



April • 2007

Realizing the Vision - 1st Annual YLA Conference is May 18

After attending the National Association of Lake Management Society (NALMS) Conference in November of 2005, a group of YLA members reported to the YLA board on the success of the conference and the interesting presentations they participated in. Especially noteworthy was the keynote address given by Madison historian and civic leader David Mollenhoff. Mollenhoff's speech, entitled "Lakes of Silver and Green, the Intense Relationship between People and Water in Madison, Wisconsin," so impressed the YLA attendees they suggested that the organization should carry on the momentum of the NALMS conference and hold their own event to keep the public spotlight on the importance of the Yahara Lakes. With the full support of the YLA Board, the 1st Annual Yahara Lakes Association Lakes Conference came to life.

"The Future of the Yahara Lakes: Realizing the Vision" is the conference title and will take place at the American Family Insurance Headquarters on May 18, 2007 from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. The conference is presented by the Yahara Lakes Association in partnership with the University of Wisconsin's prestigious Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

The goal of the event is to bring together a number of lake and environmental experts to share with the public the past, present and future state of the Yahara Lakes, with the specific focus on what we can do *now* to protect and improve these precious resources.

David Mollenhoff will again provide the keynote address and share his motivating insight as to how the lakes are intricately woven into the fabric of Madison life, forming

an historical relationship between water and the people of Dane County. Other presentations will be made by UW/DNR Limnologist Dick Lathrop and University of Wisconsin Engineering Professor Ken Potter. A program highlight will be a panel discussion with representatives from the State, Dane County, City of Madison and local agriculture. Moderating the day's events will be WISC TV's Editorial Director, Neil Heinen.

The entire event is free to the public and is sponsored in part by American Family Insurance. Early registration is recommended and is available online at the Yahara Lakes Association website, www.yaharalakes.org

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Schedule for Conference Realizing the Vision

12:00pm - 1:00pm	Registration: Informational displays and booths open in lobby.
1:00pm - 1:50pm	Welcome: Neil Heinen, Editorial Director, WISC-TV. Introduction: Mike Gerner, President, Yahara Lakes Association. History of the Yahara Lakes: David Mollenhoff, author of <i>Madison: A History of the Formative Years</i>
1:50 - 1:55	Short Break
1:55pm - 3:00pm	The State of the Yahara Lakes: Dick Lathrop, Limnologist, Wisconsin DNR & UW Center for Limnology Ken Potter, UW Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering
3:00pm - 3:15pm	Break: Refreshments in lobby. Informational displays and booths open.
3:15pm - 4:30pm	Panel Discussion "What can we do now?:" Moderator: Neil Heinen, Editorial Director, WISC-TV. Panelist include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dick Lathrop, Limnologist, Wisconsin DNR & UW Center for Limnology • Ken Potter, UW Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering • Kevin Connors, Director, Dane County Land & Water Resources Department • Sue Jones, Watershed Management Coordinator, Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds • Larry Nelson, City Engineer, City of Madison • Kurt Welke, Fisheries Biologist, Wisconsin DNR • Jeff Endres, Farmer, Endres Berryridge Farms
4:30pm - 4:45pm	Plan of Action & Closing Remarks: YLA Board Member, Bob Miller
4:45pm - 5:30pm	Reception: Refreshments in lobby. Informational displays and booths open.

The Yahara Lakes Association wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the following generous presenting sponsor: American Family Insurance & Primary Sponsors: von Rutenberg Boats, Mariners Inn, Nauti-gal, Captain Bill's, Louisa Enz with Stark Company Realtors, D.L. Anderson, Skipper Bud & Boathouse of Madison

For more information and updated conference events check in regularly at www.yaharalakes.org.

Pier Review; Stand By, The Situation is Fluid

By Charles Dykman. YLA Board Member

Now that Madison's lakes have opened, YLA members will be again putting in their piers. Because of last year's legislative and rulemaking debacle, riparians have been asking YLA: What happened regarding piers; what can I legally do? The answer is: Nothing happened last year except a lot of talk, and some "almost" legislation. So, unless a permit is obtained, piers are presently governed by Wisconsin statute 30.12(1g)(f) which limits riparians to a pier no wider than 6 feet, and no longer than to the 3 foot water depth. Piers are broadly defined and include decks. That means that most decks (50% on lake Monona) are illegal.

