

Annual Newsletter

Annual Meeting To-Do List

We hope all our lake neighbors are well, and that we will see you all again this summer enjoying our lake. The lake is half open today, April 14th, and a loon was spotted on the open water!

As of now, we are tentatively planning to meet on our usual weekend and place. Should that change, we will let you know in advance by posting to our website cochranlake.org, and emailing you from cochran.lake.district@gmail.com. If we decide not to meet in person on May 23rd, we have a few options. We could do a conference call meeting (as we have done for the quarterly meetings), we could meet outside under the shelter, weather permitting, or possibly postpone the meeting. The conference call number is on the front page of our website. There are several items we need to vote on, so your attendance, either in person or by phone, is strongly urged. YOUR lake management district requires YOUR input. The agenda will be mailed and posted in a couple weeks.

Some of the items that will be discussed and voted on at the Annual Meeting include:

- ✳ Election of new 3rd board member (see below)
- ✳ Decision to restart walleye stocking program (see article by Rich Halfpap)
- ✳ Decision to dissolve the ad-hoc Water Quality Committee
- ✳ Annual budget and assessment approval

Mel Pulver's one year interim term on the board, as resolved at last year's meeting, will be up. Thank you, Mel. Warren Johnson and Maggie Jungwirth's terms run until 2022. Another third member is needed. Please consider joining the board, **we will need to fill this position at the meeting.**

SAVE THE DATE
CLMD Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 23
8AM - Pike Lake Fire Station

Annual Meeting Refreshments

We are again requesting a few people to bring some "finger food" donuts, cookies, brownies, coffee cake or the like. Mary Kaminski will bring the coffee, cups, plates and napkins, coffee cream, and make the coffee – regular and decaf.

Keep in mind we have to clean up afterwards or we will get charged for the hall. Thank you.

Walleye Stocking Proposal

by Rich Halfpap

It has been several years since we stocked walleye in our lake. Our meeting minutes over the years reminded me that we did walleye stocking in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Thank you Maggie for gathering meeting minutes segments for me. Those minutes also show we would not stock in 2016, rather we would wait to see the results in size and quantity of fish caught and reevaluate continuance of a stocking program.

Any budget considerations for stocking was interrupted by a more important project, namely blue green algae abatement using barley straw bales. There were 2 years of that treatment. Last

year there were only a few small chunks of that algae and hopefully that is behind us.

This year I would like to see our Cochran Lake District get back to a walleye stocking program. In the past, Mark Luoma spearheaded the effort to purchase walleye with the assistance of Frank Sevcik and others. Mark has since moved to another area lake. I am willing to take his place.

Besides being a coveted fish for our lake, the DNR fish manager in Park Falls, Jeff Scheirer, (took over for the retired Skip Sommerfeldt), told me it is the best fish for controlling bluegill populations. That is consistent with the previous minutes stating Skip had said the same thing. I brought up the stocking topic during the District quarterly conference call in September. It was agreed that I should pursue with the DNR and report back for the December call.

As you know these days you need documented data for evidence and decision making, hearsay doesn't cut it. Fortunately, we have up to date data.

The Forest Service (FS) had just conducted two separate fish counts on Cochran Lake. The first one was a shocking, the week after our annual meeting. Shocking is a one-time late evening/night event. The second was a fyke netting. A fyke net is a long hoop-like fish trapping net anchored to the lake bottom. Those nets stay in place for a day or two depending on weather and were frequently moved to different areas of the lake. Don Schmitz posted the results to Cochran Lake Google Groups on July 2nd if you care to review it.

So I presented the data to Jeff as justification that we still had too many small bluegills and pumpkinseed, would he allow us to stock again this year? He said it was okay with him and forwarded my email to FS for their comments. The two people at FS involved are okay with it too. That would be Sue Rienecke and Nicholas Berndt. Nicholas participated in the fyke netting. In our lake he saw a couple areas suitable for spawning (I presume rocky areas) but in general since only large walleyes, 20" + were found they are likely not reproducing.

In my discussions with Jeff at WDNR, he mentioned they often give stocking permits to lakes that want walleyes in their lake fishery but the lake won't support reproduction.

About a month ago, Ann and I had dinner with a couple that has a place on Nose Lake 43 acres, 16 feet, like Cochran. He says they stock walleyes regularly just to have them in their fishery. Nose Lake walleyes don't reproduce either. Their permit is issued out of Rhinelander's DNR office, so the story is consistent with the info from DNR at Park Falls.

