LONG LAKE **NEWS**

FALL/WINTER 2023

2023...Season of Highs Lows

President's Message By Jerry Voigt

Having just spent our sixteenth summer on the lake we no longer consider ourselves newbies. Granted, sixteen years is nowhere near the longevity of the multi-generational families who have called this lake home for decades. On the other hand, it is long enough to notice changes and to experience some of the lake's cycles. As I thought about this message, I could not escape thoughts of these cycles and the highs and lows we experienced in 2023.

For starters, LLA reached 175 members, 25 more than last year! This is the highest membership on record and a great indication that the association is healthy. Then with a dry summer we experienced a significant drop in water elevation (down 13 inches from May to mid-September and then back up about 4 inches by mid-October). The drop had folks struggling to get boats off their lifts. Beaches were exposed and for those of us in the NW Bay, we faced the familiar need to rake up the aquatic weeds that float in with the prevailing winds and drag them up the hill for composting. (I, for one, didn't miss that duty during the high-water years.)

— Continued Page 2

NEWS BITS

Website... Have you taken the opportunity to explore the new LLA website yet? You'll find easy to access news, lake data, education materials, history and more. The new site was launched in June 2023. Check it out at... longlakesaxeville.org

NEW

Fiber Optic Internet Coming to Long Lake?... LLA is keeping in contact with Amherst Communications who has applied for a state grant to support bringing fiber optic cables to our rural area. The company offers reliable internet service and also bundled TV, phone and internet options. If successful Amherst Communication will start work in 2024. LLA will keep members posted on updates from the company.

Sharps Danger!... A Lake owner on South Lake Rd recently reported finding discarded intravenous needles on the roadside along their private property. This is a danger to walkers, including children and pets that may be poked by the needles. LLA will heighten awareness of how to properly dispose sharps through a poster at the landing and through our future communications. Please be aware of this danger and dispose sharps properly. The nearest safe receptacle is at Theda Care Medical Center Wild Rose.

Among the biggest successes was the sheriff's increase in safety patrolling on the water (see the article on patrol). Ours is a busy lake with few restrictions. Most of us figure out quickly how to coexist respectfully and safely doing whatever water activity gives us the most summer joy, but some folks don't. In my opinion, many of them come for the day and are either inexperienced or just don't care much about courtesy or anything beyond using the lake for their pleasure. However, even us Long Lakers need to be reminded to respect the water and each other.

Boating safety incidents have grown in numbers in recent years and have been a subject of some controversy and concern. LLA was challenged to help do something about it, and this is why the sheriff's appointment of a recreational deputy halfway through this past summer was so welcomed. We put together and are continuing to lead a coalition of ten Waushara County Lakes to work with the recreational deputy and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). We have been communicating the types of violations we see and our enforcement concerns. The coalition's goal is to help the deputies and wardens be as impactful as possible, which will be a win-win for all of us.

We are continuing this effort because the price for lack of safety can be high. The low point of the summer came when a man from Sheboygan lost his life in Long Lake on July 29th. It was a tragic drowning that could have been avoided. The man and his companion jumped off a boat because it was overloaded — a fundamental safety issue. Even though this was one of just a few drownings ever in Long Lake, the rare occurrence was none the less unsettling. Most of us simply want to appreciate the lake and water for its beauty and how it refreshes us, but such a drowning reminds us to maintain a healthy respect for the lake too.

When you come back this winter or next spring, I encourage you come back with a 'safety first' mindset for the water (or ice). It's undoubtedly the most important lesson from the ups and downs of 2023.

As always, thank you for being a member and for caring for our wonderful lake and community. Enjoy these hard water months wherever you may be. We'll see you in 2024. ◊◊◊

MUDPUPPY MENAGERIE?

This year Long Lake was placed on the official list of Wisconsin waters that are a home to the mudpuppy. That may not sound like a big deal to you, but it is for the mudpuppy!

The WDNR is currently performing a study to assess the mudpuppy's range and abundance in Wisconsin. Evidence suggests populations may be declining. Recent population surveys where mudpuppies used to be common in Wisconsin are showing no presence of the animal at all. In Iowa and Illinois mudpuppies are categorized as a threatened species, and in Minnesota the mudpuppy is listed as a species of special concern.

