



MAKING WAVES : FALL 2019

THREE LAKES WATERFRONT  
ASSOCIATION

LAKE STEWARDS SINCE 1967

## President's Forum

By Fred Knoch



**A**s I am writing this Fall Newsletter article, I am sitting in the same chair upon which I

drafted the Spring Newsletter article, looking out on the same hill I looked out upon last January while penning the words. Today, however, the hill is lush with green leaves now turning to fall colors showing some yellow and red, perhaps 20% of peak color. My dog, Porter, is out doing his favorite pastime, chasing deer. He never comes close, but is never deterred from the hunt. This is the busiest time of the year for us riparian owners, the

season for taking out all of our water activity equipment and securing the cottage for winter.

Speaking of being busy, the Three Lakes Waterfront Association has had an extremely busy season with many programs and activities. A lot of hard work was done at all levels by many members, all volunteers of course. Perhaps I alone have the easiest job of all. As vocalized by the immediate past President, Ed Jacobsen, when he convinced me to take his place, "Being President is easy, everyone else does all the work". This is mostly true. I will summarize the past season in the remainder of the article, but please read the details in the body of the Newsletter, as each program director

will describe in depth the progress of his/her activities.

As always, the season kicked off with AAS activities consisting of a meeting of the Lake Captains at Bruce Renquist's cottage. Bruce outlined the new guidelines for the Lake Captains with more emphasis on engaged relationships between the Captains and their volunteers, and new targeting of Yellow Iris on all lakes, as this is the Chain's most prevalent AIS. Mark McCain informed the attendees of his upcoming wine product, named "Lake Captain", with a portion of the proceeds to be donated to the TLWA supporting the efforts of the AAS program. Stephanie Boismenu presented

(continued on Page 2)

her annual AIS identification program later in the spring at Bob Borek's cottage, saved from the rain by his large pole barn. The success of the AAS program was reflected by the enthusiasm of the volunteers logging more hours of "eyes on the water" and individuals actively eradicating Yellow Iris and Purple Loosestrife on Chain lakes.

The Clean Boats/Clean Waters program, administered by Bob Agen, was highly successful with four interns and many volunteers supporting non-intern hours at Chain boat landings. In spite of the Burnt Rollways Dam being closed most of the summer, more inspection hours were logged than in other years. The prospect of using motion activated cameras still remains on the horizon. Thankfully, only two cases of EWM were identified by boat inspection, with action being taken appropriately.

The Rapid Response AIS Dive Team was active on Virgin Lake with more than twenty dives this season spanning from July through September. Multiple volunteers participated including SCUBA divers, pontoon boat drivers and personnel to assist divers and collect weed "floaters", and kayakers to assist divers in collection of EWM. The effort was spearheaded by the Virgin Lake Captain, Bob

Borek, and Jon Willman, dive team leader. The final outcome will be assessed next spring when Onterra surveys the lake for EWM. We're anticipating success.

Another successful year of raising beetles for the Purple Loosestrife program was augmented by the addition of a second rearing tent. Beetles were collected and supplied by Stephanie Boismenu and her interns, feed plants were collected by volunteers and placed in the tents, and so the beetles were raised with loving care, and released back into the wild in areas of active infestation. Again, time will tell the degree of success of this effort. Thanks to Paul Matthiae for spearheading this effort.

As one can see, most of our ongoing efforts are aimed at the never-ending battle against AIS. Other areas of activities of the TLWA include the yearly assessment of water quality of the Chain. We utilize methods of testing including Secchi disk for water clarity, the dissolved oxygen/temperature meter for measuring O2 and temperature, and collection of water samples for analysis of Phosphorus and Chlorophyll. We are attempting to improve the fisheries of the Chain by partnering with the Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Improvement Association to place "Fish Sticks" on as many as

four shorelines, volunteered by TLWA members. This action, done during winter with ice on the lakes, hopes to improve fish habitat. We continue to provide scholarships to local students for college education focusing on environmental studies. Membership is at an all-time high thanks to the efforts of Anne Oehmen. She is also responsible for the publication of the Business Directory as seen on the TLWA website. Thanks to Paul Wussow for continuing to provide to the membership the quality of our web presence. I encourage all members to view the website and patronize the businesses which support our mission.

As you are reading and enjoying this newsletter, remember this publication is edited and assembled by Lynn Zibell. Her influence has produced a truly remarkable issue, as was last fall's. Don't forget to look on your coffee table for the unique edition of "A Moment In Time", a truly magnificent rendering of the ecology of where we all want to be!

So, with the thoughts of the coming season, I am looking forward to hard water and tracking snow, and I will see you on the ice!



