



Making Waves: Fall 2020

**THREE LAKES WATERFRONT
ASSOCIATION**
LAKE STEWARDS SINCE 1967

President's Forum

by Fred Knoch



As we enter into the fall season, I note that this year has been unlike any other year that I have experienced. The spring issue was penned just as the COVID-19 was beginning to rear its ugly head. In spite of the efforts of local, regional, and state governments, the effects of the virus have been nothing less than societal changing. The various programs that the TLWA promotes have all been dramatically altered this year. Not only have our programs been drastically reduced, but the entire economy of the Northwoods has been dealt a severe setback. To put this into

perspective, the TLWA will continue into the next season, but some local businesses may not fare so well. Most of the people I know have made concerted efforts to patronize local establishments in the form of carry out restaurant orders, shopping with masks and appropriate social distancing, attending meetings with the help of virtual programs, and avoiding large gatherings including family get-togethers. However, even with all the recommendations and scientific information available, we probably all know someone who has contracted the illness.

To outline some of the programs promoted by the TLWA and how they have been affected by the Corona Virus, I will offer the following. First, the Adopt Your Shoreline program, recently altered to be more inclusive of

individual riparian owners being responsible for monitoring their own shorelines, has seen the effect of many seasonal residents choosing not to return to their properties this season, as suggested by the Oneida and Vilas County Health Departments. Therefore, many

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volunteer observation hours have not been logged, and valuable time for detection of A.I.S. has been lost. In spite of this sobering fact, an Adopt Your Shoreline volunteer identified a colony of Eurasian Watermilfoil while sailing leisurely along the shore of Long Lake. This colony was a new finding, as no EWM. had previously been found on the Lake. In response to this alarming finding, the Rapid Response Dive Team has dove two times, collecting 30 gallons of EWM. The plans going forward are to continue diving on the colony in an attempt to control the extent of the infestation, and to place warning buoys to alert boaters to the problem, hoping to limit the spread of the A.I.S. through the action of propellers, wakes, and engine exhausts. This unfortunate finding emphasizes the importance of the Adopt Your Shoreline program, and how it remains the first line defense against A.I.S., the greatest threat to the quality of water on our chain of lakes, to



After doing zoom board meetings all spring, the board members were happy to meet at the Cy Williams Pavilion across from Maple Lake in June. July through September, board members had to watch out for errant golf balls when they met at the Big Stone Golf Course. (Lynn Zibell not pictured)



property values, and to our enjoyment of this unique ecological system. Kudos to Bruce Renquist for the rebranding of this program, elevating it to next level.

Secondly, the Clean Boats Clean Waters program has likewise been affected by a reduction of volunteer hours for the same reason. The program has been supported by the quality of the paid Interns and their vigilance in detection of A.I.S. at their respective assigned boat landings. Congratulations to Bob Agen on his continued management of this challenging program. The addition of an I-Lids camera on the Three Lakes Townline Landing, augmenting the intern surveillance has been helpful in the promulgation of information to the public reminding them of the steps needed to make their boat safe for use on the Three Lakes Chain, hopefully reducing the threat of introduced A.I.S. The plan going forward is to place another I-Lids camera on the Big Lake Landing in the near future, pending WDNR approval. We will continue to expand the camera program as allowed by the WDNR.

Thirdly, the Rapid Response Dive Team has continued to dive on Virgin Lake with more than 15 dives on the lake consisting of multiple participants, including divers, pontoon boat staff, and kayak paddlers. In spite of these efforts, it seems that the numbers of EWM have increased over time, which has caused considerable concern among the faithful. Added to this problem, the need to dive on the Long Lake colony next year is problematical. We have the same number of divers to support the dives on two sites. We also have the challenge of

applying to the WDNR for additional buoy placement on Long Lake to warn boaters of the area of infestation. In short, next year is going to be difficult, more divers are needed, and more topside volunteers also.

Fourthly, the Purple Loosestrife program was put on hold, as the WDNR did not have the staff or resources to supply beetles for the raising. As such, our beetle raising tents were not erected, beetles were not raised, and the disbursement of the beetles was not performed. In spite of this, a colony of Purple Loosestrife on Long Lake was eradicated. A cadre of volunteers was assembled by the lake captain, Gary White, and a compact area of Loosestrife was dealt with by cutting off the flowering tips of the plant, then remediating the leafy parts with application of a defoliant agent. This is exactly what is expected of the lake captains, identification of a plant location through observation by the Adopt Your Shoreline volunteers, and remediation of the A.I.S. by the stakeholders on the lake. As the Adopt Your Shoreline program would emphasize, each riparian owner needs to accept the task of caring for their own land, be it shore or upland. This concept is especially appropriate in regards to Pale Yellow Iris, the most numerous of all the invasives.

