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MoenBeams

moenlakechain.org

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Autumn, 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT

*"O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for just one hour,
October's bright blue weather"*

Ellen Hunt Jackson

As I write my president's column on the very day of this year's Autumnal Equinox, I am hopeful for a long and beautiful fall. The fall colors seem to be coming early, but I don't mind as autumn is my favorite season. Sally and I leave our pontoon boat in the water until the very last minute and yes, several times I have found myself motoring over to the public landing for the take out in the middle of a snow squall. However, those late September and early October cruises, in the midst of nature's colorful palette on our beautiful lake chain is well worth it. Fall is the time for your hard working MCLA Board and committee chairs to set their seasonal meetings and the next meeting has been scheduled for April, the date TBA. So, if you have an issue that you would like discussed or brought to your board's attention, please feel free to contact myself or any board member and we will include it on our agenda. In the meantime, please take the opportunity to get out on our lakes and lake shores and enjoy the gorgeous colors of our northern Wisconsin autumn season.

Dan Kuzlik



NOTES of IMPORT(ance)

I would like to call your attention to a note from the person who shouldered the responsibility of the Association for many years. With a small cadre of volunteers, Larry Worth, former owner of the Birchwood Resort, kept the faith with his time and money. Larry lives in Texas now but faithfully sends annual dues with an added donation. Thank you, Larry, for your note and support. He wrote:

"Although I no longer live in Rhinelander I'm happy that the Moen Lake Org. is as active as it is. The care of the lakes is of the utmost importance for present and future generations. The 34 years that my wife and I had the pleasure of meeting and making friends with so many wonderful people is a memory that will remain with me forever"

Larry Worth

As we gear up for the northern winter, Your Lake association continues to function on an evergrowing program of activites to protect and enhance Your lake and property. With that growth goes an ongoing need, nay **responsibiity**, for increased property owner involvement (We have 120 paid members out of 287 properties). The current group of volunteers have shouldered these responsibilites well for many years. However, the programs to save your waters are expanding and we need increasing help. More and more boats launch at the Moen site, plus those at other private sites each year. Old muskie tournaments continue and a new independet one started this year and intends to return annually. First, we must gain new membership. An expanded membeship brings new voices and new thoughts to the table. Protect your property, assume your responsibility for yourself and the chain. Also, member or not, to insure that AIS doesn't enter the chain we need to add to the list of folks that voluneer as monitors. It's easy and fun to do. A couple hours is all we ask of you and you get to meet lots of nice folks, read a novel that you never had time for and feel the satisfaction that you are doing something for yourself as well as for your neighbors. Even weekend vacationers and weekly visitors can contribute. Call Bonnie to join (362-1253) or Kathy (369-1868) for AIS NOW! ed

President: Dan Kuzlik, **Vice President:** Tom cutler, **Secretary:** Bonnie Montgomery, **Treasurer:** El Felton
Board of Diretors: J. Pederson, Dave Hanson, Sue Ohman, George Schroepfer,
Committee Chairs: Gary Berweger, Dan Carlson, Bill Disbrow, Sally Latimer, Walt Gager (Editor)

This past year 51 families contributed 80 volunteers netting 362 hours in 54-2 hour shifts. 378 boats were inspected, 6 had plants attached that were removed before a violation occurred. Some weekend hours went empty because we didn't have the volunteers to man the site (Kathy does not contact folks that have recently volunteered). A few people called to help with extra time donation. Kathy donated about 50 hours herself. Dan Carlson and others manned the site several times. Call Kathy: 715-369-1868. FYI: Rusty Crawfish has been positively identified in Moen Lake. No other AIS has been found.....YET!

