

Round the lake

Nov 2010

Fall 2010

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Letter from the President

Dear Property Owner,

This past Summer and Fall have been busy for the Lake Association. In addition to our normal activities, the Lake Association successfully resolved a misunderstanding between the Association and Sawyer County. The Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) secured by RLPOA has been settled with both parties agreeing to work together in evaluating an appropriate water level management plan. RLPOA's special task force of Bill Cadogan and Jim Purdin negotiated a settlement to go forward in a partnership with the County rather than a fight in the court system. RLPOA owes these men a debt of gratitude because now the Association can use its resources for positive efforts instead of a sinkhole of litigation. Read further in the newsletter for a more detailed explanation by Jim Purdin.

Every year milfoil rears its ugly head and RLPOA calls out the chemical experts to kill it. Thankfully the milfoil problem is under control on Round Lake. But for a host of reasons, milfoil will return every year so RLPOA must adopt a permanent financial strategy to eradicate it annually. In a sense, RLPOA must develop a permanent endowment plan which funds the money needed annually.

The Board is considering a special tax district program whereby all Round Lake property owners would pay \$25 to \$35/year to fund a current budget to \$15,000 to \$20,000 annually. There is some State of Wisconsin grant money available on a periodic basis which will help fund milfoil needs. But the sporadic nature of grant money is not sufficient to rely on for regular maintenance of this weed. Initial consultation with legal counsel indicates that the special milfoil tax fund would not be in jeopardy for use in other non-Round Lake purposes i.e. township road projects.

Please give us your feedback about the idea of a "special taxing district". Enjoy Round Lake this Winter. It is as beautiful in the Winter as it is in the Summer! Stay off the ice until it is solid. Thank you for your continued support of the RLPOA Board.

Sincerely,



Bob Strachota
RLPOA President



Summary of Membership Meeting Minutes 2010.10.16

www.roundthelake.com

This newsletter is also available electronically.

Sign up for email distribution by sending an email to:

carlscheider@hotmail.com
Many thanks.

The official meeting minutes for Oct. 16, 2010, are on the RLPOA website. This is a brief summary.

Temporary Restraining Order / TRO

In July, the Board approved the filing of a temporary restraining order to prevent Sawyer County from transferring the land occupied by the culverts under NN to the LCO. The purpose of the lawsuit was to prevent the Sawyer County Board from foreclosing options for management of the lake level in the future. The RLPOA Board did not unanimously support the lawsuit, and some members also felt that it was not appropriate.

Jim Purdin presented a summary of the history of the water level management problem and discussion to date. See his report later in this newsletter. The County Clerk and a

Summary of Membership Meeting Minutes 2010.10.16 cont.

County Commissioner were present for the first part of the meeting. They were very open to exploring an outcome that would be beneficial to all parties. They clearly want to get this issue resolved. They also stated that the Sawyer County board has no animosity towards the RLPOA.

There was considerable discussion regarding the lawsuit. The Association spent \$19,000 in legal fees from the legal defense fund, which is now nearly depleted. No general fund monies were used. Members made several motions to rescind the lawsuit, or modify it, but these were not supported by the members present. The general opinion was that the lawsuit should remain in place in order to provide bargaining power with the County Board.

In fact, the lawsuit did reach a settlement on Nov. 10. An excerpt from the Sawyer County News:

“Sawyer County Board members and the Round Lake Property Owners Association (RLPOA) have begun to work toward a solution on long-simmering water management issues following the dismissal of a lawsuit last week. On the motion of the RLPOA and the county, and with the concurrence of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe, Judge Gerald Wright on Nov. 1 approved a stipulation and order to dismiss a lawsuit brought by RLPOA seeking to stop the county from transferring a portion of Highway NN to the LCO Tribe.”

Board Membership

There was discussion regarding Board membership. The bylaws only permit 9 members, and the current size is 10. Two members were added at the Spring meeting, but this normally only occurs at the Fall Meeting.

The terms of board members Bob Strachota, Jim Tiffany, and Jack Ardoyno expired. Jim Tiffany and Jack Ardoyno did not seek reelection. Bob Strachota stated that he would seek election for one more term, and the members appointed in the Spring stood for election. The voting results elected Bob Strachota to the 2 year term, and Jim Purdin, Bill Codogan and Jack Gardner to 3 year terms. Jack Gardner was named the chairman of the water safety committee.

