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making waves

Three Lakes Waterfront Association - Established in 1967
Winter 2008

Clean Boats, Clean Waters . . .

Contributed by Rick Pyle

We had another great summer at the boat our landings. We kept Eurasian Water Milfoil out and increased our volunteer hours.

Our volunteer hours this past summer increased from 1229 in 2007 to 1572 in 2008. This, despite a decrease in the number of volunteers from 80 to 50. More hours are being contributed by fewer volunteers!

Special recognition goes out to the following who volunteered for a four-hour shift or more on an almost regular basis:

Lois Curran	Reed Newlin
Roger Dornburg	Rick Pyle
Tom Flanders	Bruce Renquist
Jim Geismann	Don & Sandy Schlaefer
John Ibach	Paul & Carol Steinhauer
John Leverenz	Bill Thayer
Oliver Littleton	Martha Turner
Dan Mueller	Jack Werner
Tom Obenberger	Larry & Lynn Zibell

If you see these great volunteers please thank them for doing more than their part to keep our chain clean and beautiful.

Please consider volunteering for at least one, four-hour shift in 2009. If we hope to keep EWM at bay it's going to take more than 10% of our membership and more than 3% of the property owners to volunteer at our landings. You will have an opportunity to meet some great boaters and educate them about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Please give it a try – our lakes deserve it!



Adopt-A-Shoreline . . .

Contributed by Bob Lee

We just completed our fourth year of the *Adopt-A-Shoreline* program with over 80 volunteers patrolling our lakes. Your association thanks you for your time and your concern in helping to keep our lakes free of Eurasian Water Milfoil and other aquatic invasive species.

This year, as in past years, we expanded the shoreline coverage. Added to the program were Nine Mile Creek and Seven Mile Lake. Both areas flow into our main chain. So, in addition to the basic chain, we monitor Whitefish, Virgin, Julia and these two new areas.

As of this writing I have received over 35 shoreline reports and I know there are still others to be returned. If you have not turned in your report, please send them to our P.O. Box 145 or return them to the White Deer Liquor store in Three Lakes. We believe the early detection of Eurasian Water Milfoil or other AIS is essential to its removal and the health of our lakes.

Have a great winter and we will be calling you next spring.

2008-2009 Board of Directors

Officers

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

Directors

Robert E. Lee, Jr.	Richard Pyle
Ed Martens	Patricia Radtke
Reed Newlin	Norris Ross
Heidi Nykolayko	Jack Werner
John Olkowski, Jr.	Eric Wick

Program Leaders

Adopt-a-Shoreline	Robert E. Lee, Jr./Ed Martens
Exotic Species	Paul Matthiae/Richard Pyle
Lake Water Testing	Eric Wick
Membership	Reed Newlin/Patricia Radtke
Newsletter	Heidi Nykolayko
OCLRA Director	Norris Ross
Publicity	Tom Harris
Scholarship	Elmer Goetsch/Tom Harris
Septic System Review	Eric Wick
Shoreland Zoning	John Olkowski, Jr.
Water Safety	Jack Werner
Website	Heidi Nykolayko

Visit the website for updates!
www.ThreeLakesWaterfrontAssociation.com

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President's Forum . . .

Your TLWA Board of Directors and many other volunteers have been very busy during 2008 in a major effort to keep aquatic invasive species (AIS) out of the Three Lakes Chain. With funding from an AIS Education Grant, two Rapid Response Grants, membership dues and donations, our efforts have continued at full speed throughout the year.

Please take the time to read and fully understand two other articles in this newsletter. One, titled "Addressing the EWM Issue", details our efforts to temporarily close the channel to motorized boats from Long Lake to the Burnt Rollways Dam in the event that our 2, 4-D treatment is ineffective this spring. The other article, "Establishment of Emergency Invasive Control Zone", contains the TLWA ordinance recommendation to the Town Board that would be implemented if and only if Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) becomes a problem in the channel. Every property owner, and others who use our chain, should become familiar with these issues and strategies.

