

# Round the Lake

Round Lake Property Owners Association

Fall 2003

President's Corner by Bob Strachota

## Highs and Lows of Lake Level

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Dear RLPOA members and Big/Little Round Lake owners: The lake level topic has been hotly debated this past summer and your lake association continues to monitor the situation. The following letter was sent to Sawyer County and the Department of Natural Resources on behalf of the Association.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The water level of Round Lake (including Little Round) is of great concern to the Round Lake Property Owners Association (RLPOA). This subject matter has been the source of more discussion by lake owners than any other topic this year. We are aware of the results of the Sawyer County questionnaire and have informally evaluated the membership's position at our recent association meeting and at an executive meeting of the board.

This letter formally sets forth the majority position of RLPOA. The executive board and the RLPOA believe that the water level that has prevailed for most of this summer (even though up to six inches or so above the authorized lake level of 77.0 feet) should be left alone to the normal forces of nature. We believe that the natural course of nature will balance the water level over time within acceptable tolerances that the lake has experienced over the past 25 years. In other words, sometimes the lake level will be slightly high and sometimes it will be slightly low but always targeting the existing authorized lake level. We expect that Sawyer County and the DNR will maintain and manage the waterway systems in and out of the lake in a responsible manner so as to be able to quickly control the extreme circumstances of high or low water.

Whatever actions are needed by Sawyer County or the DNR to be in a state of readiness should be attended to so that responsive action can be taken immediately for extreme circumstances.

There has been discussion by the County and the DNR about reevaluating Round Lake's historic water levels. The RLPOA wants to be intimately involved in any and all new proposals for managing the lake. At this time RLPOA does not support a change in the historic lake levels and does not believe that the matter needs to be reevaluated.

Thank you for your attention on this matter. If you have questions or would like to discuss the matter further, please call. I can be reached at my office in Minneapolis at 612-333-6533. Additionally, please be aware that Bill Whitlock chairs the Governmental Awareness Committee and has appeared and will continue to appear at public meetings on this subject. He speaks on behalf of RLPOA and has the full support of the executive board.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Strachota  
President of RLPOA

E-mail or call me if you have comments on the lake level matter. Stay warm this winter and I am hopeful we will have a snow-filled winter season on Round Lake.

Your President,  
Bob Strachota

Office: (612)344-1635  
Home Fax: (952)927-9854  
E-mail: welovetoski@hotmail.com

### Fish Committee Report by Al Reinemann

No committee report was available for this publication.

We hope to provide a Fish Committee Report in our next issue.

## Thunderstorms and Lightning – What to Do!

- Take cover in the best shelter you can find.
- If you are in or near the water, go to land immediately and find shelter.
- If choosing between a building or a car, choose the building.
- If choosing between a hard-top and a convertible, choose the hard-top.
- If you're in a car, keep the windows closed.

If there is no shelter:

1. Find a low-lying, open place that is a safe distance from trees, poles or metal objects (piers) that can conduct electricity.
2. Squat low to the ground. Place your hands on your knees with your head tucked between them. Try to touch as little of your body to the ground as possible.
3. Do not lie flat on the ground, as your fully-extended body will provide a larger surface to conduct electricity.
4. If you feel your hair stand on end in a storm, drop into the tuck position described above immediately. This sensation means electric charges are already rushing up your body from the ground toward an electrically charged cloud. Minimize your contact with the ground to minimize your injury.

# Water Safety Saves Lives by Bob Strachota

This summer seemed to deliver several unexpected storms which involved lightning. We need to beware that lightning kills or injures hundreds of people every year. It is particularly dangerous to be in a boat on the water when there is lightning.

For your information lightning hits the earth an estimated 100 times per second, or 8.6 million times a day. Learn how to anticipate an electrical storm and what to do when lightning strikes.

### Lightning Myths

*Lightning always strikes the tallest object.*

False! Lightning strikes the best conductor on the ground, not necessarily the tallest object. In some cases, the best conductor might be a human being or a boat.

*A car's rubber tires give protection from lightning.*

False! Actually the car itself is very well insulated and offers more protection than being outside in the storm. Of course, the exception to this is the convertible, which provides virtually no protection.

*Lightning never strikes the same place twice.*

False! The Empire State building, as an example, is struck by lightning many times every year.

*Lightning cannot strike from very far away.*

False! Lightning can actually knock you off your feet and cause severe injury from as far as half a mile away.