Without a permit, boat hoists are limited to two for the first 50 feet of frontage, and one for each additional 50 feet. Permits are not easily obtained, and may require a hearing at which the DNR may object. Local ordinances may also regulate piers, and Administrative rule NR 326, minimally affects piers but restricts the size of boat hoists. NR 326 contains other regulations only applicable to a few riparians. All structures resting on a lake bed are regulated by the public trust doctrine, a constitutional provision which recognizes State ownership of lakes and lakebeds, and the limited right of riparians to place structures there.

Last year's AB 850, which gave more rights to riparians, is again being introduced in the Wisconsin Assembly, minus a nearly irrelevant amendment (The Gard amendment concerning deck size). This amendment upset the compromise agreed to by almost every lake interest group and resulted in a veto of AB 850. The future of this legislation is uncertain. Talks are now underway, and YLA is voicing the concerns of Southern riparians about proposed legislation affecting piers. This year, YLA is also focusing on boat hoists, which were not affected by AB 850, though many thought that existing boat lifts in excess of the "one for the first 50 feet, etc" provided in Statute 30.12 were grandfathered by AB 850.

YLA believes that for some riparian families with children and less than 100 feet of frontage, a third boat hoist is necessary. But the situation is fluid, and YLA is not included in all negotiations by interest groups. But YLA will monitor proposed legislative and administrative changes, and may ask you to send cards or e-mails to committees and legislators. As usual, contact your YLA board members and the YLA website for more current information.

Direct from the Dane County Planning & Development... A MUST READ!!

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently released preliminary drafts of new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Dane County. These maps not only serve to identify properties eligible for FEMA's Flood Insurance program, but also serve as the basis for county and municipal floodplain zoning ordinances.

From February 9, 2007 until May 9, 2007, Dane County and city and village governments will receive public comment on the preliminary FIRM maps and forward those comments to the DNR and FEMA. After reviewing comments received during this period, FEMA will reissue final FIRM maps for county and municipal adoption, sometime later in 2007. More information about the 90-day public review process is available from the DNR's [htm floodplain mapping update page \(http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/flood/mapping\)](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/flood/mapping).

Persons who disagree with the 1% line as it affects their lot should contact the DNR to learn whether they can obtain relief by commissioning an individual survey.

*Did you know..... The One Hundred Year
Flood Plain means that there is
a 1% chance of the property flooding
in one year.*

Keep Current on Lake Issues



Visit our Web Site

www.yaharalake.org

News from Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission

By Doug Bach

L&W Writes Legislation to Ban Coal Tar Based Sealants – At the request of the County Executive, and prompted by a similar ban of these products in Austin, Texas, a L&W subcommittee researched the use and environmental implications of coal tar based asphalt sealants related to Dane County's lakes. There are basically two types of sealants commercially available to coat driveways, parking lots and similar surfaces. These include coal-tar based products and asphalt based products. The coal-tar based products are considered to be much more harmful to the environment because they contain higher concentrations of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, a family of chemicals that are carcinogenic and harmful to aquatic life. All sealants eventually wear off and end up in the lakes through stormwater runoff.

The L&W subcommittee surveyed local paving companies and found that all used the less harmful asphalt based products and saw no advantage to using the coal tar based products. Local home stores tended to sell both varieties, although generally did not distinguish between the two in marketing these materials. In testimony before the commission, a Wisconsin manufacturer of both types of products stated that their asphalt based products were just as effective as their coal-tar based products and they offered no serious opposition to the ban.

Based on these findings that a ban would limit the introduction of toxic chemicals to the lakes while presenting no economic hardship to the community, L&W members worked with Dane County counsel to draft an ordinance banning the sale and use of coal-tar based sealants. This ordinance is similar to the phosphorus lawn fertilizer ban and is currently working its way through other Dane County Committees.

