



Lakes Association

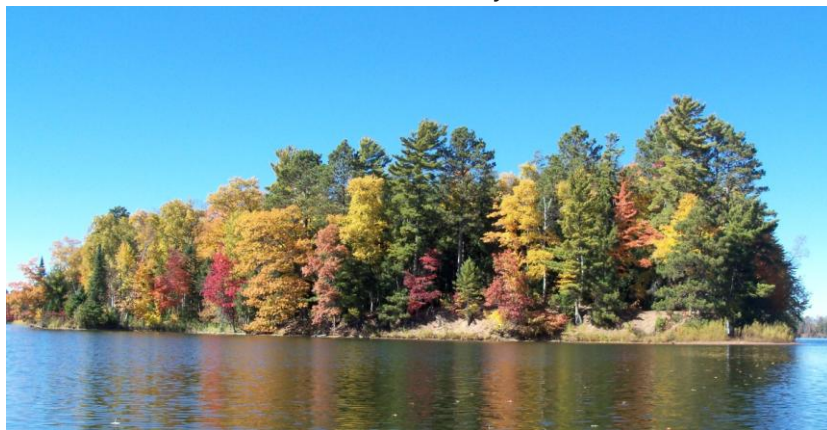
NEWSLETTER

FABULOUS FALL!

October, 2015

"Autumn...the year's last, loveliest smile."

~ William Cullen Bryant ~



OUR MEMBERS ARE EXTRAORDINARY!

It is **YOU**, the generous MLWA member, who makes this organization so successful. We have much to be proud of as we look back at all that we have accomplished this past year. We are exceptionally grateful to those who offered to help with volunteer activities such as AIS monitoring, July 4th activities (MWLA booth and Trout Pond), the MWLA Annual Meeting/Picnic, the Purple Loosestrife Beetle Project, Cran-a-rama, Clean Boats Clean Waters Boat Inspections, grant administration, Lakes Planning meetings, and water quality monitoring. Your involvement and efforts are greatly appreciated!

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.

If you have not been receiving our e-Newsletter through our email MailChimp account, then please check your spam and spam filters to see if it is being sent to your spam folder.

MWLA Membership Clarification: You do **not** have to be a shoreland property owner in order to belong to the MWLA. We

are an inclusive organization whose bylaws are written in such a way that anyone who lives within one mile of any of the bodies of water in the MW Township is eligible for membership, **and** any other member approved by a majority of the board of directors. Please inform your friends and neighbors while encouraging them to become a member. Our current membership is a very respectable 363 households, which is about a third of the population surrounding the Chain. We continue to strive to increase our membership each year by educating property owners of the benefits that membership in the MWLA offers in regard to the current and future health of our waters.

MWLA Bylaws pertaining to membership: Membership in the Association shall be open to any individual, family, business, or organization that (a) subscribes to the purposes of the Association and (b) owns or leases property within one mile of the Manitowish Waters Chain or any other lake or river located wholly or partially within the Manitowish Waters Township, or (c) resides on or within one mile of the Manitowish Waters chain or any other lake or river located wholly or partially within the Manitowish Waters Township for at least one month each year, or (d) any other member approved by a majority of the board of directors.

In these bylaws the Manitowish Waters chain shall be defined as the ten lakes immediately above the dam on county highway "W", including all rivers and channels connecting these lakes, and those waters below the dam extending westward to the point where the Circle Lily River enters the Manitowish River.

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

The Town Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership (TAISP) had a very successful 2015. The Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes has been awarded a total of eleven WDNR grants totaling over \$370,000 since 2011. In 2015, we successfully treated curly leaf pondweed and also deployed professional divers to hand-harvest this invasive plant. With the help of volunteers we detected new locations of curly leaf pondweed and were able to hand-harvest these smaller areas with the help of Discovery Center interns. Interns and volunteers also educated recreationalists at boat landings on the Chain throughout the summer. Over 7,000 bio-control purple loosestrife beetles (70 pot-fuls) were reared and released in area infestations with the help of NLS students. Volunteers and Discovery Center staff clipped the flower heads of purple loosestrife in waters around the Chain to help slow the spread of this wetland invader. Onterra, LLC is developing lake management plans for the Chain lakes, incorporating the input of a dedicated group of volunteers through facilitated meetings as well as a stakeholder survey. These lake management plans will protect and enhance our lakes for generations to come.