Mudpuppies are large salamanders that grow to 16 inches long. The silent and elusive animals spend their entire life in the water and prefer areas with large flat rocks. Long Lake has several rocky areas that fit the bill as mudpuppy habitat. These creatures are hard to encounter because they are mostly active in the dusk and nighttime hours. Mudpuppies remain active in fall and winter and can sometimes be caught by ice fisherman.

Like all salamanders, a mudpuppy's skin is slimy. It is not poisonous or harmful, but it is unpleasant. Their coloring ranges from brown to gray with dark spots to

Face of a Mudpuppy with external gills visible.
(Photo Credit: Iowa Dept. Natural Resources)

— Continued Above

help them blend in well with their rocky habitats. They have a finned tail to help them swim and reddish, feathery gills that protrude like broccoli stalks on each side of their neck. These animals likely won't make the "cute or beautiful" list, but they might win the congeniality award. Mudpuppies help the food chain, eating small fish, other amphibians, aquatic insects and worms.

A special thanks go to the Davel family (south shore in the bay east of the narrows) who upon discovering an odd-looking dead creature on their beach contacted LLA in August. We reported the mysterious creature to the WNDR who identified it as a mudpuppy. As a result we learned about this new, on-going study and the rarity and significance of the sighting. If you sight a mudpuppy this winter, please report it to the LLA Board. We will follow up with the WDNR research team. ◊◊◊

ZEBRA MUSSEL ABUNDANCE STUDY IN LONG LAKE — YEAR ONE

By John Harvat

The Zebra Mussel (ZM) is an invasive species established in Long Lake. The WDNR reported the first mussels in 2002 with the last several years of high water creating new habitats to be colonized. LLA started a study in 2023 to monitor ZMs.

Six quantitative sampler plates for ZM colonization were placed in the lake and left there from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Two samplers each were placed in the East Basin, the West Basin, and near the Narrows. The WDNR's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) has a video demonstrating the placement and recovery of the samplers at Zebra Mussel Monitoring Video (see full link below). We followed these best practices.

Sampler Plates used for Long Lake ZM Monitoring

The colonization (see figure below) on the plates was reported on standardized CLMN forms and entered in the WDNR "SWIMS" database. This record will allow us to better understand how ZM abundance is changing in Long Lake and how quickly ZMs colonize new habitats in the lake. Colonization across all six samplers in 2023 was similar though the surrounding habitats were different. We estimated that less than one third of the sampler was colonized during the summer period. Most of the individuals had grown to around an eighth inch in size representing this year's class. A larger ZM (1/2 inch) was found on one plate of one sampler. Over the summer, vegetation at that station had grown around the sampler and the individual presumably moved from the vegetation to the plate in search of better water for feeding.

Colonization of ZMs on plate surface— visible as small bumps or protrusions.

A summary of the data was shared with Paul Skawinski at UW-Stevens Point, the Statewide Educator for the Wisconsin CLMN. The colonization reported in Long Lake is considered average among the lakes in the WDNR database. Placement of the sampler plates in the lake is planned for the next two summers to observe year-to-year changes in abundance and compare ZM spread across the lake. ◊◊◊

Video Link: *www.youtube.com/watch?v=1S3ijhh7qiq*

THE RULES AND REGULATIONS AROUND PIERS, SLIPS AND RAFTS

By Rick Schaber

The WDNR is responsible for enforcing the rules and regulations surrounding piers and boat slips. State statutes and administrative code outline everything from a simple 12-foot pier with a small aluminum boat tied to it, to a commercial dock system with multiple boat lifts and slips. This article covers the residential rules.

The maximum width allowed for a pier is six feet. However, the loading platform area of a pier may be wider. The entire pier cannot exceed 200 square feet. As an example, if you have a 4-foot-wide pier that is 20 feet in length (80 square feet) and an additional 8-foot by 8-foot loading platform (64 square feet), your pier totals 144 square feet and conforms to the code.

There is no stipulation on length of a pier, instead WDNR allows a length needed to reach a depth of 3 feet or the depth needed for mooring a boat or using a boat lift.

The current regulations were created in April 2012. All nonconforming piers that existed prior to that date are grandfathered in and do not require WDNR authorization. Any pier installed after April 2012 that does not conform to the current rules requires authorization from the DNR.

How many piers/slips are allowed? Wisconsin pier laws do not regulate the number of piers a property owner may have but does limit the number of boat slips based on the property owner's lake frontage. The total number of watercraft docked at a pier – including in a boat lift – is two for the first 50 feet of frontage and an additional one for each additional full 50 feet of frontage. A watercraft is defined as any craft that requires registration with the WDNR. A typical lot with 70 ft of frontage on Long Lake accommodates two watercraft, regardless of whether they are in or out of lifts. Property owners with 100-149 ft of frontage can dock three watercraft and those with 150-199 ft can accommodate four.

