

# LOWER LONG LAKE NEWS

Lower Long Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District



## Letter from the Chair...

The days are getting long, the water temperature is rising, and activity continues to grow on Lower Long Lake. That must mean it is Summer at the lake. Enjoying the lake is dear to all of us, but maintaining a clean quality lake takes work and dedication from many and we are truly blessed to have so many people who step up to ensure our lake is maintained on all fronts.

Recently there were reports of floating pan fish in the lake that caused a bit of concern. Members of the board reached out to the DNR to determine this was caused by a common bacteria and is not a cause for alarm and is a natural process. Thank you Mike Emberson for your efforts to obtain this information.

Water monitoring is in full swing on the lake thanks to the efforts of the water quality Committee Chairs Jim and Barb Harvey and their team. Recent testing tells us our water quality is very clear, many nutrients were present to support algae growth and that the lake was very productive during the recent sampling. A very good report compared to previous years, and we look forward to receiving additional reports over the Summer Months.

Mike Emberson, Fisheries Committee chair reports we are on schedule for our Fall stocking of 10,000 walleye as approved. The 2026 stocking is paid for by the LLLPRD and in 2027 the stocking will continue and be funded by the DNR. I am happy to report that while the Native Americans were given permission from the DNR to harvest 285 walleye this year, we have been informed they took only around 40 walleye, which is good news to help with our stocking programs success.

## LLLPRD Contacts

### COMMISSIONERS

**Chair:**  
Jim Weiss 262-215-0146  
[board@lowerlonglake.org](mailto:board@lowerlonglake.org)

**Treasurer:**  
Denise Fried-Schepke  
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**Secretary:**  
Lisa Sturzl  
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**Town Board Rep:**  
Don Granger 715-967-2576

**Country Board Rep:**  
Jim Flater 715-579-3947

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### WATER QUALITY

Jim Harvey  
[jharveyatp@gmail.com](mailto:jharveyatp@gmail.com)

### AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Mark Edstrom 715-577-3433  
[msedstrom@gmail.com](mailto:msedstrom@gmail.com)

### FISHERIES COMMITTEE

Mike Emberson  
[mikeemberson25@gmail.com](mailto:mikeemberson25@gmail.com)

### WELCOMING & HOSPITALITY

Kate Snowise [kate@thrive.how](mailto:kate@thrive.how)

### LLL FOUNDATION

Pat Kelly 715-577-9253  
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The **LLLPRD Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing will take place on Saturday July 25 at the Sampson Town Hall**. I invite everyone to attend and be part of the conversation. The agenda, proposed budget and minutes of last year's meeting are included in the newsletter. The current proposed 2027 budget is for a total expense of \$27,214.00, down from \$47,214.00 for 2026. This decrease is mainly due to reserving \$15,000 in 2027 for our anticipated walleye restocking in 2028, rather than the full \$30,000 cost for restocking in 2026. One item not included in the budget for 2027 is the replacement of the AIS Camera (I-LID) located at the boat launch at Morrison Erickson County Park. This monitoring unit has had some recent challenges and has needed some upgrades and repairs. Currently it appears the repairs have been successful and the unit does not need to be replaced in 2027 but may need replacement in a year or two. Currently the cost of replacement is around \$15,000.00.

While the budget of 2027 is \$27,214.00 the proposed budget calls for a levy of \$17,000.00. It is proposed the difference will be funded by paying down the reserves of the LLLPRD.

On a fun note, the Welcoming and Hospitality Committee kicked off the Summer in style with a wonderful Cocktails on the Dock on Memorial Day weekend. There was a great turnout and all reports show it was a great success. Stay tuned for more Cocktails on the Dock this Summer. And 4th of July is creeping up on us quickly. Remember to be a part of the boat parade and don't forget our two wonderful fireworks shows on July 3rd (Sponsored by Max on the Lake) and on July 4th, funded by all the great residents of our lake. If you haven't done so already, please contribute to the fireworks fund to make America's 250th birthday the best ever.

