



*The Newsletter of the Yahara Lakes Association*

NOVEMBER 2011

**Welcome New Board Member** by Carol Gillen, YLA Board Member

Welcome Dick Pearson to Yahara Lakes Association's Board of Directors!



YLA is pleased to welcome Dick Pearson as our new board member. Dick has a long-standing connection to the area lakes. The Pearson family has owned property on Lake Mendota for over 100 years and has family photos of their property dating back to 1900.

Dick grew up in Madison but spent a number of years away from the area. After completing engineering school, he served 3

years in the Navy on a Landing Ship Tank (LST). He and his family then moved to Ohio where Dick was a partner in an engineering firm. In 1986, after 22 years in Ohio, the Pearson family decided to return to Madison. They lived in the same home where Dick grew up until 2005 when they built a new home on the same property.

Upon his return to Madison, Dick started a consulting engineering firm, Pearson Engineering, to provide analysis and problem solving engineering services for HVAC systems throughout the country. Three years ago, Dick sold his engineering firm, but continues to work as a consultant to the firm. He recently started a new business, Pearson Forensic Engineering, serving as an expert witness in HVAC litigation.

Outside of his professional career, Dick has pursued many water related interests. He has sailed long passages in the South Pacific and Mediterranean on a friend's 52-foot sailboat. More recently, he worked with other volunteers to restore a WWII LST, the only remaining ship of its kind that was active in the Normandy landing on D-Day. This September, he and other volunteers served as crew and docents on the restored LST, which sailed on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers with four stops at various towns.

Dick brings a lot of enthusiasm for and interest in the Yahara lakes. He will be a great addition to the YLA board to represent lake property owners and improve lake quality for all users.

**Mark Your Calendars**

**EARLY DECEMBER**

VOTE: YLA BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

**RENEW!**

2012 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

~ NEW ~

ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION

MORE INFORMATION COMING TO YOU SOON

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FOR THEIR SUPPORT :**

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**PLEASE SUPPORT THE  
BUSINESSES THAT  
SUPPORT YLA!**

## **YLA and CLA — What's the Difference?**

By YLA Board of Directors

Some YLA members are asking — “What’s the difference between YLA and Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA)?” Simply stated, YLA represents and advocates for the interests of waterfront property owners, while CLA specifically advocates to improve water quality in our waterways.

Because YLA and its members also have an interest in the vitality of the water quality in our area lakes and rivers, we’re excited about the progress CLA has made in this area. In fact, three YLA board members continue to serve on the CLA Advisory Board to help work toward those goals.

To strengthen and unify this partnership, YLA is pleased to welcome James Tye, CLA Development Director, as Advisor to the YLA President. James has expertise in marketing and experience in water quality issues. The YLA board members look forward to working with him.

Most recently, James attended the October YLA board meeting and reported on CLA events to raise water quality awareness and funds for lake projects. A few of these events were the Yahara Lakes Science Forum, Friends of the Lakes Conference, AquaPalooza on Mendota and Clean Lakes Festival on Monona. More information about CLA can be found at [www.cleanlakesalliance.com](http://www.cleanlakesalliance.com).

## **Dane County Water Partnership Targets Area Lakes**

By Office of Dane County Executive, Joe Parisi

The Dane County Water Partnership, released in June 2011, outlines a plan to improve lake quality. The focus will be on:

- Partnership with farmers to reduce phosphorus run off by building roofs over feeding areas, planting grass over ditches, restoring farm-land drainage ditches and building a second manure digester and
- Reducing pollutant and water runoff into lakes by retrofitting storm water outfalls and restoring wetlands.