## Volunteers needed!

The TLWA doesn't usually make requests for volunteers. However, we are now experiencing a perfect storm when it comes to volunteer retirement. Our long-standing Treasurer, Stan Wargolet, has decided to stand down after years of service to the organization. Stan and his wife, Joanne, have made a life changing decision to move away from our beloved Three Lakes. He will be sorely missed. Therefore, we need someone to fill his position.

His job as treasurer extends beyond the tabulation and recording of our financial records, but also includes tracking of grant monies and volunteer hours assigned to the specific grants. Although he does not write the grants, he is responsible to close out the grants and tabulate the volunteer hours for reimbursement from the WDNR accordingly. The Treasurer position is one of the officers of the TLWA, and as such he attends the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors (December excluded). Although CPA experience is not required, a knowledge of financial record keeping and computer savvy would help. Stan has offered to tutor the new volunteer until that person has been brought up to speed.

Another board member, Ed Cottingham, has decided to step down also after many years (who knows the exact number?) of service. His official responsibility is that of coordinating our scholarship program at the Three Lakes High School. Ed also is a water quality monitor for the WDNR on Big Lake, and as such he monitors water clarity using the Secchi disk method, measures water temperature, and collects water samples for Phosphorus and Chlorophyll. He also acts as a liaison to the Town concerning their buoy program. As are all board members, his position is vital to the TLWA.

An ongoing need is always present for board members and water quality assessors. We hope to have all the lakes of the Three Lakes Chain covered by volunteers to monitor the changing water environment. Although many of our board members are "year-rounders", some are seasonal residents, so all are welcome!



AAS volunteers enjoy the annual thank you gathering held at Pine Isle



Volunteers Marilyn & Emir chat about their AAS experiences with Bill & Mary

You may contact me by E-mail at : [longlake@newnorth.net](mailto:longlake@newnorth.net), or by landline (yes, I still have one) at : 715-479-4158. Thanks for being a member!

Fred W. Knoch III  
President, TLWA



# Lake Management Plan Update

## “A Moment in Time”

By Norris Ross



A lake management plan should be a working document with future oriented goals and an identification of future project activities. These things are all contained in the Three Lakes Lake Management Plan (LMP) for the entire Chain, as well as specific plans for each individual lake. The reports are voluminous and detailed with lake specific data. The thought to summarize findings in a more concise and less technical way led to the publication of “A Moment in Time.” All TLWA members should have received a personal copy in the mail. If you did not receive yours or desire additional copies, please contact Norris Ross ([norrisross@frontier.com](mailto:norrisross@frontier.com)).

A few comments received regarding “A Moment in Time”:

“You should be extremely proud of this book. It is impressive and incredibly well done on every level.”

“The mailman delivered a terrific package yesterday. I’m not surprised, but still need to say ... That is a damned fine job!”

“What a fantastic job you have done with this publication ... This clearly demonstrates the worthwhile contribution TLWA gives to the community.”

The work of collecting data on Chain lakes will continue well into the future, as plans for re-visiting all the lakes in a systematic way are being discussed. Specific plans to implement parts of the current LMP are well un-

derway and are discussed in other parts of this newsletter (CB/CW, AAS, purple loosestrife, yellow iris, fish sticks, etc.).

Future maintenance of the waters in the Three Lakes Chain is totally dependent upon all citizens who use the waters for a variety of reasons. Continued diligence, good practices in and around the water and volunteer help in all water related projects is essential.

