



The Archie Times



Spring 2009 Edition

The editor for this edition: Steve Fleming – stevefleming77@earthlink.net or phone 262.367.4559.

Please feel free to contact any Board Member for articles you would like to see written or ideas you would like to submit. The Board would like to THANK Rod Chaganos for his years of dedication in writing/organizing /editing the Archi Times. He did an excellent job and raised the bar for the future!

Welcome to Your Spring Edition of the Times by Steve Fleming

Winter has finally ended and for many of us we have already started the task of cleaning and fixing. Somehow this task always seems more enjoyable when you're on the lake!

Unfortunately, even though mother nature provided some pretty good snow cover this winter the dry spring has left the lake lower than normal for this time of the year. Hopefully we will get good rains this year to at least sustain the current lake level.

If you are lucky enough to enjoy the winters on the lake you probably know that there was a lot of activity, beyond the usual ice fishermen, on the ice this winter. This issue of the Archi Times will hopefully provide you with an idea of all the things that happened.

One word of caution. Please be very careful with fires! This spring has been drier than normal and the fire hazard has been running between medium and very high for most of this spring.

Contents of this Issue

- Calendar of upcoming meeting and events
- Cooks Corner - Recipe
- Winter Ecosystem Projects (Here is what happened this winter)
 - Walleye Stocking
 - Tree Drops
 - Rock Reef
 - Musky Stocking
- Board Members Names and Addresses
- Money Talks – Budget Status and Plan
- Aquatic Plant Management Planning Process (Here is what's next)
- Annual Meeting / Board Elections
- Clean Boats / Clean Waters
- Community (ATV Update)
- Final Thoughts

Important Dates...Mark Your Calendars by Joanne Boyer

Saturday, June 27th ANNUAL MEETING Townsend Town Hall

9:00 Social Time

9:30 Lake Association meeting

This is an important time for members to be part of discussions that have to be made regarding the maintenance and improvement of our beautiful lake. Several projects have been completed over the winter and pictures will be available to view. See you on June 27th.

August 15th ARCHIBALD LAKE ASSOCIATION PICNIC

Where? (to be determined) (Townsend Town Hall in case of rain)

Start: 4:00 p.m.

Last year's picnic at Edinger's, hosted by Jim & Pudge Edinger and Randy and Chris Olson, was enjoyed by many on a beautiful summer afternoon. The picnic is a good time to get reacquainted with your cottage friends and meet new ones.

We are looking for someone to host this year's picnic. You provide the place and we do the rest! If you are interested in hosting, please contact Joanne Boyer at 920-734-9979 or email djboyer6@yahoo.com

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12TH (Tentative) GOLF OUTING

Cooks Corner by Joanne Boyer

BEER LIME GRILLED CHICHEN

1 lime juiced

1 (12 oz) can light colored beer

1 tsp. honey

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro

salt and pepper

4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

Mix well lime juice, beer, honey, garlic, cilantro, salt & pepper.

Pour mixture over chicken breasts and marinate 30 – 60 minutes.

Remove chicken from marinade, discarding marinade.

Grill chicken over medium heat for approximately 7 minutes per side or until juices run clear.

Winter of 2008/2009- Ecosystem Projects By Steve Fleming

The winter of 2008 has been a very busy year for Archibald Lake. As most of you know the Lake Association has completed two major projects and two smaller projects that will improve the lake ecosystem for years to come. The four projects were 1) placing approximately 115 tree drops at 54 different locations around the lake, 2) installing a 460 foot rock reef, 3) planting 312, 8 – 12 inch walleyes in early October, and 4) the DNR planted 416

muskies. These projects were the recommendations of the DNR and the Forest Service professionals based on their studies of the lake and complimented by their expertise. Other Archi Times articles will talk about the specifics of each project. This article is intended to provide you with the logic that ties all of these projects together.

Let me start by answering one frequently asked question; why are we calling these “ecosystem” projects? They all look like they are intended to improve fishing. These projects are intended to increase the number of fish within all species and to improve the fish habitat. Having a healthy fish population of all sizes and species is a vital part of having a healthy lake ecosystem.

