

From the Lake Shores

Connors Lake • Lake of the Pines

LAKE ASSOCIATION



Aurora Magic

WATERS | VOLUNTEERS | FISH | FORESTRY

"Preserving and protecting our lakes for today and for future generations."

a newsletter for the Lake Association Members • Volume 34- May 2023

Words from the President

We made it Wisconsin!! We made it to #5 for the most snowfall on record in WI this year throughout the history of measuring snow! However, I do feel like we should have made it to #1 because it seemed like it just never quit! If you are a snow lover, you had a beautiful year. Now it is time for warmer temperatures, sunshine, and open waters!

Spring is finally here, and the lakes and forest are coming to life and so is your board! We are looking at a lot of exciting stuff coming up this summer. We will be putting up our Kids Don't Float centers on both boat landings soon. These centers will have life vests that you can use if you forget yours or if you find yourself short. When you get done you just put them back in the center or hang them if they are wet. There will be a temporary fix on the Connors Lake boat landing. It should look like the Lake of the Pines landing. We are still waiting for state funding to do the complete overhaul on both landings, so for now they will be repaired. All the large projects like this are on hold until the state passes a budget.

The DNR should be starting the walking/snowshoe trail around Lake of the Pines soon. This is going to be cool when it is done. There will even be a few nature stops with informational signs and water breaks along the path.

As we enter the boating season, please be respectful of your neighbors and other boaters as well as fishermen. With all the boats, skiers, and kayaks it tends to get a little crowded. Don't be afraid to give others a little room and move away from the shorelines.

We have some special stuff planned for the kids and families at the fireworks this year! The Winter Fire Department will be in the Connors Lake beach area with their firetruck. We will also be serving brats, hotdogs, popcorn, and beverages. So, bring your appetite! The food will be available from 6:00pm until about a half hour before the show or we sell out. All foods and beverages are being used as a fundraising event with all proceeds going back into the fireworks fund for 2024.

Your association is getting stronger every month with over 20 new members this year! We have lost a few members with property sales, but hopefully we can continue to make a few more new friends on our lakes. If any of our members have any ideas or recommendations for fundraising or things that they would like to see the Lake Association work on, please drop one of your board members an email. All our emails are listed on the website and in this newsletter.

Lastly, if you are excited to get on the UTV/ATV trails please check opening dates. We have trees down in some places and it has been wet so some of the trails may not be open right away.

See you around this summer! Be safe and enjoy the Northwoods at it fullest!

Steven Lindahl



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with Spring and Fall 2022 ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY: Cynthia Aigner, Debbie Arndt, Dave Bauer, George Bogdanovic, Chris and Ann DeMeulenaere, Bob Feller, John and Paula Meisner, Dianne and Ed Peters, Kim and Mike Poncek, Pat Poncek, and Tom Stram. Additionally, thank you to Matt Plath at Moxi Lodge, for allowing us to use the parking lot for staging our clean-up efforts. (If I missed anyone or misspelled names I apologize and please let me know).

This is a great way to encourage concern for the welfare of our local natural resources. Adopt-A-Highway is an activity that families can participate in together; children that are at least 11 years old or in 6th grade can participate. We will be out for the Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up 2 times a year; in late April after the snow is gone and in late-September or early-October. We clean-up about 3 miles of roadsides and culverts from the Hwy M & W Tower Road to the DNR Offices on West Lane.

If you would like to get your name on the volunteer list to be contacted for the next highway clean-up, please contact Dave Cooley at (920) 428-0755 or dec54914@prodigy.net. NEXT ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP SEPT/OCT 2023



If anyone has access and is interested in pursuing a Matching Funds Grant for the Lake Association, we were vetted by GE this year! We are a 501 (C)3 nonprofit. Contact a board member if you have any questions.

The Master's Handiwork

Meet one of our newest business members, Robert and Tamara Brandt. They have a nondenominational, Christ-based business called The Master's Handiwork. They do workshops and events right in our backyard. These workshops have something for everyone from family campouts to one day seminars. The workshops teach how to fish, outdoor survival skills, archery, deer hunting tips, trapping, and even celebrate grandparents with a Grandparent's Day! There is something for everyone who enjoys spending time outdoors. This is a great place to take your family to get in touch with nature and all that it has to offer. Give them a call or email them for more information. This is a very cool place to visit.



