



## **Newsletter**

**SPRING IS HERE! ~ IT'S PEEPER TIME!  
May 2022**



*"We want to hear spring peepers and see the green haze spreading through the treetops, and we are weary of waiting. And if we seem to be captiously impatient, that is a hopeful sign. Such peevishness is an early but dependable symptom of spring fever."*

**Hal Borland**, "Waiting," March 1965

### **HELLO 2022!**

Message from MWLA Board President, Greg Holt

Okay, everything is not hunky-dory in the world. We are told over and over again that polarization is everywhere but maybe there are two things we can all agree on.:

- The waters of our area are an unbelievable treasure.
- These waters are worth safeguarding.

Therefore, we work to protect and enhance these resources in many ways: through our monitoring for aquatic invasive species and our membership in and donations to our Manitowish Waters Lakes Association; by leaving downed trees for fish habitat and employing practices to prevent erosion; through water clarity testing and using native plantings to preserve our shorelines; by throttling down our boats along the shore and near waterfowl nesting sites; and in a multitude of other ways.

Maybe none of us do all of these things, but it is likely that if you are reading this you do a bunch of them. 2022 might be the year to add one more to your stewardship practices, or to learn more about one of these areas to see if it is something you want to get into for the future. If so, drop an email to the MWLA mailbox at [www.mwllakes.com](http://www.mwllakes.com) and we will get you some info on how to learn more to get involved.

And there is one more thing you might want to try - chat with a neighbor or a friend about joining the MWLA. Not so we can get another 25 bucks for a membership, or so we can say 'look how big our Association is', but so that we can spread the word farther and more effectively about practices that will help safeguard these treasured waters for decades into the future. Who knows, maybe those conversations with neighbors might be a way to bridge over some of the polarization that is out there.

### **2022 MWLA ANNUAL MEETING**

Mark the date of **Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar for the **30<sup>th</sup> MWLA Annual Meeting**. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the North Lakeland Discovery Center in their newly renovated Lodge. Details of the event will be in our 2022 Summer Newsletter.

### **WATER SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWS**

by Greg Holt

*Enjoy Our Waters Safely* has been the theme of our Town Water Safety Committee, and to that the Committee would like to add the emphasis of making sure we all boat courteously on all our lakes, rivers and channels. This includes eliminating dangerous wakes around fellow boaters, personal water craft, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, piers, shores, skiers, tubers, swimmers and anyone enjoying our waters. If you are operating a boat in a way that does create a large wake, the Committee would urge you to do so in the middle of lakes while keeping safe distances from others.

The Committee, which continued to meet over the winter, has invited DNR Warden Matt Meade to our May meeting. All involved feel this will help foster safety by coordinating our efforts and communication with the DNR. We look forward to Matt's presence and insights to help us with our mission to improve safety.

Over the winter, the Committee has entertained the thought of new additional messaging at our boat landings. As there is a limited amount of space available at the landings for public information, the Committee will look at the appropriateness of rotating signs periodically to raise awareness of specific aspects related to boating safety. So when you are next using a boat landing, check out what is there - the previously posted information addresses issues regarding safety, aquatic invasive species, and fishing and slow no wake regulations; potentially, new information may be added.

To improve safety and navigation through the channel at Clear Lake, dredging is anticipated to enlarge the channel. This work is slated for the fall, after the water is drawn down.

Education continues to be a key component of the Water Safety Committee. This has been promoted through: surveys conducted by the Committee; rack cards addressing safety available at Greer's Pier, the Chamber and the kiosk by Redman Realty; the Water Safety Map produced last year; and flyers that have gone out through the Chamber of Commerce. To further promote education, the Committee is working on an educational campaign specific to safety issues related to boating practices that create large and potentially dangerous wakes. More information on this will be available as this process proceeds.

If you are looking to get one of the 27" x 36" moisture resistant Water Safety maps, they are available at Greer's Pier, Northwoods Discovery Center, and the Chamber of Commerce for a small fee. They will also be available at the May 28<sup>th</sup> Memorial Weekend Antique Car and Boat Show on the grounds of Little Bohemia in the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association booth. Our lakes, rivers and channels are amazing. When the waters are busy, and when the waters are calm and the boats are few, please be courteous out there, and *Enjoy Our Waters Safely*.

