



Lakes Association

SPLASHING INTO SUMMER!

July, 2016

*I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore; I hear it in the deep heart's core.”
~ William Butler Yeats ~*



YOUR SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL TO OUR SUCCESS

Thank you to all who have renewed their membership this year. For those who have not yet renewed, we have enclosed a renewal form to fill out and send in with your check for your 2016 membership. 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. 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”.

We also thank the strong core of volunteers who consistently help out with AIS monitoring, the 4th of July, newsletter mailings, the Annual Meeting and Picnic, and Cran-a-rama. We would love to add more names to the list of dedicated volunteers. Please consider giving your time to these efforts.

MEET YOUR LAKE AND RIVER NEIGHBORS AT THE MWLA ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

Our Annual Meeting and Picnic will be held at the North Lakeland Discovery Center **on Saturday, July 30, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.** Please mark the date on your calendar. **Sign-in starts at 3:30 p.m.** A short business meeting to elect Officers and Directors will begin promptly at 4:00, and will be followed by an update from Onterra, LLC, Lake Management Planning Consultants on the status of the WDNR Grants awarded to the MW Chain of Lakes. Quita Sheehan, Lake

Conservation Specialist, Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department, will give a presentation on Shoreland Preservation and Restoration.

The picnic will be catered by Aurora Borealis Restaurant. The menu includes burgers, brats, hot dogs, buns, condiments, wild rice salad, pasta salad, potato salad, fruit salad and homemade chocolate chip cookies. Beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages 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.

The MWLA has 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, and hooded sweatshirts will be available for purchase.

2016 CONTROL OF CURLY LEAF PONDWEED

Curly leaf pondweed, an invasive species, was treated using precise LittLine® technology in the Island-Spider Channel by *Clean Lakes* on June 7. Post-treatment surveys to quantify the success of the treatment will occur in July. We also deployed a team of professional divers from *Aquatic Plant Management* into other smaller or more scattered areas of infestation on the Chain on June 8-9. Onterra LLC, professional lake management consultant, is conducting early-season surveys and mapping of curly leaf pondweed in other lakes and channels on the chain. We are hopeful that the combination of these control efforts will prove successful in 2016.



Curly leaf pondweed

Spread the word, not the invasive!

Boaters of motorized water craft are strongly encouraged to avoid entering Rice Creek from Island Lake, and to be very careful to follow the channel when leaving Island Lake traveling toward the Island Lake Boat Landing. Please immediately clean your props when leaving infested areas.

Invasive curly leaf pondweed was recently found by a sharp-eyed fisherman in the north end of Rest Lake. We are very thankful for his and everyone else's eyes, on the water. It is through your efforts that we are able to identify locations and take steps to combat this invader!



FUN IN THE SUMMER SUN

As you are out with your families enjoying the lakes, don't forget to keep your eyes open for invasive species. Summertime offers an ideal opportunity to get your friends and families involved by having extra eyes on the water. We are always willing to identify any plants or animals that you find in your travels, just email a photo or bring a plant by the Discovery Center to show us noting where you found it. We are also always happy to have folks along with us as we travel the lakes looking for invasive species, you never know what we might find!

Please consider becoming actively involved with monitoring for aquatic invasive species (AIS) on your body of water by contacting Anne at anne@discoverycenter.net or 715-543-2085. The 14 WDNR grants we have received require an in-kind match of either volunteer hours or cash funding. Your hours of volunteer monitoring and your donations help us fulfill our commitments!

The Discovery Center will host numerous outings throughout the summer on how to volunteer and what to look for: **AIS Volunteer Monitoring Trainings** are Saturday August 6, 10am-12pm AND Tuesday August 9, 1-3pm; meet at Koller Park. If you are interested in a private training for you and your friends, neighbors, or family, please let Anne know as we are available to show you where to look for invasive species and what to look for.



KUDOS TO ANDY STEIL!