That leads to question #2, what is an ecosystem? An “ecosystem” is a complete community of living organisms and non-living materials. If the community stays in balance it can remain healthy for many years. If the balance changes the ecosystem will change and in some cases it may even die. The “death” of an ecosystem is usually not fast but instead will happen slowly. Archibald Lake is an ecosystem. Ecosystems can be as large as a rain forest or as small as a puddle. The balance within an ecosystem can be fairly fragile and thus often times needs to be managed. Let me give you an example using the human body which is an ecosystem. In order to stay healthy the body needs to have the appropriate balance of living cells, microorganisms, vitamins, minerals, oxygen, etc. If something gets out of balance, say you have a shortage of calcium, over time, the body will be affected your bones will become fragile, and in some cases you may become sick and could die. The same goes for our lake. In the case of our lake’s ecosystem it is made up of plants, animals and fish, microorganisms; soil, rocks, and minerals; as well as surrounding water sources and the local atmosphere. In order to stay in balance and healthy we need algae and plants to produce oxygen and food for invertebrates (tiny animals) and vertebrates (fish). If the fish do not have appropriate habitat for spawning and survival their numbers will drop and the algae and plants will take over the lake. So, if you say we are working to improve the fish and fish habitat you are exactly right. However, the real goal is to help the ecosystem stay in balance and having a healthy fish population is as important to the lake as calcium is to your body. If you would like more detailed information here is one website that explains lake ecosystems in a lot of detail.
<http://www.answers.com/lake%20ecosystem>

Now, let me explain how these projects will help the ecosystem. In the DNR studies over the past several years we were told that certain species and certain sizes of fish are not as prevalent as they expect. Primarily the walleyes numbers are significantly down in the 7 – 10 inch range even though the DNR has stocked over 60,000 fingerlings in the past 10 years. We were also told that there is a significant lack of protective cover for all species of fish which over time will cause a reduction in fish numbers. As a result the DNR made 3 recommendations; 1) Place tree drops in non-interfering locations around the lake to provide cover for all fish and spawning potential for perch. 2) Due to the low water level they recommended that we enhance the current walleye spawning reef. 3) Rather than continuing to plant small fingerling walleyes they recommended that we plant fewer but larger fish. This would increase their likelihood of survival 4) The DNR Office out of Green Bay decided several years ago to stock a Canadian strain of tiger musky to breed the original native muskie, thereby providing a spawning population for the future in our lake and the many

lakes of northeastern Wisconsin and the Bay.

In summary, none of these actions will have an immediate affect on the lake. However, over time they will help to maintain the balance and water quality that we all have come to expect and love while improving for anglers the quality and quantity of fish.

Walleye Stocking Project by Steve Fleming

One of the key elements to keeping a balanced ecosystem is having a balanced fish population. This means having a balance of all types and sizes (ages). During the 2006 - 2007 DNR fish surveys it was identified that the walleye population was lower than would be expected in a lake like Archibald. The primary reason for these low fish levels was thought to be the declining habitat and in particular the declining spawning habitat due to lower than normal water levels. In order to help “boost” the walleye population in the short term and provide more fish for spawning in the future the DNR suggested that we could do some additional fish stocking. However, they did not recommend that we stock small “fingerling” walleyes in the lake as has been done in the past. Their experience has been that the survival rate of fingerlings is very low. They felt that we would see much higher survival rates if we planted fewer fish but larger sizes. At the 2008 Annual Meeting the Lake Association voted to plant 312, 8 – 12 inch walleyes.

After attaining all the necessary permits and approvals from the DNR a Wisconsin hatchery was selected that had reasonable prices. The fish were tested and found to be free of VHS and other diseases. With the participation of the Wisconsin DNR, and at a price of \$1.50 per fish, we released 50% of the fish in the east and 50% in the west. This work was completed in October of 2008. Based on the growth rate of walleyes these fish should be ready to spawn in 3-5 years.

