



March 2012



*The eastern shore begins the ice-out process, March 12.*

**Next meeting: Tues, March 20**

**7 pm, Crescent Town Hall | Hwy 8 & Golf Course Rd**

### **AGENDA**

- ⇒ Bob Martini, retired DNR water resources specialist & Crescent neighbor, will speak on the purposes and goals of the Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association and WI NR 115.
- ⇒ Update on purple loosestrife control measures based on plant discoveries in 2011.
- ⇒ Discussion on lake monitoring and boat inspection plans for coming summer season.

## **Crescent Lake Association**



### ***NEW SEASON, NEW LOOK***

**F**or the past few years, I enjoyed the CLA News under the able guidance of my preceding editor, Pat Heerey. Replete with photos and articles that were always appropriate for long-term display, casual visitors to our cottage would pick up our worn-out copies and be struck by the comprehensive and scientifically informed nature of the Newsletter's coverage of lake stewardship issues, while also reveling in the Newsletter's lighter fare covering friendship, events, volunteerism, and abundant loons. Our Association is critical to our quality of life on Crescent, and the News helps provide just a sample of the evidence of how our members work for all of us.

While the Newsletter may look different, my goals are the same: to share the latest intel on what's happening lakeside, to inform on the best practices for invasives management, and to provide just one more way for us to connect as neighbors in meaningful ways. I hope you enjoy the new feature, "Better Know A Neighbor." As stewards of the Lake, we are highly fortunate to live among so many tremendously different forms of wildlife who depend on the natural areas of our property. I look forward to meeting more of our readers at the coming meetings and hearing your feedback.

*Yours in the outdoors, Joel Knutson*

### **Questions & Feedback**

*Whether it is a unique photo, suggestion for a future article, address change, or any other contribution you wish to share, we welcome your input. Please write to "Editor," c/o CLA, PO Box 265, Rhinelander, WI, 54501, or email: crescentlakewi@gmail.com.*

# EPIC SNOW

But one fast week and it was gone...



## Hi Lake Neighbors!

It's March 1 now and our lake lies dormant. The top twenty inches are frozen solid and it's covered with about 30 inches of snow. It froze over on December 1st and the ice shanties dotted the bays until late last month. On Leap Day (Feb. 29th), we had our biggest snowfall of the season – about 20 inches – so our snow is fresh and white and sparkling in the sun. It was a blustery storm that left the landscape with thigh high drifts and snow laden branches. It was picture postcard pretty and the snowbanks along the driveways added to the massive display of winter white. The resident snowmobilers and skiers were happy to prolong the time they have left to enjoy their sports. There wasn't a lot of winter to complain about this year, only a few days of below zero weather and lots of days in the upper twenties and lower thirties, enough ice to drive trucks all over the lake and not enough snow to tax the shoveling muscles – except maybe this last storm. Now it's almost time to tap Maple trees, plant tomato and pepper seeds, and look forward to the coming miracle of Spring.

*Eileen Ronyak*

The high moisture content of the snow led forecasters to estimate the rain equivalent of the storm was 3-4 inches of water (about twice the usual 10:1 ratio), which is not surprising to the “wet basement” set. As fast as the snow arrived, we sustained two weeks of highly unusual consistently warm temperatures into the 60s and 70s, which caused a fast runoff. The storm still had a highly beneficial overall impact on our long term drought status, bringing the region closer to historically normal levels after a mixed-results winter.