The last comment I will make is about the ongoing emphasis on shore land restoration. This is the most recent target upon which the TLWA wishes to aim. The WDNR and the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department have made grants available to riparian owners who wish to return their shore land to a more natural state. Information can be

Shore Land Restoration

by Lynn Zibell



In August, several TLWA board members met with Baerbel Ehrig, Lakeshore Restoration Specialist for the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD), to hear what is currently going on with the Healthy Lakes Initiative. This Initiative seeks to improve the habitat and water quality of our lakes with simple and inexpensive shore land projects. Shoreline restoration is one of the missions of the Association. Partnering with Oneida County and their shoreline grant programs helps make this happen. There are several



Board members Fred, Norris, Bruce and Lynn (not pictured) listen to shore land restoration efforts by the LWCD specialist, Baerbel Ehrig.

options for lake property owners to obtain grant monies to attain a natural look to their shoreline.

The TLWA Spring Newsletter, which can be seen on the TLWA website, describes the Initiative and the Lakes Classification Grant. Five TLWA members took an interest in this and contacted LWCD. Baerbel assisted them in the preproposal grant process. She did a site inspection of their shorelines and explained the guidelines of the grants. Two of them, one on Virgin Lake and another on Crystal Lake have decided to take the next step in applying for a grant. At this

point, they will be looking at native plantings to bring back their shoreline to a more natural state.

Board members, Fred, Norris, Bruce and Lynn, went on to discuss with Baerbel how beneficial it would also be to have a model property in the central area of the Chain restoring their shore land. Others then could easily see while boating what a natural shoreline looks like and how it can significantly affect property values.

LWCD's website www.oclw.org/cost-share-programs gives an excellent description of the several options for lake property owners to attain grant monies. Besides this website, there is www.healthylakeswi.com. If you would like to look into a grant to naturalize your shore land contact Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County Conservationist, at msadauskas@co.onida.wi.us or visit www.oclw.org.



Native plantings may restore this shoreline.

Prez continued from page 2 obtained from the Three Lakes Waterfront Association. Through the surveys done by our contracted limnology professionals, Onterra, the Association is able to identify characteristics of shore land development. Gradations of development have been ranked in categories from "natural" to "urbanized." If you would like to know the category of your shore

land, you may contact us for assistance. We can help you in planning the return of your land to a more natural state. We can help you in the procurement of grant monies for this purpose. Natural shore land helps to mitigate the effects of development on the lake, and is a positive influence towards improvement of water quality, which is of course, our ultimate objective!

This time of year marks the finality of the active season of the TLWA. The Association continues to prepare for the challenges of the upcoming year. Hopefully, the global threat of the pandemic will be dealt with and things may be returned to a more normal way of life. Our programs are raring to go next year, so here's hoping!

Until then, I will SEE YOU ON THE LAKE.

Summer 2020 Dive Team Report

by Jon Willman



An Overabundance

The summer of 2020 will go down in the history books as a time of huge challenges – for all of us. While the health of our state, nation and the world under siege from a deadly virus, Virgin Lake and now Long Lake were being attacked with renewed vigor by Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM).

Virgin Lake

I'm sad to report it was a banner year for growth and spread of EWM on Virgin Lake. Mother Nature did us no favors with the amount of rain and wind we experienced over the summer. The high water levels and warmer



Kerry's view from the kayak shows the red tint of the stem.



The Onterra team surveys Virgin Lake as part of the Lake Management Plan.

temperatures seemed to have provided ideal growing conditions for all aquatic vegetation – especially EWM. With the occasional torrential rains came periods of strong winds and rough water which moved fragments into areas of the lake previously free of EWM.

Looking back at the early spring survey conducted by Onterra, it appeared EWM was once again showing up in all the usual places. No real surprises. Our team dove three times during the first week of June. EWM is easily identified and pulled while the water is cold, before our native Northern Milfoil starts to grow. It's the perfect time to harvest. What we were not prepared for was the vitality and density of the new EWM growth. As the summer progressed, our weekly dives were very productive – and somewhat disheartening. Returning to areas harvested only a week before, we were dismayed to find significant new growth. Research has shown when conditions are ideal, a EWM plant can grow one to two inches a day!

By August, the growth and density of all aquatic vegetation in certain areas of Virgin Lake was simply remarkable. The native Northern Milfoil was so thick, it was virtually impossible to pull individual EWM plants without bringing up large quantities of other vegetation. And, it was tough on our team. Even experienced scuba divers can fall victim to occasional bouts of claustrophobia when surrounded by and entangled in eight-foot plants while working in dark, silty water. These adverse conditions made a dirty job all but impossible in certain areas of the lake. When we encountered those conditions,

we moved on to areas more conducive to harvesting.

