

The Namakagon Lake
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 536
Cable, WI 54821



NAMAKAGON

JUNE 2006

Breeze

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Message from the President...

I hope the warmer weather has everyone in good spirits and getting ready for summer. It is certainly a busy time of year for all of us.

An interesting topic has come up. I have heard from some of our members that our Namakagon Breeze newsletter seems to concentrate on invasive species. They want to know why we spend so much time on it. I must tell you all that it is the single greatest threat to our lake. On a recent trip to Minneapolis I passed Clam Lake, near Siren, and the harvesters were unloading their cache of Eurasian water milfoil. What an awful site that was! It made me think how devastating it would be if we had to resort to this situation. Please work with all of us to insure we don't have this destructive element in our lake. Please volunteer for the boat landing monitoring and education that we have in place.

The Namakagon Lake Association has grown to be one of the largest lake associations in the state of Wisconsin. This is because we are an inclusive organization that is interested in all groups being able to enjoy our wonderful body of water. If you know of

any of your neighbors who are not part of the association, please get them to sign up and be involved.

Our association has many active members, but we are always looking for more folks to be involved. If you have the inclination, please contact one of the Board members and ask how you can be involved.

The Northwest lakes leadership conference is coming up soon. This is an excellent and economical way to learn more about positive ways to help our lake.

As boating season gets into full swing I encourage all of you to be mindful that our lake is a resource for all to enjoy. Fishing, boating, and all forms of water sports can share our beautiful lake if we all have respect of one another. Enjoy your chosen activity without infringing on others. With 3400 acres there is plenty of room for all.

I wish you all a happy and safe summer season.

**Best regards,
Jim McMillan, President**

YOUR DUES ARE PAID THROUGH THE YEAR PRINTED NEXT TO YOUR NAME ON THE ADDRESS LABEL!

To be eligible to vote, all members must be 18 years of age and a paid member 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBER REQUEST FORM

MEMBERSHIP DUE ANNUALLY ON CALENDAR YEAR BASIS

NAME OF EACH VOTING MEMBER

- Individual Membership Per Person... # _____ X \$10.00 = _____
- Wildlife Watcher # _____ X \$25.00 = _____
- Loon Lover # _____ X \$50.00 = _____
- Lake Steward # _____ X \$100.00 = _____
- Keeper of the Lake..... # _____ X \$200.00 = _____
- Other: # _____ X _____ = _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

MAILING ADDRESS:
Namakagon Lake Association, Inc.
PO Box 536 • Cable, WI 54821

TOTAL ENCLOSED.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail address: _____

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Saturday August 26, 2006. Two of our Board Members will be vacating their positions. Ruth Sykes has served diligently for six years. Jim McMillan, this year's president, has also served six years.

At our annual meeting, we will be voting on successors to these two individuals.

Our by-laws state: Only people, who have paid 2006 memberships, 60 days prior to the annual meeting, may cast votes. The by-laws also state that ballots must be sent out 21 days prior to the annual meeting. The first rule is the members' responsibility. The second rule is the board responsibility.

It is the members' responsibility to have a strong, active board who will keep the organization headed in the right direction. No individual agenda's. Board members must believe in our Mission Statement and do what is in their power to uphold it.

Please consider being a nominee for the NLA Board. We need good, hard working, decision making folks. The term of office is

three years with an option to run for a second term.

If you will consider being a nominee, or know of someone who would make a good candidate, please talk with the candidate, get their approval and submit the name to any board member. We ask that the nominee submit a short biography for the July Newsletter in order to be introduced to the members.

NLA MEETINGS:

June 17 @ 9:00 am Namakagon Town Hall
August 26 @ 9:00 am Namakagon Town Hall
October 7 @ 2:00 pm. Namakagon Town Hall

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATIONS:

April, June, July & November

ACTIVITIES DATES:

Lake Shore Clean-up Month of May
NLA Fun On The Water Youth Event July 30
Cable Fall Festival Booth Sept. 29-30
NW Lake Conference. June 29-30

MY FIRST WISCONSIN LAKES CONFERENCE

Bill Porter

I was privileged to go as a NLA representative to the Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay, WI. My wife Janet and I spent 3 information packed days learning all we could about Wisconsin Lake problems and their possible solutions.

The theme of the convention was: "Hands Across the Waters". It was very ably conducted by Wisconsin Lakes Partnership: "UW Extension" "The Wisconsin DNR" and "Wisconsin Association of Lakes".

