



September, 2014

AMAZING AUTUMN!

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."
~ Albert Camus ~

IN THIS ISSUE

Appreciation
Accomplishments
TAISP
Water Safety Patrol News
2014 Annual Meeting
2015 Annual Meeting
Rest Lake Dam
Fish Crib Project
Loon Nesting Platform Project
Shoreland Stewardship Covenant
Music in the Park
Did You Know?



THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

The MWLA had its best year ever thanks to the generous support from our membership. The success of our organization rests on the shoulders of all of you who are willing to give of your time and/or money to help us accomplish our goals. We are extremely grateful to those who volunteered to help with AIS monitoring, July 4th activities (MWLA booth and Trout Pond), the MWLA Annual Meeting/Picnic, the Purple Loosestrife Beetle Project, Cran-a-rama (MWLA booth and Pontoon Cruises), Clean Boats Clean Waters Boat Inspections, grant administration, water quality monitoring, etc. There are too many names to mention here, but you know who you are! Give yourself a pat on the back for a job well-done; your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Take pride in all of our accomplishments this year:

- TAISP (Town Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership) has been awarded a total of **ten** WDNR grants since 2011, with three more being applied for next year.
- Successful treatment of curly leaf pondweed (CLP) in several areas of Fawn Lake, Island Lake and the Island-Spider Channel.

- Participation of volunteers in the Captain and Deckhand Training and Monitoring Program.
- Accumulated required grant hours for Clean Boats Clean Waters Program.
- Logged over 400 in-kind match of volunteer hours for the grants.
- Dug up, potted, and netted 60 purple loosestrife (PL) plants, with help of NLS students, to raise beetles to control PL infestations. Collected and placed beetles into netting; dispersed beetles in areas infested with PL.
- Sponsored North Lakeland School Outdoor Education Program and AIS programming at Camp Jorn.
- Provided free trout pond fishing experience for children on July 4th.
- Offers free pontoon tours of the Chain during Cran-a-rama.
- Responsible for at least three road side cleanup activities on County Hwy K.
- Provided informational and merchandise booth on July 4th, Cran-a-rama, and Annual Meeting and Picnic.
- Wrote letters to legislators on issues affecting our Chain and other State waters.
- Provided MWLA representatives at Town Board and Plan Commission meetings and at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention in April 2014.
- Held Annual Meeting and Picnic that included lake management planning/AIS update presentation plus presentations from NLS staff and students.
- Sent out email alerts and newsletters to keep membership informed of timely issues.
- Donated to Skiing Skeeters with agreement that they do public service announcements regarding water safety and AIS.
- Sponsored a Clean Boats Clean Waters workshop at the Discovery Center

Everyone living on the MW Chain and surrounding area shares the responsibility of protecting it, so please tell your friends and neighbors of our accomplishments and encourage them to become MWLA members. Your ongoing support and involvement is essential if we are to continue to be a meaningful and thriving organization. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our efforts to “maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes and other Township waters.”

For those who have not yet renewed their membership, we encourage you to visit our website at www.mwlakes.com to download a renewal application form and mail it in. Annual dues are **only \$25.00** and run from June 1 to May 31 of the following year.

TAISP UPDATE Anne Kretchmann, Water Specialist and AIS Coordinator at NLDC

Fawn and Clear Lakes - the ecological results are in, now the planning begins!

Are you interested in learning about the results of the ecological studies on Fawn and Clear Lakes, and in becoming a part of the discussions on how to protect and enhance the health of these two lakes? We are looking for folks to participate in the lake management planning process that will begin this fall with a presentation by lake ecologists from the lake management planning consulting company, Onterra, who are conducting studies Chain-wide. Contact Anne at anne@discoverycenter.net or 715-543-2085 if you are interested in learning more about these lakes and having input into their lake management.

A huge THANK YOU to all who were on the watch for invasives!

We would like to thank the numerous volunteers who are out on (or in) the water keeping your eyes open for aquatic invasive species on the Chain on a regular basis. We are constantly amazed by your perseverance and devotion to protecting our lakes. Our yearly goal is 400 hours of volunteer monitoring and thus far we have reached this goal every year.

