



Spring • 2005

## Pier Decks Ok or Not? NR 326 Update

By Chuck Dykman

Until the recently held Wisconsin Association of Lakes Conference, we thought that we could tell YLA members what was likely to happen with the significant re-write of NR 326, the DNR's rules about piers. But at the conference, we were told that the version of the rules the DNR will probably submit to the Natural Resources Board (NRB) will have at least three changes which will probably be adverse to YLA members. Previously, we explained that there may be three types of piers, those that need no permit, those that need a general permit, and those that need an individual permit.

In a previous version of NR 326, no permit was necessary if a riparian had a deck not exceeding 120 square feet, including the pier adjacent to the deck. And a riparian with at least 50 feet of lake frontage could have 3 boat hoists with an additional hoist for each 50 additional front feet. Finally, two neighbors could have a joint pier, and each would be able to have the number of boat hoists that his or her front footage allowed. This reduced clutter, and made life easier in the Spring and Fall.

Now, the likely version of the rules will not permit a deck unless the riparian pays a fee of \$50 and obtains a general permit. General permits are not difficult to obtain, but are not automatic. And there is a question as to whether only existing decks will be permitted with a general permit. The same is true with boat hoists in excess of two. And joint piers may have no authorization.

YLA won't know what the rules will be until the DNR submits them to the Natural Resources Board. If the rules adversely affect YLA members, YLA will send our members an explanation and an action alert with a card to be sent directly to the NRB. It will be important to send the card! An example of the power of a small group is that about 55 riparians in the Northwest corner of the state convinced the DNR that decks were a bad idea. There, instead of decks, riparians own pontoon boats. YLA members can, by returning the cards YLA will send you, tell the NRB about YLA members' views. YLA will keep you informed.

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**Slow-No wake proposed for Lake  
Monona's Squaw Bay**

By Dan Schultz

The Lakes and Watershed commission plans a hearing in May on a proposal to make Lake Monona's Squaw Bay a permanent slow-no wake zone. The Commission considered the proposal at an April 14<sup>th</sup> hearing.

Proponents for the permanent no-wake zone expressed the concern that boat traffic traveling between Lake Monona and Lake Waubesa cross through Squaw Bay at very high speeds. The high speed boats combined with various paddlers, sailboats, slow-moving fishing boats, water-skiers and personal watercraft creates a dangerous situation.

They expressed a concern that although there have not been any serious accidents to date it is only a matter of time. Proponents also discussed the environmental impact of the heavy boat traffic in the shallow bay (depths averaging 5-8 feet) on shoreline erosion and from the increased turbidity of the water. The proponents noted that the proposal applies to less than 3% of the total acres of Lake Monona, while providing a much safer environment for paddlers, sailors and fishing boats. They also noted that the effect of the proposal on transient boat traffic was to extend the trip time by about 5 minutes.

Opponents to the proposal expressed a concern that this was just a first step to expansion of slow-no wake to other areas of the lake. A proposal to make all of Lake Monona no-wake was defeated in 2001. A contingent of water-skiers expressed their concern that making Squaw Bay a no-wake zone would remove an area of the lake that at times is the only place with calm water for skiing. Another speaker suggested as an alternative that the Commission consider creating a center channel of buoys to regulate the traffic.

The Commission noted in follow-up questions that there seemed to be agreement by both sides that the primary safety concern was on weekend and holidays. They felt there may be some room for compromise by both sides and urged each group to actively seek a middle ground. A number of the speakers expressed frustration that the issue had come up before the commission without much notice. The Commission noted the intense interest in the issue and decided to hold a public hearing in May. A date has not been set at the time of this printing.

