

Presidents Forum

By Ed Jacobsen

Wow, what a winter we had trying to figure out why our elected leaders have passed legislation to weaken the protections for our greatest natural resource (Northwoods waters). In the last newsletter we addressed



Act 55, a budget bill that greatly weakened local shoreline zoning. Since then, a large number of bills have been proposed in order to benefit downstate businesses, but these bills affect the entire state. Local control protects local waterways and local control is being threatened by these bills. Without healthy lakes we will not have healthy tourism and tourism is what feeds Three Lakes. Most of our membership is made up of people who live on the water or derive their living from people who live on the water. That water has been kept pretty clean and natural so far, but recent legislation proposed by our elected representatives puts water quality at risk. The board spends all summer working to preserve our waters and most of the winter working to preserve our right to preserve our waters. Three of us traveled to Madison to testify and observe our legislative system at work, and were not impressed. These trips were not in vain, however. I do feel that we are making some headway in getting these proposed property rights bills modified so the effects will not be as tragic. The fight is a long way from over. We'll keep you posted.

On a lighter note, we are getting close to our lake management goal of surveying all the lakes on our chain. See the Lake Management Planning article with full details in this newsletter by Dan Cibulka of Onterra, our professional limnologists.

The program we have to monitor the lakes for invasives has taken on a bright and energetic life by our new coordinator Bruce Renquist. Under his direction, we now have a lake captain coordinating volunteers for every lake on the chain. This is a fun project for the volunteers since all you have to do is cruise the shoreline in your boat and look for invasive plant life. Most of us cruise anyway looking at the houses. This just takes a little closer look and we all benefit from your trips. Bruce has a great article detailing the plans for this summer. Think about joining.

Our business directory is enclosed in the newsletter mailing. This is a listing of local businesses who are members of our association and people who really appreciate your patronage. We all want the local business people to be there when we need them but they need your support. Please keep this directory handy and think local when shopping for food or services. We have highlighted some of the restaurants in the newsletter itself to encourage you to dine locally as well.

Please plan to attend the annual meeting to meet your board and fellow members. We can keep you updated by newsletter but meeting face to face allows us to be more specific and current.



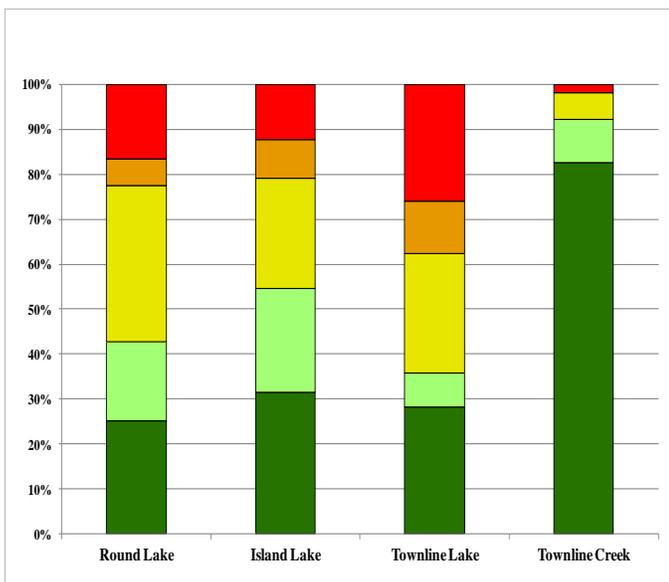
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Annual Meeting** – July 7 – 6:30 pm
Reiter Center
- Townline, Round & Island LMP Meeting** -
July 27 – 6:00 pm – Reiter Center
- AAS Invasive Species Workshop** – July 8
1:00 – 3:00 pm – Bonnie's Lakeside
- Wood Duck House Building Workshop** -
June 25 – 10:00 am – Cy Williams Park

Illustrations of.com 1-877-245-8368 service@illustrationsof.com

Shoreland Development Assessments

Field studies on ecological components of the Phase VI lakes (Round Lake, Island Lake and Townline Lake/Townline Creek) began in 2015. Much of the data that was collected during 2015 have yet to be analyzed; however, an initial look into one aspect of the lakes' ecology, the development of the shoreland, is included below. While Townline Creek held much natural shoreland, the three lakes included in the Phase VI studies held larger percentages of semi to completely developed shorelands. During the planning meetings that will take place in summer 2016 for this phase of the project, Onterra staff will discuss the importance of natural shorelands and how Three Lakes Chain waterfront property owners may protect natural shorelands and also restore developed shorelands.



Three Lakes Chain Phase VI lakes shoreland assessment results from fall 2015 survey.

Red--urbanized
Orange—developed/unnatural
Yellow—developed/semi-natural
Lime—developed/natural
Green—natural/undeveloped

Similar data is available for the entire Chain except for Planting Ground and Rangeline to be studied in summer of 2016. If you want to see the data for your lake, visit the TLWA section at the Demmer Library or TLWA.org.

The Three Lakes Waterfront Association (TLWA) and Town of Three Lakes are involved in several grant-funded projects that aim to protect and preserve the Three Lakes Chain of Lakes as well as create a comprehensive plan that outlines strategies for long-term management. The TLWA and Town are working closely with Onterra, LLC, a lake management planning firm, on these projects.

