

Round the Lake

Round Lake Property Owners Association

Fall/Winter 2006

President's Corner by Bob Strachota

Water Quality Management

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Dear Round Lake Property Owners,

It was a great old-fashioned hot summer at the lake. However, the summer went by way too fast for me, as I am sure it was the same for you. Water quality remains high on our watch list, as does milfoil. All new outbreaks of milfoil were treated in the early summer. Recently some small patches were found in S.W.Hinton Bay as well as a few other parts of the Lake. 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 growth in excess of 10 acres. Currently, if we have an outbreak greater than 10 acres, the Association is not allowed to treat the milfoil. This study will establish a base line for the Lake in regard to numerous water quality issues, and we will have the lake data needed to request milfoil treatments in excess of 10 acres. While it is expensive (approximately \$10,000), thanks to your dues and other contributions, the Association has 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 future meetings.

The water level of the lake was generally low this summer when compared to previous years. The County and the Wisconsin DNR appointed a local task team/technical committee to study water management for the future and they have recommended a "passive approach." Essentially the County wants to opt out of any future 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 would be abandoned. The Board is seriously concerned about this approach to water management and has objected to their recommendation, or lack of. The technical committee has asked for the Association's recommendation, and the Board is currently discussing how to proceed. Your comments on this subject are invited and can be e-mailed to Value@Shenehon.com.

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

Treasurer's Report by Dave Andersen

At the end of June, 2006, we had \$17,120.37 in the General Account and \$19,984.07 in the Milfoil Account. We manage to balance income and expenses in the General Account each year but are reducing our Milfoil Account by about \$10,000 each year to monitor and treat the lake for invasive species (Eurasian Water Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, etc). In about two years we are going to have to raise added funds for this program.



Status of Round Lake Water System Management Plan by Bill Whitlock

In response to Sawyer County's petition dated June 2, 2004 to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to clarify existing orders and other rulings of the DNR and its predecessor concerning the mandated water level of Round Lake and to exercise its authority to regulate and control the level and flow of waters in the Round Lake System, the DNR agreed on July 1, 2004 to accept the petition and indicated that it would develop a project team to compile and review the existing information on Round Lake water levels. Although the County, RLPOA, and other interested parties were urging the DNR to act, nothing was heard from the DNR until its letter of April 4, 2005 outlining the issues, its internal meetings and research and advising the County that a hydraulic analysis would be required to evaluate the effects of different scenarios or proposals for the whole round Lake system. The DNR held a meeting in May of 2005 with representatives of the County, LCO tribal officers, RLPOA and other interested parties to discuss procedures for future meetings. On November 4, 2005 the DNR issued its proposed process plan to address the issues raised in the County's petition. Then on December 9, 2005 the first meeting was held

attended by representatives of the County, the DNR, LCO, RLPOA and other interested parties. Meetings have continued to be held monthly thereafter and attendance has been expanded to include representatives of the Tiger Cat Flowage and Osprey Lake Associations.

As a result of the information developed at these meetings, successive drafts of the Round Lake Water System Management Plan have been prepared, the latest being the draft of August 9, 2005. It's vision statement reads:

"To protect and enhance the ecological and cultural characteristics of the Round Lake chain-of-lakes through sustainable management."

The sections of the draft Plan contain generalized statements concerning water quality, hydrology, aquatic plants, fishery resources, water levels, shoreline development, forests, invasive species, recreation and jurisdiction of the various governmental and tribal bodies. An attempt was made to determine what effect higher or lower water levels would have on these aspects of lake management and the consensus seemed to be that since drastic changes were not being proposed in water levels, a change in water levels would not have

very much effect except, perhaps, if water levels were raised significantly, some septic systems could be adversely affected.

