

Round the Lake

Round Lake Property Owners Association

Fall 2008

www.roundthelake.com

President's Corner by Bob Strachota

Strategies for Protecting our Lakes

Dear Round Lake Property Owners,

Summer got off to a late start but it finally warmed up for a most enjoyable summer. Eurasian milfoil remains high on our watch list, as does the low water level. All new outbreaks of milfoil were treated early this summer. But by later summer our worst out breaks of the decade were found throughout Hinton Bay, Leader Bay and Richardson's Bay. Our strategy for managing milfoil has been effective so far, and we must never lapse in our commitment to keep Round Lake from being permanently infested with milfoil.

In regard to a long-term strategy surrounding milfoil, the Lake Association authorized the Board to order a full lake study on invasive plants. This study is required by the DNR to treat milfoil. Previously, if we had an outbreak greater than 10 acres, the Association was not allowed to treat the milfoil. This study establishes a base line for the Lake in regard to numerous water quality issues, and we now have the lake data needed to request milfoil treatments in excess of 10 acres. While it was expensive (approximately \$20,000), thanks to your dues and other contributions, the Association had the resources to move forward with the study. Furthermore, the Board is studying ways to sufficiently endow funds to treat milfoil and other invasive species for decades to come. We look forward to discussing funding alternatives during the next association meeting.

The water level of the lake was generally low all summer when compared to previous years. The County and the Wisconsin DNR appear stalled out. The Board has interviewed attorneys to represent our interest in moving forward with a solution.

The County wants to opt out of any further responsibility for the lake level management. The DNR does not actively participate in the management of the lake so without an active water management system, Round Lake is being abandoned. The Board is seriously concerned about this approach to water management and has objected to their recommendations or lack of.

Our interviews with attorneys have revealed several alternatives which the Board is considering. Our options and a potential action plan will be discussed at the next Association meeting.

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

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wb narr@centurytel.net



Round Lake Water Level Update by Tom Kintzinger, Secretary and VP

At our October 4, 2008 general membership meeting the following motion concerning the water level issue was unanimously passed by approximately 45 members: *RLPOA would be in support of vacating 1941 PSC Order if and only if Round Lake water level would be actively managed to the elevation of 1344.875 feet (local datum 77.125 feet) and present unofficial WDNR minimum flow interpretations are significantly relaxed in the spring/early summer time so that water can be stored in Round Lake for public use & reasonable minimum flow later in the season.*

RLPOA has tried to open lines of communications with our state legislatures and the Sawyer County Lakes Forum to try to get this issue resolved. *We believe that our proposal is good for everyone.*

- The negative controversy will be ended.
- Sawyer County liability for “high” water will be over. No future lawsuits and no low water liability.
- Minimum flow to downstream waters should be enhanced/prolonged late in the summer and fall when it is really needed. This can be done if more water is stored in the spring by putting an extra 2x6 board or two into the dam to save the water for later in the summer for both Round Lake and downstream interests. Round Lake is 3000+ acres and an extra foot or so of water can be significant.

- Historic “Active” dam management preserved. The Carlson dam is important for keeping that extra foot or so of water in Round Lake and also for stabilizing water level plus increasing available water for reasonable minimum flow late in season. Ordinary high water mark on Round Lake is about 1346 feet and 100 year flood level is about 1347 feet. We realize water level has been above 1345 feet many times over the last several decades and that is OK for that to periodically continue but efforts should be made to keep water level below 1345.5 feet except on temporary occasions depending on watershed saturation. Round Lake has been effectively managed at about 1344 feet the last two years and that is too low.
- No money needed until the small Carlson road dam/bridge at the Little Round outlet that controls Round Lake needs repairs or is not safe.
- Public access to Round Lake and property owner interest/values will be protected. Historic navigation into shallow bays and between Round & Little Round Lakes will be restored.
- Improved ecology plus less Eurasian Milfoil and vegetation because less sunlight will penetrate to bottom of lake if water level is a foot or so higher again similar to what it has been the last 60 years.
- No dredging and no beaver dam removal needed — this supports LCO position.

