



Spring 2014



Presidents Forum

Winter or summer, the Waterfront Association board stays very busy. One of our top priorities is containing a small Eurasian Milfoil (EWM) infestation in Virgin Lake. I say contain,

because there has never been a complete elimination of a Eurasian Milfoil infestation in the State of Wisconsin - except where the entire lake was killed off. Only two things can happen with EWM on a chain like ours - contain the growth or have it spread. We cannot let it spread, so contain it we must. We have successfully contained the Long Lake EWM infestation discovered seven years ago and we will do the same in Virgin Lake. You will see our warning buoys on Virgin Lake marking the infested areas and we will place more buoys if needed. Please stay clear of the marked area as boat traffic can break up plants and spread Eurasian Milfoil.

We have a new addition to our spring and fall mailings. As you've probably noticed, we now include a directory of local businesses owned or operated by TLWA members. These hometown businesses share our commitment to clean water and they need our support - just as we need them to be there when we are in need of products or services. It's important to the entire community to spend our dollars locally when possible. Please check out the new directory - it might save you a trip to Rhinelander, leaving you and the family more time to enjoy our beautiful lakes.

Our annual meeting will be held Saturday July 5th at the Reiter Center. We'll start at 9:30, so come a little early and have a cup of coffee with some of your fellow members. The main topic will be proposed changes to lakefront zoning regulations. We will also hear from Town officials and an Oneida County AIS specialist on how the county stacks up against invasives and how the TLWA is doing. On that note we have one of our own nominated for the Invader Crusader volunteer of the year award for the State of Wisconsin. Bob Agen, our Clean Boats - Clean Water Director has been recognized for his tireless work keeping our landings manned and the public informed about the threat of AIS. Just being nominated is an honor - way to go Bob!

We have a number of navigation and informational buoys on our chain sorely in need of repair. Literally every fisherman and boater sees these buoys and we feel they should be a good reflection of our beautiful chain. To help the Town of Three Lakes upgrade the condition of the buoys, we have donated enough money this year to replace or repair about 25% of them. We have also embarked on a program to help upgrade all of them over the next four years.

Our membership is growing and we now number over 800. With that said, we still represent only half the lakefront property owners. If you have a neighbor who is not a member, please suggest that he or she join the TLWA. Thanks and read on!

Ed Jacobsen
President
715-617-0566

Staying Ahead of Eurasian Water Milfoil

By Norris Ross

The aggressive nature of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is well established and its economic, social and ecological impacts are well documented. We have written about the pros and cons of various strategies to stay ahead of the spread of EWM. It has and will continue to be the highest priority of the TLWA Board and volunteers.

The TLWA has been very aggressive in monitoring our waters for EWM and has responded immediately when it has been found. We have employed fairly aggressive chemical treatments to control larger outbreaks. (Fortunately, to date, we have only had two large areas on the Chain – Long and Virgin Lakes.) When we get larger infestations “knocked back” to small clusters, we plan to employ new cutting-edge control techniques.



Starting this spring, we will be working with a company that has been very effective in removing small colonies of EWM. They utilize a diver-assisted suction harvester (DASH.) This innovative, GPS controlled mechanical device is designed to “vacuum-up” all the small pieces of plants being hand pulled by experienced divers.



The vacuumed water goes up to a pontoon boat where it is double filtered and all pieces are captured before water is returned to the lake. The chances of small pieces of EWM escaping to establish new colonies is very small. We like to think of using this new technology as employing small Special Forces units rather than cruise missiles to keep small colonies of EWM under control. The benefit is we will use significantly less herbicide in our war against EWM - and that's good news for all of us and our lakes.



University of Wisconsin Researchers Conclude Aquatic Invasive Species Have Negative Effect on Lake Property Values

In a staff paper prepared by Eric J. Horsch and David J. Lewis for the University of Wisconsin – Madison Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, the pair studied the effects of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) on property values of over 170 lakes in the northern forest region of Wisconsin. The results indicated “lakes invaded with EWM experienced an average 13% decrease in land values after invasion.”*

The Three Lakes Waterfront Association is leading the fight against EWM and other aquatic invasive species on all the waters of greater Three Lakes. Your membership, support and involvement is vital to this effort. *Copyright © Eric J. Horsch & David J. Lewis



New Look For Invasive Area Buoys

TLWA has refurbished our existing buoy inventory to meet state standards. The buoys are used to mark EWM infestation areas. Thanks to Virgin Lake member Larry Ziebel, these buoys stand ready if needed for a rapid response. Larry is also responsible for developing a new DNR approval process which dramatically reduces the time required to get EWM areas marked. Let's hope we don't need to use these buoys anywhere on our beautiful chain of lakes.

TLWA Membership on the Rise

By Mike Freehill

Thanks to all TLWA members, old and new, for your ongoing generous support. 2013 has been an important year for strengthening membership. We launched several initiatives to renew long-time members who had lapsed, to non-member lake property owners and to the local businesses community. Our membership now stands at 812, representing 41% of all lake property owners.

- Renewals from active members were strong with more than 90% renewing - the non-renewals will likely be back with us for the start of summer.

- We welcomed back 66 members who lapsed in 2010, 2011 or 2012.

- We've added 133 first time members - all lake property owners.

