



## Lakes Association

### GRAND FINALE OF FALL!

October, 2016

*"Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale!"*

*~ Lauren DeStefano ~*



*View of Manitowish River from Rest Lake Dam*

### **THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS AND VOLNTEERS!**

We may sound redundant when we thank our members and volunteers in every newsletter, but it is because of you that we are such a successful organization! Your membership and willingness to volunteer to help with activities such as AIS monitoring, July 4<sup>th</sup> activities (MWLA booth and Trout Pond), the MWLA Annual Meeting/Picnic, the Purple Loosestrife Beetle Project, Cran-a-rama, and water quality monitoring 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](http://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** by Anne Kretschmann, Water Specialist and AIS Coordinator at the North Lakeland Discovery Center

The Town Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership (TAISP) had a very successful 2016. The Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes has been awarded a total of fourteen WDNR grants totaling over \$450,000 since 2011. Onterra, LLC is developing lake management plans that will protect and enhance our chain of lakes for generations to come. TAISP received a new Healthy Lakes grant in 2016 that will help improve fisheries habitat and shorelines in township waters.

In 2016, we successfully treated curly leaf pondweed in the Spider-Island Channel and also deployed professional divers to hand-harvest this invasive plant. We detected new locations of curly leaf pondweed in Rest Lake with the help of volunteer eyes on the water and were able to hand-harvest smaller areas with the assistance of Discovery Center Water Interns. Throughout the summer, interns and volunteers educated boaters and recreationalists at boat landings on the Chain.



It was a tough year for purple loosestrife bio-control beetles. Despite having a difficult time finding brood stock beetles for rearing in the early summer, we successfully reared and released over 3,700 beetles in area infestations with the help of NLS students. Some of the beetles we released were reared by the McNaughton State Correctional Facility inmates in Lake Tomahawk who have taken a keen interest in helping the Northwoods environment by rearing bio-control beetles in cages on their grounds. Discovery Center staff and volunteers clipped the flower heads of purple loosestrife to help slow the spread of this wetland invader.

Every grant that we receive for the Chain requires either cash or volunteer match. We encourage you to volunteer - it's as simple as looking for anything that looks suspicious as you walk your shoreline, checking your pier legs, cleaning your props, or keeping your eyes open while you are out on your pontoon. It is through your efforts like these that we were able to find curly leaf pondweed in Rest Lake this year. Fall is a good time to spot Eurasian Water Milfoil - this invasive stays green even as the native plants begin to die.

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](mailto:anne@discoverycenter.net). Please remember to write down where you found it and your contact information.

Please remember to **report your volunteer time** for 2016 to Anne via email, phone (715-543-2085) or mail (PO Box 237, Manitowish Waters). We accept volunteer hours year-round, so it's never too late to turn in hours from this summer. Thus far, we have **over 500 volunteer hours** reported which is a great accomplishment! These volunteer hours decrease the amount of Town funding that we need for the grants we receive from the WDNR.

Thank you to the numerous volunteers who helped make this a successful year, we couldn't do it without YOU! We are constantly amazed by your perseverance and devotion to protecting our lakes.

On the weekend of September 9-12, an AIS booth was set up during the 40th Annual World Championship Musky Classic orientation so fishermen could learn about aquatic invasive species. Anne Kretschmann and Peter Rebholz of the Discovery Center manned the booth Friday morning and talked to numerous interested musky fishermen.



## **WATER SAFETY PATROL NEWS** by Dan Cardinal, Water Safety Patrol Officer from 2012 to 2016

The summer recreational boating season went well. With the good weather, boating activities seemed to be up from last year. There were no reported accidents this summer, although slow-no-wake complaints continued to make up the bulk of complaints from boaters and waterfront property owners.

The biggest change this summer was the addition of Ben Grenzer as a second Water Safety Patrol Officer. His enthusiasm for the position and willingness to work the hours were very evident.

He was on the water about 40 hours per week and observed boating on the entire MW Chain. Being this available to the residents allowed him to establish a relationship of trust and the support of many. The Water Safety Patrol Officer's primary responsibility is to keep the activities on the chain safe, to educate the public, and if necessary, issue citations. Ben's presence on the Chain seems to have had a positive impact on the users as slow-no-wake abuses seem to be decreasing.

In 2016, the DNR started a new data management system called "Go Wild". Like every new system there are growing pains. One of the 'work in progress' was the registration of boats on Wisconsin waters. In the beginning of the boating season registration records were incomplete. While the system is now operating as expected for the summer of 2016, boaters were given the benefit of the doubt. In 2017 boating registrations will be more actively enforced.

In the four years that I represented the people of Manitowish Waters as your Water Safety Patrol Officer, the responsibility has grown along with the increase in recreational water uses. This past summer it became apparent that a minimum of one, 40 hours per week patrol officer is necessary to keep the waters safe, and protect personal property and shoreline erosion in the slow-no-wake zones. Your town board is aware of this, but needs to hear support from all of you. Most of the activity on the Chain is comfortably within the limits of the law, although education or re-education of new users and old will always be necessary.

