has asked the camp to go to the Lake Association to get support for the current request.

Mike Jewell of the camp will be at the March 18 meeting to outline the project that is being proposed and to provide rationale for the need for the new facility. Following Mike's talk, there will be an opportunity for Association members and others present to ask questions and make comments.

Encourage your neighbors and friends to come to the meeting and provide input. At some time in the future the lake association board may have to take a formal position on the rezone.

This may be the only opportunity the board will have to hear your input.



message from eileen

continued from page 1

have now applied for another grant to help protect our lake from invasive species and fish disease threats that are now in many of our state lakes. It seems that just like with human health, prevention is the best medicine - to assure a healthy lake in the future, we must be proactive and preventive.

Have a wonderful spring and join us at the Association meetings whenever you're able. It's fun to know the folks who are sharing this beautiful Crescent Lake.

- Eileen Ronyak

photo, courtesy Gil Gillespie

we need more volunteers

The DNR Clean Boats / Clean Waters program has been supported by Crescent Lake volunteers who have inspected boats at the landing on Hwy 8 for the past four years. We have been successful in preventing the introduction of invasive species thus far. Some members have donated many hours and some have recently offered to help. Thanks to all these generous folks.



Our efforts need to be increased to man more weekend hours during high traffic entry times on our lake. We also hope to extend hours beyond the weekend. Training takes only a couple hours. Then just let the coordinator know which 3-4 hour shift a month you can work; you pick the time.

The response that we get from lake users is supportive and considerate. In fact, it's fun to visit with visitors and neighbors who use the landing.

Please help us monitor the landing; contact Glen Peterson: glenrpeterson@aol.com or 847-742-6532.

legal corner

*Wisconsin Boating Regulations
Wisconsin DNR*

Q What is the correct way to approach other boats on the water?

A When 2 motorboats are approaching each other head-on, each boat shall bear to the right and pass the other boat on its left side.

When 2 motorboats are approaching each other at right angles or in a crossing situation, the boat on the right is the privileged boat and has the right-of-way. The boat on the left shall slow and/or change course to cross behind the privileged boat to avoid collision.

2008 Wisconsin Lakes Convention

Register by April 7 for the annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay April 17-19.

Topics include:

- How to keep your shoreline healthy
- Groundwater science, low water levels
- Name that plant: Aquatic plant ID
- How to engage youth in lake issues
- Much more

The convention is being held at the KI Convention Center and Regency Suites, Green Bay. For more information go to: uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions

address changes

Contact Joanne Hibbard with your address changes. We will also add distribution to those who maintain property on our lake, even if they are not landowners.

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

NOTE: If there is a red dot on your mailing address, your dues for 2007/2008 are due.
CRESCENT LAKE ASSOCIATION FISCAL YEAR: August 1 - July 31



Crescent Lake Association
PO Box 265
Rhinelander WI 54501

Crescent Lake News



Help support
our Crescent Lake
Association

Please send your annual dues to:

The Crescent Lake Association
PO Box 265
Rhinelander WI 54501

Annual Dues

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

\$ _____ Fireworks Donation

\$ _____ Total

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ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please help us compile a complete list of email addresses.

friend of the lake award

Last year we presented the first Friend of the Lake Award to Jim Voborsky.

We hope to make this recognition of a lake resident who is dedicated to the beauty and health of our lake an annual event.

So, put on your thinking cap and nominate one of the many deserving Association members. The only requirement is that the nominee should have made a contribution to the Crescent Lake over a period of several years.

Please submit your nomination and the reasons why you feel the nominee is worthy of this award, in writing to any member of the board.

All nominees will be discussed and the board will select one person in June to receive the award at the annual meeting in July.

Send in your nomination now.

proposed bylaws change

In response to several inquiries made at our annual meeting last summer, the Board of Directors has discussed the possibility of changing our fiscal year from August 1 – July 31 to a calendar-year fiscal year that begins January 1.

