

Harris Lake Herald

Vilas County, Wisconsin

46°
15' 32"

89°
49' 59"

Spring 2009

HLA Board of Directors

James D. Kannas, President

Bronson Haase, Vice-President

Kathleen Kannass, Secretary

Bonnie Bullion, Treasurer

Jim White, Director-at-Large

Tim Gehl, Director-at-Large

Bill Heins, Past-President

Newsletter Editor

Laura Ottusch

Message from the President

Happy Spring to You,

I hope this note finds you and your family healthy, happy, and ready to enjoy another beautiful summer season on Harris Lake. Like many of you, I will take a trip to the cabin during the melt-down to see what is new and make sure everything old is holding up. Hopefully, the ice won't hold up until Opening Day of the fishing season. I would not want to test our pontoon boat's ice breaking capability.

It has been a busy year for your HLA Board. Bronson Haase is working diligently with members of the board, WIDNR, The Winchester Town Lakes Committee, and the Town of Winchester to establish a lake management plan, engage resources, and secure funding to fight our known invasive specie, Curly-Leaf Pondweed. There has been significant good news on that front which will be detailed later in the newsletter.

At last summer's meeting many of us expressed concern over the high lake levels. I have only been on the lake since 2001 and it was easily the highest water level in my memory. Several of your neighbors will be working with members of the HLA board to ensure Harris Creek is free of significant obstructions and able to flow.

If you need to reach me concerning Harris Lake issues I can be reached. While I have a full-time job to keep me flush with fishing tackle, I will do my best to work with you on preserving the natural beauty and utility of the Harris Lake area and habitat.

Enjoy the summer.

Regards,

James Kannas

Curly-Leaf Pondweed Remediation Project Update – A Must Read ...

During the summer of 2008, a DNR outreach/training session discovered the presence of the invasive specie Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP) on Harris Lake. The first thing to note is that CLP is not as severe of a nuisance problem as Eurasian Water milfoil. In other words, as custodians/property owners of Harris Lake we should be concerned, but we can and will manage this problem.

Following the discovery of CLP, the HLA Board convened the Aquatic Plant and Algae Control Committee as provided for under the HLA Bylaws. Bronson Haase has assumed the chair of this effort with Bill Heins, John Rotunno, and James Kannas comprising the committee. Bronson's experience with similar issues on his "home" lake and his dedication to the project has been invaluable. Bill's knowledge of the invasive species issue and relationships with the Town of Winchester and other stakeholders has helped ensure we find the best path to resolution.

The CLP remediation project can best be divided into three distinct stages: Planning & Evaluation, Treatment, and Assessment. To date we are still in the Planning and Evaluation stage. Listed below is a brief description of tasks completed and those that remain.

Planning & Evaluation

Members of the committee worked with state and local resources to identify the general path for invasive specie remediation. This included the steps required to quantify the problem and fund the project. To date the following have been completed or are scheduled:

- 1) Partnerships with stakeholders have been established, specifically WDNR, The Town of Winchester, and the Town Lakes Committee.
- 2) An RFP was issued, bids were accepted, and a vendor has been selected to survey Harris Lake and provide a report with mapping of affected areas. This survey is scheduled for early June 09.
- 3) HLA has applied for and received a WDNR Rapid Response Grant for this project. Additionally, the Town of Winchester has agreed to assume a share of the costs for this project. The breakdown of costs is as follows: HLA 12.5%, Town of Winchester 12.5%, and WDNR 75%.
- 4) To establish a baseline of plant life in Harris Lake the WDNR is conducting a point

intercept study (census) in late July or early August. This is completed at no charge to HLA.

Upon completion of the required studies a determination will be made if treatment is required or if continued monitoring is sufficient. The findings of the studies will be presented at our annual meeting along with an update on our progress. The expected total expenditure for 2009 is \$2,390. The HLA's portion of that cost is \$298.75 and can be met with existing funds. Please note that these costs are for the 2009 survey/study portion only. In all likelihood our vendor will conduct a second study in the spring of 2010 to determine any change in the size of the CLP population (steady state or aggressive growth). If treatment is deemed necessary, it will be administered in the spring of 2010 as determined by CLP's reproduction cycle and those of native aquatic plants.

2009 CLP Remediation Project Expense

WDNR	75.0%	1792.50
Town of Winchester	12.5%	298.75
HLA	12.5%	298.75
Total	100%	\$2,390.00

If you have questions about the HLA CLP Remediation Project or would like to offer your assistance, please contact Bronson Haase or James Kannas. If you encounter anyone with questions, it would be greatly appreciated if you would send them our way. As you might expect, communication has proved to be one of the great challenges and we are very interested in keeping everyone accurately informed. Your engagement on this issue is critical to our success. We will keep you apprised of our progress and the results of the studies to ensure an informed discussion at our annual meeting. Thank you, James Kannas

To view pictures of Curly-Leaf Pondweed, see the enclosed Wisconsin Wildcard and visit http://www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/curlyleaf_pondweed.htm.

Mark Your Calendars NOW !

The 2009 **Annual Meeting** will be held on Saturday, July 4, at **9:30 A.M.** (NEW TIME) at the Winchester Community Building. The **Mishike Shores Property Owners Assoc Meeting** will be held immediately preceding the HLA meeting at 8:30 A.M. Please be

prompt. Our Annual **HLA Picnic** is scheduled for Saturday, August 8, at 11:00 A.M. at the Winchester Community Park. More details will follow. This is a fun time for lake owners to gather together, share some good "fish" stories and eat some wonderful food.

