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Three Lakes Waterfront Association - Established in 1967
Spring 2008

Aquatic Invasive Species . . .

Contributed by Rick Pyle

Hope everyone had a great winter and is looking forward to a super summer in Three Lakes.

Predictions from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources make keeping our waterways pristine and clean more difficult with each passing year. More and more aquatic invasives species are being identified and introduced into our lakes. The majority are aquatic hitchhikers that are being transported by boats and trailers going from lake to lake. The vast majority of the boaters are aware of the problem and are supportive of our programs. However, we still need to be at the landings as much as possible to continue to educate boaters and reinforce the programs.

The latest aquatic invasive to be added to our growing list is Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), a water born virus that infects many species of fish including crappie, bluegill, pike, bass, muskie, perch, and walleye. It is passed on by infected fish eating other infected fish. As of this writing the Department of Natural Resources emergency rules will require the draining of all water from boats at a landing. In effect killing all the fish in a live well. This will be a new task for our **Clean Boats, Clean Waters** volunteers.

Other notable invasives in our area include Quagga Mussels, Zebra Mussels, Spiny Fleas, Rusty Crayfish, Rainbow Smelt, Purple Loosestrife, and Eurasian Water Milfoil.

(Continued on Page 3)



Adopt-A-Shoreline . . .

Contributed by Bob Lee

Soon we will begin our fourth year of the **Adopt-A-Shoreline** program (The DNR calls it Citizen Lake Monitoring). The program for 2008 will cover all the major lakes on the chain as well as Whitefish and Virgin Lakes. I will try to expand the program to include Nine Mile Lake which flows into our chain by the boat lift. If there are other lakes anyone feels we should cover, please let me or another board member know of your concern.

Toward the end of May and the first part of June I will contact previous volunteers and new ones to set up assignments. We should start our shoreline patrol by July. Shoreline patrols should be made about every three weeks until the middle of September. We will have a short workshop following the Annual Meeting to answer any questions about the program. Thanks in advance for your support of this important program to fight aquatic invasive species.

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Please . . .

Check the mailing label above to see if your membership has expired or will expire at the end of June 2008. If it has or will expire, please complete and submit the form on Page 7 to renew your membership through June 2009. Please help us avoid unnecessary and expensive reminder notices. We appreciate your continued support!

Welcome to Dan Meyer,
returning as TLWA
Clean Boats, Clean Waters
Coordinator for 2008.

If you haven't already, check out **www.threelakeswaterfrontassociation.com**.

For the latest information on viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), for clarification on pier regulations, to learn about phosphorus restrictions in fertilizers, to get tips on shore-line restoration, or to keep up to date on the fight against aquatic invasive species, the TLWA website is the place to go.

Now you can even access a **LIVE WEB CAM** sponsored by the TLWA that shows a view of Big Stone Lake from the Sunset Grill.

visit today!

www.ThreeLakesWaterfrontAssociation.com

President's Forum . . .

For the fourth consecutive year, the Wisconsin DNR has approved an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Grant Application for the Three Lakes Chain. The dollar amount for 2008 is \$20,219. Adding this amount to grants received in 2005 (\$30,266), 2006 (\$29,146) and 2007 (\$20,179), we have reached a grand total of \$99,810 in grants from the DNR.

As in the past three years, this money will go to continue our education of property owners and boaters about the threat AIS poses to our lakes. We have come a long way since 2005, but this effort is one which must continue over the long haul. We certainly don't want to happen here what has happened on the Eagle River side of the Chain.

The backbone of our efforts continues to be our two volunteer programs. You can read about the **Clean Boats, Clean Waters** and **Adopt-A-Shoreline** programs elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have not already volunteered to help with one or both of these programs, there is a volunteer application in the newsletter. What we do together matters more than what we do separately. Our thanks goes out again to our dedicated volunteers.

Please set aside Saturday, July 5th for the TLWA annual meeting at the Reiter Center.

Coffee and rolls will be served at 9:00 a.m. with the meeting starting at 9:30 a.m.

It is especially important that **Adopt-A-Shoreline** volunteers attend this meeting. I have heard from many people that they have volunteered for this program but have not been contacted. This is your chance. We will conduct a brief workshop (about 20 minutes) after our business meeting with **Adopt-A-Shoreline** volunteers. We need veteran volunteers to attend as well. The DNR has instituted new forms to use when inspecting shorelines. Everyone in this program must become familiar with these forms. The entire meeting should be finished by 11:00 a.m. We hope to see each of you there.

