

To preserve and protect Long Lake, its watershed and ecosystems



# Long Lake

Preservation Association

Issue 62 • Spring 2018



—Photo by Joe Thrasher

## *President's Message*

Welcome to spring! While the ground is white as I write this, the lush greens of Spring, the season of renewal, cannot be far behind.

Speaking of renewal, thank you to everyone who has renewed or began their Long Lake Preservation Association membership in 2018. If you haven't sent in your 2018 dues yet please do so at your earliest convenience. One of the rewarding things to see is the support we receive from our members. In 2017 about 50% of the members included additional donations with their dues to be used for a specific purpose or for general operations of the Association.

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# Cakes at the Lake

## SUMMER 2018

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For years, Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary and Long Lake Preservation Association have continued a successful partnership in presenting the Cakes at the Lake series. A delicious all-you-care-to-eat pancake breakfast is served in Hunt Hill's historic dining hall, followed by an environmental education program. Hundreds of visitors attend the series each summer. Not only do participants enjoy a tasty homemade breakfast, they also learn about the amazing natural history of Northwest Wisconsin and gain an appreciation of the natural world.

We have a great line up of presenters for the 2018 Cakes at the Lake series, that you will not want to miss! The program is free, and the breakfast is \$7 for adults, \$3 for kids ages 5-12 years old, and free for kids 4 years old and younger.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 16

#### *Amazing Insects*

WITH P.J. LIESCH, UW-MADISON  
ENTOMOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Learn about amazing insects with P.J. Leisch, director of the UW-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab. We'll discover some fascinating facts about the insect world and learn about the field of entomology.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 30

#### *Live Eagle Program*

WITH THE NATIONAL EAGLE CENTER

Learn about eagles with the National Eagle Center and a live eagle ambassador. Discover these amazing birds, their life cycle, and the story of their recovery from the brink of extinction.

### SATURDAY, JULY 14

#### *Turtles*

WITH BOB HAY, DIRECTOR OF  
TURTLES FOR TOMORROW

Join Bob Hay for some fun turtle trivia. Learn about turtles that live in the lakes and wetlands of Northwest Wisconsin. Live turtles will be available for show and tell.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

#### *Black Bears*

WITH LICIA JOHNSON,  
NORTH LAKE LAND DISCOVERY CENTER

Join Education Director and Naturalist Licia Johnson of the North Lakeland Discovery Center as we learn all about black bears! Why do they do the things they do? What do you do if you see a bear? How can we live alongside bears safely and respectfully? Licia will share information on the ecology, life cycle, and other amazing adaptations of our state's largest omnivore.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

#### *The Things Fish Need*

WITH LYNN MARKHAM,  
UW EXTENSION

What do fish need? Food, shelter, maybe even another fish to love. Trees in lakes provide a home, safe haven, nursery and bountiful buffet for fish and many other creatures in a healthy lake. Come join us for a discussion about what fish need, and a reading of Fish Hotel, a recently released kids' book on the topic.



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Visit our web site

**[www.longlakellpa.org](http://www.longlakellpa.org)**

## *President's Message continued*

We also accept *Memorials & Bequests* so property owners have the opportunity to recognize long term owners or loved ones by giving donations in the form of financial memorials in their name. The LLPA would be pleased to work with the donor to identify worthy projects that matches the mission of the LLPA. Included in those receipts were some memorials and gifts to recognize past and current members. We received memorials honoring the following individuals that so much enjoyed their time at Long Lake: Doug Johnson, Kathy May, Orrin "Skip" Holtan, Pete & Helen Garari, Larry May, Debbie Hannigan, and Jack Vaughn. We also received a donation from a friend of Bob Smith and his daughter. The friend used the LLPA donation as a way to honor and thank Bob for being such a gracious host when she came to visit him on Long Lake. She really enjoyed Long Lake and Bob's hospitality. What a great way to show her gratitude.

Even with these additional donations, your LLPA has limited resources. The board tries to make sure we stretch those funds to get as much benefit as we can from the annual budget. Printing and mailing newsletters twice a year is expensive. To help curb that cost and put the money toward lake protection projects we are considering eliminating this printed newsletter and going to an electronic newsletter. We would email the newsletter directly to the members and also post a copy on the LLPA website. We would like to start this process with the Spring 2019 newsletter. We currently have the e-mail addresses for about 90% of the membership. If you included your email address on the last membership form you sent in, we have it recorded. If you did not, please get it to us now. If you are not certain we have your email address you can email it to me at [rlkrautkramer@gmail.com](mailto:rlkrautkramer@gmail.com) and I will update our records. Your privacy will be protected as we do not share or sell our membership list with anyone.

If you haven't visited our website lately, please do. The web address is [www.longlakellpa.org](http://www.longlakellpa.org). Barb Lang is our new webmaster and has done an excellent job bringing the site up to date. This is a great resource for upcoming events, photos around the lake, educational materials, copies of past newsletters, and a whole lot more. Just pop in and take a look around.

