



# Lac La Belle Management District

www.llbmd.org

SPRING 2020 ISSUE

## From Lac La Belle Management District Chair Dan Bauer



**A**s we begin our 2020 season, the LLBMD Board continues to take steps to maintain and improve the water quality of the lake as part of the District's mission. This year, we will be discussing water quality improvements with area developers, the City of Oconomowoc, Town of Oconomowoc and Village of Lac La Belle.

Lake water quality is affected by stormwater runoff, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), and other environmental/non-environmental factors. Despite efforts in the past to control AIS, Starry Stonewort was discovered last year in three area lakes; Okauchee, Lower Nemahbin, and Pewaukee. AIS interns were on Lac La Belle last year and, as of last fall, Starry Stonewort had not been found in Lac La Belle. We have applied for and received a grant that provides funding to monitor AIS at the City's boat launch in 2020 to help control the spread of AIS. Also, as part of a water quality

study, we received grants to survey aquatic plant life, map out potential garbage in the south basin, and take action on a DNR Rough Fish contract between the LLBMD, DNR Fisheries, and Riedemann Fisheries to remove carp from Lac La Belle.

I want to thank LLBMD Board members Jim Groose, Ernie Bollinger, Jeff Bode, Karen Carr, Terry Largent and Dave Zimmermann, for their contribution, knowledge, and continued support in service to the District this past year. We look forward to a great spring and summer season. Hope to see you on the lake soon!

*Dan Bauer*



Photos Courtesy of Charlie Bourdo

### Inside This Issue:

From LLBMD Chair Dan Bauer	1
Interested In Shoreland Restoration?	2
Boat Inspection Coming To Lac La Belle & What You Can Do To Help!	3
Be On The Lookout For Starry Stonewort!	3
2020 Goose Round-Up	4
Excited For Light Up The Lake? We Are!	5
About Those Carp...	5
Listening To The Lake	6-7
Good News For The Fisheries	7
Important Dates	8

### LLBMD Board Of Commissioners

Dan Bauer, Chairperson  
 David Zimmermann, Vice Chair & County Rep.  
 Karen Carr, Secretary  
 Jim Groose, Treasurer  
 Ernie Bollinger, Commissioner  
 Jeff Bode, Commissioner  
 Terry Largent, Town Rep.

## Interested In Shoreline Restoration? We Have A Program For That!

**C**ongratulations! The LLBMD has been helping residents restore the Lac La Belle shoreline for more than 10 years! Restored shorelands are located in the channel area near City Beach, on westerly shores on Glenview Avenue and West Wisconsin Avenue and along North Lake Road between the dam and Bender Beach. Another restored property is located at the north end of the lake in the Village of Lac La Belle. Property owners worked with shoreland restoration experts to restore a healthy transition between land and water by installing a buffer zone of native vegetation along the water's edge. These native plant landscapes are beautiful and beneficial to the critical habitats of the songbirds, reptiles and other lakeshore animals. Native plantings act as a filter for phosphorus and sediment before entering the lake and help buffer wave action from the lake that would erode the shoreline. Native plants also provide screening and privacy to landowners, as well as deterring geese from coming onto the lake shore. The LLBMD Shoreland Restoration program provides a simple way to keep the shoreline looking healthy and beautiful and helps improve lake water quality!

If interested in the program, please review the following criteria to determine eligibility:



- Property must have visible and accessible water frontage on Lac La Belle
- Restoration site at least 800 square feet
- At least 8 feet deep buffer zone
- Planted with 100% native Wisconsin species
- Agree to terms/agreement and provide volunteers for planting, if possible
- LLBMD will reimburse selected participants 75% of the project cost, up to \$2,000.

If you are interested in the program, please submit the form below before June 1, 2020. A LLBMD Commissioner will contact you regarding the necessary paperwork to proceed. Paperwork covers design and site preparation, planting, annual maintenance and a commitment to maintain the shoreline for five years.



