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Three Lakes Waterfront Association - Established in 1967
Fall 2009

Clean Boats, Clean Waters . . .

Contributed by Ed Jacobsen

Congratulations everyone! We have one of the most effective lake monitoring programs in the State and as a result we do not have the significant Eurasian Water Milfoil problem facing other lake associations.

Keeping our lakes clean is no easy task and all those who live on the lakes or use the lakes should take a moment to thank the volunteers who have done such a great job over the last five years. Our very successful monitoring program has only been possible due to the work of Tom Harris and Rick Pyle along with our army of volunteers. And a special thanks to Paul Matthiae for his efforts over the life of the program.

We still need volunteers! We cannot let our guard down, especially now when so many lakes around us are infested. Volunteering at the landings on weekends is still necessary.

Actually the job has become easier over the years. More people know about the problems and know why we are there inspecting their boats. In fact many of them thank us for doing this much needed work, and rightly so.

We can't stop now! We need to stay vigilant and keep checking the boats at the busy landings as we have in the past. Some exceptional volunteers have been dedicated to this program for all five years and we thank them very much, but we still need help with our volunteer program.



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Adopt-A-Shoreline . . .

Contributed by Ed Martens

We have just completed our fifth year of the **Adopt-A-Shoreline** program and each year we strive to expand the coverage of the shoreline monitoring for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The program covers all the major lakes on the Three Lakes Chain plus Julia Lake, Lone Stone, Seven Mile and Nine Mile. The program is organized by recruiting Lake Captains for each lake. These captains in turn recruit volunteers from their respective lakes to do the shoreline monitoring. Volunteers inspect about half a mile of shoreline four times between the end of June and the middle of September. The time for each inspection runs about an hour. Should a suspect plant be found, a sample is taken and turned in at Jokin' Joe's Bait shop. Then the plant is given to the DNR lab for analysis. If the suspect sample is found to be an AIS plant, we take steps to remove the plants or have the area treated.

This is our first line of defense against the spread of AIS and in particular EWM. Early identification of an infected area in a lake is critical. Once located,

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2009-2010 Board of Directors

Officers

President	Tom Harris
Vice President	Norris Ross
Treasurer	Roger Blocks
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Ed Jacobsen	Sandy Schlaefer
Ed Martens	Jerry Scheidt
Heidi Nykolayko	Tom Vorpahl
Patricia Radtke	Jack Werner
Judy Renquist	

Program Leaders

Adopt-a-Shoreline	Ed Martens
Exotic Species	Ed Jacobsen
Lake Water Testing	Sandy Schlaefer
Long Lake Management Plan	Jack Werner
Membership	Patricia Radtke/Tom Vorpahl
Newsletter	Heidi Nykolayko
OCLRA Director	Norris Ross/Jerry Scheidt
Publicity	Tom Harris
Scholarship	Elmer Goetsch/Judy Renquist
Septic System Review	Judy Renquist
Shoreland Zoning	Norris Ross
Water Safety	Jack Werner
Website	Heidi Nykolayko

Governor Doyle to sign bill making it illegal to transport AIS. Learn more at www.ThreeLakesWaterfrontAssociation.com

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President's Forum . . .

Sometimes "thank-you" does not seem like enough to say to people who have gone out of their way to make a contribution to promote healthy water on the Three Lakes Chain. To retiring board members John Olkowski, Rick Pyle, Eric Wick, Paul Matthiae, Bob Lee and Reed Newlin... **THANK YOU.** To all of our **Clean Boats, Clean Waters** and **Adopt-A-Shoreline** volunteers...**THANK YOU.** Without the help of all of these folks, none of the work being done to ensure the health of and safety on our waters would have been accomplished.

Welcome to our new board members Sandy Schlaefer, Tom Vorpahl, Jerry Schiedt, Judy Renquist and Ed Jacobsen. Your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated.

Finally a big "thank-you" goes to our returning board members Heidi Nykolayko, Elmer Goetsch, Norris Ross, Pat Radtke, Jack Werner, Roger Blocks and Ed Martens.

