

## President's Message

By Ed Jacobsen

Tom Harris has finished his three year and very successful run as president of our association. He might have stayed on but he wanted to move to Colorado. When Tom announced to us that he was trying to sell his house, we hacked into his email and deleted every hint of an offer for that house so he would stay on as president. No luck, one sneaky offer got through and sell it he did. Now I am president.

It is an honor to serve as president of such a well organized and focused association. It is also a daunting task to try to fill Tom Harris' shoes as president, so I won't even try, I will muddle along in my own way.



Tom Harris (left) and this writer smile as our Board of Directors applaud Tom for his lasting impact on the waters of Three Lakes

Tom led this organization for three years and served on the board of directors prior to that. During his time, we evolved into one of the most respected lake groups in the state. We are one of the few lake groups which was proactive in combating AIS. Under Tom's leadership, a

volunteer core group was organized to watch for, and deter, the introduction of invasives. This group has educated the visitors to our area that we are serious about our beautiful chain and keeping it as it was intended to be, free of invasive species. While Tom was president, over 5,200 hours were donated by volunteers, and that is quite an accomplishment. While we will miss Tom's leadership, we will continue to benefit from the structure of lake management that he began. Thank you Tom Harris.

Over the years the Three Lakes Waterfront Association has set and accomplished goals that seemed too lofty to succeed, but succeed they have. We have been vigilant in our volunteer driven fight against Eurasian Water Milfoil and other aquatic invasive species in our precious chain of lakes.

We have begun an extensive lake management plan that will eventually identify the water quality as well as every living plant in each of our 21 lakes and thoroughfares. We have completed almost half of the chain so far in some phase of the plan. Armed with that knowledge, we will be even more prepared to fight whatever invasive wishes to take up residence in Three Lakes.

A comprehensive lake survey has been mailed to all waterfront property owners, and your answers to our survey questions will help us direct our future efforts in lake management planning. We will be spending countless hours in compiling this survey and tabulating the results. **Watch for upcoming newsletters and website postings for actual results and key findings.**

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In our fight to keep these invasives at bay, we did experience a rather disturbing event which happened at the Big Lake landing. The association has installed kiosks at the main landings, and, at certain of those landings, we have also installed data collection boxes for the data sheets to be deposited by our volunteer inspectors. That data collection box was burned, and the fire also damaged our kiosk on two separate occasions. It was an arson crime as we could see the path of an accelerant leading from the parking lot to the target of the area. We are at a loss in determining a motive for this action, but I would ask that anyone with knowledge about these two incidents please contact me (715-546-3801).

The board of directors of this association consists of 14 very dedicated and talented volunteers who spend countless hours each year trying to protect our largest and most beloved asset, the chain of lakes. We cannot do that without help from our general membership. There is a sea of great talent with various skills that could help us do an even better job in the years to come. If you feel that you could help us in any way for any amount of time, please contact me or any board member. You do not have to serve as a board member but just add your talents in any way you feel you might help. We always need more members so please ask your neighbors to join the Three Lakes Waterfront Association and help us continue the work we started 47 years ago.

## Clean Boats / Clean Waters

By Ed Jacobsen

Our crew of dedicated volunteers did a great job again this year. We logged over 900 volunteer hours as well as 600 paid hours in our efforts to

keep our waters clean. Rather than blab on about how we always need new volunteers, I thought it be better said by listing those neighbors of yours who have dedicated their time in 2011, and most, if not all, have done it for the past 6 years.

## Thank You Volunteers for Your Hours in 2011!

### CLEAN BOATS / CLEAN WATERS

Bob Agen	Mary Donohue & BJ Panke	Don Kratsch	Sandy Schlaefer	Pat & Margo Trotter
Anchor Marine	Roger Dornburg	Charlie Mitchell	M. Schneider	Marty Turner
Jim Blanchard	Tom Flanders	Reed Newlin	Jen Schneider	Beverly
Roger Blocks	Four Seasons Marine	Tom Obenberger	John Snell	Stan & Joanne Wargolet
Bob Borek	Lois Hesse	Bob Obenberger	Paul & Carol Steinhauer	Jack Werner
Dave & Lillian Brice	Dale Hitchcock	Bruce Renquist & family	Bill Swain	Ron Williams
Lou & Ann Bruckmoser	John Ibach	Don Schaefer	Al & Lynn Teach	

