



# TLWA



Our Lakes – Our Responsibility: Spring 2023

## THREE LAKES WATERFRONT ASSOCIATION

LAKE STEWARDS SINCE 1967

### President's Forum

by Fred Knoch



Even though this newsletter is labeled as "Spring," the environment appears to be more like Winter, except for the sun of

course. I am forced to wear sunglasses since the glare of the sun off the 17 inches, now 32 inches since the storm of April 1st, leads quickly to snow blindness! But the snow is melting, which foretells the inevitable "time of the slush."

This is the time of year at which we begin to formulate the TLWA's plans of battle for the coming campaign against our nemesis, Aquatic Invasive Species. The plans are our most aggressive actions conceived yet to combat the growing menace

threatening our beautiful chain of lakes. This mission consumes the bulk of our volunteer time, the bulk of our grant submissions, and the bulk of our coffers. It is for this mission that the TLWA exists and is supported by the membership in the forms of dues, donations, time, and expertise.

The A.I.S. which is most concerning and egregious is Eurasian Water Milfoil, which is present on two lakes, exhibiting matting on Virgin Lake, and thankfully sparse on Long Lake. Most have not seen matting on the chain, except for those riparians on Virgin Lake. I refer the reader to the Fall edition of the newsletter for pictures and narrative. The plan for Virgin is three pronged. First, we will continue the hand harvesting of EWM using SCUBA divers, kayakers, and pontoon boat

platform as we have in the past. At present we have three volunteer divers who plan to dive weekly from June through September. The target will be those scattered and individual plants. Second, the volunteers on Virgin are constructing a DASH unit (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) using

*Continued on page 2*

#### CONTENTS

President's Forum .....	1
Fish Sticks .....	3
DASH Boat .....	4
Adopt-Your-Shoreline .....	6
Eurasian Milfoil .....	7
Clean Boats Clean Water .....	8
Lake Captains .....	8
Shoreline Restoration .....	9
DNR Q & A Corner .....	11
Partying On the Chain .....	12
Everybody's Gotta Go .....	13
Lake Monitoring 101 .....	14
Membership .....	15

*Prez continued from page 1*

another pontoon boat donated by Watercraft Sales. This platform will be highly modified with suction apparatus and will target those areas with more highly concentrated plants not amenable to hand harvesting. Third, we are contracting the application of herbicide, permitted through the WDNR, to the matted area of highest concentration South of the island. This area comprises about twelve acres of unusable water because of the EWM. This action will be supervised by Onterra and monitored by volunteers testing herbicide concentration after application.

What saddens me greatly is that all of this time, effort, use of material and money, and the application of chemicals to the waters could have been avoided by preventing the introduction of the EWM in the first place. The situation is collectively our fault. As Pogo has said, "We have met the enemy, and they is us."

The situation on Long Lake is not as threatening, with the infestation confined to the Northeast area of the lake just before entering the channel to the Dam. The concentration has remained stable with a

frequency of sparse to occasional colonies. The plan for this season is to continue with SCUBA diver hand harvesting, assisted by kayakers and pontoon boat drivers. We plan on diving weekly from June through September. We currently have three divers with the addition of a new volunteer diver over the winter. With the Fall survey, Onterra has identified an increase in the number of plants in the channel itself, with over 200 individuals noted. We have yet to plan the most effective way to deal with these, as the plants are in shallow water not amenable to SCUBA divers, but we are working on it.

As to the other invasives in our chain, namely Yellow Iris and Purple Loosestrife, we have programs to address these also. We still have an active Beetle raising program, the tents of which you may notice on the south side of the Petroleum Museum. The beetles are harvested, grown, and released in areas of Loosestrife growth. The Iris program is dependent on individual efforts of riparian owners to police their shorelines and those of their neighbors. The most effective way to deal with this invasive is application

of herbicide to the stems of the plants once the leaves have been cut off. A less effective way is to cut off the flowers before seed pods develop. This prevents spread of the plants through seeding, although it still may spread through root expansion. The herbicide is supplied by the TLWA and is available at Anchor Marine.

It has become tedious to report each year on the operations of the TLWA which are being totally consumed by the fight against Aquatic Invasive Species. This is not to say that there are not other issues, of which there are many, but these are the ones over which we have some actionable control. There are other issues which perhaps are more political in nature. As an environmental organization we concern ourselves with preservation and protection of the quality of the waters of the Three Lakes region.

Unfortunately, political decisions have enormous implications on the natural world. We are tasked to state our opinions as political ideologies affect our local environment. And when I use the term "we," I refer to the membership of the TLWA!

As always, I will see you on the water! Fred

## **2023 TLWA ANNUAL MEETING – SAVE THE DATE! THURSDAY, JULY 6TH, 3 P.M. AT THE REITER CENTER**

TLWA President Fred Knoch will give a quick review of the progress of EWM treatment on Virgin Lake and the Dive Team volunteer efforts on both Virgin and Long Lakes. If you have questions concerning TLWA activities, there will be an opportunity to have them answered. This year's annual meeting will feature the

Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company. If you've been to Burnt Rollways Dam, you have seen WVIC in action. Learn how this private company, chartered by Wisconsin Statutes in 1907, is responsible for the water level of the Three Lakes Chain through the regulation of the water flow from most of the WI River tributaries.



