



summer • 2004

Weedcutting Operations Moved To New Dane County Department for 2004

By Mark Pernitz

Lakes & Watershed Commission Representative

All of us remember the abundance of lake weeds during the 2003 season and the widespread negative publicity regarding these weeds. There were several incidents of motors becoming clogged with weeds, overheating and catching on fire. Lake Monona and especially Lake Waubesa were particularly hard hit. There were times when it seemed the most efficient way to get from the Beach House to Christy's was to walk across the weeds.

The County has taken several actions in response to this. First, the 2004 County budget transferred weed harvesting operations from Public Works to the Parks Department. The Parks Department appears to be better suited to handle the seasonal staffing needs.

Second, the Lakes & Watershed Commission created an ad hoc work group to explore ways to improve the effectiveness of the county's weed harvesting operations. I was a member of the work group and other participants included representatives from the Lakes & Watershed Commission and staff, DNR, Dane County Parks Commission and staff, City of Madison Parks Division and staff, Dane County Land Conservation, Dane County Public Works Committee and staff, and UW-Madison Limnology faculty. This work group met on 5 occasions between January and April, 2004. Discussions included short-term goals as well as long-term objectives and policy issues. A complete report of the work group can be found on the LWC website [www.co.dane.wi.us/commission/lakes]. Cutting all of the lake weeds is neither desirable, practical or possible. Priorities need to be established. In periods

of high water, the highest priority is to keep water flowing in the Yahara River channel between Lakes Waubesa and Kegonsa to minimize flood damage. The next challenge is to define a plan to remove excessive plant growth in a way that balances multiple interests including the long-term ecological integrity of the lakes, enhancing the lakes for recreation, and reducing the nutrient load into the lakes.

Weed harvesting operations are done pursuant to a

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Weedcutting

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permit issued by the DNR. To obtain a permit, the DNR must approve a "plan" for the weed harvesting operations. The DNR has granted Dane County permits for the 4 Yahara lakes through the 2006 season. By 2007, new harvesting plans need to be submitted to the DNR for review and approval.

Since 1993 lake maps have been used which identify certain "no-cut" areas. These include areas where there are beneficial native plants, rocky shallow areas which are a hazard to the weedcutters, and areas which are important for fish spawning and fish habitat. The work group reviewed and updated these maps and these maps can be found on the LWC website.

The Parks Department intends to intensify its efforts during the approximately 3 week time period of maximum weed growth. By reducing the weed cutting activities at the beginning and the end of the season, the Parks Department hopes to expand the number of hours that the weedcutters are out on the lakes cutting during this critical growth period. It was a common sight last summer to see the weedcutters parked at a boat landing after 3:00 p.m. even though there was still another 4-5 hours of daylight. Given the abundance of weeds, this was a major criticism of the operations. Budgetary and staff constraints, however, precluded additional cutting during these times. The Parks Department will be exploring ways to address these concerns.

The ad hoc work group intends to reconvene after the 2004 season to evaluate these changes and to make recommendations for future operations. Please feel free to send me or Sue Jones a note letting us know how you think the County did this year and suggesting any recommendations you might have for future changes.

New Fee for Using Tenney Locks

By Mark Pernitz

As part of the 2003 budget, the County Board agreed to begin charging a user fee for the locks. These funds will be used to offset a portion of the cost for long-needed repairs and improvements to the locks. Implementation of the fee was delayed from the 2003 to the 2004 season to allow county officials to better plan for it.

Boaters can purchase a \$5 daily permit or an annual permit for \$20 either at the locks or through the Dane County Parks Department. Boaters are encouraged to purchase annual permits to minimize any delays at the locks. Permits and additional information are available at the locks or through the Dane County Parks Office, 4318 Robertson Rd, Madison WI 53714, Phone (608) 246-3896.

Pier Address Update

Lake residents who have not already purchased a pier sign should be receiving a letter shortly advising them of their pier address and providing information on where to purchase a pier sign. This is a safety program initiated by the Sheriff's Lake Patrol. Each lake property on the 4 Yahara Lakes has been assigned a unique "lake address." Posting this lake address on a pier sign is intended to assist emergency personnel and reduce response time in the event of a water emergency.