## U.S. Drought Monitor

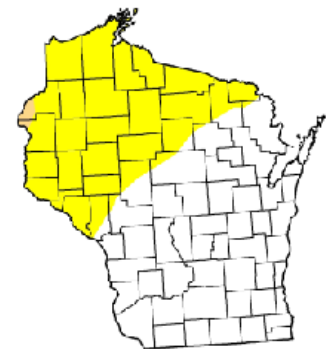
March 13, 2012  
Valid 7:40a EST

### Wisconsin

Name	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	D1-D4	D1-D2	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	D4
Current	58.43	41.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-1 Week (03/06/2012) (sat)	58.43	41.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2 Months Ago (02/13/2012) (sat)	58.43	41.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2012) (sat)	50.43	41.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011) (sat)	55.61	34.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (03/20/2011) (sat)	39.72	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

#### Legend:

- D0: Abnormally Dry
- D1: Drought - Moderate
- D2: Drought - Severe
- D3: Drought - Extreme
- D4: Drought - Exceptional



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, March 15, 2012  
Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

## Pileated Woodpecker

Contributed by Rosie Page.

The second-largest woodpecker in North America lives and works among us year-round on Crescent Lake. The brilliantly colored pileated woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*, plays a critical role in the ecology of the mixed forests -- and consumes nearly a ton of biting insects each year! Easily identified by their loud call, these birds actually sound similar to a Northern Flicker or tree frog. Yellow feathers over the nostrils deflect wood chips as it digs out holes under tree bark to expose the larvae of wood-boring insects. Favorites include long-horned beetles and carpenter ants, and nearby berries and seeds if present. What we notice most is drumming, repeated pounding on hollow areas of trees. At its most powerful, drumming accompanies roosting in hollow trees with multiple entrance holes. Drumming serves as sonar to detect insect movement in hollow trees and identify the best foraging holes. During spring, males drum to claim territory and attract mates, just as a robin does with song. This attention-seeking racket can echo long distances, but eases up in May when breeding begins. Woodpeckers form long-term pairs who work as teams to excavate new nesting cavities annually. Both the male and female incubate the eggs (typically 4) for about 18 days and then care for young about a month, until fledging occurs.



### Bird-friendly Hotels

The best way to embrace *Dryocopus*' unique antics is to respect its current habitat or provide viable alternatives: the tree pictured above hosts a diligent nested pair who work every day, essentially uninterested in the homes nearby. Standing dead trees (“snags”) are veritable hotels for birds, mammals, and insects. Let them stand, unless they pose a safety hazard. If felled, leave them on the ground to decay, providing another source of food and habitat for ground-dwellers. Resist over-trimming, since dead limbs or stumps in low-traffic areas provide safe foraging sites. Nest boxes are often accepted for roosting. Feeders provide a pecking alternative. But because woodpeckers spend several hours each day tapping for insects, they may reveal infestations in cedar siding or log homes. Potential damage is easily mitigated: seal grooves with caulk to minimize insect activity, and putty over initial holes. Rather than rush to vinyl, consider proven methods of behavior redirection. Typically, vulnerable areas are about 18” below the roof line, so placing wire, foil, or sheet metal over this area discourages pecking. Simple bird netting prevents access altogether. Owl decoys, rubber snakes, and shiny visual deterrents such as foil strips may also redirect harmful activity.



If have a pair o' pileateds in your midst it may be difficult to tell at first if they are a bonded pair or potential rivals. Males, like “Pounder” here, feature a more extensive head crest than females (running the full length from the beak) and sport a distinctive secondary red stripe under the beak. Courtesy of Amy Strack.

# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES: YEAR IN REVIEW



*Take care to bag purple loosestrife plants before cutting and digging so as not to spread seeds in the water. Loosestrife seeds continue to spread for future germination even when they appear dormant. Plants collected in October.*



*Steve Mabrey & Jim Gehrke demonstrate proper removal methods: remove the entire plant to the roots, dispose of completely and securely. All 100+ plants collected were burned, with remnant soil buried outside the watershed.*

AIS efforts for the 2011 were successful insofar as we avoided the most invasive threat Crescent Lake faces: Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). However, in October we confirmed the presence of purple loosestrife along the western shore, requiring a removal of over 100 plants. Like all invasives, purple loosestrife crowds out native vegetation and makes the littoral zone less habitable for wildlife and aquatic life. We already invested over 50 volunteer hours combating the plants and committed numerous meetings establishing proactive control plans. This summer we will renew our campaign to root out and destroy the plants as part of our annual efforts. Earlier in the summer we discovered a plant fragment that seemed to possess all of the characteristics of EWM; further scrutiny by the DNR and a second expert proved it to be Northern Milfoil -- not an invasive. The fact remains that this is a non-native plant likely introduced to the lake via boat; we simply dodged a bullet that it was not EWM.