**If you have time to help, please let us know!**

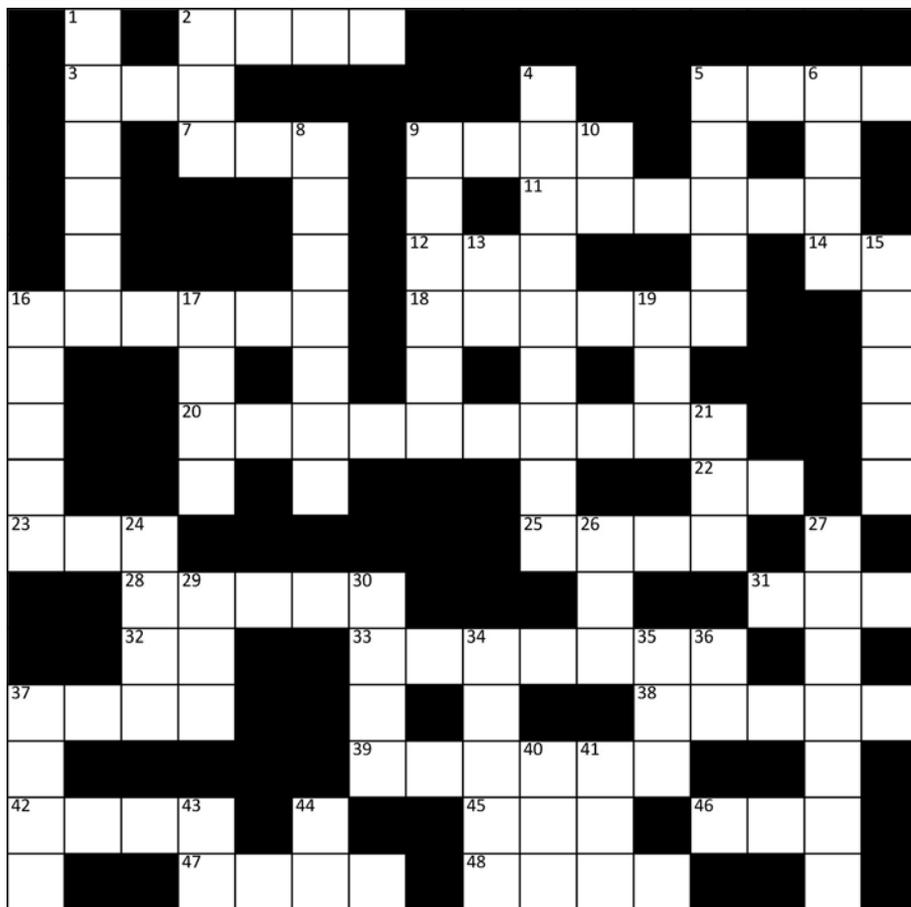


What a Wonderful Publication!!!  
...It visually “comforts” one into the threatening reality...  
This is what’s at stake...  
Whether you own property or spend one or two weeks a year “at the lake” These realities are prescient. Wow!!!

Mark Murphy,  
Headmaster of the  
Prairie School, Retired



Onterra  
checks  
for EWM on  
Virgin Lake  
this  
September



Have you read your copy of “Moment In Time” by Norris Ross and Bruce Renquist?

See what you remember of this summary based on a 10 year study of the Three Lakes Chain sent to you this summer.

You can, also, reread it as you challenge yourself completing this crossword puzzle.



Young reader, Julie Wojtusik engrossed in MIT

### ACROSS

### DOWN

- 2 Photosynthetic surface
- 3 Eurasian water milfoil (ab.)
- 5 Legislative Rules
- 7 Seniors’ word for soft drink
- 9 A stint of
- 11 One who tours
- 12 Douglas \_\_\_\_\_ tree
- 14 You and \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 Microscopic organism used for dating samples
- 18 The leaf-like part of a fern
- 20 Critical lake surroundings
- 22 Wood chopper
- 23 Sport gear on water or snow
- 25 Clean Boats / Clean Waters (ab.)
- 28 Stream measurement: Flow \_\_\_\_\_
- 31 Adopt-A-Shoreline (ab.)
- 32 To be
- 33 Biological area for an organism
- 37 Perch, for example
- 38 Hockey scores
- 39 \_\_\_\_\_ loosestrife
- 42 Acid \_\_\_\_\_
- 45 Central Intelligence Agency (ab.)
- 46 Friday fish \_\_\_\_\_
- 47 Boat movers
- 48 Bird of prey

- 1 Disk used to measure water clarity
- 2 Lake Management Plan (ab.)
- 4 Lake age status condition
- 5 Used with fishing rods
- 6 Fishing bait
- 8 Required for property alterations
- 9 Vegetative shoreline: \_\_\_\_\_ zone
- 10 Not from
- 13 Infra Red
- 15 Critical lake areas: Water \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 Remove in fall
- 17 Three Lakes Waterfront Assn (ab.)
- 19 Not Mom but \_\_\_\_\_
- 21 Wood cutting tool
- 24 Pale yellow \_\_\_\_\_
- 26 Night flier
- 27 Sought after fish for food
- 29 Campfire remains
- 30 Ocean boat
- 34 White barked trees
- 35 Maturity level
- 36 Toward
- 37 Trappers’ prize
- 40 Personal internet access (ab.)
- 41 Regulation
- 43 Not yes
- 44 Either / \_\_\_\_\_

# Fish Sticks

## Fish Stick Update

By Jerry Oehmen



The permitting process was long but fruitful. The TLWA has been granted a permit to install fish sticks in the Three Lakes Chain and one on Maple Lake. We have two sites on the chain which will be on Dog Lake and Island lake. We have decided the installation will be easier and less expensive to accomplish on the ice this winter. Installation will begin as soon as we have sufficient ice to support the use of a skid steer to move the trees into location. We are fortunate to have created a working partnership with the Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Association to install these fish sticks this winter.

We are hopeful to have more TLWA members volunteer to be a fish stick site in the future. If you have an interest, please feel free to contact Jerry Oehmen (gfoehmen@gmail.com)

It will take some time to judge the success of increasing rough woody habitat but we feel confident that we will have positive results. After all, mother nature has added rough woody habitat

to lakes long before we were here.

Attached is an excerpt from an article by Michael Bozek that



highlights some of the positives that can result from the installation of these fish sticks.

