



JULY, 2013

SUMMER ENDEAVORS

“Ethical behavior is doing the right thing when no one else is watching - even when doing the wrong thing is legal.” ~ A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold ~

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!

The MWLA Board of Directors is sincerely grateful for your continued support. We are a vibrant and relevant organization due to dedicated members like you who renew their membership each year, and who volunteer their time and effort to help make us successful in our mission to protect our lakes and rivers. To show our appreciation, we invite you to our Annual Meeting and Picnic on July 27 where you can enjoy free food and beverages along with a raffle and door prizes. Read all the details further on in this newsletter.

We acknowledge the difficulty that many of you have in committing to volunteer efforts when you are here to vacation and to spend time with family, but now, more than ever, we need your help in the fight against aquatic invasive species (AIS). The reality is that if we don't work together now, we won't have a healthy, beautiful chain to enjoy in the future. It is imperative that each one of us takes responsibility for “maintaining, protecting and enhancing the quality of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes and other Township waters”. We are extremely fortunate to have a partnership with the North Lakeland Discovery Center and the Towns of Manitowish Waters and Boulder Junction to help us with our mission. The NLDC is vital in assisting in grant applications and implementation, and the Towns help with funding. You can also help by becoming involved in monitoring for AIS and encouraging your friends to join our association.

We have enclosed a membership renewal form for those of you who have not yet sent in your 2013 membership dues.

Please consider giving time and/or money toward monitoring for AIS this summer. There are a variety of activities and educational opportunities available through the Discovery Center. Please pick up their summer program and/or contact Anne Kretschmann at anne@discoverycenter.net to become involved in the fight against AIS.

ENJOY THE FUN AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC!

Join us at the North Lakeland Discovery Center on Saturday, July 27, 2013 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Sign-in begins at 3:30 with a short business meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. sharp! At 4:15, NLES 7th grade science students will report on their Water Resource Study Fieldtrips funded by the MWLA.

At 4:30, Dan Cibulka, Aquatic Ecologist from Onterra, will give a brief update on the WDNR grants. Then at 5:00, the **free** picnic will begin with brats, burgers, salad, dessert, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages.

Your membership in the MWLA covers you and your immediate family. A donation is appreciated if you bring guests or extended family. If preferred, they can take out a membership for only \$25.

The MWLA has assembled a fantastic array of extraordinary raffle items, including a **Nook HD+**. There will also be drawings for door prizes. **Don't forget to bring address labels to put on your raffle tickets.**

CURLY LEAF PONDWEED (CLP) NEWS

Eddie Heath, Aquatic Ecologist from Onterra, LLC, reports that, as of June 27, Early Season AIS Surveys were finished on this year's project waters (Rice Creek, Island Lake, Spider Lake, Stone Lake, Fawn Lake, Clear Lake, Manitowish Lake, and Stone-Rest Channel). Additional surveys by Onterra through the WDNR grants will be ongoing throughout the season. Onterra and NLDC staff attempted to carefully hand-remove all smaller CLP occurrences throughout the Chain.

Island Lake

There was no CLP visible from the surface within the Island Lake area that was treated earlier this spring. The colony of CLP located within the southeastern part of Island Lake (at the mouth of the Manitowish River) grew in size and density. The density of CLP in Rice Creek is similar to 2012 in many areas, but is a little less dense near the mouth as it enters Island Lake. The small CLP colony in the upstream reaches of the Rice Creek has increased in size and a small plant colony was found further upstream.

Spider Lake

There was no CLP visible from the surface within the Island-Spider channel that was treated earlier this spring. A few smaller CLP single/few plant occurrences were found within Spider Lake.

Stone Lake

A few smaller CLP single/few plant occurrences were found within Stone Lake.

Manitowish River (Stone-Rest Channel)

Volunteers and NLDC staff located a larger dominant CLP colony at the mouth of the western bay and a single plant CLP occurrence closer to Rest Lake.

Manitowish Lake

A single CLP occurrence was found.

SPREAD THE WORD, NOT THE INVASIVE!

Please help spread the message that boaters of motorized watercraft should avoid going into Rice Creek from Island Lake, and be very careful to follow the channel when leaving Island Lake traveling toward the Island Lake Boat Landing. Please immediately clean your props when leaving infested areas.

Anne Kretschmann and Tim Dobbins from the Discovery Center have been out on the Chain almost every day monitoring for CLP with the help of volunteers. They spent many hours carefully hand-pulling small areas of CLP infestations. Please become actively involved with monitoring for aquatic invasive species (AIS) on your body of water by contacting Anne at anne@discoverycenter.net. The WDNR grants we received require an in-kind match of either volunteer hours or cash funding. Your hours of volunteer monitoring and your donations of money help us fulfill our commitments!

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE BEETLE PROJECT UPDATE



On June 18, members of the MWLA and NLDC staff collected beetles from purple loosestrife plants growing by Big Muskellunge Lake. The beetles were placed in the netted plants at the Discovery Center to reproduce. With the help of volunteers, as of July 8, the beetles are being released into larger, established infestations on the Chain. Volunteers will also cut flower heads to slow the spread through seeds. The beetles eat and weaken the plant, which helps to keep flowers from forming. On July 8, NLDC staff also reported seeing the first blooms of the season on the Chain. If you see this pretty, purple, wetland invader, please contact Anne at anne@discoverycenter.net.

REST LAKE DAM

DNR News Release: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has scheduled four public informational hearings to introduce the draft of a new operating order for the Rest Lake Dam. The purpose of these informational hearings is to share the newly drafted operating conditions with the public and to get public input on the draft order before it is finalized by the DNR. Public informational hearings have been scheduled at Manitowish Waters Town Hall on August 9th and 10th. The Manitowish Waters Town Hall is located at State Highway 51 and Airport Road, Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin.