### **WATER SAFETY PATROL NEWS**

by Dan Perry, Water Safety Patrol Officer

Like the previous two summer seasons, this year's boating traffic is again expected to be quite busy with an increase in visitor activity as well as our local residents. The Manitowish Waters Boat Patrol Team will be resuming regular patrol activities beginning on the Memorial Day weekend. Officers Phil Horter, Dan Perry, and Joe Kraetke will be serving as Boat Patrol Officers for a third season on the Chain. These Officers bring over 55 years of combined law enforcement experience to the team.



As in past seasons, the Boat Patrol's primary goal is to promote safe, responsible water use and activities. We want everyone to have the opportunity to enjoy the Manitowish Chain, and to use it safely. But it takes more than just our efforts to make this happen. We ask that everyone enjoying our Chain show courtesy and patience with each other and with other user groups. A good first step toward this is to be aware of boating and navigation regulations and to follow them. If you are unsure of a particular regulation, the most common regulations can be found in the DNR boaters handbook. A copy of this can be found online and downloaded at: <http://dnr.wi.gov>

This season the Boat Patrol team will be paying particular attention to specific safety concerns that have been observed while on patrol as well as brought to our attention by the public. These include:

**Operating a vessel in a manner that creates a hazardous wave or wake conditions while approaching or passing another vessel:**

This type of behavior constitutes negligent or reckless operation of a vessel or other watercraft that could cause a danger to the life, limb, or property of any person.

**Operating a boat with a person riding on the bow, deck, or gunwale:**

It is illegal and unsafe to allow the operator or passengers to ride or sit on the gunwales, tops of seat backs or sides, or on the decking over the bow while underway.

**Carry the required number/type of PFD's and have them readily accessible:**

Make sure to have a correct size PFD on board for everyone, and to have them readily available. (It's also a good idea to make sure everyone knows exactly where they are.) All watercraft are required to have the required PFD's, including kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards.

**Tampering, moving, or destroying aids to navigation:**

The town of Manitowish Waters has purchased new Slow-No-Wake buoys last year and they are larger and more obvious than the previous ones. Please remember these buoys are there for everyone's safety and tampering with them or attempting to move them comes with a significant fine. Damaging them can lead to criminal charges.

During this past off season, additional equipment was acquired for the Boat Patrol Team. A new GPS, rangefinder, PBT alcohol sensor, and digital camera were added to the Boat Patrol to enhance and assist with boat patrol duties.

As has happened during the last two seasons, the Boat Patrol will be working with DNR Conservation Wardens during the season to conduct group checks of boating activity during certain high traffic days of the season. This helps to ensure a high degree of boating safety and user group compliance, to help keep our Manitowish Chain of Lakes as safe and accident-free as possible. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer on the Chain this season.

***For on-water emergencies, call 911  
For non-emergencies, call 715-479-4441***

**MEET NLDC WATER PROGRAM DIRECTOR,  
JAMIE VANDENLANGENBERG!**



The Northwoods have always felt like home and it's with a sigh of relief and a breath of fresh air that I say goodbye to Milwaukee and wake up in the northern forests. Joining NLDC in 2022 as the Water Program Director has been nothing short of inspiring. The network of partners surrounding these pristine, cold freshwater systems includes committed, passionate, and like-minded folks that share a mission. I want to help others feel a sense of ownership by sharing the 'why' and help them create a deep connection to their land so we can all be protectors. I look forward to this coming season, sharing my knowledge and experience to help protect and restore these northern lakes and rivers with the goal of expanding our Water Program's reach to property owners and businesses to increase shoreline restoration efforts and protection of native plant communities.

I attended Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin to earn my B.S. in Biology and NRS and spent two college summers salamanderin' in the Appalachian Mountains, one of which included three months in a backpacking tent while scavenging the ground for salamanders.

My interest in freshwater ecosystems continued in central Illinois with the Illinois Natural History Survey. I spent two years with summers on a shock boat on the IL river testing gear efficiencies for Asian carp, spring and fall sampling for crappies on inland lakes throughout the region, and winter in a lab processing zooplankton and larval fish samples. From Illinois I

continued in the field of aquatics managing ponds and lakes in SE Wisconsin where we had a wetland greenhouse and performed a lot of shoreline restoration.

