

To preserve and protect Long Lake, its watershed and ecosystems



# Long Lake

Preservation Association

Issue 66 • Spring 2020



— Photo by Joe Thrasher

## *President's Message*

COVID-19 has made this a very trying time for most people. As a physician friend of mine stated, it's going to take some patience on everyone's part to get through this. You can probably relate, as human beings we are not always good at being patient.

The current status of life has changed how the LLPA board can operate and what tasks we can still perform. The social distancing and stay at home rules have put some limitations on what we can do. For example, the monthly water testing, clean boats clean water activity, and the use of decontamination stations at the boat landings have all been suspended. However, the board is still very active, mostly with educational, monitoring, and planning issues. In April we started holding our monthly board meetings via Zoom and we installed the Zebra Mussel testing stations around the lake.

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Visit our web site

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

## President's Message continued

On the educational front, we create and send this newsletter twice a year to over 900 property owners. About half of those are LLPA members. We update our website ([www.longlakellpa.org](http://www.longlakellpa.org)) to be as current as possible. Members also receive the annual Long Lake calendar and frequent "constant contact" emails. Generally, "constant contact(s)" are sent monthly and sometimes more often if issues arise. Recent topics include: ice out date, clean boats, clean waters activity, Washburn County travel notice, and the annual meeting postponement. If you are a LLPA member and have not been receiving these emails, please check your spam, promotion, or junk folder. We do not share the membership list and email addresses. You can also email me at [rlkrautkramer@gmail.com](mailto:rlkrautkramer@gmail.com) to make sure we have your current email address in the membership file.

COVID-19 may change how we are able to enjoy Long Lake this year but please be assured the LLPA will continue to do all we can to protect and preserve our wonderful asset. Membership and dues are as important as ever during these trying times. Thank you to everyone who has renewed or began their Long Lake Preservation Association membership in 2020. The strength of the association relies heavily on its membership! If you have not yet sent in your 2020 dues, please do so at your earliest convenience. The membership form can be found on our website under the DONATIONS tab.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in keeping Long Lake healthy for generations to come. And remember to be patient.

Randy Krautkramer

President – Long Lake Preservation Association.

## Let's Support One Another



## Our Local Businesses

**"During these unprecedented times, Washburn County is asking visitors to hold off on visiting us until we're given the go ahead from public health to travel. We want you to know one thing during this time... we absolutely can't wait to see you again! In the meantime, please continue to dream and plan future adventures to our area."**

This notice is from the Washburn County website that offers advice about current health updates in our community.

<https://www.co.washburn.wi.us/news/public-health/travel-advisory-second-homes>

Long Lake Preservation Association would also like to recognize local businesses that we can support during this time. Please check hours and services available and whenever possible, please shop local. Our favorite lake restaurants will bring a delicious pizza or burger right to your car. Washburn County Tourism page is a good resource for up to date information.

<https://www.washburncounty.org/covid-19>

# DOCKS AND THE COURTS

by Joe Thrasher

A recent decision of the Wisconsin Supreme Court has received some publicity and has some lakeshore owners wondering whether their right to maintain a dock may be in jeopardy. In the case of *Movrich v. Lobermeier*, it was held that lakeshore owners had to remove their dock because someone else owned the lake bottom, rendering the dock a trespass. Can that happen on Long Lake? A bit of background about surveys and the Public Trust Doctrine should allay any fears about that.

All land in Wisconsin is surveyed, and all surveys are the descendants of the original government survey made pursuant to the federal Northwest Ordinance of 1787. In our area that survey was conducted in 1854, at a time when the surrounding land was entirely public, not yet having been conveyed from the United States to any private party. Lakes are irregular in shape, so as a matter of convenience lakes (potholes not included) were surveyed by creating a series of connecting straight lines, known as meander lines, near the shore but entirely on dry ground. These lines show on every plat or other survey at the lake, and their lengths and angles are used as part of property legal descriptions, yet they are not legal boundaries. The shoreline is the boundary because by law ownership of a lake lot includes all land lying between the meander line and the shoreline, wherever that shoreline may be on any given day or time of year.

Who owns the lake bottom beyond the shoreline? In the vast majority of cases, no one (again, we are not dealing with lakes large enough to have been included in the original government survey). Under the Public Trust Doctrine, a part of the Wisconsin Constitution, lake

bottoms are held by the State of Wisconsin as trustee for the public. A dock is not a trespass against any private owner.