Many thanks to the Round Lake Marina for assisting with the buoys each year. They also paid for the dredging under County Rd. B to maintain the connection between the lakes.

Please thank them with your business.

Resolution of Water Level Management Plan Gains Momentum—Jim Purdin

2010 has been a busy and eventful year with respect to the resolution of the long-standing issues impacting the development and implementation of a new system to better manage the water level in our lakes. The stage is set for a comprehensive plan to be completed and for the initial steps to be taken to implement the plan next year.

Issues related to the culverts at Highway NN come to a head

The Culverts that carry Osprey Creek under County Highway NN were recognized by the Round Lake Task Force in 2007 to restrict the flow of water during periods of high water. Therefore, the Task Force's plan called for lowering them to the natural streambed of the creek. At their November, 2007 meeting, the Sawyer County Board approved a plan that included applying to the DNR for a permit to do the work necessary to lower the culverts as specified by the Task Force Plan. That permit was approved in March 2008, but the project never moved to the implementation phase.

This past spring, the DNR requested that the County move forward with the project or, alternatively, apply for a permit to categorize the culverts as a dam. With the DNR stepping up their enforcement efforts, the county passed a resolution in July to transfer jurisdiction to the LCO tribe of the section of highway NN that includes the culverts, effective August 1.

RLPOA takes action to stop the transfer plan

Members of the RLPOA board saw this transfer of jurisdiction as a significant complication to the resolution of the culvert issue at NN and felt that if the transfer were completed as planned, it would put the implementation of a comprehensive water level management plan in jeopardy. As a result, the board approved taking legal action to stop the transfer. Sawyer County Judge Gerald Wright saw merit to our case and granted a temporary restraining order preventing the county from moving ahead with the jurisdiction transfer.

RLPOA seeks to find common ground with Sawyer County and the DNR

Immediately following the judge's decision to grant a temporary restraining order, RLPOA board members initiated discussions with officials at both the county and the DNR to share information and ideas in an effort to move the dialog out of the courtroom and into a cooperative environment where all parties impacted would be able to work together to develop and implement a new water level management system that served the best interests of everyone.

At the same time, Sawyer county officials reacted to the temporary restraining order by elevating the priority of and reenergizing their efforts to complete the overall process that was started by the Task Force in 2007.

RLPOA and Sawyer County reach agreement

As discussions between the county officials and RLPOA board members progressed, it became clear that both parties had similar views regarding the issues and constraints inherent in the watershed and shared a common goal of creating a new system that would provide as much control of water levels as possible while protecting the lakes against the potential damaging effects of both high and low water. As a result, RLPOA reached an agreement with the county in early November whereby the case was dismissed. The key points of the agreement are:

- The county will move ahead in an expeditious manner with technical discussions involving their engineering consultants along with RLPOA, the DNR, the LCO tribe, and other interested parties. The goal of these discussions will be to obtain consensus on water level management procedures, control structures, and related technical issues involving Round Lake and the downstream water bodies.
- Sawyer County will not transfer ownership, jurisdiction, or control of the segment of Highway NN at Osprey Creek to the LCO.

The complete agreement is available on the RLPOA website at www.roundthelake.com

What to expect going forward

We are very pleased with the rapport and the level of cooperation that has been developed this summer with both the county and the DNR and look forward to developing a similar relationship with officials of the LCO tribe.

While it is unlikely that we will all be in total agreement on every point of every issue, we are highly optimistic that this new cooperative effort will result in a new system for managing the water level on our lakes that will be an improvement over the system currently in place.

While we all share an objective of moving expeditiously, it is difficult to say for certain how long the process will take, given the rather complex issues that need resolution. We would like to think that by the end of 2011, we will have a plan in place and will have begun implementation. We expect significant ground to have been covered by our June general membership meeting and look forward to providing a full update at that time. We will also post updates of meaningful progress on the website.

Some like it high, some like it low

Management of the water levels on our lakes has been an emotionally charged issue of much debate for far longer than the nearly 70 years since the Public Service Commission issued the 1941 order. Depending on the waterfront at your property, you may prefer the water level to be either high or low. The system currently in place has resulted in fluctuation of approximately 2 feet over the years, hitting highs and lows in the range several times since the Carlson Road dam was put into operation.