Harris Lake Water Quality Report 2008

The average summer (July-Aug) secchi disk reading for Harris Lake (Center Main Body) was 13 feet. The average for the Northeast Georegion was 10.2 feet. It is important to note that the Secchi disc hit the bottom of Harris Lake for 1 of the Secchi readings during the 2008 monitoring season. This indicates that the water clarity was actually greater than the readings imply.

Chemistry data was collected on Harris Lake (Center Main Body). The average summer Chlorophyll was 2.6 µg/l (compared to a Northeast Georegion summer average of 9.6 µg/l). The summer Total Phosphorus average was 11 µg/l. Lakes with more than 20 µg/l of total phosphorus experience noticeable algae blooms.

The overall Trophic State Index (based on chlorophyll) for Harris Lake (Center Main Body) was 42. The TSI suggests that Harris Lake was **mesotrophic**. Mesotrophic lakes are characterized by moderately clear water, but have an increasing chance of low dissolved oxygen in deep water during the summer. Thank you Tim Nickels, our water quality coordinator.

Winchester Volunteer Fire Department

You may remember that late last summer the call went out from the Winchester Volunteer Fire Department to all of the Lake Associations for donations towards lightweight fire fighting suits. During the summer of 2008 the WVFD fought multiple brush fires. Because they were only equipped with heavy, conventional fire fighting suits, several of the volunteer fire fighters were incapacitated by the combination of strenuous effort and summer-time temperatures. Clearly, this was not an acceptable situation. Thanks to many individuals in our Harris Lake Community we raised over \$700 towards the effort. This was more than enough to purchase one of the lightweight suits. In combination with the other Lake Associations, the WVFD raised more funds than expected and was able to purchase more suits than anticipated along with lightweight boots. Thank you to all who contributed to keep the volunteers at the WVFD in the fight even when the temps get high.

Volunteer Boat Inspectors Are True Conservationists

As aquatic invasive species (AIS) become an increasing threat to water quality, fisheries, recreation and property values across the lake country of Vilas and Oneida counties, we are fortunate that hundreds of true conservationists have stepped forward to protect our lakes. The Department of Natural Resources reports that 5,112 hours were logged by volunteer boat inspectors during 2008, for an incredible 44% of the total volunteer effort in WI.

The volunteers who have been trained in the Clean Boats Clean Waters program are certified to inspect boats, collect data and share vital awareness information with boat owners. In the battle against AIS, they are warriors who've chosen to put themselves on the front lines.

Because of their dedication and hard work, we know vital information — like that **16% of boats had plants attached when arriving at the landing and that 25% of the boats had been in another water body in the previous five days**. Those statistics really illustrate the importance of having trained inspectors who can effectively approach people who are recreating, inspect their boats and gain their support.

The program meant the inspection of a record 41,656 boats across the state - and some of those boats and trailers contained Eurasian water milfoil and other invasives that threatened to take up residence in a new water body. A total of 91,706 people heard the message about Clean Boats Clean Waters.

Anglers, boaters and the public in general should be extremely supportive of the volunteer program because it is staffed by common citizens who care about the state's resources. They are the front line of defense in a fight where prevention is the most effective, least costly alternative. More volunteers are always needed so please consider helping in this vital role. (Article from Vilas County News Review)

PRESS RELEASE - WINCHESTER TOWN LAKES COMMITTEE TO HOST A POTLUCK & PUBLIC FORUM:

"Lake issues, Common Problems/Creative Solutions" will be the topic of a public forum presented by The Winchester Town Lakes Committee (WTLC) on July 16th. WTLC will be providing brats, burgers and beverages - please bring a dish to pass. Matt Wagner, Vilas Co. Lakes Conservation Specialist will moderate. Date of event: Thursday July 16th

Time: Potluck starts at 5:30PM; Forum starts at 6:30
Place: Winchester Town Hall, HWY "W"
Contact: Cheryl Bowen for info.

2008 Harris Lake Golf Outing and Dinner

The 2nd Annual Harris Lake Association Golf Outing and Dinner was held at Trout Lake Golf Club on August 31. Once again we were blessed with bright sunshine, warm temperatures and a great turnout with 35 golfers taking on the 9-hole scramble challenge. Prizes were plentiful-everyone walked away a winner!

The overall champions (low net score) were Laura Ottusch, Matt Ottusch, Mike Ottusch, and Al "boom-boom" Rank! Congratulations to them! Also, turning in a fine round with the low gross score (amid cries to "break up the dynasty") was the team of Chuz Wilson, Kath Wilson, Ron Burling, and Mike Terstriep.

In addition to the 35 golfers, we had an additional 21 HLA members join us for great dinner and always riveting award ceremony on the beautiful Trout Lake GC porch. Coincidentally, we also celebrated Jon Oehrln's XXth birthday...cake, singing, etc!

Special thanks to Trout Lake Golf Club, Birch Lake Lodge, The Bear, and Skyview Lodge for their generous prize donations for our event.

2009 Golf Date Set – Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, September 6th at Trout Lake Golf Club. First Tee time will be 1pm and dinner will follow at 5:00pm.

Clothing Orders

HLA clothing is available and orders should be placed now using the enclosed order form. Show your spirit and wear HLA clothing and help liquidate our supply too. The hooded sweatshirts are cozy & warm for cold summer nights and the hood keeps the bugs away!

HARRIS LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

May 1, 2009 – April 30, 2010

Please return with your dues:

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

*Please complete if you are a new member **OR** your information has changed:*

Primary Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Harris Lake Address: _____

Harris Lake Phone: _____

*Please make check or money order for \$10.00 payable to the Harris Lake Association and mail to: 13090 Village Point Lane, Winchester, WI 54557. **THANK YOU!***