



Red Lake Association

Wascott, Wisconsin

Summer 2008

Volume 3, Number 2

In This Issue

- Our Mission
- Summer Meeting scheduled
- Minutes from 5/24 Annual Mtg
- Milfoil article
- Pictures from Memorial Day weekend

Category of Links

Red Lake Association

or

[http://www.presenter.com/~rla/
Links.htm](http://www.presenter.com/~rla/Links.htm)

Wisconsin Association of Lakes

or

<http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/>

Douglas County Association of
Lakes and Streams

or

<http://www.fotsch.org/DCALS.htm>

Contact Us

[tom.mahoney@](mailto:tom.mahoney@millennialeaders.com)

millennialeaders.com

715/466-5951

Red Lake Association news

The Red Lake Association's (RLA) 2008 annual meeting was held on May 24th at the Wascott Town Hall. See meeting summary inside.

Board members are:

President: Tom Mahoney

Vice President: Brad Guinn

Treasurer: Mary Jane Wesolowski

Secretary: Carol Skinner

Members At Large: Patrick Daly, Bev Robinson, Leeann Pollack, Barb Johnson

Annual membership dues are \$25 per family. Dues for 2008 are due now. If you haven't sent in your payment, please do so and send it to Mary Jane Wesolowski at 16242 S. Ahrens Dr., Minong, WI 54859.

Our Mission

The purpose of the Association is to preserve and protect Red Lake in Wascott, Wisconsin and its surroundings, and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and aesthetic values of Red Lake, as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations.

Next Meeting Scheduled for August 30

Wascott Town Hall 9am

The summer meeting of the Red Lake Association has been scheduled for August 30th at 9am. The meeting will be held at the Wascott Town Hall.

Agenda

Introduce members & board

Business meeting - Committee reports

New Business - elect officers, planning, membership, discuss milfoil prevention on lake

Water Quality Committee

Tom Johnson, Chair
Tom Mahoney
Leeann Pollock
Jeff Robinson

Membership Committee

LeeAnn Pollock, Chair
Joel Skinner

Grant Writing Committee

Mary Mahoney, Chair
Carol Skinner

Check out the Red Lake Association Website

<http://www.redlakeassociation.org/>

Remember to Attend:

Red Lake Association Annual
Meeting - May 24, 2008 9am

Scott Toshner - DNR Fishery
Manager will present

Summer meeting date - to be
determined @ Wascott Town Hall

Newsletter by Tom Mahoney

Please send any comments or ideas
to: tom.mahoney@millennialleaders.com

16242 S. Ahrens Dr., Minong, WI 54859

715/466-5951

Member Roster

The following families have been members since we started. Dues are \$25 per family for the year. 2008 dues are now due.

Ahrens Jr., Robert & Pat
Arneson, Earl & Donna
Askay, Christine
Bailey, Jim & Mary Jane
Bauers, Gene & JoAnn
Braden, David & Ann
Buettner, Gary & Mae
Carpentier, Bill (Carp) & Sue
Chase, James & Bonnie
Coenen, Richard & Frances
Dahl, Rita & Barry Nab
Daly, Tom & Shirley & Patrick
Donovan, James & Myrna
Eisele, Gregory & Sharon
Frye, Jim & Dolly
Guinn, Brad
Hero, Frances & Stephen
Hollingsworth, Lee & Carla
Jochims, Bob
Jochims, Jim & Marilyn
Jochims, Neil & Kathy
Johnson, Tom & Barb
Kennedy, John
Knabe, Jeanette & George
Kopfman, Edward & Ann
Lynn, Chester & Vi
Mahoney, Tom & Mary
Pimple, Thomas & Shirley
Pollock, Matt & Lee Ann
Post, Scott & Julie
Rathke, Jarold & Sharon
Robinson, Jeff & Beverly
Rodemann, Bill & Lynn
Sandstrom, Dean
Santangelo, Ray & Bobbie
Skinner, Joel & Carol
Wecker, Dohl & Ruth Ann
Wesolowski, Wes & Mary Jane
Wigstrom, Tom & Sally

RED LAKE ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING – May 24, 2008

A regular meeting of the Red Lake Association was held on May 24, 2008, at the Wascott Town Hall in Wascott, WI.

An informative presentation on historical surveying and fishing and stocking records for Red Lake was given by Scott Toshner of the Wisconsin DNR. Scott indicated that there is a high population of pan fish, especially bluegill, in Red Lake. Efforts to stock walleye have been ongoing, using small fingerlings, as stocking with larger fish is expensive. Scott does not believe Red Lake will ever be a walleye lake because of the lack of algae bloom to provide food for hatched eggs. The next survey for Red lake is scheduled for 2010.

Shoreline stewardship was briefly discussed. Scott reminded the group to leave logs in the water, and avoid fertilizer use within at least 30 feet of the shoreline. He talked about grants, and lake associations who were receiving grants for shoreline restoration.