But *Movrich v. Obermeier* dealt with different facts. The lake involved was entirely artificial, having been created by damming a stream in the 1940s, long after the government survey. The newly created lake bottom had been and remained under private ownership. Someone bought land running up to the shoreline and subdivided it and sold lots, resulting, after a series of transactions, in the shoreline being a legal boundary between different private owners who happened to be siblings. After a family feud apparently broke out the underwater owner sued the upland owner demanding removal of a dock. The Supreme Court concluded that under those unusual circumstances riparian rights of shore owners, which normally include the right to maintain docks, did not apply. The dock had to go.

Long Lake is entirely different. It does not matter that the Long Lake dam has altered our shoreline to a minor degree. It was a lake to begin with, and the shoreline really has not changed much; a copy of the original survey, conducted 40 years before the dam was built, is set forth on the January page of the 2016 LLPA calendar, and looks the same as at present. The real point is that the original survey was conducted before any land around the lake was in private ownership. Once sold by the United States to private parties, ownership lines may move a bit with the changing ordinary high water mark, but there is no owner beyond those lines to have any competing interest. Whatever the result of that case elsewhere, fear not, it has no bearing here.

— Photo by Joe Thrasher





# Fish Sticks Project

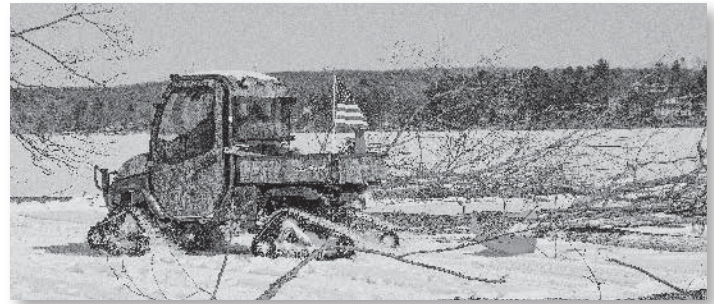


by Joe Thrasher

In February of 2020 LLPA participated in its fourth Fish Sticks project, this time in cooperation with Camp Tomahawk and the Long Lake Chamber of Commerce. Dead trees which have fallen into the lake provide habitat for fish and everything below them in the food web, but as lakeshore is developed there are often less trees to fall and many are removed for reasons of convenience when they do. Fish Sticks is a way to replace some of that lost habitat.

Fish Sticks are constructed by binding several bundles of recently cut live trees with cable and anchoring them, on the ice, to trees at the water's edge. Since they are live trees they sink at ice out, just as if they had fallen there. This project consists of eight bundles of four trees each, spaced 50 to 75 feet apart, in two groups. The first group is below the main Lodge of Camp Tomahawk and the second a short distance to the north.

All Fish Sticks projects to date are located along Camp Tomahawk shoreline, and the Camp has supplied the trees. In this project we were joined by the Long Lake Chamber of Commerce, which supplied most of the labor. The necessary DNR permit was obtained by LLPA, and costs defrayed in part by a Healthy Lakes Grant from the DNR. For more information about Fish Sticks see the LLPA web site at <http://longlakellpa.org/fish-sticks/>.



— Photo by Joe Thrasher



## Hunt Hill Update



by Nikki Janisin

Due to current health official's predictions, the uncertainty of how quickly the state will allow groups to gather, and for the safety of our visitors and staff, the Hunt Hill Board of Directors made the tough decision to cancel our summer programs. Unfortunately, this includes our partnering program with LLPA, Cakes at the Lake. Unless mandated otherwise through state order, we hope to continue offering outdoor guided hikes and canoeing programs. For the most up-to-date information, please check [www.hunthill.org](http://www.hunthill.org) and follow Hunt Hill's Facebook page.

Although most in-person programs have been cancelled, Hunt Hill is offering free educational videos on Facebook, called Hunt Hill at Home. These videos are hosted by our Program Director, Sage Dunham and highlight local flora and fauna, family activities, and information on various environmental topics. Each program features a joke of the day, and some programs offer free take home kits people can pick up at Hunt Hill. If you do not use Facebook, videos can be viewed on our website: [www.hunthill.org](http://www.hunthill.org).

