Manitowoc County Lakes Association

2024 Edition

Manitowoc Counties Diamond in the Rough "Silver Lake County Park"

Letter from our President

Hello water enthusiasts!

Indulge me for a moment and think about what the above greeting means to you. Do you enjoy using our county waters for fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, water skiing or tubing, wake boarding, wake surfing, paddle boarding or pontoon boat booze cruises? Perhaps you wait for the water to become ice during the winter months and use the resource for ice fishing, ice skating, cross country skiing, snow shoeing or snowmobiling. Or maybe you do none of the aforementioned and just enjoy the peace and tranquility of seeing the natural scenic beauty around our lakes, rivers and streams during sunrises and sunsets. Regardless of how you may use our Manitowoc County waters, it is imperative that all of us recognize that without these waters in a healthy, clean environmental condition, they will not be enjoyable to any of us for whatever we intend to use them for. Please consider how any activity that you use the waters for could have potential adverse side effects on them and mitigate your impact upon these valuable resources for the good of all. Also note that some of the activities previously listed don't always get along with each other. While we may not agree with how someone else is using the water, we need to recognize we all have equal rights to our public waters.

Next, I want to note that I have a newfound appreciation of the Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Department. Since becoming president of our organization I have had an increased amount of direct interface with the Soil and Water Conservation Department starting with Jerry Halverson and then transitioning to David Wetenkamp and the team that make up the department after Jerry's retirement. They are an invaluable resource for Manitowoc County and I encourage you to get to know them and thank them for all they do. If you have a concern regarding a Manitowoc County soil or water issue, feel free to contact them at (920) 683-4183. I'm sure they will be happy to assist you.

Last, since our previous newsletter was published I am happy to report that attendance at our bi-monthly meetings has increased. Thank you to all of you that have made that happen. Without your support we do not have an organization. Lake Associations, we encourage you to send someone to our meetings as a MCLA director (if you do not already do so) to be the source of information transfer between your local organization and our county wide association. That director will also be the conduit for your local lake association information to get published in our MCLA newsletters. Who better to submit a one to two paragraph article about your local lake status than someone that is normally in direct contact of the happenings of that waterbody? As I stated in our last newsletter, I look forward to listening to any comments you have about how we can help. Visit our website (manitowoccountylakesassociation.org) to access a schedule of upcoming

Remember to enjoy our natural resources in a safe an environmentally conscious manner and respect others that are sharing the same resource with you. Be safe, have fun, read and follow the local ordinance signage at the individual boat landings and leave the water as good as or better than when you arrived!

Thanks,
Jerry C

MCLA'S 2024 BOARS OF DIRECTORS

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(Front Page)

Pictures of our beautiful Silver Lake County Park. In my book, the Silver Lake Park Oversite Committee, is MCLA' a greatest success project. A citizen based committee that over a ten year period raised over $200,000, to redesign and rebuild this beautiful well used county park, saving our county tens of thousands of dollars in design and building costs, with no monies going to administrative costs.

Dave Pozorski

2023 MCLA Banquet

Doug and Elaine Kieffer of Carstens Lake were honored for over 40 years of dedicated maintenance of the weir dam on their property and its value and improvement to the Carstens Lake fishery. The Kieffer's were nominated by Brian Robley.

Jerry Corfman (left) congratulates 50—50 raffle winner Paul Tuschel, who donated a portion of his winnings back to MCLA. Thank you Paul!

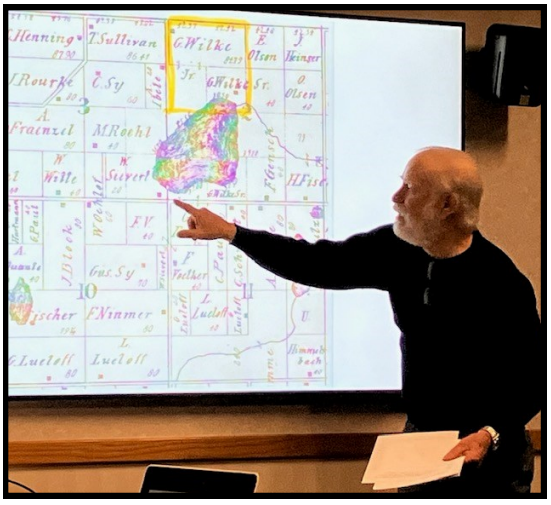
Peggy Lenz

was recognized for her many years of leadership, enthusiasm, and determination to the improvement of water quality and the natural scenic beauty of Pigeon Lake. Peggy was nominated by Maria Lynch.

Eric Olson, Director at Extension Lakes**,** engaged the membership with his presentation about Lake Leaders Institute program and how to become a Lake Leader.

The Lake Leaders Institute was developed in 1998 to develop a pool of committed and prepared leaders who can assume leadership roles in policy development, citizen advocacy, county-wide lake associations like MCLA, municipal government, and officer positions in the 900+ individual lake organizations throughout the state. Graduates benefit themselves and their communities by connecting with those responsible for Wisconsin's lake and water management, and by learning more about aquatic ecology, water law and lake management.