### USE OF SUBMERGED TREES BY FISH

By Michael A. Bozek

Fish use submerged trees in a variety of ways. Many species spawn on, adjacent to or under trees that provide cover which help some species protect their incubating brood. For example,

**Smallmouth and Largemouth bass** preferentially build spawning nests near submerged trees, particularly large logs, while and rock bass place them next to or under logs.

Because male bass and sunfish defend their eggs and young in nests, placing nests adjacent to or under submerged trees reduces the nest perimeter that they need defend against predators. Once young have left the nest, newly hatched smallmouth bass will often inhabit submerged trees. Declines in submerged tree habitats have been linked to reduced abundance of young smallmouth.

**Yellow perch** use submerged wood along with aquatic vegetation to lay eggs; long ribbon-like strands can often be seen draped on them in early spring. Three studies found a decline in yellow perch abundance when trees were removed from lakes.

**Fathead minnows**, an important food item of larger fish and fish-eating shorebirds, spawn on the underside of

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wood in cavities. The young of many species of fish often disperse throughout the branches for protection, while predators, such as **Northern pike, Muskellunge and Largemouth Bass** use the same trees for ambush foraging. Shade from branches and the bole provides daytime refuge for diurnal low-light species such as **Walleye**. Use of trees can be species-, age-, and season-dependent, and trees provide many diverse habitats that attract fish for different reasons. Current research has found that the association between fish and trees clearly is related to the complexity of branches and the location and position of the tree in water. More fish and more different species of fish use trees that have more complex branching and in fact, individual, large, complex trees can host entire fish communities. In north temperate lakes, up to fifteen species or more may inhabit a single tree at a time. **Walleye and White Suckers** can be found beneath trees in deeper, darker water, adult **Smallmouth Bass** can be found beneath the bole, and many of the other species like **Cyprinids** (i.e., minnows), **Bluegills, Pumpkinseed, Rock bass, Muskellunge** and more can be found throughout the complex web of branches.



## SIMPLE STEPS WE CAN TAKE TO INCREASE FISH HABITAT:

- Leave trees that fall in the water in place.
- Do not cut branches of trees that stick above the water, even during winter as fuel for ice fishing. These branches will become valuable habitat as the tree settles further into the lake.
- Do not cut branches that are in the water to create pockets in branches for easier fishing.
- Leave natural trees, seedling and saplings along lakeshores intact and allow them to mature.
- Where trees have been removed along shorelines, and in particular, where understory trees, seedlings and saplings are gone, plant trees and shrubs, which will become fish habitat for future generations. Partial shoreline restoration is better than none.
- Learn to appreciate more natural shorelines rather than highly manicured sites and encourage others to do the same.

### Crossword Puzzle Answers

DOWN 1. Secchi, 4. eutrophic, 6. worm, 8. permits, 9. buffer, 10. to, 13. IR, 15. edges, 16. dock, 17. TLWA, 19. dad, 21. saw, 24. Iris, 26. Bat, 27. walleye, 29. ash, 30. ship, 34. birch, 35. age, 36. to, 37. furs, 40. law, 43. no, 44. or

ACROSS 2. leaf, 3. EWM, 5. laws, 7. pop, 11. tourer, 12. fir, 14. me, 18. fronds, 20. watersheds, 22. ax, 23. ski, 25. CBCW, 28. rates, 31. AAS, 32. is, 33. habitat, 38. goals, 39. purple, 42. rain, 45. CIA, 46. fry, 48. hawk

## Stream Monitoring

### Protecting Our Lakes

By Larry Roth

One small part of the TLWA efforts to protect our beautiful lakes is our efforts to test the water flowing in and feeding those lakes.

Initial checks in 2018 showed no immediate concerns but testing was not as precise as we would like. After a meeting with an expert at Trout Lake, the TLWA Board decided to fund more precise testing which we have done in 2019. Preliminary results have begun to arrive. When we receive the final test results another meeting with the folks at Trout Lake is necessary to properly interpret the results.

The new testing process involves less frequent samples but involves freezing a portion of the sample from each stream before sending them to the state labs for precise testing and recording in the state's database.

One piece of information we have learned was how impactful the weather can be in affecting our lakes perceived water quality. Not only does our weather affect weed growth through changing water temperatures and total light exposure, but wind patterns also have an important impact. On some lakes, a persistent or exceptionally strong wind pattern can help churn up the lake bottom which makes nutrients that have settled out come close enough to the surface to encourage algae growth.

