

# Round the lake

OCT 2011

Fall 2011

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## Letter from the President

Dear Association Members,

As we enter the Fall of 2011, I am pleased to report that the Association continues to work with the County and DNR to develop a future Lake Management Plan. Water management is a complicated matter for Round Lake with the added challenge of never knowing for sure what Mother Nature will do. We are fortunate to have experienced substantial rainfall this summer to return the lake to historic levels. It appears that the county is able to provide the financial resources for a new dam, which is yet undetermined in terms of size and function. Your Board will keep you informed as the Lake Management Plan unfolds.

The milfoil issue remains a top priority for the Board. We are committed to an annual plan of eradicating this weed from our lake. Each year we target all known infestations of milfoil with chemicals to kill this weed. But, unfortunately, this plant has a way of rejuvenating itself in our lake every year. As a result, the milfoil problem is a permanent issue that must be funded every year. As a Lake Association we must develop an endowment kind of funding process to make sure adequate financial resources are available to control this stubborn weed. Your Board is considering ways to accomplish this and will keep you advised.

The chemical treatments of the milfoil were changed this year due to the unusual Ph of our lake. Typical chemicals used in the average Wisconsin lake were not 100% effective in Round Lake. So we tried a different chemical this year which was very effective and, of course, more expensive. So the milfoil expense was exceptionally high and will remain so with the use of the recommended treatment. Our current cash flow does not support this higher cost so the idea of a permanent funding source as a separate taxing district may be needed sooner than later.

[www.roundthelake.com](http://www.roundthelake.com)

Please consider getting involved in the Lake Association leadership. Since we have altered nature with development, we must be custodians of the implications caused by development which requires an active and responsible Lake Association.

Thank you for your involvement and financial support. Your Board will continue to look out for the protection of Round Lake.

Best Regards,  
Bob Strachota  
President

P.S. I wish to extend thanks on behalf of the RLPOA to Frank Tyson, Wally Narr and John Ottertei for their generous service to the association. We welcome Tom Kintzinger, Bob Sosnowski and Tom Wolf who will be replacing the retiring Board Members.



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## Water Level Management Update — Jim Purdin

### Water Level Back In Normal Range

The rise in the water level on our Lakes over the past 18 months has been nothing short of amazing. The water level on Round Lake in April 2010 was 1343.35'. About 17 inches below the "normal" level established by the 1941 Public Service Commission Order and one of the lowest levels recorded since the Carlson Road dam was built in 1941.

Above average rainfall in the summer and fall of 2010 brought the level up to 1343.81' heading into last winter. Significant snowfall late last winter led to another bump when the ice went out, resulting in an April 2011 water level of 1344.55', just a couple of inches below "normal".

This summer we saw rainfall slightly above the historical average through July followed by storms that dumped 5 inches of rain on August 1st and 2nd. At that point the water level topped out at 1345.16', slightly above the 1941 PSC Order mandated maximum. This reflected a change of over 21 inches from the spring 2010 low point.

We have since seen the water recede slightly to a level in late September of 1344.74', almost right at the "normal" level established by the 1941 PSC Order.

This incredible recovery was not aided by anyone's efforts to manage or operate elements of the system currently in place. In fact, the stoplogs have been out of the Carlson Road dam throughout this entire time period, allowing water to flow freely out of Little Round Lake into the channel that leads to Osprey Lake. However, downstream obstructions in the channel and in Osprey Creek, including the vibrant vegetative growth in the channel constructed according to the 1941 order, and the presence of beaver dams now appearing semi-permanent, severely restrict flow at levels below 1344.8'. These obstructions have rendered the Carlson Road dam totally inconsequential, with minimal outflow when water is in the normal range even though no stoplogs are in place.

In the short term, assuming we see precipitation near historical averages, the system should work reasonably well to maintain lake levels in the range of the 1941 PSC Order "normal".

### Long Term Plan Still Under Review

Relative to a long term view, we are continuing to study the system and work with Sawyer County and the DNR to develop and implement a plan that will ensure that our water levels can be managed as well as possible, given the variables that impact them.

