



FLAMBOYANT FALL! **October 2021**



Fox Island, MW

"The leaves as they spark into wild color just before they die are the world's oldest performance art, and everything we see is celebrating one last violently hued hurrah before the black and white silence of winter."

~ Shauna Niequist ~

THANKS ALL-AROUND

by Greg Holt, MWLA President

Thank you to the Town Board. Last week the Board renewed the Town's contract with the Discovery Center to continue the work to control and fight invasive species. The Town once again allocated \$38,000 for this effort. In addition, our Association again contributed \$11,000. This is all part of the Town Aquatic Invasive Species Program (TAISP), a collaborative effort of the Towns of Manitowish Waters, Boulder Junction and Winchester, along with the Winchester Town Lakes Committee and the MWLA working with the Discovery Center to monitor aquatic invasive species and prevent their proliferation.

The Town also supports and contributes in numerous additional ways to protect our waters by forming and supporting the Town Water Safety Committee, budgeting for and equipping the Water Safety Patrol Officers, and maintaining and promoting our waterfront parks.

Our Planning Commission is involved in zoning regulations that relate to our waterfront properties, our Chamber promotes our lakes and civic organizations which also support our stewardship efforts, and our businesses benefit from our waters and support efforts to promote these waters.

Thanks are appropriate for governmental bodies and associations beyond our Township. The State of Wisconsin has statutes on boating safety, natural resources, and inland waters. The Department of Natural Resources oversees the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network, provides wardens and Surface Water Grants. Shoreland Zoning Ordinances through Vilas County further help to maintain water quality as does the work done by the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department. Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association partners with lake associations throughout our area. And don't forget the MW Chamber of Commerce who shares information about our association and the waters in our township in their weekly newsletters. Walleyes for Tomorrow continues to enhance our fishery. Wisconsin Lakes, a statewide organization, and the University of the Wisconsin Extension Office provide expertise and assistance, as do other statewide organizations.

And of course, thank you to all of you. All the monies, regulations, and expertise that is available to us would be of limited value without the efforts of our membership and community members. We are the citizens that support our Town budget allocations, our Planning Commission, our Chamber and our civic organizations. Monitoring of water quality and checking for AIS and contributing to our Association and to specific initiatives are critical. The actions by each of us to promote quality waters and native habitat, a healthy fishery and protective shorelines are not small contributions; they are what make everything else work.

It's 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 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"**.

EMAIL FIX

Our newsletter is also sent by email and you can view it in color. As you know from reading our Summer Newsletter, many of our members have been finding MWLA emails in their spam folders rather than in their inbox. With the help of Scott Bertz from Web Work Life, Sandy Cashman from the Manito Art League, and MailChimp, we hope we have resolved the issue by having MailChimp go through an authentication process to validate our records.

MailChimp strongly encourages email recipients to add the MWLA email address to their contacts to ensure that they receive our emails. Please add this email address to your contacts list info@mwlakes.com

You can catch up on our previous emails by going to our website at www.mwlakes.com

MWLA ELECTS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS AT 29th ANNUAL MEETING

The Manitowish Waters Lakes Association held its 29th Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 31st at the North Lakeland Discovery Center. The 80+ attendees were welcomed by MWLA President, Greg Holt on a beautiful, sunny morning with a delicious breakfast of a variety of egg casseroles, homemade crullers, and fruit plate from Save-More Food Market in Minocqua. The MWLA's mission is to "protect, maintain and enhance our waters". We are able to accomplish this through our partnerships with the North Lakeland Discovery Center, WDNR, and the Towns of Manitowish Waters and Boulder Junction.

During the business portion of the meeting, the following officers and directors were elected:

- Officers (1-year term ending July 2022)

Greg Holt, President; Angela Dombrowicki, Vice President; Eleanor Butler, Treasurer; and Carla Biwan Hameister, Secretary.

- Directors (2-year terms ending July 2022)

Mary Bowlus, Paul Puccinelli, Delp Schafer, Lynn Schroeder

- Directors (2-year terms ending July 2023)

Carla Biwan Hameister, Tom Kramer, Mike McKeon, Jody Miller, Gale Wolf.

- Immediate Past President, Karen Dixon, continues to serve on the board.



Greg recognized and thanked departing board Vice President, Dennis Wilm, for his years of service on the board. He gave generously of his time and resources to the Association and will be greatly missed. He also thanked the businesses and individuals who donated raffle prizes and money for the purchase of raffle prizes: Dennis Hill of Den Hill Photography, Denise Goldsworthy at Remax Realty. Mike Osbourne at Trout Lake Golf Course, and MWLA board members.

