



## 2025 State-of-the-Lakes Report





February 17, 2025

To: Conover, Town Board of Supervisors  
Conover, Town Clerk

As provided in previous years you will find attached, to this cover, the “2025 State of the Lakes Report” for the Town of Conover. This report is provided annually to both the Town and the County’s Land and Water Division. These reports are aimed at keeping all current on issues that our lakes currently deal with. As in the past, this report is not fully inclusive of all lakes within the Township but does cover our major bodies of water. These reports address current issues such as DNR Grants, water conditions, fish stocking, invasive species of plants and more.

Conover is blessed to have such beautiful waters in the Northwoods and your financial support to both the lakes and the committee is greatly appreciated. The TLC values our partnership with the Town of Conover in keeping our lakes healthy. Thank you for your on-going and important support.

Sincerely,

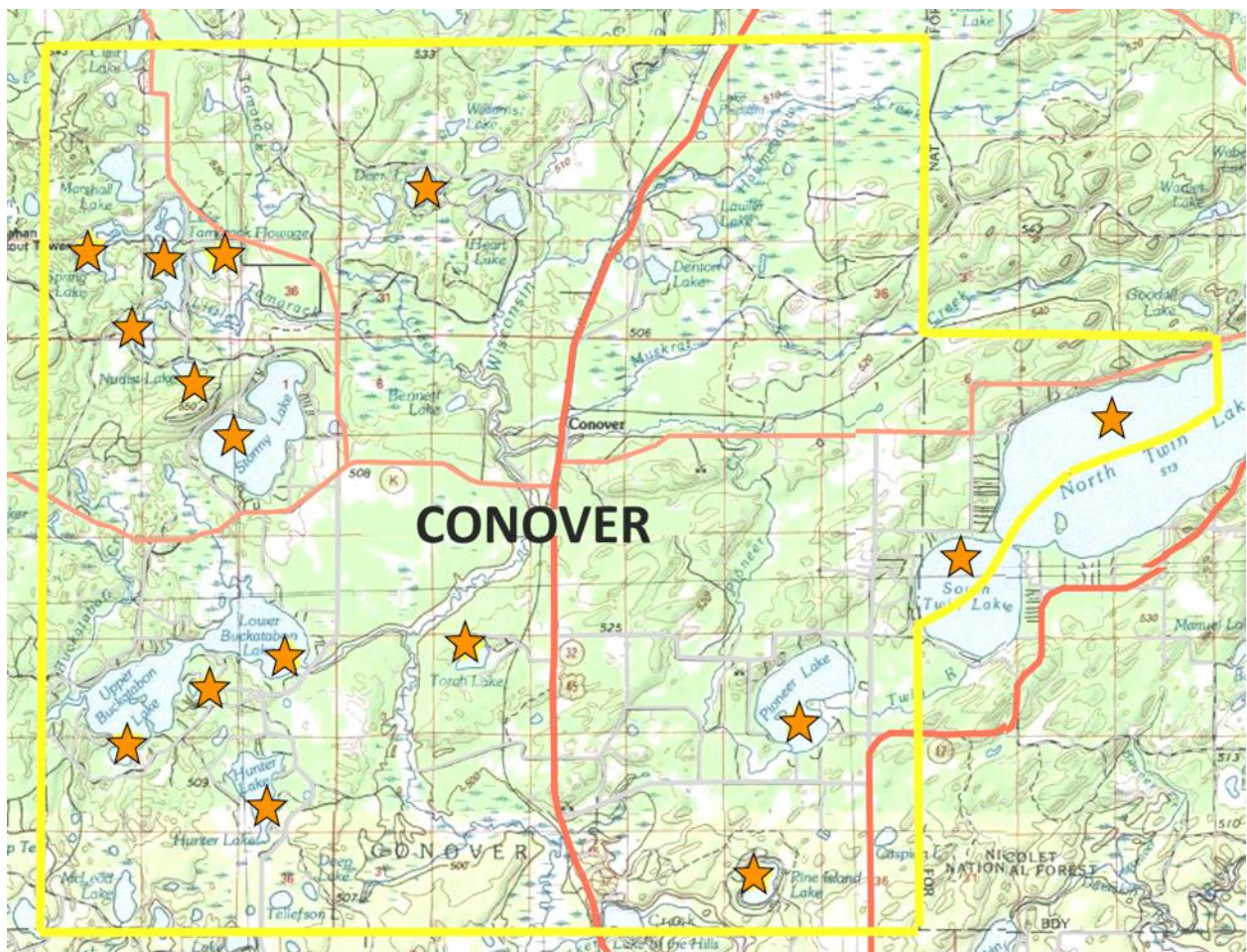
*Joe Muehlbach*

Joe Muehlbach, TLC Chair



# ***GOLD STAR LAKES***

**REPRESENTATIVES AND VOLUNTEERS FROM THE LAKES  
MARKED WITH A GOLD STAR HAVE PARTICIPATED IN  
THE CONOVER LAKES COMMITTEE**