The county drafted a recommendation early this year that includes abandoning the Carlson Road dam and replacing it with a 12 foot wide box culvert set at the current level of the stream bed upstream of the dam. The recommendation also includes vacating the 1941 PSC Order. This "new system" would work nearly the same as the system that is currently in place, that is, the dam with stoplogs removed.

We hired Barr Engineering in June to review the engineering work done for the county by Short Elliot and Henderson (SEH) that was used as a foundation for their recommendation. While we do not yet have Barr's final report, we have met with them to discuss their findings, which support SEH's work and conclusions.

Recognizing that whatever changes are made to the current system are likely to be in place for the foreseeable future, we have concerns about leaving the management of our water levels to whatever happens naturally over time to the downstream elements of the system that currently provide both high water and low water control.

We are analyzing and discussing alternative options with the engineers, the county and the DNR and plan to have a proposal prepared by the end of the year. We will keep you updated as the process continues.

### NN Culverts and Lake Placid Dam Issues Resolved

Two issues impacting the current system in place have been resolved over the past few months.

As expected, the DNR approved Sawyer County's petition to abandon the Lake Placid dam and close the diversion channel between Lake Placid and Round Lake. While we objected to this petition and plan, we do not believe it will have a material impact on our ability to manage water levels in the future. At this point, the county has not scheduled the work to implement the changes.

Also, Sawyer County recently reconstructed the culverts that carry Osprey Creek under County Road NN. They lowered both of the existing 48" culverts by about a foot and a half and added a third 48" culvert set slightly lower than the other two. This change will allow water to be evacuated from our lakes more quickly in times of very high water. We supported this plan and appreciate the work done by the county in cooperation with the LCO Tribal Governing Board.

### A Word About "Normal"

The 1941 order defined a "normal" water level for Round Lake. We use the term "normal" in quotations because we consider it to be misleading, suggesting that it is both reliable and controllable. A better term might be "desirable". Without a significant water inlet source, and with the downstream constraints, the water level in the Round Lake system is nearly completely dependent upon the amount of precipitation falling into the basin. It is, therefore, impossible to control within a range as narrow as the 1941 order implies.

During periods of high precipitation the water levels rise and only slowly recede due to flow restrictions downstream to Osprey Lake and beyond. During periods of drought, such as we have recently experienced, the water levels will inevitably fall to and below the sill elevation of the Carlson Road structure, whether it be the current dam or a simple culvert as the county has recommended.

## Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Explained—Dan Kollodge

A new treatment method has been deemed a big success in treating Eurasian water milfoil in Round and Little Round lake. That's the consensus of members attending the fall meeting of the association. During the past winter Dan Tyrolt, worked with WDNR, Army Corps of Engineers, and the chemical manufacturer to determine the cause for the limited effectiveness of past treatments. As part of the investigation, the water in Round lake was tested and found to have a PH of 8.5. This value is higher than average for lakes in Wisconsin. The chemical manufacturer confirmed that the product that had been used was negatively affected by high PH levels. It was decided that a different formulation of the 2-4-D chemical would be used in 2011, which is not affected by high PH levels.

This past June, 20 acres were treated for milfoil. Ten in Round and ten in Little Round lake. Because this treatment had been used only a few times in Wisconsin lakes, the WDRN conducted an extensive study of the treated areas immediately after the chemical application to determine if there were any negative effects on the water or to species in the lake. The study determined that there were no negative effects to the lake. Extensive monitoring of the treatment areas over the summer has shown that almost all of the treated areas are milfoil free.

Treatment was very effective but also expensive. The cost to treat the lakes this summer was \$21,560. That is the largest amount that the association has ever spent for treatment. Twenty acres is the largest area that has ever been treated and the new chemical is more expensive than the one used in the past. This cost along with the cost of the two employees of the clean boats program has resulted in a deficit in the milfoil fund of over \$11,000. It is expected that most of this money will be recovered by the association through the AIS grant from the state.

The grant is not a gift. It requires that the association pay expenses upfront and then submit documentation to receive reimbursement from the grant program. The grant rules require that association members donate volunteer work hours performing grant related activities. For every \$250 of volunteer hours and equipment fees submitted to the WDNR, the grant will pay back \$1,000 in expenses.