Tree Drop Project by Dick Rankin

Over many months and with a terrific cast of volunteers from our Association approximately 115 trees were placed at 54 sites. The placements, which occurred on private and forest service shorelines, were of trees donated by both private lake owners and the forest service. Overall, the coordination of the entire project was in the capable and committed hands of Tom Moris, Wildlife Biologist for the Chequanegon-Nicolet Nat'l Forest, Laona Office. Tom was outstanding to work with, beginning in May of '08 when he guided members of the Board and the DNR around the Lake to begin the placement identification process and continuing through to the actual tree placement in Feb. '09. Besides providing his knowledge/experience, Tom shared his time, department finances and many of his staff during different phases of the project.

In May and Sept. of '08 surveys of the shoreline were conducted so as to determine the best locations for tree placements. In Fall, '08 members of the Board contacted Association members for their permission to locate trees on their shoreline. Location of the trees was also obtained from the property owners. Tom determined with help from DNR staff the best locations on property of the Forest Service, particularly on the northeast lobe of the lake. An extensive group of volunteers braved the winter elements in late Jan. /early Feb. to both attempts to 'blaze' an access trails to the lake and then for 2 days to place and anchor the trees

in their resting spots. To say the winter temps were cold is an understatement, actually the days volunteers worked were brutally cold with wind chill figures **well into** the minus category. The camaraderie of the volunteers certainly 'warmed-up' everyone's enthusiasm. Three skidders were used to transport the trees from the forest, down Presbyterian Road to their lake placement. In March another group of volunteers in much nicer weather drilled holes thru the tree trunks and treaded anchor units to prepare the trees for their final permanent anchoring which will take place in early June.

Obviously, THANKS go to Tom Moris who shared his talents/time over many months, many emails, and frequent presence on the lake. Thanks also to his staff and members of the DNR for their assistance and their contributed expertise. The greatest appreciation and THANKS goes to the lake association volunteers whose presence/time/equipment/expertise made this critical project a success. Their commitment made the orchestration of the tree drop project happen. Thanks again to ALL who helped make the tree drop project a reality.

Rock Reef Project by Dick Rankin

Whereas the tree drop project extended over many months of varied work projects the rock reef project was completed in a few short days and much balmy weather. The coordinator for this project was Gregory Kornely, DNR Fish professional from the Peshtigo Bureau of Fish Management. After the Board decided to proceed with the re-building of only 1 of the 3 reefs on the east side of the lake where about 85% of the spawning takes place, Greg determined the optimum width/depth/length of the reef. Mountain Stone, who had guaranteed an excellent price, sold us 273 tons of rock. The rock was mixed 70% 4"-8" stones and 30% 2"-4" stones which is the optimum for a walleye spawning reef. Greg worked with the Oconto Highway Department for the delivery of the rocks to Bells Point Road where they were dumped and re-loaded into a truck which was ½ full for transporting onto the lake. Because the rocks were dumped in a layered pattern minimal leveling was required by a skidder on the following day. The entire project took only 7 hours, was attended by members of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and DNR Offices from Green Bay. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office provided a \$5,000 grant without which this project would not have happened.

According to Greg, the Archibald Lake rock reef re-building project at 460' long and 20' wide is the largest reef built by the Peshtigo DNR Office. The width of 20' covers 3' on shore and 17' into the water so as to be usable by walleye for future years depending on the lake level. For many years Greg has valued Archibald Lake as a "special lake" because his mentor years ago had tabbed our lake as one of the very best walleye lakes in Wis. Greg feels that this new reef coupled with our stocking program will serve to enhance the walleye population for generations to come.

Total THANKS for the completion of this project goes to Greg Kornely who served as the overall coordinator. Thanks also go to the Oconto County Highway Department for hauling the rocks and the departments of U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the DNR for their personnel and tremendous financial assistance.