Long Lake

EWM was first identified in the Long Lake channel back in 2006. Since then, it's been monitored and controlled with herbicide treatments and hand harvesting. Until this summer, few plants had been spotted. Then came Fred Knoch's boating adventure this past August. While sailing one day, he was becalmed near the northeast shore of Long Lake, waiting for a breeze when he looked overboard and found himself adrift in a literal sea of EWM. He returned later to positively identify and mark his discovery. On August 17th and 25th, Fred and Kerry Griebenow dove and hand harvested the area. Unfortunately, the affected area is considerable and they were not able to collect all the visible plants. As of this writing, the Onterra fall survey results have not been released so we don't know the extent of this new infestation.

Conclusions

There are many areas of Virgin Lake where hand harvesting EWM is still appropriate and effective. A few other areas of Virgin Lake are rapidly being overrun with EWM. The jury is still out on the new Long Lake infestation. The fall survey results will be enlightening. The TLWA will be working with Onterra and the WDNR this fall to develop a strategy for control of EWM in the densely populated areas on both

Virgin and Long lakes.

Our Team

Our divers, boat crew and kayakers made 15 trips and spent more than 400 hours on the water this summer hand harvesting. This does not count time spent surveying and marking in advance of dives or maintaining, placing and recovering the permanent EWM area markers around Virgin Lake. I'd like to thank our team of Bob Agen, Bob Borek, Jerry Cayo, Kerry Griebenow, Marian Griebenow, Fred Knoch, Betty Roth, Larry Roth, Linda Woiak, Larry Zibell and Lynn Zibell. Without their generous help and the support of the TLWA, Johnson Outdoors and Watercraft Sales, we could not possibly help keep the EWM menace at bay.



CLOCKWISE: Fred Knoch surrounded by aquatic vegetation; L to R: Larry Zibell, Fred Knoch, Jon Willman, Linda Woiak and Bob Agen after a day of diving; Marian Griebenow (red kayak) and Lynn Zibell (yellow kayak) search for EWM fragments with diver Linda Woiak; R to L: Divers Fred Knoch, Kerry Griebenow, Linda Woiak and Jon Willman.

Fish Sticks

Fall of 2020

We continue our efforts to place fish sticks on our area lakes to create that valuable rough woody habitat that is needed to help the fish population. We had three more TLWA members volunteer their shoreline as sites for 2020-2021 fish stick placement and one holdover from last year that could not place because of ice conditions.

- Jim Enger – Crystal Lake
 - Al Nau – Medicine Lake
 - Dale Van Meighen – Big Fork
 - Dave Wrobleski – Dog Lake
- (2019-2020) Hold over from last year.

We made a visit to each site on September 4, 2020 with Zach Woiak (Oneida County Fish Biologist) and Chad Leanna from

the WDNR. This visit was done observing the Covid-19 guidelines and was positive and also very informative to the property owners.

Missing was Jason Pertile from Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Association because he was busy



For the permitting process, Oneida County Fish Biologist, Zach Woiak and Chad Leanna from the WDNR make a site visit.

by Jerry Oehmen



educating our children, but we will brief him when he is available.

All we need now is good ice, trees and the manpower from the volunteers supplied by Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Association. We are hopeful for better weather conditions so we have early ice on the lake that will support the equipment and manpower.

We want to formally thank our property owners and volunteers who make this effort possible. We also want to encourage more property owners to help in this effort to improve our rough woody habitat.

TLWA NOW HAS A DNR LIAISON!

By Lynn Zibell

Can I have lights on my swim raft? Can I fill in my shoreline with hauled in sand and rock? Can I ski off my dock? Over the years, our TLWA resident biologist/board member, Norris Ross, has answered many questions like this. At the July board meeting, Steve Laszewski proposed that TLWA connect with the DNR to find a way to answer the most often asked questions by members related to DNR guidelines.

James Yach, the DNR Secretary Director for the Northern WI Region, offered to be our DNR liaison. He will be turning these questions covering over 20 lake living topics to the appropriate

DNR personnel. Based in Rhinelander, Jim serves 18 northern Wisconsin counties from Ashland to Vilas, including Oneida. Part of his DNR mission is to build relationships, resolve challenges for DNR customers and integrate citizen feedback to improve service.

Jim attended the September board meeting to introduce himself along with describing his efforts in the Three Lakes area. This included being involved with the DOT on the culvert change planned for Hwy. 32 on Virgin Lake in 2022, drafting a policy for I-Lid type cameras, the 2025 FERC relicensing for the Burnt Rollways Dam and ongoing cold-



DNR Secretary Director James Yach describes current DNR efforts in the Three Lakes area at the September TLWA board meeting.

water species studies.

Norris compiled questions under 20 different lake living topics he's been asked over the years. Our newsletter will answer questions related to one or more of these topics in our new feature "The DNR Q & A Corner."

UPDATED WEBSITE BEING DESIGNED

by Paul Wussow

TLWA.org is working on a totally new website. The age of social media has moved from using our computers to our tablets and phones. Our current site has worked to provide information and storage of history via newsletters which works well for computer users.

