



SUMMER FUN IN THE SUN!

JULY 2020



"The delicate balance of nature, essential to our survival, can only be saved through global effort involving all of us."
~ John McConnell ~

GIVING AND RECEIVING

by Greg Holt – MWLA President

Those of us who spend time in the Northwoods understand how lucky we are. Whether we are here for a few days or a couple of weekends, for the summer or year round, we know that the waters and woods provide us with many ways to enjoy life.

How we experience the blessings that are ours to receive depends, on a degree, on how we are wired. For some it might be being on the water—boating, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, skiing, or riding the waves. For others it might be being in the water—swimming, snorkeling, or lounging on a raft. For many it might just be being near the water—hiking the woods, biking the trails, walking the shore, watching the sun on the water or kids splashing and laughing, listening to the birds during the days, the owls at night and seeing the stars above.

In this issue of our newsletter we will try to remind folks of some of the ways to give back to these waters and we will highlight one of the many ways that can be done. Later in these pages you will be able to read about how Judi Zawojewski spends time being on the lookout for aquatic invasive species and learn from Emily Heald, Water Specialist at the Discovery Center, how important the invasive species program is.

In future newsletters we will try and highlight other efforts with other folks and programs that are instrumental in protecting, promoting, and enhancing the waters of our township.

For now, here is a partial list of programs that folks can involve themselves in, and contact information on how to learn more about those programs...

- **Water Clarity Testing with Secchi discs:** Citizen Lake Monitoring Network website www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/CLMN/ or <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Water Chemistry testing:** google UW-Extension Lakes, click on www.Citizen Lake Monitoring Network or use web address <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Loon Population Surveying through the Loon Watch Program:** <https://www.northland.edu/centers/soei/loonwatch/>
- **Aquatic Invasive Species efforts:** Check out the Discovery Center's website at www.discoverycenter.net (click on Programs) or email Emily Heald at the Discovery Center: water@discoverycenter.net
- **Purple loosestrife control:** Again use the Discovery Center website at www.discoverycenter.net (and click on Programs) or email Emily Heald at the Discovery Center: water@discoverycenter.net
- **Clean Boats Clean Waters efforts:** Contact Emily Heald, NLDC Water Coordinator at water@discoverycenter.net

If you have any difficulty contacting the folks or websites above, send an email to us at www.mwlakes.com and we will be sure to get you the information you need.

With all of these programs, the amount of time you choose to give is up to you. So, if something listed here sounds interesting, check into it--for now or to learn on how to be involved in the future. We think you will find that giving back to the waters does not take away from your time enjoying life but adds to it. And near the end of this newsletter, we will offer one more way to give and receive.

AIS NEWS

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

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. 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.



DON'T MISS THESE INFORMATIVE (and entertaining) YOUTUBE VIDEOS!

My **AIS Identification Trainings** have been cancelled so far this summer due to COVID-19, so I created an online version. It is not as useful as in-person training where you would get to hold and look at plants up closely, but for a refresher or as a quick reference, I think it will be beneficial - and certainly better than nothing! <https://youtu.be/ZnLoLDgbiNw> Feel free to watch the whole thing or to skip around to different parts. Please let me know if you need assistance with plant identification. Pictures are always welcome. I also have a red cooler outside in front of my office for folks to drop off specimens in a no-contact method. Just make sure the sample is in a container or baggie with water and include your contact info.

Because there will be no MWLA Annual Meeting this year, I have made an **AIS Update** video presentation for you at <https://youtu.be/ObUmV8Utkvw>

Click the link below to access the **Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes Comprehensive Management Plan**. When you get to the site, note that there are tabs to click "plans by lake," "maps" and "appendices," depending on what you are looking for. The plan itself is listed on the homepage of the link.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/13dvhPFI3xp72CDDXh5jfvEi8ErZkBfrA>

KUDOS TO JUDI ZAWOJEWSKI

You, too, can become a volunteer extraordinaire just like Judi Z.! She has been volunteering for AIS monitoring for over five years and became interested when she saw AIS training listed in the Discovery Center Program Guide. The training was so great that she has taken it three times! Judi's greatest enjoyment about AIS monitoring is the pride and excitement she feels when she finds a suspicious plant or creature in the water, plus she loves passing her AIS knowledge on to her grandchildren. She feels pride in now knowing the difference between the invasive curly-leaf pondweed and the native clasping-leaf pondweed.