Drought conditions such as we experienced in the few years prior to this year will be impossible to mitigate with any management system we may develop. Quite simply, we are dependent on precipitation to maintain water levels at or around "normal" levels. Conversely, if the Hayward area were ever to experience severe rain events similar to those that have caused catastrophic flooding in other parts of the US in recent years, we could experience damaging floods and a prolonged period of very high water as constraints inherent to our watershed will not allow for rapid evacuation. Mother nature can be cruel.

As we work with the County, the LCO tribe and the DNR, we will strive to find a system that:

- Allows for safe, easy navigation of powerboats throughout Round and Little Round lakes.
- Provides a waterfront for property owners that allows safe, easy access to the lake for recreational purposes.
- Provides as much stability to the water level as possible.
- Minimizes the risk of damage to our lakes, shoreline, and property due to low water, high water, flooding, and invasive species of plant and marine life.
- Protects our water quality at a very high level.
- Maintains an ecosystem that promotes a healthy fishery and habitat for wildlife.
- Protects the cultural history of our lake and the northwoods environment that we all cherish.

We welcome your comments. You may send them to jspurdin@yahoo.com or call Jim Purdin at 608-835-8242.

If you'd like to read more about the factors affecting the water level on our lakes, visit the RLPOA website at www.roundthelake.com and click on *Purdin water control summary* dated 10/16/2010.

Fish Committee Report by Al Reinemann

We have once again received a matching funds grant from Walleyes For North Western Wisconsin to purchase an additional 70 fish cribs. We will be building these in the spring of 2011. This organization has been very supportive of the fishery in Round Lake. It would be great for all who can to support their efforts, and one way you can do that is to participate in their ice fishing tournament which is held on Lac Courte Oreilles every winter. It's a great time to be out on the ice with a whole community of fishermen, have a chance to win some great prizes and enjoy the fellowship of families, friends and neighbors that come out

that day. Watch the paper for the date of this year's event.

We had stocking in 2009 by the LCO Conservation Department, and according to the DNR some natural reproduction is also occurring to bring up the walleye numbers. During the recent survey by the DNR most of the captured walleyes were on the northern shoreline. In 4.5 miles of shoreline the capture rate was 43 walleyes per mile. In 2 to 3 years these fish will be keeper size!

The number of large mouth bass showing up this past summer could have an impact on those young walleyes. We know that large mouth bass

in Nelson Lake and the Chippewa Flowage are not a welcome predator when you are trying to improve the walleye numbers. Both lakes are trying to do something to curb the number of large mouth. We may need to take a similar stance towards slowing the numbers of this hungry predator as well.

There is still some open water out there and a few brave fisherman have been on the musky hunt. Soon we will be iced over and the next season of fishing will begin. Be sure to get out there and enjoy some time on the water.

Water Safety Report / Batteries by Jack Gardner

Deep cycle lead-acid batteries are used on a boat for house batteries and trolling motors and other applications where there is a low current use over a long period. This is in contrast to a *starting battery* which is short period and very high current. This article is about the *deep cycle battery*.

The state of charge of a battery can be measured accurately with a hydrometer but more easily and sufficiently accurate by measuring the voltage. There are two methods of measuring voltage: with a load or without a load.

The most accurate is without a load after the battery is charged and then rested 24 hours with no use. The state of charge is: 100% = 12.6+ volts, 75% = 12.4v, 50% = 12.2v, 25% = 12v, 0% = 11.7v. If a 24 hour rest is not available then as long as possible will still give usable results.

