



MAKING WAVES : SPRING 2018

# THREE LAKES WATERFRONT ASSOCIATION

LAKE STEWARDS SINCE 1967

## President's Forum

By Ed Jacobsen



### My View

This is what Planting Ground, or any of our other lakes could look like in a few years if our elected officials keep passing laws



(Photo courtesy of Steve Carpenter, UW-Madison)

that say "what's good for Madison is good for the Northwoods". Over the past two years laws have been passed by the State Legislature that undo all the work our association and hundreds like us have tried to do to protect our system of lakes. We can see what could happen to our precious waterways if left unregulated while

politicians can merely look out their window and see what has happened. Yet they pass laws to enhance their agenda of open zoning no matter what the consequences.

The most worrisome aspect of this agenda is that it would never pass in the normal legislative process. Many of our board members and many more have testified in open hearings about the need for proper zoning laws which would protect our lakes. The impact of their testimony was so powerful that a clear-thinking legislator would have to agree and vote accordingly. Whoops, that would interfere with the agenda set by a few who chose not to consider the effect these laws may have on our resources.

As a result, these issues were taken out of the normal legislative process and inserted into the budget! Yes, I said the BUDGET! What does the budget process have to do with this issue? Nothing, but it is a way around all those powerful suggestions offered by the TLWA and many, many other interested organizations and clubs on ways to protect our lakes. Three years of hearings and all our work was washed down the drain without our even being informed.

We represent nearly 1,000 members of the association and I realize that many of the new zoning laws could allow you to do what has previously been prohibited to do.

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“It’s my property and I should be able to do what I want”. I understand that, however anything you do can impact your neighbor and/or our lakes. That is why we have zoning laws. One law the politicians have been pushing is almost unlimited dredging in front of your house.

Many of you live on swampy lake-fronts and this would be a way of giving you more usable shoreline. Unfortunately, every time we encroach on nature’s plan the effects can be devastating to our watery ecosystem. Then we ask where have all the fish gone?

So now, just when we need more financial resources from state grants and DNR assistance to mitigate the potential damage from these harmful budget bills we have had our funding cut. The same budget that was used to sneak in an end-around on zoning has eliminated our ability to recoup all the unforeseen expenses we incur in our normal course of business.

For these reasons we are forced to raise our dues for the first time in 22 years. Our 2018-19 yearly membership dues will be raised to \$30.00. In reality it is about time. After 50 years of work we can’t quit now. After all, your grandchildren deserve to enjoy the same lakes you enjoyed as a kid. We will keep working to make that happen.

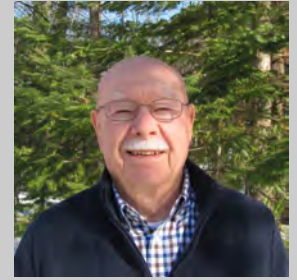
Now please read on to see how our board and our members are spending hundreds of hours working to fulfill that mission. Thanks for letting me vent.



## Lake Management Planning Update

By Norris Ross

### A Chain - Wide Plan



Everything changes over time – little remains the same. This is very true for our rapidly changing society and our lakes. How and why do we monitor lake change over time? As the current caretakers of our lakes (a most valuable resource), we know that establishing baseline data has never been more critical. We must do our part so that changes

Since 2005, TLWA has been working on a comprehensive Lake Management Plan for the Three Lakes Chain and each individual lake within the Chain. To date, the reports for Long, Virgin, Whitefish, Thoroughfare, Big, Dog, Crystal (Mud), Deer, Big Stone, Laurel, Four Mile, Big Fork, Moccasin, Spirit, Maple, Round, Island and Townline Lakes have been

*“We did not inherit the land from our forefathers – we are borrowing it from our grandchildren.”*

Anonymous

in our grandchildren’s lakes (and remember, we are only using their lakes) are reversed or minimized. Without baseline data, we will not know what changes have occurred and thus not know what future goals of restoration should be put in place.

Our Lake Management Plan for the Chain will reveal the current status of our lakes and provide baseline data for future generational comparisons. The data will include water quality (chemical) analysis, shoreline development patterns, fish population trends, aquatic plant population locations, plant densities and watershed condition analysis.

drafted. Planting Ground and Range-line Lakes planning meetings were held last summer and drafts of the plans are being finalized this spring/summer.

Simultaneously, the watershed analysis for the entire Chain is being modeled and finalized. Understanding the workings of the entire watershed is critical for interpreting the current status of the health of the entire Chain. Any future changes in the watershed can greatly alter the condition of the water in the Chain of Lakes. The net result of the entire data collection effort will be a chain-wide management plan with goals and implementation plans for the future of the Chain.

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# Lake Management Planning Update (continued)

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Grants have been secured to offset major portions of the project costs to date. Professional limnologists, experts in Northern Wisconsin lakes, are doing the field work and drafting each lake plan in collaboration with citizen committees from each lake. Each lake plan identifies important issues for that lake, and future action plans are outlined. Follow-up studies and action plans have now been started on some of the earlier completed plans. This project is very ambitious and complex, and, when completed, costs will likely have exceeded the million dollar level. Plans for completion of the Plan include the development of an “executive summary” of all the findings. The document will be designed, drafted and printed for all TLWA members and the Three Lakes community.

The plans completed to-date are available for review at the Three Lakes Demmer Library and are on the web at [tlwa.org](http://tlwa.org). Specific questions can be directed to Norris Ross at 715-546-2250.

## Battle to Control EWM Continues (Grant Funded)

During the winter, TLWA applied for grant funds in the DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Grant (education, prevention and planning) category. We were informed this spring that the grant was awarded to TLWA. Grants in this category are a 50/50 match situation, and, therefore, volunteer hours will be critical to offset the

TLWA contribution to the project. The Town of Three Lakes has pledged a ten percent contribution, which is extremely appreciated and helpful.