# Fish Sticks

April 2023

by Jerry Oehmen



## New Biologist

We have a new Oneida County fish biologist, Nathan Lederman. Nathan came to visit each site on October 26, 2022. Nathan approved two new sites owned by the Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club.

One site is on the east shore of Spirit Lake and the other one is on the west shore of Moccasin Lake. In addition, we had one carryover site on Medicine Lake's north shore that was not completed in 2022. So we were fortunate to have three approved sites for 2023. (See map at right.)

## New Coordinator

Our new year 2023 has provided us with a new and a remarkable approach to installing fish sticks.

Jason Pertile wanted to recruit a team to install fish sticks prior to the forecasted storm approaching. So on Monday, January 2, 2023 Jason called his team, but as for many of people this time of year, life gets in the way and he was not able to form a work party. Jason decided that he would be the solo work crew for this year.

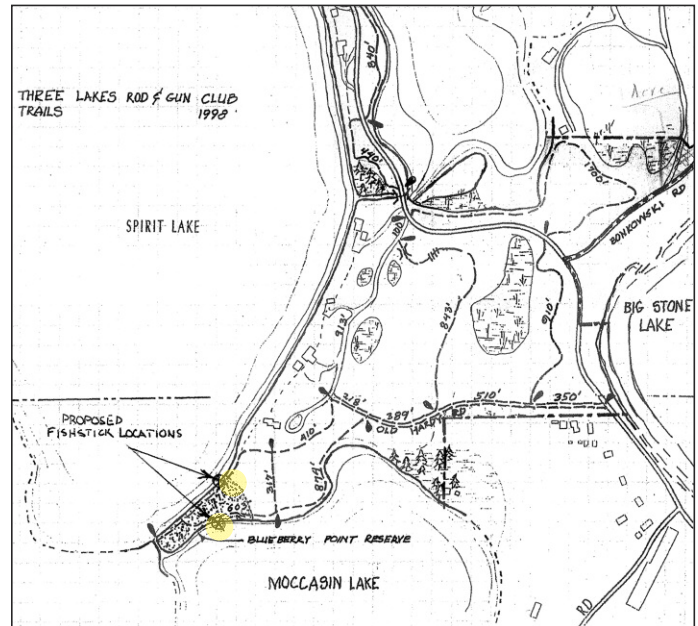
Jason set course for the new sites riding his trusty ATV and equipped with chains, chainsaw and a good winch. Jason was able to cut the necessary trees and move them into position by himself. He was able to complete all the sites and even supply us with photos.

Jason's pioneer spirit and self confidence is remarkable and we certainly owe him a huge "THANK YOU!"

Jason does plan to be our Fish Stick coordinator for the future. The Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Association will continue to help install fish sticks as the TLWA will continue to recruit members to volunteer their shorelines.

Since our last newsletter publication we do have two new members who have volunteered their shorelines on Whitefish and Laurel Lakes. It is wonderful to see that our members are so willing to volunteer and share the willingness to preserve our beautiful lakes.

As you read this article, and are moved to volunteer, please don't hesitate to send Jason an email at [upnorthguideservice1@gmail.com](mailto:upnorthguideservice1@gmail.com).



Jason Pertile, TLWA new fish sticks coordinator was able to cut the necessary trees and move them into position for new fish sticks sites .



# WATERCRAFT SALES STEPS UP AGAIN AND DONATES 25' BENNINGTON PONTOON BOAT FOR DASH PLATFORM

by Jon Willman

When the Three Lakes Waterfront Association formed the Rapid Response Dive Team back in 2017, it needed a dive platform. Watercraft Sales, already a generous supporter of the Association, was quick to respond donating an 18' pontoon boat to the team for use on Virgin Lake.



In 2020, a significant patch of Eurasian Water Milfoil was discovered in Long Lake. It was determined another dive platform kept on Long Lake would make life a lot easier for the volunteers and divers. Again, Watercraft provided another



pontoon boat suitable for the mission.

Last Fall, the TLWA decided to fund the construction of a Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) boat. Once again, Ryan Lamon

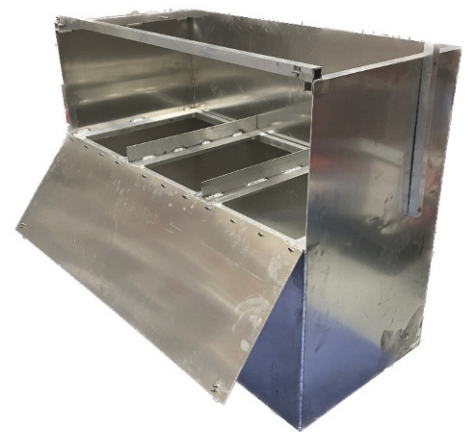
and Watercraft Sales were there to support the effort. They have donated a top-of-the-line 25' Bennington pontoon boat, with plenty of useable space and capable of handling the extra weight and equipment needed for suction harvesting operations.

The new DASH platform is another tool to help control the spread of EWM on Virgin Lake. In past years, the Association has contracted with various DASH vendors to help remove EWM from Virgin Lake. The results have been very positive, but costs and scheduling issues have become a problem. After exploring all the options, it was decided the most cost-effective way to proceed was for the TLWA to build their own DASH platform and utilize volunteers from Virgin Lake to operate the boat. The boat will be kept in the water on Virgin Lake, ready



anytime crew is available.