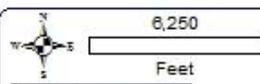
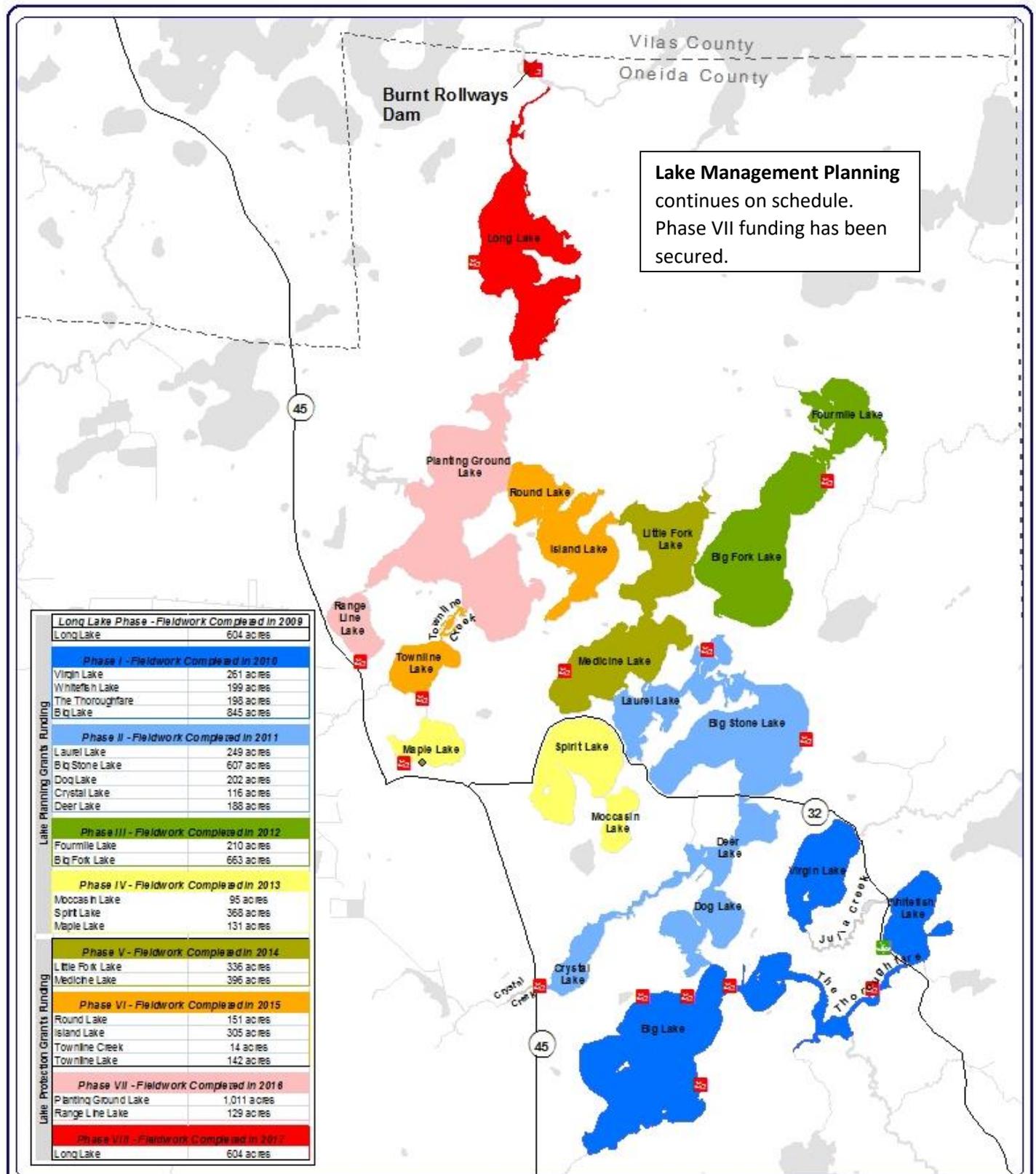
Since 2006, this partnership has successfully obtained numerous grants through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources state-wide lake management grant program to partially fund studies related to aquatic invasive species (AIS) monitoring and control, comprehensive lake management planning for the chain, as well as chain-wide property owner education and involvement. Hundreds of hours of in-kind, donated labor have been invested by TLWA and town volunteers. A chain-wide management plan has been developed through a multi-year phased process, in which annual reviews of the chain-wide plan and development of individual lake management plans have occurred.

Lake management planning is a process that begins with a full examination of a lake's ecological components, including a lake's water quality, watershed, aquatic plants, shoreland areas, fishery and habitat condition. Next, the perceptions, needs and concerns of the lake's stakeholders are inventoried and described through anonymous surveys and public meetings. These elements are combined in a holistic package that attempts to describe the conditions of the lake, document challenges (ecological impairments, stakeholder concerns, etc.) and produce goals and actions which guide managers in preserving lake conditions and protecting it from future threats.

With the conclusion of Phase VI approaching, the TLWA has now secured funding to continue the management planning process. Phase VII (Planting Ground and Rangeline Lake) is scheduled to occur in 2015-2017, and the final phase, Phase VIII (an update of Long Lake's Management Plan) is slated to occur in 2017-2018.