To come to grips with the water level issue, a technical group was appointed by the larger study group. The technical group consisted of Tom Aartila, Dave Kafura, Frank Dallam and Paul Cunningham from the DNR, Dan Tyrolt from LCO and Dale Olson from the County. This group identified the following control points on the outflow from Round Lake:

(i) an earthen dam with plugged culvert in Osprey Creek between the Highway NN culverts and Lac Court Oreilles. This dam is on LCO property and is unauthorized – it apparently was built 3 to 5 years ago for use as a snowmobile/ATV trail over the creek. The County will remove it up on receipt of written approval from LCO. At least seven beaver dams on Osprey Creek upstream of the dam obstruction further impede the outflow of water. Control of beaver dams county-wide is being considered by the County.

(ii) Two 4-inch culverts under Highway NN have been installed too high above the creek bed and have been determined by the DNR to constitute an unauthorized dam: the County does

Status of Round Lake Water System...continued on page 3

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not contest this determination but final resolution is being deferred until implementation of the Management Plan.

(iii) This vegetation and an occasional beaver dam in Osprey Lake acts as a further barrier to the outflow of water through the lake. There seems to be no solution as yet to this problem.

(iv) A road with an inadequate culvert on the wetland between Little Round Lake and the east end of Osprey Lake impeded the flow of water to Osprey Creek during periods of high-water. The DNR says the landowner has been made aware of the problem.

(v) The drainage ditch downstream of the Little Round Lake dam has been silted in to such an extent that it, rather than the dam, controls the water level of Round Lake. LCO owns the land on at least one side of the ditch and Dan Tyrolt of LCO has said that the LCO will not consent to any dredging of the ditch. However, there is an acknowledged and recorded but unsigned easement on file in the Sawyer County Register of Deeds office dated November 21, 1941 granting Sawyer County a 100 foot easement for a drainage ditch. The technical group declined to consider the efficacy of this easement which the County apparently has relied up

on in dredging the ditch in the past. The technical group also declined to consider the effect of the 7th US Circuit Court decision in the State of Wisconsin v Baker which held that the State of Wisconsin owns the land under navigable streams even if located within the LCO Reservation.

(vi) The sill of Little Round Lake dam has been raised by about a foot owing to the installation by persons unknown of permanent wooden boards elevating the sill to nearly 76 feet thus possibly decreasing the velocity of the outflow and contributing to the silting in of the drainage ditch. The technical group dismissed this raising of the level of the sill as possibly being done to reduce the undermining of the dam. With respect to the management of the water level in periods of low water, Dale Olson, the County official responsible for dams, said that in the past 10 years in response to complaints he has jammed boards into the dam to impede the outflow on two occasions.

After reviewing the foregoing control points and looking at historical water levels which were not continuously monitored but were taken on a spot basis with many gaps, they noted that the range of the readings varied from

a low of 75.6 feet to a high of 77.9 feet, the technical group made the following recommendation:

“Passive System – this option would mean abandoning the dam, lower the culverts at CTH NN, fixing the culverts and floodplain/wetland fill on Rt. 3 snowmobile trail and actively manage beaver dunes on Osprey Creek.”

The technical group indicated that the abandonment of the dam would not mean its physical removal but only the removal of the channels for the boards so that boards could no longer be placed in the dam. The adoption of this option would mean that the 1941 order of the Public Service Commission would be abrogated and that the County would have no further obligation to manage the Round Lake water level. The technical group apparently was of the view that no engineering modeling is called for by this approach so we do not know how low the water would go in a drought or how high it would go in the event of a 10, 50, or 100 year flood event. It was pointed out that this solution completely ignored the state position of the RLPOA Board of Directors which was adopted on August 19, 2005 and reads as follows:

Status of Round Lake Water System...continued on page 7



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Summer of '06 Proves Exceptional by Alan Reinemann



(8" to 10"), 1998 500,000 fry, 1999 300,000 fry and 150 (5" to 15"), 2003 200,000 fry, and in the last year alone 200,000 fry, 30,410 extended growth up to 10", 30,410 (36.05mm) & and additional 450,000 fry. Success to maturity of fry is one percent. With fingerlings as much as 10% and the LCO extended growth can be as high as 80 to 85%.