In addition to watercraft docked at a pier, property owners can secure up to two additional personal watercraft for the first 50 feet of frontage and one additional personal watercraft for each additional full 50 feet of shoreline.

Boat Shelters — Although boat shelters are more popular in states that have mild winters, they are allowed in Wisconsin. On Long Lake and other lakes smaller than 500 acres, temporary boat shelters are allowed. A shelter may have a roof or canopy but may not have sides or walls. Temporary boat shelters must be removed seasonally between Dec. 1 and April 1.

Swimming Rafts — A property owner may place a properly anchored swimming raft or water trampoline within 200 feet of shore. The raft cannot be larger than 200 square feet and cannot exceed 38-inches in height.

DNR Contact — For more information, go to dnr.wisconsin.gov and search for Pier Planner. You also can contact Scott Custer, DNR Water Regulation/Zoning Specialist covering Waushara County, at 608-445-4507 or scott.custer@wisconsin.gov. ◊◊◊

Great Blue Heron on Long Lake raft

UPDATE of ACTIVITES 2023

By Britt Mason

Friends of Long Lake (FLL) had a fantastic 2023 supporting the lake and local entities in accordance with our charter. Our goal is to maintain and enhance our beautiful lake and the surrounding community. On behalf of the FLL Board, I send a big THANK YOU to our members for their generous contributions—your continued support is vital to our efforts!

Here is a snapshot of how we are working to impact the lake and community:

Saxeville-Springwater Fire Dept Command Vehicle — Our contributions helped acquire and outfit the new command vehicle, which helps local first responders coordinate and optimize their emergency response efforts. Helping our first responders protect our community in times of need is arguably one of our highest callings.

Springwater Zoo Garden @ Covered Bridge Park — This "fairy tale" garden includes many plants with animal names and provides various sitting areas to take in the beauty & serenity of this local landmark.

Little Free Library Boxes — Located on both South and North Long Lake Roads, these two boxes provide a free book exchange to anyone living in or visiting our lake community. Stop by!

Fish Stocking — Our fishing experts volunteer their time to assess our fishery and maintain an optimal environmental balance of predator and forage fish. Fish prices continue to escalate, so it is very important to replenish our fish fund.

Leon-Saxeville Library Pavilion — Built to expand the library space and experience, the new pavilion offers outdoor space to host groups and individuals to enjoy the library, particularly our children!

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program — Staffed by volunteers and supported by signage at the boat landing, our CBCW program helps protect the lake from invasive species.

What's next for FLL? We are updating our website with more information and pictures, so please visit us online. We are driven to maintain financial "readiness" for positive community contributions (like the library pavilion and Covered Bridge Park gardens), as well as for defensive and safety investments (like battling invasive species and supporting our first responders). ◊◊◊

VISIT FRIENDS AT: www.friendsoflonglake.org

FLL Fiscal Dashboard

April 30 thru Sep 19, 2023

MEMBERSHIP	↘	*Down 32 members, 21 of which were new members last year that did not renew in 2023*
FUND BALANCES		
General	OK	General Fund dollars are used by the FLL Board as necessary to fulfil the mission of FLL.
Fish Stocking	↘	*Fish stocking prices have increased 200-300% over the past few years. This fund needs replenishment.*
Lake Studies	↗	*Lake studies are on-going. We must keep this fund healthy to support the lake management plan.*
CBCW	↗	*We have great support for our CBCW program fighting invasive species.*
Land	OK	*There has been no recent spending activity for land management issues.*
Fire	↘	*Fund needs to be replenished from recent donation activities.*
Legal	OK	*There has been no recent spending activity for legal issues or matters.*

FLL IS A GREAT ORGANIZATION FOR YOUR END OF YEAR CHARITABLE GIVING…
PLEASE USE THE FORM BELOW!

HELP NEEDED TO KEEP APPAREL SALES ALIVE

By Karen Reindl

The Friends of Long Lake apparel and SWAG committee's future is in question. The committee needs new volunteers to continue both the online and in-person sales into 2024. We are looking for one to four people interested in the enjoyable and rewarding process of choosing products/logos/colors, placing orders with vendors, inventorying items, and setting up and running in-person sales at the annual meetings and picnic. It is fun and rewarding to see people enjoying the clothing and an opportunity to create new friendships with Long Lake Peeps!!!