- We are also not opposed to restoring natural outlet by Thunderbird Road as long as this does not lower water level during drought times.
- Water level will be maintained at or close to what historically has been present on Round Lake over the last several decades if sufficient water. Property owners bought their homes with an expectation concerning water levels (to be close to 1345 feet or 77.25 local datum) to preserve their property values/access and this proposal will help toward this goal. Tax base will be preserved.
- RLPOA is not for anything that will damage other lakes.
- RLPOA is not opposed to abandoning the Placid Diversion Canal (the only surface water inlet or source for Round Lake) if there are reasonable balancing minimum flow requirements for water leaving Round Lake.

Round Lake Property Owners Association has also had recent July 2008 discussions with a law firm in Madison, **Foley & Lardner LLP**, concerning water level issues trying to decide how to resolve the problem.

1. Legal fees to challenge Sawyer County to maintain water elevation at 1941 PSC Order level of 77.0 feet would be about \$50,000.
2. RLPOA would also have to hire a technical engineering consultant to evaluate past reports, flood map changes etc. and hopefully provide a strong technical critique of what DNR has done and provide a strong basis for arguing that the WDNR/County has acted arbitrarily and capriciously by not maintaining the elevation at 77.0 feet. Technical engineering fees could amount to an additional fifty thousand dollars. The 100 year flood levels recently approved and limiting replacement “new dam” size to the same that is now present would also have to be completely reviewed for errors if a new wider dam as originally proposed by SEH (Short Elliot





and Hendrickson) in spring of 2007 is preferred.

3. If we want the Round Lake water level above 77.0 feet then the 1941 PSC Order would need to be changed. The 1941 PSC Order requires Sawyer County to maintain Round Lake at "normal" elevation 77.0 feet "when sufficient water supply exists" and to prevent water levels from rising above elevation 77.25 feet. The Order does not establish a routine minimum reservoir elevation. 77.0 feet may be a target routine reservoir elevation and the 1941 Order requires that the reservoir be maintained at 77.0 feet "when sufficient water supply exists. "Target elevations are hard to enforce, particularly where, as here, the Order contains the "if sufficient water is available" qualifier."

4. The dam cannot be removed without a proceeding and that will give RLPOA an opportunity to demonstrate that we are willing and or able to take over responsibility for maintaining the dam if that is considered by Round Lake owners some time in future. Sawyer County has preliminarily agreed to replace the old Carlson Dam with a new concrete structure basically the same size and RLPOA would prefer that Sawyer

County keep financial responsibility for dam.

5. We must have strong evidence that the DNR's interpretation of "sufficient is unreasonable. The same is true concerning new 100 year flood levels on Round Lake, etc.

As noted above this could cost something close to \$100,000 and probably more. RLPOA Board at this time has decided that legal action may not be in the best public interest and will not efficiently resolve this problem. Consequently RLPOA has decided to try to resolve this issue using the above October 4, 2008 General Membership Meeting motion above as a guideline.

If there are any lawyers or engineers that would like to volunteer their time that would be helpful to our association.

Our membership would prefer a compromise settlement with guidance from the above motion passed 10/04/2008.

It appears that the main stumbling block to settling the Round Lake water level issue may be the WDNR and that is why we are initiating communications with our state representatives and senator.

We are still considering doing engineering work on replacement dam proposal and 100 year flood levels to analyze the County engineering work to see if there are any significant flaws

or errors. Preliminary engineering analysis has raised several possible flaws.

Any donations made to the Water Level Defense Fund if not used will be refunded as originally promised if that is selected by donor. A decision on theoretical refund options will not be made until this whole process is carried out to its end. We would prefer to use any unused water defense fund money to treat milfoil.

