

Assembly Bill 582 proposes to further restrict local shoreland zoning and requires a court to resolve any ambiguity in a matter involving shoreland zoning ordinances in favor of the property owner.

Other considerations proposed but not formally introduced as a bill (as of this printing) could reduce the amount of shoreland areas the DNR designate for special protection, shorten the list of waters protected by the public trust doctrine, and allow filling of wetlands in certain circumstances.

The formation of lake districts and associations show how engaged citizens have come together to manage local resource concerns. By removing county control of shoreland zoning standards and applying a one-size-fits-all approach, it will be harder to protect our unique water resources and the challenges we face.

Please review these legislative matters and consider how these changes will impact Lake Ripley and other Wisconsin waters. Additional resources can be found through information provided by [Wisconsin Lakes](http://WisconsinLakes.org). This statewide organization works exclusively to pro-

tect and enhance the quality of Wisconsin's inland lakes. Information can be found at [www.wisconsinlakes.org](http://www.wisconsinlakes.org). Information about the bills mentioned and how to contact your legislators can be found at [www.legis.wisconsin.gov](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov).

Our District's central mission is to preserve and protect Lake Ripley through sound management practices and an informed and engaged citizenry. Join us as a voice for Lake Ripley by sharing your concerns with us, your neighbors, and your legislators.

Below is a listing of legislators and their contact information:

Sen. Scott Fitzgerald: 608-266-5660  
Email: [Sen.Fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Rep. Joel Kleefisch: 608-266-8551  
Email: [Rep.Kleefisch@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Kleefisch@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Sen. Stephen Nass: 608-266-2635  
Email: [Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Rep. Cody Horlacher: 608-266-5715  
Email: [Rep.Horlacher@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Horlacher@legis.wisconsin.gov)

# Ripples



Vol. 22, No. 3

Winter 2015

## LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE

Oakland Town Hall  
N4450 County Rd. A  
Cambridge, WI 53523  
(608) 423-4537  
[ripley@oaklandtown.com](mailto:ripley@oaklandtown.com)  
[www.lakeripley.org](http://www.lakeripley.org)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**John Molinaro**  
Chair  
(608) 423-4743

**Mike Sabella**  
Treasurer  
(608) 423-4603

**Jane Jacobsen-Brown**  
Secretary  
(608) 423-3319

**Georgia Gomez-Ibanez**  
Commissioner  
(608) 423-9898

**Craig Kempel**  
Commissioner  
(608) 423-3605

**Jimmy DeGidio**  
Town of Oakland Rep.  
(608) 921-1340

**Walt Christensen**  
Jefferson County Rep.  
(920) 723-1320

## LAKE MANAGER

**Lisa Griffin**  
(608) 423-4537

## WEED HARVEST CREW

**Dick Langer**  
**Ed Grunden**  
**Bruce Crump**  
**Roger Rude**  
**Robert Henkel**  
**Richard Trailer**

## FROM THE HELM

The winter newsletter gives me a opportunity to review some the accomplishments of 2015. This was our new Lake Manager Lisa Griffin's first full season, and we didn't miss a beat. Lisa wrote several successful grants and attended in-service trainings throughout the year. I look forward to continue working with Lisa and the Board in 2016.



2015 brought us a new weed harvester and conveyer. The equipment was purchased with a grant from the Wisconsin Waterways Commission and funds from our capital account. No new tax levy! We continued our Clean Boats Clean Waters program, and our interns contacted a record number of boat owners. We also had interns doing stream monitoring and working in the Preserve.

Our new Board member Craig Kempel took over Lake Monitoring and did a great job. A new and exciting program was the Pontoon Classroom. Several Board members and volunteers took Cambridge High School's advanced biology class on the lake for hands-on training. Hopefully this will be a yearly program.

These are just the highlights. So much more effort goes into the day to day work of preserving and protecting our beautiful lake. Please join us at one of our meetings to hear more about how you can help.

*John Molinaro, Chair*

## Legislative Changes May Impact Water Quality

Recent changes to county shoreline zoning and new legislative proposals may have an impact on local water quality, and not in a good way. The State Budget (Act 55) removed counties' ability to enact or enforce shoreland zoning provisions stricter than the state minimums, and weakened regulation of the repair or reconstruction of nonconforming structures, impervious surfaces standards, outdoor lighting restrictions, and the ability to require natural plantings at the waters edge to reduce runoff.

Additional legislative bills are being reviewed that target groundwater withdrawals, the DNR's ability to designate parts of the state that need additional groundwater protection and the DNR's ability to review the cumulative effect of existing high capacity wells as part of the permit process. Groundwater contributes up to 30% of our lake water and plays a large role in our lake's health. Bills related to ground water are Senate Bill 291, Senate Bill 239, and Senate Bill B72/Assembly Bill 105.

Additional bills are being developed that would ease the regulatory path for development on bodies of water.  
*Continued on page 4*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lake Ripley Management District  
N4450 County Rd. A  
Cambridge, WI 53523



Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Cambridge, WI  
Permit No. 5

Additional Funds to Help with your Lake Friendly Projects!

