



MAKING WAVES : FALL 2018

## THREE LAKES WATERFRONT ASSOCIATION

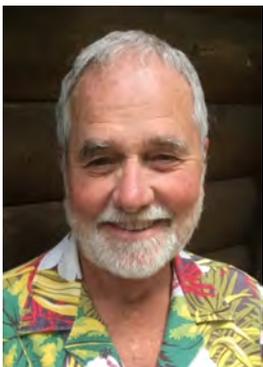
LAKE STEWARDS SINCE 1967

### President's Forum

### A New Leader

By Fred Knoch

**G**reetings ! This opening salutation reminds me of a similar salutation I received from



then President Nixon, on 6 August 1972. It was a call to arms for me, and I hope this newsletter

would serve a similar purpose for all of our faithful members. Those of you who are observant will notice a change in the appearance of this Fall newsletter. There is a new face on the cover page, a visage that is fresh, younger, more handsome, with a great shirt. In short, a new President of the TLWA. Who am I kidding? How could I ever measure up to those who have preceded me? It may be an old cli-

ché, but I am literately “Standing on the shoulders of Giants!” For those of you who do not know me personally, allow me to introduce myself. I am a retired Emergency Physician who worked my entire career in the Fox River Valley, more specifically in Appleton and Oshkosh, Wisconsin. While I was very good in the performance and practice of the high stress environment characterized by Emergency Medicine, I never experienced the operational requirements of being in control of a greater than 1000 member organization tasked with the evaluation and management of a potentially fragile 20 plus lake/shoreline habitat. I will attempt to do my best with the assistance and support of the membership.

I would like to characterize my tenure as one of openness and

responsiveness. I have served on the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Waterfront Association for about nine years. I have been a riparian owner since 1983 and have become a full-time resident of Three Lakes since 2009. My property is located on the North end of Long Lake, actually on the channel to the Burnt Rollways Dam. A boater can easily recognize my Western shoreline by the collection of water craft, swim raft, docks and boat shelters. In other words, you can't miss me! I enjoy watching boats go by in the channel and would encourage anyone to stop and say hello (of course at slow no wake speed!).

My experience while being a member of the TLWA has been one of engagement. I have been an active participant in water

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(President's Forum continued from Page 1)

quality evaluation, having been a volunteer for water quality data collection in the CLMN program of the WDNR. I have recruited other members of the TLWA to be CLMN volunteers and have a goal to have all lakes of the chain monitored by CLMN volunteers. I have been active in the formation and recruitment of members to serve as SCUBA divers and pontoon boat drivers in our new Rapid Response AIS dive team and have served as one of the divers in that program. I have been an active participant in the Plaque program working in the Three Lakes Fab Lab during the fabrication phase of the plaques. I have been instrumental in the application for a Surface Water grant which funded the Dissolved Oxygen/Water Temperature meter now owned by the Association for public use. I have contributed to the branding of the TLWA with the new logo proudly displayed on a long sleeve T-shirt depicting the lakes of the Three Lakes Chain of lakes. I, and other members of the TLWA, proudly display our loyalty when wearing our unique shirts.

The above "curriculum vitae" is not unique to me, but is typical of all the board members of the TLWA board of directors. Each person on the board is actively engaged in activity which is critical to the function and implementation of the mission of the TLWA. The continuing and steadfast volunteerism of our members at large is the backbone of our function in implementing our mission and serves as an indication of the

involvement and engagement that our members bring to the success of our Association.

The direction of the TLWA in the past has been one of data collection pertaining to the ecology of the watershed system of the Three Lakes Chain of Lakes. Each

### "Standing On The Shoulders of Giants"

lake, through the development of Lake Management Plans, has added to the overall design of how we, the members, will approach the future direction of the ecology of our fragile ecosystem. We have the opportunity to affect the management of Aquatic Invasive Species. We have the knowledge to affect changes in the quality of the lake's water. We have the means to eradicate shoreline invasives such as the Pale Yellow Iris, and Purple Loosestrife. We have the ability to affect our lake's fisheries.

The future of these programs depends largely on the involvement of the individual riparian owner. This is the thrust of the TLWA efforts going into the future. We need individuals to take responsibility in managing their shorelines in the form of shoreline restoration. We need anglers to take charge of fishery improvement in the form of planting "fish sticks" on their shoreline. We need riparian owners to recognize invasive plants and participate in their eradication. We need individuals to recognize ground water runoff problems on their property and take corrective actions. And by the way, the "we" I am speaking

of not just the board of directors, but all of the TLWA members who care about the value of their investment in this unique Northwoods utopia. But don't think you are in this effort alone, the TLWA is there for you. We have the ability to assist in writing grant applications to the State of Wisconsin DNR for monies to assist in most of these improvements to your property, which, if I may suggest, makes you astoundingly "Green". This may not only increase your enjoyment of the lake experience, but may also increase the value of your property!

Well, that's all folks! I hope to serve the membership as well as my predecessor, Ed Jacobsen, who we fondly have referred to as "Fearless Leader".