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FRIENDS OF LONG LAKE — 501(C)3 — YEAR END CONTRIBUTION FORM

Contributions are 100% tax deductible

Enclosed is a cash or check payable to Friends of Long Lake in the amount of $_____

I elect to designate my contribution to the specific purposes/funds below. (If I make no designation, I understand my contribution will be added to the "Friends General Fund"):

$ _____Fire Protection
$ _____Fish Enhancement
$ _____Land Management
$_____Legal Expenses
$ _____Lake Studies
$_____Clean Boats/Clean Waters

Your Name: _____
Email Address: _____
Home Street: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

YOU CAN SKIP THIS FORM AND USE THE QR CODE ABOVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO FRIENDS ONLINE!

Mail Form with Check Payable to:
Friends of Long Lake, P.O. Box 9, Saxeville, WI 54976

Δ Karen London Reindl and Deb Harvat having fun selling merch at the picnic!

Δ In-person sales are always a highlight at summer events.

Like the many who have volunteered in the past, I have truly enjoyed helping to carry the torch for Long Lake SWAG in order to spread Long Lake cheer and to help contribute dollars toward important Friends of Long Lake funds.

However, due to my own personal and health reasons, I need to either "take a sabbatical" for at least one year, or pass the baton to others entirely. I would be very happy to answer any questions you might have regarding the processes we use and what a transfer of responsibilities might look like. And, of course, I still plan to remain available to offer support and guidance along the way as needed.

So…If you are interested in helping, are inspired by a desire to learn and to keep this ball rolling, and/or possess the necessary skills or have creative new ideas to bring to the table, then this is your chance to shine! And remember that this will help benefit our beloved Long Lake and keep our sense of community strong. It also is a great opportunity to make meaningful connections with Long Lake people. Maybe you could even consider having a friend join you in the quest?! It is a fun way to be involved and we would be VERY happy to hear from all who are interested so the program can continue.

For more information, questions, or to volunteer, PLEASE contact Karen London Reindl at 920-915-0997 (call or text) or klondonreindl@gmail.com. ◊◊◊

CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS 2023 SEASON WRAP-UP

By Tom Catlin

A really great year was put in this past season at the landing. Volunteers spent 530 hours compared to 486 hours in 2022 and 537 hours in 2021. Without a fall off in August (July 182 hours; August 118 hours) we would have set a new record. The reason that I bring this up is that August and September are the worst months for aquatic invasive weeds. There is room for improvement here.

As in the past we will recognize individuals that worked 20 or more hours. Each award recipient is entitled a credit of up to $40 towards the purchase of FLL merchandise either in-person or on-line. (FLL will reimburse the amount from an on-line receipt or provide a credit at the time of purchase.) Those with 20 or more hours include Tom Catlin (68), Dave Wangerin (48), Mark Harvat (44), Dee Haven (42), Bob Schnese (34), John Harvat (32), Todd Schultz (28), Tom Flood (25), Bob Molitor (24), Gary Gunderson (22), Britt Mason (21).

Many of the above have been members of the Merry Band since its inception. This speaks volumes to their commitment to preserving Long Lake as the gem that it is but also indirectly points out that many of us regretfully are "aging". For our program to continue to be the success that it is requires we add new members annually.

Whether you volunteer a few hours or exceed 20 hours like those listed above, the important point is to contribute to preserving the quality of the water. I challenge each and every member of our CBCW crew to talk to their friends and neighbors about becoming a member of our Merry Band of volunteers.

Have a great winter and I look forward to seeing all of you next spring!

BOAT SAFETY PATROL ON THE RISE WITH INCREASED BOAT TRAFFIC ON LONG LAKE AND COUNTY WIDE

By Jerry Voigt

According to the US Coast guard, in Wisconsin more than 1 in 10 people own a boat (10,444 boat registrations for every 100,000 people). Boat sales in the state increased nine percent in 2020; and more than 22,000 more boats were registered in 2021 compared to 2019. Waushara County's proximity to metropolitan areas (Fox Valley, Milwaukee, and Madison) positions it within an easy drive for many recreational boat owners. Long Lake, as the county's second largest lake, draws a disproportionate share of "day" boaters from outside the county, with patrons of the lake's short-term rental properties adding even more summer boaters.