<b><u>Conover Lakes</u></b>	<b><u>Acres:</u></b>	<b><u>Organization:</u></b>
Baker Lake	37	Little Tamarack Flowage Baker Spring Lake District
Bennett Lake	13	
Blueberry Lake	15	
Caspian Lake	17	
Chamberlain Lake	18	
Clair Lake	51	
Deep Lake	10	
Deer Lake	66	
Denton Lake	27	
Goodall Lake	24	
Heart Lake	65	
Hunter Lake	175	Hunter Lake Association
Lake of the Hills	61	Lake of the Hills Association
Lake Pleasant	14	
Lawler Lake	30	
Little Donahue Lake	22	
Little Tamarack Flowage	236	Little Tamarack Flowage Baker Spring Lake District
Lower Buckatabon Lake	378	Upper and Lower Buckatabon Lake District
Marshall Lake	90	
McLeod Lake	54	
Mud Lake	23	
Myrtle Lake	28	
North Twin Lake	2871	North & South Twin District
Nudist Lake	26	
Pearl Lake	3	
Pine Island Lake	71	Owners's group
Pioneer Lake	429	Pioneer Lake Association
Reiter Lake	13	
Soleit Lake	7	
South Twin Lake	628	North & South Twin Lake District
Spring Lake	8	Little Tamarack Flowage Baker Spring Lake District
Stormy Lake	523	Stormy Lake Association
Tellefson Lake	19	
Torch Lake	39	Owners' group
Upper Buckatabon Lake	493	Upper and Lower Buckatabon Lake District
Williams Lake	11	
Wolf Lake	3	

# The Conover Lakes Committee's Educational Mission

Each year, the Lakes Committee brings a program to the public, to encourage everyone to understand the issues that affect lakes. Here is a summary of those programs, since the formation of the Lakes Committee:

**2022 - "WILDFIRE IN WISCONSIN", co-sponsored with the Conover Volunteer Fire Department.** A presentation for home and cabin owners, and open to all. With the concentration of dwellings around the shorelines, often difficult dead-end roads and long narrow driveways, riparian owners have a unique danger. Laura Hayes, a wildfire specialist with the WDNR explained how every property owner can reduce fire risk.

The Fire Department invited Smokey Bear to the meeting, and he came!



The firemen also encouraged every attendee to sign up for a fire assessment around their home. Over half of the audience filled out requests! A fire truck displayed outside the meeting illustrated the width of driveway needed, to accommodate fire-fighting equipment, prompting homeowners to re-evaluate the emergency access to their property.

**2023 – "FISHING ON CONOVER LAKES – A WDNR Fisheries Program".** Eric Wegleitner, Fisheries Biologist for Vilas County, reviewed the state of fisheries in Conover lakes, and what the agency is doing to promote the fishery in our area. Topics included:

- Any current or potential problems with our fishery in the Conover area
- Ongoing or future programs to research the health of fish in Conover lakes
- Changes in species of fish in Conover lakes over time
- Concerns about the fishery that we should all watch for, and how to report them



## **2024 – "IDENTIFYING NATIVE AND INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS"**

Paul Skawinski serves as the Statewide Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Educator as part of the Extension Lakes team. He teaches Aquatic Plant Taxonomy at UW-Stevens Point and has been working with aquatic ecosystem management for 20 years. Many attendees brought their "mystery plants" for identification.



## **2025 COMING UP! – JUNE 26, 5 PM PROTECTING AND RESTORING YOUR SHORELINE**



Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department is putting together a program for lakeshore property owners. It will provide tips on maintaining a healthy shoreline for fish and wildlife, or restoring a shoreline that has been over-developed. They will provide helpful ideas, reading materials, and ideas for potential financial help for big projects. Bring pictures of your shoreline for advice on possible improvements, and bring your questions about shorelines for helpful answers.

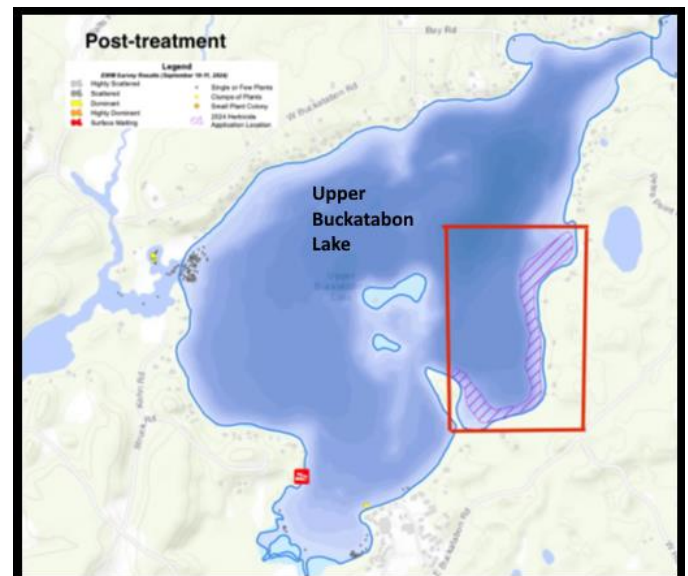
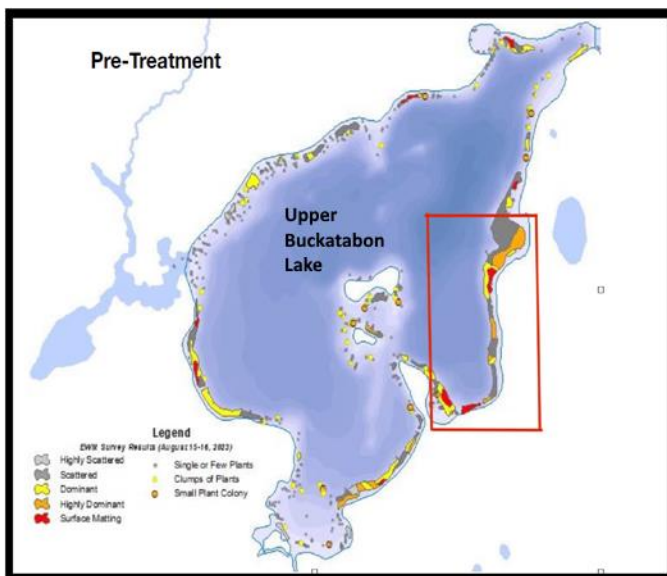