2023 Schedule of Workshops and Events

May 20, 2023, CPR/First Aid, 1-Day Class, 12 Years & up, Earn 2 Yr CPR Certificate, (cost \$45), 7:30am – 5:00pm

June 17, 2023, Summer Fishing, 1-Day Workshop, 10:00am – 4:00pm

June 23, 2023, A “Grand” Afternoon & Evening for Grandparents & Grandchildren, 1-Day, 1:30pm – 9:00pm

June 28 thru June 30, 2023, Parent/Child Camp, 3-Day Retreat

July 6 thru July 8, 2023, Family Camp, 3-Day Retreat

July 19 thru July 21, 2023, Outdoor Survival Skills, 3-Day Workshop

July or August, (Date TBD), Trapping Certification, Earn Your Trapping Certificate, 2-Day Workshop, (Cost TBD)

August 1 thru August 2nd, Backwoods Camping, 2-Day Workshop

August 10, 2023, Archery Workshop, 1-Day Workshop

August 16 thru August 18, 2023 – Study of Nature in God's Awesome Handiwork, 3-Day Workshop

September, (Various Possible Dates-TBD), Know Your Trees, 1-Day Workshop, 10:00am – 4:00pm

September or October, (Date TBD), Game Bird Hunting, 1-Day Workshop, 10:00am – 4:00pm

November 4, 2023, Deer Hunting/Identifying and Interpreting Deer Sign, 1-Day Workshop, 10am - 4pm

For more information contact Bob or Tammy Brandt by calling (715)332-5647 or email themastershandiwork@pctcnet.net

Follow us on Facebook at: The Master's Handiwork



Bob or Tammy Brandt

Meet our Business Members! If you own a business and are member of the Lake Association you can submit a short article with pictures and you will be featured in a future newsletter. What a great way to get free advertising and let everyone get to know you a little better. connorspineslakeassociation.org

Connors Lake / Lake of the Pines Lake Association

Fund-Raising Committee

Since the inception of the Lake Association, our success and longevity has relied solely on the generosity of our members through donations and volunteerism. It’s because of this dedication, we have a solid financial foundation and can continue to be able to fund projects on an annual basis.



We support:

- Fishery Committee - Monitors fish populations, stocking, and habitat
- Citizen’s Lake Monitoring Network - Collects lake samples for water quality
- Aquatic Plant Management - Keeps tabs on invasive species. This group also applies for grants on our behalf and has facilitated the purchase, installation, and maintenance of marker buoys
- Clean Boats/ Clean Water Committee - Educates boaters on invasive species

The Fund-Raising Committee has the responsibility to find new and innovative ways to continue funding the success of all these committees and help insure the “preservation of our lakes, their surroundings and enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety and aesthetic values” we’ve all come to enjoy over the years, and hopefully for generations to come. We are also very fortunate to again be able to provide fireworks which will be at dusk on Saturday, July 1st at the Connors Lake Picnic Area.

A heartfelt thank you for your continued support. Since our incorporation in 2004, we’ve raised thousands of dollars to support all these programs and more. We’re always looking for new fundraising ideas, suggestions, and volunteers; so please pass along anything you may have seen, heard of, or participated in. We welcome your input and participation.

Finally, our annual raffle will start this Spring. Tickets will be available beginning at our general meeting on May 27th at Big Bear Lodge at 9:00am and run up until the drawing at 10:00am on September 2nd, at Big Beer Lodge. Hope to see you there!

TAKE A HIKE

Your board has some exciting news! With the help of the DeMeulenaere family and GE we received a “Matching Grant.” The donation and grant has allowed us to donate to the new hiking trail on Lake of the Pines! The trail will be a nature walk with restrooms and drinking water stops. There will be 10 to 12 stops along the way with signage explaining native plants, trees, and other forest information. So, when you are driving around on that Sunday afternoon road trip, stop by the Lake of the Pines boat landing to see the work in progress.

Don’t forget the other trails right in the area too. The Little Falls/Slough Gundy trail takes you on a beautiful and peaceful walk alongside the Flambeau River. It is only 8 miles from the lakes on County M toward Hawkins.

Another hiking trail is the Flambeau Hills Trail. This trail is a little longer and you can go from HWY W all the way to HWY 70! Some hikers like to drop a vehicle off at one end then start at the other, hiking the whole way. This one runs along the Flambeau River and the scenery is breathtaking.

For those nature lovers that take joy in hiking in the forest, dig out those hiking boots, pack a picnic lunch, and head out on these beautiful nearby trails.



Maidenhair Ferns by Tom Stram

Maidenhair Ferns Woodland ferns are beautiful and alluring but also both calming and unifying in shade gardens. They are almost all some shade of green and have a “ferniness” quality with soft texture and narrowly triangular compound fronds or leaflets. They have been around since the time of the dinosaurs and we have all seen or found fossils of ferns that date back 220 million years. Having been around for a very long time they have weathered climate change and hungry herbivores. Deer generally leave them alone. Ferns, with about 10,500 species, are the second most diverse group of vascular plants on earth, outnumbered only by flowering plants.