If one walked away with nothing else, it was an obvious conclusion that all citizens can contribute ideas, energy and actions for improving community. There is so much help out there for us, just for the asking.

We gathered much information that will hopefully help us in our future as a Lake Association.

Janet took "the Stream" that flowed the path of AIS's. She went on a field trip to Door County where they studied "shallow lake" problems also.

I jumped streams from "Water Laws" to "Secchi Disk" history, with an array of streams in-between.

More than 25 educational sessions and 15 interactive workshops were offered, led by Wisconsin water experts, including topics on aquatic invasive species, public involvement, land use, water law, fisheries management, aquatic plant management, lake organizations and more.

In addition to the seminars, lake friendly businesses and partner organizations offered displays and lake management services and water interests. On Friday, April 21st, several Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards were presented to individuals, groups, and youth organizations that have made a significant impact in lake protection.

For the past 28 years, the Wisconsin Lakes Convention has provided a unique opportunity for people to come together and network with others over their interest in



lake and water issues. This year over 450 attendees united to celebrate and protect Wisconsin's heritage and legacy of lakes.

We would recommend the convention to any NLA member. I went to the convention, falsely believing, it was for Lake Leaders. That was a misconception. It is for all citizens interested in Lakes.

All lakes have their problems. From boat traffic tearing up shallow lakes, to pier problems, to algae problems, to plant and animal problems in their waters, to not enough plants in their water, to clarity of lake problems, neighbor problems to Condo building problems and on and on.

We are very fortunate to have this beautiful lake in the true Up North setting. Let's work hard to keep it this way.



BUOYS PLACEMENT

A week before "fish opener" we joined forces with The Town of Namakagon in placing buoys into the lake. Clyde Wishart and Bill Porter placed the "No Wake" buoys and town employees placed the "Rock" buoys.

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Jim McMillan	(715) 794-2555
Vice President:	Jon Hoffert	(715) 794-2890
Secretary:	Bill Porter	(715) 794-2601
Treasurer:	Rick Yerhot	(507) 287-6900
Director:	Irene Ruth Sykes	(715) 794-2656
Director:	Jared Jackman	(715) 794-2434
Director:	Phil Rasmussen	(715) 794-2561

Email board members:
board@nlaonline.org

Visit our website:
www.nlaonline.org

CABLE AREA FALL FEST

September 29th and 30th. Mark your calendar for another event still in the planning stages. In past years we have had an educational booth to inform area residents as well as visitors to our area about the Namakagon Lake Association and what we are about. Last year we handed out material concerning Aquatic Invasive Species. In particular: Eurasian Water Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, and Rusty Crayfish.

Aquatic Invasive Species will be a gigantic concern for our association for many years to come. We must be proactive in fighting its invasion into our waters.

VOLUNTEERS - Again, we can not be involved in these important programs with out your help as volunteers. It is fun when we work together and keep each other company at these events.

Much more about Cable Area Fall Fest in future newsletters.

NLA FUN ON THE WATER YOUTH EVENT

The "Fun Day" is scheduled for Sunday July 30th. Al Stawicki has agreed to organize this great event another year. It is fun and educational. We will have lots of prizes for the winners and near winners of contests. The day is in the planning stages, but save this date for a family, fun filled, day.

VOLUNTEERS - Al will be counting on much help for the event. There are games to lead, tickets to take, food to prepare and serve, judging to be done, and a host of other "jobs" to have fun doing. Please volunteer. If you are not asked, volunteer anyway. You can always contact NLA on line: board@nlaonline.org or contact any board member.

E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

The minutes from the May 13th Board Meeting were sent out. Some came back as "undeliverable" caused by non-current e-mail addresses. If you did not receive the minutes, it means we do not have your current e-mail address. Please update by e-mailing board@nlaonline.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Namakagon Lake Association, Inc. was formed in 1995 for the purpose of preserving and protecting Lake Namakagon and its environs. The Namakagon Lake Association, Inc. (NLA) is a not for profit organization that relies on the contributions and membership fees of land owners and other concerned citizens for its funding. It is our goal to preserve and protect Lake Namakagon as an environmentally healthy watershed, by sponsoring educational programs, adopting a proactive role in the formulation of water and shore land regulations, and responsible use of this unique and irreplaceable resource for all citizens.

