

## HELLO TO SPRING!

*If spring came but once a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all the hearts to behold the miraculous change – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

### **EMAIL NEWSLETTERS**

Last year the MLWA attempted to save money by giving members the option to receive our newsletter through email. We have been tracking the success of this endeavor and found that the number of “openings” of our e-newsletters has been decreasing and averages around 58%. This indicates that a large percentage of members are not opening them and are missing out on information vital to our association. Please check to see that the e-newsletters and e-alerts from the MWLA are being allowed by your server and not being sent to your spam/junk mail. Look for the spring e-newsletter to arrive in your email account on May 7. We will continue to keep you informed through e-alerts and e-newsletters, and in an effort to keep our membership informed, we will begin a trial period of mailing a hard copy of the newsletter to everyone for the next several months or until we see an increase in e-newsletter openings.

### **MWLA ANNUAL MEETING - MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

The MWLA 20th Annual Meeting Picnic/Party is scheduled for Saturday, July 28, 2012 from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the pavilion at the MW Community Center. Check-in will begin at 3:30; a short business meeting will start promptly at 4:00, with the picnic beginning about 5:30 pm. We hope to see you there. Our next newsletter will provide more details.

Our featured speaker will be Tim Hoyman, Aquatic Ecologist from the consulting firm Onterra, LLC of De Pere, WI. Tim will address the Rest Lake Management Planning Grant and the series of planning and education grants anticipated for the next five years (see information below). These grants will result in a management plan for the entire chain, including the Manitowish River and lakes below the dam. The finding last summer of more than 25 acres of the aquatic invasive plant curly leaf pondweed in Rice Creek, the Spider-Island Channel, and Island Lake, makes this undertaking necessary and advisable.

### **WDNR LAKE GRANTS AWARDED - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

TAISP (Town Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership comprised of the Town of Manitowish Waters, the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association and the North Lakeland Discovery Center) is very excited to announce the awarding of several WDNR grants for the Manitowish Chain that will expand our understanding of the health, functioning, and threats to our lakes and river, and enable us to protect and enhance them for generations to come.

In the August 2011 WDNR grant cycle, we were awarded the MWLA-sponsored:

- Lake Management Planning Grant - “Rest Lake Management Planning Project” (\$38,483). It received the highest score of all grant applications in its category in this cycle. There is a \$13,000 difference between the state share of \$25,000 and the total cost to be made up from a combination of volunteer hours and cash contributions during the grant cycle beginning in fall 2011 and lasting 18-24 months.

In the February 2011 WDNR grant cycle, we were awarded the North Lakeland Discovery

Center-sponsored:

- Aquatic Invasive Species Education, Planning and Prevention (EPP) Grant - "Manitowish Chain of Lakes Management Planning Project: Phase 1b" (\$66,645). This project, which has multiple phases in future years to cover the entire chain, received the highest score of all of the grant applications in its category for this cycle. This speaks to the state's continued commitment for grant funding on this long-term chain project.

- Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection & Response (EDR) Grant - "Manitowish Chain of Lakes EDR Project" (\$26,621) for treatment of curly leaf pondweed.

The Towns of Manitowish Waters and Boulder Junction have generously committed a portion of matching funds as a component of the grants. Another component is that we must accumulate volunteer hours to decrease the amount of matching cash-out-of-pocket funding expense. Please let us know if you can volunteer for even just a couple hours..

**'LAKE CAPTAIN AND DECKHAND' VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO FIGHT AIS** by Anne

Kretschmann In the summer of 2011, more than 400 hours of lake monitoring were by 'Lake Captains and Deckhands'! This year, we are expanding this program that trains volunteers to monitor shorelines and areas where AIS are most likely found. We emphasize the identification of curly leaf pondweed (CLP) that is a prolific aquatic invasive plant usually found in waters less than 13 feet deep. It begins growing early, under the ice and usually dies by mid-summer. CLP was first detected in the Chain in 2010 by a volunteer Lake Captain trained by the Lake Captain and Deckhand program.

Volunteering is as easy as walking down your shoreline and noticing what plants have washed up or keeping your eyes open for aquatic invasive species while you are out fishing or taking a pontoon ride on a sunny day! The Discovery Center will host numerous trainings throughout the summer on how to volunteer and what to look for. We will help you identify any potential 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 aquatic 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](mailto:ais@discoverycenter.net) or 715-543-2085. Every little bit helps keep our lakes beautiful. We hope you'll help us in this endeavor as our success depends on you. We remain very thankful for your endless efforts and look forward to working with you in the future!

**PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE PARTNERS**

On April 19th, North Lakeland School (NLS) 7th graders partnered with the Discovery Center and the MWLA to dig and pot purple loosestrife for the Manitowish Waters purple loosestrife beetle-rearing bio-control project. Leif Williams, Science Teacher at NLES, reports that three students have been working on purple loosestrife projects for the past several months. Alison Bognar (7th grader) will conduct an experiment to measure the effect of purple loosestrife beetles on the growth and development of two different groups of PL plants. She is hoping that we can collect and raise (at school) three plants from a location where purple loosestrife beetles have already been released in previous years (Group 1), and three plants from a location where beetles have never been released (Group 2). Essentially, she is going to measure the early growth of the plants (until the end of the school year) to see if there is a residual effect on the beetle infestation on the Group 1 plants as compared to the Group 2 plants. We are hoping to

do this experiment in front of the school, until the end of the school year, and then turn the plants over to the Discovery Center. Because the sight of the netted plants will generate some interest, Kyle Wuestenhagen (7th grader) is creating posters to explain the project, with the intent that the posters can be used to direct people to a Facebook page created and maintained by Claire Boston Denton (7th grader) with more information about Purple Loosestrife, and the projects going on up in the Northwoods. You can view Claire's Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Northwoods-Invasive-Species-Control/264621386951257>

Purple loosestrife, an invasive species, has an extremely effective biological control, the 'Chella' beetles which eat and weaken the plant, keeping flowers from forming. Beetles are reared at the Discovery Center and released into larger, established infestations on the Chain. Mid-summer, volunteers also pull non-established smaller populations and cut flower heads to slow the spread through seeds.

### **MEET THE DISCOVERY CENTER WATERS EDUCATION INTERN**

Scott Blado was hired to carry out necessary components of the WDNR grant with a combination of funding provided by the Town of MW and the WDNR." He explained, "My passion for the outdoors began with hunting and fishing with my Grandfather near my home in Central Wisconsin. From there, my love for Wisconsin's natural resources grew as I expanded my horizons to the Northwoods fishing and exploring with friends, and most recently when I participated in the Clean Boats Clean Waters program throughout Vilas County. As a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, I am excited to continue learning and teaching others about the value of our natural resources and threats to them such as aquatic invasive species." Please stop in at the DC to introduce yourself and welcome him to the area.

### **REST LAKE DAM – MANITOWISH CHAIN DEFENSE FUND (MCDF)**

The Manitowish Chain Defense Fund recently sent an update to its membership concerning the status of the Rest Lake Dam. If you would like a copy of this letter sent to you, please email the MCDF at [mcdspring2012@gmail.com](mailto:mcdspring2012@gmail.com). It is very important to note that all future correspondence from the MCDF will only be through email, so if you would like to receive future updates, please send your email address to the email address listed above.

The February letter reported that the DNR research results on the Rest Lake Dam have been posted at <http://dnr.wi.gov/water/basin/upwis/restlakedam/>. This research information will be organized to support a recommendation for a change in the 1939 operating order of the dam. Therefore, the MCDF strongly encourages you to read the posted information so that you will be able to ask questions and make constructive recommendations at the public hearings that will most likely be held this summer after the recommended operating order is made public.

The MCDF consists of the Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce, the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association, the Manitowish Waters Alliance and the Town of Manitowish Waters. The MCDF is headed by John McGraw, President; Jim Reichert, Vice President; Eleanor Butler, Treasurer; and John Hanson, Secretary.

### **2012 MW LAKE PATROL REPORT** by Officer Jack Arndt, Manitowish Waters Lake Patrol

The upcoming 2012 boating season is only about a month away, so let's review some important boat operation issues and lake-related safety concerns.

First, boat operation concerns: Remember, as of the spring of 2010, the State of Wisconsin passed a law prohibiting **all boats** from operating at greater than Slow-No-Wake (SNW) within

100 feet of **all shorelines**. (The distance requirements for Personal Water Craft (PWC) remain at 200 feet.) This is important to remember when operating through various 'narrows', close to islands, in smaller bays, so forth.

Second, a review of the definition of Slow-No-Wake (SNW): Per WI navigation law SNW is defined as operating a boat at the slowest speed possible while maintaining steerage.... In some states this is called 'idle speed', your motor is idling, you shift the boat into forward and you idle along...very slowly; this is a tough standard and takes some patience. Our rivers and other posted SNW zones offer beautiful scenery, enjoy the slower pace!

Third, there are important age requirements for the operation of various watercrafts: A PWC cannot be operated by anyone younger than 12 yrs. of age, and, juveniles 12 through 15 yrs. cannot operate a PWC unless they have completed a DNR Boating Safety course and have the certificate with them. All persons operating a PWC or boat, even if over 15 yrs. of age and who were born after Jan. 1, 1989, must complete a DNR Boating Safety course and have the certificate on board. Where a PWC is involved, a parent, guardian, or other adult, **cannot** ride along as a passenger, overseeing a juvenile operate the PWC, when that juvenile has not completed the required DNR boating Safety Course.