Most ferns have rhizomes or underground stems from which the leaves are produced. The long creeping rhizomes form underground networks from which new leaves form. Unlike seed plants, ferns reproduce by dust like spores on the undersurface of it’s leaves which are carried by the wind to a moist, humus-like, acidic soil location in full shade. These spores germinate into small heart-shaped plants that produce both male and female cells and after fertilization occurs the adult fern begins to develop.

My favorite fern is the Northern Maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*) found in moist forests in eastern North America. This fern is deciduous, clump forming native fern growing 1 to 2 feet tall and 1 1/2 to 3 feet wide. Burgundy red fiddleheads appear in early spring. The stem and fronds are arranged in a shape commonly described as horse-shoe, semi-circle, or C-shaped. characteristic of the maidenhair fern. The leaves are rounded, toothed and fan-shaped. This graceful fan-like pattern is unique among native ferns. The foliage is light green and the stems are black.

The Maidenhair fern can be grown indoors and in shade gardens but can be a challenge. They do not tolerate drying out and the soil needs to be amended with compost or peat moss. The fern has been used by herbalists to treat bronchitis, coughs, whooping cough as well as painful and excessive menstruation. One study demonstrated some antimicrobial properties effective against *E. coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.



Spring 2023 Eurasian Water Milfoil Report

I have Big Boots to fill. After 20 years of being the Aquatic Invasive Species coordinator for our lake association, Tom Stram is passing the torch to me. To prepare for this role, I recently completed a course on aquatic invasive species from the University of Minnesota. I have been busy reviewing past records and reading books about how to treat the milfoil in Connors Lake as well as how to protect Lake of the Pines from developing milfoil in the future.

A point intercept lake survey on Connors Lake was completed in the fall of 2022. A point intercept survey is a technique used to measure vegetation in the lake over time. As reported in the last newsletter, this survey showed the milfoil in Musky Bay is decreasing, so we will not need to treat this at this time. However, there is a small patch of milfoil in the northeast bay of Connors Lake that we do want to treat this year. Another point intercept survey will be done in the fall of 2024. One of my main duties is to coordinate and arrange for this survey.

With Tom’s help, I will be responsible for writing a grant to ask for money from the Department of Natural Resources to treat milfoil on Connors Lake. The rough draft is due on September 15th and the final version of the grant is due November 15th, so I will be busy writing during the fall season.

All in all, Tom has been very helpful teaching me the ropes and I have been working diligently on being a good student. I know I will not be able to fill Tom’s big boots. About the boots — I wear a size 6...

Cynthia Aigner
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612-599-1034



These are the Membership Numbers & Donations from 2023:

We have 146 voting members in total!

123 are returning members and we have 23 new members!

\$6345 was donated to the Fireworks & \$1470 to the General Fund!

We always accept new members at any time of the year. Our membership letter is sent out on January 1. If you send in your membership later in the year, you will not get a full year of benefits. This year we will not be mailing our newsletter or sending emails to those who did not return their membership form. Sorry if this causes you any inconvenience.

Summer Pudgie Pie Recipes

Submit your favorite family recipe that you cook over the fire, grill, or at the cabin. Pictures are welcome!! connorspineslakeassociation.org

Each of the following recipes is cooked over an open fire. Set the pie iron on the cooking coals and cook 30 seconds a side. Continue to flip the pie iron. After two minutes, lift the pie iron top. When the dough, shell or bread is golden brown, the pudgie is done. If more time is needed, continue to cook 30 seconds per side.

Pizza Pudgies

- 1 tube of Pillsbury refrigerator thin crust pizza dough
- Your favorite pizza sauce
- Shredded or sliced mozzarella cheese
- Sauteed mushrooms, onions and green pepper
- Pepperoni
- Cooked sausage
- Spray oil

Spray the inside cooking portion of the pie irons with oil. Use a pizza cutter to cut the pizza dough to the size of the pie irons. Lay one piece of dough in each of the pie irons. On one side, spread a thin layer of sauce. Add veggies, meat and cheese. Turn the remaining pie iron with dough on top of the pizza and close. Cook over the fire as described above.

Taco Pudgies

- Softened butter
- Small, flat flour or corn shells – 2 per pudgie
- Your favorite taco meat recipe (beef or chicken)
- Black beans (optional)

- Shredded cheese
- Taco fixings: shredded lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream, guacamole, black olives, salsa

Butter one side of each shell. Place it butter side down on the cooking surface of the pie iron. Add meat, beans and cheese. Close and cook over the fire as described above. If some of the shell is overhanging the pie iron, it will burn to a crisp. Simply cut that portion off before you open it and put it on your plate. Serve with your favorite toppings.