Basically, the project calls for two major activities: (1) Continuation of the monitoring, mapping and control diving measures in the Eagle River Channel, Townline Lake and Virgin Lake through 2019; and (2) creation of a professionally designed and printed summary of the Three Lakes Chain Management Plan document (i.e. an executive summary).

The monitor activities outlined in the grant will continue those already in motion for Townline, Long and Virgin Lakes. Our professional limnologists (Onterra LLC) will continue to do spring and fall surveys of the areas where EWM has been found in the past and will provide guidance for control measures as well as annual winter reports on the status and effectiveness of control efforts.

The Lake Management Plan document for the Chain as a whole is approaching 400 pages and stands as a reference for Three Lakes residents and agency review. To more easily pass along the information and understanding of the Chain gained during the management planning project, the TLWA would like to produce a more user friendly, professionally designed and printed document that will be provided to each property owner on the Chain as well as others in the community who would like the information. Once the entire plan is near completion

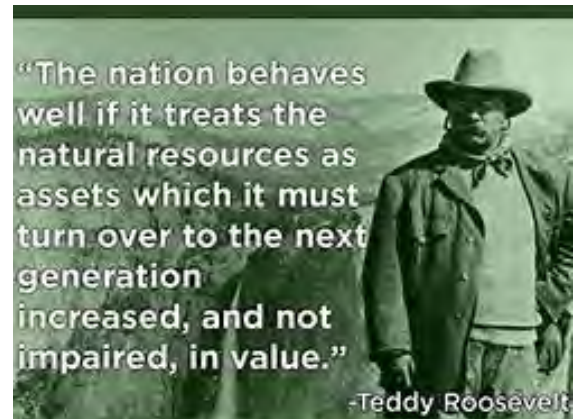
(late summer 2018), a team from TLWA will begin determining the information that would potentially be included in the summary document. Working with the staff at Onterra, the TLWA team will organize graphics, data, charts, etc. This document will serve many purposes moving forward with respect to the implementation phases of the Lake Management Plan.



Looking for this...



... To avoid this.





# Onterra, LLC Update

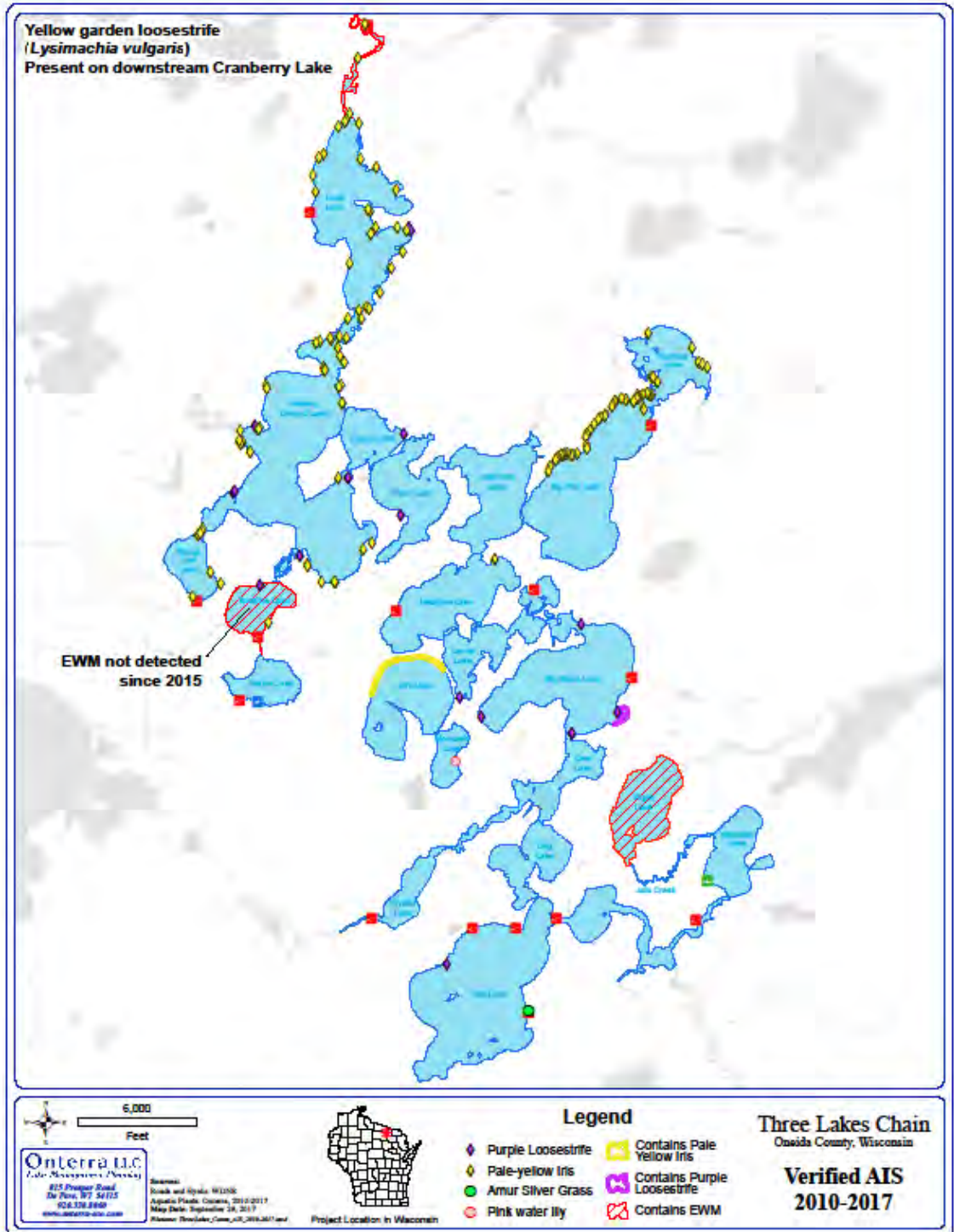
By Norris Ross

## Looking Good

TLWA recently received the Onterra LLC EWM Survey Report. As mentioned in the fall newsletter, no EWM was found on TownLine Lake, only 2 individual plants were located in the Long Lake Channel below the dam, and there were 2 areas with small clumps of EWM plants in Virgin Lake. The report stated that continued monitoring of all these areas needs to happen to prevent any new plants from getting established.