The TLWA Board is also working on a Lake Management Plan for the channel from the dam to and including Long Lake. We will be applying for a Lake Management Planning Grant in order to accomplish this task. Residents of Long Lake should know that we will need your volunteer help on this project. Long Lake residents will be receiving a letter in the next few months about this effort. It is our belief that the next most likely infestation of EWM would be in Long Lake. Such an infestation would affect property values, water quality and recreation. We will need your help to prevent this from happening. Our neighbors to the north in Eagle River have an EWM treatment area in 2009 of

Forum . . . (Continued on page 7)

Addressing the EWM Issue . . .

Much has been said and written about the situation of the Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) that has been found in the channel on the Three Lakes side of the Burnt Rollways Dam. Some of the information is true and some of the information is misleading. In order to set the record straight with our membership, we are dedicating this issue to reviewing the history of the situation so that our members will understand how the board has arrived at the suggested solutions.

Some of this information was covered in the letter that you recently received and we apologize for any repetition. However, we feel it very important that a detailed outline of the events leading up to the current situation is important.

In the early 1990's, EWM began growing in the Eagle River Chain. It spread from one lake to another throughout the entire chain infesting approximately 200 acres. The lake leaders in Eagle River have spent thousands of hours and tens of thousands of dollars to educate lake users about EWM, prevent more from entering the chain, and control the infested acreage. The Three Lakes Waterfront Association (TLWA) applauds these efforts.

TLWA remained informed of the Eagle River efforts and efforts of lake associations throughout the state. Beginning in 2005 and every year since, the TLWA has successfully applied for grants from the state to educate boaters on the Three Lakes Chain about the threats that EWM and other forms of AIS pose. These grants have totaled approximately \$100, 000.

Two volunteer programs were implemented. Through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, trained volunteers are stationed at boat landings to inspect boats and educate boaters. In 2008 alone, these volunteers put in over 1500 hours. The Adopt-A-Shoreline program volunteers monitor shorelines on every lake of the Three Lakes Chain looking for EWM. As far as we know, with one exception, the Three Lakes Chain is free of EWM.

EWM Issue . . . (Continued on page 3)

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 \$_____ 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

Forum . . . (Continued from page 2)

275 acres. We have a 12-acre treatment area in the channel. Our goal is obviously to prevent the costly problem which exists in the Eagle River Chain from happening in the Three Lakes Chain. Please know that the TLWA Board is working closely with the DNR as well as with our downstream neighbors to accomplish our goals. While some in the Eagle River community disagree with our ordinance proposal, the TLWA Board strongly believes that this is one of many tools we must have available if we are to keep EWM out of our waters.

Please set aside July 11, 2009 at 9:00 am for the TLWA Annual Meeting at the Reiter Center.

The meeting agenda will be addressing crucial lake issues like Lake Management Planning, our 12-acre infestation, grants, **Clean Boats, Clean Waters** and **Adopt-A-Shoreline**. If you care about the future of the Three Lakes Chain, you should make time for this important meeting.

Finally, on behalf of the TLWA Board of Directors, have a happy holiday season and a prosperous 2009.

Tom Harris

President
Three Lakes Waterfront Association, Inc.

AIS Control Zone . . . (Continued from page 5)

infestations and treatment areas, and shall comply with all waterway markers, signs, and buoys.

b. Operation of motorized watercraft in the control zone is permitted at faster than slow-no-wake speed in emergencies, for EWM treatment and control, and for enforcement of this ordinance or other boating regulations.

c. During the temporary motorized boating prohibition period imposed under Section V, owners of riparian property abutting the control zone, and their guests, nevertheless may transit the control zone with motorized watercraft for travel to and from portions of the Three Lakes Chain outside of the control zone. Transit must be in compliance with a. above and e. below, and only for direct ingress and regress to that owner's property.

d. Non-motorized watercraft may transit the control zone at any time in compliance with a. above and e. below.

e. Operators of all watercraft in the control zone, immediately upon leaving it, shall visually inspect the hull, transom, and propulsion machinery. This inspection shall be conducted at full stop when leaving the control zone by water, or on land immediately when taken directly out of the water from the control zone. All aquatic plants regardless of species found on or in the boat or an associated trailer shall be totally removed and properly disposed of on land.

f. The provisions of this section shall remain in force indefinitely and shall not automatically expire at the end of the temporary motorized boating prohibition period provided in Section V above.

