

Lake Redstone

Protection Connection

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT • SPRING 2008

Invasive Zebra Mussels Found in Lake Wisconsin

Zebra mussels have been found in Lake Wisconsin—just 30 miles from Lake Redstone—leading the state to place the 9,000-acre water body on its list of waters infested with the invasive mollusk.

The non-native mussels can take a toll on the environment, recreation, and economy, according to Susan Graham, lakes management coordinator for the Wisconsin DNR's South-Central Region.

The agency will collaborate with groups such as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Columbia and Sauk County lakes and rivers groups, as well as local governments and state parks, to increase public awareness in hopes of controlling the further spread of zebra mussels, she noted.

“Transfer of zebra mussels to nearby Devil’s Lake, Mirror Lake, or Lake Redstone could harm the local fishery and impact other recreational activities such as swimming and boating on these popular lakes,” said DNR Fisheries Biologist Tim Larson, Poynette.

Zebra mussels form dense clusters that attach to hard surfaces. They can decimate native mussel populations and decrease the oxygen that fish and other aquatic species need. Also, zebra mussels can clog boat engines, along with intake pipes used by utilities and industrial facilities. Their sharp shells can cut the feet of swimmers or beach walkers.

Zebra mussels first arrived in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan in the Racine harbor during 1990 as ‘stowaways’ aboard foreign freighters entering the Great Lakes. Since then, they have hitched rides on boats and vegetation, becoming established in more than 50 inland waters.

“There are a set of simple, but effective steps that everyone should take when boating, fishing, and otherwise enjoying the water that can help prevent the spread of invasive species,” said Graham.

The DNR asks that each boater take the following preventive steps before moving a boat or equipment to a new water body:

- ✓ Inspect and remove plants, animals and mud from your boat, trailer, and equipment.
- ✓ Drain all water from your boat’s live wells, bilge, motor, etc.
- ✓ Dispose of unused bait in the trash, not in the water.
- ✓ Spray/rinse the boat and equipment with high pressure and/or hot water—especially if moored for more than a day—or dry the boat and equipment thoroughly for five days.

For more information, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/zebra.htm>.



Using a siphon to gas up your boat is a safe and easy way to conserve fuel and keep gasoline out of the lake.

Taking Care of Our Little Corner

by Priscilla S. Bondhus, LRPD Chair

WHAT A WINTER! Our family spent the Christmas holidays at the lake. It was beautiful; the trees and red sandstone rocks were frosted with white fluffy snow and a fresh white blanket covered the ground. It was so peaceful and calm. I could not help but think, ***If you are lucky enough to have a house by the lake, you are lucky enough.***

Thirty years ago, I was told water would become a very scarce commodity in my lifetime. Sure, I thought, striking a “show me” attitude. That memory is with me today, as data is substantiating the connection between various materials we use, the decisions we make, and the quantity and quality of our water supply. The unintended consequences of the way we “use” or “dispose” of our resources is coming to light.

As Warren Frank commented in this space last year, one of the most important issues facing our region is the protection of the Great Lakes. At the time of this writing, our Legislature had still failed to ratify the Great Lakes Compact, an agreement among the eight states and two Canadian provinces which border the Lakes.

◆ Did you know the Great Lakes contain 22% of the fresh water on our planet?

◆ Did you know that a number of states depend on water resources from the Colorado River and that Lake Mead is 51 feet below average and Lake Powell over 100 feet below capacity?

◆ Did you know that some of those states are looking for other water resources to meet their needs? Can you guess where?

You can learn more about these topics at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/greatlakes/annex2001/, where DNR Secretary Matthew Franks shares his testimony on the Compact. You'll find another good source of information at www.cleanwisconsin.org/campaigns/GreatLakesCompact.

Yes, concern for protecting our water resources is a much broader concern than just what we see through our own back window. I sincerely hope that you will stay abreast of the broad challenges facing our state and share your concerns with your neighbors and representatives.

***‘In a democracy,
it is the
responsibility of
individual citizens
to take
responsibility for
their little corner
of the world.’***

-Author unknown

Your LRPD representatives remind you that you are always welcome to attend our Board meetings. Agendas, dates, and locations of meetings are posted at Hartje’s Farm & Tire, Bare Necessities, The Town Pump, and the LaValle Township Hall.

