



## SLIPPIN' & SLIDIN' INTO SUMMER!

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*"I could never in a hundred summers get tired of this."*

~ Susan Branch ~

### WE ARE NOT ALONE

by Greg Holt, President MWLA

The goal of protecting our waters is a huge task, and the influences that impact our waters are many and change through time. The Manitowish Waters Lakes Association has a long history of working with multiple organizations to meet the challenges we face, a benefit for our Association and for those with whom we collaborate.

We have contributed to water safety with educational outreach and by helping the Town finance the purchase of slow-no-wake buoys. We help protect our fishery by educating landowners on the value of maintaining healthy shorelines, promoting woody debris along the shore, and by supporting Walleyes for Tomorrow's fish rearing efforts. Along with educating others on native planting practices, we promote native habitat by planting trees, shrubs, plants and grasses on the property that the MWLA manages on Rest Lake, this with the assistance of the Discovery Center and the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant Program. We are active in the ongoing efforts to control aquatic invasive species (AIS) through our partnership with the Town of Manitowish Waters and the Discovery Center, by encouraging monitoring for AIS, and by annually contributing financial support to the Town Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

The MWLA is a member of WI Lakes, the state association of lake associations. Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association, the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department, the Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association, and the Northwoods Land Trust are organizations we learn from and at times coordinate efforts with. Members of our association attend and report on water related meetings and conferences that are sometimes state-wide and other times are designated specifically for multiple northern Wisconsin counties.

Our efforts highlight that we truly do little alone. We are learning from others as we collaborate with them, combining our efforts, adding our resources, our talents and our outreach to work as stewards for the waters of our area. And that's a good thing. It is a big job, a job worth doing, and it helps to have helping hands.

Thank you to all who have renewed their membership for this year. 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 2023 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 to 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.

## **MANITOWISH WATERS LAKES ASSOCIATION** **31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MEETING AND BREAKFAST**

Would you like to find out what’s happening with area lakes and rivers on the beautiful Discovery Center campus with other members of the MWLA, and enjoy breakfast at the same time? What could be more fun? The MWLA Annual Meeting will provide all of this, and more!



We look forward to seeing you **on Saturday, July 29, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the North Lakeland Discovery Center**. Sign-in starts at 8:30 with breakfast of egg bake casserole, crullers, 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 at 9:00 to elect Directors and Officers followed by an educational program with presentations by:

- Ron Eckstein and Cathy Techtmann - Northwoods Land Trust
- Mike McKeon - MWLA Rest Lake Property
- NLDC Seasonal Staff - Woods and Water Program
- Manitowish Chain Water Safety Patrol
- Tom Kramer - Walleyes for Tomorrow

**A door prize drawing will be held for a \$100 gift certificate from Manny’s Parkside.**

## **WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

The MWLA Board of Directors will consider at their July 17, 2023 Board meeting the following changes to the way the MWLA newsletters are provided to our membership:

- Newsletters will be primarily sent to MWLA members electronically.
- Members who do not have email or wish to continue to receive the newsletter in a hard copy may indicate this when they sign up or renew. Members will be encouraged to receive the newsletter electronically.
- Members will only be able to indicate a single physical address that they want a hard copy of the newsletter mailed to.
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The plan to implement this change would be:

- The remaining Summer and Fall Newsletters for 2023 will continue to be managed as we have in the past.
- An article will be placed in both the Summer and Fall Newsletters that this change is coming.
- An email will be sent to the Membership that this change is coming.
- An announcement will be made at the Annual Meeting that this change is coming.

- All of the above steps will communicate that this is to decrease costs, streamline the ability of the MWLA to disseminate the newsletters, to save paper and trees, and to integrate our ability to use our website, emails and newsletters to provide information for the MWLA membership and community.
- By next spring, people will be able to pay for new memberships or renewals online. Those who do not have internet access will be asked to call the MWLA office to request that a hard copy of the newsletter and renewal form be mailed to them.