# Report From Lakes & Watershed Commission (LWC)

By Mark Pernitz, YLA Representative

**Budget Update.** LWC did reasonably well in advancing our proposals through the county budget process. On a positive note, approval was received for the purchase of a new patrol boat. Sgt. Dave Ritter of the Lakes Patrol reports that they have received delivery and are finalizing the equipping of a 25 foot Edgewater with twin 150 HP 4-stroke Yamaha engines. The boat will be stationed on Lake Monona. It should be ready for the Memorial Day weekend. With this purchase, there are only two remaining patrol boats with the smelly, smoky, environmentally unfriendly 2-stroke engines.

LWC also recommended that the county purchase 3 new stainless steel barges to replace the obsolete 40-year-old barges used in the lake weed harvesting program. The County Board did approve this recommendation but the purchases were spread over 3 years with a new barge being purchased in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Hopefully the duct tape will continue to hold and none of the old barges will sink this season.

LWC also recommended that the county purchase 2 additional harvesters to increase the county's fleet from 7 to 9 harvesters. It was our belief that this purchase would save the county money in the long run because of increased efficiency. However, this proposal did not pass.

LWC also recommended that the county establish a clean water program within the capital budget for approximately \$4 million over 5 years. LWC proposed that \$100,000 be budgeted in 2005 to initiate this program. While the program was approved, only \$49,000 was funded. This money is allocated for a cost-sharing program to improve the old storm drain outlets that dump untreated stormwater and litter into the Yahara Lakes. There are 162 uncontrolled stormwater outfalls that empty into Lake Mendota alone. Since the cost to improve each outlet can range from \$15,000-\$40,000, the budgeted funds obviously will not go very far.

**Weed Cutting.** The ad hoc committee met again in April and overall the consensus is that performance has improved with the transfer of operations from Public Works to the Parks Department. On another positive note, the operations budget for weed harvesting was restored to

\$100,000, which was the amount initially budgeted in 2004. However, when the operation of the Tenney Park locks was also transferred to the Parks Department last season, no funding was included. Consequently, the Parks Department needed to "raid" the weed cutting budget in order to staff the Tenney Park locks. The restoration of this approximately \$25,000 should permit 2 shifts of weed cutters to work during the peak growing season. Hopefully, this will result in continued improvements.

## Shrinking Fish Populations Warn About Shoreland Development

Researchers recently surveyed native, nongame fish populations on 13 lakes in southeastern Wisconsin, including Rock, Ripley and Geneva Lakes. Surveys of the lakes' near-shore areas revealed that native and rare fish populations plummeted over the past 30 years despite stable water quality.

Fish declines are most likely due to habitat degradation from piers and other shoreline developments. Developing in a manner that maintains natural shorelines is essential to preserving fish species diversity in Wisconsin lakes. Read the full article in the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine:

[www.wnrmag.com/stories/2005/feb05/shore.htm](http://www.wnrmag.com/stories/2005/feb05/shore.htm)

## 2005 Better Lawns and Gutters Tour

The Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission will again host a tour of rain gardens, chemical-free lawns and native plantings this year along with the Madison Audubon Society, Greater Madison Healthy Lawn Teams and Friends of Starkweather Creek.

We'll have an information center at the Bethesda Church at 3245 E. Washington Avenue that will feature great information from noon to 5:00 p.m. This year's tour will take place on Sunday, June 19, 2005, from noon to 4:00 p.m. The tour will feature examples of rain gardens, low- and no-chemical lawns, and yards with fabulous native plants instead of turf.

You may begin your tour at any of the 9 sites or at the tour information center. Come ask garden owners questions, and get information and ideas on how to beautify your landscape, save time and money on maintenance, and help yourself and the environment!

## 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 and 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; 2003 - Brian Howell.

