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making waves

Three Lakes Waterfront Association - Established in 1967
Spring 2009

Clean Boats, Clean Waters . . .

Contributed by Rick Pyle

2008 was another successful summer for our boat landings as we have yet to identify any Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) adjacent to the launches.

In 2008 we had 49 individuals volunteer 1,440 hours at eight boat landings and the Burnt Rollways Dam. A total of 1,712 boats were contacted and inspected. In addition 3,937 boaters were better educated about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Our inspection reports indicated that 86% of our boaters know about AIS and the laws about proper launching, but that leaves 14% that don't or approximately 240 boaters. It's for that reason that we need to continue this program of educating boaters. It only takes one boat to infest a lake and then it takes big dollars to control the infestation.

Some pending state laws could aid our efforts by making it illegal to transport any type of plant on a boat, trailer or vehicle. Currently, only Oneida County has similar legislation, but making it a statewide law should really help.

The Three Lakes Waterfront Association strives to get volunteers to cover five boat landings at Big, Big Stone, Medicine, Town Line and the Burnt Rollways Dam on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays for two four-hour shifts daily.

We really need more people to volunteer to keep the AIS under control. Please try to volunteer for one four hour shift. You can partner your wife or friend and make it an even better experience. You might be the you to save a lake from AIS. You will meet alot of great boaters and be able to distribute some educational materials that will go a long ways toward keeping our lakes as free from AIS as possible.

Try it - you'll like it!



Adopt-A-Shoreline . . .

Contributed by Bob Lee

Soon we will begin our fifth year of the Adopt-A-Shoreline program. Last year we had more than 80 volunteers supporting this program. The program covers all the major lakes on the Three Lakes Chain, the Eagle River leading to the boat lift, Whitefish Lake, Lake Julia, Nine Mile Creek, Seven Mile Lake and Virgin Lake. If there are additional lakes you feel we should cover, please let me or another Three Lakes Waterfront Association (TLWA) board member know of your concern. With the reoccurrence of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) near the boat lift, the Adopt-A-Shoreline program increases in its importance of early detection of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

The Adopt-A-Shoreline program involves a volunteer inspecting about half-mile of shoreline four times each season between the end of June and the middle of September. The time for each inspection runs about an hour. Should a suspect plant be found a sample should be taken and turned in at *Jokin' Joe's Bait Shop*. Then the plant will be given to the

. . . Cont'd on page 2

2008-2009 Board of Directors

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Scholarship	Elmer Goetsch/Tom Harris
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Water Safety	Jack Werner
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ANNUAL MEETING 9 A.M., SATURDAY, JULY 11th at the REITER CENTER

ThreeLakesWaterfrontAssociation.com

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President's Forum . . .

As I gaze out my window overlooking Little Fork Lake, I no longer see snow on the ice and there are only a few inches left in our yard. It is mid-March. The Three Lakes area endured 51 days this winter when the temperature was below zero. But spring is on the way.

With the coming of spring, a number of challenges are before The Three Lakes Waterfront Association. These include:

1. Mapping the Eagle River from the Burnt Rollways Dam to Cranberry Lake looking for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM).
2. Treating the 11.8 acres of EWM infestation between the Burnt Rollways Dam and Long Lake.
3. Developing a Lake Management Plan for Long Lake (read more about this elsewhere in the newsletter).
4. Conducting a membership drive to increase membership.
5. Continuing the Clean Boats, Clean Waters and Adopt-A-Shoreline programs.
6. Monitoring and promoting boat safety on the Chain.

Despite the shortage of dollars from the state for grants, the TLWA was again successful in

obtaining grant money from the February grant cycle. We received \$20,000 for a Rapid Response Grant to study and treat EWM from Long Lake to Cranberry Lake. We also received \$38,000 for education and prevention and to develop a Lake Management Plan for Long Lake.

Now more than ever, we need the help and support of everyone to keep the Three Lakes Chain free from aquatic invasive species. All lake owners need to be aware of what the TLWA is doing and volunteer where volunteers are needed.

Please set aside Saturday, July 11th for the TLWA Annual Meeting at the Reiter Center. Coffee and rolls will be served at 9:00 a.m. with the business meeting starting at 9:30 am. Updates on all the challenges mentioned earlier will be on the agenda. The time spent will be well worth it.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, have a safe and enjoyable summer on the beautiful waters of the Three Lakes Chain and all the area waters.

Tom Harris

President
Three Lakes Waterfront Association, Inc.

Adopt-A-Shoreline . . .

(Cont'd from page 1)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource lab for analysis. If the suspect is found to be an AIS plant, the TLWA will takes steps to remove the plants.