Participation so far has been excellent. The Sheriff's Lake Patrol has already had at least one positive experience where a pier address has dramatically improved the response time for their rescue unit. Additional information can be found on the LWC website or by calling Sue Jones at 267-0118.

2004 Summer Events In and Around the Lakes

Marquette Waterfront Festival

June 12-13, 2004

Yahara Park Place

A community festival for all featuring food, music and sports for adults and kids on the shore of Lake Monona. Canoe races on Yahara River.

Contact: Bob Queen, (608) 267-0842, madmax406@charter.net

Paddle to Work Day

Thursday, June 17, 2004

early morning, lakeshore

Take the watery way to work! Join colleagues and friends and float to the office. Watch for "The Big Canoe" capable of holding 5-7 paddlers. Rain date, 6/18 Contact: Sue Jones, Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission, (608) 267-0118, jones.susan@co.dane.wi.us

Badger State Summer Games

Thursday, June 24, 2004 - Sunday, June 27, 2004

Phone 608.226.4780 Email info@sportsinwisconsin.com

Web Site <http://www.badgerstategames.org/> Catch the exciting finals of the competitions in nearly 30 different sports.

Rhythm & Booms 2004

Saturday, July 3, 2004

Warner Park

Corner of Northport Dr. (Hwy 113) and Sherman Ave. Madison, WI Phone 608.833.6717 Email info@rhythmmandbooms.com Web Site <http://www.rhythmmandbooms.com/index.php>

ESPN Great Outdoor Games

Thursday, July 8, 2004 - Sunday, July 11, 2004

Alliant Energy Center

1919 Alliant Energy Center

Madison, WI Web Site <http://espn.go.com/gog03/>

The Great Outdoor Games feature more than 20 head-to-head competitions in timber and target events, fishing and sporting dogs.

Fishing Has No Boundaries

Saturday, July 10 - Sunday, July 11, 2004

Governor Nelson State Park, Madison, WI

Fishing Has No Boundaries goal is to place anglers with disabilities on the water for a fun-filled weekend of educational fishing. A fee of \$55/participant and \$20/attendant is charged.

Paddle & Portage

Saturday, July 17, 2004

Capitol Square, Isthmus

www.downtownmadison.org

Over 600 participants from across the Country descend on the Madison isthmus for this unique summer tradition.

7th Annual Madison Blues Festival

Saturday, August 28, 2004 - Sunday, August 29, 2004

Olin Park

Phone: 608-836-8999; Email info@madisonblues.com; website: www.madisonblues.com

Ironman Wisconsin Triathlon Location

Sunday, September 12, 2004

Event begins at the Monona Terrace and proceeds through various Dane County locations

Phone 608-226-4780; Email info@SportsInWisconsin.com Web Site: www.ironmanwisconsin.com

The Ironman Wisconsin Triathlon involves both amateur and professional athletes competing, in succession, in a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike race, and a complete marathon (26.2 mile run).

**YAHARA LAKES ASSOCIATION, LTD.
NOMINATION FORM FOR 2003 AWARDS**

Each year the Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd. looks for individuals and organizations who have contributed significantly to lakes and watershed living. In the past, we have honored such individuals and entities as the Dane County Lakes Patrol, the Dane County Executive, the Yahara-Monona Priority Watershed Team, and many others who have made a difference to those who live, work and play on the lakes. On page five of this newsletter you will find a historical list of awardees.

Please take a moment to consider and submit the names of individuals and/or organizations that have done an outstanding job this past year in helping to maintain the quality of our lake experience. You may use this page, a photo copy of this page or simply provide the requested information on a separate sheet of paper.

1. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Nominee: _____
Name

Address City State Zip

Reasons for Nomination:

2. PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Nominee: _____
Name

Address City State Zip

Reasons for Nomination:

3. MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Nominee: _____
Name

Address City State Zip

Reasons for Nomination:

4. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Nominee: _____
Name

Address City State Zip

Reasons for Nomination:

Please return this form by June 7, 2004 to:
Yahara Lakes Association, P.O. Box 44578, Madison, WI 53744

YAHARA LAKES ASSOCIATION, LTD. - AWARDS HISTORY

The Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd. Board of Directors voted at the July 10, 1986 meeting to authorize the presentation of awards and certificates of appreciation to those making outstanding contributions to the lakes.

