

Dedicated To ...



John Pyzyna was named the Honorary Founder of the Lake Wandawega Improvement Association at the groups first annual meeting on May 28, 2005.

John's enthusiasm and compassion for Lake Wandawega and the community was the driving force behind the formation of the Lake Wandawega Improvement Association. Had it not been for him, LWIA might still be an idea waiting to be born. Sadly, just as John's dream of uniting the community behind one organization was about to be realized, he was taken away from us in a tragic accident on May 3, 2005. This first newsletter is dedicated to his memory and the many memories we all have of Lake Wandawega.



Meeting Date A general membership meeting will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2006, 9:30 AM at the WCC Clubhouse located on the NW corner of Hwy 12 and Wisconsin Drive.

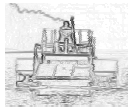
The Board

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Questions? Concerns? Comments?

Please feel free to contact us at LWIA@lakewandawega.com, postal mail at LWIA, PO Box 902, Elkhorn, WI 53121, or call Bill at 847-692-1982

L.W.I.A newsletter is a publication of the Lake Wandawega Improvement Association, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of L.W.I.A., PO Box 902, Elkhorn, WI 53121 LWIA@lakewandawega.com



2006 Aquatic Plant Harvesting was started on July 5th and ran through Friday, July 7th. I had the opportunity to go out on the harvester a few times and on the first pass around the lake I was very surprised to see a substantial reduction in the amount of Eurasian milfoil. The predominant vegetation in the lake this year appeared to be Watershield and Large-leaf pondweed. Both of these plants are beneficial to the lake and fishery and the DNR limited us on the amount we could cut. Other restrictions were to "avoid shallow areas" and "A minimum amount of 2 feet of plant material shall be left to hold lake sediments in place." As a result, there are many places around the lake that look as if the harvester missed an area. That wasn't the case and was primarily due to the permit restrictions.

The 2006 aquatic plant harvesting was fully funded by Interlaken Property Owners Association, Wandawega Country Club and many of the shoreline owners.

☑ Objectives accomplished ...

Non-Profit Filing - LWIA's nonprofit, 501(c)(3), application was mailed to the Internal Revenue Service on July 31, 2006. According to their acknowledgement letter we will be notified within 120 days if our exempt status is approved or if they need additional information to make a determination.

DNR Grant Submission - We have submitted our first grant application under the Department of Natural Resources Small-Scale planning grants program. We will be notified in October if our grant was approved. If approved, the grant will cover 75% of the cost for a SEWRPC study covering the watershed, water quality, aquatic plants, recreational uses and management measures. The study will produce an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan for Lake Wandawega with which we can responsibly manage and control the aquatic plant life in the lake. The projected completion date for the final APM Plan is December 2008. The total cost for the SEWRPC study will be \$4,000 with LWIA's share being \$1,000.

What Are Those Weeds Aquatic Plants In The Lake?



Very little of the aquatic plant life in Lake Wandawega is bad and we actually have an abundance of beneficial plants. The predominant good plants on the lake this year are Watershield and Large-leaf pondweed (pictured left courtesy of WDNR). Both plants form a mat on the surface of the water and the leaves and seedpods of the pondweed take on an unattractive appearance, which is not the most desirable. Other good plants are the Pickerelweed and White waterlily. However, both of these plants need to be managed or they can restrict lake access and reduce boating, fishing and swimming opportunities. These plants provide shade and cover for panfish, largemouth bass and northern pike and they support insects valuable as food for both fish and waterfowl. Another beneficial plant in the lake is Chara which: stabilizes bottom sediments; softens water by removing lime and carbon dioxide; promotes water clarity and stabilizes plant population by crowding out less desired species. Although Chara looks like a plant, it is actually a genus of multi-cellular macro-alga (algae).

The two bad plants we have are considered non-native invasives. Those are the Eurasian milfoil and a few spots with Curly leaf pondweed. Because of their early season growth, they block out native plants and rob them of nutrients and can eventually take over a lake.

We will publish additional information on the aquatic plant life in Lake Wandawega in a spring edition of our newsletter.

New Initiatives ...

Boat Launch - Work with the Town of Sugar Creek on refurbishing or upgrading the boat launch.