And don’t forget to mark August 9th on your calendar for the LRPD Annual Meeting! It’s a great time to socialize, share with others from around the lake, and get an update on what your Board is doing. Your feedback is important! My colleagues and I look forward to seeing you there.

Cordially,

Priscilla



Lake Redstone Protection District

Protecting and rehabilitating the water quality of Lake Redstone for its residents and the public.

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New Pier Regulations Ready for Governor's Pen

The subject of piers has been controversial in recent years, and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) has been actively working with the state legislature to represent its members' interests within the current political atmosphere.

The WAL Board of Directors approved two key policy goals to help guide its involvement. First, to ensure that pier placement does not damage habitat, obstruct navigation, or interfere with the rights of other riparian owners or the public. Second, to maintain current law, which generally recognizes that the right to place piers should be proportional to shoreline frontage, rather than the density of shoreland development.

After false starts during the previous legislative session, AB 297 was introduced in 2007, and passed both houses early this year. It currently awaits the Governor's signature or veto. The bill reflects the efforts of WAL, realtors, conservation organizations, builders, the DNR, legislators, and the Governor's office to reach a compromise on this thorny issue.

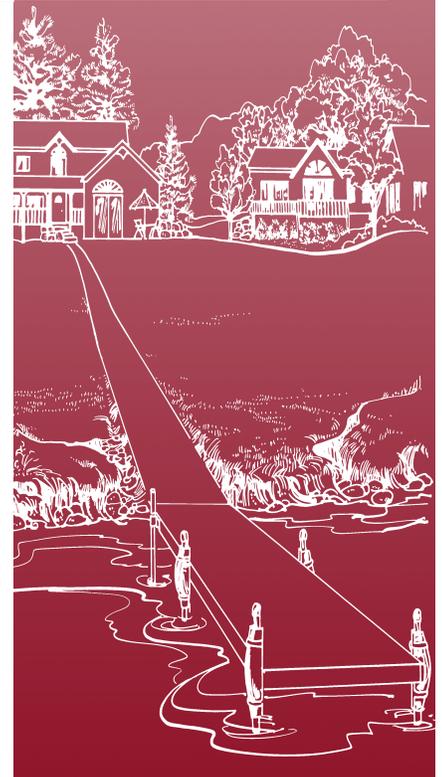
Some of the major provisions of AB 297 include:

- Continues the existing pier width of not more than 6 feet.
- Allows the pier to extend to a point where the water is 3 feet deep or to a point where there is adequate depth for mooring a boat or using a boat hoist or boat lift, whichever is farther from the shoreline.
- Allows a loading platform of not more than 8 feet wide provided it extends perpendicular to one or both sides of the pier and is located at the lakeward end of the pier or the end that extends into a stream.
- Grandfathers piers, including boat hoists and boat lifts, that were placed on or before February 6, 2004 that are not more than 8 feet wide:
 - ◆ Piers placed on or before February 6, 2004 may have a loading platform at the lakeward end of the pier or end that extends into a stream that is more than 8 feet wide, provided the platform does not have more than 300 square feet of surface area.
 - ◆ If such platform has 200 square feet or less, the platform may be of any width;
 - ◆ if such platform is more than 200 square feet but not more than 300 square feet, the platform may not be more than 10 feet wide.
 - ◆ Any such grandfathered piers cannot interfere with the riparian rights of other riparian owners.
 - ◆ In addition, owners of grandfathered piers must register a grandfathered pier with the DNR within 2 years and 11 months of the effective date of AB 297.
- Allows repair, maintenance, relocation, and reconfiguring of grandfathered piers, provided the pier is not enlarged. Relocated and reconfigured piers must be registered with the DNR.
- Continues the existing allowance of no more than two boat slips for the first 50 feet of shoreline and no more than one additional boat slip for each additional 50 feet of shoreline.
- Allows the property owner to apply for an individual permit for a pier that exceeds the above number of boat slips and if such pier was placed on or before February 6, 2004, requires the DNR to issue the individual permit, without charging a permit fee, unless the DNR demonstrates that one or more of certain specified conditions have not been met.
- On lakes of 50 acres or more, allows owners of property on which there are three or more dwelling units, or on which there are commercial structures, to apply for an individual permit to increase the number of boat slips.

