



The Newsletter of the Yahara Lakes Association

AUGUST 2011

President's Message by Dick Adler, YLA President

First and foremost, a hearty thank you to all riparians who attended our annual meeting on June 21 at Blackhawk Country Club. This year we had our largest attendance as ninety-nine members enjoyed a sumptuous surf and turf dinner on a truly delightful evening with a beautiful sunset over Lake Mendota. And, to top off the evening, about half of the group went home with a door prize. We look forward to seeing all of you next year at the annual meeting in June 2012.

As August signals the dog days of summer, it's nice to note that our lake conditions, so far, have been rather satisfactory compared to previous years. A cool spring and less than normal rainfall have had a positive affect on the lakes. However, the challenges of water quality, flooding, weed control, and algae growth will continue to demand our attention.

The YLA board will continue to monitor the stream flow through the Yahara river as it flows through Waubesa at McFarland and more downstream into the Stoughton area. Board member, Mike Gerner, continues to keep an eye on the water levels for maintaining summer and winter minimum/maximums.

YLA board members will also continue to maintain contacts with Dane County officials and employees to discuss lake quality issues, including water level, weed harvesting, phosphorus run off and strategies to keep water flowing through the area chain of lakes.

As we go forward to 2012, membership will be a focal point to our continued success. Our membership has been status quo the past couple of years, and it's time to expand our efforts next year. Let's all talk to our neighbors and get them on board.

As you visit and converse with your lakefront friends and neighbors, remind them that the Yahara Lakes Association is a non-profit association working to improve and preserve the lakes and rivers in the Yahara chain of lakes. YLA represents the interest of shore property owners and advocates for the vitality of the lakes so all citizens can enjoy these beautiful assets in our area. Thanks for carrying the YLA flag.

Mark Your Calendars

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10

NR115 PUBLIC MEETING
TOWN OF DUNN
6 P.M. AT DUNN TOWN HALL

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### SUNDAY AUGUST 14

SHERIFF'S LAKE PATROL FUNDRAISER

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SATURDAY AUGUST 27

CLEAN LAKES FESTIVAL

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- WICKCRAFT MANUFACTURING
CO. INC.

YLA Annual Dinner Meeting—A Great Success!

By Dick Adler, YLA President and Carol Gillen, YLA Board Member

The Blackhawk Country Club offered a beautiful view of Lake Mendota and a delicious dinner for the YLA annual meeting and dinner on June 21st. YLA members were there in full force—almost 100 of us—to meet new friends and catch up with current friends. As Dick Adler mentioned in his President's message in this newsletter, this was the largest gathering of YLA members in our history. So thanks to all our members who attended and continue to support YLA.



Beautiful sunset dinner at Blackhawk



Dick Adler, Louisa Enz

Our annual awards for 2010 were presented to:

Louisa Enz, Past President
Doug Bach, Member of the Year
Dick Lathrop, Citizen of the Year and
Dave Mahoney, Public Official of the Year

Each of them contributed their expertise and time toward improving our area lakes. Dick Lathrop spoke about the current state of the Yahara chain of lakes. Don Heilman and James Tye from Clean Lakes Alliance gave an update on CLA goals and status toward improving water quality.

A special Thank You to all of our corporate sponsors for their generous contributions. Their support makes our annual meeting a very special event. We hope to see you, your neighbors and friends again next June.

Also, a big Thank You to Joe Tisserand who worked enthusiastically and tirelessly in making this a truly special event!



Chuck Dykman, Dick Lathrop



Don Heilman, James Tye, &
Dick Adler



Jeff Hook accepting Dave
Mahoney's award presented
by Joe Tisserand



A wonderful evening enjoyed by all!

Doug Bach 2010 YLA Member of the Year and YLA Board Member

By Carol Gillen, YLA Board Member

Doug has a long-standing interest in water quality, both in his profession and as a lakeshore property owner. As an environmental engineer, Doug has been involved with ground water clean up and ecological restoration projects. Although he continues to be involved with these types of projects, recently he has taken on more of a marketing role with his current employer, Short, Elliott and Hendrickson.

Doug and his wife, Muriel Nagle, have enjoyed the area lakes and other recreational activities since they moved to Madison. For many years, they were members of the Lake Monona Sailing club and raced their Flying Scot in the club's races. Doug was the Commodore for the club in 1999. In 1995, they found a "shack on the lake" at 2700 Waunona Way, which they have renovated into a beautiful home. Although they no longer race their Scot, they continue to take advantage of lake living by kayaking, swimming, and boating. A number of years ago, Doug and Muriel started racing bicycles with a local club. They continue to be very active in their club as volunteers and racers.