# Purple Loosestrife Efforts

By Paul Matthiae



Last year was our first effort at raising and distributing Cella beetles, a biological control agent that feeds exclusively on purple loosestrife. This past spring and summer we returned to the Cella distribution sites and noted a substantial reduction in the size of the treated loosestrife clones. However, there is no doubt that we will have to con-

tinue this program for a number of years to achieve an acceptable

level of control and eradication. This year we had a late start due to cold weather, persistent snow and ice, and frost that wouldn't thaw fast enough. As a result, we only were able to secure 85 seedling purple loosestrife plants instead of our target of 100. Fortunately, they all survived transplanting, grew rapidly and produced a bumper crop of Cella beetles. The adult beetles, together with the breeder plants (which still retained developing larva) were moved by pontoon boat to purple loosestrife infestations on the Chain and released/ placed into clones.

Controlling purple loosestrife is a team effort. From digging nursery plants in early spring and set-



Newly dug seedling plants



Going to PL Beetle rearing tent



Handing off to the tent



Proud Mama Stephanie



White lines are Larval stage

level of control and eradication. This year we had a late start due to cold weather, persistent snow and ice, and frost that wouldn't thaw fast enough. As a result, we only were able to secure 85 seedling purple loosestrife plants



Adult beetles off to the lake



Canoeing to the final destination

Loosestrife (Continued from Page 8) ting up beetle cages, to distributing adult and larval beetles requires the help of a number of people. The team is supported



Beetles go on the PL infestation

throughout the year by County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Stephanie Boismenu and her interns. Member volunteers, Lake Captains, and members of the Associations' Board of Directors round out the Team. In addition, we owe thanks to Ed Jacobsen for once again allowing us to use the Petroleum Museum



Our members provided the muscle

property for rearing the beetles. Altogether 15-20 persons are needed each year to keep the purple loosestrife control project on tract to eradication. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. We also want to thank all water-

front property owners who worked to control purple loosestrife on their shorelines or in their wetlands. We have had an increase in the number of people using our AIS response kit located at Anchor Marine. Please remember to return borrowed equipment as soon as possible. Look for an update in next years' fall *Making Waves*.



Steph and interns did the rest!



Jenny Jensen picks up her Secchi materials at the Library

## Secchi Testing

### Your Lake's Water Clarity

By Lynn Zibell

Interested in knowing this past summer's water clarity data for your lake? You can check this out by going online to the Wisconsin DNR website [www.DNR.wi.gov/topic](http://www.DNR.wi.gov/topic) Scroll down and click on "Lakes", under Lake Topics, click on Water Quality. Click on Oneida County and you will find your lake. Under "details" you can see over time if your lake's water level was high, low or normal. If the water was clear or murky, and what color it appeared. The Secchi tester also gave their perception as to whether it appeared beautiful, had some minor aesthetic problems or had algae present in varying degrees.

A thank you goes out to this summer's Secchi testers who collected this data. They are: Henry Schwiesow, Ed Cottingham, Nancy Jensen, John Scheid, Gary Keuler, Fred Knoch, Ken Zator, John Folaron, Noreen and Lloyd Rossa, Jenny Jensen, Lynn Zibell and Steve Szpak. If you didn't find any current data for your lake, please consider becoming a Secchi tester for your lake by contacting Fred Knoch or Lynn Zibell of the TLWA.

# Adopt-A-Shoreline

By Bruce Renquist



## Aquatic Invasive Workshop

For the first time in memory, our summer AIS Workshop held this past June 14th was rained out. Instead of the usual outdoor classroom, on the water identification sessions and Rapid Response Dive Team demonstrations, we held forth indoors. Thanks to our host on Virgin Lake, Bob Borek, who swung into action with Plan B, we were dry and comfortable. Steph Boismenu, Oneida County AIS Coordinator and

engaging team made the day. TLWA and we as members are fortunate to have these talented professionals work so diligently on our behalf to keep our waters clean.



Studying closely what to look for



Pointing out fine details of EWM

Sandra Wickman, Water Resource Management Spec. with the Wisconsin DNR, provided a program rich in information on the history, science and current status of AIS in our area and in particular on our Chain. This

## Update on Yellow Iris



Our efforts to control the spread of Yellow Iris on the Chain have been only partly successful. Adopt-A-Shoreline shoreline monitor volunteers have distributed the 'Thought You Should Know' cards alerting lakeside property owners of the presence of the invasive Yellow Iris on their shore. This worked well in many cases where the property owners

promptly took steps to remove or treat the problem. There were a few instances where owners resisted based on their perception of the beauty of the blossoms and even reported commercial landscapers planting Yellow Iris as part of a shoreline design scheme. It's clear by the significant spread of Yellow Iris we have a long way to go in dealing with this invasive. If you have suggestions on how we move forward, please share them with your Lake Captain.



As of this printing,  
No New Invasive  
Species Found On  
The Chain In  
2019!

## What is a Lake Captain

Each lake of the Three Lakes Chain has a volunteer designated as a Lake Captain. These men and women have the unique privilege of assuring the long-term health of their lake.

