VAN VLIET NEWS

ISSUE #4

WINTER 1995-1996

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS STARTED

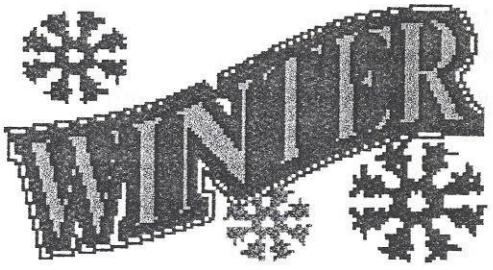
On January 4, 1996, a group of representatives of the Van Vliet Lake Association met with representatives of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the University of Wisconsin Extension and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The purpose of the meeting was to get a better understanding of the process to develop a lake management plan for Van Vliet Lake.

Present were: Forbes and Toddy Taylor, Nancy Gross, Barb Novak, Don Liter, Renn Karl, Jim Freckmann, Steve Smithson, Al and MaryAnn Smithson, Tom and Barbara Olson, and Andy and Mike Olson. Representing the DNR was Bob Young; from UW-Extension was Bryan Pierce; and from UW-Stevens Point was Bob Korth.

Given the concerns and issues identified by our members in past meetings, it has been a primary concern of the Board to determine the feasibility of developing a lake management plan for Van Vliet Lake.

There are several sources of assistance in the development of a lake management plan. These include the Department of Natural Resources, the University of Wisconsin Extension, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, private consultants, people who own property on the lake, and others.

The process in the development of a plan is to first identify the issues of concern to those of us on the lake. We have done this informally in the past at our meetings. You will find a more formal survey in this newsletter which we are asking that you return promptly to help shape our activities.



After the issues are identified, it is necessary to obtain an understanding of what is causing certain conditions on the lake; e.g. abundant aquatic plant growth.

The next step in the planning process is to try to understand what should and can be done about the conditions - if anything. It is also important to determine the cost of any of these activities as part of this process. It will also be necessary to understand the short and long term impacts of any actions which might be taken.

The representatives of the DNR, UW-Ex, and UW-SP were all quite complimentary to the Association for the actions already undertaken and information already developed. They indicated that we were are far ahead of many other associations.

All of the committees involved - Water Quality, Aquatic Plants, and Fishing - have already gathered information both from the DNR and directly from the lake. For instance, water quality is already being assessed by Renn Karl and the students at North Lakeland School. Barb Novak, Matt Rottman, and others, have worked with DNR representatives to identify 29 different aquatic plant types in the lake (which appear to affirm that we have good water quality - albeit rather fertile growing conditions). Jim Freckmann has spent time with DNR to obtain the limited information available regarding the fish resource.

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A Planning Committee was appointed to work through the planning process and develop a report by May of this year. An important first step is completion of the enclosed survey. The Committee will focus on four areas of concern (unless the survey results change that): aquatic plants, water quality, silt (detritus), and fishing.

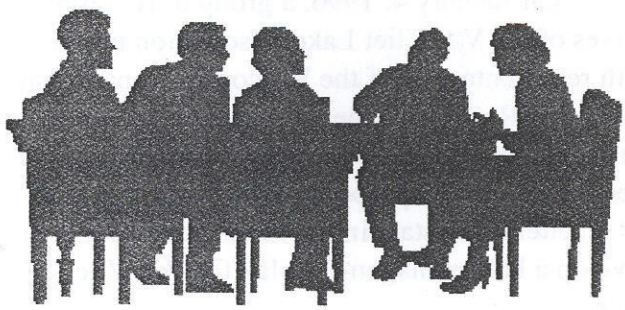
They are to report back on the information and data available in each of these areas, to report any conclusions supported by this information, and to report on the additional information which will be required to move to development of action plans. Although it does not seem likely, they MAY be able to recommend some action plans as part of their report.

Several times during our meeting, our guests stressed to us the complexity of the biology and chemistry in a lake. They noted that the nature of our lake is that it is shallow and fertile, and that our expectations should take that into account as we are making plans.

The Planning Committee is: Steve Smithson, Chair; Nancy Gross, Barb Novak, Don Liter, Renn Karl, Jim Freckmann, and Forbes Taylor. Bryan Pierce of UW-Extension and Bob Young of the DNR will be valuable resources to the committee. Other members who wish to be involved with the Planning Committee should note that on their survey form. The Committee will be quite active with regular meetings between now and May.