Judi has always been interested in ecology and describes herself as an ecologist who has learned to truly appreciate our lakes and rivers through an understanding of the issues and education surrounding AIS. She encourages others to become involved because looking for AIS by wading along the shoreline or going out in a boat is great for enjoyment, education, and recreation. Judi said that she has great appreciation of the beauty and quality of our waters and wants to keep them that way. Although she is only in the MW area 40 days out of the year, she is a wonderful example of still being able to make a difference by giving of her time to AIS monitoring.



Emily Heald, NLDC Water Coordinator, describes Judi as being very consistent with monitoring. She turns in reporting forms often, and always sends questions if she has them. This spring she sent a picture asking if something was spiny water flea. It was not, but it made her very happy to see that Judi thought to ask. Many folks send in pictures, and she is always happy to check them out.

Judi is not only a fabulous volunteer, but she is an extremely interesting person. She has been coming to the MW area since 1973 when her family built a second home here. She lives in Prospect Heights, IL and is a retired professor in mathematics education. She is in a rock-n-roll band (Straight Ethyl) that plays classics and new tunes that Boomers like. Her band has played every summer at The Pines in Mercer (2014-2019). Judi plays guitar, keyboards, occasional flute, is the main vocalist, and has been in bands ever since she was 14! Many, many thanks to Judi for all her time and effort monitoring the MW Chain for aquatic invasive species!

ENJOY OUR WATERS SAFELY!

by Frank DiLeanardi

Water Safety Community Survey Results

The Water Safety Committee for Manitowish Waters recently invited the community to respond to a brief survey, which was distributed through the Chamber of Commerce e-mail list. Participation in the survey was solid with 104 responses over about three weeks. Thanks to all who responded.

Respondents generally feel that our lakes are safe, with 61% agreeing to a great or very great degree that they are safe. Nearly 55% are satisfied or very satisfied with our water safety patrol efforts, with 24% dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. If a water craft or a personal water craft is observed by water safety patrol to be violating regulations, the vast majority of respondents opted for a middle ground of enforcement, with 41% selecting that a ticket should be issued only if the officer judges the violation to be significant and 41% opting for the officer to issue one warning and then ticketing the next offense. Only 9% would like to ticket regardless of the violation, and 7% voted for warnings only.

When respondents were asked to rank their top five concerns about safety on our lakes, they ranked the following from a list of 12 issues:

- 1) Watercraft too close to shore (within 100 feet) at greater than no wake speed
- 2) Personal watercraft too close to other boats (within 100 feet) or shore (within 200 feet) at greater than no wake speed
- 3) Watercraft too close to swimmers, skiers, tubers, etc. (within 100 feet) at greater than no wake speed
- 4) General shore erosion
- 5) Use of wake or "bladder" boats

The Water Safety Committee will focus its efforts on Education and Enforcement. Cumulatively, survey respondents believe that 53.38% of the effort should focus on Education and 46.62% on Enforcement.

While the pandemic has put the work of the committee slightly behind schedule, we have started our education efforts this summer. In addition, we have three Water Safety Patrol Officers alternating shifts on our town police boat this summer, with a goal of having greater coverage on the water. Last summer, we had only one part-time Patrol Officer.

The bottom line is we want all residents, guests, and visitors to Enjoy Our Waters Safely! Any questions on the survey can be directed to Frank DiLeonardi at fdileonardi@icloud.com.

MANITOWISH WATERS BOAT PATROL: A NEW TEAM FOR 2020

by Dan Perry, Boat Patrol Officer

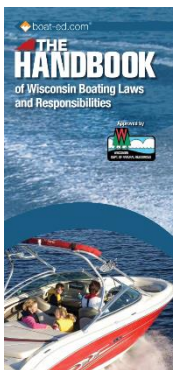
2020 has thus far been a year of challenges for many reasons for many people. Despite this, Water Patrol Administrator Dan Cardinal has put together a new team of Boat Patrol Officers for the MW Chain. This new team consists of three new officers: Phil Horter, Dan Perry, and Joe Kraetke. Although new to the Chain, these three officers bring a combined 50+ years of law enforcement experience with them. Along with these new hires comes a new directive from the Town Board: to increase the presence of the boat patrol, to provide for public safety, and to provide enforcement of the boating rules and regulations.

