# **Trade River Lakes News** The Round Trade Lake Improvement Association Fall Edition September 2020

http://tradelakeassoc.org/ https://www.facebook.com/roundtradelakeimprovementassociation

**DNR Grant -** RTLIA members on Big Trade Lake are putting together a DNR grant application for "Fish Sticks." Fish Sticks are large woody habitat structures placed in the lake at waters-edge that is considered a "best practice." These are trees harvested from beyond 35 feet from the shoreline, but dropped at the shoreline to recreate the natural habitat of our lakes before development. These woody structures create food, shelter and breeding areas for all sorts of creatures from insects to turtles to fish and songbirds. They also help slow shoreline erosion while creating a wild look to our lakes.

To install them requires a DNR permit and citing help from the local fisheries biologist. Once approved, the work is done in the winter when the heavy equipment required to move the trees can place them on the shoreline. The trees are secured by cables to existing shoreline trees. The new clump of fish sticks may take up to 50 feet of shoreline and is not appropriate for every shoreline. The RTLIA will be seeking a 3-year permit for the entire Big Trade Lake, so that new property owners can join this "best practices" Healthy Lakes program.

## Membership Meeting – Please note the Date Change!

The Annual membership meeting will be held on Saturday, September 19 @ 9 AM @ Atlas Park Pavilion as the Trade Lake Town Hall is closed to public meetings.

Agenda: Elections for Vice President and Secretary & Authorizing Grant applications.

#### Have a moment? Your Input is needed It is very important that you complete this brief survey. Visit our survey site at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KGKWMGL

- 1. The Lake Association has spent approximately \$150,000 over the last three years to control the invasive species in your four lakes. That is about \$430/ lot. The Association owes the DNR 25% of that money as a match to the grants. How would you like the Association to pay that \$33/lot/year?
- 2. Should the Association encourage the DNR to plant trees on the Big Trade Lake islands?
- 3. Should the Association become a Lake District and levy a tax on my property to pay for its programs?
- 4. The Association has two open positions available at its September 19th annual meeting: Vice President and Secretary. I would be willing to stand for election to help preserve our beautiful lakes for future generations.

**CAFO Update** - The CAFO situation has gone critical. The Burnett County Committee has completed it's work without any consideration of an Operational Ordinance. As such, manure spread across our watershed will be unregulated unless you call them and give them a piece of your mind. Go to knowcafos.com, read the opening paragraph and see the list of Supervisors, Committee members and other officials' names, numbers, and email addresses. Make your voices heard for the benefit of your air, water and property values. This may be your last chance.

**Trade Lake Township Well Testing** - Trade Lake Township will be testing the wells of any property owner in 2021. If you have not had your water tested in the last few years, this is a golden opportunity. The samples will be taken by the property owner and will be processed by the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point for nitrates, chloride and e-coli. The cost will be minimal and will be shared by the Township if your property is in the Township. Please get this done so that the Township can compile a data base for comparison in the future.

#### An Excerpt from the book Stories of the Trade River Valley – Collected by Russ Hanson & Stanley Selin. \*\*\*Available on Amazon or locally

### Davidson's Resort and Farm on Little Trade Lake by Don Davidson

I grew up on the Davidson farm where Little and Big Trade Lake connect. My great grandfather, John Davidson, came to Trade Lake from Sweden about 1870. He cleared the farm that wrapped around the southern shores of Little Trade Lake, the channel between the lake and the north end of Big Trade. All the farmland is now in lake homes or back into woods, but when I was a boy, we farmed and pastured everything up to the lake. When John Davidson died in 1905, he was buried by his first wife, Leontina, on Davidson's Island in Little Trade to join many of his friends and neighbors in that old burial ground.

Manley Davidson, my grandfather, took over the farm after his father died. In the 1920's, about the time I was born, Manley decided to build cabins to host summer visitors looking for an escape from Chicago, Milwaukee, and the Twin Cities. The first six cabins were built of logs with the last two of lumber. Altogether there were 8 cabins in two groups of four. Several of them are still there.

In the 1920's, we rented the cabins for \$3.00 a week. Later it was raised to \$5.00 and by the late 1930's it was \$8.00. The cost included ice for the ice boxes, kerosene for the stove, and bed linens for 2 double beds. Each cabin had two bedrooms. There was a larger room with a table and two benches and a stove for heating and cooking. When electricity came we had a light bulb per bedroom and two in the main room.

The lake side of each cabin was open and screened. There were large panels that could be put up with pegs to close it for cool weather. I gave visitors the sounds, smells, and fresh lake air of the country. They awoke to the frogs croaking, the birds singing, and the cool fresh lake breeze and the sounds of farm animals.

The cabins had outdoor toilets. One double outhouse was made of logs. The grass around the cabins was moved by the horses in the early days. In the fall after the guests were gone, we pastured our cows there.

We had 22 row boats. Two were furnished with each cabin. Each spring we tarred the boats and painted them green. One of my jobs was to bail the boats out and keep them ready to use. We made anchors of cement poured into gallon cans. The docks were made of a plank with posts on each side.

The tourists came to our cabins used to city water and indoor bathrooms. The cabins were different. There was cold artesian well water running outside near the cabins. People could live close to nature for the time they were here. Some loved fishing and spent all of the time on the lake.

Each group of four cabins had an artesian well with a water box divided into four parts, one for each cabin, to keep their food and drink cold. The water was very cold. I won lots of bets that a guest couldn't drink a full glass of artesian water in one try. It was too cold to do it.

There was a dipper by the artesian well. No one could resist taking a drink as they walked by and then would carry a pail of that cold fresh wonderful water back to their cabin. A man from St. Paul came every Sunday in the summer and filled a trailer load of jugs with artesian water to take back with him. I helped him fill them all and always hoped he would give me a dime for my work, but he never did.

The cold-water boxes were also used to put fish in to keep them alive to be eaten later. Fish caught in the hot summer firmed up and tasted better after a few days in the cold water.

My Grandma Tillie furnished the linens for each cabin. We were about the first in the neighborhood to have electricity. Grandma had a Maytag electric washer machine with a ringer. She hung the sheets and towels outside to dry.

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