



# Dock Side

Volume XVIII Issue #3

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October 2012

## Clean Boats and Clean Waters!



*By Carl Holmgren, BLPRD Commissioner and CBCW Chairman*

We completed our sixth year with the Clean Boats and Clean Waters (CBCW) program for Balsam Lake. This success was achieved with the help of Unity High School students who signed up to work both volunteer and compensated hours. The compensated hours are funded with the help of DNR Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grants that we received since the start of our program. Our current grant covers the 2012 – 2014 time frames.

We started 2012 as in past years with opening of fishing on May 5th (Wisconsin opening of fishing) at all four public landings on the lake. Included were Balsam Lake Village Beach, 46 Store, East Balsam, and Little Balsam. We ended our season on August 31st (Labor Day week-end). This gave us great satisfaction knowing that all four of our public landings had volunteers to work the CBCW program that included boat and trailer inspections, data collection, inform boaters of the laws in place, and AIS information distribution.

Review of the statistics (right) shows us in a very consistent pattern with Inspection Hours, People Contacted, and Boats Inspected. All data collected is entered into the State DNR database and can be accessed at [www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/cbcw/about/](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/cbcw/about/) and <http://dnr.wi.gov/water/waterDetail.aspx?key=16495>

We did have some reports of uncooperative boaters, however I believe that is something to expect with people. I encourage all BLPRD boaters to introduce themselves to the volunteers and ask them questions regarding the CBCW program when you meet them at one of the landings. They are working to keep our lake free from invasives.

Again, I would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in the program who would like to volunteer and

be part of the CBCW program for 2013 to contact me at 715-485-9421. Our training takes place in April at Unity School prior to the opening of fishing.

Special thanks to Unity School staff for their support with recruiting student volunteers, the Village of Balsam Lake (Lori Duncan) for helping with the time sheet processing, and the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department (Jeremy Williamson and Katlin Holm) for assisting with the CBCW orientation and training.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of Unity Students Involved	17	26	43	44	34	44
Total Inspection Hrs.	506	939	1,050	920	908	1,058
People Contacted	1,164	2,412	4,375	3,367	4,225	4,047
Number of Boats Inspected	587	995	1,838	1,669	1,810	1,825

\*Note: Team Leader hours not included with Inspection Hours.

## Commissioners Tackle Long Range Plans

During the winter months a long range plan was developed using data received from surveys completed by Balsam Lake shoreline residences, input from an advisory committee of volunteers and input from the June survey sent to all shoreline property owners. During the September 15th meeting, the Lake District Commissioners approved this Long Range Plan for 2012-2013.

**There are six priority goals of the long range plan. They are:**

1. Enhance Balsam Lake property owners' and visitors' understanding of lake issues and increase their involvement in protecting and improving the lake.
2. Manage native and invasive aquatic plants according to the goals, objectives, and activities outlined in the Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Top Priority.
3. Improve and maintain water clarity and quality in Balsam Lake.

Long range (Con't on page 3) —————



# Lake Home and Cabin Kit offered to Balsam Lake Property owners



Renee Pardello, Assistant Dean at the University of Minnesota addressed the commissioners on September 15th to stress

the importance of lakeshore homeowner action in maintaining the quality of Balsam Lake. "Phosphorus is a problem," said Renee. Runoff from lawns into the lake is undesirable as it can introduce contaminants and sediments. Even lawns that are not fertilized by their owners contain phosphorus. Renee supports a deep root buffer zone between the lawn and the lakeshore as it helps filter out phosphorus, contaminates and sediments. In fact, that is the best practice that she and her mother installed at their cabin on East Balsam!

Renee also stated that cabin owners should be aware of a second source of contaminants to the lake, older septic systems. Wisconsin does not require old septic systems such as open bottom pits, to be replaced at the time of inspection. These systems must be replaced with a complaint system when they "fail". Systems such as these have been known to cause pollution by allowing the

contents to migrate through groundwater flow.

Renee presented a copy of "Lake Home and Cabin Kit, Second Edition." The Lake Home & Cabin Kit answers questions such as how to start your septic system in spring and preparing it for the fall, what you should know about heating your home or cabin, and how to create your own rain garden...it also directs you to University of Minnesota Extension programs, publications, and websites for more in-depth advice. Plus, the second edition is updated to include all current environmentally responsible practices that you need to know about as a property and lakeshore owner. The Lake Home and Cabin Kit publication can be viewed at the Balsam Lake Business Center, Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Office or a copy may be purchased through University of Minnesota Extension site: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD8241.html>.