Thank you to all the board members, Committee Chairs and residents for your help and support to make Lower Long Lake a very special place we can all be proud of. If you have any suggestions, comments or concerns please feel free to reach out to me or any board member as we all have a common goal.

*Jim Weiss*



## Welcoming & Hospitality

We had a fantastic turnout for our Memorial Day Cocktails on the Dock. So lovely to see the community out and about and reconnecting after a long winter. Thanks to all who made it! We have two more Cocktails on the Dock dates coming up, as well as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and Fireworks.



*Some friendly faces from our lake community. Thanks so much Sara Baer for capturing the day!*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**4TH OF JULY**

**LOWER LONG LAKE  
FIREWORK SHOW**

★★★

**SATURDAY JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> 10PM**

Barge will be anchored 200 yards off shore in front of Max's

**100% DONATION BASED FIREWORK SHOW**

Checks can be made payable to "Morning Has Broken LLC"

Venmo payments can be sent to @LowerLongLakeFireworkShow

**RAFFLE PRIZES AT MAX'S**

There will be five raffle prize items at Max's. All donations will go towards the firework show. Prizes include - Blackstone Flat Top, Uni Pizza Oven, Paddle Board, Kona Chair & Bags Board Set

Each item will be raffled off on a 100 square board

\$10 per square - one winner will be drawn on Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm - Rain out date is Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS**

We appreciate everyone's support and we look forward to another BANGER summer on Lower Long Lake!



## Save the Dates

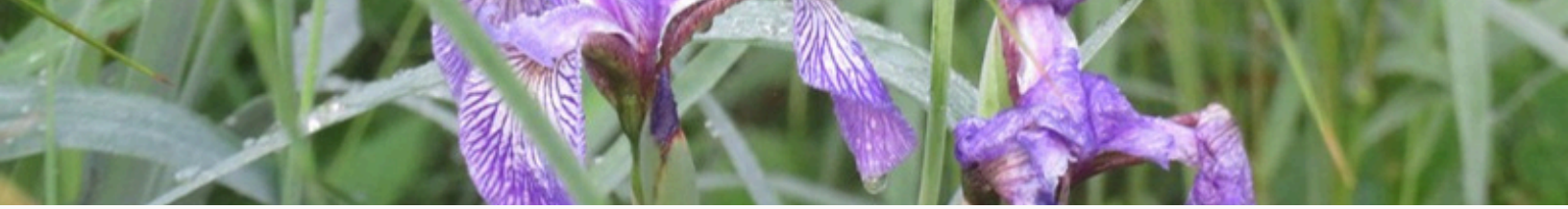
**Join us for  
Cocktails on the Dock!**

At Max's on the Lake

4pm - 6pm

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> July**

**Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August**



## LLLPRD ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING

**Saturday, July 25, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Sampson Town Hall, 10770 270th Avenue,**  
**New Auburn, WI**

### AGENDA

Call to order.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Review and approve 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Chair's Report: Jim Weiss
  
- Committee Reports:
  - Publicity/Welcoming/Hospitality Committee Representative - Kate Snowise
  - Chippewa County Representative Update: Jim Flater
  - Town of Sampson Representative news: Don Granger
  - Fish Committee Update: Mike Emberson
  - Water Quality Committee Update: Jim Harvey
  - Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Update: Mark Edstrom
  - Report on Surveillance/I-LID - Gale Hass
  
- Treasurer's Report: Denise Fried-Schepke
- Review and vote on the proposed 2026-2027 Budget. Determine the 2027 tax levy for the Lake District
- Long Lake Foundation: Report and election of incoming member
- Nominating Committee Report. Elect one Lake District Board member.
- Vote on Meeting Notice Resolution
- Adjourn

### **Notice of LLLPRD Board Meeting** **Saturday, July 25th, 2026**

*Following the Annual Meeting*  
*Agenda: Election of Officers and set date for next Board Meeting*

For further information, contact:  
Jim Weiss, 262-215-0146 or [board@lowerlonglake.org](mailto:board@lowerlonglake.org)

Beth Moos



## LLLPRD 2026 ANNUAL MEETING - Minutes to Review

*Meeting as held on: Saturday, July 26th, 2025, 10:00 a.m.  
Sampson Town Hall, 10770 270th Avenue, New Auburn, WI*

