

Cochran Lake Update

From Your President by Randy Cook

Greetings, fellow Cochran Lake lovers. This year's annual member meeting will again start at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 28th, 2011. This will be our third year starting at 8 a.m. and it seems to be working pretty well to help ensure that most of your day remains free. I will be doing my best, with your help, to keep the meeting within two hours.

I would again like to encourage you personally to invite a lake neighbor you know to attend. There are several matters that will be addressed at the meeting which will have an effect on everyone who owns property on the lake.

As a result of our ongoing struggles to fill board positions, Rick Schwai has submitted a proposal to make our three board positions paid positions. (Please be sure to read this proposal on page 2.) If this proposal is adopted, this would of course, mean an increase in the annual tax assessment. We will be addressing this proposal at the annual meeting on May 28th.

My three year term will be over at the conclusion of this year's annual meeting. I will not be running for a second term. If there is someone you think would make a good president, please talk to him/her in advance of the meeting to see if he/she would accept the nomination to run. This will help speed up the meeting to achieve our two hour time goal. How about another reason to encourage folks to turn out to this year's annual meeting? We'll have drawings for 4 gift certificates as door prizes. That's right, four lucky meeting goers will be going home with a great door prize. Of course you must be present to win. So the question is: "So do you feel lucky? Well, do ya?" Ha ha!

Spring Meeting!

8:00 a.m.

May 28th, 2011

Pike Lake Fire Station

Agenda on page 4



This year Mary Rieder stepped up and attended the WAL (Wisconsin Association of Lakes) Convention. She will be giving us a condensed report on the information she obtained. Thank you, Mary, for being our representative this year.

This spring an 8 ft. dock section was added to our outlet launching dock necessitated by the water level rise. Yeah! A big thanks goes out to Sig Kaminski and Ray Schave for their labors on this project and to Carl Schmelzer for donating wood.

Also, be advised the DNR will be shocking the lake on June 1st.

Several people on and off over the last year have voiced concerns about Cochran Lake Management District's viability. They have cited a lack of attendance at our annual member meeting, as well as difficulties in finding people willing to serve as officers. More than one person has asked if we should even bother having a management district at all and suggested we disband and form a non-government lake association. I put this question on the agenda for a brief discussion to see where you all stand.

As I see it, the key value in being a lake management district versus just a lake association becomes clear if and when we face a crisis like an invasive species infestation. As a district, we are a government entity and carry the power to tax which has allowed us to build up some cash reserves. In the event of a problem, our lake district can act fast to do what needs to be done. I think we would find getting grants and other funding easier and faster as a district.

Perhaps some of the apparent lack of interest and enthusiasm may lie in the fact for the moment Cochran Lake is blessed with no real problems. The question remains: are we willing to gamble that our lake will never face a significant threat?

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From Your President

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Please remember to be sure to update your Cochran Lake District directory information either at the meeting or by contacting our secretary Pat Krenz at pkkrenz@aol.com.

I wish to thank everyone who has worked with me over the last three years. I can truly say I couldn't have done it without your help. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the meeting.

Paid Board Positions Proposal

Since the formation of the Cochran Lake District Board, approximately 12 of the 50 families on the lake have provided at least one individual to serve a term on the Lake District Board. With each passing year, recruiting new individuals to the board has become an increasingly difficult task. There are no rules to 'force' participation by each family, but rather people are encouraged to volunteer. In order to increase participation and the number of volunteers, it is recommended that the Board members become paid positions. This should provide additional incentive for new participants, as well as, provide incentive to people who have previously served to serve again.

The pay amount should recognize the responsibilities of the various offices. A review of the Officer duties would be required to further delineate responsibilities. However, an initial recommendation would be:

President - \$500/year
Secretary - \$250 /year
Treasurer - \$250/year

This would equate to an additional \$1000 of annual costs or a tax increase per family of \$20/year. By serving on the board, a family would essentially pay this increased tax amount.

Other volunteer positions like Water Quality, may or not be paid. This would require further investigation.

A Message from Mary Kaminski

One concern we have is the apathy and lack of interest in our annual meeting and lake district. Our hope would be that more homeowners would make it to our meeting and help protect our lake and increase their property values by taking an active role in the lake district.

With that said, we still have a lake this is in very good condition and back to normal lake depth. We have lakes all around us that are infested with AIS. The property owners are spending countless dollars to bring them back to where they were before infestation. Now is the time for preventions and education, not after we have a problem.

We are again in need of a board member. Our president Randy Cook's term is up. We can only hope that more of you will elect to become involved and join us in 2011-13 as a board member and make this a banner year of volunteerism for your lake district. We need more active volunteers and persons that really care.

Loon Stimulus Program

by Pat Schwai

Last year's loon nest was destroyed by high rain volumes that caused our lake to rise and flood their nest which they eventually abandoned. In the last several years, the loons preferred to nest on the island across from the boat landing. They successfully produced one hatch of two chicks.

Currently, Cochran Lake has one Loon Artificial Nesting Platform (ANP) donated by Gil Janes. It is located near the island across from his home. This was the preferred loon location for nesting before the lake levels began to decrease. In order to increase our chances of a successful Loon hatch, a second Loon ANP has been approved by the Lake District Board and purchased from the Loon Watch Program of Northland College. The ANP will be launched this spring as soon as the ice goes out. Loon Watch recommends this early launch so the loons become use to seeing the ANP.

An ANP for loons has proven to increase loon productivity in multiple situations. They include:

- Where loons have nested in the past, but nests failed due to predation or increases in water levels
- Where shoreline nesting habitat was eliminated due to development and/or human interference
- Where all other qualities of loon development (water clarity, quality of nursery area, good supply of fish and aquatic insects, quiet bays, and minimal human interference) are present.