Dan Cibulka, Onterra LLC



Onterra LLC
 Lake Management Planning
 815 Prager Road
 De Pere, WI 54115
 920.332.8860
 www.onterra-llc.com

Sources:
 Roads & Hydr. WDNR
 Map Date: December 7, 2012
 File: Map_Lakes_2012.mxd



Extent of large map shown in red.

Legend

- Public Access - Watercraft Landing
- Public Access - Carry-in
- Burnt Rollway Dam

Map 1
Three Lakes Chain
 Oneida County, Wisconsin
Project Boundaries
and Water Quality
Sampling Locations



By Bruce Renquist

Teens and AIS

The future health of our lakes is at stake. The ongoing threat of AIS (aquatic invasive species) requires a heightened awareness, education and more informed eyes on the water. Clearly while younger generations of lake people have a vested interest in keeping our lakes pristine, they also offer the potential of becoming actively engaged in the process of assuring a healthy chain of lakes for generations. Once involved they bring new levels of energy, persistence and a healthy respect for the environment. The Adopt-A-Shoreline program provides the framework for that involvement.

The key is awareness and information. Once teens are exposed to the science of AIS and understand the scope of the threat to their lake, they become fierce advocates of shoreline monitoring and ever watchful of the aquatic environment.

Our teenage granddaughters attended a workshop and learned the science from Michele Sadauskas, AIS Coordinator for Oneida County. They had on-



the-water experience provided by experienced volunteers and learned to become more confident in their ability to identify

Eurasian Water Milfoil and other invasives. They enlisted their cousin Ben, a recent graduate of the Three Lakes boating safety program, to be the boat driver, gathered their vests and other materials and hit the water. That started the process of monitoring

our end of Medicine Lake. It's heartening to see three bright vests, hear the chatter and watch as they collect and verify samples with a sometimes surprising level of patience.

"Once we attended a workshop and learned about AIS, it's fun to be out on the water collecting weeds and looking for Eurasian Water Milfoil. It seems now we are always checking out the water and looking for the bad stuff whenever we go near the water even when we are not working for Adopt-A-Shoreline"

Annika Johnson, 14, Northampton, MA

With the exception of campers and staff from Honey Rock and Camp Luther who have monitored in the past, teens are an untapped resource in the fight against AIS. I hope you encourage your kids



and grandkids to become involved by attending a workshop or requesting a special training session on your lake. For more information call Bruce Renquist, 715 546 2401.

2016 Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop

July 8th

1:00-3:00pm

Bonnies Lakeside on Spirit Lake
1426 WI 32, one mile south of Three Lakes

Easy Access, Ample parking

Learn about the science behind the battle to save our lakes from an invasion of AIS. Michele Sadauskas and her staff from the Oneida County Office of Land and Water Conservation will lead the session on the shore of beautiful Spirit Lake. They will be assisted by experienced volunteers from the Three Lakes Waterfront Association. Hands on, science based experience with various species of invasives including Eurasian Water Milfoil.

On-the-water groups will learn to recognize plants in their natural habitat. Everyone is invited to participate and be informed on how to keep our lakes free from the continuing threat of AIS.

An Offer You Can't Refuse

Norris Ross, a biologist by profession and a TLWA board member, has made a very generous offer to the Adopt-A-Shoreline program and to the lakefront people of the Three Lakes Chain.

Norris is willing to travel to your lake and provide a hands on workshop to any small group on your lake. Friends, neighbors, whole families interested in knowing more about Aquatic Invasive Species are invited and encouraged to participate.

Each one of our lakes is unique and these sessions will be specific to your own lake. This is significant in that each species is more likely found in its own preferred habitat and Norris can focus on these areas where an infestation could occur. Learn the science behind AIS, learn more about your lake and the naturally occurring plants that grow there. More importantly, learn how you might identify Eurasian Water Milfoil and initiate the fast intervention required to control it.

To find out more or schedule a session, call Norris Ross, (715) 546 2250 or Bruce Renquist, (715) 546 2401.



By Bob Agen



Recent legislation could bring new threats to our beautiful Chain of Lakes in 2016. However, we are ready to start another year of educating boaters and checking boats for invasives. Our emphasis will be the Burnt Rollways lift and dam, and the landings near Sunset Grill and Townline.

These three landings will be staffed by our interns but volunteers are needed to monitor the main landing on Big Lake, the Hwy X landing on Medicine and the Laurel Lake campground landing.

I always have a wish list for volunteers, but I really could use someone on Saturday afternoons at the landing near Sunset Grill. Also, during June we will be without the services of Derek Thorn who usually works the Townline landing. If I have volunteers, I could fill some of those hours and free up one of the other interns to work elsewhere.

All you "Baby Boomers" out there, think about it--a two-hour commitment is not that great. Bring a book and lawn chair and enjoy the peace, quiet and beauty of our north country while protecting our lakes. Remember, each hour that you put in helps us secure matching grant money.

If interested in being part of the Clean Boats / Clean Waters program, contact me at agenrobert@gmail.com or 715-546-3893.

