

October, 2012

Farewell to Summer

The flock emerges from the low clouds, a tattered banner of birds, dipping and rising, blown up and down, blown together and blown apart, but advancing, the wind wrestling lovingly with each winnowing wing. When the flock is a blur in the far sky I hear the last honk, sounding taps for summer. ~ A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold~

TOP TEN REASONS FOR BEING A MEMBER OF THE MWLA :

10. Educational, entertaining, and enjoyable Annual Meetings
9. Free 4th of July trout pond and Colorama pontoon tours
8. Sponsor of worthy area organizations and programs
7. Informative MWLA Newsletter and web site
6. Dedicated board of directors
5. Fish Crib Project
4. Town Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership (TAISP) comprised of the Town, MWLA, and Discovery Center)
3. WDNR AIS Education and Prevention grants
2. Opportunities to become a steward for the preservation of our lakes
1. **Passion for the preservation of the lakes and rivers of the Northwoods**

It is vital that we have the support of our membership to enable us to carry out our mission. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join our association.

We invite you to become a volunteer. We always need help with the 4th of July booth and trout pond, our annual meeting, and Colorama booth and pontoon cruises. To add your name to our volunteer list, please call 715-543-8401 or email mwlmailbox@yahoo.com or ked28bean@yahoo.com.

Thank you to those who have already renewed their MWLA membership. Membership runs from June 1 to May 31 of the following year for only \$25 a year. If you haven't already renewed, please go to our web site www.mwlakes.com to download a membership application/renewal form, print it out and mail it in.

Our website also contains minutes of our board meetings, topical lakes-related articles, information on aquatic invasive species, past e-newsletters, and links to other lakes-

related websites. Let us know your concerns by contacting us at mwlamailbox@yahoo.com

REST LAKE DAM

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources released its long-awaited Environmental Analysis (EA) of the Rest Lake Dam on September 14, 2012, detailing four alternatives on how the dam could be operated in the future with differing rates of fall drawdown, spring and summer flow rates, and the potential effects of each alternative. You can access the report at <http://dnr.wi.gov/water/basin/upwis/restlakedam/index.htm> or on our website at www.mwlakes.com by clicking on Rest Lake Dam.

We strongly urge you to take the time to educate yourselves by viewing the EA and addressing your comments to the DNR. Comments should be directed to Jon Simonsen, DNR Environmental Review Coordinator, DNR Service Center, 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhineland, WI 54501, 715/365-8916, or by e-mail at: jonathan.simonsen@wisconsin.gov. The public comment deadline is October 31. Following the comment period, it is expected that the DNR will issue a new order.

An alternative way to voice your comments has been previously offered by the Manitowish Chain Defense Fund (MCFD) through its questionnaire, available by going to the MWLA website, clicking on the Rest Lake Dam tab and clicking the link "Letter to Constituents."

The MWLA board of directors has had numerous meetings with extensive discussion about the EA. We continue to be involved in the process as one of the four entities of the MCDF, and will keep our membership informed with updates. We maintain focus on our mission "to educate the public and maintain, protect and enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and native habitat of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes and other waters in Manitowish Waters Township for the benefit of the members and the general public". Our continued priority is to work with all involved toward a final DNR proposal that will provide consideration for environmental and economic impacts for any change in the operating order of the dam.

The DNR has an email subscription service that will make it easier to learn about updates related to the Rest Lake Dam Project along with updates on other DNR topics that are of interest. Go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/index.asp>

EXCITING NEWS!

The MWLA will be holding its Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 27, 2013 on the beautiful grounds of the **North Lakeland Discovery Center**. The decision for a change in venue was made as an affirmation of our growing partnership with the Discovery Center in our ongoing efforts to prevent and combat aquatic invasive species. More details will be provided in our Spring Newsletter, meanwhile, please mark the date on your calendar.

VOLUNTEERS ESSENTIAL TO THE FIGHT AGAINST AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES by Anne Kretschmann

The Town Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership (TAISP), consisting of The North Lakeland Discovery Center (NLDC), the Town of Manitowish Waters, and the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association (MWLA) undertook efforts in 2012 to prevent the introduction of and minimize the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The NLDC coordinated the AIS Program staffed by Anne Kretschmann, Water Specialist and AIS Coordinator, and Scott Blado, Water Education Intern..