To the point – At the annual meeting I am going to propose that we stock walleyes once again. I need some other eyes on this besides me. Mike Buckna will jump in on this but I would like one more person preferably a year round resident that had participated in the past. Give me a call if interested 715-409-6851.

Thanks for your attention. Rich

2019 Water Quality Report

by Rick Schwai

In 2019 we suspended the Barley Straw Program but continued the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) program. The following is a summary of these two programs.

Barley Straw Program

The 2019 Barley Straw Program was suspended to observe the impact of withholding the installation of barley straw on the algae problem. Although some algae appeared, the amount was minor. The Barley Straw Program will again be suspended for 2020.

CLMN Program

In 2019 we participated in the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program for the third straight year. This program combines Secchi and Temperature Readings gathered by us with Phosphorus and Chlorophyll analysis performed by the State Labs in Madison, WI.

Compared to 2018, the summer of 2019 was much cooler and shorter. The lake water temperature readings reflected the air temperatures. The highest recorded water temperature in 2019 was 80.4 degrees compared to a 2018 high of 81.5 degrees. The lake water also cooled sooner with 2019 readings of 69 at the beginning of September versus 71.9 for the same date in 2018.

Secchi readings tend to vary inversely to water temperature. Therefore, the warmer the water the smaller the Secchi readings. In 2019 the lowest Secchi reading was 9.25 feet while in 2018 the lowest Secchi reading was 7.75 feet. Therefore, you should have noticed that the water was clearer but cooler in 2019. The 2019 Secchi Mean reading was 11.03 which nearly matches Secchi Means recorded in 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2007.

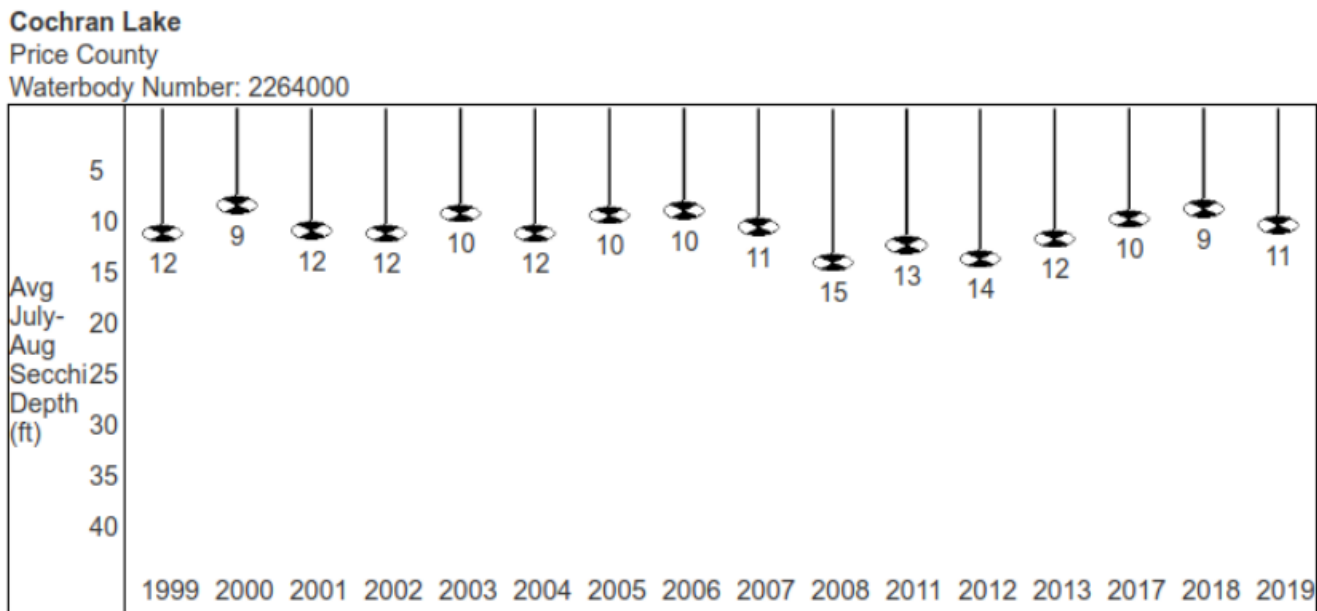
The Phosphorus Readings in 2019 were higher than in 2018 while the Chlorophyll readings were lower. The actual values of both measurements continued to be in the standard range for our type of lake and better than the average for lakes in the Northeast Georegion of Wisconsin.

