



July • 2010

Clean Boats, Clean Waters / Yahara Clean Update

By

Sue Jones - Watershed Management Coordinator, Office of Lakes and Watersheds

The Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds is seeking volunteer support from the Yahara Lakes Association in implementing Dane County's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Plan. One of our greatest needs is in launching the statewide "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" (CBCW) watercraft inspection program at our area launches. Of particular concern to us are the Yahara chain of lakes since these lakes receive a lot more boating activity compared to other Dane County waters and therefore have a great threat of invasion from AIS.

We need volunteers to get trained in the watercraft inspection program at a CBCW workshop sponsored by UW Extension. The training would last about 3 hours and it could be in the evenings or on a Saturday. We need approximately 20 people in order to schedule a workshop in this area.

The workshop would cover the biology of AIS and hands on practice in speaking to citizens at boat landings. Volunteers share information with boaters and anglers on AIS and the way they are transported from one waterbody to another. They tell boaters to check their boats and equipment for AIS before leaving or entering the water. Through their contact with boaters and anglers, volunteer inspectors collect and report valuable data on boater behavior that is used to improve outreach efforts and support the watercraft inspection program.

Please contact Sue Jones (224-3764, jones.susan@co.dane.wi.us) with any questions, and to sign up for training. Thank you so much for considering this program to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasives!

The Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds and its partners have been actively engaged over the last two months in more than a dozen meetings with stakeholder groups, including the YLA Board, to update them on findings from the assessment phase of Yahara CLEAN, and general policy options for Yahara lakes improvement being considered by the YLLP Coordinating Committee and technical advisory committees.

There will be a public open house and input session on July 21, 2010 at the Warner Park Community Center in Madison to discuss specific plans to restore the Yahara lakes. City, county and state agency staff from the CLEAN (Capital Lakes Environmental Assessment and Needs) partnership will be available for informal discussions from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. team members will present a summary of priority actions designed to ratchet down phosphorus and sediment pollution throughout the lake system, and to protect beaches. The solutions range from new approaches for managing manure, to more neighborhood rain gardens, to creative goose management near public beaches.

The plan is the culmination of more than two years of deliberation and research from teams of agency personnel, leaders from many local organizations, and leading scientists from UW and Edgewood College.

Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity for small group discussions among participants, and the information generated from those discussions will contribute to decisions on how the action plan will move forward.

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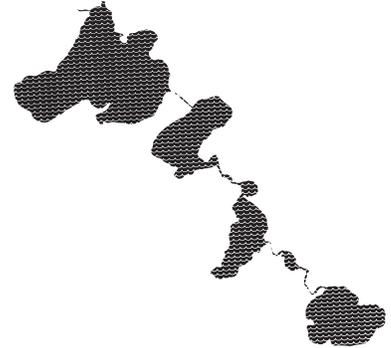
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Currents

“Currents” is a new section of Lake Views. The idea is to pass along lake related news items and resources to YLA members. You may be aware of these news items or resources, but if so, hopefully you will not mind a review. If you hear or read of lake reports or websites you would like to share with YLA members, have corrections or additions to the news



items, or ideas for future articles in Lakeview's, please contact Carol Gillen at ca.gillen@charter.net or 692-0925. Thank you!

***Dane County Land and Water Resources, Lakes and Watersheds Division, has received 3 grants. Two were State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Planning Grants, each for \$3,000. One grant is for constructing algae boom systems, which were to be installed in 2 test locations, one on Lake Mendota and one on Lake Monona. The other grant is to update a Yahara Lakes Water Recreation Study. The data will be used to develop comprehensive water recreation management plans.

The third grant was from the Madison Community Foundation for \$75,000 given to support phosphorus reduction as part of the Yahara CLEAN Project. The grant will be used for soil testing on 7,500 acres of farmland in the Lake Mendota watershed. Test results will help farmers determine the amounts and types of fertilizer to use in their fields and ways to reduce runoff.

***Booms were recently installed on BB Clark Beach on Lake Monona and Bernies Beach on Monona Bay to block algae from coming onto the beaches. The booms are fabric covered Styrofoam tubes with cloth curtains hanging below the surface.

