

Round the Lake

Round Lake Property Owners Association

Fall 2005

President's Corner by Bob Strachota

Shoreline Landscaping

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Dear Round Lake Property Owners,

Maintaining a natural aquatic and shoreline wildlife habitat on your waterfront is one of the best efforts you can do to protect Round Lake. The natural shoreline growth acts as a filter, retainer and supplier of nutrients and organic materials for our lake. Your Lake Association wants to explain the shoreline rules and share with property owners how they can design their shoreline so that it meets personal and environmental concerns. Our goal is to show each of you how this can be accomplished without the need for special permits or special exemption from the rules. The ultimate goal is to keep Round Lake one of the top recreational

lakes in Wisconsin for decades to come.

Some of you may think we are just giving a sales pitch! You might believe that shoreland restoration is a "personal preference" of the now current Lake Board. I'd like to suggest that you do some research and take an active role in protecting our water resources. Don't blame farmers for fertilizers while you maintain a "suburban mind set" on Round Lake. You need to become part of the solution and not part of the problem. Riparian science or shoreland restoration is a valid practice that *directly protects Round Lake*. We all need to set the goal of restoring shoreland with native vegetation and bring back the habitats that are reduced or lost by traditional

President's Corner...continued on page 2

Financial Report by Dave Andersen

The Round Lake Property Owners Association reported balances of \$17,623.85 in our General Fund and \$23,962.64 in our Milfoil fund as of July 31, 2005 at our general membership meeting on September 17, 2005.

On the surface these seem to be healthy balances, but membership dues are slow in coming and our expenditures for treating the Eurasian Water Milfoil problem and the new Zebra Mussel issue are depleting our bank account much faster than we are taking in funds. While this is not yet a crisis situation, we will almost certainly be coming back to the membership asking for donations to cover the expenses foreseen in the next few years to deal with a growing milfoil problem and potential zebra mussel treatment. When the appeal is made, please be generous in your donation to protect the quality of the resource we all value (Round Lake) and the value of your investment in property on the lake.

RLPOA Financial Status	General Fund	Milfoil	Total
Balance as of 04/30/05	\$16,324.89	\$29,850.91	\$46,175.80
Income			
Membership	\$ 2,000.00		
Advertising	\$ 1,200.00		
Misc	\$ 120.00		
Interest	\$ 71.92		\$ 72.94
Total	\$ 3,391.92	\$ 72.94	\$ 3,464.86
Expense			
Donations	\$ 1,400.00		
Fish Cribs	\$ 848.92		
Milfoil Treatment		\$ 6,173.70	
Buoys	\$ 1,306.79		
Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 550.00		
Newsletter	\$ 751.08		
Accounting/Legal	\$ 39.50		
Postage	\$ 36.00		
Town Hall Use	\$ 100.00		
Advertising	\$ 110.00		
Total	\$ 3,891.58	\$ 6,173.70	\$10,065.28
Balance as of 09/30/05	\$15,825.23	\$23,750.15	\$39,575.38



Lost:

Connelly F3
concept water-
ski; metallic bronze
with black/yellow
bindings; on
Hinton Bay, 8/1/05.
If found, please call
Spencer Butts at
651-270-0298

lawn. Natural shorelines are exceptional pollution and nutrient filters that maintain the lake's ecosystem.

Become a Lakescaper! The water's edge is a busy place where a healthy and functioning aquatic system does not just happen! It is like our own personal good health; there are prescribed rules for better health that require effort on our part. The Association will tell you more about which shoreline alterations

are prohibited or require a permit. In the meantime, be sure to check with us, or call the local county zoning office at 715-634-8288 before cutting or removing shoreland vegetation.

Thank you for your support of the Association. For those of you who have been able to give your time in addition to your financial support, we are deeply grateful. Round Lake is a special blessing that we all are privileged to enjoy.

All the best,



Bob Strachota,
President
Office 612.344.1635
Home Fax 952.927.9854
E-mail welovetoski@hotmail.com

Boater Safety Rules!