Based on feedback both Ben and I received from land owners and users confirmed that your Water Safety Patrol is effective, and seen as a necessary evil. With your Town board's past support it has grown into a viable and effective part of safe boating on the Chain. The Town board's continued support will help to grow and improve the quality of activities on this beautiful Chain of Lakes in northern Wisconsin.

As most of you know by now I will not be on the Chain next year as my life took another wonderful turn when my wife retired. It is now time to enjoy our time together, and time with our kids and grandchildren. We are looking forward to it.

## **2016 ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC**

The Manitowish Waters Lakes Association held its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Picnic on Saturday, July 30 at the North Lakeland Discovery Center. The attendees were welcomed by MWLA President, Karen Dixon. She described the Association's accomplishments throughout the previous year and explained goals for the upcoming year with the main goal being the strengthening of our partnership with the North Lakeland Discovery Center, the Towns of Manitowish Waters and Boulder Junction to protect our waters from aquatic invasive species. She encouraged everyone to become involved with AIS monitoring activities to help offset the cost of the grants with in-kind volunteer hours. Karen also reported on the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative's efforts to repeal some of the most damaging sections of the shoreland zoning laws that were passed by the legislature last year.

During the business portion of the meeting, the following officers were elected: Bob Becker, President; Paul Puccinelli, Vice President; Jo Ann Miller, Secretary; and Eleanor Butler, Treasurer. Three new directors were elected: Mary Bowlus, Angela Dombrowicki, and Delp Schafer. Greg Holt and Tom Kramer were re-elected as directors. Karen thanked out-going board members Tom Joseph, Marilyn Gabert, Barry Hopkins, and Jim Cagney for their years of service.

Newly elected president, Bob Becker, and out-going secretary, Marilyn Gabert, recognized Karen for her nine years as president of the Association with a heartfelt thank you and presented her with a basket of gifts in appreciation for her leadership.

Board member, 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. Tom, who is also president of Walleyes for

Tomorrow, also reported on the efforts of the WFT, DNR and the tribes to work together to stock the MW Chain with more than 40,000 walleyes.

Tim Hoyman, Aquatic Ecologist and founder of the lake management planning firm of Onterra, LLC updated the membership on the Lake Management Plan for the Manitowish Chain of Lakes and the effects of herbicide treatment on the curly leaf pondweed (aquatic invasive) that is growing in several areas of the Chain. He reported that the health of the Chain is excellent and that the treatment of CLP has been successful. The membership also heard a presentation from Quita Sheehan, Conservation Specialist with the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department who informed the group of the importance of shoreland preservation and restoration in regard to the health of lakes and rivers.

Anne Kretschmann, Water Specialist and AIS Coordinator at the Discovery Center, along with Blair Beyer and Katie Caldwell, Water Interns, and Jason Tutkowski (Water Intern alumna), were on hand to show samples of curly leaf pondweed, provide information on how to monitor for AIS, and tell about programs that teach how to monitor for AIS, available through the Discovery Center.

Attendees were served a delicious free picnic catered by Aurora Borealis Restaurant. The wine was donated by Aurora Borealis and the beer was donated by Trig's Village Market. A great time was enjoyed by all, especially those who won door and raffle prizes organized by Marilyn Gabert. The majority of the items were donated by Kathryn Dumas, Marilyn's mother.

Next year's MWLA Annual Meeting will be held at the North Lakeland Discovery Center on Saturday, July 29, 2017.

### **WALLEYE STOCKING PROJECT** by Tom Kramer

Walleyes for Tomorrow and volunteers will be working with the DNR and Silver Moon Springs Hatchery to stock extended growth walleyes during the week of October 24th. We plan on releasing 42,000 fish. Each lake will be stocked individually with walleyes, and the amount per lake will be determined by the acreage of the lake (10 per acre).

The fish will be brought to the drop sites by trucks where DNR biologists and staff will hand-clip the fins of the fish and then release them. The reason for clipping a fin on the fish is to be able to tell the difference between the natural reproduction (native fish) compared to the stocked fish. We will also be able to determine the survival rate of the stocked fish. WFT and volunteers will be putting fish in plastic totes and bringing them to the DNR crew as they need them to do the fin clipping and releasing the fish.

There was a fall population study done on the Chain at the end of September. Over all there was a good young of the year hatch for walleyes, and stocking these fish will help give a boost to the Chain.

WFT could not have done this without the donations that were received from all of the people who love the MW Chain of Lakes and want to help out. Headwaters Basin Chapter wants to thank everyone for their contributions for a great cause to help get our fishing tourism back to what it once was. Donations can be made to Walleyes for Tomorrow, PO Box 375, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545.

Tom Kramer  
Chapter Chairman  
Headwaters Basin Chapter of Walleyes for Tomorrow

**Note:** On September 19, the MWLA Board of Directors voted to donate up to \$5,000 to the walleye stocking project. The money will be taken from the Fish Habitat account.