Finally, if you have not visited our website, please do. It is full of important information about our lakes. You can access it at: www.ThreeLakesWaterfrontAssociation.com.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, let me wish all of our members a great summer on the beautiful Three Lake Chain. Please know that your Board is dedicated to preserving our lakes and providing the opportunity for a safe boating experience for everyone who uses our waters.

Tom Harris

President
Three Lakes Waterfront Association, Inc.

TLWA Membership and Volunteer Application

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 \$ _____ as a tax exempt contribution toward the cost of the invasive species prevention program.

**Detach completed form and mail with a check for \$20.00 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**

2007-2008 Board of Directors

Officers

President	Tom Harris
Vice President	Paul Matthiae
Treasurer	Roger Blocks
Secretary	Elmer Goetsch

Directors

Denise Goldsworthy	Richard Pyle
Dale Hitchcock	Norris Ross
Robert E. Lee, Jr.	Jack Werner
Heidi Nykolayko	Eric Wick
John Olkowski, Jr.	

Program Leaders

Adopt-a-Shoreline	Bob Lee/Norris Ross
Aquatic Invasive Species	Paul Matthiae
	Richard Pyle
Lake Water Testing	Eric Wick
Membership	Denise Goldsworthy
	Dale Hitchcock
Newsletter	Heidi Nykolayko
OCLRA Director	Norris Ross
Publicity	Roger Blocks
Scholarship	Elmer Goetsch
	Tom Harris
Septic System Ordinance	Eric Wick
Shoreline Zoning	John Olkowski, Jr.
Water Safety	Jack Werner
Web Site	Heidi Nykolayko

Welcome , Jennifer Holman, Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Coordinator

**Annual Meeting July 5th at 9:00 a.m.
Reiter Center, Three Lakes**

DNR Denies Shoreland Zoning Rule Revision Abandoned . . .

Contributed by Elmer Goetsch

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has denied a report in early May that work has been abandoned on a revision of NR 115, the Wisconsin administrative rule on shoreland zoning. Consideration of a revision began some seven years ago. The current NR 115 is based on 1967 Wis law (Chapter 59.692, WisStats) and has been little changed since originally issued. Consensus on a revised NR 115 so far has not been achieved with important interested parties, especially with builders, realtors, and county code administrators. In addition, a new rule would force all 72 counties to revise their ordinances. There is concern that, without consensus, there could be a political fight in the Legislature and, potentially, fights over every county shoreland ordinance.

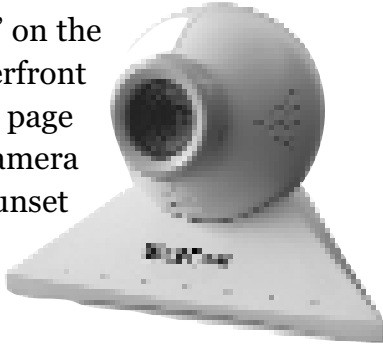
Elmer Goetsch of Three Lakes represented the Wisconsin Association of Lakes on the early DNR citizens' advisory group which began work on a draft revision.

Custom Embroidered Clothing . . .

Contributed by Tom Harris

The TLWA Board of Directors made arrangements with Eagle Custom Embroidery to provide custom embroidered clothing with the TLWA logo to Association members. Almost any kind of clothing can be embroidered with our logo. Clothing can be purchased directly at their store or customers may bring in their own clothing for an added embroidery charge. Eagle Custom Embroidery is located on Highway 45 about half-way between Three Lakes and Eagle River on the west side of the road. Their phone number is 715-479-5956. Their email address is ece@eaglecustomembroidery.com. They will take either phone or email orders. Customers can also stop in at the store. Please call ahead for store hours. Show people that you are proud to be a member of one of the finest lake associations in the state.

Get a great view of Big Stone Lake from anywhere in the world! Just click on 'Webcam' on the Three Lakes Waterfront Association home page to tune into the camera mounted at the Sunset Grill.



You never know what you might see. During the spring, before the ice left, the camera even caught an eagle feasting on a fish!

New County Coordinator . . .

Contributed by Jennifer Holman

As you may or may not know, I am the new Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator for Oneida County. Originally from Dyer, Indiana, I have recently moved back to the midwest from Santa Fe, New Mexico. After graduating from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Management, I had the opportunity to work for both the private and public sectors on natural resource projects in 11 states.

