I was asked to recap the accomplishments of the Mirror Lake Association (MLA) and Mirror Lake Management District (MLMD) for the MLA 30th anniversary. As one of the original MLA and MLMD Board members, it was a walk down memory lane. Just as I did at the annual MLA meeting in June, I will highlight for you what I feel are the most important accomplishments:

1. Our first (1985-1986) and without question our biggest was working with the Towns of Delton and Dellona to pass an ordinance making Mirror Lake a No Wake Lake. Can you imagine what the Lake would be like today if it were not a No Wake Lake?

2. 1988 - Thanks to the work of Winnie Hutchison, chemical treatment to control the aquatic plants was stopped and mechanical harvesting began. MLA was instrumental in forming the Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy to restore the Frank Lloyd Wright cottage.

3. 1994 - Project C.L.E.A.N. begins. Priority Watershed status was obtained for the Dell Creek watershed which received $1,674,000 over 15 years. Priority Watershed Status made dredging possible. Sauk County assumed responsibility to maintain the Dam.

4. 1998 - Assisted Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with purchase of 85 acres from Dick Seal, then Vice-President of MLA and owner of Ishnala restaurant, for expansion of Mirror Lake State Park (MLSP) which protected 1,800 feet of shoreline from development.

5. 2001 - Our relationship with the Ho-Chunk Nation begins with a gift of $15,000 to MLA to be used for an educational room at the MLSP entryway building.

6. 2002 - Assisted DNR with purchase of Fern Dell property for expansion of the MLSP which protected 1,000 feet of shoreline from development. Assisted in organizing Friends of Mirror Lake State Park.

7. 2004 - MLA and land owners approve creation of MLMD to protect the Lake.

8. 2006 - Sauk County Board of Supervisors approve formation of MLMD which allows us to apply for government grants.

9. 2007 - MLMD receives $1,000,000 grant from the DNR to dredge portions of the Lake.

10. 2010 - MLMD receives $75,000 for the construction of 5 sediment traps in ravines around the Lake which helped to reduce the amount of sediment coming into the Lake.

11. 2014 - MLMD comprehensive lake management plan approved. MLMD begins Clean Boats Clean Waters program at the MLSP boat landing.

12. 2016 - MLA celebrates 30th anniversary and MLMD its 10th Anniversary.

During the past years MLA can take credit for the formation of what I call our three "off-springs": Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy, Friends of Mirror Lake State Park, and Mirror Lake Management District.

All of this would not have been possible without the strong partnership we have with so many other organizations particularly the Town of Delton and the Mirror Lake State Park.
President’s Update

December 2016

The year of 2016 is a monumental year for many of the groups associated with Mirror Lake. The state park was formed 50 years ago, the Mirror Lake Association (MLA) was formed 30 years ago, the Mirror Lake Management District (MLMD) was formed 10 years ago, Next year the Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy will have its 25th anniversary and the Friends of Mirror Lake State Park (FMLSP) will have their 15th anniversary. A very impressive group of volunteer groups! What would Mirror Lake look like today if these groups never came into existence?

We had our annual meeting at Ishnala in June. The meeting was a celebration of the history of the park and the MLA. Tom Tesch gave a brief history of the state park. Tom and his family have been on the lake for a few generations. Tom gave a more elaborate talk on the history of the park at the 50 year celebration in August. We also had Waldo Peterson go over the highlights of the history of the MLA and the MLMD. We’re very proud of that list and hope we can continue the trend of doing great things! As always, I want to thank Bob Prosser and Ishnala for hosting us again. Not many organizations can say they hold their meeting in the top rated supper club in the state! Congratulations Bob!

In August the Friends threw a great party to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the park! The park had over 770 visitors and guests that day! Many State dignitaries gave speeches, the Ho Chunk Nation dancers and singers performed, and Tom Tesch continued his historical presentation of the lake and the formation of the park. Tom also created a beautiful booklet full of old pictures of the lake. A few are still remaining at the park office for sale if you are interested. They would make a great coffee table book. One of the biggest highlights of the day was the Original Wisconsin Ducks made a rare special return visit to the lake. They gave on-the-lake tours while Waldo and I did commentary. It was a great day of celebration fitting for a great state park!

For the 50th anniversary of the state park, the MLA board voted to purchase, and give the park a kayak pier that is specially designed to help people with disabilities (or those who just have a hard time) to safely get in and out of a kayak or canoe. This was something the park had on a wish list and something we felt was a necessity. Hundreds of kayaks take to the lake on a busy weekend. We think this will be a great asset to the park and something we hope will help someone who might not normally try to go kayaking, give it a shot.