Our new TLWA.org is being designed to work across platforms to make it easier to receive and retrieve information about activities of the Three Lakes Waterfront Association. New links that allow quick access to

divisions of our activities, as well as access to contact information, will be common to all platforms. We may not have colorful buttons for linking to activities and divisions of the association. These buttons were fine for computer users, but do not work well with tablets or phones.

The importance of our web page is to provide timely information about the activities of TLWA and how you can participate. Users have found some of the buttons are empty as the applications, web cam or links to outside

organizations have changed or are no longer available. Graphics and photos will be included on pages like Adopt Your Shoreline or Clean Boats Clean Water rather than on the home page. We will also be able to reduce the amount of data downloaded for each page to increase speed and reduce data cost.

Winter gives us a time to review the material we want to provide on the web and utilize the most modern technology to provide the community with a tool to connect to the TLWA.

TLWA T-SHIRTS

A reminder to all members and non-members alike. Three Lakes Waterfront Association T-shirts are being offered at the Northland Clothing Company in downtown Three Lakes.

The shirts depict the Three Lakes Chain of Lakes and the logo of the TLWA. The shirts are available in long and short sleeve versions, and are available in all colors as long as one wants grey. The \$25 cost is a donation supporting the mission of the TLWA. *Go ahead, make Eagle River jealous!*



DNR Q & A Corner

DNR Liaison James Yach – Secretary's Director Northern Wisconsin

Questions answered by Kay Lutze, DNR Natural Resource Basin Supervisor

Our members asked about **BUFFERS, VIEWING CORRIDORS and CREATING A BEACH.**

What is a buffer and is a 35-foot buffer on shoreline required?

The land that extends from the ordinary high water mark inland 35' is designated as the vegetated buffer zone. That area is intended to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and natural scenic beauty and to promote preservation and restoration of native vegetation. This area prohibits the removal of vegetation with exceptions as specified in the county ordinance. Existing buffers need to be maintained. If the removal of vegetation within the buffer violates the county shoreland zoning ordinance, then it would be treated as a violation and the buffer would have to be restored.

(For more of a description see <http://whitefishlakepoa.org/wlpoa/documents/ShorelandBuffer.pdf>)

What is a viewing corridor?

The access and viewing corridor means a strip of vegetated land that allows safe pedestrian access to the shore through the vegetative buffer zone. The county may allow removal of trees and shrubs in the vegetative buffer zone to create access and viewing corridors.

Can I leave trees in the corridor and just trim branches up?

Reach out to the county shoreland zoning for vegetation removal standards.

How wide can it be?

The viewing corridor may be at least 35 feet wide for every 100 feet of shoreline frontage. The viewing corridor may run contiguously for the entire maximum width of shoreline frontage owned.

BEACH CREATION

Can I fill in my shore with hauled-in sand?

As noted above, the vegetated

buffer area (OHWM – 35' inland) does not allow for a sand beach nor would that be beneficial in meeting the goals of having a buffer. Please contact the county to discuss land disturbing activities beyond 35' from the OHWM. Sand cannot be placed on lakebed below the OHWM.

Can I mark it "keep out"?

You can mark your private property lines with signs for "no trespassing." Public lakebed is just that – public. Members of the public recreating in the public water must keep their feet wet to remain within the public realm. Once they leave the water, it's considered trespassing (except for portaging around an obstruction). Placing signs on your shoreline or bank to mark "private property" is an option. The signs will need to stay above the ordinary high water mark.

REQUEST FOR CLMN VOLUNTEERS by Fred Knoch

Upon reviewing the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network data from last season, I noticed no data entries from the following lakes: Big Stone, Crystal, Medicine, Planting Ground-East Lobe, Whitefish and Rangeline. The TLWA has in the past prided itself on having volunteers on all lakes collecting Secchi disc and water quality data. If you currently volunteer on any of the above lakes and wish to continue in

your role, please notify us of your continuing intentions. If you wish to contribute in this most important mission, and are not currently a volunteer, please notify us of your willingness to participate. The job requires at least three samples taken in the months of June, July, and August, or more if you are able. The training and equipment is supplied by the DNR, and the task is both rewarding and fun.

This program is vital to our understanding of water quality, and is part of the mission on the TLWA of which you, our members, are the most important resource.

A thank you goes out to all the volunteers who this past summer were able to collect the data enhancing the knowledge we have of our lakes.



Clean Boats Clean Waters

by Bob Agen

The 2020 Fall Report



As you might expect volunteer hours were down this year. Our volunteers logged 227 hours compared to 355 in 2019. Student intern hours remained steady at 1406 hours. Most of our student intern hours occurred at the Burnt Rollways Lift and Dam, Townline and the landing on Big Stone. Additional hours were put in on the landing near CW Smith Road (Big Lake), Highway X, Laurel Lake Campground and the landing off Four Mile Creek Road. Most of our volunteer hours occurred at the landing on Big Stone next to the

Sunset Grill restaurant.

