



July, 2015

SENSATIONAL SUMMER!

"Summer afternoon - summer afternoon: to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language." ~ Henry James ~



YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Your generous donations and offers to volunteer for the variety of activities listed on the renewal form have been overwhelming. Thank you to all who have renewed their membership for this year. For those who have not yet renewed, we have enclosed a renewal form. Annual dues are **only \$25.00** and run from June 1 to May 31 of the following year. **Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join the MWLA! Everyone who loves and enjoys the waters of our township should help support our efforts "to maintain, protect and enhance our water quality, fishery, boating safety, and native habitat".**

MWLA ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC – JOIN US FOR THE FUN!

Our Annual Meeting and Picnic will be held at the North Lakeland Discovery Center **on Saturday, July 25 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.** Please mark the date on your calendar. Sign-in starts at 3:30 p.m. with the business meeting beginning promptly at 4:00. A free picnic dinner will be provided for all MWLA members. There will be a raffle of fantastic offerings including pottery, jewelry, a basket of "cool gal" items, a Kindle Fire HDX tablet, a Fitbit Flex Wireless Activity & Sleep Wristband, plus much, much more! **Make sure you remember to bring your address labels to put on your raffle tickets!**

The picnic will be catered by Blue Bayou Inn Restaurant. The menu will include brats, burgers and all the fixin's, plus a pasta salad, blackened chicken salad, and dessert. Beer, wine, lemonade, and water will be provided.

A short business meeting to elect Officers and Directors will be followed by the North Lakeland 7th grade science students describing their Outdoor Education Field Trips that are sponsored by the MWLA. Anne Kretschmann, Water Specialist/AIS Coordinator at the North Lakeland Discovery Center, will give a brief update on the current status of the WDNR grants

awarded to the MW Chain for AIS prevention and control. She will also explain the 2015 plan and procedures for the control of curly leaf pondweed. There will be an opportunity for you to share your lake/river concerns.

HELLO MANITOWISH WATERS! By Maggie Armstrong, AIS Water Intern



Curly Leaf Pondweed

This summer has been quite productive, and we're not even half way done! Between town-wide events and the MW Chain of lakes, newcomers have steadily been exploring all that Manitowish Waters has to offer. And it's not letting up anytime soon! These past few weeks have seen an increase in activity, notably those aquatic in nature. Curly Leaf Pondweed, the bane of the chain, has sprung up yet again. Through grants obtained by the Manitowish Waters Lake Association and the North Lakeland Discovery Center, an aggressive offense against Curly Leaf Pondweed has been in the works. Onterra LLC, a professional lake management group out of De Pere, has been busy finding, quantifying and treating Curly Leaf outbreaks.

The North Lakeland Discovery Center has also been on the move to locate and remove known plants. If you see diving buoys near the AIS pontoon, please be aware of divers in the water hand-pulling Curly Leaf! We will also be re-surveying the lakes later this summer. Should you see the AIS pontoon boat passing by, give us a wave!

Proactive stewardship by citizens is also making a difference in the fight with aquatic invasive species. Interested individuals have been attending trainings to identify AIS. Hard working volunteers have also been assisting in surveying the lakes for Curly Leaf Pondweed and others are taking part in their local water meetings to learn about the proposed management plans.

To those volunteers out monitoring for AIS, please make sure you report all volunteer time and boat hours to Anne Kretschmann, AIS Coordinator at ais@discoverycenter.net or 715-543-2085. Volunteer time is used as local match for the grants and decreases the amount of matching cash-out-of-pocket funding expense to the town.

The combined efforts of these forces have proven fruitful. In case you were wondering, the Early Season AIS Survey completed by Onterra LLC has reported positive. According to the report, there were a few Curly Leaf Pondweed plants in the control (i.e. treated) areas and only a few plants nearby. Also notable, the density of Curly Leaf in the Rice Creek Channel has been reduced. The battle is not over, but these events have been inspiring.

Besides all of the wet work, there has been a lot of work done on dry land. Lake groups have been discussing strategy for best dispersing knowledge about the topic. Some groups have also been meeting with Onterra to personalize the management goals for individual lakes. The planning portion of management is a year-round, ongoing process. A massive thank you to everyone working through the seasons!

Changing from Curly Leaf Pondweed to another photosynthetic energy-producer for a moment, there has recently been some concern about the increase in algae on the Chain, particularly Fawn Lake and Clear Lake. A specialist in Rhinelander has identified the algae as green, which, for the purpose of human and animal interaction, is harmless. There were sparse amounts of native blue-green algae found in the analyzed sample and the specialist is not overly concerned with its presence. The recommendation is that those with pets may want to watch the animal's interactions with the water. Exposure to blue-green algae can cause symptoms such as stomach cramps, diarrhea, vomiting, headache, fever, muscle weakness, and difficulty breathing. You should contact your doctor or the Poison Information Hotline (800-222-1222) immediately. If your pet displays symptoms such as seizures, vomiting, or diarrhea after contact with blue-green algae, contact your veterinarian. Blue-green algae blooms are more common to lakes in both the northern and southern portion of the state. To learn more, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/bluegreenalgae/>.



YOUR ASSISTANCE IS IMPORTANT The Manitowish Chain is a large area to cover and you know your lakes better than anyone. While you're out there enjoying the beauty and opportunities provided by the water, please keep an eye out...

IN THE WATER - Curly Leaf Pondweed can pop up in new locations each summer. With a pair of watchful eyes on the chain, we can quickly remove the plant and diminish the chance of turions (reproductive structures) from spreading.

ON THE MOVE - If your watchful eyes are trained on the water while traversing about the lake, it can benefit the Manitowish Waters community immensely! Any volunteer time spent looking for invasive species among plant clusters and along shorelines will further our collective knowledge about Curly Leaf locations and can count toward the required "hands-on" time for the grants.

