

Lake 26 Newsletter

Spring 2017



Spring has arrived! And with it, our imagination is ignited and lists start being created for all the projects we want to get done at the lake this year! It is a special time, the ice is out (the photo above was taken on April 1), and the anticipation is building.

We had an exceptional turnout (almost 50) for the Lake Association meeting last summer and we again want to encourage each of you to join us and make sure to tell your neighbors on the lake! This is a family event held at Luther Park Camp. This year the Association gathering will be held on **Saturday, July 22nd from 5:00–7:00 pm**. Mark your calendars and come hear what's going on with your association.

Thank you to Lisa Peters for creating our spring newsletter again this year. Please read closely and let us know what other topics we can add in the future.
Ron Zickert, President, Lake 26 Property Owners Association

Membership dues – please return by May 15

Our Lake Association annual dues notice will be mailed to everyone. It is also attached with this email. Please respond and help us gather good contact information for all members so we can stay in touch on important issues.

Upcoming Events!

Annual Meeting/Picnic at Luther Park

5-7 p.m., Saturday, July 22, 2017

Adults are \$10; children are \$5
Pre-register or pay at the door

Fourth of July Boat Parade

Noon on Saturday, July 1, 2017
Boaters gather in Hideaway Bay

Board member elections this summer

Current board members are: Ron Zickert, president; Tim Hoffmann, vice president; Sue Holzemer, treasurer; and Lisa Peters, secretary.

We will need new board members this summer, so please consider serving. It's not a lot of work and it's a good way to get to know your lake neighbors. If you are interested in learning more please contact Ron Zickert at ronzickert@gmail.com.

Lake 26 owner enrolls in the county's Shoreline Incentive Program

Tony and Rhonda Bauer live on Rookery Road on the east shore of Lake 26. Here's their story of how they enrolled in the Shoreline Incentive Program:

"Burnett County came up with the Shoreline Incentive Program back in 2000 and we had the type of property they are targeting. We have property on the lake but it also includes the Lake 26 spring and marsh. Of course there is the now-protected heron rookery property, too, that is part of the Lake 26 spring and marsh.

"We contacted the county and they sent someone out to assess our property to see if it fit their criteria. It did, so we signed up. Bottom line is that we as shoreline property owners agree to follow all the established regulations and rules. It was really that simple. They want to try and get other shoreline owners to sign up to help preserve Burnett County's shorelines. So it is a program designed to help promote good shoreline stewardship. There are so many people who don't know the rules and or don't appreciate and understand them and over time we are losing this valuable resource. The agreement is we can still do what ever we want with our property as long as it follows the shoreline rules. In turn we get a property tax break."

More information can be found at this link;
<http://www.burnettcounty.com/index.aspx?NID=526>

Zebra Mussels Found In NW Wisconsin Lake



This past October, zebra mussels were discovered in Big McKenzie Lake in Burnett and Washburn Counties. A lakeshore property owner noticed the mussels attached to his pier as he removed it last fall. He took the specimens to the DNR in Spooner who verified they were in-fact zebra mussels. During a follow up inspection of the lake, DNR staff found a handful of additional zebra mussels at two separate locations -- a water intake and a boat lift.

This discovery is the first inland zebra mussel population verified in the 12 county area of northwestern Wisconsin.

Big McKenzie Lake is a drainage lake and it presents a challenge in controlling the spread of zebra mussels. Big McKenzie flows north into Middle McKenzie, then Lower McKenzie and finally the Namekagon River. It also flows south to a cranberry marsh, then Lipsett lake, and finally into the Yellow river. At this point there is no way of knowing if the zebra mussels will spread to these other water bodies.

Zebra mussels must have the right water chemistry in order to establish themselves. One of the primary factors is the calcium levels of the lake. The website below shows an interactive map, which has been color-coded and you can zoom in on NW Wisconsin. Lake 26 is listed a "Borderline Suitable" relative to supporting a zebra mussel population.

<http://www.aissmartprevention.wisc.edu/mappingtool.php>

The DNR has committed \$20,000 for early detection and response to the McKenzie Lakes Association to increase efforts to contain zebra mussels.

- Zebra mussels can be up to two inches long.
- They have a striped-shell that looks like a zebra's stripes.
- Zebra mussels can live for four to five years.
- Zebra mussels also have sticky byssal threads that they use to attach tightly to any hard surface (rocks, docks, underwater debris, boats, engines, weeds, etc.)

Can we control zebra mussels?

- Zebra mussels cannot be controlled in the wild. Once zebra mussels become established in a body of water there is nothing currently known to be effective in controlling or eradicating them.
- The spread of zebra mussels can be prevented by draining all the water from boats, live wells, and bait wells.
- Thoroughly inspect your boat's hull and trailer for zebra mussels and weeds.
- Let equipment sit for 4-5 days or rinse with hot water.
- Never take fish or plants from one lake and put them in another.

What is Lake 26 doing?

The primary way in which zebra mussels spread is through boaters unknowingly transporting them from lake to lake. For several years, Lake 26 has partnered with Eric Lindberg and Environmental Sentry Protection, providing video and audio monitoring at the public boat landing for all boat launches. We feel this provides a deterrent but cannot prevent careless boaters. As Lake Association members please monitor your lakeshore, docks and boats for any evidence of zebra mussels. Please also educate anyone you know that is launching boats on Lake 26 to be aware of the need to remove all weeds, drain their live wells, and bilge prior to launching or leaving the lake. At this point we do not have zebra mussels in Lake 26 that we know of. We will be working diligently to prevent their introduction.

Please help protect water quality in Lake 26 ...

...with a 2017 contribution to the monitoring fund. As most of you are aware, the association has helped protect our lake against invasive species by monitoring boat launches at the public landing since 2007. These efforts have been a major factor in keeping our lake largely free from exotic invasive species. In the vast majority of cases boaters seem to be paying attention: the monitor recorded over 2,200 boat launches last year!

*Our annual monitoring expenses run around \$3,000. Please consider contributing **additional dollars** to help keep our lake healthy. We are hoping everyone will pitch in this year!*

Chinese mystery snail contest for 2017!

Currently the only invasive species in our lake is the Chinese mystery snail. They're the same snails that are used in aquariums. Never release the contents of an aquarium into the lake! In order to reduce the snail population in our lake, the Lake 26 Association is offering \$100 to the person or family that collects and removes the most snails over the summer. Snail collectors can report their haul (number of pails) at this summer's annual dinner and the cash prize will be awarded to the snail collector with the most snails!