Section VII. Public Notice and EWM Control Zone Marking.

a. The Town Clerk shall cause this ordinance to be posted on the town website and published in the next available edition of the town official newspaper. A copy shall be mailed to all known marinas and riparian restaurants in the Town of Three Lakes, to the Three Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, Eagle River Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, Vilas County Unified Lakes Commission, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

in Rhinelander, and to the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, and all other owners of riparian properties abutting the control zone at their current tax roll addresses.

b. Notification of any change to control boundaries, or imposition or removal of a prohibition on motorized boating, shall be disseminated by mail, fax, or email within 36 hours to the recipients identified as in a. above.

c. The town crew shall place and maintain appropriate buoys, signs, and markers to notify waterway users of the restrictions of this ordinance.

Section VIII. State Boating Laws and Regulations Adopted. State boating laws as found in §30.50 to §30.71 and §30.742, WisStats, and NR 5, Wisconsin Administrative Code, are hereby adopted by reference.

Section IX. Enforcement and Penalties. Qualified law enforcement officials employed or contracted by the Town of Three Lakes shall issue citations for violations in accordance with §66.0113, WisStats. Deposits as established in the Uniform Deposit and Bail Schedule adopted by the Wisconsin Judicial Conference are hereby adopted by reference with all references to fines amended to read forfeitures and all references to imprisonment deleted.

Section X. Severability. The provisions of this ordinance shall be severable. It is expressly declared that the Three Lakes Town Board of Supervisors would have passed the other provisions of this ordinance irrespective of whether or not one or more provisions may be declared invalid. If any provision of this ordinance or the application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance and the application of such provisions to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected.

Section XI. Effective Date and Conflicting Ordinance(s) Superseded. This ordinance shall become effective upon passage and enforceable the day after publication. Any conflicting provision of any previously adopted Town of Three Lakes ordinance is superseded on the effective date of this ordinance.

EWM Issue . . . (Continued from page 2)

The one exception is the channel between Long Lake and the Burnt Rollways Dam. EWM was discovered in 2006 by a volunteer. We immediately hired an AIS knowledgeable scuba diver to investigate the situation and to pull as much EWM as possible. We also applied for a Rapid Response Grant from the state to map the infestation and treat it. At that point, we found the treatment area consisted of .55 acres. Following recommended protocol, it was treated with 2, 4-D in May of 2007.

By July of 2007, in the post treatment survey, no EWM plants were discovered in the treated area. However, a few EWM plants were noted immediately across the channel, probably 20-30 feet from the treatment area. A few more plants were detected near the treated area as the summer of 2007 progressed.

During the summer of 2008, the new milfoil bed expanded greatly. Pulling was attempted in July without much success. Another Rapid Response Grant was applied for and the channel was mapped again. The new treatment area has now expanded to 11.8 acres.

Knowing that the Eagle River chain had a major infestation, TLWA began monitoring boats using the lift beginning in 2005. In 2005, boats using the lift were monitored by volunteers on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. In 2006, we scheduled a paid person at the lift during hours of operation Mondays through Thursdays and a volunteer the other days of the week. In 2007, we did not employ a person for Mondays through Thursdays due to a lack of state grant dollars, but did schedule volunteers there Fridays through Sundays. However, if we did not have either a paid person or volunteer at the lift, the lift operator agreed to check the boats. In 2008 we once again were able to provide a paid person to inspect and remove EWM from boats during the week.

This major monitoring effort kept EWM from crossing into the Three Lakes Chain on many occasions, however, despite these efforts; we ended up with an infestation. It should be noted

that in addition to these efforts, "Keep Out" and "Slow No Wake" buoys were put in the infested area in an attempt to control boat traffic, keeping boaters out of EWM beds. Not all boaters cooperated.

IMPORTANT NOTE: EWM generally expands in two ways. The plant itself goes through a process called auto-fragmentation where the plant, on its own, fragments. These fragments can, and do, make new plants. So, without any human intervention, EWM will expand on its own.