- Our new Business membership has involved the local business community in support of our lakes.

| | Lake Property Owners | TLWA Members | Member Percentage |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Big Fork | 128 | 55 | 43% |
| Big Lake | 144 | 61 | 42% |
| Big Stone | 144 | 57 | 40% |
| Crystal | 33 | 9 | 27% |
| Deer | 145 | 46 | 32% |
| Dog | 63 | 17 | 27% |
| Four Mile | 23 | 10 | 43% |
| Island | 100 | 37 | 37% |
| Laurel | 114 | 47 | 41% |
| Little Fork | 80 | 41 | 51% |
| Long | 118 | 69 | 58% |
| Maple | 39 | 10 | 26% |
| Medicine | 93 | 40 | 43% |
| Moccasin | 25 | 4 | 16% |
| Planting Grnd | 229 | 106 | 46% |
| Range Line | 42 | 15 | 36% |
| Round | 38 | 19 | 50% |
| Spirit | 30 | 9 | 30% |
| Thoroughfare | 53 | 19 | 36% |
| Town Line | 60 | 29 | 48% |
| Virgin | 85 | 50 | 59% |
| Whitefish | 51 | 28 | 55% |
| Other Lakes | 163 | 34 | 21% |
| TOTAL | 2000 | 812 | 41% |



It's Turtle Crossing Season

Hidden throughout the rivers and wetlands of Wisconsin are 11 turtle species. From late May to early July, female turtles migrate to upland areas to nest. In too many instances, they have to cross roads to lay eggs in suitable habitat. In Oneida County, road mortality is a major cause of the decline in turtle populations. Traffic on our town roads causes a significant number of adult turtle deaths.

If you see a turtle crossing the road and would like to help, use extreme caution if the road has blind corners or traffic. Help the turtle cross by putting it on the side they were facing and walking toward.



Be careful, snapping turtles can bite – if you're not comfortable picking a snapper up, try using a stick for them to bite down on, then gently drag them across the road. If you do

pick up a turtle, especially a young turtle, wash your hands well after handling. Or better yet, carry a pair of gloves in the car.

The Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program encourages citizens to report where and when they see turtles. You can go online to record turtle crossing points (wiatri.net/inventory/WIturtles), or print out the online form (Road Crossing Mortality and Turtle Sighting Form) and mail it the DNR. You can also e-mail questions about the Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program to DNRHerptiles@wisconsin.gov

Clean Boats – Clean Waters

Volunteers Are First Line of Defense against Spread of Invasive Species

By Bob Agen

Many thanks to our great volunteers. 2014 marks our 10th year in the Clean Boats--Clean Waters program. Inspecting boats at our boat landings is a vital weapon in the war on invasives.



Our focus this year will be the three busiest landings on the Chain - Burnt Rollways Lift and landing, Town Line landing and the landing on Big Stone next to Sunset Grill.

Our two TLWA summer interns, Jena and Derek, will work 40 hours a week at Town Line landing and the Burnt Rollways lift. Our volunteers will staff the Big Stone landing.

Volunteering to inspect boats at a landing does not require a big time commitment - just a couple hours a week. You meet some very nice people while providing a vital service for our lakes. Plus, it's a great chance to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine of the beautiful Northwoods. When you're not inspecting a boat, you're free to catch up on your reading, maybe wet a line or just take in the peace and quiet.

Every volunteer hour generates much needed grant money for the TLWA. There will be a training class May 28th, 5 PM at the Reiter Center, covering the basics of working a landing.



Please consider becoming a Clean Boats--Clean Waters volunteer. We need additional volunteer hours on Sundays at Big Stone. Plus, with a few new volunteers we could also staff the popular Big Lake

landing on weekends. Or, if you live near any of the public landings on the chain and would like to work it, please give me a call at 715-546-3893.



2014 Clean Boats – Clean Waters Interns

TLWA has hired boat inspectors in the past, but 2013 marked the first time we looked to the youth of Three Lakes for help. We put out the word about our paid internship program at the high school and received 12 applications. We narrowed the field down to four candidates. They were all good kids, but two stood out and we hired them. We were fortunate they were both juniors and will be back with us this summer. Jena Miles will once again work the Burnt Rollways Lift and Derek Thorn will work the Town Line boat landing.

Jena was born and raised in Three Lakes. She will graduate this year and plans on attending Northland College majoring in Natural Resources. She has excelled in the classroom and is active in her church youth group. In high school she participated in basketball, cross country, track and is a member of the drama club. In her spare time Jena enjoys camping, hunting, running, kayaking and biking.

Derek is a Sugar Camp native and will graduate this year. He will attend the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point pursuing a major in Natural Resources. Derek has excelled in the classroom and is active in his church. He has played basketball and is a member of the golf team. Music has been a big part of his life and he enjoys hunting and fishing.

Jena and Derek have been great assets to our Clean Boats - Clean Waters program. We appreciate their dedication and enthusiasm. If you have occasion to visit the lift or Town Line ramp this summer, please give them a pat on the back for a job well done.

Adopt-A-Shoreline

Can You Spare Two Hours a Month to Protect Your Lake?