Between the professional harvesting and the TLWA Dive Team harvesting, the EWM population in Virgin Lake has been relatively stable and kept at a low-density lake wide. Volunteers will continue to monitor the northern shoreline and the southern portion of Virgin Lake especially near the island. They will mark any plants found with plastic milk jugs until the TLWA Dive Team removes them.

Informational buoys will also be placed asking lake users to avoid these two areas, so as to prevent the spread of any more EWM.



# Lake Core Sampling

By Paul Garrison, Onterra, LLC



## Some Lakes Are Degraded

Sediment cores were collected from six lakes in the Three Lakes Chain on August 8, 2017 by staff from Onterra, LLC. The lakes that were sampled were Crystal, Big, Fourmile, Big Fork, Townline, and Range Line. The purpose of this study is to compare water quality conditions at the present time with conditions prior to the arrival of Euro-Americans. The comparison was completed using the diatom community. Diatoms are a type of algae that contain shells made of silica. This is the same material that is found in glass and allows diatoms to be preserved in the sediments for many years. As an example, in a lake in Vilas County diatoms were found in sediment that had been deposited when the lake was formed 13,000 years ago. Diatoms are especially useful for reconstructing changes in water quality because they are well preserved and are found in a wide variety of environmental conditions.

The lakes were chosen based upon their present-day water quality and how this compares with other lakes in the chain. For example, at the present time, Crystal Lake has much higher phosphorus concentrations than other lakes in the chain. Most of the lakes in the chain have brown colored water so only stained lakes were sampled and clear-water lakes, like Maple and Spirit, were not sampled.

The length of the cores varied from 16 to 22 inches. A top and bottom sample were analyzed to compare present day and historic conditions. The cores were analyzed for their diatom com-

munity and a radiochemical analysis is being conducted on the bottom samples to determine if those sediments were deposited at least 100 years ago. In Range Line Lake the diatoms were not preserved well enough in the bottom sample for identification. While this amount of natural breakdown of the diatoms is rare, it can happen when there are adverse environmental conditions such as high iron or high calcium concentrations.

A statistical analysis showed that Crystal Lake changed the most while Big Fork Lake changed the least. Townline changed a moderate amount and the change in Big and Fourmile lakes was small. The diatom community was used to assess the change in the ecological integrity of the lakes. The determination of the ecological integrity is weighted towards nutrients, but other factors are also considered. Historically, all of the lakes had an ecological integrity in the good range. Currently, the ecological integrity of Big, Big Fork, Fourmile, and Range Line lakes are in the good category. Although the diatoms in the bottom sample of Range Line Lake had dissolved, it is very likely that historically this lake also had a good ecological integrity. At the present time the integrity of Townline Lake has degraded to the fair category and Crystal Lake is degraded further and is now in the poor category. In Crystal and Townline lakes, diatoms found in the top sample indicate elevated phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations compared with the bottom sample.

The diatom community is also used to estimate the phosphorus concentration in the water. Historically, the phosphorus concentration in the Three Lakes Chain ranged from 22 to 26  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (microgram per liter...equivalent to parts per billion). The diatom community indicates the phosphorus concentration of Townline Lake has increased around 6  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , while in Crystal Lake the increase in the phosphorus concentration has been much greater, around 45  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

In summary, the paleoecological study indicates that historically these lakes were in very good condition. At the present time Big, Big Fork, Fourmile, and Range Line lakes remain in good condition while Townline and especially Crystal lakes have been degraded because of elevated nutrient concentrations. These analyses are being used in the development of the Three Lakes Chain management plan that will be finalized in 2019.



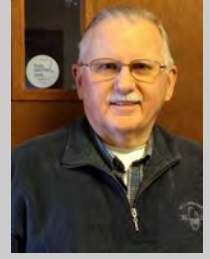
Cleaning & removing chemicals from the sample

Paul examining the clean sample



# Purple Loosestrife

By Paul Matthaie



## The Battle Begins



Purple loosestrife

the Teaching Drum School to attack purple loosestrife infestations on the Three Lakes Chain. Purple loosestrife is an aggressive invasive plant that is colonizing shorelines, marshes, bogs, and adjoining wet or moist soil areas.

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) was introduced from Europe in the late 1800's for horticultural purposes. It gradually escaped from gardens into other suitable habitat, eventually becoming widely distributed in Eastern and eventually Mid-western States. The plant can form dense, impenetrable stands which are unsuitable as cover, food or nesting sites for a wide range of native wetland animals including ducks, geese, rails, bitterns, song birds, muskrats, frogs, toads and turtles. Native plants are out-competed, overgrown and displaced. Many rare and endangered wetland plants and animals are at risk.

Unfortunately, this aggressive invader has become well established in a number of our lakes, including:

**T**his year our Association will begin a pilot program with the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department and

Spirit, Big Stone, Planting Ground, Round, Island, and Big Lake. Individuals plants can produce as many as 2,700,000 minute seeds which are easily spread by moving water. We need to act now to get this plant under control and eradicated as soon as possible.

