

## Retrospective (cont.)

**2004:** A \$3,500 grant is used to research the impacts of piers on near-shore aquatic life. The study shows that oversized piers negatively alter aquatic plant communities and fish habitat due to excessive shading. A \$1,500 grant aids in the design and (2005) installation of rain gardens at the Oakland Town Hall. County shoreland zoning ordinances are strengthened governing the clearing of trees and other shoreline vegetation. 295 feet of eroding shoreline and 2,800 feet of eroding ditch banks are repaired.

**2005:** Town ordinance increases public boat-launch fees, creates no-wake zones within 200 ft. of shore, and prohibits keyhole developments. Zebra mussels are first discovered. A \$1,000 grant is awarded to increase public awareness about invasive species. A property owner opinion survey helps gauge attitudes about the condition, use and management of the lake. \$15,300 in additional cost-share grants are obtained. 902 feet of eroding shoreline is repaired.

**2006:** The Lake Ripley E-Bulletin is started. Virtual tours of the Lake Ripley shoreline and Lake District Preserve are produced for local cable TV. The Lake District

partners with UW-Madison to design and implement a unique outreach program to promote rain gardens. Chairman John Molinaro receives the Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award from the Wisconsin DNR, UW Extension and Wisconsin Association of Lakes. 927 feet of eroding shoreline is repaired.

**2007:** The grant-funded Priority Lake Project ends after 13 years. \$20,000 in grants are awarded to perform a second sediment-core analysis, and to update existing lake and watershed management plans. Another property owner opinion survey is conducted. Town ordinance establishes an emergency no-wake policy during high-water conditions. 130 feet of eroding shoreline and 3.2 acres of wetland are restored.

**2008:** A \$200,000 grant and over \$40,000 in donations are pledged to help enlarge the Lake District Preserve by 64 acres. \$6,500 in donations are raised for a floodplain study. To date, 125 feet of eroding shoreline is repaired, and an additional 425 feet is progressing toward completion.

## Ripples

Lake Ripley Management District  
N4450 CTH A  
Cambridge, WI 53523

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Cambridge, WI  
Permit No. 5

# Ripples



Vol. 16, No. 3

Summer 2008

### LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE

Oakland Town Hall  
N4450 CTH A  
Cambridge, WI 53523

Phone:  
(608) 423-4537

E-mail:  
ripple@charterinternet.com

Website:  
WWW.LAKERIPLEY.ORG

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Molinaro  
Chair  
(608) 423-4743

Mike Sabella  
Treasurer  
(608) 423-4603

Jane Jacobsen-Brown  
Secretary  
(608) 423-3319

Georgia Gomez-Ibanez  
Commissioner  
(608) 423-9898

Dennis McCarthy  
Commissioner  
(608) 665-3455

Gene Kapsner  
Town of Oakland Rep.  
(608) 423-4723

Walt Christensen  
Jefferson County Rep.  
(920) 723-1320

### LAKE MANAGER/EDITOR

Paul Dearlove  
(608) 423-4537

## FROM THE HELM

**O**n August 16th, the Lake Ripley Management District will hold its budget hearing and Annual Meeting at the Oakland Town Hall. Enclosed are copies of the proposed 2009 operating budget and Annual Meeting agenda.



Most Lake District meetings are, in fact, monthly meetings of the Board. These meetings are for the Board to conduct the business of the Lake District approved at the Annual Meeting, yet we always welcome comments from those in attendance. The Annual Meeting is unique because it is the only regularly scheduled meeting of the Lake District electorate.

This will be your opportunity to hear what has been accomplished over the last year and what is planned for the year to come. The Lake District is based on our goal to maintain a safe and healthy lake. We feel strongly that a healthy lake is in everyone's best interests. It allows us to maintain property values and provide a place for contemplation and recreation.

Please join us on August 16th so you can share your opinions, ask questions, and show your interest in Lake Ripley. The budget hearing will begin at 9:00 AM, and will be followed by the Annual Meeting at 10:00 AM. We hope to see you there.

*John Molinaro, Chair*

## A Lake Ripley Retrospective

**1840:** George Dow, from New York, purchases a 242-acre government tract on Lake Ripley for farming. Early settlers begin arriving soon afterwards. For a number of years, the lake is known as "Dow's Lake."

**1886:** Willerup Park is purchased (currently the site of Willerup Bible Camp).

**1932:** "Foundation Park" is purchased (currently the site of Lake Ripley Park).

**1940:** The state record largemouth bass is caught, weighing 11 lbs., 3 oz.

**1964:** A horseshoe-shaped channel in South Bay, called "Vasby's Ditch," is dug.

**1984:** A municipal sewer system is installed, replacing private septic systems on the lake.

**1986:** Lake Ripley is one of 50 lakes to be selected by the Wisconsin DNR for long-term trends monitoring, which includes the tracking of water quality and aquatic plants.