Beginning in mid-May, the transformation from Bennington party barge to work boat will begin. A group of volunteers from Virgin Lake will remove all the built-in furniture leaving most of the rails, the helm and fuel tank. The pressure treated wood decking will be removed in areas and replaced with slotted polypropylene decking.



A specially designed aluminum collection tank fabricated by Three Lakes Steel will be mounted over the slotted deck. A discharge pipe from the pump



system will direct water and weeds collected by the diver into the tank. The tank will accommodate three vented “milk” crates to catch the EWM as it enters the tank. In addition to the crates, the bottom of the collection tank will also contain a galvanized screen designed to catch any EWM fragments which escape the collection crates. This system is designed to allow filtered water to flow quickly through the tank and deck and back into the lake.



Most conventional DASH systems utilize some type of mesh bag to capture the EWM collected by the diver. These bags are messy, heavy, difficult to transport when empty. Most often they are discarded after just one use. We believe the reusable, stackable crates are a better option. Each crate will hold about 10 gallons of plants. The boat will initially carry 12 crates or 120 gallons of EWM.

Depending on the density of EWM in the area being harvested by the diver, it's conceivable a single diver and one surface crew member could collect 120 gallons of EWM in a single day! A significant number considering our entire team of four divers and crew usually hand harvests about 300 gallons in an entire season.



A DASH boat design similar to this is what, when finished, the TLWA platform will look like.

The new boat is designed as a multi-use platform. When not used for DASH operations, it will be available for traditional hand harvesting operations utilizing the surface supplied air system built into the boat.

The new platform should dramatically increase the productivity of the divers and crew for many years to come.

## BE NEIGHBORLY

There are many ways to be neighborly, some that go beyond normal standard because of the lake environment.

- Lighting can interfere with the beautiful evening sunsets and stars over the lake. Be sure to point any lighting facilities downward toward the ground and keep them as dim as possible (do not use “docking” lights in the middle of the lake).
- Sound carries across water with unbelievable clarity and volume. Keep noise near the shore to a minimum.
- Fireworks are noisy but more importantly contain very toxic chemicals when fired over the water and land in the lake. They disrupt natural water chemistry.
- Insecticide fogging likewise interferes with the natural balance of your lake’s water as well as eliminating the vital insect population on your property.
- Maintain your septic system. Have it inspected regularly.
- If you rent your property (with required permits, taxes, etc.), monitor the renter and be sensitive to neighbors dealing with the negative things mentioned above.

# Adopt Your Shoreline

by Dave Wheeler



## Volunteer Report

In 2022, Three Lakes Waterfront Association Adopt-Your-Shoreline (AYS) volunteers reported finding Purple Loosestrife on Big Stone and Planting Ground Lakes. Pale Yellow Iris was reported on Big Fork, Big Stone, Dog, Four Mile, Laurel, Little Fork, Medicine, Moccasin, Planting Ground, and Spirit Lakes. Eurasian Water Milfoil was reported on Long and Virgin Lakes. Chinese Mystery Snail was reported on Laurel and Medicine Lakes. Rusty Crayfish was reported on Lake Julia. The Rapid Response Dive Team removed Eurasian Milfoil from Long and Virgin Lakes.

Aquatic Invasive Surveillance Monitoring /Collecting End of Season Report forms for 96 volunteers that reported their times:

### Adopt Your Shoreline (AYS):

Volunteer Hours	516.3
Motorized Boat Hours	258.8
Non-motorized Boat Hours	153.5
Non-motorized Boat Days	121

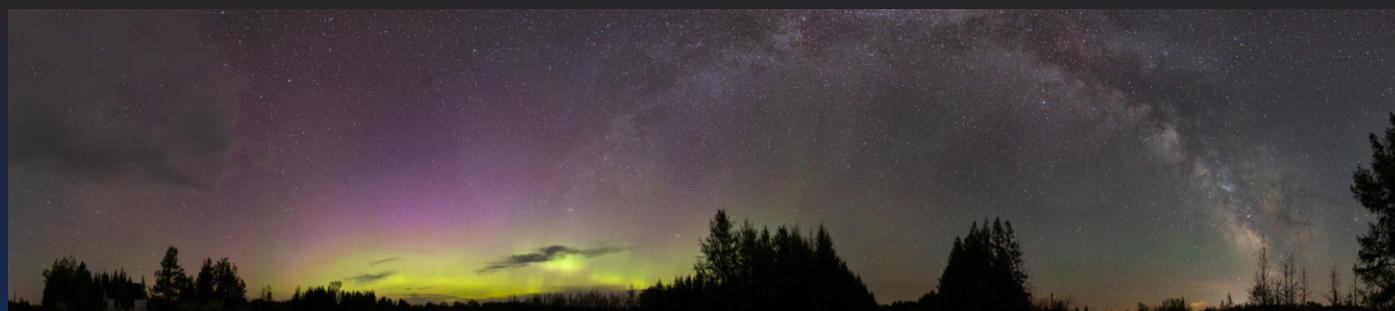
### Rapid Response Dive Team – removal of Eurasian Water Milfoil on Long and Virgin Lakes:

Diver Hours	268.5
Assist Team Hours	362.0
Motorized Boat Hours	147.0
Non-motorized Boat Hours	191.0
Non-motorized Boat Days	85.0

### Grand Total Hours:

AYS Volunteer, Divers, Team Assistants	1146.5
Motorized Boat Hours	405.8
Non-motorized Boat Hours	344.8
Non-motorized Boat Days	206

To our many volunteers, thank you for your time and interest! If you are not a volunteer and you or someone in your family is interested in participating in this worthwhile program, please contact your Lake Captain listed in this publication. If you cannot contact your Lake Captain or your lake does not currently have a Lake Captain assigned, you may contact David Wheeler at [darkhorse53@gmail.com](mailto:darkhorse53@gmail.com) with "AYS" for the topic line to request participation.