With the dredging completed at Burnt Rollways, 1012 boats were inspected this year compared to 745 in 2019. To qualify for grant money we still monitored Townline even with the security system in place. 784 boats were inspected at Townline. 816 boats were inspected at the landing next to the Sunset Grill restaurant compared to 878 in 2019.

Volunteer hours were down at Big Lake resulting in 254 boats being inspected in 2020 while

354 were inspected in 2019. Hours were put in and boats were inspected at the Laurel Lake Campground, Highway X and the landing off Four Mile Creek Road. It should be noted that with just 4 hours per week logged at Laurel Lake on Friday afternoon, 42 boats were inspected as compared to 16 in 2019. More people were camping in 2020.

Looking forward to 2021 we will again have three paid interns and hope to maintain and add to our volunteer base.

BLOBS!

By Lynn Zibell

A neighbor sent me an email below this fall asking me if I knew what the “blob” was along her shoreline. She said, “It was



A Bryozoan colony floating along the shoreline.

the size of a slightly deflated football. Don’t think it would have fit in my pitcher I use to water my plants. It was bobbing next to a tree trunk fallen in the lake next to our pier. Major ick!”

I sent the blob picture to Norris, our TLWA biologist, and he replied, “They are Bryozoan colonies. They are a large colony of organisms that filter feed on micro-organisms in the water. They are filtering crud out of the water i.e. good for the water. They have an ‘ick’ factor for most people, however, when they colonize on their dock or other water items I tell people to leave them in the water if possible or remove them if they have taken up residence in an



The Bryozoan colony up close.

unfavorable location.”

He added, “They are associated with water that is somewhat out of good balance for microbes. They are flourishing because of overabundance of certain microbes. If you find one that is in clear water you might be surprised how plump and ridged they are to the touch.”

WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING A SUMMER INTERN

by Larry Swanlund

As Bob Agen noted in the previous article, the number of volunteers for the Clean Boats Clean Waters program has been declining, and it has been doing so for some years. To offset this decline, the TLWA board adopted a program several years ago to hire paid interns to supplement the work and hours of the volunteers.

Once again this year, the TLWA hired three interns for the summer program. All three of this year's interns are from the Three Lakes area. Although there have been interns from outside the Three Lakes area, for the most part these positions are filled by local students.



Steve Rieck stands ready to see how boaters follow these guidelines.

Gus Fink is a sophomore at Three Lakes HS this fall. He already has his focus on attending Michigan Tech University and would like to major in engineering.

Sawyer Siedschlag is a junior at Three Lakes HS. His plans are to enroll at UW-Stevens Point and at this point he would like to be a warden with the Wisconsin DNR.

Steve Rieck is a sophomore at



Sawyer Siedschlag checks behind the prop of a pontoon boat for EWM.

the University of Minnesota. His planned major is astrophysics and he would like to work as a researcher.

The interns work a 40-hour week running from Wednesday through Sunday. The emphasis is on the landings on Big Stone Lake (Sunset Grill), Townline, and the boat lift at Burnt Rollways Dam; although each week one of the interns works a rotating shift amongst the other landings on the chain. This year the interns put in a total of 1406 hours of monitoring, slightly down from the 1507 hours in 2019.

The interns report that the job is pretty comfortable... spending the summer working outdoors, etc. They didn't report any problems with boaters who arrived with weeds on their boats or trailers. The interns just informed them of the situation and removed them. The only reported incident of finding Eurasian Watermilfoil was at the Burnt Rollways Dam boat lift with a boat that was coming from the Eagle River side of the chain.

They say that most boaters are aware of the invasive species

problem and are concerned with protecting our waters. The Covid-19 problem didn't create any hardship for the interns. They simply kept their distance and went about their business.

They said that they never observed anyone show up at a landing with a mask, but that there were a few groups who did have masks on boats that showed up at the boat lift.



Gus Fink gets down low to inspect for EWM.

All in all, the experience of working as an intern for the CBCW program seems to be a good one. Some of our interns have held their positions for up to four years. This year, both Gus Fink and Steven Rieck were back for their second year.

As Bob Agen notes, the program is a success and the current plan is to hire three paid interns for the summer of 2021.

*“ O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow.
Make the day seem to us less brief...
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst. ”*

Robert Frost

Adopt-Your-Shoreline

by Bruce Renquist



Yellow Iris Survey

Over a two day period in June, Bruce Renquist and two staff members from the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Office conducted a Yellow Iris survey on Medicine,



Little Fork and Big Fork Lakes on the Chain. They located the invasive plants, removed the blossoms to prevent them from going to seed, entered the location on GPS and mapped the location for the Adopt-Your-Shoreline.

Another survey will be done next June on different lakes.



