



The Newsletter of the Yahara Lakes Association

FEBRUARY 2012

A SLIGHTLY NEW LOOK TO THE YLA BOARD

by Carol Gillen, YLA Board Member

Congratulations to the YLA board members re-elected for new terms--Louisa Enz, Chuck Gates, Mark Pernitz, Sal Troia and Tim Stanton. The 2012 YLA officers are: Chuck Gates, President; Carol Gillen, President-Elect; and Mike Gerner, Treasurer. The Secretary has yet to be named.

Although re-elected, Tim Stanton resigned from the board in January. YLA greatly appreciates Tim's volunteer time and expertise on the YLA website and many other projects. We wish him well in the future.

We have two other changes on the board. Donna Paulnock was elected to her first term and Ray Potempa, a long-standing board member, is now an advisor to the President. Donna and Ray have different backgrounds and connections to the lakes, and we wanted to share some of those stories with you.

DONNA PAULNOCK, A NEW YLA BOARD MEMBER

Donna has long standing ties to the University of Wisconsin and the area lakes. She is a professor in the UW Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, and Associate Dean for the Biological Sciences in the Graduate School. She and her husband, John Mansfield, have enjoyed living on Lake Monona since 2006.

When Donna was riding her bike ride around the lake on a perfect summer day in 2005, she thought to herself, "I have always wanted to live on the lake". Acting on that thought, she set about making it a reality. After making the move, she has wondered why they did not move to the lake sooner. The lake has become a special place to live for Donna, especially watching the wildlife, seeing the lake illuminate during sunrise and sunset, and the calming influence of the water.



In addition to being a lake watcher, Donna is also an active lake user. She swims in the lake, crews with John on their Flying Scot in Lake Monona Sailing Club races, rows with him in their 2-man scull, and kayaks with friends. In the past, Donna also competitively rowed at the local and national levels with the Mendota Rowing Club.

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Mark Your Calendars

RENEW NOW!

2012 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

APRIL 14

RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP

AUGUST 9-12 & 16-19

INLAND REGATTA - MENDOTA

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**PLEASE SUPPORT THE
BUSINESSES THAT
SUPPORT YLA!**

A SLIGHTLY NEW LOOK TO THE YLA BOARD con't.

by Carol Gillen, YLA Board Member

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Lake living has made Donna aware of lake quality issues, and she is interested in being active in a lake-focused organization. She feels that weed growth, lake clarity and beach safety are key factors for all lake users and that changes in environmental practices will be needed to improve these areas. When asked how she would help make changes in our area lakes, Donna said, "Knowledge is power, and if we can educate people about the lake issues, we can make a difference. Since I am an educator, that is the approach I would take. I am excited to be a part of the (YLA) group and challenging projects."

We are pleased to have Donna as a YLA board member and look forward to working with her in the future.

RAY POTEMPA HAS A DIFFERENT "ON BOARD" ROLE

Ray has been a YLA board member since 2002 and is our only representative from Lake Kegonsa. He and his wife moved to their home on Kegonsa in 1984, drawn by both the lake and the surrounding area. Ray said, "It is almost a perfect location. We live on a peninsula between the lake and the Yahara River, which is relaxing, quiet and a perfect place to view wildlife."

Ray worked for the State of Wisconsin for 27 years ending with the Gaming Commission. Since his retirement, he has had more time for lake activities and playing golf.

There is one group, FOLKS, that is close to Ray's heart and has brought together Lake Kegonsa property owners. There had been divisions among Kegonsa lake owners due to living in both the Towns of Pleasant Springs and Dunn where there are different representatives and governments. In late 1980, a small group started the Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society (FOLKS) to focus on lake issues. Most Lake Kegonsa homeowners are members, including Ray, who was active in starting FOLKS and still serves on their board of directors.

There are changes in the future for Ray. He anticipates moving from Lake Kegonsa, and therefore was not seeking re-election to the board. His new role will be an advisor to the YLA President to share information about Kegonsa, and between YLA and FOLKS. YLA values Ray's knowledge and experience, and is glad he will continue working with our association.



