

COCHRAN LAKE UPDATE

From Your President by Randy Cook

For the second time our annual member meeting will start at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 29th. This seemed to work well last year to ensure the meeting will not be too disruptive to your day's activities. I want to encourage everyone to attend!

If you have been a "regular" participant at our annual meetings, I would also ask that you consider personally inviting a lake neighbor you know who has not attended in the past.

Our own Loon Ranger, Pat Schwai, has reported that two loons have returned to Cochran Lake. I am sure we all know how blessed we are to have them grace us with their presence.

There are several important matters we will be addressing at this year's meeting. First, we will be electing a new secretary to take over for Pat Schwai, whose term is up. I wish to personally thank Pat for her work over the past three years in this role. As your president, I have witnessed firsthand her dependability and skill in this key post. This is a good time to remind you to be thinking about who might be a good candidate to take on this responsibility.

We also will be discussing future WAL (Wisconsin Association of Lakes) Convention attendance. This year no one from our district was able to attend. At the last board meeting we discussed the idea of authorizing money annually to help cover the expenses for attendance with the understanding the person or persons attending would be responsible to present a report to the Association on what they learned at the convention. If there is support for this idea we will take a vote on it at the meeting.

We also will discuss and set the protocol for board

members to pay for Association expenditures incurred between annual meetings.

Make sure you pick up the handout that will be available at the meeting with the combination to the boat landing lock and other vital lake information.

I hope to see all of you at your Cochran Lake District Annual Meeting bright and early on 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 29th (Memorial Day weekend) at the Pike Lake Fire Department.

I will be bringing fresh baked goods from one of the Fox Valley's best bakeries, Manderfield's Bakery, for all the attendees.

I'd also like to offer ongoing thanks to Frank Sevcik, Brian Mandt, Sig Kaminski, Ray Schave, Stan Kmiecik and Don Schmitz for their continued service as Committee Chairs for the Association. I appreciate their time and efforts, as I am sure we all do, to help continue to make Cochran Lake one of the most beautiful lakes in Wisconsin.

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Spring Meeting

8:00 a.m.
May 29rd, 2010
Pike Lake Fire Station

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Kids' Fishing Contest 2009 by Sig and Mary Kaminski

For the second year of the Kids' Fishing Contest, run by Sig Kaminski and Frank Sevcik, we had eighteen children (ages 4 to 14) enter the contest. The pictures are good and the stories are sweet. Pictures and stories can be seen at the annual May meeting.

We had \$140.00 in cash and 4 gifts donated to give to the kids as prizes. I got the rest of the prizes from deals worked out with different vendors. The total cost was \$320.00. I will like to thank all of those who donated, helping to make this year's contest a good one. They do not wish to be listed, but they know they have done a good thing for the kids and the future of fishing on Cochran Lake.

I would just like to take the time to say a few things about this year's contest. We had the same number of kids, but I feel that was due to the weather. We had a very cold summer. Most of the weekends we had were not the greatest. Even I had a hard time staying out on the lake in late June & July with the temperatures only in the 40s with a lot of very windy days.

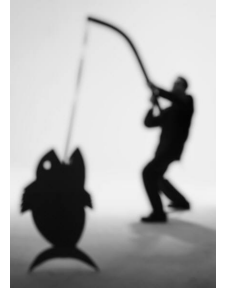
So let's look forward to this summer and warmer weather. The lake is still down and we will need a lot of rain to bring it back up. The condition of the lake is still very good. It is clear, BUT the weed growth is up due to the water level being down. I put "but" in capital letters so you can help the kids catch more of the fish they hook casting baits this summer.

I lost a number of fish and baits this year due to the weeds and I heard from a number of others who had the same thing happen to them. So this year take the time to change out the line on the reel you're going to use and for the kids, use a heavier line. We have some really nice fish in the lake and it hurts to lose them as well as the bait that the fish are baiting on. It's also not good for the fish.

I hope all have a great summer, and remember to practice catch and release fishing. Take a picture and have a reproduction made, the cost is

about the same as a reel mount.

We will vote to see if the Kids' Fishing Contest will continue at the Annual May Meeting. If approved, donations for 2010 will be appreciated.



Fisheries Update by Frank Sevcik

Members of Cochran Lake District, this is a brief report from fisheries. Ice fishing was generally poor, but showed an abundant population of small northern pike. DNR will not shock this year for a census and there will be no action on slot size.

