

October 2006



Fall

# Sinissippi Waves

## Shoreline Fires: food for thought, food for algae

Mark Sesing, Lakes Management Specialist

Excessive algae causes the formation of scum, foul odors, low oxygen in water and offensive views. Ash feeds algae.

Any fire will create ash waste. On average, the burning of wood results in about 8% ash.

So, when you pile that brush high and throw that match, don't unwittingly aid and abet the algae beast by burning on the shoreline. Shoreline burning also kills vegetation and changes the soil structure with the end result being more soil erosion into the lake.

If you burn leaves, scrap wood, tree limbs, paper, or other trash, help out the lake by burning away from the shore, where it won't blow or wash into the lake. Thirty five feet is a good distance if you don't have a fire pit.

You can use the ash in your garden,

but don't use too much as it decreases soil acidity. Soil acidity is necessary for nutrient transfer to garden plants. Instead of applying directly to the soil, use wood ash as an amendment to the compost pile; the acidity of the decomposing materials in the compost pile will offset the alkaline ash. The high nitrogen content and low phosphorous and potassium level in compost will form a balanced fertilizer product with the addition of ash. Compost can then be added to the soil to help improve the soil structure and provide a balanced fertilizer solution.

You can store ash for later use or disposal as well. The storage area should be located away from wells, water, animal watering areas, and covered to prevent nuisance conditions during dry or windy weather.

### Inside this issue:

President's Pier	2
Landmark Pier Case	2
Return of the Turkey	3
Raffle Winners	3
Emerald Ash Borer	4

**We Need Help!**  
LSA is in the planning stage of identifying underwater hazards and rock locations. If you have found a hazard please send this information to LSA for recording. GPS or other landmarks for location identification will be helpful.

## Goosed this Summer ?!

A highly successful goose hatch this past spring has resulted in an overabundance of geese and their droppings. A growing number of lake residents have expressed their frustration and concern of the potential health hazards and related issues. On numerous properties it was almost impossible to walk down to the lake without being inundated by goose feces.

The LSA Board of Directors will be meeting with the USDA in October to review various goose control techniques and associated costs to be more fully detailed in the January newsletter.

Richard Fink



## From the Presidents Pier

Gary Knipper

As fall and winter approach, it's time again to get the autumn yard work done, store away all the summer things, and do everything else necessary to prepare for winter here on Lake Sinissippi. For both the full timers and the seasonal residents it is a time of reflection on a great summer. I hope it was an enjoyable summer for all.



- ✦ 2006 Annual meeting we elected new board members and reviewed accomplishments.
- ✦ 2006 Lakefest was a success and the fireworks were great even though the weather was not 100% corporative.
- ✦ LSA approved fish stocking to help improve the fishery and control carp by feeding on eggs and fry.

This coming year 2007:

- ✦ Our annual membership drive will start in December, please renew your membership which insures you getting our newsletter
- ✦ The monthly raffle drawing for 2007 - Tickets will be available from all board members and local retailers.
- ✦ Buoys will be placed around hazards and channels will be marked.
- ✦ Education projects for the community.

LSA is always looking for assistance. If you can donate some time, please contact any board member. Your help and input is always appreciated. LSA board members are also very interested in our member's comments and suggestions. Please contact any of us to let us know how we are doing representing our lake. Your membership and support is appreciated and thanks again for being a LSA member. Please ask you friends and neighbors to join. I will see you in the spring, and enjoy the beautiful Lake Sinissippi winter environment.. Visit us on the web at [www.lakesinissippi.org](http://www.lakesinissippi.org)



## Hilton v. DNR: A victory for our lakes!

Wisconsin Association of Lakes

In a case released July 6, the Wisconsin Supreme Court affirmed a DNR order requiring modifications to a pier on Big Green Lake. The Wisconsin Supreme Court's ruling in the Hilton v. DNR case confirms the State's authority to protect navigation and the public's rights on lakes and streams from oversized piers that damage fish and wildlife habitat or interfere with navigation.

The plaintiffs in the Hilton case—38 back lot owners who collectively own a 77 foot wide piece of lake frontage—installed a 249 foot pier and 22 boat hoists.

A state administrative court judge ruled that this pier interfered with public rights on public waters and ordered the back lot owners to reduce the length of the pier and remove some of the boat hoists. The back lot owners claimed this court order constituted

a "taking" of property and the plaintiffs should be compensated by the state.

The Wisconsin Association of Lakes argued that the reduction or removal of piers that interfere with public rights on public waters does not constitute a taking. Although the Court did not decide the pier owner's "takings" claim, it emphasized the critical habitat in lake shorelines and shallow areas and the need to protect them from excessive piers and other structures.

"We are very pleased with the Court's decision to preserve everyone's right to enjoy our lakes. This ruling prevents a few people from satisfying their personal wants at a cost to everyone else," says Peter Murray, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.



