

Manitowish Waters  
Lakes Association  
Newsletter

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**SIZZLING SUMMER!**  
July 2021



Photo by permission of Bob Kovar

*"Everything good, everything magical, happens between the months of June and August."*  
Jenny Han

**GOOD TIMES**

by Greg Holt, MWLA President

Today I listened and watched as a group of kids paddled past our place, exuberant voices and laughter carrying over the water. I enjoy listening to an accomplished musician or group in performance, but the sound of kids at play on the water is hard to beat.

This sound is heard on private lakeshores, and at Star Lake Beach and Koller and Rest Lake Park. Laughter and joyful chatter lives at the ends of tubing ropes and on pontoons cruising the waters. You hear the happy

enthusiasm on fishing boats when a kid makes their first catch. Grandkids joyfully playing together with their grandparents 'up at the lake' make for beautiful music.

That these kids have the chance to experience the magic of the waters of our area is a gift we give that gives back to us in even greater measure. Our efforts to maintain, protect and enhance all the waters of our area helps ensure that many children, today and in the future, will grow up with great memories of 'up north'. As we strive to promote the health of the waters of the chain and the river, and the more than a dozen individual lakes of our area, we are also shaping lives. And decades later, future members of our Association may be remembering these days as they too work to pass on the legacy.

### **\*\*\* WE NEED YOUR HELP!\*\*\***

We tried a new process with the Spring Newsletter by sending a digital version only, with no hard copy being mailed. The hope was for members to print out their membership renewal form and send it in with their membership dues. Very few members did this, and our membership numbers are not where we hoped they would be. If you did not receive an email copy on May 21 there may be a couple of reasons why:

1. No access to a computer.
2. The digital newsletter went into your spam or another folder instead of your "inbox". Check your email settings to make sure it allows the MWLA Newsletter to go into your "inbox".

The MWLA **Spring** Newsletter is currently posted on our website at <https://mwllakes.com/2016/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/newsletter-spring-2021-renewal-form-with-logo.pdf>

While the MWLA board will continue to look at the feasibility of making it possible to renew memberships online, we will resume sending newsletters by both U.S. mail and email.

**When you receive this newsletter, please fill out the renewal form and mail it in with your check for \$25 as soon as possible if you have not already done so.**

## **2021 MWLA ANNUAL MEETING**

What could be more fun than meeting your lake and river neighbors, listening to presentations on the past, present, and future of the MWLA, plus enjoying a free breakfast? The MWLA Annual Meeting will provide all of this, and more!

Make sure you mark your calendar to attend. We look forward to seeing you **on Saturday, July 31, from 9:00 a.m. to noon** at the North Lakeland Discovery Center. Sign-in starts at **8:30 a.m.** with the business meeting beginning promptly at **9:00 a.m.**

Breakfast will be available throughout the meeting and will include egg bake casserole, sweet rolls, fruit, and beverages. (Your membership in the MWLA covers you and your immediate family. A donation is appreciated if you bring guests or extended family, or if preferred, they can take out a membership for only \$25).

There will be a short business meeting to elect Directors and Officers followed by a number of presentations: Board member, Jody Miller will talk about our history; Emily Heald, Water Program Coordinator at the North Lakeland Discovery Center will give an update on aquatic invasive species control efforts; Board member, Tom Kramer will report on Walleyes for Tomorrow; MW Chamber Board President, Frank DiLeonardi, MW Chamber Board President will report on the Town Water Safety Committee; and MWLA President, Greg Holt will explain plans for our future.

There will be an opportunity for members to voice concerns they have about the lakes, i.e., water safety, water quality, and shoreline restoration. And, as in the past, there will be an opportunity for you to buy tickets for our raffle of unique items.

## **WATER SAFETY PATROL NEWS**

by Dan Perry, Water Safety Patrol Officer

As was to be expected, this summer has so far proven to be a high boat traffic and watercraft activity season on the Manitowish Chain. With the increased traffic and activity, there also comes the increased potential for challenges such as boat traffic congestion, user group conflict, and boat safety violations.

As Boat Patrol Officers, we do our best to mitigate these problems to ensure everyone is able to have a safe and enjoyable time on our chain. But as with all forms of law enforcement, we can't be in all places at once. We deal with as many problems and concerns as possible and do our best to respond to complaints as they are reported.

Even with our best efforts, we still need as much assistance as we can get from boaters and landowners. First and foremost, please be considerate of others. As we have all been through a lot during the last 18 months, it's now more important than ever for ALL of us to conduct ourselves as respectful adults. If someone is causing a situation that is frustrating or even making you angry, please keep your cool and try to keep things in perspective. We ask boaters not to confront others or escalate a situation with retaliatory actions or inflammatory language. If you observe a violation and want to report it, please document as much information as possible without directly confronting the other party. Information can be reported directly to the Vilas County Sheriff's Department at (715) 479-4441. The Sheriff's Department has direct contact with the Boat Patrol and will contact us if we are on duty. Please do not use 911 unless an emergency exists.

So far this summer, the Boat Patrol has noticed some boating violations have become more prevalent than others. We have noticed an increase in the number of PWC (jet ski) violations occurring, specifically operating too close to other vessels or the shore at speeds greater than slow-no-wake. The minimum distances are 100 feet for boats and other vessels, and 200 feet from the shoreline. If you operate closer than that, PWC's need to operate at slow-no-wake speed. Please try to familiarize yourself with what these distances look like on the water, and if you're not sure, create more space.