Recently, I spent nearly four years as a Restoration Ecologist and Operations Manager for a land restoration company in Milwaukee, the freshwater capitol of the world. Our work largely included 100% biodegradable erosion control solutions, Lake Michigan bluff slope restorations, and habitat restoration work. I studied many different plant communities to learn what species complexes work best with different soils and specialized in invasive plant control techniques. Our team worked hard to build growth and capacity on urban watershed and green infrastructure projects, while trying to restore the ecosystem and conserve every possible square inch for habitat of any parcel in the fragmented infrastructure of the city.

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

by Jamie Vandenlangenberg, Water Program Director, Discovery Center

There are three new DNR surface water grants that have been awarded this year for Spider, Island and Rest Lake and this money will be used to complete a full point intercept vegetation survey of each of these lakes through a contract with Onterra. This is following Management Goal 6 of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes Comprehensive Management Plan which was completed in 2019 and sponsored by North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters Lake Association, and WDNR Grants. We also have received funding for CBCW on the chain at Rest and Clear boat launches, which the seasonal waters staff will be completing. Using funds from an existing surface water grant for CLP control on the chain, we will focus on Fawn lake and are contracting Onterra for a full lake AIS survey, and Aquatic Plant Management, Inc. for DASH and scuba harvesting.

**How you can help fight AIS:** Report any potential CLP sightings to NLDC. 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. You can turn samples into NLDC, there is a cooler outside the office door at NLDC for dropping off samples of questionable plants for identification. Keep track of monitoring and volunteer hours and submit them to NLDC. Volunteer hours are required for the grants that fund our efforts. You 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. Forms are available at the NLDC or online: <https://discoverycenter.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/MW-Volunteer-Form-2018.pdf>

### **Dates, times and locations for free AIS trainings:**

- Friday June 3rd, 10am - noon: Meet at the Rest Lake Pavilion
- Tuesday June 14, 9am - 11am: Meet at the Pipke Park Pavilion in Presque Isle
- Thursday June 23, 10am - 11am: Meet at the Pavilion at the Boulder Junction Community Center
- Tuesday July 12, 10am - noon: Meet at the Rest Lake Pavilion. Includes short boat ride to practice ID skills.
- Thursday August 4, 10am - noon: Meet at the Rest Lake Pavilion. Includes short boat ride to practice ID skills.

Sign up for trainings and other Discovery Center programs online, email, or give us a call: [discoverycenter.net](http://discoverycenter.net), [jamie@discoverycenter.net](mailto:jamie@discoverycenter.net), 715-543-2085. We also have a great on-line training video available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnLoLDqbjNw>

## **WELCOME TO 2022 NLDC SUMMER WATER PROGRAM STAFF**



### **Mary Langosch, Water Monitoring Intern**

My name is Mary Langosch and I am from Kentwood, Michigan. Growing up I was always surrounded by water so I feel confident around it. I appreciate the diversity of careers and opportunities connected to water. I am a student at Michigan Technological University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry. I love going hiking, camping and swimming with friends during warmer weather. I enjoy crafting, playing some games, along with reading as well.

### **Michael Small, Water Monitoring Intern**

My name is Michael Small Jr. and I am from Smithtown, New York. After earning my Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Philosophy, I continued school at Farmingdale State College, NY to study Science, Technology, and Society where I have taken many biology courses including Botany and Ichthyology.



The past few summers I have spent working for a private company performing health assessments and treatments on trees and lawns. I like to spend my time outside during the summer and grew up always near the water. In my free time I enjoy fishing, hiking, and gardening.

### **Richie Dollhopf, Water Monitoring Intern**



My name is Richie Dollhopf, an Environmental Science student at Loyola University Chicago, focusing my studies on conservation/restoration ecology and GIS. I was born and raised in Milwaukee and have always pictured myself working in the beautiful state of Wisconsin. When I was young, my parents bought a cabin near St. Germain, so I was fortunate to grow up exploring and observing the Northwoods. I recognize the importance of freshwater ecosystems and strive to learn the proper methods to conserve the lakes for future generations to experience. Additionally, I enjoy biking, rock climbing, fishing, skiing, and hiking. I am very excited to continue my education with the Discovery Center team, working for the ecosystems that inspire me the most.

