



Dock Side

Volume XV Issue #2

Visit our Website at: www.blprd.com

July, 2009



Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District sponsored the first in a series of landscaping workshops Friday June 26. The workshops are free to the district's residence and are designed to aid in making land owners property more lake friendly in controlling runoff erosion. See page 3 for details and future dates for these valuable workshops.

Village appoints representative

Jeff Reed has been appointed to the Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Board by the Village of Balsam Lake as their representative. Reed a life long resident is a graduate of the University of Minnesota at St. Cloud is married with two children living at the Sunnyside Marina & Resort where he is co-owner.



Jeff Reed

Clean Boats, Water program starts with interest

By Carl Holmgren, Polk County Representative and BLPRD Commissioner

The BLPRD 'Clean Boats and Clean Waters' inspection program for 2009 is off to a great start for our third year. We continue using student volunteers from Unity High School who need volunteer hours for graduation, and wanting to earn some money. Our program is partially WDNR grant funded so we use the 50% funding formula for payment (they get paid one hour for two hours they work

and receive volunteer credit hours for the second one). I have 45 students that have worked so far this year.

Our goal again this year is to cover all four of the public landings on the lake (Balsam Village Beach Landing, 46 Store Landing, Little Balsam, and East Balsam)

aquatic vegetation attached to boat or trailer.

Boat inspections include asking a series of questions including;

1. Was it used in the last 5 days; if used then questions related to removal of plants, drain water, bait disposal, ice,



Approximately 35 Unity student volunteers attended Clean Boats-Clean Waters training seminar this spring held by the Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, WDNR and Polk County Land and Water Department.

at various times throughout the summer from opening of fishing through Labor Day. We always have two volunteers at any landing at the same time working week-ends and some weekdays.

As a reminder again; this is a three focus program. We inspect boats for invasive species, educate boaters on invasive species along with the local and State rules, and gather data. State law states that it is illegal to launch or transport a boat with

catch, and wash equipment or dry for at least 5 days.

2. Awareness of the Law?
3. Sources of information about invasives that they have experienced. Sources include Inspector/volunteer, public service announcement, news, brochure, signage at landings, billboards, and web.

Clean (Con't on page 3)



Mark Your
Calendar
to attend
the Balsam Lake
Protection & Rehabilitation
District's
Annual
Meeting
July 18th
2009
at
Unity
Schools
9:00 a.m.
Registration
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Don't let aquatic hitchhikers hitchhike on your recreational equipment.

The fine art of lawn watering

For decades, American cities and suburbs have grown and spread into the surrounding countryside.

With this growth has come an unprecedented seeding and sodding of the landscape – literally millions of acres have been turned into bluegrass lawns. For many homeowners, the residential lawn is the symbol of a well-tended property.

Unfortunately, keeping the lawn emerald-green, barefoot-soft and dandelion free requires a significant amount of attention, and can have serious impacts on lakes, streams and groundwater. Water from a sprinkler flowing down one driveway might not seem like a big problem. But careless watering on hundreds of lawns can:

- Wash pollutants into lakes and streams.
- Deplete water supplies.
- Actually damage the lawns

it's supposed to help. Because lawn watering can have far-reaching effects, there is growing interest among horticulturalists, environmentalists, public

utility managers and homeowners in how to water correctly. This publication offers practical lawn watering tips that will save water, help keep our lakes and streams clean, and produce healthy, attractive lawns.

A healthy lawn requires about one inch of water per week. As a general rule, apply the water all at once rather than in several light waterings. Before you water, do some arithmetic. If it just rained 1/4 inch, you probably only need to apply 3/4 inch with the sprinkler. Use common sense, however, and consider the weather forecast. If there is a good chance of rain soon after that 1/4-inch rainfall, don't water at all. If the rain doesn't come, you can make up the difference.

You also need to know your lawn. For example, sandy soils with little organic matter will require more water, heavy clay soils less. Sloping lawns are normally drier than level, low-lying ones. Lawns under large trees, especially during cool weather, may need little or no watering. Avoid watering during the middle of the day when evaporation rates are highest and the water you use will do the least good. Early morning watering will minimize evaporation and help newly seeded areas through the day's heat.

How to water

- It's best to water established lawns at the rate of one inch per week, applied all at one time to promote deep rooting. Frequent, light waterings favor shallow roots and plants unable to tolerate dry periods.