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

BOATERS:

1. You must have a wearable personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on your boat. If your boat is over 16 feet, you need one wearable PFD for each person plus one throwable for the boat.
2. You must operate your boat at slow-no-wake when within 100 feet of a pier, dock, raft, or buoyed area.
3. You must have a competent observer in your boat in addition to the driver while towing a waterskier, tuber, knee boat, or any device. You must be 100 feet away from docks, piers, rafts, and anchored occupied boats when towing a person behind your boat.
4. Between sunset and sunrise, you are required to have lights on your boat – red and green lights in front and a white 360 degree light in the rear.
5. When you are anchored after sunset, you need a white light on at all times.
6. Your motorboat must be correctly registered and registration numbers must be displayed.
7. Your certificate of number must be carried on the motorboat at all times while being operated.
8. All storage batteries must be secured from shifting and terminals covered with a non-conductive shield.
9. Persons 10 years but less than 12 years of age may operate a motorboat if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

10. Persons at least 12, but less than 16 years of age, may operate a motorboat only if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian, or by a person 18 years or older, designated by the parent or guardian, or if they have successfully completed a Department of Natural Resources Boating Safety Course and possess a safety certificate issued by the department or state of their residency.
11. It is illegal to operate a motorboat while under the influence of an intoxicant or a controlled substance.



PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC):

1. No person may operate a PWC from sunset to sunrise.
2. All persons riding a PWC must wear a PFD of the proper size and type (type I, II, III, or V).
3. No one under 12 may operate a PWC. (Rental age limit is 16 years old).
4. PWC are restricted to a slow-no-wake speed anytime while within 200 ft. of shore.
5. It is illegal to operate a PWC within 100' of the following:
 - another boat towing a skier or person engaged in similar activity.
 - the tow rope of another motorboat towing a skier or person engaged in similar activity.
 - a pier, dock, raft, a buoyed area and all other boats, including other PWCs.

**If you see a violation, you can turn in the violator by calling
1-800-TIP WDNR 24 hours a day**

Distributed by: Susan Miller, Wisconsin Conservation Warden, Hayward, WI

A Fall Check List

**There is no such thing as a maintenance free house.
All houses need our attention to some degree. Time has its way with all things.
Protect your investment!**

• **Thresholds move a little with age.**
Adjust them by turning the screws counter clockwise until the board meets the sweep again to stop any drafts.

• **Are all of your windows “latched”?**
We often close windows but never take the time to turn the locks. Even the slightest opening can feel like a huge draft in winter.

• **Always always always turn your well breaker off when leaving your home/cabin for a few days.**
In the event of a power failure, water in pipes can freeze and when power is restored, pipes can burst allowing water to run unrestricted into your home.
If we could choose only one valuable piece of information to pass along to you, it would be this. A flooding incident like this can cost a homeowner hundreds of thousands of dollars, fights with insurance companies, not to mention, time and grief and the potential loss.

• **Clean roof valleys of leaves and needles – this helps prevent leakage and water backup during spring thaw.**

• **It’s not too late to check the chalk** on you siding or logs and repair as needed.

• **Trim all tree branches** from within 20’ of chimneys.

• **Check fire extinguishers** and have them serviced if needed.

• **Compost those leaves instead of burning.** Burning debris is the number one cause of wildfires in Wisconsin.

• **Arrange to have someone plow your drive even if you’re not here.** It prevents vandals and allows entrance for emergency vehicles.

• **Arrange to have your home checked periodically,** by a friend or neighbor.

Used with permission. We would like to extend a special thanks to Jane Gibbish of Northland Recreational Homes. Jane produces her company’s newsletter where helpful cabin life tips are frequently shared. Northland is a Hayward home builder and remodeler as well as an exceptional resource of services to keep your cabin in tip-top shape. Thank you Jane and Northland Recreational Homes.

*Northland Recreational Homes:
715-643-6366*

*Northland Specialty Services:
715-638-2665*

*Property/Home Maintenance
Security Checks*



Three year old Eric Reinemann holds the first Bass he ever caught, estimated at 3 lbs.

LCO Adds Walleye Stock

In a recent letter from the LCO Conservation Department, we were informed that during the months of September and October, Round Lake was stocked with 3,600 extended growth Walleye (average 6-8", pictured below). Little Round received 200,000 Walleye fry stock in June and 573 extended growth walleye in October. The Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Fish Hatchery had an exceptional production year and was able to expand stocking efforts beyond what LCO was able to do in the past.



