



The Newsletter of the Yahara Lakes Association

FEBRUARY 2014

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO KEEP IT BLUE

By Susan Graham, Lakes Management Coordinator - Wisconsin DNR

Ahhhh, the lazy days of summer on the lakeshore. This image is merely a dream, not only in the depths of winter, but even in the midst of muggy summer days when we are busy hosting a party, running the kids to soccer games, or maintaining the home and lawn. Then, there's maintaining the lake frontage, where we wish we could be enjoying more carefree time with our family and friends. Weeds not only wash up on shore, but they grow rooted throughout the shallow zone of the Madison lakes, maybe including in front of your property. What can be done?

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, as the appointed steward of waters of the state, regulates what happens to plants in the lakes. These plants are critical features of a healthy lake, serving to suppress excess algae, dampening erosion-causing wave energy, and supporting the wonderful fisheries these lakes host. Despite these and many other benefits of lake plants, there are some small-scale remedies that you, as a riparian property owner, can do to keep the shoreline more accessible and useable.



Manual removal of Floating Plants: Plants that are loose (not rooted) and washing onto the beach can be removed without any restrictions. Composting or mulching around trees and shrubs are excellent end points for these plants. Since wet plants are heavy, allowing plants to drain and dry for a day or so before moving them off the beach would save a lot of effort. Alternatively, Dane County, in partnership with the City of Madison, has a shoreline barge crew that collects aquatic trash and debris from Madison residents' piers on Lake Mendota and Lake Monona through August. The pick-up will collect only lake plants and other debris that has washed up on shore (not yard waste).

Manual removal of Rooted plants: If very dense aquatic plants grow, around your pier, and they seriously interfere with swimming, fishing, or

continued page 2

Mark Your Calendars

TODAY!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

APRIL 25, 2014

STATE OF THE LAKES MTG

JUNE 24, 2014

YLA ANNUAL DINNER AT
BLACK HAWK COUNTRY CLUB

FOR MORE LAKE EVENTS
VISIT WWW.YAHARALAKES.ORG

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO KEEP IT BLUE	1-3
LAKE CLEAN UP EFFORTS	3
CONFLUENCES - CON- NECTING LAKES WITH PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEM	4-5
SAVE THE DATE JUNE 24 YLA BOARD UPDATE	5
SPEED CURRENTS	6
2014 MEMBERSHIP	7

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BUSINESSES THAT
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WHAT YOU CAN DO TO KEEP IT BLUE

... continued from page 1

launching a boat, manual removal of plants might be the best option for you. As a property owner, the permit requirement for this is waived if all the following conditions are met: a) plants are removed from a maximum width of no more than 30 feet measured along the shoreline, b) all your recreational devices (like pier, boatlift, swim raft) are located within that 30-foot wide zone, c) plants are removed to an upland site from the water, d) no chemical control is going to be done, and e) the location is not within a department-designated Sensitive Area (there are none on the Madison Lakes at this time). If any condition is not met, a permit is required to rake. Please keep in mind that open space created by raking is an open invitation to recolonization by the worst weeds – at this time, that weed is Eurasian watermilfoil, which mats at the surface, and is usually more of a nuisance than the other species of aquatic plants that grow here. So, less raking is better!

What if you don't have the time or strength to do this yourself? Many people will hire a strong, young person to work hourly by contacting local high schools or the university, if they don't know someone who can do it. Raking once in early summer is usually sufficient to allow swimming, fishing or launching a boat.

Chemical control: The other option, besides just letting the plants grow naturally or manually removing them, is getting a permit to apply chemicals that will kill some of the plants. A permit is required for ALL chemical applications to water in Wisconsin. Floating plants are not treated because those plants are already dying. One company has provided coordination service in recent years in the Madison chain of lakes – Clean Lakes Associates at this website: <http://cleanlakesassociates.com/faq.html>. They compile a list of property owners who want to be considered for chemical treatment, submit a group permit to the department, and hire the herbicide applicator. Treatment is only allowed where a nuisance condition truly exists and the plants are of a type that can be treated (wild celery is resistant to allowed chemicals, so cannot be treated). While treatments can't control all the plants around your pier, the worst of the nuisance is usually alleviated.

