



Lakes Association

September 2017

AWESOME AUTUMN!

*"It was Indian summer, a bluebird sort of day as we call it in the North,
warm and sunny, without a breath of wind;
the water was sky-blue, the shores a bank of gold."
~ Sigurd Olson ~*



THANK YOU TO OUR FANTASTIC VOLUNTEERS!

MWLA member volunteers have again outdone themselves by volunteering time and donating money to educate others about our mission to prevent aquatic invasive species from entering our Chain. Your generous donations and offers to volunteer for the variety of activities listed on the renewal form have been overwhelming. Thank you! It is not too late to renew your membership for this year. You can access a renewal form on our website www.mwlakes.com. Annual dues are **only \$25.00** and run from June 1 to May 31 of the following year.

Please encourage your friends, family members 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".

2018 MWLA ANNUAL MEETING AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Our 26th Annual Meeting and Continental Breakfast will be held at the North Lakeland Discovery Center **on Saturday, July 28 from 9:00 a.m. to noon**. Please mark the date on your calendar. Sign-in starts at 8:30 a.m. with the business meeting beginning promptly at 9:00 a.m. The short business meeting to elect Officers and Directors will be followed by an

educational program and a continental breakfast. There will also be our traditional raffle of unique items. Look for more details in our Spring 2018 Newsletter.

AIS NEWS

by Emily Heald, NLDC Water Program Coordinator

2017 Curly-Leaf Pondweed Update: Populations are decreasing, but there is still work ahead

As always, summer flew by before we knew it! 2017 has been a fantastic year for invasive species management here in Manitowish Waters. Onterra (consulting company) and the North Lakeland Discovery Center located populations of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) on Rest, Stone, Fawn, the Spider-Island Channel, and Island Lakes, and Rice Creek. Professional divers and two wonderful Discovery Center interns pulled plants on Rest, Fawn, and the Spider-Island Channel. Although we are making GREAT progress and our CLP populations are decreasing, it is important that everyone realize **this is a problem that will not go away**. In fact, if we all turn a blind eye, there is potential for the problem to get worse again. We must continue to have vigilant eyes, report concerning sightings/findings, clean our boats between water bodies, volunteer to remove invasives. CLP turions (the vegetative bud that sprouts into new plants each year) can remain dormant in the lake sediment for up to 7 years. Each time you see a CLP plant, you can be sure there is a seed bank of turions below it. Please contact Emily Heald, Water Program Coordinator at the Discovery Center, if you are interested in learning more or volunteering: water@discoverycenter.net or 715-543-2085

Clean Boats Clean Waters program continues to positively influence boater behavior



Summer Water Interns Heather, Brandon, and John at the North Lakeland Discovery Center participated in efforts to spread the word about invasive species at Rest Lake and Clear Lake boat landings this summer. Through the Clean Boats Clean Waters program, which is State funded, the interns were able to talk to over 400 people on more than 200 boats about the importance of cleaning and draining boats between lakes. They educated the public about using ice packs to preserve their catch rather than ice. Thanks for all your work Discovery Center interns!

Critter Corner: Otters

Otters are one of the spunkiest, most playful animals we see on Wisconsin water bodies. We often observe them wrestling, playing tag, and sliding down snow banks – similar activity to young children! As the largest member of the weasel family, you can distinguish an otter from a muskrat or another weasel by their webbed feet, long whiskers, and thick tail. They are usually about 3-4 feet long. Otters eat small fish, crayfish, frogs and toads, and sometimes vegetation. They tend to eat near the shoreline and along river banks where food is most likely to be found. It takes about three-square miles to suffice all their food needs! They use dens to raise 2-4 pups that are born in April or May. The baby otters learn to swim at 8-10 weeks, and can stay under water for up to 4 minutes. After about a year with their family, otters set out to establish their own territory.



photo courtesy of Ken Archer Photos

Waterfowl hunters can help stop spread of aquatic invasive species

As Wisconsin's goose and duck seasons get underway, the Department of Natural Resources is asking for help from the State's dedicated hunters to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. "Healthy wetlands and waterways support strong waterfowl populations," said Paul Samerdyke, a DNR wildlife biologist stationed at the Horicon Marsh. "We know that Wisconsin waterfowl hunters are committed to conservation, and they've been solid partners in restoring and improving wetland habitats. We don't want these efforts to be diminished by the spread of damaging aquatic invaders."