# 2025 State of the Lakes Report for Upper and Lower Buckatabon Lake District

The second annual meeting for the lake district held in August 2024. The district commissioners were voted in by property owners, the proposed annual budget was discussed, voted on, and passed.

**Lake Management Plan / Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) removal** Working with Onterra, the district's consulting firm, the decision was made to apply ProcellaCOR herbicide to approximately 15 acres of the upper lake where EWM was most abundant. The EWM in the treated area was mitigated. The herbicide application was paid for by the lake district, not having grant assistance for this expense. The total cost was \$40,000.



Camp Ramah also removed EMW on their shoreline in 2024 using a contractor for Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) and hand pulling. The work took five days and was paid for entirely by the camp.

**Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) - boat landing inspections** In 2025 the district is continuing the CBCW program. The University of Oshkosh is the contractor for this project as they were in 2024. The boat landing will be monitored for 200 hours starting in late May through late August. The district has received a DNR grant to help pay for 75% of the expense for monitoring which will cost a total of \$5160.

**Fish Stocking** On November 2, 2024 the district paid to stock 2500, 8-10" walleye at a cost of \$8375.



# Deer Lake



Deer Lake is a 66-acre lake in Conover tucked back off of Rummel's Road (Heart Lake Road to Deer Lake Road). It has an approximate depth of 24 feet. I believe Deer Lake is a seepage lake. Lake level stays consistent through the year due to an outlet running into a small creek/wetland area.

Fish include Crappie, Rock Bass, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye and an occasional small perch.

The lake is very quiet with several pontoons plus the occasional motorized rowboat. You might even find a small sailboat cruising the lake. Paddle boards and kayaks seem to be the favorite mode of transportation. This is an excellent swimming lake and the sunsets are exceptional.

All properties are privately owned and there is no public access. There are roughly 17 cabins around the lake.

The water is crystal clear. The shore line runs from sandy swimmable beach to rocky shore to soft mushy sand to lily pads. There is not a lot of vegetation and what we see the most of is lily pads. There are some weeds, what they are I'm not sure and they are not real prevalent or invasive. A couple years ago we had a growth of what we feared was milfoil but that turned out to be a similar looking weed and not milfoil. (as identified by the DNR) The abundance of this weed dissipated the following year. Last year it was only seen very randomly.

We have been on the lake since 2011. There had been one nesting pair of loons there around 2013-14. They were able to fly one chick off in the fall. For years we have been the bachelor pad. It is not unusual to spot 4-6 loons gathering on the lake. This past summer we did have a nesting pair again. These parents were able to raise two chicks to maturity. Looking forward to more loons next year!

Report completed by: Katrina Brandner 5208 Rocky Shore Trail, Conover WI



# Hunter Lake Association



## State of the Lake Report for Hunter Lake March 2025

Hunter Lake is located in the southwestern portion of Conover, Wisconsin, south of the Buckatabon Lakes within the Tamarack Pioneer River Watershed. It has a surface area of 175 acres with an average depth of 16.8 feet, and a maximum depth of 40 feet. It is a seepage lake with no natural inlet or outlet, and no water level control. The south end of the lake is designated a no-wake nature preserve, where the shoreline is undeveloped, and is owned by the State of Wisconsin (DNR) and a private owner; it is accessible by small boat or by canoe/kayak, and includes a floating nest to accommodate nesting loons. During 2024 the loon pair was successful in the hatching and raising of one chick.

There are 52 riparian parcels, all zoned R-1 residential, including 44 with “improvements”; there are no commercial businesses. Hunter Lake County Park, owned by Vilas County, is along the southeastern shore of the lake and includes an unmonitored public access ramp used by visitors and local residents. The park is included in the county 15-year plan for facilities improvements, subject to funds availability. During 2024 there was improvement at the swimming beach with removal of the old beach break wall and reshaping of the sand beach.

The lake offers multiple forms of recreation including motor boat use, waterskiing and tubing, pontoon cruising, kayaking, fishing, and swimming, with ice fishing, ice skating and snowmobiling in winter.