Local fisherman, Andy Steil, who lives on the Manitowish River between Rest and Stone Lakes, had taken the time and effort to become educated about curly leaf pondweed (CLP) after it was discovered on our Chain several years ago. When recently fishing on Rest Lake, he noticed patches of weeds that looked suspiciously like CLP. He gathered some samples, made note of the precise location, and sought the expertise of Anne Kretschmann at the Discovery Center. The weeds were identified as CLP, and the very next day she was out on the lake with the summer Water Interns. They pulled and bagged three large garbage bags of the invasive plants. Onterra, the Chain's lake management consultants, have also been out to map the area for future pulling or treatment. One person can definitely make a difference, so please stay vigilant in looking for aquatic plants that may be invasive and detrimental to the health of our waters.

MEET AND GREET AT THE BOAT LANDING



While educating boaters about invasive species through Clean Boats Clean Waters, we are handing out free ice packs and fishing towels as participants in the state's **'Drain Campaign'** focusing on encouraging fishermen to transport their fish on ice and **'Landing Blitz'** programs. If you see us at a landing, please come and say "hi"!

Discovery Center Water Intern, Katie Caldwell demonstrates how to properly bleach and clean the mud that could contain invasive species larvae of spiny water fleas off of your boat.

HEALTHY LAKES GRANT AWARDED

We are excited to announce that the Town Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership (TAISP), consisting of the MWLA, Discovery Center, and Towns of Manitowish Waters and Boulder Junction, was awarded a Healthy Lakes grant from the WDNR for the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes and surrounding waters. This grant will fund fisheries habitat enhancements and shoreland native plantings, as well as educational demonstration areas and signage about steps that landowners can take that will maintain the health of our lakes.



Through this project, six large woody habitat structures will be placed in the MW Chain to provide shelter and feeding areas for a diversity of fish species, and may also provide nesting and sunning areas for birds, turtles and other animals above the water. Nearly all fish species use woody habitat for at least a portion of their life cycle. Two native plantings will promote bird and butterfly habitat while decreasing runoff and erosion into our lakes. It is through practices such as these that our lakes will remain healthy for generations to come.

WALLEYE STOCKING PROJECT

Local concern over the declining walleye population in the MW Chain resulted in a recent meeting with the Headwaters Basin Chapter of Walleyes for Tomorrow (WFT) and the DNR Deputy Director of Fisheries. The result of the meeting was

that WFT will work to obtain a lake management plan if the DNR commits to allowing them to stock extended-growth walleyes in the Chain this fall. Tom Kramer, Chapter president and MWLA board member, reported that funds for the walleye stocking will need to be raised locally and that more information will be forthcoming on those efforts.

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

As suspected, the July 4th weekend was very busy. With the 4th falling on a Monday, the boating traffic was noticeably down on that day compared to Saturday and Sunday.

While the weather was as good as could be hoped for, and the boating traffic very heavy, the safety issues were very low. I think this was partly due to the boaters understanding the regulations and willingly complying, plus the fact that Ben Grenzer has been spending about 40 hours a week on the water, answering questions, and addressing issues. Boaters seem to be planning ahead thus reducing the need to exceed slow no wake rules if weather turns bad. All in all, the 4th of July weekend resulted in only two citations and two warnings. There were no reported accidents or injuries.

A few things that the State wants boat patrols to address again this year are:

- Blue lights are not authorized on recreational boats. Blue light usage was down this year from last year, which is a good thing for emergency vehicle identification.
- Use of docking lights while under way is still a problem in the channel, but not using them on the lakes has improved.
- The new "GoWild.WI.gov" system is still behind, boaters are being patient and some are getting their long-awaited registration stickers. Please continue to carry your receipt of application until you receive your renewed registration.

The Skiing Skeeters Ski Club continues to educate boaters about safety issues during ski shows and practices. Any help that the boaters can give by staying close to the shoreline when launching or pulling boats is greatly appreciated. This will improve safety for the skiers who are concentrating on perfecting their performance without having to worry about boaters coming too close.

VCLRA 2016 BLUE HERON AWARD

Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association's Blue Heron Award recognizes property owners who have worked hard to maintain their shoreline property in a more natural state with minimal environmental impacts. Sue and Bob Austin, who own property on the Manitowish River between Rest and Stone Lakes, were recipients of this year's Blue Heron Award presented at the VCLRA's Annual Meeting held in June.



EXCITEMENT AT THE TROUT POND!