## NORTHWOODS LIGHTS OUT!

*"Only in the darkness can you see the stars." ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**WHEN:** Firefly Watch June 17-18, 2023  
Milky Way & Perseid Watch August 12-13, 2023

### JOIN US ON THE ABOVE DATES TO:

- Turn off nighttime lights
- Switch to motion detector lights • Save energy and money
- Help fireflies, migrating birds, and other creatures
- Preserve the northwoods night skies

Sponsored by Oneida County Land and Water and Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department  
For more information call 715-369-7835 or visit <https://www.oclw.org/special-projects.html>

# Adopt Your Shoreline

by Dave Wheeler



## Eurasian Water Milfoil

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), *Myriophyllum spicatum*, is an aquatic invasive species that has been causing significant ecological and economic damage to the waterways of Wisconsin. It is present on our Three Lakes Chain on Virgin Lake and Long Lake. This non-native plant from Eurasia and North Africa can grow quickly and outcompete native plant species, leading to a decline in water quality and biodiversity. Recent studies have also indicated a significant devaluation of shoreline property values where EWM is located. This article will explore the eradication efforts of EWM and the challenges that are faced in controlling this invasive species.

EWM was first introduced to North America in the late nineteenth century and has since spread throughout the United States. It was first discovered in Wisconsin in 1962. The plant grows quickly and can form dense mats on the water's surface, which can impact water quality and limit recreational activities. These dense mats also reduce the amount of sunlight that reaches the water, which can negatively impact the growth of native plant species and reduce oxygen levels, leading to negative impacts on aquatic wildlife.

Eradication efforts for EWM in Wisconsin have focused on a combination of mechanical and chemical control methods. Mechanical control involves physically removing the plants, either by hand or by using specialized equipment like aquatic weed harvesters (DASH) or bottom (benthic) barriers. Chemical control involves using registered aquatic herbicides to kill the plants, which can be effective in reducing plant populations, but can also have negative impacts on native plant species and aquatic wildlife.

One successful example of eradication efforts in Wisconsin is on Lake Wingra in Madison. In 2005, the Lake Wingra Watershed Association implemented a multi-year eradication program that used a combination of mechanical and chemical control methods to remove EWM from the lake. This program was successful, and the lake is now free of

this invasive species. This program used a combination of control methods, including hand harvesting and the use of a herbicide, to control the invasive species and protect native plant species. Despite this successful example, the eradication of EWM continues to be a significant challenge. The invasive species can spread quickly and can be difficult to control once established in a waterway. Additionally, there are concerns about the potential negative impacts of aquatic herbicides and other chemical control methods on native plant species and aquatic wildlife. As a result, it is essential to develop and implement sustainable, environmentally friendly methods for controlling and eradicating this invasive species.



The eradication of EWM is an ongoing challenge that requires a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach. Mechanical and chemical control methods all have their advantages and disadvantages, and it is essential to use a combination of these methods to achieve the best results. With the right approach, it is possible to control and eradicate EWM and protect our valuable water resources for generations to come.





# Clean Boats Clean Waters

by Bob Agen

## The 2023 Spring Report



The Clean Boats Clean Waters mission remains the same. We continue to educate boaters about the dangers of invasive species and assist them with the removal of aquatic vegetation from their watercrafts.

To accomplish this task, we hope to have three paid boat

inspectors by the first of June. It should be noted that we continue to struggle in filling all three positions. We will welcome back our volunteers and hope to add a few more. High school students needing to fulfill community service requirements should contact me

and I can help them gain a few hours of service checking boats.

Our plan is to once again monitor six of the busiest boat landings on the Three Lakes Chain.

For more information, email [agenrobert@gmail.com](mailto:agenrobert@gmail.com)



Visit our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/threelakeswaterfront](https://www.facebook.com/threelakeswaterfront)  
for information about our lakes and association!



