



photo: Stacy Gregg

# the LAKE SCENE on Wapogasset Bear Trap

VOL. 39 - No. 4

September 5, 2020

2020

**CANCELLED**

FALL SOCIAL  
& RECOGNITION DINNER

The Lake Association's Fall Social has been postponed due to Covid 19. The 'Recognition Dinner' for outstanding volunteers will be held at the Spring Social 2021. Trustees Barry Eklund and John Mahoney were the recipients of the award and will be honored at that time. Be sure to congratulate them when you see them on the lake!



Here's your opportunity to get involved and make a difference in our water quality.

Please click on the following link ([healthylakeswi.com](http://healthylakeswi.com)) to learn more about a great program to help you make an impact. The future of our lakes depends on YOU ... the residents. How are YOU going to make a difference?

The deadline to submit an application for The Healthy Lakes grant is 09/30/2020. If received, this grant will help you cover some of the cost of a Healthy Lakes project on your property in 2021. Please contact Mike Seidl via email [seidlm@yahoo.com](mailto:seidlm@yahoo.com) with any questions or to apply for a grant.

## 2020 LAKE DIRECTORY COVER PHOTO WINNER



photo: Mark Elsbernd

Over 50 photos depicting 'lake life on WBT' were entered by lake members - family and friends in the Lake Association's Directory Photo Contest

### CONGRATULATIONS

- 1st Place Winner: Mark Elsbernd
- 2nd Place Winner: Betty Most
- 3rd Place Winner: Sarah Johnson

The Lake Association presented Mark with a \$50 gift certificate to Waterside Bar & Grill. Betty Most received a \$25 gift certificate to the Marina for 2nd place, and a \$10 gift certificate was presented to Sarah Johnson for 3rd place. Go to [wbt lakes.com](http://wbt lakes.com) to see these and other honorable mention photos.

Directories will be delivered to WBT Lake Assn. members in good standing along with this month's Lake Scene over the Labor Day Weekend. Check out the improved displays and content. THANKS to the hard work of Jim Andersen and his Communication's Committee.

## THE LAKE SCENE

Editor: ..... Kathy Mortensen  
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Publisher: ..... Mort's Marina

Contributors:

The Phantom Fishermen .. ???? & ???? ?

Lake Association: ..... Marty Noonan, Pres.  
..... Committee Chairmen

THE LAKE SCENE is published for Lake Wapogasset and Bear Trap residents and is delivered to the door of every homeowner by Lake Association Trustees.

All 2020 issues can be seen  
ONLINE at [LakeWapogasset.com](http://LakeWapogasset.com)

WBT Lake Improvement Association



MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

493 08-27-2019  
502 08-23-2019

2020:

Gold Membership: 116 Silver Membership: 92  
Bronze Membership: 87 Basic Membership: 198

CONGRATULATIONS ... to the following trustees for 100% membership on their area:

- Jim & Julie Andersen
- Merle Gust
- Mark Jacobson
- Ryan Hanson
- Ed Hagen
- Juanita Seidl

trustee  
meeting

Sept. 12 ZOOM meeting  
8:30a. coffee  
9:00a meeting

• Sign up for Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/91044482160?pwd=aVJwcONsMmE3cFFyNFhGbIzPMtI3UT09>.

• Dial by your location: Chicago: 1 312 626 6799

• The meeting ID and Passcode are not available at this time. Please check the Association's website at: WBT Assn. website: [wbt lakes.com/events.html](http://wbt lakes.com/events.html) ... before the Sept. 12 meeting for update.

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## SECCHI DISK READINGS

... Ryan Hanson

8/25/20 8/28/19 8/19/18

Wapogasset:

Temp 3'	77.2	69.3	80.0
30'	65.0	67.7	59.2
Difference:	12.2	1.6	20.8
DO at 3'	13.6	6.6	14.4
15'	4.7	6.5	0.3
30'	0.1	1.5	0.2

Secchi	2.5'	4.5	2.5
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Bear Trap:

Temp 3'	78.1	69.6	79.7
20'	70.9	69.2	66.4
Difference:	7.2	0.4	13.3
DO at 3'	12.2	5.9	11.1
15'	0.4	5.7	2.0
20'	0.2	5.4	0.2

Secchi	3.5'	5'	5
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The August monitoring of the lakes took place on 8/25, a partly sunny day with 8-10 mph winds. The prior night saw some rain, possibly causing the readings to be off slightly.

As is typical in August, our lakes turned to a green hue. Some localized areas of higher concentrated algae blooms were noticed. The water temperature was about 8 degrees warmer over last year at the same time. The Secchi disc readings were 1.5-2 feel less than August of 2019. The lake level at the dam was 4.0 - down 4.0 from 4.18 in July.