### Minutes

Call to order at 10:05 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Don Granger

### Attendance

- Board members present: Kathy Kelly, Don Granger-town of Sampson representative, Tina Killey, Denise Freid-Schepke and Jim Flater-Chippewa County Board Supervisor
- Constituents in attendance: Jim Harvey, Gail Misfeldt, Susan Edstrom, Mark Edstrom, Mary Farrell, Jake Farrell, Gale Haas, Pat Kelly, Jill Ann Brodd, Joel Brodd, Kate Snowise, Eric Larson, Jenny Larson, Darlene Granger, Luann Roach, Sonja Swan, Jim Weiss, Peggy Crank, Travis Callstrom, Jan Lothe, Tami Peterman, Dave Peterman, Pam Peterson, Charlie Drier, Sheila Drier, John Killey, Bill Blackburn, Ann Dinger Dickinson, Denny Zacho, Dan Graaskamp, Sara Baer, Mike Emberson, Eileen Munger, Jef Munger, Erika Munger, Jon Munger, Maggie Munger, Megan Munger, Joe Munger, Dave Svoma, Lee Christensen, Lenny Seyberth, Damin Zacho

### Meeting Proceedings

**Review and approve 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes** - Motion by Sara Baer to accept the minutes, seconded by Gale Haas, motion carried.

### Chair's Report

Chair Kathy Kelly reported that there are multiple lake owners that did not pay for the weed removal done by TSB. Tyler (TSB) relayed to Kathy that if anyone was interested in weed removal to contact him and he will bill them directly. Mark Edstrom and Jim Harvey contacted DNR directly about the weed issue and to better understand solutions. They also contacted Beaver Creek and were referred to a biologist with the DNR. The belief of the weed problem is a direct result of the large mouth bass fishery and abundance of small mouth bass which led to the current lack of cray fish. The DNR feel it's a good thing due to the lake's clean water. They stressed that herbicides are not permitted, but, weed removal is permitted.

Damon Zacho mentioned that Chain Lake is working with the DNR to introduce Blue crayfish to the lake. Jeff Pippinger, president of their Association is talking about raising blue crayfish to add to Chain Lake. Kathy mentioned that Buzz Sorge (DNR) put Long Lake in impaired status and now we are not. Kathy said LLLPD have reached out to DNR and they told us that the weed harvesting is the only approved process. Pat Kelly mentioned that a District has to operate within the law. A Lake Association has different guidelines.



Gale Haas asked what is the future since the weeds have come and gone through the years. Jim H. mentioned that there is a particular weed in abundance that is an annual. Those plants may not show up next year, most are perennials and may take over the annual weeds that have shown up. Dark lake does not have weeds as the rest of Long does.

Peggy Crank mentioned there are different types of weeds that have produced more than ever. They weren't here 40+ years ago. Mark Edstrom mentioned that weeds in Long are noninvasive; largely pond weed and others. Herbicides are permitted when invasive species are present not when native species are there.

Kathy K. - girl scout camp years ago used herbicides in the swim areas; please don't do the same!  
Denny Zacho - What are the ramifications of putting crayfish in? Jim H. mentioned that you don't know what else is in with the crayfish, such as zebra mussels? It's too risky, new species could be introduced to the lake.  
Sonya mentioned that the fishing is much better than the fishing was 20+ years ago.

Jim H. asked about the rusty crayfish survey? Monitor it to see if they are coming back or not. Is it a good idea to check with Jay Bearson, he did a survey of the cray fish previous years. Does he have a more recent survey?  
Gale H. mentioned asking for a grant or a study with UW-EC to investigate the cause of the weeds. Lenny Seyberth mentioned that in 1967 he borrowed a boat to musky fish on the lake and the weeds were worse than they are now. In 1971 he purchased his property and the weeds were gone. He spoke with Buzz Sorge and there was a study done as part of his doctorate program, we looked into a grant to understand why the weeds come and go. Does not happen on Chain they have rusty crayfish. Suggest get Bernie D son (who did the study) Kathy what changed? The 50's the crayfish were introduced to the lake, Buzz showed Lenny a map of the weed beds, they would disappear and reappear.

