

Late Winter



Sinissippi Waves

When Ice Shoves

Formation of an extraordinary substance
Ice on our Wisconsin lakes provides us with many things: beauty, recreation and a chance to "walk on water." The trouble comes when the ice leaves the lake and comes on land.

The formation and movement of the ice cover is complicated and many variables affect the quality, thickness and actions of ice.

With the coming of cold air temperatures, water at the top of the lake cools and becomes denser. Warmer water will normally rise and colder, denser water will sink. Here is the amazing thing about water...as it becomes colder from the point of 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), it becomes less dense and expands. Ice forms when water molecules reach 32 °F. Because it's now less dense than surrounding liquid water, ice rises. You can see this happen in a pitcher of water as the ice cubes float at the surface. Imagine if ice was less dense and did not float – lakes would freeze from the bottom up and fish or animals would be unable to live.

By the time water reaches the freezing point, its volume has increased by about 1/8. That's why pipes burst when they

The ice can act like a giant bulldozer that nothing can stop, pushing lawns, soil, docks and whatever else is in front of it into piles.

Wisconsin Lake Partnership

freeze. Water also expands slightly again as it warms, but contracts when it gets very cold. The power of freezing and thawing water is great enough to split granite and is a force that brings down mountains and changes the earth over the eons.

On cold nights when a lake surface is not disturbed, needle-like crystals start to form. The crystals unite and continue to grow. If all goes well, a clear sheet of ice will form. Once the surface is covered by ice, direct heat lost from the water is limited and the ice sheet will gradually thicken.

Ice shoving

While ice eventually contracts with an appreciable drop in temperature, a warming temperature causes ice to expand slightly. For example, if the temperature increases from 14 to 32 ° F, a lake one mile across can expand laterally about 32 inches, with forces exerted outward as much as 30,000 pounds per square inch. The ice cover on a lake is a floating mass, except at the points where it freezes tightly to anything it touches such as the shore, a bridge abutment or a pier. When ice warms it pushes outward against the things to which it is attached. An ice sheet, however, expands and contracts at differing rates at the top and the bottom of the ice. This internal stress causes cracks. The

(Continued on page 4)

Inside this issue:

From the LSA President	2
Lake Friendly Yardwork	2
Spring Activities	3
LSA Board Members	3
Update on Property Evaluation	4
Native Wildlife	5
Raffle Winners	5
Neider Park Shoreland Demo Site?	6

It got cold early that year. I remember hearing eerily warping, moaning sounds traveling down the lake during a still and subzero night. The sound fit into the same category with the extraordinary sounds of loons and sandhill cranes. The lake was making ice.

From the Presidents Pier

Gary Knipper

Winter is finally upon us here on Lake Sinissippi, time to get out all the winter toys; coats, shovels, snow blowers, plows, and fun items too. This is a wonderful time on the lake something different to see all the time, from snowmobiles, to skiers, and many animals. As spring comes nearer the LSA is already planning projects and events for the 2006 season, some examples are:

- ✦ Our annual membership drive - Please send in your dues today, this insures you of getting our newsletter
- ✦ The monthly raffle drawing - Tickets available from all board members and local retailers
- ✦ 2006 Annual meeting – May 27th
- ✦ Lakefest 2006 July 1st – Volunteers are needed
- ✦ Additional safety buoys and environmental projects

Educational projects for the community

The board members are always interested in the member's comments and suggestions. Please contact any of us to let us know how we are doing representing Lake Sinissippi. Your membership and support is always appreciated and thanks again for being a LSA member, ask you friends and neighbors to join. I will see you in the spring, and enjoy our beautiful lake's changing environment. Visit us at the web site <http://www.lakesinissippi.org/>



Looking Forward to Spring? Lake Friendly Spring Yardwork

Winter's freeze is here, and many people are longing for green grass and the warm smell of fresh earth/ Along with spring, or course, comes yardwork. This year, take some steps that protect the lakes.

Contain Your Yard "Waste"

Grass clippings, leaves and other yard "waste" cause problems when they wash into the lakes. Decomposing on the lake bottom, yard waste robs oxygen from fish and other aquatic life, and releases nutrients that feed aquatic weed growth. Keep waste out of the lakes by mowing often enough so you don't have to rake grass clippings. If you must rake, compost the clippings along with your leaves and organic kitchen waste, and use the mulch around the yard. Avoid placing yard waste, including the ashes form burn pile, in roadside ditches where it can wash directly in the lakes.

Erosion fill the lakes with sediment. Disturb no more ground than necessary for a construction project and try to preserve existing vegetation. Seed bare soil and cover it with a mulch as soon as possible to minimize erosion. And don't overlook landscaping with native plants. Plants stabilize soil and offer an excellent way to use you compost. Homeowners with waterfront property can grow a "buffer strip" of

dense, native plants along the water's edge to help stabilize their shoreline*. Native plants can save you time because they often need less care than traditional species, and usually require little or no pesticides and fertilizers to stay healthy—a bonus for water quality.