### Anticipating Lightning

Lightning always accompanies thunder-

storms, so your first line of defense is to keep an eye and ear to the sky.

Equate thunder with lightning, even if lightning is not visible where you are. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. Even if you can't hear thunder, you might nonetheless be at risk.

How close is lightning? You can do a rough calculation this way – when you see the flash, begin to count the seconds until you hear the thunder. Divide this by 5. The number you get is your approximate distance from the lightning. For example, if you count nine seconds between the flash and the thunder, the lightning struck just under two miles away.

### How will you be warned?

There are no official lightning watches or warnings.

Many thunderstorms laden with lightning occur without being designated “severe” and without any watches or warnings in effect.

In lieu of official lightning watches and warnings, you can keep your own vigilant watch on the sky while out in the boat. Keep alert for thunder and lightning and for signs that can be (though aren't always) associated with thunderstorms, such as darkening clouds and sudden wind shifts.

Boating and lightning do not mix. Get off the lake as soon as possible when the storms strike Round Lake. Because water conducts electricity, it is wise to stop swimming or boating as soon as you see or hear a storm.

## Keep Our Lake Clean by Wally Narr, Clean Water Committee

What you do with and on your land directly affects the water quality of lakes in Wisconsin.

### Ways to Reduce Runoff

1. Maintain a diverse plant cover. This helps keep the soil pores open to absorb water and slow down runoff. This allows more time for infiltration to occur and to prevent soil debris, and fertilizer from being easily carried away.
2. Keep land slopes as flat as possible.

Terracing is also helpful in slowing down the water flow to help reduce erosion.

3. Construct a slight berm of soil and vegetation to encourage temporary ponding of excessive rainfall.
4. Leave buffer zone as natural as possible, with the vegetation that has existed. Natural vegetation and trees do a much more efficient job of absorbing and filtering runoff than does the landscaping of the same area.
5. Direct downspouts away from steep

- inclines towards the water, rather to areas where the drainage can be absorbed.
6. Keep driveways and other impermeable surfaces to a minimum. Where hard surfaces are necessary, attempt to have a lot of area for the runoff to be absorbed.
7. When runoff cannot be prevented, a gravel-lined shallow swale, or a heavily vegetative swale will keep the soil on the land. Avoid concrete-lined channels or storm sewers, because they do not allow filtration.

# Zoning Ordinance Amended

Governmental Awareness by Bill Whitlock

This summer saw several important issues affecting Round Lake continue to evolve, namely: water level of Round Lake and revision of shoreland zoning provisions of the County Zoning Ordinance.

## Water Level

As reported at the fall membership meeting of RLPOA, after the County-sponsored meeting on June 28th, the Land and Water Conservation Committee of the County Board at its July and August meetings decided to seek approval to raise the authorized water level to above the 77 foot level mandated by the 1941 order of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. Then, at its September meeting, the Land and Water Committee abruptly changed course to adopt the first option of the Carthel Engineering Report, to do nothing, i.e., operate the Little Round Lake dam to hold the established levels of 77.0 feet (5.25 on the gauges) and 77.25 feet (5.50 on the gauges), to have the stoplogs removed when the level exceeds 77.25 feet and to prevent diversion of water from the Tiger Cat Flowage when the level of Round Lake is above 76.0 feet. There was no discussion of the reason for the Committee's change of direction other than a remark from a Committee member that he had heard about Round Lake water levels for more than a year. The Committee's action was reported to the County Board at its September meeting with no discussion or vote other than to accept the report and an affirmative response from the Committee's Chairperson to the Board's Chairman that the committee would "keep an eye" on the situation.

Round Lake property owner, James Hausman, filed a suit in the Circuit Court of Sawyer County against Sawyer County seeking damages from the County for damage to his property allegedly resulting from the County's failure to manage the water level in accordance with the provisions of the 1941 order of the Public Service Commission. The suit also asks the Court to order the County, among other things, to correct and maintain the Little Round Lake

dam, the culverts on Highway NN and the connecting channels so as to be able to drain the lake at 150 cubic feet per second when it is above the 77.0 foot mark, as provided in the 1941 order. We may not have heard the last of water levels on Round Lake.