Rachel Cook, AIS Project Assistant, prepares to tend to the plant, Aubrey, AIS Lead Project Assistant, does the GPS entry. Bruce drives the boat and maps the location.

LAKE CAPTAINS

BIG	Steve Laszewski	920-562-0321	steve.laszewski@foth.com
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	usflyguyat1@aol.com
DEER	Jay Teagle	630-460-5362	jay.teagle@yahoo.com
DOG	John Rothwell	843-271-6455	jcrothwell1@gmail.com
FOUR MILE	Mike & Lori Gray	920-540-6027	mike.gray@valmet.com
ISLAND	Doug Scheffen	715-546-2732	dougscheffen@aol.com
JULIA	David Mitzner	715-546-2583	david.mitzner165@gmail.com
LAUREL	Mark Wallesverd	920-344-0698	walsvrd@gmail.com
	Charles Brady	651-408-2505	bradycharles@msn.com
LITTLE FORK	Mary O'Hara	715-546-8107	mcohara@att.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	715-546-3351	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	715-546-2117	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

WHO VOLUNTEERS

Dave and Jan Hintz are full-time Three Lakes residents living on Medicine Lake since 2007. They built their home while they were living in Africa on an overseas assignment that Dave had with ExxonMobil.

Jan started to come to Three Lakes over 60 years ago and loves what she calls "God's Country." Once Dave came up with her, he too began to love Three Lakes.

Along with adopting part of the Medicine Lake shoreline, they both are active in the community.

Jan is active in the Three Lakes Women's Club having served as the club's president for three years. For over five years she was the Three Lakes Lifestyle correspondent for the Vilas County News-Review and Three Lakes News. Currently Jan is the treasurer of the Three Lakes

Christian Food Pantry and is on the board of the Reiter Center.

Dave is a director of the Three Lakes Lions Club and on the board of the Three Lakes Historical Society. He represents Three Lakes (District 13) on the Oneida County Board. Dave is currently serving as the chair of the Oneida County Board as he has for the past six years.

"I have the opportunity to deal with county officials throughout Wisconsin and clearly the Three Lakes Waterfront Association is recognized as the premier association in the state. Many people ask me, 'How does Three Lakes do it without having a lake district with taxing authority?'" "The simple answer is, we have an organization made up of dedicated hardworking volunteers. We can be very proud of our organization and the work that we do," Dave said.



AYS Volunteers Dave and Jan Hintz.

"Our beautiful lakes and forests are the life blood of Three Lakes," Jan said. She continued, "I believe that it is everybody's responsibility to protect our natural resources."

"The simple act of examination your shore line looking for invasive plants can go a long way to keep our lakes healthy."

Purple Loosestrife

The Beetles Are Winning

by Paul Matthiae



On August 18th Norris Ross, Fred Knoch and I spent the morning checking purple loosestrife sites on Planting Ground and Townline Lakes. Many of those sites were



treated with Cella beetles in both 2018 and 2019.

Cella beetles are species specific predators on purple loosestrife, meaning they only feed on that plant. We were very pleased with the results we observed. Large clones of purple loosestrife were reduced to occasional plants that were either seedlings or sprouted from root stocks not yet killed by the Cella beetle.

Other locations suggest that single plant or small clusters of plants along water edges were

first year or second year plants resulting from seed dispersal.

Unfortunately, this year we could not continue with our beetle rearing program due to Covid-19 which halted Cella beetle rearing statewide. Use of herbicide in their place was impractical due to the plants dispersed occurrence and inaccessibility. We are planning to move forward with our Cella beetle rearing program in 2021. We'll keep you informed with updates in future newsletters.

Aquatic Education

by Paul Matthiae

In the Fall 2019 the Board of Directors approved exploring discussions with Three Lakes High School to see if they would be interested in expanding student studies to include freshwater science. The suggestion was enthusiastically received. We agreed that the Association would acquire the

curriculum, a year-long elective available to juniors and seniors, and taught by Al Votis.

Let me review why we decided to start this program. I think we all would agree that the learning experiences students have in school are often conveyed home to their parents and siblings.

That alone could be reason enough as the student becomes by extension an advocate for lake and watershed protection, management and wise use. This year we could not find a qualified student for our college scholarship (which requires degree interest in environmental sciences or environmental engineering). This has happened before. It is

hoped the Aquatic Explorations program will encourage more students to look toward the environmental sciences and engineering as a career. This program gets them on the water and gives them hands-on practical experience with the

same equipment that aquatic scientists, managers and environmental engineers use. And, it will heighten their interest in supporting the Association's goals of long term protection of the Chain's aquatic ecosystem and watershed.

So, what will these students learn through Aquatic Explorations? Students will be introduced to lake structures – physical, biological and chemical; lake classification, and, human influences. They will be left with a basic understanding of lake characteristics and the complexities of the functions and processes of the lakes. And, an understanding of the need to protect and properly manage both the aquatic ecosystem and the watershed on which it is dependent.