Buffalo Chicken Pudgies

- 1 bottle of buffalo sauce
- 1 packet of dry ranch dressing seasoning mix
- 3 chicken breasts
- English Muffin Toasting Bread – 2 slices per pudgie
- softened butter
- Blue cheese crumbles
- Blue cheese or ranch dressing
- In a crockpot mix ¾ bottle of buffalo sauce, ½ packet of dry ranch dressing seasoning mix and 3 chicken breasts. Cook on low for 6 hours. Shred the chicken.

Butter one side of each piece of bread. Place it butter side down on the cooking surface of the pie iron. Add the shredded chicken (too much sauce will make it soggy) and blue cheese crumbles. Close and cook over the fire as described above. Serve with blue cheese or ranch dressing.



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connorspineslakeassociation.org



Natural Connections

Aurora Magic

By Emily Stone
Naturalist/Education Director at the Cable Natural History Museum

My snowshoes sank into drifts softened by the warm day. At the frozen lakeshore, the view opened up to a curtain of lights.

Sometimes I've gone out to look for the northern lights and have squinted and wondered if that faint glow was really them. Last night there was no question. Vertical rays of light rose from an invisible line a hand's width above the horizon. They formed a curtain that rippled as if in a breeze. Now and then a particular ray would brighten and reach higher, and the activity shifted from due north across the lake, to west down the channel, and back east toward a little resort on the point.

I imagined the solar winds out there, rushing toward Earth, transferring energy into our magnetosphere, and pushing electrons there down the magnetic field toward us. As those electrons encountered nitrogen and different forms of oxygen, the excited molecules emitted light like a neon sign.

Although the auroras are always made of colored light, I saw only white...or maybe it was pale green? That's just a function of my night vision and the sensitive rod cells around the outsides of my retinas picking up light but not color. Cameras, especially with long exposure times, can gather more light than our eyes and help us see the greens, reds, and purples of the aurora more vividly.

Standing out on the cold snow, I texted a few friends about the aurora and soaked it in. Soon there was a lull, and I headed inside.

While rinsing out my toothbrush, my phone buzzed. "The sky is dancing!" wrote my friend. I threw on a warmer coat and headed back outside. In just an

hour, the temperature had dropped enough that the snow crust supported me firmly. And yes, the sky was dancing.

Pillars, curtains, and swirls of light danced along the horizon. As the beams strengthened and the flashing increased, the display shifted from the Little Dipper into Cassiopeia. This "Westward Traveling Surge" is a phenomenon associated with sudden brightening and activity in the aurora called a substorm. Substorms happen when a plasma flow short-circuits and is suddenly flung toward Earth causing a surge of activity.

My jaw dropped as the pillars shot upward, and then overhead and behind me. Light danced across even the southern sky. And directly above me, the curtains turned to curving bands that flashed, wiggled, and swirled. After almost losing my balance, I gave in and lay down on the snow to look straight up.

Substorms were first described in the International Geophysical Year of 1957-58 when scientists from all over the world coordinated their efforts to observe the aurora simultaneously. That same effort also led to the discovery of the Auroral Oval—imagine the northern lights originating from crowns sitting on top of the North Pole...and the South Pole, too!

When we are south of the Auroral Oval, we only see the sides of those faint curtains of light on the northern horizon. When the oval widens or shifts far enough south, the light curtains appear straight above us, and you can look up at the bottom of the curtains instead of at their side. Then, the corona appears. This psychedelic, converging pattern at the top of the sky is rare to see and highly sought after by aurora chasers.

I've long thought that auroras were most visible at night just because we can only see them when it's otherwise dark, and most visible in winter for the same reason. As it turns out, the best northern lights occur around midnight, when the Sun is on the far side of the Earth. You may have seen a diagram of the solar winds hitting the Earth's magnetic field,

then curving around the planet and creating a tail on the far side. The best auroras come from that tail, and thus are visible around midnight. In addition, cracks that form in our magnetosphere near the equinoxes make impressive auroras more common in March and September.

I also thought that northern lights were always caused by coronal mass ejections (CME) of plasma, but this event came from a hole in the Sun's corona where the magnetic field is open to space, allowing high-speed solar wind streams to escape. The coronal hole that caused this storm is reportedly thirty times the size of Earth. Luckily, the solar winds from coronal holes are less likely to interrupt radio communication, disrupt power stations, and damage satellites.

"The best of my life!" "An unbelievable experience!" "The sky was alive!" "Magia!" "Taika!" "Magic!" This was the most spectacular auroral display in many peoples' experience. Thanks to social media, I could see photos and exclamations from Iowa, Indiana, Alaska, Canada, Poland, Denmark, Finland, Australia, Tasmania, and more.