Again this year we had great turn-outs for the clean-up, annual meeting, picnic and flotilla. It’s great to see good participation by people who believe in our cause and are willing to chip in and help or support to keep Mirror Lake the way it is.

We’ll continue to do our lake clean-up and harvesting of aquatic vegetation, to control and eradicate invasive species, and to educate you on best land management practices.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and wish you the best for 2017!

I’d love to hear your feedback. If you have any thoughts, comments or concerns, please give me a call or send an e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you. My cell phone number is 608-575-4652 and my e-mail is mblakeslee@uwalumni.com.

From the west end, Mark Blakeslee
It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of Ken Stevens, Kim Zeier and Dick Napier.

Ken was a long time resident of Mirror Lake; having a home down at the west end for many years, and then moving down across from Echo Rock. Ken was a founding member of the Mirror Lake Association and served on the charter Board of Directors. His legal and financial expertise was invaluable as we began the Association and became incorporated. We often asked Ken for legal advice, and he was always there for us to help in any way possible. I don’t think Ken ever missed an annual meeting, picnic or flotilla. If he did, it was rare. Ken is survived by his daughter Jean and son James. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary and son-in-law Dale Moore. Ken’s wit, charm and knowledge of many things will be missed. He was one of the pioneers to help shape and keep Mirror Lake the place it is now.

Kim died in June from an automobile accident. Kim is the daughter of Jerry and Sandy Collins who have a cottage on the north of the Hwy 23 bridge on Dell Creek. Kim had been coming to the lake for many years with her children, parents and grandparents. Kim leaves behind two children, Josie and Daniel, that Jerry and Sandy are now raising.

Dick Napier passed away on September 9th at his home in North Carolina. Dick was a founding board member of the MLA and served 8 years on the board. In the mid-fifties, his parents purchased the Adieu Smith cottage which was a mail order kit from Sears Roebuck & Co. built in 1928-29. They called it “Rich-Mar” and moved there fulltime in the 1960’s. The cottage was sold in the 1970’s to Jerry and Louis Majorus and in 2000 to Marc and Leeandra Jaeger. Dick’s dad was the owner and operator of the “Good Ship Lollipop”, a 28-foot pontoon. In the early-seventies, Dick’s dad ran Mirror Lake Boat Tours from Mackey Adams Resort for several years. Dick’s daughter, Laurie, roared up and down the lake in their Alumacraft with her pigtails flying (long before the No Wake Lake ordinances). In 1967, Dick purchased Mr. MacIntosh’s fixer upper Pickerel Slough cottage based on the front yard view and called it the “Crow’s Nest”. Until the mid-eighties, residents may recall a low flying Cherokee, on Friday nights, buzzing Pickerel Slough point so that Dick’s wife, Anna Mae, was alerted to meet him at the Baraboo Airport. Dick and Anna Mae moved to the “Crow’s Nest” fulltime in the mid-eighties and added an addition in 1994. Dick participated in the original member panel discussion at the 2011 MLA Annual meeting where he presented the Association with a lamp made from the running lights of the Lady of the Lake. Dick continued to support our causes, even after he moved to North Carolina.

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**Tree Removal for Power Lines**

ATC removed many trees along the interstate and laid a timber road for their equipment to build a high power transmission line that will cross Mirror Lake at the Yogi Bear Resort property. View south from Xanadu Road.

Alliant removed all the trees and brush between Burrit Road and the Pine Cove Condominium fence from Xanadu Road to the bridge over the Mirror Lake dam for an upgraded powerline strung kitty-corner across the bridge.
It is my duty to call Jerry Collins when the ice formed over Mirror Lake. Normally, ice has formed and stayed by the middle of November. From my vantage point near the mouth of Pickerel Slough, it would form at night, and then melt during the day. I called with a report of ice perhaps five times, followed in a day or two with a report that the ice was gone. December 2015 came before the ice formed and stayed. There was also plenty of rain, which saturated the ground and caused water to pour into local gullies. When the cold snap came, it was joined by a heavy snowfall. With moisture seeping out of the ground into and through the sandstone, there were many interesting ice formations created around Fern Dell Gorge.

