



July, 2014

THE JOY OF SUMMER!

(You will receive a hard copy of this e-newsletter in the U.S. mail.)

"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature." ~ Henry David Thoreau ~

MWLA MEMBERS ARE AWESOME!

Membership renewals have been pouring in at a record pace. The many generous donations, and offers to volunteer for the variety of activities listed on the renewal form, have been overwhelming. We couldn't be more pleased or more proud at this outpouring of support for our association. Thank you! Thank you!

For those who have not yet renewed their membership, we have enclosed a renewal form with the mailing of the hard copy newsletter. There is also a renewal form available at the end of the e-Newsletter. Annual dues are **only \$25.00** and run from June 1 to May 31 of the following year.

IT'S PICNIC TIME!

Our Annual Meeting/Picnic will be held in the Lions Pavilion at the Community Center on **Saturday, July 26, 2014**. Please mark the date on your calendar. Sign-in starts at 3:30 p.m. with the business meeting beginning promptly at 4:00. A free picnic dinner for all MWLA members will begin at 5:00. There will be a raffle of fantastic offerings including pottery, artwork, jewelry, a basket of "cool guy" items, a Kindle Fire HD tablet, a chiminea, and much, much more!.

Make sure you remember to bring your address labels to put on your raffle tickets!

The picnic will be catered by Renee Holman of Good Thyme Catering. The menu consists of smoked chicken with white BBQ sauce served on a bun, red onions and pickles, marinated wild rice salad with fresh veggies, coleslaw, 3-bean salad, dessert, beer, wine, lemonade, and water.



A short business meeting to elect Officers and Directors will be followed by the North Lakeland 7th grade science students describing their Outdoor Education Field Trips that are sponsored by the MWLA. Anne Kretschmann, Water Specialist/AIS Coordinator at the North Lakeland Discovery Center, will give a brief update on the current status of the WDNR grants awarded to the MW Chain for AIS prevention and control. She will also explain the 2014 plan and procedures for the control of curly leaf pondweed that is spreading throughout the Chain.

REST LAKE DAM

The DNR hosted two informational meetings on June 27 to introduce its new draft order for the Rest Lake Dam. Approximately 200 people attended the first meeting with about 75 people attending the second. There will be one more public hearing on Saturday, August 16, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Manitowish Waters Town Hall. The DNR will give equal weight to written comments, which can be submitted by email to: DNRRestLake@Wisconsin.gov or mailed to DNR Service Center, Attn - Rest Lake Dam, 2501 Golf Course Road, Ashland, WI 54806. The deadline for written comments is September 5, 2014. You can read the new draft operating order at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Dams/RestLake/>.

For more information, please go to the Manitowish Chain Defense Fund website at www.manitowishchaindefense.org or visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/manitowishchaindefense>.

2014 TREATMENT OF CURLY LEAF PONDWEED

Curly leaf pondweed, an invasive species, was treated in the Island-Spider Channel and in the Rest-Stone Channel by *Clean Lakes* on June 9. Post-treatment surveys to quantify the success of the treatment occurred the first week in July.



Clean Lakes boat launching for treatment via precise LittLine® technology.

We also deployed a team of professional divers from *Aquatic Plant Management* into other smaller or more scattered areas of infestation on the Chain beginning on June 27. We are hopeful that the combination of these control efforts will prove successful in 2014.



Dive team from Aquatic Plant Management.

You can help! We are also looking for volunteers to help us hand-pull smaller locations that we find throughout the season. We could use persons on a boat to man a garbage bag for plants removed and manning fishing nets on a boat to 'catch' any floating curly leaf pondweed; as well as volunteers interested in snorkeling/or wading. Please contact Anne Kretschmann at anne@discoverycenter.net for more details.

SPREAD THE WORD, NOT THE INVASIVE!

Boaters of motorized water craft are strongly encouraged to avoid entering Rice Creek from Island Lake, and to be very careful to follow the channel when leaving Island Lake traveling toward the Island Lake Boat Landing. Please immediately clean your props when leaving infested areas.

FUN IN THE SUMMER SUN

As you are out with your families enjoying the lakes, don't forget to keep your eyes open for invasive species. Summertime offers an ideal opportunity to get your friends and families involved by having extra eyes on the water. We are always willing to identify any plants or animals that you find in your travels. Just email a photo or bring a plant to the Discovery Center with a note describing where you found it. We will then help to identify the plant. Please consider becoming actively involved with monitoring for aquatic invasive species (AIS) on your body of water by contacting Anne at anne@discoverycenter.net. The WDNR grants we received require an in-kind match of either volunteer hours or cash funding. Your hours of volunteer monitoring and your donations help us fulfill our commitments!