The following presentations were made corresponding to the theme of the Past, Present, and Future of the MWLA:

- Jody Miller, Board of Directors Manitowish Waters Historical Society: Past history of the MLWA.

- Tom Kramer, Headwaters Basin Chapter Chairman Walleyes for Tomorrow: Present efforts in stocking walleyes.

- Frank DiLeonardi, Town Water Safety Committee: Present efforts and new maps

- Emily Heald, North Lakeland Discovery Center Water Program Coordinator: Present Aquatic Invasive Species activities..

- Greg Holt, President Manitowish Waters Lakes Association: Future endeavors of the Association

Each of the presenters addressed questions and comments from the membership.

After the presentations, President Greg Holt asked for concerns and questions from members regarding any issues not already addressed.

Summer Water Interns, Jaycie Korth, Nathan Clem, and Matt Flynn showed samples of curly leaf pondweed and other aquatic invasive species (AIS), provided information on how to monitor for AIS, and gave information on the programs that are available through the Discovery Center that teach how to monitor for AIS.

Next year's MWLA Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2022.

WHO IS LYNN SCHROEDER?

by Lynn Schroeder

The MWLA's new board member came into this world in Green Bay, Wisconsin In 1956. Lynn was the youngest of four boys in his family. He grew up there and graduated from Green Bay East High School and, as he said, "The school of Hard Knocks." Both of Lynn's parents grew up in Kewaunee.



Lynn started his working life with Truck Equipment Inc. in 1977. He worked his way up from inventory control clerk to a sales position and parts manager. Lynn wanted more; he dreamed of owning his own business but he had to wait to fulfill this wish while raising his and Jean's family. They had three sons and a daughter and by 2004 he began following his dream. In 2005 he purchased Truck Equipment Inc. after 28 years of work. In 2017 Lynn retired and kept the business in the family, with two of his three sons taking control. Their daughter now lives in Pulaski.

Lynn and his wife currently live on Stone Lake in beautiful Manitowish Waters. He puts great stock in faith and family and they have 10 grandchildren. Lynn enjoys hunting of all kinds and fishing in our Northwoods waters.

WAKES

by Greg Holt

In 2017 the MWLA first started to look at the issue of boats designed specifically to create large wakes for recreational activities. We quickly learned that Wisconsin State Law prohibits discrimination as to types of boats allowed on inland waters. (lakes permitting only boats without gas motors are an exception written into the statutes).

Back in 2017 the MWLA Board backed a statement asking folks to boat courteously and included appropriate reasons do so. The sentiment was correct, asking folks to be considerate of others when recreating on the water, but the effort was soft - a simple narrative paragraph, no stressing areas of emphasis, and no acknowledgment of the importance of the issue. Boating courteously is appropriate and if this mindset could be practiced by all boaters a myriad of issues would be solved. As the Association in town tasked by our mission to protect, maintain and enhance our waters, we are looking at what more we can do related to the issue of large wakes.

We have learned that the effects of waves on our waters are not unique to wake boats. They are unique to a type of boating. Erosion of our shorelines and dangers for folks recreating on our waters can be caused by many types of boats, some more easily than others. Recent local newspaper accounts reveal that multiple communities in our area are attempting to address this issue. This is not a new or recent issue, it has been an issue across the country for a number of years.

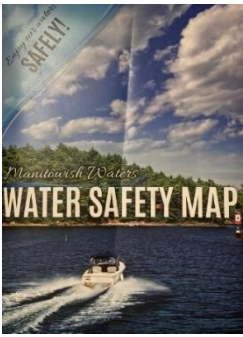
So what role is the MWLA going to take? The Board had agreed to do some preliminary research on this, and then depending on the results of what is learned, decide how to further address this issue. We do not need to recreate the wheel - there is research looking at wave action and how it affects erosion, shorelines, aquatic invasive species and other folks recreating on water. Initially, multiple Directors on our Board have each agreed to look at specific different sources with differing points of view and report back to the Board. With that information we hope to decide how to best address the issue, who to further seek information from, how to involve the membership in the ongoing process, whether recommendations should be made and to whom, and how to join with others to educate on this issue.

We welcome input on this and anticipate actively soliciting assistance and input from our membership. Stay tuned, the winter is ahead and need not be a dormant period for dealing with this important issue.