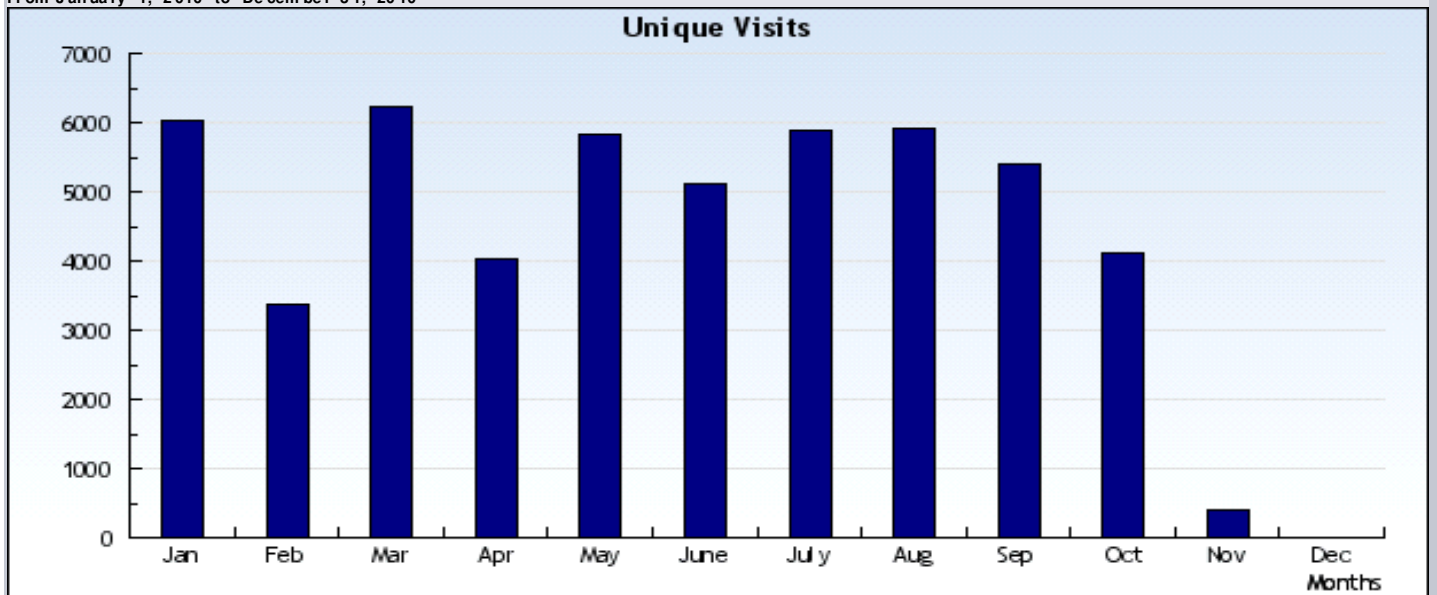
For best battery life the charger should be a four stage type going to near zero charging when the battery is fully charged and hold it at 13.4 volts; this is called float stage. For deep cycle batteries the 4th step is the

critical one to get maximum amp-hours and life cycles; it is called equalizing and is done after a full charge. This step initiated by you and is done one to several times per year depending on usage. Equalizing raises the charging voltage to ~16 volts for up to 8 hours (follow manufacturer directions) causing the water to 'boil' and cleaning the plates (**never** do this to a starting battery or AGM or gel battery and disconnect all other boat devices to avoid damage).

Website Activity 2010.10

<http://www.roundthelake.com>

From January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010



RLPOA Financial Status	12 Mo's Ended		9 Mo's Ended
	Dec 31, 2008 (unaudited)	Dec 31, 2009 (unaudited)	Sep 30, 2010 (unaudited)
Statement of Income			
Contributions			
Membership Fees	\$ 9,606	\$ 9,015	\$ 9,020
Milfoil Fund	8,950	9,138	8,075
Sponsorships	850	900	250
Grants	-	9,900	-
Water Level Defense	200	-	100
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Donations	180	-	-
Noncash Contributions	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 19,786</u>	<u>\$ 28,953</u>	<u>\$ 17,445</u>
Expenses			
Accounting & Legal	2,500	300	300
Advertising	367	-	59
Amortization of Intangibles	48,767	48,767	36,575
Bank Charges	-	24	65
Crib Expense	-	2,445	2,000
Dues & Subscription	360	370	410
Equipment			
Rental/Maintenance	54	216	-
Fish Stocking Expense	-	-	-
Gift Certificates	600	-	-
Insurance - Business	-	956	956
Licenses & Permits	28	-	365
Milfoil Expense	18,035	14,064	12,814
Newsletters	1,370	1,465	891
Postage	1,036	910	1,030
Supplies			470
Sub Contract Labor	-	155	6,420
Telephone	399	-	51
Town Hall Expense	150	-	-
Water Level Defense	<u>3,161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,027</u>
Total	<u>\$ 76,827</u>	<u>\$ 69,672</u>	<u>\$ 81,432</u>
Operating Income(Loss)	<u>\$ (57,041)</u>	<u>\$ (40,719)</u>	<u>\$ (63,987)</u>
Interest Income	<u>1,112</u>	<u>307</u>	<u>143</u>
Net Income(Loss)	<u>\$ (55,929)</u>	<u>\$ (40,412)</u>	<u>\$ (63,844)</u>
*Cash Basis Net Income(Loss)	<u>\$ (7,162)</u>	<u>\$ 8,355</u>	<u>\$ (27,269)</u>
Statement of Financial Position			
Cash-General Fund	\$ 31,542	\$ 34,708	\$ 37,352
Cash-Milfoil Fund	6,391	11,404	(119)
Cash-Defense Fund	<u>19,272</u>	<u>19,448</u>	<u>1,059</u>
Tangible Assets	\$ 57,205	\$ 65,561	\$ 38,291
Intangibles	<u>662,414</u>	<u>613,647</u>	<u>577,072</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 719,619</u>	<u>\$ 679,208</u>	<u>\$ 615,363</u>

