

**The Sawyer County  
Lakes Forum's**

# **Lake Life Pocketbook**

**A handy reference guide  
for those who enjoy our lakes.**



**Hayward, Wisconsin**

# **THE SCLF LAKE LIFE POCKETBOOK**

**©2013 James A. Brakken**

**Historian, Author & Conservationist**

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## **The Sawyer County Lakes Forum, Inc.**

is a non-profit citizen group serving Sawyer County lakes and streams and those who value them. For more lake info, visit:

***[sawyer-county-lakes-forum.org](http://sawyer-county-lakes-forum.org)***

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# Loon Speak

Adult loons give 4 basic calls: the yodel, wail, tremolo, and hoot.

Here's what they are saying:

The **YODEL** is a territorial call given only by male loons to warn other males to stay away. It begins with three notes that rise slowly, followed by several undulating phrases.

The **WAIL** resembles a wolf howl. Loons use this call to locate other loons.

When loons are disturbed or excited they often give the **TREMOLO**. It sounds like a quavering laugh. The flight call, a variation of the tremolo, is often given over lakes by males seeking other loons.

Loons use a soft, one-note **HOOT**, to call to chicks, mates, or other loons. It is a friendly greeting, often used in close quarters.

(Based on info from Northland College's *LoonWatch*.)



Visit: <http://vhost2.wiscnet.net/sigurd-olson-environmental-institute-loon-watch-behavior.htm>)

## Finding Your Way

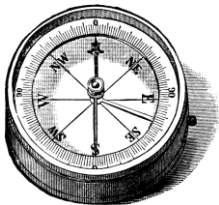
Hikers tend to circle when walking through deep woods. A compass can keep you on track—if you know how to use it. Here's how:

Like a compass, when you face north, east is to the right, west to left, and south is behind.

Let's assume you want to go west. Hold your compass in your palm with the N symbol to the right. Rotate your body until the needle points to the N. Keeping the N to the right, sight over the W until you see a tree, a landmark, something far to the west.

Pocket the compass. Time yourself or count steps as you walk to that landmark. Take another reading, and find another landmark directly to the west. When you reach it, repeat, and so on.

To return, hold the compass with the N to your left and the E before you. Rotate your body until the needle points to the N. Sight over the E to find a landmark. Time your walk or count steps again. You'll soon be back.



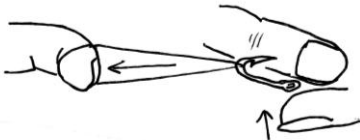
## ***String-Jerk* Hook Removal**

Hooks are designed to catch. Sometimes, they catch the wrong critter. This 2-person method usually works well.\* (Never try this if hook is imbedded near the eye.)

After disinfecting,\*\*

1. Wrap a string around the hook's bend.
2. Press the shank against the skin.
3. Swiftly JERK on the string while continuing to apply pressure to the shank.
4. Disinfect and bandage.

Caution: \*In some cases, imbedded hooks may require professional treatment. \*\*Washing the wound with lake or stream water may risk infection. **Consult a doctor for professional advice and treatment.**



## **Rule #1: Do not be victim #2**

# **Reach, Throw, Row. Don't Go!**

You see someone in the water, splashing, floundering, in need of rescue. Do not jump in! Many attempted water rescues result in the rescuer becoming the victim. The US Army Corps of Engineers recommends:

**Shout for help.** If others are near, designate one person to **call 911**. Then ...

Make sure you have good footing and 1. **Reach** with a pole, oar, or tree limb. Not possible? 2. **Throw** a boat cushion, empty cooler, or life ring, preferably attached to a rope. The next best option is 3. **Row** to the victim (who should NOT climb into the boat, but, rather, hold on as you row back to shore.)

***Caution!*** The USACE recommends you **Don't** **Go!** (Even strong swimmers can become victims.) Instead, go for help. If you must swim, wear a PFD and have one for the person you are trying to rescue. No PFD? Any floatation device is better than none. Approach from behind and tow the victim to safety.  
(Source: USArmy Corps of Engineers.)

## Who should I call when ...

... I need to report a **FIRE, ACCIDENT, CRIME** or other **EMERGENCY? 911**

... *I see a fishing, boating or hunting violation?*

**800-TIP-WDNR** (*Anonymous tip line.*)

... I suspect shoreland zoning / septic violations?  
**634-8288 (Sawyer Co. Zoning & Cons Dept.)**

**OTHER KEY CONTACTS:** (715 +)

*Chamber of Commerce* 634-8662

Hospital & Emergency Room 934-4321

*Sheriff* 634-4858

DNR Service Ctr. 634-2688

*Marketplace Foods* 634-8996

L&M Supply 934-2400

*Northern Lakes Foods* 634-2671

Wal-Mart 634-8228

*Birkie Office* 634-5025

Fat Tire Office 798-3594

Weather & info about Sawyer Co. Lakes:  
**<http://sawyer-county-lakes-forum.org/>**

# **Top Secret**

## **Pickled Northern Recipe**

Shhh ... Like the whereabouts of a good fishin' hole, you don't wanna go waggin' your tongue about this easy, delicious recipe. Mum's the word. Okay? Okay!