Sara Baer motioned to set aside \$5000 to study the current circumstance of weed rise and fall on Long Lake. Denise Scheppke mentioned asking for an amendment at the time of the budget discussion. We could still pursue a grant as well. Lenny thought we would have a good chance.

### **Website and Facebook**

**Kate Snowise:** Communications are working well with the website and Facebook notifications. Cocktails on the Dock kick off on Memorial weekend went well; at least 50 people at Max's. There is one Today and August 30th from 4-6. Strong participation was successful for the Fourth of July Boat Parade-20 boats! Sue Edstrom and Jill Brodd are stepping off the committee this August after 3 years on the hospitality committee; thank you for your service. Jason Priybl, Adam and Becky Mohr will be joining the committee.

The Facebook site is very active. It's nice to see the community photos and all are encouraged to post and share. The summer newsletter went out and 30 days prior to the meeting. The winter newsletter was missed due to not having clear direction of important dates and information. Community notices on the LLLPD website are up to date. The home page has dates for Cocktails on the Dock and LLLPRD meetings. Looking for archival data for the website. Kate would like the community to focus on this information to share. She will send out communications for lake owners to submit information. Recent changes of the board and the committees will be updated on the website. She thanked everyone for their support. Round of applause. Joel Brodd asked how to include items on the website. She will send out info on how to submit.



### **Chippewa County Report**

**Jim Flater, Chippewa County Reported** that the River County ATV trail is open and the county is working with clubs to open M up in the future. Chippewa county has been without a highway commissioner since June and they are hoping to refill the position soon. He also mentioned that UW Extension might be a good resource for the weed issue.

### **Town of Sampson Report**

**Don Granger, town of Sampson board representative** - main concern of the board for the township is getting the roads cleaned, weeds next to the roads. They have no concerns regarding the lake.

Pat K mentioned road signs are being replaced to be reflective, i.e. basswood and 290th, they are talking about dropping the names due to the costs per letter. We need to voice our opinion at the board meeting to influence that it is important to keep both and retain the names and number on signs.

Don G mentioned that Long Lake's tax base is 80% of their budget so we should have a voice.

Pat wrote the information of the next board meeting on the board: August 13th at 6:00 p.m., Kevin Haller 715-418-3150.

### **Fish Committee**

Discussion of ongoing walleye stocking - Jim Harvey is reporting in Ty Bernicke's absence. DNR held a electrofishing survey on April 9th. Jim rode along and observed the net survey. 584 adult walleye were marked. The recapture rate was 30%. The abundance estimate came out to around 1,900 fish or 1.8/acre; that is a considerable drop from 4.0/acre ~4 years ago. Many lakes are seeing the decrease, we have good spawning but recapture in the Fall - October and not sure why this is happening. There is a theory that the spring time water temps staying low is a result. It's a statewide problem with lakes similar to ours.

Pan fish and bass survey - June 9th bad spring temps, trend is small mouth bass is down, large mouth bass is up, panfish spiked up, crappie is down.

Ty Bernicke has been working with the DNR regarding the walleye stocking. Earlier years would not allow stocking now we have every other year of DNR stocking. DNR will only allow a certain strain. Ty is stepping down and Mike Emberson will be replacing Ty.

Smallmouth bass has taken over the crayfish, and DNR will stock 10,000 walleye this year. Jim H. is going to propose for us to stock on DNR off years.

### **Report on Aquatic Invasive Species Surveillance/I-LID**

**Eric Lindberg (Gale Haas)** - The trained video staff reviews the contracted number of videos and updates the online Google Docs to document what they've reviewed and videos of interest. The 2024 boating season was successful the I-LIDS program recorded 650,000 videos at 83 launches. There were 2 violations found this year on Long Lake. The ILID recording instructs people to keep their boats and trailers clean. Gale takes the camera out of storage and installs at the boat landing in the spring and out in the fall. This spring, he was installed on May 7th.