L&W to Consider TMDLs – The federal Clean Water Act includes provisions for identifying and measuring specific pollutants that impair our lakes and streams. These rules include a quantitative analysis of the amount of a particular pollutant that a stream or lake can allow before exceeding water quality standards. The rather arcane name for this analysis is Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL. At its May meeting, the Lakes and Watershed Commission is scheduled to hear from DNR experts on the advantages and disadvantages of applying the TMDL process to the Yahara Lakes to regulate phosphorus and sediment inputs to the lakes. The TMDL program offers the potential to quantify how much of these pollutants enter our lakes and from what sources, while also establishing the regulatory

procedures to allocate and reduce future inputs. The program is complicated to implement, however, and there may be less burdensome ways to accomplish the same goals. Stay tuned for the Commissions findings and actions on this issue.

About the Lakes and Watershed Commission – *The Dane County Board formed the Lakes and Watershed Commission in 1988 as a coordinating and advisory agency within Dane County government, with the charge to protect and improve water quality, as well as the scenic, economic, recreational, and environmental value of Dane County's water resources. State statute stipulates that the Yahara Lakes Association has a permanent seat on the 10 member Commission. This seat is currently held by Doug Bach, Vice President of YLA.*

Calendar of Lake Events

May 18, 2007 1:00-5:30pm "The Future of the Yahara Lakes: Realizing the Vision" will take place at the American Family Insurance Headquarters

June 9, 2007 First Annual Clean Lakes Festival at Warner Park (Run/Walk, Kids Play area, "Taste of Madison" food court and more). Mad City Ski Team are the organizers of this event.

June 23, 2007 Environmental Conference: Caring for our Local Place on Earth. Holy Wisdom Monastery (formerly Saint Benedict Center) 4200 CTH M, Middleton. Directions and more info can be found on the Internet at www.benedictinewomen.org

June 26, 2007 YLA Annual Dinner at Mariner' Inn

June 9th & 16th: Take a Stake in the Lakes Week. Volunteers help with lakeshore clean-up. June 9th: Mendota, Kegonsa & Wingra. June 16th: Monona & Waubesa. Dane County Public Works barges will collect shoreline trash and aquatic debris from your piers starting on the Monday after your lakes' scheduled cleanup. No yard waste, please!

Starting Soon . . . free ski shows every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Memorial Day - Labor Day by Monona Terrace.

Getting Back on the Water . . .

All information provided below can be found at www.countyofdane.com/lwrld/parks/boating_info.asp

Boating

Lake Access Sites and Fees

There are 25 boat launching sites and several marinas/boat storage sites on the Yahara River lakes. These range from large marinas and multi-ramp launching sites to street-end access with only on-street parking available. Lake Access Permits (formerly Boat Launch Permits) are required year-round at City of Madison and Dane County launching sites.

Permit Sales Locations

For a listing of locations that sell a Lake Access Permit, check out our [Lake Access Permit brochure](#). Annual lock permits for the [Tenney Park Locks](#) can be purchased in advance at the following locations: Dane County Parks (4318 Robertson Rd), Dane County Clerk (Rm 112 City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd), Quams Motor Sports (1896 Barber Dr, Stoughton), and Skipper Bud's (5442 County Rd M, Town of Westport).

Navigational Aids

There are approximately 160 buoys in the Yahara lakes that mark no-wake zones, rock obstructions and the center of channels to assist boaters in navigation. Some points to remember include:

- From shore out to 200 feet, obstructions are not marked.
- Areas that are buoyed and signed "Slow No Wake" and other areas within 100 feet of restrictions (e.g., boat landings) require no-wake speed. (No-wake speed is the slowest speed a boat can go and still maintain steerage.)
- Boats should always pass between pairs of green and red buoys.

Mooring Buoys

The sheriff's boat patrol monitors all mooring buoys that are privately owned. All mooring buoys within 150 feet of shore are no longer regulated by the DNR; however, they can be regulated by local government by ordinance. Thus, individuals should check with their local government before placing any new mooring buoy within 150 feet of shore. All mooring buoys beyond 150 feet from shore must be lighted, and a permit is required from the DNR.

Regulations and Safety

The Dane County Sheriff's Department operates boat patrols on the Yahara lakes and enforces state and local boating laws. Deputies are on call for emergency response 24 hours per day. The department monitors Channel 16 on the VHF marine radio for emergency traffic. In addition, the City of Madison's Fire Department has a lake rescue team that includes scuba divers and paramedic ambulance personnel. The University of Wisconsin Lifesaving Station on Lake Mendota also runs two rescue boats.