**We strongly encourage our member email recipients to add the MailChimp email address to their contacts to ensure that they receive our newsletters and email alerts sent by MailChimp and that they do not end up in spam. Please add this email address to your contacts list [info@mwllakes.com](mailto:info@mwllakes.com)**

## **WATER SAFETY PATROL NEWS**

by Dan Perry, Water Safety Patrol Officer

This summer has 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 the 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. The following data was reported at the July 11 Town Board meeting: 341.75 hours of patrol; 1947 contacts; 208 verbal warnings; 68 written warnings; 6 citations; plus help on numerous occasions to boaters who needed assistance.

Even with our best efforts, we still need as much assistance as we can get from boaters and landowners. First, please be considerate of others. 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.

Let's be safe out there by using 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.**

## **MWLA BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR OPERATING A BOAT IN WAKEBOARDING OR WAKE SURFING MODES**

The Manitowish Waters Lakes Association Board of Directors approved the following motion on June 19, 2023 as current best practice guidelines for operating a boat in wakeboarding or wake surfing modes on any lake in the Township of Manitowish Waters. These best practices are not an ordinance or a regulation; they are not enforceable by the Town, the Water Safety Patrol, the DNR, or the County Sheriffs' Department. These best practice guidelines are meant to be educational.

1. Boats operating in wake surfing mode or wakeboarding mode, during which boat speed, wave shapers, and/or ballast are used to enhance wave height, should operate at least 500 feet from docks, the shoreline, or other watercraft.
2. Boats operating in wake surfing or wakeboarding modes should operate in water at least 15 feet deep.
3. No boat containing ballast from another lake shall enter a Township lake. Prior to arriving at a launch ramp any boat containing ballast tanks should empty all ballast away from the ramp, so that any drained ballast cannot run off into the lake.
  - Boat and trailer should be wiped down where ballast is drained, to prevent any foreign lake water from entering the lake while launching.
  - If the operator desires to empty ballast when leaving the lake and is on the launch ramp they shall proceed away from ramp prior to emptying their ballast and only then should they empty their ballast so that any drained ballast cannot flow back into the lake.

## **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. Please boat courteously and be aware of the property of others, fishermen, and those swimming, canoeing, paddle boarding and kayaking. And 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.

### **JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> TROUT POND**



The MWLA provides 70 pounds of trout for the Trout Pond that is set up yearly for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. The MW Fire Co. provides the water tank and water for the trout and the MWLA pays for the fish and mans the pond with volunteers. This year we had volunteer help from Bob Austin, Greg Holt, Tom Kramer, Jordan Ringsmuth, and Evan Jansson. They helped the children bait their hooks and remove trout when caught.



The Trout Pond has become a traditional favorite July 4<sup>th</sup> activity. Volunteers also helped staff the MWLA merchandise booth - Karen Dixon, Jody Miller, Angie Dombrowicki, Eleanor Butler, Sue Austin and her sister Mary. The Discovery Center Seasonal Staff of Rylee Alden, Alexis McDonald, and Aidan Witthoff helped with the Trout Pond and manned the AIS booth.



### **WOODS AND WATER PROGRAM UPDATE**

by Richard Dollhopf, NLDC Lead Conservation Technician

Throughout the month of June, NLDC Woods and Water technicians surveyed the Manitowish Chain for curly leaf pondweed population (CLP). We referred to last season's populations and completed meander surveys on the Chain to start our pulling.



When CLP was found, the NLDC techs marked waypoints with a GPS and used snorkels and floating nets to dive underwater and hand pull the CLP at their roots. It can easily re-establish from leftover plant fragments, roots, or turions, so removing the whole plant is critical for population control. Over the course of the summer, NLDC techs removed an estimated 50 pounds of CLP from the Manitowish Chain of Lakes.