Fred Knoch



# Purple Loosestrife

## The Battle Is On

By Paul Matthiae



On a nice spring day in early May, a group of TLWA volunteers and Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Species staff gathered at a cooperating land owners property to harvest purple loosestrife plants. Fifty-seven plants were dug out of a moist wetland and transplanted to large plastic pots. The plants were transported to



the Petroleum Museum just north of Three Lakes where a 12 ft. X 12 ft. fine mesh tent was erected.

The individual plants were covered with tall fine mesh nylon bags supported by bamboo poles and sealed at top and bottom. The potted plants were then placed in tubs holding 3-4 plants each. Each tub was modified to hold 3-4 inches of water to assure a continuously moist growing environment for the young plants.

Over the next two months the purple loosestrife grew into robust densely stemmed plants four to five feet high.



Throughout this growing period volunteers from TLWA, and CB/CW interns watered the plants.

In late June, 10-12 Cella beetles were introduced to each plant. The beetles



immediately began feeding on the plants and reproducing. By mid July the beetles had quadrupled in number, and on July 19th, assisted by a



crew of County AIS control interns, we moved the plants to Planting Ground Lake. We had selected a long, shallow bay on the northwest shore of Planting Ground as our control area.

The bay is surrounded by a floating vegetative mat, ideal habitat for purple loosestrife. Nu-



merous patches of purple loosestrife have developed here and are spreading. A TLWA member living close to the bay volunteered his property as a staging area. We utilized canoes to transport the plants to the bay and both canoe and kayak to insert the beetles, host plant and all, into the patches of purple loosestrife.

Time will tell the extent of our success in this initial pilot project. We are seeing early signs of beetle impact on some



plants as this is being written. Later this fall we will know more as to how effective this beetle release has been. Purple loosestrife is a perennial, so

we will be anxious to see if we have reduced the number of plants next



spring by comparing next year's growth to GPS registered photographs taken as we introduced the Cella beetles.

Remember, you can help this control effort by digging or herbiciding purple loosestrife plants that may be occurring along your shoreline or on your property. Be sure to bag and dispose of all plant material in the garbage as plant parts will readily re-root and grow!



# Dive Team

## A Great Year

By Fred Knoch



I'm happy to report the EWM infestation in Virgin Lake is under control - for now. Thanks to the diligence of Lake Captain Bob Borek, a group of dedicated resident volunteers and the TLWA,



Virgin Lake Captain Bob Borek

Virgin Lake has been under virtually weekly surveillance. Plus, Onterra, our professional lake management consultants, survey the lake in spring and fall to help us locate new EWM and evaluate the effectiveness of our control efforts. Over the past few years, the density of EWM on Virgin has gone from several acres to just scattered clusters of plants in a few areas of the lake. It's these scattered plants the dive team now works to find and remove. As we've learned over the years, once EWM invades a lake, there is no way to completely eradicate the invasive plants - short of draining the lake and killing all vegetation. Draining Virgin Lake is not an option, therefore frequent monitoring and control efforts are our only recourse.

Divers are only a small part of the TLWA Rapid Response team. The

team is supported by Bob Borek, Bob Agen and Larry Zibell aboard our specially outfitted pontoon boat donated by Watercraft Sales. Several Virgin Lake residents provide support as well, working from their kayaks helping to spot individual EWM plants and collect fragments floating from the dive area. Together with the divers, the Virgin Lake group has logged over 200 volunteer hours in 2018.

Our four certified divers are outfitted with the latest US Divers SCUBA gear donated by Helen Johnson and the folks at Johnson Outdoors of Racine, WI. We wear 7mm wet suits which allow divers to spend hours in, and underwater in comfort. A far cry from our makeshift gear and attire of a couple years ago.

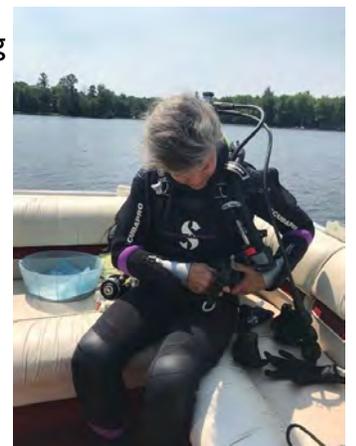


The key to successful EWM harvesting is to remove the entire plant from the lake bottom, especially the roots. Bottom composition of Virgin Lake ranges from thick muck, to boulders, to hard packed gravel. Our SCUBA gear and warm wet suits allow divers adequate bottom time to do a complete job of plant removal. The team has done Virgin six

times since June. With each dive, we gain experience and become more productive. The team now harvests an average of 25 gallons of EWM per dive.



Thanks to the Three Lakes Fire Department, we now have a local source for filling our air tanks saving a tremendous amount of time and expense. Community support of the EWM control efforts on Virgin and Long lakes has been vital to our success. We're always looking for volunteer help.



If you're interested, contact Fred Knoch - 715-479-4158.



