



WHAT'S INSIDE



Find out why we need to replenish our fish stocks and what kinds of fish are good for the lake and what kind are not.

Page 4



Looking for something fun to do with the kids? Learn about the recreational options available to all residents.

Page 2



Planning a day out on the lake? Make sure you're up to speed on the rules of the road. 10 Boating Safety Rules.

Page 3

providing a safe, clean and pleasant lake for the enjoyment of all area residents

The Round Lake Compass

Issue No. 1
Fall
2006



The Round Lake Management Commission

Created in 2003 by the Villages of Round Lake, Round Lake Beach and Round Lake Park, the Round Lake Management Commission's primary goal is to provide a safe, clean and pleasant lake for the enjoyment of all area residents.

Round Lake has been an important part of the lives of area residents for many years. Long a center for recreational activities such as fishing and boating, the lake lies within three separate municipalities; Round Lake, Round Lake Park and Round Lake Beach. Officials and residents of these communities have long expressed concern for the safety of lake users and the health and well being of the lake itself. Recognizing the importance of this natural resource the three Villages entered into an intergovernmental agreement in 2003 that created the Round

Lake Management Commission. Consisting of 9 members, 3 appointed by each Village's Mayor, the primary purpose of the commission is to provide a safe, clean and pleasant lake for the enjoyment of all area residents. With assistance from local leaders and residents, the Commission quickly identified three key areas of concern; boating safety, lake health, and public education. To address safety concerns, the commission has erected signs near all of the public access points to the lake outlining the "Round Lake Safety Rules." These rules (see page 3) are

aimed at helping to make Round Lake a safe place for all boaters whether they are out to "catch the big one", practice their water sports routines, or just enjoy a nice quiet evening on the lake.

In addressing the lake health, the Commission has organized clean up events that have substantially improved the quality of the lake in spite of the fact that Round Lake was already in the top 10 list of cleanest lakes in Lake County. In prior years the kinds of trash and debris removed from the lake included

continued on page 2

Round Lake Management Commission

Continued from Page 1

things such as abandoned docks, old tires and small appliances, but each year the amount of debris removed from the lake diminishes, indicating the clean up efforts are making a difference.

In working on the last and possibly most important point, public education, the Commission is pleased to present this, our first issue of the Round Lake Compass. Intended to be published bi-annually or as needed, the Compass will highlight not only issues facing the lake and the work of the Commission; it will also bring you updates on recreational and educational activities right in your own backyard. We hope you enjoy this first issue and we look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and most of all we hope we see you on the lake.



Round Lake A Brief History

Like many of the county's lakes, Round Lake was formed about 12,000 years ago when the Wisconsin glacier retreated from the area. In addition to forming the lake basin, the glacier also deposited a 300 foot thick layer of rock and clay. This layer rests on a limestone bedrock, which formed millions of years ago when shallow seas covered this area. A progression of native people lived here until the arrival of European settlers in the 1830's. In 1835 Round Lake's first settler, Thomas Renehan, claimed 120 acres on the south shore. In 1901 development began in earnest with the arrival of the railroad. From 1901 to 1917 Armour and Co. operated a



A 1930's postcard image shows the "Indian Conference Tree" on the shore of Round Lake.

large ice house on the lake's west shore. Four thousand tons of ice were hauled from the lake each year and used to cool meat processing plants in Chicago. Summer lake homes first appeared during this time. These "summer" homes became year round residents with the arrival of the depression and the arrival of World War II. Residential home

building boomed following the war and has continued over the past 50 years to the point that the lake has been almost completely surrounded by homes. Round Lake is approximately 228 acres and with 4.4 miles of shoreline. Having a maximum depth of 32 feet and an average depth of 8 feet, the lake holds approximately 600 million gallons of water.

A Wealth of Recreational Activities



Did you know there are many ways to enjoy the recreational activities on Round Lake. The Villages of Round Lake Beach and Round Lake Park both offer public boat ramps and beaches open to the public.

There are two public beaches on Round Lake. Bengson Park, owned and managed by the Village of Round Lake Park, and Round Lake Beach Park, owned and managed by the Village of Round Lake

Beach. Beaches are open to the public and the water quality is monitored from early May until Labor Day by the Lake County Health Department. Two public boat ramps are also available at these respective beaches. For more information about access times, parking and other rules,

please contact either Village Hall directly. Round Lake is also home to the Alpine Country Club which offers it's members private docks and access to the lake. Other private access points include; Shorewood Subdivision at Lane Court, Shorewood Subdivision at Oak Avenue, Edwards Subdivision Beach and the Osela Camp.

Who or What is a Secchi?

The Secchi disk originated with Fr. Pietro Angelo Secchi, an astrophysicist, who was requested to measure transparency in the Mediterranean Sea by Commander Cialdi, head of the Papal Navy. Secchi also has a crater on the moon named after him.



