

DON BAYER – Little Crooked Lake, Vilas County (153 acres, 20 feet maximum depth)

Don Bayer collects water clarity information on Little Crooked Lake and collected water chemistry samples on the lake from 1994 until just last year. Don and his wife were instrumental in the formation of the Little Crooked Lake Association in the early 90's. The Lake Association was formed as a way to resolve water level issues on the lake. Don has monitored Little Crooked Lake for invasive species for many years. Don enjoys travelling and gardening. He spends his winters at his home in Kentucky.

Why did you decide to monitor water clarity?

My Wife and I purchased our property on Little Crooked Lake in 1976. We loved the lake from the start and I wanted to protect the purity and health of the lake. We consider it a treasure, a gift from God.

Have you noticed a change in water quality and aquatic plants in the last 20 years?

Yes. We are experiencing algae blooms earlier in the summer. Algae blooms start in mid-August and come and go through September.

What changes have you seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

The shoreline has changed. The birch trees have died and fallen into the lake. The birch is being replaced by balsam fir.

How do you use the data that you collect?

I share the data with members of the Lake Association at our annual meeting. The data is available to everyone on the CLMN web site.

What are some of the highlights that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

The return of the nesting loons is always wonderful. This year we are working with Mike Meyer to place a loon nesting platform. We are hoping the loons will use the platform and have a nesting success that they haven't had for the last few years because of fluctuating water levels. We have seen more interest from our lake neighbors in protecting the shoreland and restoring native vegetation.

We have a wonderful group of people who live on the lake, everyone knows each other and we all love the lake.

What are some of the disappointments that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

There is one lake resident, not a member of our lake association, who removes the beaver dam on the lake. This dam tends to keep the water level constant. When the dam is removed the water level on the lake drops dramatically.

The trash bin at the public boat landing has been removed. People visiting the lake sometimes dump trash in the adjacent woods or along the road leading to the boat landing.

[What accounts for your longevity as a volunteer?](#)

I love this lake and want to keep track of its health. I love the north woods and the tranquility of the lake and appreciate the water fowl and raptors.

[Do you have anything else that you would like other citizen lake monitors or people on your lake to know about you?](#)

Do everything within your power to protect our lakes – both the shoreland and the water.

LINDA DANIELS – Upper Nemahbin Lake, Waukesha County (283 acres, 61 feet maximum depth)

[What made you decide to monitor water clarity?](#)

Twenty years ago planning was underway to create a Lake District. The current Self Help volunteers had just retired and I decided that as a retired chemistry teacher, this would be a good fit.

[Have you noticed a change in water quality and aquatic plants in the last 20 years?](#)

The biggest change has been the zebra mussels. The first year after the zebra mussel infestation was discovered we didn't notice a change in water clarity or see many zebra mussels. The second year after discovery, the population exploded. The population seems to have leveled off and the water clarity has returned pretty much to what it was before the zebra mussels were discovered.

The aquatic plant population has changed recently. There is an old mill dam on the lake. The dam is being abandoned and silt has been coming into the lake, especially near the mouth of the river. That has impacted the aquatic plant species.

[What changes have you seen on your lake in the last 20 years?](#)

Twenty years ago, the entire lake was pretty much developed. We are seeing more of the small, older homes being torn down and larger homes replaced these.

[How do you use the data that you collect?](#)

I share the data with the Lake District in an annual report.

[What are some of the good things that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?](#)

The Upper Nemahbin Management District has worked to develop a “No Wake” policy on the lake on Sundays from noon until 3:00. That gives different users such as kayakers and people who sail the opportunity to use the lake as well. We haven't seen a real problem with enforcement but the DNR and local law enforcement do monitor the lake.

I am pleased with the “No Wake” restriction – this has had a positive impact on the lake.

What are some of the disappointments that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

The invasive species. The ongoing fight over the dam has been a negative. We are concerned that the silt from the mill pond above the lake will end up in our lake. The City of Delafield doesn't wish to take over ownership of the dam. The dam has been in place for at least one hundred years.

What accounts for your longevity as a volunteer?

Monitoring the lake gives me an excuse to go out. Every time I monitor the lake I swim. I love the lake.

SUE DEMET – Tichigan Lake, Racine County (279 acres, 65 feet maximum depth)

Have you noticed a change in water quality and aquatic plants in the last 20 years?

What changes have you seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

What are some of the highlights that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

What are some of the disappointments that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

What accounts for your longevity as a volunteer?

ALAN DEPIES – Wolf Lake, Fond du Lac Co. (76 acres, 47 feet maximum depth)

Alan DePies has lived full time on Wolf Lake for 22 years. They had a cottage there before moving in full time. Alan collects water clarity and is on the Homeowners Board as well as helping to maintain the dam and collect water level information. He is involved in lots of volunteer activities!

Wolf Lake was named for the farmer who once owned all the property around the lake. Fond du Lac County is home to four lakes. Wolf Lake is the only lake with a public beach. There is a public landing on Wolf Lake.

Why did you decide to monitor water clarity?

I was on the Homeowners Board and the previous water clarity volunteer retired so I took over. I am still monitoring clarity and still on the Homeowners Board!

Have you noticed a change in water quality and aquatic plants in the last 20 years?

What changes have you seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

Yes, there have been changes in the aquatic plant community. Eurasian water milfoil was found on the lake and there are annual chemical treatments now for this invasive species. Water clarity has remained about the same for the last 20 years.

The size of the homes on the lakes remains about the same, people aren't turning their summer homes into large mansions. There are eighty cottages and permanent residences on the lake.

How do you use the data that you collect?

I share the data with the Homeowner's Association.

What are some of the highlights that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

A dam was installed on the lake in 1991. The dam helps to maintain a more constant water level. We put the boards in on May 1 and remove them in the fall.

What are some of the disappointments that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

We were very disappointed when EWM was found on the lake. We have boating and water skiing rules and times and those aren't always followed.

What accounts for your longevity as a volunteer?

Monitoring water clarity hasn't been a hassle. It is just something that needs to be done so that we can watch our water quality over time. Reporting the clarity results on line has made my job much easier.

Do you have anything else that you would like other citizen lake monitors or people on your lake to know about you?

Wolf Lake is close to Lake Winnebago. When it is windy we sometimes get a lot of water skiers and boaters on the lake. We have a small lake and we love the peace and tranquility so we want to keep Wolf Lake as secret as possible!

DAVE VOGT – Annabelle Lake, Vilas County (213 acres, maximum depth 30 feet)

Why did you decide to monitor water clarity?

Have you noticed a change in water quality and aquatic plants in the last 20 years?

What changes have you seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

How do you use the data that you collect?

What are some of the highlights that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

What are some of the disappointments that you have seen on your lake in the last 20 years?

What accounts for your longevity as a volunteer?

Do you have anything else that you would like other citizen lake monitors or people on your lake to know about you?