



ON THE WATERFRONT

The newsletter of the
WASHBURN COUNTY LAKES & RIVERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
**PROMOTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF
WASHBURN COUNTY WATERS, SHORELAND AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES.**

SPRING 2010

WCLRA #23

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WCLRA provides copies of its *On The Waterfront* newsletter to individual members and to the officers of member associations. If your association has recently had elections, please make us aware of the address changes. Contact Fred Blake at 715-469-3228 or by email at blakelake@centurytel.net

President's Comments

Collaboration. Partnership. Cooperation. While these might not be particularly exciting terms, they describe the alliances that have been so important in WCLRA's success. This organization would not be nearly as effective without the help of our many partners.

WCLRA has worked closely with the UW Extension, Wisconsin DNR, Washburn County Zoning and Board of Adjustment, Washburn County Land & Water Conservation, and Washburn County Forestry. Their representatives regularly attend our Board meetings, and we have collaborated with them on numerous projects. A few years ago we formed a relationship with the West Wisconsin Land Trust to explore possibilities for protecting the Totogatic River by keeping portions of its shoreland wild. Last year we partnered with Hunt Hill and the Long Lake Preservation Association (LLPA) to develop our exciting new Youth Environmental Stewardship program.

The Wisconsin Association of Lakes and River Alliance of Wisconsin provide us with information, training, and support as well as working at the state level to promote water-friendly policies. We encourage our individual and lake association members to support these organizations and to seek out their help when it's needed.

Working together we have been able to accomplish much more than any of us could have done independently. We recognize that we do not always have the knowledge or resources that our partners have. Likewise, they say that our knowledge, volunteers, and citizen input have often been invaluable to them.

Partnerships are important to the success of individual lake associations too. Perhaps most helpful is for a lake association to have a good working relationship with its Town Board. Regular attendance at your Town Board's meetings could help build relationships that can be critical to the passage of lake-friendly initiatives.

In addition to these relationships, the WCLRA Board has always encouraged communication with and among our members. Brad Ray, president of the LLPA, has recently suggested that we consider providing more opportunities for the county's lake associations to exchange ideas with each other and with us. The WCLRA Board is exploring ways to do this. If you have any suggestions, please contact me or Fred Blake.

Finally, if you're an individual member on a lake that doesn't have its own lake association, we urge you to consider forming one. You'd be able to accomplish a lot more collectively than individually. Feel free to contact me or any of our other Board members for ideas on how to get started.

Cathie Erickson

WCLRA in Education Project Collaboration

By Pat Shifferd

This year WCLRA, in cooperation with Long Lake Preservation Association and Hunt Hill Audubon Center, has helped to fund and carry out a project which provides field experiences for area elementary school students. Last Fall four schools participated: Birchwood, Shell Lake, St. Francis de Sales, and Spooner. And this Spring, additional field trips will be provided for area schools, including Northwoods School.

The project, funded by a pair of grants from the Department of Natural Resources Lake Education program, brought children to Hunt Hill for day-long explorations of our water resources and the importance of protecting them. Titled Y.E.S., for Youth Environmental Stewardship, the project has included experiential work with water chemistry, invasive species, pond ecology, and similar topics. Students and their teachers are encouraged to carry out stewardship projects as a follow-up. For example, the Spooner 3rd graders decided to do a clean-up project at their school.

Grant funds have been used to purchase equipment, compensate instructors, and, most importantly, pay for transportation costs to Hunt Hill. The last has been greatly appreciated by the participating schools, since their budgets are tight in this difficult economy.

In the Fall WCLRA Newsletter, the program was highlighted with pictures of various activities as well as the scope of the project. At that time the feedback from students and teachers had not been analyzed.

The evaluation of the Fall activities, carried out by members of WCLRA board in cooperation with University Extension, showed overwhelmingly positive reactions from both teachers and students. For example, one of the questions asked of the students was if the activities of the day were interesting. Some of the comments were:

- "Wow"
- "I liked it, had fun"
- "I learned a very lot"
- "I liked watching the water get gross"
- "They were awesome"

Asked if they thought the ponding activity was interesting, some of the responses from the students were:

- *"Awesome!"
- "I like getting water insects"
- "I liked learning that there are things in the water we can't see."

Responses from the teachers were all "strongly agree". Examples of the questions asked of the teachers are: "By participating in this program, my students increased their knowledge of the environment and the out-of-doors", "This program enhanced the classroom experience of my students".