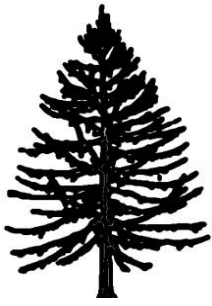
The Hunter Lake Vilas County Corp Lake Association was established in 1999 and meets annually. The association maintains a website at: [chunterlake.wixsite.com/lakeassociation](http://chunterlake.wixsite.com/lakeassociation) and a page on FaceBook. Annual dues are received from members voluntarily for potential expenses incurred by the association.

Hunter Lake was the subject of a DNR Directed Lakes study during 2021-2022. The results of the study were presented to residents by DNR Kevin Gauthier, and are available to everyone on the DNR website. Residents are also monitoring water color, clarity, temperature profiles, phosphorus, and chlorophyll-A and oxygenation at the “deep hole” as part of the Citizen Lake Monitoring network. Laboratory expenses are currently paid for by the Lake Association. Data collected currently categorize Hunter Lake as Mesotrophic, meaning it is healthy and can support a complex food web. Recent observations include good water clarity, and broader shallow-water and some deeper-water vegetation. Invasive species include the Chinese Mystery Snail (since 2008) and the Peach Blossom Jellyfish (first noticed in 2019).

As a seepage lake, water level varies by season and environment. Water level may drop by as much as 12 inches from spring to autumn but is normally restored by snowmelt and precipitation. Early in 2024 some shoreline lakebed had been abnormally exposed, but water levels became more normal in the Spring before once again retreating late in the season. The lake surface iced later than normal this past year, during the first week of December, but has supported good ice fishing activity during the winter.

Submitted by Buzz and Sue Getzel, Hunter Lake Association





# Little Tamarack Flowage Baker Spring Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

P.O. Box 112, Conover, Wisconsin 54519  
[littleamaracklakedistrict@gmail.com](mailto:littleamaracklakedistrict@gmail.com)  
<http://littletamarackflowage.org>

## 2024-2025 Report

**Water Testing Grant** - The Little Tamarack Flowage, Baker Lake, and Spring Lakes are all covered this year by a Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) grant. It covers expenses for four sessions of water testing for phosphorus (nutrients) and chlorophyll (algae) for all three lakes. The Water Quality Committee, who conducts the sample collection, has also committed \$500 for extra testing of winter water through the ice, and bottom water, not just surface water. This extra data will be useful for analysis by our Lake Consultants (see next story).



*Winter water collection*

**Lake Consultant** – Concerns about the blue-green algae blooms on Baker Lake continue. The Water Quality Committee (and other volunteers over many years) have collected water data, but now lack the expertise to analyze it. After a search, NOVA Ecological Services of Boulder Junction was chosen to conduct a data analysis of our three lakes. They will issue a report by May, and recommend steps forward. The cost will be borne by donations.

**Tax Levy** – At the July 6, 2024 Annual Meeting, the Lake District riparian owners again voted on a \$7,000 tax levy to maintain the non-lapsable fund for capital maintenance and dam emergencies.

**Loon Report** - All three lakes had a nesting loon pair with 2 eggs each. The Flowage loons' 1st chick was taken when a few weeks old (probably an eagle). The 2nd one survived. The Spring Lake 2 chicks didn't survive to 8 weeks (probably an eagle again). The Baker Lake chicks didn't survive either. (see Baker Lake Report)

**Phragmites** – The invasive phragmites near the dam site have been treated for the second year. The good news is that the first year's treatment resulted in at least 90% reduction. The bad news is that a couple of plants were found a few hundred yards downstream of the dam, likely from rhizomes broken off during the dam reconstruction. Vilas County Land and Water personnel will help with monitoring and potential eradication.

**Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> Aquatic Plant Training** – University of Wisconsin Stevens Point aquatic plant specialist Paul Skawinski spent the afternoon paddling with the Water Quality Committee, teaching how to identify plants.



Respectfully submitted, Sue Holloway, Lake District Water Quality Committee

**Baker Lake is a small 37-acre spring fed lake that is located within the Little Tamarack Flowage Baker Spring Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District.**



**Highlights and Lowlights of 2024:**

2024 had more **silent sport enthusiasts** than I have observed in the past. Canoeists, kayakers and paddle boarders frequently enjoyed time on the lake. Trees for Tomorrow from Eagle River also brought several groups over for a paddle. It was really nice to see.

Multiple **trumpeter swans** visited the lake often in the spring and early summer, one pair appeared to be quite tame as these birds would come right up to us on our dock whenever they were on the lake.

Once again, a pair of **loons** nested on the island by mid-April. One out of the two eggs hatched in May, the chick was doing very well until a territorial fight in early July resulted in its demise. This was the first time in eight years that there wasn't a successful hatch on Baker Lake.

**Bat monitoring** results were better than it had been in the last five years at least, in the spring of 2024, with several areas of the lake having monitor hits that had never shown any bat activity prior. Unfortunately, by mid-summer the bat action drastically dropped possibly due to the lack of insects for them to eat.

**Water levels were high** in the spring despite the lack of snow from the previous winter. Throughout the summer and fall the levels remained very high due to the lake district managing the dam at it highest allowable level. The dam located on the Little Tamarack Flowage clogged up several times with debris also bringing up the level.