Each grant that the Chain receives requires cash or volunteer match and we encourage you to get involved! Doing your part by volunteering is as simple as looking for anything that looks suspicious as you walk your shoreline, check your pier legs, clean your prop, or while you are out on the pontoon. The Discovery Center is always willing to identify anything that you find, either bring a sample by the North Lakeland Discovery Center on County W across from the Rest Lake Park in Manitowish Waters or take a photo and email it to Anne Kretschmann at anne@discoverycenter.net. Please remember to write down where you found it and your contact information.

Curly leaf pondweed is germinating, so don't put away your investigating eyes yet! As you enjoy a walk on your shoreline or a paddle during these beautiful fall days, keep an eye out!

We urge anyone who kept their eyes open during this season to **please remember to report your time** to Anne via email, phone (715-543-2085) or mail (PO Box 237, Manitowish Waters)! Thus far, we have over 500 hours of volunteer hours reported which is a great accomplishment



and helps decrease the amount of cash match. A huge thanks to all who helped make us successful this year, we couldn't do it without **YOU!**

WATER SAFETY PATROL NEWS

Water Patrol Safety Officers, Dan Cardinal and Luke Kozisek, had a busy summer educating boaters about water safety and boating regulations on the MW Chain. They responded quickly whenever complaints were lodged regarding violations of the slow-no-wake rules. Most often they gave a warning, but there were also a number of tickets given out.

Although it is not illegal to tow inflatables in the channel, the MWLA and the Water Safety Patrol advise against this practice for safety reasons. If a person were to fall into the water in the narrow channel, there is a chance of being hit by another boat. It **is** illegal for people to sit on the front of their pontoon and dangle feet in the water. If they should fall in, there is high probability that they would be run over by the pontoon.

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.)

2015 ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC

The Manitowish Waters Lakes Association held its 23rd Annual Meeting and Picnic on Saturday, July 25, at the North Lakeland Discovery Center. The attendees were welcomed by MWLA President, Karen Dixon. It was an ideal summer day with about 150 members turning out for a WDNR Grant update presentation by Anne Kretschmann, Water Specialist and AIS Coordinator at the North Lakeland Discovery Center.



The following officers were re-elected for 1-year terms: Karen Dixon, President; Tom Joseph, Vice President; Marilyn Gabert, Secretary; and Eleanor Butler, Treasurer. Three directors were re-elected for 2-year terms: Bob Becker, Jim Reichert, and Bob Stowers. Paul Puccinelli was elected by the board in May after the resignation of Fred Theisen who has served on the board since 2006. Fred and his wife, Terry, were thanked for their dedication and commitment to the association. Other members of the MWLA board include Jim Cagney, Greg Holt, Barry Hopkins, Tom Kramer and Jody Miller.

Tom Kramer spoke briefly about the DNR's Fish Sticks Program that is providing grants for the placement of felled trees off shoreland properties for fish spawning habitat. He and his crew placed 18 fish cribs filled with brush in Island Lake this summer.

There was a presentation by Cynthia Wills, NLES 4th grade Teacher/Outdoor Education Director, Jennifer Thoma, Teacher Assistant, and science students, Zac Muenzner, Jamie Muenzner, Morgan Frandy, and Ashley Behnke. The teachers gave a history and explanation of the Water Resource Study Field Trips and the students related how meaningful the water studies activities were for them. Karen Dixon presented them with a check for the funding that the North Lakeland School Outdoor Education Program requested for the 2015-16 Water Resource Study Field Trips in the amount of \$1,335.

Attendees were served a delicious free picnic catered by The Blue Bayou Inn Restaurant. The Aurora Borealis Restaurant generously donated the wine and Trig's Village Market generously donated a quarter barrel of beer. Great prizes, many donated by Katherine Dumas, were won by delighted raffle ticket buyers.

