

HLA Board of Directors

Message from the President

It's easy to fall in love with the natural beauty of our lake. We enjoy the peaceful atmosphere, fishing, boating, swimming, sailing or just relaxing with our favorite pastimes. We as property owners on and off the lake appreciate the unique benefits as well as challenges associated with "life near lakes". Many northern Wisconsin lakes are under stress on many fronts: erosion, loss of native plants and animals, invasion by exotic species, acid rain and recreational use conflicts.

That is why we, as property owners, should attend our annual lake association meeting. You can also participate in training offered by the Winchester Town Lakes Committee and the University of Wisconsin-Extension programs. Volunteer your time and labor with essential activities like "Clean Boats, Clean Waters", lake monitoring, special projects like last years boat landing sign, Loon Watch monitoring, etc.

Volunteer to serve on the Winchester Town Lakes committee, representing Harris Lake, or become an officer or board member of our lake association. We are fortunate to be living on Harris Lake. We have so many talented people that are either part-time or full-time residents, who have been active and successful throughout their adult lives. Perhaps they have never been asked to become involved, so I'm asking you now to speak to any association board member to see where your skills can be put to good use.

See you this summer on the lake.

Bill Heins
President Harris Lake Association
Representative Winchester Town Lakes Committee

Harris Lake Courtesy Code Sign

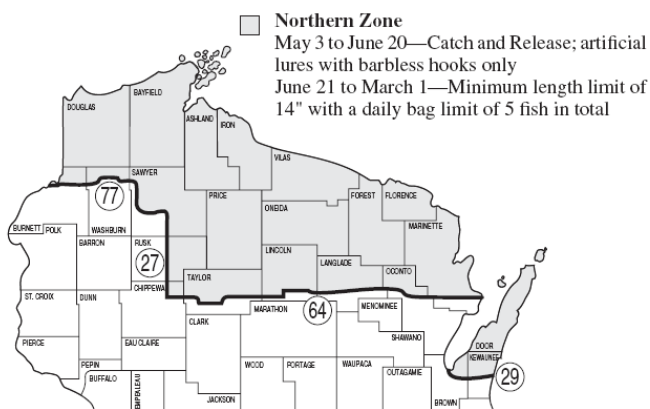
Thank you Al Rank for providing us with a very nice sign at the boat landing, stating our courtesy code.

Fishing Regulation Change-**Barbless rules in effect for catch-and-release bass season**

MADISON – Anglers gearing up for the catch-and-release bass fishing season in the northern zone and on other waters with bass catch-and-release seasons should note a regulation change. From May 3 through June 20, bass anglers in the northern zone or any other water body that has catch-and-release bass regulations are required to use artificial lures with barbless hooks only. That includes boundary waters and outlying waters and certain lakes in the southern zone. The Wisconsin Legislature mandated the rule in the 2007-2009 budget bill adopted last fall.

The northern zone hook-and-line harvest season opens June 21 and runs through March 1, 2009, with a minimum length limit of 14 inches and a daily bag limit of five fish in total.

For more information on catch-and-release bass waters, consult the [2008-2009 Guide to Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations](#), available at DNR service centers, license outlets and on the DNR Web site.



Southern Zone
May 3 to March 1—Minimum length limit of 14" with a daily bag limit of 5 fish in total.

Mark Your Calendars NOW !

The 2008 **Annual Meeting** will be held on Saturday, July 5, at 10:00 A.M. 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 9, 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 and share some good "fish" stories and eat some wonderful food.

Keep IT Clean

You, yes YOU, can help keep our lakes and rivers clean. We need your help to control pollution from what is called 'nonpoint sources' – a source of pollution that doesn't come from a single place, but washes off the landscape or blows in the wind and gets into lakes and rivers when it rains or the snow melts. Nonpoint sources of pollution include fertilizers and pesticides from someone's lawn and garden that has washed off after a rainfall. Individually, each of us makes a difference. Consider the following this summer as you maintain your yard:

Fertilizer - When the nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer washes into lakes and streams they create harmful algae blooms and aquatic weed growth, which chokes out food sources and depletes oxygen levels in the water. Only a small amount is needed to adversely change the water quality of our lake. Water Quality Bill (SB 197) passed in the Wisconsin Senate, but ran out of time to make it to the Assembly floor. It may be reintroduced next year. The bill would make the use of phosphorus-**free** fertilizer mandatory for lake property owners. If you choose to fertilize your lawn, make sure you use a phosphorus-free fertilizer, now readily available in stores.

