



Lakes Association

SPRING – THE SEASON OF RENEWAL!

May, 2016

*“In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.”
~ Mark Twain ~*



SINCERE APPRECIATION TO MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done! 2015 was a fantastic year for increasing our membership and our pool of volunteers. We hope to do even better this year! You are encouraged, once again, to renew your membership in the MWLA and to become involved as a volunteer. Our volunteers assist with the trout pond and MWLA booth on July 4th; monitor your lake for aquatic invasive species; assist with newsletter mailings; attend AIS workshops; help at our Annual Meeting in July and with the Cran-a-rama pontoon tours in October.

With your generous donation of time and money, we are able to accomplish our mission to “Maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes and other Township waters”. You can also help us to fulfill our mission by recruiting new MWLA members and volunteers by personally speaking to your friends and family.

Memberships can be renewed by filling out and sending in the renewal membership form included on the last page of this newsletter. Annual dues are \$25.00 from June 1 to May 31 of the following year. When filling out your renewal form, please read the list of the many ways you can help, and check those you are most passionate about.

2016 MWLA ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC JULY 30!

The 24th MWLA Annual Meeting & Picnic will be held at the **North Lakeland Discovery Center on Saturday, July 30, 2016.** Please mark this date on your calendar! Sign-in starts at 3:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning promptly at 4:00,

followed by a free picnic dinner for all MWLA members (catered by Aurora Borealis Restaurant). We will again have a raffle of incredible offerings. Look for more details in our Summer Newsletter coming out in mid-July.

There will be a short business meeting to elect Officers and Directors followed by a 15-minute update on the current status of the WDNR grants and the 2016 plan and procedures for control of CLP (curly leaf pondweed). Quita Sheehan, Lake Conservation Specialist, Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department, will give a presentation on shoreland preservation and restoration.

WDNR LAKE GRANTS AWARDED! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! by Anne Kretschmann

We are excited to announce that we were awarded an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Education, Prevention, & Planning grant and a Clean Boats Clean Waters grant, bringing the total number of WDNR grants awarded to the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes to **THIRTEEN** since 2011! These grants will fund lake management planning activities conducted by Onterra, LLC, as well as AIS educational outreach and monitoring. In 2016, curly leaf pondweed will be controlled through the use of herbicides and hand-harvesting by professional divers funded through a WDNR Established Population Control grant we received in 2015. The Town Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership (TAISP) consistently ranks amongst the top applicants, indicating the high value that the state places on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes.

The Towns of Manitowish Waters and Boulder Junction have generously committed a portion of matching funds as a component of the grants. The Town of MW has generously allocated \$38,500 for this year's efforts to combat AIS. Volunteer time is also used as local match and decreases the amount of matching cash-out-of-pocket funding expense to the Town. The grants will expand our understanding of the health, functioning, and threats to the Chain and enable the protection and enhancement of our lakes for generations to come.



We **STRONGLY** encourage all MWLA members to volunteer their time. Volunteering is as simple as walking down your shoreline and noticing what plants have washed up, checking your dock legs, or keeping your eyes open for aquatic invasive species while you are out fishing or taking a pontoon ride on a sunny day! Our **'Lake Captain and Deckhand'** program trains volunteers to monitor shorelines and areas where AIS are most likely found with over 400 hours logged each summer by volunteers around the Chain! The North Lakeland Discovery Center will host numerous trainings throughout the summer on what to look for (**June 7, July 12, and August 9, 1-3pm AND Saturday August 6, 10am-**

12pm meeting at Koller Park.)

The Discovery Center is **always** willing to help you identify any potential aquatic invasive species (AIS) that you find in your lake and stream travels. Simply bring a sample by to show us, or take a photograph and email it to us! It's important to note that even if you don't see an invasive species your time spent keeping your eyes open still counts! Please make sure that you **report** all volunteer time and boat-hours to Anne Kretschmann, AIS Coordinator at ais@discoverycenter.net or 715-543-2085.



We would like to remind you that it's never too early to start monitoring for aquatic invasive species! Invasive curly leaf pondweed is already around 4 feet tall! Curly leaf pondweed is a prolific aquatic invasive plant usually found in waters less than 12 feet deep with a soft substrate. It begins growing early, under the ice and usually dies by mid-summer which has the potential to create dissolved oxygen problems due to decomposition and algae growth. CLP was first detected in 2010 in the Chain by a volunteer trained by our program. We remain thankful for your endless efforts!

Also, please be sure to **clear your motors** before you travel to another lake on the MW Chain to help slow the spread!