CLMN Official Results

The CLMN official results were as follows:

Cochran Lake - Deep Hole was sampled 25 different days during the 2019 season. Parameters sampled included:

- water clarity
- temperature
- dissolved oxygen
- total phosphorus
- chlorophyll



Past secchi averages in feet (July and August only).

The average summer (July-Aug) secchi disk reading for Cochran Lake - Deep Hole (Price County, WBIC: 2264000) was 11.03 feet. The average for the Northwest Georegion was 8.6. The average summer chlorophyll readings were 3.3 ug/l compared to Northwest Geo region of 13.2 ug/l.

The summer Total Phosphorus average was 12 ug/l. Lakes that have more than 20 ug/l may experience algae blooms.

Past secchi averages in feet (July and August only).

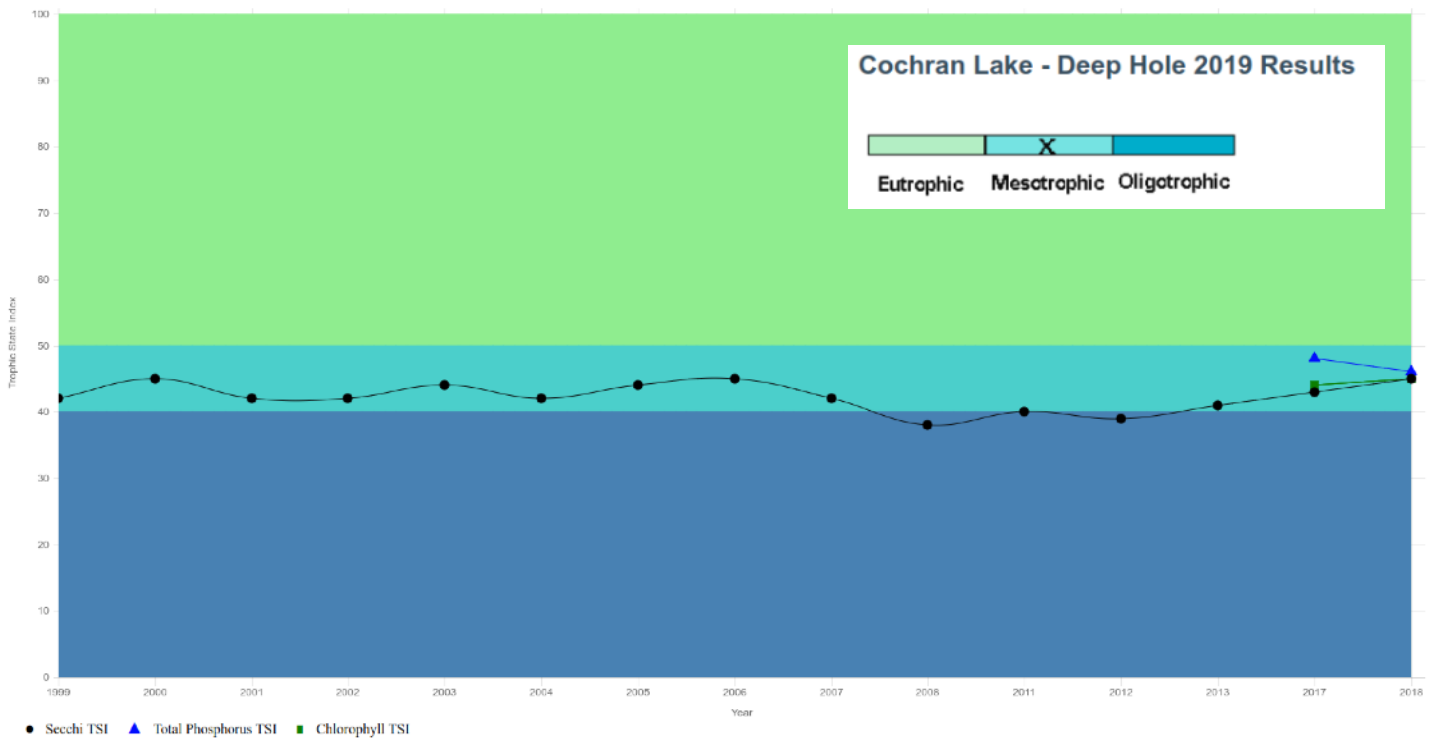
Year	Secchi Mean	Secchi Min	Secchi Max	Secchi Count
1999	11.7	9.5	13	5
2000	9	7.5	12.5	4
2001	11.67	11	12	3
2002	11.75	11.5	12	2
2003	9.83	9	10.5	3
2004	11.75	11	12.5	2
2005	10	9	11	2
2006	9.5	8	11.5	3
2007	11.25	10	12.5	2
2008	14.75	14.5	15	2
2011	13	11	15	2
2012	14.33	14	15	3
2013	12.33	10	14	3
2017	10.41	7.5	13	8
2018	9.46	7.75	11.25	6
2019	11.03	9.25	13.5	8