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Protecting the Health of Our Lake by Terry Kingston

As you may know, we had a serious outbreak of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in Leader Bay this summer. We purchased 700 pounds of Navigate Herbicide to treat this area and other areas of the lake.

In an effort to keep the spread of EWM to a minimum we need to have a better approach to the "adopt a shoreline" program. Attached is a map which indicates the volunteers that have taken certain sections of the lake. Each of those volunteers has agreed to inspect the lake for EWM ideally twice but certainly once a year for EWM. We ask that each of the volunteers call Kristy Maki at 715-634-0102 to confirm that you made an inspection of your section of the shoreline sometime during 2005. If for any reason you cannot commit to inspecting in the summer of 2006 you should also notify Kristy.

Protecting our lake from EWM has had strong support from the vast majority of lake home owners. Additionally, home owners rallied and supported efforts to bring all septic systems into 100% compliance. Because of all of our efforts, the lake quality is being protected against the degradation that has been witnessed on other lakes in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota.

We recently receive the results of a very extensive analysis of our lake. In June of 2003 there were two sediment cores collected from our lake. The cores were scientifically analyzed for what has occurred to Round Lake since the late 1800's. Lakes act as partial sediment traps for particles that are created within the lake or delivered from the watershed. The sediments of the lake entomb a section of fossil remains that are more or less resistant to bacterial decay or chemical dissolution. These remains include diatom frustules, cell walls of certain algal species and sub fossils from aquatic plants. The chemical composition of the sentiments may indicate the composition of particles entering the lake as well as the past chemical environment of the lake itself. Using the fossil remains found in the sentiment, one can construct changes in the lake eco system over any period of time since the establishment of the lake.

The greatest change in the geo-chemical record has occurred during the last two decades. The key findings of the study are as follows:

1. The geo-chemical profiles show that development in the watershed first began to impact the lake starting in the 1920's. The impact of this development has significantly increased in the last two decades.

2. Evidence of this development is largely in the form of chemicals used in lawn maintenance such as fertilizers and other soil amendments.

3. The most significant indication of the pressures exerted by shoreline development is the decline in oxygen levels in the bottom waters of the lake. The core indicates this first began around 1970 but has accelerated in the last 15 years. The decline in oxygen levels is a classic early indicator of the beginning of the eutrophication of the lake.

4. The core shows that Round Lake has been impacted by shoreline development beginning around the 1920's. Runoff from development led to an increase in macrophytes in the 1950's. This impact has accelerated during the last 15 years resulting in an increase in sediment infilling and loss of oxygen in the bottom waters. **If this trend continues, the lake will be further degraded with nutrient levels increasing resulting in a loss of water clarity.**

What this all means is quite simple. If we want Round Lake to continue to be one of the premier lakes, we need to take appropriate action to curtail environmentally unsound development

Protecting the Health of Our Lake...continued on page 5



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Current "Adopt a Shoreline" Volunteers