# Dive Team Plus One

## Muck Diving 101

By Linda Woiak



Anyone who has snorkeled or dove the warm, clear waters of the Caribbean, appreciates white sand bottoms, great visibility and reefs filled with colorful tropical fish. Diving northern lakes is another world – our water is tannin stained and thick with plant life, often reducing visibility to just a few feet with water temperatures in the low 60's. And then there's the muck...

To effectively harvest EWM, we dive with heavy weights and no fins to help us stay on or near the bottom. The trick is to pull the roots of a EWM plant which requires getting on your knees, and sometimes your belly, then digging in the muck with your hands. Pretty much like weeding your garden, 6-10 feet underwater. As you dig a EWM "root ball" out of the bottom, you are usually engulfed in a cloud of black silt from the muck reducing visibility to inches. Once the roots are free, we gently roll the five to six foot plant up like a ball of string and



EWM underwater

place it in our catch bag. All the time trying not to let pieces break-off and escape to form new plants or disturb the healthy native plants. It's sort of like doing a puzzle with your eyes closed.

This year I've spent over 25 hours underwater pulling EWM with the team. It's a dirty job and we are usually covered in muck and weeds by the end of a dive. Silt even gets into your ears requiring lots of Q-Tips. The "after dive" shower is a wonderful thing.



Why do it? Why spend time in the cold, dark, mucky, weedy underwater world?

I grew up in Milwaukee and spent time on EWM infested lakes of Southern Wisconsin. I remember mats of weeds so thick it was almost impossible to waterski or fish or even take a pontoon boat ride. I would hate to see that happen to our beautiful Chain of Lakes.

I enjoy being underwater. The plant life under our tannin col-

ored water glows in the sunlight and the occasional minnow or polliwog are just as curious about me as I am about them. There are some amazing egg masses that make me wonder what they are and what they will become....

Scuba diving may seem strange to folks who aren't used to the water. It is very quiet and you have a feeling of flying. I am always surprised when we get out of the water and the crew on the boat tells us it's been three hours, time to check your air!

Our lakes may never be free of EWM and there will probably be new invasives to deal with in the future. I think it's important to take responsibility and keep an eye on our waters and do what we can to keep them healthy. Hopefully I will be able to keep "muck diving" for years to come!

Be the change you want to see in the world.

Linda Woiak is a TLWA Rapid Response Diver residing on Virgin Lake.



# Chemical Stream Monitoring

## What Does It All Mean?

By Lynn Zibell



Walking through tall grasses, Larry Roth and I got to the edge of the culvert off of Hwy 45 north of Three Lakes and then reached down several feet to gather a cup of Rangeline Creek water.



In May, the creek was about 3ft deep and easy to get to, but by August, it was only about half that and required a little “strategy” so as not to fall in. This was part of our chemical stream monitoring efforts on Rangeline Creek, Townline Creek, Crystal Lake boat landing and Big Lake Creek off Big Lake Loop Rd. We dipped chemical testing strips into the cup of water and tested for phosphate, ammonia and pH. In June we began testing under Big Lake Bridge on East Big Lake Loop for dissolved oxygen.

In May, we had a reading of 10 parts per million for phosphate in all locations, except for Rangeline Creek where it was 22 ppm. It leveled off to 5 ppm in all locations for the rest of summer. Most of

our ammonia readings came in at .25ppm. Only Crystal Lake Landing and Big Lake Creek went down to 0 at the end of summer. The usual pH level we found throughout our testing was 6.4. Rangeline Creek was the exception. In May, its pH was 6.2 and in June it was 6.



To test for dissolved oxygen, Larry and I used the dissolved oxygen meter available for take-out from the Three Lakes Library. We just lowered the monitor into the water under the Big Lake Bridge at 3, 6 and 9 ft. A read-out of oxygen and its percentage appeared on the hand-held part of the equipment. In June, for example, with a water temperature of 72.6° at 9 ft. the dissolved oxygen was 3.11 parts per million, while in August it was 5.03 ppm with a water temperature of 68.1°.

After gathering all this data at the end of each summer month, our question now was “what does it all mean?” To find the answer, we met with Noah Lottig at the UW Center for Limnology at Trout

Lake. What a learning experience this meeting was. We learned we could have a better measurement by changing our methods and timing. Instead of monitoring every summer month, Noah said that wasn’t necessary. We could do it in early spring or after a major rain event when the water flow is high...and again in mid-summer when water flow is at its lowest point.

After meeting with Noah, we are



now realizing the data we collected could be more precise. Noah’s doctorate focused on random sampling of streams in the region. His findings for Julia Creek were consistent with ours. He did propose sending our samples to the state hygiene lab for a more accurate analysis. **All in all, in looking at the data Larry and I collected, our streams have a healthy level of phosphate, ammonia and a normal level of pH.**

We’ll have more on this new program for you in the spring newsletter.



# Adopt A Shoreline

## Join the Effort

By Bruce Renquist



Early detection is the key to controlling the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. Our own Townline Lake is the poster child for early detection.