Rest Lake Dam Draft Operating Order - Public Information Hearing Schedule

Friday, August 9

Session 1: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Session 2: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Saturday, August 10

Session 1: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Session 2: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Draft Operating Order

The Department of Natural Resources is preparing a draft operating order for the Rest Lake Dam to update water level and flow operation to balance and protect public water resource rights as well as life, health, and property, upstream and downstream of the dam. **The draft order will be posted to the Wisconsin DNR Rest Lake Web Page no later than Thursday, July 25, 2013.** In addition to posting the draft order on the web page, hard copies of the draft order will be made available at the Frank B Koller Memorial Library and North Lakeland Discovery Center.

Wisconsin DNR Rest Lake Web Page:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/water/basin/upwis/restlakedam/>

FISH CRIB PROJECT

The 12 new fish cribs for Little Star Lake have been built thanks to the efforts of MWLA board member Tom Kramer, his crew of volunteers and all those who contribute money to this worthy project. The cribs will be stuffed with brush and then placed in the water as soon as weather and schedules permit. GPS coordinates for the new cribs will be posted on the MWLA website as soon as the cribs are positioned in the water. GPS coordinates for existing cribs are currently posted on our website at www.mwllakes.com. Click the AIS/Fisheries tab and click the drop-down tab for Fish Crib Project.

Please consider making a contribution to this great project. You can mail donations to the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association, Inc. P.O. Box 286, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545, or look for the miniature fish crib donation containers placed in area businesses.

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

It is hard to imagine that June is over and July has started. The cool weather limited the water activities to **on** water, and only the hardy few were **in** the water.

My first month on the Chain was very rewarding with everyone being friendly and helpful. The high water level kept me from damaging the propeller on the patrol boat!

As I expected, the boaters appear to be very knowledgeable concerning the rules, and try very hard to comply, although the **slow-no-wake** areas are the biggest challenge. Travel in these areas takes patience even if the boaters are in a hurry. The land owners along these areas are wonderful people, but they also have a limit to their patience.

“Music in the Park”, at Koller Park on Rest Lake, is a great example of boaters having a good time and enjoying the summer weather.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The MWLA funds the Trout Pond for children 12 years and younger every July 4th at the Community Center. The fish tank and water are supplied by the MW Fire Co. and 95 pounds of trout are purchased by the MW Lakes Association. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to have fun fishing while learning good sportsmanship.



- From the Town of Manitowish Waters: State Statute 167(3)(a) says that “No person may possess or use fireworks without a user’s permit from the town chairperson”. If an organization, individual or group of individuals does not get a permit, they are in violation of state law. In addition, the Town of Manitowish Waters’ ordinance 263-5 classifies “fireworks as a nuisance affecting public peace and safety”. These statutes give the Town the authority to issue citations if a violation occurs. The noise from illegal fireworks occurring after sunset and before and after July 4th disturbs the majority of residents. Please be considerate of the safety and well-being of yourself and your neighbors by observing the law.

- The MWLA is now on Facebook. Please take a look and “like” us!
<https://www.facebook.com/ManitowishWatersLakesAssociation?ref=hl>
- The DNR is moving forward with a revision to the state shoreland zoning code. SB 183 / AB 75 would exempt from existing county shoreland zoning ordinances, unincorporated areas that are either annexed by an existing municipality or incorporated into a new one. Current law says that when such annexations or incorporations occur, the municipality must enforce the same standards that exist under the current county shoreland zoning ordinance. The bill would remove those county protections, meaning that land annexed into a municipality without any shoreland zoning ordinance would suddenly have no protection whatsoever.
- 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
- “Anglers, Ice Your Catch!” campaign encourages anglers to put their catch on ice or use ice packs. Live fish on ice (without lake water) are considered dead and can be legally transported. Free ice packs were recently distributed at boat landings throughout Vilas County to promote “Ice Your Catch”.
- From the DNR:
Columnaris, a bacterial disease, is another factor in the management of fisheries. When spring water temperatures reach 70 degrees, columnaris, populations explode. At that time bluegill and crappie can be under stress from spawning and very susceptible to disease. Almost annually, significant crappie and/or bluegill mortality occurs from this disease. While large numbers can die-off, this probably better serves to also help keep pan fish numbers lower and maintain good growth. The DNR fish disease specialist points out that surviving fish gain immunity to columnaris.

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**Check out our website at [www.mwllakes.com](http://www.mwllakes.com) to access board meeting minutes, lakes-related articles, information on aquatic invasive species, past e-newsletters, and many other interesting topics.**

**The MWLA Board of Directors is truly grateful for your continued support.**

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Karen Dixon</b><br><b>President</b><br>Manitowish River<br>715-543-8141 | <b>Tom Joseph</b><br><b>Vice President</b><br>Rest Lake<br>715-543-8362 | <b>Eleanor Butler</b><br><b>Treasurer</b><br>Alder Lake<br>715-543-8401 | <b>Marilyn Gabert</b><br><b>Secretary</b><br>Manitowish Lake<br>715-543-8224 |
| <b>Jim Banovetz</b><br>Wild Rice Lake<br>715-385-2812                      | <b>Bob Becker</b><br>Spider Lake<br>715-543-2219                        | <b>Greg Holt</b><br>Benson Lake<br>715-543-8168                         | <b>Barry Hopkins</b><br>Rest Lake<br>715-904-0480                            |
| <b>Tom Kramer</b><br>Hwy. 51<br>715-543-8000                               | <b>Merry Perkins</b><br>Sturgeon Lake<br>715-543-2048                   | <b>Jim Reichert</b><br>Alder Lake<br>715-543-2647                       | <b>Bob Stowers</b><br>Manitowish Lake<br>715-543-2284                        |

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