***Clean Lakes Alliance has raised over \$100,000 in its first 3 years to help clean up the Dane County lakes. The funds have assisted the Lakes and Watershed Commission with storm water filtration systems, weed harvesting and administration.

***Dane County issued an emergency slow-no-wake zone on Squaw Bay in Lake Monona effective June 19th. The order was issued to protect residential property in the area from erosion. The order will be lifted once the water levels in Squaw Bay return to safe levels.

***If you want to find the location of county's plant harvesters and read about the county's harvesting priorities, visit Dane County's Land and Water Resources Department website at www.countyofdane.com/lwrp

The YLA Annual Meeting, A Mid Summer Event

YLA members and friends shared conversations and lake news at Blackhawk Country Club, the host for our annual meeting this year. The location was beautiful and the meal was delicious. More than twenty different companies generously provided door prizes for many YLA members and their guests.

The YLA Board recognized two individuals and the Nelson Institute for their efforts on lake issues. Kathleen Falk, Dane County Executive, received the YLA Public Official of the Year award. Mike Gerner, YLA Board Member, was awarded the YLA Member of the Year. Gregg Mitman, Interim Director, accepted the Special Recognition award on behalf of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

Thank you to Blackhawk Country Club, YLA members, and the many people and companies who make this a great event. Hope to see you next year.



Sue Jones, Watershed Management Coordinator in the Office of Lakes and Watersheds updates YLA members on "Yahara Clean" and the need for volunteers.



President-Elect Dick Adler (left) and former President Joe Tisserand (center) honor Mike Gerner as YLA's 2009 Member of the Year.



Dane County Executive said she was especially pleased to be honored for her efforts to protect and improve the quality of our area lakes. Falk was honored as YLA Public Official of the Year for 2009.



Gregg Mitman, Interim Director, accepted the Special Recognition award on behalf of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.



Bob Miller is presented a plaque in recognition of service at YLA President in 2009.

"Care for the Land" Includes The Yahara Lakes

Neal Smith, Executive Director
Holy Wisdom Monastery

Holy Wisdom Monastery, located on Highway M in the town of Westport, is part of the Lake Mendota Priority Watershed as well as the Yahara river and Rock river Basin watersheds. Over 400 acres of land surrounding the monastery drain into and through our 138 acres. This means that work done on this land greatly affects the amount and quality of water run-off into Lake Mendota. With its proximity to Governor Nelson State Park, Pheasant Branch Nature Preserve, Dorn's Creek Watershed, Six-Mile Creek and other natural and park areas, Holy Wisdom Monastery is a significant part of the protective green belt north of Madison.

As many know, development is rapidly replacing the farmlands that once surrounded Holy Wisdom Monastery. Rapid urbanization contiguous to monastery land has resulted in nonpoint source pollution that includes nutrients, pesticides, metals and sediment.

In 1996 in order to help mitigate the negative effects of this rapid development, the Sisters began partnering with environmental and civic groups, as well as thousands of individuals, to protect and restore monastery land to pre-settlement prairie. To date, about 100 acres have been restored. The Sisters also returned a silted-in 10,000-year-old glacial kettle lake to near its original size and created a major detention basin to filter sediment out of run-off headed toward Lake Mendota, further protecting the surrounding watershed.

When it became apparent that the large, inefficient conference facility at the monastery conflicted with their value of caring for the earth, the Sisters replaced it with a new building that is half the size of the old one. The new monastery building was recently designated the "greenest" LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum-certified building in the U.S. in the NC (New Construction) v 2.2 category.

Before construction could begin, a storm water control plan had to be approved by both Dane County and the Town of Westport. The design had to prove that a 100 year rain event would not result in any added runoff from the site. During construction, an earthen berm was built around the site to contain all rainfall and snow melt. Detention areas were designed with filtration weepers to filter the water before it left the work area. In addition, all disturbed areas outside the berm were mulched or seeded when the work in the area was completed. The design of the site also ensured no runoff from the site in a 100 year storm.