I am interested in learning more! Please send me additional information.  
Note: You can also request this information on our website!

Name (Please Print Clearly)

---

Mailing Address  
House # and Street

---

City, State, Zip

---

Property Address If Different  
From Above

House # and Street

---

City, State, Zip

---

Email Address

---

Contact Phone Number

---

Please return this form by June 1, 2020 to: LLBMD, PO Box 511, Oconomowoc, WI 53066



## Boat Inspection Coming to Lac La Belle! (Article courtesy of LLBMD Commissioner Jeff Bode)

**T**hrough the use of a WDNR Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant, and in conjunction with Waukesha County, the LLBMD has been fortunate to receive funding to hire a watercraft inspection intern to begin educating boaters about aquatic invasive species (AIS) and how to prevent their spread in Lac La Belle and other area waterways this summer at the Lac La Belle boat launch at City Park! This intern will be performing boat and trailer checks, disseminating informational brochures while educating boaters and others at the launch about preventing the spread of AIS. Inspectors will also record who was greeted at the landing, where their boat was launched last and note any presence of AIS on their boat or trailer. This data will be uploaded to Wisconsin's statewide database to better understand boater activities and better prevent the spread of AIS. Watercraft inspectors will work with boaters while checking boats and trailers to:

- Inspect & Remove visible aquatic plants, animals and mud from boat, motor and trailer.
- Drain lake water from bilge, live well and motor.
- Dispose of unwanted live bait, worms and fish in trash.
- Rinse & Dry boat and equipment.



While watercraft inspectors do not have enforcement authority, Drew Starch, WDNR Warden says, "Anyone, including inspectors, should call the DNR Violation Hotline (1-800-847-9367) to report a violation." Callers are advised to note date, time and location, and/or to record a license plate or distinguishing characteristics and to take a picture of the violation, if possible.



Photo Courtesy of Charlie Bourdo

### What Can You Do To Help?

- Learn to recognize Starry Stonewort and become more familiar with other AIS threats
- Meet and greet our watercraft inspector at the boat launch and thank them for their service!
- Volunteer to help AIS prevention efforts by providing local support at the Lac La Belle boat launch at City Park this year

Would you like to join Lac La Belle's AIS Prevention Team? We can use your help! Please call or text Jeff Bode at 262-853-7321 for more information or if you would like to volunteer.

### Be On The Look Out For Starry Stonewort!

**E**urasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels are not new to Lac La Belle; however, there is a new AIS called Starry Stonewort that is of particular concern. Described as "a brushy, bright green algae that grows under water with distinctive small star-shaped bulbils on root-like filaments," Bob Wakeman, WDNR AIS Statewide Coordinator, warned of its ability to out-compete native lake plants, reduce fish spawning habitat and cause nuisance conditions for boaters and swimmers. Once introduced, Starry Stonewort is very difficult and expensive to control.

Photo Courtesy of Paul Skawinski



# Goose Round-Up!

In past years, the LLBMD has worked with USDA Fish & Wildlife Staff and the City of Oconomowoc to reduce the number of non-migratory geese on Lac La Belle. The purpose of reducing the goose population remains to bring the number of geese to a level that can be healthfully supported by the lake environment. Excessive numbers of geese contribute to water quality problems, including E-coli bacteria, increased phosphorus loadings and increased risk of illness for humans and wildlife. If there are enough birds, the LLBMD will again remove geese on both Lac La Belle and Fowler Lake in June, 2020. Once captured, the geese are euthanized and provided to a food or animal pantry for consumption.

In order for the Goose Round-Up staff to remove geese on your property, consent is required prior to the Round-Up. If you have submitted a consent form to the LLBMD AFTER 2013, you do not need to submit one now. **Your consent remains in effect until you notify us that consent to access your property is no longer given.** If you would like to participate as a new property owner, please complete and return the form by June 1, 2020 to:

LLBMD  
PO Box 511  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

OR

[www.llbmd.org](http://www.llbmd.org) & click on "Forms"

In order to maintain accurate cost estimates for the Round-Up, we need to know where the geese like to spend time on or near the lake. If geese frequent your property, please let us know by including this information on the Consent Form or by contacting the LLBMD through the website at [www.llbmd.org](http://www.llbmd.org). Thank you!

