



April • 2008

Governor Signs Pier Legislation into Law

By
Chuck Dykman

After nearly 7 years and many hours of work, YLA can finally announce that the pier bill, AB 297 became law when Governor Doyle signed it in Rhinelander on April 1. Had members of YLA not sent e-mails and letters to Senator Miller, there would have been no bill for the Governor to sign. Your significant response was grass roots advocacy, which is very powerful in explaining to elected officials the needs of the people. Congratulations! YLA's concerns don't end here, however. The DNR is now required to adopt rules explaining AB 297, and we need to be sure that the rules will recognize the proper balance between our rights as riparians and the rights of the public to use the Yahara Lakes.

AB 297 has made lots of changes that affect piers. Here's what the "old law," in effect since 2004, required, and the changes that AB 297 has made. Under old law, pier length was limited to the 3 foot water depth or the depth necessary to moor a boat or use a boat hoist, whichever is less. AB 297 changes this to whichever is farther from the shoreline. This is a big change because many boats can be moored in less than a foot of water, and boat hoists can operate in less than a foot of water. Also, old law restricted piers to 6 feet in width, making nearly all decks illegal. AB 297 allows an 8 foot wide deck if it is at the end of and perpendicular to a pier. This deck can be a "T" or an "L". Its length (parallel to shore) is not limited. The rest of a pier is limited to 6 feet in width.

Decks that were in place before February 2004 are grandfathered if they do not exceed 300 square feet in area. Decks 200 square feet in area or less may be any width and are still grandfathered. Decks between 200 and 300 square feet in area are grandfathered if the deck does not exceed 10 feet in width.

To become grandfathered, a pier must be registered with the DNR within three years, and not interfere with other riparian owners' riparian rights. The DNR has explained that the registration insures that the pier owner can keep their existing pier at whatever length and number of boat slips it has.

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Whether a deck includes or excludes the pier to which it is attached is not covered by AB 297. DNR registration is free, and DNR is required to provide the registration form. The form may be recorded with the Register of Deeds. Grandfathered piers may be repaired and maintained.

Unless grandfathered, boat hoists are limited to 2 for the first 50 feet of frontage and one for each additional 50 feet. This 50 feet, etc. is "old law," in effect since 2004. AB 297 provides that commercial property and lots on which there are three or more dwelling units (usually condominiums) are entitled to double the number of boat hoists otherwise allowed.

There are parts of AB 297 which restrict the DNR from taking action against pier owners, but these are very specific and do not cover all DNR actions. If the DNR decides a pier question against a pier owner, the pier owner is entitled to a new trial before a circuit judge. The DNR's rule making authority is limited to a considerable extent, though there will be court cases that explain this limitation. YLA will attend the DNR and NRB rule making hearings to advocate for rules that do not destroy the benefits of AB 297.

Pier owners must understand that what YLA has explained about AB 297 pertains to piers that may be installed without a permit. There are other parts of AB 297 that make individual permits easier to obtain, and do not require a permit fee. But these parts of AB 297 are more complex. If a pier owner cannot fit within the grandfathered deck or boat hoist provisions, or it is necessary to exceed the 8 foot deck provision for any pier, it may be necessary to consult an attorney to determine the appropriate path to take.

Go Fish!

A did you know.....Yellow perch is the most popular target species for anglers in Lake Mendota. In the Spring from ice-out through the spawning period you will find perch near the rocky points in 8 feet of water or less—areas such as Picnic Point, Second Point and Governors Island.

Female yellow perch grow faster and reach an overall bigger size than males do. Some females get to almost 15 inches and weigh over 1 pound. Yellow perch typically live for 7-9 years. The oldest known age is 13. Females live longer on average than males do.

Did You Ever Think Spring Would Arrive?

Boating Information

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. Lake Access fees can be found on the web site of the Dane County Parks <www.countyofdane.com/lwrp/parks/>.