Working as the lead in the implementation of Adopt-A-Shoreline they are, importantly, the individual on their lake who is the conduit for making certain the issues related to the environmental welfare of the lake are appropriately addressed.

## Key Responsibilities of a Lake Captain

- Accept the responsibility to recruit and support Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers.
- Be an advocate for your lake.
- Encourage participation in educational workshops.
- Promote environmental awareness of friends and neighbors.
- Support the Lake Management Plan for your lake.
- Actively participate in monitoring for AIS in your lake.



Bruce explains volunteer forms at Lake Captains meeting

## LAKE CAPTAINS

BIG	Ed Cottingham	715-546-4298	ecottingham@frontier.net
BIG FORK	Kathy Olkowski	715-891-0367	kathleenrunner@yahoo.com
BIG STONE	Rob Jahnke	602-460-5362	r26jahnke@gmail.com
CRYSTAL	Mike Donovan	715-550-8282	usflyguyatl@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@live.com
ISLAND	Doug Scheffen	715-546-2732	dougscheffen@aol.com
JULIA	David Mitzner	715-546-2583	davidmitzner165@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	Gary White	920-251-7388	garykarenwhite@charter.net
MAPLE	Ron Bennett	815-351-7573	rjbennett247@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 Folaron	414-687-5900	john@air-instruments.com
ROUND	Gwen Hutchins	608-556-1234	hutchinsfoundation@gmail.com
SPIRIT	John Lake	619-980-7654	jrlncal@sbcglobal.net
THOROUGHFARE	Paul Matthiae	715-546-3453	pjmatthiae@gmail.com
TOWNLIN	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

# Eurasian Milfoil Battle

## Letter from Dive Team Volunteer July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

By Peggy Renquist Johnson

I am compelled to write to thank the TLWA board and volunteers for your dedication to the care and keeping of our beloved chain of lakes. This letter is also a call to action for other members to volunteer.

Each summer I have spent time on Medicine Lake; I enjoy being in and on the water as much as possible during my visits. I appreciate and personally want to work to protect the health of our waterfront even more this summer, because of my firsthand experience with Eurasian Milfoil in Minnesota.

This year, when I traveled from Massachusetts to Wisconsin, I took a side trip to visit a close friend in the Twin Cities. She owns a beautiful home on Lake Minnetonka, The Eurasian Milfoil issue has reached an epidemic there. We went for a walk in her neighborhood and I noticed a sign advertising Waterfront Weed Removal. Next to the sign

was a huge trailer filled with weeds, removed from the shoreline of one property! It was a shock to see this enormous pile of weeds. My friend explained that people now set up complex fan systems on their docks to blow the Eurasian Milfoil away from their waterfront area. Later, we went for a pontoon boat ride and the driver had to stop and go in reverse multiple times on our trip to remove the weeds from the prop. Lastly, my friend said she convinces herself to imagine that she is swimming in "salad" when she goes for a swim, so she can stomach the weed infestation.

Thank you lake captains, divers, interns, boat ramp volunteers and shore line monitors. Keep up the great work! We need all hands on deck! All members, I urge you to consider spending a few hours a month to help monitor for invasives. The cost of your time is likely cheaper than hiring a crew to remove weeds or purchasing a fan



Loading up EWM from Lake Minnetonka, MN

system! In addition to protecting the lakes, you will have a deeper connection to the chain, knowing you have worked to protect it.

For further information on this check out <https://lmcd.org/aquatic-invasive-species/eurasian-watermilfoil/harvesting-program/>

## Meet Your Board Member

Appointed to the Board of Directors in 2018, Dave Wheeler and his wife Pat bought their home on Whitefish Lake in 2016 and moved to Three Lakes full time in 2017.

Dave is currently involved in assisting in the management of the Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteer monitoring program, purple loosestrife project and is a Lake Captain on Whitefish Lake.

Prior to his move to Three Lakes, Dave retired from a thirty-four year career with the Peoria Park District of Peoria, Illinois, where he served as a member of the executive administration team.

Dave was born and raised on a family owned dairy farm in New York's North Country. He is a graduate of Syracuse University and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY with degrees in Landscape Architecture, Environmental Studies and Forestry.



# Clean Boats / Clean Waters

## The 2019 Fall Report

By Bob Agen



With the help of 4 new volunteers we logged 355 hours checking boats and educating boaters at several landings on the chain. Our paid interns put in 1507.5 hours. Most of the intern hours were at our busiest landings, Burnt Rollways lift and dam, Townline and the landing next to the Sunset Grill restaurant. Townline continues to be our busiest with 1184 boats inspected this year, 922 in 2018. Shallow water in the channel and construction could be the reason inspections were down at the lift, 745 this year and 896 in

2018. Sunset Grill saw an increase to 878 this year up from 532 in 2018. Last year because we were without a third intern for most of the summer, we lacked coverage at the landing next to Sunset Grill. Other landings monitored were the landing on Big Lake near CW Smith Road, Big Fork, Medicine Lake on County X, and the Laurel Lake Campground landing.