As part of this effort, DNR staff (primarily deputy conservation wardens called Water Guards) and conservation partners will be in the field on opening day, in both the northern and southern hunting zones, visiting with hunters and talking about steps everyone can take to protect waterfowl populations and the habitats they depend on. A key part of the message: "Just a few minutes of preventative action can protect your hunting tradition for generations to come."

In addition to standard boating gear, waterfowl hunters often use decoys, dogs, waders and push poles that may contain water, debris and mud where invasive species such as zebra mussels, Faucet snails and starry stonewort can hide. Use of nonnative vegetation such as phragmites to help conceal blinds or boats can also lead to the inadvertent spread of species that clog waterways and crowd out beneficial plants that provide food and shelter for ducks and geese.

Other types of aquatic invasive species may serve as hosts for parasites or bacteria that can kill waterfowl. As a result, DNR urges hunters to clean equipment as well as boats and check dogs' coats before leaving a hunting location.

To help protect waterfowl habitat and populations, hunters must take these simple steps before launching into and leaving a waterbody:

- **Inspect** waders, boats, trailers, motors and hunting equipment, including boots, blinds and dogs.
- **Remove** all plants, animals and mud.
- **Drain** all water from decoys, boats, motors, live wells and other hunting equipment.
- **Never move** plants or live fish away from a water body.

For more information on Wisconsin's invasive species rule and what hunters, anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts can do to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, visit DNR.wi.gov and search "Aquatic Invasive Species."

NEW BOARD MEMBER DENNIS WILM

Dennis and Ann Wilm have lived in Vilas County for the past seven years, but have been coming up North for well over 30 years. They moved to Manitowish Waters where they lived for 5 years on Stone Lake, and for the past two years on Spider Lake. Dennis still works for a floor coating company based in Milwaukee, WI working in sales. Both enjoy fishing and boating, plus spending time with their four grandsons by taking them tubing, wake-boarding and fishing. Ann is a Manitowish Waters Lioness. They have made many friends since they moved up here and really enjoy their time in Manitowish Waters. They have an interest in the future of our lakes and Dennis thought that joining the MWLA board would be a way of getting involved.

WATER SAFETY PATROL NEWS

by Dan Cardinal, OIC Boat Patrol

All in all, the summer went very well with only one minor boating accident on Rest lake during Music in the Park and Officer Grenzer was on location to document it. The very sad Labor Day weekend fatality was a medical event that happened on Little Star Lake while the person was waterskiing.

The number one complaint continues to be Slow-No-Wake violations. The patrol spent a large part of its time educating boaters, but citations were written when previous education attempts failed. In some cases, the violations were egregious enough that a citation needed to be written on first contact. Several of these contacts responded with statements like, "I

have been boating on this Chain for years and never had a problem before" or "a storm is coming" or "I am late for dinner". While all these comments may be true, a little more pre-planning and awareness of what kind of damage boat wakes cause, will go a long way to protect the shorelines and safety of private property.

This year boat patrol saw a slight increase in boaters allowing passengers to ride on the front of the boat with feet hanging over while the boat was under way. It is important that these boaters understand that if the passenger falls off the boat they will almost immediately be in contact with the running motor. Boat patrol will not, and cannot, tolerate this kind of activity.

The Town Board feels very strongly that with the increasing activity of all kinds, safety on the water is paramount. The patrol can only be at one place at any one time. If people see any violations they should call the Town office and let them know.