By Ed Martens

This year will be the 10th anniversary of our Adopt-A-Shoreline program. Last year, our 77 volunteers logged almost 400 hours of service. Over the past 9 years the program has continued to grow as we strive to monitor 100% of our lakes and shorelines. Together with our fellow members from the Clean Boats-Clean Waters program, we form the first line of defense against the expansion of invasives in our Three Lakes Chain.

For the Adopt-A-Shoreline Program to work most effectively, we rely heavily on Lake Captains. These individuals recruit volunteers on their respective lakes and assign specific shoreline areas (approximately ½ mile) to inspect. The inspection objective is early identification of any Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), in particular Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). Inspections typically take 1 to 2 hours and are performed during the months of June through September, preferably once per month. If suspect AIS is found, a sample is taken to Jokin' Joe's Bait shop. The sample is turned over to the DNR lab for analysis. If the sample is found to be an Aquatic Invasive Species, TLWA will quickly have the area professionally evaluated and a Rapid Response plan initiated.

We need Lake Captains for Moccasin, Range Line and Townline. If you own property on one of these lakes and are willing to help, please call me - Ed Martens at (715) 891-1135. You will be provided with training and materials to get started. If your lake already has a Captain and you would like to get involved, give your Captain a call and volunteer. Adopting a shoreline takes just an hour or two a month – and it's a great learning experience for kids and grandkids.

Thanks for your help in the past and continuing support this year. The more shoreline monitors get involved, the better chance we have for early detection of Aquatic Invasive Species.

Volunteer hours and information collected while monitoring shorelines are reported to the DNR. A detailed record of volunteer hours is vital to obtaining matching grant funds from the State. These matching grants help us fund programs to protect our lakes.

2014 Lake Captains

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Big Fork | Maryanne Anderson-Stoll | 715-546-3618 |
| Big | Ed Cottingham | 715-546-4298 |
| Big Stone | Eric Wick | 715-546-3587 |
| Deer | Dale Hitchcock | 715-546-4386 |
| Dog | Bob Jacobs | 262-894-8977 |
| Four Mile | Bob Pfeffer | 715-546-2697 |
| Island & Rnd | Rob McGrane | 715-546-3913 |
| Laurel | Mike Shay | 847-687-1314 |
| Little Fork | Bob Lee | 715-546-3674 |
| Long | Jack Werner | 715-479-9094 |
| Maple | Jim Skelton | 715-546-3921 |
| Medicine | Bruce Renquist | 715-546-2401 |
| Moccasin | Open | |
| Planting Grnd | Norris Ross | 715-546-2250 |
| Range Line | Open | |
| Spirit | John & Cindy Lake | 715-546-2117 |
| Townline | Open | |
| Virgin | Bob Borek | 715-546-3457 |
| Whitefish | Ron Friedle | 715-546-3031 |

Please Patronize Our Local Business Members

The merchants, professionals and tradesmen listed in the TLWA Local Business Directory share our commitment to clean water and protecting our quality of life in the Northwoods. They deserve our support.

Remember To Shop Three Lakes First!



Helping the TLWA Protect Our Lakes

By Norris Ross

Since 2009, TLWA has been working on a comprehensive lake management plan for the Three Lakes Chain and each individual lake within the Chain. To date 12 lake plans have been completed with three more scheduled for completion this summer and seven more in the next few years. Our partners in this huge undertaking include - the Town of Three Lakes, the Wisconsin DNR, many volunteers and our professional lake experts, Onterra LLC.



Onterra has been retained as our consultants since the beginning of the lake management project. They are a professional limnology company

specializing in the lakes of northern Wisconsin. Over the past five years, they have provided us with the information and guidance necessary to produce lake management plans that are both realistic and environmentally sound - based upon a foundation of science and objectivity. They report only to the TLWA Board and are paid by TLWA. They are not affiliated with the DNR or any other governmental group. In addition to planning, their teams collect field data, conduct plant inventories, consult in grant writing, present findings at our lake seminars, write preliminary and final report drafts, and do complete watershed and water quality analysis.



Onterra is a trusted partner of the TLWA and is as dedicated to the waters of Three Lakes as we are. Our working relationship with their team has been outstanding. When you see them out collecting samples on your lake, please say hello!



Yellow Iris and Purple Loosestrife are colorful interlopers on the shorelines of the Three Lakes Chain. Left unchecked, this pair of lovelies will strangle our native vegetation. If you find it on your property, TLWA can help. Please contact your lake captain or any board member.

Innovative Method of Controlling Purple Loosestrife Infestations

By Michele Sadauskas
Oneida County AIS Coordinator

If Purple Loosestrife is an invader in your area, then



raising Galerucella beetles might be just what the doctor ordered! The Oneida County AIS team raises these beetles to help manage medium to large stands of Purple Loosestrife. The goal is to have enough beetles living on and consuming the plant so flowering and overall growth is

stunted. The beetle spends its entire life cycle on Purple Loosestrife, so no need to worry about them causing harm to native vegetation. If you are interested in raising beetles please contact me at msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us or visit www.oneidacountyais.com to find out more about the project.