The Association has four basic annual awards: Citizen of the Year, Public Official of the Year, Member of the Year
Certificates of Appreciation

The Membership Committee is also authorized to make special awards for outstanding contributions brought to the attention of the Board. Awards are by nomination of the membership, confirmed by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

AWARDS PRESENTED SINCE 1986

Citizen of the Year: 1986—Prof. Art Hasler; 1987—Nash Williams; 1988—No Award; 1989—No Award; 1990—Jan Zimmermann; 1991—Nash Williams; 1992—No Award; 1993—No Award; 1994—No Award; 1995—No Award; 1996—Jack Trautman; 1997—Edgewood College; 1998—No Award; 1999—No Award; 2000--Ken Potter; 2001 - No Award; 2002 - Ken Potter;

Public Official of the Year: 1986—Ken Koscik; 1987—Jonathan Barry; 1988—No Award; 1989—No Award; 1990—Lloyd Eagan; 1991—Michael Christopher; 1992—Richard Phelps, Dane County Executive; 1993— No Award; 1994—No Award; 1995—No Award; 1996—Judge Charles Dykman ; 1997—John Van Dinter; 1998—Ken Johnson; 1999—Sen. Chuck Chvala; 2000--Shary Bisgard; 2001 - No Award; 2002 - No Award

Member of the Year: 1986—Jim Klauser; 1987—Russell Hart; 1988—No Award; 1989—No Award; 1990—Bruce Fish; 1991— Jim Montgomery; 1992—William P. O'Connor; 1993—No Award; 1994—Tim Schaefer; 1995—No Award; 1996 (a tie)—Jeanne Morledge and Thompson Webb; 1997—Aicardo Roa-Espinosa; 1998—No Award; 1999—Mark Pernitz; 2000-Bill Fitzpatrick; 2001 - Steve Morton; 2002 - Aicardo Roa-Espinosa

Other Awards:

1987—Special Award of Merit to Paul Du Vair and Biology Students at East High School
1992—Special Appreciation Award to Karin Van Vlack, Dane County Lakes & Watershed Coordinator
1994—Organization of the Year to Yahara-Monona Priority Watershed Team
1997—Special Recognition Award to City of Madison Engineering Dept. for Spring Harbor & Starkweather Dredging Projects
1998—Special Recognition Award to City of Middleton, Bruce Company & Friends of Pheasant Branch
1999—Special Recognition Award to Louise Goldstein, Take A Stake in the Lakes Program

Certificates of Appreciation:

1986—David Clarenbach; Steve Sobiek; Jeff Wiswell
1987—James Addis (Dir. of Bureau of Fish Management); Shary Bisgard; Michael Blaska; Sgt. David Branley (Lakes Patrol); Chris Christenson; Ken Koscik; Cathie Truehl (YLA Secretary)
1988—No Certificates Awarded
1989—Lloyd Eagan
1990—Shary Bisgard; Jim Montgomery; William P. O'Connor; Stephanie O'Neal (YLA Staff Assistant); Bette Sonneland
1991—Dane County Sheriffs Dept. Lakes Patrol; Dr. C. K. Kincaid; Stephen Morton
1992—Mary Richtsmeier; Bette Sonneland
1993—No Certificates Awarded
1994—Ken Koscik (Public Works); Hermine Davidson
1995—No awards presented
1996—Sgt. Ron Boylan (Lakes Patrol); Ellen Kennedy, St. Benedicts Prairie & Restoration Project; William Wenger
1997—Norbert Breuch (MSCR Pontoon Program); Charles Dykman
1998—Marshall Erdman & Associates
1999—Tom Wilson and John Van Dinter (Town of Westport); Kevin Evan (Waunakee)
2000 -- Jennifer Winiger (Madison Magazine); John Van Dinter (Town of Westport)
2001 -- Bill O'Connor; Karen Cornwell; Mark Optiz
2002 -- Sgt. David Ritter, Deputy Randy Wiessinger; Deputy Jeff Nelson; Kevin Connors; Town of Westport