## Goose Roundup Consent Form - 2020

I authorize representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture—Wildlife Services and LLBMD to access the property listed below for the purposes of goose management (egg oiling and/or Round-Up).

**This permission form has no expiration date and remains in effect unless you request to be removed from the permitted sites list.** Decisions on goose management will be made on an annual basis. Please contact a LLBMD Commissioner if you wish to be removed from the list, have problems with geese on your property, know of a nest, or have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your assistance!

Name (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Mandatory) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form as soon as possible, no later than June 1, 2020!

Send to:

Lac La Belle Management District  
PO Box 511  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

OR

scan & email to: [info@llbmd.org](mailto:info@llbmd.org)

Locations where geese can frequently be found: \_\_\_\_\_

## Excited For Light Up The Lake? We Are!



### Light Up the Lake

**Boat Parade & Fireworks on Lac La Belle**  
Saturday, August 15th (rain date Sun. Aug 16th)  
Band Concert 7:30pm / Boat Line-Up 8:00pm

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming involved, please contact:  
Bonnie Lewis-Tschannen  
[bonnie@stapletonrealty.com](mailto:bonnie@stapletonrealty.com)  
262-567-8910

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle donation level)  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Angels: \$10 - \$49  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze: \$50-\$499  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Silver: \$500 - \$1,499  
Boat Theme: \_\_\_\_\_ Gold: \$1,500 - \$2,499  
Major: \$2,500

\_\_\_\_\_ YES - I will be entering a boat \_\_\_\_\_ YES - I will need a generator  
\_\_\_\_\_ YES - I have a generator to lend \_\_\_\_\_ YES - I will be making a donation for the firework show

\*\*\*\*(Make check out to: Light Up the Lake Fireworks)\*\*\*\*

Please return this form and checks to:  
Stapleton Realty / Attn: Light Up the Lake /112 N. Main Street, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

### About Those Carp...

(Article courtesy of Ben Heussner, WDNR Fisheries Biologist)

Despite developing a 2019 Experimental Rough Fish Removal Contract, no carp removal occurred in 2019. A new Experimental Rough Fish Contract for 2020 has been issued and we hope to complete a removal of both Common Carp and Buffalo in 2020. Part of the Experimental Rough Fish Removal Contract includes completion of a Common Carp and Buffalo mark and recapture population estimate. A population estimate for Common Carp and Buffalo will help determine the effect of the rough fish removal on improving water quality and aquatic plant community. In order to facilitate harvest of rough fish in Lac La Belle, we are exploring the feasibility of

removing debris found in the deep water of the south basin. Removal of debris would facilitate any future commercial harvest of Carp and Buffalo.

#### Where Are Those Carp? The Carp Telemetry Study Tells Us!

The WDNR fisheries program has performed 31 common carp surgeries where acoustic tags were implanted and fish released throughout the Oconomowoc River system. These acoustically tagged carp help us understand local migration patterns and should help facilitate future removal. Preliminary study results show the electrical barrier, located approximately 17 miles downstream of Lac La Belle, is partially effective at preventing upstream migration of Common Carp. Acoustic receivers will be deployed in the Oconomowoc River to continue monitoring movement of Common Carp throughout the system. In fall of 2019, five acoustically tagged Common Carp were found in the south basin of Lac La Belle that provided vital information for future harvest.

Wisconsin DNR Photo



## LISTENING TO THE LAKE

In 2020 join us in "listening to Lac La Belle" for changes in the fisheries and water quality issues that continue to challenge the lake. (Article courtesy of Jeff Bode).

