



## SPRING INTO SUMMER!

May, 2015

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



### **A SIMPLE, BUT HEARTFELT MESSAGE OF THANKS**

**YOU** are the MWLA! Thank you for renewing your membership every year and to those members who go a step further to volunteer for our many activities such as helping with the trout pond and MWLA booth on July 4<sup>th</sup>; monitoring their lake for aquatic invasive species; assisting with newsletter mailings; attending AIS workshops; helping at our Annual Meeting in July and the Cran-a-rama pontoon tours in October. We are also grateful to those members who are unable to give of their time, but who donate money to AIS education and prevention, the Fish Habitat Project, and our Annual Meeting Raffle.

Our mission is to "Maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes and other Township waters". Let's continue to work together to fulfill this mission and to instill in our children a sense of love and responsibility to protect the waters of the MW Chain and carry on our efforts. It is by our example that we impact what our children will do to safeguard their future and the future health of our lakes and rivers. The most successful method to recruit new members and volunteers is to speak to them personally face-to-face. Tell your children, friends and neighbors about the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association and encourage them to become involved in our mission.

We are appreciative of all the past support that you have given. **Please renew your membership by filling out and sending in the enclosed renewal membership form. 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.

### **LET'S GET TOGETHER FOR SOME FUN!**

The MWLA Annual Meeting and Picnic will be held at the **North Lakeland Discovery Center on Saturday, July 25, 2015.** 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 The Blue Bayou Inn). We will again have a raffle of incredible offerings (including a Kindle Fire HDX valued at \$199). 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 with a presentation by North Lakeland 7<sup>th</sup>-grade Science students reporting on their Outdoor Education Field Trips sponsored by the MWLA. Anne Kretschmann, Water Specialist/AIS Coordinator at the North Lakeland Discovery Center, will give a 10-minute update on the current status of the WDNR grants and the 2015 plan and procedures for control of CLP (curly leaf pondweed). There will also be an opportunity for attendees to meet with people on their water body to share and discuss concerns specific to their lake/river.

### **TWO NEW WDNR LAKE GRANTS AWARDED - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** by Anne Kretschmann

We were awarded an Established Population Control grant and a Clean Boats Clean Waters grant in 2015, bringing the total number of WDNR grants awarded to the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes to **TWELVE** since 2011! The Town Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership (TAISP) consistently ranks among 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. 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.

Unfortunately, we did not receive the 2015 Lake Management Planning grant for Alder and Wild Rice Lakes, so lake management planning activities conducted by Onterra LLC, professional lake management consultants, will be postponed until 2016. Due to the fact that we did not receive the requested grant, we are recruiting volunteers to come out with Discovery Center staff to conduct Early Season Aquatic Invasive Species surveys for curly leaf pondweed the **weeks of June 15 and 22**. In prior years, these surveys were conducted by Onterra, however, these costs were included in the grant that we did not receive. These early season surveys are a very important part of identifying locations of curly leaf pondweed within the Chain so that mapping of infestations and control methods can be deployed.

We 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!

The North Lakeland Discovery Center will host numerous trainings throughout the summer on what to look for (June 16, July 14, and August 11, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm AND Saturday August 1, from 10:00am to 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](mailto:ais@discoverycenter.net) or 715-543-2085.

### **CURLY LEAF PONDWEED UPDATE**



In spring 2015, Clean Lakes treated curly leaf pondweed in the Spider-Island Channel using LittLine® Littoral Zone Treatment Technology. Onterra's pre-treatment survey done this May in the Rest-Stone Channel resulted in only a few scattered plants being found, so we adapted our management of this area and did not chemically treat it in 2015, opting to hand-harvest this area instead. In mid-June we will deploy a team of professional divers to hand-harvest curly leaf pondweed in the Rest-Stone Channel and other areas of the Chain of Lakes. We are also putting together a volunteer hand-harvesting team to supplement the professional efforts.

It's never too early to start monitoring for aquatic invasive species! Invasive curly leaf pondweed is already around 4 feet tall! Our **'Lake Captain and Deckhand'** program has become recognized by the state for being an extremely important component in the fight against AIS with over 500 hours logged each summer by volunteers around the Chain! We are expanding this program which trains volunteers to monitor shorelines and areas where AIS are most likely found. We emphasize the identification of curly leaf pondweed that 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 hope you will help us in this endeavor as our success depends on you. We remain thankful for your endless efforts and look forward to working with many more faces in the future!

Please be sure to clear your motors before you travel to another lake on the Chain to help slow the spread of AIS!