To help with the initiatives, Dane County Executive, Joe Parisi, has included funds in Dane county’s 2012 budget that target the lakes. These include:

- \$50,000 investment from the Clean Lakes Alliance to help strengthen the annual “Take a Stake in the Lakes” event
- \$50,000 from Madison Metropolitan Sewage District to help with phosphorus reduction efforts and
- \$100,000 to retrofit storm water outfalls in Dane County

You can find additional information about the Dane County Water Partnership including maps of phosphorus target areas online at:

[www.countyofdane.com/exec/initiatives.aspx](http://www.countyofdane.com/exec/initiatives.aspx)

Information provided by: Casey Slaughter Becker, Executive Assistant,  
Office of Dane County Executive Joe Parisi,  
and above cited website

## Speaking of Water Quality... Madison Engineering Update

By Genesis Steinhorst, Water Resource Specialist, City of Madison Dept. of Public Works Engineering

City Engineering is not just in the business of tearing up streets and terraces to replace asphalt and sanitary pipes. Stormwater management and water quality improvements are also high on our list of priorities.

**Rain Gardens:** From 2005 to 2010, 41 rain gardens were constructed in the terrace in conjunction with street reconstruction projects. The terrace rain garden program has proven to be quite popular, and this year we are nearly doubling that number by adding 38 new gardens to the total count.

The program provides a significant cost share to homeowners that wish to participate. The gardens are designed to take stormwater runoff from the street in order to slow it down, remove some of the pollutants, and infiltrate the water in an eye-catching way. More information on

rain gardens and the program can be found on the city website at:

[www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/raingardens](http://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/raingardens)



**Beaches:** Six of the city's 9 beaches are listed as "impaired for bacteria" by the DNR and EPA. This means that each beach will require a plan to address the excessive bacteria levels. Urban sources of bacteria can include animal waste from both wild (geese and raccoons) and domestic animals and leaky sanitary pipes. One of the more visible sources is goose waste on and near beaches. The wet, sandy environment of a beach is a very appealing environment for bacteria. To combat this, the source needs to be removed and the sand should be raked up to expose more of the sand to UV from the sun to kill the bacteria. Once stormwater washes the bacteria into the nearest lake, it can be more difficult to pinpoint the exact source, since wind and waves can easily move pollutants within the lake system.

Each summer beaches are monitored for both bacteria and algae; high levels of either lead to beach closures. Last year City Engineering worked with Public Health, Dane County, DNR, and UW Limnology to install floating booms around two public beaches (BB Clarke and Bernie's) in order to keep floating algae scum away from the swimming area. Due to their popularity, the pilot was continued this year. In addition to the simple floating boom concept, a system that isolated the swim area completely from the rest of Monona Bay was installed at Brittingham Beach. The water within this "enclosure" was pumped through a small pipe into a trailer that housed a set of sand filters and a UV treatment system to kill pathogens in the water. The treated effluent was then pumped back into the swim area. This system proved quite successful at treating the lake water within the swim area. The difference in water quality and clarity between the treated and untreated areas was remarkable. City Engineering plans to continue the pilot study in 2012 by moving the treatment system across Monona Bay to Bernie's Beach, a more popular swimming area. The floating boom without treatment will also be re-installed at BB Clarke Beach, due to public interest.

This and other water quality improvement projects are highlighted in our quarterly stormwater utility newsletter *Madison Water Ways*, available online at [www.cityofmadison.com/stormwater](http://www.cityofmadison.com/stormwater).

## Our Longest Serving YLA Board Member—Judge Chuck Dykman

By Carol Gillen, YLA Board Member

Chuck is best known as Judge Dykman for serving 32 years on the 4<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals. Since his retirement in August 2010, Chuck has been teaching a class at the UW Law School, serving on the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners, and taking part in mock oral arguments. Outside of the law area, Chuck keeps busy teaching classes at Willie Street Cooperative on seeds and canning, tending his vegetable garden, canning his vegetables and making his famous vegetable juice.



Chuck and his wife, Bonnie, are long time lake property owners and sailors on Lake Monona. Chuck was one of the charter members of the Lake Monona Sailing Club and he and Bonnie have sailed their C-Scow in many races over the years.

Because of his interests in the lakes, Chuck agreed to run for the YLA board and was elected in 1992. At that time, YLA was called the Monona-Mendota Lake Owners Association and the main focus was on weed spraying along the shorelines with DNR oversight.

