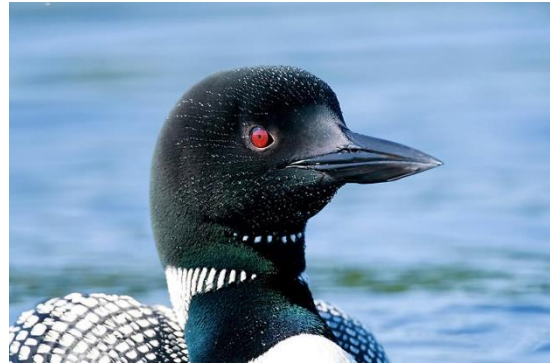




COCHRAN LAKE NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2016



It has been an eventful year at Cochran Lake! Wolves have frequented the area and killed deer on the ice of our lake. Our walleyes are growing and will be added (we hope) to the lineup of fish available for the 4th of July fishing contest. The algae seems to be dwindling and water quality is good. All of these items and more will be covered in this edition of our newsletter.

This newsletter will also contain an updated version of our Welcome letter. The Welcome letter is designed to do just that – welcome new members to our lake community. However, we hope it will be useful for all of us to have a new copy. There are some procedural changes (burning permits for example) to review.

The covenants document that accompanies all of our property deeds has also been evaluated and updated by a Lake District committee formed in December 2015. The covenants came up in response to last summer's concerns with property rentals and a need to clarify the county, township, and Lake Management District positions on such things as well as use of trailers, outdoor toilets, and lakeshore management. The committee hopes that we can review the document at the annual Memorial Day weekend meeting and approve it as the primary tool for protection of the Cochran Lake environment.

The committee decided that a rewrite of the 20-year old legal wording of the Covenants would be complex. Thus we decided to insert boxed clarifications or current regulations in “plain English” after key parts of the document. In addition to the committee, town representative Jim Hintz and Price County Zoning Administrator Evan Lund contributed to the review. Relevant Price County regulations are also included with the new information boxes. This material has been added to the Cochran lake website for your review and is appended to the newsletter for your file. Please review it before the annual meeting and bring your copy to the meeting for discussion.

If you have comments or concerns prior to the annual meeting, or suggestions for the agenda, please direct them to me. I hope to see you at the annual meeting.

Scott Craven, President Cochran Lake Management District
6132 Sun Valley Parkway
Oregon, WI 53575
srcraven@wisc.edu



Reminder:

Cochran Lake District Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 28, 2016

8:00am

Pike Lake Fire Hall

Cochran Lake History

Scott Craven



At the September meeting of the Lake District, Terry Ides presented a fascinating snapshot of life on Cochran Lake during the 1960's and '70's. Terry is a well-known hunting guide from Park Falls/Fifield who worked on the lake while he was in high school.

Terry worked for lake owner, Martin "Ole" Olson, in the mid 1960's as a general do-it-all handyman, doing everything from making beds to grounds maintenance. Basically he kept what was a bustling resort up and running in top shape! Although Cochran Lake was known as a fishing destination, it also had a reputation for much more. There were connections to characters from the shady underworld of Chicago who were likely less interested in fishing than staying out of sight. There were also many sketchy stories of wild parties and "companionship" provided by townsfolk.

There were also connections to well-known business and political leaders who did come to fish. The Heinz brothers of ketchup fame, and Dwight, "Ike", Eisenhower, who came to the lake on a float plane, were among the notables. According to Terry the fishing was fantastic. Eight – 9 pound bass were not uncommon and there were 100 fish days. During those days the lake was gin-clear with only scattered patches of weeds. Other than bass, the only other fish species Terry remembered were white suckers...lots and lots of white suckers.

Terry was a diver and he enjoyed the clear water. Eventually he dove and mapped the entire lake. Besides fish there was an occasional artifact to find, including one dive that turned up a Thompson submachine gun and several other guns. Who knows what those guns were used for, perhaps in Chicago? When Terry turned them over to Ole, they disappeared...again!