RLPOA would also like to have communications with LCO Tribe to see if we can work together on any of the water level issues. We don't oppose the purported LCO tribe representatives stated desire to have a natural system with the exception of keeping the small Carlson Dam and managing the lake level to 1344.875 feet.

Our information is that a Sawyer County application to replace the Carlson Dam still has not been submitted to WDNR.

Preliminary indications are that NN culvert augmentation and Placid Diversion Canal abandonment applications will be or have been approved. We have heard rumors about natural outlet by Thunderbird Road and possible correction of non compliant culverts blocking outflow there.

We are hoping that there will be public hearings concerning Placid Diversion Canal and Carlson Dam.

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Round Lake Completes Environmental Study

By Terry Kingston and Bob Strachota

We are very pleased to report that the RLPOA, after much effort, received a grant from the DNR to help pay for an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan. During the summer of 2008, Harmony Environmental was on Round Lake cataloging and mapping aquatic plant life. Results are being tabulated and will be analyzed over the next few months. It is anticipated that the APM plan will be published by December 31, 2008.

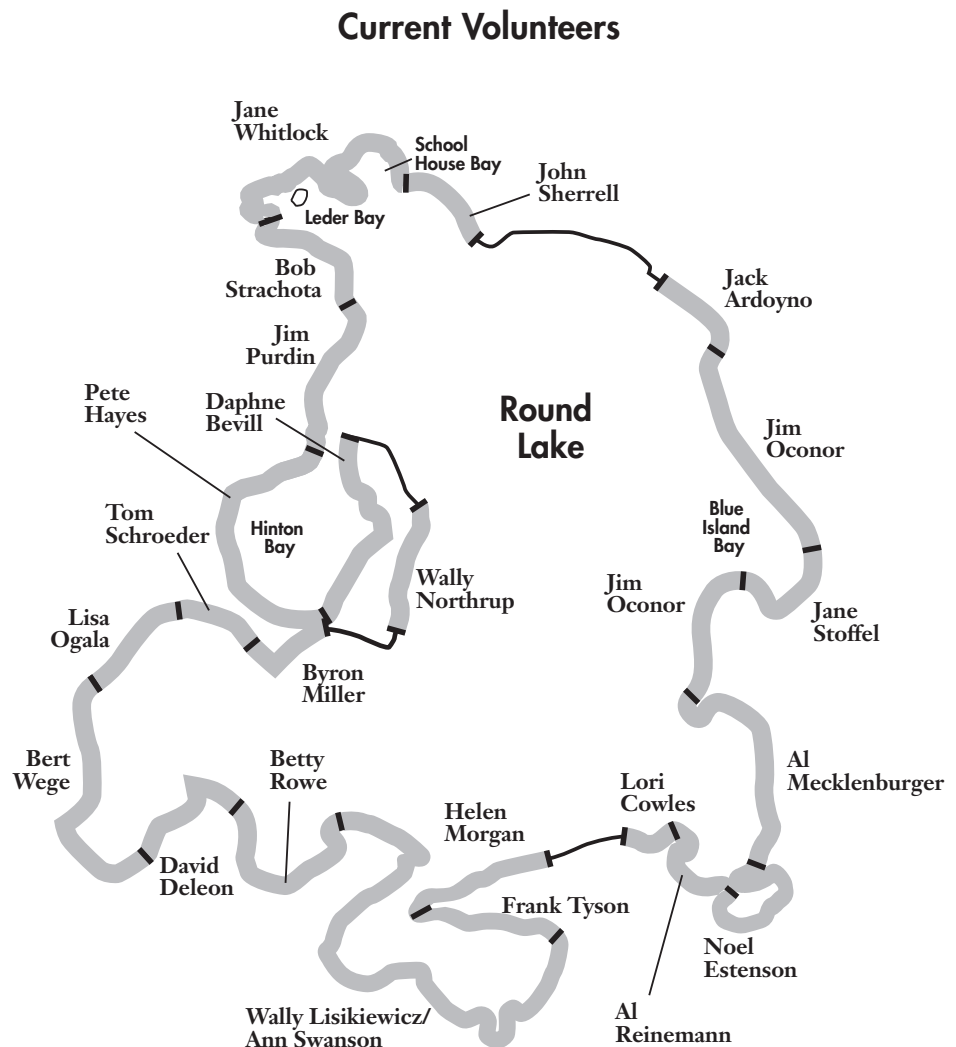
In addition to providing the RLPOA with a “base line” of information that will be used in future years to better understand changes (good or bad) to Round Lake, the APM plan has three additional benefits:

- 1) It will give us better guidelines for treating Eurasian water milfoil (EWM);
- 2) It will help us to potentially receive additional funding from the DNR; and
- 3) It will insure that requests from the RLPOA to the DNR to chemically treat large outbreaks of EWM will be favorably approved.

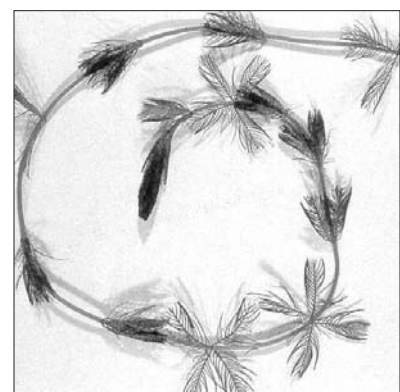
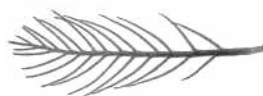
With regard to EWM, in 2008 we treated a large area of Leder Bay in addition to other “hot spots” on the lake. In the spring of 2009 we will treat Leder, Schoolhouse, Musky, Richardson’s and Hinton Bays, as necessary. EWM was discovered in greater amounts than ever, so the spring treatment will likely exceed 10 acres. Thankfully, RLPOA moved forward with the APM plan and we will now be able to treat the large outbreaks.

As most readers will remember, we initiated an “Adopt a Shoreline” plan. The primary purpose behind this effort is to help identify EWM while still in a small, contained area. Early detection allows us to physically pull the plant or use a minimum amount of chemicals to treat the area.

The included map shows those people who have volunteered their time to help control EWM. For those volunteers identified, please send Bob Strachota an



e-mail confirming you are still willing to help. For those of you who wish to adopt other parts of the shoreline not currently being monitored please contact Bob as well. His e-mail is Value@Shenehon.com.



Eurasian Water Milfoil usually produce 12-21 feathery leaflet pairs. These leaves appear limp when removed from water.

Fish Committee Report

by Alan Reinemann Chairman, Fish Committee

Eurasian Milfoil Survey Results Fall 2008

RLPOA hired a milfoil consultant for \$1800.0 to do objective **Eurasian Milfoil (ewm)** survey on **Round (BR) & Little Round (LR)** Lake this fall 2008 using GPS coordinates. In addition to the plots listed below, there were several other areas too small too chemically treat. **Aquatic Plant Management Study (APM)** guidelines will require ewm plots to be greater then 500 sq. ft. to chemically treat plus have a certain minimum density described in the APM. RLPOA is seriously considering hiring workers/divers/volunteers to manually pull ewm in plots that can't be treated chemically. The chart below shows substantially less treatable milfoil then RLPOA Board anticipated. Survey found less then 2 acres of treatable milfoil in Round & Little Round total and with surrounding buffer about 4 acres will be treated chemically next spring. This June of 2008 about 11 acres were treated. Round Lake milfoil maps showing infested areas/plots correlating with the chart below are available on www.roundthelake.com.