It is your responsibility 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>

WISCONSIN SHORELAND INITIATIVE

by Bob Becker, President MWLA

MWLA members are aware by this time of the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative (WSI). They have requested a donation from the MWLA which is a 501(c)(3) corporation while the WSI is a 501(c)(4). While both organizations are recognized by the IRS as charitable organizations that do not pay taxes, the significant difference is that contributions to the MWLA are tax deductible and contributions to WSI are not. The question is whether funds from an organization whose contributions are tax deductible to the donor can be given to an organization whose contributions are not tax deductible. The Board is looking for a legal opinion as to whether it is legal for MWLA to make contributions to WSI. If one of our members is a tax attorney or an IRS agent and can give us some guidance or an opinion, we would like to hear from them. You can write to us or send an email (mwlamailbox@yahoo.com). Your response will be distributed to the entire Board.

To donate to or learn more about the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative, Go to www.wisconsinshoreland.org to make your own personal donation or to learn more about the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative.

WHERE'S THAT WAKE HEADING?

by Greg Holt, MWLA Board Member

There are so many ways to enjoy our waters - pleasure boating, swimming, skiing, canoeing, wakeboarding, paddle boarding, fishing, or just sitting on the shore or a dock and watching the water. With so many varied activities we all must remember to think how our activities are affecting the waters, the shoreline and other people. As the power of motors and the weight of boats have increased, the possibility for large wakes have also increased. Although these wakes have the potential to create a fun activity for skiers and others, they also have the ability to affect shoreline erosion, undercut seawalls, crash over docks and negatively impact others who are enjoying the waters while engaged in other activities.

Wisconsin State statute 30.68 states that "No person may operate or use any boat, or manipulate any water skis, aquaplane or similar device upon the waters of this state in a careless, negligent or reckless manner so as to endanger that person's life, property or person or the life, property or person of another...An operator of a motorboat is liable for any damage caused to the person or property of another by the wake or wash from such motorboat..." While we enjoy these magnificent waters in our area, let's remember to be aware of where the wake from our boats is headed.

WALLEYE STOCKING PROJECT

by Tom Kramer, MWLA Board Member

Walleyes for Tomorrow has received permission from the DNR to stock another 6,000 extended growth walleyes on the Manitowish Waters Chain. We originally had permission to stock 42,000, but our supplier could only get 36,000, so this is the balance from that original stocking.

This year we plan to do 8 - 12 tree drops and fish sticks on State land on Island Lake, Rest Lake and Clear Lake.

BARTLING'S MANITOWISH CRANBERRY COMPANY

by David Bartling

Fall is here; the season when leaves change to vibrant colors and the number of boats on the Manitowish Chain of 10 Lakes begins to dwindle. Fall also brings the start of a busy harvest season on cranberry farms in the Manitowish Waters area; cooler nights cause the cranberry's color to deepen to crimson red. I'm David Bartling, part of the fourth generation on our family farm, Bartling's Manitowish Cranberry Co. Each day the sun rises across our farm, my brother and I continue our mission, "Growing a community where passion and purpose come together through our family heritage of growing cranberries".

In 1946, my great-grandparents, Delbert and Myrtle Bartling, moved to Manitowish Waters from Necedah, Wisconsin, along with a few other families to begin building cranberry farms on the land surrounding the east side of Little Trout Lake (other families included the Kollers, Indermuehles, Folsoms, Webers, and McFarlands). The area surrounding Little Trout Lake was inaccessible at the time, so farm infrastructure was built, including installing utilities, roads, dikes, and ditches.

Over the years and generations, our family has expanded our operation from three initial acres to the 190 acres that we have today. We sell our entire crop directly to the Grower-Owned Cooperative, Ocean Spray Cranberries, who markets our fruit through their value-added brand throughout the world. Being a multi-generation family farm, we make our decisions based on what's best for the following four generations, not just what is best for us today. Our decisions today will affect us, but the greater impact will be on my great-grandchildren.