### Listening...

The sights and sounds of Wisconsin lakes are familiar to many of us who live on a lake. As we open a lakeside door in spring, we are greeted by the chatter of gulls flocking to the lake for an overnight stay. In summer, the sound of waves lapping on the shore relaxes us as we dangle our feet off the pier. Fall migration of waterfowl brings the call of Canadian geese warning it's time to take out the dock. And, what about the echoing creak of lake ice as it thickens creating pressure heaves and cracks? Just by listening to the lake, we can often tell what is happening on the lake.

Photo Courtesy of Charlie Bourdo



Lake managers/scientists also "listen to lakes" seeking insight into lake happenings and how lakes are responding to change. In Wisconsin, citizen lake monitors coordinate with professional state and local lake scientists to monitor and record observations. Observations and physical measurements, such as water clarity and water chemistry samples, are sent to be analyzed for plant nutrients, biological collection of fish, and other aquatic animal and plant life. These observations are entered into a statewide lake database maintained by WI DNR called SWIMS. Lac La Belle is grateful for the dedication of those many citizen volunteers, as well as state and local lake and watershed managers for listening to the lake over the years and creating a robust database of lake information to help us learn and note change.

Lac La Belle is a beautiful lake that faces many challenges. These challenges include maintaining a healthy fishery and sustaining a water quality that permits safe and enjoyable swimming and boating. In Lac La Belle's urbanizing watershed, demands grow for more boating and fishing, pier pressure and intensifying shoreline activity, and the naturally porous kettle moraine landscape

converts to impermeable rooftops and roadways. Transient boaters bring foreign species from other waterways that join previously stocked rough fish in overwhelming native lake life. These disturbances threaten safe swimming and pleasure boating, and a healthy lake environment. In response to these challenges, the LLBMD sponsors lake improvement projects to remove detrimental rough fish, restore healthy shorelands, prevent introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS), and reduce pollutant runoff to the lake.

### What Is Being Done?

In 2020 the LLBMD Board will "listen to Lac La Belle" to examine the differences being made in dealing with these challenges. Specifically, three key indicators of lake health will be monitored and compared to past survey results. First, the abundance and diversity lake plants, both native and invasive, will be surveyed by lake experts. Second, the DNR fisheries biologist for Lac La Belle has been asked to estimate the population and status of rough fish. Third, the dedicated Citizen Lake Monitors and staff at Tall Pines and the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program (OWPP) will continue to sample and report lake and tributary water quality. The goal is to assess the status of Lac La Belle, provide information to set priorities for future activities and refine current efforts to best preserve and restore beautiful Lac La Belle.

### How Will The Key Indicators Be Used?

#### 1. Survey The Aquatic Plant Community

Aquatic plants are literally at the root of all healthy kettle moraine lakes! Unfortunately, Lac La Belle suffers from a lack of plant diversity and abundance threatening the fishery and water quality. The invasion and over population of Eurasian water milfoil and carp, removal of native shoreland and shallow water vegetation, boating traffic, and diminishing water clarity all contribute to the demise of native aquatic plants.

(continued pg.7)

Photo Courtesy of Charlie Bourdo



## LISTENING TO THE LAKE

In 2020 join us in “listening to Lac La Belle” for changes in the fisheries and water quality issues that continue to challenge the lake. (Article courtesy of Jeff Bode).

(continued from pg. 6)

The LLBMD will survey the presence, location, and extent of both native and invasive aquatic plants. A professional lake biologist will be hired using a state cost-share grant to complete the survey this summer. Findings will be compared to past lake vegetation results. Aquatic plant information along with citizen lake monitoring water quality observations and DNR Fisheries data will provide insights into the effectiveness of aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention, carp removal and shoreland restoration efforts.