Musky Stocking by Shane Mason with support from Tim Counihan

A historic event happened on Archibald Lake in the early pre-dawn hours of Friday April 10th 2009. The Wisconsin DNR, with the help of volunteers from the Lake Association, as well as interested local enthusiasts, released some small yearling muskies into the lake. **This project was totally approved, coordinated, and funded by the Wisconsin DNR as part of an overall musky restoration effort in Wisconsin. The DNR decided that Archibald Lake, one of three such lakes selected, would be a good lake to release these fish because of the habitat and current fish populations.** These muskies are in addition to the walleye that were also released this past fall of 2008. These were part of a new management strategy being put forward by the WDNR. Along with the shoreline and habitat restoration, they are critical to restoring a healthy balance to the Archibald Lake ecosystem. (“Because muskellunge abundances were positively correlated to walleye abundances, direct competition or predation is unlikely to be occurring between these two species” Interactions between Walleyes and Four Fish Species with Implications for Walleye Stocking. 2005. ANDREW H. FAYRAM, MICHAEL HANSEN, TIMOTHY EHLINGER, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection) The desired timing for this stocking was the fall of 2008. Unfortunately the DNR unable to get these fish in the fall of 2008 and it almost didn't happen again at all in 2009. What made these particular fish so special is that they are a special strain of Great Lakes Spotted Muskellunge that originate from Georgian Bay, on the north end of Lake Huron in Ontario, Canada. Quite possibly one of the last sources of untainted genetics, of the fish that originally roamed these local waters, as well as the entire Lake Michigan drainage basin (the eastern 1/3rd of the state) hundreds and thousands of years ago. It will be these fish in years to come that help resurrect the Green Bay Spotted Muskellunge reintroduction and eventually the entire Lake Michigan drainage basin brood stock program. It all starts with Archibald Lake, but in the end it will mean better fisheries throughout the entire eastern third of the state.

The reason these fish were so hard to obtain is also tied directly into why this particular strain of musky was selected for the reintroduction program. Long before man dammed the rivers, and long before questionable practices in early fisheries management resulted in a mixing of strains that eventually led to fish that were not achieving the size or reproductive capacity that their native ancestors were able to. In short man screwed up what Mother Nature had perfected, through years of questionable genetic mixing, creating essentially what some refer to as mutts. So to correct this issue the DNR had to look for a pure strain of fish once native to these waters. Several years ago, the DNR began a huge genetic study and it was learned that indeed a source for these fish did exist, and one that's genetics are as pure as they were thousands of years ago. The fish best suited for our local waters were identified as the Great Lakes Spotted Muskellunge found in Georgian Bay, Ontario.

Canada does not have fish hatcheries. They rely 100% on natural reproduction to sustain their waters. The genetics these fish possess were so desirable to the Wisconsin DNR, believed to be one of the purest sources of fish that historically inhabited the entire Lake Michigan drainage basin, which includes Archibald Lake, that the DNR entered into a contract with Fleming College in Ontario, paid to have a hatchery built, and paid for the egg collection and raising these fish at a cost of in excess of \$50,000. The released small muskies will grow so that in 7+ years can be the brood stock source for the Great Lakes Spotted Muskellunge Restoration

program. And eventually the brood stock source for all of the Lake Michigan drainage basin. This almost didn't happen. As VHS was discovered several years ago in the great the federal government shut down both interstate and international borders to fish transport indefinitely. The fish Wisconsin was supposed to receive in 2007 had to be released in Canada (even though the DNR paid for them) and were days away from having these fish released again into Canadian waters this spring because of political red tape. (Fish had been tested 3 times to be VHS free). But finally the paper had been signed to allow a 1 time exemption for these fish. On a chilly April morning the new residents were placed ever so gently into the lake. With the hopes that in time and with a little help from habitat restoration that the muskies and walleyes will again sustaining their populations through natural reproduction. This will allow ever shrinking stocking funds to be better directed to where they could be better used. According to Tim Simonson (head of WDNR Muskellunge program) it is estimated that the cost to replace a 40" musky through stocking is \$1,143 to \$4,516, not to mention almost 8 years of growth, per fish. And the cost to replace a 50" fish through stocking could be upwards of \$35,850 per surviving stocked fish as well as 18 years of growth, per fish. So it's easy to see why we would want these fish naturally reproducing rather than trying to replace through stocking. These fish have been electronically (PIT) tagged as well as fin clipping corresponding to which one of the 4 parent families they came from to keep them distinguishable from the fish already in the lake.