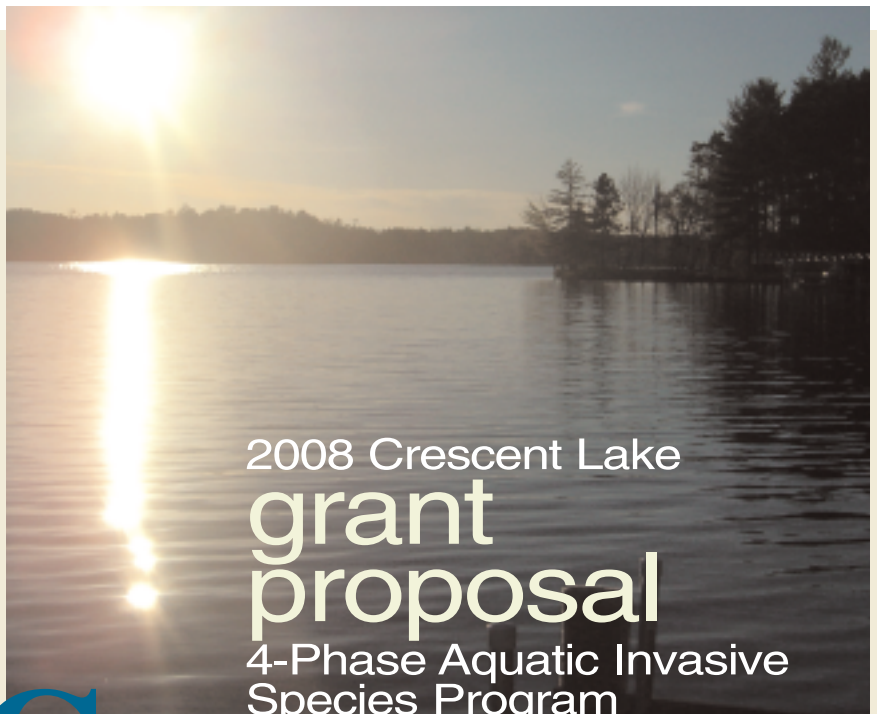
This would make annual Association membership fees due January 1, instead of mid-year, as they are now.

The proposed change will be explained, discussed, and voted on at the March 18 meeting.

did you know...

Top 2 most common boating violations:

1. Fail to provide appropriate number of personal flotation devices
2. Operate boat without valid certificate of registration number



2008 Crescent Lake grant proposal 4-Phase Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Crescent Lake Association board members Kathy Muntner and Jim Gehrke submitted a grant proposal to the DNR seeking funds to continue and expand efforts to protect the lake from invasive species. This proposal was voted on and approved by our members at our annual meeting in July.

The grant application was delivered to the DNR office on February 1, 2008. It is anticipated that we will learn if the proposal is successful about April 1st. If we get the grant we will be involved in a four phase aquatic invasive species program.

phase 1: inspection

The inspection of boats at the public landing on Hwy 8 is already familiar to members of our Association.

The grant would enable us to purchase handout materials kits, t-shirts for inspectors (to help visitors recognize their purpose), shelving to store the kits onsite at the landing in the storeroom, and folding chairs for the inspectors.

phase 2: vegetation monitoring

With monies from the grant, we will purchase two telescoping rakes to be used to determine the variety and density of aquatic plant species in our lake. This would enable us to continue the monitoring that took place last summer as part of our first grant.

phase 3: education

This phase of the grant is our invasive species education program for area residents and visitors. We plan to create and distribute placemats for local eating establishments, bags to be used at retail establishments, and labels for a local bait shop to put on bait containers.

We will also purchase additional invasive species signs for the public boat landing.

The grant will include funds to create and print a calendar featuring images of Crescent Lake and educational messages about invasive species. Pictures of our beautiful lake featured on each month's calendar page will be contributed by members. The calendars will be distributed to Lake Association members and other area residents and interested parties.