Photo by Rick Schwai

The overall Trophic State Index (based on the chlorophyll) for Cochran Lake - Deep Hole was 45. The TSI suggests that Cochran Lake - Deep Hole was mesotrophic. Mesotrophic lakes are characterized by moderately clear water, but have an increasing chance of low dissolved oxygen in deep water during the summer. Due to the efforts of the residents, the lake has maintained a good consistency over the past 20 years.

Trophic State Index Graph: Cochran Lake - Deep Hole - Price County



Boat Landing Driveway Repair

Late last Fall, we had two loads of gravel delivered to the boat landing by Terry Palecek to repair the pot-holes. The cost of the gravel was \$550.

The gravel was spread and rolled for free by our neighbor Patti Corey. Thank you, Patti.

The purchase was authorized at the December 2019 quarterly meeting. The attendees decided if the cost exceeded \$500, a vote at the annual meeting would determine how the cost would be divided. This will be discussed at the annual meeting.

Additional maintenance has been discussed. It was suggested that we purchase stones to add around the landing strips in the lake to support them. This will be discussed at the annual meeting as well.



Loons with chick, summer 2018. Photo by Mark Luoma

Summer 2019 Loon Report

by Pat Schwai

On June 1, 2019, I received a report that we had a loon on the nest. However, I left the next day for a month-long trip and was unable to provide first-hand observations. The loon pair nested, possibly twice, but were unsuccessful. Since we began keeping records, our loons have never produced offspring two consecutive years. The joy we experienced with a chick in the summer of 2018 had to carry us over.

The loon pair included a female loon we have seen for several years. You may recall that Mark Luoma and I attempted to use the bands to identify this loon's history. Due to fading and the use of similar color bands, no definite identification could be made.

Our loons remained bonded throughout the summer. They even hosted a few other loons who were also no longer territorial by bill dipping and swimming in circles with them.

We were not the only people disappointed by failed nesting attempts this past year. Dr. Walter Piper, a professor of biology at Chapman University, has spent his last 25 summers conducting Common Loon research on northern Wisconsin lakes. He had this to say: " ... owing to a late ice-out, a lengthy and abundant black fly season as well as other factors yet to be determined, 2019 was a dismal year for loon production in the Northwoods."

Please share your sightings with me (by phone or email) as soon as possible after they occur. The dates of the events are critical to completing an accurate report for LoonWatch.

I remain hopeful that we will host loons with a successful nest again this year, in spite of their declining population. Articles on specific ways we can foster an inviting lake follow below.

New(er) to Cochran Lake?

For those of us residing here, loons are an integral part of our lake experience. My goal as a volunteer for LoonWatch, is to educate residents so they may appreciate and desire to protect the Common Loons that nest on and visit our lake.

Practice Good Loon Etiquette (I've shared this many times, but it bears repeating.)

- Watch loons from at least 200 feet away. Use binoculars or powerful camera lens. If they approach you, pause and enjoy them.
- Avoid exploring or camping on islands before July 15 of each year. Loons prefer islands for nesting. Disturbance can cause a loon to abandon its nest.

- Be an ethical angler. Never fish or cast near loon nests or swimming loons, properly dispose of extra bait and trash, and pick up monofilament line.
- Keep dogs and cats away from loons and nests.
- Be a responsible boater. Never chase loons or run motorboats over areas where loons have been seen. Boat wakes and waves may also wash eggs off of nests.

Get the Lead Out! is a campaign in several U.S. states and Canada aimed at educating anglers. Each year loons die from lead poisoning due to ingestion of lead fishing tackle especially sinkers and jigs.

What else can you use?

- Switching to non-lead tackle..Sinkers and jigs are also made from non-poisonous materials such as: steel, tin, tungsten, bismuth, pewter, ceramic, densified plastic, and glass.
- These alternatives can be ordered on the Internet. Also check the LoonWatch website for non-lead tackle suppliers.