With our deep family roots tying our business strategy to the land, we have a strong awareness of our environment, especially the water quality of Little Trout Lake and the Manitowish Chain of 10 Lakes. The five cranberry farms, approximately 500 acres, that use Little Trout Lake for water formed the Little Trout Lake Cooperative Water Association (LTLCA) over 70 years ago to ensure a healthy water supply for years to come. LTLCA hires a third-party water ecologist to monitor the health of both Little Trout Lake and Alder Lake by performing water tests every other year and completing a macrophyte study every five years. Since this testing began in the late 1980's, the results of the chemistry and aquatic life in the lakes have remained consistent, illustrating our farming practices are not adversely impacting water quality.

Furthermore, to properly manage Bartling's Manitowish Cranberry Co.'s farm inputs, such as fertilizer, we write a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) annually and are certified by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to complete. Our plan includes taking annual soil and plant tissue samples across our farm to show how our current fertilizing regimen worked based on plant needs; we adjust our NMP for the following year accordingly. As a result of our sampling, we apply special blends of fertilizer that purposely reduce Phosphorus applications since there are naturally high levels of Phosphorus in our soils. We base our farming techniques on scientific research and the cranberry plant's needs; more specifically, we strive to become more efficient in our harvesting and growing methods. Our farming techniques have provided us with consistent production above Wisconsin's state average of 200 barrels of cranberries per acre (100 pounds equal one barrel).

All of us at Bartling's Manitowish Cranberry Co., our family and our employees, love to share our story with the community and surrounding area. Although we do not offer public tours, we host private tours for school groups, corporate retreats, and other events. The Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce and the LTLCA sponsor free, public tours at Vilas Cranberry, LLC every Friday morning, July through early October. If anyone has specific questions regarding cranberries, from our rich history to our farming practices, please reach out to me. I hope to see everyone around the area this fall; on the bike trail, the pontoon boat, or at one of the many exciting events that make our community unique!

I will be giving a presentation at the North Lakeland Discovery Center Nibbles 'N Knowledge Program on Thursday, October 12 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The title of the program is "The World's Most Beautiful Harvest". Cost is \$13 (\$10 for members) with all proceeds going to NLDC.

HEALTHY LAKES PRESENTATION SET FOR OCTOBER 18 IN VILAS COUNTY

"Healthy Lakes Equals a Healthy Economy" is the topic of a presentation Wednesday, October 18, at 7 p.m. at the Boulder Junction Community Center. Quita Sheehan, Conservation Specialist with the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Pat Goggin, Lakes Specialist and Outreach Program Manager at the University of Wisconsin Extension Lakes, will present about the importance of our lakes and what individual property owners can do to protect the lakes, our economy, and the Northwoods way of life. The program will include a presentation on the economic

value of our lakes and a few examples of what can be done to protect and improve our area's water bodies by way of the DNR's Healthy Lakes initiative. A question/answer session will follow.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Lead poisoning is the primary cause of death for loons, herons, eagles, swans, and many other species. This happens when lost lead tackle is swallowed with small stones on the lake bottom to help birds digest food or when lead tackle hooked in a fish is consumed by a bird. And lead-poisoned birds eaten by scavenging predators cause even more suffering and death. Lead is one of the most toxic metals known. Many wildlife species suffer adverse effects due to lead exposure. *One lead sinker or jig can kill a ten-pound loon or twenty-pound swan.* Going non-lead is a cheap and easy way for sportsmen to protect our waterfowl and raptors from lead poisoning.
- According to a UW survey, 85% of Wisconsinites use our waters on a regular basis. Boating, swimming, and fishing are popular uses, but the prevailing on-the-water recreational activity is the enjoyment of the aesthetic qualities offered by lakes. In another Wisconsin Lakes poll, overwhelming numbers of respondents said their favorite activity was simply "looking at the lake".

From James A. Brakken's book [Saving our Lakes & Streams](#)

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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.



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

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