If additional funding is required for the the plan, the State of Wisconsin, through the Department of Natural Resources, can provide a matching grant (75% of the funds) for approved planning projects. After development of the plan, a similar matching grant is available for approved preservation and improvement projects. The remaining funds would need to be raised by the Association.

The planning process **does not commit** us to proceed to do anything nor to spend any money. For us to actually do anything or spend any money, we will need approval of a majority of theAssociation members. Our purpose is to get a better understanding of Van Vliet Lake and what we can do to enhance our enjoyment of it.



1995 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The 1995 annual meeting was held at Taylor's Alpine Resort on Sunday, July 2nd. It was well attended with in excess of 50 individuals present. Officers were elected. They are Tom Olson, President; Forbes Taylor, Vice-President; Nancy Gross, Treasurer and Jim Sprester, Secretary. In addition, Committee chairs were appointed. They are: Matt Rottman, Aquatic Plants and Algae; Barb Novak, History; Renn Karl, Water Quality and Jim Freckmann, Fishing.

Each Committee reported on its activities to date. All are beginning to obtain information available on Van Vliet Lake.

Renn Karl made a presentation on the Water Quality Committee and his project with North Lakeland School. The program will involve students from the school taking regular samples of organisms living in the lake and assessing the quality of the water in the lake based on the organisms present. The differing tolerance levels for various organisms can give us an indication of the current quality of the water in the lake and trends in the future.

Van Vliet Lake is a seepage lake with most of its water "seeping" in from the surrounding area. The turnover of water in the lake is relatively slow - requiring several years. Thus, it is most important that we pay close attention to the water quality and learn what we can about the factors impacting on it. This study is very important to our knowledge of the lake. We are very pleased to have Renn and his students conducting this activity.

Once again, our thanks to Forbes and Toddy Taylor for hosting our meeting.

1996 ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JULY 7TH

The 1996 Annual Meeting of the Van Vliet Lake Association has been set for Sunday, July 7th, 1996 to begin at 1:00 PM. The place is yet to be determined but will be included in a subsequent newsletter.

The agenda will includethe election of 3 Board members (terms of Tom Olson, Forbes Taylor and Don Liter are expiring) as well as the election of officers. Also on the agenda will be a report from the Planning Committee as well as a possible speaker on aquatic plant management (if time permits).

ENCLOSED SURVEY - PLEASE RETURN

The enclosed survey has been designed to get your thoughts on the matters and activities of greatest importance to you regarding Van Vliet Lake and the Association. Although we have informally surveyed you earlier, this survey is designed to develop more precise information and help to guide the activities of the Planning Committee over the next few months. **Please return the survey to Tom Olson by January 31st or as soon as possible.** Survey results will be in the next newsletter.

PASSAGES

Our deepest sympathy to Paul Roth and his family. Paul's wife, Dolores, passed away on July 28th after a long illness. Paul's father built their house of Van Vliet Lake about 1960. Paul, Dolores and their family came up often from Lynn Center, Illinois. Those of us on the lake who knew Dolores will truly miss her.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!!!

For those who remember the Northwoods during Christmas 1994, they will recall little snow, moderate temperatures, and almost no chance for the snowmobilers or cross-country skiers to enjoy their sports.

Not so in 1995! The only thing which was the same is that temperatures were moderate - at least for awhile. The snow was well over a foot deep - and so was the ice on the lake. Snowmobilers were present in great numbers, and, from all appearances, having a grand time. The cross-country skiers had lots of opportunity. And, for one of the first times I can recall, snowshoes were more than an interesting decoration. You could actually use them and not feel silly.

By the way, icefishing wasn't bad either. We like to fish for northerns, and we did very well. I gave my wife a new gas powered ice auger for Christmas, and we did our best to make the ice off our point look like Swiss cheese. My friends in Washington couldn't understand the romance in giving your wife an ice auger for Christmas. I guess they've never seen "Grumpy Old Men."

Once again, the Northwoods proved why we love it so. Beautiful deep snow, lots of fires in the fireplace, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, quiet walks in the woods at night. What could be better??

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

The officers and committee chairs of the Association are as follows.

