

Cochran Lake Review

The Annual Lake District Meeting will be held on **May 27th 2006 @ 9:00am** at the Pike Lake Fire station. Please plan to attend, coffee and treats will be provided. We will be voting to approve the budget and to elect a new board member.



Fishery (Frank Sevcik)

The DNR shocked the lake in May, 2005 and found a new breed of sunfish which is green in color. The DNR says that bass are abundant, the size and quality are improving, there is still no size limit on the bass. Catching and releasing larger bass will help control some of the pan fish. Some lake members have reported catching and seeing a few perch. We ask lake members to release all perch to help improve their recovery back into our lake. A 20" Walleye was caught in February on a tip-up through the ice.

Water Quality (George Rasmussen)

Over the summer of 2005 the water temperature was 80 degrees which is the warmest in 11 years. Compare this to 2004 when the water temperature barely got above 70 degrees. It was thought this would create a possible algae bloom but it never did materialize. Water quality and clarity remains very good but a spike in the chloride level in the Fall result from 1 part per million to 9 parts per million will warrant some watching. It may have been a lab error and will continue to be monitored.

Natural Shores Certification Program

(Butch Lobermeier)

The Natural Shores Certification Program had its first full year of implementation during 2005. This awards program honors those landowners that currently meet or exceed the minimum county shoreland zoning ordinance requirements on their waterfront properties. Meeting the minimum shoreland zoning requirements certifies the stewardship as satisfactory. Properties that are being managed in a manner that is significantly higher than the minimum standards required are more beneficial to the health of the water body. These owners are recognized as providing exceptional

stewardship of their shorelines. Landowners that have certified shorelines receive a framed certificate from the LCC and the LCD and an embroidered shirt with the program logo.

The shoreline stewardship exhibited by the property owners on Cochran Lake is exceptional when compared to the shorelines of most lakes in Price County. Twelve landowners on Cochran Lake have had the Land Conservation Department inspect their shorelines and certify them under the Natural Shores Program as meeting or exceeding minimum shoreland zoning standards that are currently in place. It would be a note-worthy goal to work toward 100% certification for all shoreland on Cochran Lake. The excellent condition of the current shoreline on most parcels would see little need for restoration activities and would only involve documenting the shoreline condition that is currently present. Should a parcel be found deficient, the LCD can provide technical and cost-share assistance to easily bring a parcel into compliance.

"Your stewardship of Cochran Lake is a model for other lake associations and riparian landowners to use when working toward improved water quality and enhanced habitat." Butch Lobermeier

If you would like to have your property certified contact:

Robert (Butch) Lobermeier

Price County Land Conservation Department

104 S. Eyder Avenue, Normal Bldg.

Phillips, WI 54555

(715) 339-2550 e-mail: lcd@co.price.wi.us



Website (Don Schmitz)

The website location has changed, the new location is:

http://in.geocities.com/cochran_lake_district/

On the website you will find the membership directory, meeting minutes, future meeting times and dates and links to other interesting items. One such item is Lake Tides which is put out by the UW-Extension office and includes interesting articles for lake owners. The publication is free and you can get your own copy by mail or Email by following the link on our page to the extension office and sign up. To save costs in mailing the website has become the central location for all Lake District Business.

Directory / Google Group *(Mary Hartung)*

Please take some time to check the lake directory on the website to make sure we have your correct address and email. We have created a Group Email (via Google) that lake owners can send a message to and it will be sent to all that are in the group. We have about half of the lake owners and would like to include everyone but we need your email addresses. To send or receive email to & from this group you will need to let Mary or Don know and we will add you. The group mail hasn't been used a lot so far but we hope it becomes a better tool to get information out. The group email address is: Cochran-Lake-District@googlegroup.com

Cochran -vs- Cochram *(Don Schmitz)*

It has been a longstanding argument as to what the true name of our lake is. We have all seen some maps that call the lake Cochran and some call it Cochram. I did some digging into the name of our lake and this is a summary of what I found. From the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, the original public land surveyor for Township 40, Alexander Anderson in 1865, did not record any name for the lake.

The Department of Natural Resources Park Falls office has lake survey maps that date back to 1939 that show the lake name as Cochran Lake.

