

May 15, 2017

ANNUAL MEETING
Plum Lake Golf Club clubhouse
Saturday, July 8, 2017 9am

View From a Supper Club

LOON HOOTS

The Newsletter of Plum Lake Association

One of the most charming parts of our northwoods environment is the array of supper clubs we have to enjoy. It is one of many elements that makes our home in Vilas County special. They're a bit more rare in southern Wisconsin but we found a little place in Pewaukee, across from the lake. Michaels has a killer fish fry and you will find us there often on Fridays in the late fall.

Last Friday, I parked at Michaels and walked across the street to take a look at Pewaukee's collection of "big metal". This yard stores the "Pewaukee Armada". No, not the marina that houses one of Wisconsin's rare "A" Scow fleets; this is instead the wintering yard for the weed cutters that keep Pewaukee Lake usable for boaters.

There are SEVEN of these monsters, for a lake twice the size of Plum and not quite as deep, at 40 feet. You're looking at more than a \$1 million of metal. This is only a part of the cost of fighting Eurasian Milfoil for this lake district. It is a frightening reality for a northwoods guy.

Closer to home, The Eagle Chain has been fighting milfoil for years, at a total cost of reportedly over \$1.8 million. DNR recently informed them that they would no longer be considered for AIS grants, leaving the funding of milfoil control to the lake associations and districts. The good news for them is that they have reduced the size of the infestation to scattered sites totaling about 5 acres. This year they are pulling it by hand with divers to keep up with it and hopefully, to prevent it from spreading again. The cost for this work is \$2,000...per hour.

Eurasian Water Milfoil is expanding throughout our county. Many of the lakes in St. Germain have it and every year, it is found in new lakes. For Plum Lake, our clean boat/clean water crew on our landings is our last line of defense. The workers are well trained college kids and are effective, but they aren't there 24/7. It is up to us to make certain EWM does not get a foothold. Our sweeps for invasives will be more frequent this year, beginning in early June and continuing each month until fall. If it shows up this year, or is here now, we need to find it quickly.

Sunset views across the lake are always good from supper clubs – a cocktail or two and tranquility is assured...until we get down to the water line...and look below the surface.

Join us this year on our first sweep, as we search our lake for invasives – it takes an hour or two. All of us need to be involved. It is our lake (that means it is your lake too), and this is OUR responsibility.

AJR



2017 projects

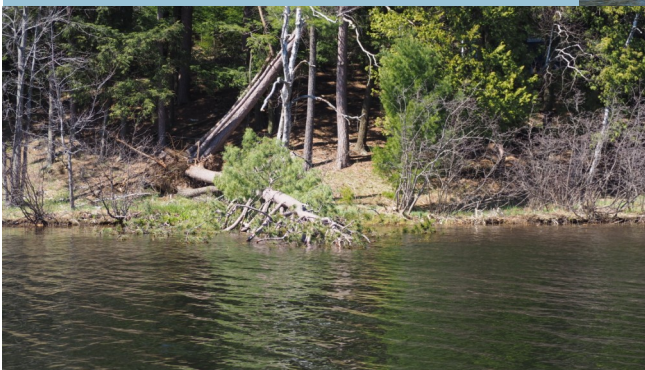
Loon platform repair .
Fish Sticks projects for this winter.
Eagle Scout/PLA town lake Loon project
Osprey nesting platform.
AIS sweeps in June, July and August



Loon Population Update



THE NEST SITES are all ready. West Plum was found and re-anchored but I have not seen that pair yet. Motel 6, behind the pilings, is in decent shape and that pair is fishing around the pilings. They went on the nest on May 8. Starlight Bay has its pair in residence, swimming around the island which was occupied by a goose. The goose is gone, but no nesting activity yet. The East Bay platform was ruined by a muskrat and was replaced. The loons were nesting just 3 days after it was anchored on April 30.



NEW TREE HABITAT IN THE LAKE

Senator Tom Tiffany

Room 409 South
State Capitol
Madison, Wi. 53707-7882

SHOULD YOU BE SO INCLINED...

Representative Rob Swearingen
Room 123 West State Capitol
PO box 8953
Madison, Wisconsin 53708
Rep.Swearingen@legis.wisconsin.gov

VILAS COUNTY LAKE NEWS

CARLIN LAKE FIGHTS TO KEEP ITS WATER

Carlin Lake, in Presque Isle, a seepage (ground water sourced) lake with extraordinary water quality has been targeted by a large grocery chain that is expanding into bottled water. The threat, by a company started by Trigs, intends to pump and truck out up to one hundred thousand gallons a day from this 155 acre lake. The destination is a bottling plant that the Trig group opened just over the Michigan border” which will bottle and sell “Carlin Lake Water” which they claim has “magic healing qualities”. Carlin Lake was forced to hire counsel and bring legal action, which is still in process. As you can imagine, the cost of legal council is a huge lift for this small lake. The precedent this sets is a threat to every lake in our county. I have been involved with their leadership on this issue and can offer a strong positive reference for their efforts and their need. Many of us are signing on to help. Please join me with a donation.

John Richter

Carlin Lake Association
Po box114
Presque Isle, WI
54557

LAKE DISTRICT UPDATE

We have reached the threshold of necessary signatures for the formation of a lake district for Plum Lake. The support was extremely strong for this effort, which will allow us to control our own destiny on invasive species infestation, the primary purpose of the lake district.

Signatures are being certified and the lake district plan will go to the town for approval this month. The public hearing should take place within 30 days of delivery of the petitions to the town board. Notice of this hearing will be sent to all property owners.

Doug Pinney



Send us some old photos for the next Loon Hoots!!

Summer is on the way!
Are you ready?

MEMBERSHIP

We want to meet your neighbors! We need your help. It starts like this...You walk next door and say hi..... Well, I guess you know that part. It's the next step that seems to be an issue.

Plum Lake needs all of us to stand together in its defense, because Plum and all of our lakes in the north have caught the attention of "special interests". There is asset value in the quality of our lakes and it has been discovered by legislators who want to control what happens to it...and sell it to the highest bidders. They do not have our interests, or Plums, in mind. Their intentions are not on helping us maintain the quality of our lake...they are focused power and profit...made at the expense of our lakes...and as a result, at the expense of the value of our homes and our economy. The science and the research support us but that will not stop those that would sell out to special interests.

Lake associations across the state are banding together to defend the health of our lakes and rivers. It is a bit of a David and Goliath situation, but we are gaining power, as we get organized. Resisting irresponsible government is never easy. But if we don't, our northwoods home and environment will quickly erode, and with it, our children's chance to experience what we all have grown to love.

Please help us gather all Plum Lake owners to join our cause.

We know what it takes to preserve our water quality and our lake habitat. It starts with strength in numbers.

Trees in the water

The last

big wind month

was another punch in the gut for many who got beat up by last years storm. Clean-up from that event will stretch through the summer. But, there was a silver lining of sorts—some of the trees fell in the lake!! Mother Nature decided to give us a helping hand along with the afore mentioned punch.

So, riparians, **PLEASE LEAVE THE TREES IN THE WATER!!** We are spending lots of money and effort to drop trees—our lake needs them badly for habitat. You get to watch the wood ducks and turtles and your kids get to catch all the fish that hang around the trees.

The birds and the fish and the turtles and frogs thank you!

PLUM LAKE ASSOCIATION

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