CHOOSE WISELY-A HEALTH GUIDE FOR EATING FISH IN WISCONSIN

Wisconsin now has general statewide fish consumption advice that applies to all inland waters. This advice is based on the data that DNR has collected since the 1970s that includes over 13,000 fish fillets tested for mercury. Namakagon Lake in Bayfield County is included in the waters we have tested. We tested 6 species of fish including 69 walleyes (some of these were tested by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission). The advice that applies to all inland waters including Namakagon Lake is shown below.

WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE, NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 15:

- 1 meal per week - bluegill, sunfish, crappie, yellow perch, bullheads
- 1 meal per month - walleye, pike, bass, catfish, and other species
- DO NOT EAT - muskies

WOMEN BEYOND CHILDBEARING AGE AND MEN:

- unlimited - bluegill, sunfish, crappie, yellow perch, bullheads
- 1 meal per week - walleye, pike, bass, catfish, and all other species

LAKE CLEAN-UP

Lake clean-up was done during the month of May. Fourteen individuals volunteered and took shorelines around the lake. A list will be kept of names of volunteers and areas they covered for future years. If you would like to become involved, volunteer through board@nlaonline.org. If areas requested overlap, we will divide those areas and everyone will be even happier.



2006 NORTHWEST WISCONSIN LAKES CONFERENCE

ALL NLA MEMBERS WHO ATTEND THE NORTHWEST LAKE CONFERENCE JUNE 30TH WILL BE REIMBURSED \$20.00 FROM THE ASSOCIATION TO HELP COVER THE TOTAL COST OF \$40.00.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2006 – PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

- 10:00am - 12:00pm Monitoring Invasives Beyond the Boat Landing - Laura Herman, UWEX
- 1:00 - 4:30pm Clean Boats, Clean Waters Boat Inspection - Laura Felda-Marquardt, UWEX (\$10 fee)
- 1:00 - 4:30pm Lake Association Mechanics - Bob Korth, UWEX and Jim Brakken, Educator (\$10 fee)
- 1:00 - 4:30pm Developing an Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Your Lake - Frank Koshere and Scott Provost, WDNR (\$10 fee)
- 5:00 - 7:00pm BBQ and Social Hour - Telemark Resort (\$12 fee)

2006 NORTHWEST WISCONSIN LAKES CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2006 - TELEMAR RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER, CABLE, WI

AGENDA

- 7:30am Registration & Exhibits
- 8:15am Buffet Breakfast
- 8:45am Welcome & Opening Remarks - Roger Dreher, Bayfield County Lakes Forum
- 9:00am Meet Our Lakes Coordinator - Pamela Toshner, WDNR
- 9:10am A Passion for Conservation - Christine Thomas, UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources
- 10:00am **SESSION I**
 - Fish and Woody Habitat - Scott Toshner, WDNR
 - Lake Regulation News - Peter Murray and Ezra Meyer, WAL
 - Shoreland Restoration and Stormwater Protection - Cheryl Clemens, Harmony Environmental
 - Grants to Help Your Lakes - Carroll Schaal, WDNR
- 11:20am **SESSION II**
 - For the Birds - Richard Pertile
 - Zoning 101: Zoning Appeals, Ordinance Amendments and Enforcement - Karl Kastrovsky, Bayfield County Zoning Department
 - Protecting Lakes with Land Trusts: A Landowners Perspective - Rick Remington, West Wisconsin Land Trust
 - Wis. Lakes Partnership and Lake Leaders - Jeff Bode, WDNR
- 12:20pm Luncheon with Very Special Guests
- 12:45pm June the Loon - Amy Nutt, Student Conservation Speech Contest Winner
- 1:05pm Keynote: What Does a Vanishing "Up North" Mean - Dr. Richard Stedman, Penn State University
- 1:45pm Meet with DNR Staff, Open Exhibits & Networking
- 2:45pm **SESSION III**
 - Dragonflies - Robert Dubois, WDNR
 - Legislative Happenings - Bill O'Connor, WAL and Rebecca Bauman, Wis. Land & Water Conservation Association
 - Preserve, Conserve and Restore: Managing Shorelands for Better Lakes - Carroll Schaal, WDNR
 - Aquatic Invasives: What a Lake Association Can Do - Kerrie Cunningham, UWEX
- 3:45pm Adjourn

Limited Registration. Register early @ www.wisconsinlakes.org or call 1-800-542-5253

2006 NWLC Registration Form

Name(s)* _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone # _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Lake Organization _____

**Submit names and addresses for each registrant.*

Conference Registration Fee:

The conference registration fee is \$40 per person. The registration fee includes buffet breakfast, lunch and materials. Limited attendance, first come, first served.