Renee's family has owned their cabin on East Balsam since 1969. She and her sisters, Denise and Susan, grew up enjoying the lake during their childhood. Renee now shares the beauty of the lake with her nieces.

## WHEN SELECTING EXTERIOR MATERIALS

Select materials that are natural or have a natural appearance that blends in with the surroundings. This is important for siding, roofing materials, retaining walls, stairs, and decks. Carefully select your structure and roof color to blend in with the surroundings. Use accents such as flowers and vegetation to add complementary natural colors.



*Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Basin Partnership Team, University of Wisconsin-extension and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (2002), "Shoreland Property, a guide to Environmentally sound ownership," p 6.*



## Sign location consideration

On September 9th the Stumps Bay Conservancy sign was completed and installed at the property edge facing Pine Island Park Street. After viewing the sign's location a resident raised a concern that the sign may not be architecturally in harmony with the area. These signs are put in place identify the property to the general public. The commissioners were asked

if an alternate location, placing the sign so that it could be viewed from the lake, would be considered. The commissioners listened to the concerns of the property owner, have had discussions with the Wisconsin DNR and with the Polk County Zoning Administrator. The findings will be discussed at the October 20th meeting.



**Long range (Con't from page 1)**

4. Protect, maintain, and improve fisheries and fish and wildlife habitat in and around Balsam Lake.
5. Promote the preservation and restoration of natural vegetation and scenery along the shoreline.
6. Maintain and enhance recreation and navigation.

Frequently activities are suggested to the BLPRD board to enhance the lake. Included in the long range plan is a methodology to help the commissioners evaluate these suggestions and determine if there are resources available to accomplish the activity:

1. What goal and objectives will the activity most closely address?
2. Are there additional goals and objectives that would be addressed?
3. What is the priority of each of these goals?
4. What is the likely effectiveness or impact of the activity toward meeting the stated goals and objectives?
5. What is the projected annual and long-term cost of the activity?
7. Are there grant programs or additional sources of money to support the activity?
8. If so, how much revenue is anticipated from these sources?

The full Long Range Plan for 2012-2013 is available for viewing on the BLPRD website, (<http://www.blprd.com/Long-Range-Plan.htm>), at the BLPRD offices and at the Balsam Lake library.

## Docks and boat storage

When planning your docks and boat storage keep the size and length of docks and structures to a minimum. For some of us this is counter intuitive because we like to be on the lake. However, our structures do impact the quality of the lake. Design them to blend in with the shoreline. Some piers require a state permit. Check with the local DNR office and ask for their "pier planner," a set of guidelines for pier length, width, placement and other factors or visit the Wisconsin DNR's web page at: (<http://www.lakegenevaproerty.com/Piers2009.pdf>).

[Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Basin Partnership Team, University of Wisconsin-extension and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources \(2002\). "Shoreland Property, a guide to Environmentally sound ownership," p 6.](#)

## Meet your new District Commissioners



**Ray Sloss**

The Sloss family has been on Pine Island Park Ct, also known locally as "The Point" since 1937. Ray Sloss developed his love of nature, and particularly Balsam Lake early as he grew up as a son and grandson of avid outdoor sportsmen and conservationists.

Ray has an undergraduate degree in engineering and a graduate degree in finance. He has served as a board member on two financial institutions for 10 years, worked as an engineer at a nuclear power generating plant near Red Wing, Minnesota and consulted for several nuclear power generating plants in the mid eastern part of the country.

The Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District is an important organization to Balsam Lake. Its functions include monitoring, data collection, data analysis and managing projects to improve the lake experience. The existence of this organization enables the attraction of grants from Wisconsin agencies that are used in projects that enhance the quality of the lake. I joined this organization to ensure that the BLP&RD continues to thrive as a strong and diverse organization.