Comprehensive Lake Management Planning Status

| Lake | Plan Status | Invasive Species Notes | Issues / Possible Studies | Notes |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Long | Final report complete. Review plan and fieldwork 2017. | EWM - In channel to Burnt Rollways; continual monitoring and treatment | Last lake in flow pattern. Phosphorus and sediment load monitoring needed. | Honey Rock Camp a key steward in future planning. |
| Virgin | Final report complete. | EWM - continual monitoring and treatment | Education of lake residents - a continual priority | |
| Whitefish | Final report complete. | | | |
| Thoroughfare* | Final report complete. | | | |
| Big | Final report complete. | Purple Loosestrife (GPS and pulled by Onterra staff) | Monitor any return of purple loosestrife. Investigate sources of phosphorus and nutrients related to blue-green algae blooms. | |
| Dog | Final report complete. | | | Large quantity of horsetail found on East lake shore. |
| Crystal (Mud) | Final report complete. | | Elevated nutrient levels in lake. Need to identify nutrient inputs into lake and further study lake chemistry. | |
| Deer | Final report complete. | | | |
| Big Stone | Final report complete. | Purple Loosestrife (Hwy 32/Wetland SE Corner) | Large infestation in private bay. Pulling not possible. Loosestrife beetle release project should be considered. | |
| Laurel | Final report complete. | Purple Loosestrife (mapped) | Hand pulling should be done. | Act 31 Report especially significant |
| Four Mile | Final report complete. | Pale Yellow Iris (mapped) | Control/remove when possible. | |
| Big Fork | Final report complete. | Pale Yellow Iris (mapped) | Control/remove when possible. | |
| Moccasin*, Spirit & Maple* | Preliminary reports summer 2014. LMP meeting summer 2014. (Dates to be determined.) | | | |
| Little Fork & Medicine | Collect field data 2014. | | | |
| Round, Island & Townline | Collect field data 2015. | | | |
| Planting Ground & Rangeline | Collect field data 2016. | | | |

New TLWA Reference Area Planned For Demmer Library

Keep an eye out for a new TLWA reference area to be located in the Northwoods Reading Room of the Demmer Library. The TLWA Education Committee is working with library staff to develop this comprehensive reference section featuring books, periodicals and newsletters relating to lakes, watersheds and streams. In addition, specific reports such as Lake Management Plans developed by the TLWA will be available for review. The new area will also house information on fish, invertebrates, and aquatic vegetation found in our local waters plus the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians that depend on them.



TLWA Education Committee members and Demmer Library staff discuss plans for the new reference section. Left to right are Paul Matthiae, Demmer Assistant Director Nancy Brewster, Doug Scheffen, Norris Ross and Janet Dixon, Director of the Demmer Library.



Share Your Loon Sightings

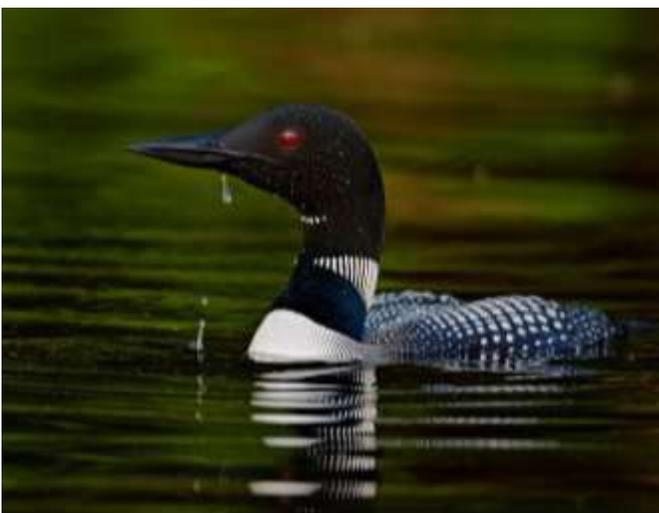
Few sounds stir the soul like the mournful cry of a loon on a quiet Northwoods morning. The Three Lakes Chain is blessed with an abundance of Common Loons. It's a sure sign of spring when our black and white friends return from their southern sojourns. If you enjoy watching these spectacular birds, share your sightings and thoughts with us. And if you're a photographer, share your prize loon photos by e-mailing them to our webmaster - PaulWussow@WindyPines.net. We'll post your sightings and photos on the TLWA website for all the world to see.

LoonWatch

If you're a serious loon watcher and would like to participate in the annual LoonWatch program sponsored by Northland College in Ashland, visit their website <http://www.northland.edu/lake-monitoring-program.htm>

For the past 35 years, LoonWatch has engaged an active volunteer network of "Loon Rangers" as its primary tool to collect critical long-term data on loons in Northern Wisconsin. Working as population monitors and environmental educators, these volunteers have been the field force that has provided the Institute and WI DNR with data, and contributed to environmental awareness.

Throughout the summer, Loon Rangers watch loons on a lake where they live, vacation, or visit often. They record when loons arrive, if they nested, how many chicks were produced, and any potential threats to the nest site. In fall, data is sent to LoonWatch where it is entered into the DNR's SWIMS database and available for management decision-making.



DNR Conducting Fish Studies on Three Lakes Chain

Shortly after ice out, a small flotilla from the Wisconsin DNR will begin a two phase fish population study on the Three Lakes Chain. Five crews will begin Fyke netting (large trap-style nets) along shore lines in walleye spawning areas. All game fish captured will receive a clip on one of their fins. The fin will grow back, but the mark will still be visible. Netting will continue until a sufficient number of walleyes are marked.



