



Lakes Association

SPRING – THE SEASON OF NATURE’S RENEWAL

May 2018



"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

~ Aldo Leopold, [A Sand County Almanac](#) ~

MESSAGE FROM BOB BECKER, MWLA PRESIDENT

Well, can you believe it? Spring is finally here, and the lake levels are slowly coming up. With the late ice-out (May 7) that pretty much canceled the opening of the fishing season, but has not slowed the walleyes from biting. After spawning they take the usual week to rest and then the dinner bell rings and good fishing begins. With your generous support and Tom Kramer leading the effort, your association has been active improving the fish habitat in our Chain. Fish cribs, fish beds, and tree drops have greatly increased the habitat in our lakes. Tom will give an update on habitat improvements and the efforts of Walleyes for Tomorrow at our Annual Meeting (details below). This past year we received a thousand dollar donation from the Rossmiller family in memory of Tom Rossmiller who enjoyed fishing on the Manitowish Chain for about 50 years. These funds will go toward our efforts to improve fish habitat on the Chain.

The MWLA board hopes everyone has an enjoyable summer using the lakes and all the great facilities we have here in Manitowish Waters. Sharing the fun with family and friends is what it is all about. In all your activities, please stay safe, wear life vests, don't overload your water craft, keep a safe distance from shore and other boaters, and above all, do your part to protect the shorelines by observing the No Wake zones.

With your help and support the Lakes Association will continue to do all that we can to protect our most valuable resource. It is shared by everyone whether they live here year-round or are just visiting for a few days. See you at the Annual Meeting!

THANK YOU TO OUR LOYAL MEMBERSHIP!

Although it's been a long wait for spring to arrive this year, we are all looking forward to that time of year when we begin to think of spending quality time with our families and friends in the incomparable Northwoods. There are many exciting events and projects taking place this summer in the Manitowish Waters area that are geared toward the preservation and enjoyment of the MW Chain of Lakes. We encourage you to become informed and involved so that we can continue to enjoy the Northwoods and MW Chain of Lakes for generations to come.

We are immensely proud of and thankful to our volunteers from past summers. We encourage all members to get the most out of the MWLA by volunteering to help with one or more activities. Our volunteers assist with the trout pond and MWLA booth on July 4th, monitor for aquatic invasive species, attend AIS workshops, help at our Annual Meeting in July and with the Cran-a-rama pontoon tours in October.

A huge "Thank you!" goes out to two very special volunteers, Fred and Terry Theisen, who continue to faithfully provide roadside pickup for the MWLA on Hwy K, Clear Lake Rd. to the school. They have been volunteering for this project for many years resulting in a trash-free roadside!

With your generous donation of time and money, we can accomplish our mission to "Maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes and other Township waters". Please help to recruit new MWLA members and volunteers by personally speaking to your friends and family. The money from memberships and other donations is used for a variety of great causes such as AIS projects, the restoration of Dead Pike Lake, Skiing Skeeters' AIS and water safety announcements, NLES Outdoor Education Field trips, Healthy Lakes grants (shoreline restoration and fish habitat), Walleyes for Tomorrow, and stocking the July 4th Trout Pond.

Memberships can be renewed by filling out and sending in the renewal membership form included in this newsletter. Annual dues are \$25.00 from June 1 to May 31 of the following year. When filling out your renewal form, please read the list of the many ways you can help, and check those you are most passionate about.

2018 MWLA ANNUAL MEETING

Our 26th Annual Meeting will be held at the North Lakeland Discovery Center on **Saturday, July 28, from 9:00 AM to noon.** Please note the time change and save the date on your calendar. Sign-in starts at 8:30 AM. with the business meeting beginning promptly at 9:00 AM. Food will be served after the short business meeting to elect Officers and Directors. An educational program will also be presented in which Emily Heald will give an AIS update, Dan Cardinal will speak on water safety issues, Tom Kramer will report on Walleyes for Tomorrow, and Laura Hayes from the DNR will talk about home ignition zones, the Firewise Program, and how to reduce fire danger.

There will be an opportunity for you to buy tickets for our raffle of unique items, one of which is an area airplane ride for two donated by Tom Ahonen. Additional details regarding the meeting will be provided in the MWLA Summer Newsletter.

AIS NEWS

by Emily Heald, NLDC Water Program Coordinator

Curly Leaf Pondweed Update: Your Help is Needed!

Happy ice-free season! While out snow skiing this winter, I found myself thinking about curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) more than once. In the winter, we tend to increase our time indoors and decrease our overall physical activity... but this is not the case with CLP. It grows all winter under the ice and is about 3-4 feet tall by this time of year! At this point, after several years of chemical treatments and lake management planning, most of us are familiar with the CLP problem on the Chain. and continues to grow in several locations on the Chain – northern Rest Lake, the Spider-Island Channel, Island Lake, Rice Creek, Stone Lake, and, most recently, Fawn Lake (discovered by Discovery Center staff in 2017).