We remain fortunate and did not have any new infestations this year. Eurasian Water Milfoil was removed from a boat coming from

the Eagle River side of the chain and a fragment was removed from a boat trailer at the landing next to the Sunset Grill restaurant. Looking to 2020 we hope to have three experienced interns back and have two students who have expressed interest in the position. Hopefully, we will maintain our volunteer base and pick up a few new recruits as we move forward with a new season in 2020.



# Dive Team Report

## Good News – Bad News

By Jon Willman



The good news is there were no new infestations of Eurasian Water Milfoil found on the Three Lakes Chain - the bad news is we need to continue hand harvesting EWM on Virgin Lake. The summer of 2019 was busy and productive for

the Dive Team – 20 dive dates, 159 diver hours, 164 boat crew hours and at least 175 kayaker hours yielding over 475 gallons of EWM. Combined volunteer hours totaled over 498 not counting Adopt A Shoreline hours. The majority of volunteer hours were provided by a dozen diehard Virgin Lake waterfront property owners.

Diving began in early June with water temperatures in the low to mid-60's. EWM is relatively easy to spot and harvest early because it appears weeks ahead of native Northern Milfoil and other aquatic plants. We concentrated our hand harvesting efforts in areas identified by Onte-



Bob Borek helps a weed covered Jon Willman aboard.



Boat crew volunteer Larry Zibell with more than 50 gallons of EWM

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Dive Team (Continued from Page 13)

ra and Virgin Lake Adopt A Shoreline volunteers. The original infestation area located nine years ago still contains high concentrations of plants despite being chemically treated in 2013, 2014 and 2016. Over the past several years, EWM has spread to seven other areas of the lake. These areas contain individual plants and small clusters. EWM sightings were marked by buoys and GPS allowing us to revisit affected areas with a good degree of



EWM fragment with white adventitious roots released from a “mother” plant looking for a place to settle and grow

accuracy. Each of these areas were harvested at least four times over the summer. To date, these spots are being successfully controlled by hand harvesting.

As summer progressed, we worked the original infestation areas to se-



Linda Woiak hands off another catch bag of EWM

lectively remove mature plants while leaving native aquatic vegetation in place and growing. It’s amazing to be on the bottom in 10’ of water and see EWM plants reaching the surface. These are what we fondly call the “mother” plants which naturally auto fragment to create lots of new plants. The more of these we remove, the fewer fragments will be available to repopulate.

To some folks it may seem like we’re fighting a losing battle. The fact is EWM is present in only about 2% of Virgin Lake’s 261 total acres. Compared with other EWM infested lakes in the Northwoods, the battle is far from lost. Just ask property owners on Anvil, Wild Cat or any of the lakes on the Eagle River Chain where thick mats of EWM floating on the surface make cruising, waterskiing or fishing a real challenge.

Thanks to the TLWA we have the tools and support needed to help control EWM problems. And thanks to our volunteers and the cooperation of waterfront property owners, we’ll continue to work to keep Virgin Lake clean and healthy for all to enjoy.

If you or someone you know would



Marian Griebenow scouting & collecting fragments in the shallows

like to get involved with the Virgin Lake EWM control effort, or you would just like to ride along and see what it’s all about, please contact Fred Knoch (715) 479-4158, Bob Borek (715) 546-3457 or Jon Will-



Max Air with Fred and Jon

man (715) 546-2361. We usually dive once a week throughout the summer and always need kayakers and/or boat hands.

In years past, the number of EWM dives were limited by having to get SCUBA tanks refilled in Woodruff or Wausau. This year, the Three Lakes Fire Department graciously agreed to fill our tanks. Volunteer firefighter James Anys spent hours each week filling our tanks. In August, the Association purchased a Max-Air high pressure breathing air compressor enabling us to refill tanks as needed without having to transport them or ask for assistance. The equipment has allowed us to dive more frequently with less hassle.



# Three Lakes Waterfront Association Scholarship Program

Each year, for the past thirty-one years, your waterfront association has provided a two-year scholarship to a graduating senior who is furthering his or her education in one of the many aspects of environmental sciences.



Ed with Hadley Miles, 2019 Recipient

The process starts in April, when the school contacts the waterfront association to inquire if we will be continuing our scholarship support. We ask that the students provide a resume listing their accomplishments in school and in outside activities. Once a student has been selected, we notify the school of our choice and they notify the student. In May, the school holds an event to honor graduating students in academic and athletic achievements. Scholarships are presented by many businesses, organizations and individuals.