First, catch a Northern, fillet it, and cut it into bite-sized pieces. Next, set down your beer long enough to slice some onion rings.

Now, in a quart jar, put 2 C vinegar,  $\frac{1}{4}$  C salt,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  C sugar and 1 T pickling spice. Now shake it up purty darn good.

Drop a few pieces of northern into the jar. Layer in some onions, then more northern, then onions, then ...well, you get the idea, ya?

Fill'er up to the top. Put on the lid and let it sit in the fridge for 6 days. That's it! Great on crackers. Keeps for months, but will be gone the first time Bubba stops by with a twelve-pack, hey.

What ya waitin' for? Go fishin' already!



## Ten FIREWISE Tips for Lake Home Protection

Seasonal fires destroy many woodland homes each year. Vacation homes require special precautions including: 1. **RAKE LEAVES** and needles within 30' of home and buildings; 2. **MOVE FIREWOOD** 30' away; 3. **PRUNE** trees so lowest branches are 6' from ground; 4. **CLEAN GUTTERS** and other places where debris can gather. (Embers from a fire will gather there, too!) 5. **MOW** tall grass near buildings but **NOT** in buffer zone; 6. **WORK** with neighbors to prevent &/or control fire risk; 7. **RETAIN MOISTURE** by maintaining a 35' buffer near lakes and streams; 8. **KEEP A LONG GARDEN HOSE** attached; 9. **FOLLOW DRIVEWAY CODES** to assure fire trucks can easily maneuver around your property; 10. **KEEP MATCHES & FIREWORKS far from children.**

More at [www.Firewise.org](http://www.Firewise.org)



## **Water's Reflection Magnifies Melanoma Risk 6 Protective Steps**

Avoid sun exposure from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Always use a high spf sunscreen. Reapply every 2 hours. (More often when swimming.)

Wear a wide-brimmed hat, tightly woven clothing, and sunglasses.

Protect children. Set a good example for them.

Seek shade when outdoors.

Avoid tanning parlors and sunlamps.

For complete article, see

**<http://bayfieldcountylakes.org/?110830>**

## **Save Your Vacation Dollars**

### **Standard fines for common vacationland violations:**

Littering (includes cigarettes)	\$200
No boat registration	\$200
Improper numbers/decals	\$169
Illegal PFD (each violation)	\$163
Transport live fish	\$343
Transport aquatic plants	\$232
Launch w/ aquatic plants	\$295
Failure to drain boat	\$200
Live crayfish as bait	\$243
No fishing license	\$182
Out of season fishing	\$263
Over the fish limit	\$243
Unattended line	\$182

**[http://www.wicourts.gov/publications/  
fees/docs/dnrbondsched.pdf](http://www.wicourts.gov/publications/fees/docs/dnrbondsched.pdf)**

## **Common violations & fines, cont.**

100' No-Wake violation	\$188
Reckless boating	\$200
Underage boating	\$163
No boater safety cert.	\$163
Tow skier without spotter	\$173
No boat lights	\$175
No battery box	\$163
Battery box cover loose	\$163
Absolute sobriety (under 21)	\$200
Boat or ATV OWI	\$453
Snowmobile OWI	\$658
Fireworks violation	\$200
Burning w/o permit	\$175
Loaded gun in boat	\$218
Illegal boat rental	\$188

## **One Lead Split Shot is Enough to Kill a Twelve Pound Loon!**

Lead poisoning is the primary cause of death for loons, herons, eagles, swans, and many other species. This happens when lost lead tackle is swallowed with small stones on the lake bottom to help birds digest food or when lead tackle hooked in a fish is consumed by a bird. And lead-poisoned birds eaten by scavenging predators cause even more suffering and death.

Lead is one of the most toxic metals known to man. Many wildlife species suffer adverse effects due to lead exposure. One lead sinker or jig can kill a 12-pound loon or 30 pound swan.

Going non-lead is a cheap and easy way for sportsmen to protect our waterfowl and raptors from lead poisoning. Alternatives to lead tackle are available at most bait and tackle dealers. If not, anglers should request their bait and tackle shops stock lead-free sinkers and jigs.