Protecting the Health of Our Lake...continued from page 4

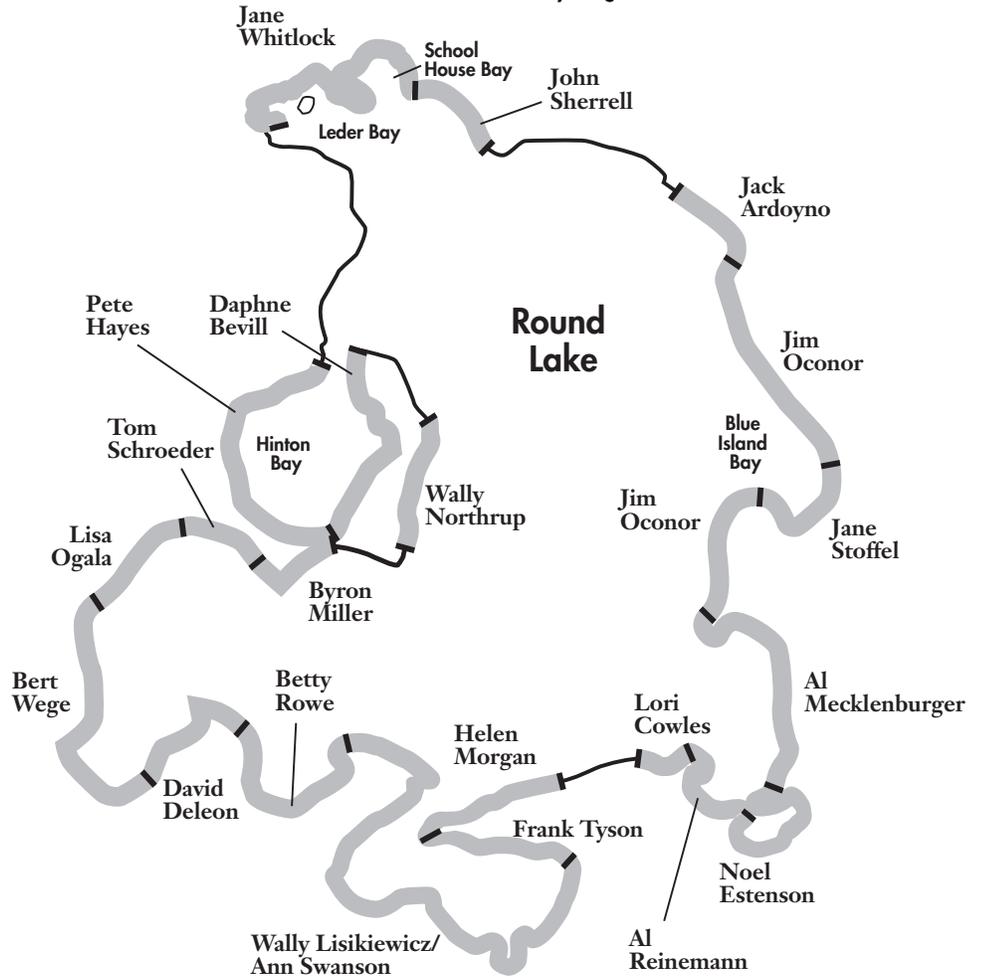
practices. There are multiple reasons for protecting our shoreline and thus the quality of the water. One reason is simply the fact that it is the right thing to do. Another reason is economic, that is, the more unique, the more pristine our water the more valuable our shoreline becomes.

Just as in the case of the septic system, most people will whole heartedly agree on a voluntary basis to do whatever is appropriate to protect what we have, based on the scientific evidence. There will be a small minority, however, who will not join with the majority either through ignorance or unwillingness to cooperate for the greatest good of all homeowners.

We will work with the DNR to help identify examples of locations where shorelines have been "neutered" in terms of vegetation which allows the unobstructed runoff of water into our lake. We will also support stronger zoning ordinances which mandate that vegetation along the lake not be disturbed by new development and that renourishment of the shoreline occur with existing property.

At our spring meeting and in future newsletters we will provide examples of how we can all do our part.

To become a shoreline volunteer please call Terry Kingston at 763-450-3331.



We offer a special thanks to all of our "adopt a shoreline" volunteers and encourage each of you to sign-up for those areas on this map currently not being covered by your neighbors.

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Membership Report

I believe we all know the benefits of membership and supporting the Round Lake Property Owners Association (RLPOA).

I realize we may all have different opinions about the issues we face each year. Supporting and joining RLPOA is probably the best way to become involved and have your opinions heard. We get many comments about the diligence of the board and the involvement board members have with various groups that make decisions involving the Round Lakes. Sharing your opinions is the best way to be sure the board knows the feelings of the majority of the members.

To date we have 290 members out of a possible 625. For the year in 2004 we had 362 paid memberships.

The numerals after your name on the address label indicate the year you are paid up through. Ex: '05 means your 2005 are paid.

Please send dues to:

RLPOA, Box 1070, Hayward, WI 54843

Wally Narr, Membership Chairman

The Current Status of Shoreland Regulation by Bill Whitlock

This summer has seen regulatory action affecting shoreland activities by both the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors.