Better Lawns and Gutters Tour Set for Sunday, June 20

*Self-guided tour includes 20 stops featuring rain gardens,
maintenance free lawns and lawns planted
with native plants and grasses.*

As part of its annual Yahara Lakes Week celebration, the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission is partnering with Audubon Society, the Madison Healthy Lawns Team, Wild Ones and the UW Arboretum to sponsor the 2004 Better Lawns and Gutters Tour of rain gardens, maintenance free lawns and lawns featuring native plants. Proud garden and lawn owners will be on hand to describe the planning, planting and care of these features and share tips and suggestions with visitors.

The self-guided tour will run from noon-4 p.m. on Sunday, June 20. Two information centers, one at the UW Arboretum's McKay Center (1207 Seminole Highway), and another at Westport Town Hall, 5387 Mary Lake Road, will be open from noon-5 p.m. Maps and descriptions of the stops will be available at the information centers and will be available on-line at the Commission's website www.countyofdane.com/commissions/lakes.

Rain gardens are landscaped areas, which, because of their design and positioning in a yard, soak up more water than a comparable patch of lawn. That reduces runoff, helps improve the water quality in the lakes, can reduce the chances for local flooding and also helps reduce bank and shoreline damage where storm drains empty into streams and lakes. Other sites on the tour feature lawns where organic methods are used to create beautiful, low maintenance yards and lawns planted with natives species.

For more information, contact:
Contact: Susan Jones
Watershed Management Coordinator
608-267-0118

Phosphorus - A Review

By Steve Morton

Phosphorus, in the phosphate form, is one of many nutrients necessary for plant and animal life. The elimination of any one of them will stop growth. One example of biological phosphorus is the well publicized DNA molecule which has a phosphorus backbone. To call phosphorus (phosphate) a "poison" is as foolish as to call vitamins, water, or carbohydrates poisons, although in the pure elemental uncombined state it is of course dangerous.

Phosphorus Emphasis in Lakes - There are two reasons for this emphasis. One, in most lakes, phosphorus is present in the least excess of the many necessary nutrients, i.e. it is most likely to be the so-called "limiting nutrient;" and two, there are many ways of controlling phosphorus, unlike other nutrients. For example, excess fertilizer and runoff can be controlled while phosphorus can also be reduced in wastewater treatment plant effluent. In the latter, most of the phosphorus comes from human body wastes since the phosphorus in detergents, a non-biological use, has been greatly reduced.

Phosphorus Fertilizer Ban - This ban, largely symbolic, is one step in controlling the phosphorus input to the lakes and is valuable in helping remind and educate the public about lake problems. One reason some U.W. Soils Department professors recommended that the phosphate content be reduced by a factor of four rather than to zero is this: The total polluttional discharge is the volume times the concentration. When lawns are lush, the concentration of phosphorus in the runoff is higher, but the volume is less, making the total polluttional discharge less.

Phosphorus Levels in the Lakes - The phosphorus levels in Lake Mendota are often just the opposite of what one might expect. In early spring, when the snowmelt, rains, and farm runoff from winter manure spreading are at a maximum, the phosphorus levels approach zero due to sediments absorbing the phosphorus from the wind mixed aerated lake. Later in the season, as the oxygen in the bottom waters is depleted by decaying plant and animal matter, the phosphorus is released from the sediments and is cycled between the top and bottom waters by biological processes. In early fall, as the lake loses its thermal stratification, strong winds can mix the bottom nutrient-rich waters with the top waters causing algal blooms.

The sediment contribution is the Achilles Heel of nutrient control in the lakes as little can be done; however, the substantial rural and smaller urban contributions can be reduced by human effort.

**10th ANNUAL DANE COUNTY
LAKES AND WATERSHED COMMISSION
“Take a Stake in the Lakes”
Lake Clean Up Events**

Saturday, June 12

Annual Take a Stake in the Lakes

Lakes Wingra, Mendota and Kegonsa

Clean shorelines, haul weeds, mark storm drains and more.