The same Sun gives us all the energy we need to live, and the Earth's magnetic field protects us when that energy becomes intense. Together, they make magic.

If you would like to read more from Emily Stone her articles are on: cablemuseumnaturalconnections.blogspot.com
Her books: Natural Connection 1 and 2 are for sale at the Cable Natural History Museum or online at www.cablemuseum.org



While the northern lights appeared only white to my eyes, the light-gathering powers of a camera lens can pick up on the greens, reds, and purples that are actually being emitted and show us just how vivid the lights truly are.
Photo by Emily Stone.

Emily's award-winning second book, Natural Connections: Dreaming of an Elfin Skimmer, is now available to purchase at www.cablemuseum.org/books and at your local independent bookstore, too.

For more than 50 years, the Cable Natural History Museum has served to connect you to the Northwoods. The Museum is closed for construction of our new exhibit: The Northwoods ROCKS! It will open on May 2, 2023. Follow us on Facebook,

Instagram, YouTube, and cablemuseum.org to see what we are up to.

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MUSIC IN THE PARK

Are you ever sitting around the cabin and looking for something a little different to do with the family? Grab your lawn chairs or a blanket, a cooler of your favorite drinks, a snack for the kids, and hop in the car to take a ride into Phillips to listen to some music at the park along the river.

This is a free event hosted by the Phillips Chamber of Commerce on Thursday nights throughout the summer. It is a fun time for the whole family and you may even meet your neighbors.

There is great music, local vendors selling popcorn, ice cream, and snack foods. Don't worry about paying for parking because that is free as well. The event is also used for fundraising at times and they "pass the hat."

HERE IS THE 2023 LINEUP:

- JUNE 29 THE DWEEBES
- JULY 6 DAVE STEFFEN BAND
- JULY 13 HIGHWAY 41
- JULY 20 IRON MULE *FUNDRAISER NIGHT
- JULY 27 HIP POCKET
- AUGUST 3 PAULA HOUDEK & NATHAN MADSEN
- AUGUST 10 THE JIMMYS
- AUG 19 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

Check out the Chamber's website for more information: www.phillipswisconsin.net



KIDS DON'T FLOAT

Have you ever been at the boat landing launching your boat and realize you forgot the lifejackets or don't have enough on board? The Lake Association, along with some of your donations have created a loaner program for life vests at both boat landings. You can just grab a life vest out of the storage box and use it for the day. When you are done, you just put it back in the box or hang it if it is wet.

The technology education students at the Phillips High School built them for the Lake Association through a program called Logger Manufacturing. The students had the responsibility from start to finish to get the job done properly and follow the customer's directions. They met with the customer, discussed and drew up the plans with the specifics and details, created a supply list, bid the job, purchased the supplies, and worked together as a company to get the job done. Think of the learning that happened during this process - they are technically running a small business!

The signage and all the printing were done by the Stanley Prison inmates in conjunction with a rehab program that educates them for future employment upon their release.

A big shout out goes to John at Ross' Sport Shop in Phillips!! He donated some of the vests and the ones we purchased were at his cost! Thanks so much!

We could not do all these programs without our generous members, and we thank you for your support!



Lake Profile

Walleyes reign on Lake of the Pines and Connors Lake

By WON Staff

Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines (LoP) are neighboring waters located within the Flambeau River State Forest, about 17 miles east of Winter and 20 miles west of Phillips. Wisconsin's twin cities of Loretta and Draper are about the same distance to the north.

Because of their location in the state forest, Connors and LoP are popular destinations for anglers and hunters, since the DNR maintains state campgrounds on each lake. Connors Creek, a small navigable stream, flows from LoP into the north end of Connors Lake. From the south end of Connors the creek drains to the North Fork of the Flambeau River. Connors Creek is designated as a fish refuge between LoP and Connors. No fishing is allowed from April 1 to May 14.

Although the lakes are located in Sawyer County, the DNR fisheries team out of Park Falls (Price County) often joins forces with the Sawyer County crew to survey the lakes. The teams have spent a quite a bit of time running spring and fall surveys on the two lakes between 2012 and 2019, and that work will continue. Survey reports are available through the 2019 work.

Although the two lakes share nearly the same fish species, the fisheries are not exactly a mirror image of each other. While the lakes are similar in bottom substrate – mostly sand or gravel – water color differs. LoP had much darker water (5-foot average visibility) than Connors (13-foot average). That could lead anglers to believe daytime walleye fishing on LoP might be a tad easier than on Connors. This report will cover survey reports from Connors Lake.