He changed the batteries and updated the system. If ever it's not working let Gale know. Kathy mentioned that Gale has been taking care of the ILID for a long time and he saves LLLPD money by not paying Eric to come and do it. The device doesn't videotape at night, it only operates during daylight hours.

### **CBCW Grant**

**Kathy Kelly:** Three inspectors are working at the boat landing. Evelyn and Ryan have put in 40 hours so far. Evelyn has worked the bulk of the hours. We need 200 hours logged to receive the grant funds. The inspectors will be paid by LLPRD and given 1099's at the end of the year. Bree from Beaver Creek has trained all three. If you would like to volunteer hours at the boat landing, you are welcome to do so.

### **Treasurer's Report/Audit**

Expenses for 2024 fell in line with budget. The tax levy in 2024 was \$3,500. Denise found that LLLPD did not receive all of the tax levy funds. Denise investigated and we now have the remainder of the tax levy which was \$1,312.92. The projected net cash flow is \$6363.55. The checking and an interest bearing money market account total is \$27,289.86. The LLLPRD Budget 2024 was audited by Chris Javurek and Rene Schulenberg and all was balanced correctly.

2025 Budget tax levy is \$10,000 this year. Payment is early in year and again later year. We have received full tax levy this year. The CBCW grant of \$3,375 is contingent on the 200 hours worked at the boat landing. Cash total thus far is \$35,934.86 as of today. This year's projected expenses to be \$13,014.00 ending with a net projected cash flow of \$2,633.92.

Denise would like to propose a \$5,000 levy for 2026.

### **Budget Motions and Approvals**

Jim Harvey-discussion of walleye stocking DNR 10,000 every other year. LLLPD had the funds to stock but couldn't get the fish. Jim is proposing an amendment to spend \$20,000 this year for stocking. and \$10,000 budgeted each year thereafter. Mark Edstrom seconded Sara Baer motion for the study all in favor, opposed by 2 Denny Zacho and Bret Zacho'

Increase tax levy from \$5000 to \$20,000 for the fish restocking. Jim added \$5000 for the study, bringing the total to \$25,000. Budget to stock every other year. Jim motioned, Ann Dienger Dickinson seconded.

Jeff Munger - how many years have we tried to stock with fries that didn't work?

From taxes Kathy asked Motion to accept Gale Don G seconded all in favor passed.

### **Long Lake Foundation**

**Pat Kelly President** Election of 2 directors. Re-election of another term for Ann Granger, Secretary and Jim Weiss, Vice President. Open to nominations. Joel Brodd motioned for nominations to close, Don Granger seconded, motion carried.



### **Nominating board for LLLPRD**

Tina Killey concluded 2nd term on board, Pat Kelly nominated, Lisa Sturzl to board, Don seconded. Any other nominations? Don Granger motioned to close nominations, Sue Edstrom seconded.

Ballots handed out, voted, counted and collected. 31 yes ballots, Lisa Sturzl nominated to LLLPRD.

Kathy Kelly was going to resign with 2 years left of her term and stayed for an additional year, with one year remaining she is resigning and Jim Weiss will serve the remainder of her term. Kathy has served on the LLLPD board for 13 years. Kathy has appointed Jim Weiss to the board prior to turning in her resignation form in accordance with Chapter 33 statutes. Jim will serve for 2 years.

### **Adjournment**

Jim Weiss motioned to adjourn at 11:39 am, Joel Brodd seconded, motion carried.

*Minutes submitted by LLLPD Secretary, Tina Killey*

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## **LLLPRD Board Meeting Saturday, July 27, 2025 following the Annual Meeting**

**Agenda:** Election of Officers and Set date for next Board Meeting

Call to order: 11:46 a.m.