What else can you do?

- Dispose of your lead tackle properly—do not throw it in a lake or trash can. Take it to your local household hazardous waste collection site or a scrap metal collector/recycler. In Wisconsin, there is a list of places that accept lead year round maintained on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources [website](#).

R.E.G.I. and Lead Poisoning

A few years back, Cochran Lake lost a Common Loon to lead poisoning. The death was slow and painful for the bird. Unfortunately, the observer was a new resident who didn't know who to call or what to do. Hopefully, after reading this, you will.

The Raptor Education Group, Inc. located in Antigo, WI was founded by Marge Gibson. Likely you have seen her on the local news at some point. She is

assisted by a group of volunteers dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of injured or orphaned native bird species. Marge is finding that nearly every loon and eagle that is brought in, has lead in its system. Toxic levels of lead in the blood require immediate and prolonged treatment. (cost: \$500 to \$1,000 per bird)

Should you come across an injured or ailing bird, please call their clinic.

R.E.G.I. can be reached at 715-623-4015 or at help@raptoreducationgroup.org

Report any dead loons to the WI DNR for pick-up.



2019-20 Fishing Report

by Sig Kaminski

Last years fishing was not so great. If you were on the water on the right day, it was better. I myself did very little fishing because I had major shoulder repair.



Last year was not a good year for the big bass. A number of them were taken out of the lake, by guests and other people that got on the lake. The people I talked to did not come in on the carry in landing. I know people have the right to take the fish, but this is a small lake and it takes years and years to grow a bass to 18". If we do not do practice catch and release, it will in no time become hard to catch a big bass in our lake. The same applies to pan fish and walleyes. We, of course, have a good number of northerns. They're great to eat.

I recommend for the safety of the fish, and people fishing, that they file off the barb of the big hooks on the spinner baits, and rubber worms. I have been doing this for years and have missed only a few fish. Also, I find that if you use heavy line, you will not lose as many fish to the weeds. Just think, light line, fish breaks off, stands a chance of dying, and you are out a good bait.

Have a great year. Sig

Pickled Pike

by Rich Halfpap

It's no secret that Cochran Lake has a lot of northern pike in the fishery. Too many in my opinion.

Northerns are a good eating fish but with the Y bones, they are a challenge to clean and result in a boneless fillet.



I used to go annually on a Canadian fishing trip to a resort where the dock hands would clean the fish and that was part of the package fee. They were able to process the fillets with no bones in no time.

I often watched over their shoulder and I understood what they were doing but I was never able to get all the fillets 100% bone free like they could.

Last year my daughter asked why I don't pickle northerns any longer. I had completely forgotten about that process. I did it years ago with northerns and Suckers caught on the Wisconsin River. I didn't realize she liked them.

So last season I took 6 fish in the 20 -23 inch class out of our lake and used a recipe from a 1980's DNR publication with recipes for rough fish. The publication acknowledged only rough fish, suckers, burbot, carp and sheepshead. But the recipe works well for northerns. The vinegar called out in the recipe completely dissolves the bones.

Cleaning went fast, having only to cut two fillets, head to tail, paralleling the backbone and skinning the fillet. I removed the rib cage, because it was easy to do, but you don't have to. I ended up with 6 pints, so say a pint per fish is what to expect.

The pickling recipe is repeated below. The DNR publication also covered other rough fish recipes (species not found on our lake) including Poor Man's shrimp cocktail using Sheepshead, Carp chowder, Smoked Carp spread for crackers, a Carp sandwich and Poor Man's lobster using Sheepshead or Burbot.

I was not able to find this old publication on the current DNR website and the recipes are not in the DNR cookbook currently online. If you want those recipes, just contact me by email mtrqtr@gmail.com.

Pickled Fish Recipe

Use 5/8th cup of pickling salt for each quart of fish

White vinegar

Cut fish in chunks. Dissolve salt in enough vinegar to cover the fish. Let stand 4-6 days. Keep at about 40° F. Remove from salt solution and thoroughly rinse with cold water.

Place alternate layers of fish and onions in sterilized jars.

Combine:

- 1 pint white vinegar
- 1 pint of white port wine
- 3/4 Cup of sugar
- 1/8th ounce of pickling spice

Pour over the fish and onions. Refrigerate and let stand one week before using. This solution covers 4 quarts of fish.

