

## News Briefs (cont.)

### PIER-SHADING STUDY AVAILABLE

Would you like to learn more about how piers can impact fish and aquatic habitat? If so, go to our website at [www.lakeripley.org](http://www.lakeripley.org) and click on the "Links & Downloads" tab for a link to our published research findings. The Lake District partnered with the DNR and Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department last summer to conduct the study on lakes Rock and Ripley. The study, funded by a state grant, found that piers can significantly and negatively alter communities of aquatic plants, macro-invertebrates and fish. Copies of the report also will be made available at the Cambridge Public Library.

### F.K. ELSON FUND

The Lake District is still graciously accepting donations to the Forrest K. Elson Memorial Fund. Mr. Elson's daughter and current lake resident, Ms. Maggie Kempel, requested the Fund last year to honor her father's long-time love and passion for Lake Ripley. Tax-deductible charitable contributions can be made payable to the Lake Ripley Management District, and will be used to help finance fishery-enhancement projects and general lake-improvement programs. We thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

Ripples  
Lake Ripley Management District  
P.O. Box 22  
Cambridge, WI 53523

## Lake Rule Reminders

As we enter the dog days of summer and peak boating season, it may be helpful to review some of the current rules that help keep the lake safe and enjoyable. A small sampling of such rules is as follows:

- Slow-no-wake period is 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Boats must operate at no-wake speed within 100 ft. of piers, rafts and buoyed restricted areas.
- Personal watercraft (jet skis) must operate at no-wake speed within 200 ft. of shore, and within 100 ft. of piers, rafts, buoyed restricted areas, and other boats and jet skis.
- No water skiing within 100 ft. of any occupied, anchored boat, jet ski, marked swimming area or public boat landing.
- No motor use of any kind in Vasyb's Channel.
- No person under 10 years of age shall operate a motor boat (12 years of age for jet skis).
- No person shall operate a watercraft contrary to any posted municipal boating ordinances.
- No burning of yard waste within 25 ft. of shore.
- No littering anywhere and at any time.

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INSIDE: Annual Meeting agenda and 2006 proposed budget!

# Ripples

## LAKE RIPLEY PRIORITY LAKE PROJECT



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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### FROM THE HELM



This copy of Ripples includes the proposed budget for 2006, as well as the agenda for the Annual Meeting. I think it's important to remind folks that Lake Districts are the only units of government in Wisconsin in which all property owners, including non-resident property owners, have the right to land office and vote. We have heard a lot about the problems of taxation without representation dating all the way back to the Revolutionary War. The Lake District provides for such representation, and gives you the opportunity to have a say in how and who should protect and preserve Lake Ripley.

For those of you who have read my articles in the past, you know that I'm a firm believer in the adage "bad things happen when good people do nothing." On Saturday, August 20th (9A.M. at the new Oakland Town Hall), eligible electors who attend the Annual Meeting will elect two Lake District board members, and will have a chance to review and pass a budget. Only good things can happen when well-intentioned people make the effort to participate.

I have always believed that the vast majority of residents have the best interest of Lake Ripley at heart. Please join us on August 20th to help secure a healthy future for the lake and our community.

*John Molinaro*  
Chair, Lake Ripley Management District

## Zebra Mussel Alert

The zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), a non-native and highly invasive mollusk, continues to spread across the state at an alarming rate, much like dandelions creeping across your yard. Lake Ripley has so far been spared, based on the latest monitoring results, but the pesky mollusk is extending its reach. In fact, the mussels have already invaded a number of lakes in surrounding counties, and were just recently discovered in neighboring Rock Lake. According to the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, the barnacle-like zebra mussel poses a multibillion-dollar threat to North America's industrial, agricultural and municipal water supplies, and it could become a costly nuisance for freshwater shipping, boating, fishing and clamming. First found in 1988 in the Great Lakes, this invader could become more widespread than the German carp and cause more economic damage than the Mediterranean fruit fly.