Curly leaf pondweed

The Discovery Center will host numerous outings throughout the summer on how to volunteer and what to look for: AIS Volunteer Monitoring Trainings are Tuesdays July 15 and August 12, 1 to 3 p.m. AND Saturday August 2, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; meet at Koller Park. If you are interested in a private training for you and your friends, neighbors, or family, please let Anne know as we are available to show you where to look for invasive species and what to look for. We are also always happy to have folks along with us as we poke about the lakes. You never know what we might find!

YOUR THOUGHTS MATTER!

Later this summer, we will be conducting a stakeholder survey to gather your thoughts regarding the value of the lakes to you, how you use them, and what you believe are the biggest challenges that our lakes face. We will incorporate this information into our plan to assure the lakes preservation for future generations. Keep your eyes open for this survey!

MEET AND GREET AT THE BOAT LANDINGS

While educating boaters about invasive species through Clean Boats Clean Waters, we are also handing out free ice packs and fishing towels to participants in the State's '**Drain Campaign**'. This program focuses on encouraging fishermen to transport their fish on ice through '**Landing Blitz**' programs. If you see us at a landing, please come and say hi!



WATER SAFETY PATROL NEWS by Dan Cardinal, Water Safety Patrol Officer

The summer of 2014 is well underway. With the cold spring and late arrival of warm weather, and good spring rains, both the water activity and water levels have recovered to normal.

The Manitowish Chain boaters started celebrating the 4th of July about midday with creative costumes and boat decorations. The 4th of July went very well with **no** boating incidents or citations issued. I want to thank the three DNR wardens: Rich Thole, the local game warden, Tim Ebert, the Minocqua area warden, and Brad Latza for their dedication to boating safety. The Chain benefited by them spending time in the Manitowish Waters area and helping to patrol on the 4th of July.

This year, with the fireworks moved back to Rest Lake, the boating crowd enjoying the water ski show numbered about 75. As the time for fireworks approached, this number grew to about 150 boats. When the fireworks show was over, the expected congestion in the channel back down to Stone Lake, grew to three abreast at some points, but was very orderly.

Night-time law enforcement contacts that were made during this procession were for:

- 1) Improper boat lights
- 2) SNW (slow-no-wake) violation of not slowing down before the SNW buoy.
- 3) Not enough life preservers, or in one case, while a boat had preservers the boat owner did not know where they were.
- 4) Dock lights on while underway. Dock lights are legal, but not when under way. The green and red lights identify the direction of travel to other boats. With the dock lights on the oncoming boats are blinded and have difficulty maintaining situational awareness.

Day time contacts were:

- 1) Slow-no-wake complaints or not being at SNW speed **before** the slow-no-wake zones
- 2) PWC's less than 100' from each other and other boats, or less than 200' from shore while at **greater** than at slow-no-wake speed.
- 3) Not enough PFD's for each person on board.

All in all, the users of the Manitowish Waters Chain continue to exercise good boating practices and common sense.

FISH CRIB HABITAT AND STOCKING PROJECT

Tom Kramer, MWLA board member, is still looking for **Island Lake** property owners who are interested in having a fish crib placed in the water off their property. The water has to be deep enough to sink cribs and still have 5' of water above the crib during low water. The height of the fish cribs will be 3 and 4' tall. The plan is to place up to 20 cribs in Island Lake this summer. You can contact Tom at 715-543-8000, 715-904-0182, or tom@bearcountrybuilders.com. Tom will be filling the cribs with branches and sticks to create a spawning habitat as recommended by the DNR.

Please consider making a contribution to this great project. You can mail donations to the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association, Inc. P.O. Box 286, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545.



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE BEETLE COLLECTION

On June 18, Anne Kretschmann, Leah Dittberner, Drew Lockwood, and Rod Sharka collected hundreds of 'Chella' beetles at Big Muskegon Lake. The beetles were then placed in the netted purple loosestrife plants at the Discovery Center to propagate. They will be released into larger, established infestations on the Chain.

Purple loosestrife is an invasive species and the beetles have proven to be an extremely effective biological control. The beetles eat and weaken purple loosestrife plants, keeping flowers from forming. Volunteers also pull non-established smaller populations and cut flower heads to slow the spread through seeds during mid-summer.

