

Crescent Lake News

May 2008



Ice finally breaking up on Crescent Lake, April 26, 2008. Photo, courtesy Joanne Hibbard

maple syrup season with Eileen & Bing

Hi Lake Neighbors,

Inside this newsletter are pictures of our maple syrup production this year. Eileen and I have been making maple syrup since 1972. We began tapping the maple trees at Crescent Lake Bible Camp about 1973.

Rev. Williamson was gracious enough to permit us to use the sugar maples in the Camp's forest, west of the main lodge back in 1973 and we have been granted the use of those trees ever since by the different camp directors. We call it the Crescent Lake Bible Camp Sugar Bush.

The pictures are of Bing gathering the sap with some of the 67 bags hanging on the trees in the background. You can see our ATV and
continued inside . . .



*You are invited to the Crescent Lake Association
May meeting!*

May 14, 2008

7:30 p.m.

Town of Crescent
Fire Hall

Turn south off Hwy 8 at
entrance to Northwrod
Golf Course

Guest Speaker:
Emil Vozka

Mercury Contaminated Fish

Join us Wednesday evening, May 14. Emil Vozka, an avid Rhinelander fisherman, will share his story about the risks of mercury-contaminated fish.

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

We will also vote on a constitution change.

Hear the latest updates and about upcoming events. Come visit with your neighbors. See you on Wednesday, May 14.

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

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- 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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message from Eileen&Bing maple syrup season

Continued from cover

sled (a gift from Jim Voborsky many years ago) which we use to drive through the sugar bush to transport the buckets of sap to our trailer and then to our yard where we boil it down into that sweet treat we use in various ways at our Sugar Shack.

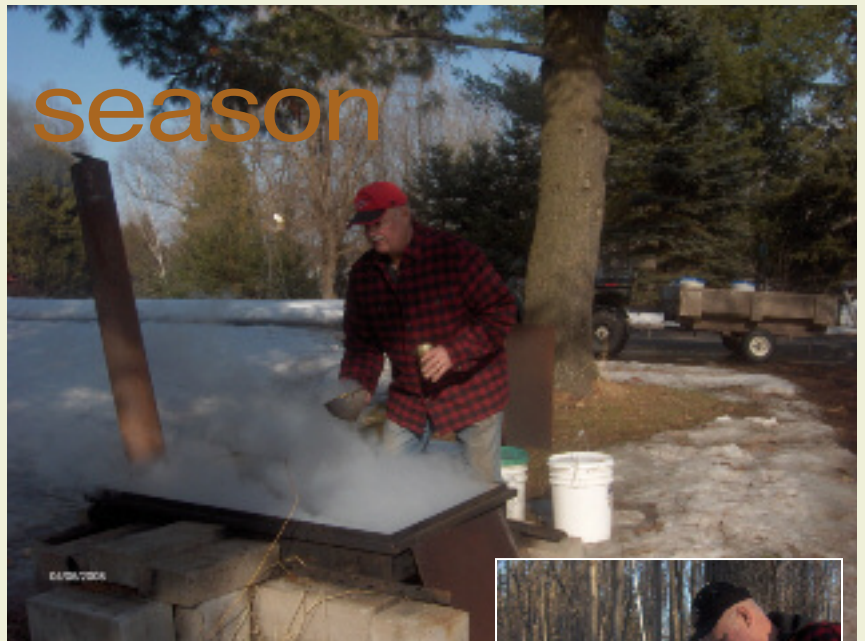
Our first treat is to take the small amount that remains after bottling it and pour that hot maple syrup over a dish of ice cream--mmmmmmmmgood! We look forward to that treat each time we boil off a batch.

Depending on the season we will make anywhere from 4 gallons to 11 gallons of syrup (3-4 boilings). The first batch we boil off has the highest sugar content and we usually get about 25 to 1 in sap to syrup ratio. As the season progresses it has less sucrose and it ends up at about 50 to one.

It's a wonderful thing to begin our harvesting year with maple syrup production, and the rest of the year is the production of fruits and vegetables from our garden, apple, cherry, orchards, and grape vineyard.

If ever you see a product with the name "Ronyak's Lakeside Gardens" you will know where it came from.

Here's the real kicker. We usually give away about 80%



Bing Ronyak gathering and boiling sap this spring.

Photos, courtesy the Ronyaks.



of our maple syrup. Our family and friends sure do love it.

If you would like to see the process, you are welcome to call us and we could tell you when we would be processing some maple syrup.