Chuck, the longest serving YLA board member and our legislative expert, said YLA has changed “from a knife and fork group” to an organization that has “achieved a political presence”. He cited a number of changes: for example, having a YLA board member serve on the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission, lobbying the legislature on pier legislation and the 200 foot slow no-wake ordinance, and meeting with county officials on the interpretation of lake operating ordinances and location of weed cutters to improve outflows.

**Thank you, Judge Dykman, for your time and expertise on behalf of YLA. The association has become a stronger voice for lake property owners and all lake users due to your contributions!**

## NR 115 Shoreland Zoning Update

Brian Standing, Senior Planner with Dane County Planning and Development, reported the NR 115 Subcommittee met with the Lake Waubesa Conservation Association on November 8<sup>th</sup> to explain how the current and proposed ordinance would affect lake property owners. There are updates and summaries of the current progress available online at: [www.countyofdane.com/plandev/planning/Shoreland\\_Zoning\\_Update.aspx](http://www.countyofdane.com/plandev/planning/Shoreland_Zoning_Update.aspx)

A meeting of the NR 115 Shoreland Subcommittee was also scheduled Nov. 16 in Room 321 of the City County Building.

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](mailto:info@yaharalakes.org)

## Be Alert for Invasive Species

By Sue Jones, Dane County Lakes & Watersheds

Dane County Lakes and Watersheds is asking boaters to help track the spread of aquatic invasive species as this year's boating season comes to a close. You can help by



examining your piers and boats for zebra and Quagga mussels as you remove your equipment from the water this fall. While large adult zebra or Quagga mussels are fairly

easy to identify, smaller mussels that have recently attached to a pier or boat will feel like rough sandpaper and be much harder to see. Please also be on the lookout for spiny water fleas, an invasive predacious crustacean that often appears in clumps as gelatinous or cotton batting-like material with black dots on fishing lines.

Anyone who thinks they may have spotted an invasive species animal should record the exact location; store specimens in rubbing alcohol in a sealed container and contact the local DNR office at (608) 275-3329.

## Volunteers Needed

By Marcia Hartwig, Dane County Lakes & Watersheds

The Dane County Office of Lakes & Watersheds (OLW) is seeking volunteers to help collect data during the coming months to help develop management plans for the Yahara lakes.

Although it is widely recognized that the water resources of Dane County contribute significantly to the local economy, no recent assessments place any kind of economic figures on their importance. The Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds (OLW) is implementing an update of the 1995 Yahara River Lakes Water Recreation Study.

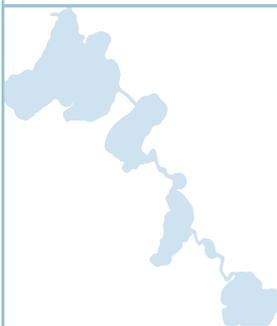
When completed, the information gathered will lead to a better understanding of the user groups, their numbers, their concerns, distance travelled, spending habits and how recreational use may increase with improved water quality, what that would mean to the area economically and how management efforts might be changed as a result.

Phase I (2009)	Work with UW River Falls to develop survey plan and tools
Phase II (2010)	Implement "General Population" Survey (mailed survey to help determine different levels and types of uses of area surface waters)
Phase III (2011-12)	Implement Intercept Survey (interviews conducted to gather data from people using surface waters)
Phase IV (2012)	Implement Recreational User Survey (grant application not yet submitted; gather data on economic impact of surface water users)
Phase V (2013)	Develop recommendations for comprehensive management plan

*The OLW intends to reach as many user groups as possible considering the many different users of the lakes, rivers and streams at different times of the year using the most effective means to obtain responses from each target audience.*

With better data on the economic value of the resources and how the resources are currently being used, especially when we are able to compare it to data from 1995, it may be easier to show that concerted efforts to protect and improve these special lakes, rivers and streams will benefit everyone in the area.