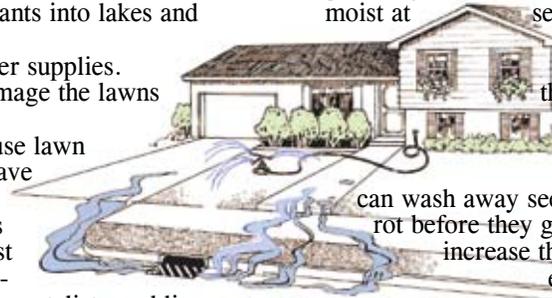
- Water early in the morning. If watering is done in the evening, grass stays wet all night, thus increasing risk of disease.

Keep in mind...

- Established, healthy lawns can survive several weeks of dormancy during summer with little or no water.
- Watering early in the morning puts less strain on public water supplies because the peak load is during evening.
- Excess water can keep the soil too moist, which damages roots.

How to water

- Mulch newly seeded areas with straw, marsh hay or lawn clippings to reduce evaporation from the soil surface.
- Light watering every other day is generally sufficient as long as the soil was moist at seeding time.



- Water less frequently when the grass reaches two inches high.

Keep in mind...

- Overwatering can wash away seeds, cause seeds to rot before they germinate, increase the chances of disease, or slow the growth of new grass.

- Grasses in Wisconsin lawns grow best in cool weather. Plant seed in spring (late April to mid-May) or fall (late August to mid-September) when it's cooler and more rain can be expected.

- When selecting seed, consider bluegrass and fescue mixes, which tend to be more drought-tolerant than ryegrasses.

Let grass grow taller

- To promote deep rooting and lawns that tolerate dry conditions, mow grass no shorter than two inches.
- Taller grass shades the soil surface, thus reducing evaporation and sprouting of weed seeds.

Use chemicals wisely

- Proper fertilizing promotes deep roots and drought tolerance. Improper fertilizing can have the opposite effect.
- Don't fertilize a dry lawn – high concentrations of nutrients tend to draw moisture out of grass.
- Control weeds to reduce competition for soil moisture. This may be done by hand, or with careful use of broad leaf herbicides.

Consider the weather

- Don't mow during the heat of day, especially when conditions are hot and dry; newly cut grass blades lose water quickly.
- Don't water if a one-inch rainstorm has occurred in the last week. Also, postpone watering if the forecast calls for rain in the next few days.

Watering (Con't on page 4)

Clean (Con't from page 1)

4. Observation Y or N data related to removal of plants on entering or leaving the water.

5. Number of people in the party.

6. Last water-body that the boat was used.

The data is summarized for each day and specific landing, then entered into the State DNR database at a latter time.

Boater awareness of the importance for keeping invasive aquatic species out of the lake is our goal. If you see a volunteer, say 'Thank You', as their efforts with inspection, education and data collection benefits all of us.

Since 2004, watercraft inspection has been a significant part of Wisconsin's aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention efforts. More than 1,100 volunteers have now been trained to conduct watercraft inspections in their communities. Each summer, Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteers and agency staff continue to work at boat landings across the state, assisting boaters and anglers in checking their equipment for AIS and sharing AIS information with citizens. These inspectors have also collected important data

about the behaviors and awareness of the individuals using the landings for the past four years. Thanks to their tremendous efforts, a valuable data set has been established.

