

July, 2012

## TIME FOR SUMMER FUN!

*Then followed that beautiful season... Summer...  
Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape  
Lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood.*

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

### **COME TO THE CELEBRATION!**

The Manitowish Waters Lakes Association (MWLA) will be celebrating its 20th anniversary at the Annual Meeting/Picnic scheduled for **Saturday, July 28, 2012 from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.** The celebration will take place in the pavilion at the Manitowish Waters Community Center with check-in beginning at **3:30 p.m.**

A short business meeting with election of Directors will start promptly at **4:00 p.m.** The grant kick-off presentation by Tim Hoyman, Aquatic Ecologist from the consulting firm Onterra, LLC of De Pere, WI., will begin at **4:20 p.m.** Adjournment to the picnic is planned for **5:30 pm.**

Mr. Hoyman's very important grant kick-off presentation will address the series of Lake Management Planning and Education Grants anticipated for the next five years. These grants will result in a management plan for the entire Chain, including the Manitowish River and lakes below the dam.

Curly leaf pondweed (CLP), an aquatic invasive species (AIS) has been discovered in several lakes of the MW Chain, including more than 23 acres in Rice Creek and smaller infestations in the Spider-Island Channel, Island Lake, and Stone Lake. Fragments of CLP have recently been found floating in the channel between Stone and Rest Lakes.

**Boaters of motorized water craft are strongly encouraged to avoid entering Rice Creek from Island Lake, and to immediately clean their props when leaving infested areas, especially Rice creek and the Island-Spider channel, to minimize the spread of CLP.**

The Town Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership (TAISP) comprised of the Town of Manitowish Waters, the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association and the North Lakeland Discovery Center was awarded several WDNR grants for the Manitowish Chain that will expand our understanding of the health, functioning, and threats to our lakes and rivers, and enable us to protect and enhance them for generations to come. The Town of

Boulder Junction has also become a partner in this endeavor by generously contributing funds.

In August 2011, the MW Chain was awarded the MWLA-sponsored Rest Lake Management Planning Grant and received the highest score of all grant applications in its category. In February 2012, the Chain was awarded the North Lakeland Discovery Center-sponsored Phase 1B: Island and Spider Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Education, Planning and Prevention Grant. This project, which has multiple phases in future years to cover the entire Chain, also received the highest score of all of the grant applications in its category for this cycle. Also awarded was an Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection & Response Grant for treatment of curly leaf pondweed.

The grant kick-off presentation will be followed by a picnic with free brats, burgers, beer, and wine to thank members for their dedication in helping to prevent AIS. Your membership in the MWLA covers you and your immediate family. If you bring guests, they can take out a membership for only \$25 or make a donation right at the picnic to join the fun and help celebrate our 20-year anniversary.

Anne Kretschmann, Water Specialist and Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, and Scott Blado, Water Education Intern, from the North Lakeland Discovery Center will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about aquatic invasive species. We strongly encourage you to bring in aquatic plant samples from your shoreline that you would like identified. They will provide information on how to monitor your shoreline for AIS and the programs that the Discovery Center offers that train you to become a Lake Captain or Deckhand.

There will also be an opportunity for you to meet North Lakeland students who were involved in the Purple Loosestrife Beetle Project and who attended MWLA-sponsored field trips. North Lakeland's outstanding Outdoor Education Program, is under the direction of Science Teacher Leif Williams. The program, designed for seventh grade students, focuses on water resources, fresh water ecology, stewardship, and recreation on or around the Manitowish Chain.

The MWLA has assembled a huge array of extraordinary raffle items and door prizes including a Kindle Fire, iPod Shuffle, gift certificates to local businesses, fine jewelry, Wisconsin Lakes Trivia game, chronograph watch, beach tote package, and a dichroic glass wall vase. **Don't forget to bring address labels to put on your raffle tickets.**

You will be able to purchase MWLA merchandise such as hats, t-shirts and sweatshirts.