DANE COUNTY APPROVES \$27M FOR CLEAR LAKES INITIATIVE

by Ron Seely, Reporter - Wisconsin State Journal (summarized by Carol Gillen, YLA Board Member)

In November 2011, the Dane County Board approved \$27 million over 5 years toward improving the water quality in the Yahara Chain of lakes and rivers. The program is called the Clear Lakes Initiative and includes:



- Removing sediment churning carp from Cherokee Marsh and Mud Lake;
- Adding and replacing storm sewer outlets that dump untreated storm water and litter into area lakes, rivers, and streams;
- Buying land from a \$3.4 million annual fund to protect Yahara chain of lakes and their tributaries;
- Funding recommendations from the Yahara CLEAN to improve water quality; and
- Providing algae-blocking booms at two area beaches.

Additional information about the Clear Lakes Initiative can be found in the Wisconsin State Journal online archives at www.madison.com.

DREDGING ON LAKE MENDOTA

by Lisa Coleman, Engineer - City of Madison Engineering Division

Last fall, the City of Madison completed two dredging projects on the western end of Lake Mendota at Marshall Park and Spring Harbor. The contractor completing the work at both sites was Homburg Contractors, Inc. of Monona. The purpose of the dredging at Marshall Park was to deepen the channel between the boat launch and Lake Mendota. Because this boat launch is within a protected harbor, it the most popular launch site for large power and sail boats. Long-shore currents tend to deposit sediment in the channel and impede navigation at this location, so it must be periodically dredged to restore adequate depth.

The purpose of the dredging at Spring Harbor was to restore navigability and access to the boat launch at the south end of the harbor. An existing storm sewer box culvert at the south end of the harbor drains a large urban watershed extending as far as the West Towne area. Sediment deposited from the storm sewer outfall was removed during the project. For both projects, a temporary access road was built out into the lake, and dredging was accomplished with a long-reach excavator.



Excavated sediments were hauled to Junction Ridge Park on Madison's far West side, and used to fill a depression in the park.

The City of Madison Parks Division, the City of Madison Storm Water Utility, and a Recreational Boating Facilities grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources funded the approximately \$150,000 construction cost for both projects.

THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT DANE COUNTY LAKES

By Carol Gillen, YLA Board Member

NOTE: Kevin Connors, Director, Dane County Land and Water Resources Department and Dave Taylor, Director of Special Projects with the Madison Metropolitan Sewer District (MMSD) attended the January 19, 2012 YLA Board meeting. The board is grateful for their time and extends a thank you to both for their reports noted below.

Kevin Connors had a lot of news about projects that will benefit both lake property owners and lake users.

- **Manure Digesters**—The Waunakee Digester has been on line since 2011 and is working well. A second digester will be placed in the Mendota watershed in the near future.
- **Water Recreation Survey**—New lake user surveys will be implemented in 2012 to update an older survey. (Please see the related article “Help Wanted for Lake Surveys” for additional information and how to become a volunteer.)
- **Babcock-LaFollette Dam Repairs**—There are plans for dam improvements beginning with the first phase to repair the dam’s concrete. The second phase will renovate the dam’s structures, originally built in 1936. After the renovation, the dam’s water flow, and gating and navigation systems will operate in a different manner.
- **Stoughton Dam**—In response to a question, Kevin reported that the dam is under the control of the City of Stoughton.
- **Aquatic Invasive Work**—During the summer of 2011, students were stationed at various boat launches. The students made 4600 contacts with boaters to educate them about the importance of removing weeds from trailers and boats and cleaning out their drywells to reduce aquatic invasive species transfer from lake to lake. In 2012, in addition to continued public outreach, tools will be provided at the boat launches for easier boat cleaning.
- **Clear Lakes Initiative**—Kevin mentioned 3 items from the Clear Lakes Initiative (see related article on page 3)
 - *Beaches* - The beaches at Mendota County Park and Goodland Park on Lake Waubesa will be assessed. Cost sharing will be available for municipalities to install booms to deflect weeds and debris.
 - *Carp study* - Carp migration in Cherokee Marsh will continue and there may be carp removal in 2013-14 depending on the data collected.
 - *Land and Legacy program* - \$3.4 million is allocated for purchasing land in the Mendota watershed
- **YLAG2**—Over 250 recommendations were submitted to the Yahara Lakes Advisory Group 2. The members have worked hard to narrow the number to 26. Kevin thanked Bill Fitzpatrick, YLA board member, for his input and work with the YLAG2 committee.
- **Lake Levels**—The lake levels on Monona varied quite a bit this October and November. In mid-October, water was discharged from Mendota, which caused a rise in Monona’s level. Later in October and into November, Monona’s levels decreased. Kevin said the decrease was likely due to reduced precipitation in the fall and no weeds in the Yahara River, which allowed more water to be discharged from the lake.
- **Weed Control/Harvesting**—The County hopes to have a 10th barge up and running this summer. Last summer winds caused weeds and filamentous algae to pile up in certain areas of the lakes. By the time the harvesters got to those areas, the winds had shifted and the weed mats were gone. Kevin said the main goals of weed harvesting program are to keep the Yahara River clear and to cut navigation channels from shore for boat access. The county provides weed collection from the end of piers and beaches in the city of Madison and this service is paid by the City of Madison for their residents.



