

# Cochran Lake District Newsletter

## January, 2003

**Cochran Lake Meetings**—Please park on the south side of the Fire Hall, near the entrance to the ~~by the entrance to the~~ garbage/recycling entrance. ~~Do not park next to the entrance to the meeting room so that these~~ spaces near the meeting room are ~~can be~~ reserved for volunteer firemen. ~~—If~~ a fire call is activated, your car may be blocked from leaving until the fire call has been terminated.

Quarterly Meeting held:           October 26, 2002  
Next Quarterly Meeting:           March 8, 2003 -- 9:00 AM\*  
Next Annual Meeting:            May 24, 2003 -- 1:00 PM\*\*  
Quarterly Meeting:                to be scheduled

\*Pike Lake Fire Meeting Hall reserved -- 9:00 AM

\*\*Pike Lake Fire Meeting Hall & Pavilion reserved – 11:00 AM—BYU Lunch

### **LOON RESCUE** *written by Pat Schwai*

There was some excitement on Cochran Lake on August 31. ~~Pat and~~ Rick Schwai and I were out for an early evening cruise when ~~Pat I~~ spotted a loon shaking its head and rubbing its beak against its breast. This was not a behavior ~~IPat, an avid birdwatcher,~~ had previously observed. As ~~theywe~~ motored slowly, the loon submerged and came near ~~theirour~~ boat, thrashing just below the surface of the water. Soon the bird surfaced and repeated its odd behavior. Looking through ~~myher~~ binoculars, ~~IPat~~ noticed ~~Ishe~~ couldn't make the loon's head come into focus. It was then ~~Ishe~~ spotted a fishing weight and tangle of line surrounding the bird's head. ~~WeThey~~ hurried home (as fast as two partially charged twin electric motors could carry ~~usthem~~) and placed a call to the Northwoods Wildlife Center. ~~WeThey~~ were told that as long as the bird was still able to dive, the NWC could not help. ~~WeThey~~ were instructed to observe the loon. Knowing that the rehabilitators would need access to a speedier boat, ~~IPat~~ began notifying other residents ~~ofof~~ the situation.

Frank Sevcik realized that a loon in such distress probably would not last the night. As sunset approached, he and his son headed out and carefully caught the loon. Several yards

of fishing line were wrapped around the bird's head, beak and neck. They cut away the line and then inspected the bird's mouth. No easy task. Fortunately, the Niebrands were

canoeing past and were able to lend their assistance. Once released, the loon flapped across the water, never to be seen again.

As the story of the rescue circulated, several people commented that a loon had recently approached their boat while they were fishing. Is that *how* the loon became entangled? Or was the loon approaching their boats, as it did ~~ours~~<sup>Schwai's</sup>, because it *was* in trouble? We will never know, but thanks to the cooperative effort of several people, a loon was saved!

### **BIRD WATCHING** *written by Pat Schwai*

What a great year for bird watching on Cochran Lake! Armed with a new pair of binoculars, ~~I~~<sup>Pat Schwai</sup> was ready for the annual warbler migration in mid-May. Among the warblers ~~I~~<sup>she</sup> counted on ~~our~~<sup>their</sup> property ~~alone~~ were: Nashville, Cape May, Black throated green, Black throated blue, Blackburnian, Chestnut sided, Palm, Black and White, Blackpoll, Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped, and Mourning.

Several people treated the Baltimore and Orchard Orioles to oranges this year. The songsters rewarded them by staying around.

Eastern phoebes once again nested on a protected downspout at both Schwai's and Schave's. The nesters at Schwai's were "newlyweds" and struggled with nest building and incubating. In the end, the happy couple raised two clutches of 4 babies each.

Greg and Ilona Yorton had the thrill of watching a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers nest nearby. Heat stress was apparent when one of the babies was observed stretching out of the cavity with its beak wide open.

The islands were the place to be to view fledglings of several species. ~~Pat Schwai patiently watched as the~~ <sup>Patience paid off. I was able to observe</sup> Baltimores orioles, Eastern Kingbirds, Belted Kingfishers and Flickers ~~car~~<sup>inged</sup> for their newly fledged babies.

The Bald Eagles put on quite a show for Sig Kaminsky and his guests. While being videotaped, the cooperative eagle swooped over their boat, caught a fish and perched to eat it. Pretty amazing!

The birds are all around us. It's just a matter of slowing down to observe them.

### **Aquatic Exotic and Non-Native Invasive Species**

According to the Lakeland Times, the resolution proposing a segregated fund to be used to control aquatic invasive species was approved by the 71 of the 72 counties in Wisconsin at this month's annual meeting of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation. Monies from boat registrations and gasoline would be used for this fund. This article cites Little St. Germain Lake District, the Eagle River Chain, and 16 other local unidentified lakes of trying to control invasive species that if left untreated will create suffocating algae blooms that kills fish and native plants.