The Fyke netting study is followed immediately by two nights of electrofishing along the same shorelines. Electrofishing uses an electrical field in the water to temporarily stun fish, allowing them to be netted, studied and later released.



Fish marked in the Fyke nets provide a known number of marked walleyes in the lake. Combined with the electrofishing study, the ratio of marked to unmarked fish will be

used to estimate populations. As the water warms, the surveys continue to gather data on northerns, musky and bass. Additional electrofishing studies will be done in the fall targeting young walleyes to help assess reproduction over the year.

Rangeline, Townline, Spirit, Moccasin, Crystal, Whitefish and Virgin lakes will not be studied

The second phase of the study is a nine-month "creel" survey conducted by six DNR clerks beginning in May and running through next March. They will be on the water interviewing anglers and recording information on harvested fish.

The data is used to help determine fishery management strategies. Walleye harvest numbers are critical to assure the total number of adult walleyes, after tribal spearing harvest is added, does not exceed a safe level of 35%.

The final report will not be available until 2015. In the meantime, feel free to talk with DNR staff working the lakes. They'll be glad to update you on what they're seeing. You can view results of the 2007 Three Lakes chain study by visiting - <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/reports/>

DNR Seeks Docks to Keep Creel Study Boats

The DNR is looking for lake property owners who would consent to having one of the Creel Study boats tied-up at their dock for the season. The Creel clerks would use the boat daily, coming and going at different times of day. If you are interested in participating, contact Joelle Underwood, DNR Fisheries – 715-356-5211 or Joelle.Underwood@wisconsin.gov

A Very Surprising Statistic

By Pat Novesky

Every year the DNR compiles a summary of boating accidents in the state of Wisconsin. If you read the summary, you'll find a surprising statistic - **55% of the people killed in boating accidents were male, 40 years of age or older.** They died while fishing because they either fell from the boat, or the boat capsized and they drowned because they were not wearing a life jacket.

There's a simple way to prevent unnecessary tragedies and ensure the family will still enjoy fish dinners for years to come. If you are a spouse or family member of a fisherman with some gray hair (or no hair) on their head, remind them to wear a life jacket. Or better yet, give them an inflatable PFD that is comfortable and will inflate automatically if they end up in the water. It's a perfect gift for the guy who has everything.



Remember, a life jacket can't save anyone if it's not worn!

Conservation Warden Pat Novesky makes his home in Three Lakes. He can be reached at – 715-365-8948 - 1-800-TIP-WDNR Patrick.Novesky@Wisconsin.gov

No locks needed; Eagle River device lifts boats to the next level

By Meg Jones of the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel - Sept. 9, 2013



Mark Hoffman photos

Fritz Schwartz operates the hoist at the Burnt Rollways Boat Hoist to transport a boat from the upper Three Lakes to the lower Eagle River Chain.

Burnt Rollways Boat Hoist connects two large lake chains

Eagle River — Frank Greb's right index finger is powerful. All it takes is a flick of his digit and Greb moves pontoon boats, runabouts, Jet Skis, super-fast water ski boats and classy wooden Chris Crafts, lifting them high in the air and setting them gently into cool iced-tea-colored water. The 80-year-old retired Bucyrus Erie construction engineer from South Milwaukee admits his job is really simple. The Burnt Rollways Boat Hoist operators who move boats between the Eagle River Chain of Lakes and the Three Lakes Chain — a difference in elevation of about 8 feet — have been performing this service for more than a century.

The boat hoist uses an electric gantry system that runs on a 165-foot-long trestle way — the only such device moving boats in Wisconsin waterways and most likely the United States. Normally, locks and dams are used to traverse different elevations.

Standing in the small operator's cab trailing electrical cables, Greb inserts the key and gets to work, pushing a small black lever. "It's simple. You push left and it goes left," Greb said. "You push right and it goes right. That's why they have old people doing it."

Most of his customers paying the \$5 one-way trip are tourists, folks who rent pontoons or fishing boats by the day or week to explore the Eagle River-Three Lakes chain — a series of 29 lakes that is the largest freshwater chain in the world. If any boaters wanted to make the trek, they could travel from here to the Gulf of Mexico because it connects to the Wisconsin River, which flows into the Mississippi.

The Three Lakes Chain of 20 lakes encompasses 106 miles of shoreline with a combined surface area of more than 7,600 acres, while the Eagle River Chain of nine lakes offers 68 miles of shoreline and almost 4,000 acres. To get across the Burnt Rollways Dam, the gantry hoist is available every day during the summer and most days during May and September. Canoeists and kayakers are on their own — they have to make a short portage between the two chains.

"I always say it's one of the better kept secrets in Wisconsin," Greb said.

In the 1800's the lakes were used by loggers moving big stands of timber cut throughout Wisconsin's North Woods. Lumberjacks cut and stacked timber on a device called a rollway, which in the spring was rolled into water swollen by melting snow to float downstream to sawmills. One year a group of lumberjacks got stiffed by someone who hired them to cut his timber and stack it on a rollway next to Nine Mile Creek. When they didn't get paid, they burned his logs figuring if they weren't getting their money, neither would the timber owner. The charred rollway is reportedly still submerged in the creek about a mile upstream from the boat hoist — and lives on in the Burnt Rollways moniker.