The Friends of Mirror Lake State Park announced a hike into Fern Dell to view the ice falls and walls. Marty, a retired naturalist from Mirror Lake State Park, would lead us and describe the geography of the sandstone walls. It was below zero as people gathered at the state park office. We left in about 8 cars with a few walkers taking the half mile hike to the new parking lot. It is being developed west of the park entrance on Fern Dell Road. It was hard to tell who was there, since we were all bundled in puffy winter coats and heavy boots. Wisconsin people know when it is time to cover our skin from the bite of the cold air.

We trudged down the ravine, climbing over and under fallen trees, following the path years of water had created. Within one hundred steps, we passed the cement bridge abutments which remain where a road once crossed this gorge. There were colorful icicles on the west side of the gorge, varying in color from yellow to orange to brown with hints of other colors interspersed.

The icicles formed out of the sandstone walls and they could be crystal clear. Marty described how the water, leaching under the ground's surface, picked up the colors and froze as they cascaded over the lip of the gorge.

We squeezed between two sandstone walls (visualize Fat Man's Misery) into a bowl, where large ice formations stood like curtains covering the rock walls. Tracks from some agile animal were found in the snow on a downed tree that worked as a staircase to get up the steep canyon's wall. We all enjoyed the picturesque surrounding and took some photos or selfies.

In perhaps three hundred steps, we came to the Narrows of Mirror Lake, where the ice was just thick enough to walk upon. This was the end of our tour, so we split into smaller groups and made our way back up the valley. There many pictures taken and sites many people will never see. Between beautiful rock formations, walls of ice falls and the crunch of snow under our boots, it made for a memorable hike.

Fern Dell Gorge would make a great, although very short hike, any time of the year. Check it out. You will have to imagine the history of the area, with erosion forming the gorge and houses once built around the edges.

By Dave Clemens
We had another successful clean-up day this year. Always the weekend before Mother Day, it’s a great time to get family together and clean-up our lake community. There is never a shortage of items to pick up. This year we again had people walking the roads and on the lake. Fast food wrappers, bottles and cans were the usual suspects. However, you always find tires, different electronic devices, building materials, and a vast assortment of everything you can think of. It’s a great tradition that gives back to the community we call home.

Of course, it doesn’t hurt that Mark Obois cooks BBQ ribs and smoked salmon for our lunch. Always a crowd pleaser, we can’t thank Mark enough for all the years of providing us lunch.

Or, you could thank him by visiting him at his restaurant, Fitz’s Pub & Grill. You won’t be disappointed. By Mark Blakeslee

**ROCK SLIDE**

May 2016 rock slide by Estervig cabin. Many of us admire the rock formation as we travel along Mirror Lake. Rarely do we see a huge section of the rock cliffs give way and tumble into the lake. By Jerry Collins
The Friends of Mirror Lake State Park (FMLSP) sponsored free musical entertainment at the new Mirror Lake State Park Amphitheater one Saturday night a month during this past summer.

It was the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Weather-wise, from my perspective, it was one of the best Memorial Day weekends I can remember. Of course, on a Saturday night, you have to party and listen to live music! This particular night it was the Whiskey Belles. They were a great band that entertained young and old alike. It was hard to keep your feet silent!

August 13, Patchouli performed under the glow of colored lights and October 1, Earth, Music...Magic performed.

Check out the 2017 Free Summer Concert Series on June 2 & 24, July 22 and August 19 beginning at 7 pm. It’s a great way to spend the evening!

The FMLSP also sponsors many naturalist hikes and kayak programs every Saturday throughout the summer, plus the Halloween hike and candlelight ski outings. Check at the park office or on the FMLSP web site to get specific programs and time. *By Mark Blakeslee*

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**Duckweed and Tree Removal**

Deano and his crew removed many loads of trees from a log jam at the east end of the lake after the September storm. Duckweed had piled up about a foot deep behind the log jam. It was so thick that when a log dropped from the boat it floated. The duckweed quickly made it’s way to the dam as the log jam was removed. The Village of Lake Delton removed the buoys and allowed the duckweed to flow into Lake Delton and eventually the Wisconsin River. In August another log jam was removed and 4 Village employees spent several days raking the duckweed onto the conveyor and hauling it away in trucks. MLMD spent $8,000 removing trees from the lake 3 times in 2016.
The 2016 MLA Annual Picnic was held at the MLSP Pavilion by the new Amphitheater on August 20th. It was a rainy morning but the sun came out in time to shine on this group photo. The Pavilion provided ample shelter for the participants with the added convenience of nearby restrooms. There were many members in attendance along with their guests. A wide variety of delicious food was served at the potluck picnic. A BBQ pork contest was held.