These control measures are very expensive. For example, Little St. Germain Lake District raised \$20,000 and the town will match another \$20,000 to try to control the curly leaf milfoil this year. Also, Stan reported that the Phillips Lake Chain is infested with Eurasian water milfoil. ~~It is estimated that control efforts will cost in excess of; their estimate of trying to control this milfoil is over~~ \$50,000.

This article and Stan's Aquatic reports emphasize that everyone must work together to make sure that non-native (~~i.e. and~~ exotic) species are not introduced in the lake—as once these invasive species are established, the only action is trying to control them. Eradication of these species is 99% impossible.

Therefore, again, all boats, live-wells, trailers, and motors used on other lakes ~~MUST~~ ~~must~~ be ~~freeclear~~ of all weeds as well as any non-Cochran Lake water ~~residue still~~ ~~residing~~ in live-wells or in the motor. Be especially concerned for the transmission of curly leaf milfoil, Rusty crayfish, Eurasian water milfoil, and zebra mussels being ~~introduced~~ ~~transmitted~~ from other lakes. (Lakeland Times, December 20, 2002, p.6)

Thanks to Stan, Cochran Lake has established base-line data of our native aquatic plants. Now, all of us must be vigilant in protecting our native plants while being very proactive in preventing any non-native invasive plants from being introduced.

According to Butch at our October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Department of Transportation will probably try to either stop/minimize this funding from the gasoline tax.

*[Karen will contact Butch as to whether our Wisconsin's DOT needs letters from us to encourage the DOT to avoid political suicide on this funding needing to protect native plants and fish from invasive aquatic species.]*

### **Preservation/Restoration of the Shoreline**

To maintain Cochran Lake's water quality as well as to be in compliance of county statutes, the 35 ft buffer zone of native plants and trees must be maintained adjoining the lake or, if needed, restored back to this native fauna. **This that does not include grass.**

Also, grass on your shoreline encourages the explosion of the goosegeese population on Cochran Lake. In Milwaukee County, geese are so established in the parks that they have taken over the lagoons, picnic areas, and fields used for soccer and baseball. Their droppings are so thick that most of these areas are now off-limits to people. Their droppings areis, also, a source-source of for "swimmers itch" in the lakes.

At the last meeting Butch indicated that there are several resources to restore your shoreline. He mentioned one resource from Vilas Lakes that has a website.

[If anyone found this website, please e-mail Karen for the next newsletter as well as other resources or grants for the preservation and restoration of our shoreline.]

### **Paving of Springstead Road—Forest Road 146**

Per the October 26<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting, a Cochran District letter was sent to Bill Sullivan, Park Falls Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Supervisor, recommending the paving of Forest Road 146 from Shady Knoll, Forest Road 144, to at least Thompson Lake Road.

### **Adopt a Highway Report**

This past fall, Greg and other Cochran Lake District volunteers cleaned up roughly 8.5 miles of "adopted" roads in our area surrounding Cochran Lake District posted as the Cochran Lake District's "Adopt a Highway". Thanks to the following Cochran Lake District members who participated in this fall clean up:

*Greg and Ilona Yorton*  
*George and Letty Rasmussen*  
*Frank and Nancy Sevcik*  
*Raymond and Judith Schave*  
*Raymond and Diane Korinek*

For the up-coming Spring Clean-Up, consider volunteering for this Highway Clean-Up. Greg has divided the 8.5 miles into sections so that you can clean a section of these Forest Roads at your convenience on your time within a window of suggested days. Call Greg to sign up for the spring clean up.

**Lost and Found:**

- 1) Found: Large White Cushion Bumper—see Carl Schmelzer
- 2) Found: Nice Looking Axe that probably fell out of a pick-up truck—see George Rasmussen

**For Sale/Wanted to Buy**

Are you going to sell your Cochran Lake property? If yes, there is at least one other Cochran Lake District member who may be interested; e-mail Karen so she can contact this member for permission to disclose their e-mail to you.

Also, please do not hesitate to share our stewardship and harmony of Cochran Lake District with your real estate agent or post your sale via a mailing to our district members or this newsletter—with or w/o a real estate commitment.

Currently, Lot 6 and Lot 60 are For Sale.

[Mary Hartung & Mary Kaminski, Public Relations Committee will encourage the owners of Lot 6 and Lot 60 to share Cochran Lake District's covenants, stewardship, and harmony as a great place because of the people and of course the lake!]

