



LET THE SUMMER FUN BEGIN!

July 2019



Lake Rules: Sleep in. Read. Relish nature. Make memories. Relax. Fish. Monitor for AIS. Enjoy each moment.

YOU ARE THE WIND BENEATH OUR WINGS!

It is you, our members and volunteers, who make the MWLA such a successful organization! Without your willingness to pay dues each year, make donations to our various projects, volunteer for events and for AIS monitoring, we would not exist. The following volunteers recently helped with our July 4th activities: Tom and Diane Busse, Joan and Deane Galloway, Steve and Jacquie Clausen, Chris and John McConachie, Jarod Scheff, Nicole Spears, and Eric Curtis. Their help was much appreciated by the MWLA board.

Thank you to all who have renewed their membership for this year. For those who have not yet renewed, we have enclosed a renewal form for you to fill out and send in with your check for your 2019 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 in the MW Township”. According to our bylaws, anyone living within the MW Township is eligible for membership in the MWLA. You do not need be a shoreland property owner or live on the Chain.

Our organization works to protect all the water bodies in the Township including those down river from the dam, namely Vance, Benson and Sturgeon Lakes.

2019 MWLA ANNUAL MEETING AND BREAKFAST

What could be more fun than meeting your lake neighbors, listening to three educational presentations, and enjoying a free breakfast? The MWLA Annual Meeting will provide all of this for you! Make sure you have marked your calendar to attend the 27th MWLA Annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

You are cordially invited to attend the MWLA Annual meeting and Breakfast **on Saturday, July 27, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.** at the North Lakeland Discovery Center. Sign-in starts at **8:30 a.m.** with the business meeting beginning promptly at **9:00**. Breakfast will be available throughout the meeting and will include egg bake casserole, sweet rolls and muffins, fruit, and beverages.

There will be a short business meeting to elect Directors and Officers followed by presentations: Emily Heald will give an AIS update, David Bartling of Bartling's Manitowish Cranberry Company, will give a presentation on their mission to grow quality crops while sustaining the land and water resources, Tom Kramer will report on Walleyes for Tomorrow, and Quita Sheehan, Vilas County Water Conservationist, will talk about healthy lakes. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns about your lake/river property.

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.

There will be an opportunity for you to buy tickets for our raffle of exceptional items, such as an area airplane ride for two donated by Tom Ahonen and a gift certificate from Trout Lake Golf Club that includes greens fees for two people, 18 holes, with a cart. **Remember to bring address labels for your raffle tickets!**

AIS NEWS

by Emily Heald, NLDC Water Program Coordinator
715-543-2085, water@discoverycenter.net

Curly-Leaf Pondweed Update

The early season aquatic invasive species (AIS) surveys have been completed on the Chain. Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) was found on the north end of Rest Lake (just a single plant this year!), Fawn, the southeast end of Island, Stone, Rice Creek, and the Spider-Island channel.

Each location, except for Rice Creek, was pulled by the Discovery Center Staff and a professional plant removal company. While the Rest, Stone, Island, Rice Creek, and Spider-Island Channel populations appear to be diminishing or maintaining size, the Fawn CLP population appears to have grown since last year. The plant removal company was able to remove CLP at all known locations on Fawn, removing about 158 cubic feet in total.



Discovery Center Staff preparing for a day on the water hand-removing curly-leaf pondweed.

The likely presence of turions in the sediment means that some regrowth in the Chain is expected in 2020. Turions are the reproductive buds CLP forms to reproduce and spread. Once these buds fall off the plants mid-summer, they remain viable in the sediment for up to 7 years. Continued finding of CLP in the Chain suggests there are still turions in the sediment.

Continuation of monitoring and management of CLP is vital to preventing proliferation of CLP throughout the Manitowish Chain of Lakes. With the support of the Town of Manitowish Waters and the Manitowish Waters

Lakes Association, we will continue to protect our lakes against the spread of aquatic invasive species such as curly-leaf pondweed.

Wanted: AIS Monitors. Training is easy!

Summer is a great time to get involved in invasive species monitoring on your lake. Family and friends who are visiting can be extra eyes on the water! You do not need to worry about being an expert on plants and animals in order to get involved – you just need to know some of the invasives and learn what to look for. AIS identification trainings are free and available from 1-3pm at Koller Park on the following dates: July 20, July 30, and August 10. RSVPs are required.