**1989:** Eurasian watermilfoil—a non-native, invasive lake weed—covers approximately half the lake surface. Property owners organize to purchase and operate weed-harvesting equipment.



**Your Guide to Lake Ripley**

Origin: Glacial kettle lake  
Type: Drainage (one inlet and outlet)  
Surface area: 418 acres  
Avg. depth: 18 feet  
Max. depth: 44 feet  
Shoreline: 4.8 miles (75% urbanized, 25% "undeveloped")  
Watershed: 8 sq. miles (5,100 acres) extending mostly east of the lake; part of the Lower Rock River Drainage Basin  
Inlet: Unnamed creek entering at SE corner  
Outlet: Exits at NW corner and drains to Koshkonong Creek  
Land uses: 70% of watershed is agricultural; 15% residential; 15% wetland/woodland/open water  
Wetlands: 540 acres (originally 1,500 acres)  
Public access: 1 public boat landing on Island Ln; 1 public fishing pier at Beach Ln. and Ripley Rd. (owned by Town of Oakland)  
Other access: Lake Ripley Marina; Lake Ripley Park  
Main sport fishery: Largemouth bass, bluegill, walleye, northern pike  
Avg. summer water clarity: 6 feet  
Dominant aquatic invasive species: Eurasian watermilfoil; common carp; zebra mussel  
Main pollutants: Phosphorus and sediment carried to the lake in stormwater runoff  
Main threats to lake quality: Soil erosion; dirty runoff; loss of habitat; overdevelopment; arrival and spread of aquatic invasive species



Lake Ripley. \$90,000 in grants are used to cost share the renovation of the public boat landing. A \$31,000 grant is used to purchase a new weed harvester. A Water Resources Appraisal is prepared to characterize water quality conditions and offer management guidance. 426 feet of eroding shoreline is repaired.

**1995:** A 10-year, Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement Plan is completed. The Lake District receives an Outstanding Lake Stewardship Award from the Wisconsin DNR, UW Extension, and Wisconsin Association of Lakes. Town ordinance establishes controls on the placement of new piers in high-quality, designated "sensitive" areas. Another Town ordinance prohibits the use of motors in Vasby's Channel to protect fish-spawning habitat. An extensive area of wetlands and undeveloped shoreline on the lake's south shore is put into conservancy. 120 feet of eroding shoreline is repaired.

**1996:** A boater opinion survey gauges attitudes toward existing boating rules. A \$2,000 grant pays for water testing supplies. 399 feet of eroding shoreline is repaired.

**1997:** Town ordinance regulates the burning of yard waste along the shoreline to keep phosphorus-rich ash from washing into the water. A \$120,000 grant and 47,000 in donations are used to purchase the 100-acre Lake District Preserve. 505 feet of eroding shoreline is repaired.

**1998:** Wetland-restoration projects and public-access improvements begin at the Lake District Preserve. An all-volunteer "Lake Watch" program is launched to monitor and report on boating activities. 335 feet of eroding shoreline and 2,950 feet of eroding ditch banks are repaired.

**1999:** A \$1,800 grant is used to plug a drainage ditch at the Lake District Preserve. An \$8,560 grant is awarded to develop a lake management plan. The first annual "Lake Sweep" litter cleanup is co-hosted with Cambridge High School. Public opinion surveys and hearings are used to gather input on the lake's condition, use, and future management needs. 110 feet of eroding shorelines and 5,800 feet of eroding ditch banks are repaired.

**2000:** The Lake District launches its first-ever website. A two-year partnership with Jefferson County seeks to evaluate the present condition and management priorities of the county's lakes. 100 feet of eroding shoreline and 3,500 feet of eroding ditch banks are repaired.

(Cont.)

**1990:** Property owners petition Jefferson County to form the Lake Ripley Management District. Town ordinance establishes "slow-no-wake" zones in both bays, and a 7:30pm-11:00am no-wake period.

**1991:** The Lake District takes over weed-harvesting operations. A \$10,000 grant pays for a sediment core to assess past water quality conditions. It is shown that lake quality has dramatically declined following periods of large-scale wetland drainage and watershed development.

**1992:** The lake's first aquatic plant management plan is prepared to guide weed-harvesting efforts. The Lake District conducts its first property owner opinion survey and first "carp-a-thon."

**1993:** Lake Ripley is granted "Priority Lake" status by the Wisconsin DNR, and is declared an outstanding natural resource needing protection and long-term management. Nearly \$1 million in "Priority Lake Project" grants are received through 2006. Much of the money is allocated as landowner cost-share incentives to control known sources of pollution. The Riples newsletter gets its debut, and a service-learning partnership is initiated with Cambridge High School.