Please don't forget to report all the time that you spent keeping your eyes open while walking your shoreline, fishing, riding in a pontoon or on a canoe. To report hours, please contact Anne (email anne@discoverycenter.net; mail PO Box 237, MW; or via phone 715-543-2085) with the dates, times, persons names, and type of activity. **We accept hours year-**

round, so it is not too late to hand in your hours from this summer. Remember, that all the hours you report decreases the amount of Town funding that we need for the grants that we receive from the WDNR.

Keep an eye on your mailboxes!

We are conducting a Chain-wide stakeholder survey to gather information on your perceptions, beliefs, and needs of each of you who utilize and care for the lakes. The results of this survey will be integrated with the technical aspects of the lakes' ecological studies to provide a guide to lake management activities that will preserve the lakes' natural characteristics while assuring that lake stakeholders can experience the reasonable recreational opportunities they desire. This is your chance for your thoughts to be heard, anonymously. We hope that each of you will take a few minutes to fill out the survey as it will help us protect our lakes for future generations. We will be mailing a postcard with further instructions. Please direct any questions to Anne Kretschmann, anne@discoverycenter.net.

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

Overall, the summer went very well. The only reported boating accident was in Little Star Lake between a pontoon boat and a ski boat pulling a tube. There were no fatalities, but there were serious injuries to the passengers on the tube. The accident report identified tow rope failure as the probable cause.

Slow- no- wake violations still lead the number of complaints. During the 4th of July holiday, a number of boaters were given a warning that boat lights are necessary after dusk. Boaters were warned **not** to use docking lights in place of required front boat lights. Most boaters appeared to be aware of the proper type and number of life preservers, including those using paddle boards.

A new, now corrected, event this summer was riparian land owners placing their own "Swim Area Buoys" on their water fronts. Private land owners **may not** place their own Regulatory buoys. Talking to the land owners indicated that they felt that the boats were coming too close to their docks and swim areas. Boaters are reminded that the law requires boats traveling at greater than slow- no- wake speed must stay a minimum of 100 feet from shoreline, docks and swimmers. Personal water crafts must stay a minimum of 200 feet.

You can access the [Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities](http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf) at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf> or you can pick up a free copy at the Manitowish Waters Chamber Office located on Highway 51. There is a DNR Tip Line to report violations: 1-800-847-9367 or #367 from your cell phone. Toll-free – Statewide – 24-Hour – Confidential (This is NOT an information number.) To report a violation not in progress, send an e-mail to: le.hotline@dnr.state.wi.us

2014 ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC

The Manitowish Waters Lakes Association held its 22nd Annual Meeting/Picnic on Saturday, July 26. It was a perfect summer day with about 120 members turning out for a WDNR Grant update presentation by Anne Kretschmann, Water Specialist and AIS Coordinator at the North Lakeland Discovery Center.

Leif Williams, North Lakeland Elementary School staff member, introduced students Hannah and Olivia Menzia who spoke about their experiences attending the Water Resource Study Field Trips that are funded by the MWLA.



The following officers were re-elected for 1-year terms: Karen Dixon, President; Tom Joseph, Vice President; Marilyn Gabert, Secretary; and Eleanor Butler, Treasurer. Four directors were re-elected for 2-year terms: Greg Holt, Barry Hopkins, and Tom Kramer. Two new members were elected to 2-year terms: Jim Cagney and Jo Ann Miller. Merry Perkins and Jim Banovetz retired from the board after serving since 2008. Both were thanked for their dedication and commitment to the association. Other members of the board include Bob Becker, Jim Reichert, Bob Stowers, and Fred Theisen.

Attendees were served a delicious free picnic catered by Renee Holman of Good Thyme Catering in Washburn, WI. The Aurora Borealis Restaurant donated the wine and Trig's Village Market donated a half-barrel of beer.

2015 ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC PLANS

The 2015 Annual Meeting/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 business meeting beginning promptly at 4:00. A free picnic dinner will be offered to all MWLA members. More specific information will be shared in our Spring Newsletter.