TOWN WATER SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWS

by Greg Holt

The Water Safety Committee is pleased to report that during the boating year as of this date no injuries from boating accidents have occurred on our local waters. The theme of the community wide push to "Enjoy Our Waters Safely" has been actively promoted and it appears to have been adopted by many. Thank you to everyone for understanding the need to be mindful of others on the waters and the regulations that help maintain safety on the water.



2021 saw the publication of the Water Safety Map which is available at several outlets including the Chamber of Commerce - if you haven't seen it, check it out; it is a really nice map of the chain and has quite a bit of valuable boating and safety information on it. Rack cards have also been placed at the Chamber and other spots in town assisting folks in knowing key boating regulations and ways to assist with boater safety.



The Water Safety Committee made recommendations to the Town Board in 2021 that have been adopted to assist with water safety. If you've been on the water at all you likely have seen the newer, larger and in much better shape Slow-No-Wake buoys. Additional equipment for the Water Safety Patrol Officers has been purchased and there has been a recent recommendation that the Town will consider at the next meeting for the officers to have a breathalyzer to assist with their duties. A new winch and crane for removing the buoys each fall has also been secured by the Town.

Frank DiLeonardi from the Committee presented information to the MWLA membership at our Annual Meeting. He recapped how the committee actions thus far and proposed for the future have contributed to safety on our waters. The value of the presentation and the interest of folks was evident by the thoughtful questions asked by those in attendance.

We are all fortunate for the time our Water Patrol Officers Dan Perry, Phil Horter and Joe Kraetke were able to spend on the water. The verbal feedback received regarding these officers and the job they performed was very positive. Their work in not only issuing warnings and citations but also in educating and assisting the public helped with folks being able to be safe while recreating on the water. Please continue to be courteous of others and safety-conscious while enjoying our waters.

The statistics for the year from the Water Safety Patrol Officers through the end of August (not yet including Labor Day weekend or September activity) are as follows: 3918 contacts; 308 verbal warnings; 53 written warnings; 9 citations; 390.5 hours.

Some of you completed a community survey in the last year on water safety related issues. That survey helped guide the activities of the Water Safety Committee over this year. A survey will be sent out again in the next few months and will continue to help guide the efforts of the committee as well as helping to understand where the efforts of the committee were more successful and where more work needs to be done. Please take the time to complete the survey when it comes out from the Chamber.



AIS AND PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE UPDATE

by Emily Heald, Water Program Coordinator at the Discovery Center,
water@discoverycenter.net (715) 543-2085

Clean Boats Clean Waters Program Continues to Positively Influence Boater Behavior

Discovery Center Interns Jaycie, Nate, and Matt participated in efforts to spread the word about invasive species at Rest and Clear boat landings. Through this state funded program, interns spoke with 585 boats (829 people). The Clean Boats, Clean Waters programs helps us to educate boaters on preventing the spread and establishment of aquatic invasive species. It also helps to gather important information regarding boater

travel between different lakes, which helps the DNR to prioritize its search and research of aquatic invasive species.

2021 Purple Loosestrife Update

Summer has come and gone, and so has purple loosestrife season. Purple loosestrife is a wetland invasive plant found in many locations throughout Manitowish Waters, including Rice Creek, the Manitowish River running into Island Lake, Wild Rice Lake, the channel between Spider and Island Lakes, and intermittently on a few of the other lakes in the Chain. It is also found on the Stepping Stone Lakes. The Discovery Center clips flower heads of purple loosestrife to prevent it from going to seed and spreading to new locations. We also release cella beetles, which eat only purple loosestrife, onto infestation sites. The beetles damage the plant so that it does not grow as tall and produces fewer seeds. This way, native plants have more of a chance to grow back. We saw several areas of beetle damage – they are doing their job!



NLDC interns releasing cella beetles onto a PL site on Rice Creek.

Vilas County Embarks on Rice Creek Watershed Project

Vilas County Land and Water Department has received DNR grant funding to locate possible sources of iron and pollution within the Rice Creek watershed, which includes Rice Lake feeding into Island Lake on the Chain, as well as its waters upstream. The group is in need of volunteers to assist with monitoring efforts. Volunteers will document and measure erosion sites for further analysis. Once the survey is complete, resource professionals will determine priority sites where landowners may have the option to use cost-share funding to manage erosion. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the project, contact Shawn O'Connell: shocon@vilascountywi.gov



NLDC workers taking a break on the many bags of PL flower heads clipped from Rice Creek.

HELP WANTED!