Thanks to Mark Jacobson, Phil Smith, Mike Seidl and Marty Noonan for assisting with the monitoring.

Summer Social PONTON

Next Flotilla: September 15 (weather permitting)

Contact Betty Buck, event coordinator, email: [bettymar1968@gmail.com](mailto:bettymar1968@gmail.com) or 651-206-3505.

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## PHANTOMS LAST SPLASH - 2020

### FISHING LESSONS - EARLY REGISTRATION...

Sorry, but you won't be able to get in until next year due to prior educational commitments of the faculty. But you can check in with Wapo's Mike Romundstad. However, just a heads up: there's not much space availability. Lucy, age 8 and Charlie, age 6 will probably have a full agenda hanging out with grandparents and teaching them how to fish. By the way, that's a 4-1/2 pound Bass in Lucy's net, nailed on a leech. According to Lucy and Charlie, equipment is critical: having just the right Snoopy pole is a must! There IS some disagreement, however, on which pole is the best - pink or blue. Great job, kids! See you next summer! P.S. If the expressions on these kids' faces don't trigger an ear-to-ear grin, increase your happy pill dosage.

Lucy



Charlie



### OUR READERS ASK...

Bear Trap's Jim Fall asks, "Has Covid 19 affected the fish in our lake? They seem like they're wearing masks and social distancing." Hate to make you the 'fall guy' (heh heh) Jim, but maybe it's not the fish. It could be your fall (heh heh) fishing strategies. Remember that in the fall, the weeds will start to die out. Baitfish will keep moving toward those weeds that are still alive. Larger fish will keep moving toward the baitfish. As it gets colder, ice will form on the lakes. If this happens, remember, you'll have the best luck if you drill a hole in the ice first before attempting to fish.

### SPEAKING OF WEEDS...

We know where you can find some, especially if you live on the south bay of Bear Trap. You may have already found them, bunched up on your shoreline. You see, last week a boat pulling an inflatable heaped with weeds puttered in and dumped the entire load in the middle of the bay. This whole obscenity was witnessed by Ellen Blank and reported on the "Next Door" site. Now if this is starting to read like a Phantom rant, it's because it is. Besides the DNR regulations concerning the transporting of lake weeds, this was simply inconsiderate and without any thought as to who would end up raking this stuff off THEIR shoreline. As for safety, we're relieved somebody's 14' Alulmacraft or a racing PWC didn't hit this floating minefield in the minutes after the mess was made. Maybe we're bending over backward with our rants lately but dammit I'm mad ... spelled backwards is still dammit I'm mad. If you're guilty of this dump-and-run, consider yourself tongue-lashed - and please Google the word 'compost.'

(Pg. 6)



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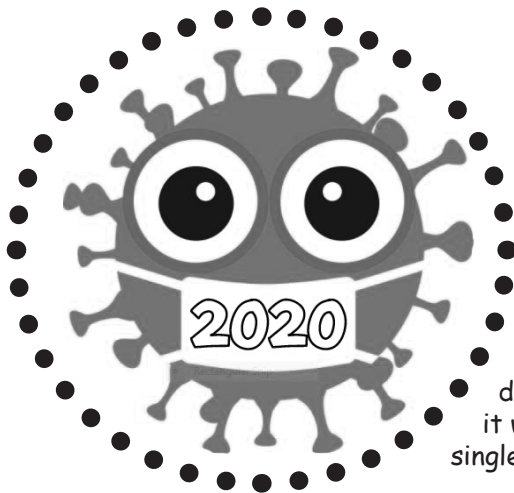
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**SATURDAY .... SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>**

**AMERY**

**FALL FESTI DAY**

The Amery Fall Festival Committee has made some difficult choices for Fall Festival 2020! Due to Covid 19 it will no longer run from Thursday to Sunday, rather will be single day event held on Saturday, September 19th.

**... COVID 19 VERSION**

**LOCATION:** "Main Events" has changed from the "big tent" to Michael Park/Danielson Stage

**PARADE:** A 'mini' parade will start at 11:00 - 12:00 followed by Food stands and Music.

**FOOD:** noon until 9:p ... A "FOOD TRUCK VILLAGE" will be stationed near the festivities

**BEER GARDEN:** 12:p until midnight ... located in Michael Park

**FAMILY COMEDY EVENT:** 12:30-1:45 ... Danielson Stage

**MUSIC:** Danielson Stage following parade: DJ Music by Kar Jackers Entertainment  
3:p until 6:p: Uncle Chuck  
8:p until midnight: County Line

**MISS AMERY CORONATION:** and Little Miss Amery - Danielson Stage: 6:30p - 7:30p



For up-to-date information visit:  
[ameryfallfestival.org](http://ameryfallfestival.org)

Note: Go to the Amery Fall Festival Facebook Page for updates on all events. At the time The Lake Scene went to press there was still a possibility of adding some additional entertainment for children after the parade ... all events are subject to change. JUST BE THERE ... and HAVE A GREAT TIME!!!