It's critical that members volunteer their time. The easiest way to volunteer is to become a member of the shoreline observer group. These homeowners take a 4 to 6 hours throughout the summer to inspect the shallow water along the shoreline for invasive species. If invasive species are discovered, they record the GPS coordinates of the site and send that information to a member of the water quality committee. The association is always in need of observers and I strongly encourage you to become a more active member by joining this group. If we all do just a little, we can make a big impact on the lakes that we care so much about. I would

like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteered your time and talents this summer.

Lastly, I would like to thank Frank Tyson, who has recently stepped down from the board, for his efforts these past three years as co-chair of the water quality committee. He was instrumental in revitalizing the shoreline observer program. He worked closely with Dan Tyrolt and spearheaded the "on the water" activities of the committee. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact me using one of the following methods

Dan Kollodge  
[dankollodge\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:dankollodge(at)comcast.net)  
 (651) 714-1340

### Donation—Thanks

We would like to acknowledge that the RLPOA has received a \$300 donation from BP, which was requested by Walter and Linda Lisikiewicz. Thank you very much for taking the initiative to request this donation.

Many corporations have matching gifts programs or will support non profits at the request of their employees. If your firm has this program, please consider a donation to the RLPOA. The Association is a qualified non-profit corporation.



*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.*

## Water Safety Report by Jack Gardner

**The buoys were pulled the week of September 25th.**

### SLOW-NO-WAKE

I talked to the local DNR office to find out any specific safety problems on Round Lake. They have been getting numerous complaints about boats going too fast when close to shore or other boats. This was raised in the last newsletter but apparently it fell on deaf ears. In the last Hayward paper there was a listing of three \$175 fines assessed against boaters on the Chippewa flowage for going too fast, too close to shore. From the conversation I had with the DNR it appears they will be aggressively enforcing this on Round Lake next year.

A few weeks ago I witnessed a power boat going through the Hinton Channel at about half throttle. When I flagged him down and informed him that he was in violation, he stated, "If it's no wake it should be marked". After some investigation it turns out there is only one official County ordered no wake area on the lake, and that is the Round Lake Marina channel. All other areas of the lake are covered by the State Regulations. The question was asked at the last meeting, "Is the Richardson's bay Channel a no wake area?" The channel itself has no speed restrictions on it. However, if the water is low and the sandbar is within 100' of the channel then it is no wake. Also if there are swimmers, or another boat within 100' then it is a no wake. Additionally if other boats are 101' from the channel and your speed could be construed as operating at a speed that exceeds safe and reasonable limits you can be liable for a fine. Lastly common sense and courtesy says we should follow the golden rule, if your boat was beached on the sand bar or your kids were wading in the area how would you like it to have a speeding boat go by that close to you? I hope you are getting the point I am trying to make: it just makes sense to treat that channel as a no wake area.

The DNR officer also stated that complaints about water ski boats were especially numerous. I talked above about the 100' law. If your boat is designed to throw a large wake or you are throttled back and have the motor trimmed out you can be throwing a large and dangerous wake. It is my understanding as boat operators we are responsible for any damage our wake causes. Some examples are: a boater

standing on his pontoon boat loses his balance when large wake hits his boat and injures himself. A small boat is tied to a dock, wake hits and his boat is damaged. A case can be made that it would be difficult to prove, there are mitigating circumstances, etc. Again the golden rule should apply, be careful, be courteous, and be aware of what your wake is doing. You probably won't cause problems for yourself or others.

### STATE REGULATIONS

"Slow , No Wake" means a speed at which a vessel moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steering control.

It is unlawful for any vessel to operate at greater than this within 100' of any shoreline, any dock, raft, pier, or restricted area. Additionally, a PWC has to be 200' from any shoreline.

Have a good winter—we'll talk again in the Spring.