For complete article and info from LoonWatch, visit <http://bayfieldcountylakes.org/?110970>

## **Sensible Septics**

Follow these tips to keep your system healthy and in compliance with the law.

1. Avoid fines: Have your septic system checked and/or serviced at least once every 3 years, per Wisconsin law.
2. Flush only human waste and toilet tissue. Anything else can result in costly system failure and repairs. No diapers, pads, facial tissue, wipes, chemicals, or paint.
3. Protect septic lines and drain fields from freezing during the winter. Never plow or drive over them.
4. Contact Dale Olson, Zoning Administrator, or Eric Wellauer, County Sanitation Agent, at 634-8288 for further information.

Save yourself thousands of dollars in repairs and keep your lake clean and safe by maintaining a healthy septic system. See your county UW Extension for more information.

(Suggested by the Nelson Lake Association)

## 6 Reasons to Restore the Shore

1. Shoreland restoration protects waterways from nutrients carried in runoff. Roots limit erosion and protect the soil. This reduces runoff and the chance of aquatic plants such as Eurasian Water Milfoil and algae and leads to a better fishery.
2. Shoreland restoration increases property value.
3. It's easier to maintain a natural waterfront than a traditional lawn "manicured" right down to the lake. Spend more time enjoying the beauty of our waters, less time with lawn chores.
4. Buffer must be intact in order to be granted a land use permit.
5. *Grants may provide up to 70% of the funding for your shoreland restoration project*—a wonderful opportunity to improve and protect your lake.
6. By restoring your waterfront you will set a good example. Others will soon join in with their own projects, improving lake health, decreasing chances of aquatic invasives, increasing property values, and beautifying our woods and waters. Everyone wins, including your family, your neighbors, the birds, fish, mammals and your lake or stream. **Think of this as part of your lake legacy!** Contact Dale Olson, Land Conservationist, at 634-8288 for more information.

# A COURTESY CODE FOR SAWYER COUNTY LAKES

## IT'S UP TO YOU TO KEEP IT BLUE!

**Give a hoot!** Litter destroys nature's beauty.

*If you can carry it in, you can carry it out.*

**No Dumping!** Never dump fish remains or leftover bait in any lake or stream.

**Stop the Invasion** and the spread of non-native species by cleaning gear between excursions.

**Hold your Fire—and your Fireworks!** Never shoot fireworks, rifles, or pistols over the lake.

**Pitch in!** Join a lake organization.

**Practice CPR on fish:** Catch, Photograph and Release. The fish you release today may be your trophy tomorrow!

## GIVE THE LAKE A BRAKE

**Throttle back.** Slow down for safety and to protect shorelines, shore birds and native plants.

**Watch the clock.** When possible, practice active water sports such as water-skiing during mid-day hours. Obey Slow-No-Wake Laws.

**Row where you go.** Canoes, kayaks, rowboats are lake-friendly. Grab your paddle; It's good for you and good for the lake!



*A Courtesy Code for Our Lakes, continued . . .*

**GIVE 'EM SOME SPACE**

**Stay back!** Stay far away from swimmers, divers, anglers, other watercraft, rafts, and docks.

**Keep your distance!** Loons and other animals may abandon young if stressed. Maintain ample space between you and wildlife.

**SILENCE IS GOLDEN &  
NIGHT SKIES ARE FOR STARS**

**Turn UP the quiet!** Reduce your noise when possible...especially between 7 PM and 9 AM.

**Turn DOWN lights!** Turn lights off when not in use. Shield those visible from the lake.

**COMMON SENSE**

**Play safe!** Make sure your equipment is safe and legal. Youngsters should wear approved lifejackets whenever on, in or near the lake!

**Don't Drink & Drive:** Most lake-related boating accidents involve alcohol.

**Enjoy but don't destroy:** Take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but tracks and ripples.

**Save waterfowl & eagles!** Use non-toxic jigs & sinkers, available at most tackle shops.

# S - O - S



Today's common signal for help is 911. But long before telephones, it was telegraphers using Morse Code to signal S (· · ·), O (- - -), S (· · ·). This became the worldwide, universal distress call and is still known as such.

No cell phone? No bars? No battery? Instead of 911, use three short, three long, and three short flashlight flashes. No flashlight? Three short honks on the car horn, followed by three long and three short. Three quick raps on the water pipe followed by three louder, spaced-out blows, then three quick raps should bring help.

The magic number is three. Three rifle shots spaced over three minutes, then repeated every ten minutes is known by the old timers as a call for help. Three bonfires on a frozen lake will catch the eye of a passing pilot. They know this.