#### **Safety Concerns:**

- The most common citation I have issued over the last several summers concerns water skiing, namely skiing 'after hours', (which is 7:00 PM by local ordinance), skiing without an observer onboard, and, skiing within 100 feet of a dock, raft or official swim area (includes picking up and dropping skiers).

- If you are likely to be on the water after legal sunset, be sure all required navigation lights are on and are working and are not obstructed by boat covers, bimini tops, etc. I periodically patrol the lakes after dark, if all lights are not working, don't go on the water!

- Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs), "Life Jackets", all boats, even recently popular paddle boards, are required to have a Coast Guard approved **wearable PFD** onboard for every person on board; and, PFDs must be size appropriate (child size for child, adult for adult, so forth). A cushion or life ring type only qualifies as a "throwable" and is required on any boat 16 feet or longer.

- **Note:** Due to ongoing concerns about SNW violations in the rivers of the MW Chain of Lakes, I will continue to spend more time patrolling and sitting and observing (sometimes semi-concealed... speed traps??) boat traffic. See the definition of SNW earlier in this article.

The Manitowish patrol boat is dispatched through the Vilas County Sheriff Dept. at 1-800-472-7290 non-emergency, 911 emergencies only. Let's all work toward a fun and safe boating season. Any questions, please call the Town Hall office, leave a message for me, or the WI DNR, or visit the DNR web site. Please take time to become familiar with all the boating regulations.

#### **2012 FISH CRIB PROJECT**

Thank you to everyone who donated money to the 2012 Fish Crib Project. Your donations made it possible for MWLA board member, Tom Kramer and numerous other volunteers, to construct fish cribs for the Chain. This year the cribs will be installed in Alder, Manitowish, and Little Star Lakes. There will be approximately 12 cribs per lake. The majority of the cribs will be built about

2 feet in height and will be placed in shallower water than the cribs last year. These shorter cribs are more likely to attract fish for spawning. Tom reported that they got a late start on building the fish cribs, and due to the ice going out so early this spring, they were not able to get the cribs out on the ice. They plan on using two large barge-type pontoon boats to pull them out and sink them. They will be installed in open water over the course of the spring and summer.

Look for the miniature fish crib donation containers placed in area businesses, and please consider making a contribution to this great project. You can also mail donations to the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association, Inc. P.O. Box 286, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545.

### **WISCONSIN LAKES PARTNERSHIP CONVENTION**

Karen Dixon (MWLA) and Anne Kretschmann (Discovery Center) attended the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual WI Lakes Partnership Convention in Green Bay on April 10-12. It proved to be a fantastic opportunity for over 450 people from around the state to network and attend workshops that pertained to protecting the legacy of our lakes and rivers through science, education and citizen involvement. "The Partnership is there when a lakes association member takes action to protect or restore a shoreline buffer. It's there when a citizen trains to become a boat landing monitor. It's there when a county develops a holistic plan for using rules and incentives to protect lakes from the effects of development. It's there when DNR fisheries crews collect valuable data about lakes ecology."

This is an annual convention for anyone who has an interest in the protection of our lakes and rivers. Next year's convention is scheduled for April 9-11, 2013; please consider attending. To access archived information about the 2012 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention, go to [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions/2012/archive.asp](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions/2012/archive.asp).

### **IT'S TIME RENEW YOUR MWLA MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the MWLA runs from June 1 to May 31 of the following year. Your \$25 membership dues allow us to "maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes and other Township Waters". We cannot be successful unless we have the support of our membership, so please encourage your friends and neighbors to join our association. Check out our website at [www.mwllakes.com](http://www.mwllakes.com) for information such as board meeting minutes, topical lakes-related articles, information on aquatic invasive species, and past e-newsletters. **Please fill out the attached renewal form and mail it to Manitowish Waters Lakes Association or MWLA at P.O. Box 286, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545**

**The MWLA Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support.**

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

**Tom Joseph**  
**Vice President**  
Rest Lake  
715-543-8362

**Eleanor Butler**  
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**Greg Holt**  
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715-543-8168

**Barry Hopkins**  
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715-904-0480

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715-543-8000

**Merry Perkins**  
Sturgeon Lake  
715-543-2048

**Jim Reichert**  
Alder Lake  
715-543-2647

**Bob Stowers**  
Manitowish Lake  
715-543-2284

**Fred Theisen**  
Island Lake  
715-543-8860

**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

**Note: 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address if mail is delivered in MW \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 for AIS

\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> of July

\_\_\_ Annual Meeting

\_\_\_ 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:

\_\_\_ Fish Cribs

\_\_\_ Aquatic Invasive Species

\_\_\_ Annual Meeting Raffle

\_\_\_ Miscellaneous