Trails at Hunt Hill continue to remain open! We highly recommend checking out our new Discovery Trail (labelled

Barred Owl Trail on the Hunt Hill trail map). The trail starts at the east end of the lower parking lot, right behind 'Larry's Shop'. Each month the trail features themed items hidden along the trail. Families are encouraged to take a selfie along the trail and post it online with #Hunthill for a chance to win a prize. In addition to the Discovery Trail, the nearly 13 miles of trails at Hunt Hill remain open for hikers during daylight hours.

### To ensure the trails can remain open, please:

- Pack / take out anything you bring in (With staff hours likely cut back this summer, the garbage in camp may not get emptied daily and we want to decrease the risk of bears and pests getting into the garbage).
- Feet need to stay on trails to protect our natural habitats!

### Helpful tips about the trails:

- Trail maps can be found in the information kiosk in front of the farmhouse office or online at [www.hunthill.org](http://www.hunthill.org)
- The Bear Trail and Red Oak Trail are *blazed*. This



means there are white rectangles painted on the trees about 5' up in the air. Look down the trail to find the *blazes* to help you stay on the trail.

- We continue to add signage to our trails!
- Dogs are allowed on leash, as long as waste is picked up.

**Other things to know:**

- The nature playscape, located behind the farmhouse, with sandbox, little creek, mud pit, nature fort, and balance beams remains open to the public.
- The public bathroom on the west side of the new Recreation Hall remains open for visitors. Please be aware that it is unlikely that the large bathroom facilities (located near the upper/west parking lot) will be open for the summer.
- Visitors can park in the upper/west parking lot. The gates to the large lower/east parking lot are closed to traffic.

Hunt Hill is also looking for volunteers who can help with a variety of projects while continuing to practice safe social distancing. Projects we need help with include: painting projects, brush cutting, trail sign installation, woodworking projects, trail hiking, and more. If you are interested in learning more about these projects or how you can help, please email [program@hunthill.org](mailto:program@hunthill.org) or call 715-635-6543.

If you enjoy the Hunt Hill trails, Hunt Hill at Home, or just Hunt Hill in general, we urge people to donate to our nonprofit. 100% of your donation supports our trails, the sanctuary, and our programs. Donations can be made online through our Facebook page or at [www.hunthill.org](http://www.hunthill.org) or given on-site in the white donation box located on the kiosk in front of the farmhouse office. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email [director@hunthill.org](mailto:director@hunthill.org).

Thank you for visiting our sanctuary and for your support. We look forward to welcoming you to Hunt Hill!



## Highlights from Wisconsin's Lakes and Rivers Convention April 1-3, 2020

by Byron Crouse

As one of the newer members of the LLPA board, I have been spending time studying the reports on Long Lake and the Long Lake Watershed. I was looking forward to attending the 2020 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention scheduled April 1-3 to learn more about the science and public policy impacting Long Lake and other Wisconsin lakes and rivers. The focus this year was Wisconsin Waters 2020: Focusing on Resilient Lakes & Rivers. I was equally excited when I learned that Hunt Hill was to be recognized for their educational programs, and was to receive the Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in Education. Then along came the era of COVID-19 and the in-person convention was canceled. In its place, an online conference was held and here is a brief summary. The technology was superb with the live presentations being delivered via Zoom with excellent clarity and the use of the chat function allowing for Q&A. Even better, they have archived YouTube recordings of nearly all the presentations along with sharing of the slides. These can be accessed through their site:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/convention/2020/default.aspx>

The opening plenary speaker was Doug Beard who grew up in the Spooner area. Doug worked for 13 years with the Wisconsin DNR before moving to Washington DC to join the United States Geologic Survey. Doug returned to Wisconsin just over a year ago. He set the stage for working to have resilient lakes and rivers in Wisconsin. As we experience changes in our environment, we are seeing the impact of a warming climate with less ice in winter and warming waters in the summer. This is resulting in less sustainable walleye habitat and better opportunities for bass. He called for the science community, the policy sector, and the citizens of the state to come together to manage change rather than react to change.

The following two days included informational topics that would be of interest to virtually everyone living on Long Lake. I picked sessions based on my interests, selecting presentations from several of the streams, with a focus on helping assess the status of Long Lake and learning what can be done to protect and improve the lake.