### ADOPT-A-SHORELINE

Bob Agen	Lauren Drobyski (HR)	William & Mary Kreul	Rob Mc Grane	Steve Schault
Maryanne Anderson-Stoll	Bob Dumke	Kristen Anderson	Charles Mitchell	John S. Scheid
Anna Jamicich	Al & Sandy Fager	David J. Kroening	Melissa Mohler (HR)	Ben Schneider
Roger & Marge Blocks	Kathy Haapanen	Amy Kuhlman (HR)	Thomas & Marilyn Pearson	Michael Shay
Bob Boerner	Bill & Rusty Hayes	Leanna Gaddy (HR)	Joe Petreikis	Jim Skelton
Bob Borek	Emer Hegeman	Jim Levandoski	Pat & Chuck Radtke	Larry Swanlund
Martha Brault	Dave & Jan Hintz	Rachel Livingston (HR)	James W. Reed	Stan & Joanne Wargolet
Walt Bredeson	Dale & Mary Hitchcock	Kathy Longley (HR)	Bruce & Judy Renquist	Jack Werner
Karen Cottingham	Emily Hutcheson (HR)	Ed Martens	George & Vicki Rezny	Eric & Jackie Wick
Mary Beth Davies	Ed Jacobsen & Sue Sadowske	Juliana Martinez (HR)	Norris & Joan Ross	Mandy Renquist
Dick Deaver	Marissa Jensen (HR)	Robert & Donna Mather	Kristen Rust (HR)	
Jerry & Gretchen Diehl	Beth Jones (HR)	Marjane Maton	Jim & Janet Ruwaldt	



HR = Honey Rock Camp  
Let us know if you were inadvertently left off.

## Adopt-A-Shoreline

By Ed Martens

Year 7 of the Adopt-A-Shoreline program was very successful. It resulted with the total number of volunteers and shoreline monitoring hours exceeding the past several years. A total of 75 volunteers reported 376.5 hours of shoreline monitoring. These numbers exceeded last year by 14 volunteers and 39 hours.

The above results demonstrate that our volunteers realize our first line of defense against the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species is the Adopt-A-Shoreline program along with boat inspections (Clean Boats/Clean Water).

It cannot be overstated that early identification of an infected area in a lake is critical. Once

located, the infestation can be removed or treated, stopping its spread to other areas and lakes. As reported, this is the case with Virgin Lake where a small infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil was found a year and a half ago. It is being closely monitored and controlled by physically removing the individual EWM plants from this area on Virgin Lake. This process will continue to ensure the threat does not expand both in this lake and to other lakes in our chain.

Thanks again for your help this past season, and we're asking for your continuing support in the upcoming year. **We need more volunteers to monitor the shoreline, so if you can spare the time, contact me at (715) 546-4291.** The more "eyes in the water" we have, the better chance for early detection of any new AIS

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## Shoreline Erosion

By Ed Jacobsen

In the past two years, the Jacobsens have encountered severe shoreline erosion on Town Line Lake. The shoreline had been stable for over 80 years, but in the last two years we have lost about two feet across 60 feet of frontage, that's 120 feet of stuff that disappeared. It looked as though it would continue to erode unless some action was taken to stop the thievery by the lake, or whatever steals your shoreline.

We did not want to have rip rap halt the process, as those big rocks would trip our visitors running to jump in the lake. We checked with the DNR and found that a product called bio logs was acceptable if we obtained a permit. We contacted a very nice landscaping company who took care of the entire project. They obtained the permit, hauled in 60 feet of these bio logs and secured them to the shoreline. It worked! Things look very stable now and the waves coming off the ever bigger boats are rebuffed by the new bio-frontage.

The logs are made out of coconut coir, whatever that is, which looks like long strands of stringy tree roots. This is all bundled into a long round "log" ten feet long and about 12

inches in diameter. After these logs are made, numerous holes are drilled into them and strong shoreline loving plants are imbedded into the holes. The whole log is then put in place, tight up against the remaining shoreline, and secured to the lakebed with straps and stakes. All of this is designed to disintegrate within about 5 to 7 years leaving only these strong plants to fight off the attack of big boats.

When the logs were put in place, they were a light beige color, but, within a month, they had darkened to a hue which looked like they belonged where they were. The plants started growing immediately as the roots are always wet from the wicking action of the spongy log. It was impossible to get the logs absolutely tight against the jagged, beaten shoreline so, where there was a gap, loose soil was filled in with grass seed on top. We used about two wheelbarrows full of top soil and a pound of grass seed. The grass seed had to be watered, but it took root within about two weeks, and it all looks very natural now, and this after just 5 months.