ON LAND - We can always use help spreading the word about aquatic invasive species to boaters. Through the Clean Boats Clean Waters program, information about the various threats to the Manitowish chain and precautionary steps against them are being spread to newcomers and old-timers alike.

IN THE FUTURE - Individuals with lakefront property will be sent a survey asking about their interest and investment in the lake system. Please fill these out and return them to the designated address. The information gathered will be used to make an effective lake AIS management plan. Your words have power! If you have any questions or interest in volunteer opportunities or AIS, please contact Anne Kretschmann at the North Lakeland Discovery Center at anne@discoverycenter.net.

REST LAKE DAM By Ron Kuehn, MCDF attorney

In October 2014, the MCDF, Xcel Energy and the DNR reached an agreement to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would establish Rest Lake Dam operating parameters including: retention of the 3.5 foot winter drawdown; summer water release (downstream of the dam) and water retention (within the Chain) parameters designed to protect summer water levels in the Chain and summer flow in the river; spring water release from the dam designed to enhance fish spawning in the river (i.e., maximize spring water release when water temperature reaches 51 degrees, which is a key component for fish successful spawning); other provisions designed to provide dam operation flexibility to maximize all of the above, especially during drought conditions. The final terms of this MOU are expected to be reached within the next few weeks.

In addition, the MCDF has continuously kept Legislative leaders informed of the progress of the negotiations with the DNR. Led by State Senator Tom Tiffany, the existing statute that addresses the Xcel affiliate's (the CFIC) operation of the dam was amended to include a provision that does not allow the DNR to amend the existing Operating Order without approval of the environment committees of the Wisconsin Legislature.

WATER SAFETY PATROL NEWS by Dan Cardinal, Water Safety Patrol Officer

The 4th of July went very smoothly. There was a strong turnout of boats for the fireworks and I do not believe that anyone was disappointed. Compliance with the required boat lights after dark was much improved. Below is a more complete list of boating and fishing regulations changes for 2015. This year, while the law has changed, enforcement will be more of an education effort to the boaters and not legal action. As of July 1, 2015, motor trolling is legal on the Chain as described below. Other counties have additional trolling regulations as listed in the fishing regulations. The following revisions to NR 5, Wisconsin Administrative Code are in effect as of June 1, 2015.

Added: slow -no-wake within 100' of patrol boat displaying emergency lights. The revisions took effect on June 1 and the efforts this summer will be to inform and educate boaters on the change. Adding a slow-no-wake buffer around emergency vessels was in response to concerns about officer and public safety.

Prohibits: vessel owners from displaying **blue** colored lights which may be confused with an authorized patrol or emergency vessel.

Removed: sailboards from the personal flotation device requirements. WDNR Recreational Safety Warden Mark Little says a life jacket is required when paddle boarding.

The Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities (2013) is available at the MW Chamber of Commerce office located in the Community Center and can also be accessed online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf>

Trolling is now allowed on all inland waters in Wisconsin with 1 hook, bait or lure per angler (and 2 hooks, baits or lures maximum per boat), unless more hooks, baits or lures are specifically authorized in the Wisconsin fishing regulations. For more detailed information go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/questions/troll.html>

LAKES PLANNING MEETING

Seventeen people attended the Lakes Planning meeting held on June 6 at the Discovery Center. Onterra representative, Dan Cibulka, reported on the Lake Study Results of Phase II (Clear Lake) and Phase III (Wild Rice Lake, the Trout River, and Alder Lake). Conclusions from the study revealed that our watershed is in great condition, overall water quality is better than expected, and the aquatic plant community is of high quality. Next steps will include meeting again this summer to review Phase I Implementation Plan, determine applicability to Phase II and Phase III lakes, distribute stakeholder survey, proceed with Phase IV and V studies, and examine options for continued grant funding.

SHORELAND ZONING STANDARDS

The 2015-16 State budget that the governor signed on July 12 takes away authority from counties to toughen zoning standards near shorelines. The Joint Committee on Finance put a provision in the budget that reduces local government's ability to regulate shorelines with more restrictive standards than the State's minimum shoreland zoning standards. The Vilas and Oneida and many other northern county boards voted to oppose the change in the rules governing shoreland zoning, and sent letters expressing their opposition. Wisconsin Association of Lakes also sent a letter of opposition that was signed on to by lake associations statewide, including the MWLA. It is hoped that the common practice for legislators to clarify provisions and make small changes at a later date, will happen this fall.

FISH CRIB HABITAT AND STOCKING PROJECT

MWLA board member, Tom Kramer reports that 8 cribs have been sunk in Island Lake with the rest of the cribs to be sunk in late July. There was a need to soak the cribs longer and to add more concrete block when sinking them. The MWLA and Walleyes for Tomorrow are going to concentrate in the future on doing fish sticks and tree drops instead of building fish cribs. The DNR prefers them over fish cribs as they are better for all species of fish, especially forage fish. There are grants available for these projects that we hope to apply for.

DID YOU KNOW?

Swimmer's itch cycle is caused by flatworms, snails, and water birds, such as ducks and geese. It occurs in some Wisconsin Lakes each year and is caused by the larvae (immature stage) of certain flatworms that can be picked up while swimming. Swimmer's itch appears as red, itching, bite-like welts within several hours of leaving the water. It is neither dangerous nor contagious, but is very uncomfortable. To find out more about the causes and prevention of swimmer's itch, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/swimmersitch/>

Check out our website at www.mwlakes.com to access board meeting minutes, lakes-related articles, information on aquatic invasive species, past e-newsletters, and many other interesting topics.



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The MWLA Board of Directors appreciates your continued support.

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