In the Spring of 2015, Eddie Heath, a limnologist with Onterra LLC which was under contract with TLWA, was conducting a survey of

Townline Lake as a function of the ongoing Lake Management Program. He located a single plant which he identified as Eurasian Water Milfoil. The location of the plant was marked with GPS. Onterra staff returned with SCUBA gear and carefully removed the entire plant. Townline was previously known to have the Chinese

Mystery Snail and Rusty Crayfish, both invasive species, but never Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Onterra verified the find, conducted a thorough search of the lake and found no additional plants. A month later, Onterra staff returned, did another exhaustive search and found another single

plant near the location of the first find. They carefully removed the second entire plant. Subsequent periodic searches by Onterra and regular monitoring by Adopt-A-Shoreline Townline Lake captain, John Foloran, have failed to find further EWM plants. We seemed to have averted what could have been a disastrous and costly infestation of one of our lakes.

The work of nearly 150 dedicated Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers recording

### LAKE CAPTAINS

BIG	Ed Cottingham	715-546-4298	ecottingham@frontier.net
BIG FORK	Kathy Olkowski	715-546-3759	kathleenrunner@yahoo.com
BIG STONE	Rob Jahnke	602-460-5362	r26jahnke@gmail.com
CRYSTAL	Mike Donovan	715-550-8282	usflyguyat1@aol.com
DEER	Jay Teagle	630-460-5362	jay.teagle@yahoo.com
DOG	John Rothwell	843-271-6455	jcrothwell1@gmail.com
FOUR MILE	Bob Pfeffer	262-284-2333	rpfeffer@aol.com
ISLAND	Doug Scheffen	715-546-2732	dougscheffen@aol.com
JULIA	David Mitzner	715-546-2583	david.mitzner@gmail.com
LAUREL	Mark Wallesverd	920-344-0698	walsvrd@gmail.com
	Charles Brady	651-408-2505	bradycharles@msn.com
LITTLE FORK	Bob Lee	715-546-3674	rlee1170@gmail.com
LONG	Jack Werner	715-546-9094	woodjack@gmail.com
MAPLE	Rena Beyer	715-490-0714	renabeyer5@gmail.com
MEDICINE	Bruce Renquist	715-546-2401	bruce.renquist@gmail.com
MOCCASIN	Ryan Lamon	715-546-8101	ryan@watercraftsales.com
PLANTING GROUND	Norris Ross	715-546-2250	norrisross@frontier.com
RANGE LINE	John Foloran	414-687-5900	john@air-instruments.com
ROUND	Gwen Hutchins	608-556-1234	hutchmutz@tds.net
SPIRIT	John Lake	619-980-7654	jrlncal@sbcglobal.net
THOROUGHFARE	Paul Matthiae	715-546-3453	pjmatthiae@gmail.com
TOWNLINE	Lou Bruckmoser	715-546-3083	annlou@frontier.com
VIRGIN	Bob Borek	715-546-3457	bobborek18@gmail.com
WHITEFISH	Dave Wheeler	309-696-9855	darkhorse53@gmail.com

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hundreds of volunteer hours each season is focused on early detec-



Lake Captains Meeting



AAS Workshop

tion. Their work and that of professional contractors like Onterra are essential elements in keeping your lake free of AIS. Won't you consider joining the effort? A few sunny hours on the water of your lake can make a difference and might be another early detection story for the books.

## Yellow Iris Update

The Spring TLWA Newsletter listed two steps Adopt-A-Shoreline planned to help control the invasive Yellow Iris. The first step: Lake Captains and volunteer monitors were advised to look for

Yellow Iris and encourage the property owner to remove and control its growth. The new awareness seems to have paid off. Throughout the summer we have received new reports of Yellow Iris and of subsequent landowner contacts. The second step was to remind our membership of the TLWA Yellow Iris and Purple Loosestrife loaner kit available at Anchor Marine. The kit has an array of tools and detailed instructions and protocols for dealing with the removal of these stubborn plants. The use of the kit has been nominal and we are going to have to do a better job of reminding our membership of its availability in the future.

Additional news on Yellow Iris... John and Cindy Lake have been waging an all-out war against Yellow Iris on Spirit Lake. John reports, help may be on the way. Yellow Iris is thought to be toxic and not usually regarded as table fare by the animal world, John, however reports observing a muskrat making short



work of a stand of Yellow Iris near his dock. One of the characteristics of invasives is they have no predators to limit their growth. John may have found the exception although his latest report was the Yellow Iris has grown back with gusto.



Luke's 1st legal muskie



If I could flap fast enough, I could fly



Nice catch!



1, 2, 3....Go!

# Clean Boats/Clean Waters

## An Interception

By Bob Agen



Despite losing three volunteers in 2018, our total hours increased to 343.25 hours, up from 333.5 in 2017. For half of the summer we operated with two interns instead of the desired three. However, we maintained full coverage at the Burnt Rollways Lift and Dam and Townline. The landing on Big Stone near the Sunset Grill Restaurant did suffer coverage but volunteers did log some hours there. Boat inspections at Townline were up this year with 922 inspections versus 798 in 2017. Burnt Rollways saw a small increase with 896 inspections this year versus 893 last year. Coverage did suffer this year at the following landings: Big Lake near CW Smith road, the county X landing and the landing on Laurel lake.

