

Lake Mildred & Clear Lake Property Owners Association

Lake Management Study

By Jim Wheaton

In August 2013, LMPOA received the report on Lake Mildred and Clear Lake – the result of nearly two years of public meetings, water sampling, habitat surveys, and analysis of the condition of the lakes and surrounding area. The comprehensive report ran to 80 pages, along with 7 maps and 90 pages of supplementary information (resident surveys, Power Point presentations from public meetings, aquatic plant and fisheries reports, etc.)



Summarized below are several key findings that all lake residents and users should be aware of. Some parts of the study focused primarily on Lake Mildred, and other parts included Clear Lake as well.

Stakeholder Survey: There was a survey of Clear Lake and Lake Mildred stakeholders, seeking their concerns about the lakes. The top concerns were similar – water quality degradation, loss of fish habitat, aquatic invasive species, and excessive aquatic plant growth. While there were many different concerns voiced in the survey, these listed were the top concerns, regardless of whether the stakeholder was a year-round resident on the lake or just enjoyed the lake during vacation/summer time. *continued on page 3*

Water Level

The water level continues to rise on Lake Mildred and Clear Lake. Since fall of 2014 the water level has come up 10+ inches.

April 2, 2011

April 2, 2015



President's Corner

By Paul Evans

Spring has finally arrived and it is time to start doing all of those outdoor projects we have been planning all winter. Well, at least some of them. The Lake Mildred and Clear Lake Property Owners Association also becomes more active when the weather warms starting with the first meeting of 2015 on May 23rd. I encourage you to join for the first time or renew your membership. You will find information about joining ; the work that is being done and about the May meeting in this newsletter. We are glad that the number of members from Clear Lake is growing. The lakes might not be joined by water (someday they may again be joined) but we certainly all share a love for the lakes. If you are interested in getting involved please attend the meetings or contact the people who have written articles in this newsletter .

The Association spent a considerable amount of money and time over that past 3 years conducting a lake study. It provided a wealth of information about Lake Mildred (the study only looked at Lake Mildred but its findings certainly can be applied to Clear Lake as well) and emphasized our responsibilities to keep it clean. Those efforts include lake and island monitoring and the clean boats/clean water program at the landing. There have been discussions at past meetings about the fishing and the changes to the species and low numbers of large fish over the past several years. This continues to be a concern of many owners. We learned from the study that our lake cannot on its own sustain a large population of fish. It does not have enough good spawning habitats to renew fish numbers. We have initiated campaigns to encourage catch and release but we are unsure of the effectiveness of those efforts to change habits especially of those who do not live on the lake but do fish it. Carl Corey has talked about building fish cribs as one way to improve spawning habitats and sanctuaries for small fish. The efforts of Jennifer and Jeff Labs to reduce rain water runoff and erosion is also an example of ways that we can all help. Should we look at funding a stocking program? This is a question we will talk about at the May meeting. We will also review the survey of owners that was conducted as part of the lake study. The issues raised by most will help guide the Board's efforts over the next year. Let me know what you think at fishbevans1@gmail.com. See you on May 23rd and on the water! *Paul Evans*

CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS



By Sandy Ebben

This season Jasmine Labs will be conducting boat inspections for the Clean Boats Clean Water Project. Jasmine and her family live on Lake Mildred. The project is designed to help prevent invasive species from entering the lake on boats being launched at the public landing. Last year the Lake Mildred Property Owners association spent \$1122 to hire trained inspectors to inspect boats. We received \$695 in donations from association members and the balance was paid out of the general funds. No invasive species have been found in Lake Mildred and we hope that through this project we can keep them out of our lakes.

Lake Monitoring

By Connie Muckelberg

Lake Mildred and Clear Lake were pronounced close to perfection two years ago. As concerned citizens, we cannot assume that all will remain pristine. We need to be vigilant, or we may lose ground to invasive species or to careless use of our waters and shorelands. Being so far above average requires some effort, and we all hope that our future generations will be able to enjoy our natural resources as we have been able to.

