



The Newsletter of the Yahara Lakes Association

# NOVEMBER 2017

## A NOTE FROM YOUR YLA PRESIDENT

By Allan Levin, YLA President



As the activity on the lakes subsides for another year (except for those of us looking forward to the upcoming season of hard water sailing and ice fishing), my term as president is also coming to an end in January. Dan Schultz will succeed me. I will, however, remain on the YLA board and active in riparian related activities.

The past year was memorable for YLA. We had the largest attendance ever at our annual meeting and dinner in June. We created yard signs for display as recognition of membership. (There are still some signs available.) We held a symposium in September on shoreline matters and representation. This symposium was well received and we are discussing a potential second symposium early in May 2018. We will continue to keep you involved in the planning process.

YLA is represented on the county Lakes and Watershed Commission by a YLA board member and this membership will continue. YLA is also represented on the Dane County Healthy Farms, Healthy Lakes task force created by the Dane County Board. This representation is made possible by the ongoing efforts of the membership in advocating for our shoreline and lakes. County officials and administrators recognize the importance of the lakes and their environment and are working to create an equitable balance between the agricultural interests of the county and quality of our lakes. This has, overall, improved the quality of the lakes and will continue to do so. This emphasizes the importance of renewing and increasing the size of our membership to provide our elected officials with constituents who will recognize and reward their efforts to push for additional and ongoing improvement in the lakes' environment. Although we have the ears of our local state representatives, we are still outnumbered in the state and some of the changes enacted and proposed will affect our area.

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FOR MORE  
LAKE NEWS & EVENTS  
VISIT:

[WWW.YAHARALAKES.ORG](http://WWW.YAHARALAKES.ORG)

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**THANK YOU  
CORPORATE MEMBERS**

- AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
- ARGENT CAPITAL, INC.
- BISHOPS BAY COUNTRY CLUB
- BLACKHAWK COUNTRY CLUB
- CAPITOL TRAVEL SERVICE
- CAPTAIN BILL'S
- CHRISTY'S LANDING
- CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE (CLA)
- D.L. ANDERSON
- THE EDGEWATER
- ENDRES MANUFACTURING CO.
- FOUR LAKES YACHT CLUB
- HOMBURG CONTRACTORS, INC.
- JOE DANIELS CONSTRUCTION CO.
- MADISON BOATS
- MANKE ENTERPRISES
- MARINER'S INN
- MERRILL LYNCH
- MIDDLETON BOAT HOUSE CO.
- NATIONAL GUARDIAN LIFE INS. CO.
- NAU-TI-GAL
- PHARO MARINE, INC.
- PINCKNEY PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOC
- PURPLE MOON FOUNDATION
- ROYLE PRINTING
- SKIPPER BUD'S
- SPRINGERS OF LAKE KEGONSA
- SPRINKMAN REAL ESTATE
- STARK COMPANY - LOUISA ENZ
- STEVEN R BASSETT LANDSCAPING
- WACONIA PARK OWNERS ASSOC.
- WATER EDGE OWNERS ASSOC.
- WEED MAN
- WESTPORT MARINE/BETTY LOU CRUISES

**A NOTE FROM YOUR YLA PRESIDENT** (continued)

By Allan Levin, YLA President

(continued from page 1)

Members of the board have been present at legislative hearings at the Capitol. I would recommend members be aware of these hearings and act in their best interest by registering their opinions and notifying their elected representatives. This can be especially true for those with actual riparian property or other property outside of Dane county but within the state of Wisconsin. The state representatives from Dane county already have our best interests at heart and I have been in contact with many of them.

So much for the update on YLA. Since this is the last newsletter of the year, I wish you all a happy holiday season and look forward to seeing all of you at our events in the coming year.