LAKE MANAGEMENT AND CURLY LEAF PONDWEED UPDATE

In spring 2016, Clean Lakes will treat curly leaf pondweed in the Spider-Island Channel using LittLine® Littoral Zone Treatment Technology. We are also deploying a professional team of scuba divers to hand-harvest curly leaf pondweed in other areas of the Chain of Lakes. Onterra LLC, professional lake management consultant, will begin to conduct full-lake studies of Manitowish and Little Star Lakes in 2016. They will also continue early-season surveys and mapping of curly leaf pondweed in other lakes and channels on the chain.



Become a part of the planning process and learn more about your lake! We are looking for folks to sit on a lake management planning committee for Manitowish and Little Star Lakes. This committee will meet a

few times with the lake management consultant to both hear findings about their lake and also to provide input to the consultant from homeowners around the lakes.

WELCOME TO THE 2016 SUMMER WATER STAFF!

The interns will be working to monitor the waters and provide outreach in the Manitowish Waters, Boulder Junction, and Winchester area as well as inspecting boats through the Clean Boats Clean Waters program at Van Vliet, Presque Isle, Big, and Rest Lakes. If you see them out on the water, please introduce yourself!

Emma Jogodka: Originally from Greenville, South Carolina, I enjoy fishing, hiking, swimming, and four wheeling. I moved to the Twin Cities in Minnesota when I was 4 and have enjoyed everything that the Great Lakes region has to offer ever since. I am a student at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls majoring in Conservation. I enjoy snowboarding, snowmobiling, and hockey in the winter months. I am excited to teach the public about our aquatic resources this summer as well as inform anglers about aquatic invasive species.

Katie Caldwell: I am a student at Louisiana State University majoring in Natural Resource Ecology and Management with a concentration in Wildlife Ecology. I moved to my camp in New Roads, Louisiana from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. This is where I found my love for the outdoors. I plan to either attend graduate school or join the Coast Guard (or both!) after graduating college. I am particularly interested in invasive species and fish biology. I love to play guitar, kayak, fish, hike, and play sports. I am a very optimistic person with a corny sense of humor. I am very excited about gaining this unique experience working with aquatic invasive species and educating visitors of the center. I look forward to meeting all of the staff, members, and volunteers.

Blair Beyer: Currently I am a senior pursuing a major in Water Resources with a Soil Science minor at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. I have a strong interest in water quality monitoring. In the summer of 2014 I worked with a citizen-based monitoring program called the Water Action Volunteers to collect stream quality data in the local area. I spent this past summer working as a teaching assistant at Treehaven in Tomahawk, WI in order to gain some field and professional experience. I'm looking forward to spending the summer at the North Lakeland Discovery Center gaining more experience working with citizen-based monitoring programs and working in the field overall

WATER SAFETY PATROL NEWS by Dan Cardinal, MW Lake Patrol Officer

Boating season is almost here and fishermen have been on the water for almost a month. With the new season I want to identify some of the issues I had on the water last year and some new state wide issues.

The number one complaint on the MW Chain is still exceeding Slow-No-Wake in marked areas. While I am aware some people let time get away on them and feel that if they do not push the SNW limits they will be late for something. Using this excuse may create a safety issue and does not limit the damage to shoreline or boats tied to docks. Another excuse that I had heard about, but personally encountered last summer, was “a storm is approaching and exceeding SNW is permitted.” This is **not** correct and if you get caught in bad weather I am sure the shoreline land owners would be more than happy to let you come in out of the weather. Exceeding SNW does not make you any safer and creates shoreline damage and safety issues. Per WI navigation law, SNW is defined as operating a boat at the **slowest** speed possible while maintaining steerage.

A few other things that the State wants boat patrols to address again this year are:

- NR5.17(2) No vessel may be equipped with or display a blue colored light or lamp unless the vessel is patrol boat defined in s.30.50(9b) WI Stats.
- Use of docking lights while under way is prohibited. These lights create confusion for other boaters and are only authorized for docking activities.
- Strobe lights are authorized for patrol boats and emergency response boats only.
- With the new “GoWild.WI.gov” system up and running, there may be delays in getting boat registration renewals out. Please carry a copy of your renewal application with you until you receive your renewed registration.
- You can access [The Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities](http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf) online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf> or pick up a copy at the Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce Office at the MW Community Center.

NEW WATER PATROL OFFICER

Many of you may remember our new boat patrol officer Luke Kozisek from last year. Unfortunately, he has moved on and will not be working on the chain this year. The Town has hired a new officer, Ben Grenzer. He is 34 years old and father of two. He grew up in Tomahawk, WI and is a graduate of Northcentral Technical College in Wausau. Ben is currently in the Army National Guard and hoping to spend many hours working with and meeting the users of the Chain.