Skip Sommerfeld, our DNR lakes fish biologist, suggests we have our own slot size, keeping bass under 14" and only one over 18". I believe most of us are already doing this. More to come at the meeting.

Adopt-a-Road by Ray Schave

This past April, before everything greened up, Cochran Lake District volunteers cleaned up approximately 8.5 miles of our local roads that we sponsor through the Adopt A Road program. Thanks to the following members who participated in this year's spring clean-up:

Ray & Judy Schave
George & Letty Rasmussen
Frank & Nancy Sevcik
Ray & Diane Korinek
Sig & Mary Kaminski
Carl Schmelzer & Dotty Ford
Rick & Pat Schwai

We will be having a fall clean-up. If anyone would like to participate please contact Ray Schave. I have plastic bags and vests for those who would like them. In between times, to keep our roads clean and attractive, if you see some litter please stop and pick it up.

Rain, Rain, *Don't* Go Away by Debra Cook

Funny how life is. When we first built our cabin on Cochran Lake, I would watch the weather like a hawk.

First, when we had no roof, of course, I didn't want rain pouring into the cabin. When we moved the rocks to create the retaining walls, it was so much easier to work in the sunshine and so, of course, I prayed for "no rain." When we added the deck and stained the railings, rain would have made such a mess of it all.

I remember when we built the garage and we had worked all afternoon. All of those stained sheets of wood were drying in the yard. Suddenly the sky darkened and we had a light shower of rain and boy was I mad!

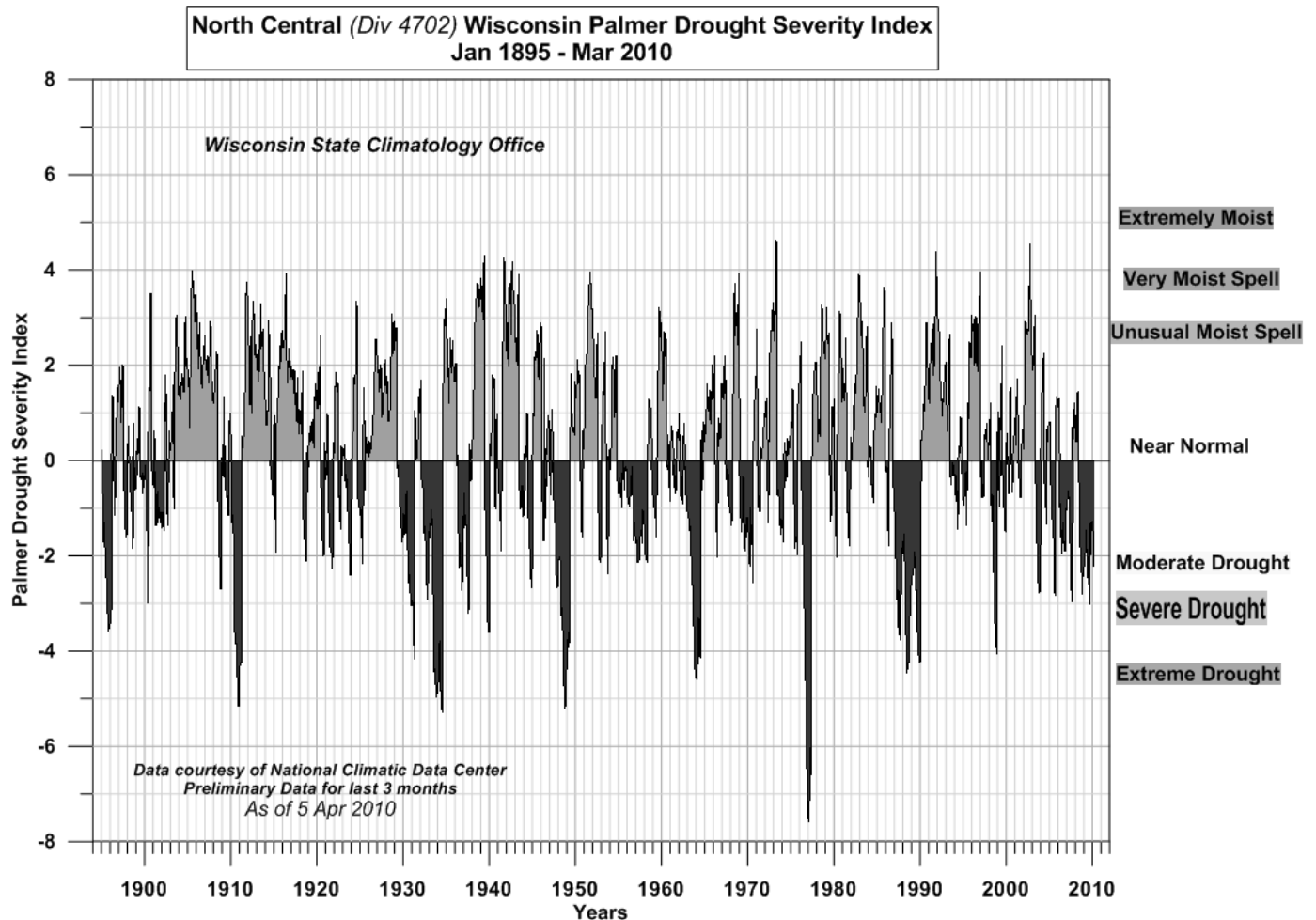
And when we finally had the cabin constructed and ready for our "weekends up north," I constantly