The state of the lakes is good. In fact, it is more than good. Our 2, 4-D treatment of 12.4 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil in the channel between Long Lake and the Burnt Rollway Dam was very successful. No plants were visible in the post-treatment survey. Consequently, the plan to temporarily close the channel to motorized boats did not have to be used.

Much work has been done on the Long Lake Management Plan. Please see the separate article on this topic.

The installation of 13 information kiosks was completed this spring. These kiosks give us the ability to display all new boating and fishing regulations in one place at each landing in a very visible format. In the spring, please look for new slow-no-wake boating regulations that will be in effect not only on our chain, but also statewide, thanks to a new law signed by the Governor.

At the October meeting of the TLWA board, the board asked Onterra, our lake consultant; to prepare a proposal for the development of lake management plans for Virgin, Whitefish, Big and the thoroughfare. It is the long-range goal of the Board to eventually have lake management plans for all lakes on the chain.

As we move forward into 2010, there is a lot on our plate. I encourage everyone in the Three Lakes Community to do their part to be responsible lake stewards. Lake stewardship starts with being an educated lake user.

Tom Harris

Tom Harris
President
Three Lakes Waterfront Association

Clean Boats, Clean Waters . . .

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If you can spare two or more hours a weekend this coming summer please call me and let me know when you would be available to help at our landings. My name is Ed Jacobsen and my number is **715-617-0566**. Please call so I can put your name on the list of caring people who put the health of our lakes on their list of summer-time activities. Thanks in advance to anyone who can help this coming summer.



TLWA Membership and Volunteer Application

Check the mailing label for your current membership status.
If you are not already a member of the Three Lakes Waterfront Association, please join now.
Annual membership is just \$20.00 per household. You can't afford *not* to get involved!

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Primary Mail Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Three Lakes Address: _____

Lake: _____ Three Lakes Phone: _____

Enclosed is \$20 for membership and \$ _____ as an additional tax exempt contribution toward the cost of the invasive species prevention program for a total of \$ _____.

Detach completed form and mail with a check payable to:
Three Lakes Waterfront Association, Inc. • P. O. Box 145 • Three Lakes, WI 54562

Volunteer To Keep Our Waters Clean

TLWA began the **Clean Boats, Clean Waters** program the summer of 2005 and added the **Adopt-A-Shoreline** program in 2006. Both programs have been quite successful, thanks to the wonderful efforts of the volunteers. Please join the ranks this year to help prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.

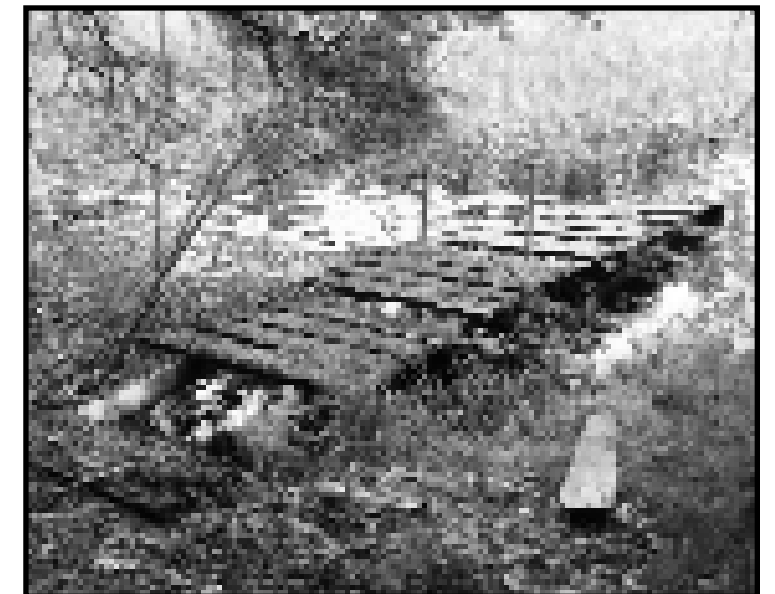
Volunteer for: Clean Boats, Clean Waters Adopt-A-Shoreline
 Past volunteer New volunteer

Pier Regulations Video Out for Lakefront Owners . . .