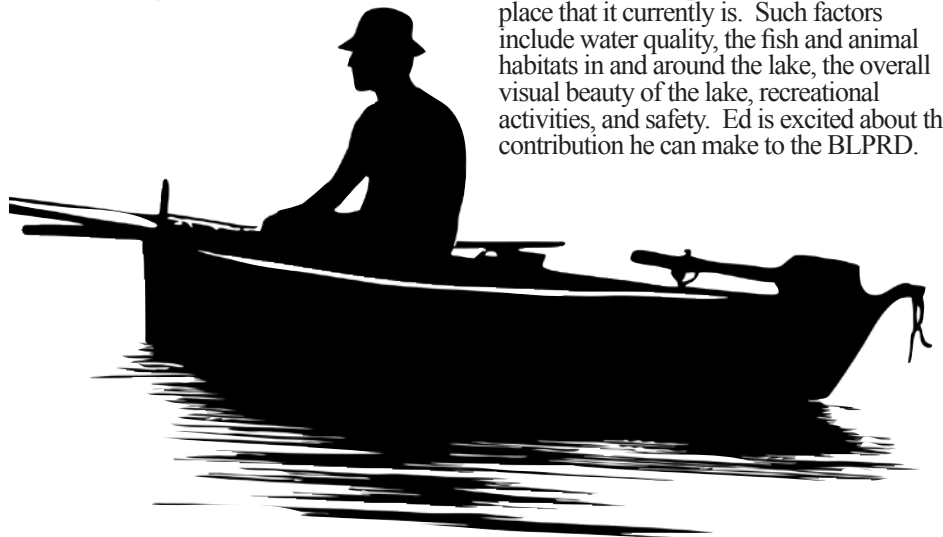


**Ed McGlynn, Jr.**

Ed's family has been on Balsam Lake since the early 1940's when his grandfather, William McGlynn, bought a cabin on the east side of Boston Bay. William's son, Ed McGlynn Sr., had already been enjoying summers on the lake since the 1930's while visiting the cabin of a family friend (Web Russell) on "The Point". In 1969, Ed Sr. returned from St. Louis and purchased a cabin on East Balsam. The McGlynn family continues to enjoy "working" the 7 acre East Balsam property, which includes an old farmhouse from the turn of the century and a number of beautiful old white pines.

Ed has an undergraduate degree in engineering from the UofM and a master's degree in business. He has worked for 3M for 20 years in various positions around the world and recently completed a master's degree in geosciences from the University of Texas.

Ed joined the BLPRD with a goal of preserving and improving the quality of Balsam Lake for future generations. This will require a plan to maintain, improve and balance the various factors that make Balsam Lake the special and beautiful place that it currently is. Such factors include water quality, the fish and animal habitats in and around the lake, the overall visual beauty of the lake, recreational activities, and safety. Ed is excited about the contribution he can make to the BLPRD.



# Lake Area Residents Anticipate the New Balsam Lake-Millpond Bridge

Moe Nordby, Technical Support Manager for the highway department said that the New Balsam Lake-Millpond bridge project is on scheduled. Design is 80% to 90% complete. Packages will be released for bids on January 2nd. Completed bids are due back March 1st and the project will be awarded April 1st. This all supports a start date for construction of May 1st.

Moe said that the project is scheduled to be completed in 35 to 45 days. However, much of the construction will not result in road closure. Moe said that County Road I will only be closed for 2 weeks starting around May 1st. And that flowage to Millpond will

not be interrupted. However, water activities in the area will be restricted during construction. The restricted area will be identified by marker buoys. As part of the project County Road I will be milled and recoated between Highway 46 (Main Street of Balsam Lake) and James Court, the road you would take off of County Road I to get to Indian Head Restaurant.

Widening the passage way between Balsam Lake and Millpond will allow easier access to Millpond for maintenance. Millpond is part of the Balsam Lake District. The widened passage way will also benefit recreation between the two bodies of water.

of disturbance that may take place within a particular zone. Typically, a shoreland buffer includes:

## NO-TOUCH ZONE

Once the buffer is established, vegetation removal and land disturbing activities are prohibited in this area.

## MINIMUM MAINTENANCE ZONE

Limited pruning and mowing area allowed in this area. In general, the minimum maintenance zone begins 35 feet from the OHWM and extends inland.

## VIEWING/ACCESS CORRIDOR

The viewing/access corridor extends from the lake inland, more or less perpendicular to the shore. It may be up to 30 feet wide. While clear cutting, filling, grading, and other land-disturbing activities are not permitted in this area, limited tree removal, pruning, and mowing are allowed. Walkways, pathways, and stairs should be located in the corridor, and piers, wharfs and lifts should be placed in water immediately in front of the corridor.

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## What is a shoreland buffer zone? Why is it important to Balsam Lake?

*(Excerpt from: "Shoreland Property, a guide to Environmentally sound ownership," Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Basin Partnership Team, University of Wisconsin-extension and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (2002), p 6.)*

I, as my father before me and his father before him, have enjoyed the spectacular beauty of Balsam Lake's shoreline. I have learned the quality of the lake is greatly dependent on having a natural shoreland about it. This lesson I intend for my grandchildren to learn so that they will know that I knew and acted accordingly.

