



## Lakes Association

July 2017

### CELEBRATING SUMMER!

*Memories made at the lake last a lifetime!*



### **YOUR SUPPORT AND VOLUNTEERISM IS GREATLY APPRECIATED**

Your generous donations and offers to volunteer for the variety of activities listed on the renewal form have been overwhelming. Thank you to all who have renewed their membership for this year. For those who have not yet renewed, we have enclosed a renewal form. 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! Share this newsletter with others! 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 ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC – JOIN US FOR THE FUN!**

Our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Picnic will be held at the North Lakeland Discovery Center **on Saturday, July 29 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.** Please mark the date on your calendar. Sign-in starts at 3:30 p.m. with the business meeting beginning promptly at 4:00.

The short business meeting to elect Officers and Directors will be followed by Emily Heald, Water Program Coordinator at the North Lakeland Discovery Center, who 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 2017 plan and procedures for the control of curly leaf pondweed. Quita Sheehan, Lake Conservation Specialist, Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department, will give a presentation on how the water quality in our lakes and rivers affects property values. Quita gave a presentation on shoreland preservation and restoration at last year’s annual meeting,

The picnic will be catered by the Blue Bayou Inn Restaurant. The menu will include brats, burgers, pasta salad, baked beans, and dessert. Beer, wine, lemonade, and water will be provided. The picnic is free to you and your immediate family with your membership in the MWLA. A donation is appreciated if you bring guests or extended family. If preferred, they can take out a membership for only \$25.

We have assembled an incredible array of unique raffle items. **Make sure you remember to bring your address labels to put on your raffle tickets!** MWLA merchandise of hats, t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, and James A. Brakken's new book [Saving Our Lakes and Streams](#) will be available for purchase

### **CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED UPDATE**

articles by Emily Heald, poem by John Tesensky

The North Lakeland Discovery Center and Onterra (consulting company) have completed early season AIS surveys on the Chain. Patches of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) were found on the north end of Rest Lake near Papoose Creek, the north end of Stone, south end of Fawn, the Spider-Island channel, and the far south-east end of Island Lake. CLP also continues to grow prolifically in Rice Creek. Patches in Rest and the Spider-Island Channel were hand pulled by professional divers, and the patches in Fawn were hand pulled by the Discovery Center's very hard-working interns. ***Boaters are strongly encouraged to move slowly through these areas and to check props frequently.***

### **CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED: THE BANE OF THE CHAIN**



Curly-leaf pondweed, you're no dandy nor dither!  
Oh, how I wish you would curl up and wither!  
Your presence in our lakes is no jolly sign,  
And for your invasive action, we have not the time!  
A bare, single stalk, or a small little bud  
Is all that is needed down in the lake's mud  
For once in the soil, there's no telling when  
We'll see your stalks growing and rising again!  
You grow in the winter when ice is thick on the lake  
And by springtime and thawing, you've made no mistake!  
Come mid-summer, you're singing your tune  
Your lasagna-like leaves reaching the surface by June.  
All over in bunches, your green, ragged leaves spread,  
Like a wildfire burning, you leave all others dead!  
For you linger and sway like a big, dark, green curtain,  
No light can pass through you - and this is for certain!  
Invasive you are, and most definitely unwelcome,  
Removing you all is tricky and rare; seldom.  
If only a boater had paid more attention,  
We wouldn't be here but rather talking "prevention!"  
So, reader, ask yourself, do you love your own lake?  
Consider the ecological imbalance, consider the stakes!  
To prevent curly-leaf pondweed is really quite swell,  
Just pull all weeds from your boat and empty your wells!  
That way you'll ensure that your lake stays sweet,  
And free from all the nasty curly-leaf pondweed!

## **AIS MONITORING: YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT TO GET INVOLVED!**

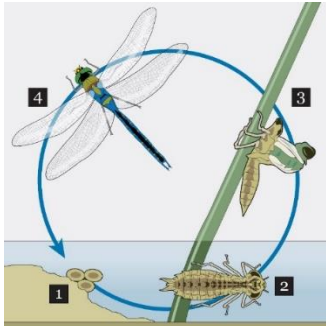
Summer is a great time to get involved in invasive species monitoring on your lake. Visiting family and friends are extra eyes on the water! You do not need to worry about being an expert on plants and animals in order to get involved – you just need to know some of the invasives and learn what to look for. Trainings for AIS identification are available from 1-3pm for the following dates: Monday July 17, Saturday August 5, Monday August 14. Meet at Koller Park in Manitowish Waters. Please register with Emily Heald at the Discovery Center. If you are interested in a private training for your friends and family, just let Emily know.