President: Tom Olson
837 Sauk Ridge Trail
Madison, WI 53717
(608) 831-0837

Vice Pres: Forbes Taylor
HC1 Box 89
Presque Isle, WI 54557
(715) 686-2800

Treasurer: Nancy Gross
HC1 Box 106
Presque Isle, WI 54557
(715) 686-7626

Secretary Jim Sprester
N54 W33365 Terrace
Nashotah, WI
(414) 367-7321

Planning Committee
Steve Smithson
6800 Galway Drive
Edina, MN 55349
(612) 941-3442

Aquatic Plants & Algae
Matt Rottman
4737 W. Byron
Chicago, IL 60641
(312) 736-3408

Water Quality
Renn Karl
HC1 Box 117
Presque Isle, WI 54557
(715) 686-2369

Fishing
Jim Freckmann
HC1 Box 91a
Presque Isle, WI 54557
(715) 686-7356

History
Barbara Novak
HC1 Box 109
Presque Isle, WI 54557
(715) 686-2825

All of the Committees need your help.

IN 1922, YOU COULD CHOOSE WHERE TO STAY ON VAN VLIET

I have a friend whose husband was into old railroad timetables. He showed me a"Directory of Summer Resorts and Hotels in Northern Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Minnesota" put out by the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. It was copyrighted in 1922.

In the section captioned, "The Great North Woods Tourist and Fishing District of Wisconsin" - "Ideal Location for Summer Homes", there are several maps and quite a few listings. One of the maps shows two properties on Van Vliet Lake - "Trails End" now owned by Barb Novak; and "Schacht's Resort" now called Taylor's Alpine Resort.

There is a little additional information. Trails End was managed by D.C. McKay and was supposed to be 11 miles from Mercer (the rail station serving it). It could hold 28 guests, and rates were available upon request.

Schacht's Resort was managed by Arthur Schacht and was supposed to be 16 miles from Manitowish (why Mercer served Trails End and Schacht's was being served by Manitowish, I can't say). Schacht's indicated that it could handle 20 guests and that rates were available upon request. The going rates in the area seemed to be $2.50 to $3.00 per day (the highest I could find was Beaver Lodge in Mercer at $5 to $6 per day).

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1995 MEMBERS

Our year end records show the following as members of the Association. If your name has been omitted, please let Nancy Gross (our Treasurer) know. We encourage all of our neighbors to join us in 1996.

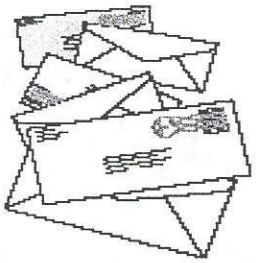
John, Nick & Rita Andrews
Kenneth & Marikay Artner
Gil & Dorothy Boeker
Frank & Gloria Bradley
William & Lois Jean Castle
Marion & Gerald Dunne
John & Dona Fagan
Steve & Nancy Frank
Jim & Sheila Freckman
Gloria Goehring
Philip & Marcia Grear
Ken & Nancy Gross
Dick & Karen Harris
Joe & Noreen Janda
Renn & Barb Karl
Stan & Judy Kleinert
George Kupfer
Carl A. Lekan
Jerome Lekan
Don & Lorraine Liter
Wayne & Mary Ann Martin
Paul & Kathleen Nasenbeny
Barb Novak
Jay Novak
Jon Novak
Richard & Carol Novak
Tom & Barbara Olson
Al Orel
Matthew & Lorraine Pachi
Matthew & Theresa Pachi
Stephen & Georgine Platko
Jim & Marg Rottman
Matt & Linda Rottman
Ken & Nancy Ruffner
Doug & Jane Schwanz
Russ & Dorothy Secora
Al & Mary Ann Smithson
Steve & Linda Smithson
Paul & Sharon Specht
Jim & Kathy Sprester
Forbes & Toddy Taylor
Bill & Sue Treb
Dorothy Voorhees

Membership is open to any individual, family, business or organization which supports the purposes of the Association, owns or leases property within 1 mile of Van Vliet Lake or is resident within 1 mile for at least 1 month/year.