Toward the end of May and the first part of June, Ed Martens or I will contact previous volunteers and new ones to set up assignments. We should start our shoreline patrol by late June. Shoreline patrols should be made about every three weeks until the middle of September. A short workshop will be conducted following the annual meeting on July 11th to answer any questions about the program. Thank you in advance for your support of this important program to fight Aquatic Invasive Species.

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

Ballad of the Weed Rangers . . .

by Dave Noval from Forest Park, Illinois
(Sung to the tune of Grease Lightning from Grease.)

Have you seen those BLUE SHIRTS
working at the landing today?
Weed Rangers - Go Weed Rangers.

They will check your boat and trailer
before you go out to play.
Weed Rangers - Go Weed Rangers.

Ther're really strict, says leader Rick,
It's their JOB.....

They will be there on the weekends
protecting our waterways.
Weed Rangers - Go Weed Rangers.

Ther're all volunteers cause Clean Boats,
Clean Waters cant afford to pay.
Weed Rangers - Go Weed Rangers.

That crew in Blue
Hats off to You!
Weed Rangers.

Eurasian Milfoil is what ther're looking for.
Weed Rangers - Go Weed Rangers.

It's a threat to our waters and
we can't take no more.
Weed Rangers - Go Weed Rangers.

And that is why,
we give HIGH FIVES,
to the WEED RANGERS!

Lake Management Plan for Long Lake . . .

Contributed by Tom Harris

In 2007, in the river between Long Lake and the dam, a .5-acre infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil was treated with 2, 4-D (see related article about 2 4-D elsewhere in the newsletter). While the treatment was successful in eliminating most of the EWM in the .5-acre treatment area, more EWM was discovered upstream toward Long Lake in 2008. This new area totals 11.8 acres.

To treat this new infestation, map the Eagle River from the Burnt Rollways Dam to Cranberry Lake, and to treat this section of the river if EWM is found, will cost \$28,000. \$20,000 of this amount is being paid by a Rapid Response Grant, which the TLWA applied for during the February grant cycle.

The Department of Natural Resources has informed the TLWA that no more monies for this section of the Chain will be available unless the TLWA completes a Lake Management Plan for Long Lake. Again, the TLWA applied for and received a grant to accomplish this required task.

What is a Lake Management Plan? In brief, a Lake Management Plan includes:

1. An assessment of the lake's historical water quality.
2. An identification of water quality problems.
3. An assessment of the lake's fishery and aquatic habitat.
4. An identification of the need for the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat
5. An assessment of the lake's watershed.
6. A summary of the historical uses of the lake.
7. A description of issues that need resolution.
8. An identification of objectives to maintain or improve the lake's water quality, fishing, aquatic habitat and recreation.

The TLWA has hired Onterra, a professional aquatic ecology firm from DePere, to assist us in this effort. Tim Hoyman, an aquatic ecologist from Onterra, will be our featured speaker at the TLWA Annual Meeting on July 11 at the Reiter Center. Tim will report on the EWM infestation in the Eagle River as well as the Long Lake Management Plan.

In the long term, the TLWA plans to do lake management plans for every lake on the Chain. In the long term, the TLWA plans to do lake management plans for every lake on the Chain. Citizen involvement is key to accomplishing this huge task. Our chain cannot take care of itself. If we don't become proactive in protecting it, our water quality, fisheries and recreational opportunities will certainly diminish.

New Legislation Pending . . .

Contributed by Elmer Goetsch

The Legislature has introduced a bill (SB 123 and companion bill AB 162) that would improve regulation of aquatic invasive species. Important and necessary changes contained in the bill are outlined below.

Illegal to launch

This bill would prohibit the launch of watercraft (expanded to include any vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object of any kind) with aquatic plants or animals attached.

The problematic phrase in the current law, which prohibits launch of a boat if a person has "reason to believe" aquatic plants are attached, is removed in this bill. This is a significant change as the intent clause ("reason to believe") has made enforcement of the current law difficult. Prohibition of launch applies regardless of whether a person is aware, or has reason to believe, that aquatic plants or animals are attached to the object they are launching into a navigable waterway.

Authority for law enforcement officials is also broadened under this bill. Law enforcement officials would be able to require persons to remove attached aquatic plants or animals before any vehicle or object is launched, and/or can require removal of any launched object from the water.

Illegal to transport

This bill offers some technical changes to improve upon the "illegal to transport" language that was passed in the supplemental budget bill in May 2008.

Current law prohibits "invasive species" from being transported on a highway. This bill would prohibit Seaplanes from taking off when plants or animals are attached.