Because I grew up hunting and fishing with my father, my passion has always been to preserve our natural resources. For many years my family and I would drive up to the Northwoods of Wisconsin for our fishing excursions and I realized the first time we made it to the Northwoods that my heart belonged here. Now I have not only accomplished my goal of living here, but I have also been given the opportunity to protect the lakes I grew up with.

If you have any questions, need assistance, or would just like to meet, please feel free to call me at 715-369-7836. I look forward to working with you all in this fight to preserve the waters of Oneida County!

Aquatic Invasive Species . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

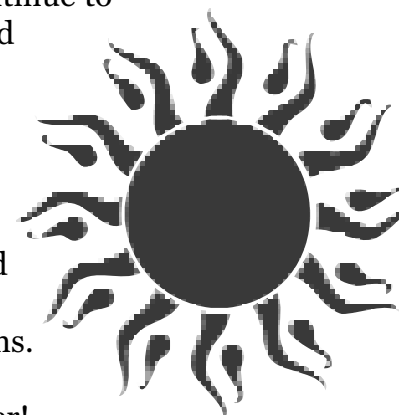
By far and away the most serious of the current invasives at this time is the continuing spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil. The lower chain, the Eagle River section, has 11 lakes, of which over 180 acres need to be chemically treated this spring.

We have heard the stories of what happens when lakes are invaded by Eurasian Water Milfoil – boat motors seizing up, lower motor units being twisted, boats that can't move off boat lifts, weeds inhibiting swimmers and water-skiers and other related nightmares. That is why the TLWA tries to put volunteer inspectors at the boat lift and our busiest boat launches: Big Stone, Big, and Town Line Lakes every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holiday. Only through continuous monitoring and education do we have a chance to combat this issue.

Last year only about 10% of the association's 600 members volunteered for our **Clean Boats, Clean Waters** program. I know we are all busy, and many of us are only here for a week or a few weekends, but think what we could accomplish if EVERYONE contributed a bit of their time to help to try to keep Eurasian Water Milfoil out of our lakes. If you can't volunteer for a full shift, then please try to watch our landings by driving by and looking at parked trailers for weeds. Don't be afraid to put a note under a wiper blade if you see something that is not right.

We all want to continue to enjoy our lakes and fighting off these invasives is a big part of that future enjoyment. Please volunteer, recruit new members, and be vigilant to any changing conditions.

Enjoy your summer!



The most recent Eurasian Water Milfoil invasion, is located on the east-most side of the body of water leading southerly to Long Lake from the Burnt Rollways Dam. This infestation is probably a residual from the EWM detected last year directly across the water, that was removed earlier this year. It is imperative that folks keep their boats out of the area to avoid cutting the EWM plants and thus spreading the plant.

Why Volunteer? . . .

Contributed by Heidi Nykolayko

When you volunteer you are giving something back to your community by lending a helping hand to people and organizations. What you may not realize is that volunteering also benefits you as an individual.

- to feel needed
- to be part of a community
- to show commitment to a cause
- to do your civic duty
- to gain satisfaction from accomplishment
- to learn something new
- to make new friends
- to share a skill
- to keep busy for recognition
- to feel proud to have an impact
- for fun!
- to feel good to test yourself
- to be part of a team

Whatever your reason, each of us can personally gain from volunteering and the TLWA need volunteers. If you haven't tried it already, why not make this the summer to help out? It is a win-win proposition!

What is VHS? . . .

Information from the WDNR Website

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is a deadly fish virus and an invasive species that is threatening Wisconsin's fish. VHS was diagnosed for the first time ever in the Great Lakes as the cause of large fish kills in lakes Huron, St. Clair, Erie, Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River in 2005 and 2006. Thousands of muskies, walleye, lake whitefish, freshwater drum, yellow perch, gizzard shad, redhorse and round gobies died. Many Chinook salmon, white bass, emerald shiners, smallmouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, burbot, and northern pike were diseased but did not die in large numbers.

It's not a threat to people who handle infected fish or want to eat their catch, but it is threat to the more than 25 fish species [PDF 12KB] it can kill. This is the first time a virus has affected so many different fish species from so many fish families in the Great Lakes. VHS virus is considered an invasive species (not native to the Great Lakes), but scientists are not sure how the virus arrived. It may have come in with migrating fish from the Atlantic Coast, or may have hitch-hiked in ballast water from ships.

