



LAKE POYGAN SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

PRESERVING OUR RESOURCES
JULY, 2015 VOL. 23, NO. 7

SPECIAL EDITION

Since the last newsletter we have received funding from the DNR for the Poygan Breakwall, a long sought after piece of the critical habitat protection that we have been after for over a decade (from the June 4, 2015 Oshkosh Northwestern):

MADISON – Another quarter mile of breakwall will be built in Lake Poygan to protect its highly erodible wetlands and its water after the State Building Commission Wednesday approved a \$378,000 project.

The lakebed fronting the Lake Poygan Sportmen's Club just east of where the Wolf River empties into the lake will be eventually encircled by 9,000 feet of rock breakwall, said Art Techlow, a club member and retired Department of Natural Resources biologist.

"The club acquired the property with the intent to restore its wetlands. Ducks Unlimited, Winnebago County and the DNR all have been partners in restoring (area wetlands)," he said.

The club is contributing \$70,000 and the county \$20,000 to the 1,170-foot-long breakwall project.

The wetlands along Lake Poygan are remnants what of used to be a dense emergent marsh.

The lake changed when dams were built near Neenah and Menasha in the 1850s. The dams caused water levels to rise three or four feet in lakes Poygan, Butte des Morts, and Winneconne, the upriver lakes of the Lake Winnebago pool. That drowned the wetlands, washed them away along with the vital wildlife habitat they create.

Lake Poygan had an average depth of eight feet prior to the dams installation, adding three feet to its depth was a drastic change to its plant community which is the beginning of the food chain for fish, ducks and other wildlife, Techlow said.

Breakwalls reduce wave energy which erodes wetlands and in Lake Poygan will also reduce sediment carried down the Wolf River into the clearer waters of the lake.

Sediment is the state's "number one polluter," said Chad Casper, of the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department. Phosphorous attaches to sediment and is released by wave action and carp rooting up a lake bed.

Fed by phosphorous, algae becomes a prolific organism robbing oxygen needed by other animal life, and is so abrasive, it can damage fish gills, Casper said.

Since 1998, Winnebago County installed about six miles of breakwall along Poygan, Winneconne and Butte des Morts, and in addition to the DNR's projects.

The county has worked with private land owners who have contributed to the cost and made projects eligible for state and federal funding, said Casper.

The just-approved breakwall project should eventually continue south and east protecting hundreds of acres of wetlands and circle back to the Boom Cut, a venture that could take several years and lots of money.

"No, it's just not a pile of rocks, there's a lot of engineering that goes into a breakwall," said Steve Schrage, a DNR construction representative, who has slogged through muck and mire to research the best installation sites for breakwalls.

The DNR has learned lessons from previous breakwall projects, said Techlow.

A two-mile breakwall encircling Terrells's Island in Lake But des Morts was completed in 1997 and had a very successful start. Then, pelicans and cormorants arrived and fouled the 455-acres of water the breakwall enclosed with their waste.

"Now it's a collapsed restoration but the DNR and the Butte des Morts Conservation Club is trying to discourage the water birds...and hopefully it will be successful again," he said.

The Poygan breakwall will be built in segments to avoid the Terrell Island problem where water was enclosed and contaminated.

Construction is scheduled to begin this fall and be completed by January 2017.

THE "BIG ONE"

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DRAWING IS ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN IN THE PAST - IT WILL BE HELD JULY 11TH, 2015 AT 2 PM AT THE BOOM BAY PARK.

The Lake Poygan Sportsmen's Club's 2015 all cash raffle is ready to pay out a top prize of \$10,000! Only 400 will be sold with 25 places being paid out. If you want to get in the raffle, you can't beat these odds. Ticket cost is \$50 for a ticket. The stubs can be in 2 different names to share that cost to \$25 each and admits ticket holder(s) to free beer, soda and snacks on the day of the drawing (July 11th). To purchase or sell Big One tickets, contact Joel Schweitzer 920-213-8191 or Matt Harp at 920-858-3347. Tickets are already available and will be also at our next meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd. The Boom Bay Bar, The Viking, Woodeye's, Pine Tree, Goode's Inn, and your favorite Club member will also have a good supply of tickets. Turn tickets in to any of them too.

We are asking each Club member to buy or sell at least 3 tickets - we typically sell out but fell a little short last year - we can do this!

PROJECT UPDATE

West Bay Cane Beds: We counted 242 nests at four different locations. There was evidence of washed out nests, and many of them appeared vulnerable to a water level rise and/or high wind event. We suspect many nests were lost. About 150 pelicans were standing along the ridge on both sides of the big gap. This is not helping the existing vegetation because the birds tend to crush the plants. We also saw evidence of ice shoving on the east side of the big gap. Overall, vegetation is being lost at a rapid rate on a year-to-year basis. Sumner Matteson, DNR's avian ecologist, has asked to help us develop a tern project at the cane beds with the intent of applying for NRDA funds. Art Techlow also has some ideas for using the four stone islands to create habitat.

In-lake Fish Reefs: There are now 3 fish reefs complete in the area of the one placed last year. We are still shooting for more - stay tuned.

Big One: We are ready to go - just sell a bunch of tickets

Plow Truck: Going to be serviced before going into storage for the summer

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday July	7	7:00pm	General Meeting at The Viking
Saturday July	11	2:00pm	BIG ONE DRAWING AT BOOM BAY PARK
Tuesday August	4	7:00pm	General Meeting at The Viking

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS:

May 2015 Winners				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Amt.</u>	<u>Name</u>		<u>Sold By</u>
1	\$20	Jacob Trochinski	Redgranite	Chico, Jr.
2	20	Charlotte Unser	Winneconne	C. Wesner
3	40	Dick Stanke	Larsen	Winchester Hill
4	20	Vi Brown-Luebke	Black Creek	D. DeWildt
5	20	Steve Lisak	Sussex	M. Johnson
6	20	Rodger Eilers	New London	Vic S.
7	20	Kari Huelabeck	Winneconne	S. Nelson
8	20	Dale DeWildt	Appleton	D. DeWildt
9	20	Phil Tritt	Oshkosh	Chico
10	40	Mark Swanson	Neenah	M. Swanson
11	20	Deb Koeppler	Oconomowoc	Capt. Ron
12	20	Ray Peterson	Larsen	Vic S.
13	20	Ron Naparella, Jr.	Fremont	Jim Bob
14	20	Dan Gosenheimer	Wild Rose	Dan's Door
15	20	Jeff Ganzwl	Appleton	J. Hardy
16	20	Julie Sorenson	Larsen	J. Sauer
17	40	Lyle Huebner	Larsen	Big John
18	20	Katie Coles	Ripon	D. Klassa
19	20	Charles Marshall	Wilmington, IL	M. Merke
20	20	Keith Hartjes	Little Chute	Viking
21	20	Steve & Peggy DeLeeuw	Neenah	P. O'Brien
22	20	Kevin Korth	Menasha	P. O'Brien
23	20	Mark Dittmann	Neenah	Goode's Inn
24	40	Mark Carney	Menasha	S. Nelson
25	20	Luke Mitchell	Fremont	B. Mitchell
26	20	Tom Davidson	Arlington Hts. IL	Big John
27	20	Larry Will	Weyauwega	D. Peters
28	20	Doug Rodencal	Pine River	D. Peters
29	20	Herb Wolff	New London	Antler's
30	20	Steve Ast	Clinton	T.W./Kelly
31	40	Betty Murray	Oshkosh	S. Lemz

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