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## from the President's desk

... Marty Noonan



Welcome to another Labor Day Weekend on the lake. The weather should be great on the lake for all activities of celebration and play. The lakes have been a fabulous place to practice social distancing and get out of the house under COVID-19 rules. The water quality has taken on its August algae bloom and all of us have noticed a large amount of weed debris on our shores. The weed harvester has done an excellent job in removing Curly Leaf Pond Weed (CLPW) which has caused a resurgence in the indigenous weed population. The increased summer boat traffic seems to have cut up these weeds and hence they have blanketed our shores of late. We have not eliminated CLPW from our lakes but we have made excellent headway against this invasive species.

An agenda item in our August 2020 meeting was "Boat Operation and Training". Currently there are no regulations specifically for Wake Board Boats. All boats are governed by this clause: "Negligent or Reckless Operation of a vessel or the reckless manipulation of water skis, surf-board or similar device is operating in a manner that causes danger to the life, limb, or property of any person." The general consensus at our meeting was that the boats themselves are not the problem but the responsible operation of all boats. All boat owners need to operate their boats in a safe manner with enhanced situational awareness of where their wakes are going and how they affect the shoreline, docks, and persons near them. There are currently scientific studies to determine the optimum distance and depth for wakes, both large and small. The studies so far indicate that at least 300' separation from shore, vessels, docks, etc. and a minimum of 15' of water

depth will minimize effect of the large and deep wakes of wake boats.

WI boating regulation #17 states: Improper Speed or Distance is not maintaining a proper speed and/or distance while operating a vessel. Specifically, it is illegal to:

1. Operate a vessel at a distance from other vessels or at a speed that exceeds safe and reasonable limits given the waterway traffic, marked speed limits, weather, and other boating conditions.
2. Exceed the speeds posted or charted in any specific zone or area.
3. Operate a vessel repeatedly in a circuitous manner within 200 feet of another vessel or person in the water.
4. Operate a vessel within 100 feet of the shoreline, any dock, raft, pier, or restricted area on any lake greater than "slow-no-wake speed."

#4 is the most violated law on our lake. Be aware of your wake, stay MORE than 100' (200' for Personal Watercraft) of the shoreline, docks, rafts, piers, vessels or persons at any speed above "Slow-No-Wake Speed". Education of all boat owners is a necessity for the full enjoyment and safety of our lakes. Reference: <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf> for full regulation.

The Fall Social and Recognition Dinner will not be held this year due to Covid 19 rules and social distancing. Trustees Barry Eklund and John Mahoney are the recipients of this year's recognition award. Both have gone above and beyond in their dedication to our lakes and the Lake Association.

Have a Wonderful and Fun Labor Day Weekend on the Lake!

See you on the Lake! Marty

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**LABOR DAY WEEKEND HOURS:**  
SAT & SUN - 12-4 MON: 12-3

**September Hours:** weather permitting  
Sat. & Sun.: Open: Noon Close: 4pm



We'll be posting updates on our Facebook page ... click 'like us'

In the Memorial Day issue I mentioned that the Summer of 2020 would be 'interesting' and 'challenging' ... but hopefully filled with incredible memories! Being out on the lake this summer was the very BEST place to be and the 'silver lining' of this Covid-Cloud is that many of you were able to get away from the city and spend time at the lake ... on the water ... mask free ... safe ... and making memories!!!

To everyone who has stopped by the Marina this summer ... THANK YOU for supporting us and helping us keep our doors OPEN! Hunter and Robert also want to thank you for your kindness and generous tips throughout the summer... it is very much appreciated!

Hope you have a wonderful Fall and Winter ... Stay Safe ... Stay Healthy ... Stay Happy!

**REMEMBER:** If you need **GAS**  
call my cell at 715-497-0200

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... continued from Page 3

## MUSKIE FALL BEHAVIORS...

We actually spent a little time reading up on some very scientific research on Muskie seasonal behavior - which is about as much fun as a spontaneous nose hair fire. Anyway, we did find a few take-aways which were interesting. First, big predators are unpredictable, so take anything we tell you with a grain of salt. Next, we are eutrophic lakes. That kinda means older and shallow - but you knew that because your brother-in-law is eutrophic. Anyway, in our lakes, Muskies tend to move back to a "home base," tightening their territorial area ... versus in the summer when they tend to roam more. They move shallower and look for bait fish in weedy areas with warmer water. And they become more active and aggressive. So, we suggest you head to those weedy places, take your favorite \$39.00 bladed bucktail hooked to some nice 30 pound-plus line and pound the water just below the surface until your arms start to cramp. And if you get one, take the picture and put it back in the water FAST!