The first dam was built in the 1800s, when dams were being constructed throughout the Wisconsin River Watershed to raise water levels for logging, said Ben Niffenegger, environmental specialist for Wisconsin Valley Improvement Co.



Bob Wylie was hired as a civil engineer for the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Co. in 1947. Locks were considered, but the electric gantry boat hoist was ultimately chosen because it was much cheaper, Wylie said. Inspired by gantry cranes used at shipyards, Wylie devised the current system in 1952 using hoisting mechanisms from winches cannibalized from surplus military 2 ½ - ton trucks. "We bought them and converted them as our cable drums — remounting them differently with a motor for each one — and improved the braking system," Wylie, 89, said in a phone interview from his home in Wausau. "One of the bigger problems was the speed. We didn't want anything too fast or too slow, something that would travel slowly on the rails but not take all day to get across."

The Burnt Rollways Boat Hoist is operated from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. by Greb, who works the weekends, and two other hoist operators the rest of the week. During their shifts they stay in a nearby house with a big picture window so they can see when boaters motor up. Some days boats are backed up waiting to get through and some days only a couple of boaters use the hoist. Hoist operators can spend their shifts however they want but must be available to operate the hoist when boats show up. When he's not operating the hoist, Greb reads Tom Clancy and W.E.B. Griffin novels on his iPad and listens to Packers and Brewers games on a radio while eating a sack lunch he brings from home. "They said I can fish, but you know as soon as you get a bite a boat will come," Greb said.



On a recent sunny afternoon, Greb helped Leo Seidl and his family move their rented pontoon from the Three Lakes Chain to the Eagle River Chain. Seidl, his wife and son had cruised through late that morning from Eagle River, traversed the Three Lakes Chain, ate lunch and headed back.

"We come once a year to cruise through the chain. It gives us a chance to see some scenery," said Leo Seidl, of Hartland. His son Tony Seidl used a pole to push the pontoon onto the submerged straps and then snapped photos with his Samsung Droid phone as Greb hoisted the boat into the air and across a road, stopping to check the hull and motor for invasive species. "It's pretty cool," said Tony Seidl, who posted pictures of the Burnt Rollways hoist on Facebook. "You tell people you took a boat over the dam and they always ask how?" On the Eagle River Chain side, Leo and Tony Seidl used poles to push the pontoon out of the hoist, and then clambered aboard. As they slowly moved off on their journey, Greb waved and said: "Bye. Have a good day."



Burnt Rollways Boat Hoist closes for the season after the last Sunday of September. For more information visit - www.wvic.com

Revised Flood Plain Maps Causing Costly Surprises for Some Lake Property Owners

TLWA member and past board member Denise Goldsworthy is a Realtor with more than 11 years of experience selling lake property. She prides herself on attention to detail. This spring, on the day of closing a sale on a lake front home, she was informed by the buyer's bank that the property was located in a flood plain and they would require flood insurance before they would lend money on the property. Anyone who has purchased a home knows surprises on the day of closing are never welcomed and usually expensive.

Denise brought her recent experience to the TLWA board to help our members be better informed and prepared if they are getting ready to sell their homes. "FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) revised the flood plain maps



in May of 2013. As a result many shorelines on the Three Lakes chain now fall into the flood plain." Goldsworthy pointed out. "All banks lending on lake front property with even a small area in the flood plain, now require insurance to protect the entire asset. And, not just new purchases – banks are reviewing their existing loan portfolios and requiring flood insurance on current mortgages as well."



Typically an appraisal alerts all parties to flood plain issues and the information is disclosed to potential buyers and their banks.

However, the new maps combined with more stringent lending policies have created a good deal of confusion. Banks now hire one of a handful of companies that specialize in flood plain review and their decisions are final. Local real estate appraisers now have access to the same mapping software these specialized companies use, helping alert realtors and property owners to flood plain issues well in advance of closing day. However, the company hired by the bank still provides the final determination.

The only recourse a Three Lakes chain property owner has when included in the revised flood plain, is to hire a licensed surveyor to produce an Elevation Certificate and submit a request to change the official flood plain map with FEMA. If successful, changing the flood plain map designation from Zone A, which is the most expensive to insure, to Zone X which in effect removes the requirement for flood insurance is both time consuming and costly. The cost is in excess of \$650 and the entire process can take anywhere from 45 days to a year. In the case of Denise's aforementioned client, they were able to have a surveyor prepare the appropriate paperwork, submit it to FEMA and the map was changed removing the flood insurance requirement. The sale closed and everyone lived happily ever after, but not before a significant delay and additional cost to the parties involved.



Water levels on the Three Lakes Chain are controlled, making

serious flooding a remote possibility. However, that fact has no effect on FEMA and their maps. With a little patience and some computer skills, you can access the new flood plain maps from Oneida County – <http://ocgis.co.oneida.wi.us/oneida> or the FEMA Map Service Center – <https://msc.fema.gov>. Or, if you are considering selling your property, a local realtor should be able to provide information on any flood plain issues you may be facing.