Dot-dot-dot. Dash-dash-dash. Dot-dot-dot. Or a phone, if you have enough bars way up in the north woods where the wild things are.

*Did you know ...*

## **Illegal Waterfront Fireworks ...**

...present a fire and safety risk, especially for children and pets? Fireworks contain toxic metals and chemicals that contaminate waters. Fireworks deposit plastics and metals that may take centuries to degrade. Ingestion by loons and other creatures often results in death.

Wisconsin requires permits for all but “grocery store” type fireworks. **Permits must be issued by a municipality and must specify date of use, type, and quantity. Permits from fireworks stores are not valid.**

**Possession or use of fireworks without a legal permit risks forfeiture of up to a \$1000 per violation.** Each firework illegally possessed may be a separate violation. Fireworks litter must be promptly collected. **Littering waters or woods with fireworks is a separate offense with another substantial penalty.**

Parents &/or guardians are responsible for minors. More ... <http://bayfieldcountylakes.org/?110600>

# Boaters' Transport Laws

**INSPECT** your boat, trailer and equipment.  
**REMOVE** any attached aquatic plants & animals before launching, after loading, and before transporting on public roadways.

**DRAIN** water from boats, motors, & equipment.

**NEVER MOVE** live fish from waterbody. \*

**BUY MINNOWS** from Wisconsin dealers.

**DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash.

\*You may take leftover minnows away from any water and use them again on that same water. You may use leftover minnows on other waters only if no lake or river water, or other fish were added to their container.

Source: WDNR



## GOT GEESE?

Many waterfront homeowners struggle with geese. Here are 3 tips from John Haack, our UWEX Basin Educator:

**Eliminate feeding.** Corn, oat, bread, or other feed can concentrate geese and add nutrients to the lake—unhealthy for water quality and maybe the birds, too. Discontinue feeding and geese will revert to natural foods.

**Let the grass grow.** Do not fertilize or water lawns. Geese are grazers and love new sprouts. Eliminating fertilizer makes grass less palatable. Plant fescue rather than Kentucky blue grasses. Fescues are less palatable to geese.

**Build a goose buffer** along your shore at least 6 to 10 feet wide with vegetation 20 to 30 inches or taller. Geese feel uneasy in vegetation that could conceal predators. Wider buffers provide better water quality filtering and better habitat for a variety of waterfront wildlife.

See <http://bayfieldcountylakes.org/?110740>  
for the complete article and resources.

## **Practice CPR on Fish (Catch, Photograph, & Release)**

Catch and release fishing has resulted in a dramatic improvement in Sawyer County's fisheries.

Anglers young and old are encouraged to practice CATCH, PHOTOGRAPH, & RELEASE. Here are some tips:

1. "Play" the fish as little as possible.
2. Land with a net. (Rubber net preferred.)
3. Handle your fish with wet hands only.
4. Keep fish in water until camera is ready.
5. Take your photo as quickly as possible.
5. Gently return fish to the water.

Practice CPR on fish. Today's catch may be tomorrow's trophy!

**There's no such thing as**  
***SAFE ICE!***

Ice thickness is rarely consistent. Do not put yourself or others at risk. Springs, currents, air pockets, vegetation, even rough fish can cause variations. Know these WDNR minimum suggested limits for new, clear ice under ideal conditions:

- 2" STAY OFF!
- 4" ICE FISHING
- 5" SNOWMOBILE/ATV
- 12" SMALL CAR
- 15" MEDIUM TRUCK

More information available from the  
Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources.

## Skunky Suds

Skunks do their best to avoid confrontations. However, when Fido gets too curious, Fido's master ends up with the dreadful duty of doggy deodorization.

Tomato juice is a common treatment. It helps. But in the end, Fido smells like ... well ... like tomato juice and skunk.

When tomato juice just won't do, use this concoction to deskunkify your malodorous mutt: Mix one-half teaspoon good quality dish soap, one-eighth cup baking soda, and one pint hydrogen peroxide. Now thoroughly scrub then rinse your best friend. After all, doesn't Fido deserve to smell like a doggie again?

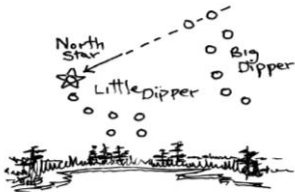




# How to Find the North Star

For thousands of years the North Star was the beacon that guided ancient ships to their destination as they traveled the seas. Unlike all other heavenly bodies, it never moves—never. True woodsmen know how to find it and how to use it to make their way at night.