Sincerely,  
Allan Levin

**WELCOME TO YLA!**

YLA welcomes these new 2017 members:

- Argent Capital, Inc.
- Steven & Karlee Babcock
- Andy Barfuss
- Ryan Baxter
- Rob & Kara Bergenthal
- Conrad Campbell
- Timothy Carey
- Janet Caulkins
- Kristy Fedenia
- Gerald Flynn
- Howard & Joyce Foss
- Peter & Susan Fricano
- William Hofeldt
- Bridget Keepers
- Allan Larson
- Charles Larson & Sheryl Renslo
- Carl & Ann Martin

- Jean Mennes
- E. Robert Metcalf
- Joseph Mueting
- Joy Newmann
- Michael & Laura Oleniczak
- Paul & Gail Perry
- Kenneth Peterson & Lori Schmidt
- Mark & Ernestine Radomsky
- Andrew Royston
- Robert Samp
- Tim & Monica Stark
- Condon & Mary Ann Vander Ark
- Daniel Williams
- Ted Williams
- Franklin & Karen Wood
- Zhinong Zhang & Phillip Chritton



*Thank you for joining YLA!  
We look forward to serving you!*

## MANAGING LAKE LEVELS

By Dan Schultz, YLA Board Member

The Dane County Land and Water Resources Department has a 40 page Lake Level Management Guide, created in 2010, for managing the lake level on their website. After discussing the guide and the finer aspects of managing the lake levels in 2017 with John Reimer, Interim Deputy Director of the Dane County Land and Resources Department, I am going to try and cover it in a little over one page! Wish me luck!

**Dane County Tools** - The primary lever to manage the lake levels are adjusting the water flow out of the dam at the Tenney Park locks, the dam at Babcock Park, the Lafollette dam at the south end of lake Kegonsa and the Stoughton Dam. Another key tool is to enhance the water flow in the Yahara River between Lake Waubesa and Lake Kegonsa by keeping the river free of weeds. Dane County builds its own weed-cutters that are able to operate more effectively in the shallow waters of the Yahara River. The final item in the toolbox is the declaration of slow-no-wake zones to prevent water damage from boat wakes to shoreline property and piers. I will look at the use of these levers on a lake-by-lake basis.

**Lake Mendota** - The relative level of Lake Mendota is probably the most important input into the lake level management strategy for several reasons. One, Mendota is the first and largest lake in the chain so it offers the greatest capacity to hold back excess water while controlling the flow to Lake Monona and Lake Waubesa. Two, there is a 5 foot difference in lake level between Lake Mendota and Lake Monona and the dam at Tenney Park so a lot of water can move quickly through the dam.

So you have a very powerful tool to control the lake level in Mendota and Lake Monona, but there are two limiting factors. One, you cannot allow the lake level in Lake Mendota to get so high that you overflow the locks or risk the water cutting a path around the locks causing an out of control breach. There was some concern about this happening back in 2000 when Lake Mendota reached its high level of 852.74 (31 inches over summer maximum). Two, although you can move water quickly into Lake Monona, you cannot move it out of Lake Monona very quickly so it is a fine balance.

**Lake Monona and Lake Waubesa** - The primary challenge to lake level management is controlling and managing the conditions in the middle lakes in the chain, Lake Monona and Lake Waubesa. Water comes into these lakes either through the Yahara River from Lake Mendota or from storm water flow from the surrounding communities of Monona, Madison and McFarland and goes out through the dam at Babcock Park on Lake Waubesa. Unfortunately, the maximum flow out at Babcock Dam is not as great as the flow in at Tenney Park because there is less than a foot elevation drop in the Yahara River at Lake Waubesa to the entry at Lake Kegonsa.

The primary strategy during high water, if Lake Mendota levels permit it, is to slow the flow out of Lake Mendota to allow Lake Monona levels to decline to a level where it has the capacity to absorb another significant storm, keep the dam wide at Babcock park wide-open, keep weed cutters in the river to insure that weeds in the river do not impede the flow and to keep Lake Kegonsa lake level as low as possible to maximize the elevation difference between the lakes. In 2017, you basically saw the water flow managed so all of the lakes were dropping at similar rates of about 6 inches in the month of August.