The way things are looking at this point, the 3 Walleye bag limit could be repeated again next year. But not only has Walleye action been getting back to the good old day's, many Small Mouth in the 22" to 24" class and Bluegills up to 10" have been reported.

Dave Nueswanger DNR regional Fishery Supervisor has informed me of 3 super large Musky, 2 at 53" and one over 51" that were found dead this spring! Before laying their eggs it is estimated these fish could have weighed 55 to 60 lbs. Proof this lake can and does produce number and "record book weight class fish". Dave felt these healthy large fish couldn't survive the stress of spawning in the 65 degree warm shallows. According to Dave Kaufara of the DNR, for the past four years our rainfall is 20.47" short of normal. Round Lake is usually one of the last

Spring and early summer fishing has been the best we've seen in over 8 years! Many Walleye in the 15" to 15¾" range have been caught with about 10% being 21" and over. A number of fishermen have released 24" to 28" fish from the opener all the way through the first week of August.

In past years the DNR imposed 1 Walleye bag limit may have reduced angler activity and numbers caught, but I believe all the stocking by the LCO has brought the numbers of fish in the lake way up. In 1996 we have had 3,300 (5" to 7"), 1997 800 (4" to 5") and 200

Summer of '06 Proves Exceptional...continued on page 5

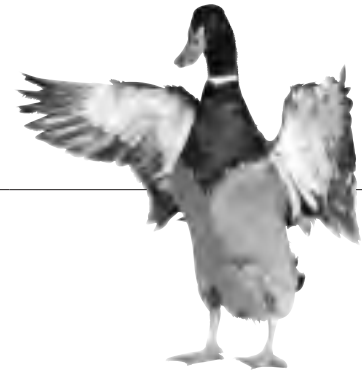
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lakes to warm up in the spring, but with the near drought conditions for two years and water levels fluctuating almost 19" this allows the lake to warm much faster. With 1.5 billion gallons less water to warm up the usual 52 degree spring condition became 65 degrees which was just too much for these deep water dwelling monsters when it came time for them to spawn in the shallows.

This year Hayward Musky Fest fishing tournament again was proof that Round Lake fishing is coming back. Out of all the lake in the area Round Lake had 10 winners in the Northern, large & small mouth Bass and the Largest Walleye released! Fishing may have been good this spring but the best is still to come. Please help support our stocking program! We've

already received donations from all the business owners on the Lake. When you visit Ran-D's, Famous Dave's, Round Lake Marina and Timber Trail Lodge remember to thank them. If you'd like to make an extra contribution the RLPOA stocking program you can send it to the same address you use to send your membership dues.

Water Safety by Jack Ardoyno



As many of you may have noticed, lights have been added to the two buoys leading into Richardson Bay. Early in this season I noticed during a buoy inspection that the large green one had suffered a collision, presumably from a boat and probably at night. I added a couple of garden lights to the top of the buoys and we have received very favorable comments from many of you. The Board has directed that lights be added also to the buoys leading into Hinton Bay and these will be installed this season.

Swimmers' Itch

There have been scattered reports of swimmers' itch the summer of 2006. It is caused by parasites that die shortly after penetrating the skin. The parasites are found in shallow water near the shoreline. Their hosts at one time in the life cycle are birds, rodents, or mammals and at another time snails. Swimmers are infected when the parasite has just left a snail and is looking for a new host.

So what preventive actions can lake property owners take? First, don't encourage birds (ducks and geese) to

stay near a swimming area by feeding them. Second, don't riprap the lakeshore if possible – the rocks provide habitat for snails. Third, towel down immediately upon leaving the water and avoid swimming in areas near the shore where snails have accumulated.

For further information contact Dale Olson at Sawyer County Soil and Water Conservation.