Plot	Sq Feet	Acres	Sq Meters
LR 1	2752.33	0.063	255.7
LR 2	6330.26	0.145	588.1
LR 3	11496.93	0.264	1068.1
LR 4	1951.50	0.045	181.3
LR 5	2910.56	0.067	270.4
LR 6	509.13	0.012	47.3
BR 1	15596.91	0.358	1449
BR 2	2640.39	0.061	245.3
BR 3	2193.68	0.050	203.8
BR 4	6688.69	0.156	621.4
BR 5	1039.79	0.024	96.6
BR 6	6120.36	0.140	568.6
BR 7	no treat	no treat	not dense
BR 8	5352.89	0.123	497.3
BR 9	727.64	0.017	67.6
BR 10	618.92	0.014	57.5
BR 11	no treat	no treat	not dense
BR 12	4267.89	0.098	396.5
BR 13	3784.59	0.087	351.6
BR 14	348.75	0.008	32.4 small <500 sq feet
BR 15	279.86	0.006	26 small <500 sq feet
BR 16	759.93	0.017	70.6
BR 17	1539.24	0.035	143
BR 18	787.92	0.018	73.2
Total	78698.18	1.808	7311.3

It was really nice to see some much needed rainfall and snow-melt helping our lake level begin to recover this spring. After the third year of drought conditions we are beginning to see some changes to the lake, some good and some not so good.

With the ice going out later than I can recall it seemed we had a spring that never ended! Bluegills were active, but much later than normal time, some nice gills could be found in the shallows.

With about 1 foot more water than last year this seems to have triggered a positive response from our walleye fishery. On average we caught more and larger fish, which I can only compare to fish caught in the 70's. For instance in one week, 2 groups of fishermen caught over 20 walleye, 4lbs and larger. We had several 6, 7 & 8 pound fish with nearly all the larger fish being released. We also know of many 4lb small mouth caught and the largest I saw was 6.5 lbs.

On a sadder note the three years of low water has caused an explosion of weed growth. Lower water levels offer opportunity for more light penetration in areas giving weeds the chance to grow and take hold. Eurasian milfoil is one weed that found lower water levels favorable. Hopefully something can be done to stop this low water problem before all our waters are weed infested.

There is lots of opportunity out there ... enjoy your time on the water and take a kid (or two or three or four) fishing!

You'll create memories that will last a lifetime ...



Top Tips for Getting the Most From a Tank of Gas

With boaters facing record high fuel prices this summer Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has a few tips that could help stretch fuel dollars:

Leave the extra 'junk' home: Don't load the boat up with weight you don't need. Do a little spring cleaning — unused equipment that has been collecting mildew in the bottom of lockers for years should be taken home.

Water weight: At 8.33 pounds per gallon, why keep the water in the tank topped off if you're only going out for the afternoon?

Tune her up: An engine tune-up is an excellent investment and should easily pay for itself over the summer.

Tune your prop: If your boat goes 30 mph with a like-new prop and only 27 mph with a prop that's dinged and out of pitch, that's a 10% loss in fuel economy, or, you're wasting one out of every ten gallons you put in your tank.

Keep the boat in trim: Using trim tabs or distributing weight evenly will help move your boat through the water with less effort — and less fuel.

Install a fuel flow meter: A fuel flow meter is like a heart monitor; when consumption starts to rise, it's an early

warning that something is amiss. A fuel flow meter also allows you to select a comfortable cruising speed that optimizes the amount of fuel being consumed.

Do the math: If you don't want to spring for a fuel flow meter (about \$300), you can calculate your fuel mileage by dividing distance traveled by gallons at fill-up. Using your logbook, you can then approximate fuel flow using average speeds and time underway.

Article excerpts taken from BoatUS: www.boatus.com/

To better serve our membership with timely communications about issues concerning your lake, we ask that every member provide your e-mail address. You will receive periodic news throughout the year; you may choose to opt-out of this communication at any time.

Round Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. / 2008 Membership Application and Renewal

I am interested in helping on one of the following committees:

- Government Awareness Water Safety
 Fish Water Quality
 Membership

- Enclosed are my dues of **\$25.00** for calendar year 2008.
 Enclosed is my additional support of **\$25.00** for our Milfoil fund.