STRATEGIES FOR MEETING NEW DNR PHOSPHOROUS STANDARDS

By Doug Bach, YLA Board Member and Carol Gillen, YLA Board Member

Dave Taylor reviewed MMSD's compliance with new DNR phosphorous standards (NR217). Wisconsin is the only state that has adopted "watershed adaptive management" (WAM) as a compliance strategy to reduce phosphorous levels.

WAM allows using management practices in the watershed (such as improved agricultural practices) to reduce phosphorus, rather than installing expensive 'end of the pipe' treatment equipment at the wastewater treatment plant. This strategy promises greater total phosphorus reduction at a much lower cost. Most importantly for YLA members, the benefits of reduced phosphorus would be realized in our lakes, not downstream of the sewerage treatment plant.

A pilot project on WAM is projected for 2012 through 2015 for the Six Mile Creek watershed. The pilot will focus on reducing runoff and restoring wetlands with the goal to improve water quality. Three to four new USGS monitoring systems will be placed in the Yahara watershed to measure phosphorus levels. The new data will be compared to data from 1979 through the present. Although there may not be major changes in water quality during the time of the pilot project, MMSD will have a better idea on how to coordinate with communities and also determine if WAM can be used on a wider scale.

Dave stated that the DNR, EPA and Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission have been cooperative and supportive of the WAM, but more community support is needed for a collaborative effort to meet the new requirements. Dave encouraged YLA to help develop community support and promote the WAM approach.

HELP WANTED FOR LAKE SURVEYS

By Marcia Hartwig, Project Coordinator - Dane County Office of Lakes and Watershed

Dane County Office of Lakes & Watersheds is currently conducting a series of surveys designed to learn more about the use of Dane County's lakes and streams and to try to get a snapshot of the economic impact the surface water resources have on the area.

The first survey, completed in 2010, sought to identify how Dane County residents use the lakes and streams here. The second survey, currently underway, "intercepts" users at the point of usage (beach, launch, etc.) and gathers data on how far away people come to use the lakes and streams. The third survey will be based off data gathered from the first two surveys and will attempt to assign a value to the economic impact of the water resources here. Overall results will be used for a variety of planning and management decisions.

We need to gather data from a wide variety of user groups and would welcome any volunteer help. Each survey only takes about three minutes to conduct. While interns conducted many surveys this past summer, we still are in need of help gathering data from winter users. Given the lack of ice, this has been challenging. If you are going to be out and about on the ice (where there is some) sometime yet this winter, we would greatly appreciate any assistance.

If you would consider helping or would like more information on the surveys, contact Marcia Hartwig, project coordinator, Dane County Office of Lakes & Watersheds at 608-224-3746 or hartwig@countyofdane.com.

Let us know about events on your lake,
lake-related websites you have discovered
or ideas for future newsletters.
Contact 239-1664 or info@yaharalakes.org

SAVE MONEY - USE LESS SALT THIS WINTER

By The City of Madison Engineering Office

Salt and sand contribute greatly to lake and stream pollution. Once it's spread on parking lots, streets, sidewalks and driveways, it's on its way to the nearest lake or stream and cannot be recovered. Fifty pounds of salt (one large bag) can pollute 10,000 gallons of water—which is equivalent to one teaspoon in a five-gallon bucket of water. Municipalities are working to cut salt use while still keeping streets safe. So, let's all save money this winter with these helpful tips and help the lakes and streams at the same time.