Mary Mahoney gave a report as chair of the RLA Grant Committee. She indicated that if a lake association applies for and receives a grant, the lake association must contribute 25% of the amount awarded in the grant. Ideas discussed for possible grants included native plantings by the lake. Perhaps some local greenhouses would give us a discount on plants for shoreline restoration. The DNR would require some kind of reporting on plant health/progress, if we were a grant recipient. **The Lake Association would need some interested parties to be involved in this or related ventures; please give Mary a call (715/466-5951) or speak up at the next meeting if you are interested!**

Mary Jane Wesolowski gave the Treasurer's report. Our balance as of the meeting date is \$1442.83. Our lake association has a participation rate of 70% of lake property owners. Way to go!!

Please remind your guests that skiing is not permitted before 10 am or after 7pm. ☺

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. **Next lake association meeting** is the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, which is **August 30** this year, at **9:00 am**. At this time, we will need to elect new officers, so please consider serving! It's only one year, and not much work~ Jim Donovan has been nominated for Vice President. Anyone interested in serving or nominating someone can either email Tom Mahoney at tom.mahoney@millennialeaders.com, or do so at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

Carol Skinner,
Secretary

Milfoil can be a scourge

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2008 3:20 PM CDT

From the Washburn County Land, Water, Conservation Office

Here in the Northwoods, time spent on lakes is a precious resource. Whether it's fishing, water skiing, tubing or just cruising around the lake in a pontoon, lakes play an important role in recreation. It is important to remember some lakes also carry a highly invasive species called Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM).

EWM is a perennial submersed aquatic plant accidentally introduced in the 1940s to North America from Europe, where it is widespread. It began infesting Wisconsin in the 1960s through aquaculture (fish farms) and aquarium trade. It is currently found in 48 of the 50 states, and as of December 2006, it has been verified in 475 water bodies in Wisconsin.

In Washburn County, it is present in the Minong Flowage, Nancy Lake, Totogatic River, and Shallow lake (near Barronett).

Dense milfoil beds usually occur in water between 3 and 20 feet deep. Once established, it becomes highly invasive and aggressively competes with native plant communities, reducing biodiversity.

Dense vegetative mats form across the water's surface and stands of mangled stems form thick underwater stands, making it difficult for fish and waterfowl to swim through. Since its growth is typically dense, milfoil weed beds are poor spawning areas for fish and may lead to populations of stunted fish.

Although many aquatic plants serve as valuable food sources for wildlife, waterfowl, fish, and insects, EWM is rarely used for food.

Dense mats also alter water quality by raising pH, decrease oxygen, and increase temperature. Stagnant water created by thick mats also provides good breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Once established, EWM also inhibits recreational uses such as swimming, clogs propellers, and tangles fishing line, making it very cumbersome for boaters and fisherman.

Under severe conditions, channels are needed to allow access from the shoreline out into deeper water.

Seven native water milfoils are found in Wisconsin, but EWM has characteristics that make it distinguishable from natives:

- More than 12 pairs of leaflets per leaf.
- Leaves arranged in whorls of three to five around the stem.
- Reddish stem.
- Very delicate, feather-like leaves.
- Leaves usually limp when out of water.
- No Turion (over-wintering bud that resembles a small pine cone).

EWM reproduces almost exclusively by fragments breaking off from a single plant. The free-floating fragments will drift away, sink, and eventually start a new colony. A fragment even a few inches long is capable of starting a new plant. Fragmentation can occur from wind and wave action, or the most common way, from boats driving through dense stands.

Unfortunately, once EWM has been introduced in a lake, there is no way to completely eradicate it. Human recreational activities highly account for its spread.

Fragments of the plant cling to boat motors, propellers, and trailers. If it is not removed before a boat launches into another water body, it can start a new population.

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

Although eradication is rare, control efforts are possible. Hand-pulling can be effective if the colony size is small, water clarity is good, and the lake bottom is soft enough to completely remove the plants roots. Mechanical harvesting requires a Department of Natural Resources permit and will likely require an aquatic plant management plan. Chemical control of herbicides applied by licensed applicators, also requires a DNR permit and aquatic plan management plan.

Treatment can be very expensive, and repeated applications over a long period of time are necessary for effective control.

Biological control is another control option. A Milfoil Weevil, which is native to North America, normally feeds on native milfoil. However, if given the choice it prefers to feed on EWM. Those weevils are the size of a sesame seed. They lay their eggs in the stems of the milfoil, and when the larvae hatch, they begin eating the milfoil, eventually killing the plant. Weevils are a food source for sunfish, so maintaining a population of them is difficult and expensive. No DNR permit is required for introducing weevils to a EWM infestation.

Some extra steps people should take to prevent the spread of EWM before leaving a boat landing include:

- Inspect and remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals from equipment, including the boat, motor, trailer, and live wells
- Drain water from all equipment.
- Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash.
- Rinse the boat with hot or high-pressured water, or let it dry for five days before putting it back in the water.

Those who believe they have found EWM in a lake should take a sample to their local DNR office for further identification.

Pictures from Memorial Day boat parade and weekend fun on the lake.