Polaris, the North Star, always remains at true north while the other stars and planets appear to rotate around it. And, although today's GPS might be the wandering vagabond's tool of choice, the North Star has no batteries to fail. Here's how to find it:



## **Tree in the Lake? Let it be!**

Fallen trees provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Submergent and emergent wood creates ideal habitat for aquatic organisms that feed pan fish, turtles, crayfish, and other creatures. Woodland species, such as songbirds, turtles, frogs, dragonflies, and otters, use downed trees as both a feeding area and hiding place.

Fallen trees are also an important source of nutrients and minerals for lakes and streams and help protect shorelines from erosion. Studies show fishing improves as submerged, woody habitat increases.

A fallen tree, when submerged, will likely last three to eight hundred years, far longer than its earlier life, all that while contributing to the health of the waterbody and wildlife.

More . . . <http://bayfieldcountylakes.org/?110870>

## Save a Jig—Save a Loon

Monofilament line often breaks at the knot. Doubling the line before tying a cinch knot greatly strengthens the knot. This *double improved cinch knot* is superior to most other knots when using nylon mono. It can save your jig and save waterfowl and raptors from death by lead poisoning. Great knot for all baits.



**1:** Pass about 9" of line through the jig's eye. Double back, leaving a 4" loop and a 1" tail.



**2:** Make 4 -5 wraps back and away from the jig. Pass the loop back through the first turn.



**3:** Place your little finger in the loop. Pull the loop and the line in opposite directions, using index finger and thumb to slide knot toward eye.



**4:** Trim and test.

# Wisconsin Mammal Tracks

(Unscramble to check on your guess)

Source: [www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org)

More animal track fun at WDNR's EEK page.



onocrac



rede



kamrust



nuoppcire



fowl



nukks



rabe



xfo

Porcupine  
Wolf  
Bear  
Deer  
Fox  
Raccoon  
Skunk  
Muskrat

# Lakeside First Aid I

**Poison Ivy:** Avoid scratching or rubbing that will spread the rash. Wash with soap and water and apply alcohol or calamine lotion. Consult a doctor if rash gets worse. Also, wash affected clothing in hot, soapy water to avoid spread.

**Insect Stings:** Remove stinger by scraping away with a plastic card. DO NOT SQUEEZE. Watch for allergic reaction (severe swelling, breathing problems, bluish complexion). If these symptoms occur, get to an emergency room.

**Burns:** Immediately apply cold, wet cloth or immerse burn in cold, running water. After cooling the burn, cover with a clean cloth to deter infection. Bandage loosely with no pressure on burn. DO NOT use adhesive dressing, butter, oil, grease, lotion, or break blisters.

**Cuts and Abrasions:** Control bleeding by applying direct pressure to wound with a clean, dry cloth. Do not use a tourniquet unless bleeding is extremely severe and a person skilled in first aid is present. For minor bleeding, wash well with soap and water. Apply pressure with clean gauze or cloth. Bandage.

## Lakeside First Aid II

**Mosquito Bites:** Wash with soap and water. Apply cold compress. Use calamine lotion, hydrocortisone cream, or a baking soda/water mix to reduce itching.

**Animal Bites:** Control bleeding. Wash wound thoroughly with soap and water. Flush with cool water for 5 minutes. Bandage with sterile gauze. Notify a doctor in case a tetanus shot or rabies prevention is needed. Notify animal control.

**Heat Exhaustion:** Symptoms include normal body temperature; clammy, cool skin; weakness; excessive perspiration. Move patient to cooler area to lie down. Patient should drink clear liquids. Avoid alcohol. Consult doctor.

**Heatstroke:** Symptoms include high body temperature; rapid, shallow breathing; hot, red, dry skin; fast pulse; no sweating. Place patient in cool tub of water or apply cool, wet cloth. Call for emergency help.

*Member associations of the Sawyer County Lakes Forum hope you have a safe, healthy time at your favorite lake or stream!*

## **Q: Who's Watching Out for Your Favorite Lake?**

### ***A: The Sawyer County Lakes Forum***

Water regulation changes, increased boating and fishing pressure, invasive aquatic plants and animals, recreational use conflicts, and rapid development all impact the Sawyer County waters.

SCLF gives owners and users of each lake or stream the means to understand the issues, channels of communication with other healthy lake advocates, and access to resources that can help keep our lakes clean, safe, and healthy.

Your contribution in any amount will help protect *your* favorite waters.

Visit: **[sawyer-county-lakes-forum.org](http://sawyer-county-lakes-forum.org)**

***Enjoy the lake!***

# LAKE LIFE POCKETBOOK

Additional copies available from:

**BadgerValley.com**

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*Your book—Today!*



**Badger Valley Publishing**

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