WAL was able to negotiate some amendments to the original AB 297 which prevent perpetual replacement of grandfathered piers (repair and maintenance of existing piers are allowed), and preserve the DNR's authority to challenge some piers. ♦

Assembly Takes a Pass on Phosphorus Ban

Considerable effort by WAL was invested during the recent legislative session to persuade the Senate to pass an effective ban on phosphorus in lawn fertilizers. The Assembly Natural Resources Committee adopted a compromise bill, but it was never scheduled for a vote by the full Assembly. WAL will be working hard next session to get a ban on phosphorus in lawn fertilizers signed into law.



DNR Re

In March, the DNR released a report on Lake Redstone. The Executive Summary and Recommendations from that report are provided here. The findings do not necessarily reflect the views of the DNR.

A Critical Habitat study was conducted to assess the value of Lake Redstone for fisheries, wildlife, ecology, and water quality. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Lake Redstone was chosen for the study because:

- 1) To protect areas within the lake that have unique character and qualities of the lake;
- 2) To preserve the places of special interest to residents and visitors.

The Department has made a plan to ensure that Lake Redstone contain Critical Habitat. The plan is to maintain the cultural and aesthetic values of the lake, as well as important near-shore and shallow water areas. The plan also includes Rights Features in Wisconsin Administrative Code that fulfill the rights of the public to swimming, navigation, or natural resources.

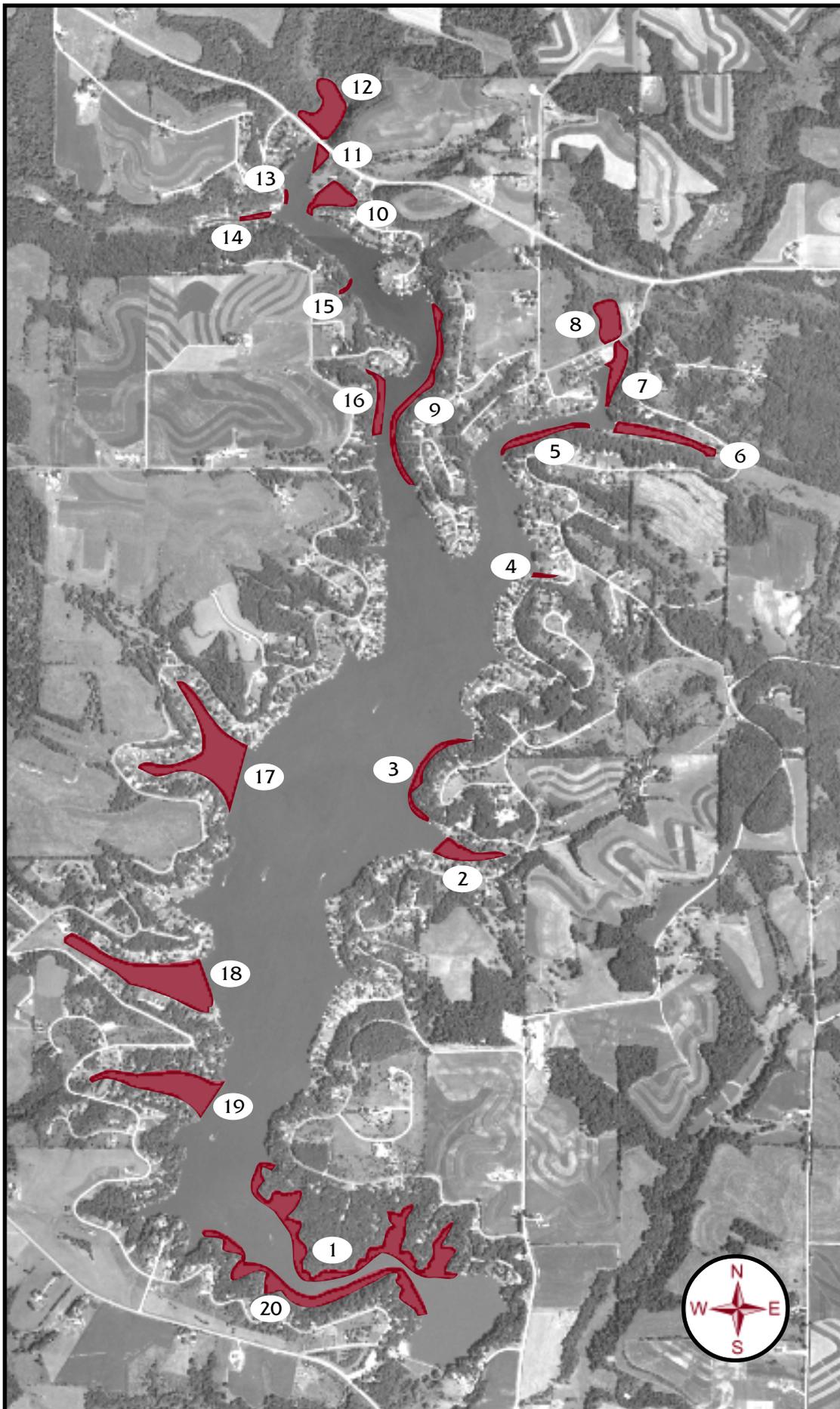
The Critical Habitats (Public Use) are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat, including spawning, nesting, nursery, and feeding;

