



# Wisconsin Association of Lakes

Conserve ~ Enhance ~ Restore

## The E-Lake Letter

December 2009

**Happy  
Holidays  
from the  
Wisconsin  
Association  
of Lakes**

### *In this issue...*

- [Shoreland zoning standards finally enacted](#)
- [DNR Impaired Waters List Released](#)
- [2010 to be the Year of Groundwater?](#)
- [Phosphorous Summit Follow-up](#)
- [Legislature quiet on lake issues](#)
- [Meet Toni, our new Policy Director](#)
- [Register now for Conservation Lobby Day 2010](#)
- [Wisconsin Wetland Association's Annual Wetland Science Conference](#)
- [Call for Lake Stewardship Award nominations](#)
- [Wisconsin Lakes Partnership 8th Annual Photo contest](#)
- [Holiday Greetings and Thanks!](#)

### Upcoming Events

Changing Lakes, Changing Policy - Southern Wisconsin Lakes Workshop  
February 13, 2009  
Waukesha County Technical College, Pewaukee, WI



### **2010 Wisconsin Lakes Convention**

*Fringe Benefits:  
Restoring Wisconsin Shorelands and Shallows*

March 30 through April 1, 2010  
(Tuesday through Thursday)  
Green Bay, WI

### **The Long and Winding Shore - Shoreline Zoning Standards Finally Set to Become Official**

NR115, Wisconsin's revision to its minimum shoreline zoning standards, passed the Legislature and is now waiting publication by the Legislative Reference Bureau, its final step before becoming official.

Many years in development (*How long? One DNR staffer that worked on the process left DNR, took a year to spend with her kids, and now works for us! [See related story](#), below*), the Natural Resources Board approved the final revision in November, following the rejection of the original proposal by the Assembly's Natural Resources Committee. Representatives of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, River Alliance of Wisconsin, two development groups and DNR staff negotiated the revised language that finally met approval.

Once the rules are officially published, counties will have two years to bring their shoreland zoning ordinance provisions into compliance with the minimum standards set in NR115. State law also allows counties to adopt provisions that are more restrictive

## Board of Directors

### Northern region



Earl Cook  
[elcook@interserv.com](mailto:elcook@interserv.com)

Sandy Gillum  
[ssgillum@nnex.net](mailto:ssgillum@nnex.net)

Chris Jeffords  
[hunterwi@indianheadtel.net](mailto:hunterwi@indianheadtel.net)

Susan Wallin  
[swallin@eraparkside.com](mailto:swallin@eraparkside.com)

Sam Lewis  
[sandslewis@msn.com](mailto:sandslewis@msn.com)

### Northeast region



John Feavel  
[johnfeavel@yahoo.com](mailto:johnfeavel@yahoo.com)

Tim Hoyman  
[thoyman@onterra-eco.com](mailto:thoyman@onterra-eco.com)

Dave Pozorski  
[pozorski3@lakefield.net](mailto:pozorski3@lakefield.net)

Paul Schumacher  
[spaulsdoor@aol.com](mailto:spaulsdoor@aol.com)

### West Central region



Pat Address  
[raypat@citizens-tel.net](mailto:raypat@citizens-tel.net)

[More information about NR 115](#)

[More on Wisconsin Association of Lakes shoreland policy work](#)

### Dane County Plans Ahead, Finds Opposition

As the counties begin the process of updating their shoreland zoning ordinances, leaders and citizen advocates might be well served by looking at Dane County's recent experience as it developed its Shoreland and Riparian Management Plan. The plan, a long-range document that includes a number of recommendations on how to improve water quality of area lakes and streams by tailoring shoreland management actions to the sensitivity of the water bodies and current development patterns, is distinct from NR115, but did look at standards in some cases stronger than the minimums set by the new state standards.

The Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission held public input sessions on the proposed Plan in November, and in 2010 the Commission will begin working with the County Board to decide what action to take based on Plan recommendations.

Get more info [about the plan here](#).

Any final action on the recommendations in the Shoreland and Riparian Management Plan (such as ordinance changes) could still be two years or more away, but that didn't prevent several pro-development groups from sending out inflammatory postcards to county residents opposing the plan. You can read [a Capital Times article regarding the political firestorm that ensued, here](#).

