



Lakes Association

Fickle Fall September 2018



H

*"The things I do, the ways I live, have effects that, however small, may be hard to reverse.
Any wonder, any treasure, needs loving care. Especially a lake."*

*~ Ted J. Rulseh ~ **

Fall is a fickle season – summerlike one day, wintery on another, and if we're lucky, we can have a series of beautiful fall days! Fall may be fickle, but our volunteers are not. They volunteer year after year with AIS monitoring, the 4th of July MWLA booth, Trout Pond, Annual Meeting, and Cran-a-rama. We couldn't do it without your consistent help. Thank you all so very much! **Don't forget to attend MW Cran-a-rama Saturday, October 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The MWLA will have a merchandise booth with t-shirts, hoodies and hats; the NLDC will have an AIS booth full of informational materials.

It's not too late to renew your membership for this year. You can access a renewal form on our website www.mwlakes.com. Annual dues are **only \$25.00** and run from June 1 to May 31 of the following year.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join the MWLA. Everyone who loves and enjoys the waters of our township should help support our efforts "to maintain, protect and enhance our water quality, fishery, boating safety, and native habitat".

MWLA ELECTS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS AT 26th ANNUAL MEETING

The Manitowish Waters Lakes Association held its 26th Annual Meeting with Continental Breakfast on Saturday, July 28, at the North Lakeland Discovery Center. The attendees were welcomed by MWLA President, Bob Becker who described the Association's accomplishments throughout the previous year and explained goals for the upcoming year. The major goal continues to be our partnership with the North Lakeland Discovery Center, WDNR, the Towns of Manitowish Waters

and Boulder Junction to protect our waters from aquatic invasive species. Bob also reported on the damage that bladder boats can do to shorelines and animal habitat. He encouraged people not to use them on the Chain. He mentioned that it is not safe for people, especially children, to sit on the front of boats to dangle their feet while the boat is moving.

During the business portion of the meeting, the following officers were elected for one-year officer terms: Bob Becker, President; Paul Puccinelli, Vice President; Angela Dombrowicki, Secretary; and Eleanor Butler, Treasurer. Gale Wolf was elected as a new director for a one-year term; returning directors for one-year terms: Tom Kramer, Jody Miller, and Bob Stowers. Directors elected for two-year terms: Mary Bowlus, Greg Holt, Delp Schafer, and Dennis Wilm. Karen Dixon will continue as Immediate Past President.

Board member, Tom Kramer, reported on the DNR's Fish Sticks Program that is providing grants for the placement of felled trees off shoreland properties for fish spawning habitat. Tom, who is also Chair of Walleyes for Tomorrow, reported on the efforts of the WFT, DNR and the tribes to work together to stock the MW Chain with extended growth walleyes.

Emily Heald, Water Program Coordinator at the Discovery Center, updated the membership on the Lake Management Plan for the Manitowish Chain of Lakes and the hand-pulling of curly leaf pondweed (aquatic invasive) that is growing in several areas of the Chain. Emily encouraged everyone to become involved with AIS monitoring activities to help offset the cost of the grants with in-kind volunteer hours. She also described efforts to control purple loosestrife with the use of "cella" beetles and cutting tops of flowering PL plants.

Summer Water Interns, Colby Durre and Braden Westerhoff, showed samples of curly leaf pondweed, provided information on how to monitor for AIS, and gave information on the programs that are available through the Discovery Center that teach how to monitor for AIS

The membership also heard a presentation from Laura Hayes (WDNR) who reported on the Firewise Program that helps communities and organizations play a role in preventing, preparing and planning for wildfire.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Who's Gale Wolf? I'm not a new-comer to the North Woods. Even though I was born and raised in great fishing country around Shawano, we still often traveled north to match wits with the elusive musky. Those expeditions provided introduction to the Manitowish Waters area, its lakes and its beauty. We purchased property on Dead Pike Lake in 1960, building a small stockade-style cedar cabin for a family of four kids and two golden retrievers. It served us well until retirement in 1994 when we constructed our current home adjacent to "the cabin."

My professional life consisted primarily of administrative work within the Health and Welfare ministry of the United church of Christ. A major portion of that was accomplished at Sunburst Youth Homes, a residential facility for disturbed children located in Neillsville, WI. For the past 20 years I have become routinely identified with the "water problem in Dead Pike Lake." It has created in me a driving sense of responsibility on the part of our citizenry, to take a strong advocacy role in protecting our environment. I'm hoping to bring that conviction with me to my new position as a member of the MWLA Board.