**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; 2003 - Lyman Anderson

**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; 2003 - No Award.

#### 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  
2003 -- Shary Bisgard; Andy Olson; Brett Hulsey, Russ Mittelstadt; Pleasant Rowland; Steve Morton; Daryl Severson

**YAHARA LAKES ASSOCIATION, LTD.  
NOMINATION FORM FOR 2004 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 four 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 17, 2005 to:  
Yahara Lakes Association, P.O. Box 44578, Madison, WI 53744

## What You Can Do for Dane County Lakes

The first step toward keeping our lakes and streams clean is to think about what we do at home. Here are some ways you can help:

- Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the street.
- Direct rainwater away from paved areas to lawns or gardens where it can soak in.
- Get a soil test before applying fertilizer to your lawn. Don't pay for something you don't need. If you do use fertilizer, apply it according to directions and clean up any spills on paved surfaces.
- Clean up pet waste – bury it or flush it down the toilet.
- Compost your leaves and yard debris.
- Keep cars tuned up and repair leaks, and walk or ride a bike whenever you can.
- Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash that sends its used water to the sewage treatment plant.
- Prevent soil erosion.
- Don't let anything but rain go down the storm drain or ditch.

## Paddle to Work June 17, 2005

For the sixth year, "Paddle to Work Day" will be celebrated as part of Yahara Lakes Week. Workers will be paddling to their places of employment on Thursday, June 17. Those who can't paddle on the 17th should paddle to work any day from June 11-18.

Send your planned routes and schedules to [lakes@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:lakes@co.dane.wi.us) or call them in to 267-0118. This information will be shared with other paddlers to facilitate even larger flotillas!

Paddlers should use their own good judgment about the weather on Thursday. Paddle on Friday instead if there are thunderstorms on Thursday a.m. If you paddle to work, please send an email to [lakes@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:lakes@co.dane.wi.us) with a short description of your experiences.

For more information about Yahara Lakes Week visit [www.countyofdane.com/lwrld/lakes/yaharalakesweek/](http://www.countyofdane.com/lwrld/lakes/yaharalakesweek/)

## Wednesday Evening Watershed Walks

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*A Series of walks within the Upper Yahara River  
Watershed and beyond, extending from Earth  
Week to Yahara Lakes Week.*

*Watershed Walks begin at 6:30 p.m.*

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### June 1 - Saint Benedict Center

Sisters of Saint Benedict  
4200 Co. Hwy. M, Middleton  
Meet Nancy Schlimgen and Paul Boutwell in Benedict House parking lot.

### June 8 - Pheasant Branch Creek Conservancy

Friends of Pheasant Branch  
Pheasant Branch Road (1.2 miles North of Century Ave)  
Meet Ken Bradbury, USGS Hydrologist, and Shaili Pfeiffer, member of the Friends of Pheasant Branch, in the Dane County Park parking lot.

### June 15 - Gov. Nelson State Park Yahara Lakes Week

Friends of Gov. Nelson State Park  
5140 Co. Hwy. M, Waunakee  
"Wisconsin License Parking Pass: \$5/day or \$20/annual"  
Optional potluck picnic at 6 p.m.  
Meet Dan Weidert, WDNR Wildlife Technician, at the beach shelter.

### June 22 - Goose Pond Sanctuary

Madison Audubon Society  
W7468 Prairie Lane, Arlington  
Highway 51 North, West on Highway K, North on Goose Pond Road.  
Meet Mark and/or Sue Martin, Resident Naturalists.

Please join us as we experience the sights and sounds of our watershed. Comfortable shoes suitable for varied terrain are recommended.

For questions or in the event of inclement weather, contact:

Nancy Schlimgen, Naturalist, Saint Benedict Center:  
836-1631 ext.159 [www.sbcenter.org](http://www.sbcenter.org)

Jennie Nuese, Coordinator, Token Creek Watershed Association: 334-8941 [www.tokencreek.org](http://www.tokencreek.org)

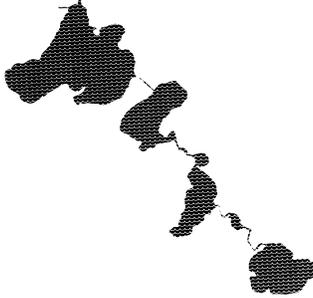




## NEWSLETTER

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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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### **COMMITTEES**

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.*