

Cochran Lake Review

The Annual Lake District Meeting will be held on May 24th 2008 @ 9:00am at the Pike Lake Fire station. Please plan to attend. Treats will be provided. We will be voting to approve the budget and to elect a new board member.



Fishery (Frank Sevcik)

The DNR will be shocking the lake on Thursday evening, May 29th. No size limit on Bass remains in effect for this year. Check your fishing regulations. Several new rules for barbless hooks and the transport of live bait to and from the lake take effect this year. At the annual meeting you can also find out about the Kids Fishing Tourney this year on our lake.

Boat Launch (Brian Mandt)

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 Lake District would like to thank George for his 8+ years of performing our water quality sampling. George is retiring from doing the sampling and Sig Kaminski has volunteered to pick up where George has left off. Thanks again for your work in this area George and **thanks** to Sig for volunteering to replace George.

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 Land Conservation Dept. (LCD) 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

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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. To save postage costs, the website has become the central location for all Lake District Business.

Directory / Google Group (Pat Schwai)

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) to which lake owners can send a message and have it forwarded to all that are in the group. About half of the lake owners are currently in the group. We would like to include everyone but we need your email addresses. To send or receive email to and from this group, you will first need an email account. Then 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 can be purchased at our Memorial weekend annual meeting. If you can't make the meeting but still want a hat, contact Mary Kaminski (MaryKaminski@centurytel.net) to get one. Show your Lake Spirit and Pride and buy a Cochran Lake hat.

Editorial (Don Schmitz)

When using fertilizers, laundry or dishwasher detergents please choose a phosphorus-free product. Run off from yards and leaching from septic fields increases the amount of phosphorus which in turn promotes undesirable weed growth and algae blooms. If we all use a little caution now it will save us a big problem down the road.



Loons (Pat Schwai)

A pair of loons appeared on Cochran Lake the morning of April 25th! The ice was about 85% out but having waited two extra weeks, the loons weren't about to be fussy.

Will this be the year we have chicks? Last year we found no evidence of a nesting attempt. That wasn't alarming considering that Common Loons may only nest three out of five years. The lake water level may have impacted their decision as well. We remain hopeful that 2008 will be the year our patience is rewarded.

We all need to be mindful of the fact that having resident loons is a privilege. There are many lakes monitored by LoonWatch that are no longer home to loons. Here are a few simple ways YOU can make a difference:

Watch loons from at least 200 feet away.

Be a responsible boater. Boat wakes can wash eggs off a nest.

Avoid exploring or camping on islands before July 15th of each year.

Keep dogs and cats away from loons and nests.

Share these guidelines with your visiting family and friends.

LoonWatch continues their "Get the Lead Out" initiative by urging anglers to use lead-free jigs and sinkers. Ingesting just one lead sinker or jig can kill a loon. We will have an informational display and a list of dealers selling lead-free tackle at the annual meeting. Please take a few minutes to avail yourself of this opportunity.

What is VHS? (DNR Website)

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is a deadly fish virus and an invasive species that is threatening Wisconsin's fish.

How the VHS Rules Affect Anglers?

The new rules state that if you meet one of the conditions below you do not have to dispose of your minnows.

Anglers can take minnows bought from a Wisconsin bait dealer away from a lake or river and use them again on that same waterbody.

Anglers can also take minnows bought from a Wisconsin bait dealer away from a waterbody and use them elsewhere if no lake or river water was added to the bait container.

In both of these instances, you can move the amount of water needed to keep the minnows alive, up to 2 gallons. No other fish may be held in the minnow container.

DNR rules require that you drain all water from your boat, with the exception of the 2 gallons of water allowed for your minnows, including your bilge and livewell if the minnows are not in it. You should always remove all aquatic plants and animals from your boat and trailer before leaving the landing. To keep the access to the lake open, you may pull to a different part of the access, such as the parking lot, to drain your boat and remove any aquatic hitchhikers.

The virus that causes VHS can survive in water for up to 2 weeks. You can sanitize your boat, trailer and equipment by washing it with a mixture of 1/2 cup of household bleach per 5 gallons of water. Allowing your boat and trailer to completely dry out will reduce the risk of infecting other waters.

For more info check out: <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs/>



Lake District 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-committees 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 Dons@surgery.wisc.edu
Treasurer: Donna Mandt Dmandt6@aol.com
Secretary: Pat Schwai Rschwai@centurytel.net