2016 AAS LAKE CAPTAINS

Big Fork – Walt Bredesen – 715-546-2017
Big – Ed Cottingham – 715-546-4298
Big Stone – Eric Wick – 715-546-3587
Crystal – Mike Donovan – 715-550-8282
Deer - Kevin Affeldt – 414-690-0606
Dog – Bob Jacobs – 262-894-8977
Four Mile – Bob Pfeffer – 262-284-2333
Island – Doug Scheffen – 715-546-2732
Julia – David Mitzner – 715-546-2583
Laurel – Mary Hasler – 715-546-8305
Little Fork – Bob Lee – 715-546-3674
Long – Jake Werner – 715-546-9094
Maple – Jim Skelton – 715-367-6638
Medicine – Bruce Renquist – 715-546-2401
Moccasin – Julie Tryczak – 715-546-2834
Planting Ground – Norris Ross – 715-546-2250
Range Line – Kelly Hegeman – 715-546-8178
Round – Bob Bichler – 715-546-3481
Mike Freehill – 715-546-3059
Spirit – John & Cindy Lake – 715-546-2117
Thoroughfare – Paul Matthiae – 715-546-3453
Townline – Keith Mueller – 715-546-3688
Virgin – Bob Borek – 715-546-3457
Whitefish – Charlie Volk – 715-546-3845

Purple Loosestrife – An On-Going Battle



Large infestation of Purple Loosestrife in a north bay of Planting Ground Lake.



Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Purple Loosestrife can range from 2 to 7 feet in height.

YES, IT IS PRETTY!

Purple loosestrife is a wetland plant from Europe and Asia. It was introduced into the east coast of North America in the 1800's. It was first spreading along roads, canals and drainage ditches, then later distributed as an ornamental.

Purple loosestrife invades marshes and lakeshores, replacing cattails and other wetland plants. The plant can form dense, impenetrable stands which are unsuitable as cover, food or nesting sites for a wide range of native wetland animals including ducks, geese, rails, bitterns, muskrats, frogs, toads and turtles. Many rare and endangered wetland plants and animals are also at risk.

Likely means of spread: Seeds escape from gardens and nurseries into wetlands, lakes and rivers. Once in aquatic systems, seeds are easily spread by moving water.

Controlling purple loosestrife is generally done three ways in order of preferred methods as follows:

- Dig and pull it out and dispose of it
- Culture and release "loosestrife eating beetles" on plants difficult to dig
- Follow aquatic protocols and apply herbicides

TLWA has developed a kit for removal of wetland invasives. The kit includes tools for digging and pulling as well as protocols for the included herbicides.

The kit can be checked out at Anchor Marine for personal use.

A Day in the Attack



Pontoon boat is loaded with a canoe and pots containing plants with loosestrife-eating beetles.

Three Lakes Chain lakes with known infestations of purple loosestrife: Spirit, Big Stone, Planting Ground, Round, Island and Big.



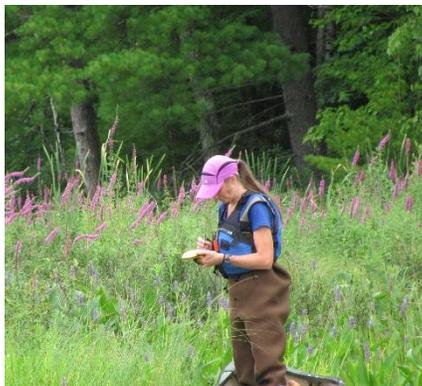
Samantha Zommers and Sara Mills from Oneida County staff show the size and difficulty in digging out purple loosestrife.



Canoeing through wetlands with potted beetles can be tough work. Here Samantha Zommers and Stephanie Boismenu (Oneida County staff) approach a patch of purple loosestrife.



It gets even tougher to paddle as the soft shoreline of the wetland approaches.



Stephanie Boismenu notes the GPS location of the released beetles before leaving the work site.





Virgin Lake

2016 Control Strategy

Although it is believed that the control actions initiated in 2015 were successful, it was acknowledged that the level of EWM growth in Virgin Lake was somewhat suppressed from what was observed in the lake during late 2014. The amount of EWM observed still warranted the prescribed control actions, however, it is not known to what level the suppressed EWM abundance impacts the examination of control effectiveness. Finally, it is not known whether the conditions observed in 2015 are part of a trend, or an anomaly of sorts due to differing environmental conditions that year.

It will be important for the TLWA and Virgin Lake property owners to continue monitoring of EWM populations in Virgin Lake. The current known density and distribution of EWM is the lowest it has been since the initial discovery. With a Phase II AIS-Early Detection and Response grant continuing into its last year, funding is in place for both professional monitoring and control of EWM in 2016. It is recommended that the TLWA and Virgin Lake property owners continue as planned with monitoring of the entire lake through an Early Season AIS survey (ESAIS) and Peak-Biomass survey, and retain a professional hand-removal firm to operate at near the same effort as extended in 2015. As in 2015, the ESAIS survey would verify EWM growth and prioritize hand-removal locations. A better estimate of required diver effort could be made during this survey as well. The late-season assessment would then both determine the effectiveness of 2016 hand-removal and also allow for 2017 planning.

Townline Lake

2016 Monitoring/Control Recommendations

The Townline Lake EWM discovery is very much in its infancy – only a few plants have been observed and pulled from the same location. Continued monitoring of the entire lake is of great importance. In 2016, Onterra staff will complete a whole-lake ESAIS survey in mid-June. Depending upon the results of this survey, Onterra will jump in the water to remove observed EWM or direct TLWA volunteers to the location. If a greater amount of EWM is observed, Onterra would potentially assist the TLWA in bringing in professional hand-removal staff to complete hand-removal on the area. With the ESAIS survey bringing about an understanding on the abundance of EWM in the lake, a late-summer EWM survey may be scheduled as well to effectively plan for 2017 monitoring and control efforts.