Prior to Ole's ownership, the lake and original lodge were in the hands of Art Huebner who may have been the original owner. Besides the lodge there were 5 cabins scattered in the woods; excellent places for the Chicago gangsters to maintain a low profile. All remnants of the cabins have disappeared. Besides the lodge and cabins, there was a homestead on the largest island; hence the remains of the bridges we can still see. Art's caretaker lived on the island with his wife and children until the house burned in the 1940's.

Ole kept the lake very private and even Terry was not allowed to fish the lake. He eventually quit over that dispute, but was later rehired. When Ole started to talk about selling the property, he offered the entire lake and 1000 acres of surrounding forest to Terry for \$56,000. Terry and his father did not have the money and Ole sold the entire parcel to the Figi family around 1971. The Figi's held it for over 20 years and eventually sold it to developers.

Terry closed the presentation with a description of Cochran Lake as "the best of the best" as a Northwood's lake and he knows the entire area very well. We are very fortunate to share ownership of a lake of such high quality and with such an interesting history.

Fishing Contest 2016

Sig Kaminski

Well it's another year. This year the 4th of July is on a Monday. So what would you say to having the fishing contest on Saturday or Sunday instead? We will pick a day at the May meeting.

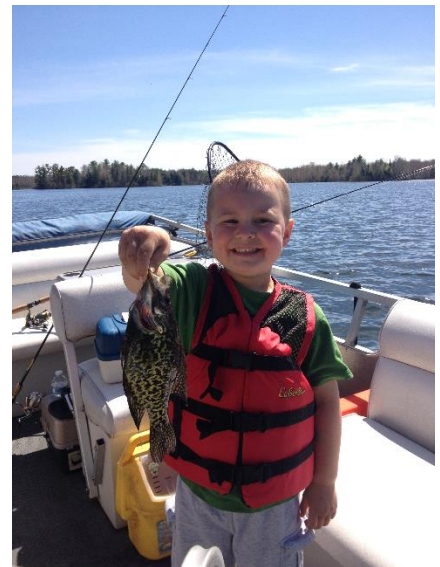
The time would stay the same. Fishing from 7am to 10am. Registration of fish at Sig and Mary's place from 10:00 am to 10:30 am, Lot #1 N16496 Springstead Rd. phone # 715-762-1823 or 715-661-3816. Remember this is a catch and release tournament and no live bait being used.

The cost is still \$10.00 per person. That covers a prize and lunch. Lunch starts at 11:00 am. This is for lake residents and guests only. If you want to bring something to pass, please contact Mary. Soda will be provided. You can bring your own alcoholic beverages if you want. You can E-mail us at marynsig@gmail.com. You do not have to fish, but can come for lunch and prizes. Cost is \$10.00.

It's a fun time and a great time to talk.

Trophys will be given for the following: Largest bass, Largest pan fish, Largest Northern, and Largest Walleye.

Any questions call Sig @ 715-661-3816.



COCHRAN LAKE WATER REPORT

Sig Kaminski

Today is March 23rd and the ice is still on the lake. We don't have much snow left, only snow banks.

Last year was an up and down year for water temperatures. The lake only spent a few days in the 80's. Most of the summer was in the high 60's and low 70's. One of the good things is that we had high water levels all summer long.

We still have an algae problem. Not as bad as the last few years. But at times it seemed so. Over all the algae started late and was gone early in the fall. The DNR said the algae, is of the safe type. It should not cause a rash and it is safe for pets and people.

I have not received the test kit for taking water samples this spring. When it comes the samples will be taken two weeks after the ice out date. Last year's test results showed nothing new going on in the lake.

Please watch what you put on your grass and yards! Because, in time, it ends up in the water. Check your boats for gas and oil leaks also.



Adopt a Road

Ray Schave



When the snow finally melts and we have some resemblance of spring, I will make a request for Cochran Lake District volunteers to help clean up our 8.5 miles of local roads that we sponsor through the Adopt A Road program.

Thanks to the following members who participated in last year's fall clean-up.

George & Letty Rasmussen

Ray & Diane Korinek

Sig & Mary Kaminski

Brian & Donna Mandt

Rick & Pat Schwai

Ray & Judy Schave

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.