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## MANAGING LAKE LEVELS (continued)

By Dan Schultz, YLA Board Member

*(continued from page 3)*

**Lake Kegonsa-** Water comes slowly into Lake Kegonsa so it generally is at a much lower level relative to summer max levels than Lakes Monona and Kegonsa. Lake Kegonsa was at unusually high levels in May and June of this year primarily because the City of Stoughton did not increase the flow out of the Stoughton dam enough to offset rise in lake levels. Although Dane County controls the flow out of Lafollette Dam, the City of Stoughton controls the Stoughton Dam so there is a level of coordination required to keep the flow management for both dams on the same page. Water levels began to drop once the flow at the Stoughton dam was increased.

**Slow No Wake** - Although the slow-no-wake (SNW) orders do not do have any affect on the lake levels, it is the primary tool used to prevent damage to piers and shorelines while that water is being moved through the Yahara chain of lakes. According to the Lake Level Management Guide, SNW will be declared in Lake Mendota when the levels reach 852.5 ft. It never reached that level in 2017. SNW orders have historically been placed on Lake Monona when the lake level exceeds 846.5-847.4 (about 14 to 26 inches over summer max). Although not specifically addressed in the guide, there are really two different zones on Lake Monona. Squaw Bay has the lowest shorelines on lake and as a confined bay on the main route from Lake Monona to Lake Waubesa it is a high traffic area susceptible to significant shoreline damage from boat wakes. So historically, Squaw Bay is the first zone to have SNW declared, usually when the lake level exceeds the 846.5 level. The entire lake usually does not fall under the SNW order until the level approaches 847 (21 inches over summer max).

In 2017, it all happened on July 26<sup>th</sup> as the lake jumped from just under 846.5 to nearly 847 in a day. SNW came off of the main lake on August 12<sup>th</sup> when Lake Monona lake level dropped below 846.5. Squaw Bay continued to be under the SNW order until the lake level dropped down to 846.0.

Lake Waubesa is normally 3-5 inches lower than Lake Monona and the historical level for declaring SNW tend to be in line with the orders for Squaw Bay. Historically SNW is declared for Lake Waubesa when the lake level ranges from 846.02 to 846.76 and the order is rescinded when the lake is consistently .6-.7 feet below the level where SNW was declared. In 2017, the lake level jumped on July 26<sup>th</sup> to about 846.6 leading to a SNW order for the entire lake. It did not drop back down to 846.1 until September 1<sup>st</sup> allowing the order to be rescinded.

According to the guide, SNW has historically been declared on Lake Kegonsa when the levels are in the range of 844.07-845.01. Although the lake did reach the 844.6 level in late July, it quickly started to drop and SNW was not declared for Lake Kegonsa.

## IN MEMORIAM - RAY POTEPA

By YLA Board Members

YLA was very sad to hear that Ray Potempa passed away at Meriter Hospital on October 8, 2017. Ray was a longstanding and beloved member of the YLA Board until his retirement in 2014, and also an active member of Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society (FOLKS). Ray was a great advocate for the Yahara lakes and will be missed by all that knew him.

## WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND

By YLA Membership Committee

Living on the water is a wonderful experience...most of the time. There are the sunsets, the migrating birds, water sports, sailboats heeling into the wind, and the quiet mornings with fishing boats at their favorite spots. And our favorite, the squeals of delight from the little kids tubing behind the speedboats. We are blessed to have this outside our homes. Yahara Lakes Association (YLA) wants to continue to be a partner in creating positive living and recreational experiences for waterfront property owners and the Yahara chain of lakes community.



Last month, the YLA Membership Committee began a process of seeking your views and opinions of this experience. We're interested in learning how you feel YLA is doing - overall and with specific issues. We conducted an initial pilot study involving nearly 60 residential homes along the Yahara chain of lakes. We knocked on doors and talked face to face with folks like you - asking "What's on your mind?" "How would you rate YLA's efforts?" "What are your top issues, if any, living on the water?"