**Binding Covenant's Reminders**

Whether 1<sup>st</sup> owner or nth owner, Cochran Lake District members are reminded of the following covenants on their property:

- 1) **Adhere to all zoning ordinances.**
- 2) No noxious or offensive trade or activity that may become a nuisance to the neighborhood is allowed.
- 3) No mobile homes, no junk cars or shacks; travel trailers shall be permitted on a temporary basis only—but only for recreational purposes; ~~but~~ **travel trailers cannot be used as permanent dwelling.**
- 4) No on-site unhoued storage will be allowed for excess material and infrequently used vehicles. Storage of snowmobiles, boats, trailers, campers, golf carts and other seasonal items frequently used will be allowed, provided they are not kept closer than 30 feet from public road and 10 feet from any property line.  
*(Note: this implies that all off-season—“infrequently used”—recreational vehicles cannot be stored out in the open; instead, they must be stored in a garage or off-site.)*
- 5) No horses, cows, goats, sheep, pigs, poultry or fowl of any kind will be permitted. Pets will be permitted and shall be properly restrained so as to avoid becoming an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood...**All exterior lighting shall not interfere with the use and enjoyment of neighboring properties.**

- 6) Outdoor toilets shall be permitted only as allowed by applicable law or regulation, and then not closer than 30 feet from any public road right of way, 25 feet from any property line and 100 feet from the ordinary High-water Mark of the lake.
  
- 7) **Clear Cutting of the property will not be allowed** unless done pursuant to a timber management plan or for the purpose of clearing a building or camping site, lawn or garden area or driveway. All stumps that are removed shall be buried, burned or otherwise removed from the property. Selective harvesting of trees for personal use as firewood will be allowed.  
*(Note, also that county regulations have set the 35 feet buffer of trees and native plants as a no-cut barrier to protect the shoreline.)*

(The above listing and other terms and conditions can be found attached to your title papers. The highlighted sections are the most frequent concerns that members of the Lake District have seen violated.)

#### **Up-Coming Cochran Lake District Quarterly Meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>** *(Rough Draft of Agenda Items)*

- 1) Boat Landing<sup>2</sup>s Culvert—as of October 26<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting the road culvert had~~s~~ not been replaced. Neal Zirbel, Fifield Town Board Supervisor ~~was and~~ present at this meeting ~~and~~; promised to check on when this culvert would be replaced—the Fifield Town will replace this culvert at no expense to our Lake District.
- 2) Boat Landing Pier—the pier is not long enough to accommodate boats bigger than a rowboat; district members have volunteered to increase its length to at most 12 feet. The cost to the district would be for the materials needed to do this.
- 3) Update on Fish Cribs—Butch Lobermeier, Price County Representative, volunteered with other Lake District members to build fish cribs on Cochran Lake. Upon DNR's approval, fish cribs will be constructed on the ice this winter. After the March 8<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting, all district members will receive the locations of these cribs. The district would pay for the cost of the materials needed to build these cribs.
- 4) Update of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Plan for existing Forest service passenger car road transportation system—Will our Springstead Road be paved? If so—in how many years? [Karen will contact Bill Sullivan for this update.]

5) Dry Hydrant Proposal—A Dry Hydrant on Cochran Lake for Fire Suppression

(Pike Lake Chain has a Dry Hydrant off Highway 70 for the Pike Lake Chain Firefighters to extinguish fires—needed during ice conditions on the Pike Lake Chain.)

One of the highest priorities of establishing a Cochran Lake District was having a Dry Hydrant on the lake; this Dry Hydrant would enable the Pike Lake Firefighters to have access to water when the lake is frozen. Presently, if there should be a fire on Cochran during ice conditions, the firefighters ~~does~~ have equipment to break through the ice for water. The advantage of a Dry Hydrant would be saving time; that is, the access to ~~of~~ water with a Dry Hydrant would be faster than breaking through the ice. At this time, Pike Lake Firefighters have not identified a site on Cochran Lake ~~that can accomodate that has access to~~ their fire equipment at a site where water is available as well as the depth needed of Cochran Lake to access water during sub-zero weather.

But, thanks to Frank and Nancy Sevcik, Lot 32, a Dry Hydrant for Cochran Lake may be a possibility ~~le~~. Frank and Nancy are is proposing that their pond, ~~that is~~ adjacent to Cy's Drive, be used as a Dry Fire Hydrant. Frank and Nancy are working with the DNR to dredge their pond to 10ft and to install a pump to assist the flow of Cochran Lake water to their pond and subsequently to the creek. If the Lake District approves, the District would sign a lease for at least 50 years with Frank and Nancy. The only cost for the district would be the cost for the Dry Hydrant and its maintenance.