The program takes place every other year and is divided into three 2-day sessions scheduled for May, Sept and Oct, held in lake-rich areas around the state. Participants take field trips, enjoy lake and aquatic environments, exchange ideas and network with each other and presenters, and develop friendship with go-to colleagues for future lake work.



February 5th meeting

Bob Domagalski gave us a very informative presentation on the history of and owners around Wilke Lake. Sec. 2 & 3 of Schleswig Township. Bob grew up and currently lives in St. Nazianz, WI. really enjoys the area. He has spent many hours at the county land records offices compiling his information. Presentation is of the land around Wilke Lake, not just all the homes and cottages on the lake. Wilke Lake is the 3rd largest lake in the county. Bob talked about military land grants, sale of land for $1.00 or $1.25 per acre, land speculators, individual owners and land transactions. Bob showed plat book pages from 1860, 1878, 1921 and 2014.

Enhancing Wake Boats

To many boater crawling home through a no-wake zone, and wishing hull designers could produce a fast wakeless boat, the emergence of hi-wake hull designs seems to be misguided technology. But to the wake boarder and wake surfer, a whole new range of exhila-rating water sport has developed, with concomitant demonstrations of skill, competitions and awards. Wake boats use hull design, propulsion device alterations, and ballast systems to increase the size, form, and direction of wakes. They are certainly boats, but designed as wake and wave making machines. These watercraft are touted with pitches such as; *"this 21' sport specialist features a wave and wake maximizing hull…"* and *"Immense waves and wakes are a standard feature…"*. Those boats with a ballast system carry a bladder which can hold over a ton of water to favorably alter planing characteristics. This water ballast is charged and then ejected as the boat is launched and then removed from a waterway.

Although most changes to the status quo bring a degree of consternation to those confronted, rarely have the inherent intents of an innovation so directly exacerbated a condition already deemed in need of remedy.

High wakes cause shoreline erosion, impose a higher level of protection for moored and docked watercraft, and disrupt shoreline habitat; hence the previous establishment of no -wake zones. The Department of Natural Resources and wetland promoters have long been advocating naturalizing shorelines and eliminating the practice of armoring them with pilings or rip -rap, and limiting of wakes, rather than their propagation, is essential to maintain that initiative. The wakes cause environmental, ecological and property damage. The size of the wake seen on the surface is also of equal size under the surface. This large under water wake disrupts and damages aquatic life.

There has been a growing trend in more sedate use of the lakes. Stand -up paddle boards, sit-on kayaks, and smaller rowing shells have recently joined the canoes, kayaks, and small sailing and fishing boats which make up much of the inventory of lake users. Virtually all these users are wake adverse, and when younger children are the user, the large wakes create. safety hazards for swimmers, canoes, kayaks, paddle boats and other small water craft.

Like ski boats, wake boats focus everyone's attention toward the back of the boat where the action is. The bows tend to rise, obscuring vison forward. They add to the intensity of activity on a lake, and the distraction of the boat's occupants coupled with speed makes for dangerous lake congestion.

Of special concern regarding the bladder boats is the potential for the transmission of aquatic invasive species. Spiny water flea, zebra and quagga mussel larvae, and VHS can all be transmitted by ballast water. Regulations have limited the use of live well on fishing boats to prevent such transmissions, and there is a concern that residual water in a ballasted boats would move these invasives from waterway to waterway.

We can hope that, as in the case of Jet -ski type boats, an accommodation might be reached to allow the lakes to be enjoyed by a broad range of users. It will never-the-less be seen, in cases, that the use of boats and devises designed to create large wakes is a serious problem on small lakes and rivers. Some postulate that a minimum waterbody size to accommodate these watercraft is 300 acres.

Several lakes are or have been contemplating prohibitions or restrictions. There are legal and logistical complications: Can such boats be allowed if operated at sub -wake speeds? Who would enforce operation limits? How does the DNR mandate for open access to state waterways play out? At what level of governance should prohibitive ordinances be implemented?

There will be much to report on the development of the technology, and the responses. Stay tuned!

Individual contributions to an organization will have a lasting impact.
"The strength of the team is each individual member and the strength of each member is the team."
Phill Jackson

Launch Tube Totals

	Day Pass		Seasonal Pass		General Donation	
	Count #	Amount	Count #	Amount	Count #	Amount
Bullhead Lake	116	$580.00	30	$600.00	7	$52.96
Carsten's Lake	58	$290.00	14	$280.00	3	$30.46
Cedar Lake	386	$1,930.00	108	$2,150.00	11	$247.28
English Lake	114	$570.00	32	$640.00	10	$39.84
Harpt's Lake	131	$655.00	24	$480.00	10	$53.83
Horseshoe Lake	84	$417.00	33	$660.00	5	$28.00
Long Lake	651	$3,255.00	123	$2,460.00	23	$155.82
Pigeon Lake	104	$525.00	40	$800.00	8	$51.00
Silver Lake	35	$175.00	19	$380.00	3	$18.00
West Twin	76	$380.00	16	$320.00	10	$41.00
Wilke Lake	61	$365.00	29	$580.00	1	$36.25
Walk In	0	$0.00	44	$900.00	0	$30.00
Total	1816	$9,142.00	512	$10,250.00	91	$784.44

Grand Total $20,176.44

Manitowoc County launch tube donation totals for the 2022 season. The money collected is used for maintenance of all Manitowoc County launch facilities and helps offset costs for new piers, restrooms, paving and signage.

