

Round the Lake

Round Lake Property Owners Association

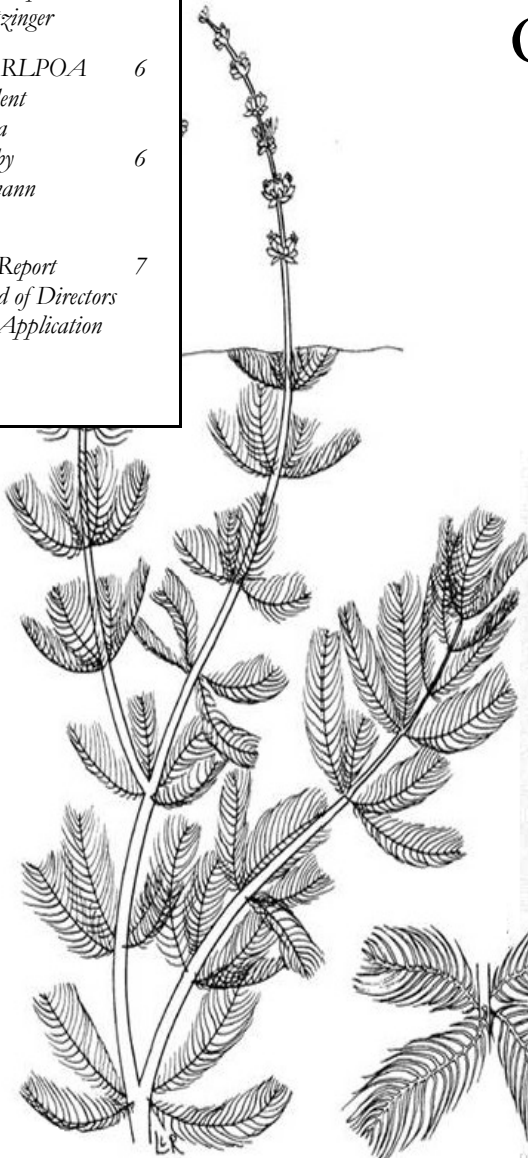
Spring 2009

www.roundthelake.com

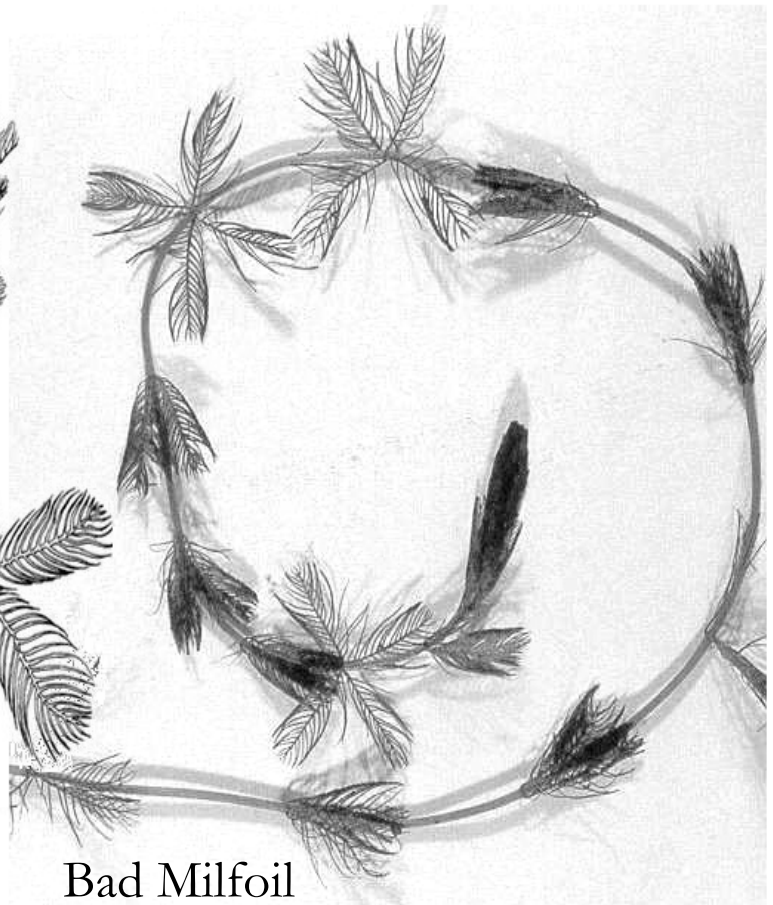
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Mark your Calendars
Important Meeting!
On June 27th, 9:00 A.M.
at
Town of Round Lake
Town Hall



Good Milfoil



Bad Milfoil

Round & Little Round Lakes Water Level Update

By Tom Kintzinger RLPOA VP & Secretary

May 31, 2009

RLPOA is not in the information communication network with the WDNR and Sawyer County. We never have been. Little has happened to the best of our knowledge over the winter.