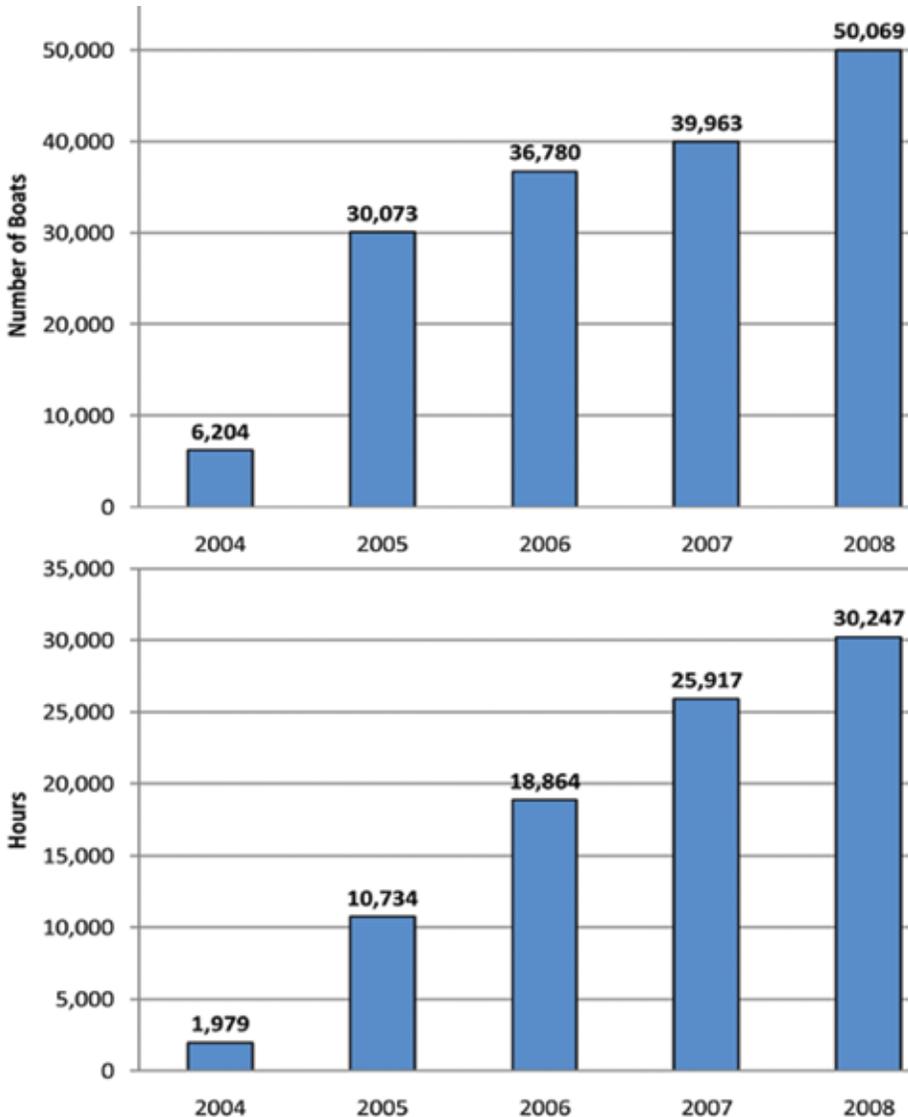
2008 marked a high point in many of our data records. Below are some numbers for 2008 from across the state.

So, how do these numbers compare to watercraft inspection data from previous years? The graphs here show some interesting, and exciting, trends in the data collected thus far.

- 50,069 boats were inspected by volunteers and paid inspectors
- 111,081 people were contacted about the 'Clean Boats, Clean Waters' message
- Over 30,200 hours were spent conducting watercraft inspections
 - ~ 60% hours by paid inspectors
 - ~ 40% hours by volunteers
- 18% of all boats inspected had plants attached; Of these, the majority of the 66 boaters (81%) removed the plants as requested.
- 27% boats had been in another water body in the last five days.
- Boaters and other landing users were

asked about whether they took each 66 prevention step after they last used their boat and equipment.

- ~ 92% said they inspected their boat and equipment for plants and removed any found
- ~ 90% said they drained all water from their boat and equipment
- ~ 65% said they disposed of their unused bait
- ~ 55% said they put their fish on ice to ensure they were not leaving the landing with any live fish
- ~ 67% said they either washed their boat and equipment with hot or high pressure water OR dried them for five days
- 90% boaters stated that they were aware of the AIS launch law.



Free - Lake-Friendly - Free
Landscaping Workshops



Learn more about . . .

- Landscaping for water quality
- Native flower planting
 - Rain gardens
- Addressing runoff and erosion

To be held
Friday afternoons
(2 - 5 p.m.)
at the

Polk County Business Center in
Balsam Lake

Save the date for a
- Free - Workshop!

- July 10
- August 7

Funded by BLPRD
For more information
and to register

contact:
harmonyenv

@amerytel.net

715-268-9992

WIDNR will limit issuing weed control permits for Balsam Lake property owners in 2009

Office of the Governor
 Governor Jim Doyle
 115 East State Capital
 Madison, WI 53702
 Phone: 608-266-1212
 Web: www.wisgov.state.wi.us

Secretary of Dept. of Natural Resources
 Matt Frank
 P.O. Box 7921
 Madison, WI 53707
 Phone: 608-267-7556 or
 608-261-7580
 Email: matt.frank@wisconsin.gov
 Web: www.dnr.state.wi.us

DNR Northern Regional Director
 John Gozdzialski
 810 W. Maple Street
 Spooner, WI 54801
 Phone: 715-635-4002
 Email: john.gozdzialski@wisconsin.gov
 Web: www.dnr.state.wi.us