The MWLA is looking for a volunteer to be in charge of our newsletter, website, and Facebook page. Karen Dixon has been writing the newsletter and updating our website and Facebook page for the past ten years, and it is now time for someone else to take over. Qualifications are a love of writing and knowledge of word processing. Karen will train you on how to use MailChimp, WordPress (website), and post on Facebook. Scott Bertz, from Web Work Life, is always available to give advice, too. Please consider this opportunity and if interested contact Karen at ked28bean@yahoo.com cell 608-449-0582 or home 715-543-8141.

THE FIGHT CONTINUES: SLIMY WATER, DAM DISAGREEMENTS, AND POLITICS ON DEAD PIKE LAKE

by [Ben Meyer](#) WXPR

The version printed below has been edited due to space limitations. Use this link to read the article in its entirety. <https://www.wxpr.org/news/2021-09-23/the-fight-continues-slimy-water-dam-disagreements-and-politics-on-dead-pike-lake>



Ben Meyer/WXPR Iron floc on Dead Pike Lake

Gale Wolf's strongest lake memories date to 1961. "The lake at that time was absolutely gorgeous," he remembered, sitting in a waterfront cabin built that year. Wolf has been here on Dead Pike Lake for six decades, seeing 60 years of change, according to him. The 90-year-old Wolf used to put in a pier. But he doesn't anymore, and it's not because of age. "Who's going to use the beach?" he asked. "It was wonderful. It's heartbreaking to see it now." Wolf says his property value has fallen \$120,000, largely due to a smelly, slimy substance called iron floc in the lake's water. Lake-wide assessed values have dropped \$1.2 million because of the floc, according to Wolf.

"We ultimately agreed to [own it last year] just to keep the project going," said Manitowish Waters Town Chair John Hanson. But this year, the town changed course, with Hanson insisting the DNR take ownership. Dam ownership brings with it costs, responsibilities, and potential legal liability. "If they say, you still got to own it, then we've got a problem. We're not going to own it," Hanson said. "It's on principle. It's on the fact that [the DNR] controls 12 dams above it anyway."

Last week, the town board backed Hanson with a unanimous vote, breaking off negotiations with the DNR over dam ownership. For its part, the DNR has stood firm, saying it will let the dam plan expire and cancel the permits before owning the dam itself.

NORTH LAKELAND DISCOVERY CENTER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Text by Tom Joseph, NLDC Board Member. Photos by Andy Harris and Karen Dixon



Lakeside view of new patio



Front view of renovated Lodge with new siding

The MWLA has been in partnership with the Discovery Center for over ten years while closely collaborating with their staff, the DNR, and the town of Manitowish Waters to monitor, educate, prevent, and control aquatic invasive species in all the waters of our township. Therefore, we want our membership to be informed of the

exciting progress happening with the renovation of the Lodge and the addition of Discovery Hall that will contain the new Nature Center.

Progress!

That's the word that best describes the Discovery Center's summer:

- First and foremost, our Historic YCC Lodge renovation is nearly complete. This winter, for the first time ever, we'll be hosting indoor programs in our rustically restored meeting room. Just as important, our staff will be moving into the new digs they so richly deserve on November 1.
- The geothermal loops that will heat and cool the lodge are scheduled for installation this week!
- Two new sets of cabins, insulated, heated, and complete with bathrooms and showers are now available to groups for year-round use.

There's progress on the human front as well: we've hired Rachel Terracina, as both our new Naturalist and Residential Programs Coordinator, to help bring groups to our newly-improved facilities. And we're hiring an assistant maintenance manager to assist Ryan Wahlgren as his duties expand.

Perhaps most important, our revised set of plans for Discovery Hall, the addition that attaches to the Historic YCC Lodge, are out to bid with an October 1 due date. Discovery Hall contains our new Nature Center, where all the magic will happen. The plans for our new maintenance and storage building needed to care for our expanded campus are out to bid as well.

Here's another sign of progress: we've crossed our threshold goal of 500 donors, a goal that seemed improbably high just a few short months ago. You can see the list [here](#).

You can find much more information on our website, DiscoveryCenter.net/CapitalCampaign



New staff office area



Renovated meeting room



New staff member Rachel Terracina

 [Like Us On Facebook](#) or go to <https://www.facebook.com/ManitowishWatersLakesAssociation>

The MWLA Board of Directors appreciates your continued support.

Greg Holt
President

Angela Dombrowicki
Vice President

Eleanor Butler
Treasurer

Carla Biwan Hameister
Secretary

Karen Dixon

Mary Bowlus

Tom Kramer

Mike McKeon

Jody Miller

Paul Puccinelli

Delp Schafer

Lynn Schroeder

Gale Wolf