Time and Place: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Information Center at Wingra Park, Lake Wingra, Madison.

Contact: Rhea Stangel-Maier, Dane County Parks, (608) 224-3601, stangel-maier@co.dane.wi.us

Wingra Creek Clean Up

Capitol Water Trails, Ltd. and Mad City Paddlers join forces to clear Wingra Creek of trash and debris and improve water flow as a part of Take a Stake in the Lakes. Crews will work from shore and from canoes. Bags and drinking water provided. Bring your boat if you have one.

Time and Place: 9 a.m., Wingra Dam near Vilas Zoo

Contact: Steve Falter, (608) 223-0995, capwtrtrls@tds.net

Saturday, June 19

Annual Take a Stake in the Lakes

Lakes Monona and Waubesa

Clean shorelines, haul weeds, stencil storm drains and more. Time and Place: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Information Center at Law Park, Lake Monona

Contact: Rhea Stangel-Maier, Dane County Parks, (608) 224-3601, stangel-maier@co.dane.wi.us

Lake Wingra Cleanup and Jazz in the Park

The Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association together with the UW-Madison Arboretum takes “Take a Stake” one step further! Join them for a family day of fun with an on-water cleanup, and then enjoy Jazz in the Park. No need to pre-register. Please bring your work gloves and garden rake. Time and Place: 9:30 a.m.-Noon, Lake Wingra Boat House.

Contacts:

Hannah Harris, (608) 262-1462, harris@merr.com;

Jane Riley (608) 238-6824, murriley@charter.net,

Judy Kingsbury, (608) 262-5604, jakingsb@wisc.edu

Friends of Monona Bay and

Four Lakes Group Sierra Club Clean Up

Four Lakes Group Sierra Club and the Friends of Monona Bay join forces to clean up the bay area. Bring gloves, rakes and wheelbarrows to clean up aquatic debris and trash. T-shirts and garbage bags are provided by the County, but RSVP to reserve a shirt. Picnic afterwards.

Time and Place: 9 a.m. Brittingham Park; 9:30 a.m.

Bernie’s Beach, Madison

Contact: Beverly Speer, (608) 233-2687, bjspeer@mail-bag.com

Starkweather Creek Clean Up

Capitol Water Trails, Ltd. cleans up Starkweather Creek of trash and debris to improve water flow. Crews will work from shore and from canoes. Bags and drinking water provided. Bring your boat if you have one.

Time and Place: 9 a.m., Olbrich Park, 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison

Contact: Steve Falter, (608) 223-0995, capwtrtrls@tds.net

Fundraiser for Marine and Trail Enforcement

The Friends of Marine and Trail Enforcement are holding a fundraiser on August 8th, 2004, from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the NAU-TI-GAL’s.

The Fundraiser will include raffle tickets, a silent auction and a live auction. It will be held in conjunction with the NAU-TI-GAL’s customer appreciation day and there will be free burgers, chicken, brats and soda. There will also be a cash bar.

To add to the fun, there will also be free entertainment provided by West Side Andy and the Mel Ford Band.

Friends of Marine and Trail Enforcement was established to raise funds for the Marine and Trail Enforcement to improve boating safety by increased patrol hours on the lake and also to help fund boating safety classes. 100% of the funds go to this cause.

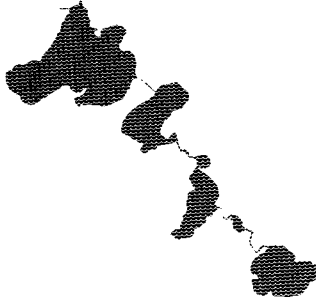
Everyone is encouraged to attend. If however you are unable to attend you may also send a check made payable to “Friends of Marine & Trail Enforcement” to Yahara Lakes Association, P.O. Box 44578, Madison, WI 53744.



NEWSLETTER

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Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd. is a non-profit organization of over 700 members dedicated to protecting and representing lake property owners and improving the environment of Lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa and the Yahara watershed.

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COMMITTEES

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Legislation and Legal Committee
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Call 848-1450 if you would like to become involved in any of the above-listed committees, or if you have concerns you would like a committee to address.