## **LAKE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

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 Fawn, Clear, Wild Rice, Alder Lakes, and the Trout River**. This committee will meet a few times with the lake management consultant to both hear findings from the consultant's full-lake studies and also to provide input to the consultant from homeowners around the lakes. The first meeting will be held the afternoon of June 15 (contact Anne Kretschmann at [anne@discoveycenter.net](mailto:anne@discoveycenter.net) or 715-543-2085 for additional details or to become involved.)

An effective management plan considers both the technical and sociological aspects of the lakes. This summer, a stakeholder survey will be conducted chain-wide soliciting homeowners and MWLA members' perceptions, beliefs, and needs of those who utilize and care for the lakes. This is every person's opportunity to be heard. The survey will be anonymous and have an option to be filled out either online or by hand/paper. Please keep your eyes open for it as we need your input on your lakes!

## **NEW STUDY**

The backbone of Vilas County's economy is the beauty of the Northwoods, and at the heart of that is clean water. **More than three-quarters of Vilas County's taxable property value is waterfront property - a major contribution to the tax base.** "Studies have shown that water quality in the lakes determines property value. They are very closely intertwined, which makes sense. Nobody wants to buy property on a lake that they can't swim in or fish out of." quoting Quita Sheehan of the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department. Sheehan is one of the authors of a new study by the department and UW-Extension - to put a dollar sign on the economic impact of clean water. Sixty-one percent of homes in Vilas County are seasonal, and a UW-Whitewater study found that people spend \$74 a day when they occupy those seasonal homes. "That includes things like going out to eat and buying groceries, house maintenance and plowing driveways, etc. So if you estimate that if everyone were here in their seasonal home on the same day, all spending \$74 that day, they would spend over a million dollars." says Sheehan. To read the entire article, go to <http://wxpr.org/post/new-study-determines-economic-value-clean-water>

## **WELCOME TO THE 2015 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!



### **Jason Tutkowski**

I will graduate from Carroll University in Waukesha, WI in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science. This fall I plan on continuing my education at the Graduate School of Freshwater Science & Technology at UW Milwaukee. I am looking forward to being an intern at the North Lakeland Discovery Center because it will provide me an opportunity to help visitors as well as myself explore, learn, protect, and develop meaningful connections with Wisconsin's Northwoods. I am extremely excited for this summer experience and being able to work with all the great people who strive to make this beautiful landscape accessible to visitors for years to come.

### **Maggie Armstrong**

As a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, I have spent the past four years learning about water resources. I am elated to say that I will be continuing my studies on this important resource this upcoming fall at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Freshwater Science. While the classroom is a core portion of my education, the time I spend around lakes and streams continually enriches both my learning experience and my resolve to preserve freshwater in the Midwest. Therefore, being in the serene Northwoods with all of its water systems is the best way I could spend my summer. I am eagerly waiting to assist the Discovery Center's goal to promote knowledge about our magnificent natural resources!







### **Brad Freiherr**

I am currently a senior at UW-River Falls where I am majoring in Conservation. I am from New Holstein, WI where I grew up with a love of the outdoors and fishing. In the past, I have done a variety of jobs such as landscaping and working in a blue cheese factory. I also worked on a salmon fishing charter last summer on Lake Michigan where I enjoyed spending time on the water helping others catch fish. I am looking forward to working at the NLDC because it will give me the opportunity to combine my educational experiences with my passion for nature in a manner I have not had the chance to do before. I am also excited to having the chance to work with a group of people that enjoy the great outdoors and helping people as much as I do.

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

Winter has passed and now everyone is preparing for the upcoming summer. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the boat owners, when getting their boats ready, to be sure and check their boat lights. Last year's law enforcement contacts on the 4<sup>th</sup> of the July found missing or nonworking lights. For safety of boaters operating on the Chain after dark, proper boat lights are required. Another reminder is that docking lights on boats are not permitted to be used like head lights while under way, as they severely handicap oncoming boats ability to navigate safely.

New to the Chain this year is the addition of a second Water Safety Patrol officer. His name is Luke Kozisek. He grew up in the Minocqua area and found out in High school, while participating in a ride-along program with the Minocqua Police Department, that he enjoyed law enforcement. Luke went on to get his law enforcement certification and is now looking forward to spending time on the Manitowish Chain getting to know the boaters.



With Luke's help the boaters on the Manitowish Chain will have access to boat patrol more days and hours each week, improving safety and consistency. I encourage you to meet him when you see him and make him welcome as all of you have done for me. Like you, I am looking forward to an enjoyable summer. See you on the water.