### **WISCONSIN SHORELAND INITIATIVE**

WSI continues to work on returning local control of shoreland zoning to counties and townships. WSI is currently planning strategies and developing bills for the next legislative session. Petitions are being signed by Lakes Associations, River Associations, Lake Districts, and town governments of Vilas County encouraging the Vilas County Board to pass a resolution to return local control of shoreland zoning to our counties and townships. The MWLA and the Town of



Manitowish Waters signed the petition/resolution and sent it on to the Vilas County Supervisors. For more information on WSI, go to their website at [www.wisconsinshoreland.org](http://www.wisconsinshoreland.org)

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY PETITION THE VILAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the lakes and rivers of Vilas County are the foundation of our county's economy;

WHEREAS, waterfront property provides more than 77 percent of our county's tax base;

WHEREAS, our lake classification system was adopted by this county and 42 other Wisconsin counties after lengthy research, debate and ultimate agreement by all constituencies to provide the foundation of intelligent county regulation;

WHEREAS, shoreland zoning regulations affecting Vilas County were changed fundamentally in the last session of the state legislature without notice, consultation or public hearing;

WHEREAS, regulation of non-conforming structures has been reduced and limited to clearly objectionable standards; and

WHEREAS, our water quality is placed in jeopardy by the new inadequate standards that have been shown to cause deterioration, and our property values, the tax base and our economy are thereby adversely affected.

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned individuals, riparian property owners, lake associations and town governments of Vilas County hereby request, in the strongest possible terms, that the Vilas County Board of Supervisors recognize the undersigned as the stewards of our lakes and rivers and further, that the Vilas County Board of Supervisors pass a resolution in support of returning local control over shoreland zoning to our counties and townships and restoring our historic lake classification system as it existed before the passage of Act 55 in July of 2015 as the foundation of county shoreland zoning.

### **LAKES IN ACTION: ADVOCACY 101**

On September 22, two board members of the MWLA, Eleanor Butler and Karen Dixon, attended the lakes advocacy workshop held in Rhinelander and presented by Wisconsin Lakes and the River Alliance of Wisconsin. This workshop provided information on how lake organizations can become more effective in "advocating sound water policy at all levels of government". The presenters used the dismantling of Wisconsin's shoreline zoning law as a real world topic to address what lake organizations can do under the law to 1) influence lawmakers; 2) to communicate and build effective relationships with lawmakers; 3) build consensus within your organization regarding a position on an issue and whether to advocate one way or another as a group; 4) advocate for your lake if your voting address is different from your lake home. Material from this workshop is available online:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B6ggjoFEUJ4OTF9EZnRMajRKSms>

**IT'S YOUR WATER, WISCONSIN!** Quoted from Wisconsin Lakes

Join the voices of Wisconsin citizens making a simple request of our elected officials: Take Care of Our Water!

#### **Declaration of Principles for Wisconsin's Water**

- Every single person in Wisconsin requires and deserves safe, clean drinking water.
- Wisconsin's water belongs to everyone. There should be no conflict between business needs and public needs.
- With diverse landscapes and natural resources, local governments and constituents must have a role in creating and implementing policies to protect the unique waters in their jurisdictions appropriately.
- Clean and plentiful water that supports a healthy habitat for fisheries, wildlife, residents and visitors is essential for a strong tourism industry and a vital economy in Wisconsin.

Sign on at [www.itsyourwaterwisconsin.org](http://www.itsyourwaterwisconsin.org)

**DEAD PIKE LAKE** – this story was published on Sep 6, 2013

Dead Pike Lake Association in Northern Wisconsin has been working for 14 years to save the Powell Marsh Watershed from toxic discharges of Iron floc bacteria and phosphorus. These discharges are produced and then distributed by an antiquated system of ditches/dikes 15 miles long that is managed by the WI-DNR. Research by Barr Engineering confirmed the pollution by these ditches at levels that are killing the lower strata biota in nearby Dead Pike Lake. The DNR also received an Aesthetic Water Quality Violation for the brown/orange colored water (Iron Floc Bacteria) in the Marsh. Watch this documentary that highlights citizen advocacy efforts to save this wetland area. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqkDVZBRFlw>



This photo shows Iron Floc Bacteria clumping in the inlet to Dead Pike Lake from the Marsh ditches.

Finally this summer, a charrette was held that invited all stakeholders to help develop a Master Plan for Powell Marsh and to address iron floc issues in Dead Pike Lake. To watch the video of the final meeting where the results were presented, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/PowellMarsh/>

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- A buffer zone is a strip along your shoreline, ideally at least 35 feet wide, that is planted with trees, bushes, natural grasses, wildflowers and ground cover. Bonus benefits of the buffer is that it provides a rich habitat for wild creatures and can make a difference in protecting your lake from pollution.
- Just because it's legal doesn't mean it's good.
  - Clearing and mowing your lake property all the way to the water's edge may be legal, but is it good for your lake?
  - Driving your boat at 60 mph may be legal, but is it safe and prudent?
  - Dividing your large waterfront property into several lots may be allowed, but will more homes and more runoff impair the health of your lake?
  - Removing a fallen dead tree on your shore is permissible, but will doing so take away a beneficial fish habitat?
- Aldo Leopold said that "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."
- The northern Wisconsin tourism industry is based on quality lake resources. It is worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

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

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

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