Use Pesticides and Fertilizers Sparingly

- The adage "more is better" doesn't apply for pesticides and fertilizers. Read the label carefully before using these products. Applying too much, or at the wrong time, threatens lake quality and wastes your money. It only takes a moderate rain to wash improperly applied pesticides and fertilizers into roadside ditches that drain directly to the lakes.

For fertilizers, early October or late May are good times to treat your lawn. Early spring applications promote more top (blade) growth than root growth and shallow roots can't sustain lawns through dry spells or harsh winters. The best times for pesticide use vary depending on the pest. Again, make sure you read the label first.

**If you are interested in purchasing native plants or planting a shoreland buffer strip, please see the article in this newsletter with more information on who to contact.*

Spring Activities

Rock River Archaeological Society 2006 Spring Effigy Mound Tour

When: Saturday, April 22nd

To: Mounds in Baraboo & Wisconsin Dells Area

Time: Leaving DNR Horicon Service Center at 8:00 am sharp!

Return: Mid-late Afternoon

Charge: \$30/person includes: Motorcoach, guided tour, snacks, buffet lunch (all included)

Pay by: Sending check, name, address, telephone# to RRAS, c/o Jayne Schuett, 602 N. Hubbard St, Horicon 53032

Note: Money will be refunded only if trip is cancelled.

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

year-round. Closed weekends and federal holidays including Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. * *Open weekends during special events.*

Browse through marsh exhibits, Coot's Corner gift shop and enjoy the view through spotting scopes overlooking the marsh. All programs and events are free of charge.

The visitor center is located 3.5 miles south of State Highway 49 on County Road Z and is accessible to people with disabilities.

April 1st: Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Training

Do you enjoy working outdoors, working with people? Extra time and looking for something worthwhile to do? Become a volunteer! Attend the training to learn about volunteer opportunities at Horicon Refuge. Assist with wildlife surveys, habitat projects, maintenance, data entry, help with special events and school programs or become a volunteer ranger and assist the public during Refuge programs. *9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Please call 920-387-2658 ext.24 to sign up.*

Lake Sinissippi Association Board Members for 2005/06

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Horicon Marsh Bird Festival – May 12-15th

13th and 14th : Junior Birder Activities: Try out a pair of binoculars, make your own field guide, waterfowl ID, birding games, or get a picture taken with the National Wildlife Refuge mascot, Honker. *9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center off Cty. Rd. Z.*

13th : Shorebird Hike: Look for shorebirds along Old Marsh Road, easy walking. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Meet at the Egret Trail parking lot at the Horicon Ternpike Auto Tour Route off Hwy 49.

13th : Wisconsin Federal Jr. Duck Stamp Contest Reception: Recognition reception for local K-12th grade winners and their families. Opportunity for the public to view the Junior Duck Stamp Contest Exhibit. *Sponsored by the Friends of Horicon NWR. Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center off Cty. Rd. Z. 7:00-9:00 p.m.*

13 and 14th: Roving Rangers. Guided hikes on the floating boardwalk. Meet at the Egret Trail at the Horicon Ternpike Auto Tour Route off Hwy 49. 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center Open:

Saturday, May 13th: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 14th: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

When Ice Shoves

(Continued from page 1)

cracks fill with water which freezes and expands the ice a bit further. The ice sheet will expand again during the next warming spell. So what happens? The ice tends to "ratchet out" during freezing and warming cycles. This process is sometimes called "ice jacking." Under certain conditions, the ice can act like a giant bulldozer that nothing can stop, pushing



lawns, soil, docks and whatever else is in front of it into piles (some over 15 feet tall!) right up against a lake home. Under particular shore and bottom conditions the ice may buckle and pile up in huge ridges in the shallow waters just off shore. Winnebago and Shawano Lakes are well-known for their huge ice shoves.

The level of ice shoving can vary greatly from year to year. Certain conditions, such as ice at least five inches thick, little or no snow cover and temperature fluctuations, may increase the likelihood of more ag-

Do you have Questions on the 2005 Shoreland Property Evaluation?

Within the last few months, Lake property owners received a packet of information on the Shoreland Property Evaluation conducted by Hey and Associates, for the Lake Sinissippi Association. Wisconsin's NR 238 rule controlling repair of shoreland property erosion is complex. As a result, the information

Wisconsin's NR238 rule controlling repair of shoreland property erosion is complex.

Ice can be fragile, forming magical shapes that will glisten in the winter sunlight; or ice can be formidable, moving everything in its path. How should we deal with ice?

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gressive ice shoves.

Can I live with an ice ridge?

If you are considering the purchase of waterfront property, check to see if there are signs of ice shoves (scarred trees, mounds of soil, boulders shoved up, the front of the house is missing, etc.). Just because a property is prone to ice shoves should not stop you from purchasing it. Over years, the earth ridges can strengthen

and actually resist further ice shoves. Ice ridges are natural berms that can slow nutrient loading to the lakes and provide habitat. You have a number of options in dealing with ice shoves. You could let nature take its course, or you may decide to enjoy a game of "tug of war" with your lake – you push the soil back to the lake edge in the spring and the lake returns it to your house in the winter.