DNR crews handled 12 fish species in recent netting and electrofishing surveys. Walleyes were the predominant predator; yellow perch the most common panfish. Northern pike were scarce; spring fyke netting captured five pike. Seven fall electrofishing surveys average 5.4 pike per night, with the longest in each sample ranging 23.6 to 29.7 inches. In 2013-14 anglers caught 58 pike and harvested 17 that ranged 21 to 30 inches.

Two netting and seven electrofishing surveys caught one to 19 largemouth bass. Of those surveys, the fall 2019 shocking sample had the most and the longest largemouth bass (20.2 inches). Fall shocking catch rates of 1.0 to 3.7 largemouths 8 inches or longer per mile of shoreline from 2014

through 2019 suggest abundance declined since 2005 (36 per mile of shoreline). Anglers caught 584 largemouths in 2,174 fishing hours, keeping 6.7% of their catch.

Historically, Connors has had few black crappies. The crew caught only two in fall fyke nets specifically set for crappies. Some anglers told the creel clerk that they fished for crappies in 2013-14, but caught none in 485 angler hours.

From early spring 2013 netting and shocking surveys the walleye population was estimated at 2.53 adults per acre, falling just short of the Flambeau River State Forest Lakes Fishery Management Plan's goal to have three to five adults per acre. But, walleye size exceeded angler expectations – the plan calls for 25% to 35% of walleyes in

spring fyke nets to be 15 inches or longer. Walleyes are sustained by natural recruitment with no record of stocking since fry and fingerlings were planted several times from 1933 to 1951.

Of note, electrofishing catches of spring-hatched walleyes per mile of shoreline in fall shocking surveys has shown a downward trend since the 1990s. Still, the population continues to produce year classes to replace the adults that die to angling and natural causes. From ring counts on cross-sectioned dorsal spines, it's estimated that walleyes in Connors Lake grew at a rate near the average among populations in northern Wisconsin. Walleyes reached 14.3 inches after four growing seasons (range 12.3 to 18 inches) and 18.4 inches after six seasons. The abundant supply of

small yellow perch is probably the main reason why the walleyes can grow at average and faster-than-average rates. Walleyes were the most sought-after fish in Connors, receiving 29.6% of the directed fishing effort.

The high catch rate and mediocre length distribution of muskie in early spring 2013 fyke nets closely matches those in lakes classified as A2 muskellunge waters, which offer fast action, but few big fish.

Muskies in Connors did not meet the size objective in the fishery management plan – that 10% to 20% of fyke net catches be 42 inches or longer. Connors has a long history of stocking dating to 1936. From 2000 through 2019, Connors received 10- to 12-inch muskies in alternate years.

All 851 fingerlings stocked

LAKE OF THE PINES & CONNORS LAKE — SAWYER COUNTY

Source: Division of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources. ©Copyright 2018 Sportsman's Connection. All Rights Reserved.

Lake Profile

Lake of the Pines/Connors

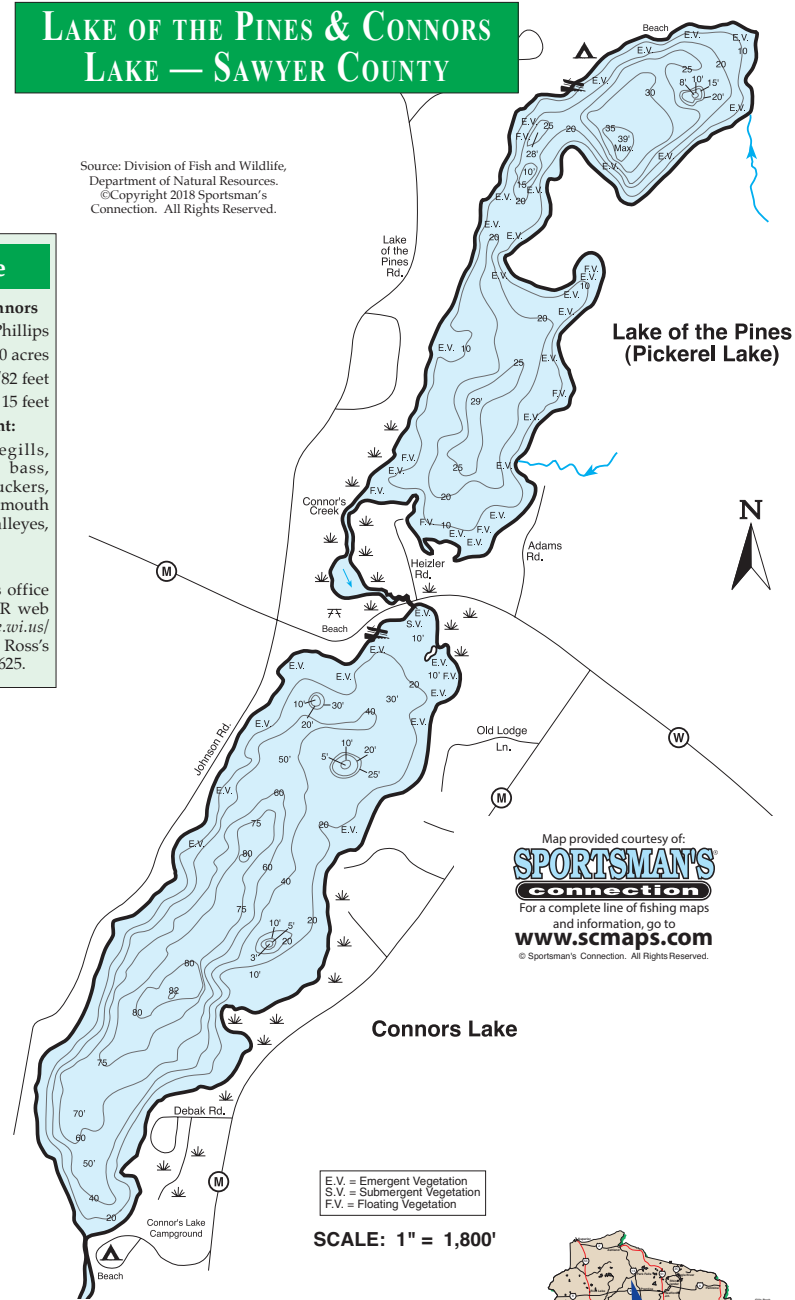
Nearest town: Winter/Phillips
Surface area..... 273/410 acres
Max. depth.....39/82 feet
Water clarity5 to 15 feet