Boaters are strongly encouraged to participate in boat safety and training programs taught by the Red Cross, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, DNR, and volunteer instructors.

Boaters should remember:

- Each person on a boat is required to have an approved personal flotation device.
- Operating a motorboat at a speed that is greater than reasonable and prudent is unlawful, as well as operating a boat while under the influence of an intoxicant or a controlled substance. Drinking while boating is a big problem in regard to safety on the lakes. Abusive behavior while drinking reduces the pleasure of other boaters and anglers. Always use the lakes in a manner considerate of others.
- Boats towing persons engaged in waterskiing, aquaplaning or a similar activity on any lake can not do so within 100 feet of any occupied anchored boat, marked swimming area or public boat landing.

Take a Stake in the Lakes Week June 19 - 17

Take a Stake in the Lakes Week is June 9-17, and will be started with the Clean Lakes Festival (sponsored by the Mad-City Ski Team) at Warner Park on June 9 complete with bands, food, information tent.

Take a Stake in the Lakes Clean ups will be on June 9 and 16. Info Center on June 9 will be at the Clean Lakes Festival at Warner Park, and the information center on June 16 will be at Law Park. More info will be available at www.danewaters.com.

Know Your Lakeshore . . .

Ghosts of Mendota (and Monona)

By Don Sanford
dpsanford@charter.com

Ghosts lurk along the shorelines of Lake Mendota and Lake Monona. Not necessarily the kind of ghosts that go bump in the night. Well, there *could* be some of those. No, I'm thinking about the ghosts of places that are not here today. Ghosts of places that you'd never know were there by looking at that spot today.

As I research the social history of Lake Mendota, I run into these ghosts all the time. Last week, I found one in an aerial photograph of the Mendota shoreline taken in 1955. It was a pier, perhaps 200 feet long, sticking into the lake from Burrows Park. The Mendota Yacht Club didn't move there until the early 1970's. What was there 50-plus years ago? If you happen to know about this or another ghost or know someone who might, drop me a line.



Meanwhile, as you ponder that, do you know where this Lake Mendota ghost used to be? The answer will be in my next column.

Wednesday Evening Watershed Walks 2007

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.

April 25 - Token Creek Park Earth Week
Token Creek Watershed Association
6394 Portage Road, DeForest. Highway 19, North on Portage Road.

May 2 - Six-Mile Creek Fish-rearing Pond
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Woodland Drive, Waunakee.
County Highway M, North on Woodland Drive

May 9 - Jackson's Landing
Town of Westport 5485 Willow Road, Waunakee.
County Highway M, South on Willow Road.

May 16 - Cherokee Marsh South Unit
City of Madison Parks, 802 Wheeler Road, Madison.
Highway 113 or Northport Drive, North on School Road to the junction with Wheeler Road, continue past the waste oil depot on gravel road to parking lot.

May 23 - Governor Nelson State Park
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
5140 County Highway M, Waunakee

May 30 - Holy Wisdom Monastery Benedictine Women of Madison (Formerly Saint Benedict Center)
4200 County Highway M, Middleton.
Meet Nancy Schlimgen and Paul Boutwell, restoration ecologists in Benedict House (upper) parking lot. Explore the restoration of Lost Lake and surrounding upland prairies within view of Lake Mendota.

June 6 - Pheasant Branch Creek Conservancy
Friends of Pheasant Branch
Pheasant Branch Road, Middleton
Creek Conservancy Pheasant Branch Road, 1.2 miles North of Century Avenue, just past the Dane County Park boundary for the Town of Springfield is the county park parking lot.

June 13 - Gov. Nelson State Park Yahara Lakes Week
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
5140 County Highway M, Waunakee

June 20 - Starkweather Creek
Friends of Starkweather Creek
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison

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, Benedictine Women of Madison at Holy Wisdom Monastery nschlimgen@benedictinewomen.org or 836-1631 ext.159 or visit their webs site www.benedictinewomen.org



NEWSLETTER

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COMMITTEES

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Lake Quality 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.