CLP is a difficult invasive species to control due to its means of reproduction – turions. Turions are small reproductive buds that form along the stem of the plant and fall off around July 4th. Many of these turions sink to the bottom right away, but some also float with the currents to different areas. *Turions are viable for over seven years.* So, if we find a patch of CLP, we can be pretty darn sure there is a seed bank of turions below it! This is why CLP treatment takes multiple, vigilant years of attention. This year is no exception!

CLP will not be chemically treated this year. Onterra and NLDC will continue to monitor for CLP, providing GPS information to divers to hand pull it. NLDC will pull as well. The entire Chain, including below the dam and incoming Trout and Manitowish River and Rice Creek, will be monitored.

There are several ways you can help us in our fight against CLP:

1. Attend a free AIS identification training with me to learn how to identify CLP and other AIS
 - a. If you have already taken the training, but it has been a few years, I strongly encourage you to attend for a refresher.
 - b. Trainings are 1pm-3pm on the following dates at Koller Park: Tuesday June 19, Friday June 29, Saturday July 14, Tuesday July 24, Saturday August 4, and Tuesday August 14. **Pre-registration is required.** Sign up online www.DiscoveryCenter.net, or email/call me.
2. Report any potential CLP sightings to me. Make sure to grab a sample if you can (put it in a container with a little water) and take detailed notes (or a GPS coordinate) on where you found it.
3. **KEEP TRACK OF YOUR MONITORING HOURS AND TURN THEM IN TO ME. Volunteer hours are required for the grants that fund our efforts. Active volunteers are KEY to the long-term health of our waters.** Remember that once you know what to look for, ANY time on the water keeping your eyes open counts as monitoring – cruising around on the pontoon, fishing, walking the shoreline, etc.
4. Do you like snorkeling, swimming, and being in the water? Volunteer to help us hand harvest CLP.
5. Sign up for volunteer updates. A few times a year I will send out more detailed updates in addition to the MWLA updates. Interested in receiving these? Email me or give me a call and I'll put you on my distribution list.

Purple Loosestrife Update



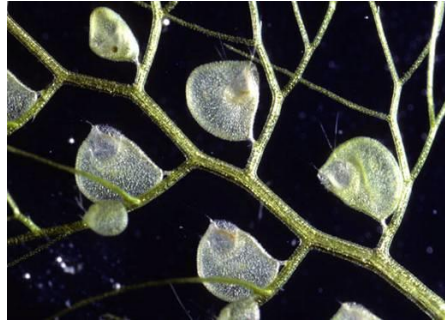
Purple loosestrife is an invasive species that overtakes the habitat of native plants that are essential to the resident wildlife. On May 9th, seventeen North Lakeland School 7th graders partnered with the Discovery Center and the MWLA to spend the morning identifying and digging up purple loosestrife plants growing near McCabe Lake. They spent the afternoon at the Discovery Center potting about 40 plants for the Manitowish Waters purple loosestrife beetle-rearing bio-control project. The students did a fantastic job!

The plants will be netted, and beetles placed in the netting for propagation. The netting was sewed by volunteers organized by Elizabeth Sykes. Thank you to Stitch-N-Time members that helped sew the nets: Elizabeth Sykes, Alvena Kaczmarek, Elizabeth (Toots) Kellett, Carol Butler, Karen Joseph, Terri Farina, Macy Washow, and Wendy Osberg.

The beetles eat and weaken the plant, keeping flowers from forming and have proved to be an extremely effective biological control. The beetles are reared on the netted plants at the Discovery Center and released into larger, established infestations on the Chain. Volunteers also pull non-established smaller populations and cut flower heads to slow the spread of seeds during mid-to-late summer. The work day was led by Emily Heald and Heather Platt of the Discovery Center, and was assisted by Karen Dixon (MWLA), and Nathan Breitholtz and Neil Wallace (NLS).



Critter Corner: Bladderwort



(From left to right: a full-size view of bladderwort, an up-close view of the bladders, bladderwort flowers)

Did you know there are carnivorous plants in the Manitowish Chain? They are called bladderworts. While their name may sound unappealing, these plants have a very interesting mechanism to capture and consume their prey. If you look at a bladderwort plant up close (middle photo), you'll see it has many round sacks on it – those are the bladders. The bladder, which starts out empty (i.e. at a lower pressure), has a watertight trap door that is lined with tiny hairs. When a prey (usually a microscopic animal) hits the hairs, the trap door opens, causing water and the prey to rush inside the bladder. This happens in 1/100th of a second! The trap door closes once pressure equalizes. Enzymes in the bladder digest the prey, which takes anywhere from a few hours to a few days. It depends on the type of prey ingested. Bladderworts are usually below the surface, so you may be more familiar with their little yellow orchid-like flowers. They are found in calm, shallow waters.