There may be some upcoming WDNR public notices over Placid Diversion Canal and vacating or modifying 1941 PSC Order which governs Round Lake water levels.

Current Water Level

Round & Little Round Lakes are at most at 1344 feet or lower right now about a foot lower than authorized level. This is due mainly to drought but also exacerbated by present Carlson Dam management. At this time (June 1, 2009) navigation between Little Round & Round Lake is almost impossible with larger boats and may be threatened with small to medium boats.

Placid Diversion Canal

Minutes from Land & Water Conservation Committee May 2009 state the WDNR will be forthcoming within 30 days with a "permit" apparently to abandon the Placid Diversion Canal.

It is understood that there will be a public notice in the newspaper concerning this permit to abandon Placid Diversion Canal and at that time a "public hearing" can be requested and may or may not be granted.

The Placid Diversion Canal is the only source of surface water flowing into Round Lake. We do understand that Tiger Cat flowage raises the overall water table and also enhances surface flow from a wetland between Tiger Cat Flowage and Round Lake which joins the diversion canal downstream of the Placid Canal Dam.

Our concern is the WDNR/County firm and absolute requirements that Carlson Dam Diversion Canal to Osprey Lake maintain "minimum flow" when the only source of surface water into Round Lake will be abandoned or stopped if Placid Diversion Canal and Dam are abandoned and blocked completely.

It is also argued that the amount of water passing thru Placid Diversion Canal is minimal something about 1 or 2% of total water each year. This is unclear what this means or how accurate this statement is but it is RLPOA opinion that over a several year period that the amount of water added to Round Lake thru the leakage at Placid Diversion Canal Dam is not inconsequential. It could be stated that this water leaking thru and passing thru the Placid Diversion Canal is the "minimum flow" adding water to Round Lake system.

Another argument being used to close the Placid Diversion Canal is invasive species spread but this is an unsubstantiated statement. Almost 60 years of experience with Placid Diversion Canal does not indicate any invasive spread into Round Lake system.

A third argument to close the Placid Diversion Canal is water quality. Tiger Cat Flowage is tannic acid colored but in our opinion the water quality is otherwise excellent.

We believe that The Tiger Cat Flowage resident association leaders want to stop all water flowing into Round Lake so that Tiger Cat Flowage water level is higher. It's our opinion that the County just wants to have one less dam to take care of and the WDNR in general is in a long term dam abandonment mind set.

NN Culverts

We presume the NN Culverts will be lowered if LCO agrees nominally based on wild rice considerations. This will increase the chance of lower water upstream. Specifically Osprey Lake, Round & Little Round Lake are upstream of NN culverts.

Thunderbird Road Culverts

The Thunderbird Road culverts (natural outlet Little Round) have been replaced with a larger culvert and adjusted to a lower elevation. This also increases the chance of lower water upstream.

Carlson Dam

We don't know if Sawyer County still wants to build a new similar sized dam at Carlson Road. It is our opinion that this will not change the water level either during high or low water. We think that a functionally equivalent new dam is a waste of money unless the present dam at Carlson Road is not safe. The proposed new dam will have a V notch to maintain minimum flow. The dam is the same width as present dam and dam sill level has not been stated. If any new dam sill

Round & Little....Continued on page 3

WEBSITE UPDATE

Website address is www.roundthelake.com or www.rlpoa.net

So far in 2009 thru May 31, 2009 there have been 14750 unique visits to our website. This is up about 50% from last year.

In 2008 there were a total of 23,384 unique visits.

In 2007 there were a total of 23,515 unique visits.

A trend is developing where there is more website activity in early spring around ice out time. Low website activity appears to be in late summer.

Website Administrator

Tom Kintzinger

Round & Little....Continued from page 2

level is lower than about 1344 feet (current sill level) then the chance of lower water is increased.

Sawyer County & 1941 PSC Order

Sawyer County top concern is liability if water gets too high because of the 1941 PSC Order which has a top regulatory level of 1345 feet or 77.25 feet local datum. Round Lake has been above this elevation many times over the last several decades. Consequently Sawyer County wants to vacate 1941 Order or at least modify it to reduce management liability. RLPOA is in agreement with Sawyer County goal to reduce their management liability but is not in favor of abandoning 1941 PSC but to modify it. If the 1941 Order is abandoned it is our opinion that there will never be a dam again at Carlson Road and that all low water protection will be lost forever on Round & Little Round Lakes.

