



Making Waves: Spring 2020

THREE LAKES WATERFRONT
ASSOCIATION

LAKE STEWARDS SINCE 1967

President's Forum

by Fred Knoch



With the Spring thaw looming in Northern Wisconsin, I look back on the past

Winter and wonder, was this Winter representative of Winters to come ? It started early with ice-on about November 12th on Long Lake, which was about two weeks earlier than usual. This was then followed by major snow systems which resulted in more snow into January than even last year, which was a record snowfall. Snowmobilers, skiers, ice fishermen, and Winter sports enthusiasts were in heaven. Then the strangeness started, fewer below zero days, warmer days in general, and not much snow in January or February. This

resulted in quirky ice conditions, reduced snowmobile trails across lakes, no ice castle, no Pond Hockey on Dollar Lake (held at the Derby Track), and general grumbling about the weather. Now as I write this forum in the first week of March, we have had snow melting days above 32, and the next week continues with temperatures into the 40s. Early Spring mud ! Enough talk of the weather, now onto the TLWA and what it has accomplished over the Winter.

Unfortunately, the weather did have a detrimental effect on the performance of the mission of the TLWA. In a response by members of the Association, we have recruited four volunteers who have allowed fish sticks to be placed on their shorelines for the purpose of improvement of the fishery. We

have obtained DNR permits for the placements, and have partnered with the Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Improvement Association for the heavy lifting required for the placement. Unfortunately, the plan to place the trees on the shorelines in Winter is predicated on having good ice conditions to support heavy machinery. As the ice didn't comply, we are looking into Summer placement using barges. We hope this will happen, or we will be looking again next year for good ice. Thanks to Gerald Oehmen for coordinating the effort !

There is Good news on many fronts for the TLWA. The Association has been successful in the recruitment of two talented individuals to become members of the Board of

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 Directors. They are John Ray, who lives on Medicine Lake, and Steve Laszewski, who is a seasonal resident on Big Lake. I urge you to read the bios of both new Directors in this Newsletter. With these two additions, the Board of Directors is now at full strength with 15 members. This is the first time in my involvement on the Board that this has happened, and speaks to the volunteer spirit of our members, upon which we so heavily rely.

The Association has again been successful in procuring grants from the WDNR for the support of our many programs. We have been awarded grant monies earmarked to the CB/CW effort and the Interns who we hire for monitoring our many boat landings. We have been awarded a Surface Water Grant which will be used to support many AIS remediation efforts including the beetle raising for controlling



The Sakaogon Chippewa Community-Mole Lake Band awarded the Three Lakes Waterfront Association \$5,000 in support of its Clean Boats/Clean Waters program, and specifically for the I-LIDS camera to be placed at the Town Line landing. Taking part in the presentation were, from left, Tribal Chairman Garland McGeshick, Tribal Secretary Vickie Ackley and Waterfront Association President Fred Knoch.
 —Contributed Photo by Kerry Griebenow

Purple Loosestrife, Pale Yellow Iris control, dive team support for the hand pulling of EWM, and placement of an I-LIDS camera at

the Townline Landing to augment Intern and volunteer efforts to monitor boats for AIS and educate the boating public on matters regarding AIS. Also, it will fund Phase I of a study project aimed at reevaluating the entire Three Lakes Chain of Lakes by Onterra, L.L.C. In 2020 the lower end of the Chain will be studied including Virgin, Whitefish, and Big Lakes, along with the Thoroughfare. Additionally, we have received an award from the Sakaogon Chippewa Community in Mole Lake to support the CB/CW and the I-LIDS programs. The TLWA has found partners with like minded interests concerning the mission of study, protection, and preservation of the waters we all enjoy. Thanks to Norris Ross for his herculean efforts in grant writing/application.

Our annual meeting on 2 July this year will feature two outstanding speakers. Michele Sadauskas,

County Conservationist, will inform us of new grant opportunities for riparian owners who wish to apply for shoreline restoration projects. Her office has received new grant monies which will be used for assisting individual shoreline property owners through the entire process. She has spoken before on other conservation topics, but this is vital new information which dovetails nicely with our mission ideals. The keynote speaker will be

John Bates, noted naturalist and author. He will speak on the topic "Stewardship of Lakes and Rivers." I have read examples of

his literary skill, and he has spoken in many varied venues. I am very excited about his presence, as he is a highly sought after speaker.

I would like to personally acknowledge all of the devoted Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) volunteers who give their time and scientific curiosity to the gathering of water quality data for the WDNR. If any readers would like to become involved in this important endeavor, feel free to contact your lake captain. I, of course, am a volunteer, along with my grandchildren on Big Fork. Also, I would be remiss if I did not mention the work of the Adopt a Shoreline volunteers who are ever vigilant for AIS within their survey areas. This year Bruce Renquist is initiating a new twist on the program with the addition of Adopt YOUR Shoreline. You will soon be hearing more of this in the coming months. This new concept is the brainchild of Jack Werner, a former Board of Directors member, and promises to be an all inclusive addition to the AAS program. Interesting, all of this talk of water gets me thinking of ice-off and liquid water, so with that thought in mind, I will see you On the Water!

P.S.
 As time has gone on since I wrote the President's Forum, events have occurred. The ice has finally complied and we were successful in placing two groups of fish sticks on volunteer shorelines on the 21st of March. With luck, we will place two more the next weekend. I will refer you to Gerald Oehmen's article for specifics.

TLWA Board Members – Old and New

Board Won't Be the Same by Ed Jacobsen

When I became president many years ago, I was faced with some empty board positions which needed to be filled. I was not familiar with one name suggested, but with caution. The suggested proposed board filler was known to be a contrarian who likes to argue over almost everything. This intrigued me, so I contacted this guy. His reply was no. I liked the way he said "NO", so I pursued this challenge until Ed Cottingham said "I'll give it a try". Ha ha, I won! One of the best moves I made as a newbie president.