**Water quality was poor** this year, with Secchi readings as low as 2 ½ feet in late summer. There was also a blue green algae bloom in early November covering the south end of the lake and a majority of the shoreline. Due to the ongoing water quality issues on this lake, the water quality committee from the district has hired a consulting firm to review all past data and hopefully come up with the causes and recommendations for a path forward.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Mosbrucker, Lake District Water Quality Committee

## MYRTLE LAKE – 2025 LAKE REPORT

### A 28-acre lake that empties into the Little Tamarack Creek, and then into the Wisconsin River downstream of the Little Tamarack Dam

Nothing much happening on Myrtle Lake since last reported, but **that's the way we like it!**

Since our lake is primarily spring fed, we didn't experience a drastic reduction in lake levels last summer. However, during the end of the "mini draught" we all suffered, the flow out of the lake was non existent for a period of time. Once the rains came, all went back to normal.

For an unknown and puzzling reason, the weeds in Myrtle Lake have drastically subsided. This seems like a good thing making boating and swimming much more pleasant, but worrisome since the cause may be negative.

A neighbor signed up to take over lake monitoring when my husband died, but he is part-time and so far hasn't found time. Disappointment. He recently informed me he has purchased some high-tech gadget that will monitor everything and automatically report mineral content, etc. rather than having to ice it and mail it in. We were willing to bear the cost since we were dropped from the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Grant Program (CLMN) a few years ago. Fingers crossed it's a winner.

Our loons returned right on schedule last spring. Somehow our loon nesting platform broke loose and wound up in strange spots around the lake. A neighbor retrieved it and tied it to one of my piers. Meantime a pal spotted the flotation apparatus on the other side of the lake. Surprised the nest didn't sink. Before nesting began, another neighbor re-attached the floats and relocated the nest back where it belongs. A couple days later, mother loon was busy preparing for motherhood. However, a week or so later it seemed they abandoned the eggs and black flies had again struck. Called Rollie Alger who advised not to get excited since days have been warm and the parents do warm the eggs once sun goes down and flies are not active. Sure enough two babies soon appeared, one of which disappeared the very next day. The other one thrived and headed south with the folks.



The local swans visited frequently. They must be the originals since they are no longer intimidated by my little brown dog!

Myrtle Lake is doing just fine! We are very blessed.

Submitted by Joanie Green





*P.O. Box 152, Conover, WI 54519 NSTLAKEDISTRICT.COM*

## **NSTLPRD North and South Twin Lakes Management Update 2024-2025**

NSTLPRD was very active in 2024 as it continues to strive to “control” Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), identify potential emerging challenges of invasive species, communicate and educate The District riparians, and evaluate how the lake resource, its native plants, fisheries and other aspects of public usage are possibly changing based on climate, public usage or other factors.

The District continued to use Onterra as a consultant in 2024 to assist in trending surveys of both native and invasive species and in development of strategic management activities for the maintenance of the resource. It included;

- An aerial and water-based survey of bulrushes on N Twin as we have concerns that one segment of the population may be reducing in part a result of riparians boating across emerging bulrush populations in the spring. We are trending the volume of this resource and have seen some reduction in population.
- We tested water soil in the lakes for existence of the invasive spiny water flea and that analysis was negative.
- Onterra performed pre-treatment surveys before herbicide application, to assess if fall 2023 survey strategy - both in volume and dosing strategy - was still accurate.
- Lake volunteers performed visual surveys of spring emerging Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) to assist in a Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) mapping by Onterra.

Management activities in 2024 included:

- Lean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program of 400 hours across the 3 public boat landings to educate and prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
- The District continued to perform lake water quality measurements and tracking via the Surface Water Integrated Measuring System (SWIMS) database.
- DASH activities removed over 850 cu ft of EWM over two weeks of effort on the Twins.
- Monitoring of bulrush volumes on both lakes was visually performed by volunteers.
- Numerous email blast to LD riparians to educate and inform them were sent during the year
- A robust website of informative activities is maintained by the District
- At the annual meeting a presentation was made by WDNR to discuss the fishery.
- The annual meeting was attended by local members of the state government to inform them of our lake challenges and address riparian questions.
- The District collaborated with the WDNR for stocking of muskellunge fingerlings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year.
- A herbicide treatment of just over 5 acres was performed on an emerging colony on N Twin with good seasonal control in 2024.
- The District continues to engage the WDNR to obtain a permit for a research project to remove mergansers, to evaluate if the host-to-host Swimmers Itch cycle can be broken. Additionally, we continue to annually monitor the incidence rate of SI incurred on the Twins.
- Our annual monitoring report was shared with tribal communities and other interested groups.

The mild winter of 2023/2024 and early ice out provided for an explosive growth year of EWM in 2024. On S Twin the fall survey identified 180 acres of EWM population of various densities. One 5 acre polygon on N Twin was identified in the survey as dominant and matted. Thus, the following strategies are planned for 2025:

- A 50K AIS control grant was applied for by the District but was not approved by the WDNR.
- Two weeks of DASH are planned for the Twins with locations to be determined by an early season survey by volunteers and Onterra.
- Herbicide treatments for 33 acres for 2 polygons on S Twin and 8 acres on N Twin have been approved, and will occur after a preseason survey, and once fish spawning activities have concluded.
- A fall survey is planned to assess the efficacy of 2025 activities, monitor native plant populations as well as gather information to formulate 2026 integrated pest management activities for The Twins.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jay Wittman**, NSTLPRD Commissioner and Lakes Management Coordinator



Photo credit: Jay Wittman

## NUDIST LAKE – Once known as “Crystal Lake”

A small 26-acre lake located just off Baker Lake Rd. All properties are privately owned and there is no public access. It has a maximum depth of 54 feet. Fish include Panfish, Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass.



