

President's Forum—Supplemental

Almost four weeks have transpired since I first wrote the President's Forum, and in those weeks unprecedented events have occurred. The invisible assassin, COVID-19, has caused profound sociological and economical changes to the global and local milieu, which will indelibly alter society forever. In the microcosm of Three Lakes, we are getting along as well as can be expected, as will the TLWA. I hope all our members are doing well also. I will try to outline the changes which have occurred to the TLWA's activities, caused by the global pandemic.

First, I must inform the membership of my support of the Governor of Wisconsin, Tony Evers, for his preemptive strategies to protect the residents of the State. A brief timeline of events is as follows: State mandated social distancing instituted early in the course of the pandemic. Closure of educational facilities on March 18th. Mandated "Stay at Home" order March 25th. Closure of nonessential services March 25th. These mandates have helped the desired aims of reducing the number of infected citizens and deaths secondary to the virus when compared to other Midwestern states. On a local level, the Public Health Departments of Vilas and Oneida Counties have issued notices that seasonal residents not return to their Summer homes in an attempt to limit the possibility of introducing the disease from areas of higher penetration. I support this action, the goal of which is to protect our most vital resource, people. I also support the action of Town Chairman, Jeff Bruss, who has canceled all public functions in the town of Three Lakes until July 31st. He is following the ideal of protecting people first, and recovery second, and we will recover. As of today, March 30th the state estimates the time of peak resource use in Wisconsin to be April 26th, so we have hard times ahead of us. We all need to be part of the solution, not part of the problem, to paraphrase a mantra of the '60s.

Concerning the activities of the TLWA, everything is on hold. The WDNR has temporarily suspended most all of the programs in which we participate. The Clean Boats/Clean Waters program is suspended, so as of now, we will be placing Interns and Volunteers on, hopefully, temporary leave. The State Lab of Hygiene is no longer processing the chemical tests required in the evaluation of water quality, as they are processing tests for the COVID-19 as a higher priority, so CLMN volunteers need not collect water samples. We could, however, proceed with Secchi testing while still observing social distancing. Adopt Your Shoreline

activities may still proceed while observing social distancing. The installation of the I-LIDS camera on the Town Line landing is on indefinite hold, as is placement of fish sticks. Our monthly meetings are canceled, and possibly the Annual Meeting also. The dates set aside for TLWA functions will be cautiously observed, pending information from the State. I am hoping the volunteer recognition party may still be a possibility in August. The rapid response dive team will leave their wet suits and BCDs hanging in their basements. In essence, the TLWA will be marching in place.

I do encourage members to read the Spring Newsletter. Even though our programs have been placed on hold, the mission of the TLWA remains the same, and the membership needs to stay informed. As many of the above-mentioned activities are dependent on seasonal residents, we realize that most will not be able to be performed, but we hope to keep interest at a high level in anticipation of the end of the crisis. So, in anticipation of ice-off, I may see you on the water, at a safe socially acceptable distance. Perhaps this lends new meaning to the “Slow no Wake “distancing! Stay safe, and remember, “Stay at home, save a life! “

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President
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