I soon found the advice I had received about Ed to be true, he argued almost every initiative we proposed. His opposition soon became expected, but also welcomed. As Ed saw the flaws in our proposals, we refined them to a place where they became much more effective.

I remember the "Signs for Safety" program whereby the TLWA volunteers would place numbered signs on lakefront property. Police would then be able to identify where an incident took place when street signs were not visible. Ed thought this was a "stupid" idea, so we kicked it around until we all agreed that it just might work. After we all agreed on this program, Ed took it upon himself to install all the signs himself. That was

the way he worked. He did the same on the membership plaques. He not only served as the volunteer who placed about half the plaques for our members, he, also, made all the plaques himself. By the way, he was right on the "signs for safety" program, it flopped.

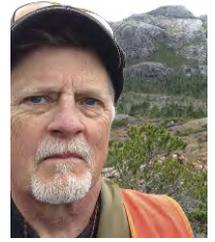
The TLWA board proposed that we donate \$24,000 to the Town over 5 years to upgrade all the directional buoys on our chain. This meant new buoys, new lights on top and new cages to protect the lights. Ed's position was that our taxes should pay for that, not the TLWA. After long discussion Ed agreed that we will, not should, do it. Ed then took on the whole program including helping the Town employees place and remove the buoys in spring and fall. He has always been in favor (a rare statement) of the high school scholarship program and has run that program for the past 5 years.

There are so many other programs he has volunteered for while he also serves as the Town Planning Commission Chairman. Ed has, also, served on various Town committees while doing so much for the Three Lakes Waterfront Association. We will all miss that smiling face who is the one to say at late Thursday nights "meeting adjourned"!

Volunteer Call Answered

John T. Ray

John and T (Theresa Griffin) Ray have enjoyed vacationing on Medicine Lake for nearly 50 years and in 2016 moved from Denver, Colorado to become permanent residents of Three Lakes. John received geology degrees from the University of Dayton and Univ. of North Dakota and spent most of his career exploring for gold, rare earth elements, nickel and uranium throughout the western US and parts of Canada and Mexico. He worked with International Nickel Ltd. (now Vale) for 16 years and then as an independent geological consultant to the mining industry for 20 more.

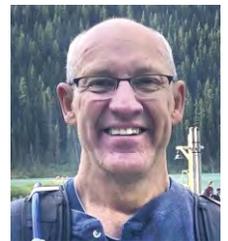


"Our region showcases a unique geological environment formed by outwash of water and sediment during repeated waxing and waning of glacial ice from 30,000 to 10,000 years ago. The resultant lakes and rivers are a national treasure worth respecting and protecting."

"It is an honor to serve on the TLWA Board. I bring to the table a belief in the value of our waterways, a dedication to preservation and 4.5 billion years of geological perspective. I intend to compile and maintain a database of published maps of diverse information from various disciplines as a basic tool for future management decisions. My mapping and GIS skills and permit work with regulatory agencies should also prove useful."

Steve Lewzewski

Steve has worked for 30 years in the engineering and scientific consulting industry, with an environmental focus on marine and waterway improvement studies and restorations. He obtained his Ph.D. from UW Madison in Environmental Toxicology. He and his wife Audrey live in Green Bay, built a cabin on Big Lake in 2016, and are increasingly spending more time on the Three Lakes Chain. They have three adult sons who are working on building careers and families! He is passionate about spending time outdoors and is very much looking forward to providing a helping hand to the TLWA projects and initiatives.





Dealing With Mother Nature

We were very optimistic when we received our permit from the DNR on August 6, 2019. This permit allows the TLWA to add fish Sticks (Rough Woody Habitat) to the lake bed on the Three Lakes Chain and Maple Lake. However, Mother Nature has not been very co-operative with a very large early snowfall back in November that created an insulated layer of snow of about 24" on the top of thin ice about 3 to 4" thick. Then she was kind enough to add a generous layer of water on top of the snow. This developed from several days of thawing temperatures in December. But Mom was not

finished yet! She added very cold temperatures to freeze this water and create another layer of ice. This created an ice/snow/ice layer cake. Of course, she felt a need to add icing to this layer cake and added more snow. This created an ice/snow/ice/snow layer cake which was very thick and unstable for heavy equipment.

This layer cake was not a safe or workable surface to move 35 to 50-foot live trees into position with heavy machines necessary for the project. Our partners for the project the Three Lakes Fish & Wildlife Association were kind enough to volunteer to do the

heavy lifting to move these trees but could not risk man and machine because of these poor conditions.

We have just received confirmation from Mitch Moore of Moore Construction who will move the trees into position with their barge and will donate his time to the TLWA. A **"Huge"** Thank You goes out to Mitch Moore and his crew for his generosity and help!

We will be patient and optimistic as time moves forward and Mother Nature co-operates to allow this project to be completed.

FINALLY, MOTHER SMILES ON US

We got a nice gift from Mother Nature last week. We had some rain that fell on Wednesday and Thursday. We also had single digit temperatures each night that froze a nice layer of ice on the lakes. This created good conditions for moving trees to our fish sticks sites.

On Saturday 3-21-20 some live trees that were encroaching on the sign at the Townline Landing

were harvested and moved across Maple Lake to the North Shore on Ken Zator's shoreline. The crew from Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife harvested the trees and did all the heavy lifting to group the trees and create the first "Fish Stick" site.

The procedure after harvesting the trees was to drag them across the ice to the site. These live trees were positioned

together. Holes were drilled through the trunk to allow them to be cabled together and anchored to a tree on shore to prevent them from floating away during ice out. Some weights were also fastened to tree top branches to help the trees to sink when the ice melts. The same procedure was used at the second site on the West Shore of Island Lake at the Oehmen's shoreline.

We hope to have the third site completed this week on the North Shore of Dog Lake at Dave Wroblewski's shoreline.

We would like to Thank the Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Association for their excellent work and willingness to improve our natural resource with rough woody habitat.