Important: Please report all time spent monitoring to Emily Heald at the Discovery Center. Volunteering is easy and can include time spent observing the shoreline on a pontoon cruise, or checking out plants as you are fishing! Volunteer time is used as matching funds for the many management-planning grants for the Chain. Please call or email if you need volunteer time sheets. Emily Heald, Water Program Coordinator for the North Lakeland Discovery Center: [water@discoveycenter.net](mailto:water@discoveycenter.net) or 715-543-2085



## **CRITTER CORNER: DRAGONFLIES**

Ever wonder how all those bright-colored dragonflies appear so suddenly in the summer? Dragonflies have a fascinating life cycle:



Picture source – Chicago Tribune

1. In late July-August, female dragonflies lay eggs, inserting them onto plants or sand in or near the water.
2. After about 10 days, eggs hatch into larva. The larva live underwater for about a year (over 90% of their lives!), where they feed on other aquatic insects.
3. Larva emerge onto dry land around June or July, where they shed their outer skin, take time to dry their wings, then fly off to eat and reproduce.

An interesting history: Dragonflies have been zooming around lakes as natural mosquito repellent for over 300 million years! Fossil records indicate giant dragonfly relatives had wingspans of almost 3 feet! Smaller dragonflies that we are familiar with today evolved by the time of dinosaurs, about 180 million years ago.

## **BE ON THE LOOK OUT: YELLOW FLAG IRIS**

*Overview:* Yellow iris is a wetland plant that spreads vegetatively via rhizomes, and also produces many seeds that can float. Once established it forms dense mats that alter wildlife habitat and diversity. This plant is **poisonous**.

*Identification:* When flowering, yellow iris is easy to identify. Flowers are bright yellow (see image). If you see an iris-like flower that is yellow, it's yellow iris! There is a native iris that is blue/purple.

*Removal and Control:* If you have this on your property, or know others with it in their yards/shorelines **please encourage removal**. Dig up smaller patches – be sure to remove **all** of the rhizome. Clean all tools and machinery used during removal. At the very least, cut all leaves and stems below the water line. **Wear gloves and long sleeves, resin can cause skin irritation**. Dispose all plant matter in a tied bag into the garbage. Do not burn!



## WATER SAFETY PATROL NEWS

Boating season is here and fishermen have been on the water, but with all the rain this spring and early summer, recreational boating has been down. The number one complaint on the MW Chain continues to be exceeding Slow-No-Wake in marked areas. While I am aware some people let time get away on them and feel that if they do not push the SNW limits they will be late for something, using this excuse may create a safety issue and does not limit the damage to shoreline or to boats tied to docks. Last summer Water Safety Patrol encountered people saying, "storm is approaching and exceeding SNW is permitted." This is **not** correct and if you get caught in bad weather, I am sure that shoreland owners would be more than happy to let you come in out of the weather. Exceeding SNW does not make you any safer, creates shoreline damage, and safety issues.

A few other things that the State wants the Water Safety Patrols to address again this year are:

- NR5.17(2) No vessel may be equipped with or display a blue colored light or lamp unless the vessel is a patrol boat defined in s.30.50(9b) WI Stats.
- Use of docking lights while under way. These create confusion for other boaters and are only authorized for docking activities.
- Strobe lights are authorized for patrol boats and emergency responses boats only.

With the new "GoWild.WI.gov" system up and running boat registration renewals are out. If you have not received your new stickers please carry a copy of your renewal application with you until you receive your renewed registration.

Ben Grenzer, will be back again this year as well as a new officer Zachary Paulson. Zak is from Belgium, Wisconsin. He is 25 yrs. old and a graduate of Lakeshore Technical College 2014.



Ben Grenzer



Zak Paulson

Everyone is encouraged to read the Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities to familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations. It is available at the MW Chamber of Commerce office located in the Community Center and can also be accessed online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf>

## LAKES PLANNING MEETING

Thirteen people attended the Lakes Planning meeting held on July 7 at the Discovery Center. Tim Hoyman from Onterra reported on the Lake Study Results of Phase IV Manitowish Lake and Little Star Lake. Conclusions from the study of these two lakes revealed that our watershed is in great condition, overall water quality is better than expected, and the aquatic plant community is of high quality. Tim stressed the importance of continued monitoring of known curly-leaf pondweed populations and volunteer/professional hand harvesting.

No CLP was found in either Manitowish or Little Star lakes, nor was any found in Vance, Sturgeon and Benson Lakes below the dam during the monitoring done this spring. The Lake Management report and plan will be available soon on the MWLA and Town websites.

## **THE LAKESHORE RESTORATION MOVEMENT**

from UW-Extension Lakes

For many of us, lakeshores represent the sweep of one's heart, a place filled with memories of growing up, catching fish, watching frogs, and whiling away the sweet summer days. However, during the past few decades especially, the over-domestication of our lakeshores has altered their character in damaging ways. But do not despair, change is afoot!