It is home to a handful of property owners who all agreed to a no motor boat usage on this lake. The waters are “crystal” clear with a Secchi reading of 22 ft taken in August, this lake is most likely one of the clearest in the town of Conover. Nudist Lake is a seepage lake and levels do fluctuate with the weather although there was a slight drop in rainfall this year water levels appear to be at a normal level.

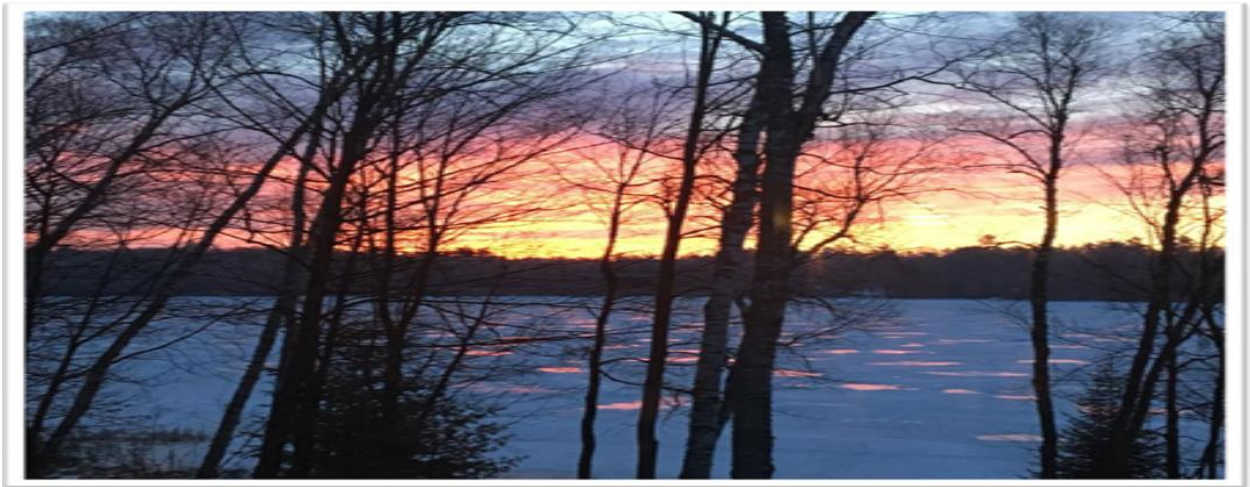
There are no nesting loons on the lake but it does serve as an occasional feeding site to the loons who nest on Baker Lake. There is talk of putting up a nesting platform this spring.

Submitted by Bonnie Mosbrucker





## Pine Island Lake



Pine Island Lake is a 71-acre seepage lake, with a maximum depth of 21 feet. Fish include Musky, Panfish, Largemouth Bass and Walleye.

# Conover Town Lakes Committee Report for Pioneer Lake – 2025



## About the Lake

Pioneer Lake is an average sized lake of approximately 430 acres with a maximum depth of 28 feet. Its mean depth is 12 feet and the bottom has a gradual drop off in depth virtually all the way around the lake. The water is relatively clear.

Pioneer is a mesotrophic lake and is considered a "drainage" type water body with its inlet on the southeast corner (the Twin River) and its outlet on the southwest corner (the Pioneer Creek). Pioneer Lake is the third (and last) of three lakes including North Twin, South Twin, and Pioneer that ultimately drain into the Wisconsin River.

The only means of water level regulation is controlled by a dam on the Twin River located immediately at the low end of South Twin Lake (see map above). The high side of the dam is South Twin Lake and the low side of the dam is the origin of the Twin River. There are no other man-made regulating facilities from the South Twin dam downstream all the way down to the Pioneer Creek's confluence into the Wisconsin River. That factor is clear indication that any warm-water species of fish that exists in the Wisconsin River could potentially also exist in Pioneer Lake, and the Pioneer Creek and Twin River systems.

Pioneer Lake is generally considered a good fishing lake, though quite weedy in mid to late summer. Due to the relatively moderate size and weediness, it is not too heavily overcrowded by large power boats and PWC's.

There is a free public boat landing with limited parking on the south end of the lake at the end of Pioneer Landing Rd. The boat landing is owned and maintained by the town of Conover, and we are slated for a brand-new disability-accessible dock this year, compliments of the Conover Town Lakes Team! Thank you!

There are a few resort/cottage rentals on the lake as well. Information on them can be found on the Pioneer Lake Association's website. And speaking of the latter, the Pioneer Lake Association was established on Sept. 17th, 2016 and became a non-profit, non-stock corporation on Sept. 14th, 2017.