L to R: Harvesting Trees; Directing the fall of the trees to prevent damage to the sign.



Moving trees across Maple Lake Ice into position.



Positioning trees on site.



Moving trees on shore for anchoring.



Drilling and cabling trees together to anchor.



Thanking Ken Zator for his help and Shoreline.

Hopefully we will have more volunteers to add additional sites next season. We have already had two volunteers for 2020 thanks to Jim Enger on Crystal Lake and Al Nau (Jeff Losch) on

Medicine Lake. These sites will have to be inspected by the fish biologist this spring to ensure the sites are suitable for Fish Sticks.

We hope to do more Fish Stick

sites in the future as our permit is valid for five years. Please contact Jerry Oehmen if you need information or would like to volunteer your shoreline. gfoehmen@gmail.com.



Left to Right: Jerry Oehmen, Fred Knoch, Nancy Bollmann, Jim Bollmann, Charlie Volk, Steve Swenson, Scott Swenson, Jason Pertile, Tom Wallschlaeger and Shawn Wallschlaeger

Better Than the Yellow Pages

The TLWA Business Directory is just a click away on the TLWA website www.tlwa.org Check out our local businesses, clubs, resorts, restaurants and museums – yes, museums! All are listed alphabetically with their address, phone numbers

and email addresses.

Three Lakes T-Shirts

A reminder to all members and nonmembers 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!



Lake Management Plan

by Norris Ross



Scientists Who Document Change are Never Done with Their Work

The completion of the Lake Management Plan (LMP) for the Three Lakes Chain in 2019 was a milestone for the residents of Three Lakes and all who enjoy the waters in the Chain. The publishing of our synopsis of the work – **A Moment in Time** – marks that accomplishment.

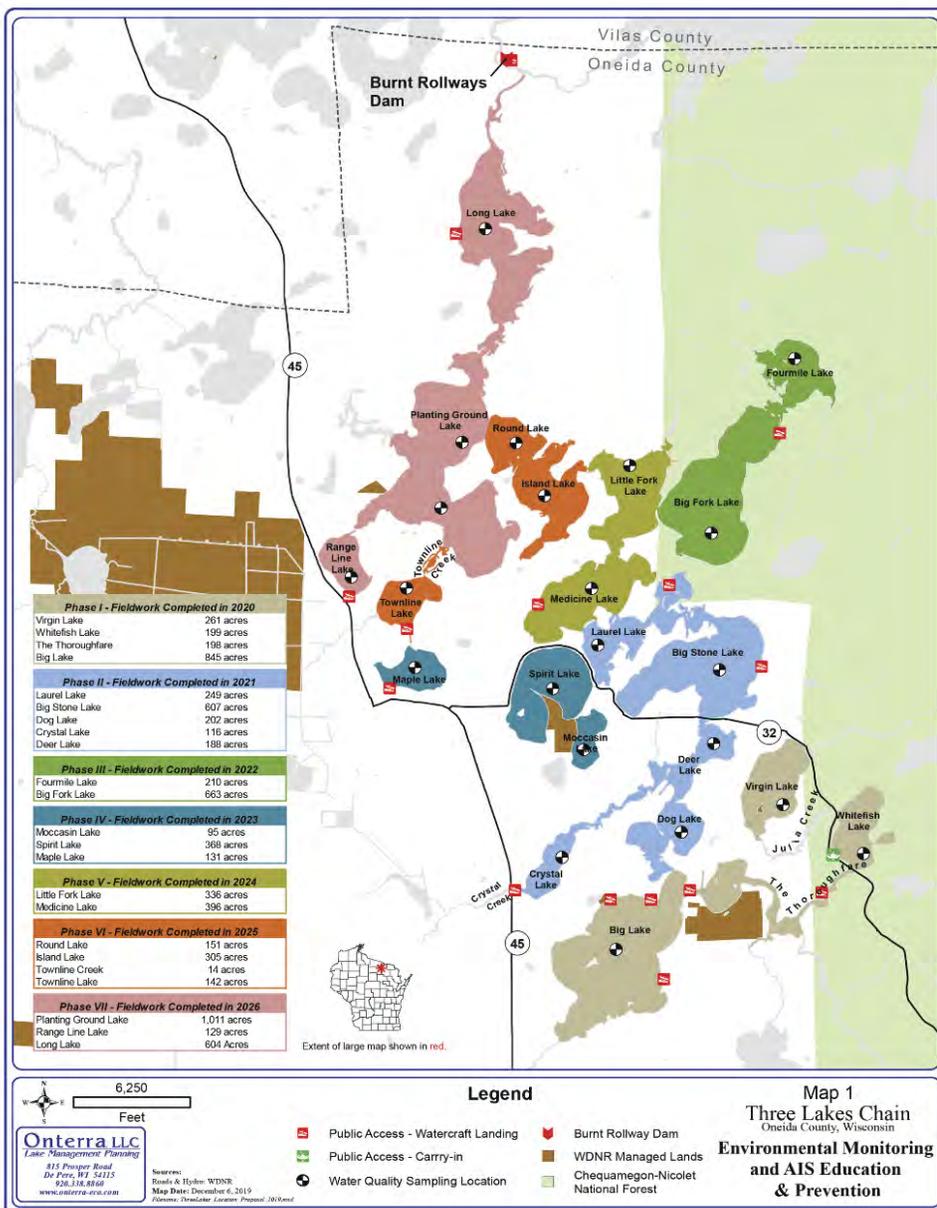
But time marches on, and everything continues to change. The LMP project spanned ten years; accordingly, the data collected for the lakes included in the early phases have not been updated for nearly a decade. TLWA has therefore requested and received initial funding to return to the lakes on the Chain in a phased project

following a similar pattern to that used in the LMP and update key data.