The initial success of the project encouraged the 3 collaborating groups to submit a new proposal to the DNR to extend the program for another year. However, the partners hope to make this valuable project an on-going opportunity for area children. Thus, opportunities for other sources of funds are being explored.

Washburn County Shoreline Restoration Program

By Brad Robole,

*Director, Planning, Landwater Resource
Management*

Washburn County is blessed to have over 900 lakes. Dramatic increases in lake development over the last several decades have led to concern over the long-term health of our lakes. Much of the remaining undeveloped shorelines have been replaced with manicured lawns, and exotic and invasive terrestrial species.

The impact of not having natural shoreline buffers has led to greater risk of water quality problems, a loss of fish and wildlife habitat and has changed the aesthetics greatly.

To combat these changes, the Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department offers technical and financial assistance to restore shorelines back to a more natural condition. The program will pay up to 70% of the costs associated with re-establishing the native shoreline vegetation. Please contact the Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department at (715) 468-4654 for more information.

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Keeping the Totogatic Wild

By Rick Gauger and Wayne Sabatke

Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association (WCLRA) has begun a process directed toward the acquisition of an approximately 262 acre parcel of land bordering almost 2.5 miles of the Totogatic River. In 2009, the Totogatic was designated one of only five Wild Rivers in the State of Wisconsin. The goal is the protection of this stretch of the river from development which would compromise the river's wild character.

The property, currently owned by Solar Land Co. LLC, is located on the northern fringe of the Town of Chicog between the Minong Flowage and the confluence of the Totogatic and the Namekagon Rivers. The narrow, roughly triangular parcel is bounded on the southeast and southwest by the Totogatic.

The geomorphology of the parcel reflects the terrace system that developed as glacial melt water transported outwash to the St. Croix River Valley. The resulting soils are sand and sandy loams, conducive to the native jack pine barrens ecosystem found on the site. Native grasses and forbs, characteristic of a barrens ecosystem, are establishing in open areas created by previous timber harvest activities. The Property also comprises several other ecosystems including upland hardwood forest, floodplain forest and shallow wetland depressions. The relatively steep-sided riverbanks are heavily forested with narrow terraces at the base, allowing the uplands to be accessed from the river. Jack pine and northern pin oak are dominant species found throughout the property. Springs and bog wetlands add to the diversity of the acreage, and contribute to the health of the river.

Although some areas away from the river have been logged, the river banks are essentially untouched. Visitors could walk along these high, virtually virgin forested shorelines, amongst mature red pine and oak, and view the river corridor, often 100 feet below. The Totogatic is regionally recognized for its recreational paddling opportunities and warm and cool water tributaries that support trout and game fish.

WCLRA and West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT) are working together to raise the funds necessary to secure this unique parcel of land. A request for a DNR Stewardship Grant has been submitted. One of the requirements of a stewardship grant is that the land will remain available for certain public uses such as fishing, hunting, and trapping. WWLT is providing grant writing, transactional assistance and fundraising support, while WCLRA is establishing the budget and fundraising strategy and working with several agencies to determine the future use and disposition of the property. We will need help of the membership to secure necessary funds. It is hoped that the protective buffer provided by this acquisition will help maintain the pristine character of Wisconsin's newest WILD RIVER. See back page for picture.

Yellow River Purple Loosestrife Project

By Lisa Gabriel

Washburn County AIS Coordinator

The Land Conservation Department will be working with the WI DNR and other agencies to implement more control of purple loosestrife on the Yellow River. If you've ever floated the river in the summer, you probably noticed how thick some of the loosestrife stands are. It is impossible to completely eradicate it but another control method will help slow down its growth.

The our department has been releasing purple loosestrife-eating beetles for the last 4 years, and will be taking it one step further to combat the invasive species. With cooperation from landowners and volunteers, we plan to cut and treat purple loosestrife stems in order to cut back on its growth along the Yellow River. An inventory of the loosestrife along certain stretches of the river still needs to be carried out.

Would this be something you'd like to get involved in? An informational meeting about the project will be held on **May 19th** at 6:00 pm at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station, located on HWY 70 East of Spooner.