General Recommendations

The following are the general recommendations for the health of Lake Redstone:

- 1) Maintain natural shoreland buffers to provide wildlife habitat, and natural resources.
- 2) Maintain snag and cavity trees to provide perching of birds, and downed wood.
- 3) Maintain the unique natural beauty of the lake.
- 4) Maintain hemlock-white pine buffers that screen development.
- 5) Maintain overhanging trees and boulders in the water to provide cover and boulders in the water.
- 6) Encourage lakefront property owners to plant (forbs, and grasses) as a buffer to prevent other pollutants that affect water quality.
- 7) Minimize removal of native aquatic plants.
- 8) Require permits for aquatic plant management.
- 9) Limit aquatic plant management to narrow channels and reasonable swaths.
- 10) Update the Aquatic Plant Management Plan to reflect current conditions and emerging management strategies.
- 11) Control invasive plants;
- 12) Maintain aquatic invasives control by establishing a Clean Boats, Outriggers, and Motors Program.
- 13) Assess location and dimensions of replacement piers, recreation structures to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat.
- 14) Encourage use of biologs and native plants.
- 15) Plant native woody vegetation to stabilize shorelines.
- 16) In locations of actively eroding shorelines, plant native woody vegetation to stabilize shorelines.



The 20 areas highlighted above indicate the near-shore and shallow water regions considered for Critical Habitat status at Lake Redstone.

IMAGE COURTESY OF STEVE BOLSSSEN, WISCONSIN DNR.

Releases Critical Habitat Results

fact sheet on its recent Critical Habitat study at the Summary and General Recommendations here for information only, and do not the Lake Redstone Protection District.

ected from 2005-2007 on Lake Redstone by lakes, ter management specialists with the Wisconsin

for the study for two primary reasons:

the lake that are most important for preserving the and

special aesthetic beauty for the enjoyment of lake

a tentative determination that specific locations in habitat that ensures a healthy aquatic system and values of the lake. Mainly concerned with water areas, Critical Habitats are called Public Administrative Code NR1.06. They are characteristics the public for quality and quantity of water, fishing, scenic beauty.

Rights Features) for Lake Redstone include: including specific sites necessary for breeding,

Recommendations for Lake Redstone

Recommendations of the DNR study to promote and protect the

uffers of native vegetation to protect water quality, fish and scenic beauty;

s for cavity nesting species, canopy trees for roosting and ed trees for wildlife habitat;

beauty of the sandstone cliffs and rock outcrops;

relicts, minimize tree removal, and maintain vegetative visual ment;

nd shrubs, fallen trees along the shoreline, and large woody ater for fish and wildlife habitat;

owners to plant native vegetation (trees, shrubs, perennial er zone to reduce shoreline erosion and runoff of nutrients

ect water quality;

quatic vegetation to protect fish and wildlife habitat;

plant management by chemical, manual, or mechanical means;

ent to methods to specific to exotics and/or for navigation rimming or fishing areas;

management Plan every five years to reflect current lake management techniques;

igns at all boat landings to educate lake users about protecting the lake from introduction of new exotic species and consider Clean Waters watercraft inspection program;

ions of proposed grading on the banks, dredging, placement of pea gravel beds or sand blankets, boat ramps, new or nal devices such as rafts or trampolines, and shoreline erosion control (subject to site-specific wave energy calculations) to nd wildlife habitat, and natural scenic beauty;

nd native vegetation for shoreline erosion control, subject to review of site-specific wave energy calculations;

on at the Ordinary High Water Mark and native perennials in riprap;

ing shoreline, consider expanding slow-no wake zones to reduce erosion caused by boating.