Lake Management Planning Meeting for Townline – July 27 – 6:00 pm – Reiter Center. Contact Ed Jacobsen at 715-617-0566 for more information.

Burnt Rollways Channel (Long Lake)

2016 Monitoring/Control Recommendations

As there is still a minimal EWM population within the Burnt Rollways Channel, no professional control actions (herbicide treatments, professional hand-harvesting, etc.) are recommended for 2016. Continued monitoring of the channel should be completed by volunteers during the mid-summer timeframe (mid-June). The current level of EWM in the channel may be addressed by volunteer hand-removal. However, if this level is observed to have increased, the potential to line-up summer professional hand-harvesters would still exist if the colonies are spotted early enough. During the late summer season, Onterra would again complete an EWM Peak-Biomass survey to determine the level of EWM in the channel at that time and collect data for 2017 decision-making and planning. Funding for these surveys is available through a previously acquired grant, which expires in late 2016.

Shoreline Buffers – Good for Your Lake – Good for You

Something amazing happens when land meets the water. The life force virtually blossoms into a level of diversity that is unparalleled on any parcel of upland. What can you do to help keep your lake clean and healthy? Actually, quite a lot. And one of the best things you can do is create (or keep) a strip of natural vegetation (a shoreline buffer – ideally at least 35 feet wide) along the length of your frontage. Shoreline buffers can help limit the effects of development on our lakes. If everybody had one, our lakes would be cleaner and more beautiful. You might be surprised at all the good a shoreline buffer can do.

For your Lake and the Environment:

- Protects water by filtering runoff containing silt, salt, chemicals, fertilizer and nutrients
- Slows runoff, letting water soak into the ground instead of flushing straight into the lake
- Helps keep waves and runoff from eroding shoreline
- Improves near-shore habitat for fish and other creatures that make lake life richer
- Provides haven for mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects (a little sanctuary for wildlife)

For You and Your Property:

- Saves time you would otherwise spend mowing and trimming more lawn
- Gives you extra privacy and helps muffle the noise of boats and personal watercraft
- Discourages messy pests like geese and non-native plants like purple loosestrife from invading your property
- Helps make your property more beautiful, more attractive to buyers and so more valuable



Two Neighboring Properties

It's far easier and cheaper to protect your lake from harm than to clean it after it has been damaged.



Ed Jacobsen's shoreline restoration

Ed had noticed that his waterfront property shoreline had been eroded by wave action in his lake. Ed waited until the damage was done and had to mitigate the eroding shoreline with bio-logs. The logs are produced from natural coconut fiber with holes where water-loving plants can be inserted. The logs were secured to the shoreline with degradable hemp so that the whole log and hemp would decompose in about 4 years. The logs have totally disappeared, and what is left is a beautiful 50 foot lakeside garden, full of water-loving plants. These plants are now home to all manner of critters and insects. Ed and his wife Sue now enjoy an even more entertaining shoreline than they had before the repair job started.

If you would like to discuss Ed's experience first-hand, contact him at 715-617-0566.

Do you know, a 30-40 foot strip around a lake's shore is called the "ring of life" for the rich variety of creatures that live there?

Phosphorus

For those of you who read my first article in the series of "Understanding Your Lake", I thank you for your kind comments. I actually received feedback from readers indicating that the article improved their understanding of Lake Turnover and how the information related to their own observations. In this, the second article, I will try to educate the readership on the topic of phosphorus and how it affects the lake system. This is a topic on which I have written articles in the past, but I feel that it is a topic of such importance that it deserves revisiting. I will take a slightly different slant on the topic this time, pointing out what you, as an observer on the lake, can see in the water as a result of phosphorus. I will also bring up the topic of water impairment as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and how this important concept affects all who enjoy the Three Lakes Chain of lakes for recreation or habitation.

Phosphorus is an element of nature that affects the ecosystem of plants. As we remember, in the past, common lawn fertilizers contained three substances, phosphorus, nitrogen, and potash. These three substances are important for plant growth and were mixed in ratios that promoted vigorous growth, in this case growth of grass in lawns. Now the addition of phosphorus has been banned by State and Federal agencies from its addition to lawn fertilizers. Why the ban? Because the nutrients in fertilizers have been shown to enter the watershed and eventually wind up in lakes and streams. What happens when they enter the watershed? They do what they were designed to do, that is stimulate the growth of plants. In the case of lake systems, the plants which are stimulated are aquatic vegetation (lake weeds) and algae. These items are easily observed by even the most casual of observers.

In our lakes, there exist ample amounts of natural nutrient material for plant growth. These nutrients may be from decomposition and decay of plant material, decomposition of animal material such as fish or other aquatic organisms, waste material from aquatic or terrestrial animals, or other organic material from the environment. It has been determined by scientific studies that the rate limiting ingredient for plant growth in the lake system is phosphorus. In other words, ample nutrients in the form of nitrogen and potash already exist in the system to support adequate plant growth. The

presence of phosphorus in the system determines the amount and rate of growth of plants in the lakes. Phosphorus also exists in nature along with the other nutrients mentioned, but other sources of phosphorus are acting simultaneously. Phosphorus is being added to the environment by the actions of Humans.