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New RLPOA Website by Tom Kintzinger, Website Administrator

**RLPOA (Round Lake Property Owners Association) has a new website:
www.roundthelake.com or www.rlpoa.net**

These sites have identical content and are regularly updated by volunteer Tom Kintzinger a 21+ all year around resident on Round Lake. The site is sponsored by his wife Sue Kintzinger and does not cost the RLPOA anything at this time. The site has been up and running since late 2005. We are all learning about what to put on the website but our policy currently is the more information the better and all independent submissions for publication will be approved by the RLPOA board in a timely manner. Please visit our new website and send any suggestions or comments to Tom or the RLPOA

Board of Directors. All of their email addresses are on the website. If anyone has any relevant information, photos (particularly vintage ones) etc. for publication on the website please submit to Tom at **tk25@roundthelake.com**

along with a permission/authorization note to use them.
You can also sign up for Round Lake latest news notices by email on the website.
Welcome to our new website!



Membership Report by Wally Narr

Please use the membership form in this newsletter to renew your membership. Check the date (ex. '06) next to your name on the mailing label, which indicates the year you are paid through. This example shows dues were paid up through 2006. If there is no date, this indicates you have never sent in dues to the association. Last year we had a lot of first time paid up memberships. Thank you for your support.

Dues remain only \$20.00 per year. If you desire to pay for more than one year at a time, we gladly except multiple year memberships. Continued support is needed to keep our lakes in good condition. We all know about the Eurasian milfoil problem. We do have other concerns about invasive species of plant and animal life.

Several years ago it was suggested, as a one-time contribution, to donate \$1 per foot of lakeshore to our milfoil fund. Please consider this support if you have not already done so.

Sue Kintzinger and I have spent a lot of hours this year updating our membership list. In the last few years a lot of properties have changed owners. I believe we now have a very current membership list. There are a few things you can do to help us keep this up to date.

1. If we have a name or address wrong, please let us know.
2. If you have knowledge of a property being sold, let us know the new owners so we can contact them.
3. Indicate on your membership renewal the address you prefer to have the newsletter sent to. Many owners have at least two addresses.

Thank you again for your continued support.

I can be contacted: Wally Narr 12357 W Wiley St. Hayward.
Phone 715-462-9252 e-mail **wbnarr@centurytel.net**

Round Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. / 2007 Membership Application

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

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

Enclosed are my dues of \$20.00 for calendar year 2007.
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“RESOLVED, that the official position of the Round Lake Property Owners Association on the issue of the water level of Round Lake is that we are not certain whether or not the level of the lake in recent years has been within the limits established by the 1941 PSC order but that the association supports what the average has been over the past 25 years, whether that complies with the 1941 order or not. 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.”

The DNR was quick to say that if the study group did not agree with the recommendation of the technical group, the DNR would continue to work with the group on an alternate plan. The technical group said then that its second option would become applicable. It reads as follows:

“Maintain a Range – this option would require engineering and modeling as identified by the technical team during these two

meetings. This would require the County to request an order change.”

It was left that the participants in the study group should be prepared to make recommendations as to the ranges they would like to see. RLPOA is seeking professional help in making such a recommendation.


The technical group dismissed out of hand as “not achievable” enforcement of the 1941 order of the PSC. It did not consider replacement of the undersized present dam that was in such condition that the County could never manage the lake level in conformity with that order.

A NOTE FROM FAMOUS DAVE,

WELL FALL IS HERE AGAIN AND I WANT TO TAKE THIS MOMENT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS PAST YEAR. I WANT TO ADDRESS A BIT OF GOSSIP ON WHETHER WE ARE SELLING THE RESTAURANT. WE ARE NOT! HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE CHANGING LAWS REGARDING LAKESHORE PROPERTY, OUR FAMILY DECIDED IT WAS BEST TO CONDO OFF THE RESORT CABINS AND GET IT DONE WHILE WE STILL COULD. WE WILL BE OPEN THIS WINTER AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO SERVE YOU THE "BEST RIBS IN AMERICA"

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SUE KINTZINGER
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