Enjoy - Rich Halfpap

Adopt a Road

by Mark LeGrand

Hi, my name is Mark LeGrand, your new Adopt a Road Chairperson. I have met many of you already, those of you that I haven't met yet I look forward to getting to know you too. My wife and I have a cabin on Lot 49.

First of all, I'd like to thank the previous Adopt a Road Chair, Ray Schave for his many years of contribution that he and his wife Judy made to the beatification of our area roads every spring and fall. He was not only instrumental in asking each of you to actively participant in the litter clean-up efforts, but Judy and Ray also volunteered to keep the roadways litter free too.

Secondly, I would like to thank the following volunteers that helped out with the clean-up efforts last fall:

- Ray and Judy Schave
- Sig and Mary Kaminski
- Dan & Jane Moldenhauer
- Warren Johnson & Sandy Dickinson
- Ann Davies
- Dan & Cathy O' Hagen
- Rick & Pat Schwai

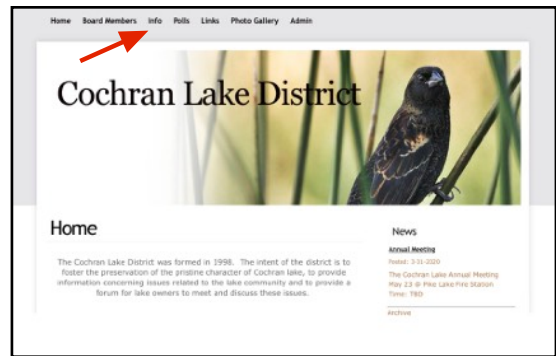
Finally, I will be sending an email requesting volunteers to help with the clean-up the end of April. I look forward to your continued support keeping our roadways clean.

Website Report

by Don Schmitz

The Lake District maintains two separate email lists:

1. **Owners Directory** is a list of lake owners names, address, phone & email address. This information is available in a printable version via the website under

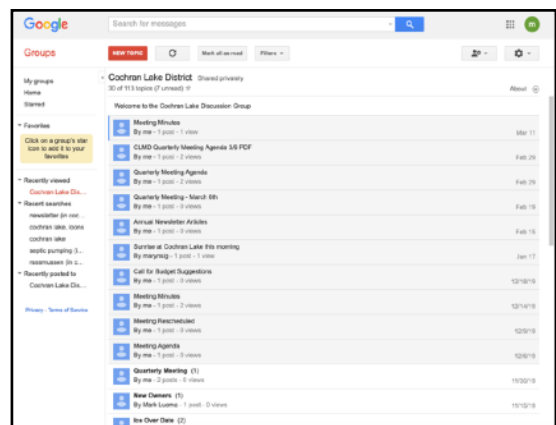


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the info tab. The information is only updated when owners inform me that something has changed.

2. **Google Group** is a list of lake owners that have requested they be added to this group, this does not happen automatically. This distribution list will notify owners of meetings and other issues that pertain to Cochran Lake. You must be a member of this group to post/send and receive email, only members are allowed to interact with the Google Group (security).

Owners would normally be in both groups but some have requested to be omitted from one or both. If you have updates to the directory info, or would like to be added to the Google Group you will need to email me at dons@surgery.wisc.edu.



Google Group

Communications



by Maggie Jungwirth

This year, we are trying an additional avenue to reach all lake owners. While most are signed up for the Google Discussion Group which Don Schmidt does a great job of maintaining (Thank you, Don) we have no way of knowing if those email addresses are current or if they are being read. Rick Schwai researched email add-ons (Thank you Rick), and recommended YAMM, which will help with this. We agreed at the last quarterly meeting to pay a nominal annual fee for the software. I sent test emails from our new lake district email address, cochran.lake.district@gmail.com. This allows us to see if emails are getting through. The emails that weren't delivered or opened are being followed up on.

Please let **Don Schmitz** (dons@surgery.wisc.edu) or **Maggie Jungwirth** (jungwirthm@outlook.com) know of any email changes. Your email address will be checked at the annual meeting (if held in person) to verify everyone's current email addresses. Please help us keep a reliable path to contact you.

The emails from cochran.lake.district@gmail.com will only be CLMD business. Posts to the Google Group can be of general interest, and are not restricted to CLMD business. Loon news, pictures, etc. are welcome!