Sawyer County has been managing Round Lake at about 1344.25 feet or at least 9 inches below top range of 1941 PSC Order. This is due to insurance/County payout to Hausman over high water law suit a few years back. The WDNR has supported this new management level because of the inadequacy of present dam to tightly regulate water level at 1941 PSC levels and their predisposition to abandon dams.

Minimum flow was also dusted off by the WDNR to support lower water management on Round Lake when this was never used in many preceding decades on Round Lake.

WDNR & 100 Year Flood Levels

WDNR also approved 100 year flood levels on Osprey, Round & Little Round Lakes in late spring 2007 to eliminate the wider dam solution (about 20 feet versus 10 feet now) proposed by Short Elliot Engineering (Sawyer Co. Engineering Firm) in early spring of 2007. These 100 year flood levels were most likely prematurely locally approved to influence the Round Lake Management Task Force to the bias of certain DNR officials. These flood levels were based on non compliant NN culverts, temporary obstacles-beaver dams, obstructing undersized culverts by Thunderbird Road outlet and non maintained silted in channel downstream of Carlson Dam.

It is our opinion that the initial early spring 2007 SEH wider dam solution was the best overall compromise for Round Lake system.

If Carlson Dam is officially abandoned with 1941 PSC Order being vacated then there most likely will never be another dam again on Round Lake or active management. Its uncertain if dam sill will be removed depending on what Carlson Dam is classified as - either Big or Small Dam.

Sedimentation Study done some years ago show increase in sediment over last couple of decades which may be to in-

creased development and exacerbated by occasional high water.

Political

RLPOA recently did go before Sawyer County Lakes Forum but was unable to get any statement either for or against RLPOA position. Contacting WI State Senator Jauch & Representative Sherman up to this point have not been productive.

We understand that the LCO tribe wants to maintain some minimum flow and does not want any significant changes in historical management.

RLPOA Position

At this point RLPOA wants to support modifying the 1941 PSC Order but not vacating it. We want to help in minimizing Sawyer County liability. We are in support of similar historical water levels on Round Lake since the Carlson Dam was constructed. We are in support of actively managing Round Lake at 1344.75 to 1345 feet with the understanding that the lake level may temporarily go above and below these levels by up to a foot each way. RLPOA believes that continued active management is in the best interest of the public use/access, navigation, fishery, property values, tax revenue, and tourism. We are in support of reasonable minimum flow both coming into and out of Round & Little Round Lakes. If a larger dam recommended by Sawyer County Engineering firm SEH in spring 2007 is not possible then replacing present dam with identical sized new structure may not be necessary unless the present dam is deteriorated beyond repair or unsafe.

RLPOA does have some financial resources and we do not want to use them prematurely.

RLPOA may initiate a petition signed by any interested parties indicating support for continued active management of Round & Little Round Lakes at historic water levels with modification of 1941 PSC Order (to minimize County liability) and no Carlson Dam abandonment.

For more information or updates please visit our website www.roundthelake.com

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Water Safety

By Jack Ardoyno, Chair of Water Safety

Greetings to all from the sunny shores of Round Lake. Here's hoping everyone has a wonderful time on the Lake this summer.

I would like to reiterate a few common sense rules to enhance your enjoyment of the Lake this year..

General Rules

1. Do not drink while driving a boat. You can be given a breathalyzer test.
2. Do not litter the water or the shore.
3. Do not allow anyone to ride on boat gunwales, seat tops, backs or sides, or on the deck over the bow while underway.
4. All motorboats must stay at least 100 feet away from other objects such as shore, docks or rafts while at any speed above slow-no wake.
5. Observe shallow or no-wake buoys. Stay between the red and green buoys at the entrance to Richardson Bay. The red and green buoys mark the navigable channel into Hinton Bay, which also must be traversed at no-wake speed. A new no-wake zone has also been established around the north side of the island in Leder Bay. Another hazardous channel (to boat bottoms) is the entrance to Schoolhouse Bay. Be extremely careful here. I would also like to note that the buoys are not a guarantee of sufficient water. The Lake has been low and fluctuates. So continue to keep a sharp lookout even when traversing between buoys.
6. Divers will mark their activities with a red flag with diagonal stripe (most common) or an orange flag. Give them a wide berth of at least 100 feet.
7. Generally the boat on the right side has right of way. Boats with water skiers, tubers, etc. have the right of way over other motor craft. Non powered boats (paddle boats, sailboats, canoes) have right of way over motor craft.
8. Make sure your boat has current registration if it needs it. You may check the DNR website: www.dnr.state.wi.us for information on this and any other questions you may have about boating rules.
9. The general definition of night is between sunset and sunrise. This applies to use of lights (normally red and green bow position lights and a white stern light visible for two miles) and night prohibited activity such as tubing and waterskiing.
10. Every watercraft must have a certified personal flotation device (PFD) on board for each person on the water craft.

