

HLA Board of Directors

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Harris Lake Website

www.harrislakewi.com

Newsletter Editor

Message from the President

Greetings to All,

It has been a busy winter for the Harris Lake Association. The culmination of many hours of effort occurred on 5/14 with the first annual treatment to counter our invasive specie, Curly Leaf Pondweed. I know that the HLA Board is grateful to each of you for the clear direction the membership provided at the 2010 meeting. Additionally, the feedback and questions received as the application date approached were very helpful and will contribute to planning and possible future treatment execution. Once again, I need to thank Bronson Haase for his tireless work with the DNR, Winchester Town Lakes Committee, and our vendors. He did the lion's share of the work on this project and I am very grateful.

I am writing this note just a few days prior to the Memorial Day weekend. The dreary, cold spring of 2011 will hopefully give way to a warm and sunny summer. Like you I am looking forward to many restful days at the cabin where my only distraction is a tug on my fishing line. While I hate to rain on that image, I ask you to please attend our annual meeting on Saturday, July second. We will provide an update on CLP and seek your direction on the next steps our organization should take. Additionally, please let me know if you have topics you would like to see on the agenda. Improving the quality of the Harris Lake fishery has been on the lips of many members, so it would be nice to see some traction on that issue in 2011-2012.

As always, have a fun and safe 2011. Remember to drive slowly on the roads around the lake and give each other and the wildlife plenty of room on the water. I look forward to seeing you at the pier, near the island, or out at a fish fry.

Sincerely,

James Kannas

Membership Dues

Please use the attached membership dues form to submit your annual dues as soon as possible to help continue the funding for valuable work done by your HLA.

Curly Leaf Pondweed Update

At our July 2nd annual meeting your direction to the HLA Board will determine the steps taken to mitigate the Curly Leaf Pondweed infestation of Harris Lake. Last year our organization decided to treat the affected areas. Your Board will present an update of the current situation with a suggested solution. We need your informed direction in order to take the appropriate actions. Described below is a brief summary of where we have been, and where we are just two weeks post treatment. Additionally, I will provide the next known steps in the process.

As you may recall the invasive specie Curly Leaf Pondweed was discovered on Harris Lake during the summer of 2008. Initial efforts included identifying the problem, securing grant funding, determining the severity of the infestation, understanding the growth potential of the infestation, and selecting a mitigation course. The culmination of this effort was the treatment of Aquathol applied on to the described treatment areas on May fourteenth.

Next steps include the following:

- 1) Post treatment survey of infested areas. This will be conducted by Onterra, LLC and the results should be available by the annual HLA meeting.
- 2) Grant submission to fund future surveys and, potentially, additional treatments.
- 3) Presentation of current situation and recommended course of action to the HLA membership.
- 4) Members determine next actions taken by HLA.

In addition to the HLA, several agencies played a significant role in this effort. It is important for all of us to understand that this was a deliberate, involved and lengthy process requiring considerable coordination and communication. My thanks to all who participated and my apologies to any I overlooked.

Harris Lake Association – Bronson Haase, James Kannas, Bill Heins

Vilas County Invasive Specie Coordinator – Ted Ritter (Expertise, Coordination)

Onterra, LLC – Tim Hoyman (Survey, Treatment Area Map, & Grant Guidance)

Schmidts Aquatic Plant Control – Clifford Schmidt (Herbicide Application)

Wisconsin DNR – Kevin Gauthier (Expertise, Permit Process, Grant Funding)

Winchester Town Lakes Committee – Oversight, Funding Recommendation

Town of Winchester – Joe Osfar (Funding & Township Strategy Development)

I look forward to discussing this in greater detail with you on Saturday, July second.

Leave the Firewood at Home

State forest health specialists remind campers and travelers to leave firewood at home. This reduces the risk of bringing in destructive forest diseases and insects. Second homeowners are strongly encouraged not to move firewood between their properties, to reduce the risk to their trees.