MCLA's Publications Director

Roger Vander Logt

has been involved in conservation since he was old enough to walk. He became a member of the Mishicot Sportsmen's Club at the age of 12 and was their President at 18. Roger was a Hunter Education instructor for 20 years, State President of WHEIA, Secretary for WHEIA, and a Director. He is presently a Patron Life Member of the NRA, Volunteer for the NRA-ILA Grass-roots and Frontlines, Life Member of NEWGLSF, Manitowoc County Fish & Game, and Wisconsin Deerhunter's.

Roger is also a member of the Wisconsin Outdoor Communicators Association and has in the past created articles for the HTR and the Sportsman Spot radio show on WCUB. He was the Fishing Manager of the Fishing Network on CUB Sport Radio for many years. For the last 4 years, he has been the County Secretary of the County Fish & Game.

Roger retired from truck driving after many years and is now driving for Assist to Transport (ATT) in Manitowoc, helping others to get to their medical appointments. Roger, together with his son Jeff and grandson Braxton, started VL Outdoor Media, LLC many years ago and have been active in IL and WI. The three of them are press members of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF).

Presenting this check is the Fish & Game Board of Directors. Left to right is Dan Dufek, Dan Becker, Tom Nonamacher and Bob Schuh

New Pier at Pigeon Lake

The Forward Endowment, the Manitowoc County trust established to fund projects focused on hunting, fishing, conservation and related education, has announced the successful completion of the new pier project at Pigeon Lake. In partnership with Manitowoc County Fish & Game, the Pigeon Lake Association, and several other groups and governmental entitles, the project brings a high quality, handicap accessible pier to one of the most popular lakes in Manitowoc Co. The new pier is longer and offers direct fishing opportunities on the lake. It will allow for safer boat launch with deeper lake access.

In the ribbon cutting ceremony on July 20th, Bob Zigelbauer noted that the project was a great example of organizations working together to improve the lake. It is part of an ongoing access improvement process that has been going on in Manitowoc Co. for many years. The 115 year old Manitowoc County Fish & Game Protective Association represents over 2,000 sporting men and women in the area and a Pier Committee, charged with helping improve acess to the great natural resources we have at lakes in the county. FORWARD has partnered in several of these projects, providing funding to help support projects

The FORWARD Endowment has provided over $130,000 in grants to projects and groups in Manitowoc County. These represent completed projects in the community. FORWARD is a 501C3 and donations can make checks payable to THE FORWARD ENDOWMENT c/o Associated Bank. Only interest incomes from the fund are spent so that the fund will continue to grow and be there for future generations. Memorial or estate planning gifts are possible with the fund. Those making end of year charitable donations are invited to consider the fund.

For more information contactmantyfg071@gmail.com

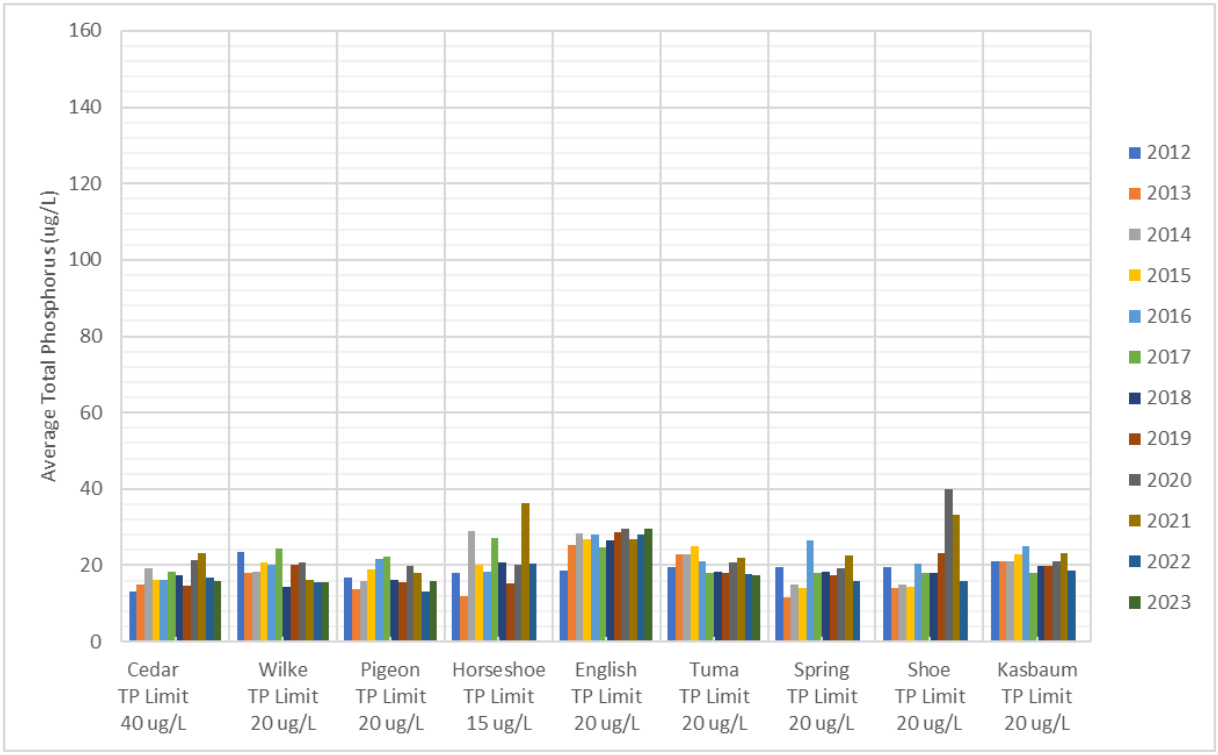
Hello MCLA members! My name is **Valerie O'Connor**, the new **Invasive Species Coordinator for Glacierland Resource, Conservation & Development**. I received my master's degree in Conservation Biology/Science from the University of Queensland in Australia. I did, however, grow up in Oshkosh, Wisconsin and am so happy to be back in the state that I call home. I will be managing invasive species throughout Kewaunee, Calumet, Fond du lac, and of course, Manitowoc County**. I am also your new county level Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator.** Any questions about invasive species, terrestrial or aquatic, you are more than welcome to send to me. I'm very excited to work with you all moving forward.