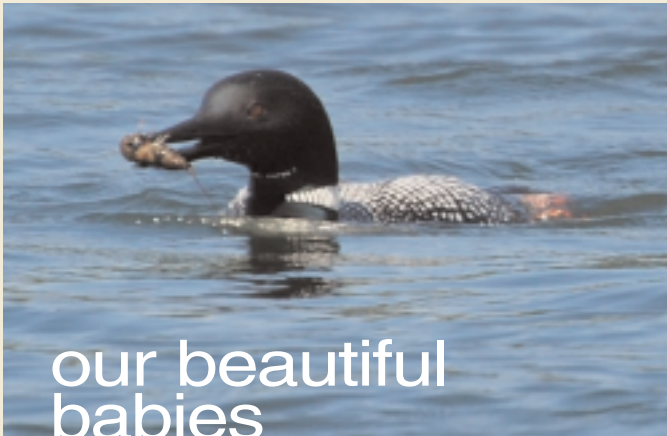
phase 4: recognition

Final phase is a recognition / compensation phase. A paid coordinator will organize these activities, and award a token of appreciation to all volunteers.

The total amount of grant funds that will be made available to the Association, if the grant is approved, is \$13,743.00 over a two-year period. To get these funds, volunteers will need to contribute \$6,416.00 in volunteer time.

This is where we need your help. Each of you will be needed to contribute a little bit of time.

Further information about how you can help will be provided in future newsletters, *if we receive the grant.*



our beautiful babies



photos courtesy, Gil Gillespie

Following is an excerpt from the final report on:

the aquatic plant survey

The aquatic plant survey conducted on Crescent Lake indicates that a good variety of plant species are present in the lake. It appears that densities are quite low compared to past years, according to residents' comments.

Of the 578 points surveyed, vegetation was found at 190. Plants were not found growing much beyond the depth of 20 feet in Crescent Lake.

Following is a list of the 17 species of aquatic plants found in the survey in the order of abundance and the benefits of each species:

- Coontail – provides prime habitat during winter for a host of critters; bushy stems provide shelter for invertebrates and fish
- Common waterweed – food and habitat for fish, waterfowl
- Filament leaf pondweed
- Filamentous algae – provides habitat for invertebrates
- Wild celery – premiere source of waterfowl food; beds are good fish habitat that provide shade, shelter, and feeding
- Robbins pondweed – provides habitat for invertebrates; good cover and foraging for fish, particularly northern pike
- Large-leaf pondweed – shade, shelter, and forage for fish; abundant production of large nutlets makes valuable waterfowl food
- Pickerelweed – haven for insects; seeds eaten by waterfowl and muskrats; important shoreline stabilizer that dampens wave action
- Dwarf water milfoil – good spawning habitat for panfish and shelter for invertebrates; stabilizes sediment
- Flat-stem pondweed – important food for waterfowl; may be grazed by muskrat, beaver, deer
- Illinois pondweed – fruit important food source for waterfowl; grazed by muskrat, deer, beaver, moose
- White water lily – seeds for waterfowl; rhizomes eaten by deer, muskrat, beaver, porcupine; shade and shelter for fish, invertebrates
- Spatterdock – anchors shallow water community
- Bushy pondweed – important food for waterfowl, marsh birds, muskrat; food and shelter for fish
- Vasey's pondweed
- Common bladderwort – trailing stems provide food and cover for fish; provides habitat in very loose sediment
- White-stem pondweed – fruit is valuable waterfowl food; valuable musky habitat

There were no invasive plant species found in the lake.

According to residents who have used the lake for a number of years, the density and size of aquatic plant beds is greatly reduced as compared to previous years. This may be due to the Rusty crayfish population in the lake.

Rustys are known to eat large quantities of aquatic plants and reduce the number of species and density of native plants. Rustys are an aggressive species that may cause a number of negative environmental impacts, including decreasing fish populations by eating invertebrates that fish feed on and by eating fish eggs.

The crayfish are being harvested by trapping in several areas throughout the lake; this seems to have had a positive effect on reducing the population of Rustys in Crescent Lake.

how to cook crayfish

Bob LeClair

■ HOW TO CLEAN CRAYFISH

Hold live crayfish in one hand and with our other hand, grab the back of the crayfish at the rusty spots and pull the back off. De-vein by pulling the middle tail flipper out.

■ HOW TO BOIL CRAYFISH

Mix 3/4 cup salt to one gallon water; one gallon mixture per gallon crayfish. Add handful fresh or frozen dill to salt water.

Bring water to boil; drop crayfish in and bring back to boil. Cook for 15 minutes. Enjoy!