2016 ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC PLANS

The 2016 Annual Meeting/Picnic will be held at the **North Lakeland Discovery Center on Saturday, July 30, 2016.** **Please mark this date on your calendar now!** Sign-in will start at 3:30 p.m. with the business meeting beginning promptly at 4:00. More specific information will be shared in our 2016 Spring Newsletter.

REST LAKE DAM

At the Town Board meeting held on September 8, John Hanson reported that “The MW Chain Defense Board continues to work on the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the DNR and Xcel Energy in an effort to make adjustments to the current operating order. It’s very hard to get a meeting with the DNR. A tentative meeting is scheduled for the end of October”.

SHORELAND ZONING REPEAL EFFORTS

The recent state budget had last-minute language inserted that profoundly affects our shoreland zoning. Counties can no longer be stricter than state shoreland standards that are regulated by NR115. The Plum Lake Association is spearheading an effort to repeal the shoreland zoning changes. Their first goal is to stop the mandated reduction in frontage standards and the second goal is to pass legislation that will return shoreland zoning authority to each county. A growing number of lake associations around the state, including the MWLA, have joined the effort by making a contribution to the cause. Now that this effort has been made public in newspapers and radio stations across the state, Plum Lake Association plans to kick off an even broader appeal to individuals and lake associations for support for their legislation. You can contact John Richter, president of PLA at ajr5@aol.com with any questions. Your check can be made payable to: Plum Lake Association, Shoreland Zoning and sent to Plum Lake Association, P.O. Box 193, Sayner, WI 54560. The money will go into an escrow account that has been set up through the Plum Lake Association.

FISH STICKS PROJECT

The WDNR recently introduced a new Healthy Lakes Initiative grant program to encourage simple lakeshore projects to boost the health of our lakes. MWLA, in partnership with the North Lakeland Discovery Center, would like to take advantage of this program if there is enough interest.

One of the programs is called Fish sticks, where whole trees are tethered to the shoreline and lake bottom to create healthy fish habitat. Studies have shown that these “tree drops” are a major way to improve fish habitat in our lakes. To read the fact sheet on the Fish Stick Project go to <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/resources/healthylakes/FishSticks-HealthyLakesFactSheetSeries.pdf>

How you can become involved:

The MWLA and NLDC are willing to sponsor a grant for the Fish Stick Project of up to \$25,000 if there is enough public interest. Would you be willing to designate a portion of your shoreline for this effort?

Please indicate your willingness to become involved in this project by emailing Tess May, Program Director at NLDC, at tess@discoverycenter.net or calling 715-543-2085. She will be happy to address any questions you may have.

Unfortunately, we’ve learned through science that our love for lakes causes management challenges, including declines in habitat and water quality. In fact, the loss of lakeshore habitat was the number one stressor of lake health at a national scale. Lakes with poor lakeshore habitat tend to have poor water quality. Working together to implement Wisconsin’s Healthy Lakes Implementation Plan, we can improve and protect our lakes for future generations to enjoy as well.

For detailed information about the Healthy Lakes Implementation Plan go to <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/healthylakes/default.aspx>

It is our hope to eventually expand to other Healthy Lakes projects in the future (native planting, runoff diversion, rain gardens, rock infiltration pits). Meanwhile, we will continue to provide our members with information on how to be effective lake stewards.

Protecting Natural Shoreland Zones by Being 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 leave natural woody items in the lake (trees, branches, leaves, twigs, logs, etc.).
- I have the legal number of boat slips (lifts, etc.) allowed for my lake frontage.
- I do not 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 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).