These factors and statistics support what many of us have seen with our own eyes. Since the pandemic there are more people recreating on Long Lake and many are either inexperienced, unaware or don't care about courtesy and safety rules or regulations. It is one of the major reasons why LLA was the catalyst to form the Waushara County Lake Safety Group (WCLSG). WCLSG is an ad hoc coalition of lake association and district presidents from 11 county lakes now working with the Sheriff's department to increase lake safety patrolling.

Waushara County Sheriff Wally Zuehlke appointed a recreation deputy in July 2023. In two months (July -August 2023) Recreation Deputy Jacob Hansen's county-wide patrolling time exceeded 2.5 times the total of the department's entire summer season for the prior few years. The number of warnings and citations issued also increased by almost 4 times. In 2024, the department expects increased patrolling will lead to improved boater awareness and compliance with safety rules and regulations with fewer warnings and citations needed.

As for the types of warnings and violations, many can be avoided if boaters are mindful of their equipment and responsibility to ensure the safety of their passengers and craft. However, Deputy Hansen indicated that Long Lake, which receives more patrolling compared to the other county lakes because of our traffic level, has a higher level of careless or reckless boating at almost 50% of all warnings and violations. Tubing and skiing after sunset, operating without navigation lights, and operating too close to other boats above no wake speed were notable violations on our lake. Another common safety violation was paddleboarding without a legally required PFD.

LLA will continue to lead the WCLSG and work with the Sheriff's office to help improve awareness of safety issues on our local lakes. The Sheriff's goals for an increased presence and more effective patrolling means a more secure future for summer enjoyment by everyone. ◊◊◊

Sheriff's County-Wide Results	2022 Full Summer	2023 July 1 to Labor Day	2024 Full Summer Goals
Total Hours	116	300	600
On Water Patrol Hours	80	244	450
Warnings	11	45	40
Citations	4	13	20
Oper. While Intoxicated	0	0	0
Crashes/Fatalities	0 / 0	2 / 2	0 / 0

County-Wide Violations	2023 Citations-Arrests	2023 Warnings
Wearable PFDs	1	6
Type IV PFDs	3	2
Fire Extinguishers	0	0
Visual Distress Signals	0	0
Sound Producing Devices	0	0
Operating Under Influence	0	0
Careless/ Negligent/ Reckless Operation	7	14
Navigation Rules	0	8
Mandatory PFD Wear	0	0
Boat Registration	2	15
All Other	0	0
TOTAL	13	45

SAXEVILLE NEWS

Landing — The Town of Saxeville added breaker stone to the end of the concrete ramp in August to help boaters back their trailers farther in when launching and landing their boats. Another section of dock was also added in September and the fencing was straightened and resecured. Thank you Saxeville for an excellent job!

New Store — Dollar General will be opening a new store in Saxeville on County A east of the corner of W and A. The building is nearly complete and the opening is coming soon. Dollar General operates over 19,000 stores in 47 states. ◊◊◊

RESPONSIBLE WAKE BOARDING AND PRESERVING LAKES — CAN BOTH BE TRUE?

By Patty Jackson

Wake boat affect being measured by University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory

My husband and I have been considering adding a wake boat to our fleet. Whether you already own a wake boat, are considering getting one, or belong to the "just say no to those wave producing beasts" camp, there are some things I have learned and thought you might find helpful to know too.

There are several different studies on wake boat impacts. Some have been funded by boat manufacturing companies and associations and some from geographical regions other than ours. A recent study at the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (UMN) published in 2022 involved a comprehensive scientific analysis of the effects of wake boat waves on lakes. It was university-funded independent research that took place on Lake Independence in Maple Plain, MN.

The UMN study employed two wake boats and two more typical recreation boats. The findings showed that wake boat waves during wake surfing mode are higher, and require greater distance to dissipate to the same height as wake waves from more typical recreation boats. The major findings are summarized below:

- The study compared the wake wave characteristic of the boats under each of their "typical operating conditions." This was planing speed for the two non-wake boats, and plowing speed for the wake boats. When researchers compared the wake waves at each boat's most typical mode of operation, the data indicated that wake boats require distances greater than 500 feet (a little less than 1.5 football fields) from shoreline, docks and other boats to allow their wake wave characteristics to decrease to levels similar to non-wake boats.
- When researchers compared the wake waves of the four boats under conditions that generated their largest wake wave, the data indicated that wake boats require distances greater than 425 feet from the shoreline/docks and other boats to allow their wake wave characteristics to decrease to levels similar to non-wake boats.
- In both modes of operation, the study suggested the distance from shorelines or docks for wake boats requires more than twice the 200 feet currently required in Minnesota [and Wisconsin] regulations.