### **Attendance**

- Board members present: Jim Weiss, Don Granger-town of Sampson representative, Denise Freid-Schepcke and Jim Flater-Chippewa County Board Supervisor

### **Meeting Proceedings**

- Don Granger nominated Jim Weiss as Chairman of the board, Denise Schepcke seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
- Don Granger nominated Denise Schepcke to Treasurer of the board, Jim Weiss seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
- Denise Schepcke nominated Lisa Sturzi to Secretary of the board, Jim Weiss seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
- Denise Schepcke motioned to close the meeting at 11:50, Jim Weiss seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

*Minutes submitted by former LLLPD Secretary, Tina Killey*

# Long Lake Bird Watching

We continue to have successful hatching of Loon's on the lake. Thanks to the consistent reports and amazing pictures from Don Zimmerman, as of this printing, we do know there are two chicks on the lake, and another pair are nesting. We also have Eaglets on the lake again this year!

Appreciate your updates and pictures Don!



## LLLPRD ANNUAL BUDGET

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
Fish/Water Quality	\$35,000	\$15,000
Watercraft Inspector	\$5,000	\$5,000
AIS Camera (I-LID)	\$3,000	\$3,000
Office Supplies	\$225	\$225
Liability Insurance	\$1,200	\$1,200
Training/Conferences	\$150	\$150
Memberships (WAL/CVORA)	\$589	\$589
Publicity (News/Web/COD)	\$1,800	\$1,800
Maintenance	\$0	\$0
Reserve	\$250	\$250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,247</b>	<b>\$27,214</b>
<u>Income</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
Grant Income	\$3,750	\$3,750
Levy	\$25,000	\$17,000



## Fisheries Committee

The lake has recently experienced a fish kill that primarily affects panfish and crappie. Joseph Gerbyshak, the DNR fish biologist for Lower Long Lake, indicated that this is not uncommon and that it should pass shortly. Other lakes in the area are also reporting the same concern.

Per Joseph, "The fish kill is most likely due to a *Columnaris* bacteria outbreak. This is a natural process that occurs during this time of year when water temperatures warm. *Columnaris* bacteria proliferate in more fertile waters as water temperatures warm, causing relatively minor fish kills. Fish species that are already stressed from spawning, such as bluegill and crappie, are the most susceptible, but other species can be impacted as well. Fish may continue to die for the next few days at a low rate, and then as the water temperature warms further, past the range that *Columnaris* bacteria prefer, it will pass."

We have confirmed with Central Wisconsin Fish Farms that they will purchase 10,000 walleye to be stocked in the fall of 2026 for Lower Long Lake at a price of \$3.00 each. These will be stocked this fall at our cost and is a continuation of our alternating stocking plan with the DNR. In the 2027 the DNR will provide the fish at no cost to the lake association.

The Native American spearing harvest this spring took around 40 walleyes from the lake which was well below their allowed safe harvest (DNR formula) of 285. The safe harvest number for 2027 will be 242 fish.

**Mike Emberson** / Fisheries Committee

## Water Quality Monitoring

Recent water quality monitoring on Lower Long Lake provides another helpful snapshot of lake conditions during the monitoring season. Volunteers and lake partners continue to track key indicators that help us understand water clarity, nutrient levels, algae growth, and seasonal lake conditions. This spring's sampling included temperature, Secchi disk depth, total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, and water temperature profile to 90 feet. The sample is taken in the 100-foot hole.

The results from April 13th through April 30th showed a surface water temperature of 44 to 56 degrees, Secchi disk readings from 16 to 26 feet, total phosphorus of .014 mg/L, and chlorophyll a of .96 ug/L. Together, these measurements help tell the story of how clear the water was at the time of sampling, how many nutrients were present to support algae growth, and how productive the lake was during the sampling period. In general, these numbers are very good compared to previous years.

We will continue to monitor and report these results as the year progresses. By collecting consistent data over time, the lake community can better understand long-term patterns, recognize changes early, and support informed decisions that help preserve water quality for recreation, habitat, and future generations. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

**Jim & Barb Harvey** / Water Quality Committee

# Lower Long Lake News

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Eau Claire, WI 54703

Presorted Standard  
US Postage Paid  
Eau Claire, WI  
Permit 1557

*Unless otherwise noted, the photos in this newsletter were taken by Don Zimmerman.*



*"Adopt the pace of nature:  
her secret is patience"*

*—Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Photo by Don Zimmerman