2019 MWLA ANNUAL MEETING

Our 27th Annual Meeting will be held at the North Lakeland Discovery Center **on Saturday, July 28, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Please put this date on your calendar!** Sign-in starts at 8:30 a.m. with the business meeting beginning promptly at 9:00. Breakfast will be provided when you arrive and throughout the meeting. Menu details will be announced in the Spring Newsletter. There will be a short business meeting to elect Directors and Officers followed by an educational program (to be determined).

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Phase 5 Planning meeting with Tim Hoyman (Onterra, LLC) took place on August 22 that included representatives of the MWLA board of directors and representatives from the North Lakeland Discovery Center. Tim walked the participants through a presentation on results of the lake management studies of Stone, Vance, Sturgeon and Benson Lakes followed by a discussion of changes to the Chain-wide management plan.

Phase 5 Conclusions:

- Watershed is in great condition – land cover is of high quality; shoreline restoration is best opportunity to protect lakes.

- Water quality is great – data indicate water quality is better than expected for lakes of this type, within this region.
- Aquatic plant community – native community is of high quality; interesting and special concern species are present; AIS continuously monitored; curly-leaf pondweed (CLP), non-native phragmites, etc. pose threat to ecosystem if not continually monitored and controlled.

Recommendations: 1) review management goals annually; 2) continue monitoring and hand-harvesting purple loosestrife (PL) and curly leaf pondweed (CLP); 3) obtain funding from Manitowish Waters, Boulder Junction, and the MWLA to continue monitoring and harvesting PL and CLP; 4) recruit more citizens to do water quality testing and shoreline restoration of their properties; 5) apply for grants to do point intercept surveys every 5-7 years and plant community surveys every 10-14 years.

Emily Heald, Water Program Coordinator (NLDC), will be putting together funding proposals for the Towns of Manitowish Waters and Boulder Junction. At their September board meeting, the MWLA board of directors committed to providing at least \$5,000 annually to the funding of AIS prevention and control.

The final copy of the *WDNR MW Chain Lake Management Plan* will be posted in the near future. **Please note that the final slides of this presentation were presented for discussion purposes and may be altered in the final management plan.** Tim's presentation: file:///C:/Users/ked28/AppData/Local/Temp/MWLA_PhaseV_PlnMtg_8-22-18_prnt.pdf

AIS NEWS

by Emily Heald, NLDC Water Program Coordinator

Clean Boats Clean Waters Program continues to positively influence boater behavior

Colby, Braden, and Johnny, Summer Water Monitoring Interns at the Discovery Center, participated in efforts to spread the word about invasive species at Rest and Clear Lake boat landings. Through this state funded program, interns interviewed over 300 boats (well over 600 people). The Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program helps us to educate boaters on preventing the spread and establishment of aquatic invasive species. It also helps to gather important information regarding boater travel between different lakes, which helps the DNR to prioritize its search and research of aquatic invasive species.



2018 Purple Loosestrife Update



Discovery Center Water Monitoring Interns with several bags of clipped purple loosestrife flowers from Rice Creek.

Summer has come and gone, and so has purple loosestrife season. Purple loosestrife is a wetland invasive plant found in many locations throughout Manitowish Waters, including Rice Creek, the Manitowish River running into Island Lake, Wild Rice Lake, the channel between Spider and Island Lakes, and intermittently on a few of the other lakes in the Chain. It is also found on the Stepping Stone Lakes.

The Discovery Center clips flower heads of purple loosestrife to prevent it from going to seed and spreading to new locations. We also release cella beetles, which eat only purple loosestrife, onto infestation sites. The beetles damage the plant so that it does not grow as tall and produces fewer seeds. This way, native plants have more of a chance to grow back. This year we released over 6,000 beetles into infested wetlands. We saw several areas of beetle damage – they are doing their job!

The ebb and flow of (native) aquatic vegetation

Each year I can bet on having the same two conversations with folks in the community: 1) Lake plants growing in places landowners have never seen them growing before; 2) Lake plants no longer growing in places where they used to grow

I often have these same two conversations with different people on the same lake. Wondering about the plants on your lake isn't a bad thing – in fact it's a good thing to have your eyes open for changes in case they are invasive species. So, I am always happy to share the following information with folks:

Quite a few factors affect native plant growth in lakes year to year. Plants seem to "randomly" spread, and ebb and flow, in lakes naturally.