While we gained some good initial insights from this pilot study, it was a **very small sample size** of the almost 2000 riparians in our watershed. Now we'd like to get **your** feedback. Please help us by completing the brief, 10-question survey below - it takes only a few quick minutes to complete. Your survey answers will remain anonymous. Our goal is to get your valuable feedback, compile and share the survey results and then implement plans so we can best service you and our Yahara Lakes community in the future.

Click on or go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BMFBH25>

**Thank you in advance - we value your feedback!**

## FRIENDS OF LAKE KEGONSA SOCIETY (FOLKS) PROJECT UPDATE

From FOLKS

### **Watershed Improvement Network (WINs) Grant**

FOLKS was awarded a \$5,000 Madison Metropolitan Sewer District WINs Grant to fund a leaf project. FOLKS will be working with the Towns of Dunn and Pleasant Springs to better manage leaves with the goal to reduce phosphorus run off into Lake Kegonsa. WINs focuses on phosphorus reduction in the Yahara watershed.

### **Update on the Carp Project**

FOLKS will continue their carp removal project this fall with the help of commercial fishermen. The removal will start when the water cools and the carp congregate to the warmest part of the lake. New data shared with FOLKS shows carp removal reduces phosphorus in the lake by reducing carp disturbing sediment.

## NEW LAKE PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR 2018

October 5, 2017 Press release from Dane County Executive - Joe Parisi

Dane County Executive, Joe Parisi, has proposed funding a number of projects to clean up our lakes in his 2018 County Budget. The first item is a \$200,000 study to explore how a large scale composting operation could help re-locate composted manure in bulk outside the watershed. Mr. Parisi's other proposed lake projects include:

- \$2.5 million new money (\$2.5 million additional carry forward) for the second phase of "Suck the Muck" project to remove sludge from streams with high phosphorus concentration
- \$2.7 million Urban Water Quality Grant Program (\$700,000 new money) to Reduce Runoff, Phosphorus (Local communities apply for grant funds)
- \$150,000 Clean Beach Corridor Grant Program (Local communities)
- \$95,000 New Dane County Restoration Crew to assist with restoring/maintaining prairies, streams, natural resource areas countywide
- \$35,000 new money for "Clean Shore Corridor" pilot – construct and operate algae scum pumping device, trapping muck and sucking off the surface of the water – Pilot project for 2018

## CLEAN LAKE ALLIANCE VOLUNTEERS HELP MONITOR LAKE CONDITIONS

By Katie Nicholas - Watershed Coordinator, Clean Lakes Alliance



Clean Lakes Alliance's water quality monitoring program has concluded its 5th season! This summer, more than 60 volunteer monitors, equipped with turbidity tubes and thermometers, waded into our Yahara lakes to gather and display valuable information on their health, in real-time, on [LakeForecast.org](http://LakeForecast.org). These volunteers collected over 1,600 observations including temperature and water clarity, and tracked conditions like blue-green algal blooms to help research efforts and keep the public informed of dynamic lake conditions.

This year marks the 2nd year of offshore monitoring. 5 volunteers traveled by boat to collect water clarity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen observations at the deepest point of each of the 5 Yahara lakes. These efforts bolster efforts performed by the DNR and Long Term Ecological Research Network.

In 2017, Clean Lakes Alliance implemented a continuous temperature recording pilot project. Utilizing device housings developed by students at Madison College, Clean Lakes Alliance installed 14 temperature data loggers at volunteer monitor's piers around lakes Mendota, Monona, and Waubesa. The loggers collected nearly 38,000 data points across the three lakes. These data will help researchers better understand the formation and movement of blue-green algae blooms on our lakes. Thank you, Wisconsin Citizen-based Partnership Program, for funding this project!

We'd like to thank all our volunteers for their continued support. Please visit [cleanlakesalliance.org](http://cleanlakesalliance.org) to learn how you can support our lake efforts!

