



Lake Views

The newsletter of the Yahara Lakes Association

Winter • 2004 -2005

Danger, Thin Ice!

When is ice safe? There is no sure answer. Ice is tricky, and just because a lake or stream is frozen doesn't mean the ice is safe.

To understand the factors involved in the strength of ice, it's necessary to understand how ice forms in lakes and streams and a few of its physical properties.

You can't tell the strength of ice just by its appearance, the daily temperature, thickness, or whether the ice is or isn't covered with snow. Strength of the ice is based on all four factors - plus the depth of water under the ice, size of water body, water chemistry, distribution of the load of the ice, and local climatic factors.

Generally speaking, new ice is much stronger than old ice. Direct freezing of the lake or stream water will be stronger than ice formed by melting snow, refrozen ice, or ice made by water bubbling up through cracks and freezing on the surface. Several inches of new ice may be strong enough to support you, while a foot or more of old, "rotten" ice may not.

Ice seldom freezes or thaws at a uniform rate. It can be a foot thick in one spot while, just 10 feet away, only an inch thick.

So, for those who venture onto the ice, whether on foot or in a vehicle, here are some tips to lessen your chances of a breakthrough.

1. Ice fishing requires at least four inches of clear, solid ice and a snowmobile / ATV five inches. (Remember, however, these are merely guidelines; the factors previously mentioned must be considered!)

2. Before you head onto the ice, check with a local bait shop owner, resort owner, or angler for the known thin areas, or aeration operations which have created open water.

3. Remember, vehicle (car and truck) travel on all Dane County lakes is not permitted without a special permit issued by the Sheriff's Office. Snowmobiles and ATV's are permitted to travel on Lakes Mendota, Monona, and Waubesa with approved floatation.

4. Flotation suits and personal flotation devices are strongly encouraged. They can keep you buoyant and will insulate you from the cold water.

5. Carry a couple of large nails and a length of light nylon rope in your pocket. The nails can help you pull yourself out of the water and onto the slippery ice. Use the line to rescue some else.

(See Thin Ice on page 2)



In this issue:

Association Board Ballot

Beauty of a Canoe to be Raffled

Tenney Lock Schedule

Pier Law Update

Wasterwater Treatment: A Local Hisory



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Thin Ice

Continued from previous page

Many ice drownings involve children. When your child is near the ice, you should be near your child. Avoid alcoholic beverages when you're on the ice. They can make you feel colder and slow down your reaction time in case of an ice emergency. Also, avoid open water, pressure ridges, and areas with current; ice can be very unstable in these areas. For more information, Call:

Dane County Sheriff's Office
Marine and Trail Enforcement Bureau 608-284-6878

Department of Natural Resources
South Central Regional Office 608-275-3266

Board Of Directors Election

Included in this newsletter you will find a Board of Directors ballot. Please take a moment to vote for six (6) candidates and return your ballot to the YLA office. Five incumbents have agreed to serve another term on the Board: Eileen Bruskevitz, Charles Dykman, Ken Koscik, Bill von Rutenberg and Joe Tisserand. Thank you for agreeing to continue your service.

We are also pleased and fortunate that Tom Franke has agreed to seek a spot on our Board of Directors.

Mark Your Calendars!
YLA Annual Meeting
July 12, 2005
Mariners Inn

Learn Boater's Safety

Boater Safety Courses will be sponsored by the Dane County Sheriff's office this spring.

April 5, 12 and 19 at Westport Town Hall
April 7, 14 and 21 at Quams Motorsports, Lake Kegonsa

All courses are from 6-9 PM

For more information, Call:
Dane County Sheriff's Office
Marine and Trail Enforcement Bureau
608-284-6878

For more information see: www.danesheriff.com/MarineTrail

Handmade Cedar Wooden Canoe to be Raffled



Canoe Crafters Extraordinaire are, left to right: Michael Doran, Jim Nemke, Joe von Elbe, Joe Krzos, Ray Potempa, Bob Miller and Ken Koscik.

A group of local volunteers are raffling a one-of-a-kind handmade cedar wood strip canoe this spring. The canoe was built under the direction of YLA board member Ken Koscik. The cedar wood strip canoe is the latest of more than a dozen canoes Koscik has built in his Lake Monona workshop.