Grass clippings - Leave it be. After you mow, you can leave the grass clippings on the lawn where they will act as a natural fertilizer. It's good for the lawn and much less work than bagging them up and hauling them away. If you just love to rake and bag up your grass clippings, you can use grass clippings as mulch in your garden. It will help hold moisture in and keep the weeds down.

Pesticides - Pesticides kill pests. That seems simple, doesn't it? But, pesticides also hurt other plants and animals that you don't want to kill. Pesticides include herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. Consider planting disease resistant varieties of plants, using mulch to hold down weeds, and pick weeds by hand!

Shoreline - Destruction of shoreline habitat is harmful for spawning and newly hatched fish. Work to restore buffers and your natural shoreline to slow the runoff. Don't remove natural tree falls on the shore.

Put your mowers, chainsaws, weed rakes, herbicides, and fertilizers away – do less with your yard and enjoy fishing!

Vilas County Aquatic Invasive Species List

A great resource is available to Association members from the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). At www.vilaslandandwater.org/ais_pages/ais_home_page.htm you will find a listing of Vilas County lakes with invasive species, as well AIS maps and other helpful information. This is especially pertinent to members who volunteer for "boat landing inspections" and for those of us who fish other neighboring lakes, who do not want to bring these invasives back to our lake.

Sign Up Now for "On the Water" Training ON our own Harris Lake

Sandy Wickman of the WI DNR will be offering an "on the water" aquatic species training session on Harris Lake from 9 AM to 2 PM July 24. Lunch will be provided by the Winchester Town Lakes Committee. **Please call Bill Heins 715-686-7977 or email wheins@hughes.net if you are interested in attending.** We will need one or two association members to volunteer their pontoon boat depending on how many of us sign up. This is a fantastic opportunity for great training to remain vigilant against the threat of aquatic invasive species to our lake. For those who can't attend this session an identical training session will be offered July 31st on Rainbow Lake. The purpose of this training is to identify different aquatic plants and to be able to tell if a plant is native to our lake or one of the more than a handful of aquatic invasive like Eurasian Water Milfoil or Curly Leaf Pondweed found in many Vilas county lakes.

Educational Insights

Our lake association owns the book "Through the Looking Glass" a field guide to aquatic plants published by Wisconsin Lakes Partnership and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point School of Natural Resources. Contact Bill Heins if you would like to borrow it. Another great book for lake property owners is "Life on the Edge" Owing Waterfront Property published by the University of Wisconsin-Extension. For owners of waterfront property it is a refreshing and practical guide to what lake shore owners can do to protect and enhance their lakes. The 22 chapters give an overview of various topics such as living with wildlife, shore savers or plant control. A single copy is \$10.00 and can be ordered from UW-Extension-Stevens Point by calling 715-346-2116 or <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/publications/edge>

News Flash - "Tax dollars at work"

Harris Lake has a brand new dock at the boat landing ramp. \$3,000 in funding for this dock was provided by

the Winchester Town Board. It is 40 feet long and can be rolled into place. This is a big improvement over the old wooden dock.

Loon Report

Two pairs of loons were swimming near the creek in the North Bay on April 29, as reported by Tom and Gaile Misiak. Will they stay, or are they just passing through? Our loon watchers will keep their eyes open. Jan Heins reports findings of loons and their chicks for the Loon Watch Program. Let Jan know if you have news to add. Remember to keep distant from their nesting site, and please be very careful when boating on the water this summer to not come close to them.

What is VHS and the impact on me?

There have been changes to the DNR rules on the handling and disposal of minnows since last year -- read on...

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is a deadly fish virus and an invasive species that is threatening Wisconsin's fish. VHS was diagnosed for the first time ever in the Great Lakes as the cause of large fish kills. Thousands of muskie, walleye, yellow perch, bass, and others species have died, and many other species such as smallmouth bass, bluegill, black crappie and northern pike were diseased but did not die in large numbers.

The WI DNR Board has been working to control the spread of the disease into our lakes. Emergency rules were implemented last year and have been modified.

What impact do the new rules have on what I can do with my minnows?

The new rules state that if you meet one of the conditions below you do not have to dispose of your minnows.

Anglers can take minnows bought from a Wisconsin bait dealer (which includes Wisconsin registered fish farms) away from a lake or river and use them again on that same water body. Anglers can also take minnows bought from a Wisconsin bait dealer (which includes Wisconsin registered fish farms) away from a water body and use them elsewhere **if no lake or river water was added to the bait container.**

In both of these instances, you can move the amount of water needed to keep the minnows alive, up to 2 gallons. No other fish may be held in the minnow container.

Can I collect my own minnows without a permit?