No. Attending: x \$40 each = \$ _____

Thursday Workshops

Monitoring Invasives..... x \$10 each = \$ _____

Lake Assoc. Mechanics..... x \$10 each = \$ _____

Dev. Plant Mgt. Plan..... x \$10 each = \$ _____

BBQ & Social Hour..... x \$12 each = \$ _____

Total Enclosed:..... \$ _____

Make check payable to: WAL- NWLC

Credit Card Payment:

Method of Payment:   

Credit Card #

Expiration date

Cardholders name _____

Signature _____

Registration Deadline: Saturday, June 24, 2006

Mail registration form with payment to:

**Wisconsin Association of Lakes
 One Point Place, Suite 101
 Madison, WI 53719-2809**

*or for credit card payments only
 Fax to (608) 833-7179.*

For more information or to register, contact the Wisconsin Association of Lakes at 1-800-542-5253 in Wis. or (608) 662-0923 or www.wisconsinlakes.org. Planning Committee contact: John Haack, john.haack@ces.uwex.edu or 715-635-7406.

MY FIRST WISCONSIN LAKES CONVENTION

Janet Porter

It was a real privilege to attend the 28th Annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay, WI this April. I want to thank the association for this wonderful opportunity. I came away excited about what I learned. I want to share some of these things with you as association members.

I had no idea there were so many lakes in Wisconsin. There are 15000 lakes in the state and they are one of Wisconsin's greatest natural resources. Yes, they belong to the state of Wisconsin. This is very important to remember and I am one who tends to think of this wonderful place as "my lake". The fact that it is public property with lots of public access has its draw backs and its plusses. We all can list the draw backs but the surprising plus is that the DNR and the state are very interested in us. In many ways we have the fast track when we want help.

I came home feeling very thankful that our lake is as healthy as it is. I did not talk to anyone whose lake did not have AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species). When I look at maps of where they are I feel that we probably have them, too. We just have not detected them yet.

Many lakes have lost most of their native plants and their native fish. I now have a much heightened (passionate) love of our "weeds". I love every one of them. They are one of our best allies in maintaining a healthy lake. I wish I better understood how each one works but I did get a glimpse of what happens when they are not there. Many lakes have serious erosion problems or silt problems. When these problems accelerate they kill the plants and then the erosion snowballs. Many lakes have serious ground water run off situations or other forms of contaminates entering their lake. Then they loose their native plants, water quality and fish. Many lakes loose these plants because of too much or irresponsible boat traffic. So many plant environments are destroyed by irresponsible use of jet skies. The bottom line is that when these native plants are disturbed they leave an inviting place for the more aggressive plants we know as AIS.

You know, I thought that Eurasian Water Milfoil was our very worst enemy. Probably because of the awful pictures I have seen. However now I personally feel if there is an "order to worse", that zebra mussels are worse. If they get started in a lake first they make the lake much more inviting to the AIS plants by killing the native plants. All the other natural problems exist every where to some extent but the healthy plant life in a lake helps to heal the damage as long as it is moderate.

When I went to the conference I was pleased with what we are doing here on Lake Namakagon. We have our lake inspected and we have not found any AIS. We have a Clean Boats Clean Water program.

However, the DNR would like our lake to be inspected more thoroughly using a grid system and GPS. In fact, if we don't do our inspections by their guide lines we will not receive future grant money. This comprehensive inspection is called a baseline aquatic plant grid survey. If we choose a reputable company approved by the DNR the company will obtain the grant money for us.

The verifiable data that these surveys collect can then be used in very successful treatment on Eurasian Water Milfoil and other

AIS plants when they are found. The AIS plants are controllable if detected early and treated properly. The survey is required to be eligible for established infestation grant dollars should AIS be identified.

I must confess I did not hear anything about if zebra mussels can be controlled if detected early.

A much more active Clean Boats Clean Water program is our best defense against original infestation. We need so many more people to help with these inspections.

I find it hard to believe that we do not already have AIS in Lake Namakagon. I really hope that as the association meets during the upcoming summer season that our members will express their concern and insist that the board undertakes this whole lake grid monitoring system as soon as possible.

As the Namakagon Lake Association lets not pretend it can't happen here and it won't really change life as we know it on Lake Namakagon!!! And if you read this, thanks!

CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS

Jon Hoffert

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is a statewide Wisconsin volunteer effort to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) like Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussels. The main way AIS are spread from lake to lake is via the boat trailering and launching process. Although AIS have been documented in some area lakes, to date none have been discovered in Lake Namakagon. Last season, over 20 volunteers from the Namakagon Lake Association kicked off our own Clean Boats, Clean Waters effort by attending an AIS training session and monitoring five of the nine boat launch ramps on Namakagon. Here is a list of NLA members who volunteered last season:

Dean Bailey, Joanne Cleary, Ed Cleary, Bob Parsonage, Jack Brose, Tom Cogbill, Stuart Hanson, Ralph Nystrom, Bill Porter, Dave Hanks, Bruce Kennedy, Bill Lind, Jeanne Baxter, Dolores Dumanich, George Gilberg, Sylvia Gilberg, Dianne Grage, Glenn Grage, Jon Hoffert, Abett Icks, John Karsten, Clyde Wishart

IF YOU SEE THEM, TELL THEM THANKS.

We are looking for additional volunteer help this season. Participating is painless. The training takes about 2 hours aimed at giving the volunteers the knowledge and confidence needed to participate at the boat launch ramps. The Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteers are identified by a universal tee shirt with a Clean Boats, Clean Waters logo. The duties at the launch ramps involve boat and trailer checks for invasive species, non-confrontational interaction with the boaters geared toward AIS awareness, and a small amount of documentation. We respect that people's lives are busy, but hope additional NLA members will step forward to help. If interested, contact Jon Hoffert at 715-727-2890 or at jon.hoffert@gmail.com.

Phil Rasmussen, on behalf of the Namakagon Lake Association, contacted Scott Toshner, Senior Fisheries Biologist with the DNR, in regards to additional Fish Cribs in our Lake. The following is the reply from Scott.

ADDITIONAL FISH CRIBS IN NAMAKAGON LAKE

Hi Phil-

Hope you are enjoying your spring. Looks like we had a good game of phone tag.

Things have changed in the fish crib building world since Act 118, aka-"Jobs Creation Act" was passed a couple of years ago. New rules for fish cribs say that if the water is designated as an "Area of Special Natural Resource Interest" (ASNRI) a permit is needed for each fish crib at the cost of \$300 each. Namakagon is listed as an ASNRI water and therefore would need a permit for each crib. I don't make the rules I only follow them.

Beyond that I wanted to talk on the phone with you about the utility of fish cribs in Namakagon Lake. I know we installed a number of them in the recent past in areas where there was a lack of natural habitat. >From my experience working on the lake, it seems that the fishery actually isn't limited by habitat in the littoral or near shore zones. Fish cribs have been used fairly extensively in lakes like the Pike Chain and Middle Eau Claire where rusty crayfish (an exotic species) has decimated the aquatic plant community. The purpose of installing fish cribs was an attempt to emulate the habitat that is usually provided by aquatic plants. Even with many cribs the habitat that a 2 acre bed of cabbage or musky weed as some call it cannot be matched.

The first fish crib projects were done in a time when the permitting process was different, in a place that was deemed to be lacking plant communities and as a way for people on the lake association, the community and the DNR to work together on a project. Many times while working during the two years building and transporting cribs on Namakagon Cris and myself reminded the people that we were working with that the areas that were conducive for fish crib placement on the lake were few and that we did not see fish crib building as a future project for the lake.

With all this being said I believe that if your group is interested in enhancing fish habitat and increasing natural reproduction of all fish species the way to go is shoreline restoration. The benefits of overhanging shoreline vegetation is dramatic. Just ask Clyde Wishart and Glen Grage about the time a few years ago when they came out and electrofished with us. It is amazing how walleyes concentrate in areas not only with gravel but with overhanging vegetation especially. Not to mention buffers on lakeshores help all juvenile fish from musky to perch survive their first year of life. Also, the buffers protect water quality on the lake which can ultimately determine the fisheries quality.

I understand that much of the shoreline on Namakagon is in a natural state, however, there are areas that need some improvement. Other areas of the state have had projects that established shoreline buffers and then advertised them with signs

on what the project was and why it was important. The Eau Claire Conservation Club after many years of building cribs is for the first time this year getting into shoreline restoration projects.

Also, I encourage you to attend the Northwest Lakes Conference at Telemark at the end of June. I will be giving a talk on near shore habitat and it's importance to fisheries.

Please give me a call if you would like to further discuss the opportunities for fish habitat improvement on Namakagon Lake. I appreciate and respect all you have done and are doing for the lake.