### **YOU CAN BECOME A LAKE CAPTAIN OR DECKHAND**

It's not too late to become actively involved in monitoring for aquatic invasive species (AIS) on your body of water. Volunteering is as easy as walking down your shoreline and noticing what plants have washed up or keeping your eyes open for aquatic invasive species while you are out fishing or taking a pontoon ride on a sunny day. The Discovery Center is hosting numerous trainings throughout the summer on how to volunteer and what to look for. They will help you identify any potential AIS that you find in your lake and stream travels. Simply bring a sample by to show them, or take a

photograph and email it to Anne Kretschmann at the Discovery Center (see contact information below).

It's important to note that even if you don't see an aquatic invasive species; your time spent keeping your eyes open still counts. The chain-wide grants we received require an in-kind match of either volunteer hours or cash funding. Thus, your volunteer time and boat hours help us fulfill our commitments. Please report all volunteer time and boat-hours to Anne Kretschmann, AIS Coordinator at [ais@discoverycenter.net](mailto:ais@discoverycenter.net) or 715-543-2085. Every little bit helps keep our lakes beautiful. We hope you'll help us in this endeavor as our success depends on you. We remain thankful for your endless efforts!

### **2012 FISH CRIB PROJECT** by Tom Kramer

The fish crib project was delayed this spring due to a variety of circumstances. With the ice going out early, we didn't have time to sink them through the ice. The DNR did not want them sunk during fish spawning season, so that eliminated the opportunity to put them in during April and May. The special equipment needed to sink the cribs in open water has been tied up on other jobs.

We have a total of 34 cribs to put in Alder, Little Star and Manitowish Lakes. Most of the cribs are about 2 feet in height and will be placed in more shallow water than the cribs last year. These shorter cribs are more likely to attract fish for spawning. We hope to have GPS coordinates of the cribs available at our Annual Meeting and also posted on the MWLA website.



We would like to thank all the people that contributed their time and equipment to build the cribs. Special thanks to Chuck Kramer & Chuck's Excavating, Mike Kramer, Don Fields, Jessie Christenson, Bob Kulinski, and the rest of the people who will be helping with the sinking of the cribs set to begin the week of July 9<sup>th</sup>. We would sincerely like to thank everyone that donated money this year – it was a tremendous help. Look for the miniature fish crib donation containers placed in area businesses, and please consider making a contribution to this great project. You can also mail donations to the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association, Inc. P.O. Box 286, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Curly leaf pondweed, an aquatic invasive species from northern Europe, out-competes native aquatic plants by beginning to grow under the ice in early spring. It forms dense mats that make it difficult to swim or boat. It begins to die back in mid-summer releasing nutrients that can cause algal blooms and other problems. It is easily spread by boats and trailers.
- High concentrations of blue-green algae can make people and animals sick. The algae can irritate your eyes, skin and nasal passages. It can poison your pets resulting in death. To find out more go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/bluegreenalgae/>
- Ingesting one lead sinker or jig will kill a loon. Use non-lead fishing sinkers and jigs. Close encounters can be deadly for swimming or nesting loons. Watch loons from at least 200 feet away. Never fish or cast near loon nests or swimming loons.
- Worms can destroy a forest. Throw bait worms in the trash not on the ground. “When occupying Northern forests, worms consume so many fallen leafs and nutrients that soils become heavy and compacted, causing ferns, seedlings and wildflowers to struggle. They also harm native hardwoods, especially sugar maples in places such as Wisconsin's Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and Minnesota's Chippewa National Forest.”
- A two-mile stretch of Rice Creek is designated as a Wisconsin Wetland Gem. “This area is surrounded by a large wetland complex (435 acres) of coniferous swamp, fen and sedge meadow that supports a diversity of plants and animals, including a number of rare species.”
- Ducks and geese have been found to carry the parasite that is part of the swimmer's itch cycle. To find out more go to [www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/swimmersitch](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/swimmersitch)
- Recent research done by Dr. Ben Beardmore revealed that Wisconsin property values are negatively impacted on lakes with AIS.
- There are positive economic benefits to shoreline protection and restoration. To find out more go to <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/shoreland/zone1.htm>
- The DNR has a new AIS website. To find out more go to [www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/)
- “Anglers, Ice Your Catch!” campaign posters are being distributed throughout Vilas and Oneida Counties to encourage anglers to put their catch on ice. Live fish on ice (without lake water) are considered dead and can be legally transported.