The first step in building a wood strip canoe is to construct a plywood frame called a strong back. This serves as a form for the 15 templates to which approximately 56 cedar strips are attached. Each strip is glued and stapled to the adjoining strips. After they are all attached, the staples are removed and the canoe is sanded to a smooth finish. An opaque sheet of fiberglass cloth is carefully laid over the canoe and several coats of special resin are applied. The same process is then applied to the inside of the canoe before the seats and other parts are attached. Seven coats of varnish are also used on the exterior of the canoe to provide UV protection and it also results in a brilliant transparent finish.

The process of building a wood strip canoe takes between 150 and 200 hours to complete. This canoe may have taken longer because of all the camaraderie and conversation that took place between the volunteer builders.

One of the trademarks of a Ken Koscik canoe is the intricate inlaid chevron on the hull of the craft. The pattern results from layering dark and light pieces of cedar together and then glueing them at an angle to make a contiguous 20 foot strip. The chevron, when combined with the precise fit and finish of all the strips, makes the canoe as much of an art piece as a watercraft. It may seem too beautiful to use but, Koscik says the canoe is designed to be paddled in lakes and rivers with several occupants and a load of gear. Koscik goes to Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada at least once a year with his own hand-built canoe and has never had a problem.

The canoe project is part of a fundraiser for the Downtown Madison Kiwanis Club's college scholarship program for special need students. Club volunteers actually paid to participate in the building project, with those proceeds being used to purchase the canoe-building materials. This allows all raffle proceeds to go directly to scholarships.

The canoe will be on display with raffle tickets being sold at several shows this winter, including Canoecopia at the Alliant Energy Center, March 11-13. Raffle tickets can also be purchased by contacting Ken Koscik at 222-9513.

Meet Joe Our New YLA President

Joe Tisserand is the new president of YLA and was born and raised in Madison. He has enjoyed the Madison lakes since childhood and has the pleasure of living on Lake Mendota. Joe recently retired from American Family Insurance after 39 years and now has some extra time to devote to YLA issues and enjoy his five grandkids.

Joe has the strong desire to see clean lakes and water levels controlled. Joe believes these are critical issues and hopes that every person who lives along the Yahara chain of lakes would agree. He knows that the only way for these and other lake issues to be heard is for YLA to have a loud enough voice. Joe hopes to see an increase in membership in 2005 and is working with several YLA board members and others to get the word out about this association. He encourages all who are lucky enough to live on one of the Yahara lakes to become involved in YLA and realize the benefits of coming together to improve the lakes.

Tenney Park Lock Users

Dane County Parks is proposing a new Opening and Closing Schedule for the Tenney Park Lock located on Lake Mendota at the mouth of Yahara River. The Lock provides boater access to Lakes Mendota and Monona. The proposed opening and closing schedule has been developed to meet a reduced Parks operating budget.

Boat lock survey data from 2002 and 2004 were used in developing the proposed schedule. The proposed 2005 schedule accommodates 93 percent of the boat traffic while reducing the cost of operations by approximately 30 percent. The draft schedule includes the 2004 opening and closing times for comparison. Lock hours will be extended for holiday weekends and may be extended for special events. Patrons can apply for a Parks Special Event Permit; the fee is \$25/hour.

The Park Commission requests public input on the proposed lock schedule through March 2005. A final schedule will be developed using the public input and will be posted prior to the lock opening on May 1, 2005. Comments on the Tenney Park Lock Schedule should be sent to Darren Marsh, Dane County Parks, 4318 Robertson Rd, Madison WI 53714, or you can e-mail your comments to dane-parks@co.dane.wi.us.

Down the Drain: Some Local History of Wastewater Treatment

By Steve Morton

1800's:

In the 1800's there was no wastewater treatment. Residential and industrial wastewaters were simply discharged into the Yahara lakes.

1898 to 1928:

Wastewater treatment facilities were constructed that discharged into the Yahara River between Mendota and Monona or directly into Monona. They used the basic sedimentation, filtration and bio-treatment processes that rendered the water relatively acceptable, but did not remove phosphorus.

1928-1950:

The first unit of Nine Springs treatment plant was constructed and the effluent, rich in phosphorus, was discharged into Lake Waubesa. Previous treatment facilities were still discharging into Lake Monona but were temporary. These were closed in 1937 but temporarily opened again during WWII and during new sewer construction in the late 40's. These shut down in 1950.

The inverse relationships between algae and weed growth became very noticeable after 1937. With additions of 50 tons per year of copper sulfate into Lake Monona from 1924-1950 to control algae, more light penetration caused weed growth to increase from water depths of 4 feet to 15 feet. In the 1937 diversion from Monona to Waubesa, massive algae blooms occurred in Waubesa. The decreased sunlight penetration caused weed growth to water depths of only four feet compared to previous whole lake weed growth.