Fisheries Report

Frank Sevcik



As of October 16, 2015, we stocked the last Walleye fingerlings per our 3 year program. Over 500+ Walleyes were put in – sizes from 9” to 11”. All appeared to be in good condition. Now we have to see how well they survive and if they help in reducing our Bluegill population. Remember we have a class “A” Bass lake. If we over plant Walleyes it could have an adverse effect on the Bass reproduction. I will find out in April if the DNR plans to shock our lake this spring. This could give us a better idea what is happening with our fish population.

Bobcats on the Prowl...

Scott Craven

This past winter many residents of the west side of the lake reported seeing and/or photographing bobcats. Apparently up to 4 (2 adults and 2 juveniles) frequented yards all winter and are probably still around. We spotted one at the base of our back steps in February!



WOLF UPDATE

Scott Craven



On February 29, I received a series of photos from neighbors on the lake. The first was taken from the ice toward the west shore and clearly showed our cabin and dock in the background. In the foreground was a deer hide, or at least most of a deer hide! In between were signs of quite a struggle. An area of perhaps a quarter acre was packed down and covered with deer hair, blood and wolf tracks.



Several days before, a pack of 7 wolves (perhaps 1-2, more or less) took down, killed, and ate a deer right at the end of our dock!! Welcome to life...and death... in the northwoods. My DNR colleagues had told me they were following the activity of 2 wolves that frequented the east side of the lake for the past several years. Late in 2015, both Sig Kaminski and I saw what was probably the same black wolf. Sig told me of another deer kill near Bhyre Lake and a third near Round Lake near the time of the Cochran kill.

I checked with Jane Weidenhoeft, a biologist with the DNR who works with wolves. The pack around our lake is known as the Miles lake

pack. The pack was first identified in 1999, but there may have been wolves in the area before then. For 5-6 years after the pack was named, there were 1-2 or no wolves at all in the area, but since 2004-5, the pack has grown to 4-5 in most years. In 2014-15 there were only 2 as mentioned above. This past winter of 2015-16, the DNR tracker detected 3-4 wolves in our area during winter track surveys. The observation of perhaps 7 or more wolves on the lake was of great interest. Track photos leading away from the kill site were forwarded to the DNR and are being analyzed.



Seeing a wolf is a rare event and quite a thrill, but should you be concerned in any way about their presence? Wolf attacks on humans are very rare. Wolf attacks on dogs occur at a rate of 20 or 30 per year in most years in Wisconsin. Most of these attacks are on trailing dogs like bear hounds, but a few upland hunting dogs and pets are killed each year. Be cautious with your pets and keep an eye on them when they are outside. Be prepared to make some noise in the event of a wolf encounter. Get your pet under control and make a controlled retreat.

Wolves in the upper Midwest are considered an endangered species. They were removed from the endangered species list about 5 years ago which opened the door for state management and 3 years of successful wolf harvest thru hunting and trapping. The open season was tightly managed and the season ended as soon as harvest quotas were met. Unfortunately a federal judge in Washington DC ruled that wolves must be returned to the endangered species list in December of 2014. As of today, there are numerous legislative and legal efforts

to get them off the list again. Most biologists and managers I know feel that the Wisconsin population is secure and does not warrant the protection afforded by endangered species status. Time will tell.

For now, the wolf population estimate for recent winters has been around 800 animals. With the birth of pups in the spring, the population grows to perhaps 1500, but mortality brings it back down to winter levels.

Wildlife abundance and diversity is an important factor here in the northwoods. Enjoy and respect the bears, wolves, deer, bobcats and other creatures, big and small, that share our lake properties.

LOONS 2015

Pat Schwai



Each spring, a number of us wait expectantly for the call of a returning loon. That call brings with it a hope that this pair will successfully rear one or two chicks able to migrate in fall. That has happened only twice in twenty years, 2008 and 2015, yet we remain hopeful every spring.

Loons typically nest 3 out of 4 years. Our loons have nested and even re-nested, once hatching two chicks in mid-July. Protecting their offspring from egg to migration is not easy when they share a lake like ours with all manner of predators.

On April 15, 2015, the first loon to reach our lake arrived at 6:38 pm. By April 17, we had two loons. Nine days later it was clear that they were a territorial pair when a third (rogue) loon appeared and an aggressive chase ensued. Both males gave it their all, but it is the territorial male who has everything to lose including his mate, his life and the lives of his offspring. Residents witnessed not one but two of these chases a month apart.