### **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 13<sup>th</sup>, nineteen North Lakeland School 7<sup>th</sup> graders, from Mr. Neil Wallace's Social Studies and Mr. Leif William's Science class, 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 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), NLES teachers and chaperons Neil Wallace, Christine Wallace, Anne Nesgaard, and D'Arcy Theiler.

### **FISH HABITAT PROJECT**

MWLA board member, Tom Kramer, reports that 16 fish cribs have been built and are being readied for placement in Island Lake. The cribs are being stuffed with brush before they are installed. There was a wait for some land owners to

send back letters for permission to place them in the water out from their property. Tom plans to have them in the water by the end of May. Many of the volunteers helping with this project were members of Walleyes for Tomorrow.

GPS coordinates for existing cribs are currently posted on our website at [www.mwllakes.com](http://www.mwllakes.com). Click the AIS/Fisheries tab and click the drop-down tab for Fish Crib Project. 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, or look for the miniature fish crib donation containers placed in area businesses.



John Schulta and Tom Kramer are shown stuffing brush into the cribs.

### **MANITOWISH CHAIN DEFENSE FUND - REST LAKE DAM**

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 public will be informed of the details as soon as an MOU is agreed upon and signed.

The MCDF website is [www.manitowishchaindefense.org](http://www.manitowishchaindefense.org)

### **2015 WISCONSIN LAKES PARTNERSHIP CONVENTION**

This year's convention was held in Stevens Point, April 22-25. MWLA board president, Karen Dixon, attended along with over 500 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 March 31 – April 1, 2016. This year's Convention programs have been archived at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/convention/2015/default.aspx>

### **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.
- 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 Community Center
- Cathy Higley was recently hired as the Vilas County Invasive Species Coordinator effective May 26, 2015, replacing Ted Ritter who retired this winter. Her contact information is [cahigl@co.vilas.wi.us](mailto:cahigl@co.vilas.wi.us) or 715-479-3738.
- Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) has recently unveiled the Shoreland Stewardship Initiative – a new program that 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. The VCLRA is hosting Celebrating Lakes & Rivers Day on Friday, June 12 at the Conserve School in Land O'Lakes. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. with workshops running from 9:00 to 12:00

- Lynn Markham from the Center for Land Use Education at UW Stevens Point, reports that “Virtually any form of shoreland development leads to more impervious surfaces, which are hard, manmade surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, parking areas and patios. More impervious surfaces and more runoff lead to fewer fish because: More runoff reduces water soaking into the ground, which leads to warmer water temperatures during dry periods and lower stream flows; more runoff from hot pavement and shingles makes water hotter, which can kill species like northern pike and trout; more runoff results in more nutrients washing into the water; more nutrients results in less oxygen in the water, which fish need to survive.”
- There is a great new publication titled [A Second Life for Trees in Lakes: As Useful in Water as They Were on Land](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/clue/Pages/publications-resources/water.aspx). It is available on-line at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/clue/Pages/publications-resources/water.aspx>. It's the first publication listed under the subhead 'Owning Waterfront Property' (PDF).
- Partners in Forestry Landowner Cooperative is a Wisconsin organization whose mission is “To assist members in the sustainable management of their woodlands”. Check out their website at <http://www.partnersinforesy.com/> and take a look at their May Newsletter at <http://www.partnersinforesy.com/Documents/News%20Letters/05-2015%20PIF%20Newsletter.pdf>

**Check out our website at [www.mwlakes.com](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/ManitowishWatersLakesAssociation)

**The MWLA Board of Directors appreciates your continued support.**

<b>Karen Dixon</b> <b>President</b> Manitowish River 715-543-8141	<b>Tom Joseph</b> <b>Vice President</b> Rest Lake 715-543-8362	<b>Eleanor Butler</b> <b>Treasurer</b> Alder Lake 715-543-8401	<b>Marilyn Gabert</b> <b>Secretary</b> Manitowish Lake 715-543-8224
<b>Bob Becker</b> Spider Lake 715-543-2219	<b>Jim Cagney</b> Island Lake 307-421-6490	<b>Greg Holt</b> Benson Lake 715-543-8168	<b>Barry Hopkins</b> Rest Lake 715-904-0480
<b>Tom Kramer</b> Hwy. 51 715-543-8000	<b>Jo Ann Miller</b> Sturgeon Lake 715-543-2389	<b>Jim Reichert</b> Alder Lake 715-543-2647	<b>Bob Stowers</b> Manitowish Lake 715-543-2284

**See MWLA Membership Application/Renewal Form Below**



## **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    \_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Project

\_\_\_ Annual Meeting Raffle

\_\_\_ Miscellaneous