Our lake management committee has not had the chance to do much during the process of the lake studies, but now the committee and members can join in and learn to protect our lakes and lands. As chair of the lake management committee I have taken the first steps to organize an “observation group”. The lakes have been divided into twelve areas of similar size. We hope to have twelve citizen monitors to watch for any changes in their assigned areas. Little time or effort will be needed to accomplish this. Monthly reports will be turned in and tallied and the results will be placed on the website for all to view and learn from.

By volunteering for this project you just might be the hero that finds a destructive intruder and saves our lakes from declining. Limnology, the study of inland waters, is not just an involvement of professionals, but people like all of us that truly care about what we have and how to keep it. Please join us in this effort. A sign up sheet will be at our Memorial Weekend meeting. Packets for each area will be available for all that sign up. In advance, thank you for caring.



Oneida County Enforcing Rental Ordinance

The Oneida County Zoning Department is enforcing an ordinance that prohibits renting dwellings located in single family residential districts for less than 30 days. In order to rent out a house or cabin by the week or day the property needs to be correctly zoned and the owner is required to have a Tourist, Rooming Home License. The county has received complaints about short term tenants creating noise, garbage and violating boating and fishing regulations. Last year the county filed at least two lawsuits to stop weekly rentals in single family zoning districts. Lake Mildred and Clear Lake are both zoned “Single Family Residential” and weekly rentals are not permitted.



“Fish Sticks” aren’t just for Fridays

By Carl Corey

One of the goals set by the Lake Management Committee is to improve the fish population in our lakes. To accomplish this we need to create more habitat for the fish. “Fish Sticks” are trees that are dropped into the lake and anchored on shore to create shelter and feeding areas. We are looking for property owners who are willing to participate in this project. Our committee will take a tour of the lake this spring to find trees along the shore that would make good ‘fish sticks’. Please contact Carl at 715-282-7576 if you have a tree that you think would work for this project.

Board of Directors

- Paul Evans, President
- Connie Muckelberg, Vice President
- Jim Wheaton, Treasurer
- Sandy Ebben, Secretary
- Bob Hasal, Director

Committees and Projects

- Historian—Germaine Jones
- Website—Dave Ebben
- Sunshine: Becky Corey
- Newsletter—Sandy Ebben
- Fish Cribs: Carl Corey

“Kids Don’t Float”-Mary Fortier

- Clean Boats: Sandy Ebben
- Lake Management: Connie Muckelberg, Paul Evans, Becky Corey, Bob Hasal, Clyde Austin, Gary Gall, Sandy Ebben, Dennis Katterhenry

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MAY 23, 2015 9 AM

NEWBOLD TOWN HALL HWY 47

The next Association meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 23rd at 9:00am. The meetings are all held at the Newbold Town Hall on Highway 47 across from Club 47. You are all encouraged to attend and learn about what is happening on the lakes. Maybe even more important you will have a chance to meet other people who live on the lakes. At this year's meeting Mark Stroede from Outdoor Rooms, Inc. will talk about the shore restoration that they did on Jennifer and Jeff Labs' property last fall. This promises to be a very interesting talk. Check out their web site for more information about Outdoor Rooms, Inc.. We will also talk about the new initiatives the Association should pursue and hear from many volunteers about the work they have been doing. And as always there will be coffee and treats and a chance to purchase Lake Mildred/Clear Lake clothing. **Mark your calendar for May 23rd.**

Paul Evans, Association President

Fall Meeting: September 5, 2015 9 AM, Newbold Town Hall



LAKE MANAGEMENT STUDY (continued from page 1)

Water Quality: The Lake Management study looked at three key water quality parameters – phosphorus levels, chlorophyll-a, and Secchi disk transparency. For all three parameters, Lake Mildred was ranked *Excellent*. However, there are annual fluctuations of water clarity in Lake Mildred that may or may not be affected by the nutrient content (phosphorus and chlorophyll-a). The study recommends continued monitoring of these three parameters. Dissolved oxygen levels and temperatures were also measured, and there is no reason for concern regarding winter oxygen levels in Lake Mildred.

Invasive Species: Plankton tows were completed and processed. There was no evidence of zebra mussels in Lake Mildred. Further, Lake Mildred was found to have a calcium concentration and pH levels which offer a very low susceptibility to zebra mussel establishment. However, this does not mean that we can relax – keeping the lake free of invasive species is going to be a constant concern.