- Always use a shovel first, especially if the pavement temperature is 32°F or more—don't waste money on deicers.
- Reserve deicers for ice, not snow. Shovel as soon as possible so that wet, heavy snow doesn't have the opportunity to turn to ice.
- All salt is not created equal. Various types of deicers perform differently at different temperature ranges. The most common and cheapest is sodium chloride ("rock salt"), but doesn't work when the pavement is colder than 15°F. Magnesium chloride and calcium chloride cost more, but you'll use less and it works in colder temps.
- Measure your sidewalk and driveway so you know how much you need. A general guideline is to use 1-3 cups of salt per 1,000 square feet. Save money by using only what is needed.
- Apply liquid salt to the pavement before the storm and shovel a little while it's snowing. After the storm, shovel before using any salt. Most times, you won't need any. Use deicers on ice, don't waste it on snow.
- You can use 30% less deicer if you wet your salt with some water before applying it.
- While salt is sometimes mixed with sand to keep the sand from freezing into a solid block, it's not a good idea to use both at the same time on your sidewalk. The salt will melt the ice, but when it refreezes, the sand will be frozen below the surface where it can't do any good. Choose one or the other. Try removing the ice by hand first before using either sand or salt.
- If you have an area that tends to ice up, consider making it a priority to remedy next summer so you won't need to deice in the future.

Caveat emptor! (i.e. buyer beware!) - Read the label on the ice melt product so that you know exactly what you are spending your hard-earned cash on. If the bag doesn't say otherwise, it's probably sodium chloride, but you're better off using something that says exactly what's in the bag. Some products claiming to be "green" or "pet safe" are simply chloride compounds.

Labeled as:	Works Down to:	Approximate Cost	Pros/Concerns
Calcium Chloride	-25°F	\$35 for 50 pounds	Use much less than rock salt, chloride impacts; may damage concrete
Magnesium Chloride	5°F	\$30-\$35 for 50 pounds; \$15-\$20 for 20 pounds	Less toxic than calcium chloride and less damaging to concrete and pavement, but may corrode metals over time
Sodium Chloride ("rock salt")	15°F	\$6 for 25 pound bag	Chloride impacts
Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)	25°F	\$20 for 50 pounds	No chlorides; less toxic
Potassium Chloride	25°F		Need to use more than rock salt; works slower than calcium chloride, safer on concrete
Sand	No melting effect	\$5 for 20 pound bag	Not a deicer; for traction only; do not use with salt; accumulates in streets, lakes and streams; needs to be swept up, easily tracked into buildings

PLANT DANE! COST-SHARE PROGRAM and RETAIN THE RAIN! WORKSHOP

By Marcia Hartwig, MAMSWaP Storm Water Education Coordinator

Now in its 8th year, the Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program provides native plants for rain gardens and flowerbeds through funding from the Graham-Martin Foundation.

New for 2012: plants will now be delivered in May! Order forms will soon be online at www.myfairlakes.com/plantdane.aspx.

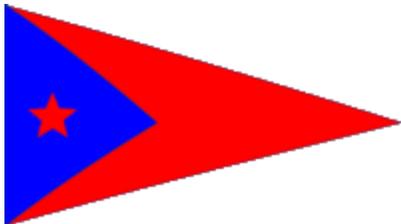
A workshop on rain gardens and rain barrels is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2012. The workshop will explain how rain gardens and rain barrels work, how to plan for and install them. These simple yet effective tools help conserve water and help rain soak into the ground instead of becoming pollution-carrying storm water on its way to our lakes and streams. The cost for the workshop is \$5. Registration form will soon be open online at www.myfairlakes.com/plantdane.aspx. Details of the Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program will also be covered for those interested in ordering plants for their gardens and yards.



Rain gardens are an attractive way to reduce lawn maintenance time and costs, beautify your yard and help your lakes, rivers and streams all at the same time. Many find replacing turf and exotic ornamentals with plants native to Wisconsin a rewarding landscape alternative. Once established, natives do not require the maintenance inputs that turf and ornamentals need. Yet, native wildflowers provide blooms from spring through fall and provide habi-

INLAND LAKES REGATTA TO BE HELD ON LAKE MENDOTA THIS SUMMER

By Don Sanford, Public Relations - Mendota Yacht Club



This summer, the Mendota Yacht Club will celebrate its 109th anniversary when it hosts one of sailing's largest events, the Inland Lakes Yachting Association Annual Championship Regatta.

The regatta will happen August 9 - 12 and August 16 - 19, 2012 on Lake Mendota, known among sailors as one of the country's finest sailing venues. This annual event plays host to many of the country's finest sailors competing in one of six classes of "scow" type sailboats.