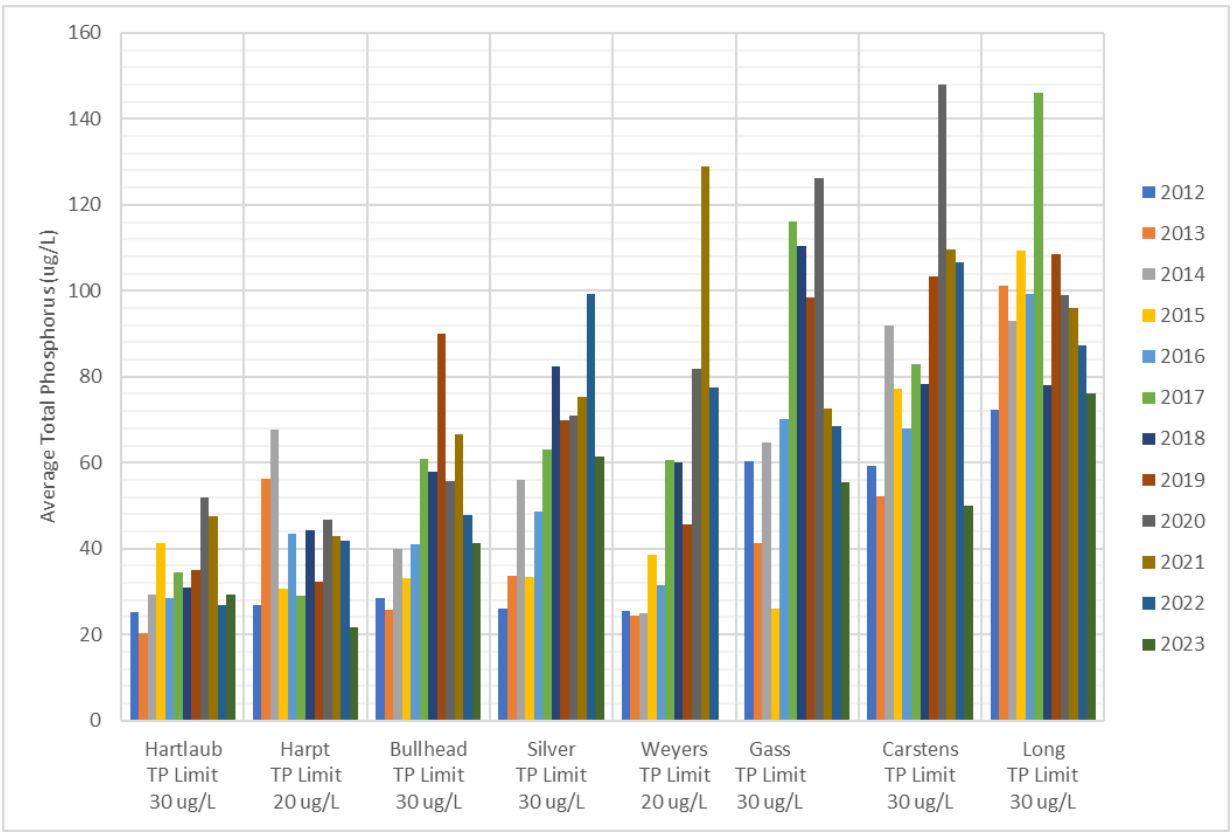
I am currently working closely with many organizations including the DNR, LNRP, and others to host events helping with restoration within the county. On April 25 & 26, we partnered with the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed and Stantec to help plant native tree species at Lower Henry Schuette Park. We will continue to have volunteer events and outreach days this summer and I hope to see some of you there!

For this fast-approaching summer season, we are hiring a watercraft inspector to conduct inspections at Manitowoc Marina and Long Lake Rd boat launches every weekend starting late May/early June through August this year. We are excited to have been awarded funding through the Great Lakes Commission to conduct more inspections at additional lakes during our Landing Blitz campaign happening for two weeks around July 4th. I'm thrilled to be involved with Manitowoc County and am here as a resource to you. If you need my advice or would like me to attend any events you organize, please reach out to me. I am determined to make this a great summer season!