6) Web Site for the Cochran Lake District—Donald Schmitz  
don@tx.surgery.wisc.edu

7) Committee Reports

8) Other Concerns—especially for the district's annual meeting on May 24th

**Accolades**

**Hats off to Pat Schwai for writing the articles, Loon Rescue and Bird Watching, as well as sharing her expertise!**

**Speak Your Onions & Accolades**

If you have any concerns or accolades that should be in the next newsletter, please let Karen know by our next quarterly meeting, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Notice:**

2003 Wisconsin Lakes Convention—25 Years of Lake Management  
April 10 – 12, 2003  
Green Bay, WI (*Lake Tides*, Vol. 27, No. 2, p.9)

WAL Meeting—Early May

**Board Members:**

Karen Boyle, President [boyleka@mail.milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:boyleka@mail.milwaukee.k12.wi.us)

Carlene Bauer, Secretary [gbbauers@juno.com](mailto:gbbauers@juno.com)

Rick Schwai, Treasurer [rick.schwai@irista.com](mailto:rick.schwai@irista.com)  
(Per Cochran Lake District by-laws, Rick will complete this term until  
the May election.)

Butch Lobermeier, County Rep

Neal Zirbel, Town Rep

**Committee Chairs:**

Frank Sevcik, Fishery [nsevcik@pctcnet.net](mailto:nsevcik@pctcnet.net)

George Rasmussen, Water Quality [rasmu@pctcnet.net](mailto:rasmu@pctcnet.net)

Stan Kmiecik, Lake Plants

Greg Yorton, Multi-Committee & Adopt a Highway

Mary Hartung & Mary Kaminski, Public Relations  
Mary Kaminski [skaminski@nconnect.net](mailto:skaminski@nconnect.net)

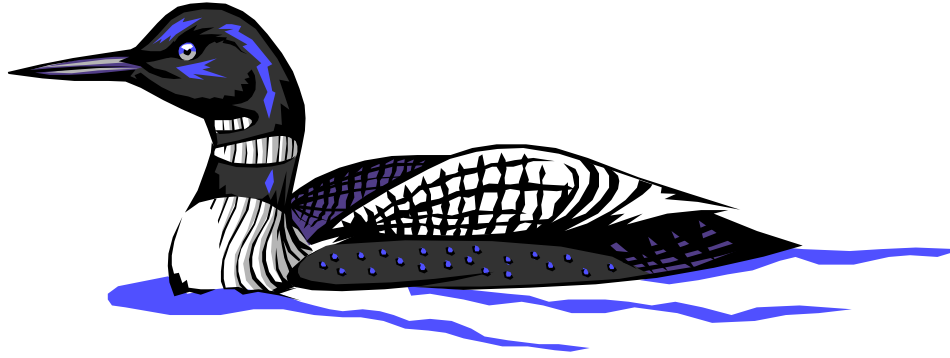
Mary Hartung, Directory [maryagsp@hotmail.com](mailto:maryagsp@hotmail.com)

CC to:

Manny Stein, Fire Chief  
Doug Noetzel, Town Chairman  
Jack Wierzba, Town Supervisor  
Rosann Thate, Coordinator of Pike Lake Meeting Hall







## Cochran Lake District

Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting—1:00PM  
(BYU Lunch—Cochran's Meet Your Neighbors--Noon)

**(Proposed) Mission Statement:** The stewardship of Cochran Lake and its islands will be proactive by its 52 members to promote water clarity, work towards a natural self-sustaining fishery, **aggressively retain and/or restore the no-cut 35 feet buffer zone of plants and trees on the lake**, maintain the natural aquatic plants while being proactive in preventing the spread of exotic and destructive plants from other lakes, and supporting Cochran's indigenous bird population like loons, woodpeckers, eagles, and others while discouraging the population of birds like geese that have been designated as a polluting pests in several counties.

**(Proposed) Harmony Mission Statement:** *The stewardship of Cochran Lake District will abide by its Cochran Lake District's By-Laws that is designed to address the stewardship of Cochran Lake.*

*However, other issues of harmony like abiding by the title covenants that are non-polluting issues for Cochran Lake or enjoying the natural tranquility of nature w/o the interference of noise from either man-made machines, noise that vibrates outside of lot perimeters—especially from barking dogs that are obviously left unattended for long periods of time, noise that escalates from the lake, and out-door lights that inhibits the vision of stars for Cochran Lake District's members can be addressed in our Cochran Lake District Newsletter. But, the resolutions of these non-stewardship issues of Cochran Lake are the responsibility of Cochran Lake owners rather than the Cochran Lake District with the option of resolving these issues either before or after the district's meetings.*

**Cochran Lake Meetings**—Please park by the entrance to the garbage/recycling entrance. Do not park next to the entrance to Fire House Meeting Room so that these

spaces can be reserved for volunteer firemen—if a fire call is activated your car may be blocked from leaving until the fire call has been terminated.