In 2015, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources launched a new pilot program that provides shoreland property owners both financial and technical assistance for small scale projects that help protect and improve the health of our lakes.

Known as the Healthy Lakes Implementation Plan, habitat restoration, runoff and erosion control projects are eligible for up to \$1,000 in financial support for each project.



Photo Credit: Lisa Reas

Projects include native plantings on the shoreline, installing treefall habitats, rain gardens, diversion practices, and rock infiltration areas.

Now is a great time to be planning next year's lake friendly projects. If you've considered implementing these practices, please contact the office.

Will we break a record?

December has been pretty mild this year. As part of our lake monitoring efforts, recording when ice freezes and thaws on the majority of the lake can help gauge trends over time.

Critical Habitat Area Designation

On October 17th during the LRMD Board meeting, Susan Graham (WDNR) presented on efforts to designate areas of Lake Ripley that are most important to the overall health of its aquatic plants and animals.

As part of the process, DNR field staff have conducted surveys and are compiling current scientific data to assemble maps to identify targets of focus related to fish, wildlife, endangered resources, and their habitats.

We look forward to the completion of this process and are grateful for efforts of the DNR to further protect and enhance our wonderful resource.

Record Year for Boat Inspections

As part of a grant award from the WDNR, Intern Lianna Spencer and volunteer Stephanie Hansen conducted boat inspections at the public launch to help stop the spread of invasive species.

We will continue aquatic invasive species efforts again in 2016 thanks to grant support from the DNR. If interested in learning about invasive species and sharing knowledge to help stop their spread, please consider becoming a volunteer.

Did you know...in 2015 seasonal boat launch permits were issued for 176 boat owners from 6 counties in Wisconsin and 6 counties in Illinois!

Fishery News

Earlier this fall, Lake Ripley became home for a few more fish. Actually, 4,519 to be exact. As part of continuous WDNR efforts through their Wisconsin Wall-eye Initiative, large fingerling (~7 inch) walleye are stocked to help maintain populations.

Please join us for the next LRMD Board meeting on Saturday March 19, 2016. Meetings are held at 9 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall

Students Learn Hands-on Skills for Water Quality Assessment

On a beautiful day in September, students from Cambridge High School Advance Biology class participated in an on-lake event highlighting ecological features and a hands-on water quality assessment of Lake Ripley.

With the grateful assistance of numerous volunteers and Board members, students loaded onto "pontoon classrooms" each with their own specific theme.

Paul Garrison (WDNR) who has performed sediment core analysis for Lake Ripley in the past, showed students the equipment used and what can be learned from a core. This information can help relay lake health history and guide management decisions.



Paul Garrison showing students how to obtain a sediment core.



Smiles abound with a day on the lake.

On another boat, Board Member Georgia Gomez Ibanez discussed watershed impacts, aquatic plant ecology, and helped students identify different plant species. Students learned that a healthy lake needs a diverse and healthy plant

community in order to support fish and other aquatic organisms, and also that plants help to absorb nutrients and keep sediment in place which help keep waters clear.

The third pontoon classroom covered lake monitoring practices that are used by local monitor Craig Kempel during the summer. Students were able to use equipment to gauge how deep light penetrated through the water,



Craig showing a student how to use monitoring equipment.

check levels of dissolved oxygen, determine if the lake stratifies into different layers of warm and cool water by taking temperature measurements, and learned how each of those measurements helps to relay the health of a water body.

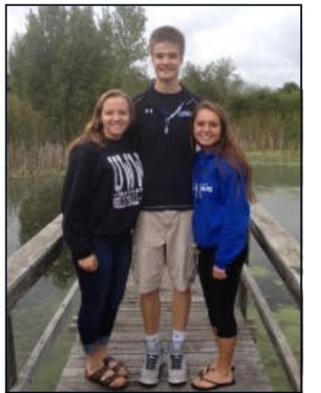
In tying a whole watershed approach to maintaining the health of Lake Ripley, afterwards students spent time at the Lake District Preserve. Knowing that land use impacts water quality, students were briefly able to explore the various wetland, prairie and wooded areas before returning to class.

The LRMD was so pleased to host a great group of kids who were committed to learning new skills and more about their local natural resource. We are so grateful to the volunteers who helped to share their knowledge of our lake. This classroom would not have been possible without the pontoon boat captains who offered their boats and time to make this happen.



Students identifying plants with help from Board Members.

We would like to thank all those who helped make this day possible. Thanks to Bernie Nikolay, Keith Schneider, Pam Levenson, Dave DeGidio, Paul Garrison (WDNR), John Molinaro, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Kent Brown, Craig Kempel, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Dave and Karen Bennett, and Rachel Sabre (WDNR) for additional equipment. Photo credits: Pam Levenson



Checking out the preserve.



Volunteer boat captain Dave DeGidio and crew.