Volunteers are needed and vigilance is a must. Here is Norris Ross' take of an incident on Big Fork Lake:

On August 23, 2018 at 5:30 pm, visitors to the Three Lakes Chain



arrived at the boat landing on Big Fork Lake. The visitors from Madison had been fishing on neighboring Kentuck Lake (known for an Eurasian Water Milfoil infestation). Tom Flanders, a CB/CW volunteer, was on duty and asked to inspect the boat for EWM. The visitors were very cooperative and receptive to the education Tom provided about EWM.

Much to everyone's dismay, multiple strands of EWM were observed on the bunks of the trailer beneath the boat. The EWM was removed, and the release of EWM fragments into Big Fork Lake was averted. Thanks Tom!

Would you like to help keep our lakes free of EWM? Volunteer to help educate visitors at the boat landings. If you are interested contact Bob Agen at [agenrobert@gmail.com](mailto:agenrobert@gmail.com).

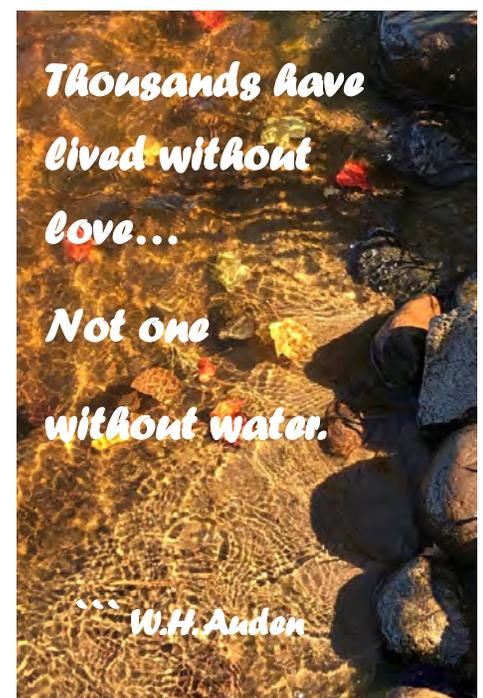
Volunteers are free to read or pursue hobbies or other interests during their down time. For instance, Volunteer John Snell works at the landing on Big Lake and brings his marquetry along to fill in the time. Marquetry is the art of cutting veneer pieces that are applied to another material to create different decorative forms or patterns.



John Snell working



John Snell "working"



# Lake Management Plan Update

## The Cycle Being Completed

By Norris Ross



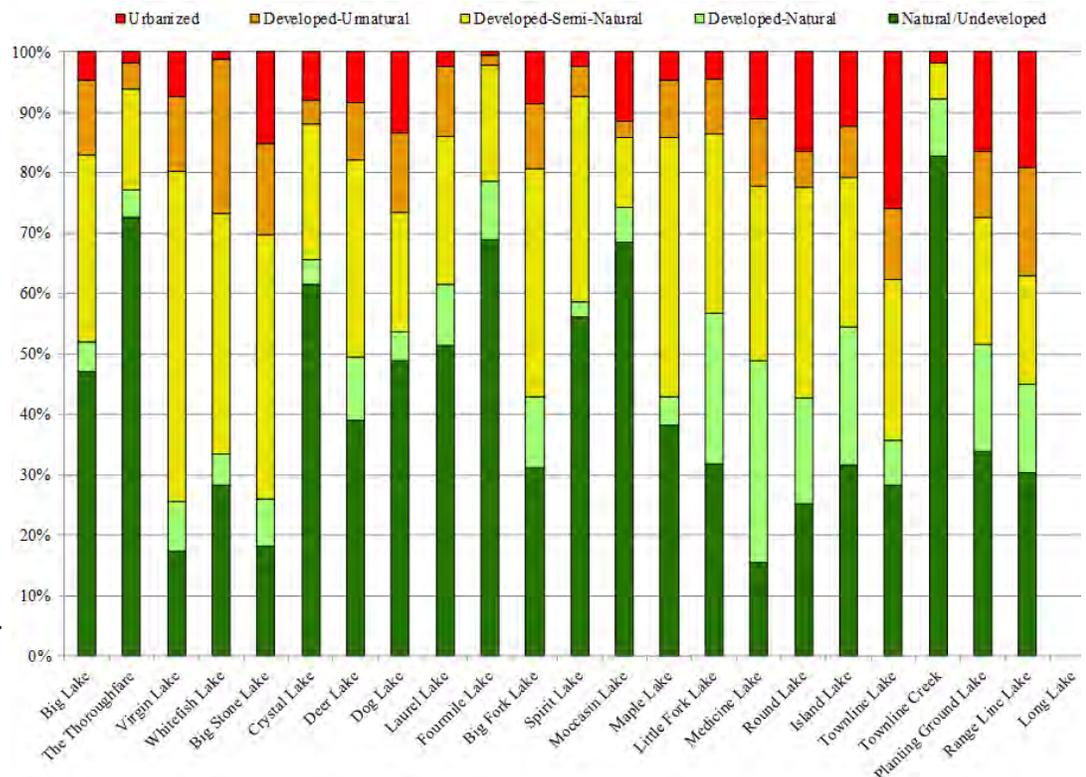
Since 2005, TLWA has been working toward a comprehensive lake management plan for the Three Lakes Chain and each uniquely individual lake within the Chain. The work has been done in eight phases, as lakes were professionally studied and analyzed over the years.