Below is a picture of the type of ANP the Lake District purchased. Let's all hope one of our ANP's is successful this year so we can all enjoy the chicks again!



Lake Updates by Sig Kaminski

Kids Fishing Contest

This past summer our weather was not the greatest on weekends—wet and cooler than normal—but some of the kids did get out and caught a few fish. We had 19 kids total that entered the fishing contest. All the prizes were picked up or delivered. We had \$275.00 in prize monies. I look forward to running the contest again this year. Also, the DNR will shock the lake on June 1st.

The Lake Survey

Last year, the lake level was down most of the year. The water was cooler than normal, which was due to the colder summer. The water stayed very clear all year, except for a few days when the pollen from the pine trees hit the water. The 2010 test results from spring shows the lake is in great shape. No changes from the years when the water was up. Talk about up—the lake is at full capacity and the water is actually flowing out of the lake through the creek by Frank Sevcik's and the pond is also



Adopt-a-Road by Ray Schave

Before everything greened up this spring, 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

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.

back. I got the new test kit from the state in the mail a few days ago. The test is to be taken two weeks after the ice goes out. This year, "ice out" was April 16th. The test of the lake water will take place around the 1st of May. The test results will not be back before the May 28th annual meeting. We can google the results when received. Remember, we all need to work at helping to keep the lake clear and clean. Check and clean your boat or pontoon for weeds or debris before putting in.

The Boat Landing

The boat landing has a new 8 foot section of pier. Last year we took the shore end of the pier, and moved it to the outside to keep the pier in the water when the lake was low. Now, with the lake coming back up, we added a new 8' section to the shore end of the pier. In all the pier is now longer, and will help those with larger pontoons. Ray Schave built the new section and I helped him put in in. Enjoy it.

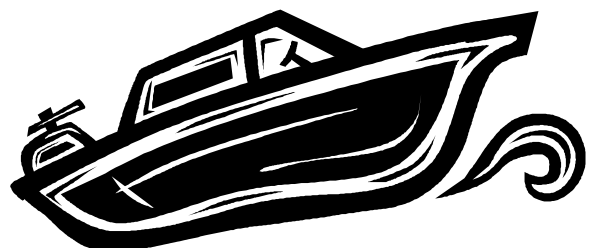
Also, I will have 3 hand carved fish and 3 trees for door prizes for those that are at the meeting May 28th at 8:00 a.m.

Invasive Species Prevention Tips

from Pat Schwai

Cochran Lake is one of the jewels of the Northwoods. Every owner on the lake appreciates the quality of our lake water and wants to preserve it forever. We have all heard of Invasive species and know people who live on lakes that have been impacted by invasive species. As our lake ice turns black, it is a good time to remind ourselves about how to prevent invasive species from spreading to our lake. Here is a list of tips that I hope you will read and follow.

- Inspect and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from your boat, trailer, and equipment
- Drain all water from your motor, live well, bilge, transom wells, jet drives, SCUBA equipment, etc.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. Never release live bait into a water body or transfer aquatic animals from one water body to another
- Wash your boat and equipment with hot (minimum 104 F) and/or high pressure water, particularly if moored for more than one day or
- Dry your boat and equipment thoroughly for five days before transporting to new waters.



Annual Member Meeting Agenda

Cochran Lake District
8:00 a.m., May 28, 2011
Pike Lake Fire Department

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of April 9, 2011 meeting minutes

President Report - Randy Cook

Secretary Report - Pat Krenz

Treasurer Report - Carl Schmelzer

- Present 2011-12 budget/audit

Town Representative Report - Jim Hintz

Price County Liaison Land Conservationist Report - Evan Lund

Committee Chair Reports

Frank Sevcik - Fishery

Brian Mandt - Boat Landing

Sig Kaminski - Water Quality

Ray Schave - Adopt-a -Highway

Stan Kmiecik - Lake Plants

Don Schmitz - Website

Lake Business

Old Business

- Request by Lauren Davis to have or buy the old outlet stone barbeque

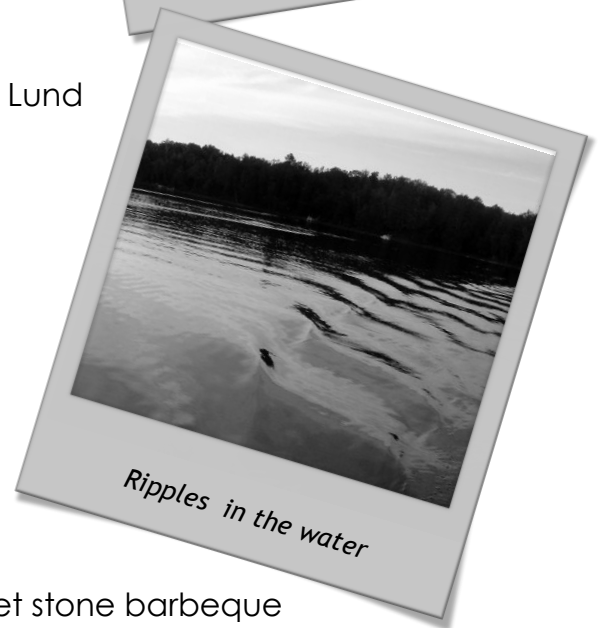
New Business

- WAL convention report - Rieder
- Concern of possible conflict of interest with both Frank Sevcik and Tom Hintz on Fifield town board
- Should Cochran Lake Management District be disbanded? - Cook
- Board positions to be paid proposal - Schwai
- Loon platform proposal - Schwai
- Board position election

Other



Sunset on Cochran lake



Ripples in the water