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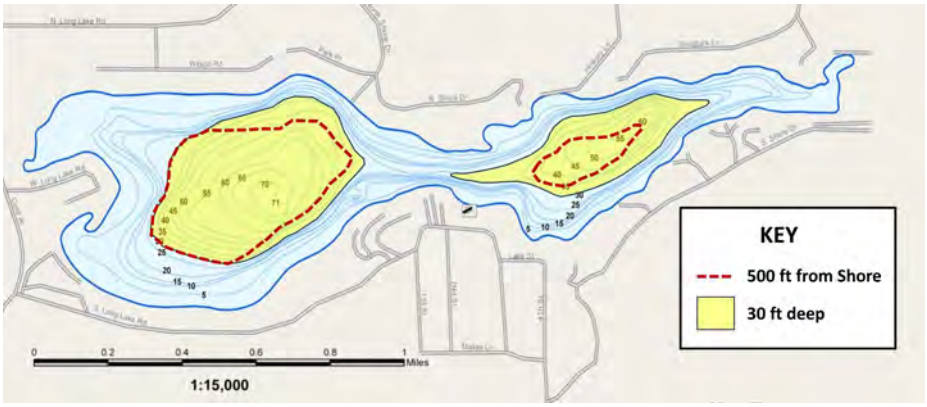
- A wake boat, especially when it has its ballasts full, affects the lake bottom too, including vegetation and fish beds, unless it is operated in water that is at least 30 feet deep. See video from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel showing these effects (full link below).

The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel reported a video documenting the impact of wake boats in shallow water areas of Cedar Lake in West Bend, WI. This account offers a real-life visual perspective. See Cedar Lake video (full link below). UMN is expected to be releasing a follow-on study soon, providing additional insights on prop wash and lake bottom and lake shore impacts.

The Wisconsin legislature is currently considering legislation that could potentially change laws regarding the allowable wake-producing operating distance from shore and institute a minimum lake size requirement for wake boats. The state senate and house both have draft bills in committee. The outcome of any bill remains uncertain. In addition to legislative reporting in your local news, another resource is to keep abreast of this situation is: https://www.lakesatstake.org/.

To use our potential new wake boat in accordance with the UMN study on Long Lake, we will need to stay within the dashed lines highlighted on the lake map below. These areas are 500 feet from the shore and in water depths of 30 feet or more. The west basin run is about 1/2 mile and the east end about 1/3 mile. ◊◊◊



Links:

⇒ UMN Study: https://twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events/university-minnesota-researchers-study-waves-created-recreational-boats

⇒ Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel Video: https://youtu.be/XuUvWnIXRPo

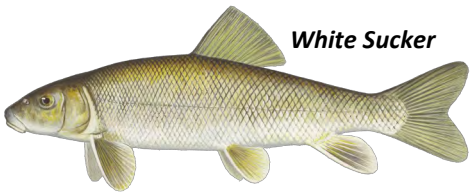
Dave Schultz Assisting Gollon Bait & Fish with stocking white suckers on October 12th.

FISH STOCKING UPDATE

By Dave Schultz

Long Lake's water level has continued to go down this year, threatening the spawning habitat for some of our fish and aquatic animals. Fallen trees and woody vegetation now submerged provides excellent habitat, but in areas of the lake where bulrushes have been removed we have lost a critical spawning habitat for perch, frogs and several other species. There remain very few bulrush beds left on the lake. Hopefully in the future some new beds will return as the water continues to recede. If you have bulrushes on your shoreline, please consider leaving them for the lake's ecosystem.

LLA with funding from FLL was able to plant about 6,500 5 to 7 inch white suckers in October. Suckers are and have been a very important part of our fish population on Long Lake. Suckers provide a source of food for fish of all sizes. Mature suckers spawn as the water warms up in early May and the minnows are eaten by smaller fish like perch and crappie. As they grow the larger fish feed on them too.



White Sucker

For years the lake always had a healthy population of suckers providing excellent forage. During the Musky brooding era we lost a substantial number to the big fish. We have planted them in the past but not since 2016 so it was time to rejuvenate the population. With the

current healthy population of Northern, Walleye and Bass it's important to supplement forage fish to reduce pressure by predators on our panfish population.