1996 MEMBERSHIP

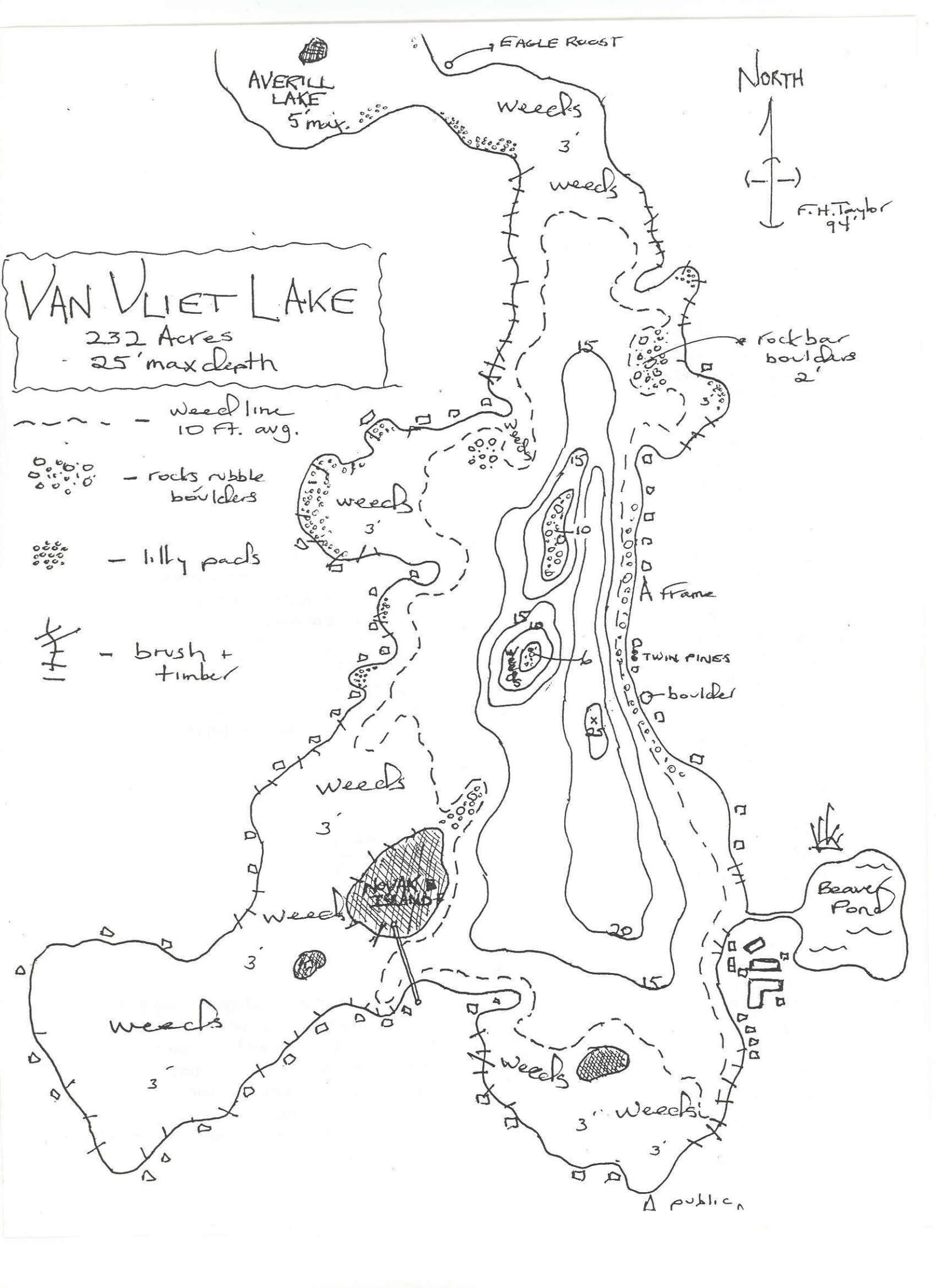
Also enclosed with this Newsletter is your 1996 membership application form. Membership runs on a calendar year basis. As you can see, we have ambitious plans for 1996 and want you all to be a part of them. Also, we want your feedback on how we're doing.

Please send your membership renewal to Nancy Gross soon. Believe it or not, she tries to escape from the snow and cold for a little while and won't be processing memberships much during March.



MAIL

You must not have had much to say as I haven't received any mail - other than Board related business. I know we have some new owners on the lake and would appreciate information regarding our new neighbors. Also, any thoughts on any else that's going on? Send to: Tom Olson, 837 Sauk Ridge Trail, Madison, WI 57317


EAGLE ROOST
AVERILL LAKE 5' max.
NORTH
F.H. Taylor 94'
VAN VLIET LAKE
232 Acres
25' max depth
weedline 10 ft. avg.
rocks rubble boulders
lilly pads
brush + timber
rock bar boulders 2'
weeds
A frame
TWIN PINES
boulder
Beaver Pond
NEVAK ISLAND
public