### LAKE CAPTAINS

BIG  
BIG FORK  
BIG STONE  
CRYSTAL  
CRYSTAL  
DEER  
DOG  
FOURMILE

ISLAND  
JULIA  
LAUREL

LITTLE FORK  
LONG  
MAPLE  
MEDICINE  
MOCCASIN  
PLANTING GROUND  
RANGE LINE  
ROUND  
SPIRIT  
THOROUGHFARE  
TOWNLINE  
VIRGIN  
WHITEFISH

**Steve Laszewski**  
**Kathy Olkowski**  
**OPEN**  
**Jeffrey Goelz**  
**Lionel Kliss**  
**Jay Teagle**  
**Gene Baltz**  
**Mike Gray**  
**Lori Gray**  
**Doug Scheffen**  
**David Mitzner**  
**Mark Wallesverd**  
**Charles Brady**  
**Mary O'Hara**  
**Gary White**  
**Ron Bennett**  
**Bruce Renquist**  
**Ryan Lamon**  
**Norris Ross**  
**John Folaron**  
**Gwen Hutchins**  
**John Lake**  
**Paul Matthiae**  
**Lou Bruckmoser**  
**Bob Borek**  
**Dave Wheeler**

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715-891-4673  
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715-546-8109  
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715-546-2732  
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920-344-0698  
651-408-2505  
715-546-8107  
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815-351-7573  
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414-687-5900  
608-556-1234  
715-546-2117  
715-891-6154  
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# Shoreline Restoration

by Ceci Kiefer



## Yellow Iris On the Move

It's that time of year again! The warm days melt the snow piles and ice remaining on the lakes. Brown turns to green as the vegetation begins to emerge after the long winter. Most importantly, it is Yellow Iris season.

This unwelcome invasive plant shows up in early summer along the water's edge and can be easily identified with its bright yellow flowers. Take the time now to check your shore and mark their location. Plan to treat them with herbicide or remove them this year. It may take a few years to successfully eliminate

them so keep an eye on the area each year. Water safe herbicide and tools for digging can be borrowed from the TLWA bin at Anchor Marine. Just stop in there and sign out what you need. Please return them in a timely manner so others can use them as well. I will also have water safe herbicide as well as a natural DIY mixture in addition to some digging tools at my cottage on Reed Road.

Please contact me (920-621-7688) if you would like to arrange to pick something up from there. As stewards of our lakes, such a valuable resource,

we are all charged to work to preserve them for the future.

While yellow iris is loved and appreciated by some, it presents a huge threat to the natural habitat along the shore. Let's work together to answer this call to action.



## What's Growing on Your Shore?

Be sure to check out the plantings at Jollywood on Big Fork Lake, the winner of the Your Shore Your Lake contest.

In the first full growing season we can expect to see some flowers starting to bloom as they begin to spread and fill out the area along the shore.

The owners will continue to support them with deer fencing and regular watering for this season. Take a look at your shoreline to see if there may be an opportunity to restore a portion to a natural state while preserving the areas you use for access and recreation. Even planting a small area will make a

difference while adding to the beauty of the shore.

Check out some of the resources at [tlwa.org](http://tlwa.org) under the Shoreline Resources tab for inspiration and "how to's."

Or contact Ceci Kiefer [cckiefer@gmail.com](mailto:cckiefer@gmail.com) or 920-621-7688.

## Bits and Pieces

Not sure if you owe membership dues? Since TLWA went to both a single year and 3 year payment plan, you may not be sure if you are current. Please check with John at [TLWA\\_Membership@icloud.com](mailto:TLWA_Membership@icloud.com) to find out.

TLWA uses Constant Contact to notify members of immediate concerns or current information. If you have changed your email address since paying your dues, or prefer the notification to go to another family member, please let us know at [TLWA\\_Membership@icloud.com](mailto:TLWA_Membership@icloud.com).

# **Shoreline Restoration with Native Pollinator Plant Species**

## ***Tuesday, June 20, 2023***

### ***in Three Lakes***

Imagine your shoreline alive with butterflies, birds, and blooming native wildflowers. The fish have returned, the loons come in close, and at night a chorus of frogs sings you to sleep. No, this isn't just a dream — it's all possible, AND you can still have a dock, a swimming area, and a beautiful lawn to play and walk barefoot on.

To find out how, you are invited to a day of demonstrations and presentations on creating a shoreline that is attractive for both people and animals. Here's what you'll learn about:

- A new type of lawn that blooms and attract bees and butterflies, yet it doesn't grow more than a few inches tall and hardly needs mowing.
- How to landscape a shoreline that will be the talk of the neighborhood — for humans and animals alike.
- How to establish eye-popping flowerbeds with disease-resistant native species that require no maintenance and provide bountiful pollen and nectar for beautiful butterflies, and for the bees so needed for pollinating our food crops.

#### **When**

9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 20

#### **Where**

James Lake Farms, 1075 South Big Lake Loop, Three Lakes, WI 54562

#### **Schedule of Events**

We start with Patrick Goggin, UW-Extension Lake Management Specialist, giving a 45-minute presentation, followed by Q&A, on the importance of shoreline restoration and native pollinator species, and how lawns and the other shoreline features we love can fit into the equation.

On hand along with Patrick to field questions will be John Stauner, James Lake Farms owner and prairie restorationist; Baerbel Ehrig, Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Lakeshore Restoration Specialist; and Tamarack Song, Director of the Healing Nature Center.

At 10:00 a.m., John will give us a one-hour tour of the prairie restoration he is doing at James Lake Farms.

We then caravan over to the Healing Nature Center at 7136 Military Road, where at 11:30 a.m. Baerbel and Tamarack will demonstrate their work with wildflower reintroduction, bee lawns, and prairie/shoreline restoration.



### What are the regulations in regard to boat docks and boat slips?

- Their length?
- The number a property owner can have?
- How many boat lifts can go on it?
- Can they have lights? Flags?
- Can a dock be parallel to the shoreline?
- Are there different DNR regulations for commercial lakefront docks vs private?