A shoreland buffer is a zone of native vegetation that extends from the ordinary high water mark inland at least 35 feet. A buffer restoration design seeks to restore functions provided by the original, natural vegetation. Buffers provide habitat, hold soil in place, intercept and purify runoff water, and provide natural beauty. Preserving and improving the shoreland buffer can benefit the landowner as well as the water

resource. These benefits include:

- Less time and cost for lawn maintenance.
- Properties along waterways with undisturbed natural vegetation usually have the highest property values.
- Vegetative cover provides screening and privacy from neighbors and recreational lake-users, as well as nesting places and travel corridors for wildlife. Fallen trees left in the water can provide spawning areas for fish and shading for shallow water habitat.

A shoreland buffer should consist of a mix of native trees, shrubs, and ground cover. The proper buffer size varies depending on what the property owner is trying to accomplish. Generally, a shoreland buffer is a strip of land extending 35 feet inland from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), but in many cases may extend beyond the 35-foot area. Local units of government may establish different "zones" that regulate the amount

## Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Program

In the 1960s, the state legislature directed the Department of Natural Resources to adopt an administrative rule (NR 115) that requires counties to adopt shoreland protection ordinances.

- The regulations apply to buffers, building setbacks and other development issues within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of navigable lakes, ponds and flowages, and within 300 feet of navigable rivers and streams, or to the landward side of the floodplain of rivers and streams, whichever is greater,

- A buffer is defined as a strip of land extending 35 feet inland from the OHWM, and where no more than 30 feet in any 100 feet of shoreline can be cleared of trees and shrubs. A great deal of research, however, suggests that a 35 foot buffer is inadequate for shoreland protection. Accordingly, many counties have established greater buffer requirements and building setbacks.

Interested in beautifying your property and helping wildlife around your lake?

## GROW NATIVE SHRUBS FOR WILDLIFE!



Common redpoll

# Enhance your Property – Plant Native Shrubs!

Yes, winter is coming, but there is still time to do some planting. Native shrubs are a great choice. They are important components of a waterfront landscape - providing food and cover for wildlife and helping to reduce erosion and runoff.

You can plant potted shrubs up until the ground freezes. They will be there to greet you with flowers in the spring.

The flyer Top Ten Shrubs for Wildlife is shown on the website blprd.com. Go to the Waterfront Runoff Program page then to Plant Lists.

The Waterfront Runoff page also includes more information about our Waterfront Runoff Program including how to schedule a free visit for this



### RED OSIER DOGWOOD

*Cornus stolonifera*

**HEIGHT** 4 – 10 ft.

**LOCATION** Plant in full to partial sun in open areas or along the edge of woods.

**WILDLIFE FEATURE** Fall berries eaten by 17 different bird species including wood duck, goldfinch, yellow warbler, kingbird, cardinal, turkey and ruffed grouse.

**SOIL** Wet to well drained soils; should not be planted on dry sites.

**SPECIAL NOTE** Bright red stems in the winter and spring; showy white flowers. Protect young plants from deer browsing with wire mesh or fencing. This shrub is also used to stabilize lakeshores.



Blue-winged warbler



Example information from Top Ten Shrubs for Wildlife.

Protect Your Water Investment

## FREE Water Quality Consultation

Learn about lake-friendly landscaping

Call or email  
Harmony Environmental  
715-268-9992  
harmonyenv@amerytel.net

Available for Balsam Lake properties only

## Village of Balsam Lake to Reduce Runoff at 46 Landing

The Village of Balsam Lake is helping to reduce runoff of nutrients and sediment to Balsam Lake at the Highway 46 Landing. The Village is working with Pro-Lawn to install a rock infiltration area at the landing this Fall.

When water runs across paved surfaces, it picks up sediment, petroleum products, and other fine particles and carries them to the lake. The rock infiltration area will collect water from the highway and parking lot and allow it to soak into the ground where soil can purify the water. Projects like this help to keep Balsam Lake clean! Similar projects have been installed by homeowners around the lake.

Funding for the project is available thanks to a grant to the Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Matching funds will be provided by the Village of Balsam Lake.

# DOCKSIDE

Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District  
P.O. Box 202  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

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Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation  
District  
P.O. Box 202  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

**2012-13  
Meeting Schedule**  
Polk County Business Center  
Lower Level Conference Room  
Third Saturday of the Month  
8:30 a.m.

July 21st - Annual Meeting  
August 18th  
September 15th  
October 20th  
November - 17th  
December 15th  
January - No Meeting  
February 16th  
March - No Meeting  
April 20st  
May 18th  
June 15th

## Commissioners

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