The following components were built into the plan to help make this possible:

- Two rain gardens were constructed to detain and infiltrate runoff to the south and west of the new building. All site runoff was directed to these two areas. The rain gardens were seeded and planted with native broadleaved plants and grasses.
- Rain barrels were strategically placed around the building to capture roof runoff so it can be used to water the plants around the buildings and on the green roofs.
- The green roofs themselves will capture and use rainwater thereby reducing runoff.
- The landscape around the buildings was planted and seeded with native prairie. Any runoff not captured using the previous strategies will be diverted to relatively flat prairie areas where it will be absorbed.
- Last, some parts of the parking area were made of pervious concrete, a type of concrete through which the water can drain and immediately infiltrate into the groundwater.

These and other design choices made by the Sisters have successfully controlled runoff from the site. They also significantly reduced the amount of runoff that was occurring prior to beginning the new construction. The engineers of Montgomery & Associates calculated that the runoff from a 100 year rain event will be reduced by over 13% **as compared to predevelopment**. Considering the fact that the building site is on top of a hill, this is a significant reduction.

"The goal in building Holy Wisdom Monastery was to create a smaller, energy-efficient building that would be in harmony with our surrounding acres of restored prairie," explained Sister Mary David Walgenbach, OSB, prioress at Holy Wisdom Monastery. "Our builder helped us design a simple, hospitable building to reflect our monastic values and complement the beauty of the land. With every design decision, we asked, does it express our mission, is it the greenest option, and is it cost effective?"

Not only is the new monastery building highly sustainable, but the Sisters take pride in the fact that the total project cost was \$241 per square foot, which includes all design, construction, furnishing, demolition, commissioning, and LEED certification costs.

Continued on next page

Additional “green” features include:

- Photovoltaic panels on the roof provide 13% of total energy cost. The system is expandable and the goal is to eventually provide 100% of the monastery’s energy needs from on-site, renewable sources – and a zero carbon footprint.
- Specially coated, high-performance windows keep heat losses/gains to a minimum and provide abundant daylight and aesthetic prairie views.
- An efficient geothermal heating and cooling system uses 39 closed-loop wells, each 300 feet deep.
- A white, membrane roof and highly reflective pavers help keep the surroundings cool.
- Bamboo, a rapidly renewable resource, was used for the Assembly Room floor, Gathering Space and on the ceilings of the Oratory and Meditation Chapel.

Prior to beginning work on Holy Wisdom, the Sisters responsibly deconstructed Benedict House, the old retreat facility. 99.75% of the old building was diverted from landfill via recycling, reusing, and donating to other charities.

The monastery continues to accept donations toward the remaining \$900,000 of its capital campaign for the project. Tours of the new building and the restored lands are available, and we would be pleased to offer a tour for Yahara Lakes Association members anytime. For more information visit www.benedictinewomen.org.

Know Your Lakeshore . . .

Floating Tar Spoils Bathing

By Don Sanford

That headline greeted readers of the Wisconsin State Journal on July 14, 1903. The article went on to say that almost a mile of beach was rendered useless by the tar. The latest victims of this mess were the Highland Cadets who went swimming and were completely covered by the tar. They were forced to take baths in turpentine and kerosene to remove the sticky mess.

There were no oil wells or supertankers on the lake so where did this come from?

At the turn of the century, cities and large institutions like the asylum produced gas for lighting from coal. The by-product of this process called coal gasification; a tar-like material, was dumped into the municipal sewage system.

When the State Hospital for the Insane opened in 1860, Lake Mendota provided both drinking water and a sewage disposal plant. Initially, open wells on the property provided drinking water but these proved inadequate and in 1877, Lake Mendota water was used, untreated, at the facility. Meanwhile, about 700 feet away from that intake, untreated sewage flowed into the lake from an outfall on the Woodward’s (Warner) Bay side of the property.

It’s unimaginable today, but in those days little was known about bacteria nor it’s effects on drinking water and it’s connection to Typhoid fever. Around 1887, following a typhoid epidemic at the facility and a report from a then-unknown water chemist, Magnus Swenson, the drinking water supply was switched to artesian water from a deep well on the property. However, water for all other purposes came from an intake that now stretched nearly 1700 feet into the lake. Despite that effort, staff and residents still complained that the water flowing from taps at the asylum smelled. And, because of the convoluted plumbing system, it was possible and likely that drinking water and lake water pipes were cross-connected.