Climate change was a theme in multiple presentations. Climate change is occurring and will impact lake quality. The warming will impact lakes by potentially promoting

more aquatic invasive species that tolerate warmer water. The fisheries of lakes likely will also be impacted with a loss of cold-water habitat reducing some species and promoting others. There were many resources presented and I will be further investigating the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership. Their mission is to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance sustainable fish habitats in glacial lakes of the Midwest for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations. They have developed a 'conservation planner' designed to help organizations most effectively direct their energies to enhance lake quality.

Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Conservation Planner - <http://ifrshiny.seas.umich.edu/mglp/> (See Graph below)

Presentations were organized by the general streams listed below. Each of the streams contains four to six presentations. This allows you to focus on a content stream or pick and choose specific presentations from the streams. The quality audio and visual presentations are easy to access and about 60 minutes in length.

- **Basics and Lakes and Rivers**

This track had excellent presentations introducing the science behind lake and watershed issues. Additional topics included an introduction to fisheries and reviewed the impact of climate change on AIS, fish, and wildlife.

- **Building on 2019: Year of Clean Drinking Water and Water Quality**

An update on 2020 water legislation and efforts of water advocacy organizations were presented.

- **People and Policy: Actions and Updates**

For the policy wonks, presentations examined communication strategies for organizations to improve advocacy efforts. Other presentations described issues to promote county-wide decontamination and emergency Slow No Wake ordinances, reviewed the basics of pest control, and discussed the DNR Surface Water Grants program.

- **Ecology: Life In and Around Our Waters**

The whole family will enjoy these fun presentations. Anyone who enjoys Hunt Hill's educational programs will love the presentations in this stream. The topics range from dragonflies (see the review of this in the newsletter) to loons to wild rice and native planting tips.

- **Lake and River Science**

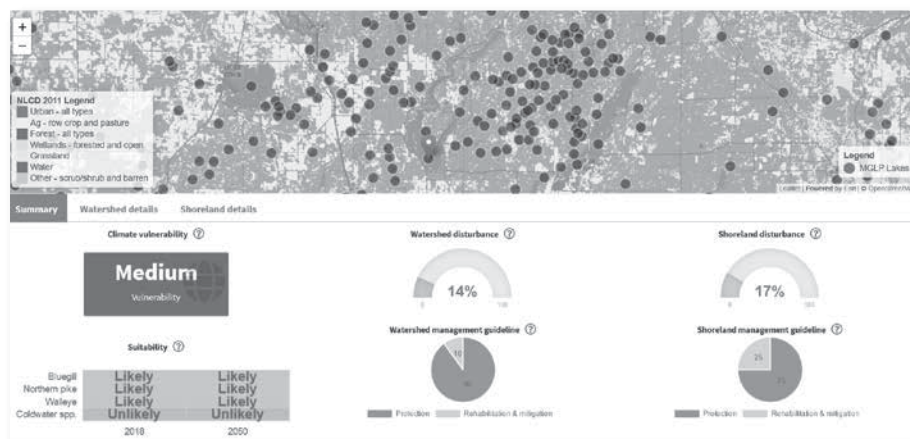
Sessions here showcased experiences around Wisconsin, demonstrating lake quality improvements, through interventions to improve low O<sub>2</sub> levels in lakes and reduce high phosphorus levels. Effective partnering between watershed management and agriculture was highlighted. The economic importance of Wisconsin Lakes and how to use this as leverage for conserving and restoring shoreline habitat was eye-opening.

- **Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Lakes and Rivers**

Climate change was addressed in other presentations, but this collection of presentations spoke to climate change, the impact of global warming, and more severe weather, producing greater temperature changes and extreme precipitation. Other presentations in this stream spoke to the impact of these weather changes on wild rice. Lastly, this stream addressed how to adapt to changing weather patterns.

- **Monitoring to Action: Stories from the Field**

How do we make a difference? Here are several examples of how groups have tackled problems that were damaging Wisconsin lakes and rivers such as purple loosestrife, PFAS, and road salt. Novel approaches to monitoring lakes for AIS by trained conservation dogs and drones were shared as ways to detect the spread of invasive species.





# Dragonflies



by Byron Crouse

At the Wisconsin Rivers and Lakes Convention, Emily 'Annie' Heald of the Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters gave an engaging presentation on dragonflies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UAsjtEvUhw&feature=youtu.be>

Here I will share some of the facts and science of dragonflies that caught my interest. If you are interested in learning more, I would encourage you to watch her presentation highlighted with amazing videos and pictures.