## Proposed Shoreland Amendments to Zoning Ordinance

At its September meeting, the Zoning Committee of the County Board decided to hold a public meeting on the proposed amendments to get comments from the community. The meeting was tentatively set for Friday, October 31st after which the Committee will make its recommendation to the County Board. The amendments have been approved by the Sawyer County Lakes Forum, an association of 20 lake shore owners associations. The proposed amendments are extensive, but two of them address recurring problems we have faced on Round Lake, i.e., lake access from property not adjoining the lake and structural additions to nonconforming structures. Lake access for back lots (whether single family lots, building sites, mobile home park sites, single family units and single family condominium units or other areas of a condominium designated as units) is limited to three such sites and campsite/RV sites are prohibited from having any access. We believe that the adoption of this provision would largely alleviate most problems experienced with back lot development. With respect to structural changes to buildings that are nonconforming owing to being within the shoreline setback, the proposed amendment would repeal the existing provision that permits structural changes not exceeding 50% of the fair market value of the structure. It is very difficult to police this provision – both as to establishing actual construction costs and keeping track of successive changes. Instead, additions to structures between 40 and 75 feet back from the ordinary high-water mark not to exceed 1,000 square feet can be made on the landward side; there are certain other conditions that have to be satisfied, including proving compliance with shoreland

# Boater Safety Rules!

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## IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ AND POST FOR FAMILY AND VISITORS

### Boater:

1. You must have a wearable personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on your boat. If your boat is over 16 feet, you need one wearable PFD for each person plus one throwable for the boat.
2. You must operate your boat at slow-no-wake when within 100 feet of a pier, dock, raft, or buoyed area.
3. You must have a competent observer in your boat in addition to the driver while towing a waterskier, tuber, knee boat, or any device. You must be 100 feet away from docks, piers, rafts, and anchored occupied boats when towing a person behind your boat.
4. Between sunset and sunrise, you are required to have lights on your boat – red and green lights in front and a white 360 degree light in the rear.
5. When you are anchored after sunset, you need a white light on at all times.
6. Your motorboat must be correctly registered and registration numbers must be displayed.
7. Your certificate of number must be carried on the motorboat at all times while being operated.
8. All storage batteries must be secured from shifting and terminals covered with a non-conductive shield.
9. Persons 10 years but less than 12 years of age may operate a motorboat if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

10. Persons at least 12, but less than 16 years of age, may operate a motorboat only if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian, or by a person 18 years or older, designated by the parent or guardian, or if they have successfully completed a Department of Natural Resources Boating Safety Course and possess a safety certificate issued by the department or state of their residency.
11. It is illegal to operate a motorboat while under the influence of an intoxicant or a controlled substance.

### Personal Watercraft (PWC):

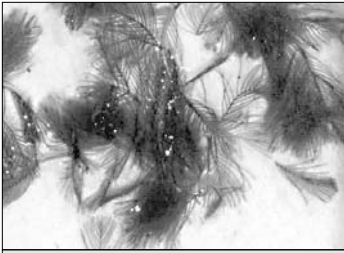
1. No person may operate a PWC from sunset to sunrise.
2. All persons riding a PWC must wear a PFD of the proper size and type (type I, II, III, or V).
3. No one under 12 may operate a PWC. (Rental age limit is 16 years old.)
4. PWC are restricted to a slow-no-wake speed anytime while within 200 ft. of shore.
5. It is illegal to operate a PWC within 100' of the following:
  - Another boat towing a skier or person engaged in similar activity.
  - The tow rope of another motorboat towing a skier or person engaged in similar activity.
  - A pier, dock, raft, a buoyed area and all other boats, including other PWCs.



**If you see a violation, you can turn in the violator by calling  
1-800-TIP WDNR 24 hours a day**

*Distributed by: Susan Miller*  
Wisconsin Conservation Warden  
Hayward, WI

**Navigate Herbicide**



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

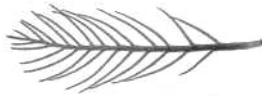
Navigate herbicide was used to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil in Round Lake in 2003. The active ingredient 2, 4-D, is a selective, systemic herbicide. The herbicide affects the entire plant, not just the parts of the plant it comes into

contact with, thus systemic. The herbicide is taken up and travels through the plant, from the leaves to the roots, killing the entire plant. Some herbicides, called contact herbicides, only affect the parts of the plant it comes in contact

with, leaving the roots to grow back after the above ground portion dies. Navigate is a selective herbicide, it does not affect all plants. Only broadleaf, or dicot plants, are affected by this herbicide. Monocots, like pondweeds, water celery,

and others are not affected. Eurasian Water Milfoil is greatly affected by Navigate. Plants show visible signs of treatment after 14 days and die within 4 - 6 weeks. In most areas, two treatments are needed for best control.