This is a significant change that the Wisconsin Association of Lakes advocated for last year. Broadening the prohibition to more general categories (aquatic plants or animals) enables law enforcement officials to make necessary traffic stops without needing to prove that attached materials are invasive species

Under this bill, law enforcement officials would be authorized to stop seaplanes from taking off or

vehicles, watercraft, or objects from being transported on public highways if the officer has "reason to believe" aquatic plants or animals are attached.

Other important provisions

This bill would give the DNR authority to respond to invasive species that are new to Wisconsin, or are an increasing threat to Wisconsin resources.

The forthcoming invasive species classification rule (NR 40), required by statute, seeks to classify invasive species into categories and provide a framework for comprehensive statewide efforts to prevent and manage invasive species.

However, the Department may need to respond to new invasive species (such as VHS or hydrilla) and/or existing invasives more rapidly than the time frame in place to formally revise an administrative rule.

The bill also authorizes DNR to conduct compliance investigations for the purpose of administering the statewide invasive species program.

Where is this bill in the legislative process?

The Senate bill (SB 123) has been referred to the Senate Environment committee and the companion bill (AB 162) has been referred to the Assembly Natural Resources committee.

Both the Senate and Assembly committees must hold a public hearing on the bill.

After a public hearing, the both Committees must hold an Executive Session on the bill and vote to send the bill forward to the full Assembly or full Senate for consideration.

If the committees vote to send the bill forward, the bill will be referred to the Assembly Rules committee and the Senate Organization committee. These committees select which bills will be voted on by the entire Assembly or Senate.

Both the full Assembly and full Senate must vote to pass the bill.

When both the Assembly and Senate have passed the same bill language, the Governor can sign the bill into law.

Phosphorus banned . . .

The state Senate has passed a bill that would generally ban sale of fertilizers containing phosphorus. The state Assembly passed the bill in February. The Senate made technical changes to the bill and sent it back to the Assembly. Both houses must approve the same bill before it can go to Governor Jim Doyle for his signature.

The measure would prohibit people from applying fertilizer with phosphorus to turf. It still could be used on first-year lawns and phosphorus-poor soils. Retailers would be barred from displaying fertilizer with phosphorus. They could post a sign saying it was available off the sales floor, however.

The bill's author is Representative Spencer Black, a Madison Democrat. He says phosphorus run-off contributes to algae growth in state waters.

2,4-D Background Basics . . .

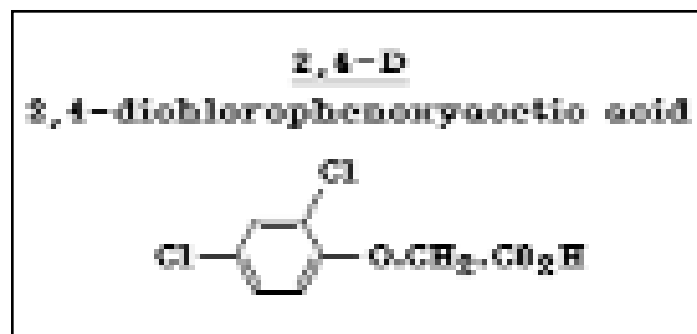
Contributed by Norris Ross

Your TLWA Board, working closely with the DNR and Onterra, LLC, will supervise the treatment of 11.8 acres for Eurasian Water Milfoil (ESM) in the channel between Long Lake and the Burnt Rollways boat lift this spring/summer with the world's most widely used herbicide, 2,4-D. The treatment will be conducted in a very controlled and regulated fashion. The chemical application will be done by a licensed applicator company, with DNR permits, and the TLWA Board's "watchful eye." All precautions and application procedures will be followed to the "T"! The TLWA Board is mindful that we live in an explosive information age and periodically learn that a previously held truth may later be deemed doubtful. The important questions that have been considered are, therefore: What is the current state of knowledge about 2,4-D and its use? How safe is it?

The original patent for the herbicide 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) was issued to Dr. Franklin Jones in 1945. 2,4-D is the active ingredient in a large number of commercially available herbicide products on the market today. 2,4-D (now over 60 years old) is possibly the most extensively researched of all herbicides. The total number of research studies is reported to be in excess of 40,000, and there are now more than 140 peer-reviewed published epidemiological studies specific to 2,4-D. As a result of this volume of scientific study, the characteristics of 2,4-D are well understood. In August, 2005, the EPA completed the reregistration assessment of 2,4-D and concluded that 2,4-D does not present risks of concern to human health when users follow the product's instructions. In addition, no world regulatory agency has identified 2,4-D as a human carcinogen.