Our thanks to Denise Goldsworthy for bringing this important issue to our attention and sharing her considerable insights. Denise can be reached at 715-891-0921 or DGoldsworthy@Remax.net.

Three Lakes Waterfront Association Annual Meeting July 5, 2014

Reiter Center
1858 South Michigan Street
Three Lakes, WI
Doors open 9:00AM – Meeting starts 9:30AM
Everyone is welcome

Regulation of Water Levels in the Three Lakes Chain

By Norris Ross

The Three Lakes Chain is actually operated as a reservoir to help control our lake water levels and supply water to the Wisconsin River. Water volume is controlled by the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC). WVIC is privately owned and financed, and is publicly chartered and regulated to steward one of our state's greatest resources, the Wisconsin River. Originally the WVIC was only concerned with industry, however over the years it has evolved to respond to the needs of lake shore property owners, the tourist industry and our northern forest heritage and wildlife. The WVIC dates back to pioneer days and has been dealing with the complexities of multi-use management for many years.



Burnt Rollways Dam viewed from the Eagle River side

The basic operating plan for the Burnt Rollways Dam is to lower the Three Lakes Chain water level over the winter season, starting in late October and ending in early March. The extent of the "draw-down" is about 2.5 feet. This is done to augment the flow of the Wisconsin River over winter and provide storage capacity in our lakes for spring run-off. When the snow begins to melt, WVIC closes the gate at the Burnt Rollways dam to the minimum allowable opening (one inch) and lets the Chain refill to summer target level. In a normal spring, the Chain reaches the summer target level by late April or early May. During the summer recreation season, the gate at the Burnt Rollways Dam is operated to keep the lake levels at the summer target range. Then in late fall, the cycle starts all over again.

WVIC monitors many winter and summer factors to keep the Chain at a relatively constant level. Long-term droughts, as we have witnessed in recent

years (2003 – 2009 especially) greatly affect the available water. Snow pack, melting rates, temperatures and other watershed data are all monitored by the WVIC staff in making draw-down and fill-up decisions.



The Otter Rapids Dam has been controlling the Eagle River Chain of Lakes water level since 1908.

The Eagle River Chain of lakes is controlled by the Otter Rapids Hydroelectric Dam which feeds the Wisconsin River. Hydroelectric dams are operated differently from reservoir dams like our Burnt Rollways Dam. They are operated to maintain a constant lake water level year round. By this I mean the water flow through the Otter Rapids Dam is regulated to match the amount of water entering the Chain – this policy assures consistent levels on the Eagle chain. **Water is not taken from the Three Lakes Chain to fill the Eagle River Chain. Any water entering the Eagle River Chain from the Three Lakes Chain is released over the Otter Rapids Dam.**



Otter Rapids dam today

For more information on the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company and its role in managing lake water levels, visit their website – www.WVIC.com.



Town of Three Lakes Update

By Stella Westfall – Town Chair

On behalf of the Town of Three Lakes, I would like to thank the TLWA for your commitment to our lakes and water.

Currently we are dealing with several issues of particular interest to association members including the Blue Ribbon Bridge and the Maple and Thunder lake dams. The Town will continue to monitor the Blue Ribbon Bridge - a third underwater inspection is planned for September.

We have been working with the DNR on plans and repairs to both Thunder and Maple Lake dams. We have contracted with MSA Professional Services to engineer and submit Inspection, Operation & Maintenance Plans plus Interim Emergency Action Plans and a Dam Failure Analysis for Maple Lake. We are working with MSA and Oneida County to review water elevations and property lines on Thunder Lake to help determine if the dam can meet its authorized operating elevation. And if necessary, they will submit permit applications for construction and long term rehabilitation of the dam.

The Town Board along with our Natural Cultural Resource Committee are committed to increasing public awareness and educating our town personnel in identifying and eradicating terrestrial invasive plant species along roadsides and lakes.



Looking forward, we are developing a Three Lakes Community Development Foundation to provide a framework for continued support of our community for generations to come. We are always looking for input and

suggestions - if you would like to be involved, please contact me personally at 715-546-4100 for additional information.

A special thank you goes out to TLWA Vice President Norris Ross for all the time and effort put into securing hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant monies to fight AIS in our lakes. We support the TLWA and appreciate all the hard work and generous donations over the years.

Have a healthy, wonderful summer!

Bob Agen Nominated for Invader Crusader Award

TLWA Clean Boats - Clean Waters Director Bob Agan has been nominated for the 2014 Invader Crusader Award sponsored by the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council. The award honors Wisconsin citizens and organizations – both volunteer and professional - for their contributions to the prevention, management, education, or research of invasive species that harm state's land and waters.



Bob has been a Clean Boats - Clean Water volunteer for the past 5 years and has directed our program for the past two years. As director, Bob has enlisted the help of 61

volunteers donating 1,153 hours and supervised four paid interns working 1,288 hours. He and his teams are responsible for inspecting almost 4,000 boats and interacting with more than 10,000 boaters. Bob makes weekly visits to all 14 boat landings on the chain making sure our AIS information kiosks are current and presentable. He truly exemplifies the spirit of an Invader Crusader. The awards will be presented at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison on June 5th. We thank Bob for his dedication and wish him well.