Fish species present:

Black crappies, bluegills, pumpkinseeds, rock bass, yellow perch, white suckers, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, northern pike, walleyes, and muskies.

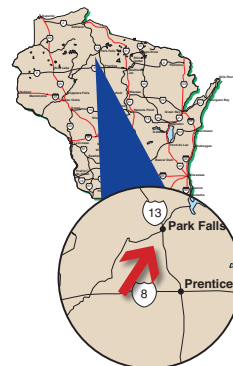
For information:

DNR regional fisheries office (715) 635-2101, the DNR web site <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fish/fish>, or call Ross's Sports Shop, (715) 339-3625.



E.V. = Emergent Vegetation
S.V. = Submergent Vegetation
F.V. = Floating Vegetation

SCALE: 1" = 1,800'



A New Era for a Property with an already Rich History

My wife Roxi and I are proud to be the latest in a storied line of “caretakers” of the property located at the corners of Johnson Rd and County Hwy W. We have a deep appreciation for all of those who have come before us, and the lasting memories they have imprinted on so many people’s minds in this area. I am sure this brief pictorial history will freshen those memories for more than a few of you!

We are happy to now be contributing to our part of this history with “moxi Lodge and Lounge”! It has already been two plus years since we opened the doors to our three rental units in the lodge (first introduced as “The Condos at Connors Lake”). We now anxiously await the weather’s cooperation in letting us add yet another chapter to this property’s story with the construction of our brand new “lounge” on the shore of Connors Lake. We look forward to welcoming you all, and having our doors open to the public (via land or lake) by mid-summer!

Matt Plath

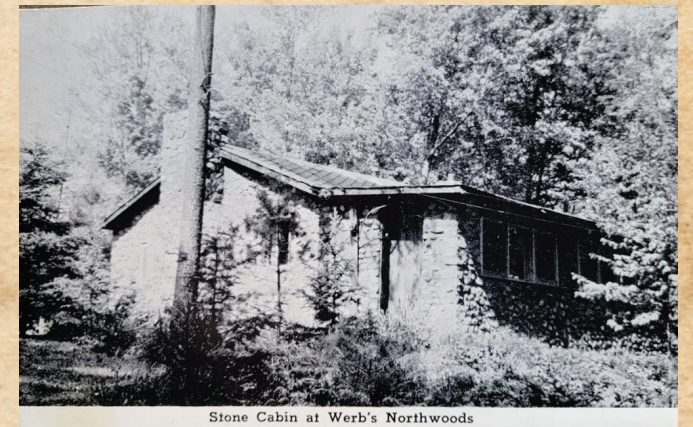
Vice President – Connors Lake / Lake of the Pines Lake Association

Owner – “moxi Lodge and Lounge”



Log Cabin at Werb's Northwoods

Postcard courtesy of the “Glick” Family



Stone Cabin at Werb's Northwoods

Postcard courtesy of the “Glick” Family



Postcard courtesy of the “Bordon” family, circa 1970



Postcard courtesy of the “Bordon” family, circa 1970

Fun and Rewarding

Steve Lindahl asked me to submit a brief bio of my experience with the Lake Association upon my retirement from the Board of Directors effective this summer.