TAISP was awarded several WDNR grants that will protect and enhance our lakes for generations to come. A lake management consultant, Onterra LLC, was hired through these grants to conduct in-depth lake studies and produce lake management plans. This project has multiple phases in future years to cover the entire chain and continues to be highly ranked in its grant application category, speaking to the state's continued commitment for grant funding on this long-term project.

- Lake Management Planning Grant ***“Rest Lake Management Planning Project: Phase 1a”*** (\$38,483) awarded in the August 2011 grant cycle.
- AIS Education, Planning, and Prevention (EPP) Grant ***“Manitowish Chain of Lakes Management Planning Project: Phase 1b”*** (\$66,645) awarded in the February 2012 grant cycle.
- AIS Early Detection and Response Grant ***“Manitowish Chain of Lakes EDR Project”*** (\$26,621) for treatment of curly leaf pondweed awarded in the February 2012 grant cycle.
- AIS EPP Grant ***“Manitowish Chain of Lakes Management Planning Project: Phase 1a”*** (\$44,922) awarded in the August 2012 grant cycle.

All grants received depend on a combination of local volunteer hours and cash to match the state portion of the project. We ***strongly*** encourage all MWLA members to volunteer their time as match as well as this decreases the amount of matching cash-out-of-pocket funding expense. To that end, the ‘Lake Captain and Deckhand’ volunteer lake monitoring program was expanded, with volunteers trained to monitor areas where AIS are most likely found. During 2012, ‘Lake Captains and Deckhands’ conducted over 400 hours of monitoring!

In 2012, Onterra identified additional areas of curly leaf pondweed in Spider Lake and Island Lake. The NLDC and a ‘Lake Captain’ found an additional location in Stone Lake which was hand-pulled in an early response by NLDC staff and volunteers. Early in the spring of 2012, a certified applicator conducted a chemical treatment of the curly leaf pondweed infestations in Island Lake and the Spider- Island Channel which, unfortunately, was unsuccessful. We are pursuing varying adaptive management control options for curly leaf pondweed in the chain. NLDC staff and volunteers also surveyed purple loosestrife on the chain, identifying smaller populations, however no new large infestations were found, and control methods were employed at new and old sites.

We remain thankful for your endless efforts and look forward to working with you in the future! Please contact us with any AIS questions at ais@discoverycenter.net.

FISH CRIB PROJECT by Tom Kramer

New fish cribs were recently placed in Alder and Manitowish Lakes. The GPS coordinates are listed below and can also be found at <http://mwlakes.com/2011-fish-crib-project.html> or go to our website and click the AIS/Fisheries tab and click the drop-down tab for Fish Crib Project. This webpage also contains maps of Spider and Rest Lakes with fish crib locations marked and Google maps of Alder and Manitowish. 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. Look for the miniature fish crib donation containers placed in area businesses.

Fish Cribs: Manitowish Lake

Latitude	Longitude
46 06.443 N	89 49.970 W
46 06.440 N	89 49.990 W
46 06.281 N	89 50.238 W
46.06.246 N	89 50.447 W
46 06.251 N	89 50.457 W
46 06.116 N	89 50.532 W
46 06.112 N	89 50.517 W
46 06.156 N	89 50.419 W
46 06.150 N	89 50.400 W
46 06.755 N	89 50.088 W

Fish Cribs: Alder Lake

Latitude	Longitude
46 05.063 N	89 49.010 W
46 05.072 N	89 49.018 W
46 05.097 N	89 49.146 W
46 05.120 N	89 49.135 W
46 05.221 N	89 49.173 W
46 05.285 N	89 49.173 W
46 05.368 N	89 49.141 W
46 05.460 N	89 49.479 W
46 05.497 N	89 49.537 W
46 05.603 N	89 49.251 W
46 05.600 N	89 49.266 W

LAKE PATROL SUMMER WRAP-UP by Officer Jack Arndt, MW Lake Patrol

As of Labor Day weekend, we have concluded the lake patrol service for this year. Water patrol activities will resume with Memorial Day weekend of 2013. As your lake patrol officer, I am grateful for the co-operation I receive out on the chain, and very grateful we got through this last summer with no serious accidents, injuries, or worse. The safe use of this wonderful resource has to be our highest priority while we continue to work on compliance levels concerning nuisance and environmental issues.