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to do anything. Owners of piers that are larger than the standards have until April 1, 2011, to determine if they qualify to be grandfathered in, and to complete the registration process. A very small number of owners of extremely large existing piers will need to go through the individual permit and review process, but the normal fee permit will be waived.

For more information visit the DNR Web site at:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/waterways/recreation/piers.html>.



Milfoil Weevil Update

Contributed by Norris Ross

The Minocqua-Kawaguesaga Lakes Protection Association (MKLPA) has been battling Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) unsuccessfully over past years using expensive chemicals and hand-pulling. This past summer, MKLPA embarked on an experimental program utilizing the naturally-occurring milfoil-eating weevil.

Though the weevils are natural to the lakes in northern Wisconsin, larger batches for treating EWM are grown in labs and then carefully placed in known EWM beds. Last year, Enviro Science, an Ohio-based company, collected mature weevils from the Minocqua area lakes and raised them in large numbers in their laboratories. This past summer, the weevils were transplanted to the EWM-infected beds in strategic areas in the Minocqua area lakes. The hope is that the large numbers of weevils will attack the EWM and control their rapid growth. Officials of MKLPA feel that they are in a race with the milfoil and hope the weevils can grow and become dominate over the EWM.



The use of the weevils is still very experimental and currently not funded with state funds. DNR officials are monitoring the MKLPA project carefully to determine whether future cost sharing might be an option. Lab-grown weevils are very expensive. MKLPA spent a total of \$33,000 to purchase and place the weevils.

Unfortunately, the weevils are sensitive to their environmental surroundings. They are prey for small pan fish and are susceptible to pesticides and other chemicals that run off into the lake. Residents are being urged to stop fertilizing or otherwise contaminating anywhere near the lakes. The weevils also require leaf litter and natural cover on the shoreline since they crawl on shore to overwinter. Residents are further being encouraged to avoid boating and water skiing in the middle of weed beds so that the weevils can eat aggressively without being disturbed.

MKLPA should be commended for taking on this very expensive experiment. Past weevil experiments have not proven to be overly successful. MKLPA, however, seems to be very committed to making this natural solution work. The Three Lakes Waterfront Association will be watching the experiment carefully. If it works, it will be one more bullet in the arsenal to fight EWM.

Pier Regulations Video Out for Lakefront Owners . . .

Rhineland Daily News, October 17-18, 2009

Madison - With the arrival of fall, many waterfront property owners are removing piers for the season. A new video is available to help them understand if any overwinter work is needed so that their pier is in compliance when it goes back in next spring. The video is available on the pier page of the Department of Natural Resources Web site.

A new video helps pier owners understand if a 2008 law setting pier sizes affects them.

“Wisconsin piers come in a huge variety of shapes and sizes, so we hope this video makes it easier for owners to know if they need to register their pier,” says Martye Griffin, the DNR waterway policy leader coordinating the pier registration process.

Piers that are too big can shade out aquatic plants that are important to fish and can interfere with boaters, swimmers, and others enjoying Wisconsin lakes and rivers.

Under the 2008 law, most existing piers meet the size standards and their owners won't have

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REVISION OF NR 115

Contributed by Elmer Goetsch

The Wisconsin Administrative Code provides the detailed rules to implement state statutes. Chapter 115, better known as Natural Resource (NR) 115, establishes minimum statewide standards for local shoreland zoning regulations in unincorporated areas. NR115 is a key regulatory tool for protection, use, and enjoyment of Wisconsin's public waters, including its rivers, streams, and lakes. County shoreland zoning regulations cannot be less strict than NR115. Oneida County's implementation of NR115 is Chapter 9 of the county code of ordinances. Chapter 9 is available on the Web at <http://www.co.oneida.wi.gov/section.asp?linkid=1805&locid=135>. If you go to that Website, you can see that Chapter 9 has been amended 38 times since its last major revision in 2001.

NR115 applies to unincorporated areas in shoreland zones in Wisconsin within 1000 feet of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of lakes and within 300 feet of the OHWM of rivers and streams. The current NR115 has been little changed since first approved in 1968 and implemented in Oneida County in 1972. NR115 is where the 35-foot buffer zone and the 75-foot structure shoreland setback zoning requirements are specified.