## ICE ADVICE ...

We've never been really big on ice fishing because casting and trolling become less productive in mid-winter. But if you insist on spending 15 minutes on a freezing cold day, trying to hook a freezing cold Crappie minnow on an impossibly small freezing cold jig, our advice is this: look for the greatest concentration of ice shacks and drill your hole right in the middle of 'em.

Then, when your fingers and toes are beginning to freeze and fall off, pack it in and get yourself ...

continued next page

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... continued from Page 6

a nice bowl of soup. As for us, we'll be taking our ice in large glasses - probably straining our beverages through our face masks - on the west coast of Florida.



COMING NEXT SPRING...

We hope YOU will be coming back next spring - all healthy, happy and full of goofy fishing tactics you'll want to try. We'll be here, too. In fact, the Phantoms will release our long-awaited dissertation that lays waste once and for all to an old urban myth. Our air-tight conclusion: not **everybody** was kung fu fighting. Advance copies available.



## 2020 300 CLUB WINNERS

### \$500.00 WINNERS

- Merl Gust
- Wendy Jo Miller

### \$100.00 WINNERS:

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| • Gary/Karen Taylor  | • Joyle Anderson |
| • Brandon Kukowski   | • Jess Maule     |
| • Lon VanGemert      | • Stan Kulbitski |
| • Doug Rinehart      | • Rod Buck       |
| • Wendy Jo Miller    | • Joyce Jensen   |
| • Brian Schouvieller | • Tom Schult     |
| • David Gackstetter  |                  |



WBT KAYAK CLUB

On Thursday, August 20th the WBT Kayak Club held their First Annual Relay with the West Shore Team and the East Shore Team participating in this non-timed event. Thanks to Elsie Rivard and kayak Captains Martha Funke and Linda Lawrence, 25 kayakers and supporting pontoon crew members participated. Janet Nichols of Hickory Point Lane made the two inscribed batons for the relay. Major sponsors were: Amery Ale Works, Amery Discount Liquor, Countryside Plumbing and Munson Plumbing, Dick's Market, Johnson Drug, Ellies Ice Cream, Mort's Marina, Lake Life Realty, The Mix Up Bar & Grill, Thistle Dew Crafts, Waterside Bar & Grill, and the WBT Lake Association. The event ended at Waterside Bar & Grill where they enjoyed a wonderfully deserved lunch. Thanks to Brian and Teresa for opening early to accommodate them.

**THANKS!**

TO: **The Lake Scene ADVERTISERS**  
... for your support!

TO: **WBT Association Trustees**  
... for delivering the newsletter!

TO: **WBT Communications Committee**  
for stuffing/sorting the newsletter!

TO: **Officers/Committee Chairmen** for  
writing columns to keep us all informed.

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## SANITARY DISTRICT

... working for you

by Heidi Erspamer

We hope everyone enjoyed this wonderful summer on our beautiful lakes! For Sanitary District maintenance staff, warm weather months are the busiest time of the year. That is when we do our preventative maintenance (such as cleaning out 10% of the main sewer line annually) and perform most of our system upgrades. Of course, regular maintenance and repairs are done throughout the year, and staff is available 24/7 for emergencies.

Summer 2021 is already on our minds - and the 2021 fireworks display is already on our calendar ... so mark your calendars for Saturday, July 3rd (rain date: July 5)! Our annual fireworks display wouldn't be possible without YOU! They're funded by generous donations from lake residents and friends; and while it is our intent to recognize all donors, occasionally name or two is accidentally omitted from our donor list. I'd like to send apologies and a thank you to Mark and Marge Jacobson ... and to any other donors whose names were not included on the recent donor list. Your donations are much appreciated!

This is the final Lake Scene newsletter of the year, and for me it is also the last column I will be writing on behalf of the Sanitary District. I recently gave notice to the board that I intend to retire as office manager before the end of the year. What an amazing adventure these past 4-1/2 years have been for me! I have met many wonderful people along the way and work with a great team of maintenance staff who work hard every day and who have made my job so much easier. I have also enjoyed the leadership and support of our Sanitary District board of commissioners. I am leaving this position with a great appreciation of how much is involved in effectively and efficiently managing and running a municipal sewer plant. My personal thanks to the Sanitary District volunteer board for their leadership and dedication.



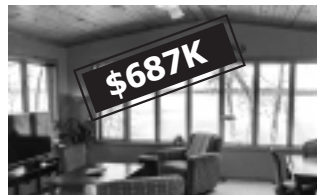
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934 Sunrise Beach



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