Once you are trained in what to look for, all time spent observing the water and shoreline on a pontoon cruise or checking out plants as you are fishing counts as volunteer time! Please call or email Emily if you need volunteer time sheets. **Remember, volunteer hours are required as matching funds for the DNR grants that fund our aquatic invasive species work.**

Purple Loosestrife

Purple loosestrife will begin blooming soon! To identify purple loosestrife, look for a square stem, opposite long and pointy leaves, and pink-purple flowers with 5-6 petals growing close to the stem. As in past years, the Discovery Center will continue to monitor purple loosestrife. We clip flower heads to prevent seeds from spreading. We also release “cella beetles” onto large stands of purple loosestrife. Cella beetles eat only purple loosestrife and are a means to decrease overall plant height and seed production in large infestation areas. The Discovery Center rears these beetles in controlled areas, and then releases them near the end of the summer. If you are interested in volunteering for purple loosestrife monitoring and control or think you have found purple loosestrife on the Chain, please contact Emily at the Discovery Center.



Beetle rearing setup at the Discovery Center. Pots of purple loosestrife are grown in a safe area, and netted so that beetles can reproduce and not escape. Glass jar of “cella” beetles.

Crayfish, Crawfish or Crawdads???

Commonly known as crayfish in Wisconsin, these critters go by many other names depending on the region, just like soda or pop. Next to fish, these aquatic invertebrates are the easiest to identify due to their enlarged front legs that form pincers. These pincers help the crayfish burrow into the muck, fend off predators and assist in gathering food. The remainder of the body consists of the cephalothorax, abdomen and a total of five paired legs. In Wisconsin, there are six native species of crayfish and two non-native species. Sadly, the invasive rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) has dramatically reduced the native crayfish populations making a native crayfish sighting a thrill. The United States has the greatest diversity of crayfish in the world with the highest diversity in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee.

Crayfish are omnivorous meaning they eat both plants and animals. The daily diet includes aquatic vegetation, eggs and detritus. During the winter months, the crayfish create burrows in the muck and wait out the cold. In other seasons, the

crayfish burrows become important hiding places for invertebrates. This trait makes them ecosystem engineers, which means crayfish manipulate the environment, impacting other species that can live in that area. Crayfish are also an important food source for fish species such as bass. No matter what these little critters are called, their importance to the ecosystem should not be overlooked.



Pictured on the left is the invasive rusty crayfish and on the right is the native devil crayfish.

WATER SAFETY PATROL

by Dan Cardinal, OIC, Manitowish Waters Boat Patrol

Summer has finally arrived and water activity on the Chain has increased proportionately. Water Safety Officer Zak Paulson took a job as a Milwaukee County Deputy in June. While he hoped to get back up on the Chain a few days this summer, his schedule has not permitted it. Leah and I have been out on the water several times, and with all of the help from you, she is learning her way around the Chain and enjoying the job.

The weather on July 4th was challenging at best, but between the rain showers it was obvious that people were enjoying themselves. The weather was spectacular on the 5th as was water activity. The fireworks show was great and enjoyed by many boaters. Boat Patrol appreciated the help of spectator boats respecting the 400-foot safety setback from the fireworks launch area.

After the show, the trip up the Manitowish River from Rest Lake to Stone Lake was very orderly. All observed boats had proper navigation lights. We did not observe any illegal use of blue lights this year, and the illegal use of “Docking Lights” used as head lights while under way, seemed to be down this year.

Again, this year the most common complaints have been about boats exceeding the Slow-No-Wake speeds in the posted areas. **“Slow, No Wake Speed” means a speed at which a vessel moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control.** This means you must also slow down your boat to **slow no wake speed** before you enter a S-N-W restricted area, and until your boat is safely beyond the S-N-W buoy after you have left the restricted area.

Your boat patrol cannot be everywhere and if you observe violations it is best to call the Town office at 715-543-8400 and report the violation to Dana with the time, location, and what the violation was. She will then inform the town board members and they will contact us.