- 2002-2003: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting Held: March 8, 2003  
2003-2004: Annual Meeting : May 24, 2003—1:00 PM\*\*  
2003-2004: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting—to be scheduled—usually in July  
2003-2004: 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Meeting—to be scheduled—usually in October  
2003-2004: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting—to be scheduled—usually in March

\*\*Pike Lake Fire Meeting Hall & Pavilion reserved – **11:00 for BYU Lunch** starting at noon.

**BYU Lunch**—volunteers are needed to coordinate coffee, soda, and desserts—contact Karen if you can help. Linda Tiry will have an informational table from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM displaying non-phosphate detergents manufactured by Melaleuca. If the district approves, the district can set up a fund-raising account with Melaleuca. This would enable the district to receive a small % of the sales of its products to district members.

### **2003-2004 Annual Meeting Agenda—May 24, 2003** (Social—Noon to 1:00 PM—BYU Lunch for “Meet your Neighbor”)

#### **Agenda:**

Minutes of March 8<sup>th</sup>'s Quarterly Meeting

Financial Report—Rick Schwai, Treasurer, Appointed in July, 2002

Nominations are open for Cochran Lake District Treasurer..but..  
(Can we convince Rick of accepting a nomination for a 2003-2006 term?)

Committee Reports:

Adopt a Highway, Greg Yorton

Directory, Mary Hartung

Fishery, Frank Sevcik

Lake Plants, Stan Kmiecik

Public Relations, Mary Kaminski & Mary Hartung,

George Rasmussen, Water Quality

Mission Statements—District and Harmony—Discussion/Modifications/Adoption?

Boat Landing Pier:

Approved at the last quarterly meeting to purchase supplies and erect a pier

?? Do we need to have home-owners-type insurance for this pier?

??Even without a pier, has the district been protected through its members homeowner's insurance? (Nancy, thanks for bringing these issues to the board.)

[Nancy has checked with her home insurance agent who told her that her home policy does include the 1/64 ownership of the boat landing and its pier.]

Boat Landing Culvert—Fifield Town plows the road to the boat landing to allow access to water by Pike Lake Fire Department. Two winters ago, the culvert was damaged by the plowing of snow. Fifield Town promised to replace this culvert this Spring. Until repairs are completed, district members should use caution when moving their car and trailer over this culvert.

Price County's Lake's Associations/Districts has invited Cochran Lake in joining their Organization. The annual cost is \$10.00, and their meetings are in Phillips one evening per month. Do we want to join?

Dry Hydrant—Cochran Lake's level is too shallow at the boat landing. But, at the last meeting, Butch informed us that other communities had a buried tank of water for its Fire Department to access water during ice conditions. Should this issue be referred to Fifield County and Pike Lake Fire Department for research and implementation—using county & Forest-Fire Prevention funds? Or is this tank/dry hydrant a non-issue with the available pumps and ice cutting machines that is part of the Pike Lake Fire Department?

New/Old Business—Not Addressed

Fax Machine/Phone/Answering Machine—Panasonic KX-F100—with manual, tapes, ribbon—district owned—Nancy stored this fax until last July. If any member is interested in giving this fax a good home—especially for a donation of \$15.00 or more contact Karen to secure approval at the annual meeting where this fax will be displayed.

Updates:

Cry's Drive Residents are encouraged to stay after the annual meeting to discuss Cry's Drive and the pending state legislation of residents using roads within a 5 mile radius of their home to access ATV's trails.

Stan reported that DNR will assist him in July to help him identify lake plants; Stan may need access to a pontoon boat to conduct this study.

DNR has notified Frank that Cochran Lake will be shocked on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Donald Schmitz has secured a no-charge website for the district,  
<http://wave.prohosting.com/cochran1> -- make sure the "1" is the last digit.  
Thanks Don!

Reminder: Cochran Lake's speed limit is 10 mph as long as this speed is a no-wake speed for the shoreline. Also, shoreline's plants and trees both in the water and on its perimeters maintains the crystal clear water of the lake, we need to continue maintaining and replenishing this natural revitalization of the lake.