### 2. Estimate The Population And Status Of Rough Fish

A strong fishery requires a healthy balance of forage and sport fish species supported by a diverse habitat for spawning and refuge. Lac La Belle's sport fishery is threatened by an overabundance of carp and lack of good habitat prompting DNR Fisheries and the LLBMD to remove rough fish, stock flathead catfish, improve sport fish habitats and keep rough fish from swimming into the lake from downstream. A recently approved DNR Experimental Rough Fish Removal Contract will allow removal of rough fish in 2020 but requires a population estimate and status of Common and Buffalo Carp as well as information on the status of aquatic plants and lake water quality. DNR Fisheries will oversee rough fish capture, tagging and recapture to estimate carp populations and provide a report on their status. Rough fish population estimates along with aquatic plant and water quality survey results will be used to examine the success of rough fish removal and control projects. This will help to determine future rough fish removal efforts.

### 3. Monitor Water Quality

Historical water quality records show Lac La Belle supported moderate levels of phosphorus, suspended algae (Chlorophyll A) and moderate water clarity. Lake scientists use these three measurements to calculate a trophic state index of lake health. Recent observations, however, show signs of decreasing lake water clarity and more frequent mid to late summer algal blooms. Safe swimming and boating, especially along the lake shore, are threatened by these blooms. We appreciate that citizen lake monitoring volunteers will continue to measure water clarity and send phosphorus and Chlorophyll A water samples to the State Laboratory of Hygiene for analysis this summer. The LLBMD will continue to work with Tall Pines and the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program to support monitoring the existing upstream water quality that enters Lac La Belle. Water quality results will provide an index of lake health and record of water quality required by the DNR Experimental Rough Fish Removal Contract.

The Lac La Belle Management District will use science in “listening to the lake.” The science will allow the lake to tell its story and the LLBMD Board will share what is heard with you! The goal is to work cooperatively with state and local partners to reveal trends and status of Lac La Belle compared to past conditions. By integrating findings from aquatic plant surveys, rough fish, and water quality surveys, the LLBMD expects to see the difference being made by removing detrimental rough fish, restoring healthy shorelands, preventing aquatic invasive species, and reducing pollutant runoff to the lake. Results “heard” from listening to the lake will be used to influence future LLBMD priorities and decisions to preserve and restore beautiful Lac La Belle.

## Good News For The Fishery!

(Information Courtesy Of WDNR Fisheries Biologist, Ben Heussner)

**2**019 was a very successful year for the WDNR hatchery system! Lac La Belle received a surplus stocking of 1,150 fall fingerling muskellunge that averaged 11 inches. In early 2020, the Muskellunge Club of Wisconsin and Milwaukee Chapter of Muskies Inc. were able to combine efforts for stocking an additional 600 spring yearlings. That means 1,750 new muskies were added to Lac La Belle!

In addition to providing excellent sportfishing opportunities, additional stocking of muskellunge is expected to contribute to biomanipulation goals of maximizing predator fish abundance in Lac La Belle. Fall surveys show consistent recruitment of walleyes as the adult population shows minor improvements in size structure under the current 28” minimum length limit. Good news for fishing enthusiasts!



## Lac La Belle Management District

PO Box 511  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

*“The LLBMD seeks to promote environmentally conscious and fiscally responsible decisions by providing education, enhancing a healthy lake ecosystem and ensuring safe use of Lac La Belle for today and tomorrow.”*

## Location, Newsletter & Website

**T**he LLBMD Board typically meets the third Thursday every other month from March to October at 7PM at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall located at 6812 Brown Street in the Town of Oconomowoc. Check our website at [www.llbmd.org](http://www.llbmd.org) for the latest information including agendas, minutes or an extra copy of this newsletter. We hope you visit soon!



## Important Dates

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| June 1    | Goose Round-up Consent Form Due                                      |
| June 1    | Shoreland Restoration Program Submittal Deadline                     |
| July 3    | Fourth of July Parade & Fireworks - 6PM                              |
| August 15 | Light Up The Lake Boat Parade & Fireworks<br>(Rain date - August 16) |
| August 20 | Annual Meeting - Town of Oconomowoc Town<br>Hall Beginning - 7PM     |