If you have elements of any kind attacking your shoreline and rip rap is not what you want, you might consider this treatment. We are very happy with the results.



## Increasing the Amount of Fish in Lakes

By Laurie Lenten

Ninety-four percent of all lake life is born, raised and fed within 30 feet of where the water meets the land. It's a fact, uncovered and reported by researchers in Ontario, Canada, that bears repeating: 94 percent of all lake life is born, raised and fed within 30 feet of where the water meets the land.

That statistic, and that statistic alone, is enough to drive home the immense responsibility that rests in the hands of lake property owners. It's a statistic that John Kubisiak likes to set off in bold black letters in hand-outs that he shares with interested individuals. As a fisheries biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), John is armed with statistics and hand-outs and PowerPoint presentations that all point back in some fashion to the fact that 94 percent of all lake life is born, raised, and fed within 30 feet of the shoreline.

Shorelines, according to John, are ribbons of life supporting everything from birds and beetles to frogs and fish. "Fish do better with natural habitat," he says. It's not that fish disappear on developed waters, but as natural shorelines give way to increased development, the numbers of more adaptable species of fish such as bluegill and bass begin to increase, sizes of the fish decrease, and the prized walleye and musky become ever more elusive, perhaps even non-existent.

"Bluegill and bass are nesting species, while walleye and musky are broadcasters, which are species that tend to be more fussy about their spawning areas," says John. "As shorelines are developed, the natural brush, shrubs and wood begin to disappear because people consider these things unsightly."

Citing data that has been collected on why people desire to buy lake property in the first place, John says scenic beauty, wildlife viewing and fishing opportunities rank as the top three reasons and yet, he says, "The first thing many people do when they buy a

piece of lake property is change it to include a manicured lawn." Removal of logs and downed trees, and clearing the shoreline of unwanted brush to make way for boating and swimming often go hand-in-hand with the manicuring process.

In its efforts to retain productive shorelines, the DNR no longer issues permits allowing blankets of sand to be laid along frontages in order to create swimming beaches because, says John, "Not a lot of things do well on sand except people." Muck bottom frontages are far more beneficial for varied species, but again aren't considered the ideal when people think of enjoying water activity. According to DNR regulations, waterfront property owners are allowed to hand-rake an area up to 30 feet wide and extending to an unspecified length into the water along their frontage, but forget about removing those trees that have fallen into the water.

"If a tree falls over the lake you can remove it, but if it falls into the water, then it's mine," says John laughingly. "Trees and logs in the water are considered a part of the lake bed and lake beds belong to the state not the property owner." John admits, though, that many downed trees and logs are removed from area shorelines without the required DNR dredging permits.

In the natural scheme of things, trees naturally fall into the waters along shorelines, becoming valuable to the lake's ecology. Contrary to popular belief, fish do not spawn on logs, but rather use them for cover says John, and creating fish cribs, tree-drop structures, and half-log structures is permissible along shorelines. A permit is required if the waters are designated Area of Special Natural Resource (ASNRI). On non-ASNRI waters a permit is not required; however, DNR guidelines must still be followed. John says he believes cribs and structures can provide positive benefits if they're placed in large numbers to spread the fish out and distribute angler pressure, are properly constructed using lots of brush and are placed in lakes that do not have much natural vegetation.



But forget about adding cribs and structures on lakes that already have stunted pan fish, says John. According to studies done by the DNR, as more tolerant species of fish—bluegill and bass—begin to increase on highly developed lakes, the size of the fish begins to decrease. Bluegills have been found to be up to one-third smaller on highly developed lakes compared to their counterparts on less developed waters. Adding structures, says John, simply increases the number of places for the overabundant smaller fish to hide from predators.

Overall, fish numbers are good and comparable to the 1960s, but individual lakes often tell a different story. Fish surveys are not 100 percent dependable and angler effort has increased on many lakes. There are more larger bass and musky being caught these days, John explains, which he credits to catch-and-release practices and later take dates established by the DNR.

So what's a lake property owner to do who wants to enjoy the scenic beauty as well as some fishing action? According to John, the best rule

of thumb is to leave things alone. "If it's not broken, don't try to fix it," he says. "It's much harder to fix things once they've been messed up." If you move onto a lake property where the frontage has been groomed and manicured, John says it's best to let nature do her own work. "Stop mowing, leave wood in its place, let the brush grow, and slowly nature will heal itself."