Another common violation we come across frequently is operating a boat or PWC without a boat safety certificate. In Wisconsin, anyone born after January 1, 1989, needs to complete a boat safety training course BEFORE operating any PWC or boat with a motor. It is relatively easy to fulfill this requirement as the boat safety training course can be completed online at the DNR website. Most people can complete and pass the course in a few hours.

Another rather alarming trend we have noticed increasing this year is the illegal movement and tampering with navigational buoys. Several incidents of this occurred over the fourth of July weekend, including a potentially dangerous situation at the bridge tunnel between Spider and Manitowish lake. Individuals moved both buoys from the Manitowish side of the bridge, leaving that area without any navigational markers. The penalties for this activity can be significant, ranging from fines of \$295 to \$500, as well as potential civil and criminal liabilities had any kind of accident occurred. As the perpetrators of this stupidity have not yet been located, any information on this incident can be reported to the Vilas County Sheriff's Department at the above listed number.

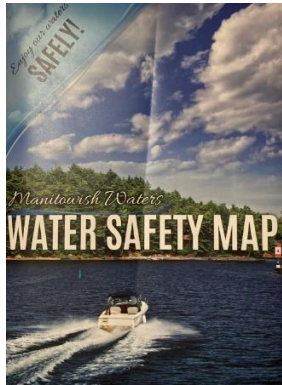
On a positive note, we have noticed an increase in the number of people greeting our boat, waving, and even people who thank us for our service. Like anyone else, it makes our day to see that and it means a lot to have that kind of support in our Northwoods community.

Have fun, stay safe, and enjoy your summer!

## **TOWN WATER SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWS**

A new map of the lakes from Wild Rice all the way up to the dam is now available. The map indicates the Slow-No-Wake areas as well as the locations of known in-water hazards. In addition, emergency and non-emergency contact phone numbers for water safety concerns are prominent on the map, as well as informational blurbs on water skiing hours, aquatic invasive species prevention, frequent boating violations, and the importance of

personal flotation devices. The map is 7”X9” folded; 27”X36” opened and made out of waterproof paper. They are sold for \$2.00 at the MW Chamber, Discovery Center, and other locations around town.



### Let's Be Safe Out There!

Please use common sense, courtesy and respect while on our waters. We want everyone to enjoy our lakes and to be safe.

**For on-water emergencies, call 911**  
**For non-emergencies, call 715-479-4441**  
**Please help us preserve our shorelines!**

## **AIS AND CURLY LEAF PONDWEED UPDATE**

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



NLDC interns removing CLP on Fawn Lake



Final harvest of CLP via DASH on Fawn

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, Fawn, the southeast end of Island, Stone, Rice Creek, the Spider-Island channel, and the Rest-Stone Channel. We have found CLP at each of these locations in the past, and no new locations were found.

The Discovery Center staff, and a professional plant removal company pulled each location, except for Rice Creek. For most lakes, removing CLP looks similar to weeding a garden underwater. Divers snorkel to locate plant colonies, dive to the base of the plant, and remove the entire plant and root system. Fawn Lake had a larger amount of CLP compared to the other locations on the Chain, but similar to last year on Fawn itself. For this location, we hired the aquatic plant removal company, Aquatic Plant Management, to use Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH). DASH is the removal of plants using a suction tube with a set of pumps mounted on a boat. Suction harvesting is more efficient for larger colonies, as a scuba diver can remain underwater for longer and remove larger colonies more quickly.



The likely presence of turions in the sediment means that some regrowth in the Chain is expected in 2022. 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.



View of DASH boat from the surface of Fawn Lake

## **PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE UPDATE**

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 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.



Purple loosestrife in bloom



NLDC interns heading out to release cella beetles on Rice Creek

## **WALLEYES FOR TOMORROW**

At our Annual Meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup>, Tom Kramer will be presenting an update and a video presentation on projects that Walleyes for Tomorrow are involved in throughout Wisconsin.

### **"SHOW ME THE MONEY"**

by Gale Wolf, Dead Pike Lake Resident and MWLA Board member

After years of being told that our DNR has no money for dam construction, the recently passed State Biennial Budget includes a \$125,000 grant to Manitowish Waters for just such a purpose. It is designated to come from the DNR's Conservation Fund. Authoring the directive are Republican legislators Senator Felzkowski and Assemblyman Swearingen, both saying that it's an honor to represent the environmental needs of Northern Wisconsin.

This "*outlet structure*" will stabilize the water level of Dead Pike Lake, offering a counter pressure to the influx of iron-laden groundwater from the Powell Marsh. The impoundment of this watershed has destroyed its ability to filter contaminants or to moderate water volume extremes, the two major functions of all natural watersheds.

A dam on Dead Pike Lake is but a remedial effort to counteract the negative impact of its altered watershed. Hopefully, it will lead to a fuller discussion of PMSWA's purpose and value, located as it is within this critical environmental setting.



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

**Greg Holt**  
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**Dennis Wilm**  
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**Jody Miller**

**Paul Puccinelli**

**Delp Schafer**

***Gale Wolf***

***Continue scrolling to page 7 to print out MWLA membership/renewal form.***



**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

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     Miscellaneous