Jean and Erich Herbst with Guests

Picnic Organizers Marc Jaeger and Barb Ceranowski

5th ANNUAL FLOTILLA

Mark Blakeslee announces the winners of the Flotilla Best Decorated Boat awards and presents each with a certificate suitable for framing. Marc Jaeger brought pizzas and each boat brought appetizers to share.

Barb & Marty Ceranowski win Best Decorated Boat in the Spirited Class. Their boat had a patriotic theme.
PAGE 8

PAGE FAMILY TIMELINE

1807 - Moses Page is born on the Atlantic Ocean while his parents were emigrating to the US.
1818 - Cornelia Nolan is born
1847 - US Government sells Village of Fern Dell land to sisters - it subsequently changes hands many times before Page's purchase
1848 - Louis M. Page wife of HD Page born Jan 4 in Connecticut
1848 - Henry Delbert Page born Sept or December 16 in Malone, Franklin County NY, son of Moses and Cornelia (Nolan) Page
1858 - Moses and Cornelia Page move with son Henry D Page to Green Bay, Brown County, WI where Moses had a shoe store
1858 - Henry D Page, at age 11, began as an apprentice in the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company machine shop in Fond du Lac, WI.
1866 - Henry D Page, before age 18, took charge of an engine on the Winona & St. Peter division, served as engineer for 8 years
1870 - Henry D Page was on an engine on the Northern Pacific Railroad for winter 1870-71
1871 - Henry D Page transferred to Harvard, McHenry County, IL
1871 - Henry D Page, before age 18, took charge of an engine on the Northern Pacific Railroad for winter 1870-71
1876 - Henry D Page married Louisa Bunnell (first white child born in LaCrosse County, WI) of Winona, MN on November 24
1879 - Harry Willard Page born August 23
1882 - Grace Louise Page born April 21
1883 - Henry D Page appointed master mechanic of the Madison division with headquarters at Baraboo on August 9
1894 - Cornelia (Nolan) Page dies at age 76 in Walnut Grove, MN
1895 - Henry D Page & Louise Page buy land - SE 1/4, the NE 1/4 and other lands - the NE 1/4 of 160 acres included Fern Dell canyon, the point, shoreline and site of future home Fernwood
1896 - Henry D Page erected a fine residence in Baraboo, WI
1897 - Robert Lafollette makes first political speech at picnic at Page's Pulpit Rock at Fern Dell on Mirror Lake
1900 - Harry W Page graduates from University of Wisconsin with Engineering degree
1901 - Moses Page, father of HD Page, age 94, retired and living in Minneapolis, MN
1903 - Richard B Powell born to Grace (Page) Powell
1904 - Harry W Page and Grace E. Morton elope to Madison
1904 - HD Page transferred to Mason City, IA by Northwestern RR - Grace (Morton) Page moved to Iowa with them. HW Page stayed behind at Fern Dell cottage to build the Wildwood Hotel
1905 - Eleanor Page (future Mrs. Stuart Hamilton) born in Iowa in November
1906 - Wildwood Hotel burns down - Eleanor Page there at 5 months old when fire started
1906 - Harry W Page and family move to Chicago where he was an engineer - they continue to visit old cottage at Fern Dell
1907 - Henry D Page died January 31 - buried in Walnut Hill Cemetery Baraboo Section A
1908 - Bunnell Morton Page born June 1 to HW and Grace (Morton) Page
1912 - Harry W Page builds Fernwood with redstone pillars hand chiseled by 90 year old Lake Delton artisan - Mose Crane (In 1919 Lou Ringling bought the ML Crane property to build the Morris Hotel. In "The History of Sauk County", Moses L. Crane, mason, was born in 1846 in NJ so his age is 66 years old in 1912.)
1934 - Eleanor Page married Stuart Hamilton of Chicago at Fern Dell
1936 - Bruce P Hamilton born
1940 - Harry W and Louise M Page give deed to cottage to Eleanor (Page) Hamilton which is shown as lot 4, block 2 on 1961 Fern Dell Plat map done by DNR
1941 - Harry W Page leaves his wife Grace (Morton) Page and moves into the "Yellow" cottage at Fern Dell that HD Page had used as an ice house and was next to the dance pavilion located near Fern Dell Road on the rut road that lead to Pulpit Rock.
1944 - Louise M. Page died February 15 buried at Walnut Hill Cemetery Baraboo Section A
1948 - Harry W Page died buried at Walnut Hill Cemetery Baraboo Section A next to wife Louise
1948 - Richard D Powell age 45 son of Grace (Page) Powell and grandson of HD Page died from fall while wing walking stuntman on plane at Hales Corners, WI. He is buried at Walnut Hill Cemetery Baraboo Section A. He spent a lot of time at Mirror Lake and the McBoyles airport in Lake Delton. His 12 year old nephew, Bruce P Hamilton saw him fall to his death.
1954 - Bruce P Hamilton enters Air Force
1960 - Bruce P Hamilton marries wife Merle in April
1967 - John and Esther (Page) Fockler bought Ma and Pa Phelps' property at the Highlands across from Ishnala - the Phelps' were from Maywood, IL and took care of Esther as an infant while her mother took care of Eleanor who had Scarlet Fever
1960 - Grace (Page) Powell dies and her ashes are placed on top of her father, HD Page's grave at Walnut Hill cemetery Baraboo
1967 - Eleanor (Page) Hamilton sells cottage at lot 4, block 2 Fern Dell to MLSP
1967 - Bunnell (Bunny) Page refuses to sell his remaining 10.5 acres of land to DNR for $63,000 ($6,000/acre)
1967 - Bunnell (Bunny) Page sells his land to DNR several times with a life estate
1967 - DNR tears down Fernwood and Grandma Louis Page's cottage. Fernwood basement was blasted out of solid rock.
1983 - John and Esther (Page) Fockler and her husband sell their Franklin home and in summer move to the Highland cottage on Mirror Lake
1983 - Harry D. Page II died October 9 at Redwood City, CA son of HW and Grace (Morton) Page
1984 - Esther (Page) Fockler died January 4 at her daughter Melissa's home in Catawba, her ashes were paddled in her old canoe from her Highlands property to Fern Dell where they were scattered in early June
1987 - Bunnell M Page died February 11, age 78, his ashes are scattered at Fern Dell
1993 - Eleanor (Page) Hamilton dies buried at Walnut Hill Cemetery Baraboo Section A