Some of the areas of concern that the Boat Patrol Team has been tasked with enforcing include excess speed in the slow-no-wake zones, boat and PWC operation too close to the shores and other boats, reckless operation of watercraft, and violations of the waterskiing hours as set by the Town Board. These concerns as well as any safety violations, have been the team's main enforcement emphasis for this summer.

But is enforcement all this team does? Actually, no. The team is present to serve the public in whatever capacity they can. Other tasks the team engages in include assisting boaters within formation on the boating rules, assisting stranded vessels with a tow, checking, and adjusting the buoy markers throughout the Chain, and assisting with events including water ski shows, firework shows, and Music in the Park.

Some people have noticed a change in the enforcement of certain rules, particularly the slow-no wake rule that exists in the many channels throughout the Chain. In recent years, enforcement of these rules was not made a high priority, resulting in less enforcement of the slow-no-wake rule. But after significant public input during the past year, the message was clear: more consistent enforcement of the slow-no-wake rule was necessary. The reasons for this were to achieve a higher degree of safety as well as to protect the shorelines from erosion. To implement this, the Boat Patrol has made it a priority to patrol the channel areas, to ensure that boaters follow the rules in those areas. As a result, some citations have been written, but the majority of contacts made have resulted in a warning, either written or verbal. The goal of this is not to create a 'speed trap' in the channel, but rather to create a higher degree of voluntary compliance among boaters using the channel.

Another area of priority for the Boat Patrol Team is responding to complaints given to us by the public. Every complaint, whether given to one of our officers, or received at the Town Clerk's office, is passed on to the team as a whole. We then follow up on the complaint as part of our regular patrol. Information from the public is encouraged and invaluable, and we greatly appreciate having additional eyes and ears on the water. Thank you to those who have already provided information on areas of concern, it has been very helpful to get public insight. A quick reminder, however, please remember that we only have a single patrol boat, and that we cannot be everywhere at the same time. Just know that we do take every complaint seriously and do our best to use that information to resolve as many issues as possible. Please continue to bring us your concerns.



So, what should you do if you see the Boat Patrol officer? Feel free to give us a wave, a greeting, or even just a head nod if you are so inclined. Do not be afraid to approach us with any questions or concerns you might have. It does not even have to be a boating regulation question; it could be as simple as directions or questions about the area. We are happy to help out in any way we can and will do our best to answer any questions you have. From all of us on the Boat Patrol Team, we want everyone to have a safe, fun, and memorable time on the water this summer!

Please share this information with your neighbors, friends, and guests. 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 or by clicking this link <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf>

PERFORM LAKE CPR: BE COURTEOUS, POLITE, AND RESPECTFUL

Help Keep Our Lakes Safe, Clean and Enjoyable for Everybody

- **Shoreline and native vegetation** - Leave native vegetation in place; it can be less expensive and less time-consuming than maintaining a lawn. Grass clippings will not blow into the water if you have a recommended buffer of 35' of natural vegetation along your shoreline.
- **Yard debris** - Haul away grass cuttings and leaves rather than rake or blow them into the water.
- **Woody habitat** - Leave natural woody items in the lake that are already there (trees, branches, logs, etc.).
- **Boating regulations** - Know and abide by all boating regulations.
- **Water Sports** - restrict the activities of water skiing, tubing, and personal watercraft to the hours of 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Town of Manitowish Waters.
- **Aquatic Invasive Species** - Clean your boat, motor, trailer, and anchor. Drain all water from live wells and the bilge. Throw all unused bait into the garbage, including nightcrawlers.
- **Shoreland Lighting** - Consider the glare of yard lights on your neighbors across the lake. Consider using motion detector lights, light shields, and/or low wattage bulbs.
- **Quiet Hours** - Think of your neighbors and eliminate excessive noise between dawn and dusk. (radios, leaf blowers, chain saws, lawn mowers, etc.)
- **Space** - Observe loons, eagles, turtles, and other wildlife from a distance.
- **Clean Lakes** - If you carry it in, please carry it out.
- **Fireworks** - Think before you shoot. Fireworks make noise, contaminate our lakes with toxic chemicals, and present a fire hazard to property.
- **Erosion prevention** - Create rain gardens or water diversion systems.
- **Fertilizers or other strong chemicals** – Less is best!
- **Septic system** - Register with the county inspection list and maintain it regularly.