## Water Quality

The Pioneer Lake Association has decided to continue monitoring the lake's water quality continuously following the high rating received two years ago from the WDNR's findings in a study conducted with the help of a grant.

Pioneer Lake Assn. past Vice-President Dave Bachmayer and his wife Karen continue to monitor the lake's chemistry and clarity as well as its water levels. Their tireless efforts to ensure the quality and health of the lake are extremely appreciated. Dave also indicated that he and Karen are establishing a "Weed Species Research Project" in conjunction with WDNR biologists to ensure a healthy lake well into the future.

### **Invasive Species**

After completion of the Pioneer Lake Management Plan conducted by "Many Waters" research team in 2022, we are aware of only two species of invasives - the Banded Mystery Snail and the Chinese Mystery Snail. The researchers did not find any of the serious invasive species in our lake. Regardless, Dave and Karen Bachmayer have volunteered to continue their Weed Species Research Project with the WDNR. If there are any invasive species present, I'm sure they'll find them.

### **Poker Run Fundraiser Event**

The Pioneer Lake Association will sponsor its 5th annual Poker Run event on July 5th, 2025 at the Mapleview Resort on McPeak Road. This has been an awesome event attended by as many as 200 people and is a growing endeavor with fun and food for all. The Poker Run is conducted by a number of sponsors around the lake with a cluster of balloons or banners at the end of their dock. You take your boat around the lake and pick up a "card" from each sponsored pier until you get the proper number of "cards". The exact details on how you play are explained in detail at the event. Prizes are huge! The food is great! and treats at each dock are pretty awesome too. And if you don't want to navigate the lake and docks, you can play right at Mapleview. Postings and information will be on our website and at the Mapleview Resort which is the event's headquarters. Save the date! All are welcome!

### **Fishing Tips**

Fishing continues to be one of the strongest attractions of Pioneer Lake. The water clarity in the lake has been very clear in recent times making sight fishing more and more exciting on calm days. Bass fishing by spot and stalk is one of my favorites, but remember, if you can see them, they can see you so stealth is crucial. The panfish population is very good, bluegills run pretty small in my book, but the crappies can be pretty nice. Walleyes are pretty scarce but available to the dedicated angler. Bass are plentiful, but they have a TON of cover to use for protection and ambush. Fish the breaks, both the inside and outside edges with live bait, especially leeches and big crawlers. The northerns are plentiful but seem to run quite small. Be gentle with the small ones. They're not stunted, they're just young. Notice how stocky the northerns are for their size compared to other lakes. They're very healthy and fast-growing fish. Muskies are rare these days but can be massive if you get one. Perch are very nice if you can locate a few. The old bait & switch works great for big perch. Cast a Mepps spinner over weed tops

and plop a live minnow in front of a follow-up perch. (You need two rods.) Good action, worthwhile for a fish fry, and lots of fun for kids!



### **Boat Handling**

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the lake for their prudence and courtesy in boat operations on the lake. Over the last several years word has spread that giving the near-shore zone a break from excessive damaging wake from various watercraft is good for all of us. The lake is big enough to use all sorts and sizes of boats as long as we buffer our distance from shore appropriately. If you want to make big waves, make big waves. But do it out in the middle of the lake. Nobody cares if you make big waves out in the middle of the lake. The occasional elderly passer-by in an antique wooden Chis Craft that thinks he's being courteous by throttling back to 1/4 throttle (which increases his wake by 400%) while just missing the ends of everyone's dock by 6 feet is not aware that he's doing anything inappropriate. We can give him a pass. Everybody, have fun out there and be safe this summer!

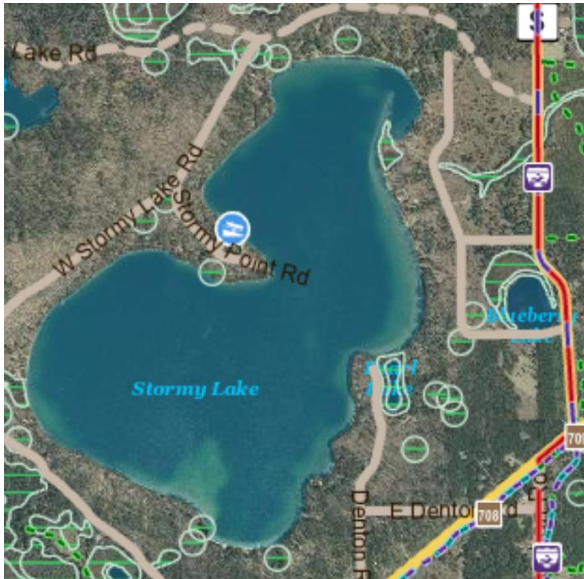
Respectfully submitted, Terry J. Taylor - Pioneer Lake Association



# Soliet Lake

Soliet Lake is a small bog lake, with five riparian owners, a serene, picturesque small lake tucked away in the woods.





# State of the Lake

## Stormy Lake

### 2024-25

In terms of aquatic invasive species there is currently no Eurasian watermilfoil reported in Stormy Lake; however it does harbor the **Spiny Water Flea**. It is a small, virtually invisible crustacean with a “spine” which makes it unpalatable to most small fish. It reproduces quickly and effectively (even asexually). The spiny water flea feeds on zooplankton (largely Daphnia) that are the bottom of the food chain - thus affecting the fishery from the bottom up. Its presence can also foster algae blooms because of Daphnia loss. There is ongoing research seeking predators, but currently the flea grows unchecked.

