

LAKE WAUSAU ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WWW.LAKEWAUSAU.ORG

Summer, 2017



Splish Splash, I was takin'a bath . . .

What's Going on this Summer?

Aquatic Plant Survey

Golden Sands RC&D is undertaking an aquatic plant study of Lake Wausau this summer. The purpose of this study is to aid in our ongoing management activities, identify impacts of the 2016 drawdown, and to provide updated data needed for our Lake Management Plan. In late June they surveyed for Curly Leaf Pondweed to assess the current state of growth of this undesirable invasive species. Curly Leaf Pondweed dies off in July, so it is necessary to evaluate the plant populations in June. Other aquatic plant species emerge later necessitating a second survey in August to identify all other species of aquatic plants, looking at diversity and abundance.



**Contact Us! We'd
love to connect!**

Website:

www.lakewausau.org

Email:

lakewausau@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/Friends
oflakewauau](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-lakewauau)

Board of Directors:

Russ Graveen, President
Rick Parkin, Vice President
Sherri Wagner, Secretary
Holly Kohl, Treasurer
Mark Peter
Mary Kate Riordan
Al Weinkauff
Jim Wagner
Theresa Graveen

Chris Hamerla, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator at Golden Sands RC&D, reported the following from the initial survey of Curly Leaf Pond weed:

I noticed the abundance of Curly Leaf Pondweed is lower than I had known it to be. In my opinion, the fall 2016 draw down along with high turbid water in the spring of 2017 set the Curly Leaf Pondweed population back a little. Water clarity was very low and there was substantial current throughout the lake. The shallow areas directly south and west of Pine Island/the Country Club (Rothschild) typically have notable heavy Curly Leaf growth. Generally it gets thick enough that boats need to motor around the areas or stop frequently to clear their motor. That was not the case this spring. There were dense areas but not the matted over beds that would prohibit boating. The area just north of the Country Club (Scholfield side) had abundant Curly Leaf Pondweed.

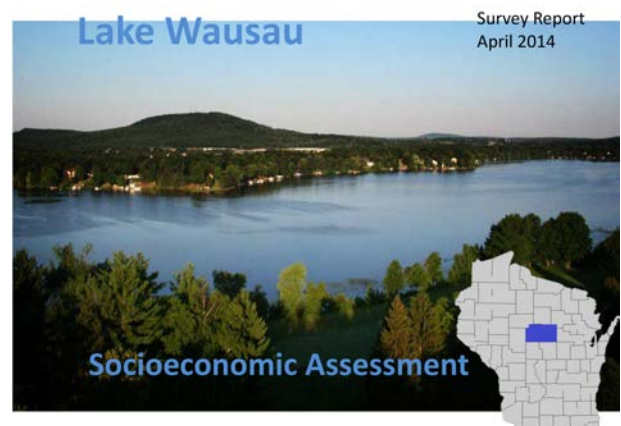
Here is a brief explanation of the sampling methods used to collect the data: the aquatic plant specialists navigate to preset GPS points based on a grid pattern. At these points a two sided rake is dropped and spun 360 degrees to collect any vegetation. Water depth, sediment type (sand, muck or rock) and aquatic plant materials are identify and abundance recorded. This information is used to create a map of the Aquatic Plant Species and assist the Lake Wausau Association in management planning strategies. The survey and mapping is being performed by the Golden Sands RC&D. Golden Sands is a 501©3 non-profit celebrating 45 years of providing solutions for a healthy economy and a healthy environment in Central Wisconsin. For more information visit them at <http://www.goldensandsrcd.org>.



Where We are on the Lake Management Planning Process

It has been 5 years since the Lake Wausau Association started the Land Management Planning Process. Most of the work was done in the first 3 years, with the exception of an important piece - a hydrodynamic modeling study. This is an intensive and expensive process that can produce important information for the management of Lake Wausau. The Army Corp of Engineers has recently agreed to dedicated the time and funds to complete this study. It is the last major piece that we have been waiting for. The anticipated hydrodynamic modeling study is projected to be completed in September of this year. The final Lake Management recommendations will then be developed based on the modeling study and these previous studies:

Aquatic Macrophyte Survey
Aquatic Management Plan
Bathmetry and In-lake Habitat
Shoreland Habitat Survey
Socio-Economic Study.