Clean Boats Clean Waters Workshops Offered

Are you interested in organizing a workshop to protect your lake from aquatic invasive species taking over? If so, there will be 2 Clean Boats Clean Waters workshops offered this year: **April 24th 9:00am-12:00pm, and May 14th 5:00pm-8:00pm. Both workshops will be held at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station, located on HWY 70 East of Spooner**

The CBCW watercraft inspection program assists Wisconsin residents in stopping the spread of invasive species. There is no cost to attend the workshop, but for a fee of \$25.00 attendees, will be given a handbook and a resource kit that contains educational materials, a DVD, invasive species identification cards, watercraft inspection stickers, and T-shirts that can be worn during the watercraft inspections. ***Each lake represented at the workshop will receive one free handbook and resource kit unless they have received one already.***

The resource kit helps lake residents establish a volunteer watercraft inspection program for their lake. This program is an opportunity for volunteers to take a frontline defense against aquatic invasive species.

With the boating season soon approaching, it is important to remember the new No-Transport Bill was passed in the fall of 2009. *SB 123 requires ALL aquatic plants and animals be removed from boats or other equipment before transporting onto a public road.* Please do your part to help protect our lakes in Northern Wisconsin from the introduction of invasive species into un-infested water bodies.

If you are interested in attending the CBCW workshops or have any questions about the Yellow River project, please call Lisa Gabriel at 715-468-4654.

Legislative Matters

Ah Spring! New Life and New Laws!

By Earl Cook, *President WAL*

Spring is upon us! You can feel it in the air. The sun is moving back north bringing with it welcomed warmth and longer days. Soon the lakes will open up ushering in another season of enjoying the wonderful jewels of Wisconsin—our 15,000 lakes. This spring will also bring some new laws that have been enacted to better protect our public waters. You need to be aware of these because ignoring them could have costly consequences. Here's a summary of what's new:

2009 Wisconsin Act 9 restricts the use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorous. This law takes effect April 1, 2010. This is an easy law to follow. When you buy your lawn fertilizer, make sure that the middle number in the three numbers that rate fertilizer is 0 (zero). For example, 5-5-5 fertilizer is banned but 5-0-5 fertilizer is OK. Don't worry about using no-phosphorous fertilizer on your lawn; tests have shown that the soils of Wisconsin currently contain many times more phosphorous than needed for healthy lawns.

NR115—Wisconsin's Shoreland Protection Program is an administrative rule that went into effect February 1, 2010. This rule imposes minimum standards on lakeshore properties like setbacks of structures from the Ordinary High Water Mark, what

Legislative Matters: *continued from page 4*

you can do with non-conforming structures, impervious services and mitigation, to name a few. Confusing? Unfortunately, it is. In NR115, the state requires each county to incorporate these minimum standards into their shoreland zoning ordinances. Counties are allowed to have standards that go above and beyond the state's minimum standards, and many do. County zoning ordinances are the mechanism for the implementation and enforcement of NR115 and counties have until February 1, 2012 to incorporate the new standards into their ordinances. Individual shoreland property owners don't need worry about these new standards until new county ordinances are adopted and even then they might not affect you. If you have questions about shoreland regulations, contact your county zoning administrator (In Washburn County, Web Macomber – 715 468-4690).

2009 Wisconsin Act 31 restricts the operation of motorboats at slow-no wake speeds within 100 feet of the shoreline. This law took effect February 1, 2010. This law provides extra protection to the shoreline by reducing the erosion caused by wakes of motorboats. It also provides added safety to those swimming and recreating along the shorelines. Water skiers should take particular note of this law because pickup and drop areas for water skiers must be 100 feet from shore unless a special permit for a buoyed pickup and drop area is obtained from the DNR.

2009 Wisconsin Act 55 restricts the transport of aquatic plants and animals. This law took effect October 8, 2009. For most of us, this law means that we must be absolutely sure there are no plants or animals on our recreational equipment (boats, trailers, seaplanes, etc) when they are being transported on public highways. Just like speeding, any law enforcement officer may issue a ticket for a boat & trailer traveling along a highway with 'weeds' hanging on it.

2009 Wisconsin Act 63 restricts the amount of phosphorous in machine dish washing products for household use to a very small amount. This law takes effect July 1, 2010. You probably won't need to worry about this law so much; grocery stores should not be offering unlawful dish washing products. But if you have a lot of dish washing product stored away, you may risk breaking the law.

DNR Secretary Appointment: A bill passed both houses of the Legislature that would change the way the DNR Secretary was appointed, removing that authority from the Governor and giving it to the Natural Resources Board. The Governor vetoed that

law and the veto held. So the Governor will continue to appoint the DNR Secretary. This means that the Secretary and much of the upper management of the DNR will change following next November's election. This may have significant impacts on our lakes; we'll have to wait and see.