Some homeowners living along the South shore have reported “**Swimmers Itch**”. Lake residents are concerned about both of these issues and have voiced their concerns at our annual meetings. Many have indicated a willingness to help in resolving these issues.

**Secchi Testing**, which is performed yearly, demonstrated the disc to be visible to 19 feet in June, 2024. This has been stable over the past several years

**Water levels** were lower in 2024 than the prior year. This has reduced turbidity in the water. Shoreline erosion in Stormy Lake shorelines, sediment disturbance, and influx of invasive species from the **increased number of wake boats on the lake**.

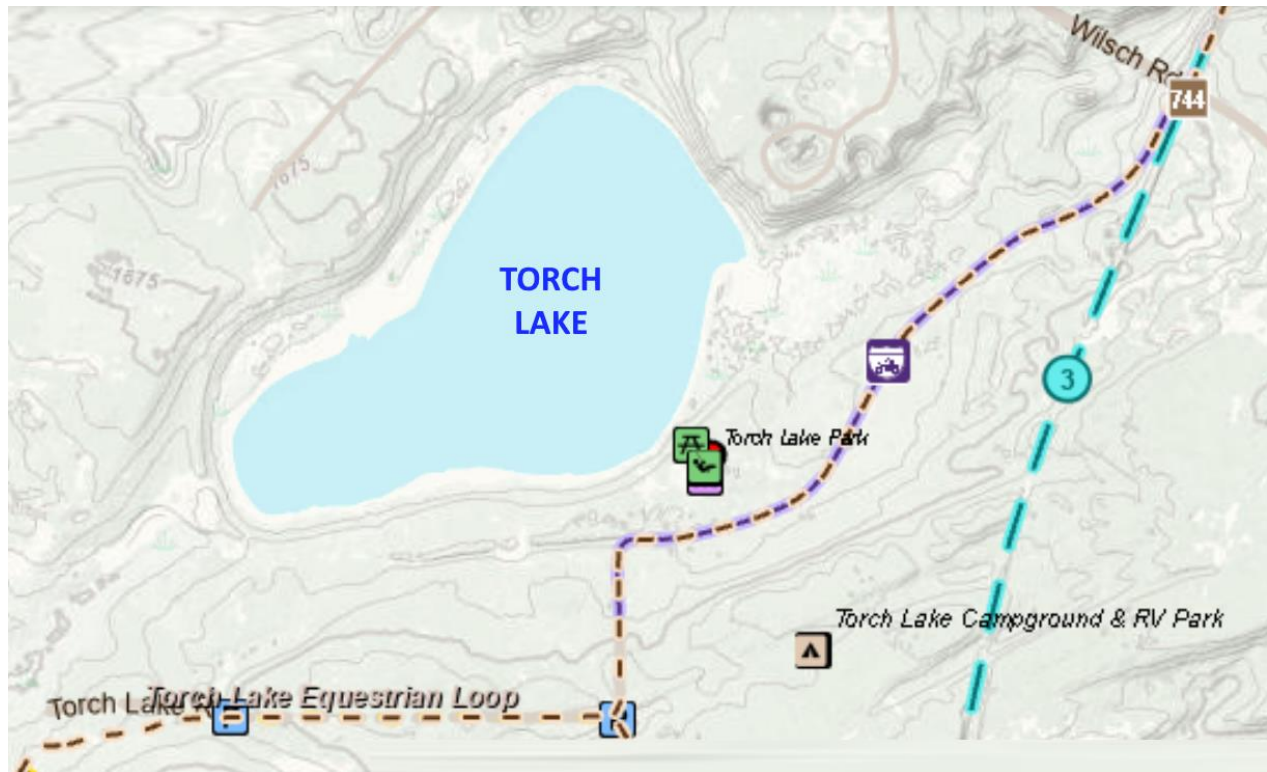
There is no visible increase in the weeds in Stormy Lake – Our shoreline was much better in 2024.

There is a sustainable population of bass in the lake. Brown trout are stocked yearly by the DNR. Few, if any, other game fish have been present for decades.

In 2025, Stormy Lake will be part of the Wisconsin DNR “**Clean Boats Clean Waters**” grant program. The program provides boat inspectors to perform boat and trailer checks, hand out informational brochures and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The DNR maintains a statewide database, which contains tallies of information tracked at landings. The UW-Extension (UWEX) Lakes will train boat inspectors and coordinate the volunteer efforts. The boat landing will be staffed with workers provided by the UW Oshkosh and volunteers.

Warm Regards, Debbie Benson-Maczko [dlbenson12@yahoo.com](mailto:dlbenson12@yahoo.com) 847-770-7676

# TORCH LAKE



Torch Lake is a 39-acre seepage lake. It has a maximum depth of 14 feet. Fish include Panfish and Largemouth Bass. Torch Lake has fewer than a dozen lakefront property owners, and does not have a lake association.

Torch Lake has a park, campground, and RV park with 40 RV campsites which are also open to tent camping.