In order to allow anglers to take their unused minnows home, the DNR has had to make changes in the way personal minnow harvest is conducted. On non-VHS waters you can collect minnows for personal use as long as you only use them for bait on the water you collected them from, but it is illegal to transport any such live minnows away from the water body where you caught them. To prevent the movement of likely infected minnows, the DNR has closed the minnow harvest season on the VHS known and suspect waters, including the Winnebago system, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River and Wisconsin River upstream to the Prairie du Sac dam and all waters connected to these up to the first barrier impassable to fish. No person may harvest minnows from these waters, except that suckers may be harvested but may not be transported away live. It is illegal to use or possess minnow nets or traps on waters closed to minnow harvest. Additional waters may be included if found or suspected to be affected by the VHS virus. For the most updated information see the DNR website www.dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs.

Musky Classic Volunteers needed

Volunteers will be needed, once again, to monitor the boats entering our lake during the August Musky Classic. Each volunteer will work a 3-4 hour shift, checking boats for vegetation, which could be an invasive species. "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" T-shirts are given to workers. Training sessions are offered by the Winchester Town Lakes Committee, the dates and times to be given at our annual meeting. Our association members who gave of their time last year should be applauded. Let's do our part again this year, an all important measure to keep our lake "clean". Volunteer and do your part to help.

Harris Lake Website

We have a website (www.harrislakewi.com), thanks to Mike. The Board of Directors will decide whether we want to continue it, and/or how it can be used. If we keep it, we will need a person with computer skills to manage it.

Crab Trap Reports

At last year's annual meeting, 8 crab traps were given to members who would set them out by their shorelines and check them for Rusty Crayfish, an invasive species found in every other large lake in Winchester Township. President Bill Heins has received no reports of any "rustys" found in any of the

traps. That is very good news. Once in a lake, they will decimate the native crayfish and reduce/eliminate necessary vegetation. Let's keep checking the traps and report your findings to Bill.

New Harris Lake Water Quality Monitor - Tim Nickels

Tim Nickels was trained by Sandy Wickman, a DNR specialist, last fall on how to do chemical monitoring. Water clarity (using a Secci disc), levels of chlorophyll and phosphorus, and dissolved oxygen monitoring are part of this training, as it pertains to a lake. Tim will send samples to the lab in Madison; findings are summarized by the WI Citizens Lake Monitoring Network on the website (<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn>). Keep up the good work, Tim! And Special Thanks to Jim Evans for his years of service with this program.

The First Annual HLA Golf Outing!!

Mother Nature cooperated by providing us with a bright, sunny 80 degree day for the inaugural HLA Golf Outing! On Saturday September 1, we had 5 eager groups meet the challenge at the rolling hills of Trout Lake Golf Club. Using a scramble format for this 9-hole event, scores ranged from a 3 under par 33 to a 2-over par 38....quite impressive!!

Our teams;

- Paul and Brenda Schneider, Jim White
- Chuz and Kath Wilson, Bill Heins
- Bronson Haase, Kerryann Haase, Craig Haase, Al Rank
- Megan White, Jon White, Carol & Ed Shinton
- Laura Ottusch, Mike Ottusch, Dick & Barb Maurer

Our big winners for the day, with the low team net score (leveraging a scientifically proven handicap system!) were the team of Laura Ottusch, Mike Ottusch, Dick Maurer and Barb Maurer.

Congratulations!!

The team of Jon White, Megan White, Carol Shinton and Ed Shinton had the low gross score of 33. Its obvious Jon and Megan benefited from many years of expert teaching from their father!

Additionally, every hole provided a separate "flag event" for the linksters and prizes were awarded to all event winners. We also raffled off 2 free rounds of golf at Trout Lake!!

Following golf we enjoyed an awesome barbeque dinner on the porch of the Trout Lake clubhouse. 12 additional people, who could not play golf, did join us for dinner and drinks. The Rotunnos, Kannass',

Pfflugs, Ranks, and Jan Heins drove down from Winchester to enjoy the festivities!! For everyone in attendance we also raffled off one of our stylish HLA golf shirts and a fine bottle of wine.

Great weather, great golf, great food, great people, and ... GREAT fun!! Let's do it again next year!!

2008 Golf Date Set – Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, August 30, At Trout Lake Golf Club. First Tee time will be 2pm and dinner will follow at 5:30pm.



Clothing Orders ASAP

HLA clothing is available and orders should be placed now using the enclosed order form. Also, you can request an item/size that is listed as n/a and we will get that ordered for you. **We will only place one order so turn your form in quickly.** 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, 2008 – April 30, 2009

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: HC2 Box 182, Winchester, WI 54557. **THANK YOU!***