Assembly Bill 670: Introduced by Rep. Black and sponsored by Sen. Holperin, it has passed the Assembly and has been referred to the Senate. Under current law, with certain exceptions, owners selling residential real property must give prospective buyers a form, known as a real estate condition report, on which the owner discloses certain conditions of the real property of which the owner is aware. This bill requires an owner to disclose on the real estate condition report whether the real property is subject to a shoreland mitigation plan required by the county.

2009 AB 844 was introduced March 12, 2010 and was sponsored in part by Sen. Jauch and Re. Milroy. Referred to as the Groundwater Bill it establishes standards and a process for designating areas in this state as groundwater management areas. For more information go to:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/AB-844.pdf> .

DROUGHT WATCH

By Fred Blake

Our regional drought has been a major topic of discussion for the last several years. At the end of the 2009 open water season, water levels in our lakes were lower than had been seen in decades years. Channels between some parts of our lakes were dry and often heavily vegetated. Not infrequently, docks were too short to reach the then-current water line. More than a few wells had gone dry.

Seepage lakes (more than 70% of our Washburn County lakes) have been particularly hard hit as they have no surface inflow or outflow. They depend for a significant part of their input on groundwater and groundwater levels are well below normal. Seepage lake levels eight (8) feet down since 2003 were not uncommon. By the end of 2009, the level of Deep Lake in Madge Township was more than fourteen (14) feet below its 2002 all time high. No one needs to be reminded that 2009 was a dismal year for many Washburn County lake residents.

Continued on page 6

DROUGHT WATCH continued from page 5

There is no way to reliably predict when the current drought will end. The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) does predict that there will be a 25% increase in the frequency of extreme events (2" or more of precipitation) from 1980 to 2055. The historical WICCI data from 1950 to 2006 showed a 15% overall increase in precipitation, but it was "highly Variable" with areas of low rainfall across the northern rim of the state ... not encouraging for our region.

The best that I can offer here relative to our region is some recent historical information that may provide some perspective. Recent precipitation data suggests that conditions had not changed for our area as of the end of 2009. The total rainfall for 2009 as measured at the official Spooner weather station was 22.59" (the present 30 year average is 30.57"). That places last year's rainfall at almost 8" below what could be called "normal". The 2009 total was lower than that for 2008 which was 24.38" (more than 6" below the 30 year average). Precipitation was, thus, more than 14 inches below "normal" in just the last two years.

It may be wise to define "normal" at this point because the "30 Year Average" changes over time. It averages (obviously) the most recent 30 years (See Figure 1). Note that in 1948, the thirty year average was a little under 26" per year whereas it reached a little over 31" per year in 2006 ... a change of roughly 5" per year over that 58 year period. This proves again the old axiom that "NOTHING IS CONSTANT BUT CHANGE!"

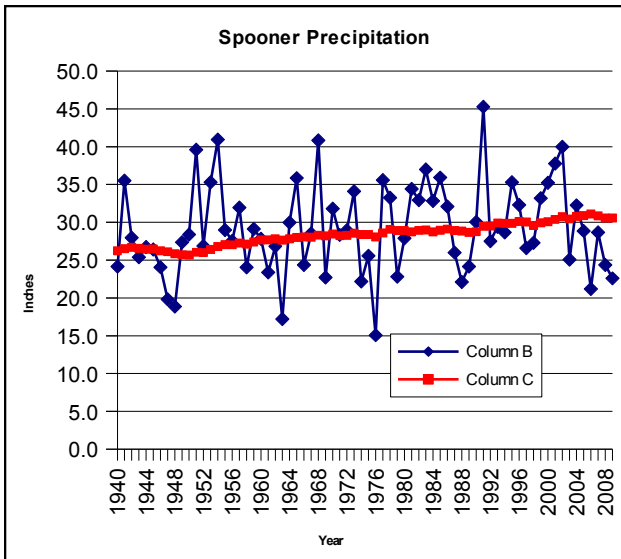


Figure 1

Another source of drought-related information is the U.S. Drought Monitor. Data for Wisconsin (Figure 2) shows that the northern third of the state is either abnormally dry or suffering through moderate to severe drought. Roughly two thirds of Washburn County is shown as experiencing severe drought. That is no surprise to those of us who live here. A year ago, roughly 80% of the state was either abnormally dry or experiencing some level of drought. As of February 2010, only about 40% of the state remained in that condition. The southern half of the state received significantly increased precipitation in 2009 while we here in Wisconsin's "great northwest desert" were not so fortunate. The Drought Monitor shows that our area is the only remaining significant area of drought in the entire Midwest region.