The second way it expands is by being brought into a lake on a trailer or on a boat propeller. This is the whole reason for **Clean Boats, Clean Waters** program around the country. In our situation, since the one area on the chain where we first found EWM receives constant boat traffic and has expanded from .55 acres to nearly 12 acres, we can only assume that boats are in all likelihood picking up the plant and moving it up channel toward Long Lake.

During the summer of 2008, from records obtained from Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation (WVI), approximately 1355 passes were made by boats through the milfoil bed. This number does not include boats on the Three Lakes side that go to the lift just to see it operate.

We expect to treat the EWM in May of 2009. We have been told that to maximize the treatment, we need to minimize the current for 72 hours. That would mean that the dam would need to be open at the minimum level of 1". This is totally dependent upon the weather. If the dam is open too far due to spring runoff (creating too much of a current) we will not be able to do a treatment.

Another critical factor is the treatment window is only open for a few weeks in spring. If we are unable to treat during this window, we must wait until 2010. If we are forced to wait until 2010, we know our infestation will grow on its own.

This is the reason that the TLWA Board of Directors initiated a process to temporarily close

EWM Issue . . . (Continued on page 4)

EWM Issue . . . (Continued from page 3)

the channel to motorized boats. If unable to treat the area in the spring of 2009, the TLWA believes that allowing another 1,400 boats through the infested area would be irresponsible. As a Board, it is our responsibility to do everything we can to prevent EWM from reaching Long Lake and the rest of the 7,000 acre Three Lakes Chain.

The question of the economic impact that closing the channel to motorized boats may have on the

chain has been raised numerous times. The TLWA cannot answer this question specifically. However, we can state that the cost in water quality, fisheries, recreation, property value, and treatment, should EWM infest the Three Lakes Chain would be enormous.

Finally, we encourage our members and everyone who lives or visits our community to stay informed and be aware of the threat posed by all invasives. We in the TLWA will certainly maintain our vigilance and perseverance.

Establishment of Emergency Invasive Species Control Zone . . .

PRELIMINARY DRAFT-7

Section I. Purpose. This emergency ordinance is enacted under authority of §30.77(3)(a), WisStats, to protect and preserve the public's interest in the outstanding natural resources and environment of the Three Lakes Chain of Lakes from degradation by the invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM).

Section II. Background. EWM is a non-native invasive aquatic plant that, when established, rapidly spreads and can form large impenetrable mats which severely inhibit or preclude boating, swimming, and fishing. Uncontrolled infestations have greatly reduced lake use and riparian property values elsewhere in Wisconsin and the U.S. EWM was found in the Eagle River Chain downstream of the Burnt Rollways Dam in the early 1990's. It was subsequently found in the Three Lakes Chain in the Long Lake channel just upstream of the dam but has not been found, so far, elsewhere in the Three Lakes Chain. Despite intensive control efforts beginning in 2005, EWM has spread upstream in the channel. If not controlled, EWM will eventually clog the channel and spread into the rest of the Three Lakes Chain with consequent severe impact on the value and enjoyment of these incomparable public waters. Motorized watercraft activities are the proximate cause of the spread of EWM upstream against water flow. Control measures include removal of plants found on boats, exclusion of motorized watercraft from near-surface beds of EWM infected areas, and chemical treatment of EWM beds. Effective chemical treatment is possible only in the spring, in near still water conditions, and when the EWM growth begins before native water plants begin growth.

Section III. Definitions. Definitions provided in NR 5.001, Wisconsin Administrative Code, are hereby adopted by reference. Supplementary definitions applicable to this ordinance are:

Non-motorized Watercraft. Boats as defined in NR 5.001, including, but not limited to, canoes, kayaks, sail boats, rafts, and fishing boats, not moved by propulsion machinery.

Motorized Watercraft. Boats as defined in NR 5.001 moved by propulsion machinery whether propeller, fan, or water jet driven.

Slow-No-Wake. Moving at the slowest possible speed while maintaining steerage control.