Forest tent caterpillar populations rose in Wisconsin last year after nearly 10 years of low populations and Eastern tent caterpillar populations have been high for several years. The Emerald ash borer hitchhiked to Wisconsin as well, and is fatal to ash trees if not treated.

Even though these invasive insects are more prominent in counties to our south, we want to be proactive and NOT bring any firewood to our northern homes. Insects and diseases spread to new areas easily in firewood. Help keep our forests healthy and leave the firewood at home.

Reminder to Leave Wild Animals Wild

White-tailed deer fawns are starting to be seen in Wisconsin, and state wildlife officials and conservation wardens are receiving calls from people concerned about “abandoned” fawns.

“Fawns left alone in the woods are not abandoned,” says Sara Kehrl, wildlife biologist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. “When fawns are born they have very little scent to them, and does intentionally leave them alone as a way of protecting them from predators. The mother is almost always nearby and keeping an eye on the fawn. She returns to the fawn to nurse when she feels it is safe. Deer living near residences have been known to leave fawns on patios, in backyards and other places. The best thing people can do if they come across a fawn is to move away from the area and leave the fawn alone.”

State wildlife and health officials say the same is true for almost all young wildlife seen in the wild. Most wildlife species will leave their young unattended for periods of time so they can go feed or find food to bring back. “Closely approaching or contacting wild animals presents a risk of injury to humans and the animal. For that reason, the best and safest policy for people and animals is to leave them alone,” Kehrl said.

Mandatory Boating Safety Education Required If Born After 1988

If you were born after 1988, you are required to complete a boating safety course to legally operate a motorized boat or personal watercraft (PWC). For more information on upcoming courses and other education options, check out: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/safety/boated.htm>

Invasive Species Fast Facts

DNR maintains real-time data showing which of Wisconsin's 15,081 lakes and more than 40,000 miles of

streams and rivers have been confirmed to have aquatic invasive species. Find more information at www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/aquatic on the DNR website.

- Eurasian water milfoil is found in 542 lakes and rivers in 68 counties.
- Zebra mussels are found in 138 inland lakes and rivers in 46 counties.
- Rusty crayfish are found in 467 lakes and rivers in 66 counties.

To prevent accidentally spreading aquatic invasive species and fish diseases like viral hemorrhagic septicemia, all boaters and anglers should:

- INSPECT boats, trailers, and equipment
- REMOVE all attached aquatic plants and animals
- DRAIN all water from boats, vehicles and equipment
- NEVER MOVE plants or live fish away from a water body.

Purple Loosestrife “Chella Chow” Beetles

The North Lakeland Discovery Center is offering a Free class on June 24 at 9:00 a.m. to learn more about Invasive Species Control Efforts. Learn about and witness first-hand the process involved with raising beetles and how they are used to control Purple Loosestrife. For more information, see www.discoverycenter.net.

2010 Harris Lake Golf Outing and Dinner

HARRIS LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

May 1, 2011 – April 30, 2012

\$25.00 Annual Dues

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 **\$25.00** payable to the Harris Lake Association and mail to: HC2 Box 177, Winchester, WI 54557 **THANK YOU!***

Sunny skies and warm temperatures - **Oops**, we didn't have a coordinator to organize the event last year. Someone could have gotten a hole-in-one! If you would like to step up and continue this fun event, please contact a board member and we will fill you in on the details. Jim White chaired this event for 3 years and is willing to coach you in the right direction to get us back on the course.

Clothing Orders

HLA clothing is available and orders can be placed now. Don't wait for cold summer nights - the hooded sweatshirts are cozy & warm, and they keep the bugs away! Show your spirit by wearing HLA clothing. Use the order form available on our website www.harrislakewi.com.

Mark Your Calendars NOW !

The 2011 HLA Annual Meeting will be held on Sat. July 2, 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. Coffee and rolls will be available.

Our Annual HLA Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 13, 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.