TROLLING FOR HISTORY

THE TOWN OF STELLA

Like many townships in the northwoods, logging was the early principal mode of endeavor. This changed to potatoe growing later. It happened like this:

Initially a land grant was given to one Julius Fiend in 1882 by the U.S. Land Office in Wausau. The grant was purchased by the Sault Ste. Marie Land and Improvement Company of Hennepin County Minnesota five years later. Much of that land was platted and called "Pennington", supposedly after the president of the railroad that would soon be servicing the area (The Sault Ste. Marie and Atlantic Railway later the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie, later called the Soo Line). Logging began in anticipation of the Rail line arriving that same year (1887). A cyclone leveled the area in 1898, one year after the Menasha Wooden Ware Company bought a lot of that land. However, the downed trees allowed logging to continue into the early 1900s. During this period, the name changed from Pennington to Hobson in honor of a Spanish American war hero. By 1910, logging was flagging and in 1912 Leonard Starks purchased 10,000 acres from the Menasha Company for agriculture, primarily for potatoe growing. From 1914 on the area has been called "Starks". Leonard Starks lost most of his land during the period after WW I. His only child Lelah became an internationally recognized expert in seed potatoe growing and was able to repurchase much of the land Leonard lost. Following her death the operation was managed by the French family until 1986.

A general store, restaurant and later a tavern existed there. The U.S. Postal service had an office in a log building. A one room school was built.

Currently, potatoe growing continues. Some pulp logging persists today but most of the non-potatoe producing land is made up of private homes.

Condensed from: "Stella", by Nancy Kuczumski, "Oneida County, 1887-1987"

2012 ANNUAL MEETING

Pine Valley Lodge will generously again host the Association's annual meeting at 10:00 AM July 7. Hope to see you there.

CLEAN SWEEP

This program is poorly understood so, here is a short description. Every year, one hour prior to the annual meeting, property owners can bring any aquatic or shoreline vegetation or animal collected on the chain for identification. You need not be a member to participate (if not a member, we invite you to stay for donuts and coffee and see what we are all about). DNR's Sandy Wickman and Dan Carlson will be present to give you a written ID of your specimen(s). Bring them in baggy or jar with a little water for preservation (don't want them to dry out) with your name and phone number (in case the ID will take longer). There is no cost.

ANNUAL PICNIC

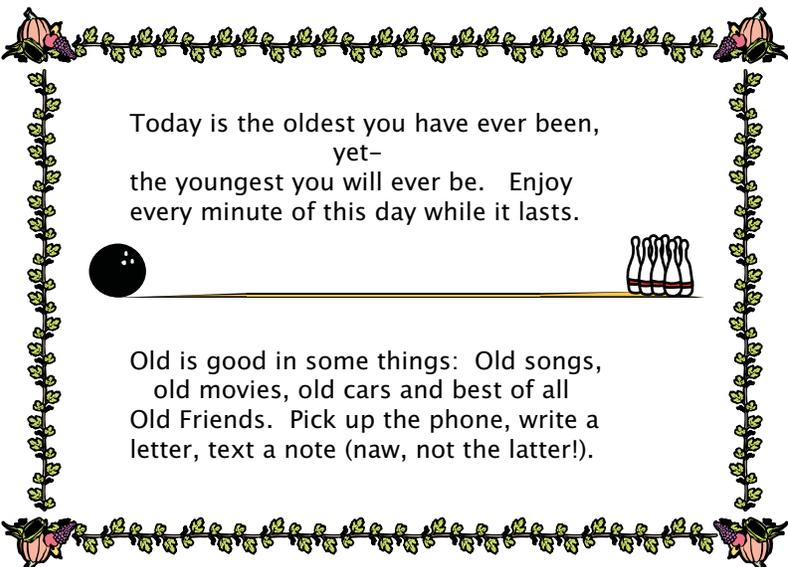
Dan and Sally Kuzlik have been more than generous holding our summer picnic at their lovely home. It's time for a change. The Program & Event Committee is looking for a new venue for next year. Initial thoughts include the Pine Lake Town Hall. We are open for suggestions. Where do you think a convenient location would be for the event? Contact me: 369-9142 or Sally 362-1714. Leave a message.

Another very important program, **Adopt-a-Shore**, also needs your support. This is an independent activity that you can perform at your property or anywhere you may be fishing or roaming. Inspect the shoreline and waters. Do it when you think of it. Keep track of the time you spend, report the time to Kathy at the end of the season. These hours aid in the Association's ability to obtain DNR grants to continue the battle against AIS in all its forms (it ain't just aquatic plants). Also, the grant allows us to keep our dues structure at \$20. If you find an unusual plant or animal (B. Montgomery recently found a "mud puppy" and didn't know they existed here) collect it, place it in a plastic baggy with a little water and get it to us or take it to the DNR for identification.