SHORELAND LIGHTING

The MWLA received correspondence during the summer from several members regarding shoreland lighting issues and the need for a town ordinance to regulate it. MWLA presented the issue to the MW Planning Commission. It was ultimately determined that given the new language in the State budget concerning shoreland lighting that prohibits the regulation of such, that an ordinance was not a viable solution. All involved agreed that education is the best solution to this issue. Most complaints are about security lights that are left on from dusk to dawn, or even 24/7. A more effective approach would be to use a motion detector. Solving shoreland lighting problems involves working with your neighbors and talking individually with them about the lighting problem, keeping in mind their concerns about safety and security. We should all strive to be considerate of how our lighting affects our neighbors next door, and also our neighbors across the water.

The following link is provided to access the informational pamphlet from the UW-Extension titled [Sensible Shoreland Lighting](http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/GWQ031.pdf) that offers tips for shoreland lighting and why sensible lighting matters. <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/GWQ031.pdf> These pamphlets are also available at the MW Chamber and at area realty offices.

LAKES PLANNING MEETING

On September 14, eighteen people attended a Lake Management Planning Meeting for Fawn Lake, Clear Lake, Wild Rice Lake, Alder Lake and the Trout River that comprise Phase II and III of the Lake Management Planning grant. The meeting was sponsored by the MWLA and held at the North Lakeland Discovery Center. Dan Cibulka, Onterra consultant, led a discussion of the preliminary results of components of the planning project and then solicited input from attendees on the management goals and objectives for those specific bodies of water. Six management goals and their action plans were discussed and further developed: 1) Strengthen association relationships, effectiveness, and lake management capability; 2) maintain current water quality conditions; 3) expand awareness and education of lake management and stewardship matters; 4) control existing and prevent further aquatic invasive species establishment; 5) enhance the available habitat and general understanding of the MW Chain fishery; 6) and continue to understand, protect, and enhance the ecology of the MW Chain through stakeholder stewardship and science-based studies. There was also brainstorming on ideas to increase the MW Chain volunteer base especially in the area of monitoring water quality through the WDNR Citizen Lake Monitoring Network.

CITIZEN LAKE MONITORING NETWORK quoted from WDNR website

"The Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, the core of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, creates a bond between over 1000 citizen volunteers statewide and the Wisconsin DNR. Our goals are to collect high quality data, to educate and empower volunteers, and to share this data and knowledge.

Volunteers measure water clarity, using the Secchi Disk method, as an indicator of water quality. Volunteers may also collect chemistry, temperature, and dissolved oxygen data, as well as identify and map plants or watch for the first appearance of Eurasian Water Milfoil near boat landings.

Interested? Contact your local Citizen Lake Monitoring coordinator about getting started."

DID YOU KNOW?

- Rest Lake was $\frac{3}{4}$ frozen by November 11, 2014 and was completely frozen over on November 21, 2014. Ice-off occurred on April 15, 2015.
- The Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association (VCLRA) rolled out the Vilas County Shoreland Stewardship Covenant in early summer 2014. 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. The covenant 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 because they are not familiar with, or seek applicable information. Such actions have a detrimental impact on the quality of a lake or river. The program is totally voluntary. If you are interested in learning more, go to <http://www.vclra.us/home/shoreland-stewardship-covenant-initiative> .
- Planting trees on your shoreline is one way of restoring natural shorelines. Restoring your shoreline with a variety of natural plantings is one of the the best ways for lakes to stay healthy. To learn more about tree planting and to obtain an application for the WDNR annual seedling sale, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/TreePlanting/>
- A location on the Trout River at the mouth of Manitowish Lake has recently been treated with an herbicide to kill a patch of invasive phragmites (giant reed grass). Please be on the lookout to see if it is re-growing. There also is the concern that if it was able to produce seeds in prior years, we should be vigilant about looking for it in other adjoining waters into the foreseeable future.

It is difficult to tell the invasive from the native phragmites. So, if you see something that looks like a giant reed grass along the shoreline, just bring a sample to the Discovery Center. Please try to include:

1. a living stalk
2. a dead stalk
3. a 'flower head' (make sure this is in a plastic bag so that you don't spread seeds).

Each of these three items has key identifying characteristics that help to tell the native from an invasive phragmites. Here's a link to a factsheet that has some good photos of what it looks like.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/programs/CLMN/AISfactsheets/14CommonReed.pdf>

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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