Phosphorus enters the lake ecosystem in two ways, defined as point source entry and non-point source entry. An example of a point source is anything that comes out of a pipe, such as effluent from a sanitary district. Examples of non-point source entry would include any watershed fluids. The watershed area of the Three Lakes Chain of lakes is estimated to be in the range of 75,000 acres surrounding the lakes. Any water within the watershed area has the potential of winding up in the lakes. Therefore, any substance contained in the water may eventually enter the lakes. This is the way excess phosphorus enters the lake. The watershed area contains areas of agriculture, housing developments, a town, forested areas, impervious surfaces, etc. All of these contribute to runoff and therefore potentially to phosphorus and other contaminants entering the lakes.

Since phosphorus is the rate limiting nutrient in the growth of plants in the lakes, excess phosphorus going into the lakes translates into excess plant growth. This fact can easily be observed in the



amounts of aquatic vegetation (lake weeds) and algae. In fact, those of us who are present in the early Fall notice the overgrowth of algae in the

form of "algae scum" on the water and collecting on the shoreline. This past fall, off my dock in the Channel from Long Lake to the Dam, the largest algae scum was observed by me ever in the years I have been here, which began in 1983. Not surprisingly, phosphorus levels were higher this past fall than in other years.

So, what does this all mean, and does it affect me directly? If you are a person like me who enjoys all manner of water activities (both hard and soft

water), my experience is diminished by the presence of excess algae in the water in the form of unsightly algae scum and diminished water clarity, not to mention the scum lines on the bottoms of all my boats which I must clean! The Wisconsin DNR has actually placed a quantitative designation on this situation. The DNR has classified lakes by the presence of contaminants in the water which make the water experience less than desirable, they call the water "Impaired." The lakes on the Three Lakes Chain which have been designated as being "Impaired" by phosphorus are the following: Big Fork Lake, Big Lake, Big Stone Lake, Crystal (Mud) Lake and Medicine Lake. The other lakes of the chain which are not on this list either have phosphorus levels which are less than that of the impaired level, or the levels have not been measured yet.

If this data worries you, is there anything you can do about it? YES, THERE IS! Don't fertilize lawns with fertilizer containing phosphorus. Think about using less chemical fertilizers on gardens. If you are a homeowner and are building or remodeling, think about reducing impervious surfaces. Update or repair septic systems which may be out of date or at risk of leaking. Encourage your elected officials to be proactive on environmental issues that affect the qualities of lakes and watersheds. Help to remove the Chain from the "Impaired Waters" list. Remember, the 1960's mantra: "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem!"

See you, ON THE WATER



Fred Knoch with data collecting equipment



[TLWA History](#)

50th On The Way

By Doug Scheffen

History may speak for itself but, in the event everyone wasn't listening, your Three Lakes Waterfront Association will be proudly celebrating 50 years of leadership and volunteerism during 2017.



The successful organization of concerned citizens formed the very first directors' board and initial membership on July 29, 1967.

Subsequent history will be revisited in future newsletters, on the website and at the Annual Meeting in July of 2017. Attendance of the 1967 organizers, directors and members will help ensure a grateful celebration of appreciation.



Restaurants of Three Lakes

By Jerry Schiedt

The residents and visitors in Three Lakes have a wide variety of eateries to choose from, be it breakfast, lunch, snacks or full course dinners. Many of those establishments realize the value of clean lakes and have been members of the Waterfront Association for years. We have decided to highlight those members here in the newsletter.

Sunset Grill is the only one where you can drive, boat or fly in for a great breakfast or lunch. With a beautiful view of Big Stone Lake, this is the perfect setting to relax with your friends and family. Bill and Karen, the owners, have supported our clean boats program from its inception 10 years ago and continue to help us in any way we need.

Cindy's, the purple building on the right coming into town, has been serving Three Lakes for 29 years. This is the gathering place for early risers and fishermen eager to get out on the chain for a day on the water. Ed and Cindy have been members for 10 years, and we appreciate their loyalty and their fine food. Any business in Three Lakes for 29 years must give great service and great food, and they do!

Oneida Village seems to be the hub of activity in downtown Three Lakes. Same owners for 38 years in a building built by Cy Williams, what could be more home town than that? Jackie has had a core of employees who have been dedicated to good food and great service over many years. The famous shrimp dinner has been served over 18,000 times and is still going strong. Sunday brunch, starting at 9:00 on Sunday morning, has been the start of great vacation weeks for over 30 years. "OV," as we call it, has a well-organized catering service for any occasion big or small.

3 Lakes Diner is owned by a dedicated businessman in downtown who strongly believes in Three Lakes and in healthy, fresh food. That is the hallmark of the diner across from White Deer Liquors and the Choo Choo store. Consistently fresh food sets this diner apart from diners we see in other small towns. We are fortunate to have this upscale diner, with reasonable pricing, right here in Three Lakes.

Crowley's **Irish Waters** is located just North of town on 45. This is a great pub set-up which has

GREAT pizza. They have other foods made to your liking but try their pizza first. Bob and Mary host our annual volunteer recognition party and we always have, you guessed it, Pizza. They have a great bar set-up and keep Guinness on tap. Very friendly staff, give it a try.

The Old Town Saloon and Eatery is new and is located next to the Drug Store. This little place is big on the inside, being newly remodeled by Randy Sankey after leaving his old location on 45 and Big Lake Loop Road. They still have the great Bloody Marys and a great salmon dish.