Welcome Summer 2018 Discovery Center interns!

Interns will be working to monitor the waters and provide outreach in the Manitowish Waters, Boulder Junction, and Winchester area, as well as inspecting boats through the Clean Boats Clean Waters program at Van Vliet, Presque Isle, Big, Rest, and Clear Lakes. If you see them out on the water, please introduce yourself!

Colby Durre

Hello, I am Colby Durre, and I am a Fisheries Management major at University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. I moved to Stevens Point from my home town of Metamora, IL in January of 2017 and have truly enjoyed Wisconsin's abundant natural resources. Since a young age I have enjoyed spending time in woods as well as on the water and am pursuing a career preserving the resources that I treasure most. I look forward to spending a summer at the North Lakeland Discovery Center expanding my skills and knowledge while enjoying the scenic, lake-rich Northwoods!



Johnny Behrendt

Hi, my name is Johnny Behrendt. I am from the western suburbs of Chicago, but recently moved to Manitowish Waters with my grandpa. I have been vacationing to the Northwoods my whole life and have a great appreciation for the lakes and rivers. I have been fishing as long as I can remember, and it is my favorite pastime. I have fished in the World Championship Musky Classic for six years. Now I attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point as a double major in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences and Biology with minors in Water Resources and Aquaculture. I am very excited to work with the North Lakeland Discovery Center to remove the Aquatic Invasive Species in our lakes and rivers. I have a great passion for the local lakes, especially as this is where I have grown up fishing. To have the opportunity to make a difference and benefit the ecosystem is just incredible to me.





Braden Westerhoff

Hello! My name is Braden Westerhoff and I'm currently a junior at Marquette University studying Biological Sciences and Environmental Studies. I could not be more excited to join the NLDC team this summer to help them continue working on their Water Program. I've always loved the outdoors – hiking, kayaking, snowboarding, swimming, hunting/fishing – and possibility to do these amazing activities. The Northwoods in particular holds a very special place in my heart. While I'm from the Chicago area, I've been visiting Manitowish Waters multiple times a year for my entire life and consider it my favorite place on earth. Aside from my love of nature, I love music and hope to spend as much time as possible at the Cozy Cove Bluegrass Music Festival!

Healthy Lakes Grant

Tom Kramer coordinated a few tree drops this winter on Rest Lake, and will be doing more this summer. Shoreline restoration gardens will be installed later this summer. Want to volunteer to help plant and water? Let NLDC know! Volunteer hours are required for the matching funds for the grant.

FLOAT YOUR BOAT TRIVIA RALLY

Join the Discovery Center for a fun filled day on the Manitowish Chain of Lakes for a scavenger hunt on June 23 from noon to 4 PM. This event is sure to test and increase your knowledge and awareness of Northwoods ecology and history. Participants will be provided with a list of clues, prompts, and riddles on the day of the rally. Participants must provide their own boat and obey all DNR safety rules. The NLDC will host an evening BBQ at 5 PM (cost included with registration!) where awards will be announced for the boat with the best decorations/themes/costumes, highest point earners, and best pictures/videos. Please contact the Discovery Center and ask for Emily, Annie, or Julie for more details. Pre-register by 6/18. \$75 per team (one boat = one team). Winning teams receive gift baskets.

WALLEYES FOR TOMORROW

by Tom Kramer

On June 28th at the MW Town Hall, the WFT Headwaters Basin Chapter will be hosting a presentation by Greg Sass on his woody habitat studies on lakes and how woody habitat helps small zoo plankton all the way up to larger fish. This presentation is open to the public.

WFT will be donating \$200,000 to the UWSP for future walleye population studies questioning why there is not the amount of natural reproduction in lakes like there used to be. The money will be in an interest-bearing account that will pay for the ongoing projects every year.

WFT is sponsoring a portable fish hatchery in Mercer with 800,000 walleye eggs currently incubating. WFT also requested permission to stock 7000-7500 more extended-length walleye fry this fall. They are currently setting up creel census boxes at boat landings on the Chain for walleye surveys. In 2019 the DNR will be doing a full-blown survey of every fish species on the Chain. Headwaters Basin Chapter will be applying for more fish stick projects (woody habitat) on State properties on the MW Chain They will also be applying for permits to enhance walleye spawning areas by adding rock to shore lines in the Minocqua Chain.