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE BEETLE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Purple loosestrife is an invasive species that overtakes the habitat of native plants that are essential to the resident wildlife. On May 11th, fourteen North Lakeland School 7th graders partnered with the Discovery Center and the MWLA to spend the morning identifying and digging up purple loosestrife plants growing around Big Muskellunge Lake. They spent the afternoon at the Discovery Center potting and netting about 70 plants for the Manitowish Waters purple loosestrife beetle-rearing bio-control project. The students did a fantastic job and ended the day by smearing potting soil on their faces in celebration of their hard work.



The beetles eat and weaken the plant, keeping flowers from forming and have proved to be an extremely effective biological control. The beetles are reared on the netted plants at the Discovery Center and released into larger, established infestations on the Chain. Volunteers also pull non-established smaller populations and cut flower heads to slow the spread of seeds during mid-to-late summer. The work day was led by Anne Kretschmann of the Discovery Center, and was assisted by Karen Dixon (MWLA), and Christine Wallace and Betty Forester (NLS).

REST LAKE DAM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Manitowish Chain Defense Fund (MCDF) board members have been meeting during the past six months with representatives of the Chippewa Flambeau Improvement Company (owners of the dam) and the DNR to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the operation of the Rest Lake Dam that will balance the needs of habitat and residents both above and below the dam.

The DNR has gained a four-year agreement with Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Co., a unit of Xcel Energy, to maintain predictable water levels on the Manitowish Chain of Lakes through the operations of the Rest Lake dam and provide increased downstream flows in the spring. To address concerns of property owners above and below the dam, the agreement:

- provides for more water downstream in the spring to improve habitat for spawning fish;
- allows for more gradual change in downstream water levels;
- sets an increased minimum flow of water throughout the year; and
- calls for an earlier conclusion to the fall drawdown of Rest Lake.

The agreement, with Xcel's Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Co., was developed to address concerns of property owners above the dam while providing for more water downstream to improve habitat for spawning fish and allow for more gradual change in downstream water levels. The agreement calls for the dam owner to install a temperature meter just below the dam to maximize river flows during prime spawning periods.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) clarifies the operating order for the dam and allows an earlier start in spring to manage water flows that, in the past, were quickly discharged through the system. The management protocols contained

in the MOU will be evaluated regarding the impacts both upstream and downstream of the dam to help determine its future operation.

In addition to representing input from area stakeholders, the agreement was drafted with practical aspects of the dam operation in mind. Also, to help stakeholders monitor conditions on the Manitowish Chain of Lakes and the Manitowish River, dam owner Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Co. has agreed to install a downstream gauge and provide monitoring and reporting of both chain water levels as well as downstream flows. This information will be posted on a website that will be determined in the weeks ahead.

- [Memorandum of Understanding between DNR and the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Company \[PDF\]](#)
- [Current operation and MOU provision comparison table \[PDF\]](#)

The agreement was signed in April 2016. The agreement will operate within the structure of the existing 1939 operating order for the Rest Lake Dam, which will remain in effect. The MCDF website is www.manitowishchaindefense.org

WISCONSIN SHORELAND INITIATIVE by John Richter

As we wrap up our legislative activity this session, I would like to address a topic that has occasionally come up – our (WSI) political identity. In my first letter to our lake partners, I made a statement that was intended to define our effort going forward. That statement was: **“The health of our lakes is not a political issue”**. We have been extraordinarily careful to not be identified as politically partisan. In our testimony in the Senate and the Assembly, we have registered our presentations as “for information only” rather than “in favor” or “opposed”. We were perhaps the only organization aside from state agencies that did so. The only exception was on SB 477 regarding dredging and operating vehicles on the shallow lakebed habitat, where opposition was clearly required.

We have worked side by side with both parties in an attempt to educate them about both the needs of our lakes as well as the risks and lurking dangers to our lakes and to allow them to have the background (that many don't have) to make knowledgeable decisions. It is our belief that the best decisions about our lakes, rivers and shorelands will be the most educated decisions.

We will continue to operate as a non-partisan organization and will be prudent in the alliances we form to maintain our independence. Our only advocacy will be for our lakes, rivers and shorelands which are Wisconsin's greatest economic asset, the tax base of many county and local governments, the engine of local economies and the home and recreational destination of so many of its residents and visitors.

In the near future, WSI is hoping to develop a regional structure and solicit Lake Districts for membership. WSI is also reviewing and discussing plans for the 2017 Legislative Session.