Speaking of Randy's old place on 45 south, that is soon to reopen as the **Tavern on the Loop**. It is being totally remodeled by veteran restaurateurs from Eagle River who operated the bar and restaurant at the golf course for the past 10 years. The interior is being expanded to have a quiet dining area while keeping the fun atmosphere of the pub. I can't wait till they open in late May.

Bonnie's Lakeside, on Spirit Lake, has served this community in every way possible for over 15 years. Bonnie and Ed have hosted the shootout participants, snowmobile competitive events, Santa's arrival, and now the hugely popular Polar Plunge for charity. Food is great, lawn is great and the view is perfect. Go there with your friends this summer.

The newly remodeled **Black Forrest** is the place to go for authentic German food, but it is certainly not limited to that. This beautifully decorated dining room is the perfect place to take friends and relatives visiting Three Lakes. The Blamey's have moved to our town simply to offer the best in fine dining, and we are happy they selected Three Lakes. Along with German fare, they offer tremendous hamburgers as well as steak and fish dinners. The bar is very welcoming as well as games for the kids set in an area which best suits the atmosphere in the dining room.

Subway is subway. If you haven't tried the Three Lakes Subway, you are missing a healthy, as you like it, breakfast, lunch or dinner. Service is personal and friendly and you pick from about 20 items made right in front of you. Plenty of seating and the service is speedy.



Don't forget the **Pine Isle** on Medicine Lake and **Mai Tiki Bar** on hwy 32 just past the airport on Big Stone Lake. More about these two great places in another edition.

Why Zoning?

The whine of chainsaws almost drowns out the deep rumble of the bulldozer. Your quiet, peaceful bay will be forever changed – your worst nightmare. The new neighbors are clearing their property, converting it to a lakeside tavern with a parking lot in the rear and a big lakeside deck for dancing and music. A big new dock and lots of lighting complete the picture...

CUT... STOP!

Don't worry – this can't happen in Wisconsin. We have zoning regulations that protect our properties against such intrusions.

Zoning ordinances are the set of regulations that control development density, lot sizes, building sizes, property line setbacks and more. Most important, they make sure that development is compatible with its surroundings. So, no taverns in the residentially zoned area on your peaceful bay. And no single-family homes in an industrial park.

For over a century Wisconsin has used zoning regulations. In 1933, Oneida County was the first county in the nation to adopt a comprehensive rural zoning ordinance. These ordinances protect not only private property rights but public property rights, as well. For over two centuries Wisconsin's lakes and rivers have been considered public property – they belong to all of us.

Zoning is a complex working balance between public and private rights. The same regulations that preclude your neighbor's tavern also limit, to some extent, what any one of us can do with our property. That includes special zoning in shoreland area to help keep our lakes and rivers healthy and beautiful.

In return for these limitations, we all benefit from high-quality water resources, and the economic growth and enhanced property values that go with them. Wisconsin's waters are fragile and irreplaceable – we all must do our part to preserve them. Shoreland zoning is designed to help us do that. It serves us extremely well.

***“WE DID NOT INHERIT THE LAND
FROM OUR FOREFATHERS – WE ARE
BORROWING IT FROM OUR
GRANDCHILDREN.”***

(Anonymous)

Wisconsin - 2016

Six years of debate, multiple public hearings and some 50,000 comments from citizens of all stripes led to a major revision of Wisconsin's shoreland zoning standards in 2010.

These rules, called NR115, set statewide minimum standards to safeguard the water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and scenic beauty of lakes and rivers. Included were provisions such as minimum lot sizes, building setbacks from the water's edge, and standards for amounts of impervious surfaces (such as roofs and driveways) that increase runoff.

Counties, meanwhile, could make their shoreland zoning rules more protective than the state standards if they saw fit; many counties had done so. Key management practices included controlling development density along the waters and creating natural buffer strips at the water's edge.

Then came the state budget process of 2015. In July, the Joint Finance Committee added a provision to the state budget bill forbidding counties from enacting zoning rules more restrictive than NR115. This provision, called Act 55, became law. The impacts are potentially profound:

- The law was added to the budget at the last minute, outside normal legislative channels, leaving no chance for public debate.
- Its one-size-fits-all regulation ignored vast difference in counties' lake and river resources.
- It erased local control of development on counties' shorelands.
- It forced counties that already had more protective zoning rules to abandon them in favor of state minimums – negating years of effort and overriding the wishes of local officials and citizens.
- It especially injures Northern Wisconsin counties, where lake and rivers are essential to quality of life and the backbone of a multi-million-dollar tourism economy.
- Lake protections such as vegetative buffers, minimum frontages and lot sizes, setbacks, runoff mitigation, shoreland lighting, and others are severely weakened.

Act 55 was an attack on local control and water-quality protection. It has the potential to do serious and lasting damage to the water resources Wisconsin residents hold dear.



The previous two articles on Zoning are a part of a series of articles sponsored by the Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association (www.OCLRA.org). For more information, contact Bob Martini at 715-282-5896 or email to oclrainfo@gmail.com.

Seasonal Residents Seeking Waterfront Homes



By Jon Willman

One of the most stunning seasonal residents to inhabit our chain of lakes is the American Wood Duck. Easily distinguished from other duck species, the male's iridescent plumage and vibrant red eyes are simply spectacular. Found only in the United States, Wood Ducks are one of our original settlers.