Permit Sales Locations

For a listing of locations that sell a Lake Access Permit, check out the same site's [Lake Access Permit brochure](#) (PDF format). Annual lock permits for the [Tenney Park Locks](#) can be purchased in advance at the following locations: 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

Five Brothers, One Hotel

By Don Sanford

Elvis slept here and Woody Herman played here. Stories of its famous guests and fabulous parties are legendary. And the view from its guest rooms is drop-dead gorgeous. It's The Edgewater Hotel on Lake Mendota's south shore.

What made The Edgewater so special when it was built? Why does it remind you of some other buildings just down Wisconsin Avenue?

The answer lies in the vision of the five Quisling brothers—Drs. Abraham, Gunnar, Rolf and Sverre and Axel, an accountant. The Drs. Quisling founded the Quisling Clinic on King Street in 1933. During the next few years, they bought and sold a few downtown properties. As developers, their first construction project came in 1937, when they built the Quisling Towers Apartments at the corner of East Gilman Street and Wisconsin Avenue. In 1946, they would build the Quisling Clinic building on West Gorham Street. But that had to wait until a hotel on Lake Mendota was underway.

In the late 1930s many Madisonians, including the well-connected Quisling brothers, envisioned a luxury hotel on one of Madison's lakes. But as businessmen, they were conscious of the financial troubles that swept over the hotel business during the Depression. The answer, they reasoned, was an apartment hotel that could be used as a traditional hotel for "transient" guests and easily be converted into accommodations for permanent guests if the hotel economics didn't pan out.

The Quislings secured the services of Danish-born Kenosha architect Lawrence Monberg, who designed the Quisling Towers. They felt that a building in the Art Moderne style with its curved walls and emphasis on the horizontal line was just right for this lakeside location. With John Findorff aboard as contractor, work began in early 1941. That August, construction was halted due to a nationwide steel shortage. The project was mothballed until October 1945, when work resumed at the conclusion of the War.

Six months later, on April 26, 1948, hotel manager Austin Faulkner, who had been recruited from Chicago's Drake Hotel, checked in The Edgewater's first overnight guest. That same day, the hotel held its gala grand opening. About 450 guests, the who's who of Madison, toured the hotel, taking in the Governor's Suite, underground garage, lobby with fishpond and other spaces. The building wasn't quite completed though. The dining room and cocktail lounge wouldn't open until September 1949.

Beyond its location and design, what set The Edgewater apart from all other hotels in Madison was its accommodations. The hotel featured 50 units of one to three rooms for overnight guests and 18 three-to four-room apartments available under five-year leases. Shortly after the grand opening, all apartments were snapped up by some of Madison's most notable citizens. More than 100 prospective tenants were on a waiting list. It was the place to be.

Newspapers described The Edgewater as "swank," with "warm colors and bold lines that create an air of elegance." Everything was first-class. Lowell Frautschi was responsible for its interior design and furnishings. No two rooms on any floor were decorated alike so that guests walking past an open door would not see a duplicate of their own room. Many rooms featured kitchenettes, another innovative feature.

Since then, The Edgewater has added a dining room, cocktail lounge, rooftop garden and an addition with more guest rooms, a dining room, cocktail lounge and heliport.

Approach the Edgewater by boat from the east a few hours before sunset. Its Art Moderne details really stand out. Then glide in near the pier. As you pass, listen closely. You might still hear the lingering rhythms of "Woodchopper's Ball," Woody Herman's Third Herd's hit song, drifting down from the Starlight Roof.

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Don Sanford is a Captain on the Betty Lou Cruise Line. He is currently researching "On Fourth Lake, A Social History Tour of Lake Mendota." He welcomes your comments, recollections and anecdotes at: dpsanford@charter.net or at 255-1508.

Your Lake Neighbor, The Edgewater Hotel



Looking Good, Night . . .



. . . Or Day

Take a Stake in the Lakes Dane County's Cleanup

The 21st Annual Take a Stake in the Lakes volunteer cleanup of the Yahara Lakes will be held on June 14 and June 21, 2008. Lake Kegonsa will be cleaned on Saturday, June 14 from 9-noon, with information center at James Madison Park in Madison.

Lake Waubesa will be cleaned June 21 from 9-noon with information center at Law Park in Madison.