History of the Virus

VHS was found in European freshwater trout dating to the late 1930s and continues to cause epidemics in European trout farms; it first appeared on the U.S. West Coast in 1988 in marine trout and salmon, and started to be noticed in marine fish off the eastern Canadian province of New Brunswick from 2000-2004. It was first detected in Great Lakes freshwater fish in 2005. The virus found in Wisconsin is a new genetic strain that's most closely related to the virus found in the Pacific Northwest, rather than the strain found in Europe.

For a list of fish species affected by VHS, go to http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/documents/vhs_fedorderModList.pdf.

Revised VHS Rules . . .

Effective April 4, 2008

Contributed by the DNR Bureau of Fisheries Management

Revised rules to prevent the spread of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) fish disease are effective April 4, 2008. The revised rules, like earlier versions, seek to limit the movement of live fish and water. Anglers moving infected bait minnows is the main way VHS is spread to new waters, followed at a distant second by people moving large quantities of contaminated water. A summary of those rules follows.

Anglers and Boaters:

- May not leave lake or river banks or shores with any live fish or live fish eggs except for minnows purchased from a Wisconsin bait dealer, including fish farms, and transported under certain conditions, explained below.

- Anglers may keep purchased minnows left-over after a fishing trip and use them on the same water; or they may take these leftover purchase minnows home and use them on another lake or river if the fish minnows were not exposed to any other fish or water from previously fished lakes or rivers.

- Must drain all water from boats and equipment when leaving any state waters or before entering the state over land. Anglers allowed to take live purchased minnows home under other provisions of the rule may transport the minnows in up to 2 gallons of water. No other fish may be kept in the same container with the minnows. Containers of drinking water do not need to be drained.

- May use dead fish, fish eggs, or fish parts for bait in certain instances, explained below.

- Fresh or frozen fish are okay to use as bait on Lake Michigan or Green Bay and their tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable to fish or for use on the water from which it was harvested.

- Fish preserved by a method that does not require refrigeration or freezing is okay to use as bait on any water.

- May not use or possess live fish or live fish eggs for use as bait if obtained outside Wisconsin.

Exceptions: bait from Iowa or Minnesota may be used on the Mississippi River "between the tracks" and imported bait may be used if it was imported in compliance with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection rules.

- May not use fish as bait for trapping crayfish or turtles unless the fish was harvested from the same water on which the trapping occurs or was purchased from a Wisconsin bait dealer.

Anglers who harvest wild bait for personal use:

- May not harvest minnows or fish for minnows for any purpose or use or operate any minnow harvesting gear in Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Lake Superior, the Mississippi River, Lake Winnebago, the Fox River from Lake Winnebago to Green Bay, or any bay, slough or backwater of these waters, and all connecting waters upstream or the first barrier impassable to fish, or in any other water where the department has determined that the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus is present. However, suckers from these waters may be harvested but may not be transported away live. A list of VHS waters can be found on the DNR's web site at dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs.

- On waters where minnow harvesting is not prohibited, anglers can harvest minnows for bait for their personal use only if they harvest the minnows from the water they will be fishing in. Live minnows harvested cannot be transported away from the water, bank or shore where harvested. Anglers can drain the water from their container carrying wild minnows and take them home for later use as dead bait in compliance with the dead fish as bait rules.

Harvesting minnows for personal use does not require a bait dealer license or wild bait harvest permit as long as the total is less than 600 minnows.

- People who live on a lake or are vacationing at a resort may keep live bait in floating or submerged containers tethered to a dock or boat. Any unattended containers holding minnows or fish must be labeled with the owner's name and address.

People who harvest wild bait harvest for commercial use:

- No one may harvest minnows for commercial sale from VHS-affected waters.

- Harvesters must be a bait dealer and apply for a wild bait harvest permit and specify which lake or stream segment they will collect from and keep records of their harvest and what they did with the minnows.

- May not possess farm-raised fish while engaged in harvesting operations or while transporting wild harvested minnows to the bait dealer's business location or from the water where harvested to the point of sale.

- Must have all minnows harvested from the wild inspected by a qualified fish health expert and receive a Fish Health Certification before they can be distributed. Further, all species identified by the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, APHIS, as susceptible to VHS must have a negative VHS test before they can be distributed. Currently minnows on this list include, but is not limited to, emerald shiners, bluntnose minnows, and spottail shiners.

- Harvesters are required to disinfect all of their gear before harvesting in another water-body.

To stay updated on VHS, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs/vhsfacts.html>.