*Our greatest enemy is complacency, and therefore in 2012, we must:*

- ***Train more volunteers.*** We always need more boat inspectors and lake monitors. Contact Bill Akan.
- ***Refine our first response efforts.*** This committee plans for immediate action if we locate EWM, and was utilized in our control of purple loosestrife last fall. Please contact Terry Goldbach to help: 715-282-7161, terrygoldbach@charter.net.
- ***Encourage every lake resident to become active in the Crescent Lake Association.*** CLA received two grants in preceding years to help preserve the Lake by establishing our protection programs. The past two years we have spent about \$14,800 on our protection and education efforts, which has also saved residents of the Lake significant expenditures -- CLA dues remain just \$10 dollars annually! If the destruction of lakes for wildlife and recreation is not sufficient motivation for further involvement, please consider the following: invasives do not “merely” destroy our waterways for wildlife and recreation, property owners are likely to suffer tremendous declines in property values -- 15% is a conservative estimate. As a Lake we must step up and volunteer our time as well as our money or face consequences of a potential irreversible decline in the quality of Crescent Lake as in so many other Wisconsin waterways. Please contact any Crescent Lake Board member and add your name to the volunteer list in 2012.

*Jim Gehrke*

## 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.)
- Soil Testing - Septic/Well inspections
- Septic Installation

MPRS 261251 24 hour Emergency Service

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Tom Arts. Owner

## 2012 MEETING DATES

Tuesday March 20  
Saturday, May 19 (Breakfast Potluck)  
Tuesday, July 3: Fireworks  
Wednesday, July 4: Boat Parade  
Saturday, July 21 (Annual Meeting)  
Tuesday, October 23



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Secretary *Connie Anderson*

Board Members *Ron Paque*  
*Dave McLaughlin* *Steve Mabrey*

### CLA Committees

Membership/Publicity *Ron Paque*  
Preservation *Connie Anderson*  
Programs *Glen Peterson*  
Audit *Dave McLaughlin*

AIS Grant *Jim Gehrke*  
July 4 Activities *Steve Mabrey*  
AIS First Response *Steve Mabrey*  
AIS Team members

*Jim Voborsky, Terry Goldbach,  
Dick Lower, Bruce Hardy, Roger  
Shandley, Mike Mack, Dan Jesse*

## Henkel's Town Pump

### SPECIALS

**FRIDAY:** Shrimp Basket or Fish Fry

**SATURDAY:** Mexican Day 11am - 9pm

**SUNDAY:** Buckets of Chicken

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# Who will be first on the water?



*With the warm-up expected to continue unabated in the near future, we could be looking at a pre-April ice-out. What is the earliest spring you recall? Have you dropped boats in only to watch them fill with snow? Share your spring stories and pictures with us and we will post a selection to our website @ crescentlakewi.org in April and in the May edition of the newsletter. Email crescentlakewi@gmail.com with "spring" in the subject line.*

## **BOAT LANDING INSPECTORS NEEDED FOR SPRING!**

A pleasant way to spend a morning or afternoon! Please consider joining your friends & neighbors as the first line of defense against invasives. All training is provided.

**Special UWEX invasives training workshop for new & experienced volunteers: May 3!**

**Contact Crescent Lake's AIS Coordinator, Bill Akan**

**715-369-3773**

**akan\_bill@yahoo.com**

**Crescent Lake  
Association**

PO Box 265  
Rhineland, WI  
54501