Application of herbicides to treat nuisance conditions is allowed by permit under specific conditions and department supervision under Wisconsin Administrative code NR107. Manual removal is regulated by NR109). The chemicals that could be used are all registered by EPA and registered for use in Wisconsin waters by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. If your address is included in this permit, your adjacent lake neighbors are notified, and if the lake around your pier does get treated, your pier would be posted with two yellow signs to alert pier users and lake anglers about the application. You can read more about plant management in lakes at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants/> *continued page 3*

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO KEEP IT BLUE

... continued from page 2

Contract Harvesting: Finally, if your frontage becomes socked in with an exceptionally severe problem of floating or rooted aquatic plants, you could request a special contract with Dane County Land and Water Resources Department, who might be able to provide services (for a fee) for the removal of plants using their mechanical harvesters. This plant harvesting program is permitted to cut and remove plants under plan and permit with the department. Keep in mind they can only cut rooted plants in water that is at least three feet deep. They can scoop up floating plants in shallower water, but not cut. To learn more, visit www.countyofdane.com/lwr/parks/aquatic_plant_harvesting2.aspx#garden.



While there are limits because these are waters of the state, you have some options to manage nuisance aquatic plants around your pier to allow for swimming, fishing and launching your boat.

LAKE CLEAN UP EFFORTS

By Greg Fries, P.E., Principal Engineer - City of Madison Engineering Dept.



The City of Madison continues to work cooperatively on ways to improve the quality of our lakes. Two of the biggest urban contributors to poor water quality are leaves and construction sites. We hope to better address both of these issues in the near future through a leaf collection study and an expanded erosion control program.

In 2012, the City received a grant from the Fund for Lake Michigan and partnered with the U.S. Geological Survey, the DNR, Dane County, and Yahara WINs in order to quantify water quality improvements from the City's leaf collection program. Fallen leaves and tree buds are a source of phosphorous, and when they are allowed to accumulate in roadways, or homeowners rake their leaves into the street, rain water washes through the piles of debris and sends nutrient-rich stormwater into our lakes and rivers. Algae and weeds thrive on nutrient-rich water. The City of Madison's current policy is to ask homeowners to rake their leaves to the terrace for collection, but to keep them out of the street. This study is designed to tell us how well that program works. We will compare our current program to a "do nothing" program, in which we don't collect leaves in specified neighborhoods, as well as a "ramped up" collection, in which homeowners in those areas are asked to bag their leaves. More information on this study: www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/LeafStudy.cfm

Soil erosion from active construction sites has the potential to be a major contributor to poor water quality, which makes erosion control a high priority for the DNR as well as City Engineering. With a grant from Yahara WINs, the City of Madison intends to expand our current erosion control enforcement process by including the following items on projects in critical locations: 1) meetings with the owner/manager, site superintendent, alderperson prior to issuance of the permit to emphasize erosion control 2) review of site plan to a higher standard than State code or City ordinance for sediment control 3) attendance of preconstruction meetings by erosion control inspectors to set clear expectations and 4) weekly site inspections by a City erosion control inspector.

As the City of Madison moves forward on stormwater management, we will continue to work to find new and cost effective methods to reduce total suspended solids (TSS) and total phosphorus (TP) in stormwater discharging to the Madison Lakes.

CONFLUENCES - CONNECTING LAKES & STREAMS TO CITIZENS WHO LOVE THEM

By Nancy Sheehan, Stream Monitoring Coordinator - Rock River Coalition

When Carol Gillen contacted me to write an article for *LakeViews* I could not have been more delighted. For the past 20 years, the Rock River Coalition (RRC) has formed strong partnerships with citizen lake and stream associations who share the common goal of promoting clean water through healthy watershed management. The RRC welcomes this opportunity to work together with the Yahara Lakes Association.



RRC's mission is to educate and provide opportunities for people of diverse interests to work together to improve the environmental, recreational, cultural and economic resources of the Rock River Basin. One such opportunity for citizen engagement in this important mission is through participation in our stream monitoring program. Established in 2002, the RRC has trained over 200 volunteers to "test the waters" using easy-to-learn, science-based procedures developed by the Water Action Volunteers Program. Currently, the RRC has a team of over 70 volunteer stream monitors collecting water quality data throughout the Basin. The RRC works collaboratively with state and county governmental entities, academic institutions, not-for-profit organizations, and individuals to generate high quality data for enhanced decision-making and to provide an opportunity for greater public participation in protecting our streams.

The RRC is excited to be a catalyst for citizen engagement in stream monitoring in the Yahara River watershed. In December 2013, the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINs) awarded funding to the Rock River Coalition to expand our volunteer stream monitoring program in the Yahara River watershed.