Scott Toshner
Senior Fisheries Biologist -
Inland Waters of Douglas and Bayfield Counties
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

STOP Help Stop... the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

- Non-native, exotic species, such as Eurasian Water Milfoil, Purple Loosestrife, and Zebra Mussels threaten to harm the quality of our Wisconsin lakes.
- Before you launch your boat, please inspect and clean it, including the motor and trailer, to prevent the spread of exotic species into our Wisconsin lakes.
- Never Empty Your Bait Bucket or Release Live Bait into the Lake
- Please *immediately report* any exotic species to your local lake association, The Wisconsin Wetlands Association, or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- Visit the Wisconsin DNR website, www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives or contact the DNR at 608.266.9270 for more information or to answer questions about aquatic exotic species.

BE AWARE of your ACTIONS and HELP PRESERVE the ENVIRONMENT!
brought to you by:

Namakagon Lake Association

P.O. Box 536, Cable, WI 54821

ACTION BY ANGLERS & BOATERS CRITICAL TO STOP INVASIVE SPECIES

W.A.L.

Ron Martin-invasive species management coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources- is encouraged by recent boater surveys. Eighty percent of boaters say they take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of invasive species according to a 2003 survey, up from 39 percent in a similar 1994 survey.

"The vast majority of Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes and 44,000 miles of streams don't have the aquatic invasive species," he says. "But 20 percent of 600,000 boaters not complying is still a problem, and new infestations are a problem. All it takes is a couple of careless boaters and more waterbodies become infested," Martin stated.

In 2005 zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil were documented in 31 new waters, a typical rate of introduction in recent years. More than 160 invasive aquatic species have entered the Great Lakes over the last 150 years and some are spreading to inland waters where they can affect lake ecosystems and hamper recreation. The major way they spread is aboard boats and boat trailers, and in bait buckets and bilge water.

Help stop the Spread

To avoid accidentally transporting invasive species to other waters, before launching a boat and after leaving the boat launch at the end of the day, boaters should:

- Inspect and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat and equipment before leaving the water;
- Drain water from boat and equipment (motor, bilge, live wells, and bait containers) before leaving the water
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash;
- Spray/rinse boats and recreational equipment with high pressure and/or hot tap water;
- Dry boats and equipment thoroughly for at least five days before launching into a different water body.

CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER ADDRESS LABEL

If the number following your name (in parentheses) is (2005) or a lower number, your Annual Membership Fee/Newsletter Renewal is due now. If the number following your name is (2006) or higher, you are paid up. Keep in touch and keep the Newsletters coming for the next calendar year. If you have not been getting the Newsletter four times a year, you can start right now by sending in your membership dues. (It is not necessary to pay for unpaid years to reinstate the Newsletter.)

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW NOW!!!!!!

MORE UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDS PIERS

W.A.L.

When the legislature passed 2003 Act 118, it exempted some piers from permit requirements under the statute, created new permitting categories, and directed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop rules to administer this statute. The DNR obtained significant public input, and revised the existing rule (NR 326) that met the letter and intention of the statute. The legislature returned the pier rules to the Department for unspecified modifications.

Meanwhile, the legislature has been trying to change the statute again with regard to piers (Assembly Bill 850). The Wisconsin Association of Lakes and other stakeholders worked with the legislature and found a compromise to which all parties agreed was acceptable.

The Assembly introduced two amendments to AB 850, which went against the compromise and agreement. The first amendment expands the grandfather provision for existing piers to include all piers with loading platforms up to 300 square feet, larger than the size of many living rooms. The second amendment eliminates the temporary increase in motorboat gas tax formula to provide funding for DNR staff to assist lakefront property owners. These amendments passed the Assembly and narrowly passed the Senate.

Governor Jim Doyle is expected to veto the measure. "The goals of pier rules are to balance private and public rights, protect neighboring rights, and address habitat impacts while providing clear standards and a streamlined permitting process," says Executive Director, Peter Murray. "Lake front property owners all around the state are now more confused than ever about whether they need a permit for their pier."

QUESTIONS ABOUT PIERS?

An edition of current Pier Planner which reflects the statutory changes made by 2003 Act 118 and the preexisting NR 326 that remains in effect is available online. This document is intended to assist waterfront property owners to design and place a pier that does not require a DNR permit.

DNR's waterway permitting (Chapter 30) website includes a page on piers which is intended to help users determine if their project is exempt, and what kind of permit they need if they need a permit.