- Plant communities and physical features that help protect water quality; and
- Reaches of bank, shore, or bed which are predominately natural in appearance or that screen man-made or artificial features and have unique natural scenic beauty.

Designation as Critical Habitat may affect decisions on Waterway and Wetlands Permits under Ch. 30, Wis. Statutes. These include activities such as grading on the banks, dredging, placement of pea gravel beds or sand blankets, boat ramps, new or replacement piers, recreational devices such as rafts or trampolines, and shoreline erosion control (subject to appropriate site-specific wave energy calculations). This DOES NOT necessarily mean these activities will be prohibited, but that they will undergo more careful review to ensure that the activity does not adversely affect the critical habitat in the area. Currently, these reviews are routinely done for Ch. 30 permits on Lake Redstone, so substantial changes in permit decisions in the Critical Habitats are not expected.

Designation as Critical Habitat may also affect decisions on permitting of Aquatic Plant Management (APM) under Ch. NR107 and NR109 of the Wis. Adm. Code. These activities will undergo careful review to ensure that the activity does not adversely affect the sensitive ecosystem in the area. This is already routinely done on Lake Redstone, so few if any changes in APM permit decisions should be expected unless an updated APM plan specifies changes.

There are 20 areas designated as Critical Habitat for Lake Redstone. Fourteen of these are classified as Sensitive Areas for their aquatic vegetation and six are classified as Other Critical Habitat for their natural scenic beauty and/or fish and wildlife habitat values. All are classified as Public Rights Features.

Public Meeting Slated

A public informational meeting and open house will be held Saturday, May 3, 2008 from 10 a.m. to noon at the LaValle Fire Station, 103 E. Main St. The purpose of the meeting is to present the findings of the study and allow the public to ask questions of the lake, fish and wildlife, ecology, and water management specialists that performed the study. If requested, a public hearing will follow the meeting to allow citizens to provide any additional technical information on the sites that may affect the Critical Habitat designations.

For More Information...

To learn more about the Critical Habitat designation and the statutes and rules that apply, or to see the full Critical Habitat Study report, contact Susan Graham, Lake Management Coordinator, DNR South-Central Region at 608-275-3329 or susan.graham@wisconsin.gov or refer to <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/criticalhabitat/>.

Look! In the Lake! It's a Blob, It's a Brain, ...It's a Bryozoan!

The phone rings and the district Wisconsin Lakes coordinator answers. The voice on the other end asks for the identification of a curious blob, looking somewhat like a human brain. This strange mass was spotted attached to an old log two feet under the lake's surface. This peculiar find is not that uncommon to those who pay attention to the lake. This beast is actually a whole community of inoffensive creatures called **bryozoans**.

Bryozoans are found in ponds, lakes, and slow streams. They live on the underside of logs and rock ledges, or attached to vegetation, where light is dim. These colonies of animals cannot survive in polluted or muddy waters, so their presence usually indicates good water quality.

The minute-sized animals are filter feeders, dining on a variety of free-floating plants and animals that drift about in the water. Bryozoans are occasionally preyed upon by snails, insects and crayfish, but large colonies apparently do not have any major predators.

These strange creatures have developed a unique way of increasing their numbers. Growth of a colony is accomplished through a simple process called *asexual budding*. A portion of the body wall grows outward and eventually forms another identical organism.

In this way, starting with a single animal in the spring, a resulting colony may consist of thousands of living and dead individuals by fall. Colonies customarily die out by winter.

Bryozoans produce new colonies by two very different methods to ensure survival of the species. Sexual reproduction may occur for a short period of time between May and July. Individual animals are not classified as either male or female and can produce both eggs and sperm.

A resulting embryo develops into a free-swimming larva and is released. If the larva is able to attach to a suitable object, it will eventually give rise to a mature colony.

Colonies can also be formed by asexual internal budlike structures called statoblasts. When these small capsules are released from the colonies, they are distributed randomly by the currents and may either float or remain on the bottom.

A protective outer layer gives statoblasts the capability to survive under dry, cold and other adverse conditions. When the environment is right, it germinates and may produce a new bryozoan, much like seeds overwintering and beginning to grow in the spring.