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

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 Hayward, Wisconsin 54843-4048

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Good Safe Boating News



Excerpts taken from: www.boating-industry.com/output.cfm?id=1616167

The United States Coast Guard's Boating Safety Division and Coast Guard Auxiliary reported recently that death resulting from recreational boating accidents are declining.

The count dropped from 710 in 2006 to 688 in 2007, the lowest figure since 2004 and third lowest since the USCG began collecting statistics related to recreational boating.

"It's gratifying to see the number of deaths going down," commented Rear Admiral James Watson, Director of Prevention Policy. "We hope that this is a result of more boaters adopting responsible boating behaviors, such as making sure that everyone on board is

wearing properly-fitting Coast Guard-approved life jackets at all times."

The Coast Guard Boating Safety Division also released figures that revealed while fatalities decreased, other measures — including injuries, number of accidents, and property damage — rose significantly. Injuries rose from 3,474 in 2006 to 3,686 in 2007. Reported recreational boating accidents, which reached 4,967 in 2006, climbed to 5,223. Property damage, which was a record \$43,670,424 in 2006, rose further to \$53,288,858 last year.

Top causes for all accidents revealed by 2007 statistics remain fairly consistent with previous years, according to

the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Operator inattention, careless/reckless operation, passenger/skier behavior, excessive speed, and alcohol use rank as the top five contributing factors. Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; it was listed as the leading factor in 21 percent of the deaths, the organization reported. Where instruction data was submitted, three-fourths of the deaths occurred on boats where the operator had not received boating safety instruction. Over two-thirds of those killed in boating accidents drowned, and of those, 90 percent were not wearing life jackets.



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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!

RLPOA Public Review Notice

Aquatic Plant Management Plan Round Lake and Little Round Lake Sawyer County, WI

Comments are being accepted on the October 2008 Public Review Draft of the Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Round Lake and Little Round Lake. The plan presents a strategy for managing aquatic plants by protecting native plant populations, controlling the growth of Eurasian water milfoil and preventing establishment of additional invasive species.

Copies of the plan are available on the Round Lake Property Owners Association (RLPOA) web site:
www.roundthelake.com

You may review a hard copy of the plan at the **Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library**, 10788 State Highway 27/77, Hayward, WI.

Comments will be accepted through **November 20, 2008** and may be sent to:

Harmony Environmental
516 Keller Ave. S.
Amery, WI 54001
harmonyenv@amerytel.net

Financial Status Update

RLPOA Financial Status	12 Months Ended Dec 31, 2007	8 Months Ended Aug 31, 2008
Statement of Income		
Contributions		
Membership Fees	\$ 8,790.00	\$ 3,880.00
Milfoil Fund	2,112.80	2,490.00
Sponsorships	2,800.00	550.00
Water Level Defense	26,549.00	680.00
Miscellaneous	315.00	-
Donations	220.00	30.00
	\$40,786.80	\$ 7,630.00
Expenses		
Accounting & Legal	-	\$ 2,500.00
Bank Charges	\$ 29.39	0.35
Dues & Subscription	440.00	350.00
Fish Stocking Expense	1,500.00	-
Gift Certificates	-	600.00
Insurance - Business	956.00	-
Licenses & Permits	15.00	28.00
Milfoil Expense	4,189.46	12,149.05
Newsletters	1,675.10	417.78
Postage	1,074.92	283.09
Telephone	136.34	-
Water Level Defense	7,387.53	1,669.40
Total	\$17,403.74	\$ 17,997.67
Operating Income(Loss)	\$23,383.06	\$(10,367.67)
Interest Income	838.31	1000.21
Net Income(Loss)	\$24,221.37	\$(10,367.67)
	Dec 31, 2007	Aug 31, 2008
Cash Balances		
General Fund	\$25,131.63	\$ 28,018.35
Milfoil Fund	14,913.61	5,808.62
Defense Fund	24,265.33	21,116.14
	\$64,310.57	\$ 54,943.11

Note: the 2007 financial statement is a cash report and does not reflect the value of the intangible property gift received in July 2007