### What Do They Look Like?

Zebra mussels look like small clams with a yellowish-brown "D"-shaped shell that has alternating light and dark stripes (hence the name "zebra"), and with a flat edge on one side. They are generally less than an inch long, and typically form dense colonies. Zebra mussels are the ONLY freshwater mollusks that firmly attach to solid objects like dock pilings, boat hulls, and submerged rocks and stumps. Juveniles are difficult to see, but will feel like grit on any solid surface they may inhabit.



(Continued on next page)

## Zebra Mussels (cont.)

### How Did They Get Here?

Native to the Baltic and Caspian Seas of Europe, zebra mussels came here in the ballast water of ocean-going ships. They were originally introduced to the Great Lakes in the mid 1980s, and first arrived in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan in the Racine harbor in 1990. Since then, they've spread throughout the Great Lakes region, into the Mississippi River, down to the Gulf of Mexico and into Canadian waters. Lakes in 21 states are now infested.

### How Do They Spread?

Zebra mussels continue to 'hitch rides' on boats, waterfowl and aquatic vegetation, and have so far infested more than 50 inland waters throughout Wisconsin. During their free-swimming larval stage, the microscopic "veligers" can be transported between lakes in live wells, bait buckets and bilge water. The larvae need to remain wet to survive, but adults and juveniles can live out of the water for several days. A boat carrying mussels attached to the hull, larval mussels in the bilge or live well water, or plants tangled on its trailer can easily introduce zebra mussels from one lake to another. Lakes that receive a high amount of boat traffic are particularly at risk.

### Why are They of Concern?

Zebra mussels are prolific breeders capable of producing tens of thousands of young mussels each summer. In fact, a single female can produce 30,000 to one million eggs in one year. Because they are an introduced species with few natural predators, the mussels can multiply unchecked, disrupting food webs and throwing entire ecosystems out of balance.

As filter feeders, large populations of zebra mussels can decimate plankton and zooplankton communities (tiny plants and animals) that young, native fish rely on for food. They also are blamed for pushing contaminants up the food chain by bio-accumulating toxins. Furthermore, the destructive mollusks have been shown to displace native mussels, deplete oxygen levels needed for fish and other aquatic life, and worsen algae blooms. Finally, zebra mussels can clog boat engines and intake pipes, encrust boat hulls, piers and lifts, and



cut the feet of swimmers with their sharp shells.



### What Can I Do?

Lakes are usually identified as being colonized only after the mussels have been present for some time, perhaps years. Likewise, lakes not yet known to be colonized may already have zebra mussels in them. For this reason we need to take precautions to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species every time we plan to move from one lake or river to another.

"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," noted Ron Martin, coordinator of the DNR's Aquatic Invasive Species Program. "It's important to practice these prevention steps when transferring boats or equipment, such as boat lifts or piers, from any water body to prevent the spread of not only zebra mussels, but other invasive species such as Eurasian water-milfoil, quagga mussels and spiny waterfleas," says Martin.

### Precautions

- Remove weeds from trailer, rudder, centerboard, anchor, motor and other areas.
- Drain water from bilge, live wells and motor.
- Rinse mud from anchor and line.
- Dispose of live bait in the trash or on shore.
- Let boats, trailers and equipment dry for 5 days before moving to new waters.

Please contact us if you are interested in participating in the UW-Extension's "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" volunteer watercraft inspection program. Limited assistance is provided to train groups of volunteers on how to inspect boats for invasive species. Trained volunteers would then help perform inspections and educate boaters using the public landing.