Do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time. My email address is valerie@glacierlandrcd.org and my phone number is 920-808-1225. Please visit our website to learn more about us at www.glacierlandrcd.org and follow/lik us on Facebook at Glacierland RC&D to stay updated on upcoming events.

2023 Phosphorus Data on our Counties Lakes





Carstens Lake Water Quality Improvement Project

Sedimentation and Treatment Basin with Sorption Technology

May 2024

Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP), Stantec Consulting Services, and the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point (UWSP) are working on a design for water quality treatment along Pine Creek, a direct tributary to Carstens Lake. The project was initiated as a result of a three-year study, conducted by the Manitowoc County Lakes Association (MCLA) between 2012-2014, which identified high levels (>40 ppb) of phosphorus in Carstens Lake.

LNRP secured a DNR Lake Management Planning grant to provide the necessary framework for water quality improvement projects in Carstens Lake - a 21 acre seepage lake in a 767 acre watershed. Improvements to land use practices to reduce phosphorus and other nonpoint source pollutant inputs are underway; however, additional work was needed to improve Carstens Lake water quality. Carstens Lake remains among the most impaired waters in Manitowoc County due to excessive phosphorus levels and anoxic (oxygen-deprived) conditions.

The subsequent 2018 Carstens Lake Comprehensive Management Plan recommended several structures adjacent to Pine Creek for water quality treatment to mitigate phosphorus loading in Carstens Lake. Our team recommended both adjacent wetland structures and a sedimentation basin that could capture peak flows of water carrying sediment and phosphorus. Working with the landowner, Hillside Dairy, construction of wetland scrapes commenced in late September 2023 and was completed in October 2023 by Madson Tiling & Excavating. Wetland scrapes are a series of shallow pools that help improve habitat quality. Stantec installed a cover crop (oats and annual ryegrass) directly following construction and native seed was planted during the dormant season. Native plant plugs will be installed in June.

Construction of the sedimentation basin adjacent to the creek is planned for late summer 2024. This will reduce high stream flows and allow suspended solids and nutrients to settle in the basin. Secondary treatment will be provided by implementing *sorption* technology in the outlet berm that will capture phosphorus prior to it reaching Pine Creek and eventually Carstens Lake. The sorption technology, developed by Professor Kyle Herrman at UWSP, uses small porous bags with a sorption medium to remove dissolved phosphorus from the water stream.

The sorption medium was initially proposed to be industrial slag but UWSP shifted to Phosflow in late 2023. This product was developed in partnership with the US Environmental Protection Agency to create a medium that would permanently bind available phosphorus to improve water quality. Made from naturally occurring and sustainable mineral materials, the sorptive material is non-hazardous, insoluble in water, and non-toxic to aquatic plants and wildlife.

Water from Pine Creek will flow through the basin installed with porous bags that are lightweight (1 bag = 6 lbs), and have a very short contact time of just minutes to capture soluble phosphorus. The cost is moderate at approximately $700 for the 20 bags that will be installed. The DNR approved a field application at Lost Creek for June 2024 that will provide additional data and information for the Carstens Lake Water Quality Improvement Project.

With positive testing results, this project could introduce a low-cost tool that will provide additional phosphorus removal for Carstens Lake and has the potential to help other lakes in Manitowoc County.

New Proposed Fishing Regulations

1. Three new fishing regulations went into effect this spring on Wilke Lake:
    I. 25-35 inch protected slot limit and bag limit of two for northern pike
        - Goal is to improve the quality of the northern pike fishery.
    I. 18 inch minimum length limit and bag limit of three for walleyes
        - Goal is to increase number of predators to try to reduce the very high density of small bluegill to improve bluegill growth rates and size structure.
    I. 18 inch minimum length limit and bag limit of one for bass
        - Goal is to increase number of predators to try to reduce the very high density of small bluegill to improve bluegill growth rates and size structure.

2. WDNR fisheries team is completing a compressive fish survey of Pigeon Lake this spring
    - Spring fyke netting survey targeting northern pike, walleye and panfish already completed.
    - Will be completing a spring electrofishing survey in May targeting bass and panfish.

3. Potentially complete spring bass and panfish electrofishing surveys on Harpt Lake, Bullhead Lake, and Horseshoe Lake if staff and weather allow. There is still a technician vacancy in my office so I can't field a full team to complete an electrofishing survey without getting help from another team.

4.In 2016, three experimental panfish regulations went into effect on approximately 100 lakes across Wisconsin. The goal of this research was to evaluate if reduced panfish bag limits could improve the quality of panfish fisheries in lakes that have good panfish growth yet experience a lot of fishing pressure.

1.Three experimental regulations were:

- 15 aggregate bag limit for panfish with no more than five of any one panfish species.
- 25 aggregate bag limit for panfish with no more than 10 of any one panfish species.
- 15 aggregate bag limit for panfish with no more than five of any one panfish species during the months of May and June. 25 aggregate bag limit for panfish during all other months.

2. Five lakes in Manitowoc County have these regulations. These regulations will sunset in 2026 and the panfish regulation will revert back to the statewide default panfish regulation of a 25 aggregate bag limit if new regulations are not proposed for these lakes.