The Association's Long Term Planning Committee, headed by Tom Cutler, would appreciate any and all input from property owners. He writes: "The ongoing health of the Moen Lake Chain is dependent on all who live on or use this excellent resource. The Long Term Planning Committee is dedicated to continuously search for any suggestions that will help preserve/restore the lake system and habitat. Those who use and care about the lakes are our best source for ideas and suggestions. The Committee welcomes your thoughts which can be communicated through our website, the telephone, e-mails or in person. Please consider the following three questions:

1. Have you noticed any changes on the lakes recently or over the years that concern you?
2. Are there any changes that you would like to see?
3. Have you had any thoughts on projects you would like to see undertaken by this committee or the Association?"

Please give Tom or me a call about anything you would like to talk about. 362-7575 or 369-9142 ed.



Today is the oldest you have ever been,
yet—
the youngest you will ever be. Enjoy
every minute of this day while it lasts.



Old is good in some things: Old songs,
old movies, old cars and best of all
Old Friends. Pick up the phone, write a
letter, text a note (now, not the latter!).



CHANNEL MARKERS

The current inventory of channel markers has reached the end of their lives. Many of them have been painted so many times that the paint is holding them together. The pipes supporting them have almost rusted through preventing them from being straightened. All right, all right maybe I am exaggerating a little but it's true, we must replace a significant number of them. Further, consider the amount of time required to locate the

pipes sunken on the lake bottom by moving ice floes. Your Association debated long and hard to decide what would be the best and most economical way to solve the dilemma.

The pictures above represent the type of new markers being considered. They are floating markers, tethered to lake bottom weights by nylon cords and are weighted to remain upright in winds. Dan Carlson, the channel marker committee chairman, has been researching the best way to purchase them and has found an organization that will accept an application for a grant to aid in the purchase. The grant will provide HALF of the cost. The Association must raise the other half. Now, you all know that our dues are minimal and the Board is determined to keep them that way. The DNR flatly said they weren't interested. The Feds? Yeah, right. That leaves - us, the property owners. The Board is asking that when you pay your annual dues on January first, would you be willing to include an extra amount toward the cost of replacement. We estimate the Association's cost to be in the range of \$2,000. An extra \$10 or 20 each would get us there. Are we up it?

LAND PROTECTION

Donna and I have placed 120 woodland acres in a land conservation easement so that it can never be developed. Discussions with folks considering the same have revealed some misunderstandings. If you are considering a protection agreement, here a few comments that may help you.

The **Northwoods Land Trust** accepts your donated agreement (it does not purchase the agreement) and agrees to monitor it annually for compliance to your wishes. The Trust now protects 5,200 acres of woodlands and wetlands including 28.5 miles of lake and river shorelands in six northwoods counties. Appraised value of these lands now totals \$14.6 million.

The protected land still belongs to you and can be sold. The agreement becomes a part of the deed. The new owners must adhere to your agreement wishes, The land can be passed to future generations with the same restrictions. When you set up the agreement you can designate certain areas within the protected property for development if you desire.

The costs of obtaining the appraisal and legal review of the agreement is the property owners responsibility. However, the subsequent reduced value of the land results in reduced taxes and the agreement donation results in a significant tax deduction. If your land fronts on a lake or river, the DNR River Planning Grant may defray costs. The DNR is very interested in protecting rivers. Call Bryan Pierce, Director of NWLT for more information. 715-479-2490

WORMY THOUGHTS TO FISH BY

Is it me - or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?
 If the world were a logical place, it would be men that rode horses side saddle.
 I used to be indecisive, now I'm not sure.
 Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE

Which would you like first? The Bad? Ok, as mentioned on page one, a Rusty Crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) has been confirmed in Moen Lake. This aquatic crustacean is native to streams and rivers in Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky. It is grayish green in color with reddish areas on each side of its body. Mandibles (mouth parts) are smooth without serrated edges.