About 8 years ago, two current YLA board members, Sal Troia and Chuck Dykman, talked with Doug about serving on the YLA board. Doug was elected and has been very active ever since. For the last 6 years, he has served as the YLA representative on the Lakes and Watershed Commission, a position that requires a great deal of time and energy. As the YLA representative to the Lakes and Watershed Commission, Doug was involved in developing the Yahara Clean report, a cooperative effort among the city of Madison, Wisconsin DNR and Dane County to improve lake quality. Doug's background as an environmental engineer and his personality have provided YLA excellent representation on the commission.



Sal Troia (l) presenting the 2010 Member of the Year Award to Doug Bach (r) at the Annual Dinner Meeting

Doug said that YLA has increased awareness about our area lakes and helped improve lake quality since the YLA sponsored lake conference in 2008. The key factors have been increased individual efforts by board members and improved contacts with elected officials.

Doug talked about the challenges and positives that are now in place to improve lake quality. One challenge is "the time frame for implementing a plan is longer than the political time frame." However, on the positive side, Doug sees elected officials at the city and county level becoming more involved in solutions for our lakes. Another challenge is raising money for the lakes, and he said, "Why not an endowment fund for the lakes" as a possible solution for funding. He feels that a cooperative effort with the area farmers is key to decreasing phosphorus levels, and that progress has been made in this area with the manure digester and farming management strategies to reduce phosphorus run off. Another positive for the lakes has been Clean Lakes Alliance, which has stepped up interest in and fund raising for the lakes.

Even though there continue to be challenges, Doug said, "I am optimistic about the lakes." There has been a change in attitudes about the lakes and stated, "The resignation that was present 10 years ago is not there now."

The YLA board is pleased to have Doug as our 2010 member of the year. We are very fortunate to have Doug's expertise in water resources, and are grateful for the time and effort he has given to improve our lakes and represent our membership.

Clean Lakes Alliance—Cleaning Up Our Lakes

By Louisa Enz, YLA and CLA Board Member

Dedicated to improving water quality in our lakes, Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA) is a not-for-profit group working closely with state, county, and local government agencies, user-groups, stakeholders and riparians in developing a strong membership base, growing the Clean Lakes Festival, and creating community outreach and fundraising to clean up the lakes.

Three YLA Board members - myself, Mike Gerner and Bob Miller - are serving on the CLA Advisory Board. We are working with CLA President Don Heilman, CLA Development Director James Tye, and other community members of the board with the main goal to improve our area lakes. First on the agenda....developing a road map to reduce the amount of phosphorus coming into the lakes along with an economic impact study to document the effects of the lakes on property values, economic development, tourism and quality of life. Next year, CLA will announce the results and a map that will set priorities and costs to get our lakes cleaned up once and for all.

What can you do? Join us at Olin Park **August 27, 2011** for the Clean Lakes Festival. Last year the Festival raised enough money to contribute significantly to a storm water outflow/retention pond project on Allen Blvd in Middleton to filter and slow down stormwater going into Lake Mendota. It's projects like these that help keep our lakes clean. For more information on the Clean Lakes Alliance, please visit www.cleanlakesalliance.com.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2011
OLIN PARK ~ MADISON, WI

ONE DAY WITH LOTS OF WAYS TO
CELEBRATE THE LAKES!



In 2007, The Mad-City Water Ski Team created the Clean Lakes Festival to raise awareness about the area lakes and money to support lake clean up projects. Each year, the number of events at the festival and the amount of money raised has grown larger and larger. The money raised at the festival is donated to Dane County and has been used to fund lake weed harvesters, GPS monitors for the weed harvesters, a storm water filtration project in Middleton, and a position on the Yahara Lakes Legacy Partnership.

This year the festival offers a full day of activities on the shore of Lake Monona at Olin Park. You don't want to miss out on any of the activities, both for kids and those of us who are still kids at heart--kayak and canoe rides, a sailing regatta, log rolling/rowing/barefoot ski challenges, 2-mile Liquid Courage Challenge, free Betty Lou cruises, live music, food and drinks, and much more.

DATE: Saturday, August 27, 2011
PLACE: Olin Park

Enjoy a day on the lake while you support Clean Lakes Alliance and our lakes. The website www.cleanlakesfestival.com will give you all the information you need to make this a wonderful day.