WFTHWB Chapters' Annual Fundraising Banquet will be held at the Whitetail Inn in St. Germain on June 14 this year. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets email tom@bearcountrybuilders.com

THANK YOU FROM DEAD PIKE LAKE ASSOCIATION

by Gale Wolfe, Dead Pike Lake Association

Those of you who enjoyed the photo of a bird-bander on the front page of the Lakeland Times of May 15th should know that you helped make that picture possible. The young woman pictured is Heather Platt, the Technical Intern that MWLA helped fund, along with the Town, in support of the Dead Pike Lake Restoration Project. Without this kind of broad community participation our current lake efforts would not be possible. The Township itself has played a key role, successfully applying for and receiving a \$25,00 grant. The Discovery Center is offering free housing for Heather. Even the private research firm, Applied Ecological Services, is donating a substantial portion of its professional services. We are hopeful that all this effort will result not only in a restoration of the water quality of Dead Pike Lake but that the solutions and their protocols will be applicable to similar problem lakes throughout the state, possibly even within our own

township. So, we are grateful to all our MW neighbors but especially to our “Big Sister” Association, the MWLA, for its confidence in our work and its obvious generosity.

SHORELAND LIGHTING – THINK OF YOUR NEIGHBORS!

The MWLA has received correspondence regarding shoreland lighting issues. Currently, language from the State concerning shoreland lighting prohibits the regulation of such. Education appears to be the best solution to this issue. Most complaints are about security lights that are left on from dusk to dawn, or even 24/7 all year long. 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 our neighbors across the water. No one should miss the beauty and benefits of moonlight, starlight, and the northern lights due to mercury-vapor lighting. Simply shielding and properly aiming your lights and using lower wattage can achieve the same degree of illumination.

The MWLA board of directors encourages you to follow the link provided to access the informational pamphlet from the UW-Extension titled **Sensible Shoreland Lighting** 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.

WATER SAFETY PATROL

Water Patrol Officer, Zachary Paulson, will be back this year to patrol our Chain 50 hours a week in a new Water Safety Patrol boat that contains a new radio.



Everyone is encouraged 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>

BOAT COURTEOUSLY AND LEGALLY - PLEASE WATCH YOUR WAKES

Wisconsin state law prohibits using a motorboat that creates hazardous wave or wake conditions and states that the operator of a motorboat is liable for any damage caused to the person or property of another by wash or wake. Manitowish Waters interprets this to also include erosion to property. Please boat courteously and be aware of the property of others, fishermen, and those swimming, canoeing, paddle boarding and kayaking. And remember to observe slow no wake rules within 100’ of all shorelines and other boaters, in channels and anywhere buoys indicate a slow no wake area. Our Township waters are patrolled. Thank you for your cooperation.

~~~~~  
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.

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

**Bob Becker ‘17**  
**President**  
Spider Lake  
715-543-2219

**Paul Puccinelli ‘17**  
**Vice President**  
Rest Lake  
715-904-0951

**Eleanor Butler ‘17**  
**Treasurer**  
Alder Lake  
715-543-8401

**Jo Ann Miller ‘18**  
**Secretary**  
Sturgeon Lake  
715-543-2389

**Karen Dixon**  
**Past-President**  
Manitowish River  
715-543-8141

**Mary Bowlus ‘18**  
Rest Lake  
715-543-2896

**Greg Holt ‘18**  
Benson Lake  
715-543-8168

**Angela Dombrowicki ‘18**  
Alder Lake  
608-234-0403

**Tom Kramer ‘18**  
Hwy. 51  
715-543-8000

**Delp Schafer ‘18**  
Rest Lake  
715-543-2370

**Bob Stowers ‘17**  
Manitowish Lake  
715-543-2284

**Dennis Wilm ‘19**  
Spider Lake  
715-543-2378



**MWLA Membership Application/Renewal**

Annual Dues **\$25.00** (June 1 to May 31 of the following year)  
Make check payable to: Manitowish Waters Lakes Association or MWLA  
**Mail to: P.O. Box 286, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545**

**The Manitowish Waters Lakes Association is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization.  
All donations to the MWLA are fully tax deductible as allowed by relevant law.**

**MWLA does not share its membership list with other organizations.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Lake/river you live on or are closest to if off-water \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Manitowish Waters Address \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate when mail is delivered to you in MW (from what month to what month):  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

MW Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Residence Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide an email address so you can receive MWLA e-Alerts and e-Newsletters.

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Please print clearly)**

With the awarding of the WDNR Grants, we are especially in need of members who are willing to help offset the in-kind hours required by the grants.

I am willing to volunteer some of my time to:

\_\_\_ monitoring AIS    \_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> of July    \_\_\_ Annual Meeting    \_\_\_ Cran-a-rama    \_\_\_ Mailings

If you are unable to volunteer the gift of time, we ask that you please consider making a monetary contribution.

I am including a donation for the following:

\_\_\_ Aquatic Invasive Species Education and Prevention    \_\_\_ Fish Habitat Project  
\_\_\_ Annual Meeting Raffle    \_\_\_ Fish Stocking (Walleyes for Tomorrow - WFT)  
\_\_\_ Miscellaneous