People around Wisconsin and beyond have been rethinking what is best for the lakes and for their families. They are taking on the task of restoring their lakeshores to a more natural look. Lake residents and organizations, natural resource agencies from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to local land conservation districts to tribal partners, energy companies, and businesses such as resorts and restaurants, all have embraced the idea of restoring lakeshore habitat. A lot of great things can come from this effort.

Reestablished native trees, shrubs, grasses, wildflowers, and other plants improve wildlife habitat so there is more for our families to enjoy. These natural areas along lakeshores enhance water quality, helping our lakes become healthier and more satisfying for everyone. Often lakeshore restoration projects form teams, including local contractors, nurseries, consultants, and others specializing in habitat restoration and erosion control work. Miles of lakeshores have been returned to a more naturalized character, with the full complement of healthier soil, fallen leaves and other organic material building in the ground layer. Projects grow towards well established, diverse herbaceous layers. Over time, a rich ground layer of ferns, grasses, sedges, rushes, and wildflowers grows in underneath a unique shrub layer and understory tree layer of smaller samplings. Above, a fuller canopy layer also grows. Together, this suite of native vegetation adds to the lakes ecosystem, improving the structural beauty, functionality, and habitat value of the shoreline.

Lakeshore property owners who participate in habitat restoration by installing assorted best practices on their land are giving back to their lake and helping to address the number one stressor to lakes - the loss

## **WISCONSIN SHORELINE INITIATIVE**

John Richter of the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative (WSI) encourages you to read an article by John Gurda of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel titled "Yet one more attack on Wisconsin's environmental ethic".

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/opinion/columnists/john-gurda/2017/06/30/gurda-yet-one-more-attack-wisconsin-environmental-ethic/430084001/>

For more information about WSI, visit the website at [www.wisconsinshoreland.org](http://www.wisconsinshoreland.org)

## **WISCONSIN'S WATERS BELONG TO EVERYONE**

Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association

Who owns Wisconsin's lakes and streams? No one person or company can own any of our state's surface waters. They are public resources, owned by all of us. Together we own the waters of Lake Michigan, the Wisconsin River, Lake Winnebago, Trout Lake, the Turtle Flambeau and Chippewa flowages, the Wolf River, and all of our state's more than 15,000 lakes and 84,000 miles of rivers and streams. These waters are held in trust by the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Public Trust Doctrine is affirmed by the state Supreme Court. It gives us the right to swim, boat, fish, hunt, skate and generally enjoy these waters and their scenery. Over many years, the doctrine has been upheld, defined and expanded by court cases and state laws. It is part of Wisconsin's culture.

Private parties can and do own the land along lakes and streams. Landowners have the right to use those shorelines and have access to the water. However, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has ruled that when conflicts occur between private and public rights, the public's rights take priority.

If we accept the Public Trust Doctrine, then we all have a duty to help protect the waters for the good of everyone. In fact, it is the Public Trust Doctrine that empowers the DNR to protect our right to the waters through permitting rules and through laws that allow local zoning ordinances to limit development along waterways. The Public Trust Doctrine, like our

waters themselves, is a treasure worth protecting. To learn more about Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine go to <http://www.savethewatersedge.com/wisconsins-public-trust.html>

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- **Swimmer's itch cycle** is caused by flatworms, snails, and water birds, such as ducks and geese. It occurs in some Wisconsin Lakes each year and is caused by the larvae (immature stage) of certain flatworms that can be picked up while swimming. Swimmer's itch appears as red, itching, bite-like welts within several hours of leaving the water. It is neither dangerous nor contagious, but is very uncomfortable. To find out more about the causes and prevention of swimmer's itch, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/swimmersitch/>
- **From the Town of Manitowish Waters:** State Statute 167(3)(a) says that "No person may possess or use fireworks without a user's permit from the town chairperson". If an organization, individual or group of individuals does not get a permit, they are in violation of state law. In addition, the Town of Manitowish Waters' ordinance 263-5 classifies "fireworks as a nuisance affecting public peace and safety". These statutes give the Town the authority to issue citations if a violation occurs. The noise from illegal fireworks occurring after sunset and before and after July 4<sup>th</sup> disturbs the majority of residents, their pets, and the area wildlife. Please be considerate of the safety and well-being of yourself and your neighbors by observing the law.
- **Rest Lake Facts:** Draw down complete 10-19-16; ice on 12-11-16; ice off 4-10-17.
- **Water Patrol Data for May and June 2017:**

	<b>Patrol hours</b>	<b>Boats</b>	<b>Verbal Warning</b>	<b>Written Warning</b>	<b>Citation</b>
<b>May</b>	24	365	21	6	0
<b>June</b>	228	1102	79	30	1

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 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 <https://www.facebook.com/ManitowishWatersLakesAssociation>

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

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