By Cathy Sperl
At a political gathering of friends and family at the Fern Dell on Mirror Lake, Robert La Follette, Sr. delivered an address to a group of county Republican clubs. La Follette was Wisconsin Governor 1901-1906 and the US Senator 1906 - 1925.

H.D. Page cottage at Mirror Lake is on the hill in the background. *Eleanor Page Hamilton’s September 13, 1984 Dells Events article says the child seated in front is Grace Page (15) and that Harry W. Page (18) and Belle Case (La Follette) (38) are in the picture. Almost everyone is part of the Case or Page family.* Front row, left to right (age): unidentified girl in foreground is thought to be Mrs. Jones’ daughter (Irmgard 9); unidentified girl perhaps Mrs. Jones’ daughter? Or Flora (Fola) LaFollette (15); Mrs. Albert F. Jones (39 Mina Case daughter of Theron Case); Mrs. Lucy (Newell) Case (56), aunt of Belle Case La Follette, wife of Theron Case; Mrs. H. D. Page (Louisa Bunnell Page 49) of Baraboo; Dr. Charles A Rood (45) of Reedsburg always wore a tall black top hat, as seen on his lap.

Middle row, left to right: Grace Page (15 - later Mrs. Powell); Mrs. Belle (Crouch) Benedict (32) of Baraboo, daughter of Levi & Julia Crouch, widow of Charles Benedict, fiancé of John Knuppe married April 14, 1898 in Baraboo; Robert M. La Follette, Sr. (42); unidentified man in front of La Follette is most likely H.W. Page (18); unidentified lady (perhaps Belle Case La Follette (38) who Eleanor Page Hamilton says is in the picture); Mr. Dyer Hitchcock (62), an attorney of Baraboo whose wife Leona (Case) Dyer died in 1894 at age 51.

Back row, left to right: the two gentlemen on the left are Anson T. Case (59), father of Belle Case La Follette and his brother Theron Case (59); H. D. Page (49), a master mechanic for the Chicago & North Western railroad, of Baraboo; unidentified man, husband of the lady beside Mr. La Follette?; and an unidentified man. The unidentified men in the back may is Albert F. Jones (39) and John Knuppe (55)St. Paul railroad man. 