What is Yahara WINs? Of the approximately 580 stream miles within the Yahara River watershed, 83.4 stream miles are listed as "impaired" — these streams do not meet water quality standards for total phosphorus and total suspended solids established by the Clean Water Act. To meet these new water quality standards and address phosphorus reduction requirements, a watershed partnership — the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network or "Yahara WINs" — was formed. Yahara WINs includes Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), Dane County, WDNR, municipalities, villages, and towns as well as Yahara Pride farmers and many other individuals in the Yahara River watershed. Yahara WINs members are committed to innovative practices to reduce phosphorus runoff into lakes and streams within the Yahara River watershed.

How will Yahara WINs measure success? Stream water quality data are critical to assessing whether or not various phosphorus reduction projects are in fact improving water quality. The Yahara WINs grant will help the RRC maintain the 23 volunteer stream monitor sites established in 2013 during Year 1 of this project and enable RRC to recruit and train 26 new volunteers to monitor additional stream sites in 2014.

Who are our partners? RRC project partners include Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, Yahara WINs partners, Water Action Volunteers Program, Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds, Dane County Land and Water Resources Division, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Friends of Starkweather Creek, Friend of Pheasant Branch Conservancy-Kids for the Earth Program,

CONFLUENCES - CONNECTING LAKES & STREAMS TO CITIZENS WHO LOVE THEM

... continued from page 4

Friends of Yahara River Headwaters, the Village of Deforest, Town of Windsor and Token Creek Conservancy Committee, and Stoughton Senior Center.

Do you want to volunteer? RRC is actively recruiting volunteers to establish 26 new stream monitoring sites. As a volunteer stream monitor you will measure water temperatures, assess water clarity, test dissolved oxygen levels, estimate stream flow, and – *most fun of all* – identify aquatic insects. Some volunteers will be asked to collect monthly water samples. The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District will assess these samples for phosphorus and other nutrients such as total suspended solids and ammonia. As a volunteer stream monitor, you will be providing valuable data. Join this effort and help us ensure that all streams in the Yahara watershed can be monitored.

Register now for a stream monitor training workshop visit www.rockrivercoalition.org

Contact: Nancy Sheehan, Coordinator: nancy@rockrivercoalition.org; 608-515-9434

Saturday, 5 April 2014 9:00 am - 12:45 pm

Level 2 & 3 Stream Monitoring Training - Deforest Area Public Library, Village of Deforest

Thursday, 1 May 2014 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Level 3 Nutrient Sampling Training - Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District 9 Spring Plant

Saturday, 3 May 2014 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Level 1 Stream Monitoring Training - Deforest Area Public Library, Village of Deforest

Saturday, 10 May 2014 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Level 1 Stream Monitoring Training - Amundson Center, Village of Cambridge

Saturday, 17 May 2014 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Level 1 Stream Monitoring Training - Dane County Location TBD

No prior experience is necessary. All training and equipment provided. Just bring your curiosity and a willingness to spend about 2 hours by a stream once a month from April - October.

SAVE THE DATE - JUNE 24, 2014

By Dick Adler & Joe Tisserand

Our popular YLA annual meeting and dinner will be held at beautiful Blackhawk Country Club on **Tuesday, June 24th**. Please save the date and plan on being with us for a fun evening featuring a wonderful dinner and many, many great door prizes.

We will present awards to individuals who worked hard in 2013 to improve our lakes. Come and meet fellow lake homeowners and get important updates on our Yahara lakes. We look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday, June 24th**.

YLA BOARD UPDATE

By YLA Board of Director Members

Thank you for participating in the November elections for your YLA board of directors. The results are in! We welcome Roy Carter as our newest board member this year. Luke Hutchins, Allan Levin, Dick Pearson, Joe Tisserand and Carol Gillen will be serving another 3-year term. We would like to have more representation from Lake Kegonsa, so please let us know about possible candidates.

This year, Dick Pearson will be serving as President and Joe Tisserand as Vice President.

SPEED

By Don Sanford, Yahara Lakes Historian

A few months ago during a visit to my oldest son in Washington State, he suggested we attend a wooden boat show at Lake Chelan. "They'll have a bunch of those old unlimited hydroplanes on the water," he said. "Sounds like fun, let's go."

The big hydros were on the racecourse about 1-1/2 miles from shore when we arrived. They were fast *and loud*. Later, we had a chance to check out the 30-foot *Miss Bardahl* and her 3,000 HP Merlin aircraft engine while she was at the pier. Wow. Before we recall the next generation *Miss Bardahl's* Madison visit, let's step back to 1928 when motorboat racing was in its infancy.

Outboard racing made its Madison debut on Lake Mendota in August 1928, about 20 years after Ole Evinrude developed his first outboard motor. Spectators watched as local favorites Carl Bernard and Norbert Diederich raced against some of the best outboard racers in the Midwest. These guys were *fast*, at least by 1928 standards. Carl won both the Class A and Class B divisions with top speeds of 24.52 and 31.1 mph respectively. After complaints about the racket created by these primitive engines, Burgess Labs created a glass-packed muffler that probably reduced the decibel level from deafening to just mildly annoying for those on shore.