There is of course, the Covid-19 epidemic to contend with for the next school year. It's much too soon to speculate as to how schools will function in Fall, however, Al Votis and I will be moving forward with our planning and equipment acquisitions in anticipation of being on the water!



Al Votis, Three Lakes High School science teacher, explains the horizontal water sampler purchased by TLWA to students.

necessary field equipment for lake and stream sampling and provide instructional materials and assistance. Our pontoon boat (dive boat) will serve as our on water teaching platform. The Aquatic Explorations program will be incorporated into the school's existing "Global World"

FORWARD THREE LAKES

TLWA is participating along with other local organizations in Forward Three Lakes. The Three Lakes Foundation initiated this program offered by the UW-Extension. The Extension will get to know Three Lakes through group presentations and connecting with each of these groups in guided

discussions. Based on the information gathered, they will give their insights into possible future directions Three Lakes can take since being economically affected by COVID-19, and the Oneida Village and Main Street Café fires. See <http://forwardthreelakes.com> for more information regarding this initiative.

Did you know killing mosquitoes with pesticides can kill other beneficial insects?

DYK

This summer, several waterfront property owners in northern Wisconsin complained that the *Galerucella* beetles, that were providing bio-control of the invasive purple loosestrife plant in their lake, died off after a neighbor had their yard treated with pesticides to kill mosquitoes.

Wisconsin Extension staff did some sleuthing and spoke with Bernd Blossey, an associate professor of natural resources at Cornell University in New York state. Bernd said, “We have seen dramatic die-offs of the *Galerucella* (purple loosestrife beetles) in two areas sprayed for mosquitoes. In both places, thriving populations disappeared and it took many years for them to recover. There is nothing published that I know of, but this includes aerial spraying, not larvicides.”

Having your yard sprayed for mosquitoes can also harm other insects that many people value. Karen Oberhauser, who has studied monarch butterflies for 30 years, published a study in 2006 finding that monarch caterpillars and adults are likely to be killed if exposed to a pesticide used for mosquito control. She found that many monarch caterpillars died even if the leaves they ate were sprayed up to 21 days earlier.

Used with permission from Northcentral Wisconsin Pollinator Partnership



Protect yourself and your loved ones from mosquito-borne illnesses by:

- ◆ Cleaning buckets, tires, or other mosquito “breeding ponds” on your property.
- ◆ Creating habitat that invites mosquito predators like bats, purple martins, and dragonflies.
- ◆ Wearing appropriate outdoor clothing and repellent.
- ◆ Avoiding outside activities at dawn and dusk when most mosquitoes feed.
- ◆ Helping your community create an effective mosquito management plan.

Are “organic” sprays safe?

Some companies that spray for mosquitoes offer an “organic” spray that contains chrysanthemum oil, claiming it isn’t harmful to other insects. Chrysanthemum oil contains pyrethrins, which are highly toxic to honeybees and fish. There are no definitions for the term “organic” related to lawn and garden products, so any service can make this claim. To know if a spray or treatment is safe, you need to get a full list of ingredients and look them up.

References:

Oberhauser, K.S. et al. 2005. Growth and survival of monarch butterflies (Lepidoptera: Danaidae) after exposure to permethrin barrier treatments. Environmental Entomology, 35(6):1626-1634.

National Pesticide Information Center. 2014. Pyrethrins General Fact Sheet. <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/pyrethrins.html>

Oneida County Land and Water Conservation website. <https://www.oclw.org/insect-decline.html>

Getting To the Root of the Problem

by Stephanie Boismenu

Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department



Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is a highly invasive, submerged aquatic plant that is a threat to aquatic habitats, recreational opportunities, and economy. Native to Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa, EWM was first reported in Wisconsin in the 1960s, and has since spread to over 800 Wisconsin lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. In Oneida County, EWM has made its way into 35 waterbodies, of which six of those waters do not have a

public access! The rapid spread of EWM is attributed mainly to boat traffic; plant fragments accidentally transported and introduced to a new waterbody on boats and trailers.

EWM is an opportunistic species that will take root in almost any type of substrate and in water depths ranging from shallow shorelines down to 20 feet. It thrives in areas where natural and manmade disturbances have exposed the sediment. For

example, areas where native plants and natural structures have been removed from along the shoreline, and areas eroded by watershed run-off and by wake from heavy boat traffic. EWM has also adapted to surviving in various water temperatures from over-heated shallow bays to overwintering in frozen lakes. Growth begins early in the early spring, when water temperatures reach 45-50 degrees F, which is well before native plants begin to emerge.

Eurasian Water-milfoil

(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Non-native

Highly invasive plant, able to form dense mats near the surface that entangle motor boat propellers and interfere with swimming. Spread by watercraft and trailers.