By June 5th, nesting activity was underway. The pair chose to build their nest on the 2014 island site, once again ignoring the nesting platform designed to eliminate nest loss due to rising/falling water levels. But, alas, in a short time, both loons were once again fishing together, an indication they had abandoned their nest.

The residents of Cochran Lake have adopted a “loon friendly” culture. Given that we have newer residents and their visitors, I'd like to share a list of ways we can all be “loon friendly”.

- Avoid loon nesting islands until all chance of a hatch is over.
- Do not approach loons while they feed in open water or are with their chicks.
- Use binoculars to view from a distance of 100 ft.
- When boating, be aware that “wakes” can wash eggs off the nest.
- Be mindful of loons at all times but especially as the sun sets.
- If a loon is seen “dancing” upright or giving the tremolo call, stay away. These are signals of distress.
- Swap out all fishing tackle for lead-free options. Lead poisoning kills loons.
- Retrieve all fishing line, hooks and sinkers you use or find.
- And most importantly, SHARE this message with family and visitors.

Wishing you all a safe and rewarding summer!

One final thing..... At the annual meeting we must identify and vote on a new secretary to replace Sue Houkom. Sue... Thanks for your service. Like many organizations, officer elections become more of a search for volunteers, followed quickly by a unanimous vote! Thus, on behalf of the Board, I ask you to consider a term as secretary of the Cochran Lake Management District. The work load is not great...recording minutes and participation in the quarterly meetings, some of which have become conference calls. It is probably not too early to begin thinking about a replacement for me as well. My term as President will be up after the annual meeting next year. Please think about it. Also, please review the covenant clarification on the website prior to the annual meeting. If you do not have a copy of the Covenants, it would be a good idea go to the website, print one, and keep it with your property deed. Andhave a great summer on the lake!!

Scott Craven, President CLMD



Cochran Lake District Meeting

December 19, 2015

Attending: Scott Craven, President; Donna Mandt, Treasurer; Sue Houkom, Secretary; 6 others representing 8 lots

Call to Order: 9:00 a.m.

Secretary's Report: No action taken

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of 11/30/15 is \$3,900.20. Most tax revenues will be received in February. That will bring the balance up to approximately \$5,500. Motion to approve, Mark Luoma; second, Mary Kaminski. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Fishery: Frank Sevcik

Fish stocking occurred on October 16, 2015. All fish planted were alive and well. This completes the 3-year cycle of fish stocking, so according to the discussion at the annual meeting in May 2015, we will wait to see the results of this program before stocking again. Thus, no walleyes will be planted in 2016.

Water Quality: Sig Kaminski

At this time, the lake is only 30-40% iced over. Caution should be used this winter on area lakes since ice depths may vary greatly.

New Business

Conditional Use Permit/Covenants:

A committee will be formed to meet with Attorney Greg Harrold to discuss the language in the covenants and the possibility of including provisions to help clarify the District's position on conditional use permits and vacation rentals. Prior to this meeting, the committee will draw up a list of questions or issues they would like addressed. These meetings will take place in middle of February. Any changes would be presented to the District membership at the annual meeting in May for a vote. Suggestions for committee members include the current board members, Sig and/or Mary Kaminski, Mark Luoma, Ray Schave, and Don Schmitz.

Several people reported that realtors are including the covenants in the paperwork for property sales on the lake. It was suggested that we follow up with new owners to see if they have any questions on the covenants. A copy of the covenants is located on the District website (cochranlake.org) under the "Info" tab.

Newsletter

The newsletter will be compiled to be sent out prior to the annual meeting. Scott Craven will contact the people who have contributed articles in the past to see if they will do so again on recurring items of interest. In addition, these topics will be included:

Terry Ides presentation on the history of the lake – Scott Craven

Wildlife Update, including the radio-collared wolves occupying territory near the lake – Scott Craven
4th of July Fishing Contest – Sig Kaminski. Sig has volunteered to hold the contest again in 2016.

Notice of vote on covenant changes should the committee determine that changes should be made.

People are invited to submit photos of lake, wildlife, and events.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Houkom, Secretary