Statoblasts can be considered environmental hitchhikers, enabling bryozoans to spread to other bodies of water. They may catch a ride in mud on the feet of aquatic mammals or waterfowl and are also able to germinate after passing through the digestive system. Statoblasts are produced in large numbers, but very few statoblasts survive to form new bryozoans.

Bryozoans may share their home with insect larvae that burrow into the protective coating that is secreted by the animals. This relationship could be compared with that of fleas to a dog.

Small fish browse on the surface of the colony, feeding on the insect larvae, algae, and other tiny organisms attracted to the bryozoans. These aquatic janitors are actually beneficial to the bryozoans by helping to keep the surface of the colony clean. The bryozoans do not harm the fish and provide additional areas to forage for food.

If you keep your eyes peeled you may observe these unique animals the next time you're at the lake. The seclusive bryozoans are another fascinating member of the aquatic community and a good indicator of a clean, healthy aquatic environment. ♦

–Reprinted with permission from the Fall 1995 edition of Lake Tides.



TIM VECHTER

Bryozoans like the one pictured above are associated with good water quality and can sometimes be found at Lake Redstone.

History of Lake Redstone--Part I

Cobleigh Valley Revisited

The following account of the development of Lake Redstone is reprinted from the April, 1978 edition of Redstone Views, published by the Lake Redstone Property Owners Association. Part II, "And The Rains Came," will follow in the fall Protection Connection.

IN THE BEGINNING it was a quiet, remote valley ... almost inaccessible except to fishermen and trappers who cared to wade Big Creek, or hunters who dared to follow nearly perpendicular game trails up the bluffs. At the lower end of Cobleigh Valley were the remains of a dam near the site of an old saw mill. This old sawmill located on Big Creek was owned and operated by Bill Rathburn and John Caligar in the early 1900's. Lumbering was not like it is today with their power saws, tractors and efficient machinery, it was long hard work. Rathburn and Caligar could only saw three days out of the week because the water level behind the dam would be so low by that time that their water turbine would not operate. The rest of the week they would skid logs to the mill. This mill had its share of tragedies, too. The tragic death of Bill Rathburn was the most devastating. As Mr. Rathburn was sawing one day, after tripping, his coat got caught in the saw. The saw then proceeded to pull Bill Rathburn through; thus, shearing his body in two. The mill stayed in operation for many years before its duration was ended by fire.

May 24th, 1962, Mr. Paul Wegner of Baraboo offered a parcel of 65 acres in the valley to be designated Wegner Park. The Sauk Co. Board of Supervisors visited the site, held a public hearing, and the rest of the year discussed the project. After the Board added \$10,000 to the budget of '63 and an additional \$10,000 in '64 to rebuild the old dam, they then authorized the Co. Park Committee to hire an engineer to estimate the cost! The proposed dam would have a water head of 14 feet to fill a 20 to 50 acre fishing lake within the park.

A year later, May '63, Mr. N. E. Isaacson, president of Lakeshore Development Corp. of Oconomowoc, presented plans for a dam 50 to 100 feet to form a 1500 acre lake to Chamber of Commerce, sportsmen's clubs, and service clubs and interested persons in LaValle and Reedsburg. The corporation spent a year in fruitless effort to buy lands in Sauk and Juneau Counties. Hopes of a 100 ft. dam and 2800 acre lake extending to the vicinity of Mauston gave way to the reality of approval of a 40 foot dam by the State Public Service Commission. At that time it would be the state's largest man-made dam for a private home development. It would measure 600 feet long and 300 feet wide at the base. The developer planned 1/2 to 1 acre lots with a 300 foot greenway around the lake, and the area would follow strict zoning laws to protect investors by preventing tent or trailer camping, mobile homes, or commercial buildings on any private or county park lands. Even that came close to going down the tubes when Paul Wegner's brother, Leo, refused to sell.

A seven man committee of Sauk and Juneau landowners chaired by Russell Douglas set up a meeting between landowners and developer. At last, all were in agreement. Mr. Douglas squelched the rumor that the Corps of Engineers and Federal funding would be used in the project. The land could not be condemned as in state and federal projects, and the corporation would have to cough up over \$1,000,000 to buy out 40 landowners.