There are black bands on the tips of the claws. They are slightly larger than the native Wisconsin crayfish. They feed on mayflies, stoneflies and other non-vertebrates. Aquatic vegetation destroying fish habitat affecting the population of game fish as well as all other aquatic species.

It is illegal to possess, transport, raise, purchase, sell or use as bait. NEVER dump live bait of anykind in a lake that they have not come from. Fines run in hundreds of dollars.

The good? Ok. The Zebra mussle plates have been reported as negative throughout whole chain. Thank you to all who have positioned the plates and monitored the results.

And the? From personal observation and verbal reports from many of our members and non-members: Several instances of ugly boatsmanship, illegal usage of boats and jet skis have been noted. The one in which I was involved in occurred in the narrow channel south of the bridge. My pontoon boat was already in the narrow channel when jetskiers passed under the bridge at high speed, slowed only slightly creating large waves and entered the narrow portion of the channel forcing me out of the channel where I struck a rock, nicking my propellor. This type of behavior is not only bad boatsmanship, bad manners and dangerous but poor sportsmanship and definitelyugly!

Sally Latimer

Donna Gager

Jan Cutler

&

Food Food Food

The '09 Picnic



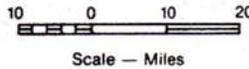
Drainage Basin

Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company STORAGE RESERVOIRS

| | Full Acres |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 1 Lac Vieux Desert | 4,247 |
| 2 Twin Lakes | 3,535 |
| 3 Buckatahpon | 922 |
| 4 Long On Deerskin | 2,353 |
| 5 Little Deerskin | 313 |
| 6 Seven Mile | 518 |
| 7 Lower Nine Mile | 841 |
| 8 Burnt Rollways | 7,626 |
| 9 Sugar Camp | 1,857 |
| 10 Little St. Germain | 1,008 |
| 11 Big St. Germain | 1,653 |
| 12 Pickerel | 786 |
| 13 Rainbow | 4,165 |
| 14 North Pelican | 1,295 |
| 15 South Pelican | 3,694 |
| 16 Minocqua | 6,066 |
| 17 Squirrel | 1,505 |
| 18 Willow | 6,392 |
| 19 Rice | 4,111 |
| 20 Spirit | 1,698 |
| 21 Eau Pleine | 6,677 |