Water Skiing and Tubing

1. Do not tow a skier, tuber, etc. unless you have a competent person, in addition to the operator, in position to observe the activity of the person being towed.
2. The person being towed, as well as the towboat, may not come within 100 feet of any boat, shore, raft or dock.

Common Citation Causes

1. Personal Watercraft (PWC's, also known as Jet Skis or Wave Runners) violations.
2. Failure to provide sufficient PFD's.
3. Operating without necessary registration.
4. Operating while under the influence of alcohol.
5. Towing a person without a competent observer.
6. Operating a motor craft within 100 feet of other boats, docks, rafts or the shore.

Age Restrictions

1. No person under the age of 10 may operate a motorboat.
2. No person under the age of 12 may operate a PWC.
3. Persons between the ages of 12 and 16 may operate a PWC or motorboat unaccompanied if they have completed the boating safety course and achieved their boating license.
4. Persons between the ages of 10 and 12 may operate a motorboat, but not a PWC, if accompanied by a person at least 18 years of age.
5. Persons between the ages of 12 and 16 who do not have a boating license may operate a motorboat, but not a PWC, under the supervision of someone over the age of 18.
6. There are two options for the boating safety course. You may take the course online at www.boatingbasicsonline.com or in a classroom with an instructor. Contact the local DNR office at 634-2688 or the website for dates of classroom instruction.
7. People over the age of 16 with a valid driver's license may operate any watercraft without taking the boating safety course, although it is still recommended.
8. All boaters are accountable for knowing and abiding by boating safety regulations.

It is not as much fun dwelling on the negative-don't do's of boating as it is enjoying the many positive aspects of boating activities on Round Lake. I hope that these tips help you to enjoy your boating summer without a costly citation or worse, a serious boating accident.

I would like to offer profound Thanks! to our great friends at Round Lake Marina. They have graciously offered the use of one of their barges (as well as the services of their chief mechanic) for the last three years in taking out and putting in the buoys on the Lake. Please consider patronizing them when you need boating supplies and services. Thanks again to Cathy, Mark and Duke.



2009 Milfoil Report

By Tom Kintzinger RLPOA VP & Secretary

In 2009 RLPOA Board has contracted with Dan Tyrolt an engineer by training who also works with The LCO tribe. He will be helping us with Sawyer County/WDNR coordination, lake surveys and GPS mapping of Eurasian Milfoil on Round & Little Round Lake. Periodic evaluations will be done this summer to determine efficacy of chemical treatment being done this spring.

RLPOA has contracted with Northern Aquatics Services operated by Dale Dressel from Dresser, WI. We have signed a contract to treat up to 12.5 acres of Eurasian Milfoil this spring if our *Permit Application for Chemical Aquatic Plant Control* is approved by WDNR.

Chemical treatment could cost up to \$8062.50. The WDNR permit application fee was \$365.0 which included \$90 for Little Round and \$275 for Big Round Lake.

3+ acres of Milfoil treatment is being proposed for Little Round and 9.0+ acres on Big Round Lake.

The RLPOA Board has also finished paperwork on getting reimbursed by the WDNR for the *Aquatic Plant Management* (APM) Study over the last two years which cost about \$20,000 in total. We had a 50% grant with WDNR that will reimburse us up

to \$9900.0. John Otterlei RLPOA Treasurer was instrumental in getting all of the receipts together. We anticipate a check from the WDNR sometime in June of 2009. This APM plan is being implemented by the RLPOA Board and consultant Dan Tyrolt is assisting. This APM study will help us in managing lake quality and facilitate WDNR grant monies for controlling invasive species.

Kristi Maki (715-638-3287) an employee of Sawyer County also is assisting RLPOA on Eurasian Milfoil Control and other water quality concerns. Her position is funded 75% by the WDNR. She works out of the Land & Water Department. Kristi and Dan Tyrolt were instrumental in getting our WDNR permit application for milfoil treatment completed.

We want to thank Kristi and Dan for their help.

RLPOA now understands that future Milfoil treatments may be 75% covered by the WDNR with application deadlines on February and August 1 of each year. The WDNR recommends that we have an application in for 2010 Milfoil treatment on August 1, 2009 to maximize chances of reimbursement. Last date for WDNR grant application for treating milfoil in 2010 is February 1, 2010.