Fishing Contest/Potluck

by Sig Kaminski

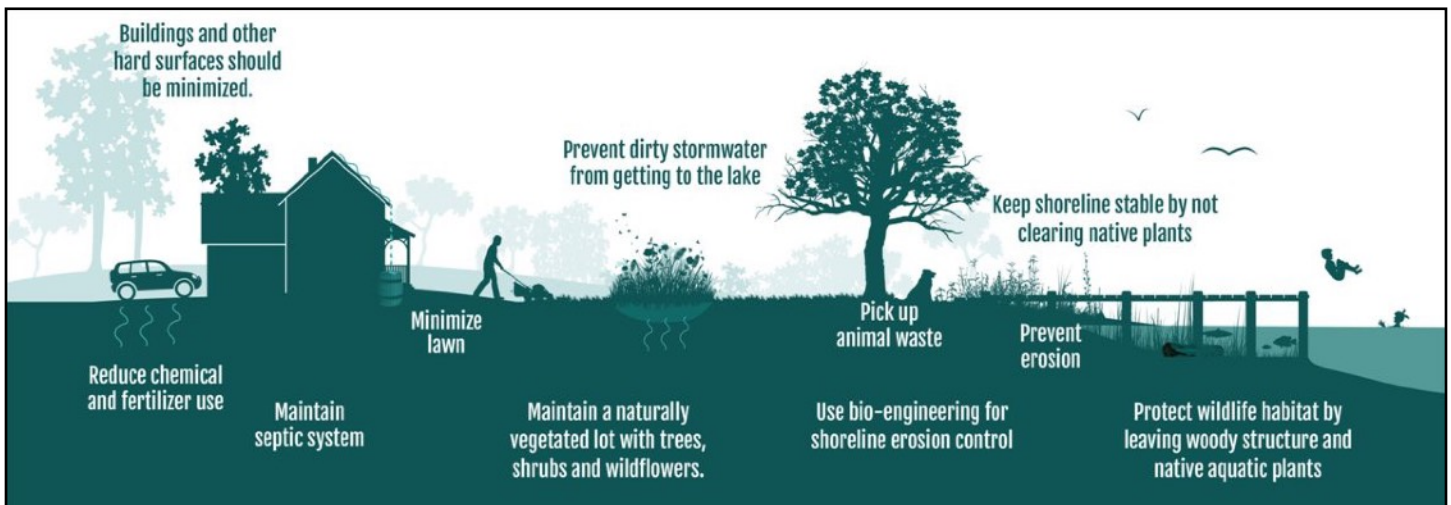
This year's fishing contest will be on July 4th Saturday. Fishing from 7am to 10am. Check in from 10:30am to 11:00am. Lunch starts at 11:00am. Fish prizes handed out around 11:15am. Rain or shine.

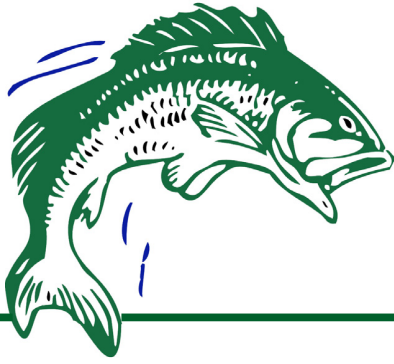
Rules:

Same as last years. Catch and release all fish. No live bait. Big fish wins. Northern, panfish, walleye, bass. You can only win one fish category, but you have the right to pick what prize you want if you catch the biggest fish in more than one category. The second place winner of the category you did not choose will then win that prize.

Please call Mary or Sig at 715-762-1823 or 715-661-3816. The cost is still \$10 per person. Everyone gets a door prize, if you fish or not. This is a fun get together for the lake owners and any guests they have. Soda, water, hot dogs, brats, hamburgers all at the cost of \$10. Bring your own beer, if you want to. Please let us know, thru the Google group what you are bringing to pass, so all can see what is being brought.

The entry form is on the next page of this newsletter, and the Cochran lake web site.





Cochran Lake Fishing Contest

Fishing **July 4th** Rain or Shine ~ 7am to 10:00 am.

Register fish from 10:30am to 11am

Lunch starting at 11:00

Prizes at 11am for biggest fish of each species

At Sig & Mary Kaminski's Lot #1 715-762-1823

Please keep track of all fish boated.

Name: _____

Type of fish: Release all fish, no live bait.

	Size	Time	Bait
Walleye	_____	_____	_____
Northern	_____	_____	_____
Panfish	_____	_____	_____
Bass	_____	_____	_____