This multi-phased project specifies several actions outlined in the implementation section in the comprehensive management plan just completed. It includes continued water quality monitoring, periodic vegetation surveys, monitoring of eurasian water milfoil (EWM), monitoring and control of pale-yellow iris and purple loosestrife, volunteer monitoring for aquatic invasive species (AIS), management of a large clean boats/clean waters (CBCW) inspection program, installation of I-LID monitors to supplement CBCW inspections, and a continued public education on lake-related issues.

The enclosed map shows the total timeline for the follow-up data collection and work. Funding has been made available through WDNR for Phase 1 work. Data will be collected and interpreted during 2020. Comparisons will be made with the original LMP data and any trends will be reported to TLWA members and the Town of Three Lakes.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. If you desire additional copies of **A Moment in Time**, they are still available free of charge.



I-LIDS – WHAT IT INVOLVES

By Eric Lindberg, Environmental Sentry Protection LLC

The I-LIDS is a self-contained, solar powered system installed at boat launches to prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) through video capture and remote inspection of launching boats/trailers, and audio education of boaters using a lake. The system detects movement which triggers the capture of images which are then uploaded through a 3G/4G modem to a remote server. The server processes these images into a video clip which is date/time stamped on a remote server for authorized users to view. At the same time motion is detected, an audio message is played reminding boaters to inspect for AIS prior to

launch and after pull-out.

The I-LIDS is mounted to a foundation with keyed bolts in the spring and is removed in the fall. It is designed to be tamper resistant with impact resistant glass, keyed bolts, and a hardened enclosure. It offers an ongoing presence of more than 2500 hours of inspection per launch to improve clean-off behaviors and reduce the risk of (AIS) infestation. Users access statistical, identification, and video information of launch events through the website within an hour after the event. I-LIDS videos have been used as evidence by law enforcement to

issue citations to boaters launching weeds. In use by lake associations for over 8 years, it has been shown to be an effective tool in changing boater behaviors through its presence and the dramatic reduction of weeds being seen launched. An I-Lids camera will be installed at the Townline Lake Boat Landing this fishing season.



WE CAN NEVER DO MERELY ONE THING

By Norris Ross

These are precautionary words of wisdom provided to us by famous ecologist Garrett Hardin. Many examples of attempts to correct one problem in an ecological system by doing “one thing,” and later realizing that unforeseen consequences resulted, have been well documented. Many examples have permeated ecological history.

In 1935, Australia imported a relatively small number of cane toads under the assumption that they would (as they had done in Hawaii) eat the greyback cane beetles, which were destroying sugar cane, a major export crop. Unfortunately, the cane toads did not have much effect on the population of these beetles. Even more unfortunately, the cane toads did have an effect on other species as the toads were quite poisonous. Thus predators (including turtles and crocodiles),

which ate the toads, ended up dead. Today, Australia has a couple hundred million cane toads – and still a lot of those cane beetles!

In the 1950’s, the arrival of the alewife into the Great Lakes seemed harmless. But, in the absence of predators, they proliferated wildly. By 1967, they were swarming in schools, some of which were 10 miles long. So, in an attempt to do one hopefully correcting thing, over half a billion salmon were introduced into Lake Michigan. This thrilled sport fisherman, before both the original salmon and alewife populations swiftly, and more or less in tandem, collapsed. Many more “one things” have been tried in an attempt to “balance” the ecosystem in Lake Michigan. “The Death and Life of the Great Lakes” by Dan Egan traces the history of “one-thing” attempts over the years. This is a great

book to help understand many of the problems we are currently experiencing in our local freshwater lakes.

Planners may think importing cane toads or adding salmon will have just one, specific effect (to control cane beetles or alewives). But because “one thing” is acting on a very large ecosystem with inter-connected components, this will not have just one impact. Inevitably, that “one thing” will ripple through the entire environmental system with multiple impacts.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an article about TLWA’s efforts to control purple loosestrife with purple-loosestrife-eating beetles. Will we get the one desired outcome we hope for? Can we do only one thing? It has been done in other areas, but only time will tell.

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Erosion Prevention and Control Best Practices

By Patrick Goggin, Lake Specialist, Extension Lakes

(Reprinted from Lake Tides, Vol. 45, No. 1)



Have you noticed erosion along your shoreline? This is a challenge that many shoreland property owners face, we would like to share some tips on how to keep your shoreland property in place! It is important to note that the most natural form of erosion control is typically your best option when it comes to finances, aesthetics, and the health of the waterbody and critters that live there.

Signs of Trouble

The best way to identify and assess erosion problems is to check your shoreline regularly and monitor changing conditions. Warning signs of accelerated erosion problems include:

- A large area of bare soil along the shore (especially on a steep/high shoreline bank).
- Nearshore gullies caused by overland runoff from rooftops, driveways, and access roads.
- A noticeable recession of the shoreline over time.
- Leaning or downed trees with exposed roots on the shoreline.
- Large patches of unusually cloudy (turbid) water near a lakeshore, or unusually high stream turbidity (especially during periods of high water).
- Excessive deposits of sand or other sediments on the streambed, or very wide, shallow areas of a stream.

Best Practices

Best practices are standard and efficient ways of tackling conservation challenges like erosion control. Choosing the best fit for your shoreland property depends on the quantity and speed of runoff from hard surfaces toward the water's edge, and the amount of energy along the shore. This energy is the force hitting your shoreline from the culmination of prevailing wind patterns, fluctuating water levels,

ice push tendencies, wave action, human use patterns from boat or foot traffic, and the fetch (the distance traveled by wind or waves across open water).

Erosion is the process by which soil, rock, or other material is moved from one location to another, typically through the action of water or wind.

Low Energy Sites

Shoreline erosion on low energy sites can frequently be addressed by limiting the amount of foot traffic to, and along, the water's edge. For example, you can create a purposeful path that meanders to the lake. You can also restore (or leave) native plants along the shore to create a no-mow zone. Further, you can allow aquatic plants to re-establish in the nearshore area.