Total 61,262 Acres

Total Storage Capacity 15,766 Million Cubic Feet



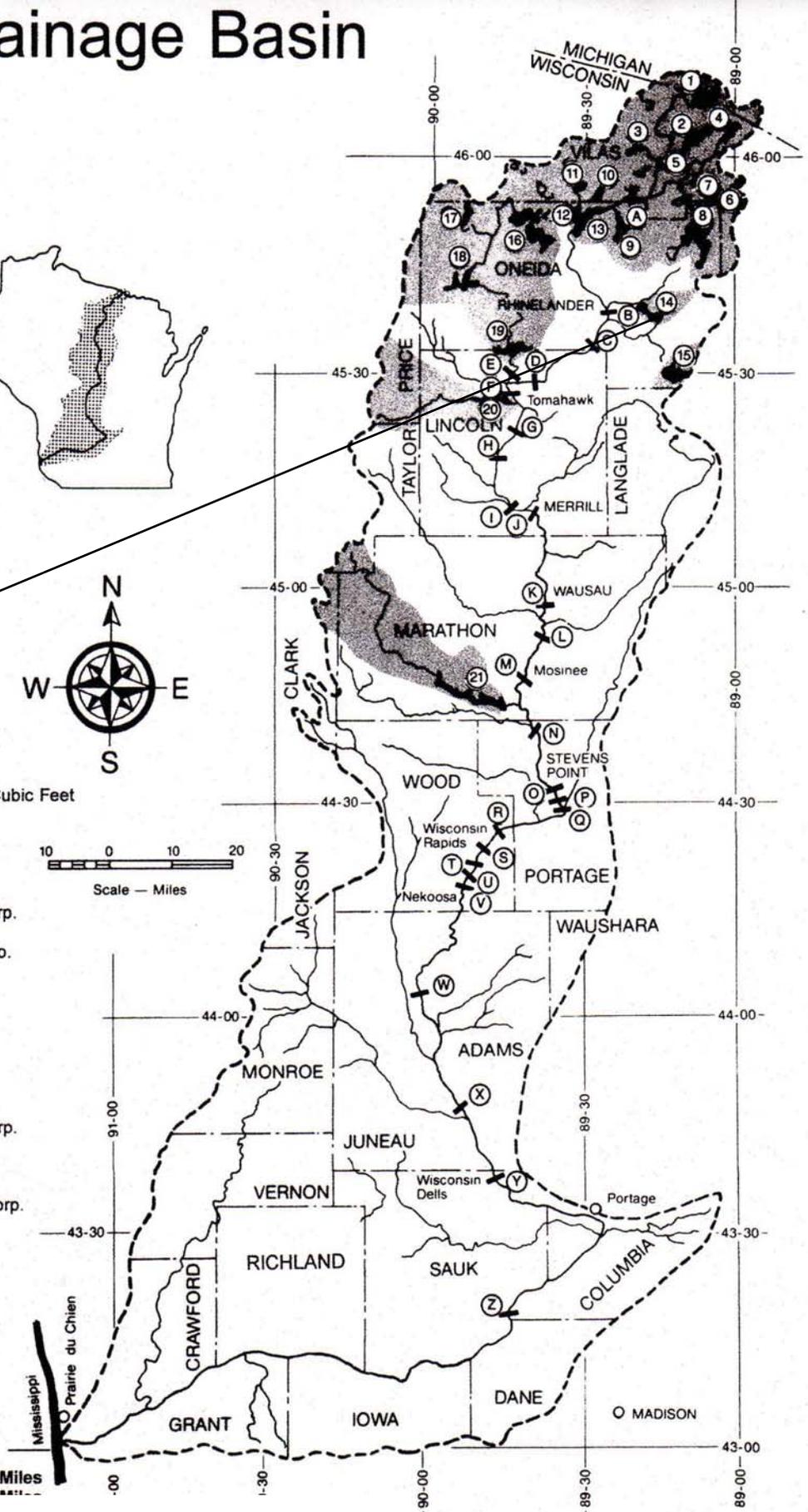
HYDROELECTRIC DAMS AND OWNERS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A Otter Rapids | - WPS |
| B Rhinelander | - Wausau-Mosinee Paper Corp. |
| C Hat Rapids | - WPS |
| D Kings | - Tomahawk Power & Pulp Co. |
| E Jersey (Tomahawk River) | - WPS |
| F Tomahawk | - WPS |
| G Grandmother | - Tenneco Packaging |
| H Grandfather | - WPS |
| I Alexander | - WPS |
| J Merrill | - WPS |
| K Wausau | - WPS |
| L Rothschild | - Weyerhaeuser Paper Co. |
| M Mosinee | - Wausau-Mosinee Paper Corp. |
| N DuBay | - CWPC |
| O Stevens Point | - CWPC |
| P Wisconsin River Division | - CWPC |
| Q Whiting Plover (Not generating) | - Kimberly-Clark Corp. |
| R Biron | - CWPC |
| S Wisconsin Rapids | CWPC |
| T Centralia | - Georgia-Pacific |
| U Port Edwards | - Georgia-Pacific |
| V Nekoosa | - Georgia-Pacific |
| W Petenwell | - Wis. River Power Co. |
| X Castle Rock | - Wis. River Power Co. |
| Y Wisconsin Dells | - WP&L |
| Z Prairie du Sac | - WP&L |

WPS = Wisconsin Public Service Corp.
CWPC = Consolidated Water Power Co.
WP&L = Wisconsin Power and Light Co.