One of the reasons is the overall age of your lake. Over time, lakes will all eventually fill in. This is a process that takes thousands of years, but your lake will change during the process. As the lake gradually fills in with soil from the surrounding land, and sediment building from dying plant matter, that sediment becomes more fertile and more favorable for plant growth.

Lake aging can be significantly sped up by shoreline development and other human activity. If the natural shoreline is removed and replaced with a lawn, over time this increases the amount of nutrients and sediment running off into the lake, and therefore creates more favorable conditions for plant growth. Rainfall can also increase nutrient loading, and the loading will be more significant over more developed shoreline. This year we did see a drought period followed by a large rain event, and some plants respond more favorably to these conditions than others.

And finally, fluctuation in water level, as the Chain experiences each year, may cause changes in plant communities. This year, especially, the Chain was quite low for an extended period of time. Low water levels expand rooted plant growth, because the low levels are extending the areas in which plants can grow.

Keep in mind that while it is human nature to want to point to the one root cause of a change, it is often many interacting variables across several years that are sparking the changes you see in your lake. If you are ever unsure if the plants in your lake are "good" or "bad," you can drop off a sample at the Discovery Center, give me a call, or send me an email 715-543-2085, water@discoverycenter.net



Discovery Center Summer Water Monitoring Intern, Colby, with a handful of native aquatic plants.

DEAD PIKE LAKE RESEARCH APPROACHES COMPLETION

by Gale Wolf, Dead Pike Lake Association

The culmination of a \$100,000 research project spanning over a year and a half is finally reaching its conclusion. The extensive time, effort and expense gives indication of the importance of this water quality issue and the need for its remediation.

The time for implementation of the study's recommendations is upon us and is currently occupying the combined attention of our local representatives, the Department and our consultants, Applied Ecological Services. A final public presentation covering all the implementation decisions will be made at Koller Library during the last part of September. We would encourage your attendance.

This demonstration of broad citizen involvement and advocacy should be applauded as a model for other communities to follow when faced with similar environmental problems. Persistence is the name of the game.

WATER SAFETY PATROL

by Dan Cardinal, IOC

Labor-day has come and gone, and the bulk of the boaters have left for the winter. All in all, the summer went very well, and boaters seemed to enjoy being on the Chain. We had no fatalities or personal injuries, and there were no reported boating accidents.

The closest thing to an incident was in Little Star Lake at "the beach" where boats tend to group up. A few people were playing "Beer Pong" using glass beer bottles that would break. Water Patrol Officer Paulson advised them that breaking bottles in the lake was not permitted. They then offered to clean up the glass. In fact, one of the participants did step on a piece of glass and received a minor laceration on the bottom of his foot.

Fourth of July festivities, Float your Boat Trivia Rally, and Music in the Park kept everyone busy and all had a great time. Boaters ignoring the "slow-no-wake" rule continues to be the major complaint.

To all the boaters who have left, enjoy your winter, and we will see you next summer. To those enjoying our fall up here, we look forward to seeing you on the Chain.

MW CHAIN FALL DRAW DOWN

The MWLA and MW Chamber have received numerous calls this fall requesting information regarding the fall draw down of the MW Chain. According to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the draw down is between October 1 and November 1.

Headwaters Level and Minimum Flow Chart

Time Period	Headwaters Level	Minimum Flow
Nov. 1 to Spring Break Up	Min. 5'0"	Run of river
Spring Break Up to Water Temperature Achievement Day ("WT AD")	Target: 8' to 8'6"	5 0 cfs or more
WT AD and the 30 days thereafter	Target: 8' to 8'6"	50 to 200 cfs
Spring Refill and Summer Period 31st day after water temperature achievement day (typically, around June 1 to Sept. 30)	Target: 8' to 8'6"	45 cfs or more
Oct. 1 to Nov. 1 Fall Draw Down	Target 5' by Nov. 1	50 cfs or more

INTERNET LANDING INSTALLED DEVICE SENSOR (I-LIDS)

The MWLA board of directors is investigating the feasibility of purchasing one or more self-contained, solar powered systems installed at boat landings to reduce risk of AIS through video inspection of boats and audio education of boaters. The cost is approximately \$10,000 per unit. Plum Lake and Lac du Flambeau have purchased a number of the devices and are currently using the I-LIDS system with great success. Eric Lindberg of Environmental Sentry Protection, LLC has reported that even with in-person inspections, many lakes still have 70-90% of the daylight hours uncovered. However, with the I-LIDS complementing in-person inspections, we have seen significant changes in boater behavior including people on their backs cleaning off weeds. This is significant because it tells us they are reacting to the presence of

monitoring. With county funding now available to support the capital cost, lake organizations no longer must shoulder the entire burden of AIS prevention.