3.Based on results from statewide evaluations of the experimental regulations, the 15/5 regulation (15 aggregate bag limit with no more than five of any one panfish species year round) performed that best at consistently improving the size structure and quality of panfish fisheries.

4.Rather than just add the 15/5 regulation to our panfish toolbox, the panfish team and fish management policy team decided to take the "No more than five panfish of any one species" and add it to the existing 25 aggregate bag limit and 10 aggregate bag limit regulations for panfish.

I. This has resulted in four possible regulation that can be used for panfish moving forward:

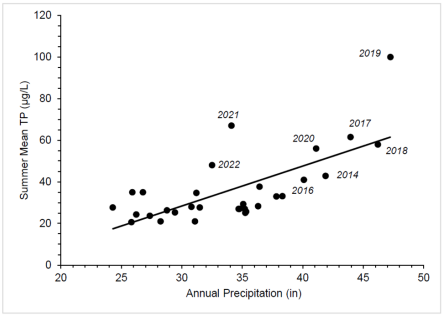
- 25 aggregate bag limit for panfish
- 10 aggregate bag limit for panfish
- 25 aggregate bag limit for panfish with no more than five of any one species (Only one species can have the reduced 5 bag limit)
- 10 aggregate bag limit for panfish with no more than five of any one species (Only one species can have the reduced 5 bag limit)

5. I have been working with local anglers and lake groups to decide on the most acceptable regulation moving forward. Below is where these lakes currently stand. Changes could be made based on further discussion.
    I. <u>Pigeon lake</u>: Revert back to the 25 aggregate bag limit.
    II. <u>Harpt Lake:</u> 10 aggregate bag limit for panfish with no more than five yellow perch. Ongoing yellow perch restoration project on Harpt Lake.
    III. <u>Long Lake:</u> Either 25 aggregate bag limit with no more than five bluegills or 10 aggregate bag limit with no more than five bluegills. Abundant crappie population that might benefit from the 25 aggregate bag limit to allow for additional crappie harvest. I will be attending the annual Long Lake Association Meeting later this spring to make a final decision on the aggregate bag limit.
    IV. <u>English Lake:</u> 10 aggregate bag limit with no more than five bluegills.
    V. <u>Bullhead Lake:</u> 10 aggregate bag limit for panfish. Concerns about the five bag limit for a species being to restrictive so trying the 10 aggregate bag limit.
    VI. <u>Cedar Lake:</u> New addition as an experimental lake. Trying the 10 aggregate bag limit with no more than five bluegills. Improve the quality of the bluegill population, especially given clear water and
    VII. susceptibility to nest fishing

County Lake Reports

Bullhead Lake

The Bullhead Lake District continues to work with Onterra, LLC to monitor phosphorus levels to try to determine the share of internal loading vs. external loading. A previous alum feasibility study was conducted but did not determine that summer phosphorus levels were the result of internal phosphorus release. A complicating factor is that the study was conducted in 2019 when precipitation levels were extreme. Data of summer phosphorus levels vs precipitation show that the recent summer phosphorus is much higher than predicted by the annual precipitation trend.



Current data collection includes regular samples of phosphorous levels, temperature and dissolved oxygen throughout the water column to determine if the phosphorous being released from the bottom sediment is mixing into the epilimnion.

Bullhead lake is planning to continue their algae skimming process that they have been utilizing for the past several years to try to capture some of the filamentous algae that forms, although it is getting harder to find volunteers to participate in that process.

Hartlaub Lake

Early each summer, we have a sizable rain event. And every year, that rain event brings an opportunity to reduce the carp population in Hartlaub Lake. It's probably the same situation in your lake.

In late May, we received over 7 inches of rain over three days. Hartlaub is the headwater of Calvin Creek and the carp become very interested in migrating and finding new territory in the rushing water.

Fortunately, Calvin Creek has a weir just downstream of Hartlaub. This prevents the Lake Michigan carp from migrating into Hartlaub. They get stacked up at the weir and become great targets.

Even better, the weir is angled towards Lake Michigan and this allows carp in Hartlaub to "escape" over the weir and swim downstream to join their brothers. More targets.

Carp that mill in the current but are hesitant to move downstream, are also taken. The sudden water movement is the key.

Over the past 10 years, the Hartlaub Lake carp population has been reduced by as much as 80%.

While I would like to say all of the credit goes to those archers, the bluegills need substantial credit. You see, bluegills love to eat carp eggs; this info from an old fisheries guy.

That same fisheries manager also said, "A lake can sustain a certain amount of pounds of fish. If you take out 100 pounds of carp, it makes room for the fish you really want."

You probably can do the same at "your" lake. Just wait for some heavy rains.

Cedar Lake *(accidentally omitted from paper copy)*

- Record short ice duration resulting in a record Secchi disk clarity of 27ft including 2ft of arm needing to be added to the 25ft rope length.
- DNR fishery manager Jason Breeggemann suggested regulation changes that should improve the fishery. A smaller panfish bag limit and a slot limit on Northerns should make an impact.
- The Clean Boats Clean Lakes volunteer program was rejuvenated with Glacierland's AIS Coordinator giving a presentation.