## HOW TO HANDLE FALL LEAF AND YARD WASTE

By Bryan Johnson, City of Madison - Streets Division



Leaf litter on streets is a significant contributor to phosphorus levels in our lakes. And phosphorus is one of the main components that lead to algae and weed growth.

The City of Madison Streets Division performs curbside leaf and yard waste collection in the Fall to help combat this problem. But we need help from residents to be sure we're successful. Here are some simple ways that everyone can do their part to help keep our lakes healthy:

1. Never pile leaves and yard waste directly in the street. They should be piled on the grassy space between the sidewalk and the curb, or if you don't have a sidewalk use the grassy area near the road's edge.
2. Use the collection maps at [www.cityofmadison.com/yardwaste](http://www.cityofmadison.com/yardwaste) to learn where yard waste collection crews are working, and when to place your material to the curb to minimize the length of time the piles sit on the terrace. You can call the leaf hotline at 608-267-2088 for collection time estimates, too.
3. Bag leaves and yard waste in compostable leaf bags or cover them with a tarp to prevent them from blowing into the street. Keep bags open so crews know the contents of bags. Plastic bags may be used, too – just keep them open. Piles can be unbagged and uncovered at the curb as well.
4. Use the drop-off sites to supplement your curbside collection. Sites are open 7 days a week during curbside collection season (drop-off site hours change in the winter so be sure to check the Streets website to ensure the site is open before loading your vehicle). Drop-off sites for yard waste are located at 1501 W. Badger Rd., 4602 Sycamore Ave. and 402 South Point Rd.
5. Don't forget – you can try to compost your leaves at home, too.

While no one wants it to come to this, it must be noted that homeowners that choose to pile their leaves in the street can be fined by the City of Madison's Building Inspection Division. Building Inspection is the agency tasked with enforcing all manner of codes in the City, including everything from lawn maintenance to shoveling snow from the sidewalk. If you would like to report a home with leaves piled in the street, you can reach the Building Inspection division at 608-266-4551.

For more information about leaf collection, the drop-off sites, and composting visit [www.cityofmadison.com/streets](http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets).

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## HELP TRACK ZEBRA MUSSELS

By Dane County Land and Water Resources Dept.

### Help Track the Spread of Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels are currently in Lake Mendota to Lake Waubesa and are expected in Lake Kegonsa. These invasive mussels attach to most hard surfaces including vegetation. The Dane County Land and Water Resource department is asking for your help. In order to verify their presence in the lake they need you to capture adult zebra mussels for the Wisconsin DNR to voucher. When you remove boats, piers, or other things from the water if you notice zebra mussels please take a photo and send them to [lakes@countyofdane.com](mailto:lakes@countyofdane.com).



### Donate your Mussels!

Want a silver lining to our zebra mussel situation? The Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center is looking for donations of zebra mussels as they are excellent nutritional food sources for some of the native species that they rehabilitate. To donate your zebra mussels, remove them from your pier immediately after removal from the water and take them to the center at [5132 Vooges Road](#) (red building) or store in your freezer before transport for a maximum of 30 days. Zebra mussels are classified as a restricted species and their transport is not allowed without a permit UNLESS it is for disposal, education, etc. We have been in touch with the Wisconsin DNR and they have said that using the mussels as a food source at the wildlife center is considered disposal. If you have any questions, please contact the Wildlife Center at [608-287-3235](tel:608-287-3235) or email Brooke Lewis at [blewis@giveshelter.org](mailto:blewis@giveshelter.org)

## SALT TIPS TO PROTECT OUR LAKES AND RIVERS

Tips from the City of Madison Engineering Fall 2017 newsletter "Madison Water Ways"

It's coming soon—Winter!! Unless you head south, it's time to drag out the boots, coats and hats. It's a great season for skiing, ice boating, or ice fishing, but not so good for our lakes and streams when we use too much salt on our driveways and sidewalks. Once you put down salt, it washes off surfaces and ends up in our waterways. You can still keep walking areas safe if you follow some simple steps recommended by the City of Madison Engineering Department.