– Eileen and Bing Ronyak

proposed bylaws change

At the last membership meeting in March, there was discussion to amend the constitution to change our fiscal year from August 1 / July 31 to a calendar-year fiscal year (January 1 / December 31).

Since we have become a tax exempt corporation, the calendar-year fiscal year will better match annual report requirements for the IRS and for internal accounting reports. This would also make annual Association membership fees due January 1, instead of mid-year, as they are now.

A vote will be taken at the May 14, 2008 meeting. Please join us.

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 her at: davidandjoanne@charter.net

legal corner

*Wisconsin Boating Regulations
Wisconsin DNR*

Q What is the required number and type of approved Personal Flotation Devices for all boats?

A It is unlawful to operate any boat (including inflatables and inner tubes) unless at least one wearable type PFD of the proper size is available for each person on board.

In addition to the above, each boat 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, must have at least one buoyant cushion or ring buoy (Type IV PFD's) on board. This cushion or buoy must be within reach of someone on deck while watercraft is underway.

Sailboarders and wind surfers are exempt from PFD requirements but are encouraged to wear one.

SAVE THIS DATE: July 19, 2008

WHAT: Annual Meeting for the Crescent Lake Association.

WHERE: Crescent Lake Bible Camp
2750 Bible Camp Road

WHEN: Lunch at noon. Burgers, brats, buns, and beverage will be provided. Bring a dish to pass and your own dishes and silverware.

Annual business meeting will begin about 1:00 p.m.

Come hear for yourself about our:

- July 4 celebrations recap
- Progress on the new grant
- Lake vegetation raking
- How to engage in lake issues
- Much more

Expect a very informative meeting. Take this opportunity to hear for yourself first-hand what is happening on our lake and what the Association is doing.

Since the Bible Camp facilities are being used, this will be a no alcohol and no tobacco event.

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 DO YOUR PART TO
PROTECT OUR LAKES**

The Crescent Lake Association

PROTECTING OUR LAKES THROUGH EDUCATION
HELPING TO PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES
• PLEASE CLEAN YOUR BOAT, TRAILER, LIVE WELL AND BILGE!
• DON'T DUMP UNUSED IN THE LAKE!

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please help us compile a complete list of email addresses.

WANTED:

AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Grant Coordinator

JOB DESCRIPTION

Crescent Lake Association wishes to contract an individual or agency to perform the duties of AIS Grant Coordinator for the summer of 2008. Duties will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Enlist, train and schedule volunteers to inspect boats at the Crescent Lake Boat Landing. The Clean Boats/Clean Waters program will be used as the basis for all inspection activities, and an adequate inventory of the related materials must be ordered and maintained.
- Record data taken by the inspectors on the DNR website.
- Assure that any suspicious vegetation taken from boats is taken to the DNR for AIS verification. If it is verified as AIS, follow-up with boat/equipment owner and law enforcement.
- Work with Lake Association members to schedule and conduct lake monitoring activities.
- Work with Lake Association members on the production and distribution of the AIS calendar.
- Work with Lake Association members on the securing of and placement of AIS signs at the boat landing.
- Plan and conduct a recognition program for all Crescent Lake Association AIS volunteers. This will be done with the help and approval of the Lake Association Board of Directors.
- Perform other duties as requested by the Board of Directors of the Crescent Lake Association.

The AIS Coordinator will be required to keep a log of the hours worked for the Crescent Lake Association and make periodic reports to the Board. Duties will be performed from the date of hire until the end of the summer AIS activities, as determined by the Crescent Lake Association Board of Directors.

A one time stipend of \$1,500.00 will be paid at the end of the season.

Anyone interested in more details may contact Jim Gehrke 282-5924 or Glen Peterson 282-5776 or email him at: GlenRPeterson@aol.com



2008 Crescent Lake grant application

APPROVED!

4-Part Aquatic Invasive Species Program

The DNR has announced that Crescent Lake Association is one of the groups that have been approved to receive money to accelerate action to protect the lake from invasive species.

This means that we will actively educate lake users and nearby residents and visitors about aquatic invasive species.

part 1: inspection

The inspection of boats at the public landing on Hwy 8 is critical to accelerating the action to protect our lake. The hours of inspection will be expanded and the **need for volunteers has never been more important.**

The grant will 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.

part 2: vegetation monitoring

With monies from the grant, we are purchasing two telescoping rakes to be used to determine the variety and density of aquatic plant species in our lake. This work will be completed entirely through **volunteer hours provided by lake residents.**

part 3: education

Permanent signs will be placed at the public boat landing. Plastic bags with information encouraging boat owners to keep their boats clean will be distributed to local businesses.