The Secchi disk consists of an eight-inch diameter weighted metal plate painted black and white in alternate quadrants which is attached to a calibrated rope. It is used to measure how deep a person can see into the water. It is lowered into the lake until the observer loses sight of it. The disk is then raised until it reappears. The depth of the water where the disk vanishes and reappears is the Secchi disk reading. Monitoring is conducted twice a month from April - October, typically at three sites per lake.

Lakes serve as traps for materials generated within their watersheds and are important resources that will continue to provide beneficial uses only if certain protective and educational steps are taken. In recognition of this need, the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) was established in 1981 by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The VLMP serves as an educational program for citizens to learn about lake

ecosystems, as well as a cost-effective method of gathering fundamental information on inland lakes. Round Lake has been monitored as part of this program since 1991.

Round Lake's water quality is better than many of the other lakes in Lake County with readings averaging 6.25 feet for the 2003 season, Well above the county median (where 50% of the lakes are above and below this value) of 3.41 feet. Secchi readings were deepest in June (8.69 feet) and shallowest in August (4.99 feet). The 2003 average was 39% lower than the 1999 average of 10.32 feet, and 16% lower than the 1995 average of 7.44 feet. The decrease in clarity from 1995 may be attributed to many factors including algae blooms, boating activities, and stormwater events. For comparison, Cranberry Lake had a reading average of 10.96 feet in 2000. In 2001, Highland Lake and Long Lake had Secchi reading averages of 6.58 feet and 4.11 feet, respectively. Thus, the clarity in Round Lake is more similar to the lakes upstream than downstream. The Volunteer Lake Monitor (VLM) has been recording Secchi disk transparencies in Round Lake continuously since 1991. This program has been very successful and will continue in the future to monitor trends in Round Lake's water clarity.



Top 10 Boat Safety Rules

1. No alcohol or drug impaired boat operators.
2. All boat occupants must have a personal flotation device and children under 13 must wear them at all times.
3. No wake near the shoreline, piers, channels or swimming areas.
4. Your boat must be a safe distance when under power from other boats at all times.
5. Non-motorized boats always have the right-of-way.
6. If skiing, you must have 2 people in the boat; one operator and one observing the skier.
7. Motorized boats should travel counterclockwise around the circumference of the lake.
8. No littering or polluting of the lake. Please help keep your lake clean by picking up any trash.
9. Respect your fellow boater. Provide help if needed.
10. No reckless or careless operation, use common sense and follow all State boating laws!

Call 911 in an Emergency
or to Report Violations

Fishing Should be Fun !



Every child deserves the opportunity to catch the “big one” and that’s why the Commission along with the Competition Bassmasters of Northern Illinois and the Round Lake Area Park District sponsored the 9th annual “Fishing Should Be Fun” Fishing Derby. The event held Saturday July 22nd at the Round Lake Beach Park hosted over 180 kids of all ages. Free fishing poles, tackle and live bait were provided to all who registered. The day’s events included a safety demonstration, casting contests, boat rides, a fishing contest and awards as well as several hours of fishing. Burgers were provided by Sammies of Round Lake beach. The Commission would like to thank everyone who turned out for the event and especially the Round Lake Beach Public Works Department who worked very hard to make sure the park was ready for the event. This was one of our most successful events this year and one that is sure to return in the future.

Sponsored By

The Round Lake Management Commission

and



Competition
Bassmasters of
Northern Illinois



Round Lake Management Commission

Ken Schnur, RLP	Chairman
Timothy Pasternak, RLB	Secretary
John R. Gutknecht, RL	Treasurer
Pat Brill, RLB	Commissioner
Niel Flamm, RL	Commissioner
Jerry Mattingly, RLB	Commissioner
Marty Nelson, RLP	Commissioner
Doug Vehlow, RL	Commissioner

The Round Lake Management Commission meets at least 8 times annually. Dates and times are posted at your local Village Hall. Please call your Village Hall for more information

Round Lake	847-546-5400
Round Lake Beach	847-546-2351
Round Lake Park	847-546-2790

Stocking the Lake

When done well, stocking can work wonders. Hundreds of Illinois lakes would today offer little or no sport fishing were it not for regular stocking. Stocking is responsible for keep-



ing the once abundant populations of native fish in balance.

This fall the Commission will be stocking Round Lake with both Northern Pike and Walleye. In nature fish will lay hundreds or thousands of eggs but only a few will survive to grow into adult fish. Due to the introduction of the species such as the common carp into Illinois’ lakes, the breeding cycle of fish such as walleye and pike have been greatly affected. To ensure that the new fish have the opportunity to reach mature size, the commission plans to introduce new size limit recommendations as well as supporting a catch and release program for the Lake.

Don’t forget anyone over the age of 16 needs a valid Illinois fishing license to fish on any Illinois waterway. For more information visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website at <http://dnr.state>.