**Control of Eurasian Water Milfoil Continues** by Terry Kingston



At the recent fall board meeting a question was asked regarding the herbicide used to treat the Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in Round Lake. Courtesy of Kristy Maki, a LCO Plant Ecologist, the description above should answer any questions regarding the impact on the ecology of Round Lake.

During the summer of 2003 the Lake was inspected for outbreaks of EWM. As was expected, there was a significant patch located in Schoolhouse Bay. It was treated with approximately 200 pounds of Navigate herbicide. The immediate results were not as good as past treatments. (Water temperature and water currents, affect the efficacy of the treatment). Not all of the EWM was killed and thus will need to be treated on two occasions in 2004 – once in the spring and once in the fall.

Other smaller outbreaks of EWM occurred throughout the Lake. At the end of the summer the plants were manually

pulled. For smaller patches a manual pulling of the weed is a preferred methodology. It is impossible to not have some of the plant break off as it is lifted into the boat for eventual disposal. That fragmented piece could re-root itself at some other location in the Lake. For this reason and the fact that EWM is introduced by boats brought onto our Lake, it is important that on a frequent basis the Lake is monitored for outbreaks.

In past years, the LCO Conservation Department has been responsible for monitoring. At next spring's homeowners meeting we will propose and ask for volunteers that will be responsible for certain sections of the Lake. The concept will be similar to the "adopt a highway" state program. Volunteers would be trained to identify EWM and communicate any positive findings to the LCO Conservation Department for treatment. This approach ensures that we "stay on top of" any outbreaks.

**Round Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. / 2004 Membership Application**

I am interested in serving on the following committee:

- Government Awareness Committee
- Water Quality Committee
- Water Safety Committee
- Membership Committee
- Fish Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

State

Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

- Enclosed are my dues of \$20.00 for calendar year 2004.  
Send to:  
Round Lake Property Owners Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1070  
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843-4048

## 2003 Northwest Lakes Leadership Conference by Dave Andersen

### Secretary/Treasurer's Report by Dave Andersen

As of the end of July 2003, our association had balances of \$20,857.95 in the General Fund and \$29,974.95 in the Milfoil Fund. This represents an increase of \$2,373.01 in the General Fund and a decrease of \$480.64 in the Milfoil Fund since these fund balances were last reported in Spring, 2003.

Thank you to you, our members, for your continued financial support of the important work of your association.

I attended the subject conference at the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center on June 27th as a representative of the RLPOA. There were several excellent speakers. One interesting topic dealt with exotics such as Eurasian Milfoil and zebra mussels. Another dealt with protection of our lakes' water quality and shorelines. We're doing a very good job working on the milfoil issue, but we as a group of lakeshore owners have a ways to go on protecting the waters and shorelines of Round and Little Round lakes.

We've done good work correcting failed and failing septic systems. Now, we all need to take the next step and simply obey Wisconsin state laws! First, it is the law to maintain a 35-foot buffer strip immediately adjacent to the shoreline. This is essential to controlling water runoff into the lake when it rains and when snow melts. Simply stop cutting grass in the area or contact Dale Olson, Sawyer County Land and

Water Conservationist, for help with flowers and other groundcover to build the buffer. Secondly, are you aware it is against Wisconsin Law to operate a powered watercraft at a speed greater than "slow no wake" within 100 feet of a pier, dock, raft, or buoyed area? Not only is this a safety issue, it's also an erosion control issue, and there are violations of this law virtually every day during the summer months. Compliance with these two items costs nothing and is as important to our lakes as anything we can do.

You'll see an insert in this newsletter from Susan Miller, Wisconsin Conservation Warden. You and your guests should be aware of these rules, as following them will make recreation on our lakes safer, and will also help greatly with water quality and protection of the shoreline. You may even avoid a citation! Please post it in a prominent place on your property for family members and guests.

*Zoning Ordinance... continued from page 3*

vegetation provisions applicable to all shoreland. No structural changes would be permitted for structures within 40 feet of the ordinary high-water mark. These provisions would make enforcement much more straightforward and certain.

#### **Land Trust**

The RLPOA Board has been in discussions with the Board of Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust, Inc. with a view to joining forces with that established organization.



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