The last 2-3 summers I have devoted more time to patrolling the slow-no-wake (SNW) zones and rivers. I am hopeful that this "higher profile" in SNW areas has helped with concerns over boats creating too much wake, going too fast, or other negative behaviors. During the busiest times, however, I am more likely to be patrolling the open lakes. In my experience, it is out on open and deeper water where the accidents can occur, such as injuries, or even a fatality such as happened last year on Rest Lake. Regardless, I recognize the validity of the SNW related concerns and agree that adequate attention must be given to improving the situation.

Briefly, to answer a few questions brought to my attention for this article:

1) Can tubers be towed through SNW areas? Yes, per state law, this can be done unless a local ordinance prohibiting this practice is adopted by the Town; of course, even this towing must be done at SNW speeds.

2) Do children have to wear personal floatation devices (PFD's)? The answer is "no". Under current WI state law no one, actually, is required to wear a PFD. There must be a PFD on board for everyone on the boat, and the PFD's must be in good shape and the size appropriate for the potential wearer... and PFD's must be readily accessible.

Wisconsin is, I think, the only state that does not require children 12 yrs. and under to wear a PFD while on the water. I expect this to change within a few more years and WI will have such a requirement... that's not to say that parents, boat owners, and others cannot set their own requirements for children (or others) on their own boats!!

3) Can people sit on the front decks of pontoon boats while underway? The answer is "no", even in SNW zones. It is only allowable when approaching a dock, getting ready to lower an anchor, or the like. I do issue warnings and write citations for this violation anytime that I see it. This summer, SNW violations were the most common "ticket" issued, followed by skiing after hours, illegal riders on decks or gunwales, insufficient PFD's onboard, miscellaneous registration matters and navigation lights not being turned on after sunset.

Thanks again for a wonderful summer on the beautiful Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes. We all enjoy our time on these waters and sometimes it seems that it can't get any better than this!

DID YOU KNOW?

- To find answers to your questions about piers: "The WDNR Pier Planner reflects current Chapter 30 Wisconsin Statutes and ch.NR326, Wisconsin Administrative Code, (the state's rules that implement the statute), and is intended to assist waterfront property owners to design and place a **new** pier that does not require a DNR permit. **All existing** piers and wharves initially placed in the water by April, 2012 do not need authorization from the DNR." You can access the WDNR Pier Planner at http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/factsheets/pier_planner_082012.pdf
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gave final approval for Wisconsin's Phosphorus Rules which were adopted in December of 2010. Wisconsin will now move forward with implementation of innovative new standards. Read more about it at <http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/index.php/latest-policy-updates/100-phosphorus-standards-kept-alive-by-citizens-given-epa-approval>
- You can download The Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities approved by the WDNR by going to <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf>

- “University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers are conducting a whole-lake mixing experiment on Crystal Lake (Vilas County, WI) to eradicate an invasive fish from the lake. Rainbow smelt invaded Crystal Lake in the early 1980s, and a sharp decline in native yellow perch populations followed shortly thereafter. To specifically target this invasive for removal from the lake, researchers are taking advantage of the smelt's need for cold water habitat in a lake with no other cold water fishes. The Crystal Lake Mixing scientists will experimentally mix the lake to remove this cold water habitat, stressing the rainbow smelt beyond the limits of survival.” To find out more go to <http://crystallakemixing.com/about.html>
- The Wisconsin Shoreland Restoration Initiative is leading an effort to restore the the State Executive Residence shoreland with native plants on the shore of lake Mendota in Madison. “The project is part of a statewide initiative to show how shorelands planted in native vegetation can improve water quality and wildlife habitat. A group of citizens, made up of graduates of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership’s Lake Leaders Institute, is leading the effort.” To find out more go to <http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/index.php/home/29-current/96-wisconsin-shoreland-restoration-initiative>
- “On September 4, 2012, Wisconsin Lakes announced a major effort to move Wisconsin forward in its battle with aquatic invasive species (AIS). The statewide lakes group has released its Proposal to Control Aquatic Invasive Species in Inland Waters to be implemented in the 2013-2015 Wisconsin State Budget. This comprehensive package seeks, without asking for new tax revenue, to prevent new invasive species from establishing themselves in Wisconsin, to contain those species that are already present and keep them from spreading, and to reduce the impact of established species on the infected water bodies.” To learn more go to www.wisconsinlakes.org

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