Healthy Lakes and Rivers best practices are also a good fit for less developed parcels that are relatively flat (less than 20% slope), drain less than two acres, and have some natural areas. The Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Grant

Program includes Healthy Lakes and Rivers grants that offer a 75% (state)/25% (landowner) cost share! Check out

Did You Know?

A 2:1 slope (two feet horizontally to one foot vertically) or less can generally be stabilized with just native vegetation.

healthylakeswi.com for more information on this grant opportunity and choosing the best practice(s) for your property.

Soil bioengineering uses live native plant materials like plugs, brush bundles, and live stakes in addition to natural products like straw mats, erosion control blankets, and fiber logs. The correct placement of these materials provides erosion control, slope and shoreline bank stabilization, landscape restoration, and wildlife habitat. Check out the Wisconsin Lakeshore Restoration Project web portal for example techniques and resources. Go to uwsp.edu/uwexplakes and click on "Lakeshore Restoration" under Resources.

High Energy Sites

Resloping the bank and rock riprap in combination with native plantings are practices used to control erosion at high energy sites. Resloping is just what it sounds like, regrading an eroded bank to a moderate, more natural slope. This allows the flow of

water to slow down, spread out, and filter into the ground. If you add a native planting at the water's edge, this just adds

another area for nutrients and sediments to soak into the ground instead of draining straight into the lake or stream, not to mention the amazing wildlife value.

Rock toes are low structures of rock placed along the water's edge of a shoreline; they often occur naturally along many Wisconsin shorelines. Rock toes add a structural reinforcement to the bank, helping to lessen the impact of wave and ice action.

Riprap is a permanent layer of large, angular stone, cobbles, or boulders typically used to armor, stabilize, and protect the soil surface against erosion in areas of concentrated flow or wave energy. These large stones are placed along graded ditches, channels, and shoreline banks. Riprap is useful in areas in which the powers of erosion outweigh the stabilization capacity of other erosion control practices. However, riprap does have its drawbacks; it deters and interferes with wildlife movement along the shoreline, is difficult to vegetate, looks aesthetically unnatural, is expensive, and requires routine maintenance.



350 ft² native plantings stabilize banks with trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers that improve wildlife habitat, slow runoff, and promote natural beauty. – Photo by Patrick Goggin

Many of these erosion control best practices are beneficial to water quality because they reduce

Get Started

Before starting your erosion control project, consult with your county zoning department for local shoreland rules. It is also important to connect with the WDNR Water Management Specialist in your area.

the amount of sediment and excess nutrients entering the

waterbody. The natural options also create habitat for critters and enhance the enjoyment of your shoreland property.

Looking for more? Check out the publication titled, "Understanding, Living With & Controlling Shoreline Erosion: A Guidebook for Shoreline Property Owners," developed by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

HEALTHY LAKES AND RIVERS BEST PRACTICES

- **Fish Sticks** are strategically placed groups of whole, dead trees that are partially or fully submerged and anchored to the shore to create fish and wildlife habitat. These large woody structures also help prevent bank erosion by reducing the energy to your shoreline.
- **350 ft² Native Plantings** stabilize banks with trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers that improve wildlife habitat, slow runoff, and promote natural beauty.
- **Diversion Practices** prevent runoff from getting into your lake or stream by redirecting water to areas (like a rain garden or rock infiltration pit) where it can soak into the ground instead.
- **Rock Infiltration Pits** fit nicely along roof drip lines and driveways, or at the end of a diversion practice, and provide space to capture and clean runoff that would otherwise move downhill to your lake or stream. Best for sandy or loamy soils (not clay).
- **Rain Gardens** create wildlife habitat and natural beauty while capturing and cleaning runoff.



New County Grant Will Help TLWA With Shoreland Restoration By LWCD

In April 2019, Wisconsin's Healthy Lakes Initiative had four Oneida County property owners who showed an interest in a shoreland restoration site visit. Healthy Lakes contacted the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) for help. However, at that time, LWCD was experiencing a surge of interest in their own County Cost Share program. Regrettably, the Department was unable to assist Healthy Lakes due to limited staff.

Realizing the importance of the Initiative, which financially helps landowners install small lakeshore restoration practices, yet determined to grow the County Cost Share program, LWCD designed and submitted a grant proposal that, if awarded, would allow additional funding to promote both the Healthy Lakes and County Cost Share programs.

Fred Knoch III, President of the Three Lakes Waterfront Association (TLWA), wrote in support of this grant citing shoreland habitat restoration as one important aspect of the

Mission of the Association. He also understood the process for applying for Healthy Lakes grants can be daunting to the novice, preventing riparian owners from attempting any shoreland restoration on their own.

At this time, the Land and Water Conservation Department is delighted to announce that they received a Lake Classification Grant. This \$45,000 grant will provide a two-year, part-time employee in the Three Lakes area who will be helping landowners navigate the grant process, promoting lake shore restoration, providing technical and financial assistance to riparian owners, and implementing the projects onto the landscape.

If you would like more information about the Healthy Lakes or County Cost Share Programs, please contact Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County Conservationist at the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department. Note: the Department still has funding for 2020 projects and, with this

new grant, we will be able to do much more! You can reach Michele by phone at 715-369-7835, by Email: msadauskas@co.oneida.wi.us, or visit www.oclw.org.

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The local and recent story, however, of “never merely doing one thing” occurred this summer. After months of rearing the purple-loosestrife-eating beetles and working diligently to release them carefully into the dense purple loosestrife infested areas, another “one thing” happened. In an adjacent area, spraying/fogging for mosquitoes occurred on a neighboring property. Two “one things” were occurring next to each other. Since the “safe” mosquito fogging insecticides are not mosquito specific (most kill all insects including moths, butterflies, dragon flies, bees, ants and, of course, purple loosestrife beetles), the truth is that probably neither “one thing” was successful.