Around 1903, filtering beds were installed as the Asylum’s sewage treatment system. It was still primitive at best. The mix of untreated sewage and the by-products of the coal gas plant continued to flow into Woodward (Warner) Bay. The white greasy material floated around the lake, where it eventually cooled and sank clinging to the bottom in the shallows.

Around 1905, workers noticed that the icehouse on Governors Island smelled of sewage. Still nothing was done to stop the flow of sewage into Lake Mendota. In 1907, following repeated typhoid epidemics at the institution; the supply of lake water was cut off which curbed further outbreaks. However the sewage continued to flow.

Around 1910, the hospital received funding for a primitive sewage treatment plant near Farwell’s Point. Even so, the facility’s sewage problem persisted. In 1925, Madison City Engineer E. E. Parker stated that 200,000 gallons of raw, untreated sewage from the State Hospital and the Wisconsin Memorial Hospital entered the lake every day. By 1933 that number was increased to 250,000 gallons. Calls were again made for the creation of a metropolitan sewerage system to rid the lake of the largest single source of pollution. In 1930, the Lakeview Sanitarium opened on Northport Drive and was connected to the relatively new Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). Five years later, a seventy-five year attack on the water quality of Lake Mendota came to an end. On May 28, 1935 with modest publicity, the valve was first opened on the new interceptor connecting the State hospital to the MMSD line on Northport Drive.

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LAKE EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these events

Public Open House and Input Session, July 21, 5:30 pm. Warner Park Community and Recreation Center 1625 Northport Drive, Community Rooms 1, 2, & 3. The Yahara Lakes Legacy Partnership (<http://yaharawatershed.org/>) will host a public open house and input session. The focus will be on 1) reducing sediment and nutrient pollution in lakes Mendota, Monona, Wingra, Waubesa, and Kegonsa as well as in the rivers, streams and marshes associated with these lakes, and 2) Cleaning up swimming beaches at Vilas Park, Bernie's Beach, Brittingham Park, Olbrich Park, Esther Beach and Olin Park. From 5:30 to 6:30 PM, city, county and state agency staff from the CLEAN (Capital Lakes Environmental Assessment and Needs) partnership will be available for informal viewing and discussion of maps and scientific studies of the Yahara lakes watersheds. At 6:30 p.m. team members will present a summary of possible policy options designed to ratchet down phosphorus and sediment pollution throughout the lake system, and to protect beaches.

Better Lawns & Gutters Tour, Saturday, August 14, 2010, 9 am to 1 pm. Brandt Park, McFarland. See how native plants and rain gardens can make your yard beautiful while improving lakes and streams. The event is sponsored by the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission, and partnered with the City of McFarland, Madison Audubon Society, Wild Ones and Healthy Lawn Team. To get to Brandt Park take the Siggelkow road exit off Hwy 51 and go west 2 blocks toward Lake Waubesa. Tour maps will be available at the park and gardeners will be available during the tour to answer questions at the tour sites. For additional information visit www.danewaters.com/events/YLWGutters.aspx

Dane County Sheriff Lake Patrol Fund Raiser, Sunday, August 15, 3 to 6 pm. Nau-ti-gal restaurant on Lake Mendota. The von Ruttenburg family, sponsor of the event, invites you to the Nau-ti-gal for free burgers, brats and chicken, music by West Side Andy's Band, silent and live auctions, and a chance to support the lake patrol. The event will be held rain or shine.

Clean Lakes Festival, Saturday, August 28. Clean Lakes Alliance and their lead sponsor, Lands' End, are offering a full day of activities to celebrate the lakes. There will be a walk/run, sailing regatta, barefoot skiing challenge, paddle challenge, canoe and kayak races, water ski lessons, windsurfer lessons, Betty Lou Cruise rides, music, kids' activities, and food and beverages. To learn more about Clean Lakes Alliance, their efforts to improve our lakes and the festival, visit www.cleanlakesfestival.com



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 For the Land**

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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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