To that end, the Association and its partners will raise beetles that only live on and eat purple loosestrife. Native to Europe, *Galerucella pusilla calvariensis* (hereafter referred to as Cella) has gone through years of testing as a potential biological control agent by the US Fish and Wild-



*Galerucella calvariensis*

Black-margined loosestrife beetle

life Service and the US Department of Agriculture. Known as a purple loosestrife specific feeder, Cella is now being raised and released into Wisconsin wetlands infested with purple loosestrife and is proving to be an outstanding control agent.

This Spring we will erect a fine-mesh "open to the elements" tent pro-

vided by the DNR for rearing beetles. Then we will harvest seedling purple loosestrife plants from wild populations and transplant them to pots, which in turn will be placed into rearing tubs. Five or six purple loosestrife plants, each covered in a fine mesh netting, will grow to maturity in each tub. When large enough each plant will become a "host" to about 10 mature beetles. The beetles will feed on the plants, lay their eggs and die. The many eggs will produce larva which will feed on the plants, eventually becoming beetles. The cycle will repeat itself several times until the last population of adults, still in their mesh covered pots, are moved into wild purple loosestrife infestations to attack those plants. Interestingly, it is only three months time from seedling harvest in late April or early May to time of release in July and the attack on the wild purple loosestrife population begins. If release site conditions are ideal, the last generation produced before freeze-up will



Larva of *Galerucella calvariensis* Black-margined loosestrife beetle

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Purple Loosestrife  
(continued from Page 6)

be ready to continue the attack the next Spring. Pots are collected in late summer for reuse in Spring.

Cells are a very effective control agent on larger and denser populations of purple loosestrife. Smaller patches and scattered individual plants are best controlled by digging them out or treating them with an approved herbicide. Repeated cutting of single plants will eventually kill the plant - be sure to always cut flowering parts to prevent seed spread. All plant material should be bagged up and treated as garbage. Whole plants that are dug out and cut plant parts can re-root, grow and go to seed, further complicating control efforts.

This control effort could take a number of years to be successful. Your Board of Directors is committed to meeting this challenge. Are you willing to help? Association members are in the best position to take ac-

### You Can Help!

tion to control individual or small clusters of purple loosestrife plants. The Board can provide you with directions for proper digging and herbiciding scattered plants/clusters that may occur on your property or along your shoreline. Give us a hand and join the fight to rid our Chain of Lakes from purple loosestrife.



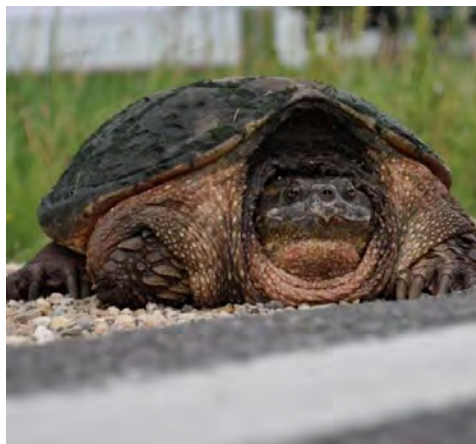
## Turtle Crossing Season—Right Around the Corner

Starting in late May and continuing until early July, our roads in the Northwoods are going to get just a little more crowded. It will be turtle crossing season again. A time when drivers traveling our town roads and highways may have to make a life or death decision. Please help a turtle live to repro-



duce. It's easy - simply pull off the road and turn on your emergency flashers until the turtle has safely crossed. It might take a few minutes, but it's worth the wait to witness a real living dinosaur in the flesh.

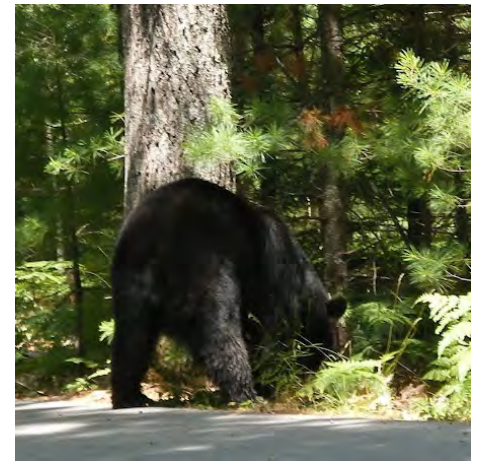
The Three Lakes Waterfront Association and volunteer members will once again support turtle crossing awareness with signs and road art. Please support our efforts by helping our slow-moving friends cross our roads safely.



Give Them A Brake



Another Promising Day



Yogi?



Faster!

# Adopt A Shoreline

By Bruce Renquist



## ADOPT A SHORELINE LAKE CAPTAINS 2018

BIG - Ed Cottingham	715-546-4298	MAPLE - Rena Beyer	715-490-0714
BIG FORK - Kathy Olkowski	715-546-3759	MEDICINE - Bruce Renquist	715-546-2401
BIG STONE - Rob Jahnke	602-460-5362	MOCCASIN - Ryan Lamond	715-546-8101
CRYSTAL - Mike Donovan	715-550-8282	PLANTING GROUND - Norris Ross	715-546-2250
DEER - Jay Teagle	630-460-5362	RANGE LINE - OPEN	
DOG - John Rothwell	843-271-6455	ROUND - Bob Bichler	715-546-3481
FOUR MILE - Bob Pfeffer	262-284-2333	- Mike Freehill	715-546-3059
ISLAND - Doug Scheffen	715-546-2732	SPIRIT - John Lake	715-546-2117
JULIA - David Mitzer	715-546-2583	THOROUGHFARE - Paul Matthiae	715-546-3453
LAUREL - Mark Wallersverd	420-344-0698	TOWNLIN - Lou Bruckmoser	715-546-3083
- Charles Brady	651-408-2505	VIRGIN - Bob Borek	715-546-3457
LITTLE FORK - Bob Lee	715-546-3674	WHITEFISH - Dave Wheeler	309-696-9855
LONG - Jack Werner	715-479-9094		

## Yellow Iris

This is a follow up on the extensive article on Yellow Iris published in your fall newsletter. Rapidly spreading by water dispersed seeds and massive root systems this aggressive invasive can create dense stands choking out native plants. To aid in the control of this invasive TLWA has taken two steps.