We will be holding a series of public hearings to discuss the Lake Management Plan outcomes in the Fall. If you would like to be informed via email on the date, time and place of these hearings, please email us at lakewausau@gmail.com. We will be posting the meetings on our website and in our fall newsletter. More to come!

Muskies Alive and Fighting on Lake Wausau

Muskies (scientific name *Esox masquinongy*) are the largest freshwater game fish found in Wisconsin. They were made the official state fish for Wisconsin in 1955. Muskie are sleek and powerful, known to feed on virtually every kind of fish as well as aquatic birds and mammals. Because of their large size and predatory nature, muskies are usually present at low densities, with most waters generally containing less than 1 adult per acre.



Joshua Dickerson caught a 51.5 Musky on Lake Wausau this June. He released and watched it swim away to give a good fight again.

Muskies generally range in length from 35 to 48 inches with an average size of 38 inches. They are prized by fisherman for their size and fighting ability.

Bill's Musky club released about 460 Muskies (about \$6000.00 worth) into Lake Wausau this April. Thank you members of Bill's Musky Club and those that support them!

Part of the Lake Wausau Association initiative is to identify and protect musky spawning grounds, as well as all fisheries. Our Lake Management Plan, to be finalized this fall, will address specific measures to protect and enhance spawning grounds and an overall positive environment for fisheries.



Paddle Pub Crawl 2017 - Saturday, July 29th! Starts at noon, Eagles Club. The route is approximately 3.75 miles and ends at Trails End. Live music from 2 to 8. Be safe, respect the waterways and have a blast! For details go to <http://fishingfromkayaks.com/paddle-pub-crawl.html>

The Goal of the Lake Wausau Association is to protect and maintain the Lake for the entire community and to assure that this treasured resource remains healthy for current users and future generations. We welcome all to join our efforts.

Up Coming Events

July 30 and August 6, 13: Jazz on the River, 300 1st Street, Wausau, 5-7 pm.

August 2 and September 6: Lake Wausau Association Board meetings, Gulliver's Landing Restaurant, 6 pm.

July 29: Paddle Pub Crawl, starts at Eagles Club, 12 Noon. Live Music at Trails End 2:00-8:00 pm.

July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 27 and September 4: Water Walkers Ski Show, Eagles Landing, 6:00pm.

August 17-20. Midwest Freestyle Championship. Whitewater course.

August 18-19: Big Bull Falls Blues Fest, Fern Island Park.

September 16-17: Grand Prix of Wisconsin Powerboat Championship. Blue Gill Park.

How many of these Lake Wausau area turtle species can you identify?

1



2



3



4



Snapping Turtle Nesting on Lake Wausau Shoreline

Nesting season is from May to June. Snapping turtles rarely leave their aquatic habitat except during the breeding season, at which time females travel great distances in search of a place to dig a nest and lay eggs. Some turtles have been found as far as a mile from the nearest water source. With powerful hind legs, the female digs a shallow bowl-shaped nest in a well-drained, sunny location. Over a period of several hours, she lays approximately 30 to 80 ping-pong ball-sized eggs. After covering the eggs, the female returns to the water. Turtle nests are often preyed upon by raccoons, skunks, and crows. As much as 90% of the nests are annually destroyed by predators. Snapping turtles have temperature-dependent sex determination. Nests produce more females at high incubation temperatures and more males at lower temperatures. Hatching takes approximately 80 to 90 days, but the hatch date can vary



depending on temperature and other environmental conditions.

1. Blanding Turtle

2. Spiny Softshell Turtle

3. Wood Turtle

4. Painted Turtle

Lake Wausau area Turtle Species - how many did you get right?