John recommends *The Shoreland Stewardship Series*, a three part series on shoreland protection and restoration, which is available through the DNR and the UW-Extension, as a good starting point for lakefront property owners.

For more information, call the Department of Natural Resources Northern Region Headquarters at 365-8900, or log onto [www.dnr.wi.gov/](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/).

*Laurie Lenten is a freelance writer who lives in Rhinelander. Her article appeared in LIVING ON THE LAKE, July/August 2009, © 2009 Journal Community Publishing Group, reproduced with permission.*

## **Eurasian Water Milfoil in Virgin Lake**

*By Bob Agen*

On August 6, 2010 Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) was found on the southwest side of the island by the staff of Onterra, LLC. This professional limnology group has been hired by the Three Lakes Waterfront Association to complete in-depth studies of the Three Lakes Chain, in an effort to determine the health of the lakes and prepare Lake Management Plans for the Chain. On August 9, 2010 several TLWA board members along with Virgin Lake's Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers set out to observe the EWM. Even with GPS coordinates provided by Onterra, our group was unable to locate the EWM bed. Then, on August 17, 2010 Ed Martens, Roger Blocks, Bob Borek and Bob Agen were able to pinpoint the EWM, and buoys were placed to mark it off. Onterra informed the TLWA they would send a team to pull the Milfoil by hand in 2011.

On July 8, 2011 a three-man dive team from Onterra hand pulled the Eurasian Milfoil.

However, on July 14, 2011 Bob Borek and Bob Agen found a few remaining plants, and Onterra was informed. In August, while replacing a buoy moved by the wind, Bob Borek discovered more plants. Onterra returned in mid-September and again removed the plants from the southwest side of the island. The battle to control EWM is a difficult one, requiring great persistence. Total eradication is nearly impossible – the realistic goal is to contain it.

This winter is a wait-and-see time. The area will continue to be marked with buoys and will be monitored by the Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers and Onterra professionals. We will stay on top of this problem and need everyone's help; please stay clear of the marked off area. If you think you find EWM in another area of the lake, contact either Bob Borek at 715 546 3457 or Bob Agen at 715 546 3893. We will continue to inform Virgin Lake property owners on the status of our Eurasian Milfoil problem.



## A Membership to be Proud Of

By John Brueggemann

**TLWA Members:** Congratulations for being a member of an organization that is committed to vigilantly and relentlessly working to keep our area lakes not only the most beautiful in the world but also the most pristine they can be. Thank you for joining the never-ending fight to protect our area lakes for today and for the future. What more important responsibility could we have to the paradise we live and play in? And to our future generations of family, friends, and visitors?

As you probably know, your association is an active and aggressive organization. The Board of Directors meets monthly year round (winter's maybe our busiest time) to proactively identify and address issues and concerns relating to our lakes. This board of fourteen individuals consists of community residents with impressive and varied professional and personal experience with the environment, lakes, and our community, individuals who are volunteering their time and efforts on the Board, just as so many of you have volunteered your time in other lake-related areas.

Our organization is recognized State-wide as a model for how a lake association can be effective and productive. The details on the initiatives of your association are too numerous to itemize here (these activities and more are reported biannually in our newsletter), but allow me to briefly summarize some of the TLWA accomplishments **just since 2005:**

- Solicited, coordinated, and facilitated the delivery of over 11,000 volunteer hours to our lakes through programs such as *Clean Boats / Clean Waters* and *Adopt-a-Shoreline*. This included the training of over 150 different volunteers.
- Applied for and received more than \$300,000 in grants directed at protecting and preserving our lakes.
- Created and maintains a TLWA website to provide education and information to our members and to the general public.
- Constructed and maintains 13 information kiosks at landings on our lakes.
- Prevented 12 acres of Eurasian Milfoil from spreading in the channel between Long Lake and Burnt Rollways dam.



- Awarded a total of \$8,500 in scholarships to 6 Three Lakes High School graduates who went on to study environmental issues in college (\$23,000 total to a combined 22 students since 1989).
- Developed a DVD about water safety and AIS for use in area resorts and by individual landowners.
- Distributed thousands of AIS educational packets at boat landings and area events and placemats at area restaurants.
- Developed a Rapid Response strategy to quickly and effectively address new AIS discoveries.
- Represents our local interests through membership on the Wisconsin Association of Lakes Board and Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association Board.
- Donated \$5,000 to the Eagle River Lower Chain Commission to aid in their fight against AIS.