Loon family on Round Lake, courtesy of Mary Reinemann



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Statement of Income	Cash Accounting		GAAP Accounting	
	8 Months Ended Aug 31, 2011		8 Months Ended Aug 31, 2011	
<b>Contributions</b>				
Membership Fees	\$	5,850.00	\$	5,850.00
Milfoil Fund		4,670.00		4,670.00
Sponsorships		-		-
Grants		15,739.00		15,739.00
Donations		200.00		200.00
	\$	<u>26,459.00</u>	\$	<u>26,459.00</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Accounting & Legal		325.00		325.00
Amortization of Intangibles		-		32,511.12
Bank Charges		29.54		29.54
Dues & Subscription		330.00		330.00
Insurance - Business		956.00		956.00
Licenses & Permits		32.00		32.00
Milfoil Expense		27,679.53		27,679.53
Newsletters		732.18		732.18
Postage		642.40		642.40
Sub Contract Labor		5,920.00		5,920.00
Total	\$	<u>36,646.65</u>	\$	<u>69,157.77</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	\$	(10,187.65)	\$	(42,698.77)
Interest Income		<u>50.80</u>		<u>50.80</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$	(10,136.85)	\$	(42,647.97)
<b>Cash Balances</b>				
General Fund		6,976.92		6,976.92
Milfoil Fund		8,979.37		8,979.37
Defense Fund		3,169.20		3,169.20
Tangible Equity	\$	<u>19,125.49</u>	\$	<u>19,125.49</u>
Intangibles		-		532,369.40
Total Equity	\$	<u>19,125.49</u>	\$	<u>551,494.89</u>



## Milfoil Expense

As noted elsewhere in this publication, we now have an effective method for controlling the milfoil in our lake. The problem is that the treatment is somewhat expensive.

We have applied for grants to assist with this expense, but the grants require a matching contribution from the Association. If you enjoy the lake, and want to see it remain relatively free of this noxious weed, please consider an extra contribution to the milfoil fund when you renew your membership.

And if you are not yet a member, we ask you to please consider joining us in this effort to maintain this priceless natural resource that we all enjoy so much.

As the King would say, "Thank you, thank you very much."



## Fishing Report by Al Reinemann

This past June the Sawyer County Bass Club held a tournament on Round Lake. Big numbers of large Small Mouth were caught and released. A lot of people are reporting catching huge Large Mouth Bass in the 5 and 6 lbs class.

A few years ago a number of Muskie were planted in Round and are now around the 30" plus size average. We should be seeing more action from them in the years to come. Round Lake knows how to grow them to trophy sizes. They are showing up all around the lake.

Halfway through the summer we were still catching the large bluegills over the new cribs east of the flats. Lots of action there when you hook into a school of those and good eatin' too!

The summer proved to be a hot one and the lake was the perfect place to be. Weather you spent time in it or on it or just by it, there couldn't have been better place to be! The welcome rains have really helped catch up the water levels. The lake has the look of fullness and that feels good! With the warm temps of fall upon us, there's some awesome opportunities to get out on the water. Enjoy what's left of the open water season and get ready for ice fishing just around the corner. I know there's a little guy in my house that the thought of ice fishing puts a big smile on his face. Having just fished an awesome tournament on Moose Lake sponsored by Muskie Inc and the Youth Conservation Alliance, and pulling in 5 Muskie in one day, he knows what fishing is all about! This was an awesome event with 26 Kids catching and releasing 56 Muskie in 2.5 days! That's truly what it's all about.

### Eric Reinemann and one of his 5 muskies in 1 day!



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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 for 2010 .....367  
 Paid Members as of 9/30/2011:.....**316**  
 Record year of 2007:.....405

#### NOTE:

The numeral after your name on the address label is the year thru which you are currently paid — i.e. '10 means paid thru 2010, and you have not yet paid for 2011. 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?** We need your assistance to deal with these major problems:

1. Milfoil eradication
2. Water level and proposed Carlson Rd. dam
3. Fishing habitat

### RLPOA Board of Directors

Bob Strachota .....President  
 Jim Purdin .....Vice President  
 Dan Kollodge .....Secretary  
 .....Co-chair Water Quality  
 Tom Wolf .....Treasurer  
 Tom Kintzinger .....  
 Jack Gardner .....Chair Water Safety  
 Alan Reinemann .....Chair Fish Committee  
 Bob Sosnowski .....Chair Membership  
 Bill Cadogan .....

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 can help. 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**

#### 2011 Membership Dues: \$25

- Enclosed are my dues of \$25 for calendar year 2011
- 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

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P.O. Box 1070  
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