1950- 1970:

In 1958 all of the Nine Spring effluent was diverted from Waubesa and Kegonsa to Bad Fish Creek, which feeds into the Rock and Mississippi Rivers. Weeds in Waubesa and Kegonsa increased due to greater sunlight penetration. In 1970 the Waunakee and DeForest effluents were diverted from tributaries of Lake Mendota to the Nine Springs Plant.

Presently:

Regarding storm sewers, it would be a massive project to treat these discharges to the lakes although proposals are made from time to time. The public is asked to keep leaves and other debris out of the streets and gutters and ordinances are in place for control of storm water runoff, especially from construction sites.

NR 326:

Proposed Pier Rule Changes

By Chuck Dykman

As many YLA members know, the DNR is considering making very big changes to its administrative rules governing piers. A previous newsletter explained current pier law, which is a combination of Chapter 30 of the Wisconsin Statutes, NR (Natural Resources) administrative rule 326, municipal ordinances and a DNR guideline called the "pier planner." This is only a proposed rule and YLA will continue to monitor its progress. Should the rule be changed to adversely affect YLA members, YLA will send an alert with requested action.

To begin the process, the DNR appointed about 8 or 9 "stakeholders" who represented various lake interests. Property owners were represented by John Molinaro of Lake Ripley. There were about eight meetings during which a new and much broader NR 326 developed which was then subjected to citizen comments at meetings around the state. DNR is currently processing citizen comments and will submit a revised NR 326 to the Natural Resources Board, which is expected to adopt the rule, subject to legislative oversight. The following is a digest of proposed rule NR 326 that we believe are of interest to YLA members:

The rule divides pier regulation into three categories: 1) exempt piers; 2) piers for which a general permit from the DNR is needed and; 3) piers which need an individual permit. **The DNR estimates that 90% or more of existing piers will be exempt from regulation.**

Exempt Piers:

To be exempt, a pier must first comply with all local ordinances. Unless the pier was placed before April 19, 2004, it may not be located in areas of special natural resource interest or public rights features. There are few of these in the YLA area, and most are located on the Yahara River. Only a riparian may place or maintain a pier, with limited exception. An exempt pier cannot be longer than to the 3 foot water depth, measured at summertime low levels unless a greater depth is necessary for mooring a boat or using a boat hoist. An exempt pier cannot exceed 6 feet in width except for a "boat loading platform" (deck) no bigger than 120 square feet (including the pier itself) located at the lakeward end of the pier and cannot have more than 2 boat slips or hoists for up to 50 feet of lake frontage, 3 for 50 to 100 feet of frontage, and one for each 50 feet thereafter. A pier and any boats, hoists or lifts must be located entirely in the riparian's zone of interest (not in front of your neighbor's property). Piers can't enclose any portion of the lake or have a screen that would trap debris. Exempt piers cannot have a roof or second story or build-

ings, sheds or storage units on them. They can have benches, tables, chairs, boarding ladders, flagpoles, slides and diving platforms.

Neighbors can have a shared pier with boat hoists totaling the number each would have separately. They may not have any other piers if they have a shared pier.

General Permits:

If your pier does not meet "exempt" specifications, you can apply to the DNR for a general permit which are usually easily obtained. The DNR will look at the permit application, though a DNR employee may not look at the pier for which the permit is requested. The usual reasons why a general permit is necessary is that the pier is wider than 6 feet or the number of boat hoists exceed the number allowed. You can get a general permit for 18 months after the rule is passed. General permits are available for existing piers if they were placed before January 1, 1998 and were in place for 5 of the 6 years thereafter without alteration. The pier and boat hoists can exceed the number for an exempt pier, they must be within the riparian owner's zone of interest, and must not have been the subject of a complaint to the DNR or a DNR enforcement action. A general permit pier must meet the requirements for an exempt pier as to enclosure of the lake, screens, roofs, canopies, etc., and may have the items an exempt pier may have (benches, etc.) The fee for a general permit is about \$50.

Individual Permits:

If your pier is not exempt or subject to a general permit, it may be installed with an individual permit. These are more difficult to obtain, and require a hearing with notice to neighbors. Applications cost \$300 for new piers and \$600 for existing piers. It is probably wise to consult with an attorney specializing in water law before applying for an individual permit. To obtain an individual permit one must show that the pier is an existing one and it and accompanying boat slips or hoists have been used historically. The dimensions must be needed for stability or navigational access. If an individual permit is needed to accommodate a person with disabilities, that person must reside on the property. Almost any pier can be built with an individual permit, but the DNR will scrutinize the pier's dimensions and the need for the pier. It is not unusual for an application for an individual permit to be denied, at least in part.