NR 115

The DNR has proposed an updated version of NR 115 which would establish the minimum standards for shoreland regulation that, when finally adopted, will have to be enacted by all Wisconsin counties. The RLPOA Board thought, as did all other Sawyer County lake associations, that the proposed NR 115 did not do enough to protect Wisconsin lakes. Among the proposed provisions to which the RLPOA Board took exception were the following:

1. Density: Proposed NR 115 would make no change in minimum standards for single family or duplex residential lots of (a) 20,000 square feet and 100

feet of lake frontage if unsewered and (b) 10,000 square feet and 65 feet of lake frontage if sewerred. The proposed NR 115 would also permit greater than single family or duplex development if the lot size and lake frontage were increased, respectively, be 6,000 square feet and 30 feet on unsewered lots and 3,000 square feet and 30 feet of frontage on sewerred lots for each dwelling unit in excess of two. The RLPOA Board has taken the position that since density is a chief cause of lake degradation, each dwelling unit on a lot should meet the minimum size and frontage standards.

2. Impervious Surfaces: Proposed NR 115 provides only that for construction of impervious surfaces on shoreland lots counties require property owners to implement best management standards that would result in no increase in

Current Status of Shoreland Regulation...continued on page 7

The Benefits of Membership

Joining the property owners association has its advantages.

- Be part of a proactive group concerned about our lakes
- Get information about our lakes and the area
- Have a voice in the decisions making process
- Have a forum to voice concerns
- Support the association and the board
- Be a part of helping water safety
- Be a part of Eurasian Milfoil control
- Be a part of clean, clear water in our lakes
- Protect our properties, by being good stewards of the lakes
- Learn more about legal activities concerning our lakes

- Join in cooperation with other lake associations
- The return of your investment of \$20 is great
- Annual dues only \$20 per year

Recommendation:

One time only contribution for Eurasian Milfoil fund of \$1.00 per foot of lakeshore frontage on your property. This is to sustain the fund for years to come.

Sincerely,

Wally Narr, Membership Committee Chairman

Last year, well over one-half of possible members joined. Let's make this a banner year for involvement and support.

Round Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. / 2005 Membership Application

I am interested in helping on one of the following committees:

- Government Awareness
- Water Safety
- Fish
- Water Quality
- Membership

Name

Spouse

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

E-mail

- Enclosed are my dues of \$20.00 for calendar year 2005.

Send to:

Round Lake Property Owners Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1070
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843-4048

storm water discharge to the maximum practicable (a provision that the DNR announced at a public hearing would be watered down.) It also goes on to provide that if impervious surface construction would result in impervious surface exceeding 20% of the lot size, a vegetative buffer must be established. The RLPOA Board regarded the proposed provisions as entirely inadequate and recommended that no new impervious surface construction be allowed within 200 feet of the ordinary high-water mark and that impervious surface construction within 200 feet of the ordinary high-water mark not be such that the total impervious surfaces in that area exceed 10% (20% with a conditional use permit) and that total impervious surfaces be limited to 20% of the total lot.

3. Non-conforming Structures: Proposed NR 115 would change the long-established Wisconsin rule on non-conforming structures (generally, those located within 75 feet of the ordinary high-water mark) to permit counties to allow structural alteration and, within limits, expansion and replacement if located not closer than 35 feet from the ordinary high-water mark and on a lot of at least 7,000 square feet, provided shoreland buffer mitigation is undertaken. The RLPOA Board has taken the position that the existing rule that only ordinary repair and maintenance be allowed should be continued.

4. Vegetative Buffer Zones: Proposed NR 115 does not require the establishment of a 35 foot vegetative buffer zone next to the water unless triggered by a requirement for mitigation, generally as a condition of obtaining a land use permit. The RLPOA Board has taken the position that such buffers should be required to be established over a period of several years. The experts tell us that such buffers go a long way in slowing down lake degradation.

5. Back-lot Lake Access: Proposed NR 115 would permit but not require counties to mandate that lake lots affording lake access to back lots meet the same standards as any other lake front lot or parcel but does not regulate the number or size of back lots having lake access. The RLPOA Board has taken the position that access lots or parcels must meet the same requirements of size, frontage, and other regulations as any other lake-front lot or parcel and that the number of dwelling units located on back lots having access to the lake be limited to two, or at the most, three, whether condominiums, duplexes or single family units.