By Cathy Sperl
We are looking for old family photos, family history, cottage history, stories, postcards or interesting letters regarding Mirror Lake that we could copy to keep in our MLA archives. We encourage you to write down your family histories and stories about Mirror Lake. We want to help keep the history of Mirror Lake alive for future generations. If you have items you would like to keep in the MLA archives, please send the original or a copy to Mark Blakeslee or Cathy Sperl via the P.O. or e-mail.

Kate Stelling, owner of Bekah Kate’s in Baraboo, grew up adjacent to Mirror Lake State Park. Growing up there she hiked and skied the trails a lot. As children, they also fished and canoed the lake. She decorated a Christmas tree at the Sauk County’s Van Orden Mansion for their 2016 Christmas festival that featured the history of Mirror Lake. She plans to donate the photos on the tree to the Mirror Lake State Park to add to their History Collection.

Cathy Sperl of Lake Delton expounded on the life and times of Louise Alston Burleigh, better known as Princess Nadonis Shawa, on August 11. The princess owned a cottage on Mirror Lake for many years and led a colorful life as a self-proclaimed Indian poet and entertainer.

Sperl is the treasurer of the Mirror Lake Association and has studied Shawa for years. The presentation was held in Lake Delton at the Frank Fischer Center, the use of which was generously provided by the village.

CORRECTION FALL/WINTER 2015 Issue Page 8: 1961 Plat map of Fern Dell and Page’s Additions. Princess Nadonis lots 6 & 7 were located in Block 1 not 2. The owner shown on the map is Leon Kemmeter. Her lots were next to Grace Powell’s lot. Thanks to Tom Tesch for catching this.

PLEASE HELP IDENTIFY PEOPLE IN THE LA FOLLETTE FERN DELL PICTURE SHOWN ON PAGE 9! I have been working for over 10 years to identify the people in this 1897 picture. If you have any information please contact me. Thanks, Cathy Sperl
INTERESTED IN BEING A MEMBER IN THE MIRROR LAKE ASSOCIATION?

Membership Form — Please enclose this with your check.

Name(s) ___________________________________________ Phone __________________________
Address ___________________________________________ City __________________________ State _____ Zip ______
Email address ___________________________________________

Annual dues are for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Membership Dues per Individual_______@ $20.00 each $___________
Additional Membership Dues per Individual_______@ $20.00 $___________
Please include addresses.

Tax Deductible Contribution $___________

Total Enclosed $___________

Dues and contributions to Mirror Lake Association are fully deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent provided by law.

ICE SAFETY

Mirror Lake freezes at varying rates in different locations. So how do you know when you can venture out and take all the necessities needed for a fun day on the ice? Here is a good guide for new, solid, clear, blue or black lake ice.

2” or less – STAY OFF or, you’ll get wet!
4” – Ice fishing, skating, or other activities on foot
5”-6” – Snowmobiles or ATVs
8”-12” – Cars or small trucks
12”-15” – Medium Trucks

The above chart is a guideline and not always the rule. For example, white ice, snow ice or slush is only about half as strong as new ice. A good rule is to double the above thickness guideline when traveling on white ice. The strength of river ice is 15% less. The narrows can be open water when the rest of the lake is frozen solid!

Temperature, snow cover, currents, springs and rough fish all affect the relative safety of ice. Salt from the interstate bridge weakens the ice. Ice is seldom the same thickness over a single body of water; it can be two feet thick in one place and one inch thick a few yards away. Check the ice at least every 150 feet. Remember, always be cautious. If you are unsure if the ice is safe, don’t take any chances.

By Mark Blakeslee

Reflections from Mirror Lake

is a publication of the Mirror Lake Association Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Mirror Lake Association, Inc. is located in Sauk County, Wisconsin and was organized November 16, 1986 for the purposes of promoting and improving: the physical appearance; well being; and protecting the future of Mirror Lake.

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The MLMD Clean Boats Clean Waters crew inspected boats at the Mirror Lake State Boat launch again this past summer. While no zebra mussels have been found in Mirror Lake, they were found in Lake Delton this summer by the DNR. Lake Delton Watersports also found zebra mussels on boat they took out of Lake Delton this fall.

Wisconsin residents can take steps to reduce the spread of zebra mussels between waterways. Boaters should look for stowaways on their hulls, motors, anchors and trailers and remove them by scraping or using a pressure washer.

Since zebra mussel larvae can sneak into any water aboard a boat, boaters should drain the water from motors, boat bilges, live wells and bait wells, and clean the weeds from the boat, motor and trailer before leaving boat ramps. Likewise, anglers should check minnow traps for mussels and make sure not to transport bait or water from bait buckets across different waterways.