The slot requirement for Northern pike from 25-35 inches appears to be improving the number of larger fish being caught. Large fish are normally prime breeding females. Protecting these fish helps maintain a healthy fishery.

We had a substantial increase in outside fishing pressure this summer. Evidently the word has spread that our Bass and Northern populations are doing well. Even though the majority of sport fishermen practice "catch and release", we encourage everyone to follow our fishing recommendations that are available at the landing and on our web page. Also whenever possible release fish while still in the water. If netted, keep fish (especially larger ones) horizontal rather than vertical and return them to the water as soon as possible.

Please remember the Friends of Long Lake for your generous financial donations and consider earmarking your donation to our fish fund. Donations are tax deductible as Friends is a 501(c)3.

All in all, your generous donations to the Friends of Long Lake fish fund allow us to continue with our mission to provide a *family friendly fishery*.

Don't forget that late winter is a great time to create fish habitat with tree drops, etc. Anyone interested can contact me (Dave Schultz) and I'd be glad to give you the details and help.

It's always "A great day to fish!" ◊◊◊

THE ACORNS DROVE ME NUTS!

The Mystery Behind Trees' Mast Years...

Bonk, thud and roll! Long Lake cottage roofs were under siege this fall. Oak trees literally went nuts. In the intricate dance of the natural world, trees occasionally take center stage in a phenomenon known as "mast years." This interesting occurrence is marked by an abundant production of nuts or seeds, but why?

At the heart of mast years lies a delicate interplay between environmental factors that govern a tree's reproductive cycle. The process begins with favorable weather conditions during the previous growing season, setting the stage for an abundant harvest in the following years. Factors such as temperature, rainfall, and sunlight play pivotal roles in determining the health and vigor of a tree, influencing its ability to produce an ample supply of seeds.

Trees operate on a cyclical pattern of energy allocation. During non-mast years, trees invest energy into growth, including the development of their leaves, branches, and trunk. However, during mast years, a significant portion of a tree's energy is redirected towards seed production.

The concept of mast years is also seen as an evolutionary strategy for survival. By synchronizing seed production, trees overwhelm seed predators (squirrels, deer, mice, etc.) with an excess of nuts or seeds, ensuring that a sufficient number escape predation and have the chance to germinate and grow into new trees.

Stress can also be a mast year trigger. Periods of stress, whether caused by environmental factors, disease, or insect infestation, may prompt trees to prioritize reproduction for survival. The tree's response to stress can manifest in an increased production of seeds during mast years.

Mast years are a fascinating testament to the adaptability and resilience of trees. So let's marvel at the intricate mechanisms that govern tree life cycles and appreciate the wonders of the natural world — even if it means getting hit in the head by an acorn or some extra raking! Mast years remind us there is awe and wonder in our wonderful trees! ◊◊◊

Long Lake Association
Friends of Long Lake
PO Box 9
Saxeville, WI 54976

Watch Your Email and the Spring-Summer 2024 Newsletter Issue for Membership Renewal Information!

This Newsletter in Full Color Available From News Page at:
www.longlakesaxeville.org

2023-2024 Long Lake Association Board of Directors

Jerry Voigt; President; gvoigt63@gmail.com (2nd; 2026)
David Wangerin; Vice President; dwangerin@new.rr.com (1st; 2024)
Patty Jackson; Secretary; pattyjackson777@gmail.com (1st; 2026)
Rick Schaber; Treasurer; rick.schaber@yahoo.com (1st; 2025)
Tom Catlin; At-Large; tom.catlin@gmail.com (2nd; 2024)
John Harvat; At-Large; john.harvat@ERSLC.com (1st; 2025)
Dave Schultz; At-Large; daves@wiroofer.com (2nd; 2024)
Wendy Vincent; At-Large; wendypvincent@gmail.com (1st; 2025)
Bruce Rucks; At-Large; bkrucks@comcast.net (1st; 2026)

2024 Save the Dates!

MAY 4th (8:30a) — Road Clean Up
JUNE 8th (9:00a) — FLL Annual Mtg.
JULY 6th (8:30a) — 48th LLA Annual Mtg.
JULY 6th (eve) — 20th Annual Boat Parade
JULY 20th — Annual Picnic
AUG 31st — Annual Blood Drive

Mark Your Calendars!

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