### **Abby Vogt, Lake Technician**

My name is Abby Vogt. I grew up in Illinois but moved to Wyoming in high school. I just graduated from the University of Montana, in Missoula, with degrees in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science and Practice. I love working with water because it is another world with incredible organisms and systems that are different from the terrestrial world. Last summer, I was an intern at a fish hatchery in Wyoming. This experience strengthened my love for the water and aquatic species. I enjoy fishing, kayaking, and playing with my dogs in my free time.



### **Rebecca Fagley, Lake Technician**



My name is Rebecca, I am from the small town of Stoneboro, in Northwestern Pennsylvania. I have grown up in a family of outdoorsmen spending much of my childhood outdoors where I have fostered a deep appreciation for the natural world. I graduated from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 2021 where I studied Environmental Biology and was an active member in the university's Western Pennsylvania Society for Conservation Biology (WPASCB). Following graduation I spent the summer working at a local Boy Scout Camp as the Nature Direct where I taught several different merit badges to youth ranging from 5-16 years old. I also volunteer with local environmental nonprofits and am a substitute teacher at the local Middle School and High School.

I enjoy hiking, kayaking, exercising, spending time with my dog and cats, and trying new things. I am very eager to work at the North Lakeland Discovery Center to be part of the mission and vision to enrich lives and inspire an ethic of care for the Northwoods, through meaningful connections among nature, people, and community. I'm looking forward to growing my skill set, exploring the area, meeting and collaborating with new people, and making a difference!

### **PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE PROJECT**

Thank you to North Lakeland 7th graders! On May 11<sup>th</sup> they helped prep for the purple loosestrife (PL) biocontrol project. PL is a wetland invasive plant that is difficult to control due to its prolific production of tiny seeds. Cella beetles are an excellent management option for large, established populations of PL. The beetles eat only PL and weaken the plants so that they grow shorter and produce fewer seeds, allowing native plants to re-establish.

We dug up PL roots from a local infestation site, and planted them in a controlled, netted area. Later in the spring, we will place cella beetles into the enclosures. They reproduce, and we end up with thousands of beetles to release onto other infestation sites, where the beetles will eat only PL. This has been a very successful, long-term project, and if you are interested in volunteering for PL monitoring and management please contact Jamie at the Discovery Center.



### **WALLEYES FOR TOMORROW LOCAL CHAPTER**

by Tom Kramer, Headwaters Basin Chapter WFT

Walleyes For Tomorrow (WFT) is a nonprofit organization that does habitat projects and stocking throughout the state of Wisconsin and is currently using portable fish hatcheries on different lakes

across the state. The Headwaters Basin Chapter (HWBC) based in Northern WI have projects in Vilas, Oneida, and Iron counties and has recently placed a portable hatchery at the Blue Bayou Restaurant on Manitowish Lake.

Because Alder Lake no longer has the natural reproduction that it previously had, the plan is to get it back to what it once was. All of the walleye fry that hatches in the hatchery will be put into Alder Lake every spring until we see natural reproduction reoccur.

Fyke nets are used to net walleyes in spawning areas then brought back to the hatchery to strip the eggs and milt from them. They are mixed together and put in jars in the hatchery where lake water is kept flowing through the jars until they hatch.



A small piece of fin is cut off each fish and sent to UW Stevens Point to obtain the DNA. By doing this they can tell if the young of the year fish are from our hatchery. The WDNR will be doing a fall shocking to look for young of the year walleyes and clip their fins to send to the university for DNA testing. This will allow us to see how well our hatchery is working.



### **THANK YOU TO GALE WOLF!**

Gale Wolf has been a member of both our Manitowish Waters Lakes and the Dead Pike Lake Associations; he also has served as a Director on our MWLA Board for the past 4 years. A decision not lightly made, Gale and his wife Jean have recently relocated to the general Madison area.



Gale contributed greatly to our Association and our community, championing the well water testing initiative of a few years ago, persevering for 20 years plus with the goal of improving the waters of Dead Pike Lake, and always bringing to MWLA Board deliberations the view that what should guide our decision making process is to do what is best for our waters and the greater natural world. We will miss his contributions, his perspectives, and his wit. And we will be very happy to see his smiling face whenever he frequents Manitowish Waters. Best wishes, Gale and Jean. Thank you for all you have given.

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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.

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

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

- |                               |                                             |                                    |                                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
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| <b>Jody Miller</b>            | <b>Paul Puccinelli</b>                      | <b>Delp Schafer</b>                | <b>Lynn Schroeder</b>                     |



**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