RESTORATION OF DEAD PIKE LAKE

By Gale Wolf

After two decades of appeals, the people of Dead Pike may finally see the results of their persistent efforts. Projections are set for the placement this fall of a small control structure at the lake's outlet, designed to provide a consistent water level so necessary to improve the lake's water quality.

The process will represent a unique cooperative venture between the Town of Manitowish Waters, which will own and operate the structure, and the WDNR who arranged for the permitting and provided the funding. As one might imagine, the details of this arrangement has consumed hours of negotiation.

The MWLA can take pride in this outcome, having underwritten a portion of the research efforts leading up to its conclusion. As the representative organization of all the lakes in the Township, its mission is being met with the completion of this significant project.

MANITOWISH WATERS WELL WATER TESTING AND GROUNDWATER INITIATIVE

The new initiative is under way!! In the last issue of the MWLA newsletter we let you know that the Town of Manitowish Waters, the Discovery Center and the Lakes Association have joined together to sample the water coming from private wells in our area - the very water that our residents and visitors depend on every day. Although the sign up period for joining this program is now past, we are happy to report that we are right on track with this project! 56 folks have signed up to be participants in this study.

After the water has been sampled, the laboratory facilities of UW-Stevens Point will analyze those samples. This project will provide us with very important information on the quality of the drinking water in our community. In addition, we will also gain knowledge regarding our groundwater, the water that feeds into our lakes and rivers.

The participants will be receiving further information as we get closer to the day in early September set aside for the samples to be taken. After the wells have been tested and the samples analyzed the education component of the program will kick in and the community will learn of the results. Thank you to all who have chosen to participate! We all can look forward to learning the outcome of this joint community project.

ATV'S IN MANITOWISH WATERS?

Discussion at a recent Town Board meeting was in regard to allowing ATV's on MW Town roads. The MWLA Board of Directors approved a motion to send a letter to the MW Town Board stating opposition to any proposal allowing ATV's on Town roads and to ask for an advisory referendum in November on this issue. In our view, allowing ATV's in our town will threaten the waters and associated wetlands that we are charged to protect. The mission of the MWLA is to "maintain, protect, and enhance the quality of the Manitowish Chain of Lakes and other Township waters", therefore, we feel that it is imperative that the Town supervisors take into consideration the negative impact that ATV 's and ATV trails could have on the fragile environment of the Northwoods. You can make your position known, for or against, by writing to the MW Town Board.

ONE MORE EASY WAY TO GIVE AND RECEIVE - TELL A FRIEND

The Manitowish Waters Lakes Association is approximately 330 member families strong. You can further the efforts of our Association to protect, promote and enhance our waters by helping to increase the Association's membership and vitality. The Board of Directors of the Association is suggesting that every member ask just one neighbor or friend if they would like to join the MWLA. If they are already a member, great, you just found out something else you have in common with them. But if they are not, then maybe suggest that they might want to consider it.

No hard sell is necessary. Tell them what you like about the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association. You could offer them your copy of this newsletter to look through and let them know there is a registration form at the end of the newsletter. If you have already renewed your membership, then you can give your membership form to your friend or neighbor. Or if you want to hold onto your newsletter, tell them about our website (www.mwllakes.com) where they can learn how a \$25.00 membership will include them in a group that is working to safeguard and improve the waters of our area. Sometimes giving back can be as easy as chatting with a friend.

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/>



Check out our website at www.mwllakes.com to access board meeting minutes, lakes-related articles, information on aquatic invasive species, past e-newsletters, and many other interesting topics.



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 ___ 4th 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