Actual work began in Sept. '64 near the old dam. As usual, Murphy's law . . . everything that can go wrong, will . . . hounded the builders. An earthmover went through the ice, machinery "ditched" several times, but work progressed slowly. A water turbine from the old saw mill on Big Creek was unearthed and preserved. It's now a bicentennial monument on the south side of the present dam near the spillway.

A contest to name the lake soon followed. It's ironic to note the project's most outspoken foe, Mayor Hilbert Kleeber of Reedsburg, won first prize of \$100 with the name Red Stone Lake. Eileen Greenwood, LaValle, took second for Pine Wood Lake, and Dr. Otto Pawlisch suggested Valleywood Lake for third place. Mr. Kleeber became a staunch supporter and announced he would return the prize money to be used for park equipment, with his name inscribed on it.

In October, the first advertisement appeared in the Reedsburg Times Press offering a package of three lots on Red Stone Lake for 25% off. \$160,000 worth was bought locally with strong support of LaValle, Reedsburg and area residents.

to be continued...

NAME THE LAKE CONTEST

The Owners of Wisconsin's Newest and Most Beautiful Lake located West of Reedsburg, would like your help in selecting a name for the Lake -

Enter the Name the Lake Contest Now

WIN A VALUABLE AWARD

- Best name submitted receives \$100.00 Savings Bond
- Second Place, \$50.00 Savings Bond
- Third Place, \$25.00 Savings Bond

RULES:

- Submit your Name, and in 25 words or less explain why you think your selection is best.
- No employees of Lakeshore Development, Inc., or Gavin Bros., Brokers, may enter the contest.
- Decision of the Judges is final.
- Send your letter to Gavin Brothers, Brokers, Reedsburg or Baraboo, Wis., on or before October 31, 1964.

If you have not made your tour of the lake site do it now. See the hundreds of building sites available. Guides and salesmen on site.

GAVIN BROS., Brokers

Reedsburg or Baraboo, Wis.

Former Reedsburg mayor Hilbert Kleeber's response to this advertisement in the October 1964 Reedsburg Times-Press netted him first prize with the suggestion of "Lake Red Stone."

IMAGE COURTESY OF AL BAADE.



PROTECTION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 313

LAVALLE, WI 53941

Save the Date!
LRPD Annual Meeting set for August 9.

Watch your mailbox for more details on this important chance to share news and views with your neighbors on Lake Redstone.

Take a Stake in Your Lake!

Here are a few simple ways you can help enhance Lake Redstone and protect your property investment:

- **Choose zero phosphorus fertilizer or use no fertilizer at all;**
- **Keep garden refuse, grass clippings, leaves, pet waste, and campfire ashes out of the water;**
- **Ensure proper maintenance of your septic system;**
- **Protect your property from soil erosion by maintaining shoreline buffers;**
- **Establish a rain garden;**
- **Use low- or no-phosphate detergents;**
- **Keep hard surface on your property to a minimum;**
- **Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes and medicines; and**
- **Don't feed the geese.**

You can learn more about life on the lake at:

- www.dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/lakes/
- www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/
- www.wisconsinlakes.org/

'Slow-No Wake' Alerts Posted & Broadcast

With a bumper crop of snow contributing to possible high water levels this spring, Lake Redstone users are reminded to follow "Slow-No Wake" restrictions when they are declared.

Slow No Wake is defined as the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerage control of a boat or personal watercraft. For many boats, a Slow-No Wake speed is when the throttle is first engaged.

When a Slow-No Wake order is issued by the Sauk County Sheriff, an announcement is placed in the Reedsburg and Baraboo newspapers and broadcast on radio stations WRDB (1400 AM), WNFM (104.9 FM), and WBDR (102.9 FM). Signs at all three boat landings and along the roads leading to the lake are also erected, and patrol boats inform boaters of the Slow-No Wake order.

Following heavy rains in the fall of 1992, representatives from the Town of LaValle and the LRPD established a Slow-No Wake threshold of 1-1/2 feet above Lake Redstone's design elevation of 916 feet above sea level. At this height, most wooden dock sections would float off of their metal frames and out into the lake. The Slow-No Wake designation is intended to promote safety during these conditions and to protect the shoreline from the extreme erosion that the combination of waves and high water can trigger.

The District anticipates additional markings at boat landings in the near future to help boaters gauge water levels.