Silver Lake Park Volunteers

From left to right
Don Menges, Mike Handl, Brett Hubbartt, Ron Borchardt, Vince Miller
Not pictured are Randy Behnke, Jerry Knox and Jim Jirikowic

On Friday 6/21/24, Jerry Corfman, president of the Manitowoc County Lakes Association, met with a team of dedicated Silver Lake volunteers at the Silver Lake County Park. On this particular morning, the team was applying new mulch to the park's trails and areas around trees (see the following pictures).

Per Vince Miller the team consists of concerned citizens from near the Silver Lake area and they have been performing this volunteer work at the Silver Lake County Park two to three times a month from spring through fall every year since the early 2000's. Weather permitting; they generally perform their volunteer work on Wednesday mornings. In addition to applying mulch, the team will trim low hanging branches on the trails, pick up and remove litter, and keep the metal grate between Silver Lake and Silver Creek clear of debris. This all assists the Manitowoc County Parks Department as they do an excellent job of mowing and trimming the

(continued on Page 11)

Gass Lake

sediment coring project

From left to right
Wes Scott (faculty), Aidan Burdick (graduate student), Peter Puleo (graduate student), David Drinko (undergraduate)

On Friday 6/21/24, Jerry Corfman, president of the Manitowoc County Lakes Association, met with a team of faculty, graduate students and one undergraduate student from Northwestern University in Evanston Illinois to discuss a sediment coring project at Gass Lake. Peter Puleo had informed Jerry about this project on March 11th of this year. Pete is originally from Beaver Dam, WI and will soon be starting as a professor at UW-Whitewater.

The team works with Professor Yarrow Axford at Northwestern, who specializes in extracting environmental and climate change records from lake sediment cores across the US and Artic. Pete explained that the goal of the project is to try to reconstruct and determine from sediment cores the history of the evolution of Gass Lake. Gass Lake is a 6.5 acre no wake lake located about two miles southwest of Manitowoc. It has an average depth of 12 feet and a maximum depth of 24 feet. It was chosen for this project because of the size, shape and hydrology of the lake. Pete also noted that it was previously sampled in the 1980's so there is some historical data that the new data can be compared to. In addition, on Thursday 6/20, Pete met with Richard Blashka, a long time riparian land owner at Gass Lake to glean additional history details that may contribute to composition of the lake sediment. In 2020 a diversion project coordinated by the Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Department diverted 450 acres of watershed that had been entering the lake to the outlet stream in an attempt to reduce the phosphorus load on Gass Lake. Continued water testing data will support its effectiveness.

The sediment coring process was done in two segments. First, samples were taken with a one meter (3.28 ft) coring set up. These samples will be used to evaluate the surface sediment since roughly the early 1800's to see if there is a human impact over the recent history. Second, a 5.5 meter (about 18 ft) core sample was taken that will be used to reconstruct the climate and environmental history over a 10,000 to 15,000 year time frame by evaluating the chemical make-up of the core samples at different depths of the cores. Actual analysis results from the core samples will not be known for about a year or two but Pete will follow up with Jerry when those results are available.

(continued from page 10)

Silver Lake Volunteers

park. A stroll through the park will show you that all the volunteer time and effort has created a very nice, aesthetically pleasing park environment. I encourage all to stop and see their work and if they are there working, please thank them for what they do.

In appreciation of the volunteer work they have done over the many years the Manitowoc County Lakes Association treated the team to pizza at Luigi's Italian Restaurant following their volunteer work on 6/21/24.

Wilke Lake Report

\Wilke Lake water testing continues to reveal favorable results from sampling for most recorded data including Chlorophyll and Secci clarity results. This year's ice off testing revealed one of the best clarities reading ever recorded. Likely aided by the unusually early date for Ice off.

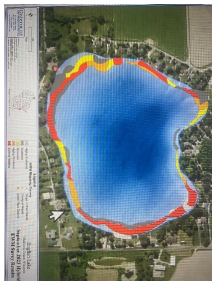
Our Lake Association and Sanitary District continue work to improve the results of our weed cutting operation including clarification of areas to be cut, proximity of cutting and start and end dates for cutting. Also investigation continues to evaluate options for chemical weed treatments.

Many Wilke Lake activities planned for this year including our Summer long Lake member fishing contest, our July celebrations including Fireworks and a Decorated Boat Parade, and a Lake Association Rummage Sale Looking forward to enjoying the great fun Wilke Lake offers all its residents.

English Lake

In June of 2021the DNR did a shock survey of English Lake. It took quite a while but last year we got the results

Species	Number Captured	Mean Length	Minimum Length	Maximum Length
BLACK BULLHEAD	1			
BLACK CRAPPIE	10	6.4	5.5	10.9
BLUEGILL	63	6.5	2.2	9.4
GREEN SUNFISH	1	2.8	2.8	2.8
LARGEMOUTH BASS	63	15.2	4.3	17.7
NORTHERN PIKE	5	22.6	19.1	24.3
ROCK BASS	3	7.8	7.2	8.9
WALLEYE	21	14.8	6.2	22.2
WHITE SUCKER	4	11.5	10.4	13.2
YELLOW PERCH	86	5.6	4.7	9.3



This last spring the English Lake Association contracted with Onterra in DePere to address the weed issue we are experiencing. This is a 3 year project to first collect data, make grant proposals and get DNR approval before we can start a remedy for the weed issue. This is truly an exercise in patience. The attached picture shows the extent of weed infestation.