The DNR has been working on a revision of NR115 since 2001. Finally, on June 24th this year, the Natural Resources Board approved a major revision and submitted it to the Legislature. The proposed revised NR115 is available on the Web at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/documents/NR115ReportLegislature.pdf>.

The Wisconsin Association of Lakes and Wisconsin realtor and developer groups agreed to the proposed revision. But since it's release, controversy has arisen over several new provisions. One is a new 15% impermeable surface limitation on property everywhere in the entire shoreland zone, regardless of whether the property is riparian. Basically that would put a cap on the

percentage of a lot that can be impervious, i.e., prevent water from soaking into the ground. It would make non-conforming nearly all property in commercial built-up “downtown” areas in Three Lakes and Minocqua where structures occupy 15% or more of the lot area.

Other provisions would severely restrict some expansion of structures within the 75-foot setback, and impose increased site inspection requirements on zoning authorities.

Vilas County's current zoning ordinance largely conforms to the proposed new NR115 but Oneida County's ordinance will require an extensive revision. Oneida County Zoning Director Karl Jennrich has estimated that the cost of the revision could exceed \$300,000.

On September 17th, the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Natural Resources voted to return the proposed revision to the DNR, asking that unspecified revisions be considered. If the DNR does not respond or declines to agree to any modifications, the Committee will object to adoption of the rule. It would then go to the Legislature's Joint Committee for Administrative Rules, co-chaired by Senator Jim Holperin, who represents Oneida and Vilas Counties. Senator Holperin has announced his “Small Downtown Shoreland Equity Act,” to allow unincorporated built up areas the same zoning exemptions as now available in such incorporated areas.

Membership Program . . .

Contributed by Patricia Radtke

Our new brochure has proven to be a wonderful way to get the word out about the achievements, goals and concerns of the TLWA and encourage membership in this important organization!

Thank you to the following members who receive brochures for friends, family, and neighbors - and knocked on a few doors! - as they enjoyed our

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A Stewardship Challenge

Contributed by Judy Renquist

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) has dominated the news over the summer. Calls for *Clean Boats, Clean Waters* and/or *Adopt-A-Shoreline* volunteers were made to most every TLWA member with so many responding positively! **Thank you!**

There is still so much to be done, so we are requesting that you make a special commitment to do all that you can to help prevent, or at least slow the establishment of AIS in our precious lakes. Here are a few things you can do now:

- 1) Be sure that your property is not a hidden source of nutrient pollution to the lake and ground water through a leaking septic system. Oneida County has most septic systems on a mandatory three-year septic inspection/pumping maintenance schedule; however, septic systems installed before 1980 are being rolled into this maintenance program over the next three years.

If you or your neighbor are not now in the regular maintenance program because of having an older system - take the **STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE** - be **PRO-ACTIVE** - and get your old septic system checked **BEFORE** being asked.

- 2) Another thing you can do to prevent nutrient pollution is to check that your laundry and dishwashing detergent do not contain phosphates.

Healthy lakes bring our families, friends and communities together and provide us with priceless pleasure. It will take all of us and all of our neighbors doing all that we can to protect this resource and ensure clean water for future generations to enjoy these lakes in the same manner as we have enjoyed them.

Adopt-A-Shoreline . . .

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the infestation can be removed or treated stopping its spread to other areas and lakes.

Our lake monitoring reports are continuing to come in with nearly 300 hours logged so far by 65 volunteers, but more hours by additional volunteers are anticipated. If you have reports that have not been turned in at the White Deer Liquor Store, please do so as soon as possible. These forms are necessary to secure matching grant funds from the State.

Thanks very much for your help this season. We're asking for your continued support next year. If you can donate the time contact me at (715) 546-4291. The more "eyes in the water" we have, the better chance for early detection of AIS.

Membership Program . . .