Muskies and walleyes both native to Archibald Lake, being large apex predators are the most important part of the food chain in the lake. Look at them as the guardians of the lake. Once the large fish of any species are removed it can allow the smaller fish to overpopulate and throw the balance of the ecosystem out of whack. Many of the many "hammer handle" lakes around are the result of too many of the top end fish being removed. Muskies and walleyes have co-existed in lakes for thousands of years, and some of the best pan fishing/ walleye lakes in the state such as North and South Twin lakes, Lac Vieux Desert, Kentuck Lake and the Chippewa Flowage are also well known historic musky waters. It has always been easy to blame the poor fishing on something other than ourselves. "The muskies are eating all my walleye" "the walleye are eating all my perch." I consider myself among those making similar comments many years ago. The more I thought about it back then; I had never seen a musky eat 5 walleye a day, or 25 perch a day. After realizing this I looked towards my own practices as the reason for the fishing being less than spectacular. As I have changed my own practices, which include self imposed size/bag limits on all species, including pan fish. my fishing has gotten better. (Did you know a 10" bluegill is on average 14+ years old?) Once you begin to understand the big picture (whole ecosystem) you realize how important the top end fish are to the lake.

A healthy lake is one that fires on all cylinders, not one that favors one species over another. Mother Nature had things firing on all cylinders once. As this lake thrived for hundreds and thousands of years before we got here. All the hard work being done in the last few years will go a long ways towards ensuring the lake maintains a healthy and balanced eco-system for years to come.

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Money Talks (News from the Treasurer) by Gary Miller

The end of the fiscal year of the Archibald Lake Association was April 30, 2009. As of that date we had \$6,176 in the treasury of which \$1,000 is the Marty/Wiggins Shoreline Restoration Fund.

We had a very busy year during which a large amount of funds flowed through the association account to support the Tree Drop and Rock Reef projects. The total cost of the Tree Drop project was \$6,950. The project cost the lake association \$5,000, as budgeted. The balance of the project cost was assumed by the US Forest Service.

The cost of the Rock Reef project was \$6,804. The lake association contributed \$1,804 of the cost and the balance came from a US Fish and Wildlife Grant secured by the association in the amount of \$5,000.

To help defray the costs of the projects we received \$4,677 from the assessment made to lake members over the winter. The Board extends our thanks to all of the members who supported our efforts and who were able to contribute to this winters projects. The membership voted in favor of the Rock Reef Project by a margin of 98 Yes, 3 No and 3 abstained. The APMP was also overwhelmingly approved 95 Yes, 5 No and 4 abstained. We had hoped to raise \$5,000 to offset the project costs so we were very close to our goal. For those members who misplaced the assessment request, we are still receiving contributions to apply to future projects to preserve and improve Archibald Lake.

The next project on our agenda is the Aquatic Plant Management Plan which is aimed at controlling and eliminating aquatic invasive weeds in the lake as well as natural habitat weeds

that are taking over in some areas of the lake. We will need your financial and emotional (?) support for this project. The first step is to do a detailed survey of the lake to identify and quantify the aquatic plant types. We are applying for grants to help offset the costs of this project but do not know if we will be successful in receiving them. Please support this vital effort with your dues and any additional contributions you can make.

We will present a budget for 2009-2010 to the association members at the June annual meeting. The major change will be in our dues request. Because of the upcoming Aquatic Plant Management Plan development process we are asking the membership to support a dues increase from the current \$20 per year to \$30 per year. The Board held considerable discussion on the pros and cons of increasing the dues and also talked with other local lake associations about their dues schedules. We learned that dues for the Archibald Lake Association are generally lower than other local lake associations and that we are doing considerably more than most local lake associations to maintain and improve our lake habitat. Therefore, to support our continued efforts and to concentrate on the current effort to research and develop a plan for controlling aquatic plants in the lake we felt it necessary to increase dues to the recommended \$30 for the upcoming year. We hope the membership will support this decision.

In general, the Archibald Lake Association is in a strong financial position at the current time and we hope to maintain that strength so we can support the APMP project that is vital to the long-term health of our lake.

If you have any questions pertaining to our finances please feel free to contact me at any time.