All this information “Piers and Recreational Structures Permitting” is included on this webpage:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Waterways/recreation/recreation.html>, however we will answer your questions specifically. **See below:**

**Pier Length:** A pier may extend into the water as far as A, B, or C – whichever is further from shore:

- A – the 3-foot water depth (summer low level)
- B – where there is adequate depth for mooring a boat, or using a boat hoist or boat lift.
- C – the municipal pierhead line (if one is established by a local ordinance)

**Pier Configuration:** may be placed in a variety of configurations, including straight, or with a “T” or “L”. Catwalks, finger piers or similar features may be used for access to boat slips, as long as they meet the size limits (< or = to 200 sqft.)

**Number of Piers:** Wisconsin pier laws do not regulate the number of pier dock or wharf structures that you can place on your property. Wisconsin pier laws do regulate the size of the structure (e.g., width) and how you use the structure (e.g., boat slips/berths). However there may be local ordinances that restrict the number of structures placed on your property either directly or indirectly by requiring side setbacks with structure placement.

**Boat Slips:** The number of boat slips, berths, mooring spaces, etc. allowed on your property is determined by the amount of shoreline owned. The law states that for non-commercial properties or properties with less than three dwelling units, up to two boat slips are allowed for the first 50 feet of shoreline owned and one for each additional full 50 feet of shoreline owned. For non-commercial properties you can also place two personal watercraft for the first 50 feet of shoreline owned and one personal watercraft for each additional 50 feet of shoreline owned. You can place this number without a permit.

Lights and flags are allowed.

**Consideration for parallel pier:** A pier may not enclose or isolate any part of a waterway.

**Commercial vs Residential Piers:** There are no exceptions to the general permit conditions detailed above. Basically you don’t need to apply for a pier permit if the above criteria is maintained. Should the pier exceed size or number of boats it can accommodate, then an individual permit will need to be applied for. This permit is reviewed for many things and subjected to public comment prior to issuance.

Pre-existing piers may be replaced in-kind even if they are grandfathered (prior to April 2012) into a general permit and have higher capacity or length as described above as long as it is not made any larger.

# PARTYING ON THE CHAIN

by Gay Scheffen

Our family bought our first cottage on the Three Lakes Chain in 1965. We knew we wanted to live here year round one day and my search for a “heart home” began. One day on a boat ride I spotted a home on a little bay, found the owner, made an offer and it was ours!

That was over 35 years ago and we continue to love it more everyday.... except for one problem. The sandbar! The sandbar emanates from one of the points of our bay and what fun it was to walk off the shore into the warm, shallow water with our kids when they were little. We enjoyed it for many years, with an occasional neighbor or vacationer anchoring there, which never bothered us at all.

And then things changed. The visitors were no longer occasional. They came regularly on sunny days and the numbers grew exponentially. Over a period of summers, a holiday like the 4th of July could bring as many as 60 to 70 boats, meaning easily over one to two hundred people! Some days they would start arriving as early as 8 a.m. setting up chairs in the water, volleyball nets, grills – all the comforts of home! They began using our point to walk their dogs and relieve themselves. We could view all this from our deck or yard. We were ultimately forced to fence the point as when we would walk there, we would find baby diapers, toilet paper, condoms ... use your imagination! Fencing helped but we now cut off our own access to the water from there.

Calling the police became a regular routine and when Three Lakes had funding for an “aqua cop,” it was definitely helpful. Reporting thoughtless, loud, unruly folks is important to do. Many people are just having fun and have no idea how disruptive they are.

The laws in Wisconsin are clear. If your feet are wet, you're legal. You aren't to walk in people's yards but can stand in the water, an inch from their shoreline all day long. I've been told that in parts of Michigan, people own 50 feet of the water off their property!

Over time, I have regularly walked out onto the point to talk to the “sand people” as we call them. I tell them to have fun but to be respectful. They have no idea how loud their voices sound and their



A glimpse of how popular this Chain sandbar is.

music is. Sometimes we have to close our windows and drapes to drown out the noise. I'm certain other properties nearby are disturbed as well. We have to try and focus on our love of Three Lakes, our property and how grateful we are to be able to live here. But it seems out of balance. We pay the taxes and maintain our property but others are allowed to have a real negative impact on our life. We also worry that when we sell our home, the busy point could be a deal breaker for many. I couldn't live with selling in winter and hiding the fact of it. So that is a concern as well.

It seems like there should be some rules or restrictions so we all could share the beauty and joy. Perhaps limiting the number of boats at one time, keeping a distance of a number of feet from the shoreline, keeping music and voices down to a quieter level, having specific hours to park – all would help enormously. Personally, I believe limiting the number of boats would solve all the other problems. Having a way to enforce these rules is critical... and here lies much of the problem.

Our lakes are amazing and we are blessed to have access to them. Everyone should be able to enjoy the water in all the available ways – but not at the expense of others.





# EVERYBODY'S GOTTA GO

by Linda Woiak

Staying hydrated while outdoors is important. Enjoying that cold drink on a sunny day with your family on a boat is a simple pleasure. People, specifically women and elderly folks, will often purposefully avoid drinking while boating because they don't have a simple, clear way to pee. It can be hard to know what to do and embarrassing, in so many ways.