Cochran Lake Newsletter  
May, 2003

***Board Members:***

Karen Boyle, President, [boyleka@mail.milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:boyleka@mail.milwaukee.k12.wi.us)

Carlene Bauer, Secretary, [gbbauers1@juno.com](mailto:gbbauers1@juno.com)

Rick Schwai, Treasurer, [rick.schwai@irista.com](mailto:rick.schwai@irista.com)

Butch Lobermeir, County Rep

Neal Zierba, Town Rep

***Committee Chairs:***

Frank Sevcik, Fishery, [nsevcik@pctnet.net](mailto:nsevcik@pctnet.net)

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Greg Yorton, Multi-Committee & Adopt a Highway

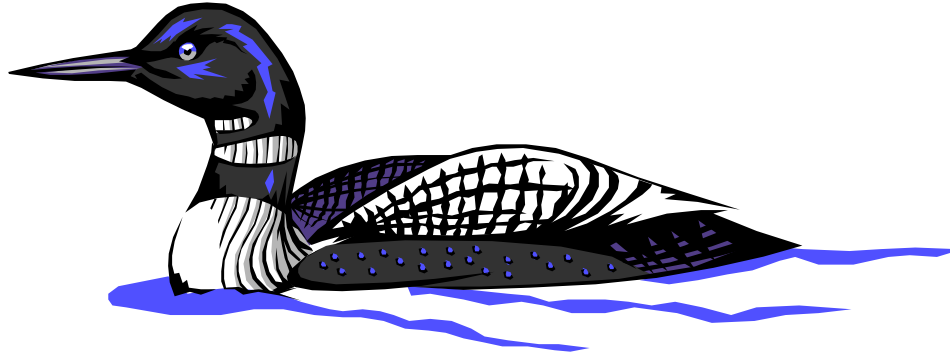
Mary Hartung & Mary Kaminski, Public Relations, [skaminski@nconnect.net](mailto:skaminski@nconnect.net)

Mary Hartung, Directory, [maryagsp@hotmail.com](mailto:maryagsp@hotmail.com)

Donald Schmitz, Web Site, [donS@tx.surgery.wisc.edu](mailto:donS@tx.surgery.wisc.edu)

**CC to:**

Manny Stein, Fire Chief  
Doug Noetzel, Town Chairman  
Jack Wierzba, Town Supervisor  
Rosann Thate, Coordinator of Pike Lake Meeting Hall  
Bill Sullivan, Park Falls Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Sup.  
Linda Tiry, Sales Rep. For Melaleuca, [tiry@iglide.net](mailto:tiry@iglide.net)



## Cochran Lake District Newsletter

**(Proposed) Mission Statement:** The stewardship of Cochran Lake and its islands will be proactive by its 52 members to promote water clarity, work towards a natural self-sustaining fishery, and encourage the establishment of native birds and plants. *The stewardship of Cochran Lake District will abide by its Cochran Lake District's By-Laws to facilitate Cochran Lake District Meetings and to focus on any polluting issue(s).*

**(Proposed) Harmony Mission Statement:** Cochran Lake owners will preserve the natural tranquility of their surroundings so that all owners can enjoy the wind, the stars, the wildlife, and the natural flow of the waves on the lake.

**Cochran Lake Meetings**—Please park by the entrance to the garbage/recycling entrance. Do not park next to the entrance to Fire House Meeting Room so that these spaces can be reserved for volunteer firemen—if a fire call is activated your car may be blocked from leaving until the fire call has been terminated.

2003-2004:	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting:	Held on July 5, 2003—9:00 AM
2003-2004:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Meeting:	October 25 <sup>th</sup> —9:00 AM (Fire Hall Reserved)
2003-2004:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting—	to be scheduled—usually in March
2004-2005	Annual Meeting:	May 29 <sup>th</sup> —1:00 PM** (Fire Hall Reserved)
	**	(Do you want a social at noon or a social/lunch at noon?)

### **Speak Your Onions—alerts from Cochran Lake Owners**

The No-Wake Speed Limit of 10 mph has **not** been honored by some of us. In fact, one boat was not only speeding but also intentionally driving the boat towards one of our loons causing it to screech. Recall, at previous district meetings, Pat Schwai reported that Cochran Lake was very fortunate in having loons on the lake as—even in the Northwood's—a small number of lakes are blessed with their presence.

In addition, The No-Wake Speed Limit of 10 mph was established at our first district meeting to protect the shoreline—yet, still allow fisherman to get to their fishing spots—but, this lake is not the flowage—that is, I still think the fish will be at your spot w/o speeding or causing a wake. At our first meetings, Butch Lobermeier, Price County Lake Conservation Dept. and representatives from Stevens Point University and the DNR, emphasized the importance of our shorelines in maintaining the water clarity of our lake. The 10 mph speed limit was classified as the “highest benchmark” to motor w/o causing a wake. In addition, this benchmark ensured that water skiing and jet skies would **not** be tolerated on the lake.

**Hats off to everyone who only paddle, who only use electric motors, or who have four cycle engines**—even the Milwaukee Journal dared to publish findings that all other motors—even well-tuned and relatively new motors—pollute the lake. Please consider an electric motor—especially when you are going to trade your old motor in.