NR 115 Shoreland Zoning Update

By Carol Gillen, YLA Board Member and Dick Adler, YLA President

NR 115 is the Wisconsin administrative code that went into effect in January 2010 to improve the flexibility of private shoreland owners and to also minimize the impact of development on state waters. Each county government has until February 2012 to update their shoreland development rules to be consistent with or exceed the state rules. **In Dane County, the proposed rules only apply to unincorporated and annexed shorelands and do not require any changes for current structures.**

The changes Dane County is considering that will be more stringent than the state rules are:

- Viewing and access corridor—one corridor per lot, 30 feet wide or 30% of lot width, whichever is less (NR 115 states no more than “30 feet in any 100 feet”).
- Boathouse size/design—limited to 450 sq ft total, 16 ft wide, 12 ft tall, no plumbing or windows (NR 115 has no size or design limitations).
- Shore cover—35 feet from ordinary high water mark (NR 115 states 37.5 feet)
- Mitigation required for new boathouses or for “setback averaging”.
- For detailed information on NR 115 and the current Dane County proposals, go to:
www.countyofdane.com/plandev/planning/Shoreland_Zoning_Update.aspx

A special meeting was held July 19, 2011 to inform and seek input from YLA members. General feedback was that NR 115 is restrictive enough and Dane County should not add further limitations or restrictions to this administrative code. The following letter was sent to Dane County Planning & Development on behalf of YLA and its members:



July 29, 2011

Brian Standing, Senior Planner
Dane County Planning & Development
Room 116, City County Building
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Brian Standing,

On behalf of the Yahara Lakes Association (YLA), thank you for coordinating the July 19, 2011 meeting to further discuss the details of NR 115 and Dane County's suggestions for adopting the shoreland zoning regulations.

YLA represents the interests of 400+ lake and river property owners. Our mission is to advocate for the vitality of the lakes and rivers in the Yahara chain of lakes so that all citizens may enjoy them. With that in mind, YLA's recommendation regarding NR 115 is as follows:

- Dane county should adopt NR 115 as-is with no further limitations or restrictions.

Dane County's shorelands are mainly within municipalities where NR 115 does not apply. Because these shorelands are highly urbanized and were not developed under the restrictions of NR 115, it does not seem to be reasonable to go beyond NR 115 in the unincorporated areas of Dane County and widen the gap further.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in having Dane County adopt NR 115 as it currently is written at the state level. If you have further questions, please contact me at 608.222.0879.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Adler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dick Adler, YLA President

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info@yaharalakes.org

The Wickcraft Story...Then and Now

By Brian Koenig, Marine Products Manager, Wickcraft Inc.

You may have seen us on the water...For many years now these Yahara lakes have long been populated by docks manufactured by local companies. Yesterday, and still today, you will see “the green docks” (Wickcraft) and “the blue docks” (Endres). Let me share a bit of the rich history of “the green ones”...Wickcraft Docks.

Wickcraft was founded in 1954 by Dick Wickman. Back in those early days Wickcraft produced a variety of products made of steel. Dick was a pretty crafty guy who was always willing to produce just about anything the person walking in the door needed. We were basically a job shop making things of steel...ornamental railings, gates, lampposts, tables, stools, and countless custom products. For a time we even made birdhouses, well, because somebody asked and Dick could make it. Sometime in the early 70's a friend of Dick's in Boulder Junction asked Dick to make him a dock. Of course he agreed to make it, well, because the guy asked him to and he could do it. His friend became a Wickcraft dealer and the family is still representing our products today. And so the Wickcraft story began.

For many years those docks were called “Quick-Wick”. As the name would suggest, they had a unique hinge system that made them very easy to install. Before steel dock manufactures started galvanizing their products to resist corrosion they were painted. One could speculate that the people who made the color choices were colorblind. Dick chose the ever fashionable color of John Deer Green. The design of the “Quick-Wick” dock proved to be very popular. It had what is now known as the Posi-Lock™ hinge system for ease of installation, flared legs for stability, and was light enough that a small army wasn't needed to carry it around. The time tested design of the Wickcraft dock frame is basically the same today as it was so many years ago.



Brian Koenig (r) and Wickcraft employees enjoy this Wickcraft pier bench before giving it away to one lucky Annual Dinner Meeting attendee as a door prize.

In 2004 Dick decided he'd made enough things of steel and decided to retire. Dick sold the company to his accounting firm. Our new owner's, Rick and Deb Vanden Huevel, loved the history of the company. They also thought the company was ready to evolve.

While our dock design is time tested and largely remains the same, our docks are still evolving too. In 2010 we began offering HDPE recycled plastic lumber decking. In addition to being “green”, it offers some terrific benefits. Plastic lumber is maintenance free, has a 50 year warranty, and won't fade from exposure to the elements. It even gets less slippery when wet. Our customers like the color options available so they can match the color of the decking to the surroundings. It has been received well in the marketplace and we know it will benefit our customers for many years to come.