Onterra also conducted an early-season AIS survey where they reported that the CLP population on the Chain was very modest, with only point data collected and no small plant colonies found. No CLP was spotted in Spider Lake, Island Lake, or the Manitowish River between Rest and Stone. The CLP population coordinates that NLDC and Onterra logged were sent to Aquatic Plant Management (APM) who sent out a crew of divers to pull the CLP between Stone and Fawn, as well as Rest Lake. APM divers were



able to remove a reported 12.5 cubic feet of CLP in these lakes. After APM dove, NLDC went to check on growth, found only a few CLP plants, which is an incredibly positive sign.

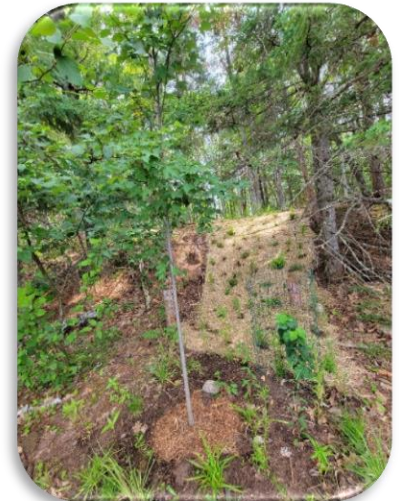
**Please continue to keep track of your volunteer monitoring hours and turn them into the NLDC. Volunteer hours are required for the grants that fund our efforts. Active volunteers are KEY to the long-term health of our waters. Remember that once you know what to look for, ANY time on the water keeping your eyes open counts as monitoring – cruising around on the pontoon, fishing, or even walking the shoreline.**

### **MWLA REST LAKE PROPERTY**

by Alexis McDonald NLDC Land Restoration Technician



On June 30<sup>th</sup>, a group of volunteers consisting of Carol Schott, Carrie Ryan, Rich Hawkinson, Tom Bernhardt, and Charles Ray gathered at the Rest Lake Property to help finish its restoration. Since the house and stairway to the shore had been removed, the site was left with bare ground that needed protection from erosion. We spread some mulch throughout and laid down some erosion matting to keep the soil and mulch in place. Multiple trees were planted where the house once was and a variety of wildflowers, grasses, and woody plants were planted where the stairs to the lake had been. The plants are doing well in their new home and so far surviving being eaten by the deer. Additional planting was done on July 1 and July 13 resulting in the planting of all remaining trees, shrubs and plants.



### **SWIMMER'S ITCH GETTING UNDER YOUR SKIN?**

Information provided by Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

Many lake recreationists are reporting high incidence of swimmer's itch on their favorite Wisconsin waterbodies. Some folks are reporting swimmer's itch on lakes that have not been problems for them in the past. Is your lake seeing an uptick in itch? We want to hear from you! Add your information to this form to flag your lake as having an itch issue. Extension Lakes is looking to connect lakes with this problem so that they can learn from each other's experience and collaborate on ideas to better deal with this pesky problem. [2023 Swimmer's Itch Lake Organization Reporting Form](#)

The 2023 summer seems to have the right mix of temperature, rain, and wind to foster a healthy population of the parasites that cause this skin reaction. These parasites originate in snails and are seeking a waterfowl host, but they are not able to distinguish between people and ducks. There is no reliable method to control the snails or waterfowl, so the best approach is to reduce your chances of being impacted:

- Wear a tight-fitting, full-body rash guard - you can find these online! Ocean bathers wear these to prevent jellyfish stings. Larvae typically do not penetrate the fabric. Bonus: less sunscreen is necessary!
- Swim later in the day! Larvae usually exit snails each morning and will die or be eaten during the day.
- Avoid lounging in surface waters. Larvae migrate to the surface and can accumulate in shallow water.

- Avoid onshore winds. Larvae move with the wind and can congregate near windward shores.
- Towel off after swimming. Some larvae are sticky and can cling to the skin when you exit the water.
- Swim in deeper water if you are able. Larvae are released from shallow-water snails, so fewer are found in deeper water.
- Try different creams and lotions. Various products claim to repel larvae from entering the skin.

## BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

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.



## NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST SHORELAND PROTECTION INITIATIVE

from NWLT Website



The Northwoods Land Trust (NWLT) offers permanent conservation services to private landowners in seven counties in northern Wisconsin: Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence, Iron, Price and Langlade.

In 2001, NWLT was formed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Created when lake property owners and lake organizations expressed a need for permanent conservation options for private landowners. Shoreland protection remains among our highest priorities.

Our region's watersheds are healthy, with intact forests and wetlands, and excellent lake and river water quality. Protection of ecological functions in non-impaired watersheds through permanent land and

shoreline protection is the basis of NWLT's conservation work. Today, over 15,000 acres of land is included in our protection programs. These lands include nearly 100 private conservation easements, as well as 30 conservation areas that NWLT owns and manages that are open to the public year-round.

**The Shoreland Protection Initiative** aims to permanently conserve extensive stretches of natural shoreline on lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams to leave a lasting legacy. Our priority is to help concerned landowners conserve sizable properties, especially those on water, to collectively protect our world-class natural resources before they become degraded and polluted.

Wisconsin's Northwoods region includes one of the highest densities of inland freshwater lakes in the world. Many of these lakes have clean, clear water with attractive sandy bottoms and shorelines. As a result, the Northwoods have extremely high development pressure for residential waterfront and vacation home ownership. While many private waterfront properties have been developed, there is still an opportunity to protect some of the last remaining natural shorelines so that future generations can enjoy them too. Larger waterfront properties on lakes and rivers, with surrounding forests and wetlands, safeguard our clean waters and provide important habitats for fish and wildlife.

Permanently protecting natural shoreland is one of the best ways we can protect the health and beauty of our waters. Our economy is tied to our waters, so it's a public benefit to protect water quality through private land conservation. Protecting natural, quality water resources today, versus restoring impaired waters tomorrow, just makes economic sense. This initiative has historically been supported by multi-year Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) lake

protection grants. NWLT's current grant award is focused in Vilas County and northern Langlade County. Landowner outreach is taking place here now in an effort to reach landowners in these counties. NWLT works with interested landowners across our seven-county service area. NWLT Board members, Ron Eckstein and Cathy Techtmann, will be speaking at our MWLA Annual Meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup>

## VILAS COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION BLUE HERON AWARD

from VCLRA website

The Blue Heron Shoreland Stewardship Award Program recognizes lake property owners who champion strong lake stewardship principles in the development and use of their waterfront property to minimize environmental impacts. VCLRA makes these annual awards to generate awareness and educate lake property owners on the importance of shoreland stewardship by highlighting excellence in lake-friendly waterfront development.



This award was established for a threefold purpose:

1. to provide lake associations with the opportunity to nominate and recognize property owners on their lakes who have worked hard to maintain their shoreline property in a more natural state with minimal environmental impacts,
2. to inform lake property owners about the many ways that negative impacts of shoreline property development can be minimized, and
3. to educate lake property owners about how important shoreline biodiversity is to the overall health of their lake.

There are five shoreland areas that are considered for this award.

- Driveway and parking
- Structures and septic areas
- Yard and recreation areas
- Shoreline area
- Entire lot area

Do you know someone who makes a conscious effort to preserve an outstanding natural shoreline? Nominate them for the Blue Heron Shoreline Stewardship Award by contacting Susan Knight at [seknight@wisc.edu](mailto:seknight@wisc.edu), 608-890-4722.

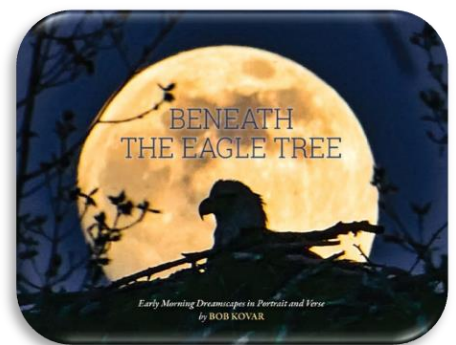
### “BENEATH THE EAGLE TREE”