## A Reason to Give Thanks: The Return of Wild Turkeys

Terry Burge

The wild turkey is a highly recognizable, living symbol of our legendary beginnings as a country. More than most creatures, turkeys seem part of our American heritage — both gobbling in our woods and roasting in our ovens. They were an important food source for settlers and Indians alike, and the Cheyenne Indians were called "the striped arrow people" because they feathered their arrows with barred wing feathers of wild turkeys.



were capable of pulverizing glass balls, grinding 12 steel needles, and flattening metal tubes with over 400 pounds of pressure within their gizzard.

In the last few decades, wild turkeys, (*Melagris gallopavo*), have been making a comeback in Wisconsin. Reintroduction efforts began almost as soon as the wild turkeys had disappeared. Between 1929 and 1970, private landowners, hunting clubs, and state officials released 4,000 farm turkeys into the Wisconsin wilderness. Unfortunately, the farm-raised turkeys failed to reproduce. It wasn't until the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources released wild turkeys from the Ozarks that the Wisconsin flocks again prospered.

The wild turkey is primarily a woodland bird, preferring mature or nearly mature hardwood forests. They require large trees that are a dependable food source and provide safe roosting sites some distance from the ground. Favorable habitat for a large wild turkey population consists of a fairly large wooded area that is at least 30% – 50% forested. The forest should be primarily oak and other mast bearing trees. Alfalfa and grain fields should cover 10% - 25% of the area. Open, grassy areas provide a necessary supply of insects for the young as well as areas for winter feeding, loafing, nesting and strutting, and in addition, turkeys must have access to water .

Wild turkeys are wary, muscular animals that run fast and fly faster (clocked at 55 miles per hour!). They have excellent color eyesight and can spot movement across the length of a football field. A big male tom turkey has good reason to strut: He can stand nearly four feet tall and weigh more than 40 pounds, with iridescent feathers and a naked, blue head.

The daily range of the wild turkey is about two miles. In good habitat, they may cover 400 - 1,000 acres daily, but home ranges of 8,000 acres or more can be found in poorer habitat. The size of the range depends on food supplies, cover and weather.

Wild turkeys live where there are nut-bearing trees — acorns and hickory nuts provide a large part of their diet. They will eagerly gobble large insects as well. Turkeys forage on the ground primarily at dusk and dawn, swallowing nuts whole and crushing the shells in their powerful gizzards. The remarkable strength of the gizzard cannot be exaggerated. Several bizarre 8th-century experiments proved turkeys

Turkeys have many natural predators, most of which prey on eggs and young poults. These predators include skunks, opossums, raccoons, snakes, crows, coyotes, foxes and certain rodents. Bobcats, golden eagles, foxes, great horned owls and red-tailed hawks sometimes take adult turkeys.

## LSA Monthly Raffle Winners



### May 2006 Raffle Winners

Jamie Massey	\$ 100
Rick Rogowski	\$ 50
Tom Byrne	\$ 25

### July 2006 Raffle Winners

Mel Hundt	\$ 100
Vern Westphal	\$ 50
Frani Wolf	\$ 25

### June 2006 Raffle Winners

Gary Bova	\$ 100
Linda Schmidt	\$ 50
Sue VanDyke	\$ 25

### August 2006 Raffle Winners

Wayne Schmiedlin	\$ 100
Dan Zuehlke	\$ 50
Neil Feldman	\$ 25

## Trees Species that provide good food sources for migratory songbirds:



### Evergreen :

Red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)  
White pine (*Pinus strobes*)  
Eastern white-cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

### Deciduous :

Horsechestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)  
Paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*)  
Bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*)  
Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*)  
Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)  
Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)  
Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)  
Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*)  
Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*)  
Crabapple (*Malus* spp.)  
Red mulberry (*Morus rubra*)  
Wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)  
White oak (*Quercus alba*)  
Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*)  
Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)  
Black oak (*Quercus velutina*)  
American elm (*Ulmus Americana*)  
Slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*)

and many bushes and shrubs

## Lake Sinissippi Association Board Members for 2006/07

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## The Emerald Ash Borer: a threat to our trees

The emerald ash borer is an exotic insect, native to Asia, which currently threatens ash trees in the Great Lakes region. Since its initial discovery in southeastern Michigan in 2002, it has spread throughout Michigan's Lower Peninsula, into the Upper Peninsula and nearby Ohio, Indiana and Ontario, Canada. Outlier infestations have also been confirmed (summer 2006) in Illinois. An estimated 20 million ash trees have been killed by the emerald ash borer in these infested areas.

Despite state and federal quarantines and regulations on the movement of ash firewood, nursery stock and unprocessed logs, the distribution of emerald ash borer is increasing. The insect's natural dispersal rate is just one-

half to two miles annually; however, its transmission has accelerated due to the inadvertent transportation by people of emerald ash borer larvae in infested materials. Scientists believe the emerald ash borer was present in southeastern Michigan at least 10 years before its discovery. Therefore, there is a strong possibility that emerald ash borer is already residing in Wisconsin or will soon be arriving.