2014 NORTH CENTRAL COUNTY LAKES WORKSHOP

Anne Kretschmann, Leah Dittberner, Drew Lockwood and Karen Dixon attended this very informative workshop on June 13 at Nicolet College. The event was sponsored by the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA).

One of the main topics discussed was the Vilas County Stewardship Covenant being developed by the VCLRA through a WDNR grant. "The purpose of the program is to provide lake property owners of less than 500' of frontage the opportunity to voluntarily place their shoreland in a covenant for a period of thirty years." The public will receive more information about this program as soon as it is fully developed. Meanwhile, you can take the self-assessment below to determine whether you are a good lake steward.

- ✓ My lake property has a 35' natural vegetation buffer zone along my entire shoreline.
- ✓ My lake property has a legal 30' viewing corridor for the entire frontage.
- ✓ I always leave natural woody items in the lake (trees, branches, leaves, twigs, logs, etc.).
- ✓ I have only the legal number of boat slips (lifts, etc.) allowed for my lake frontage.
- ✓ I never pull or rake native vegetation out of the water along my lake frontage.
- ✓ I have not created a lot of impervious surfaces within 75' of my shore (impervious means to not let water flow freely into the ground below).
- ✓ I have created rain gardens or water diversion systems to prevent erosion into my lake.
- ✓ I do not have any bright lights facing the lake from my property and do not leave any bright lights on the lake long after dark.
- ✓ I do not have a boat house.
- ✓ I do not let personal visitors from outside the area launch boats on my property without careful inspection and removal of aquatic vegetation from the boat and trailer.
- ✓ I do not use fertilizers or other strong chemicals on my property.
- ✓ I have my septic system registered on the county inspection list and maintain it regularly.
- ✓ I know and abide by all boating regulations for my lake.
- ✓ I volunteer to help my local lake association in preventing the spread of invasive species into our local waters.
- ✓ I do not create loud noises near the lake that will disturb my lake neighbors (radios, leaf blowers, etc.)
- ✓ I do not shoot off fireworks on my lake property.
- ✓ The surface area of my docks does not exceed the legal limit allowed.
- ✓ I do not rake or blow yard debris into the water in front of my lake lot (leaves, pine needles, etc.)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Those gelatinous blobs that you see attached to your wooden pier supports and submerged logs are a member of the animal phylum of bryozoans that have been around for 500 million years.

The colony is 99% water consisting of tiny rosettes of 12-18 microscopic zooids that contain tiny feeding tentacles. These tentacles sway in the water to capture microorganisms such as diatoms and other unicellular algae. Large colonies may exceed 2 feet in diameter.



- Flatworms, snails, and water birds, such as ducks and geese, have been found to be part of the **swimmer's itch cycle**. To find out more about the causes and prevention of swimmer's itch, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/swimmersitch/>
- Exposure to blue-green algae can cause symptoms such as stomach cramps, diarrhea, vomiting, headache, fever, muscle weakness, and difficulty breathing. You should contact your doctor or the Poison Information

Hotline (800-222-1222) immediately. If your pet displays symptoms such as seizures, vomiting, or diarrhea after contact with blue-green algae, contact your veterinarian. Blue-green algae blooms are more common to lakes in the southern portion of the state. To learn more, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/bluegreenalgae/>.

- Trout Lake Research Station is having an open house on Friday, August 1st; from 1 to 5 p.m. Visitors can take guided tours of the facility and enjoy boat trips on Trout Lake while using lake research tools. The event is free to people of all ages; refreshments provided.
- Island Lake Woods Home Owners Association (ILWHA) was awarded the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association's Blue Ribbon Award for Shoreline Stewardship at the VCLRA Annual Meeting on June 13, 2014. Sue Drum, VCLRA board member, presented the award to Jane and Dan Russell, and Betsy and Eric Matz.

The Island Lake Woods Home Owners Association Subdivision is 1,023 acres located on Island Lake and established in 1966. The subdivision covenants "preserve the beauty of the natural setting to the maximum extent consistent with the development of homes". All properties have preserved the natural shoreline.

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 or go to <https://www.facebook.com/ManitowishWatersLakesAssociation>

The MWLA Board of Directors appreciates your continued support.

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Alder Lake
715-543-2647

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715-543-2284

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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

**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 Cribs and Habitat

___ Annual Meeting Raffle

___ Miscellaneous