- **Shovel** - Yes, the more snow you remove, the less chance for ice to form. And the less salt you will need.
- **Scatter** - If you put down salt, leave space between the grains. A hand spreader can help you put down the right pattern. The city says a full coffee mug of salt is enough for about 60-70 feet of sidewalk.
- **Switch** - When pavement temperature falls below 15 degrees, salt won't work. You will need to switch to a different ice melter such as a blend that's recommended for lower temps. Another option is sand.

For more information go to <https://www.wisaltwise.com/>

## NOTES FROM RECENT YLA BOARD MEETINGS

By Annette Hellmer, YLA Secretary & Board Member

The Yahara Lakes Association Board of Directors met twice since our last newsletter-- on September 14<sup>th</sup> and October 12<sup>th</sup>. During these meetings, the Board reviewed the YLA-sponsored Shoreline Zoning Symposium, which was held on September 8<sup>th</sup> and featured three guest speakers. A re-cap of the presentations can be found in this newsletter. We hope that those of you who attended found the sessions useful and welcome your feedback on the event. Comments or suggestions can be sent to [info@yaharalakes.org](mailto:info@yaharalakes.org). The Board is beginning to discuss potential topics for next year's symposium.

During the October meeting, James Tye of the Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA) provided an update on CLA's initiatives for the coming year and discussed ways that CLA and YLA can continue to collaborate. Both YLA and CLA have a shared goal of improving water quality.

YLA membership is up this year, and we'd like to see continued growth in 2018 in order to keep our voice strong as advocates for waterfront property owners. In an effort to better understand the views of riparians on the Yahara chain of lakes, we plan to conduct a brief survey of both members and non-members later this year. Please consider spending a few minutes registering your responses when the online survey arrives.

The next board meeting will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup>.



## UPCOMING YLA BOARD ELECTIONS

YLA is led by a group of 18 board members elected by our membership. Each board member serves a 3-year term. Board members are lake property owners who share the common goal of improving our lake experience. They actively serve on a variety of lake-oriented committees & boards to represent our membership.

Each year 6 board members are up for re-election. Ballots will be sent to YLA members in late-November and will be due by mid-December. If you would like to serve on the YLA Board,

please email [info@yaharlakes.org](mailto:info@yaharlakes.org) and you'll be added to the ballot. Below is our current 2017 YLA Board:

### 2017 Officers:

President – Allan Levin  
President Elect – Dan Schultz  
Secretary – Annette Hellmer  
Treasurer – Sal Troia  
Past President – Roy Carter

### 2017 Board Members:

Dick Adler	Mike Gerner	Joe Tisserand
Stuart Allbaugh	Carol Gillen	Debbie Waite
Doug Bach	Mike Jensen	Parker Waller
Bill Fitzpatrick	Dick Pearson	
Caroline Fribance	Jerry Rekowski	

### 2017 Advisors:

James Tye - Clean Lakes Alliance

Watch for the panel of nominees and election ballots in your email and post office boxes soon!



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

### **2017 Officers:**

President - Allan Levin  
President Elect - Dan Schultz  
Secretary - Annette Hellmer  
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Past President - Roy Carter

LakeViews Editor: Carol Gillen

### **2017 Board Members:**

Dick Adler	Mike Jensen
Stuart Allbaugh	Dick Pearson
Doug Bach	Jerry Rekowski
Bill Fitzpatrick	Joe Tisserand
Caroline Fribance	Debbie Waite
Mike Gerner	Parker Waller
Carol Gillen	

### **2017 Advisors:**

James Tye



VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.yaharalakes.org](http://www.yaharalakes.org)

**To contact any Board Member or Advisor:** phone: 239-1664 or email: [info@yaharalakes.org](mailto:info@yaharalakes.org)