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beautiful northwoods this summer: Carol Baker, Marge Blocks, Barbara Consigny, Karen Cottingham, Tom Flanders, Kathy Gilbertson, Peggy Hayes, Mary Kreul, Dave Kroening, Jan Lederhaus, Ollie Littleton, Joanne Obenberger, Judy Renquist, Noreen Rossa, Tom Rulseh, John Scheid, Sandy Schlaefler, Brian Shecterle, Jim Stossel, Diane Van Mieghem, Eric and Jackie Wick, and Joey Wojtusik.

The protection and health of our lakes is critical to the future of our community and value of our property. Our "*neighbors reminding neighbors*" has been a great success and has raised awareness of the TLWA. We hope this has been a pleasant way for you to help the TLWA and that we can count on you again next summer. Please contact radtkec@gmail.com if you would like to join (or re-join) this effort.

We are also very pleased to report that the Town Treasurer has agreed to include a portion of the TLWA brochure and application in the tax bill for this year. This should be very helpful in bringing awareness of TLWA to everyone's attention!

Grants Update . . .

Contributed by Tom Harris

The TLWA has been very successful in obtaining grant money from the Wisconsin DNR since 2005. Grant monies totaled \$29,146 in 2005, \$30,266 in 2006, \$20,179 in 2007 and \$20,219 in 2008. These dollars were in a category called AIS Inspection, Prevention and Planning Grant. In short, these monies went to educate boaters about aquatic invasive species and implement our *Clean Boats, Clean Waters* and *Adopt-A-Shoreline* programs.

In addition, in order to treat the infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the channel between Long Lake and the Burnt Rollways Dam, two Rapid Response grants were obtained. The first, in 2007 for \$1,984, allowed treatment of .55 acres of EWM. The second, in 2009 for \$20,000, allowed treatment of 12.4 acres in the same area. (*See the President's Report on the effectiveness of these treatments, page 2.*)

Finally, in 2009, four grants, each worth \$10,000, were awarded for the Long Lake Management Plan. Phase I included water quality assessment, consulting service and completion of the landing kiosks. Phase II included curly leaf pondweed and point intercept plant surveys, native and exotic plant community mapping, fisheries data integration and boater education packets. Phase III monies went to implement our *Clean Boats, Clean Waters* program. Finally, Phase IV will pay for a watershed assessment, stakeholders meeting and a final report.

The bottom line is that the TLWA has received a total of \$161,794 from the Wisconsin DNR. Also, the Three Lakes Town Board budgeted \$25,000 in their 2009 budget to help offset the cost of the Long Lake Project. Was the money well spent? Absolutely. Because of these grants, the Three Lakes Chain remains (except for a small but under control EWM infestation) a mostly AIS free waterbody.

Rain Gardens . . .

Contributed by Heidi Nykolayko

Yes, it is fall and maybe a weird time to be writing about gardening. However, it IS a good time to be planning for next year. Rain gardens are a beautiful way to dress up your yard while improving water quality.

As more of land is replaced by buildings, driveways, and other impermeable surfaces, runoff increases. On its journey from these surfaces made of asphalt, concrete, and roofing to the waterway, runoff collects and carries fertilizers, pesticides, grass, leaves, garbage, and pet waste. A rain garden is a natural way to combat this process.

A rain garden is just what it sounds like - a garden that soaks up rainwater. Turf has roots that are only as long as the grass is tall, typically just a few inches deep. Native wildflowers are planted in a rain garden because their roots go twice as deep into the soil as the plant is tall. This longer root system allows the plants to absorb more water. In addition, the roots create tunnels which help water infiltrate the soil, protecting and restoring the natural hydrology of the area.

Rain gardens are usually about 4 to 8 inches deep with a flat bottom. They are about one-third the size of the area that is draining into it (the roof, driveway, road, etc.). Depending on the selection of plants, they can be designed as a wild or formal garden.

Runoff from the impermeable surface is directed to the garden, which fills with a few inches of water. The water in the rain garden slowly filters into the ground, rather than quickly running off to a lake or stream. Holding the water back prevents pollutants from washing off the yard and contaminating waterways. Rain gardens provide an opportunity for enhanced water quality and allows 30% more water to soak into the ground than a conventional patch of lawn.

More information about rain gardens is available from UW-Extension or the Wisconsin DNR.