1. The Adopt-A-Shoreline

program is alerting Lake Captains and their over 125 volunteer monitors to identify stands of Yellow Iris. This data will be used to update the existing mapping system created by Onterra LLC. This map identifies known stands of yellow iris throughout the chain. An effort will be made to contact property owners and encourage them to remove and control the spread of the plant.

2. TLWA has assembled a loaner kit of tools useful in the removal of Yellow Iris. Members and lakefront property owners are invited to borrow this kit to aid in the ongoing battle to rid the chain of this invasive. Located just in-

side of the front door of Anchor Marine, the kit describes methods of removal of limited growths of Yellow Iris and Purple Loosestrife and is available at no charge. Hand tools for digging out root systems, cutters and bags for disposal of plants are included. A herbicide 'RODEO' approved for wetlands use is also available and has proved to be effective for careful application to



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Adopt A Shoreline (cont'd from Page 8)

limited growths of these invasives. Yellow Iris emerges early in the season and dealing with it before seeds are dispersed is key in limiting its spread.

## Workshop Announcement

The Aquatic Invasive Workshop for the summer of 2018 will be held July 6th, 1:00 PM on Virgin Lake. Stephanie Boismenu, AIS Coordinator, Oneida County will provide an energetic overview of the science behind the aquatic invasive threat to our lakes. Workshop Participants will be provided with real hands-on experience in how to identify Eurasian Water Milfoil as it exists in the water of Virgin Lake. Also, participants will see a demonstration of the new TLWA Rapid Response Dive Team. That team has been busy on Virgin Lake making progress in limiting the growth of EWM in that precious lake.

Sandy Wickman will present from her point-of-view as a WI DNR Water Resource Management Specialist.

Directions to the Workshop: 6524 Safar Road. Take HWY 32, south from Three Lakes. Turn right onto Col. Himes Road to Safar Road, follow the signs. Easy access, ample parking. Neighbors, friends and kids are all welcome.

## Adopt-A-Shoreline Updates for 2018

In the ongoing effort to make our AIS monitoring more effective we are initiating the following improvements for this summer:

The form for filling out hours at the end of the season has been streamlined. A simple single form to be

filled out by each volunteer has been approved for our use. The objective was to make our volunteer experience more enjoyable and hassle free. To provide a straightforward solution that will allow our shoreline monitors to spend time on the water rather than dealing with paperwork. The forms will be available through your Lake Captain in May.

A new drop off point for collected and bagged samples of suspected invasive plants has been designated. The Three Lakes Winery in downtown Three Lakes has graciously agreed to be the drop off location. They are high profile, accessible, generous open hours and have refrigeration available. The procedure remains unchanged. When an aquatic plant is questionable, doesn't look like it belongs and might be an invasive it should be bagged in a Ziploc bag with a bit of water. The collectors' name and contact information noted along with a careful description of the location found. The bag is dropped off and a local scientist is called for a preliminary identification. If it continues to be of concern, the DNR is notified and the sample is subjected to a rigorous identification procedure. If it is found to be an invasive in a previously clear location a rapid response protocol is initiated. Timing is everything. If the growth is quickly removed, a devastating infestation could be avoided. Thanks to Mark McCain and his willing staff for this important support of our AAS program.

We will continue to communicate to Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers throughout the summer via email announcements that are undergoing continued refinement.



## Meet The New Director

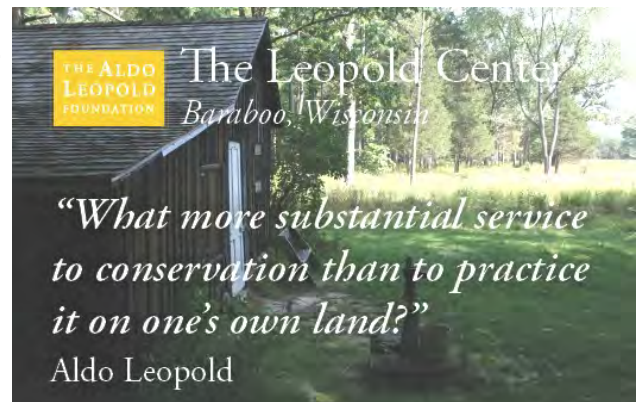
We are happy to announce the appointment of Gerald (Jerry) Oehmen to the TLWA Board of Directors.



Jerry was born in Milwaukee, and grew up in Mayville. He is a graduate of UW-Stout with a degree in industrial education. He taught high school in Horicon, but then changed to a career in manufacturing working at several manufacturing companies in Mayville and Richfield.

Jerry and his wife Ann bought a cottage in Three Lakes in 2002. They decided to upgrade, so they tore it down and built a home. They moved to Three Lakes full-time in 2017 along with their dog, Sissy.

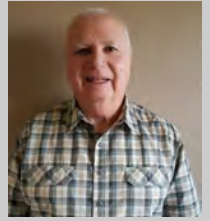
Jerry isn't fully retired, as he still works as a project manager for Design Build by Visner in Eagle River. He will start his duties on the TLWA Board working on the new purple loosestrife project.