Phase VIII work will include a completed final implementation plan, the repeat study of Long Lake (it was the first study completed in 2012), and the preparation of a “condensed report” for public distribution. Most of this preparation work should be completed in 2018 and then submitted to the DNR for their approval for public release in final form sometime in 2019. Completion of this project will be a real milestone for the residents of Three Lakes.

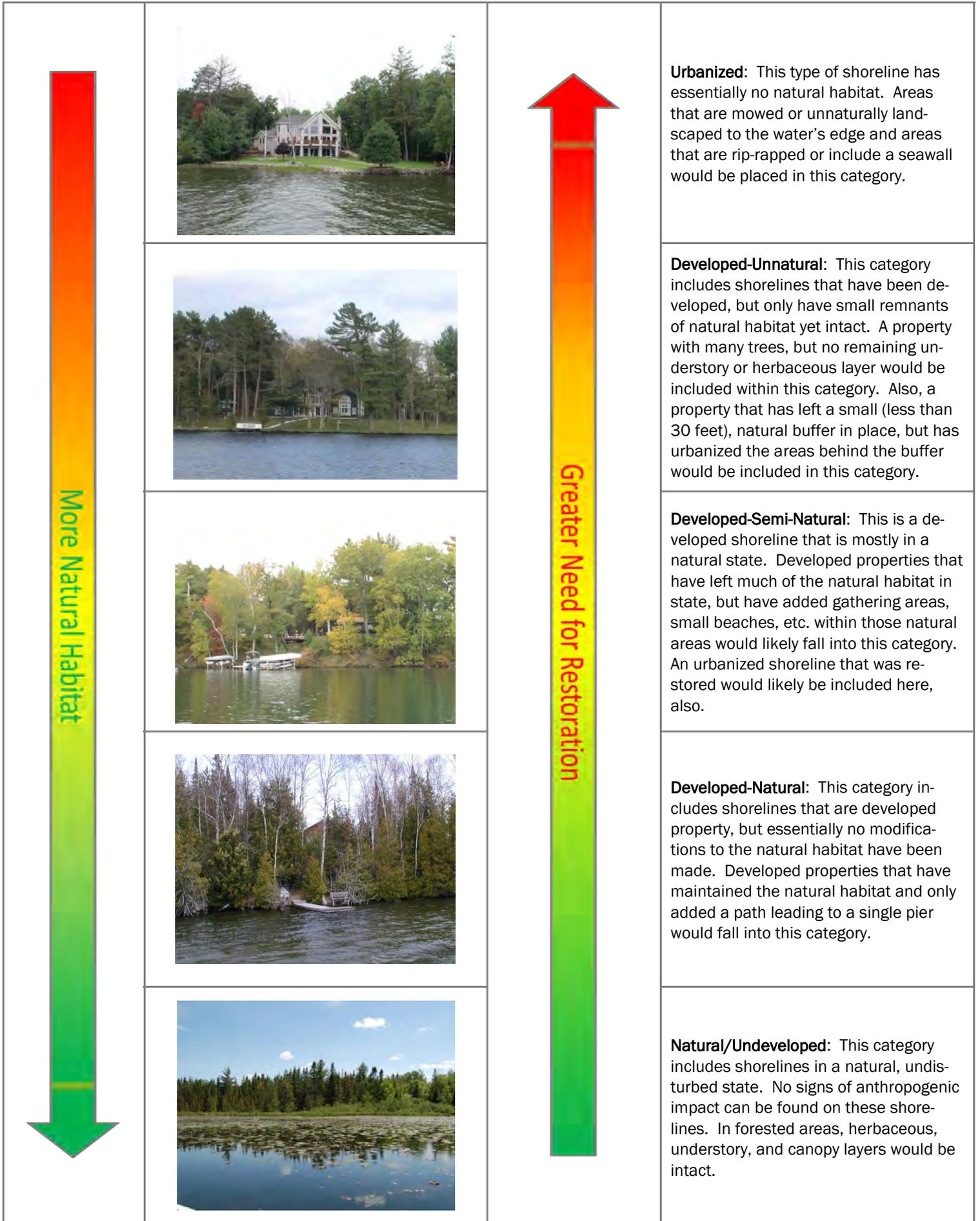
Since most of the work on the lakes will be five or more years old when this lengthy project is completed, the cycle of data collection should be started again beginning in 2020. The repeat studies will allow scientific comparisons to determine if any measurable changes have occurred in the intervening years. Initial data from the repeat of the Long Lake study has already indicated that changes have occurred in Long Lake since its initial study in 2012.