Again, Dane County's plan and the reaction to it are not directly related to NR115, but may be an indication of the sorts of tactics that will be used to shape debate over shoreland zoning ordinance revisions in other areas of the state.

[Top](#)

## Don't Drink the Water – DNR Releases Impaired Waters List, Announces Public Comment Period and Webinar

A public comment period began Dec 1 and runs until Jan 15 for proposed updates to Wisconsin's Impaired Waters List - the list of the state's polluted or degraded lakes, streams, and rivers. The Department of Natural Resources updates the list every two years as required by the Clean Water Act, and the 2010 draft updates are now available.

[The draft List and background information can be found at the Department of Natural Resources website, here.](#)

You can read [DNR's press release here](#), and a related story on [the removal of two lakes \(Bass Lake in Marinette County and Silver Lake in Manitowoc County\) from the Impaired Waters List here](#).

Kristen Charlton  
[kbcharlton@msn.com](mailto:kbcharlton@msn.com)

Carol LeBreck  
[carol.k.lebreck@uwrf.edu](mailto:carol.k.lebreck@uwrf.edu)

#### South Central Region



Sal Troia  
[bicycleracer@tds.net](mailto:bicycleracer@tds.net)

#### Southeast region



Mary Knipper  
[knipper@pensys.com](mailto:knipper@pensys.com)

Roger Walsh  
[rwalsh76@wi.rr.com](mailto:rwalsh76@wi.rr.com)

DNR will host an online 'Webinar' on December 15 (2:00-3:00) to introduce citizens to the list and the webpages. [Instructions on joining the Webinar will be posted, and the webinar will be recorded and archived for viewing at your convenience, here.](#)

Comments on the draft Impaired Waters List may be emailed to [DNRImpairedWaters@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRImpairedWaters@wisconsin.gov), or mailed to: Wisconsin DNR, Water Evaluation Section (WT/3), P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI, 53707-7921.

[Top](#)

## 2010 to be the Year of Groundwater?

With some lake levels dropping due to nearby groundwater pumping, communities requesting to pull water from the Great Lakes, and potential legislative changes on the horizon, groundwater will continue to be a major issue, if not THE major water issue in Wisconsin in 2010. Our water, whether it's the quiet lake, the rushing river, or all the unseen liquid stored in the ground beneath our feet, is all connected, and Wisconsin Association of Lakes will be paying particular attention to this "buried treasure" in the year to come (we're even going to devote most of our next newsletter issue to the topic).

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel took up the issue recently, writing that "the controversy is sure to bubble over next year when lawmakers debate legislation that could clamp new controls on a resource that provides 70% of the state's drinking water." [Read the full article, which is a nice overview of the various issues at question, here.](#)

### Groundwater Work Group

In regards to the upcoming legislative discussion, the Legislature Created a Groundwater Work Group, chaired by Sen. Mark Miller and Rep. Spencer Black, to examine several of the issues up for consideration in advancing groundwater legislation. They've also been kind enough to create [a website to help the public keep abreast of their progress, and you can see it here.](#)

For more on [Wisconsin Association of Lakes groundwater policy work click here.](#)

For [general info on groundwater issues in Wisconsin, click here.](#)

And don't forget to check out even more groundwater coverage in the next issue of the Lake Connection in January. Don't get the Lake Connection and would like to? [Click here for more information.](#)

[Top](#)

## Event Summary and Presentations

Available from the November 14 Edition of

## Phosphorus Citizens' Summit

The River Alliance of Wisconsin held the *Politics of Phosphorous Citizen's Summit* on November 14 to discuss algae blooms and other water quality problems caused by too much phosphorus-laden runoff entering our lakes and rivers, and to explore ways to control runoff pollution in our communities.

Presentations and notes from the event, including the list of local and state actions that were suggested in a group brainstorming session are [available on the River Alliance website, here](#).

[Top](#)

## Legislature quiet on lake issues

Though in special session beginning Dec. 16, the State Legislature will not be taking up any lakes related legislation. The Assembly and Senate resume their regular session in January 2010.