REST LAKE DAM

The DNR hosted its final public hearing on August 16 to introduce its draft order for the Rest Lake Dam. This meeting was as well-attended as the first two that were held in July. The Board of Directors of the Manitowish Chain Defense Fund hosted an informational meeting on the DNR's draft order on August 9. For more information and to view the MCDF presentation, please go to the Manitowish Chain Defense Fund website at www.manitowishchaindefense.org or visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/manitowishchaindefense>.

FISH CRIB HABITAT AND STOCKING PROJECT

Tom Kramer, MWLA board member, reported at a recent MWLA board meeting that the logs that he was promised for the building of the fish cribs this summer were never delivered. Therefore, no cribs were built. He is planning to build 16 cribs and place them in Island Lake next spring. 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LOON NESTING PLATFORM PROJECT by Heather Lumpkin, Research and Monitoring Coordinator, at NLDC



A summer in the Northwoods just wouldn't be complete without hearing the beautiful yet haunting yodel of the Common Loon echoing across the lake on a still evening. This lake-dependent species is influenced by changes in both water quality and availability of suitable nesting substrate. Floating artificial nesting platforms increase the nesting habitat available to loons and may increase reproductive success. The North Lakeland Discovery Center is seeking volunteers to assist with a new citizen science project that will build, install, and monitor 10 new artificial loon nesting platforms on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes in 2015 in an effort to increase nest productivity for this iconic Northwoods species.

The lakes in the Manitowish Waters Chain currently host eight breeding loon territories for which productivity data have been gathered over the last four years by Mike Meyers, Wildlife Biologist with the Wisconsin DNR. The lakes on the Manitowish Chain experience seasonal fluctuations in water level. In the fall water levels are lowered about 3.5ft. When the ice has broken in the spring, water levels are increased again. These water level fluctuations coupled with shoreline development may be lowering nesting loon productivity, and so the Manitowish Chain is an ideal location to determine if the addition of artificial nesting platforms can increase loon productivity.

The North Lakeland Discovery Center received a \$5,000 grant from the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Partnership Program to coordinate the Loon Nesting Platform Project which will construct, install, and monitor 10 new nesting platforms on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes during 2015. Over the winter and early spring platforms will be built by student groups and other volunteers. These platforms will be installed in April and then monitored by local residents. Loon alert signs and public outreach programs will be used to increase awareness and knowledge of loon ecology and conservation among student groups, visitors, and residents. Loon productivity data collected by citizen scientists will then be compared to existing productivity data from loon pairs that have established breeding territories on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes in order to assess the effects of artificial nesting platforms.

The North Lakeland Discovery Center is looking for volunteers to fill a variety of different roles in this project. Help is needed during winter and spring to build and then install the platforms and during the spring and summer to monitor platforms weekly. The artificial loon nesting platforms will be placed in 5-6 feet of water and far enough from shore to deter land predators. They should also be located away from major boating traffic and bald eagle nests. Please contact Heather Lumpkin at the North Lakeland Discovery Center (heather@discoverycenter.net) or call 715-543-2085) if you are interested in volunteering and/or if you own property on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes that is adjacent to a potential loon nesting platform site. Your site will be evaluated in late September for its suitability.

SHORELAND STEWARDSHIP COVENANT UPDATE by Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association

Since the Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association (VCLRA) rolled out the Vilas County Shoreland Stewardship Covenant in early summer 2014, there are five covenants in place and a number of covenants in progress. The purpose of the covenant program is to offer an educational tool to shoreland property owners to protect their lake or river property with a legal document that can be attached to their deed. VCLRA wishes to recognize property owners who maintain their shoreland area in compliance with the Vilas County Shoreland Zoning Ordinances and NR 115.

The covenant does not step beyond state and county shoreland regulations, but provides an educational opportunity for new buyers or families that gain ownership to become familiar with local shoreland zoning during the title search of the property, before the transfer of ownership is complete. So often, new owners illegally modify their shoreland buffer by cutting trees and shrubs, and do so simply because they are not familiar with, or seek, applicable information. Such actions have a detrimental impact on the quality of a lake or river.