Every July 4th, The MWLA works together with the MW Fire Co to provide a trout pond for the children. For some, it is their first experience catching a fish and, do they ever get excited! The Fire Co. sets up and fills the tank with water, while the MWLA buys the 75 lbs. of trout from a fish farm.



WISCONSIN SHORELAND INITIATIVE by John Richter

The Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative was formed by lake associations in the fall of 2015 to organize a response to the attack on our lakes and rivers by legislative amendment to the state budget. That amendment ended years of informed, data-driven regulation through local control of riparian property. It also discarded our widely acclaimed lake classification system, which was the result of years of effort by thousands of people at a cost to the state of millions of dollars. It was this classification system that protected our fragile lake and river environs from degradation, preserving them as the foundation of our local economies and the Wisconsin tourism industry, the tax base that supports county government and the value of thousands of homes throughout our state.

In the 2016 legislative session, we were effective in communicating the risks associated with new bills that targeted our Wisconsin riparian lands, altering or preventing passage of a number of ill-advised bills that took great risk with lake and river resources. Much of this legislation would have resulted in immediate degradation of our lakes and rivers, affecting shallow-water habitat and threatening fish and wildlife resources.

This year, we will build a coalition to support repeal of the damaging legislation passed in the last session or to offer remedial legislation that returns control of our shorelands to local and county government and renews and expands our lake classification system as the foundation of shoreland zoning.

We are called upon now to act to protect our lakes and rivers. Our lake associations and lake districts are the last line of defense. To ensure our success and the return of local regulation to our shorelands, we will need the support of every lake association, lake district, and all of their members. Quoting Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative
PO Box 193
Sayner, WI 54560

For more information, contact us at wisconsinshoreland@gmail.com or www.wisconsinshoreland.org

SHORELINE BUFFERS: GOOD FOR YOUR LAKE AND GOOD FOR YOU

One of the best things you can do is create (or preserve) a strip of natural vegetation - a shoreline buffer- along the length of your waterfront. A shoreline buffer as little as 30 to 35 feet wide can make a big difference in protecting your lake from pollution. This buffer:

- Protects the water by filtering runoff containing silt, salt, chemicals, fertilizers and other pollutants.
- Slows run-off, letting water soak into the ground instead of flushing straight into the lake.
- Helps keep waves and runoff from eroding the shoreline.
- Improves near-shore habitat for fish, frogs, and other water creatures.
- Provides a haven for mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects – a sanctuary for wildlife.
- Saves time you would otherwise spend mowing and trimming more lawn.
- Gives you extra privacy and helps muffle the noise from boats and personal water craft.
- Discourages messy pests like geese and non-native plants like purple loosestrife.
- Helps make the lake more attractive to home buyers, and so makes your property more valuable.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Wisconsin Department of Resources urges boaters, anglers and swimmers to be on the lookout for blue-green algae in their favorite lakes. It grows quickly in water bodies with high nutrient levels such as phosphorus or nitrogen. The blooms first appear in lakes and ponds in southern Wisconsin and gradually show up in the northern reaches of the state as the summer continues.

DNR officials warn that people who touch the algae or accidentally ingest water containing it can become sick. Pets that come into contact with it by drinking algae-contaminated water or licking algae from their coats can die. The DNR says if dog owners notice their pets are lethargic, suffering from vomiting, diarrhea or seizures, they should contact a veterinarian.

- The Public Trust Doctrine is enshrined in Wisconsin's Constitution. It declares that all the State's navigable waters are "common highways and forever free."

- A Northwoods study has shown that impaired lake quality can reduce lake property values by \$30,000 per parcel.

- The northern Wisconsin tourism industry is based on quality lake resources. It is worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

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.



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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
307-421-6490

Greg Holt
Benson Lake
715-543-8168

Barry Hopkins
Rest Lake
715-904-0480

Tom Kramer
Hwy. 51
715-543-8000

Jo Ann Miller
Sturgeon Lake
715-543-2389

Paul Puccinelli
Rest Lake
715-904-0951

Jim Reichert
Alder Lake
715-543-2647

Bob Stowers
Manitowish Lake
715-543-2284