Wood Ducks have made a remarkable comeback to Wisconsin after years of habitat loss and market hunting throughout America. They are perching ducks and usually nest in tree cavities on shallow lakes, marshes or ponds. Thanks in part to the development of artificial nesting boxes, they are once again nesting in our area.

WDNR Conservation Warden Pat Novesky of Three Lakes is leading an effort to reestablish a Wood Duck population in our area. He's working with local groups and waterfront property owners to build and place nesting boxes on our shorelines. He's already got the good folks at Honey Rock involved – they are placing houses donated by Wisconsin Public Service on Long Lake as part of a wildlife course.

Sugar Camp Elementary School's Outdoors Club has teamed with Pat on a program to build and place houses on the Sugar Camp chain. Using salvaged wood, club members and volunteers build nesting houses as a group and the students take them home and erect them working with local shorefront property owners. The kids are even making custom placards for each house utilizing the Fab Lab at Three Lakes School. Students are also responsible for monitoring and maintaining their nesting houses throughout the year. "The enthusiasm these kids have demonstrated has been very gratifying. At this age, they love wild critters, building things and just being outdoors. It's a great learning experience for all of us" said Warden Pat.



Wisconsin Public Service is an active supporter of Wood Duck restoration efforts in Wisconsin. You can learn more and find plans to build your own nesting box at their website -

www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/environment/birdhouse_woodduck.aspx



Wood Ducks usually nest in tree cavities close to water. With suitable cavities in short supply, they will take advantage of nesting boxes placed several feet above the ground or water. The elevation provides some protection from predators.



Females line their nests with feathers or other soft materials and typically lay between 7 and 15 white-tan eggs. The eggs incubate for an average of 30 days. Just one or two days after hatching, wood ducklings must take a giant leap of faith. One-by-one, the ducklings actually jump from their nest to the ground below and make their way to water as **their mother calls to them**. Weighing less than one ounce, the fall doesn't harm the little ducklings.



Nesting boxes need to be checked and cleaned out periodically. Starlings often use the boxes - any nesting material or eggs should be removed.



WDNR Warden Pat Novesky and Linda Woiak place a new nesting box on the shoreline of Virgin Lake.

**Build your own Wood Duck Nesting Box
Join us at 10 AM, June 25th – Cy
Williams Park - Maple Lake Beach
Shelter**

Warden Pat Novesky and the Three Lakes Waterfront Association are planning to bring a Wood Duck Nesting Box program to the Three Lakes Chain. Scheduled for Saturday June 25th, all youngsters and their parents, grandparents and friends are invited to join us at Cy Williams Park to build Wood Duck nesting houses. All materials will be provided and everyone will go home with a nesting house ready to be placed on your shoreline. Refreshments will be served and attendees will learn more about Wood Ducks and the waters of the Three Lakes Chain. RSVP's are appreciated. For more information and reservations contact Warden Pat Novesky – patrick.Novesky@Wisconsin.gov or Jon Willman - fishnfly@newnorth.net

Buoys on the Chain

By Ed Cottingham



The boating/fishing season will soon be in full swing. The town shop is hard at work preparing the buoys for another season. The red and green buoys are navigational aids (channel markers) to keep boaters from hitting submerged objects. The "slow no wake" markers are regulatory, used to slow traffic in congested areas and protect shore lines on the chain from erosion.

Your Waterfront Association has partnered with the town to help finance the replacement of damaged buoys and add lighted cages so boating after dark remains safe. Additional buoys have been purchased to cordon off areas where Eurasian Water Milfoil has been identified, such as the Long Lake Channel and locations on Virgin Lake.

Here are a few buoy facts that might be of interest to you:

- There are 140 buoys on the Three Lakes Chain
- Cost per buoy is \$114
- Cost to light a buoy is \$240
- Average life of a buoy is 5 years (indefinite if boaters, mainly pontoon boats, do not run over them)
- Weight of a buoy is 68 lbs.
- Prep time in the Spring is 8 hours
- Installation time is 16 hours x 4 men = 64 man hours each Spring
- Removal time is 16 hours x 4 men = 64 man hours each Fall

A lot of time and expense goes into the placement of each buoy. A GPS unit is used to identify the position of each buoy, and then the paperwork is sent to the DNR for approval. Upon approval, buoys, lights, and light cages are purchased, lights are installed on the buoys and finally, the buoys are placed at the proper location.

The Waterfront Association has invested \$15,000 in buoys over the last four years to help provide safety on the chain and to prevent the spread of EWM.



It is important to remember, when someone thinks it is fun to damage a light cage with a club, steal the light, move a buoy out of position, or run over a buoy with a boat, we all pay in one way or another. Join us in our efforts to educate everyone who uses and enjoys the lakes as to the importance of each and every buoy. Props and lower units are expensive.

Scholarship



The Three Lakes Waterfront Association has gone a step further in their quest to support local students entering the water conservation field of study. We have had a scholarship program which offers a scholarship for one year to the most



qualified student entering the field of natural resources specializing in lakes and rivers. This year we have expanded this program to offer another one year scholarship for a student remaining in this field of study through two years and entering their junior year. This year we have awarded this scholarship to our long time intern in clean boats to Jenna Miles. Jenna has shown a tremendous loyalty to our program, and she is the perfect candidate for this new scholarship.