Holding urine for long periods of time can weaken bladder muscles, possibly causing UTI's and later in life incontinence! Urine, although sterile, is considered a biohazard and should be disposed of appropriately.

There are ways to GO on a boat. Few boats on our Three Lakes Chain are big enough for porta potties or head compartments (bathrooms on boats). Peeing over the side is not an easy or safe practice for anyone. Peeing in the water is not healthy for people (UTI's) or the environment. I always cringe when I think of 100 or so people partying on the sandbars on a lovely summer day.



When starting a day on the boat, develop a clear and designated routine- to include everyone. Something on the order of, "Good Morning. Here's the pee bucket, here's a great spot to use it. Everyone, let us know when you have to go and we'll give you a moment of privacy."

Avoid making a big deal about this basic function of life. Do not make jokes, comment about frequency, amount, sounds or smells.

Respect each others privacy and needs.

Best practice is peeing in a pail with a lid. A degree of privacy can be had by wrapping a beach towel around your waist. Five gallon pails work fine, two gallon pails are smaller. If you want to be fancy, you can buy a Luggable Loo from Dick's Sporting Goods

for \$25 that includes a five gallon pail and a toilet seat. A simple tip to avoid the "Thunder Bucket" effect is to put an inch of water in your bucket. Don't forget toilet paper, a garbage bag and handwipes. Once you get back to shore, dump it in a toilet at the launch or at home. No big deal.

For those very uncomfortable times when you are desperate on smaller boats... plastic cups are handy, many different types of funnels, Ziploc bags... In kayaks when you can't land – it's common to use a bottle or even a boat sponge, safer than trying to go in open water. A covered urinal is not a bad idea.

Personally, I've had years of boat enjoyment and have gotten used to going in a pail in close proximity to my friends and family. It's not a comfortable discussion. When it is simply brought up and talked about in a straight forward way, going on a boat can make boating less embarrassing, more pleasurable, comfortable and environmentally sound. Enjoy the go.

## TLWA T-SHIRTS & HATS

A reminder to all members and non-members alike. Three Lakes Waterfront Association T-shirts and hats 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 for either hat or shirt is a donation supporting the mission of the TLWA. *Go ahead, make Eagle River jealous!*



# Lakes 101

By Michala Feigal, UWSP Alumni

## Topic: Measuring Water Clarity

*The lakes are thawed, the air is warmer and the sun shines longer... it's (almost) summer! It's the time of year for Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) volunteers to gear up for the monitoring season. There are over 1,000 citizen volunteers throughout the state of Wisconsin that monitor our waters. CLMN volunteers monitor several aspects of our lakes including:*

- Water Clarity
- Water Chemistry
- Ice-on and Ice-off
- Lake Level Fluctuation
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
- Native Aquatic Plants

## Water Clarity (Secchi) Monitoring

Once trained, water clarity monitoring is quite simple and a great excuse to get out on the water! Water clarity monitoring uses an eight-inch black and white disc, called a Secchi disc, to determine clarity. These measurements are taken on a sunny or partly cloudy day between 10:00am-4:00pm. The Secchi disc, attached to a rope marked at one-foot increments, is lowered until the disc is no longer visible. This depth is marked on the rope with a clothespin. The rope is then lowered a couple more feet and then raised until the Secchi disc comes into sight, this depth is also marked with a clothespin. An average of the two measurements is recorded as the Secchi depth. Volunteers record this depth every 10-14 days

*Lakes 101 is a recurring section of Lake Tides that is meant to help explain the basics of lake related topics. If you are curious about a lake issue or water related topic, let us know and we will explore it in a future issue ([uwexlakes@uwsp.edu](mailto:uwexlakes@uwsp.edu) or 715-346-4744). You can also connect with us on Facebook by typing "Wisconsin Lakes Partnership" into the search box at <http://www.facebook.com>.*

throughout the open-water season, and enter the data into a statewide database. A single Secchi measurement is not particularly useful, but many Secchi measurements over a period of time can tell us a story about our lakes. The measurements can tell us if our water clarity is improving, declining or remaining the same.

## Interested in becoming a CLMN Volunteer?

Paul Skawinski is the Statewide CLMN Educator. Contact Paul at (715) 346-4853 or [paul.skawinski@uwsp.edu](mailto:paul.skawinski@uwsp.edu).

For more information click on the CLMN logo at [www.uwsp.edu/UWEXLakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/UWEXLakes).



Photo by Laura Herman



## Water Clarity Checklist:

- ☐ Secchi Disc on a rope
- ☐ Two clothespins
- ☐ Sunny or partly cloudy day, between 10:00am-4:00pm (on open water)
- ☐ Boat
- ☐ Anchor
- ☐ Life Jacket
- ☐ Data sheet
- ☐ Pencil



## Watch the Video!

Check out our video on the proper way to monitor for water clarity with a Secchi disc. Go to [www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes), click the CLMN logo, scroll down the page and click the "Water Clarity" icon.





# Membership Report

by John Ray



As members of the Three Lakes Waterfront Association, we should consider ourselves a part of a “Community of Lifesavers” who share a vested interest in maintaining and preserving the Three Lakes Chain of freshwater lakes. We constitute the largest group of volunteers on the Chain who annually ‘volunteer’ our hard-earned cash to help finance the health of this precious resource.