checked my special weather reports online to make sure no rain was predicted. With guests coming, I was even more obsessive about checking the weather and hoping for sunshine. Okay . . . if it had to rain, I wanted only "night showers."

I am now a changed person. I understand the old saying "absence makes the heart grow fonder." I miss rain. I want rain. We need rain.

Never again will I complain (or almost never) when it rains on Cochran Lake. I will step outside and enjoy the lovely rain hitting my face. I will be grateful for the sound of rain plunking on the cabin's metal roof. I will look out over the lake as the raindrops splash on the water and smile.

I will cheer and throw my hat into the air when I see the word "showers" on my favorite weather internet site because . . . I love rain.



Cochran Lake Management Board

President: Randy Cook
randalljcook@gmail.com, 920-277-4151

Secretary: Pat Schwai (term expiring)

Treasurer: Carl Schmelzer
715-762-2355

Fifield Town Supervisor: James Hintz
715-762-3435

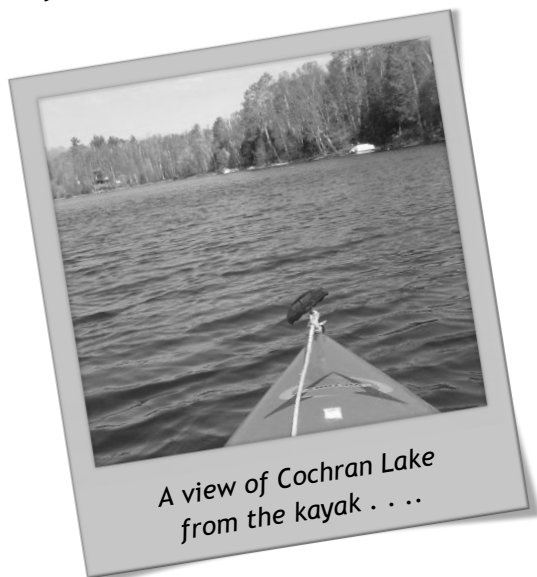
Fifield Town Charirman: Doug Noetzel
idlehour@centurytel.net, 715-762-3872

Land Conservationist/
Price County Liaison: Evan Lund
lcd@co.price.wi.us, 715-339-2550

Committee chairs

Fisheries: Frank Sevcik
Boat Landing: Brian Mandt
Water Quality: Sig Kaminski
Adopt a Highway: Ray Schave
Lake Plants: Stan Kmiecik
Website: Don Schmitz

Please feel free to contact any of the board members with ideas or concerns. Thank you to all committee chairs for the work they do throughout the year.



AGENDA Cochran Lake District Annual Member Meeting

8:00 a.m., May 29, 2010
Pike Lake Fire Department

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of March 6, 2010 board meeting minutes
- President's Report - Randy Cook
- WAL Convention - future attendance
- Discussion of protocol for district expenditures
between annual meetings
- Secretary's Report - Pat Schwai
- Loon Update
- Treasurer's Report - Carl Schmelzer
- Town Representative's Report - Jim Hintz
- Price County Liaison Land Conservationist's Report -
Evan Lund
- Committee Chairs' Reports
 - Frank Sevcik - Fishery
 - Brian Mandt - Boat Landing
 - Sig Kaminski- Water Quality
 - Ray Schave - Adopt-a-Highway
 - Stan Kmiecik - Lake Plants
- Website - Don Schmitz
- Election for Board Secretary
- Lake Business
 - Old
 - New