The MWLA board will continue to research this new program, and if it's found to be as effective as advertised, we will apply for a grant to cover some of the expenses, plus begin fundraising through our membership and MW community.

STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF WATER CLARITY ON HOME PRICES IN VILAS AND ONEIDA COUNTIES, WISCONSIN

UWEC – Department of Economics – Dr. Thomas Kemp

Introduction: There exists a significant number of lakes in Northern Wisconsin that exhibit low levels of water clarity. It is also a well-established fact that perceptions of water quality and water clarity have a significant bearing upon residential property values. It is the case that an improvement in water clarity on those lakes that currently exhibit low clarity would result in a significant improvement in property values. (Not to mention a number of other economic benefits – such as increased tourism.) Rising property values also means increased property valuations and – potentially – local and State and local tax revenue. On the other hand, improving water clarity is not without costs. The matter is therefore a balancing act: In cases where the economic benefits exceed the costs associated with water clarity improvement there is a clear case to be made for said improvements.

Conclusions: There exists a clear economic rationale for the improvement of water clarity on several Northern Wisconsin lakes. Using a two-stage hedonic model we have estimated that a one (1) meter improvement in water clarity within the study area would increase the average property prices from \$8,090 to \$32,171. The variation is largely dependent upon existing water clarity and the degree to which the lake is already economically developed.

On lakes with low water clarity – such as McCormick Lake, Killarney Lake, and Fifth Lake average residential properties would see an improvement in sale price approximately \$30,000. The figures for these lakes are much higher than for others within the study area because the willingness to pay for given improvements is likely higher on lakes where clarity is poor. That is, people are likely to pay more for a 2 meters improvement in clarity when the current level is 1 meter than they would if it were 5 meters.

These differences in these increases are also dependent upon the existing level of economic development on the lake. For example, McCormick Lake would be expected to experience a greater gain in property values than Fifth Lake even though Fifth Lake's clarity is worse. The community surrounding Fifth Lake is more developed when compared to McCormick Lake. Fifth lake is a short distance from Rhinelander, Wisconsin – the largest community in the study area. Therefore, any changes to the entire property picture can be expected to have a smaller marginal component.

Thus, taken in sum we conclude that the marginal economic benefits to improvements in clarity are most significant when applied to lakes with low existing clarity and even more so when they are applied to lakes with low clarity and when the surrounding areas are minimally developed. These results reinforce and support the importance of these lakes to the community and should bolster efforts to maintain lake water quality.

To read the study in its entirety go to these two links:

<file:///C:/Users/ked28/AppData/Local/Temp/WaterClarityStudyCover-2.pdf>

<file:///C:/Users/ked28/AppData/Local/Temp/WaterClarityStudy-2.pdf>

PROTECT WHAT MATTERS ----- STARTING THIS FALL

By Laura A. Hayes - DNR

With the fallen leaves, dormant dry plants, and lower humidities of fall comes an increased risk of wildfire. Taking a little time this fall to make you home or cabin more "Firewise" could save it from wildfire this fall AND next spring when wildfire potential is at its greatest.

What can you do? There are many simple things you can do around your home that could help it survive a wildfire and fall is a good time to do them before the snow flies:

- Rake yard and garden debris; compost the debris or bring to your town's brush site.

- Remove dead trees and brush.
- Prune evergreen tree branches up and away from the ground.
- Move woodpiles at least 30 feet from all buildings.
- Remove wood mulch around building foundations; consider filling in the area with decorative rocks
- Clean out/remove leaves and needles:
 - from rain gutters
 - under decks
 - on roof
 - in and around window wells
 - in nooks and crannies
- To learn more, visit dnr.wi.gov, keyword "fire".

MWLA board president, Bob Becker, attended a 4.5-hour Firewise meeting on September 18 and reported that during the meeting they established goals and objectives for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Town will be applying for a grant and more details will be forthcoming in the Town's Spring Newsletter.

CATCH THE WAVE – WATER ACTION VOLUNTEERS WEBINAR SERIES
Fall-Winter 2018-2019
Tuesdays, Noon-1:00 pm (Central Time)

Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Volunteers,
 See below for a new webinar series that you may be interested in attending. Water Action Volunteers is Wisconsin's volunteer stream water quality monitoring program - basically a stream-based equivalent to our CLMN lake monitoring program. All of these webinars are free and open to the public, but there is an online registration link for each one below the webinar description.