We always welcome suggestions on how we can improve our organization and better serve the members of the LLPA. If you have any comments, questions, or want to become actively involved in the LLPA please contact me or any of our board members. If you would like to help out but do not want to become a board member, consider joining one of the eight committees that serve the LLPA. Thank you for your continued support and interest in keeping Long Lake healthy for generations to come.

— *Randy Krautkramer*  
*President, LLPA*

# Fish STICKS

Joe Thrasher

Trees fall into lakes. They always have. And until about the dawn of the twentieth century they stayed where they fell, providing habitat for everything from the bottom of the aquatic food web to the top. Research at UW Stevens Point has shown that a single tree can support 15 or more species of fish simultaneously. But shoreline development has changed all that, in part due to shoreline clearing and because windfalls are often removed for perceived aesthetic reasons, taking with them the habitat they provide.

Fish Sticks is a program to help replace that habitat. Fish sticks are composed of freshly cut live trees (live so they sink) cabled together in bundles of three to five trees, which are then placed perpendicular to the shoreline and anchored by cable to a sturdy tree. Several such bundles are placed about 50 feet apart along the shoreline. This is done in wintertime; at ice out the trees sink.

LLPA, in partnership with Camp Tomahawk, constructed Long Lake's first Fish Sticks project in 2015. A second project was constructed in early 2018. Both projects are located along Scout property across the lake from Hank's Landing, which is on Todd Road.

In some respects Fish Sticks actually improve on the natural random falling of single dead trees. Multiple trees together result in greater fish numbers and diversity, the site is hand-picked and trees can be brought in from a distance if necessary, although in this case the trees were able to be cut on site on Camp Tomahawk land, where suitable trees are plentiful. Not all shoreline is suitable for fish sticks, and a DNR permit is required, but If interested, find out more from DNR's Fish Sticks brochure <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/documents/outreach/fishsticksbestpractices.pdf>.



# NEW SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Periodically the LLPA Board receives suggestions from its members that have merit and, with the belief that it would be helpful to share these suggestions with other members, we are pleased to present this new column: "Suggestions From Our Members".

Knowing there are publishing space limitations, the board reserves the right to make minor editorial adjustments while also providing anonymity for the originator. Ultimately we hope you will find this column meaningful and helpful to provide a safer and more pleasant lake experience for everyone. Following are some suggestions that were recently shared from members.

**Suggestion #1:** A long time lake resident, who is very familiar with the lake, accidentally ran over a buoy while returning from a night time boat ride. His suggestion was that it would be helpful for those residents who have buoys or rafts off their shoreline to have a dusk-to-dawn light on them. They are inexpensive, solar powered, relatively easy to install and will keep unintended collisions from occurring.



**Please feel free to share your suggestions with any LLPA board member or email the LLPA Secretary at [mkampf41@gmail.com](mailto:mkampf41@gmail.com).**

**Suggestion #2:** We were advised of multiple situations where the wave from a wake boat\* proved problematic for other boats or created shoreline erosion issues. In one situation, two pontoons were parked next to each other on the water and as a "wake boat" came too close the wave caused one of the pontoons to go up and then collided with the other pontoon that went down. It was stated that one of the pontoon riders was injured trying to keep the pontoons from colliding and being damaged.

So with the gaining popularity of wake boats it is kindly requested of those owners to please be mindful of your boating neighbors and please maintain a safe neighborly distance from other boats as well as the shoreline.

\*[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wakeboard\\_boat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wakeboard_boat)

## **The WDNR stipulates it is against the law to:**

- Operate a vessel repeatedly in a circuitous manner within 200 feet of another vessel or person in the water.
- Operate a vessel within 100 feet of the shoreline, any dock, raft, pier, or restricted area on any lake at greater than "slow, no wake speed."
- Operate a vessel at greater than "slow, no wake speed" within 100 feet of a swimmer, unless the vessel is assisting the swimmer.
- Operate a motorboat, other than a PWC, at a speed in excess of "slow, no wake speed" within 100 feet of the shoreline of any lake.
- A PWC may not be operated at faster than "slow, no wake speed" within:
  - 100 feet of any other vessel on any waterbody.
  - 200 feet of shore on any lake.
  - 100 feet of a dock, pier, raft, or restricted area on any lake.



# LLPA Member Spotlight

## *Dr. Eugene "Gene" Nordby*

Randy Poznansky



Meet Gene Nordby of Madison, Wisconsin and Holy Island. Gene celebrated his 100th birthday, and a lifetime of enjoying Holy Island, on April 30 of this year (he relates his Holy Island involvement to an even earlier date, having been born the requisite period of time following his parents honeymoon there). Gene's parents first rented a cabin which they

called Camp Urheim, named for the owner, and purchased their own cabin in 1921. In 1965 Gene purchased the cabin next door. Both buildings, coincidentally, had been built by Sam Alvsaker, Urheim's son-in-law. Gene's son Jon now occupies his grandparent's building, so two side-by-side typical Norwegian cabins are fortresses of solitude for the Nordby family.