Controlled Drainage Area

1,931 Sq. Miles



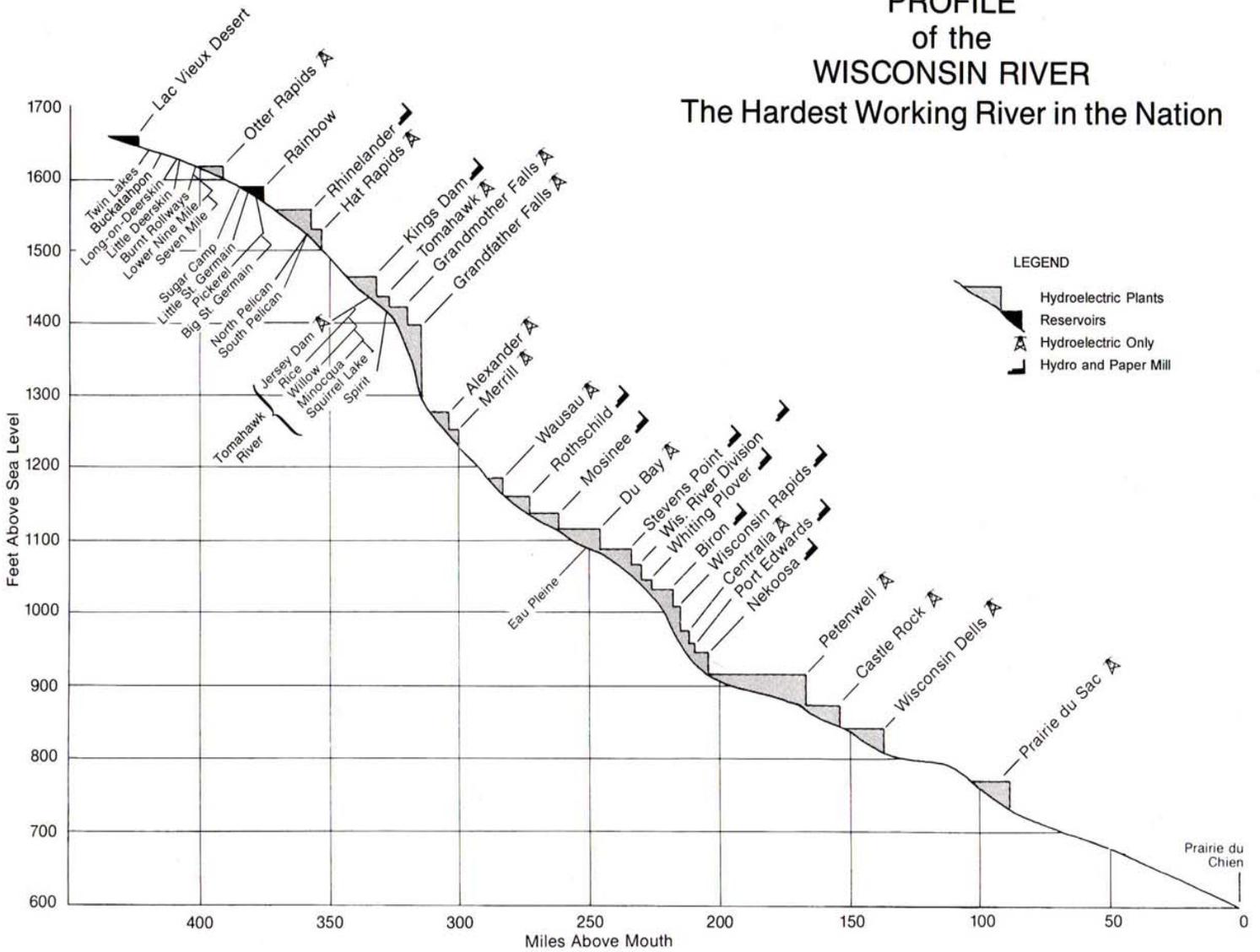
Since the Wisconsin Reservoir system is close to all of our hearts, a good understanding is helpful. Most of the Property owners did not have the opportunity to attend our Annual Meeting last July, so I include this rendering of the system for you all to peruse.

14 is the North Pelican Reservoir on the map.

Big, isn't it?

PROFILE of the WISCONSIN RIVER

The Hardest Working River in the Nation



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

RHINELANDER ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

e-mail address: _____

DUES: \$ 20.00

DONATION: \$ _____

TOTAL: _____

Please circle

NEW RENEW UNSUBSCRIBE

MAIL TO: EL FELTON, TREASURER, 4182 SHADY LANE, RHINELANDER, WI 54501