Section IV. Establishment and Boundaries of EWM Control Zone. Effective immediately, an EWM control zone is established in the Long Lake channel. The side boundaries of the control zone shall be the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) on the banks of the channel and as extended across the mouth of Lower Ninemile Creek. The downstream boundary shall be the spillway on the Burnt Rollways Dam. The upstream boundary shall be a line between and approximately perpendicular to the OHWM on either bank at the junction of the channel with Long Lake proper, the line to cross the center of navigation of the channel at coordinates N 45 52.944 W 089 08.720. However, the Three Lakes Town Chairman may, with 36 hour public notice in accordance with Section VII(b) below, change the control zone boundaries based on infestation locations, control treatment requirements, or for other good cause, after obtaining advice as provided in Section V below.

Section V. Temporary Prohibition of Motorized Boating in the EWM Control Zone. To facilitate effective chemical treatment and control of spread of EWM infestation, operation of motorized watercraft may be temporarily prohibited in the EWM control zone by the Three Lakes Town Chairman, except as allowed by Section VI below, when necessary due to appearance of near-surface weed beds in the control zone, exigencies of weather and/or water flow at the dam, chemical treatment procedures, or for other good cause. In taking such action, the Chairman may consider operational and technical advice from the Three Lakes Waterfront Association board of directors, AIS control contractors, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Section VI. Restrictions on Boating in the EWM Control Zone.

a. Except when permitted under b. below, all watercraft movement in the EWM control zone is indefinitely restricted to operation at slow-no-wake speed, shall avoid all identified EWM

AIS Control Zone . . . (Continued on page 6)

Thank You!

Adopt-A-Shoreline Volunteers

Maryanne Anderson	Tom & Patti Harris	Ed & Carol Martins	Jim & Lorry Skelton
Jim & Peg Blanchard	William & Peggy Hayes	Bob & Donna Mather	Dan & Tara Stephens
Roger & Marge Blocks	Joel Heiland	Paul Matthiae	Dick Stoll
Robert Boerner	Dave & Jan Hintz	Tom McElmeel	Greg Szpak
Walt Bredeson	Dale & Mary Hitchcock	Frank & Audrey Meyer	Mark & Patty Wallesverd
Eric & Patti Butzlaff	Ed Jacobsen	Jim & Vicki Morley	Stan & Joanne Wargolet
Karen Cottingham	Sally Kelly	Dan Mueller	Larry Weinbrod
Richard & Diana Deaver	Lee & Trudy Klauk	Reed Newlin	Jack Werner
John Dionne	Ken Kline	Tom & Heidi Nykolayko	Eric & Jacquelyn Wick
Mary Donohue	Frederick Knoch	Joe Petreikas	Ron & Sue Williams
Bob & Pat Dumke	Don Kratsch	Rick Pyle	Robert & Sandra Woiak
Al & Sanda Fager	David Kroening	Bruce & Judy Renquist	Bob & Joey Wojtusik
Tom Flanders	Dave & Jan Lederhaus	George & Vicki Rezny	Brian Wondrash
Bill Grove	Robert Lee	Dale Samuels	Bill & Peggy Wood
Gerry & Kathy Gruhn	John Leverenz	John Scheid	

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Volunteers

Jim Blanchard	Dan Mueller	Jack Werner
Roger & Marge Blocks	Reed & Marcia Newlin	Brian Wondrash
Lois Curran	Cliff & Diane Niersbach	Jordan & Jared Workman
Ann & Roger Dornburg	Tom Obenberger	Larry & Lynn Zibell
Tom Flanders	BJ Panke	The Red Suspenders:
Jim Geismann	Rick Pyle	Don Eaglesham
Tom Harris	Bruce & Judy Renquist	Patrick Galligan
Dale Hitchcock	JoAnn Robertson	Bill Gilmore
John Ibach	Don Schaeffer	Ron John
James Jamicich	Jack & Sandy Schlaefer	Joe Johns
Dan Kratsch	John Snell	Dave Kerkman
Robert Lee	Paul & Carol Steinhauer	Phil Koepp
John Leverenz	Josh Sullivan	Bill Kirby
Oliver Littleton	Allen Teach	Dave Rozga
Aimee Loftin	Martha Turner	Ron Rozga