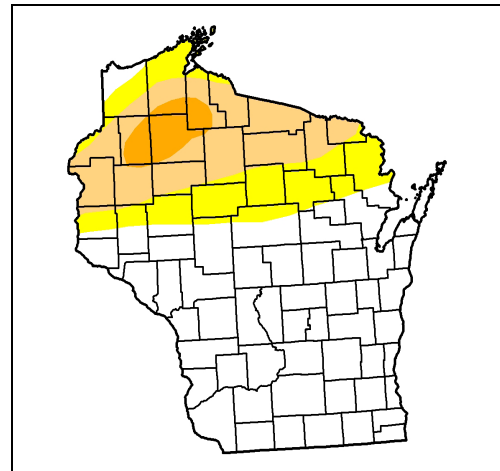


Figure 2
yellow = abnormally dry, tan = drought - moderate, dark gold = drought - severe

There is as yet no indication of an increase in precipitation in 2010. Snowfall through mid-March of this year was, if anything, below normal and, unless heavy spring precipitation intervenes, we will probably go into the open water season with water levels still at near all-time lows.

Are we likely to emerge from the drought this year? It's anybody's guess. No single event (short of a biblical scale flood) will end the current drought conditions. We will probably only note the end of the drought in retrospect when records begin to show that we are seeing a sustained upward precipitation trend over a period of several years. For now, it is essential that we continue to protect the now-dry lake bottom areas looking toward the time when they will again be submerged as the water levels rise toward more normal levels somewhere down the road.

WCLRA Membership

By Barb Robinson

This past fall, the WCLRA Board entertained ideas for expanding our membership to anyone who may enjoy the benefits of our Washburn County's lakes and streams and yet be unaware of the existence of our organization. Last year, WCLRA initiated a program which grants a free one-year membership to new shore land property owners within Washburn County. A significant number of those people have, this year, decided to renew their memberships and continue their participation in and support of the WCLRA.

Although this effort has been successful for new waterfront property owners, it has not made the WCLRA more visible to those people who do not own waterfront property or who have owned waterfront property prior to the free one-year program.

The WCLRA Board has, therefore, decided to offer a limited number of free first-year memberships by referral of a director or other member of the WCLRA. The program will begin this year with 40 referred memberships granted on a first come - first serve basis. These memberships will carry with them the three annual newsletter issues and access to all the services and benefits that WCLRA provides.

If you know someone who is not a WCLRA member but has an interest in the welfare of our lakes and streams, whether or not that person lives on one of our lakes or streams, consider referring that person or household through one of our directors (See the list on Page 3). As with the new waterfront property owners, these referred members would have the option to become full-fledged paid members the following year in order to continue to receive the newsletter and the other benefits of WCLRA membership.

A referral postcard will be sent informing the recipient he/she has been referred (and by whom) and will receive a free membership. All the contact information for the referred person would be provided by the referring member. As with the new waterfront property owners, a renewal notice would be sent to these "referral" members at the end of the initial membership year. By that time, we hope that those people will have decided that they want to continue to be part of WCLRA.

In addition to the free first-year individual memberships, WCLRA will be attempting to identify local businesses that share the goals of our organization and may wish to support us. If you are aware of any such local patrons, please make us aware of them. WCLRA does have a Commercial Membership category.

The effectiveness of WCLRA is dependent on the help and support of our Washburn County community at large. It is important that people be aware of WCLRA and what we do to preserve the water resources in our county. These new membership initiatives are designed to increase that public awareness. We would welcome your thoughts and suggestions. They can be directed to Barb Robinson at ribald@centurytel.net (715-466-4152) or Fred Blake at blakelake@centurytel.net (715-469-3228).

