

Cochran Lake Review

The Annual Lake District Meeting will be held on **May 26th 2007 @ 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)

“Just a short note from Fisheries. Ice fishing this winter was not too productive. Several reports I received said that there were many lean - unproductive days. Should mean there will be plenty of fish to catch this open season. Good Luck to all.” Frank

We are looking at ways to improve fish habitat on our lake. Skip Sommerfeldt from the DNR office in Park Falls said that they would consider sponsoring shoreline tree drops or standard fish cribs. He has had good success with most types of trees (pine, cedar, birch, aspen, ash) and would recommend to stay away from maples they deteriorate and break up within a few years. Birch and aspen can work fine for tree drops as long as they are cut while still green (alive). The easiest way is to cut trees along the shoreline and let them fall in the water. The trunk of the tree is then anchored to the shore so it won't float away. If enough homeowners are interested we could have Skip at least identify which trees along the shoreline would meet the criteria to be dropped at which point each landowner would be contacted to give their final permission.

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.

Mercury testing of fish collected back in June 2004 revealed all fish collected were below the 0.50ppm (parts per million) standard. If the fish are above .50ppm then extra consumption restrictions are put on the lake. Fish with the highest level of mercury in our lake were Northern Pike at 0.42ppm, while Bass were in the range of .25 - .27ppm.

Boat Launch

The lock is normally placed on the gate for the boat launch from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The combination to the lock is 3443

Water Quality (George Rasmussen)

The Spring lake water sampling for 2007 was done April 16 and the samples shipped off to the UWSP Lab. Water temperature was 42 degrees and Secchi disc clarity was 14.5 feet!

Unfortunately Spring test results are normally not returned from UWSP in time for our Annual Meeting in May.

This chemical testing is being done only in the Spring now rather than both Spring and Fall as we have done since 1999. The District voted in favor of this change as Spring testing tends to give the best correlation with lake water quality. Also the annual cost of the program has been reduced from \$240 to \$65.

A very good baseline has been established over the past 8 year period. This baseline has been quite steady for the two main factors of interest-- Nitrogen and Phosphorus. These are the elements which can contribute to aquatic plant (weed) growth and/or algae blooms.

	8yr. Range ppm	8yr. Ave. ppm
Total Phosphorus	0.008-0.020	.015
Total Nitrogen	0.53 - 0.79	.66
Nitrate	0.02 - 0.18	.05

There is no upward trend in these nutrient levels over the 8 year period which would explain the increase in weed growth we have experienced. Our DNR-Rhineland contact on water quality has advised that this increase in weed growth is being seen on many lakes similar to Cochran in the Northwoods. They feel that major factors causing this are the low water levels of recent years along with inadequate snow cover over the winter ice. Both of these conditions allow deeper penetration of sunlight in both summer and winter resulting in greater weed growth.

Natural Shores Certification Program

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. If you would like to have your property certified contact:

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 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. New items recently added are links to water quality and fish shocking reports for our lake. 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 an account and let Don know so he can add you to the group. The email address is: Cochran-Lake-District@googlegroup.com



Fund Raiser

Cochran Lake Hats are still available to be purchased for \$10.00/each and will be available at our Memorial Day annual meeting. If you can't make the meeting but still want a hat contact Mary Kaminski to get one. Show your Lake Spirit and Pride and buy a Cochran Lake hat.

Cochran -vs- Cochram (Don Schmitz)

On March 7, 2007 we received a letter from the Wisconsin Geographic Names council that the lake name will officially be Cochran Lake. They cited sufficient evidence showing a typographical error had occurred and will be corrected. For the full story checkout the Website.

Lake District Tax Assessments

This is the first year that we have had a special tax collection for our district on the tax role. The amount which was minimal (\$12.00/Lot) will be used to fund the district for the year. We expect the amount to stay at the current level with only very slight increases over time.

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. It has been a very dry spring and fire danger is very high. Please use caution and never leave a fire unattended. 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 phosphorus 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.



Loon Nest (Pat Schwai)

Each year we thrill to the return of "our" loons. This spring we welcomed them back, not once, but twice, after an early ice-out was followed by a complete refreeze.

Each year we hope this will be the year we'll have loon chicks. The loons have done their part but each year the nest fails, usually within a week.

This year, as they did last year, Gil and Donna Janes installed an artificial nesting platform (ANP). An ANP is placed only after years of observing failed nesting attempts and completing a lengthy application process. As a LoonWatch volunteer for the past several years, I have monitored loon activity on the lake. Each year my report is the same: nesting was attempted but failed. By installing an ANP, we hope to provide a nesting site that the loons can more easily defend from terrestrial and avian predators. The ANP also offers a more stable site when shoreline water levels are fluctuating.

Regardless of where the loons choose to nest, we can encourage their success. Here's how YOU can make a difference:

L = Look from a distance of 200 feet.
O = Observe no-wake speed in the area.
O = Optimize their nesting experience.
N = Notify visiting family members and friends of guidelines.
S = Share your observations (so I can file an accurate report).

Maybe this year will be the year!

Aquatic Plants (Stan Kmiecik)

Ahh---Spring in the Northwoods!!! All things green are coming to life including the aquatic plants in Cochran Lake. A reminder of how important it is to check your boat before launching at the boat landing. Invasive and exotic species have been found within forty miles of our lake. We have clear water where sun light penetrates to the bottom in 90% of the lake, ideal conditions for plant growth. Curly leaf pond weed and Eurasian water milfoil is a curse of any lake and we must try to avoid it. Keeping it out of "our" lake will continue the wonderful resource to enjoy.

The dry conditions and low water levels will make it more likely to see faster growth of plants after the relatively mild winter.

With everyone's participation we will continue to enjoy what we now have in the Northwoods!



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 President of Cochran Lake I would like 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.

*President: Don Schmitz
Treasurer: Donna Mandt
Secretary: Mary Hartung*