Invasive Aquatic Plants: The study found no evidence of Eurasian water milfoil or curly-leaf pondweed – both of which are invasive species affecting other Wisconsin lakes and which choke out native species, reduce habitat for fish, and cause algae blooms. Again, keeping invasive aquatic plants out of our lakes will require constant effort – such as the 'Clean Boats - Clean Waters' campaign that the Association supports at the public boat landing during the boating season.

A surprising result from the lake study was evidence of two native species that are rarely found in Wisconsin lakes – snail-seed pondweed and northeastern bladderwort (a carnivorous plant). There were samples of both from both Lake Mildred and Clear Lake. Overall, the aquatic plant community was found to be highly diverse, and this level of diversity indicates a higher resilience to environmental disturbances and higher resistance to invasion by non-native plants.

Fish Habitat: The study noted that the aquatic food chain is the major determining factor in the lakes' ability to support a large population of 'predatory' game fish (e.g. bass, walleye, muskie). The aquatic food chain begins with sunlight & nutrients, which fuel algae & plants, which feed insects and zooplankton, which feed smaller fish, which then are the food for the 'predatory' game fish. The study did note that there are at least ten different species found in the lakes – crappie, bluegill, large- and smallmouth bass, muskie, northern pike, pumpkinseed, walleye, yellow bullhead and yellow perch. Two key factors impact the small game fish population – the clarity of Lake Mildred in particular with low levels of nutrients (phosphorus & chlorophyll-a); and the relative lack of substrata and spawning grounds for muskie and walleye. These two species in particular prefer spawning areas on rock/gravel or in woody debris above sand or muck bottom, and there is a limited amount of these types of spawning areas in our lakes.

The lake study included an Implementation Plan which LMPOA is following, particularly with regard to keeping the lakes free of invasive plant and animal species. Your support for the Association and the 'Clean Boats - Clean Waters' initiative will help keep our lakes enjoyable and safe for years to come.

2014 Lake Mildred & Clear Lake Property Owners Association Members
Thank you for your continued support !

Adams, Scott and Susan
Heidner, Christy Collins
Annesley, Bill and Jan
Anderson, Michael
Schaefer, Paul and Marla
Austin, Clyde and Liz
Bosman, Jan
Butler, Tom
Braun, Cindy & Jeff
Corey, Becky and Carl
Dye, Jennifer and Darin
Ebben, Dave and Sandy
Ellis, Jeanne
Evans, Paul and Nancy
Fixmer, John and Dixie
Fortier, Mary
Gall, Gary and Kathy
Gannon, Phil and Robin
Giorgi, Gary, Kathy Helm
Gustafson, Bill and Gloria
Gresen, Phil

Groat, Mary and Mike
Hasal, Bob and Kay
Hoffman, Jeff and Esther
Jacobs, Jan and Mark
Jones, Dave & Germaine
Johnson, Russ & Cheryl
Kanemoto, Bonnie & S. Tessendorf
Labs, Jennifer and Jeff
Larson, Harlan and Daun
Lynch, Sharon
Mattson, Bill & Sheri
Merkel, John and Monica
Morgan, Brad and Rachel
Muckelberg, Connie and Pete
Pede, Beverly and Duane
Peterson, Joanne
Petta, Mike and Susi
Ottman, Tom & Mary
Riverdahl, Jack and Vicki
Ritchie, Craig & Delyn

Schoppe, Ken & Sharon
Shunk, Robert
Schuster, Tom & Lori
Schaefer, Paul & Marla
Schoeder, Bill and Sharon
Smout, Neal
Smith, Tom & Paula
Spencer, Shane and Kieran
Schjerven, Bob & Alice
Sufranksi, Jerry and Eileen
Sullivan, Tim & Alanna
Taege, Bing and Ellie
Treu, Scott and Donn
Trenholm, Dan & Gail
Wagner, Terry
Wilson, Nancy
Werner, Greg and Theresa
Wheaton, Jim
Zimny, Bob and Wendy
Zunker, Les & Denise

LMPOA
4349 Cedar Lane
Rhineland, WI 54501



Don't miss the Association Meeting on Saturday, May 23, 2015 at 9 AM at Newbold Town Hall