In some cases, shoreland property owners may try engineering a solution. Fixes can be very expensive and may or may not have the desired results. In the past, some owners placed sloping concrete walls on their shore or ribs or runners to break up ice. If you do have damage from ice shoving, take pictures of the damage and contact the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to provide technical assistance. Depending on what needs to be done to restore the damage, a WDNR permit may be needed. You may also need a permit from your county zoning office.

sent out hasn't been easy for everyone to understand.

A representative from Hey & Associates will give a presentation at the LSA annual meeting on Saturday, May 27th, 2006 and will address some of these issues.

This will be a good opportunity to get answers to any questions you have about the packet of shoreline evaluation information you received.

Beavers—The Good, Bad and the Ugly

Lori Lange

Lake Sinissippi is blessed by an abundance of wildlife. Raccoons, opossums, skunks, muskrats and beavers are plentiful. If you have an opportunity to drive north on County Trunk E, between Lake Drive and Wildcat Rd., near the edge of the marsh area, you can see several trees that have been felled by beavers. Last summer, several people observed a beaver swimming past in the early morning hours, myself included. So, here are some interesting facts about the *Castor Canadensis*, the beaver.

The beaver is about 3 feet long, with its black, flat and thick tail taking a third of its length. They can weigh anywhere from 30-68 pounds but there have been instances of beavers growing up to 100 pounds! Their fur is thick to keep them warm in the winter months and their teeth are long and sharp—long enough to whittle down trees to build the dams they are renowned for building. Dams tend to create wetlands. American Indians called the beaver the “sacred center” of the land because of its ability to create rich habitats for other mammals, fish, turtles, frogs, birds and ducks.

Beavers mate for life and both of the parents care for the kits. They will stay with the parents in the lodge until about age two and can act as babysitters for the new litter. There are usually 1-4 kits per litter. Kits are hunted by hawks, owls and otters but trapping is the most common source of mortality. No kill trap

exists with guaranteed results of an instant death, thus, when conflicts arise with beavers, it is best to work with them.

Beavers tend to go no further than five yards from shore, so if you have lost a tree from a beaver, if possible, let the tree lay where it is. Most of the beaver’s diet is the tree bark and cambium, the soft tissue that grows under the bark of trees. They will use them for



Damage caused by beaver

food and the peeled sticks to build their lodge. Beavers prefer fast growing trees like poplars, willow, cottonwoods and alders. One way to prevent problems with beavers is to place a cylinder, or a cage, around the base of trees that you do not want to be disturbed. The cages should be about three feet high. Another method that has been used is coat-

ing the tree trunks with paint mixed with sand. You can use latex or oil based paint and it can be whatever color you may like—or, no color at all. If the trees are 6 feet tall or less, the paint may damage the tree.

Thankfully, we have the ability to observe one of nature’s creatures from our own backyard.

Natural Shoreline Plant Sale

LSA is not sponsoring a native plant sale this year. However, if you are interested in improving your shoreline with plants this year, our consultant, Lisa Reas has made herself available. She will be happy to answer any questions people around Lake Sinissippi

might have about their shoreline and the type of plants they might consider. Her contact information :

L J Reas Environmental Consulting, Corp
Phone 920-294-3116
Email: ljreas@charter.net

LSA Monthly Raffle Winners

November 2005 Raffle Winner

Lue Cartledge	\$ 100
Don Howard	\$ 50
Bob Wilkinson	\$ 25

January 2006 Raffle Winners

Roberts Angove	\$ 100
Karl & Nancy Zarling	\$ 50
Kathy Schmiedlin	\$ 25



February 2006 Raffle Winners

Rosemary Monfiils	\$ 100
Marty Gienke	\$ 50
David Mueller	\$ 25

Tickets are \$10 each and winners are drawn every month at the Board of Directors meeting. If you purchased a ticket, you have a chance of winning every month.

Lake Sinissippi Association
P.O. Box 304 Hustisford, Wisconsin 53034



News Letter

We're on the web
www.lakesinissippi.org



Neider Park Shoreland Demonstration Site in Jeopardy ?

Ruth Johnson

In 2003, the Lake Sinissippi Association, together with the Department of Natural Resources and many volunteers, planted a demonstration 'natural shoreland' at Hustisford's Neider Park on Lake Sinissippi. The flowers and grasses have flourished, bringing in butterflies and more birds to the shoreline.

The Village is planning future improvements to Neider Park. Some choices would potentially involve the removal of the LSA natural shoreland demonstration planting, despite its favorable response in the survey taken by the village. (Ranking 4th in desired usage for the park was

areas of natural plants and flowers.) If you would like to contribute your own perspective about keeping or removing this demonstration planting, you're welcome to call the Village of Hustisford Board President, Ken Pfeifer, or the Parks Committee members, Charlie Nehls, Bob Knueppel and Ryan Held to express your thoughts.