As always, thank you again for your contribution to our effort and your work for our lakes. To learn more about WSI and how you can contribute, please go to <https://wisconsinshoreland.org/>

2016 WISCONSIN LAKES PARTNERSHIP CONVENTION

This year's convention was held in Stevens Point, March 30 to April 1. MWLA board president, Karen Dixon, attended along with Anne Kretschmann, NLDC Water Education Specialist, and over 400 people from around the state. Workshops and keynote speakers offered information on a variety of topics pertaining to our lakes and rivers. The convention is open to anyone interested in learning about lake issues. It will be held in Stevens Point again next year April 5 to April 7. This year's Convention programs have been archived at

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/convention/archives.aspx>

This year's Lakes Partnership Convention theme was to celebrate not only lake volunteers, but also other water and environmental citizen scientists. The Lakes Partnership teamed up with the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network and the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) to celebrate volunteers in one place at one time. 2016 is the 30th anniversary of Wisconsin's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network and the 20th anniversary of WAV, so a diverse program that highlights the tremendous work volunteers have accomplished with state and local partners was developed for this convention. Anne

Kretschmann, AIS Coordinator at NLDC, was presented with the Outstanding Achievement in Citizen-based Monitoring Award!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Dumping of yard waste into Wisconsin waters is prohibited. Please dispose of your yard waste appropriately; it should not be dumped into our rivers and lakes! If you see someone raking yard waste into the water, please inform them of the Natural Resources rule below. Contact DNR Warden Rich Thole at 715-605-2130 to report shoreland violations.
- Last year the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) unveiled the Shoreland Stewardship Initiative. This program offers an educational tool to shoreland property owners who wish to have an additional way to protect their lakes or river with a legal document that can be attached to their deed. The program is totally voluntary. To learn more about this great initiative, go to <http://www.vclra.us> and click Shoreland Stewardship Initiative.
- Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association is hosting a Six County Conference for the Protection of Lakes and Rivers scheduled for Friday, June 10 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. This conference is open to the public and is free of charge. Speakers will be John Richter from the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative, Pat Goggins from UWEX-Lakes and Mike Engelson from WI Lakes Association speaking on how to work together and where we go from here in order to protect our lakes and rivers.
- Rest Lake ice data for winter of 2015-16: ice on 11-3-15; ice off 12-14-15; ice on 12-23-15; ice off 4-17-16.
- The DNR has a new Healthy Lakes website: www.healthylakeswi.com

Check out our **recently updated** website at www.mwlakes.com to access board meeting minutes, lakes-related articles, information on aquatic invasive species, past e-newsletters, and many other interesting topics.



Like Us On Facebook or go to www.facebook.com/ManitowishWatersLakesAssociation

The MWLA Board of Directors appreciates your continued support.

Karen Dixon
President
Manitowish River
715-543-8141

Tom Joseph
Vice President
Rest Lake
715-543-8362

Eleanor Butler
Treasurer
Alder Lake
715-543-8401

Marilyn Gabert
Secretary
Manitowish Lake
715-543-8224

Bob Becker
Spider Lake
715-543-2219

Jim Cagney
Island Lake
307-421-6490

Greg Holt
Benson Lake
715-543-8168

Barry Hopkins
Rest Lake
715-904-0480

Tom Kramer
Hwy. 51
715-543-8000

Jo Ann Miller
Sturgeon Lake
715-543-2389

Paul Puccinelli
Rest Lake
715-904-0951

Jim Reichert
Alder Lake
715-543-2647

Bob Stowers
Manitowish Lake
715-543-2284



MWLA Membership Application/Renewal

Annual Dues **\$25.00** (June 1 to May 31 of the following year)
Make check payable to: Manitowish Waters Lakes Association or MWLA
Mail to: P.O. Box 286, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545

**The Manitowish Waters Lakes Association is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization.
All donations to the MWLA are fully tax deductible as allowed by relevant law.**

MWLA does not share its membership list with other organizations.

Name(s) _____

Lake/river you live on or are closest to if off-water _____

Primary Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Manitowish Waters Address _____

Indicate when mail is delivered to you in MW (from what month to what month):
_____ to _____

MW Phone _____ Primary Residence Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Please provide an email address so you can receive MWLA e-Alerts and e-Newsletters.

Email address: _____
(Please print clearly)

With the awarding of the WDNR Grants, we are especially in need of members who are willing to help offset the in-kind hours required by the grants.

I am willing to volunteer some of my time to:

___ monitoring AIS ___ 4th of July ___ Annual Meeting ___ Cran-a-rama ___ Mailings

If you are unable to volunteer the gift of time, we ask that you please consider making a monetary contribution.

I am including a donation for the following:

___ Aquatic Invasive Species Education and Prevention

___ Fish Habitat Project

___ Annual Meeting Raffle

___ Miscellaneous