**1994:** The use of native plants and biodegradable materials for shoreline erosion control is pioneered on

**Budget Hearing**  
August 16, 2008

9:00 a.m. at Oakland Town Hall

**Annual Meeting**  
August 16, 2008

10:00 a.m. at Oakland Town Hall

- I. Call to order
- II. Approve 2007 Annual Meeting minutes
- III. Nomination of board candidates (John Molinaro and Dennis McCarthy, incumbents)
- IV. Chairman's report
- V. Treasurer's report
- VI. Budget and tax levy
- VII. Action on borrowing authority request for proposed land acquisition
- VIII. Tabulation of vote and election of board members
- IX. Action on proposal to repeal bylaws in conflict with state statute
- X. Adjournment

**Emergency Slow-No-Wake**

Due to extreme flooding and high water, an emergency slow-no-wake order was in effect on Lake Ripley earlier this summer. The purpose of the order (as per Town Ordinance No. 2, Section 5D) is to protect public health, safety, welfare and property while threatening conditions persist.



Emergency orders issued by the Town Chair go into effect upon the posting of notices at the public boat landing and Lake Ripley Marina. We also try to get the word out through our Lake Ripley E-Bulletin and public-service announcements. In the future, orange flags will be prominently displayed on at least three flagpoles around Lake Ripley until the emergency order is lifted.

**2001:** A \$10,000 grant helps fund an updated aquatic plant inventory and management plan. Town ordinance prohibits the feeding of geese to help control nuisance populations. 379 feet of eroding shoreline and 2,550 feet of eroding ditch banks are repaired.

**2002:** A \$2,200 grant is used to plug a 7,400-ft. drainage ditch and restore 20 acres of wetlands at the Lake District Preserve. 561 feet of eroding shoreline is repaired.

**2009 PROPOSED BUDGET**

	2007 ACTUAL	2008 JAN-JUNE ACTUAL	2008 JAN-DEC ESTIMATED	2009 PROPOSED BUDGET
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Real Estate Tax Levy	\$ 67,570	\$ 73,047	\$ 110,211	\$ 110,517
Grants	15,000	-	-	-
Interest Income	9,456	3,419	6,500	-
Carry-over	39,000	2,700	2,700	1,572
Other	4,271	8,625	8,625	-
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>135,297</b>	<b>87,791</b>	<b>128,036</b>	<b>112,089</b>
<b>Projects:</b>				
Staff Payroll Fringes Taxes	57,735	30,106	60,211	63,163
Landowner Cost Sharing	11,362	2,223	10,000	10,000
Weed Harvesting	3,474	1,307	5,010	5,030
Lake District Preserve	660	1,325	2,000	2,000
Special Programs	1,149	10	250	250
Conservation Easements	-	-	-	-
Grant Expenses	2,602	156	-	-
<b>Insurance:</b>				
General Liability	1,879	-	1,879	1,879
Marine & Truck	1,053	-	1,053	1,053
Worker's Compensation	921	923	923	923
<b>Operations:</b>				
Legal Counsel	3,157	-	3,000	3,000
Dues & Conferences	1,353	501	928	828
Office & Community Outreach	4,287	2,649	7,585	5,963
Contingency	49	1,000	1,500	1,500
Commissioner Stipends	4,250	2,250	4,700	4,700
Rent	1,800	1,050	1,800	1,800
Capital Reserve, Land & Equipment				
Acquisition	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,731</b>	<b>43,500</b>	<b>110,839</b>	<b>112,089</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 29,566</b>	<b>\$ 44,291</b>	<b>\$ 17,197</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Non-lapsible Fund:	Capital Reserve, Land & Equipment Acquisition	F.K. Elson Memorial	Friends of the Preserve	Floodplain Study	Lake Planning Grant
Estimated Balance (12/31/07)	\$ 104,315	\$ 197	\$ 1,640	\$ -	\$ -
Additional 2007 activity:					
Increase			100		15,000
Decrease					<2,602>
Final Balance (12/31/07)	104,315	197	1,740	-	12,398
2008 Estimated Additions	12,600			6,500	
2008 Estimated Interest	3,130	1	52	82	480
2008 Estimated Expenditures	<307,800>			<6,500>	<156>
Estimated Balance (12/31/08):	\$ *	\$ 198	\$ 1,792	\$ 82	\$ 12,722

\* The District has an option to acquire 64 acres of land adjacent to the Lake District Preserve. This option will expire on 10-31-08. The District is currently seeking a second appraisal, government and private grants, and individual donations to aid in the acquisition of this property.

**2003:** Special deed restrictions are negotiated with a lakefront developer to protect threatened wetland and shoreline areas in South Bay. A boat census and recreational carrying capacity analysis shows that boat traffic regularly exceeds safe and sustainable levels. An annual inventory of piers, boat lifts, watercraft and shoreline conditions is initiated. 436 feet of eroding shoreline is repaired.

(Cont.)