# Clean Boats/Clean Waters

By Bob Agen

## Volunteers Needed



With the approaching summer season, it is time to prepare for another season of checking watercraft and educating boaters. Keeping our lakes free of invasive plants is critical and it is why we established the Clean Boats-Clean Waters program. We will have three student interns working full time at our landings but continue to have a need for volunteers. I am looking for coverage in two hour increments preferably on weekends for the fol-

lowing landings.

- Big Stone next to the Sunset Grill Restaurant.
- Big Lake near CW Smith Road
- Medicine Lake off County Road X
- Laurel Lake Campground Landing.

While I prefer coverage on the weekends I would welcome any hours during the week. It is important to remember, that the hours you put in at a landing help us in obtaining grant money.

I can be reached at 715-546-3893.

Note: A workshop for CB/CW volunteers will be held on May 24th at the Cy Williams Park Shelter from 5-7PM. Stephanie Boismenu, the Oneida County Coordinator will be there with her team to present the latest on the AIS front.



# Powerloading at Campsite

By Lynn Zibell

## Members On Alert



TLWA member, Jacki Gandolfo, appreciates hiking the Sam Campbell Trail often stopping at the nearby campsite to toss a ball into Four Mile Lake for Vita, her rescue German Shepard, to fetch. Last October, while enjoying another hike, she noticed the boulders surrounding the parking area of the campsite out of place. As she tossed the ball into the lake, she saw large gaping holes several feet off the shoreline. Jacki quickly realized boaters had illegally used this area to powerload their motorboats onto their boat trailers, even though there is a town boat landing less than a mile away on Big Fork Lake.

Powerloading is the practice of using the thrust of the boat motor to push the boat up onto the trailer while

landing a boat. In doing this, the motor's blades dig deep holes into the sand. This tearing up of the lake bottom creates the risk of introducing AIS to the area, along with destroying the level sand bottom along the shoreline.

Concerned about this, Jacki called up TLWA lake captain, Bob Pfeffer. Even though he wasn't in town at the time, Bob contacted the Assistant Ranger of Recreation, Lands & Minerals for the Forest Service in Eagle River, Evan Miller. Given limited resources, Miller is unable to patrol the area regularly. In discussing the situation, one suggestion to enforce the launch ban at the campsite is to replace the present boulders with larger ones this spring. Bob will also be keeping an eye on the campsite to

see if the problem reoccurs.

In the simple act of contacting her lake captain on what she noticed while playing fetch with Vita, Jacki helped to protect the shoreline on Four Mile Lake. Bob in contacting the Forest Service took the step needed to keep the problem from happening again. Both these actions illustrate how each TLWA member can make a difference in protecting our lakes and shorelines on the Three Lakes Chain.



# Stream Monitoring

By Lynn Zibell

## A New Program



Knowing more about the chemical makeup of the streams entering the Three Lakes Chain through the process of stream monitoring was a topic discussed by the TLWA board members at the winter board meetings. As a result, volunteer, Larry Roth, and board members, Fred Knoch, and Lynn Zibell will use the Isaac Walton League framework for finding out the status of several chemicals such as dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, chloride, and nitrates in Rangeline Creek, Townline Creek, Crystal River, and the creek entering Big Lake. The Eagle River as it enters the Big Lake Thoroughfare is, also, another possibility. They will go out several times throughout the year at selected locations on these streams to collect and analyze water samples for these chemicals.

amount of aquatic plant growth, which, in turn, affects the oxygen levels and aquatic life in a stream.

The information our amateur scientists collect, in addition, to the core sample data Onterra, LLC gathered, will add to the database on the quality of water entering our chain of

lakes. We will be able to see the similarities and differences, if any, between the watersheds within our Three Lakes Chain. Also, reflecting on all this data, will help TLWA decide the best direction to go in the future to help maintain the health of our lakes and shorelines.



Why these chemicals? All 4 are indicators of the health of our streams. For instance, too much nitrogen and phosphorus in water will increase the

Illustration courtesy of Hoosier River Watch, Indiana Department of Environmental Management



I'm ready, let's go!



I bet I could eat that



Just Relaxin'



# Three Lakes Town Tidbits

By Town Chairman Jeff Bruss



## Upcoming Projects

### Donate a Buoy



It's that time of year when the town crew marks safe passage through

our Chain of Lakes. The town places and maintains nearly 130 buoys across the entire Three Lakes Chain. Each year we need to replace or repair approximately 1/3 of those buoys totaling in excess of \$10,000.

We are seeking your help in maintaining a safe and navigable waterway by asking for donations to go toward replacing worn out and damaged buoys. No, your name won't be on the buoy. But think of the warming of your heart when you point to a buoy of your choosing and say, "That's our buoy!"

If you're interested in donating any amount to the Buoys of Summer Program, please contact the town offices at: 715-546-3316 or [information@townofthreelakes.com](mailto:information@townofthreelakes.com)

### Laurel Lake Campground

The USDA Forest Service has agreed to operate and maintain the Laurel Lake campground this upcoming season. The town has been in talks with the Forest Service for a long-term solution. Rather than face closure, the town may seek a lease of the campground and would be responsible for the upkeep, operation and would also receive all revenue.

### Burnt Rollways Dam

The Town is currently working with the WVIC to get a variance to keep the bridge width as-is. Until the width matter is resolved, no maintenance will be undertaken on the bridge.

### Thunder Lake Dam

Short of a few loose ends to tie up this Spring, the new dam on Thunder Lake was completed this past January. The dam brings the water level to the DNR's desired level, yet still allows some flexibility in adjusting water levels either up or down in the future. The project came in as budgeted at approximately \$107,000 including engineering and construction.