Aquatic Plant Management by Steve Fleming, with help from Cathy Lindeman, Matt Marty and Betsy Nock

Sustaining and improving the lake is obviously a high priority of the Archibald Lake Association. In the winter of 2008-2009 Board and Association members worked hard at some needed projects to improve the lake ecosystem. They included tree drops, building a rock reef for fish spawning and the stocking a number of critical fish types. We are indeed thankful for both the financial and physical support that the membership has given the Archibald Lake Association

In 2009 we will continue these efforts by building an Aquatic Plan Management Plan (APMP). This planning activity was approved by the membership in the survey that was sent to the membership at the end of 2008. The vote was 95 for, 5 against, and 4 abstained. We had hoped to obtain a grant from the DNR, but that did not happen. Even though we did not get the DNR grant the Board feels that this project is important enough to begin work on it and pay for the initial costs ourselves. We are hoping to apply for a similar DNR grant in August to assist us with future costs.

The APMP is a plan that will help us understand and appropriately manage both invasive and non-invasive plants. Even though we did not receive the grant, we are moving forward in creating a baseline of what types of aquatic plants we do have. This plan will provide us with a roadmap for management and provide us ways to improve our lake quality.

We will begin the planning process with a detailed aquatic plant survey in June, 2009 when

the plants are flowering. Sometime in mid to late June, depending on the plant growth, Lakeland Biologists will spend between one and three days, depending on the weather, doing a complete survey of the aquatic plants in Archibald Lake. This survey will include locations and densities for all aquatic plants. The results will include a detailed map of current aquatic plants as well as the biologists' recommendations for possible ways to handle any problem areas. The cost to the lake association for this survey will be \$1,995. To insure the lake survey is accurate, we are requesting that you PLEASE not cut any lake plants until the survey is complete. It is really important that we get an accurate survey, so we can plan accordingly. Any weed cutting that is done before the survey will provide us with inaccurate results. Therefore, we ask again that no weeds be pulled or cut before the survey is completed. Thank you for your cooperation. We will notify members by email when the survey is done and ask that those people notify neighbors who do not have email of the completion of the survey.

Four biologists will be working their way around the entire lake. Two will be in boats while the other two will be walking in shoreline. The biologists will be gathering and identifying plant samples in water from 0 - 15 feet in depth. For the most part the biologist will be in water. However, there are cases where they may need to walk on your property (beach, shore, or over your dock). **We would very much appreciate the support of the members of the association in allowing the biologists to walk on your property if necessary.** If you are really against this, please let us know and we will make other arrangements.

The biologists are also looking for volunteers, some of which will need to have boats. They would like people who could spend a day of their time helping to locate plants. The biologists will teach us what needs to be done and provide us with buoys to mark the plants so they can come in and identify them. If the weather really cooperates (sunny and calm) they think they can finish the survey in one day. If the weather does not cooperate it could be two or even three days. If you can volunteer you don't need to be there for the full time but the more time you can spend the faster the process will go. They plan to start by 7:00am each morning to take advantage of the fact that the winds usually don't pick up until later in the morning. Unfortunately we cannot tell you the exact day this is going to happen. The exact day will depend on weather and plant growth. If you would like to volunteer please provide your name and phone number and we will call you when the biologists will arrive. If by chance you cannot make it on the day the survey is taking place we understand completely.

Once we have the plant map and recommendations from the biologists several members of the Lake Association will undertake the task of writing a detailed plan for aquatic plant management. The plan will be initially written in "draft" form. The first "draft" will be reviewed with the Board of Directors. After including the Board's inputs we will then review the plan with the general membership to gather their inputs. We are hoping to have a finalized plan ready by September but that will be dependent on the time it takes to get the reviews completed.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Lake Survey or if you have any questions, please contact Steve Fleming at 262.367.4559 or stevefleming77@earthlink.net. Any questions or concerns can also be addressed at our annual lake association meeting in June.

Thanks again for all your help and please volunteer if you are interested in participating with the lake survey.