Self-Help Monitoring Program - Thanks to volunteer Cary Katzenberger, we are now participating in the WDNR's Self-Help Lake Monitoring Program very soon. For the first year of the program, volunteers observe and document lake water quality by measuring water clarity with a Secchi disk.



The 8-inch diameter black and white disk is lowered into the water on a rope until it can no longer be seen, then this depth is recorded. You can track your lake's clarity over time, and if problems are detected action can then be taken.

After a year of water clarity monitoring we may be eligible to begin water chemistry monitoring. The volunteers would sample four to five times a year for clarity, phosphorus, chlorophyll, lake temperature and dissolved oxygen. With this information the trophic state (overall health) of the lake can be measured more reliably.

Thank You To . . .

... **Town of Sugar Creek** - LWIA made a presentation to the Town of Sugar Creek at their July 17, 2006 board meeting for support on our first grant application. After a rigorous question and answer session, the board unanimously passed a motion that permits Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) to work with LWIA on producing an Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Lake Wandawega. In addition, the town wrote a letter of support for LWIA's grant application.

... **Jeff Thornton** of SEWRPC and several residents who turned out in support of LWIA's grant application at the July 17th town meeting on an extremely warm evening. Those being **Howard & Joyce Hayward, David Hernandez, Jeane Northey, Scott Olsen, Jim Parchem, Michael Sims and Art Styles.**

Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management, Walworth County Lakes Association, Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association, Interlaken Property Owners Association and Wandawega Country Club for supporting our grant application.

What Happened To All The Geese?



You may remember that we had about 85+ Canada geese on Lake Wandawega last year. The goose droppings at the beaches and piers had become intolerable and became a potential health concern for many area residents. In addition, the droppings added excessive nutrients and bacteria into the lake.

In April of this year, two Wandawega Country Club (WCC) members were out in their paddleboat and observed numerous geese on the small island in the SE corner of the lake. With the nesting area identified, LWIA worked with WCC and the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA) personnel on a Canada goose egg-oiling project. The Wisconsin Humane Society recognizes egg oiling as a humane technique to limit the reproduction of Canada geese.

USDA personnel came out to the lake and located 19 nests with 17 of them being on the island. Five eggs in one nest had already hatched, but the remaining 87 eggs were oiled with EPA approved 100% food-grade corn oil. Oiling of the egg disrupts the growth pattern and prevents the egg from hatching. After oiling, the eggs are returned to the nest, which tricks the goose into continuing to incubate nonviable eggs instead of laying additional eggs or renesting. USDA personnel made two trips out to the lake for oiling of the eggs and one last trip in mid-May to remove the eggs and the nests.

By all reports, the Canada goose population on Lake Wandawega this year is a manageable three pairs of geese with 15 goslings.

The Canada Goose egg oiling project was fully funded by Wandawega Country Club, Inc.



What is with the studies for the lake? We all know what the problems are. Too much muck and too many weeds!

We asked Jeff Thornton of Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission this question and here's what he had to say. "Why conduct a lake study when we KNOW what the problems are? Well, ask your neighbors and they will tell you that the problem is muck, or weeds, or boats, or ... Yes, all of these are in fact issues that we need to deal with. However, we have limited resources to devote to solving our problems."

"A plan helps to build consensus on which issues need to be addressed first. Is the muck issue more important or more severe than the weed problem? Are the two related? A plan will help us to decide. Once our community has decided these things, we will probably need to contract for services to address the issues. A plan not only communicates our concerns to each other, but forms the basis for contracting for services, including obtaining the necessary permits from state and local authorities to do the work. In other words, a plan helps us to communicate our concerns to others. In the end, a plan helps us to conserve our financial resources by prioritizing actions that will contribute to conserving our lake. In communicating within and without our community, a plan is a useful and important tool that will help us to achieve our common goals."

Carroll Schaal of the DNR had this to say in the 2006 Summer edition of Lake Tides, a publication from the University of Wisconsin Extension Lakes Program. "Planning is an ongoing process. We want the process to ultimately lead to a comprehensive lake management plan -- a guide to taking care of aspects of a lake ecosystem including water quality, fisheries and wildlife, shorelands and watersheds, recreational use and others -- as opposed to a narrow view of just one element or "problem." The complete article and other interesting ones can be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/>

Walworth County Household Clean Sweep – October 6 & 7.

An excellent opportunity to dispose of unused or unwanted household products that contain hazardous ingredients. See enclosed flyer for complete information.