The Kemp St. Gas Station have agreed to label all their bait containers with stickers provided by the

Association. These labels inform the anglers about safe practices when using and disposing bait.

The grant includes funds to create and print a 2009 calendar featuring images of Crescent Lake and educational messages about invasive species. We need lake residents to **volunteer to contribute their pictures** of our beautiful lake. The calendars will be distributed to Lake Association members and other area residents and interested parties.

part 4: coordinator

We need a project coordinator to organize these activities, and award a token of appreciation to all volunteers. This person will take over much of the work that has been done by Glen Peterson the past four years, plus additional duties.

A \$1500 stipend will be paid to this person at the end of the season.

We are fortunate to have received the grant; now we must come up with the promised volunteer hours.

We need your help!

Please contact Jim Gehrke 282-5924 or Glen Peterson 282-5776 or email him at: GlenRPeterson@aol.com

C.O.O.L. Clean Our Oneida Lakes

Last summer 2007, two area brothers, Lucas and Kyle Lenard, decided to clean the trash from Town Line Lake using snorkels and a row boat. They collected a couple hundred pounds of trash.

The boys were not only recognized by local media for their efforts, but they also have shared their story with area organizations. They have given presentations about their project to Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association and at our March Crescent Lake Association meeting. They were also invited to give their presentation at the Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention. The boys received the YMCA Teen Character Award on April 28, 2008.

Lucas and Kyle are now recruiting friends to join them this summer in their continued efforts to clean 5 or 6 additional lakes. We are fortunate that they chose Crescent Lake as one of those lakes.

They are asking for volunteers from Crescent Lake to help them, and for the use of 6 or 7 rowboats. They plan to work the shoreline in teams. If you are able to provide a rowboat or volunteer a few hours of your time, please call Jim Gehrke (282-5924) or Connie Anderson (282-5798).

A date for our lake cleanup has not been set yet, but we will keep you informed as we know more details.



2006 Grant FINAL REPORT

Following is an excerpt from the final grant report. This month on:

watershed evaluation & recommendations

The watershed of Crescent Lake covers approximately 1,585 acres and is relatively small compared to the size of the lake. Almost 2/3 of the watershed is lake surface or forest. Note breakdown:

- Lake surface - 637 acres
- Forest - 550 acres
- Residential - 165 acres
- Agricultural - 125 acres
- Wetland - 80 acres
- Public space - 25 acres

The evolution from small, summer-use cabins to larger, more modern year-round homes has not appreciatively changed the phosphorous or sediment loading to the lake. And nitrogen and BOD (biological oxygen demand) have actually gone down.

The construction of larger homes on the lake lots has increased the amount of impervious area (compacted lawns, rooftops, paved driveways, roads), which does increase pollutant loading to the lake. However the modernization of lake homes has also included construction of modern septic systems, which result in less pollutant loading to the lake.

CRESCENT LAKE TOTAL LOADING				
	nitrogen lbs/yr	phosphorous lbs/yr	BOD lbs/yr	sediment tons/yr
1940	1530	380	5050	168
1955	1463	388	4525	169
1980	1434	383	4344	169
2006	1396	371	4139	169

To reduce the impacts of these items, it is recommended that lawns not be fertilized; if they are, a small amount of phosphorus-free fertilizer should be used. Applications should be timed so the fertilizer does not wash off in a rain event.

Leaking septic systems need to be repaired or replaced to reduce nutrient loading into the lake. To identify failing systems, a sanitary survey should be conducted on the lake. This would identify all systems that do not meet current standards and the systems that are failing. Oneida County Zoning has offered to assist in this project if it is pursued.

Natural buffers of at least 35 feet from the water's edge inland along the lake shore are inexpensive and effective ways to reduce sediment and nutrient loading into the lake.

we need 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; thanks to all these generous folks.

We need 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: glenpeterson@aol.com or 847-742-6532.

board nominations

Four Crescent Lake Association Board positions will need to be filled at our Annual Meeting in July.

Please contact Nominations Committee chairman Glen Peterson with your nominations: glenpeterson@aol.com or 847-742-6532.

friend of the lake award

Please nominate a lake resident who has demonstrated his/her exceptional dedication to the beauty and health of our lake.

Submit your nomination in writing along with the reasons why this individual is worthy of this award. Send to Jim Gehrke or email him at: kayjimg@charter.net

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

Please send in your nomination now.