A Book Combining Nature Photography & Language Like No Other

Excerpts from review by Mike Ivey, Silent Sports Magazine



For several years, Kovar has ventured out of his home in **Manitowish Waters** to catch the sunrise over **Wild Rice Lake**. The idea was to snap a photo for his school-teaching wife, **Carolyn**, who was busy in the mornings getting ready for work. Kovar usually set up in the same secluded spot near a creek connecting the area's chain of lakes. There's an eagle's nest in a small woodlot along the shoreline. The morning photoshoots grew into a regular thing and Kovar started sharing the



daily sunrise with a growing legion of fans on Facebook. When COVID struck, he started adding his personal reflections to the photos. “I was really upset with all the divisiveness in the world at the time,” Kovar said, “and I challenged myself to write something positive and post whatever I was thinking at the time.”

Now, Kovar has pulled everything together in a book titled **“Beneath the Eagle Tree: Early Morning Dreamscapes in Portrait and Verse.”** The photos within go far beyond sunrises and landscapes, featuring amazingly detailed shots of the

Northwood flora and fauna, and everything from wolves and fox to dragonflies and hummingbirds. What sets Kovar's effort apart from other nature photobooks are the heartfelt, uplifting writings attached to the vivid photographs.

Each of the 128 pages offers a new color plate or two, always with an observation ranging from Zen-like musings to self-deprecating humor. "Beneath the Eagle Tree," offers readers a chance to join in Kovar's fascination with the natural world and find meaning in the words and images he so lovingly shares. Visit [www.bobkovar.com/](http://www.bobkovar.com/)

### **REMINDER! NORTHWOODS LIGHTS OUT**

by Quita Sheehan, Vilas County Conservation Specialist



Looking for another way to enjoy the wonders of the Northwoods? Exploring the night skies, watching fireflies and stargazing are but a few ways to appreciate the darkness. Oneida and Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Departments are promoting two summer weekends to enjoy the night. We encourage you to turn off your lights for a few hours, go outside, and look up and around you! Listening in the darkness can also lead to exciting discoveries! Make this an event for your lake group or educational organization; help us spread the word through your organization communications and newsletters!

There is one more summer weekend to enjoy the night! Firefly Watch was June 17-18 and **Milky Way and Perseid Meteor Watch will be August 12-13**. We hope that by setting dates, residents, and visitors alike, will coordinate for a broader appreciation of nighttime wonders. Unnecessary lighting with improper placement and design interferes with visibility and robs us all of quality night skies. Other impacts from light pollution include human health affects/sleep disruption, confusion for migratory birds and other wildlife, and wasting energy.

You can help by only using lighting you really need, choosing energy-efficient bulbs, and directing lights downward. By working together, we can protect the night for everyone to enjoy!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Lead poisoning is the primary cause of death for loons, herons, eagles, swans, and many other species. This happens when lost lead tackle is swallowed with small stones on the lake bottom to help birds digest food or when lead tackle hooked in a fish is consumed by a bird. And lead-poisoned birds eaten by scavenging predators cause even more suffering and death. Lead is one of the most toxic metals known. Many wildlife species suffer adverse effects due to lead exposure. *One lead sinker or jig can kill a ten-pound loon or twenty-pound swan.* Going non-lead is a cheap and effortless way for sportsmen to protect our waterfowl and raptors from lead poisoning.
- According to a UW survey, 85% of Wisconsinites use our waters on a regular basis. Boating, swimming, and fishing are popular uses, but the prevailing on-the-water recreational activity is the enjoyment of the aesthetic qualities offered by lakes. In another Wisconsin Lakes poll, overwhelming numbers of respondents said their favorite activity was simply "looking at the lake". From James A. Brakken's book [Saving our Lakes & Streams](#)



[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**

**Karen Dixon  
Secretary**

**Mary Bowlus**

**Carla Biwan Hameister**

**Tom Kramer**

**Mike McKeon**

**Jody Miller**

**Paul Puccinelli**

**Delp Schafer**





**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     Shoreland Stewardship     Miscellaneous