Ecological relationships are very complex, fragile and intertwined. Trying to affect a “desired” change in a complex system can be extremely difficult. The materials used by mosquito exterminators are not mosquito specific and kill most other insects on contact, despite any claims to the contrary. The MSDS reports for the included ingredients make it clear that the victims are wide ranging. Keeping purple loosestrife out of our surrounding wetlands and lake shores may be possible and desirable, but ridding the Northwoods of mosquitoes is impossible and not desirable for the ecosystem.



Bearskin Lake Shoreline – Before



Bearskin Lake Shoreline – After

Adopt-Your-Shoreline

by Bruce Renquist



Adopt-A-Shoreline is a hallmark program of TLWA. Over the years each lake of the chain has been headed by a Lake Captain leading a group of watchful volunteers looking for Aquatic Invasive Species. These dedicated people have logged hundreds of hours in an effort to protect our lakes. Shoreline monitoring is based on the early detection of the invasives which could ruin a lake if not found and properly treated. In the ongoing effort to heighten awareness and inform stakeholders, the scope of Adopt-A-Shoreline has expanded.

This small change is highlighting the responsibility we all share in keeping our lakes free of AIS. One

of our own, Jack Werner, retired Lake Captain of Long Lake, had the brilliant suggestion of replacing Adopt-A-Shoreline with Adopt-Your-Shoreline. A single word change expands the concept of ownership and broadens participation in sustaining the health of our lakes. Importantly, the change is an open invitation to support the work of our Lake Captains and their volunteers. You might consider looking up the Lake Captain on your lake to discuss the options for becoming involved. On an individual level, be aware of your lake and if you see something unusual or doesn't seem to

belong there, take a sample. TLWA members will be receiving a customized AIS specimen bag with attached directions along with other useful AIS information. This will simply give you a course of action on the event you find something that concerns you. Follow the simple directions on the bag. Our resident biologist Norris Ross is looking for samples to verify. This single action could have major consequences in the unlikely case your sample is indeed AIS.

Adopt-Your-Shoreline!



Adopt-A-Shoreline logo – old and new

LAKE CAPTAINS

BIG	Ed Cottingham	715-546-4298	ecottingham@frontier.net
BIG FORK	Kathy Olkowski	715-891-0367	kathleenrunner@yahoo.com
BIG STONE	Rob Jahnke	602-460-5362	r26jahnke@gmail.com
CRYSTAL	Mike Donovan	715-550-8282	usflyguyat1@aol.com
DEER	Jay Teagle	630-460-5362	jay.teagle@yahoo.com
DOG	John Rothwell	843-271-6455	jcrothwell1@gmail.com
FOUR MILE	Bob Pfeffer	262-284-2333	rpfeffer@live.com
ISLAND	Doug Scheffen	715-546-2732	dougscheffen@aol.com
JULIA	David Mitzner	715-546-2583	davidmitzner165@gmail.com
LAUREL	Mark Wallesverd	920-344-0698	walsvrd@gmail.com
	Charles Brady	651-408-2505	bradycharles@msn.com
LITTLE FORK	OPEN		
LONG	Gary White	920-251-7388	garykarenwhite@charter.net
MAPLE	Ron Bennett	815-351-7573	rjbennett247@gmail.com
MEDICINE	Bruce Renquist	715-546-2401	bruce.renquist@gmail.com
MOCCASIN	Ryan Lamon	715-546-8101	ryan@watercraftsales.com
PLANTING GROUND	Norris Ross	715-546-2250	norrisross@frontier.com
RANGE LINE	John Folaron	414-687-5900	john@air-instruments.com
ROUND	Gwen Hutchins	608-556-1234	hutchinsfoundation@gmail.com
SPIRIT	John Lake	619-980-7654	jrlncal@sbcglobal.net
THOROUGHFARE	Paul Matthiae	715-546-3453	pjmatthiae@gmail.com
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

Yellow Iris Survey

by Stephanie Boismenu
Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department



On the morning of June 25, 2019, I joined Jay Teagle, Volunteer Lake Captain with the Three Lakes Waterfront Association (TLWA), on his pontoon boat to locate and map the invasive yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) populations and densities on Big Lake, Deer Lake, and Dog Lake of the Three Lakes Chain (**Figure 1**). Data collected during the survey provides the impacted property owners, the TLWA, and other resource professionals with knowledge of the yellow iris locations and implement rapid response measures to control, manage and potentially eradicate infestations. Furthermore, the data will assist in tracking changes in abundance over time (percent cover/density) in both managed and unmanaged sites and prevent further spread.

Our shoreline meander survey identified 20 yellow iris sites: Deer Lake has 7, Dog Lake has 13, and Big Lake has none (Figures 2 and 3). GPS coordinates were obtained for each plant and/or group of plants (Tables 1 and 2). In addition, we performed management activities on several plants that were emerging from shallow water areas by pulling out those that were small and clipping flowers and seed heads to prevent further spread.

Control Options:

Yellow Iris is an NR 40 Regulated Invasive Species in Wisconsin. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/>
Caution: All parts of this plant can cause skin irritation.

Cultural/Habitat: Do not plant yellow iris in your landscape. If you already have yellow iris on your

property, please consider removing it and re-planting the area with native vegetation. Better yet, consider plants that will attract pollinators to your shoreline.

Mowing: Mowing will cause the plants to regenerate from the rhizomes, so plants must be cut multiple times to exhaust their energy reserves.

Hand Removal:

- Plants and small infestations may be pulled or dug out.
- If plants are too large to remove, the simple act of removing flowers and seed heads will certainly help prevent the spread.
- Dig out all parts of the plant, including rhizomes as re-growth will occur place in a garbage bag and disposed of at the landfill.
- Do not put any part of the plant in the compost or discard in natural areas. Discarded flowers may produce seeds, and seeds may sprout. Rhizome fragments can also form new plants.
- Digging out yellow iris can result in considerable shoreline and sediment erosion. If you have questions or concerns about this potential issue, contact the Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Dept. for assistance.