The 2019 scholarship was presented to Hadley Miles, who will be attending Northern Michigan University. Hadley has worked for the waterfront association as an intern, inspecting boats and trailers, to help protect our lakes from unwanted invasive species.

The following is a list of the students who have received our scholarships in the past. There were some years when we didn't receive a response from the schools. As you look through the list, you may recognize some of the names of the students.

- |                           |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1989 - Tonetta E. Kaye    | 2000 – Margot Bergstrom   | 2011 – Alex Hegeman    |
| 1990 – Matt Wolf          | 2001 – Kristin Antoxh     | 2012 – James Kortnehof |
| 1991 – Travis Oresnik     | 2002 – Jonathon Rulseh    | 2013 – Cassandra Hoger |
| 1992 – Mark Deditz        | 2003 – Cory Wallschlaeger | 2014 – Jena Miles      |
| 1993 – Jeffrey Boehm      | 2004 – Erin Goodrich      | 2015 – None            |
| 1994 – Jennifer Volk      | 2005 – Dane Patterson     | 2016 – Rachel Kane     |
| 1995 – Maria Doodrich     | 2006 – Carrie Javenkoski  | 2017 – Derek Thorn     |
| 1996 – Angie Bressler     | 2007 – None               | 2018 – Jacob Dart      |
| 1997 – Katrina Jagodinsky | 2008 – None               | 2019 – Hadley Miles    |
| 1998 – Alison Lamon       | 2009 – Tim Dobbins        |                        |
| 1999 – Breehan Kelley     | 2010 – Roberta Candela    |                        |

The Scholarship Program is one of the many ways the waterfront Association supports the Town of Three Lakes, its' waters and its' citizens. We are looking forward to 2020 and the chance to help another graduating senior achieve their education goals.

## 2019 Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting on July 3<sup>rd</sup> featured our new president, Fred Knoch, giving his first address to those attending. He wasn't too nervous as he described what the association has been up to this last year. He introduced board members who spoke on their responsibilities including shoreline restoration with fish sticks, purple loosestrife beetles, and the upcoming publication of "A Moment In Time" of which all those attending received an advance copy hot off the presses.

Jon Willman briefly explained the dive team's recent pulling efforts of Eurasian Milfoil on Virgin Lake.

Stephanie Boismenu, AIS Coordinator for Oneida County, gave a presentation on the invasive yellow iris plant and all of its invasive qualities.

Another guest speaker, Trisha Moore, a conservation specialist representing the Northernwoods Land Trust, gave its history. She explained and gave examples of how land in our area is being preserved legally beyond the lives of its owners in its present natural state by placing the plots in this land trust.



# Membership - 100% Possible?

By Ann Oehmen

Lake	# Members	# Non-Members	Lake	# Members	# Non-Members
Big Fork	85	48	Meta	1	No Data
Big Stone	74	74	Moccasin	8	11
Crystal	21	38	Off Water	10	No Data
Deer	70	70	Planting		
Dog	29	30	Ground	154	142
Four Mile	17	13	Rangeline	26	28
Island	60	44	Round	26	18
Julia	10	No Data	Seven Mile	4	No Data
Laurel	65	39	Spirit	17	8
Little Fork	53	32	Thoroughfare	22	51
Long	90	50	Virgin	76	47
Maple	23	23	Whitefish	35	30
Medicine	56	50			
			<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1032</b>	<b>846</b>

We are very lucky to have many members that have signed up and continue to support our efforts, especially the members that have volunteered their time and talents to help keep our lakes clean and beautiful for the future. We would like to increase membership and shoot for 100% of all lake front property owners. That goal may be too high but if we set our sites high and have the help of our current members we can certainly improve. We have included a chart with the total membership by lake for your reference. If you have a neighbor or friend that is not a member please encourage them to join and support the efforts for the TLWA.



## 2019 Board of Directors

### Officers

President	Fred Knoch
Vice President	Lynn Zibell
Treasurer	Stan Wargolet
Secretary	Paul Matthiae

### Program Leaders

Adopt-A-Shoreline	Bruce Renquist
	Dave Wheeler
AIS Rapid Response Dive Team	Fred Knoch
Clean Boats / Clean Waters	Bob Agen
Purple Loosestrife	Paul Matthiae
	Ed Cottingham
Fish Sticks	Jerry Oehmen
Water Testing	Fred Knoch
	Lynn Zibell
	Ed Cottingham
Membership	Ann Oehmen
OCLRA	Norris Ross
Newsletter	Lynn Zibell
Website	Paul Wussow
Scholarship	Ed Cottingham
Shoreland Zoning	Norris Ross
Water Safety	Ed Cottingham
Education	Paul Matthiae

### Directors

Bob Agen	Jerry Oehmen
Ed Cottingham	Bruce Renquist
Ed Jacobsen	Norris Ross
Ann Oehmen	Dave Wheeler
	Paul Wussow

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)