Regional Water Leader-Northern Region

Tom Jerow
 107 Sutliff Avenue
 Rhinelander, WI 54501
 Email: tom.jerow@wisconsin.gov
 Web: www.dnr.state.wi.us

Bureau Director-Watershed Management
 Russell Rasmussen
 P.O. Box 7921
 Madison, WI 53707
 Phone: 608-267-7651
 Email: russell.rasmussen@wisconsin.gov
 Web: www.dnr.state.wi.us

Section Chief - Lakes and Wetlands
 Jeff Bode
 P.O. Box 7921
 Madison, WI 53707
 Phone: 608-266-0502
 Email: jeff.bode@wisconsin.gov
 Web: www.dnr.state.wi.us

Basin Supervisor
 Duane Lahti
 Phone: 715-395-6911

Water Resources Management Specialist

Frank Koshere
 1401 Tower Avenue
 Superior, WI 54880
 Phone: 715-392-0807
 Email: frank.koshere@wisconsin.gov
 Web: www.dnr.state.wi.us

State Assembly District 28
 Ann Hrachuck
 Room 6 North / State Capitol
 P.O. Box 8952
 Madison, WI 53708
 Phone: 608-267-2365
 Email: rep.hrachuck@legis.wisconsin.gov

State Senator - District 10
 Sheila Harsdorf
 Room 108 South/ State Capitol
 P.O. Box 7882
 Madison, WI 53707
 Phone: 608-266-7745
 Email: sen.harsdorf@legis.wisconsin.gov

Let your
Voice be heard contact your State Representative



Watering (Con't from page 2)

Be creative

- Plan and establish a landscape that has less lawn and requires less water and maintenance. Consider plant groupings that include drought tolerant species and organic mulches that help keep the soil moist.
- Direct downspouts away from foundations and driveways to planting beds and lawns where the water can soak in. Besides more efficient use of water, there will be less runoff from your property.
- Learn to live with temporary brown-outs. A few weeks of dormancy will not hurt the roots of a healthy lawn.

While everyone recognizes that this is a waste of water, other problems caused by careless watering are harder to see. Water flowing down the gutter often carries soil, pet waste, lawn chemicals and other pollutants into storm sewers, which empty into nearby streams and lakes. Sprinkler runoff makes a natural problem worse. While occasional midsummer rainstorms wash pollutants into lakes and streams, careless lawn watering can create a "rain-storm" every day throughout the summer.

This additional runoff occurs during the hottest weather and low water conditions in streams and lakes - prime conditions for growth of nuisance algae and aquatic weeds. Water running off your yard can also erode soil from adjacent undeveloped lots, waterlog sensitive plants, or wash away fertilizers that have been recently applied to lawns and gardens. We can all help minimize these problems by following the common-sense tips in this

fact sheet. The result will be healthier lawns and cleaner water. Thinking things through in the end, lawn watering is probably governed more by one's point of view than anything else.

For example, a dry lawn has a blue-green color and does not spring back when you walk on it (your footprints remain). A lawn during mid-summer dormancy is a brownish green. To some people, neither of the above is acceptable. However, except under extreme circumstances, even the natural brown-out does no harm. And no amount of mid-summer watering will allow our cool season grasses to look as good as they do during spring or fall. By September, in fact, lawns that were watered throughout the summer generally look no better than lawns that weren't. In other words, a naturally brown lawn in August is not a sign of neglect.

Those who want the green look throughout the summer can benefit from the lawn watering tips. Those who are inclined to simply wait out the seasonal changes can be confident that they're not going to harm a healthy lawn. Above all, heed the suggestions and restrictions of your local water utility during droughts. If you have a private well, don't jeopardize neighborhood supplies by unnecessary watering.

When corresponding with

THE IRS

Consider it is

T H E I R S

Compliments of Milt Stanze

Don't Miss
Balsam Lake
Protection & Rehabilitation
District Annual Meeting
July 18th 2009

Wisconsin bans phosphorus fertilizer

Good news! Governor Doyle signed the "Clean Lakes" bill into law on April 14. Wisconsin now has a statewide law which prohibits the display, sale, and use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus, with certain reasonable exceptions.

The prohibitions against display, sale, and use of phosphorus lawn fertilizer will take effect next year (the bill specified that changes will take effect 12 months after it was signed into law). The delay gives retailers time to order phosphorus free lawn fertilizer for next year; many stores place inventory orders a year in advance.

