

Lake Views

The newsletter of the Yahara Lakes Association

August • 2009

100 Foot No-Wake Bill is Signed!

By
Charles Dykman

In the last YLA newsletter, YLA asked YLA members to write, call or e-mail the Governor's office to ask him to sign the bill that required a 100' no-wake zone on all of Wisconsin's lakes. It's always difficult to say that any person or group was responsible for legislation, but YLA believes that those letters, phone calls and e-mails helped convince the Governor that this was a good bill.

The important part of this is that YLA had discovered that the bill, as drafted, would have applied universally to all Wisconsin lakes, including the Yahara lakes. But lakes in Dane County have a 200' no-wake rule passed by our Lakes and Watershed Commission and County Board.

Dane County is unique in the state because of the commission. YLA contacted our Dane County legislators and asked them to let Dane County continue its 200' rule rather than having to conform to the state-wide 100' rule. We were successful - the bill was amended to give Dane county the needed protection of 200'. And on July 10, the Governor signed the bill, which becomes effective 7 months from July 10.

*Mark your calendars and save the date for the
Third Annual Yahara Lakes Conference,
Friday, February 5, 2010.
The location will be announced at a later date.*

A Break in Hard Work to Enjoy Annual Meeting



*About 100 members of the Yahara Lakes Association Enjoy
Their Annual Meeting at the Blackhawk Country Club*

Greetings Riparians! Hope everyone has been having a wonderful summer and enjoying the lakes. Your Board has been keeping busy with their involvement with the DNR, Lakes & Watershed & other Lake Experts to educate themselves & try to address different Riparians concerns.

Of course, this Board is not all work with no play, so each year the YLA Dinner is a great night out to socialize with other Riparians, win great door prizes & enjoy wonderful food. We also enjoyed our own private history lesson from Historian, Don Sanford, who shared with us a brief recounting of UW Lifesaving on Lake Mendota-very interesting. Hope to see you next year at the next dinner!

Thank you to Blackhawk Country Club for hosting the dinner and thank you to all those who contributed to a successful event.

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Do You Have a "Legal Pier?"

By Chuck Dykman

YLA reported on the legislative changes made to pier rules by 2007 Wis. Act 204 last year. Still, riparians should examine their piers to see whether the piers must be registered with the DNR. Most YLA members' piers, perhaps as many as 90%, do not need registration. Here are the requirements for an "exempt" pier that does NOT need to be registered to be "legal:" A pier exempt from registration cannot be longer than: (1) where the water is 3 feet deep at its maximum depth, or (2) where there is adequate depth for mooring a boat or using a boat hoist, whichever is further from shore. There is no definition of "maximum depth," but this could be interpreted to mean "at summer high." An exempt pier cannot be more than 6 feet wide. There cannot be more than 2 boat slips (hoists, buoys, maybe in-water storage) for the first 50 feet of the riparian's shoreline plus one for each additional 50 feet. There cannot be a deck (loading platform) wider than 8' and the deck must be located at the end of the pier, and be perpendicular to the pier. YLA believes that water depth over 3', or an excessive number of boat slips will be the reasons a few YLA members' piers may not be exempt. Finally, commercial or multi-dwelling unit properties can have double the number of boat slips described above.

If a pier is not an "exempt" pier, it will still be a "legal" or a "grandfathered" pier if the riparian owner registers the pier with the DNR. There are several requirements for the free registration. First, the pier must have been in existence in its current form by no later than February 6, 2004. If in existence before this date, a grandfathered pier can extend beyond the 3' water depth. The pier can be 8' wide, and can have a deck (loading platform) more than 8' wide if the deck does not exceed 300 square feet in size and is located at the lakeward end of the pier. If the deck is 200 square feet or less in size, the deck can be of any width. If the deck is between 200 and 300 square feet, the deck may not be more than 10 feet wide. Piers with decks that exceed these measurements may not be "grandfathered." A grandfathered pier may not interfere with the riparian rights of others. A pier cannot be grandfathered if the DNR began "enforcement action" against the pier prior to February 6, 2004. A grandfathered pier can be maintained, repaired, reconfigured and relocated but not enlarged. Relocation and reconfiguring require registration with the DNR. To be grandfathered, a pier must be registered with the DNR before April 1, 2011. After that, a nonexempt pier reverts to "illegal" status. A pier registration form is found on the DNR website.

Blackhawk Country Club Provided the Perfect Setting for Our Annual Event



Interesting and Informative Program



Frequent newsletter contributor and lakes historian, Don Sanford presented a fascinating look at local lake lore.

Well Deserved Awards



Wisconsin Assembly member Spencer Black complimented the work of YLA as he received our Public Official of the Year Award.

Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors For Some Great Door Prizes At Our Annual YLA Meeting

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Some of the great Annual Meeting door prizes donated by the YLA supporters listed to the left.



President, Bob Miller talks about some of the issues and concerns that are addressed throughout the year by the YLA Board of Directors.



Joe Tisserand (left) accepts the YLA Member of the Year Award from Board member Mike Gerner.



NEWSLETTER

Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd.
Post Office Box 44578
Madison, WI 53744-4578
(608) 848-1450

Pre-Sorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
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Permit #1
Madison, WI

Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd. is a non-profit organization of over 700 members dedicated to representing Lake property owners and advocating for the vitality of the Yahara chain of lakes so that all citizens may enjoy them.

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Water Safety Committee

Call 848-1450 if you would like to become involved in any of the above-listed committees, or if you have concerns you would like a committee to address.