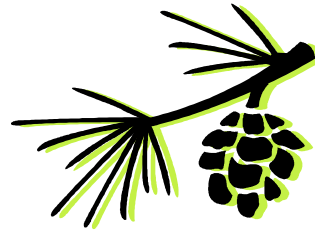
From the Register of Deeds in Philips, In 1924 No name on Lake, 1950 Plat Book name of lake is Cochran, 1978 Plat Book name of lake is Cochram. From the Price County Historical Society a 1892 Plat book the Secondary information has G. COCHRAN owning land: Sec. 10 Twp. 39 Range 1 West and in 1920 George F. Cram Co. Printers, from Chicago, Illinois their Plat Book of Price County, Wisconsin lists the following:
Cochran land:

Surname	Given Name	Section	Township	Range
COCHRAN	Edgar H.	28	36N	3E
COCHRAN	Edgar H.	29	36N	3E
COCHRAN	M.N.	3	40N	1W
COCHRAN LAKE		9	40N	3E

Summary:

In searching for information about Cochran Lake I have found no reference to the name Cochram in earlier dated material. It only shows up well

after 1950 when at some point the lake name was changed or mistyped and has continued since then. The Lake District board voted to send the information to the State Department of Natural Resources Geographic Names Council for clarification. This group is responsible for the official names of lakes, streams, rivers and geographic features in the state. It may take a while to hear something from them because they only meet once a year. We will keep you posted. For the full story checkout the Website.



Editorial *(Don Schmitz)*

A number of members have commented on Fireworks going into the lake. We all need to remember that our lake is like a bowl and what goes into the lake stays in the lake. Please take precautions if using fireworks that the spent rockets don't go into the lake. When using fertilizers, laundry or dishwasher detergents please choose a phosphorus free product. The run off and the leaching from septic fields will reduce the amount of phosphors in our lake which will promote weed growth and algae bloom. If we all use a little caution now it will save us a big problem down the road.

A couple of lake owners have have commented on the number of donuts/burnouts on Springstead road by ATV's. Please remind your guests and visitors to stay on the trails and not to make donuts on the gravel road, its rough enough and the town only grades the road a couple of times a year. Having ATV trails is a privilege, not a right. We all need to be considerate of those residents that don't own/ride ATVs so that they remain open to enjoy.

Lake District Tax Assessments

There are two methods of taxation the district has access to, an Operational Tax or a Special Projects tax. The money collected on a yearly basis for the Operational tax is used to fund the lake district on a yearly basis (mailings, water samples, paper, mailbox ect.) The Special projects tax is used for special projects (fish stocking, weed treatment ect.)

The current board members of the Lake District are considering an operational tax. This tax although fairly small (\$12.00 - \$15.00 per year/ per lot) would continue to fund the lake district's current obligations and programs each year.

Mountain Lion Spotted

Yes a Mountain Lion was spotted off Figi Road in late fall. When I first heard this I thought someone was on the sauce, but it has been noticed by a couple of people around our area. Apparently back in the day there use to be quite a number of them running around.



Loon Nest

A group of Lake owners affiliated with the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institutes Loon Watch Program are proposing a loon nesting platform on our lake. This platform about 36" square would float about 30' from shore. The loons have nested at several different locations over the years but the last 3 years have not been successful in hatching and rearing their chicks. Hopefully if the loons use the nesting platform the eagles, humans or other predators will not disturb the nest and they will have a better chance to raise their young. We should hear more from this group and will keep you updated, for more information contact Gil Janes or Pat Schwai.



Fund Raiser

We are purchasing 100, khaki in color, brushed cotton hats, with an antique buckle in the back. They will be embroidered with a black silhouette of an eagle and Cochran Lake in Red below. The hats will be sold for \$10.00/each and will be available at our Memorial Day annual meeting.

When all hats are sold we will make approximately \$415.00. Show your Lake Spirit and Pride and buy a Cochran Lake hat.

Paving of Springstead Road

Rumor has it that Springstead Road is to be paved in spring of 2007. I wouldn't hold your breath on this one.



Lake District Mailing Address

Yes the Lake District now has a permanent mailing address:

Cochran Lake District
P.O. Box 94
Fifield, WI 54524-0094

If you have any comments or suggestions please email any board member or mail a letter to the address above and you will be heard.

As the new President of Cochran Lake I would like to take a moment and thank all the members who have helped in volunteering their time and effort on sub-committee's and groups to make the Lake District and the area surrounding the lake a better place to live and visit. Hope to see and meet you at the Annual Meeting.

Thank you!

*President: Don Schmitz
Treasurer: Mary Kaminski
Secretary: Mary Hartung*

On the last page is a list of all lake owners their address and email address we have listed in our records. If something is not correct please contact Don Schmitz (608) 824-9977

Email: Dons@surgery.wisc.edu