Chemical Treatment: Permits may be needed. Always check DNR regulations for the most up-to-date information regarding permits for control methods. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/YellowFlagIris.html>

Decontamination: Remove soil, seeds, and vegetation from shoes, clothing, and tools prior to leaving

an area.

Take Action:

- Learn to identify yellow iris and other invasive plants.
- Control existing populations of yellow iris to minimize harmful impacts and continue to monitor for regrowth.
- Plant and promote beautiful native alternatives.
- Properly dispose of invasive species or material that may harbor invasive plant seeds by bagging for the landfill.

AIS Identification, Management, and Reporting:

Please contact your TLWA Lake Captain or contact Stephanie Boismenu, AIS Coordinator, at 715-369-7835 or email sboismenu@co.onieda.wi.us. Find us at www.oneidacountyais.com.

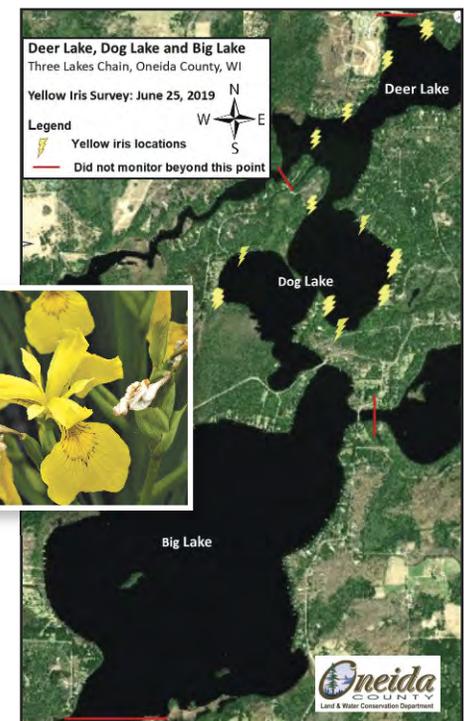


Figure 1. Map of Deer Lake, Dog Lake, and Big Lake, Three Lakes Chain, Oneida County, WI.

Stream Monitoring

by Lynn Zibell



What We Found

Stream monitoring by TLWA last summer was different than the previous summer. Following the advice of Dr. Noah Lottig of the UW Trout Lake Station, Larry Roth and Lynn Zibell tested for phosphorus, nitrogen at high water levels in May and low water levels in mid- August. Chlorophyll.A was also tested, but only at the low water level. Samples were then sent to the WI State Hygiene Lab and the findings are in the chart below.

STREAM ID	Phosphorus	Total Nitrogen	Chlorophyll.A
	High water to Low water level in mcg/l	High water to Low water level in mg/l	Low water level in mg.l
Crystal River	33.0 to 49.5	0.56 4 to 0.875	6.95
Big Lake Creek	14.9 to 37.5	0.406 to 0.914	N.A.
Range Line Creek	44.4 to 257	0.77 to 1.2	12.1
Town Line Creek	17.3 to 68.8	0.727 to 0.776	4.63
Thoroughfare from Whitefish Lake into Big Lake	24.6 to 28.4	0.525 to 0.589	7.05

In looking at the results, one can see a major difference between the creeks. There is at least a 4x difference in the amount of phosphorus in Range Line and Town Line Creeks between high and low water compared with Crystal River and the thoroughfare from Whitefish Lake. The TLWA board members

discussed this at its January meeting. Both creeks, after emptying out into their lakes, eventually empty into Planting Ground Lake. Since there are no major concerns over the phosphorus level on that lake as noted in "Moment In Time", a summary of the 10 year longitudinal study by Onterra of the Chain, our resident biologist board member, Norris Ross, felt that "dilution is the solution".

In talking with DNR Stream Biologist, Jim Klosiewski, at a DNR workshop on calibrating the dissolved oxygen meter, he explained that there could be various reasons for these findings, the most notable being groundwater input. He said a much more thorough stream monitoring would have to be undertaken to determine any specific reason for this major difference.

The TLWA board did feel that it would be worthwhile to contact the Thunder Lake District to see if anyone would be interested in monitoring their lake since it feeds into these 2 streams. Other than that, it was decided that stream monitoring by TLWA has served its purpose and there is no need for any future stream monitoring on these streams feeding into the Chain at this time.



Clean Boats Clean Waters

by Bob Agen



The Clean Boats Clean Waters message remains the same. Our purpose, to educate boaters about invasives and their effect on our lakes. To achieve this we will have three paid interns working our landings with the most boater traffic. New this year if all goes as planned will be the I-LIDS camera

system monitoring the Townline boat landing.

Volunteers are always needed and are an important part of the program. They provide coverage on landings that would not otherwise have coverage. Remember for every hour that a volunteer works at a landing we

gain grant money. Volunteers are needed at the Big Lake landing near CW Smith road, the landing next to Sunset Grill and the landing on Highway X.

If interested call Bob Agen at 715-546-3893 and leave a message.

Turtle Nesting Season is Upon Us

by Jon Willman



From mid-May through early July, female turtles cross our roads to find suitable nesting spots in sunny areas with sand, gravel, and loose soil. Often these areas include gravel shoulders of



Gravel driveways and shoulders are favorite turtle nesting areas. Snapping turtles will lay 20 to 30 eggs resembling ping-pong balls.



Baby snappers are self-sufficient immediately after hatching.

paved town roads and private driveways. Turtles killed by motor vehicles is considered a leading cause of decline in turtle numbers in Wisconsin. The health and safety of adult, breeding-age,

females are vital to maintaining healthy turtle populations. The loss of even one adult female can have a serious impact on future populations as it takes anywhere from 6 to 10 years to reach reproductive age.