Annual Meeting by Steve Fleming

As mentioned earlier, the annual meeting will be held on Saturday June 27th at the Townsend Town Hall. There will be a social ½ hour starting at 9:00 with the meeting following immediately at 9:30. We will have a slide show running before the meeting showing pictures from this past winter's projects. Before the meeting we have information to share and will also be selling some reproductions of an old map of Archibald Lake map. **At the end of the meeting we will be holding training session for those who are interested in learning how they can help with the Clean Waters – Clean Boats initiative.** Please attend this session if at all possible.

The agenda for the meeting will be roughly as follows:

1. Minutes from last year's meeting
2. US Forest Service – Tom Morris Guest Speaker
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Membership Update
5. Social - Past / Future Events
6. Community Update
7. Ecosystem Projects
 - Tree Drops
 - Rock Reef
 - Fish Planting
8. Aquatic Plant Management Plan.
9. Additional Topics / Questions / Concerns / Action Summary
10. Board Elections
11. Clean Boats – Clean Waters Training

Board Elections

The Association membership will vote 3 people onto the Board of Directors at the annual meeting. There are 2 terms of 3 years and 1 of 2 years. While some important projects have recently been completed the Board has several most important challenges ahead, specifically the development and them implementation of an Aquatic Management Plan. If interested contact a present member of the Board for further information. The Board normally meets in April, Aug. and Sept. at the lake and in Nov. and Jan./Feb. in Appleton, plus the annual meeting in June.

Clean Boats / Clean Waters by Betsy Nock

Clean Boats Clean Water will begin its 4th year of Boat Landing Monitoring on Memorial Day. Each year we are gaining more boat monitors and thus, being able to monitor the Boat Landing on more weekend days. You can see by the numbers below that we are able to be at the Boat Landing more frequently which lets us talk with more boat owners and inspect more boats.

	2006*	2007	2008
# of days covered part time	6	11	15
# of days covered full time	8	5	7
# of days with no coverage	4	13	8
# of boats inspected	52	94	110
# of people talked with	102	177	224

- In 2006 we worked from July 4th to Labor Day. In 2007 and 2008 we worked from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

The new DNR report shows that by boat monitors inspecting boats and trailers and talking with people about Aquatic Invasive Species, there has been a dramatically improved knowledge about Aquatic Invasive Species and improved behavior in keeping boats, trailers and equipment clean.

However, the information still shows that almost 25% of all boats entering our lakes have been in infested waters immediately before coming to our lake. Therefore, it is so important that we have a presence at the Boat Landing. The Clean Boats, Clean Water project on Archibald Lake is attempting to cover the Boat Landing from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 6:30 AM to 9:30 AM. We are happy to have volunteers who are able to come at different times if that would be a better fit for your schedule.

In order to cover the Boat Landing for 3 hours each weekend day of the summer season, we need to expand our volunteer list. We ask that volunteers spend up to 3 ninety minute sessions per summer season at the boat landing. **We are holding a Training Session after the Annual Meeting this June.** If you are interested in being a volunteer, but cannot stay after the meeting, please contact Betsy Nock at eanock@granitewave.com or 715.276.6633 and she will come to your cottage to train you.

Community - ATV Update provided by Jim Weyers from 9 Towns Meeting

The following is taken from a letter written by the local 9 Towns on April 21st, 2009. We are providing this letter for information only. The lake association board is not for or against this activity. We are simply sharing this for your information.

Background and Vision

Almost two years ago officers from the five ATV clubs in and bordering the east side of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest met to discuss how to best assist with the development of additional ATV mileage in the Forest and adjoining townships. The common club goal was to get involved with the “up to 85 miles of new ATV trails” promised in the usage plan for the forest created several years ago and connect all villages northern Oconto County and to adjoining counties.

The clubs decided to ask for a quarterly meeting with Forest Service staff to lay out a plan for best using Forest Roads and new trails to provide riding opportunities. Forest Service staff agreed and the clubs have been meeting quarterly since then with significant progress toward the goal.

The first club priority was to lay out trails and routes that would connect the communities in and surrounding the Forest. We have been working to identify a network of potential routes and trails that branch off of the Nicolet State Recreational Trail to reach communities not on the trail. This is of course a work in process and dependent on funding and town approvals.