The outboard racers returned the following year. That September, in the run-up to the big Midwest Regatta, moviegoers saw Diederich's boat and one owned by another Madison racer, William "Frisco" Frey, on display in the lobbies of the Orpheum and Capitol Theaters. Despite the Great Depression, outboard races were held again in 1930. This time more than 4,000 Madisonians showed up, Diederich took home the *Capital Times* trophy, and Bernard took home a second place in Class B.

In the 1940s, outboard racing was a featured event during the Aquatennials held at the brand new Law Park on Lake Monona. Among the top outboard pilots were Madisonians, Harry and Betty Vogts, Al Reque and Fred Raemisch. Reque owned Madison Marine Service on Atwood Avenue. John Lunenschloss recalled, "Al was a wizard with outboards. He could do things to them that no one else could do to make them go fast."

Now, back to *Miss Bardahl*... In the spring of 1968, Robert Blank, Commodore of the Four Lakes Yacht Club and president of the Wisconsin Cup Association, announced plans to bring an unlimited hydroplane race to Lake Monona that June.

The roster of boats entering the race featured many of the fastest boats on the circuit including: *Miss Bardahl*, *Gale's Roostertail*, *Miss Budweiser* and *Atlas Van Lines*. Thousands watched as the boats paraded from the Holiday Inn on East Washington Avenue, around the Capitol Square, and down Broom Street to the pits at Law Park.

With 30,000 paid spectators in the stands and thousands more on piers, porches and boats around the lake, *Miss Bardahl* handily won the first Wisconsin Cup with an average speed of 96.73 mph. Exactly why this was the first and only Wisconsin Cup is shrouded in mystery. Whatever the reason, by April 1969, the American Power Boat Association dropped Madison from its schedule publicly citing low paid attendance and lack of a local corporate sponsor. Hydroplanes have raced on Lake Monona since then but they can't compare to the excitement during that week 1968 when the thunderboats came to town.



Norbert Diederich racing *Miss Bardahl*
Photo credit: Don Sanford archives

CURRENTS

Results of the Turville Bay research project on early weed harvesting vs. herbicide treatment are at http://www.danewaters.com/pdf/turville_project_Fact_sheet.pdf

Please send us current events for future postings: info@yaharalakes.org

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR YLA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014?

By YLA Board of Directors

If you've already renewed your YLA membership for 2014, **THANK YOU** for your continued support! If not, please renew your membership now. Here are some member comments about why they joined YLA:

"As a YLA member, I am kept aware of legislative activities affecting the lakes and have a voice about our waterways. My membership dues are used in a well-planned program of stewardship for our lakes. The newsletter is timely and informative on a variety of topics about our lakes."
- Barb Schuette, Lake Monona

"I like being a YLA member because it keeps me informed on important lake issues and also supports cleaning up our lakes."
- Jack Salzwedel, Lake Mendota

To renew safely and securely online, [click here](#) or go to www.yaharalakes.org. To renew via standard mail, please complete this form and mail to the address listed at the bottom of the page.

MAILING ADDRESS:

LAKE ADDRESS (if different from mailing):

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

I prefer YLA Newsletters via Standard mail or Email address _____

My lake property is on Kegonsa Mendota Monona Waubesa Yahara/Other

2014 YLA MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES: \$35 Individual \$100 Corporate Sponsor

To further support YLA's efforts in advocating for lake property owners, I wish to make a donation of:

\$15 \$50 \$65 \$100 \$ _____

(Please note: Donations to YLA are not tax deductible; please consult your tax advisor)

Mail this completed form with a check to:

Yahara Lakes Association Ltd.
P.O. Box 22
Waunakee, WI 53597

Questions? Call 608.239.1664 or email: info@yaharalakes.org



PO BOX 22
WAUNAKEE, WI 53597

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

Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd. Board of Directors

2014 Officers:

President - Dick Pearson
President Elect - Joe Tisserand
Secretary - Ray Potempa
Treasurer - Michael Gerner
Past President - Carol Gillen

2014 Board Members:

Dick Adler	Chuck Gates
Doug Bach	Luke Hutchins
David Bohl	Allan Levin
Roy Carter	Bob Miller
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2014 Advisors:

James Tye



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.yaharalakes.org

To contact any Board Member or Advisor: phone: 239-1664 or email: info@yaharalakes.org