RLPOA Google Group

In the past few months, there has been a lot of discussion between property owners on Round Lake via our Google Group. People have been discussing high and low water, the lawsuit with the County, and many other topics. The group is open to anyone with an interest in Round Lake. You do not need to be a member of the Association. Your membership in this group is entirely under your control. Each email from the group offers an opportunity to unsubscribe. Email addresses from group members are also masked to non-members, so they should not generate any additional spam.

If you would like to participate in these exchanges, either go to the group and request membership, or send an email to the group manager: CarlScheider@hotmail.com. You can find the group here: <http://groups.google.com/group/round-the-lake/about>.

The Association also maintains a website, which is full of information regarding the lake, history, current news, recent rainfall, etc. You will find that at: <http://www.roundthelake.com>.



Highly invasive plant, able to form dense mats near the surface that entangle motor boat propellers and interfere with swimming. Spread by watercraft and trailers.

Milfoil Fund

You will note in the financials that our milfoil fund is depleted. Contributions to that fund would be greatly appreciated to maintain the quality of the lake.



ROUND LAKE MARINA
715-462-3327

Since 1982

**Round Lake Marina specializes in Dock & Lift Sales & Service.
We sell Pier Pleasure, Shoremaster & Shorestation docks and lifts.
Celebrating our 28th year in business.**

Round Lake Oct. 30, 2010 5:49 PM



CECE'S BOOKKEEPING & TAX SERVICE

"YOUR HOURS ARE MY HOURS"

Cece Genrich, Owner
9728 N Haskins Road
Hayward, WI 54843

Highway B East 8 1/2 Miles to Haskins Rd.,
turn right, go 6/10 Mile to a
cedar & brick house on Little Round Lake.

715-634-4428

The Round Lake Property Owners Association wishes to take this opportunity to thank **CECE'S BOOKKEEPING & TAX SERVICE** for volunteering her time and staff providing bookkeeping & accounting services to the association for the past several years. We thank you!

Membership Report

Potential Membership:.....635
Paid Members as of 11/1/2010:.....**356**
Record year of 2007:.....405

The numeral after your name on the address label is the year thru which you are currently paid — i.e. '09 means paid thru 2009, and you have not yet paid for 2010. If there is no numeral behind your name it means you have **never** paid since we have been keeping records. Please consider supporting the RLPOA.

WHY JOIN? Other reports in this newsletter will share how hard the board is working to preserve the quality of our lake. We need your assistance to deal with these major problems:

1. Milfoil maintenance
2. Water level
3. Placid lake dam abandonment
4. Fishing habitat

RLPOA Board of Directors

Bob Strachota	President
Jim Purdin	Vice President
Dan Kollodge	Secretary
.....	Co-chair Water Quality
John Otterlei	Treasurer
Frank Tyson	Co-chair Water Quality
Jack Gardner	Chair Water Safety
Alan Reinemann	Chair Fish Committee
Wally Narr	Chair Membership
Bill Codogan	

We have numerous opportunities to be involved in the work of the Association to protect and enhance our lake. Please let any board member know if you are interested in helping. You are the primary resource we have to maintain our lake quality.



RLPOA Website:

<http://www.roundthelake.com>

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"/> Newsletter |

Membership Dues: \$25

2010 Membership Dues: \$25

- Enclosed are my dues of \$25 for calendar year 2010
- Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$25 for the milfoil fund.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____
Make checks payable to RLPOA

Please mail to:
Round Lake Property Owners
Association
P.O. Box 1070
Hayward WI 54843

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Round Lake Property Owners Association

Membership Meeting

Will be in the Spring

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