WDNR classifies Eurasian Milfoil as either preexisting or new. If there is a

new outbreak of milfoil then there is no application deadline to meet because new outbreaks want to be treated by WDNR as soon as possible. The August 1 and February 1 deadlines apply for preexisting milfoil. Most of the Eurasian Milfoil in Round & Little Round lakes is preexisting.

RLPOA has also learned that WDNR will reimburse RLPOA for volunteer time at the rate of \$8.00 per hour so we need to start keeping track of all volunteer time on water quality issues.

Adopt A Shoreline program now has about 25 volunteers and we need to have volunteer time information to get reimbursed by WDNR. This volunteer time money will be used to pay for the 25% of chemical treatment not covered by the WDNR grants. Any time spent on water quality is eligible including shoreline inspection, boat milfoil surveys, information dissemination, water quality meetings and public education etc.

Present WDNR Milfoil treatment grants make the need for a tax district on Round Lake much less. RLPOA has the responsibility to make sure we meet all WDNR grant requirements including timely applications. If for some reason this Milfoil treatment grant money were to stop then a tax district to fund milfoil treatment may become necessary in the future.

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Letters from RLPO Board of Director Members

President Letter by Bob Strachota

Dear Property Owners,

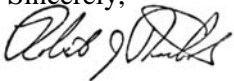
The board has been busy this Winter and Spring with milfoil treatment. There are over 12.5 acres of new milfoil that are being treated in June. The full lake study which was completed in 2008 at a cost of approximately \$20,000 is already paying off. The D.N.R. will allow us to treat the new outbreaks as well as continue treatment throughout the Fall.

We recently received reimbursement from the Wisconsin D.N.R. for ½ of the cost of our Lake Study. Our strategy for managing milfoil has been effective thus far and we must never lapse in our commitment to keep Round Lake from being permanently infested with milfoil. Please note that whenever we refer to milfoil in Round Lake this includes Little Round Lake also.

The water level of the lake remains low when compared to early 2000. To refresh your memory, RLPOA wants to support modifying the 1941 PSC Order but not vacating it. The lake association has not been kept in the information network with the WDNR and Sawyer County. We do our best to stay on top of this issue and I encourage you to read the enclosed update by Tom Kintzinger.

Thank you again for your support. We are always in need of more volunteers on the Board and for the committee positions. I am grateful for all the hard work contributed by our current Board and Committee Members.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Strachota
President, RLPOA

Fish Committee by Alan Reinemann

A combination of drought and trout seems to me to have knocked down one of my favorite fish to catch and eat, the perch. Although the lake levels are still low, after a few years of declining numbers in the perch population it appears they're coming back, both in numbers and size.

This past winter the turn around was evident during our ice fishing season, and we were finally able to put some fillets in the pan! Using a dark shack and fishing right on the bottom was the key. Instead of waxies and suckers the smallest treble hook you can find and a bb split shot out fished anything else we tried. Letting a crappie minnow lay flat on the bottom without a bobber, or jigging triggered the bigger fish. Fishing inside a dark shack on a bright sunny day in 13 to 17 of water tells the story of what kind of fish this lake is producing. Peering in the hole you could watch the action.

This spring the action has been slow at times, but some 30 plus northern have fallen to the fillet knife. A nice open water perch hit on a walleye sucker, and small mouth action have brought some tales to tell. Take the time to spend some time on the water and I know you'll have fish stories too!

Happy Fishing,

Alan Reinemann

Photo provided by Mary Reinemann



Membership Report

Potential membership.....635

2008 Paid Members.....384

This is down from our previous record year 2007 of 405

2009 membership to date.....62

We received a fair amount of milfoil contributions this year.
See treasurers report for the amount.

RLPOA Board of Directors

Bob Strachota.....President
Tom Kintzinger.....Vice President & Secretary
John Otterlei.....Treasurer
Dan Kollodge.....(Co-Chair) Water Quality
Frank Tyson.....(Co-Chair) Water Quality
Jack Ardoyno.....Chair of Water Safety
Mary Reinemann.....(Co-Chair) Fish Committee
Wally Narr.....(Co-Chair) Membership
Jim Tiffany.....(Co-Chair) Membership

Round Lake Property Owners Association Inc.

Membership Application

I am interested in helping one of the following committees:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government Awareness | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish | <input type="checkbox"/> News Letter |

2009 Membership Dues \$25

Round Lake Property
Owners Association

PO Box 1070

Hayward, W I54843

Please mail to the above address

Make checks payable to RLPOA

Last Name

First Name

Spouse's Name

Mailing Address

Announcing an Important Meeting!
On June 27th
at
Town of Round Lake Town Hall
at 9:00 A.M.

Round Lake Property Owners Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1070
Hayward, WI 54843-4048