Over the years, thousands of volunteers have removed hundreds of tons of waste from the Yahara chain. During this time, groups, individuals and families adopt a beach or shoreline and collect litter and rake aquatic debris from the shoreline and shallow waters. Some people have even used their canoes or kayaks to clean while paddling.

Shoreline residents: Dane County Public Works barges will conduct the annual aquatic debris pickup from your piers on Lake Kegonsa on Monday June 16 and on Lake Waubesa on Monday June 23, starting at 6 a.m.

For more information contact Rhea Stangel at 608 224-3601 or stangel-aier@co.dane.wi.us.

Calendar of Lake Related Events

- 2008 Capital View Triathlon June 7, 2008 at Governor Nelson's Park
- Paddle to work Day June 19, 2008. For more information contact lakes@co.dane.wi.us
- YLA Annual Dinner at Mariners June 25, 2008
- Rhythm & Booms, Warner Park June 28, 2008

For newsletter ideas, or to put an event in the newsletter, contact Louisa Enz <lenz@starkhomes.com>

Non-Toxic Natural Herbicide

... A Friendly Reminder From Yahara Lakes Association Members

Dear Neighbors,

We still have some piles of snow but Spring is coming and I hope soon! If you are interested in a non-toxic natural herbicide, the spring application time for Corn Gluten is rapidly approaching.

Corn gluten should be applied in the spring when the forsythia bloom (mid -April)and also in mid September.

As a reminder, corn gluten is a “pre-emergent,” it prevents the germination of broad leaf seedlings like dandelions and crabgrass. Corn gluten meal contains nitrogen and therefore also acts as a natural fertilizer. It takes a few cycles of gluten and weeding to get your yard relatively weed free — so don’t give up after one application.

Best of all, corn gluten is safe for children and pets, **DOESN’T HARM OUR LAKES**, and supports Wisconsin farmers rather the pesticide industry. Don’t apply to areas seeded with grass seed since corn gluten will also prevent grass seed germination.

It comes in 50 lb bags -- that should cover 2500-4000 sq.ft at a rate of 12-20 lbs/ 1000sq ft. A 50 lb bag will cost around \$28.00. Charlie and I have used the corn gluten and it was very effective. You must put it on early enough to catch the first seedlings of dandelions and crabgrass.

There is also a web site that has a lot of valuable information about a healthy lawn- www.healthylawnteam.org. Just thought I would pass this information along. Anything we can do to help the weed problems of our lake, seems to me, important.

Anne & Charlie Nahn
Lake Mendota Riparians

Great Lakes Compact To Special Session

Governor Doyle announced on April 9 that the Great Lakes Compact, an accord to help protect one of the world’s most precious natural resources, would be signed into law under an agreement reached with legislators. Governor Doyle, who was joined at New Berlin City Hall by Republican and Democratic lawmakers, environmental group representatives, and business leaders, called for a special session on April 17.

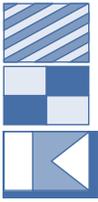
“This is an outstanding day for all of Wisconsin,” Governor Doyle said. “Our Great Lakes waters in many ways define who we are, and now the Great Lakes Compact will ensure that we protect this tremendous resource while responsibly using the water we need to prosper and grow.”

Governor Doyle thanked Senator Mark Miller, Representative Scott Gunderson, and the many environmental, agricultural, and industrial leaders who came to agreement on the Great Lakes Compact.

The Compact creates unprecedented protections for the Great Lakes and ensures their continued availability for regional economic growth. It will ban long-distance diversions and provide a framework for ensuring sustainable water use in the Great Lakes basin. The new agreement maintains the one state veto provision of the Compact. It also addresses communities partially outside straddling counties, creates for the first time a statewide conservation program, introduces incentives for regional water planning, and develops legislative oversight of the Governor’s vote on the regional rules implementing the Compact.

The Great Lakes generate \$55 billion in tourism for the region and create nearly \$377 million in personal income from wages and salaries. Wisconsin’s harbors handle approximately 44 tons of cargo that support 11,000 jobs and are worth more than \$7 billion a year.

The Great Lakes Compact has been signed into law in Illinois, Indiana, New York, and Minnesota as well as both Canadian Provinces of Quebec and Ontario.



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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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.