A number of modifications have been added to the covenant program since it was launched. First, only properties that conform to the current Vilas County Zoning Ordinance are eligible. These properties will have dwellings set back 75' or more from the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), a 30' or less viewing corridor, and a maximum 6' wide path or 4' wide wooden walkway to the water. Many waterfront properties were grandfathered-in when the new shoreland zoning ordinances were adopted in 1999. VCLRA desires to send a consistent message that we support the new shoreland zoning ordinances, because they are the most beneficial to protecting our lakes or streams.

Second, the program is totally voluntary. If the property owner believes they meet the requirement in the above paragraph, they only need to contact VCLRA and request a copy of the covenant legal documents. These documents will soon be available on the VCLRA website at <http://www.vclra.us>. An enrolled property owner may also request a VCLRA shoreland specialist visit their property to provide suggestions to further improve their lakefront property to help protect their lake or stream.

Third, because there is some paperwork involved, Vilas Title Company and their associate, Debby Soberg, have graciously volunteered to help **any** interested property owner with the process. This may be especially helpful if your ownership is in a trust or partnership.

Last, once the documents are notarized and taken to the Vilas County Register of Deeds for recording, the receipt for payment of \$30 for the recording should be sent to VCLRA. The receipt verifies the recording of the property and the \$30 will be reimbursed to the property owner by VCLRA through the support of a Wisconsin Small Lake Planning Grant.

VCLRA is very pleased with the success of this program thus far. If you are interested in adding this level of protection to your shoreland property for your lake or river, please contact either Sandy Gillum (715-617-0031) or Rollie Alger (715-545-2711) for more information.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

At a recent MWLA board meeting, the directors discussed whether a donation to Music in the Park fit our mission statement of “Maintaining, protecting and enhancing the quality of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes and other Township waters”. Although it was determined that it did not, the board agreed that it was a worthy cause that promotes the beauty of the Town’s lakes and parks. There was board consensus that we encourage our membership to donate privately to this great project if they so choose. Checks can be made out to “Music in the Park” and mailed to Music in the Park, C/O Barry Hopkins, PO Box 165, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Asian Crazy Worm, “An invasive species that can have a major impact on our forests has been found in Appleton and was also found in Madison’s UW Arboretum last fall. The WDNR is hoping to check its spread before it reaches the north woods.” (August 28, 2014 WRN Radio)

“Asian Crazy Worms change the soil, by disrupting the natural decomposition of leaf litter on the forest floor. They turn good soil into grainy, dry worm castings (poop) that cannot support the understory plants of our forests. Other plants, animals and fungi disappear because the understory community can no longer support them.



More than others, crazy worms have a voracious appetite, speedy life cycle, and a competitive edge. In fact, in areas with crazy worms, there are no other species of earthworm. They can cause long term effects on the forests of Wisconsin which are already under pressure from other invasive insects, plants, pathogens and diseases.” (WDNR Forest Health). Visit this website to learn more: <http://www.wrn.com/2014/08/asian-crazy-worm-wriggles-into-appleton/>

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

The MWLA Board of Directors appreciates your continued support.

Karen Dixon
President
Manitowish River
715-543-8141

Tom Joseph
Vice President
Rest Lake
715-543-8362

Eleanor Butler
Treasurer
Alder Lake
715-543-8401

Marilyn Gabert
Secretary
Manitowish Lake
715-543-8224

Bob Becker
Spider Lake
715-543-2219

Jim Cagney
Island Lake
303-421-6490

Greg Holt
Benson Lake
715-543-8168

Barry Hopkins
Rest Lake
715-904-0480

Tom Kramer

Jo Ann Miller

Jim Reichert

Bob Stowers

Hwy. 51
715-543-8000

Sturgeon Lake
715-543-2389

Alder Lake
715-543-2647

Manitowish Lake
715-543-2284

Fred Theisen
Island Lake
715-543-8860