On June 18, 2003, a Water Quality Specialist from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources found 23 acres of the aquatic invasive species Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) in Connors lake. I put together an exploratory letter mailed on August 18, 2003 and signed by myself, Steve Kuptak, Bud Cooley and Sandra Lehmann seeking interest from property owners in forming a Lake Association. A Lake Association is necessary to obtain permits and grants for treating the EWM. A meeting was held Labor Day weekend 2003 with 40 riparian owners in attendance and the response was overwhelmingly positive. We were formally incorporated on February 4, 2004 with 3/4 of the potential property owners becoming due paying members. We became a Qualified Lake Association on August 29, 2006. We initially raised \$16,500 from association members and with the help of a grant from the Waterways Commission were able to treat what had become by then 40 acres of EWM in Connors Lake in the spring of 2005. We have continued to treat the milfoil most years until 4 years ago.

Another concern at the inception of the lake association was extremely low lake levels which we attributed to the removal of an earthen dam at the entrance to Connors Creek next to the campground on Connors Lake. Over the next few years we spent over \$60,000 in legal fees paid by several generous riparian owners fighting the WDNR. It ends up that the

low lake levels were actually due to a severe 7-year drought in NW Wisconsin. Our lake levels naturally fluctuate and we have even had several floods with docks floating away from the lake shores.

Gene Johnson was the first President of the Lake Association because of his interest in the low lake levels and I was president for the next 6 years. During that time we started the Clean Boats, Clean Water (CBCW) or boat inspection program to keep our lake free of new Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) to test and maintain the water quality of one of the clearest and cleanest lakes in NW Wisconsin. Most of my time the past 20 years has been spent as your Aquatic Invasive Species Representative with WDNR cruising the lake observing EWM, applying for treatment or education grants, supervising the surveying and treatment of the AIS and attending meeting to keep up with the latest news on EWM. I have also volunteered for CBCW and CLMN.

We now have a gradually decreasing invasion of EWM without treatment in Connors Lake and no EWM in Lake of the Pines. I am extremely proud of our award winning biannual newsletter. It has been my pleasure to work with many enthusiastic and dedicated friends through the last 20 years. Your Lake Association is in very capable hands. Cynthia Aigner will take over my role as AIS coordinator.

Tom Stram

Are you interested in finding out some of the DNR plans for the Flambeau River State Forest? You can check on the Expanded Annual Property Implementation Plans and Property Plan Monitoring Reports at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Lands/APIP/expanded.html>.

The DNR shares all the major scheduled and completed forest, habitat management treatments, recreation/infrastructure development projects, and all other property management actions of a significant nature. (Taken from the DNR website and condensed).

The Fireworks will be on July 1st at the Connors Lake Beach Area at dusk! Rick Verbsky will be setting up the show. The fireworks will be launched from barges on the lake as well as on the shoreline. We are still working with the DNR to finalize the location of the shoreline display. We will need some volunteers for a few different areas. If you can help, let one of the Board Members know:

- 1) Clean up on July 2nd - early morning.
- 2) Traffic control on July 1st – setting up cones, showing people where to park, and helping people cross the street (The Flambeau Forest Inn is offering their field for additional parking).
- 3) Help with food sales from 6pm until about 30 minutes before the show - setting up grills, selling food/beverages, and cleaning up.
- 4) Boat control - routing boats away from areas that are too close to barges. You will need to be on the water for this.

We will be selling brats, hot dogs, popcorn, water, and chips this year in the pavilion area. Food sales start at 6pm and go on until about 30 minutes before the show or until the food runs out!

The Winter Fire Department is also coming with their Firetruck this year!!

2023
FIREWORKS

**Big Bear Lodge hours are
4pm-9pm Monday & Thursday
11am-9pm Friday, Saturday, & Sunday.**



**Flambeau Forest Inn hours are
11m-Close Tuesday through Sunday.**

*Our newsletter is underwritten
in-part by the Smith Family*



***Please submit your pictures and/or short stories to the new addition of the Newsletter!
"Memory Moments at the Lake" we would like this to be all about our members sharing a
short story or picture of a fond memory that you participated in at the lake.
connorspineslakeassociation.org***

"Preserving and protecting our lakes for today and for future generations."

**Connor Lake | Lake of the Pines
Voluntary Lake Association**

**Connorspineslakeassociation.org | info@connorspineslakeassociation.org
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LAKE ASSOCIATION