Because turtles can live to 60 years of age, females often visit the same nesting area year after year. This can pose problems for nesting females as the greater Three Lakes area becomes more developed. It's not unusual to arrive home to find a female snapper digging a nest in your gravel driveway. If you do find yourself in this situation, there are a couple options – the ideal course of action is to give the nest a wide berth and place a simple “cage” over the nest to prevent racoons, skunks or fox from digging up the eggs. Hopefully the eggs will hatch in 60 to 90 days. After hatching, young turtles are completely independent and self-sufficient.

If it's impractical to leave a nest in the driveway, eggs can be moved to a nearby safe area with similar ground composition and exposure to sunlight. It takes some time and effort to accomplish the task. Start by pulling away the gravel from over the nest using hands and a small trowel to carefully scrape away the gravel. Proceed slowly, like archeologists at a dig, until the first egg is unearthed. Mark each egg lightly with a marker to indicate the top. It's important the eggs are reburied in the same orientation in case the embryo has already attached to the eggshell. A snapper nest will contain 20 to 30 eggs, each about the size of ping pong ball. Place the eggs in the new hole, at about the same depth you originally found them and cover with sand and gravel. The perfect finishing touch would be a cage over the nest to protect it from predators.

Should you decide to move a nest, contact me. I would be happy to help – fishnfly@newnorth.net or phone 715-628-1642.

To report turtle crossings and other turtle sightings, or for additional information about Wisconsin turtles, visit the Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program online at <http://wiatri.net/inventory/witurtles/>



TLWA Scholarship Program

by Ed Cottingham



How Three Lakes Benefits

In the Fall newsletter I wrote about our scholarship program and listed the many scholarship recipients since 1989. This time, I thought it might be interesting to look back at two recipients who went off to school and returned to Three Lakes. Careers take many twists and turns so it is interesting to see what they are doing now.

The first was Jeff Boehm, who was our 1993 recipient. In high school he would go into the field with the local game warden and that experience cultivated his interest in game and environmental protection. In 1990, Jeff started attending Nicolet College working on an associate degree with intentions of transferring to U.W. Stevens Point. At U.W. Stevens Point he majored in Resource Management with a minor in

Environment Enforcement. In 1993 he was awarded the Three Lakes Waterfront Association Scholarship and completed one more year at U.W. Stevens Point. He returned home and while working part time in the family business, he volunteered to work with the local game warden. After some length of time he found that full time work in the family business was his calling. Jeff is currently a Three Lakes Town Board Supervisor.

Alex Hegeman was our 2011 Scholarship Recipient. After high school Alex went off to U.W. Platteville to study Civil Engineering. That involved environmental studies as part of his degree. He graduated in 2016 and worked as a supervisor for the Green County Highway

Department. He left for a job as foreman for the Oneida County Highway Department and in 2018 accepted a position with the Wisconsin D.O.T. as a civil engineer. While working on new road proposals and repairing and maintaining existing roads, part of his job is evaluating the impact on wetlands, stream crossings and endangered species. Alex is currently a member of the Three Lakes Plan Commission.

These Three Lakes Waterfront Association Scholarship recipients are using their education and experience in environmental studies in the day to day decisions required as members of the Three Lakes Town Board and Plan Commission.

2020 TLWA ANNUAL MEETING – DON'T MISS IT!

Mark your calendar for Thursday, July 2 at 3p.m. This year's annual meeting has so much to offer. If you have any interest in shoreline restoration grants, Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County Land & Water Conservationist, will describe what acquiring a grant all involves and will be available to answer questions.

TLWA is excited to have John Bates, well-known WI naturalist and author, as this year's keynote speaker. John's love of the Wisconsin Northwoods is reflected in all of his 9 books. His latest one, "Our Living Ancestors: the History and Ecology of Old-growth Forests in Wisconsin And Where to Find Them" took 15 years to write as he explored and researched old-growth sites, 50 of which he describes in detail. He has served on the Board of Trustees for the Wisconsin Nature Conservancy, River Alliance of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Humanities Council. He currently serves on the Board of the Northwoods Land Trust and the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. John won the 2006 Ellis/Henderson Outdoor Writing Award from the Council for Wisconsin Writers for his book, "Graced by the Seasons: Spring and Summer in the Northwoods" John's focus at our meeting will be on riparian responsibilities.

See you at the Reiter Center, July 2nd, 3p.m.!



TLWA Membership

by Ann Oehmen



We Have a Deal For You!

We have been discussing a new membership dues schedule that should help us do a better job. We were looking for ways to make it easier for the members to participate and collect dues.

We would like to reduce the chance for errors and decrease the amount of time that it takes to administer the membership data base. We would also like to reduce the cost for long term members.

For the past two years we have used a membership dues schedule of: \$30 1 year; \$60 2 years; and \$90 for a 3-year membership dues.

We have revised this for 2020 to a new membership dues schedule of: \$30 1 year; \$50 2 years; \$80 3 years; and \$100 for 4 years.

We hope this encourages members to commit to a long-term membership and appreciate the savings.

We also intend to include members current membership dues status with our spring recruitment requests to be sure members are up-to-date.

Please encourage your friends, family and neighbors to participate as a member. We all hope to continue to increase membership. It would be great to have more participation to protect and enjoy our wonderful natural resource.

HOW DOES YOUR SIGN LOOK?

Have you dressed up your TLWA sign? This year the association sign at the head of your driveway will be 3 years old. Made of cedar, they are weathering well. You may, though, want to paint, stain, or give your sign a new look. To do so, according to Ed Jacobsen, "A little spray of paint, then a small sander to sand the paint off the high areas and the paint stays in the low areas making a nice background with all the lettering still a paint color you choose. At the end some varnish or poly spray to protect it and WOW!" Send a picture to Lzibell@gmail.com if you do this and it may be part of a future newsletter.



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Treasurer	Stan Wargolet
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Norris Ross
Lynn Zibell
Paul Wussow
Ed Cottingham
Norris Ross
Ed Cottingham
Paul Matthiae

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