**The OLW is currently seeking volunteers to interview fall, winter and spring users of the area's surface water resources. Please contact the OLW at 224-3730 or [lakes@countyofdane.com](mailto:lakes@countyofdane.com) if interested in volunteering.**



## CURRENTS

**Limnology Professor Given International Award:** Steve Carpenter, a professor of limnology and zoology, received the 2011 Stockholm Water Prize. Professor Carpenter, a UW-Madison scientist who studies freshwater lakes, has been studying the impact of phosphorus on lakes in Wisconsin. Congratulations to Professor Carpenter!

Lake related websites: [www.yaharalakes.org](http://www.yaharalakes.org) or [www.myfairlakes.com](http://www.myfairlakes.com) or [www.danewaters.com](http://www.danewaters.com) or <http://lake-levels.blogspot.com/> or <http://countyofdane.com/lwrd/landconservation/lakelevelpg.aspx>

**Dane Stewards Listserv:** water and land conservation in Dane County. Subscribe to the Dane Stewards Listserv.

## REAL ESTATE PULSE

By Louisa Enz, YLA Board Member and Stark Company Real Estate Agent

Let us start with a more general overview to illustrate to you the health of our Real Estate Market. In the third quarter of 2011, total residential sales in Dane, Sauk and Columbia County market rose 30% over the same period a year ago. "All indications are that on a seasonally adjusted basis September will be among the strongest months for offers to purchase so far this year. Assuming this trend continues into next year, we should see a much stronger 2012" according to Dave Stark, President of Stark Co. Realtors. However, sales are still down 7.3% from last year but the gap should continue to close in the fourth quarter. From 2001-2007, Dane County averaged 7,058 sales per year but since then, we've averaged 5,125 & that feels "slow" to many people. History has shown however, that 'normal' sales levels are 5500-6000 sales per year so we aren't that far off.

But what about Lake Homes?

Currently on the Yahara Chain ( Mendota, Monona, Waubesa and Kegonsa) there are 121 homes for sale with actual water frontage ranging in price from \$199,900-\$4,000,000. Interestingly enough sales in 2010 & 2011 from January 1<sup>st</sup> through November 4 of that year were identical—46 lake homes sold each year. The days on market in 2011 vs 2010 was on average 30 days longer. This was to be expected since inventory continued to increase in 2011. Below is a summary of 2011 Active Lake Homes for sale versus sold on each lake.

Lake	Active	Sold	Avg Sold Price
Mendota	46	20	\$1,106,297 * 9 homes sold 1 million or more
Monona	26	8	\$383,000 * no home sold over \$695,000 to date in 2011
Waubesa	21	7	\$482,242 * only one sale over \$600,000
Kegonsa	28	11	\$585,800 * 8 of the 11 sold were under \$500,000

*Sales Data reported to SCW MLS 1/1/2011-11/4/2011 & Real Estate Market Source written by Dave Stark, Stark Co. Realtors.*

## 2012 Membership Drive

By YLA Membership Committee (Chuck Gates, Carol Gillen, Tim Stanton and Rhonda Arries)

One of the YLA goals for next year is to increase our membership and, in turn, our collective voice for waterfront property owners. We need **your** help to grow YLA's membership. Please talk with your neighbors about joining YLA, the only organization advocating for waterfront property owners in areas of legislation, lake level management, weed cutting, and for the vitality of our beautiful area waterways and lakes.

We're making improvements to ensure YLA membership enrollment and renewal is easier and more convenient! Soon you'll be able to pay your membership renewal online with a credit card payment. Of course, you still may pay by check through the mail.

More details will be distributed to you soon. We value your feedback and input so if you have any suggestions on how to better improve this process, please phone 239-1664 or email [info@yaharalakes.org](mailto:info@yaharalakes.org).

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YLA!**



## LAKE VIEWS NEWSLETTER

Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd.  
P.O. Box 22  
Waunakee, WI 53597  
Phone: 239-1664  
E-mail: [info@yaharalakes.org](mailto: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](mailto: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
Dick Pearson	William von Rutenberg
Mark Pernitz	

**Special Committees:**

Communications Committee  
Lake Quality Committee  
Membership Committee  
Water Safety Committee

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.yaharalakes.org](http://www.yaharalakes.org)