### Wheeler Island Road

While not a lake project, those of you who travel down Wheeler Island Road may notice that trees in the right of way have been cut back in preparation for re-paving the road this upcoming summer. Expect road work for approximately 6-8 weeks during the early summer months. Roads that extend off Wheeler Island will also be getting some much-needed attention.

### Thank You!

On behalf of the Town of Three Lakes, I'd like to thank all of the members and volunteers of the Three Lakes Waterfront Association for your continued support of the town and all of our lakes.



Young TLWA Volunteer  
Keeping Up With the News

# Boating Courtesy

By Jon Willman



## The Golden Rule on Boating

### **D**o unto others.....

Last Spring, I introduced you to the four C's of boat operation - Common sense, Courtesy, Caution and Control. While they all work hand-in-hand to assure a safe, enjoyable day on the water, courtesy can sometimes be overlooked.

Boating courtesy begins before setting foot on board your vessel. Whether starting from your lift or a public launch, a little planning helps start your day on the water smoothly. At your own dock it's easy to do your safety checks before the gang arrives. Trying to look things over, add fuel or simply remembering to run the engine compartment blower with a crowd waiting to board increases the chance you'll miss something important. And, it puts additional stress on you, the captain, to "get going!"

If you trailer your boat to a public ramp, please park well away from the ramp and load the boat with coolers, bags, fishing gear, etc. Take an extra minute to double check there are no weeds hanging from the boat or trailer, the wells are empty and the plug is in! Make sure the boat, skipper and passengers are all ready to go before backing down the

ramp. Please don't be one of those people who make everyone in line wait while you and yours create chaos. The launch ramp should be a place of calm, quiet professionalism. Screaming, cursing and chaos are no way to start or end a relaxing day on the water. And after you've loaded-up, please don't forget to pull away from the ramp and check your boat and trailer for weeds and empty any water or bait from your wells. It only takes a few minutes and it's the best way to keep invasives out of the Three Lakes Chain.

It's safe to say more obscene gestures and strong words have been exchanged because of boat wakes than any other perceived offense on the water. It's hard to talk about boating courtesy and not address the elephant in the lake. As the operator of a boat, you are responsible for "damage caused to the person or property of another by your wake." It is the law in Wisconsin. Common sense and common courtesy should have us all operating in a manner considerate of everything and everyone else enjoying the water.

Wakes are not only destructive to shorelines, they can also take a toll on boats underway and passengers as well. A good skipper checks behind him, slows down, warns passengers and crosses the wake at a 45 degree angle. Hitting wakes at speed in any boat can hurt, but small runabouts can be particularly uncomfortable for passengers seated in the very bow.

Since man first strapped boards on his feet and yelled "hit it," waterskiers and fishermen have competed for calm water. Nowhere is courtesy

more important than respecting the right of "first arrival." In other words, he or she who arrives first deserves some space and common courtesy.

There's a few other courtesy considerations worthy of mention -

1. Stay close to the right side of all channels, don't hog the middle.
2. Make course changes early and obvious when approaching an-



Let's all pay attention out there

other boat. Don't wait until the last minute to avoid a collision.

3. If you come upon a disabled boat, stop and lend a hand if doing so does not endanger your boat or passengers. Give boats under tow a break. It could be you and your family on the end of a tow line someday.
4. DNR Wardens and Three Lakes Water Patrol boats with blue lights flashing require a wide berth and calm water. If you must pass close by, don't rock the cops. You may just find yourself on the receiving end of their attention.



Keep it moving

(continued on Page 16)



# Cup Plant

By Patrick Goggin

Lakes Specialist, UW-Extension Lakes

## Nature's Birdfeeder



If you're searching for a native wildflower to help in feeding and providing water to seed loving birds, look no farther than the cup plant, *Silphium perfoliatum*. This damp prairie beauty is distinguished by its thick, tough, square/quadrangular stems and pairs of cup-forming



Cup Plant

leaves. It is a sunflower-like plant, and typically grows to a height range of 4-8 feet, but can reach as high as 12 feet when older. Its flower heads stretch to three inches in diameter and feature delightful light yellow rays (20-40) and darker yellow center disks which bloom in summer on the upper part of the plant from July to September. The leaves are rough to the touch, triangular to ovate in shape, coarsely-toothed and opposite from each other on the stem.

In Wisconsin, this plant occurs chiefly in southwestern areas of the state at the edges of low woods, low wet prairies and river and stream banks of southern, wet forests. It is also common along open or shaded

roadsides, fields and other rich and moist habitats like railroad rights-of-way, ponds and lake edges. As it is an important cultural plant for local Bad River, Lac du Flambeau and Menominee Nations in Wisconsin, cup plant occurs in several populations on tribal reservations because of long-ago introductions by American Indians. In North America, its native range extends from central-eastern Canada to the southeastern portions of the United States. It is a close relative of other *Silphium* found here in Wisconsin, including compass plant, rosinweed and prairie dock.



*Silphium Perfoliatum*

Cup plants are also valuable to wildlife. The large leaves surrounding the stem are reservoirs providing birds and insects with drinking water. The sunflower-sized seeds are sought after by finches and sparrows and the flowers attract many bees and beneficial insects. The open, composite flower of the cup plant welcomes bee visitors of all kinds for the nectar, including bumble and cuckoo bees, long-horned bees, leafcutter

bees, green sweat bees and miner bees of several species. Cup plant is the larval host of silphium moths (*Taberna silphiella*) and giant eucosma



*Silphium Perfoliatum* Bird

moths (*Eucosma giganteana*). Several species of skipper butterflies visit cup plant flowers for nectar including the fiery skipper butterfly (*Hylephila phyleus*) and eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*).