"All of us in the Mendota Yacht Club are looking forward to this event," said Trey Sprinkman, Regatta Chair. "For spectators, there will be plenty to see and we'd be happy to have YLA members help out as volunteers, even if they're not MYC members," he continued. Look for more information about the regatta at the club's website www.mendotayc.org

Don Sanford is a Captain for the Betty Lou Cruise Line. He is currently conducting research for *On Fourth Lake: A Social History Tour of Lake Mendota*. Look for his social history cruises this summer in the MSCR Pontoon Boat schedule. He welcomes your comments, recollections and anecdotes about Lake Mendota. Please forward information to him at dpsanford@charter.net

LET'S BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

By Don Sanford, Member - Four Lakes Ice Yacht Club

At this time of year, our lakes seem to doze under their wintertime blankets of snow and ice. The ice on our Four Lakes chain is a seductive cocktail of nature's mystery, physics, thrills and scenic beauty. But just like any cocktail concocted by one of State Street's best bartenders, it's usually the most fun just before it gets dangerous.

Madison is, without question, the iceboating capital of the universe, at least if you ask an iceboater. Madisonians have sailed on Mendota and Monona since... well, since there were Madisonians. In the late 1830s and early 1840s, Mendota's ice was the preferred, and perhaps the only, route for the quarrymen cutting stone at Maple Bluff for the second State Capitol building (the first in Madison), who often traveled there on crudely built iceboats. Iceboat design made a giant leap forward in 1890 when William Bernard created what he called the "Madison-Style" iceboat. Since then, Madisonians like Carl Bernard, Jim Payton and Bill Mattison have won countless national and international championships and kept Madison at the leading edge of iceboat design.



Before the advent of mechanical refrigeration, Madison ran on an economic engine powered in part by ice. During the 1901-02 harvest 400 men (2 percent of Madison's 1900 population) and 16 teams of horses spent 12 weeks filling 11 of the principle icehouses around Lakes Mendota, Monona and Wingra. Less than half of the 70,000 tons harvested that winter would be delivered to iceboxes in Madison kitchens. The majority would be exported to southern states like Mississippi. The always cold and often dangerous harvest of this renewable resource was made by workers known as "icemen." A misstep on the wet, slippery surface surrounding the channels cut into the lakes' icy blanket could send an iceman into the frigid water where survival was measured in minutes.

As in the 1800s, Mendota's ice was a convenient route for Madisonians headed to the dance halls and road-houses in Westport in the 1920s. Unfortunately for those motorists, routes across the lake were not as well marked or inspected as those for the History Channel's *Ice Road Truckers*. Cars and their occupants occasionally slipped through a crack in the ice during a late-night return trip to town from a night of dancing and partying. While only a few drowned, cars scattered on the bottom of the lake silently remind us that ice is a living, breathing thing and the tug of gravity, even through 80 feet of water, is inescapable.

Being Safe on the Ice

"We like to remind everyone that the ice is never 100 percent safe," says Greg McCormick, Commodore of the Four Lakes Ice Yacht Club. "Never venture out on the ice alone and always carry your ice picks in case you fall in," he said. You'll find more about ice safety at the club's website at www.iceboat.org.



CURRENTS

Let us know about events on your lake, lake related websites or ideas for future newsletters by contacting info@yaharalakes.org. We appreciate your help!

Websites that will keep you up to date on lake related information:

www.myfairlakes.com & www.danewaters.com & www.cleanlakesalliance.com

*** **Clean Lakes Alliance:** CLA will issue a State of the Lakes report early this summer. The information will be based on October 2011 reports from UW Limnology Department and include rainfall, lake temperatures, days of beach closing and much more.

*** For an update on the UW study "Water Sustainability and Climate in the Yahara River Watershed" funded by the National Science Foundation Grant, go to <http://wisc.limnology.wisc.edu> Lots to read!



PO BOX 22
WAUNAKEE, WI 53597

Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd. is a non-profit organization of over 400 members dedicated to representing lake property owners and advocating for the vitality of the Yahara chain of lakes so that all citizens may enjoy them.

2012 Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd. Board of Directors

2012 Officers:

President - Chuck Gates
President Elect - Carol Gillen
Secretary - To Be Announced
Treasurer - Michael Gerner
Past President - Dick Adler

To Contact any Board Member:

Call 239-1664 or
E-mail: info@yaharalakes.org

2012 Board Members:

Doug Bach	Dick Pearson
Charles Dykman	Mark Pernitz
Louisa Enz	Dan Schultz
Bill Fitzpatrick	Joe Tisserand
Ken Koscik	Sal Troia
Bob Miller	William von Rutenberg
Donna Paulnock	

Special Committees:

Communications Committee
Lake Quality Committee
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JOIN TODAY!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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