Safety is your boat patrol’s primary responsibility and with your help we can continue to keep boating on the Manitowish Chain a safe and enjoyable experience. Please become educated about Wisconsin boating laws. Copies are available at the MW Chamber Office or click the link below to access [The Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities:](https://www.boat-ed.com/wisconsin/handbook/page/1/Introduction/) <https://www.boat-ed.com/wisconsin/handbook/page/1/Introduction/>

SHORELAND OWNERS’ CONCERNS

For the past several years the MWLA has been receiving complaints regarding shoreland damage created by wake boats and people not following the slow-no-wake rules. Consequently, after doing research on whether these boats can be regulated and finding that this has not been a successful solution, the MWLA Board of Directors voted unanimously at their 2018 June board meeting to recommend to the Town Board approval of signage at all Town boat landings that contains information about creating large wakes when boating. The MWLA board felt that educating the public was the most viable solution.

The language below was approved at the Town Board meeting on July 10, 2018. The Town has not yet posted the signage at the landings.

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, kayaking, and the shoreline nesting areas of waterfowl. Please 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.

THE WAKE BEHIND THE BOAT

by Greg Holt, MWLA board director

Have you ever reached into the water to pull out an old can or watched a boater stop to retrieve some floating litter from the lake? Maybe you have monitored the shoreline to check for aquatic invasive species or maybe you have planted a buffer down at the water's edge to limit run-off into the lake. There are many ways to try and protect the water resources we like to enjoy. But to be stewards of our water resources we also need to eliminate unintended negative and possibly unseen consequences of our actions.

With bigger boat motors and innovations in boat hull design, larger boat wakes for recreational opportunities have become possible. Wake surfing, riding large boat wakes similar to what an ocean surfer does, is becoming popular on inland lakes. Large wakes can cause erosion, damage to property, destruction of wildlife habitat, injury to others, and in the long term may decrease water clarity and property values. Gentle waves lapping at the shore may be a soothing sound and a welcome sight, but repetitive large wakes can be destructive and dangerous. 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 of property.

The Board of the MWLA reminds you to please boat courteously, legally, and be mindful of the need to maintain, enhance and protect these waters that we are so fortunate to be able to enjoy.

WAKE BOATS RENDERING DAMAGE TO NATURAL SHORELINES AND DOCKS

Article from Michigan Lakes and Stream Association, September 23, 2014,

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations have received numerous phone calls and e-mails in the past two summers from lakefront property owners expressing concern about the collateral damage often rendered to docks, boats and soft shorelines from the increasing number of wake boats operating on Michigan's inland lakes. Wakeboarding has increased in popularity in recent years and with it has come a boom in sales of wake boats designed to create large, high energy waves. Most modern wakeboarding boats are designed with variable ballast systems which allows the user to pump water into and out of ballast tanks from the surrounding water. Increasing the volume of ballast water increases the boat's displacement which consequently enlarges the wake produced. The potential for damage to docks and moored boats as well as the probability of shoreline erosion increases with the wake boat displacement, hull size, weight, and speed.

Ballast-laden wake boats operating at high speeds near inland lake shorelines are capable of producing wave heights and frequencies that may exceed those produced during the most intense summer thunderstorms and/or high winds. The increasing negative impact of wake boats on inland lake fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and on personal shoreline property strongly suggests that the operation of these boats on Michigan inland waters may require increased state regulation in the near future.

In the interim, Michigan Lake and Stream Associations recommends the following operating guidelines which are intended to help minimize the ecological and environmental impacts of wake boats.

Wake boat operators should be advised to:

1. Reduce their speed within 500 feet of shore.
2. Not add ballast water or other extra weight to their boats.

3. Not operate their boats near sandy areas, wetlands or lakefront residences.
4. Avoid turning their boats in tight circles (tight circles increase wave height and frequency).
5. Avoid operating their wake boats in shallow water or near natural shorelines.



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.
- Swimmer's itch cycle is caused by flatworms, snails, and water birds, such as ducks and geese. It occurs in some Wisconsin Lakes each year and is caused by the larvae (immature stage) of certain flatworms that can be picked up while swimming. Swimmer's itch appears as red, itching, bite-like welts within several hours of leaving the water. It is neither dangerous nor contagious but is very uncomfortable. To find out more about the causes and prevention of swimmer's itch, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/swimmersitch/>

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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.**

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

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