

Keep Safety Top of Mind by Jack Ardoyno

This is my first Water Safety Newsletter contribution. I would like to introduce myself. My wife, Lyndia, and I built our home on Round Lake in 1987 and moved to live here full time in 1997. We had been vacationing on the Lake with friends since the late '70's and so have a familiarity with the Lake going back over many years. The RLPOA has evolved over those years into a significant force in the care of our lake and I am happy to contribute what I can as the Chair of the Water Safety Committee to continue that excellent effort.

I want to acknowledge the selfless effort exerted by Bob Strachota, the current President of the RLPOA, who served as Water Safety Chair for the last 10+ years. Bob really does care about Round Lake and has worked hard for a very long time to enhance the value of our lake. Thank you, Bob!

While it is beneficial to remind lake enthusiasts of the statutory rules governing conduct on the lake, I would like to focus this issue on the common sense topic of alcohol and boating.

Perhaps contrary to conventional wisdom, I believe that drinking while boating can be more dangerous than drinking while driving a car.

I do a lot of flying in amphibious airplanes and I frequently examine the question that passengers pose about where to land the airplane in the case of the incapacity of the pilot. I always tell them to crash the plane at the airport instead of the lake. Chances are that you will walk away from the wreckage at the airport while you will most probably drown when you crash the plane in the lake. I think the same can be true in boating. Every year we witness the loss of friends and acquaintances to accidents with boats, snowmobiles and four-wheelers that either would not have occurred or would have been far less serious had alcohol not been involved.

So I would simply like to reiterate some sentiments offered in previous newsletters about drinking and boating:

- Treat drinking while boating at least as seriously as drinking while driving.

- Be ready to turn the helm over to your designated Skipper when you exceed your limit.
- Use common sense regarding boating and drinking not just to avoid a BUI citation (which would be rare unless there is an accident) but for the sake of friends, family and others enjoying the pleasures of lake boating.

There are few things more pleasurable than the sunset cocktail cruise on a beautiful evening on Round Lake. Exercising common sense can only enhance the experience.

I would like to encourage those who have ideas on enhancing water safety on Round Lake to contact me. (715)634-2984.



“Adopt A Shoreline” Interest Grows by Terry Kingston

At the recent Fall Homeowners Meeting a number of additional volunteers signed up to participate in the Adopt a Shoreline Program designed to prevent the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). In the spring newsletter, we will provide an updated map indicating the shoreline that is being monitored. It will be a reminder to existing volunteers what part of the shoreline for which they will take responsibility. Additionally it will give other potential volunteers information

on what parts of our lake still remain unmonitored. All members of the board appreciate the volunteerism exhibited by these people which ultimately results in a better quality of lake for all of us.

Last August the LCO Conservation Department reviewed portions of the lake that are subject to EWM. Based on their review and the input of volunteers there were a number of sites identified. Those sites were treated around Labor Day and subsequent inspection

showed that the treatment was substantially effective. As in years past EWM was found in Little Round and School House and Leader Bays. In addition to those areas, EWM was discovered in Hinton Bay. This new location demonstrates that we all must be diligent in identifying and reporting any EWM outbreaks. Early identification will limit the spread of EWM and help us reduce the amount of chemicals used in its treatment.

Last year, well over
one-half of possible
members joined.

The best ever.

**Let's make this
a banner year
for involvement
and support.**

2004 Membership Report

Potential Members	655
2003 Paid Members	375
2004 Paid Members	261

The number after your name on all communications is the year that you are paid through. Please check this date and send your membership dues if this date is prior to '04.

Wally Narr, Membership Committee

The Benefits of Membership

Joining the property owners association has its advantages.

- Be part of a proactive group concerned about our lakes
- Get information about our lakes and the area
- Have a voice in the decision-making process
- Have a forum to voice concerns
- Support the association and the board
- Be a part of helping water safety
- Be a part of Eurasian Milfoil control
- Be a part of clean, clear water in our lakes
- Be part of a proactive group concerned about our lakes
- Get information about our lakes and the area
- Have a voice in the decision-making process
- Have a forum to voice concerns
- Support the association and the board
- Be a part of helping water safety
- Be a part of Eurasian Milfoil control
- Be a part of clean, clear water in our lakes
- Protect our properties, by being good stewards of the lakes
- Learn more about legal activities concerning our lakes
- Join in cooperation with other lake associations
- The return of your investment is great

Annual Dues: Only \$20 per year

Recommendation: One time only contribution for Eurasian Milfoil fund of \$1.00 per foot of lakeshore frontage on your property. This is to sustain the fund for years to come.

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

Water Levels

Since our last report, the DNR on July 14, 2004, notified the County that it had accepted the County's petition to review and clarify existing orders of the Public Service Commission and the DNR relating to water levels on the Round and Osprey Lakes. In its letter the DNR stated that it would work with the County, Round Lake Property Owners, the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Council and other interested parties to resolve the water level orders. The County Clerk wrote RLPOA on July 20, 2004 advising that the concerned officials of the County agreed that it is important to keep RLPOA informed of developments concerning any management plans for Round Lake and that he will attempt to see that RLPOA gets copies of important public documents in the future. The president of RLPOA has notified the DNR that RLPOA does not support a change in the authorized water levels but, rather, wants the County to do what has to be done to actively manage the water level to comply with the 1941 order of the Public Service Commission. In a related development, the DNR notified the County in a letter dated July 9, 2004 that the County's after-the-fact permit application for the

placement of the culverts under Highway NN that drain Osprey Lake were incomplete and, since the culvert inlets were elevated above the bed of Osprey Creek, a determination would be made whether the culverts constituted dams. This letter asks for additional information to assess the culvert placement.

Meanwhile, there have been developments in the Hausman v. Sawyer County litigation in which the plaintiff seeks (1) monetary damages for injury to his Round Lake property allegedly caused by the County's failure to maintain the water level as mandated by the 1941 order and (2) injunctive relief requiring the County to install and maintain the structures necessary to comply with the 1941 order. On September 13, 2004, the Court denied the County's motion to dismiss Hausman's suit or in the alternative to stay the litigation pending completion of the DNR study. In addition, the Court denied the DNR's motion to dismiss Hausman's prayer for injunctive relief and to stay his suit for monetary damages. The trial has been scheduled for July 11, 2005.

Piers

As reported in the summer newsletter, the DNR's emergency rules governing piers were suspended on June 25, 2004. The DNR has established a committee of

so-called stakeholders to develop proposed permanent rules for piers. The proposed permanent rules will be posted on the DNR's website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org>. We understand that the proposed rules will likely follow the existing Pier Planner as it pertains to the length and width of a pier, viz., length equal to the greater of 1) a boat length, 2) the distance to the three foot water depth contour, or 3) the distance to a deeper contour by the draft of a craft permissibly using the pier and a width of six feet. The new rules will regulate rafts and will incorporate statutory provisions.

Zoning Committee and Board of Appeals Matters

It has been very quiet on requests for Round Lake properties that require Zoning Committee or Board of Appeals action. There is currently pending before the Zoning Committee a request to subdivide a lake front lot into three lots, two of which would be less than 100 feet wide, measured at right angles along their depth. The Town of Hayward Board denied the request for a variance and the hearing before the Zoning Committee on September 17, 2004 was continued at the request of the property owner. RLPOA intends to oppose the granting of the variance.