These changes are not alarming and are easily explained based upon recent weather-related patterns. The results of this repeat study on Long Lake will be available later this year. In order to gauge the health of each lake in the Chain, baseline data needs to be established. This comprehensive project will have documented a set of data for each lake which includes fish habitat considerations, aquatic plant population locations and densities, watershed condition and analysis, shoreline development patterns, and water quality (chemical) analysis. Repeat of these studies in future years will

reveal any changes that might occur. Implementation plans to improve the results found in the baseline studies have already been started and will be the focus of future TLWA activities. Fortunately, the water quality in the Three Lakes Chain is good for the most part and the watershed is so large that small incremental changes may not be immediately measurable, but they can be maintained or improved with persistent vigilance and effort on the part of all lake residents and users.



**Phase I-VII Three Lakes Chain of Lakes shoreline condition breakdown.** Based upon field surveys conducted in late summer on each project lake. Locations of these categorized shorelands can be found on maps within each individual lake section. Note: Long Lake data will be included in Phase VIII report.



## New Director:

Ann Oehmen is the newest addition to the TLWA board of directors. She and her husband Gerry (also a board member) are



taking over the membership assignment. As such, you'll be hearing from her when it

comes time for your membership renewal.

## Annual Meeting:

Our annual meeting this summer didn't promise free champagne, but we still had a near-record turnout. Members heard presentations from Town Chairman Jeff Bruss, Oneida County AIS Coordinator Stephanie Boismenu, and UW-Extension/DNR representative Patrick Goggin. It marked the final annual meeting for President Ed Jacobsen who has decided to "retire" and the introduction of Fred Knoch as his successor.



## TLWA T-Shirts:

Wear your pride in the accomplishments of your organization by wearing one of our custom long-sleeve T's. With the TLWA logo and a graphic showing our chain of lakes, you will be in great company when you put yours on. Many of our members have already purchased theirs, why not you too? Shirts are available at Northland Clothing in downtown Three Lakes. Proceeds from sales of these shirts will go to support the TLWA AIS Dive Team. So far we've collected \$1335 in profits! Display your colors with pride!



## Fish Sticks Anyone?

The TLWA is looking into entering a cooperative program to place fish sticks in strategic locations on members shorelines. If you are interested in volunteering your property for this test program please contact Board Member Gerry Oehmen at [gfoehmen@gmail.com](mailto:gfoehmen@gmail.com)

## Scholarship:

This year the TLWA awarded a scholarship to Jason Dart who is pursuing a degree in Natural Resources at Nicolet College in Rhinelander.

## Depleted Oxygen Meter:

The TLWA has a depleted oxygen/water temperature meter that is available to the public. It is the same meter used by our vol-



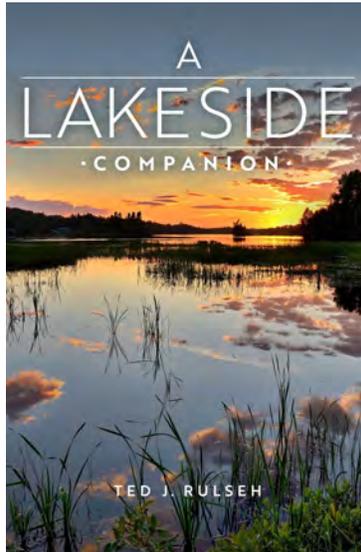
unteer members that are taking water sample readings on our chain. See the full article on that elsewhere in this newsletter. The meter is available at the Edward Demmer Memorial Library and you can check it out just like a book.

## New Look

Perhaps you've noticed the new look of this newsletter. This year we printed it on paper stock that is 30% post-consumer recycled content.

## Book Review:

There is a new book out that will be of great interest to our members. *A LAKESIDE COMPANION* is written by Ted Rulseh who writes the column *The Lake Where You Live* in the *Lakeland Times*. Published by The University of Wisconsin Press, *A LAKESIDE COMPANION* will deepen your appreciation for the forces that shape lakes and the teeming life in and around them.



be dangerous for the slow-moving turtles as it puts them in direct conflict with vehicle traffic. Please slow down and maneuver to avoid contact or stop and help the turtle across the road in the direction they are headed. Either way, you help protect a unique member of our Northwoods ecosystem.

The Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program encourages citizens to report where and when they see turtles – alive and dead. You can go online to record turtle crossing points ([wiatri.net/inventory/Wlturtles](http://wiatri.net/inventory/Wlturtles)), or print out the online form (Road Crossing Mortality and Turtle Sighting Form) and mail it to the DNR.

## Things Are Looking Up For Our Turtles

By Jon Willman



**N**esting season 2018, seemed to be relatively safe for our slow-moving friends. I usually hear of turtle sightings and mortalities from other TLWA members, our town road crews and first-hand observations. We had about the usual number of sightings and very few reports of dead turtles. All good. Perhaps the striking yellow turtle silhouettes on the pavement and signage have folks paying attention and giving our turtles a break.

It's gratifying to hear stories of folks stopping to help a turtle cross the road. They just beam with pride and satisfaction. Personally, I always carry a pair of gloves during nesting season. It's a lot easier and less intimidating with gloves. And remember, to

hold the turtle out in front of you as you pick it up – they have a habit of letting loose with a stream of turtle pee which can land directly on your shoes. If picking up a turtle up is not for you, simply pull over and turn on your emergency flashers to warn other motorists. It's enjoyable and rewarding to watch a turtle cross safely. Give it a try.