**Wisconsin Association of Lakes individual members and contacts of member lake groups receive detailed analysis of policy initiatives that WAL is actively working on or supporting and notifications of opportunities to participate in the policy making process.**

**Our policy work is entirely supported by member dues and generous donations. Please [join us](#) or [donate](#) to support our continued work on behalf of Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes.**

[Top](#)

## Meet Toni, our new Policy Director

Wisconsin Association of Lakes recently welcomed our newest staff member, **Toni Herkert**, who joined us in November as Policy Director.

Toni will be working part-time, coordinating with our longtime legislative consultant, Bill O'Connor, to maximize the effectiveness of our legislative and policy activities, as well as working to provide education and advice to our members, helping you to be effective citizen advocates for Wisconsin's lakes.

Toni comes to us from the Wisconsin DNR after spending some time off to concentrate on her family. While at DNR she was heavily involved in the NR115 Shoreland Management Rule Revision process, and will likely continue to be so with us here at Wisconsin Association of Lakes as the new rules are

Senator Robert Cowles and in various other environmental and policy positions.

[Top](#)

## Register now for Conservation Lobby Day

Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters is hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual **Conservation Lobby Day** on Tuesday, January 26 in Madison. Each year citizens from across Wisconsin descend on the Capitol to share their conservation values with their Legislators. Since the first Conservation Lobby Day in 2005, it has grown from just 100 citizens to more than 600!

This is an excellent opportunity to promote good conservation policies to your legislators, as well as meet hundreds of like minded folks. We encourage you to attend!

For more information or to register online, [see the Lobby Day website here.](#)

[Top](#)

## Sign up now for the Wisconsin Wetlands Conference

Wisconsin Wetlands Association will be holding its **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Wetland Science Conference, *Wetlands in Service***, February 11-12 in Eau Claire.

The conference will convene members of the regional wetland community to discuss the latest in wetland science, management and protection issues as they relate to the ecological services wetlands provide.

Early Bird registration ends January 1. [To register or for more information, go to the conference website, here.](#)

[Top](#)

## Nominate deserving lake enthusiasts for a Wisconsin Lakes Stewardship Award

The Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards are a great way to say *Thank you!* to the people who are really making a difference in your lake community. The Lake Stewardship award categories are: citizen, organized group, public service, youth, and business.

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership presents the Lake Stewardship Awards each year at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention to celebrate the outstanding volunteer and professional efforts made to protect and improve our lakes. The Stewardship Awards represent our best collective effort to pay tribute to all the incredible work that goes into securing a bright future for Wisconsin's lakes.

Stewardship Award nominations are due by **January 29, 2010.**

To nominate an individual or group, complete the nomination form and submit supporting materials; see details on [Wisconsin Association of Lake's website](#).

Contact Wisconsin Association of Lakes for more information or questions: 608-661-4313 or 800-542-5253 (toll-free in WI only), or email [wal@wisconsinlakes.org](mailto:wal@wisconsinlakes.org).

[Top](#)

## Wisconsin Lakes Partnership 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest

To celebrate the 32<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Lakes Convention, the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership is once again sponsoring a photo contest.

Cash prizes will be awarded in one of two categories: "people enjoying lakes" or "natural features in and around lakes and under water."

Deadline for entries is March 8, 2010, and [more information can be found here](#).

[Top](#)

## Happy Holidays from Wisconsin Association of Lakes

Finally, the Board of Directors and Staff of Wisconsin Association of Lakes wishes the happiest of holidays to all our members and friends of Wisconsin's lakes. As we move towards 2010, we look forward to another year of working together to conserve, enhance, restore, and let's not forget, enjoy, Wisconsin's wonderful lakes!

[Top](#)

## Interested in more lake news and supporting statewide lake work?



*Policy updates and other special messages are sent to Wisconsin Association of Lakes [individual members](#) and individuals associated with [member lake groups](#).*



*All of our advocacy, public policy, and legislative work is funded by [membership dues](#) and [donations](#). We rely on your generosity to keep our advocacy and policy work alive.*

[Top](#)