In April 2022 with the help of Manitowoc County, and the farm owner north of the lake, the field runoff was redirected north to the marsh area off English Lake Rd, removing a large source of field runoff going directly into our lake. Most of the expense was covered by a grant from the State and the farm land owner.

This spring the English Lake Association enforced a new no wake high level rule for boat traffic. This was used from May into June this spring. By and large most of the visitor boaters honored the rule. A sign is posted on the boat landing only when the no wake rule is in effect. We mass email the landowners around the lake to inform them of the status when it changes. The wet spring had a big impact on the lake.

Q and A for Lake Districts,

Q; Do lake districts and other types of lake organizations need to follow Worker's Compensation requirements in Wisconsin?

A. Yes. Wisconsin law requires that an employer with employees working in Wisconsin must carry worker's compensation insurance. This assures employers that they will not be sued for damages, medical care, and lost wages if their employees get injured while working. The law requires that every employer subject to the Worker's Compensation Act must provide some way of assuring that it can pay benefits to its workers should they become injured. See the Department of Workforce Development's worker's compensation web portal for details and specific information on being compliant. https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wc/ For more information on lake districts, see People of the Lakes: A Guide for Wisconsin Lake (Lake Tides)

Long Lake

Water clarity was very good in May, but has returned to average clarity in July. Seechi disc reading.

- May 10, 2024 – 12 feet, water crystal clear
- May 28, 2024 – 9 feet, green algae
- July 8, 2024 – 2.5 feet, water turbid, green/brown algae

Eurasian water milfoil (UWM) is making a substantial come back after 15 years of little to moderate growth. Could it be because of the of the watershed runoff of 10+ inches of rainfall in June and early July? The temporary "High Water No Wake Ordinance" was in effect from June 22 to 28 due to lake's high water level.

The lake is seeing a high amount of watercraft traffic (boats and personal watercraft) and fishing pressure this summer which is causing the operating distance for shoreline and other watercraft state statutes to be largely ignored.

The Long Lake Advancement Association (LLAA) annual meeting was held June 29, 2024. DNR fish biologist Jason Breeggemann gave an update on the results of the fish surveys and temporary pan fish bag limits that are in effect thru 2025 on Long Lake. LLAA voted to endorse his recommended permanent bag limits of pan fish for 2026.
There was also a discussion on purchasing a small remote controlled weed harvester due to the large resurgence of UWM at the south end of the lake. A motion was made to gather more information before a decision is made.

The annual 4th of July boat parade was held at 10:00 a.m. on the lake. About 20 decorated boats made the trip around the lake that started at the boat launch.

Guest Article:

Tom Ward was charter member and past president of MCLA. Tom retired as invasive species leader in 2021 after he and his wife moved to their home farm and Lake near Amherst.

After living and working in Manitowoc County for over forty years then moving away in 2021 we miss all the neighbors, acquaintances and friends. We still try to remain in contact with the community by subscribing to the local newspapers and tuning in to local radio stations. I am proud to see that MCLA is remaining active in delivering lake information to the lake groups and sportsman.

MCLA was one of the first county wide Lake Associations in Wisconsin formed to umbrella the small lakes that may not qualify to form a viable Lake Association. At the time a small group of charter members stepped up to take on the liability of running aerators to prevent winter fish kills.

Challenges continue today from issues never dreamed of thirty years ago like Wake boats carrying contaminated ballast water and disturbing the lake sediments as we politically look for resolutions to mitigate the problem. The Carstens Lake project that is experimenting with a phosphorus removal system that may offer solutions to other lakes.

We still have lakes like Bullhead and Silver lakes trying to deal with their waterquality issues. Tools remain limited in removing phosphorus once it has entered a lake.

To meet these and future challenges of climate impacts and social pressures we will need volunteers and future leadership as the old guard retires. I would like to see more people attend the Wisconsin Lakes Convention held in April at Stevens Point that provides workshops and information for everyone and a chance to share ideas with other lake people throughout Wisconsin. Maybe we can fire up some new leaders.

Mark your calendars!

In 2025, The Manitowoc County Lakes Association will host five meetings in Room 300 of the Manitowoc County Office Complex. located at 4319 Expo Drive. The tentative dates are listed below. Any changes in these dates will be communicated on our website.

These 5 dates are Thursdays. All meetings will start promptly at 6:30 PM.

02/27/25
04/17/25 (note that NFL draft in Green Bay is on Thu 4/24/25 so this meeting has no conflict with that)
06/26/25
08/28/25
11/20/25

In addition, our annual meeting and banquet will be held in either September or October of 2025. An exact date and location of that event are yet to be determined.
To get the most up to date information on meetings and events, please refer to our website at manitowoccountylakesassociation.org

A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye looking into which the beholder measures the depth of its own nature.

~Henry David Thoreau

MCLA,
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MCLA'S Mission Statement

The Manitowoc County Lakes Association will protect and enhance the quality of area lakes and watersheds for the benefit of all."

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