Catch the WAVE – Water Action Volunteers Webinar Series
Fall-Winter 2018-2019
Tuesdays, Noon-1:00 pm (Central Time)



October 16, 2018:

Catch the WAVE Webinar Series: What is the Water Telling Us about the Land?

This webinar will explore what the water in our lakes and our streams tells us about our land. In Wisconsin, the land "makes" water as the precipitation that falls on the land becomes the flow in our streams and the water in our lakes.

Presenter: Paul McGinley, Water Quality Specialist, UW-Extension

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8353439928954676993>

October 30, 2018:

Catch the WAVE Webinar Series: An Introduction to Stream Ecology

What IS stream ecology anyway? Where do streams come from and what lives in them? What are the basic definitions and importance of these five physical features of streams: temperature, flow, pH, light and dissolved oxygen? UW-Platteville Stream Ecologist Kris Wright will answer these questions and much more.

Presenter: Kristopher Wright, Aquatic Biologist, UW-Platteville

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/863126916781131267>

November 13, 2018:

Catch the WAVE Webinar Series: Office Hours with DNR Biologists

You have questions? We have answers! As citizen stream monitors your work and your data is closely tied to the work of our Wisconsin DNR professionals who have experience in and knowledge about streams across our state.

Presenters: Craig Roesler and Camille Bruhn, DNR Water Quality Biologists

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/727516451146336771>

November 27, 2018:

Catch the WAVE Webinar Series: Using the Surface Water Data Viewer to Find Stations and Data

This webinar will cover the basics of using the Surface Water Data Viewer, DNR's mapping application.

Presenter: Ilana Haimes, WAV Data Management and Special Projects, WDNR

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5936407707758522371>

December 11, 2018:

Catch the WAVE Webinar Series: Understanding Macroinvertebrates

Scrapers, shredders, gatherers, filterers, and predators, In this presentation, Kris Wright will explain the importance of aquatic invertebrates and help you understand their diversity and functions in the environment.

Presenter: Kristopher Wright, Aquatic Biologist, UW-Platteville.

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3178821550179847939>

January 8, 2019:

Catch the WAVE Webinar Series: The Madness behind the Methods: WAV Stream Flow Explained

At training sessions and in streams each month, volunteers often have questions about the WAV stream flow methods, such as why the first number in stream depth is always “0” and why we have a velocity correction factor for stream bottom type. You may be surprised to know the rigor and research that is behind the WAV flow method. Tune in to hear Kris Stepenuck discuss the evolution of WAV stream flow methods and the related research that was included in her PhD thesis! *Kris Stepenuck, Extension Assistant Professor, University of Vermont*

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8390094348977929219>

January 22, 2019:

Catch the WAVE Webinar Series: Increase Your Success in Finding and Submitting Grants

This webinar will include practical ideas that will help you be more successful in your pursuit of grant funds.

Dave Nolan, Watauga Grant Consultants. Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3867903079493483779>

JULY 4TH TROUT POND FISH FUN



Check out our 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](https://www.facebook.com/ManitowishWatersLakesAssociation) or go to <https://www.facebook.com/ManitowishWatersLakesAssociation>

The MWLA Board of Directors appreciates your continued support.

Bob Becker
President
Spider Lake

Paul Puccinelli
Vice President
Rest Lake

Eleanor Butler
Treasurer
Alder Lake

Jo Ann Miller
Secretary
Sturgeon Lake

715-543-2219

Karen Dixon
Past-President
Manitowish River
715-543-8141

Tom Kramer
Hwy. 51
715-543-8000

Gale Wolf
Dead Pike Lake
715 543-2439

715-904-0951

Mary Bowlus
Rest Lake
715-543-2896

Delp Schafer
Rest Lake
715-543-2370

715-543-8401

Greg Holt
Benson Lake
715-543-8168

Bob Stowers
Manitowish Lake
715-543-2284

715-543-2389

Angela Dombrowicki
Alder Lake
608-234-0403

Dennis Wilm
Spider Lake
715-543-2378

- Opening quote taken from Ted Rulseh's book *A Lakeside Companion*. Ted writes the newspaper column "The Lake Where You Live" in *The Lakeland Times*. You can contact him at trulseh@tjrcommunications.com