Of the 5000 species of dragonflies in the world, about 110 different species can be found in Wisconsin. Based on fossil evidence, they have existed on the earth for 350 million years. This means they were present over 100 million years before dinosaurs. This prehistoric version of dragonflies was huge with a wingspan of up to 3 feet.

Dragonflies go through 4 stages in their life-cycle: egg, nymph, emergent and adults. Depending on the specific species, they can lay their eggs through one of four different ways. They can scatter their eggs, dropping them from the tail of the female in water. They can attach eggs to plants with a sticky string or slime that is caught in vegetation. Other ways of laying the eggs involves injecting the eggs into the stem of a plant or inserting the eggs in sediment in the water. Hundreds of thousands of eggs are laid each season but many eggs are eaten by fish or killed by parasitic water mites.

Surviving eggs hatch into nymphs. Initially they are very small and almost transparent but grow into a more typical appearing nymph. The time as a nymph was likened to human adolescence. When thinking of dragonflies, I bet most of you think of the flying adult. In reality, 90% of a dragonfly's life is spent in the nymph stage living underwater. While underwater they go through a series of molts where they lose their external skeleton and grow a new one. This can happen 15 times during a dragonfly's life. Nymphs can propel themselves in a very provocative manner. They take in water through their rectum to breath and if they need to move quickly, they can rapidly expel this water and jet propel themselves like a jet-ski to escape or pursue food. They will eat most anything that moves including minnows and even other nymphs. To capture their food, they can extend part of their mouth up to 1/3 the length of their body and shovel food into their mouth.

That means as a 6-foot tall man, I could stick my tongue out 2 feet!

The final molt of the nymph occurs on land. The nymph crawls out of the water onto a stick or dock and emerges from the exoskeleton. This usually occurs at night because of their vulnerability at this emergent stage as they cannot fly or run. About 90% of the dragonflies do not survive this stage. You may have seen the remains of the exoskeleton on your dock or boathouse. When they have emerged, they then pump fluid into their wings in order to unfurl them. Newly emerged dragonflies have shiny wings and their eyes are soft in appearance. As they age, the wings become duller and more damaged while the eyes become more shiny.

The adult dragonfly has a head, thorax and abdomen. What we often refer to as their tail is the abdomen with 10 sections. The thorax has two wings on each side and the head has eyes positioned to provide excellent sight in almost 360 degrees which is important since they cannot hear or smell. Their eyes can see UV and polarized light. On their legs, they have a series of hairs that they use to capture prey and quickly feed it into their mouth. Their wings attach directly to muscles in the thorax and this direct attachment allows for the excellent flying skills dragonflies possess.

All dragonflies like natural shorelines, not manicured landscaping. They eat insects and are opportunistic eating whatever insects are available. With their flying skills, they are successful 80-95% of the time when going after other insects for food.

Dragonflies are cold blooded so in colder weather they warm up by vibrating their wings or finding an area to bask in the sun. If they are too warm, they rest with their tail abdomen pointed up toward the sun to minimize the area capturing the sun's rays. This is called the obelisk position. They can also change their color to better reflect or absorb the sun's rays to cool or warm themselves. During the winter, dragonfly nymphs hibernate underwater. Adults die from the cold or migrate to a warm area. Dragonflies from the Long Lake area commonly winter in Mexico but the exact area varies according to species. In Africa and India, dragonflies migrate across the Indian Ocean, a distance of 2500 miles over open water, moving from one rainy season to another. Another interesting fact is that the





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## Dragonflies continued

Southern Giant Darner can fly 60 miles per hour. It seems speed and distance are flight characteristics that dragonflies can master.

Identifying dragonflies can be challenging and as with most activities, practice helps. As with most challenges today, there is a smart phone app that helps. Dragonfly ID searches by size, location of sighting or color. The app then brings up a list of dragonflies that matches your search and provides pictures and times of typical sightings to help identify the dragonfly you are seeing. If you prefer a field guide, *Dragonflies of the Northwoods* by Kurt Mead was recommended. If you really want to search out more information, going to the website of the Wisconsin Dragonfly Society at [www.widragonflysociety.org/](http://www.widragonflysociety.org/) was encouraged.

This presentation has stimulated my interest in dragonflies, and I am looking forward to their appearance at Long Lake. I encourage you to learn more about this interesting insect.