The last issue is “barking dogs”. It appears that some dogs are left alone—inside an residence or outside—while their owners go boating, walking, and etc. As you know, any noise carries quickly through the forest—but amplifies over the lake. There is one “barking dog” that is repeatedly left alone to bark—several times this dog is barking two to three hours. Please be responsible owners—there are alternatives—dog day care is available up here—call Northwood's Animal Hospital or even Lakeland Travel Agency that can give you reputable homes that will care for your pet or board your pet for the day.

Do not hesitate to call, write, or e-mail Karen with your issues for the next newsletter.

P.S. Thanks for turning off **all** of your lights at night when you are in bed—“The stars up here are always a wonder but to see the orange glow of Mars was fantastic. But, I do not think I will be here in 60,000 years to see this orange glow of Mars again!” (Karen)

### **Phosphates**

Phosphates—even at very minimal levels--are great as a fertilizers—so great that when it filtrates to any lake or stream, it promotes algae blooms to a point that it not only destroys water clarity but chokes the natural lake fauna by depleting minimum oxygen out of the

water needed for the lake's ecosystem. Unfortunately, phosphates, also soften water and enable "Tide" like detergents to produce a detergent cheap—ill regard of these environmental issues. It was not until Lake Erie's ecosystem in the 1970's became a terminal fauna disaster that legislation to eliminate phosphates in detergents was successful—finally successful in the 1980's. But, even though "Tide" like companies knew in the 1970's of phosphate's real potential danger to lakes, they continued to research ways in which phosphate and other cheap ingredients—polluting or not could maximize their profit.

Today, the government—not the detergent industry—has banned all phosphates in laundry detergents. But---this legislation does **not include automatic dishwashing detergents.**

Most automatic dishwasher detergents have 6% to 8% phosphorous content by weight . This is about the same as the phosphorous content in Miracle-Gro, a common houseplant fertilizer. A recent study done in Lolo, MT, on the impact of dishwasher detergents on water quality showed that these detergents contribute from 15-20% of the phosphorus entering the wastewater treatment plant, and eventually the river. (Tiry, Linda, Melaleuca Rep.) Other studies verify this: [willykim@bigsky.net](mailto:willykim@bigsky.net) or [www.assabriver.org/nutrient/detergents.html](http://www.assabriver.org/nutrient/detergents.html) .

At our last meeting George Rasmussen indicated that your Septic System cannot filter any phosphates or other polluting cleaning agents. However, George and his wife, Letty, have an alternative—"Diamond Brite Gel" produced by Melaleuca. This dishwashing detergent has 0 % phosphates. In addition," Diamond Brite Gel" is very typical of Melaleuca's commitment to developing products that are 100% safe for the consumer and their environment. In fact, Melaleuca won the 2003 Environmental Excellence Award by the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry. George and Letty in conjunction with Melaleuca's Representative, Linda Tiry, held an informational meeting at their home in July---three Cochran Residents and a Texas relative signed up for their non-polluting and friendly environmental products.

[Feel free to contact Letty Rasmussen or Karen Boyle about Melaleuca's products. In fact, Karen Boyle feels that "Diamond Brite Gel" should be the **only** automatic dishwashing product used at Cochran Lake—or any lake that she will make this dishwashing product available to any Northwood's customer—just call Karen at (715) 762-8601.]

Yes, there maybe another dishwashing detergent w/o phosphates and other polluting agents. Find it, and Karen Boyle will research it and publish her findings in the next newsletter.



## **Fishery Report**

Skip Sommerfeldt, DNR, completed the Spring Shocking of Cochran Lake on May 29, 2003. This was the 6<sup>th</sup> time that the lake was shocked. Other dates were, June 14, 1973, May 31, 1989, May 26, 1999, May 30, 2001 and May 30, 2002

### 2003 Shocking Results:

sample size=394--0.9 hrs

Saw & Missed North'rn Pike as we collected--

11 North'rn Pike were removed from our lake

(Frank reported that they missed easily as many North'rn Pike)

Blue Gill continue to a high density—Sample: 93 blue gills to 264 Largemouth Bass

(DNR continues to feel that Blue Gill, other Pan Fish, and North'rn Pike will inhibit the repopulation of healthy Largemouth Bass.)

Saw and missed as many Largemouth Bass-264 Largemouth Bass tallied

264 Largemouth Bass/394 sample = 67%...but 6 inch+ = 37% of the 67%

(Bass were just starting to make nests—not quite paired up yet;

some larger bass—13"-14"ers were still pretty skinny.)

Shocking also tallied crayfish—according to Skip—a favorite food for Largemouth Bass. Also, blacknose shiner, bluntnose minnow, and mimic shiner were found in the lake.