- Delicate feather-like leaves. Leaflets are mostly the same length.
- Leaves are usually limp when out of water.
- Leaves arranged in whorls (circles) of 3 to 5 around stem.

- Usually 12 to 21 leaflet pairs per leaf.
- Long spaghetti-like stems.

If you suspect a new infestation, report it to your local DNR service center.

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Northern Water-milfoil

(*Myriophyllum sibiricum*)

One of the seven native milfoils found in Wisconsin. A valuable plant that offers shade, shelter, and foraging opportunities for fish.

- Rigid feather-like leaves forming a Christmas tree shape. The lower leaflets are usually quite long.
- Leaves are usually stiff when out of water.
- Leaves arranged in whorls (circles) of 4 to 6 around stem.

- Usually 7 to 10 leaflet pairs per leaf.
- Stem is usually whitish or whitish-green in color.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Extension Cooperative Extension

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
PUB-WT-394 2012

Figure 1. Invasive Eurasian watermilfoil.

Figure 2. Native Northern watermilfoil.

EWM is identified by its delicate feather-like leaves arranged in whorls of three to five around the stem (Figure 1). Each leaf is divided into 12 to 21 pairs of leaflets per leaf. EWM produces dense stands of fragile spaghetti-like stems that emerge from root crowns and can grow up to 20 feet to the water surface. The stems often turn red, especially towards the top of the plant. As the plant reaches the surface, each stem branches profusely, forming dense mats at the surface and spikes with reddish flowers that rise above the surface. The Native Northern watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*), which looks similar to EWM, has seven to ten pairs of leaflets (Figure 2). The easiest way to distinguish EWM from native milfoil is by lifting a stem out of the water. The leaves of the invasive will relax and fall against the stem whereas the leaves of the native will remain rigid and spread from the stem.

EWM can reproduce through seeds, but it most often spreads by stem fragmentation and runners. A single fragment of stem and leaf will float on the surface, disperse to new areas of the lake by water currents and watercrafts, eventually falling to



In late summer one can see the red tinting of the EWM stem.

the bottom of the lake where it will re-root and begin a new colony.

Aquatic ecosystems are impacted by EWM's dense stands of vegetation and impenetrable floating mats, which crowd out native plants, block sunlight, displace native species, and reduce biodiversity. In addition, EWM beds are poor habitats for fish spawning and dense canopies may lead to populations of stunted fish. EWM stems and fragments are notorious for becoming entangled around boat propellers, clogging motor intakes, getting caught-up on fishing hook, and interferes with swimming and navigation. As a result, EWM can adversely affects our Northwoods tourist-dependent economy and costs millions of dollars annually

to manage.

Once introduced into a waterbody, EWM may never be completely eradicated from the lake. However, if EWM is identified during early stages of infestation, it is possible to reduce, manage, and control small populations. Reasonable treatment, management, and control goals and efforts must be carefully considered by all parties involved, using the most up to date science available, and taking into account each waterbodies unique aquatic ecosystem, function, characteristics, water use, and social capacity.

Unfortunately, any activity that involves moving unclean watercrafts, equipment, gear, and other water-related equipment from one waterbody to the next, presents an extremely high risk of spreading EWM to new waters. EWM is very likely to attaches to boats and trailers during launching and loading. Therefore, the single most important action that you can take to limit the spread of any aquatic invasive species is to remove all aquatic plants, mud, and sand from your watercraft and equipment and drain all water before you leave the landing.

I-LIDS CAMERA

Boaters landing their boats at the Town Line Boat Landing are alerted to check their boats and trailers for EWM before entering the Chain by the newly installed I-Lids (Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor) camera system.

For more information go online to http://www.lakesentry.net/contact_info.htm



TLWA Membership

by Ann Oehmen



We Have a Deal For You!

TLWA database includes 1255 members. We are proud to be one of the largest organized lake associations in our beautiful state. We value our members and are really appreciative of those members who volunteer their time and talents. Some times it seems that too few carry the load for all of us so if you have an urge to pitch-in please make yourself known to one of our board members. We encourage all members to get involved and help TLWA stay strong and active to keep our lakes beautiful and clean.

This year we attempted to recruit more members by mailing a membership application to 937 non-members

in hopes they would join us in our efforts. We have had some success and have increased our membership to date for 2020 by 44 members. We hope that continues to grow and we would like our members to recruit their neighbors, friends and relatives join the effort.

We also encourage members to share their email addresses if possible, with TLWA to allow us to easily communicate any news or activities that help keep our members informed. You can send your email address to aohmen@gmail.com if you would like it added to our database. We currently have approximately 250 members without email addresses.

Please feel free to share your ideas and any comments on how we could increase our membership so we may maintain our wonderful association.

We know these are very difficult times and we hope all of you stay healthy and happy as we look forward to 2021.



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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 or contact TLWA by emailing jaketheoilguy@yahoo.com