*Effective May 2002, Section 30.715, WI Act 16 prohibits launching a boat or placing a boat or trailer in navigable waters if it has aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached.*

For a list of known zebra mussel infested waters, visit [www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/zebra.htm](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/zebra.htm)

## Lake Ripley News Briefs & Official Notices

### BUDGET HEARING HEARING ON PROPOSED 2006 BUDGET AUGUST 13, 2005 \* 9:00 A.M. \* OAKLAND TOWN HALL

PROJECTS	2005	2006	CHANGE
LRPLP LAG*	39000	44000	+12.8%
LRMD ACRA CONTRIBUTION**	4500	4500	
WEED HARVESTING	4500	4500	
LAKE DISTRICT PRESERVE	3000	3000	
LAKE WATCH	250	250	
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS	1500	1500	
NO-WAKE REGULATION	3500	1000	-71.4%
INSURANCE			
GENERAL LIABILITY	1400	1900	+35.7%
MARINE & TRUCK	1000	1400	+40.0%
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	900	900	
OPERATIONS			
LEGAL COUNSEL	3000	3000	
DUES/CONFERENCES	1500	1500	
OFFICE/MAILINGS	700	700	
CONTINGENCY	1500	1500	
COMMISSIONER STIPENDS	4900	4900	
CAPITAL RESERVE & LAND ACQUISITION	10000	10000	
TOTAL:	81150	84550	+4.2%
LESS ANTICIPATED CARRY OVER:	<34500>	<41150>	+4.0%
REQUIRED TAX LEVY:	46650	43400	-7.0%

\* Supplements an annual \$46,350 state grant used to administer the Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project  
\*\* Supplements an annual \$25,610 state grant for landowner cost sharing through the Priority Lake Project  
NOTE: State funding for the Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project ends after 2006

### 2006 BUDGET ANALYSIS

The actual assessed valuation of all Lake District property included on the tax rolls for the year 2005 is \$198,415,160. If the 2006 tax levy of \$43,400 is approved at the Annual Meeting, the mill rate will be 0.2187 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Therefore, a home would be taxed \$21.87 for every \$100,000 of assessed value.

2005 Levy: \$24.32/100,000  
2006 Levy: \$21.87/100,000

### ANNUAL MEETING

AUGUST 20, 2005 \* 9:00 A.M. \* OAKLAND TOWN HALL

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF 2004 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
- III. NOMINATION OF BOARD CANDIDATES  
(Nominations appearing on ballot: John Molinaro and Dennis McCarthy)
- IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- V. TREASURER'S REPORT
- VI. BUDGET & TAX LEVY
- VII. TABULATION OF VOTE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

### TOWN APPROVES LAKE ORDINANCE PROPOSALS

The Town of Oakland approved several ordinance changes as proposed by a special committee comprised of Town and Lake District Board members. The recommendations, as detailed in our Winter 2004-05 edition of Ripples, were previously the subject of two hearings and considerable public input. Below is a brief status report on each ordinance proposal.

1A: Proposal to raise the public boat launch fees as permitted by state statute (APPROVED)

1B: Proposal to establish a 200-ft from shore slow-no-wake zone for all motorized watercraft (APPROVED)

1C: Proposal to pivot the no-wake buoy line in South Bay to include more of the bay's shallow water depth (APPROVED)

2A: Proposal to clarify DNR-designation of Vasyb's Channel and inlet as sensitive habitat areas on existing ordinance map (DECISION TABLED)

2B: Proposal to prohibit new or expanded piers within any DNR-designated sensitive area (DECISION TABLED)

2C: Proposal to prohibit new boat ramps on Lake Ripley (MOTIVATING FACTORS SUBSEQUENTLY ADDRESSED BY COUNTY ZONING ACTION)

3: Proposal to adopt more stringent waterfront commercial zoning standards in Town Growth Plan (APPROVED)

4: Proposal to codify into ordinance the Town Growth Plan (REMOVED FROM CONSIDERATION)

5: Proposal for an anti-funneling ordinance restricting development of new keyhole subdivisions (APPROVED)

6: Proposal for emergency slow-no-wake ordinance to take effect during high-water periods (APPROVED)

The Town will be drafting new and amended ordinances to reflect the approved changes in the months ahead. Stay tuned for further announcements, or call the Town of Oakland (423-9635) or Lake District office.