The most recent study of 2,4-D, and of greatest relevance to treatment in the Three Lakes Chain, was conducted in the Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes in the spring of 2008. At that time, 188 acres of EWM were treated with 2,4-D. The thrust of the study was to determine the residual concentrations of 2,4-D in the Eagle River Chain of Lakes after the 2,4-D application. Concentrations of 2,4-D were measured before the chemical treatment and at days 1, 4, 7, 14, 21 and 28 after treatment. The technical

details of the study are available from the Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department or from TLWA. The bottom line of the study was that concentrations of 2,4-D in the water column in the Eagle River Chain returned to pre-treatment levels in less than the 28 days of the post-treatment study. The study also concentrated on safe drinking water levels, fish toxicity, and safe human swimming levels during the post-treatment study. The results of this study are consistent with many other similar studies on the "short half-life" of 2,4-D. (It breaks down relatively quickly.) It is important to note that this study was one of the first studies in the waters of northern Wisconsin. More studies in our area



The physical properties of 2,4-D

should be conducted as funding becomes available. The adverse effects of EWM on aquatic ecosystems is well documented, and its invasion has tremendous economic impact in tourist areas. Monospecific stands of EWM provide poor habitat for waterfowl, fish and other wildlife. Dense EWM mats alter water quality by raising pH, decreasing oxygen levels, and increasing temperature under the mats. Stagnant water created by EWM mats provides good breeding grounds for mosquitoes. At its worst (as seen in southern areas), EWM interferes with recreational activities such as swimming, boating, fishing and water skiing.

Treatment of EWM with 2,4-D can be effective if done correctly because of the life cycle of the plant and the method of action of 2,4-D in killing the plant. EWM is an aggressive invasive because once established in an area, it reproduces quickly both by producing flowers (seeds), etc. and also by a process of self-fragmentation of its stems. If chopped into pieces, a milfoil plant can root from each one of the pieces. (This is the major reason for concern of heavy boat traffic chopping up milfoil in the narrow channel leading to the Burnt Rollways lift!) Because

milfoil is the first plant to emerge from the lake bottom in spring, if a herbicide is applied at precisely the right time, it will have a greater effect on EWM than the native plants that emerge later in the spring. The timing of treatment with 2,4-D in the spring is critical. The EWM beds have been mapped and will be located again in the spring with their GPS location coordinates. This will result in precise application at EWM bed locations.

Different herbicides work in different ways. 2,4-D is in a class of herbicides that work by mimicking natural plant hormones called auxins. Natural plant auxins cause plant cells to grow in length. 2,4-D acts like an auxin hormone and stimulates the rapid growth of cells. In concentrations higher than the normal plant concentrations, it causes the cells to grow too fast. The 2,4-D causes the plant to develop out of control, and it becomes incapable of supporting itself. In other words, it grows itself to death! In addition, 2,4-D works primarily on dicot plants (broad leaf plants like a bean plant) and not as effectively on monocot plants (narrow leaf plants like grass). Since 2,4-D works primarily on dicot plants (EWM is a dicot), and because most of our native species are monocots, 2,4-D can be used selectively to remove EWM from strands of native aquatic plant species. (Of course, some native plants will be destroyed in the selection process. In studies to date, native plants seem to return quickly to pre-treatment levels.)

Understanding the chemistry of 2,4-D and the biology of EWM is key to an effective program to control the growth of EWM and prevent it from overtaking an entire aquatic ecosystem.

The good news seems to be that 2,4-D can be an effective tool in helping to control EWM. The bad news is that it is expensive and complete eradication of EWM once established proves to be very difficult. Treatment is likely to be a recurring event.

Armed with knowledge of EWM, 2,4-D, and the consequences of no action, the TLWA will embark on another treatment program this spring/summer. As indicated earlier, 2,4-D is probably the most documented, studied herbicide ever. If you are interested or have other questions, enter "2,4-D" on your computer and you will find a wealth of further information.



Safety on the Chain . . .

Contributed by Jack Werner

2008 Water Patrol Results

The Three Lakes Police Department reported there were 287 patrol hours, some on personal watercraft, resulting in 76 warnings and 24 citations. The breakdown of the warnings and citations is:

Violation Type	Warnings	Citations
Registration	28	2
Personal Watercraft	30	13
Boating	18	9

There were two boat crash investigations, but no injuries or fatalities were reported. There were eight incidences of criminal damage to navigational aid buoys. Should anyone see damage being done to a buoy, the police department should be notified immediately.

The department would appreciate the assistance of any individual who would be interested in helping teach the 2009 boat safety classes. Instructors are also needed. Please contact the police department if for more information on how to become an instructor.

Water Safety DVDs

The DVD entitled *Protecting and Boating the Three Lakes Chain of Lakes* is continuing to be distributed to local resorts and businesses. Copies of the video are available to TLWA members at the White Deer liquor store at no charge.

Association Member Responsibilities

Waterfront homeowners should be the first to set a good example. Be sure to inform guests of safety rules and etiquette. Have a great and safe summer on the water.