The second priority will be to lay out riding opportunities of significant mileage that intersect with the Nicolet State Recreational Trail and the primary community connectors. Eventually we hope to utilize those “up to”85 miles of new trails and existing Forest Service Roads to make this area a premier ATV destination. We are located a “round trip on one tank of gas” from major population centers of the Fox Valley and Green Bay. Registration data shows that there are over 15,000 ATV’s registered in Brown and Outagamie Counties with no trail mileage to ride. Snowmobiling has been a mainstay for area businesses during the winter and our goal is to create a similar experience during the warm weather months for ATVers.

As our meetings evolved the Wisconsin ATV Association, the Potawatomi Tribe and Forest Administrators from Forest and Oconto County have begun attending our meetings and offering input that has been very valuable. Our clubs saw that by including Tribal and County Forest land in our long term planning we could increase our riding opportunities and work in tandem with the goals of these groups.

ATV Economic Impact

We understand that ATV’s have had a somewhat negative reputation in the past. We offer the following information about our sport to profile what is the reality today. The old image of “Hot Rod kids on unsafe three wheelers” is long gone. The last economic impact study done in 2003 by the Wisconsin Department of Tourism indicated that:

- The average age of survey respondents was 40 years old
- Thirty percent had annual incomes between \$41,000.00 and \$60,000.00, 24% between \$60,000 and \$80,000.00. The balance were either above or below these income groups.
- Favored leisure activities included ATV riding, hunting, fishing, camping, snowmobiling and boating.
- Most (97%) owned their ATV’s and on average own two ATV’s.
- Over the course of a year these riders take an average of six Wisconsin ATV trips and consisted of 5 people with a per person spending average of \$523.33 per trip and averaged 3.2 nights. Over half did not have anyone under age 15 in the party. The average daily expenditure per person was \$163.54.
- Annual total spending by ATV users was \$295,285,693.00 including \$34,698,614.00 by out-of-state visitors.

The above profile describes many property owners and visitors in the area towns. Since this survey is 5 years old it is likely that this spending pattern has continued and increased as more and more ATV’s are registered. **In fact, ATV’s now out register snowmobiles** and are expected to grow much faster in the future. Snowmobile registrations have stayed flat or decreased depending on snow conditions in individual years. Recent reports indicate that production of new ATV’s is two to three times that of snowmobiles.

Summary

The clubs involved in this project understand that not all of the goals and priorities can be done at one time. Club members are committed to work long term with WATVA and the governmental bodies involved to make this plan come to fruition. A map is available that shows the general idea of the trails routes currently existing and proposed for development.

Final Thoughts

Here are a few simple reminders as you prepare for another memorable year at the lake

- ✓ Please keep safety #1 as you start to enjoy the lake. Let's have another safe boating season! As you start to enjoy the lake this summer please be conscious of others and remember that boats must maintain a minimum of 100 ft between them and shore / docks. For personal watercraft the minimum distance is 200 ft. Also remember that we can help to keep the lake safer if we all go counter clockwise around the lake during ski hours.
- ✓ Please check to see when the last time was that you had your septic system pumped and inspected. If it is over 2 years it is a good idea to have it done this year. Pumping your tank regularly not only protects the lake but it will extend the life of your system
- ✓ Now is a great time to plant a rain garden or to do a shoreline restoration project. The association has a \$1,000 donation fund from Matt Marty and Kathy Wiggins to help defer some of the costs. Contact a board member if you are interested.
- ✓ Check your rain gutters and roof runoff to make sure any water coming off your property is not running directly into the lake. This small step will help to reduce the erosion entering the lake as well as improving water quality

COTTAGE SPRING CLEANING: Should you have items to share with others, i.e. small furniture, household goods, clothing, sports and fishing/hunting items, tools, etc. please consider taking them to the Wabeno Christian Thrift Store located in downtown Wabeno. This store is supported by 8 Churches and a terrific volunteer staff of dedicated folks who work to provide people in our area with the necessities they deserve. The phone # is 715-473-6509 and is open Tues. thru Sat. from 11 to 4. Thanks for sharing your items for the good of others.