WAL encourages lake groups and lake

enthusiasts to build awareness within their lake communities of the impacts phosphorus lawn fertilizer can have on our lakes, and the forthcoming change in the law.

Now that the bill has been signed into law it can be referred to as 2009 Wisconsin Act 9, which is available online at (click "fertilizer" in the subject index in the left hand navigation bar):

<http://nxt.legis.state.wi.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&d=indxacts&jd=top>

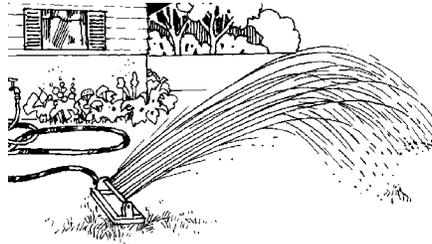
This new law is the culmination of several years of advocacy work by the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.

Helpful hints to control sprinklers

Hardly anyone has a perfectly rectangular or circular lawn. Fortunately, there are many sprinkler types to deal with

odd angles. Over time, savings on your water bill will pay for the investment on several types. Other tips for efficient watering include:

- Consider a timed sprinkler, which automatically shuts off after a desired rate of application.
- Use a sprinkling can or hand-held hose to specifically target small areas where use of a sprinkler is wasteful.
- Aerate your lawn to improve water penetration and reduce runoff.
- Avoid using a conventional sprinkler on the strip of lawn between the sidewalk and street. Runoff from this area travels quickly and directly to the gutters and storm sewer. A soaker hose might be the best option.
- Don't forget to turn the sprinkler off! Forgetfulness can result in a trail of water flowing from your property.



Who can Vote . . .

at a Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation district's annual meeting?

☺ A person can vote if they are a U.S. citizen over 18 years of age and either:

☺ An elector (a resident in the lake district who is able to vote in other local/state elections). Electors do not have to own property in the district.

☺ property owner within the lake district:

☺ person whose name appears as an owner of real property on the tax roll.

☺ person who owns title to real property even though the person's name does not appear on the tax roll (i.e. a spouse).

☺ person who is the official representative, officer or employee authorized to vote on behalf of a trust, foundation, corporation, association or other organization owning real property in the lake district.

For more information on voting requirements, see *People of the Lakes: A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations* (Chapter 5), www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/districts.

¹The official tax roll for determining annual meeting voting eligibility is the one that was delivered before the third Monday in December of the previous year.



These new signs have been recently posted at the four public landings to inform the visitors of Polk County's new ordinance prohibiting transporting of nuisance species.

Balsam Lake Homeowners

Phosphorus Free
-Fertilizer
\$5.00 OFF

Regular Price

10,000 sq ft. bag

w/Coupon Only

Do your part to help reduce

Balsam Lake's Phosphorus Loading

Redeemable at:

Balsam Lake Hardware Hank & Pro-Lawn Garden Center

Coupon Expires 7/31/2009





**Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation
District
P.O. Box 202
Balsam Lake, WI 54810**

**2009-10
Meeting Schedule
Polk County Business Center
Lower Level Conference Room
Third Saturday of the Month
8:30 a.m.**

**July 18th - Annual Meeting
August 15th
September 19th
October 17th
November - No Meeting
December 19th
January - No Meeting
February 20th
March - No Meeting
April 17th
May 15th
June 19th**

Commissioners

Howard Seim, Chairman
1425 Molan Terrace
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
Home: 763-574-0480
Lake: 715-825-2302
E-mail: howardseim@aol.com

Jeff Reed
282 County Road I
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Home: 715-485-3393
Office: 715-485-3393
E-mail: jeffr@sunnysidemarina.net

Carl Holmgren, Secretary
105 Indianhead Point Road
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Home: 715-485-9421
E-mail: holmgren@lakeland.ws

Patrick Struve
729 Idlewild Drive
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Home: 715-485-3767
E-mail: patrick085@centurytel.net

Karen Aubin, Treasurer
117 Park Drive
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Home: 715-485-3223
E-mail: kaubin@centurytel.net

David Wagner
962 W. Hoyt Avenue
St. Paul, MN
Home: 651-488-0784
Office: 651-266-6261
E-mail: Dave.wagner@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Tom Miller
1466 195th Avenue
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Home: 715-825-4157
Office: 715-485-3121
E-mail: pcledger@lakeland.ws