YLA board member Chuck Dykman attended the meetings of the stakeholders group. The YLA board considered the proposed rules and concluded that though they are not perfect, and probably can never be perfect, they are significantly better than present rules, which allow the DNR vast discretion concerning piers. YLA will keep you posted.

More on Moorings and Piers in Madison

I read the article “Legal Piers Have No Fears” in the fall newsletter and I would like to add some important items.

The City of Madison has ordinances for both piers and moorings. The pier ordinances, Madison General Ordinances 14.04 and 14.05 restrict piers on the Yahara River between lakes Mendota and Monona. Also, MGO 14.30 (5) regulates mooring buoys in all of Lakes Mendota, Monona and Wingra.

The City of Madison ordinances requires permission from the Board of Park Commissioners to place a pier on the Yahara River between Lake Mendota and Lake Monona or anywhere along the shore of City of Madison owned or controlled property. In addition, any piers placed in the river are limited to extending no more than 3 feet from shore and not exceeding 12 feet in length.

All mooring buoys placed in the 3 lakes require a permit (which may be picked up from the Madison Parks office) and must display that permit issued by the Madison Park Division. In addition, moorings placed outside 200 feet from the shoreline, in addition to the park permit, require DNR approval. Vessels thus moored must be lighted from sunset to sunrise and visible from 360 degrees around the vessel.

None of these local ordinances supercede the state statutes referenced in the article but they do restrict some piers and require permits for mooring buoys.

I hope this information will help lake users know what all the restrictions are.

Fritz Kroncke - Recreation Services Supervisor
City of Madison Parks (267-4919)

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Watercraft Inspection Workshop

With aquatic invasive species threatening Wisconsin's water-bodies, now more than ever, volunteers are needed to help stop the movement of invasives across the state. During the summer of 2004, watercraft inspection efforts often uncovered hidden plants on boat trailers and other recreational equipment. More training is needed if Wisconsin hopes to end the spread of invasives species.

During this three-hour training workshop, UW-Extension and Department of Natural Resource specialists, provide an overview of aquatic invasive species, and

instructions on how to organize an effective watercraft inspection program. Additionally, hands-on training for watercraft inspections and invasives species identification provide an opportunity to learn the benefits of invasive species monitoring.

With a \$25.00 materials fee, participants receive a volunteer handbook and resource tool kit. These materials are designed to complement the workshop training. The volunteer handbook describes how to organize a watercraft inspection team, while the tool kit provides all the informational brochures needed to distribute during the watercraft inspection.

To register or learn more about the workshops, contact Laura Felda-Marquardt at laura.felda@dnr.state.wi.us or (715) 365-2659. In Dane county, a workshop is scheduled for June 16, Madison, from 2-5 pm at the Big Splash Angler Education Program.

Lake Effects: Exploring the Relationship between People and Water; 25 Years of the North American Lake Management Society

Madison is the birthplace of limnology in North America, and will be the venue for the 25th Annual International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS). This special anniversary symposium offers a unique look back over 25 years of effective leadership in fostering lake management, and to look forward to the challenges of protecting, managing and restoring lakes for the benefit of all.

The 25th symposium explores the relationship between people and lakes and their watersheds, recognizing that each affects, and has an effect on, the other. An array of relevant topics will be explored in depth with this duality in mind. The conference will have something for everyone – from specialized lake scientists and natural resource managers to lake dwellers and concerned citizens to budding environmentalists of all ages. Experts in their respective fields including many from outside of North America will gather to share their knowledge as well as learn. Energizing plenary presentations on key topics will jump-start each day. NALMS popular pre- and post-conference workshops will afford opportunities for hands-on learning.

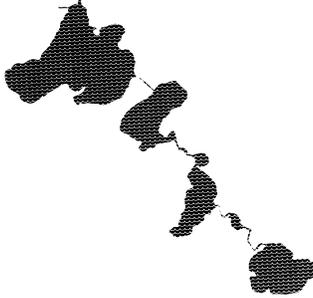
The event will be held at Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center, November 9-11, 2005. To request more information, call 608-233-2836 or email nalms@nalms.org.



NEWSLETTER

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Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd. is a non-profit organization of over 700 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.

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Communications Committee
Lake Quality Committee
Legislation and Legal Committee
Membership Committee
Water Safety Committee

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.