Research has shown the emerald ash borer attacks both stressed and healthy trees, typically killing its host in one to three years. All ash species are attacked. Early detection, isolation and eradication are the best defense. Please watch for this pest.

## **Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Fall Calendar of Events – 2006**

**Visitor Center Hours:** Open **Monday through Friday** year-round from **7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Closed on federal holidays including Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

**Open weekends September 9th-November 5th** for fall season in addition to regular hours (Monday – Friday).

**Saturdays**, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. **Sundays**, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. Browse through marsh exhibits, Coot's Corner gift shop and enjoy the view through spotting scopes overlooking the marsh. All programs and events are free of charge.

The visitor center is located 3.5 miles south of State Highway 49 on County Road Z and is accessible to people with disabilities.

### **October 7<sup>th</sup> and every Saturday in October - Horicon Refuge Birding**

(9:00 am - 11:00 am.) Join our car caravan to look for marshland migratory birds by auto and foot. Bring your own binoculars and spotting scope, or use ours. Fun for bird watchers of all abilities! Meet at the Visitor Center on County Rd. Z, and leave the group at any time.

### **October 12<sup>th</sup> - Friends of Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Meeting.**

(6:00 pm – 8:00 p.m.) The Friends meet at the Refuge visitor center, located 3.5 miles south of State Highway 49 on County Rd. Z. You are invited to join the Friends in shaping the Horicon Marsh legacy. The purpose of this non-profit, citizen group is to promote conservation, awareness, and appreciation of Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and to provide assistance to Refuge programs. Projects include fundraising, education and outreach, and conservation activities on the Refuge. The public is invited to attend and participate in Friends meetings. Support wildlife – Become a Friend

### **October 14<sup>th</sup> - Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Open House** (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

*Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 9-15<sup>th</sup> with us by participating in a variety of activities at the Refuge.*

**Celebration 5K Run/Walk for the Refuge** on the Horicon TernPike auto tour route sponsored by the Fond du Lac Running Club and the Friends of Horicon NWR. (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) For registration details, visit [www.fdlrc.com](http://www.fdlrc.com) (Auto Tour Route closed to traffic during the event).

**Horicon Refuge Birding** (9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.) Join our car caravan to birding hotspots around the Refuge. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. Meet at the Refuge visitor center. Suitable for all ages.

**"Guess Who?" Hike:** (2:00 - 3:00 p.m.) Join Refuge staff on a guided hike as we explore what creatures live at Horicon Marsh. Meet at the mid-way parking lot of the Auto Tour Route near the Egret Trail boardwalk. Suitable for all ages.

**Video Viewing:** "Horicon National Wildlife Refuge: Where Wildlife Comes First" and "America's National Wildlife Refuge System" showing at Horicon Refuge Visitor Center.

**November 9<sup>th</sup> - Wildlife of the Galapagos Islands** (7:00 - 8:00 p.m.). Wishing for sunshine and nicer weather? Warm up by joining Jack Bartholmai on a photographic trip to the sunny Galapagos Islands! Learn fascinating facts about the history of the Galapagos Islands and the wildlife that call them home. The program will follow the monthly meeting of the Friends of Horicon Refuge from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. at the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, located 3.5 miles south of State Highway 49 on County Road Z. Support wildlife – Become a Friend!

**December 14<sup>th</sup> - The Christmas Bird Count** - (7:00 - 8:00 p.m.). What is the Christmas Bird Count and how is it done? Join Jeff Bahls of the Horicon Marsh Bird Club to find out the answer to these questions and more. The program will follow the monthly meeting of the Friends of Horicon Refuge from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. at the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, located 3.5 miles south of State Highway 49 on County Road Z. Support wildlife – Become a Friend !

Lake Sinissippi Association  
P.O. Box 304 Hustisford, Wisconsin 53034



## News Letter

We're on the web  
[www.lakesinissippi.org](http://www.lakesinissippi.org)



## Thank You for Making Lakefest 2006 a Success

The Directors of LSA wish to thank the following individuals and companies for their support and donations to the 2006 Lakefest. The donations of time and money are greatly appreciated and made this years event a success. We also wish to thank the large number of volunteers who helped with the food, games, and all of the many Lakefest activities, our success is dependent on the support of our membership and friends.



### Thanks again for your support

Camera Case and TV, Pivot Point, Associate Engineering, Otto Hopfinger & Sons, K & K Insurance, Dave's Painting Plus, Koch's Telecommunications Service, Inc., Hustisford State Bank, Mark Rinderle Tire, Coley Builders, Hustisford Utilities, Village of Hustisford, Tri Par, Allison's Sentry Foods, Degner Electric Tri-County Radio, Mike's Hardware, Dodge County Real Estate, Rock River Bar Grill & Lanes, Diane's, Bill Germer Lakeview Farm, Town of Hustisford, Sinissippi Ski Club, Faith Automotive, Town of Hubbard, and the LSA members and friends