Large aphid populations on the underside of cup plant leaves are common. Aphids (*Uroleucon spp.*) are small, soft-bodied insects that feed on plants by piercing through the plant tissue with their straw-like mouthparts and sucking out the liquid. Their waste material (aka honey dew) is sticky and sweet, which attracts a number of other insects to the plant, in particular, ants that feed on it. Katydid feed on cup plant leaves in early summer as well, and are common prey for parasitic wasps like grass-carrying, great black and great golden digger wasps. Still other insects use cup plant stems as their

(continued on Page 15)



Cup Plant (continued from Page 14)

winter home to protect themselves from the cold temperatures.

Cup plant is a super plant for clay-like soils because its strong, fibrous roots penetrate into the clay, helping increase infiltration and water drainage. Although cup plant prefers moist, rich soils, it is easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun, and even tolerates sandy soils and some drought once it's established. It can be a little slow to establish when grown from seed, but it will come on strong after a year or two, and will self-seed in optimum growing conditions.

Cup plant is an expansive plant that needs lots of space. Some gardeners find cup plant to be too large and aggressive for border areas; instead, they utilize it in the backside of native plant beds like rain gardens and lakeshore plantings as an effective backdrop for perennials. It adapts well to prairies, wildflower/native plant gardens, naturalized areas or moist, open woodland areas including stream and lake edges. Good complimentary native plants to use with cup plant include spotted Joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*) and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*).

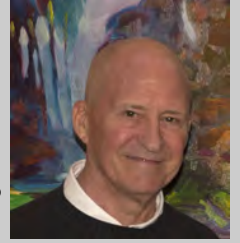
Cup plant is a large, bold plant that brings form and texture to the landscape. Use it as a focal point in perennial gardens around your home landscape!



Water In Cup Plant Leaves

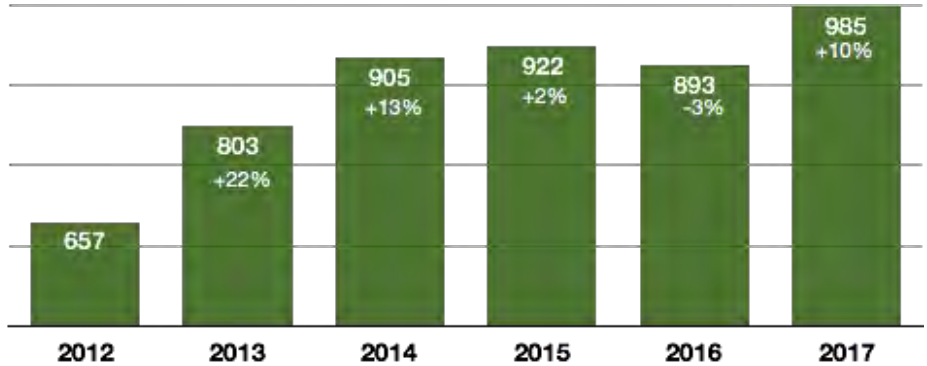
# Membership

By Mike Freehill



## TLWA MEMBERSHIP GROWTH – UP 10%

- Membership posted solid gains in 2017 reaching an all-time-high of 985.
- 74 new members signed on, accounting for most of the growth.
- Renewal rates were also very good among family and business memberships. And a fairly large number of lapsed members also renewed.
- The combination of new membership brochure, new membership plaques, enthusiastic volunteer programs and newspaper coverage ... all helped to reinforce the value of investing in TLWA Memberships.



Feedback about the new membership plaques has been resoundingly positive!

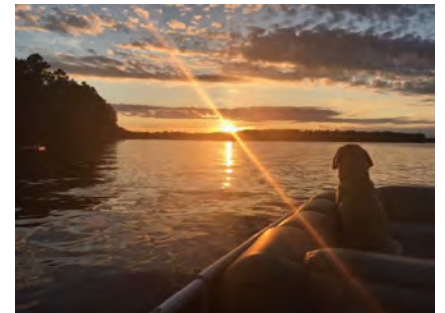
The consistent theme is that ... “The plaques are a great way to show our pride of membership in an organization that works tirelessly to protect the quality of our lakes.” Please let us know if you have not received your plaque yet.

Our goal is to continue increasing membership well beyond the 50% level on every lake. We need everyone’s help to make that happen.

**Our thanks go out to all of our members.  
We appreciate your support.**



Early Birds



Golden Light

Boating Courtesy (cont'd from Page 13)

- Pick up your trash and dispose of it properly. Please treat our waters and shorelines like they were yours.

The Three Lakes Chain is made up of 20 lakes covering more than 7,000 acres of navigable water. Surely there's plenty of room for everyone to enjoy the water in their own way. The old adage "do unto others as you would have them ....." seems to make a lot of sense on the water.

*Editor's Note:* Jon Willman has worked in the boating business for more than 40 years. He holds a



USCG Master Near Coastal license.

## Annual Meeting



Join us on July 5<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at the Reiter Center for our annual meeting. No, we're not planning to serve champagne this year, but we do promise a program that you will find most interesting.

First off, Three Lakes Town Chairman Jeff Bruss will bring us all up to date on what's going on at the township level. As you know, there are some projects that are important to all of us, including the new town center.

In addition, we'll hear from Patrick Goggin who will talk about our lakes. Pat works closely with the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership team. He will

tell the story of change on our Wisconsin lakes, moving from 3-season cabins to 4-season houses and what it has meant for lake challenges related to habitat loss, dirtier runoff water, and overall lake health. His program is perfectly in line with current water quality initiatives conducted by the TLWA.

Pat works for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources, and the University of Wisconsin -Extension out of the Wisconsin DNR office in Rhineland.



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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)