For timely information on important issues affecting our lakes and waterfront property, visit the TLWA website at:
www.TLWA.org

TLWA Donates to Town of Three Lakes Buoy Program

The Three Lakes Waterfront Association recognizes the importance of navigation and informative buoys on our chain of lakes. The buoys are a reflection of the quality of our community and relied on by literally every fisherman and boater.

Many of the buoys have been damaged and the Town does not have the budget for repair or replacement. With this in mind, the TLWA board has decided to help the Town of Three Lakes keep these buoys presentable and functional.

The association has made a donation of \$6,000 this year to repair and replace the buoys most in need of attention. Beginning next year, the TLWA will donate an amount to the buoy program which doubles the amount the Town of Three Lakes specifies as a line item in their annual budget for buoy replacement and repair.

The Association will donate up to \$4,000 per year. If the Town budgets \$2,000 next year, the total combined funds available for buoy replacement will be \$6,000. Working together, the Town and Association could upgrade every buoy on the chain in just four years. We believe the buoys are vital to the enjoyment and safety of our residents and visitors.



Representatives of community groups came together to support the Town of Three Lakes buoy repair and replacement program. Standing left to right are Ed Cottingham, Three Lakes Waterfront Association, Dave Siemaikowski, Town of Three Lakes Shop Foreman, Chris Blicharz, Three Lakes Fish & Wildlife Improvement Association and Mark Kirby, Three Lakes Nicolet ATV Club. Absent was Carl Spittlemeister, Three Lakes Steel.

to protect our lakes.

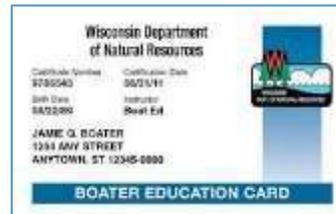
Three Lakes Police Department Updates

[New Life Jacket Loaner Station at Townline Lake landing](#)



The Department has received a grant from the Sea Tow Foundation to construct a PFD Loaner Station at the Townline boat ramp. If a boat owner arrives at the ramp and realizes they do not have enough, or the right size PFD, there will be an assortment at the landing for loan. Simply return the jacket(s) at the end of the day. If a life jacket is damaged or the station is empty, simply call the Police Department and replacements will be provided. Life jackets significantly decrease boating fatalities – when they are worn.

[DNR Approved Boating Safety Class to be Held July 7th & 8th](#)



The Department will hold a DNR approved boating safety course at the Three Lakes Town Hall July 7th & 8th. Anyone born after January 1, 1989 is required to complete an approved course prior to operating a boat in the State of Wisconsin. Contact the Department for more information. Registration is required. Cost of the course is \$10.

[VanNatta Leads Water Patrol](#)



Officer Brandon VanNatta, a three year veteran of the Water Patrol, will be conducting a majority of the marine patrol duty this summer. Brandon holds a First Responder emergency medical certification and is a Level 1 Crash Investigator. If you have any questions about boating rules of the road or regulations, don't hesitate to wave him down or call the Three Lakes Police Department non-emergency number – 715-546-2211 and ask to be connected to the Marine Patrol. He's out there to help keep us all safe - and he just might know where the big ones are biting.



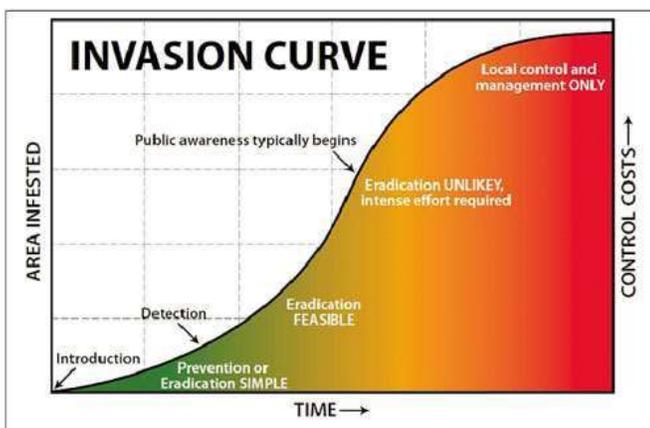
2014 Leadership Directory

Board of Directors

Bob Agen
 Ed Cottingham
 Mike Freehill
 Ed Jacobsen – President
 Fred Knoch
 Ed Martens
 Paul Matthiae - Secretary
 Norris Ross – Vice President
 Doug Scheffen
 Jerry Schiedt
 Sandy Schlaefer
 Stan Wargolet - Treasurer
 Jon Willman
 Paul Wussow

Program Leaders

| | |
|---|--|
| Adopt-A-Shoreline | Ed Martens |
| Clean Boats – Clean Waters Education | Bob Agen Paul Matthiae Doug Scheffen |
| Lake Management Planning | Ed Cottingham Norris Ross |
| Marketing-PR-Newsletter | Jon Willman |
| Membership | Mike Freehill |
| OCLRA | Norris Ross |
| Scholarship | Jerry Schiedt |
| Shoreline Zoning | Norris Ross |
| Terrestrial Species | Paul Matthiae Jerry Schiedt |
| Water Safety Website | Ed Cottingham Paul Wussow |



A Dollar Spent on AIS Education and Prevention Today is Worth Thousands Tomorrow.

Thanks For Your Support.