



# LONG LAKE NEWS

Fall 2021

Autumn is here again! It seems just yesterday we had our boat parade and ice cream social.

Thank you to all the volunteers who monitored the boat landing this year, with a special thanks to Mark Michel for coordinating the Clean Boats Clean Waters program. Our Association has applied for a CBCW grant for 2022 and we intend to continue with that program next year. Des Moines Lake property owners increased their participation this year and have expressed interest in helping again in the future.

Thanks again to the Sheridan's for hosting the ice cream social and to everyone who helped put on a great event. Thanks also to everyone who used the association pontoon trailer this year.



## Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW)

We had 14 members help with boat inspections at the boat landing this past season for a total of 174 hours. Inspectors were Mark Michel, Jeff Romanchuk, Jim Koren, John McMahon, Dick and Carole Walter, Phil and Pam Miller, Brian Laven, Ann Lloyd, Jim and Jeanine Sundberg, and Gary and Pam Van Beusekom. Please thank them for their service!

Our CBCW 2022 grant request is for \$1,800 and can be used to pay for boat inspectors.

## Purple Loosestrife Beetles

This past summer the Long Lake Association entered a joint project with Burnett County and the Des Moines Lake Association. The Land Services of Burnett County provided a tent enclosure to raise purple loosestrife beetles. The two lake associations bought six plastic pools for the enclosure. Tom Boisvert, from Burnett County, dug purple loosestrife plants in the spring, and they were placed in five-gallon buckets which had holes drilled into the sides. The holes allowed water from the plastic pools to keep the roots wet.

During the summer, water was added to the pools as

needed to keep the plants growing. The plants provided food for beetles which Tom had captured. The beetles multiplied inside the tent enclosure.

In late July and August an intern from Burnett County came and collected beetles in a shop vac. We ended up distributing approximately 1,000 beetles in locations along Long Lake and Des Moines Lake. We hope to continue the program again next year.

Next year the thought is to place more beetles on the north shore of Hanscom Lake. The idea is to help stop the spread of the seeds to Long Lake.

## Oak Wilt in Burnett County

Unfortunately, Burnett County has pockets of oak wilt throughout the county. Oak wilt is caused by the fungus *Bretziella fagacearum*. The fungus grows through the infected tree's water conduction system causing the tree to wilt and die. Oak wilt is introduced to an area by sap-feeding beetles that carry the spores to fresh wounds. Spore-bearing fungal mats develop under the bark in the fall or spring following the death of the infected tree.

Oak wilt will cause the leaves to drop from the upper canopy of the tree first. Infected leaves wilt rapidly and drop to the ground in summer. Trees that have died of oak wilt will harbor spores for approximately one year after death.

You can contact the DNR regional forest health specialist to find out if your trees have oak wilt. For Burnett County it is Paul Cigan of the Hayward Service Center. He can be contacted at (715) 416-4920, [Paul.Cigan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Paul.Cigan@wisconsin.gov).

Moving infected firewood can spread oak wilt long distances to a previously disease-free area. Keep firewood local and consider covering it with 4 mil plastic until the bark is loose. Wood from dead trees with loose bark, and from apparently healthy trees with no wilting symptoms, does not pose a risk for the spread of oak wilt. Wisconsin has developed several requirements pertaining to the movement of firewood.

You can learn more at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website:

## I Like Turtles!

The familiar turtles of our lake habitats and their nearby wetland environments include western painted, snapping, common musk, Blanding's, northern map, wood, and spiny softshell species.

Turtles in Wisconsin are associated with lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and bogs. However, they can also be found foraging for food on land. Even though turtles reside in all corners of the world, they are considered the most threatened of vertebrates. Of the 11 species of turtles in Wisconsin, one is endangered (ornate box), one is threatened (wood), and three are of special concern (Blanding's, smooth softshell, and map).

Active primarily from April to October, a turtle's daily activities include sleeping, basking in the sun, and foraging for food. Not a bad gig! Depending on the species, turtles can be omnivores, herbivores, or carnivores. Algae, fruit, stems, leaves, and insects are all common food sources. For mobile prey like tadpoles and fish, turtles use hunting methods such as ambushing or stalking.

Turtles have slow maturation rates; sexual maturation in some species takes as long as twenty years. Mating primarily occurs in late spring and involves males courting females. Once fertilization takes place, females will usually travel to upland nesting sites in June and July, excavate a nest, lay their eggs, and cover the nest with loose soil. From August to September, hatchlings will emerge and head for water and cover. Prior to the onset of winter, turtles begin to hibernate beneath soil and plant debris of woodlands and prairies or in the mucky bottoms along our waterways.

Turtles are a keystone species. These important reptiles provide a role in the aquatic food web that is essential to an entire chain of linked species, habitats, and ecosystem services.

Turtles help maintain water quality by removing sources of harmful bacteria when they eat carcasses of fish and other animals that die in our waterways. Turtles are also essential in keeping fish habitat and wetland areas thriving.

You can make a difference in turtle conservation on our local waterbody by increasing their habitat with fish sticks and other tree drop projects, bolstering native aquatic vegetation, and being mindful and watchful when you see them crossing roads or building nests.

Did you know that the oldest Blanding's turtle on record lived to be 75 years old and painted turtles may live to be 50 years or older? The snapper is Wisconsin's largest turtle and can grow to weigh over 75 pounds.

Article adapted from "Lake Tides," vol. 46, no. 3, Summer/Fall 2021, by Patrick Goggin, Lake Specialist

## Giving Thanks

As we start heading into the Thanksgiving season, your association board members are grateful that so many of our Long Lake property owners have an interest in protecting the lake and are willing to support that effort with their time and financial resources. Thanks again for this past year. And we wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

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