Calendar of Events

- June 18 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference
Site: Telemark Resort and Convention Ctr., Cable, Wi.
715-635-7406
john.haack@ces.uwex.edu
- August 28 WCLRA Annual General Meeting
Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary
715-865-4406
CathieErickson@aol.com
- 2010 WCLRA Boarding Meeting Schedule*
April 16, 2010
May 21, 2010
June 11, 2010
July 16, 2010
August 20, 2010
August 28, 2010 – Annual General Meeting (AGM)
September 17, 2010
October 15, 2010
November 19, 2010
The WCLRA Board does not meet in December

*Meetings of the WCLRA Board are open. Board meetings begin at 9:00am at the Oscar Johnson Center in the Spooner Fairgrounds. For information contact Cathie Erickson at 715-865-4406 or CathieErickson@aol.com.

WITH WARM WEATHER COMES SWIMMER'S ITCH

(Excerpted with permission from a DNR press release.)

SPOONER, WI. As lakes warm, an annual nuisance known as "Swimmers Itch" will again be appearing. Symptoms appear as red, itching, bite-like welts after leaving the water and can last from a few days to a few weeks. Fortunately, there are no permanent effects.

According to Frank Koshere, DNR water resource specialist, swimmers itch is widespread. There appear to be no special characteristics of lakes experiencing the problem. "Some of the finest recreational lakes in the state experience swimmer's itch," he said, "whereas other lakes may have an occasional outbreak or none at all."

The irritation is caused by one stage in the life cycle of a flatworm parasite living in adult hosts such as mice and ducks. The adult worm sheds its eggs via the host's excretory tract into the water. There they hatch into a free-swimming stage (*miracidium*) which seeks a proper host organism, a particular type of snail. After 3 to 4 weeks, another free-swimming stage (*cercaria*) emerges from the snail and seeks a new primary bird or animal host. This is when humans and cercariae meet.

The cercariae are released during mid-day hours when waters reach near maximum summer temperatures (June or early July) coinciding with peak water recreation activities. They are not good swimmers and will migrate to the surface to optimize the chance of finding a suitable host. Wind and currents may carry them up to four miles.

The cercariae may not penetrate the skin until after the bather leaves the water, often causing a slight tingling sensation. The body's natural defenses soon kill them, but they may continue to cause irritation. Not all of us (30 – 40%) will experience the irritation. Small children playing in shallow water are most susceptible because of the alternate wetting and drying of the skin. Arms, legs and waist areas are most prone to infection.

More information and printable Swimmer's Itch caution signs are available on the [Swimmers Itch Information](#) page of the DNR Website (www.dnr.state.wi.us)

Preventive Measures

Swimming rather than playing or wading in shallow water will reduce exposure. If swimmer's itch is known to be present, avoid swimming when winds are likely to carry cercariae into the beach area. Swim offshore if possible. Vigorous toweling immediately after leaving the water can crush the cercariae before they can penetrate the skin. Some sunscreens and lotions reduce the infections, but nothing is completely effective. There is a product called, Swimmers Itch Guard that contains SPT30 sunscreen and a natural plant chemical that prevents swimmers itch. It can be ordered online at: SwimmersItchGuard.com and will be available after May 1, 2010. The manufacturer says that it is safe for children and lake ecology.

There is no effective way to eliminate swimmer's itch from beaches. Attempts to kill cercariae or their snail hosts are ineffective because cercariae are capable of swimming or drifting out of treated areas. The type of beach site (sandy, rocky or weedy) makes no difference. Host snails inhabit them all. Historically used chemical treatment for swimmer's itch is not likely to be permitted in lakes today. Treatments to kill snails are very harsh and may kill non-target species and contaminate bottom sediments. Anyone wishing to chemically treat a beach must obtain a permit from DNR.

Feeding ducks may complicate the problem. Waterfowl are an important host for the parasite and new occurrences seem to be associated with attracting and feeding ducks. In recent years, Koshere explained, there have been experimental attempts to treat the host birds with veterinary medicines to hopefully rid the host birds of the parasite before it can infect the snail population. Success has been variable and this procedure is considered impractical on a lake-wide scale in Wisconsin.

"It's best to regard swimmer's itch like mosquitos, wood ticks and deer flies." Koshere said. Often these pests are signs of a healthy and diverse environment and they shouldn't discourage us from enjoying the outdoors.

[FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Frank Koshere \(715 392-0807 or Jim Bishop \(715 635-4242](#)

POLAR BEARS AND WISCONSIN TREES

By Kathy Bartilson, DNR

Did you know that planting trees in Wisconsin could help polar bears? The Wisconsin DNR has teamed up with Polar Bears International, a non-profit organization, for a 10-year project to encourage Wisconsinites to plant and care for trees on their land and in their communities. Though it might not seem obvious at first, planting trees in Wisconsin helps conserve polar bear habitat in the arctic. Trees act as "carbon sinks" and absorb carbon out of the air and convert it into plant material. Trees sequester this carbon in roots, trunks, stems and leaves while they grow, and in wood products after they are harvested. That means planting trees, whether in a rural or an urban setting, helps reduce carbon in the atmosphere. Less carbon in the atmosphere means better conditions to retain Arctic ice longer and to improve polar bear habitat and survival. For more information about this project visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/PolarBear/> . To learn more about Polar Bears International's conservation through research and education projects, go to: <http://polarbearsinternational.org/> .

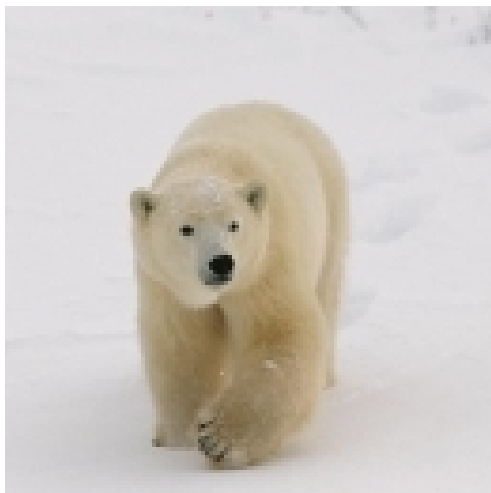


Photo provided from Polar Bears International

At the lakeshore, replanting our buffers also benefits wildlife, habitat, aesthetics, and water quality. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources sells nursery stock for reforestation purposes including **Shoreland Restoration Packets**. Packets contain a mix of 100 conifers and hardwoods and 200 shrubs. A number of other packets which focus on windbreaks, savannah creation, or developing habitat for songbirds and turkeys also are available. To learn more or to place an order visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Forestry/Nursery/> . Packet orders

are accepted through lifting season (April or May in the north) or until sold out. To check on availability of packets after April 1, contact the Hayward Nursery at 715-634-2717.

Our Love Affair with Lakes: 12th Annual Northwest Lakes Conference

Well known state wildlife expert and regular Wisconsin Public radio guest, Scott Craven, will kick off this year's Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference on Friday, June 18th, at the Telemark Resort and Conference Center in Cable, WI.

This year's programs will feature several state and regional experts addressing the economics of invasive species, the science behind shoreland buffers, and invasive species containment strategies. Other presentations include low water issues, lake management, lake history, and updates on the state's new shoreland rules.

There will also be an on-water educational opportunity to learn about lake science during a Pontoon Classroom on Thursday, June 17th, the day before the conference. Local resource managers and citizens will share what makes lakes tick on Namekagon Lake during the day-long field trip. Registration is required and space is limited.

The Northwest Lakes Conference is a great opportunity to network with area lake group representatives, volunteers, local decision-makers, and other lake enthusiasts. Exhibits will also be on-hand showcasing local conservation groups' projects and resources.

Registration information

Educational exhibits will open at 7:30 AM, and the program concludes at 3:00 PM. The \$45 registration fee includes admission, conference materials, refreshments, and lunch. Pontoon Classroom registration is an additional \$15, including lunch. Registration is due by June 14.

For more information and to register, contact the Tim Kane 1-715-373-6104 extension 254 or Karen Bade at extension 245.

For conference details or to access printable registration brochures go to:

www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/bayfield

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Totogatic River by Russ Robinson, March 2010

Contacts to protect lakes and rivers

“We need more than ever to provide what help we can to protect our lakes and rivers from environmentally damaging activities. Keep your eyes open! We are the last line of defense! But **do not trespass** to obtain further information. Let those in authority check it out.”

DNR Water Regulation Violations and Information:

Dan Harrington (Water Management Specialist, Spooner Office).....715-635-4097

Jon Hagen (Conservation Warden for Southern Washburn County).....715-635-4099

Dave Swanson (Conservation Warden for Northern Washburn County).....715-466-5428

If wardens are in the field, messages can be related to them through the Washburn County Sheriff's Department at 715-468-4720 or at the DNR's toll-free tip line.....1-800-TIP-WDNR (847-9367)

County Shoreland Zoning Questions or Violations:

Web Macomber (Zoning Administrator).....715-468-4690

County Planning, Land/Water Resource Management:

Brad Robole (Director).....715-468-4654