- One flowering purple loosestrife plant can release 2.7 million seeds annually. Wildlife and fish decline significantly in areas infested by purple loosestrife through reduction of habitat and food sources.
- The Northwoods Land Trust is a non-profit, tax exempt conservation organization that you can donate cash, bonds, stocks, property, or conservation easements to while promoting conservation of our northwoods. To find out more go to [www.northwoodslandtrust.org](http://www.northwoodslandtrust.org)
- The MWLA donates money to organizations that sponsor activities that fit our mission of maintaining, protecting and enhancing the quality of the MW Chain of Lakes. We donate to Camp Jorn, the North Lakeland Discovery Center, the NLES Outdoor Education Program, and the Skiing Skeeters.
- As a public service, the Skiing Skeeters will be announcing AIS and water safety information during their half-time programs this summer.

### **PLEASE RENEW YOUR MWLA MEMBERSHIP**

Thank you to those who have already renewed their MWLA membership. Membership runs from June 1 to May 31 of the following year. If you haven't already renewed, please take a few minutes to fill out the attached form. Your \$25 membership dues allow us to "maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes and other Township Waters". We cannot be successful unless we have the support of our membership, so please encourage your friends and neighbors to join our association.

Check out our website at [www.mwlakes.com](http://www.mwlakes.com) for information such as board meeting minutes, topical lakes-related articles, information on aquatic invasive species, and past e-newsletters. Let us know your concerns.

**Please fill out the attached renewal form and mail it to Manitowish Waters Lakes Association or MWLA at P.O. Box 286, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545**  
**The MWLA Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support.**

**Karen Dixon**  
**President**  
 Manitowish River  
 715-543-8141

**Tom Joseph**  
**Vice President**  
 Rest Lake  
 715-543-8362

**Eleanor Butler**  
**Treasurer**  
 Alder Lake  
 715-543-8401

**Marilyn Gabert**  
**Secretary**  
 Manitowish Lake  
 715-543-8224

**Jim Banovetz**  
 Wild Rice Lake  
 715-385-2812

**Bob Becker**  
 Spider Lake  
 715-543-2219

**Greg Holt**  
 Benson Lake  
 715-543-8168

**Barry Hopkins**  
 Rest Lake  
 715-904-0480

**Tom Kramer**  
 Hwy. 51  
 715-543-8000

**Merry Perkins**  
 Sturgeon Lake  
 715-543-2048

**Jim Reichert**  
 Alder Lake  
 715-543-2647

**Bob Stowers**  
 Manitowish Lake  
 715-543-2284

**Fred Theisen**  
 Island Lake  
 715-543-8860

**MWLA Membership/Renewal Application Form**

Annual Dues \$25.00 (June 1 to May 31 of the following year)

Make check payable to: Manitowish Waters Lakes Association or MWLA

Mail to: P.O. Box 286, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545

**Note: MWLA does not share its membership list with other organizations.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of lake/river you live on \_\_\_\_\_

Name of lake/river you live nearest to if you live off-water \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Address if mail is delivered in MW \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate when mail is delivered to you in MW - from what month to what month:  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

MW Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Residence Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide an email address so you can receive MWLA e-Alerts and e-Newsletters.

Email address (print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

With the awarding of the WDNR Aquatic Invasive Species Grants, we are especially in need of members who are willing to help offset the in-kind hours required by the grants.

\_\_\_\_ I am willing to volunteer time to monitoring for AIS

I am willing to help with:

\_\_\_\_ 4th of July booth (2 hour shift) or \_\_\_\_ 4th of July trout pond (2 hour shift)

\_\_\_\_ Annual Meeting

\_\_\_\_ Colorama booth or \_\_\_\_ pontoon tours of the Chain

\_\_\_\_ Mailings

If you are unable to volunteer the gift of time, we ask that you please consider making a monetary contribution. I am including a donation for the following:

\_\_\_\_ Fish Crib Project

\_\_\_\_ Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

\_\_\_\_ Annual Meeting Raffle

\_\_\_\_ Miscellaneous