Very few perch were found. Comparing last year and this year's shocking, Franklin reported that there was no improvement in the bass population. Recall that last year, *Skip warned us that if the bluegill population continued to explode Cochran Lake may have all species of its fish stunted. Also, last year there were more perch in the lake; this year only two were in the sample. According to Skip, perch and crayfish are highly more preferable as a food source for the bass.*

Therefore, Franklin is recommending the following:

**Take out Bluegills and Sunfish**

**Take Bass out that are 11-14 inches**

**DNR recommends to take out all Northern**

### **Accolades—Cochran's Adopt a Highway**

The following members did the Spring Clean Up of our adopted roads:

**Raymond & Diane Korinek,**

**George Rasmussen,**

**Greg Yorton,**

**and, an unknown party cleaned one section.**

If you can help with the upcoming Fall clean-up contact Greg. Greg will assign you a section that you can clean when you are available. Everyone is encouraged to pick-up trash items on our roads throughout the year.

### **Concert Season Tickets**

Sue Houkom [Lot 14] with the Woods and Waters Fine Arts Council has organized the following shows at the Park Falls High School:

Butch Thompson's Big Three, Sun. Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> --7:00 PM

The 30<sup>th</sup> Star, Wed., Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>—7:00 PM

Christmas With the Marlins, Thurs, Dec. 18—7:00 PM

Tin Roof Tango, Thurs., Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>—7:00 PM

The season ticket price for all of the above is \$25.00. In addition, your season ticket also admits you to four concerts in Medford and four concerts in Minocqua. If interested, call Sue at her Park Fall's home at (715) 762-4515.

### **District Insurance**

(Wendy Bjork of Fidelity Insurance has secured two bids for Cochran Lake to consider. She had duplicated both bids for our July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting; but, our mailman would not deliver these bids as he felt the Boyle's were part-time residents. So, he sent them back to her. All of this has now been resolved—the Boyle's are now receiving their mail.)

Pike Lake Association has lake insurance through Fidelity. According to Bill Avelallemant, President of Pike Lake Association, their board and their members feel strongly that this insurance protects the association and the board from litigation—especially for “errors and omissions”. Like Cochran Lake, Pike Lake's board are non-paid volunteers; Pike Lake did not want any of their board sued for making decisions in good faith and according to their by-laws. And if Pike Lake would face litigation, then the insurance lawyers—especially for fraudulent claims—could quickly resolve these issues.

At our July 5<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting, residents asked that we list our risks and then compare our risks to the insurance bid. Karen Boyle will need help in doing this—especially if your expertise includes law or insurance.

Hopefully, this will be done by our next quarterly meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>—9:00 AM. After this evaluation and posting in our next newsletter, these two bids with a yearly premium of \$947.00 and of \$3126 can be voted on by the membership at our annual meeting in May. Both bids are high but the cost must be weighed by our risks and by the fact that as a district with the power of taxation—we could be viewed as having very deep pockets for litigation.

## Website

Remember, Donald Schmitz has secured a no-charge website for the district,  
<http://wave.prohosting.com/cochran1> -- make sure the "1" is the last digit.

## Board Members:

Karen Boyle, President, [boyleka@mail.milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:boyleka@mail.milwaukee.k12.wi.us)

Carlene Bauer, Secretary, [gbbauers1@juno.com](mailto:gbbauers1@juno.com)

Mary Kaminski, Treasurer, [skaminski@nconnect.net](mailto:skaminski@nconnect.net)

Butch Lobermeir, County Rep

Neal Zierba, Town Rep

## Committee Chairs:

Frank Sevcik, Fishery, [nsevcik@pctcnet.net](mailto:nsevcik@pctcnet.net)

George Rasmussen, Water Quality, [rasmu@pctcnet.net](mailto:rasmu@pctcnet.net)

Stan Kmiecik, Lake Plants

Greg Yorton, Multi-Committee & Adopt a Highway

Mary Hartung & Mary Kaminski, Public Relations, [skaminski@nconnect.net](mailto:skaminski@nconnect.net)

Mary Hartung, Directory, [maryagsp@hotmail.com](mailto:maryagsp@hotmail.com)

Donald Schmitz, Web Site, [donS@surgery.wisc.edu](mailto:donS@surgery.wisc.edu)

## CC to:

Manny Stein, Fire Chief

Doug Noetzel, Town Chairman

Jack Wierzba, Town Supervisor

Leo & Susan Kalmerton, Coordinator of Pike Lake Meeting Hall

Bill Sullivan, Park Falls Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Sup.

Linda Tiry, Sales Rep. For Melaleuca, [tiry@iglide.net](mailto:tiry@iglide.net)