Gene spent his career as an orthopedic surgeon in Madison. He was graduated from the UW Medical School with honors and then, during World War II, joined the Army and served in Okinawa and Korea. He then practiced in Madison and was most distinguished in his field, having developed a specialized enzyme treatment for spinal injuries. He published numerous articles and gave presentations on this technique coast to coast, training over 6,000 doctors in its use. This treatment could eliminate debilitating back pain within two days, at a small fraction of the cost of then typical surgical procedures.

While in school Gene met his lovely wife Olive, an art instructor at Luther College, and they were married in 1941, with Gene's minister father officiating the ceremony. They were married for 72 years and 10 months (yes, Gene's exact count) until the love of his life passed away in 2014.

She was a kind and caring wife and mother, and an accomplished artist <http://store.vesterheim.org/olive-jensen-nordby-a-retrospective-of-her-art-edited-by-ingrid-m-and-jay-l-jensen>.

What's the secret to Gene's longevity? Gene says that, in spite of smoking for over 25 years and surviving a coronary event, having a good wife, living life to its fullest and red wine helped along the way. While actively performing surgeries he slept four to five hours a day, but now gets a full night's sleep, enjoys hearty breakfasts and eats fish four times a week. He gets his exercise while walking the halls of his Madison retirement home and enjoys playing pool and playing solitaire on his iPad. He also attends his Torska Norwegian Social Club once a month, a social organization he started over 40 years ago and which now has 100 members [http://madisontorskeklubben.com/Norway\\_About.aspx](http://madisontorskeklubben.com/Norway_About.aspx).

Gene is also an amateur historian, having amassed a collection of historical articles on Northwest Wisconsin and memoirs of early lake residents to publish his own book, A History of Long Lake and Holy Island. Many of the historical articles you have seen in LLPA calendars are based on his materials, and we thank him for that.



## Questions / Answers for Gene:

**When you think about Long Lake what is the first thing that comes to mind?** - "Clear water and good friends."

**What does Long Lake mean to you?** - "It's a fantastic place to re-charge the batteries and spend time with good friends."

**Is there anything you wanted to do that you never got around to?** - "I wanted to speak Norwegian."

**What was the best decade for you?** - "It was the 40's when I got married and just starting out in my profession."

**Most enjoyable moment at the lake?** - "My honeymoon at the lake in June 1941." Gene also mentions the huge walleye he caught in 1927 at age 9 under the wooden bridge that used to exist on Holy Island. Gene says it was the largest walleye he has ever seen to this day and reached from his shoulders to ground. (See photo).

**Biggest concern about the lake?** - "Keeping the waters clean and the LLPA is doing a good job." "I am also concerned about the disappearance of the Holy Island bays which seem

to get increasingly blocked each year." Gene mentioned that in the 20's and early '30's his father had developed a plan for a private Holy Island sewer and water system but he could not get the funds to support the project.

**What's your earliest memory from Long Lake?** "Staying at Camp Urheim when I was two or three years old and when it rained there was a leak in every room of the house."

**What do you do to stay young?** - "Everything I can.....walk a lot, try to eat and sleep well. Have also been a member of the church since 1939 and although used to go to church every Sunday now have to watch it on Sunday TV."

**What do you do when you are stressed out?** - "I don't get stressed out and don't let things bother me"

**Any regrets?** - "That my wife Olive and brother Walter (Babe) Nordby did not live longer"

**Those of you who have met Gene know what a special person he is and we are lucky to have him as one of our special LLPA members. Happy Birthday, Gene.**

## Yellow Flag Iris is a relative newcomer to Long Lake

Joe Thrasher

There is a new invasive specie in town, and it's a beauty. It is Yellow Flag Iris, *Iris pseudacorus*, also known as Yellow Flag.

Yellow Flag Iris is a relative newcomer to Long Lake. Aside from color, it resembles the familiar native Blue Flag Iris, and is equally appealing in appearance. But there the similarities end. Growing along the shoreline, it expands quickly and can form dense stands which crowd out aquatic plants such as cattails and native irises. Its root system also forms dense mats which inhibit the growth of other plants. It expands by spread of its rhizome root system and also produces floating seed pods, meaning it can spread easily and rapidly.

This plant is native to parts of Europe, western Asia and northwestern Africa. It was brought here as an ornamental early in the twentieth century, and has escaped or even been planted in the wild by the well intentioned. While in Wisconsin it has been classified as Restricted, defined as "Invasive species that are already established in the state and cause or have the potential to cause significant environmental or economic harm...", it is readily



available for purchase on the internet, *even from Amazon.*

While at this time it is present only in small clumps in Long Lake, mostly along the developed shoreline between the Narrows and Crows' Nest, it appeared to be present in more locations in 2017 than in prior years. Small clumps can be controlled by digging up the plant, but care must be taken to remove all rhizomes, as they can persist for more than ten years in soil. Be sure to dispose of them in the trash, for even a dried rhizome can survive for over three months. Gloves should be worn while handling because the sap can cause skin irritation to sensitive persons, and all parts of the plant are toxic to some extent. If you have it and are not sure what to do about it contact:

Washburn County Conservation Coordinator  
Lisa Burns  
(715) 468-4654  
lburns@co.washburn.wi.us.





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**Danger: A Beauty Invades.** (See page 7)