The DNR has conducted at least 11 public hearings on proposed NF 115 at which comments were made and recoded and has accepted written comments from all interested parties, including RLPOA. We understand that the staff and an advisory committee are currently reviewing the comments and will, in

due course, promulgate a proposed final NR 115 that will have to be approved by the DNR and a legislative committee before becoming final. We are not aware of any timetable for final action.

Amendments to Sawyer County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance

On September 15, 2005 the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors adopted amendments to Section 4.4 of the Zoning Ordinance relating to shoreland zoning. While most of the amendments are of a housekeeping nature to correct ambiguities and anomalies discovered during the administration of the Ordinance, there were several changes worthy of note, namely:

1. Section 4.49 (5) has been amended so that existing retaining walls located within 75 feet of the ordinary high-water mark, when in need or replacement or major repair, can be rebuilt with the concurrence of the Zoning Department and the Land and Water Conservation Department rather than being required to be removed or reduced in height as formerly required.

2. Section 4.49 (6) has been added to authorize stairways and powered lifts within the 75 foot setback area, subject to certain conditions.

3. Section 4.421 (5) has been amended to permit reconstruction of nonconforming structures damaged or destroyed by ice.

Current Status of Shoreland Regulation...continued on page 8

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4. Section 4.421 (7) has been added to make clear that nonconforming patios and screen porches may receive only ordinary maintenance and repair and can be replaced only by variance. However, nonconforming decks can be replaced within the existing footprint.

5. The County Board on a 7 to 7 tie vote failed to adopt the Zoning Committee's recommended Section 4.422 relating to the construction of impervious surfaces. Although the Zoning Committee's recommendations were extensive, the heart of them limited the construction of impervious surfaces within 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark so that the total of impervious surfaces within that area could not exceed 15% but provided that the percentage of impervious surfaces within that area could be increased to 30% with the approval of a professionally produced storm water retention plan and the granting of a conditional use permit by the zoning committee after published notice and a public hearing. The Zoning Committee's recommendation also provided that the total impervious surface of the lot area that was more than 300 feet from the ordinary high-water mark could not exceed 30% of such area or 35% with the approval of the Zoning Department of a Storm Water Retention Plan. With the failure of the County Board to adopt the recommended Section 4.422,

the existing Section 4.422 remains in effect. It provides that new construction cannot cause the impervious surface within 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark to exceed 15% of such area and that the 15% limitation can be increased to no more than 25% only with a conditional use permit the application for which must be accompanied by a topographic survey and site plan that need not be prepared by a professional. (In practice, such surveys and plans probably will be prepared by professionals.) Existing Section 4.42 goes on to provide that to increase the impervious surfaces in the area that is more than 300 feet from the ordinary high-water mark to no more than 30% of such area that land owner must obtain the approval by the Zoning Department of the survey and plan. The Ordinance is silent as to the permissible percentage of impervious surface in this area without Zoning Department approval. From the foregoing it is evident that the County Board's failure to adopt the Zoning Committee's recommendation on impervious surfaces has resulted in the survival of the existing rules which in some respects are more restrictive than what was recommended. Any application to increase impervious surfaces to more than the 25% and 30% limitation would be by application for a variance which requires higher standard than does a conditional use permit.

NR326

In the closing days of September, the DNR issued the long-awaited proposed NR 326 regulating piers, wharves, boat shelters, boat hoists, boat lifts and swimming rafts in navigable waterways. Piers that were constructed in accordance with the Pier Planner are exempt from further regulation. The proposed NR 326 provides in part as follows:

"Key requirements for a pier or wharf to be exempt include:

- Length – no more than the 3-foot depth or length needed to moor a boat or use a boat hoist/lift
- Width – maximum width of 6' wide
- Number of boats – 2 boat slips for the first 50' of shore line 1 more for each additional full 50'
- Not a solid structure or on rock-filled cribs
- Not located in a sensitive area designated by the Department under NR 107
- Must not block water movement, cause sedimentation or accumulate debris".

Proposed NR 326 also contains a grandfathering general permit to authorize most non-exempt piers and wharfs that existed prior to February 6, 2004. A more detailed explanation will be in the next newsletter.

Round Lake Property Owners Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1070
Hayward, WI 54843-4048