Beyond these ever-important financial contributions, our lake system reaps the benefits of hundreds of volunteers who perform thousands of hours of work, every year in and year out. Our Board of Directors is a cast of fourteen professionals who collectively assure the TLWA is running on all cylinders. These annual “free of charge” services include:

- Meet monthly to discuss and act on lake issues
- Write grants, review lake-related publications for best practices
- Liaise with the public and government agencies – contract and direct scientific research
- Communicate via the biannual TLWA Newsletter, TLWA website, email and social media
- Guide and participate in programs including Clean Boats/Clean Waters, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) monitoring and mitigation, Fish Sticks, Adopt-Your-Shoreline, Three Lakes Aquatic Education and Exploration, Dive Team, Shoreline Restoration, Scholarship
- CPA services, legal review, biologic and geologic consultants, GPS-based cartography, photography
- Signage construction and installation of kiosks and TLWA plaques

Alongside these heroic efforts, a cadre of Lake Captains and shoreline monitors are aggressively examining and reporting on the biological health of our 108 miles of shoreline.

Why everyone in the lakeside community is not jumping at the chance to join the TLWA and support the effort is beyond me. At the end of the first quarter 2023, there are 856 prized members from a potential pool of 1876 unique shoreline property owners in the Chain. In addition, 33 local businesses members actively support our efforts. We continue to herald our message to those that are just a year or three behind in their dues and those new to the area. If you don’t see a TLWA sign on your neighbors’ driveway, take a few minutes to tell them how important their help is to the community.

“Show me the Money” – Through cash management and volunteers, we currently have a vital cache of money in the bank. Annual expenses include a percentage of costs related to grant programs and minimal operating fees, etc. Since our inception in 1967, we have been saving and banking for the future in preparation for inevitable circumstances. As of 2023, the future is now. Our cache will allow the TLWA to purchase AIS water treatment on Virgin Lake and the construction of a DASH boat (*see related article in this issue on page 4*). Membership inquiries and donations have significantly increased in the two areas actively mitigating AIS. It becomes easier to understand the importance of TLWA once there is an issue close to home.

The TLWA financial team is actively pursuing access to online membership renewal and payment options and look forward to announcing this service in the near future.

“Changing of the Guard” – I was drafted and did accept the call to take over responsibilities for the TLWA Membership program. After a few months of service, I sure have a growing appreciation of all the work and care Jerry and Ann Oehman provided through the years. If there are any questions or concerns, please direct your inquiries to John Ray at [TLWA\\_Membership@icloud.com](mailto:TLWA_Membership@icloud.com).

# WE LOVE OUR TLWA SIGNS

TLWA plaques, often seen below TLWA members' address posts, were made to celebrate the Association's 50th anniversary in 2018. After being designed by Bruce Renquist, Mike Kwaterski formulated a coating to be put on the cedar that would protect the plaques for about three years from the sun. That was the best that could be done. So warned that no matter what, nothing would hold up longer, TLWA went ahead and ordered up at least 800 plaques. Mike gave us a good price on the wood. He, also, cut and rounded the edges and coated the first several hundred and Ed Cottingham drilled the holes for mounting.



joined students in the Three Lakes Fab Lab to burn in the TLWA logo.

No one expected these plaques to be so appreciated for the long term by TLWA members. The originals are now in their 5th year of use. To



After the initial group, in order to save money, Mike provided the blanks and Ed did the routing, drilling and coating of all the other plaques. Ed Jacobsen, Norris Ross, Bob Agen

refurbish some of the members' signs on his lake, Lake Captain Bob Borek set up a table with a few art supplies. He, then, spent a few long winter's nights painting the TLWA logo on those plaques. This new look will hopefully last another five years!



## 2023 Board of Directors

### Officers

President	Fred Knoch
Vice President	Lynn Zibell
Treasurer	Ken Rader
Secretary	Ed Jacobsen

### Directors

Bob Agen	Norris Ross
Ed Cottingham	Dave Wheeler
Loretta Griffin	Kelly Wranosky
Paul Matthiae	Paul Wussow
John Ray	

## Program Leaders

Adopt-Your-Shoreline  
 AIS Dive Team  
 Clean Boats/Clean Waters  
 Consultant  
 Education  
 Fish Sticks  
 Geology & Cartography  
 Membership  
 Newsletter  
 OCLRA  
 Purple Loosestrife  
 Scholarship  
 Shoreline Restoration  
 Shoreline Zoning  
 Three Lakes News Contact  
 Water Testing  
 Website

Dave Wheeler  
 Fred Knoch, Jon Willman  
 Bob Agen  
 Jerry Oehmen  
 Paul Matthiae  
 Jason Pertile  
 John Ray  
 John Ray  
 Lynn Zibell  
 Norris Ross  
 Paul Matthiae  
 Ed Cottingham  
 Ceci Keifer  
 Norris Ross  
 Kerry Griebenow  
 Fred Knoch, Lynn Zibell  
 Paul Wussow

For information regarding important issues impacting our lakes and Your own lake property, visit the TLWA website at: [www.TLWA.org](http://www.TLWA.org) or contact TLWA by emailing [jaketheoilguy@yahoo.com](mailto:jaketheoilguy@yahoo.com)