The silhouettes mark popular areas our slow-moving friends use to cross during nesting season. Designed by TLWA member and volunteer Linda Woiak, the unique painted "road art" is an extra reminder to give our turtles a break.

Turtle nesting season begins again in mid-May and continues until early July. This annual ritual can



### Almost as sad as a dead turtle

It's hard to imagine someone stealing a turtle crossing sign. But it still happens. This sign was located on the end of Reed road. Notice the thief was kind enough to replace the bolts and washers after the dastardly deed. Simply amazing...

# In Retrospect

By Ed Jacobsen



It was a tough decision to leave my post as president of the Three Lakes Waterfront Association. It had been a great honor to serve in that capacity for an organization which accomplished



overwhelming tasks over a period of 50 years. I had served in that post for 8 years and it was very rewarding in many ways. The most pleasant memories I have are those of the work done by my fellow board members. The talent that I was surrounded by would be capable of running a Fortune 500 company successfully. Instead they focused their talent on protecting our precious waterways around which this Town is built.

So many programs depended on volunteers and we had board members who directed and positioned thousands of those volun-

teers over the years so that the end result was what we have today. We have clean waters throughout the entire chain with one small but controlled exception. Most programs depended on getting our tax dollars back from the government in the form of grants. Working on fulfilling the demands that the government puts on us to get our money back can take hundreds of hours a year by more than one board member and that was always done with perfection. In many ways the DNR now uses our refinements to their onerous application forms when applying for and reporting data needed to complete their requirements. That was fun to watch.

The ATV issue is one I would rather not endure again. Nor would I like to revisit the endless hours we spent establishing sensible zoning rules which would continue to protect our waterways just to see all that work flushed into the budget bills. Oh well, you can't win 'em all, as they say. We did win many friends through our high school scholarship program. We have sent many students away to college with funds that might have made their journeys a little easier. Over the years there have been so many good things

that we accomplished that a few defeats were easily overcome.



The best thing that we did was to double our membership from 500 to 1,000 members and that was no small task. We had one husband and wife team in particular (Mike and Lynn Freehill) that took that task on and accomplished almost all of it themselves. I remember hearing at board meetings "we are up to 620", six months later, "up to 750" and that kept up to where we are today. The number is only as important as the support we have from the community. These 1,000 members now hear about our efforts through our groundbreaking newsletter on a regular basis and support us throughout the years. The TLWA newsletter is the standard to which other waterfront associations aspire to create. Our web site is the one

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stop for anything people want to know about the waterways in Three Lakes. I had little to do with our most recent and practical endeavor, that being the dive boat and its crew. These board members and pseudo board members have outfitted and manned a dive team which not only saves us tens of thousands of dollars but expedites the removal of AIS in days not months. Those are just a few



examples of what each and every board member did while I was president. I don't want to name names as that list would consume this entire newsletter but rest assured that every board member



that served this organization has done it with pride and selflessness and we should all thank them.

There is one name I cannot omit as I look at my tenure. Norris Ross basically runs the TLWA from research to grant writing and all in between. I have asked him on many occasions why he doesn't become the president and he said "I don't have time" and he is right. What he does consumes most of the month while my job took hours a month. I thank all of those who served on the board over the past 50 years and we should all give them an "Atta-boy/Atta-Girl" when we see them and reflect on the beauty of our waterways. I know I do, and I will always fondly remember my time at the helm. Thank you all.



*This is the forest primeval.  
The murmuring pines  
and the hemlocks,  
bearded with moss,  
and in garments green,  
Indistinct in the twilight....*

*Longfellow*

Photo Courtesy of Annika Johnson

# Loon Thoughts



- The average weight of a Common Loon in the Great Lakes is approximately 10 pounds.
- Loons eat about 2 pounds of fish each day
- In flight, loons flap their wings about 200 times per minute and reach speeds of approximately 70 mph.
- Minimum lake size for nesting loons is reportedly 10 acres, but loon nests have been found on smaller lakes.
- The average age of a Common Loon at first nesting is 3-5 years.
- A loon can live for approximately 25 to 30 years.
- Loons are considered one of the most primitive birds on earth. This means that they have not changed much from their current form in about 1 million years.
- Until recently, it was accepted that loons, once paired, mated for life. However, through the use of banding, researchers have found this romantic notion to be false. Loons, it seems, are more attached to specific lakes than to their mates.
- A good nest site is only one thing loons need to raise chicks. A good supply of fish for the whole family, a quiet bay or shoreline to use as a nursery or chick-rearing area, and water quality that allows for efficient feeding also factor into a loon's decision to use a lake.
- Harassing protected waterfowl carries a heavy fine or jail time. If you witness a violation, you are encouraged to call your local DNR enforcement officer or the nearest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Office.



(Loon Watch- Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute has much more information on loons at [northland.edu](http://northland.edu))

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

[www.TLWA.org](http://www.TLWA.org)