Suffice it to say we are an active, accomplished, and proud organization. Thank you again for your commitment to and support of these efforts through your membership and your volunteer service.

### **Membership Alert**

**To all TLWA members:** Once again we need your help. The TLWA, your waterfront association, needs to grow. If we want to continue our efforts, highlighted above, we need your help by:

1. **Renewing your membership:** We need you to make sure you've renewed your membership. All one-year memberships expired last June 30<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't renewed, please do so ASAP with the application enclosed in this newsletter.
2. **Recruiting new members:** We need to get your friends, neighbors, local businesses to join our efforts. What lake country owner, or visitor, would *not* want to be a part of our efforts? Do them a favor and steer them to a great organization and cause. Make copies of the membership application in this newsletter and pass them around. Or mail them yourself.... maybe a gift idea for that certain lake neighbor or friend?

Don't put it off. What better time than **right now!**

# TLWA Membership and Volunteer Application

Check the mailing label for your current membership status.

If you are not already a member of the Three Lakes Waterfront Association, please join now. Annual membership is just \$20 per household. You can't afford *not* to get involved!

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Three Lakes Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake: \_\_\_\_\_ Three Lakes Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Newsletter Preference: \_\_\_ US Mail Only \_\_\_ Email Only \_\_\_ Both

Enclosed is \$20 for membership and \$\_\_\_\_\_ as an additional tax-exempt contribution toward the cost of the invasive species prevention program for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Detach completed form and mail with a check payable to:  
Three Lakes Waterfront Association, Inc. P O Box 145 Three Lakes WI 54562

## Volunteer To Keep Our Waters Clean

\_\_\_ Clean Boats/Clean Waters \_\_\_ Adopt-A-Shoreline \_\_\_ Lake Management Planning Team

### Where Did That Come From ?

By Paul Matthiae

Shoreland owners who reside in southern Wisconsin, Illinois, or other Midwest states need to be aware of the potential for transporting terrestrial invasive species as well as the aquatic varieties. Most suburban properties with woods, and suburban/rural parks and woodlands have become infested with one or more invasive species of significant concern. Terrestrial invasives hitchhike on bikes, ATV's, and vehicles; anything where a bit of mud bearing seed can attach to and later fall off.

High on the list of concerns are buck thorn and garlic mustard, along with some nasty Eurasian thistles. These plants lack natural enemies, have reproductive strategies that out competes our native flora, and can completely dominate the ground cover of a landscape. All three of these species have begun to show up in the Northwoods. Once well established, they can spread rapidly from landowner to landowner, lake lot to lake lot.



Some species such as thistles, purple loosestrife, and spotted knapweed spread rapidly along highway and town road systems. These problem plants produce large amounts of seed that are light and easily dispersed on wind, including the draft caused by a passing vehicle. Thistles and knapweed will readily spread into adjoining open or semi-open areas, especially where soils have been disturbed or ground cover is sparse. Once established along roadsides there is potential for these plants to move into lakeshore owners land; and, at bridges, move directly to the adjoining shorelines.

Purple loosestrife typically spreads along moist ditches, and will quickly invade shorelines, spreading into water 2-3 feet deep. Like thistles and knapweed, loosestrife will displace native species and have little or no value to wildlife. Because all of these species have to one degree or another become established in the Northwoods, TLWA will work with others who monitor and work to eradicate these invasive plants and disseminate information we believe will be useful to you.



## 2011—2012 Board of Directors

### **Officers**

President	Ed Jacobsen
Vice President	Norris Ross
Treasurer	Stan Wargolet
Secretary	Elmer Goetsch

### **Directors**

Bob Agen	Rob McGrane
Roger Blocks	Jerry Schiedt
John Brueggemann	Sandy Schlaefer
Ed Martens	Jack Werner
Paul Matthiae	Paul Wussow

### **Program Leaders**

Adopt-A-Shoreline	Ed Martens
Clean Boats / Clean Waters	Bob Agen
Terrestrial Species	Paul Matthiae / Jerry Schiedt
Water Testing	Sandy Schlaefer
Lake Management Planning	Jack Werner / Norris Ross
Membership	John Brueggemann
OCLRA	Norris Ross
Newsletter	Roger Blocks
Website	Paul Wussow
Scholarship	Elmer Goetsch
Shoreland Zoning	Norris Ross
Water Safety	Jack Werner

For information regarding important issues impacting our lakes and  
your own lake property, visit the TLWA website at:

[www.threelakeswaterfrontassociation.com](http://www.threelakeswaterfrontassociation.com)