Wickcraft also makes walkways or boardwalks. In the past we used our dock sections in wetland applications. Ultimately we needed to engineer new walkway frames with higher load capacities. The result was basically our Wickcraft dock on steroids. Some of the wetland projects required elements like floating platforms and duck hunting blinds. In the Wickcraft tradition we took on some of these new challenges and opportunities. One of our latest achievements is a 220' freespan bridge. The evolution of our walkway division exemplifies the evolution our new owners envisioned.

And so it is said that “the more things change the more they stay the same”. Today Wickcraft is still a small company deeply rooted in its history. We are still craftsmen making quality products built to last. We look forward to creating more history with our current and future customers. We appreciate the support of our many friends at YLA and look forward to seeing you again soon...we promise to bring more benches!

Sheriff's Lake Patrol Fundraiser

By Bill von Rutenberg

The Annual Sheriff's Lake Patrol Fundraiser is:

Date: Sunday, August 14, 2011

Time: 3 - 6 p.m.

Location: Nau-Ti-Gal Restaurant

The von Rutenberg family is hosting their 10th annual fundraiser for the Sheriff's Lake Patrol. They have raised almost \$80,000 in their first nine events with 100% of the money going to fund increased patrol time on our lakes and boating education classes.

Funding raising activities include a live auction, silent auction and a raffle. There will be FREE burgers, brats, BBQ chicken, a cash bar, and Live Music from Westside Andy and the Mel Ford Band, with no cover charge.

Contact Bill von Rutenberg by cell 279-0890 or email vonr@gdinet.com if you can help out or wish to make a donation for the event. The von Rutenberg family thanks you and hopes to see you on August 14th!

CURRENTS



In June, Dane County contracted with 25 area farm families to use conservation practices to reduce phosphorus run off into the lakes. The farms will share about \$800,000 to partially reimburse their costs for the projects. The money will be provided from a \$2 million federal grant received by the county. Farm projects will include building roofs over animal feeding areas, planting grass by farmland ditches and removing soil and sediment with high phosphorus concentrations from ditches. (*Wisconsin State Journal article June 24, 2011*)

Urban Water Quality Grant Program Since 2005, Dane County has made funds available to municipalities for this cost-sharing program to improve old storm drain outlets that dump untreated stormwater and litter into county lakes, rivers, and streams. The goals of the Urban Water Quality Grant Program are to improve the quality of urban stormwater runoff entering Dane County lakes, rivers and streams, increase public awareness of urban water quality issues, and provide public education about urban stormwater quality improvement practices. The 2011 Dane County Land and Water Legacy Fund has \$500,000 available for this cost-sharing program. The county funds are matched with municipal expenditures.

Dane Stewards Listserv This listserv (emailing list) provides a connection among groups and people interested in water and land conservation in the Dane County area. The listserv is a forum for announcements, exchanging information and advice, and to coordinate activities among the groups to prevent overlap, identify gaps, and provide an opportunity for partnerships. To subscribe, go to www.danewaters.com/business/danestewards.aspx

Some lake-related websites mentioned in recent Lake Views newsletters are still good sites to visit for updated information. They are:

*** The lake blog about Yahara lake level mgmt strategies & information <http://lake-levels.blogspot.com/>

*** Lake level and other information <http://countyofdane.com/lwr/landconservation/lakelevelpg.aspx>

*** Updates on current lake information and events www.yaharalakes.org

Let us know about events on your lake, lake-related websites you have discovered or ideas for future newsletters.
Contact 239-1664 or info@yaharalakes.org

We appreciate your help!



LAKE VIEWS NEWSLETTER

Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd.
P.O. Box 22
Waunakee, WI 53597
Phone: 239-1664
E-mail: info@yaharalakes.org

Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd. is a non-profit organization of over 400 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.

2011 Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd. Board of Directors

2011 Officers:

President - Dick Adler
President Elect - Chuck Gates
Secretary - Carol Gillen
Treasurer - Michael Gerner
Past President - Louisa Enz

To Contact any Board Member:

Call 239-1664 or
E-mail: info@yaharalakes.org

2011 Board Members:

Doug Bach	Ray Potempa
Charles Dykman	Dan Schultz
Bill Fitzpatrick	Tim Stanton
Ken Kosciak	Joe Tisserand
Bob Miller	Sal Troia
Mark Pernitz	William von Rutenberg

Special Committees:

Communications Committee
Lake Quality Committee
Membership Committee
Water Safety Committee

JOIN TODAY!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.yaharalakes.org

