

TOMAHAWK LAKE

Association, Inc.

www.tomahawklake.org

Newsletter

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2016 update

by Ned Greedy

By the time that you read this letter, summer will be upon us. All of the snow that I'm looking at out my window will be long gone and replaced by green leaves on the trees and the woodland wild flowers that will be blooming on the forest hillsides. Temperatures will have gone from the single digits in the evenings of March to the cool 60° nights of mid-May. The ice on the lakes will be long gone and the season's first water-skiers will already have tested their skills on the waters of Tomahawk. Chances are that, as you read this letter, you're not looking back to our relatively mild winter, but rather you are counting the days until you return to Tomahawk's incredible shores. It's just human nature to look forward to the promise of good things to come and so I don't blame you for day dreaming about what awaits you when you get here.

Relatively few people are aware that the state of Wisconsin has a system in place to evaluate the quality level of the lakes and streams which are included within the state's boundaries. The system evaluates a huge number of lakes and ranks them according to the overall quality level of the water. Of the roughly 15,000 lakes which are included in the evaluation, there are 97 lakes within the state which are deemed to be of the very highest quality. **These lakes have earned the designation of Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW).** The Tomahawk Lake watershed has two of these 97 lakes; **Tomahawk Lake**, and **Little Tomahawk Lake**. As a lake community, we should feel both proud and blessed to live in such a beautiful and pristine place.

The Tomahawk Lake Association can and should take some of the accolades for our lakes condition, as for the past 26 years TLA has taken a very "hands on" approach to managing the fight against Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), and in particular, Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). A heart felt THANK YOU to our members and volunteers who have fought the good fight to maintain and enhance the water quality and shore land conditions on Tomahawk Lake!

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Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Approved by WDNR

TLA Initiates the Development of a Shoreland Restoration and Stormwater Management Program

WDNR Grant Awarded to TLA to Begin Work

by Jim Kavemeier

Environment and Education Committee

Shoreland Restoration and Stormwater Management Sub Committee

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) approved the TLA's new, five-year Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (CLMP) on January 29, 2016. **A CLMP is needed every 5 years to help the TLA and WDNR proceed in the right direction to maintain a healthy and well balanced approach to protecting the Tomahawk Lake System.**

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TLA PROPERTY OWNER SHORELAND WORKSHOP

- Learn more about native plants, rain gardens and other storm water projects.
- Offer your input for the development of the shoreland restoration and storm water program.

10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. • Saturday, June 18, Kemp Natural Resource Station – Boathouse Classroom

FREE NATIVE PLANT TO FIRST 20 WHO SIGN UP

To register, send an e-mail to: jimkavemeier@mac.com



Give a Fair Share of Money and Time

Thanks to everyone who contributed to last year's **Fair Share** contribution. Again this year, our goal is to encourage 280 Lake property owners (80% of owners) to donate \$270. **Please talk to your friends and neighbors to do the same.**

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2016 UPDATE *(Continued from page 1)*

However, we should also feel somewhat apprehensive, knowing that at any time a boat trailer may be backing down one of our boat launches with the next aquatic invasive species hanging on its back bumper. There is no question that the responsibility of keeping our watershed in its current pristine state falls upon those who live on and use this wonderful resource. If we don't take that responsibility there is no one else who will take it for us. As we begin 2016, TLA has again stepped up to the plate with a large number of stewardship initiatives which will help us to continue to live in one of the state's most beautiful and healthy environments (you will read about some of these initiatives in the newsletter).

During the winter months, a number of important steps took place to ensure that the efforts of TLA will be sustained, and the benefits of those efforts will be received by all of our shoreline owners and users of the Lake. Some of these steps include:

- Approval of our second, five-year Comprehensive Lake Management Plan.
- The awarding of another in a string of AIS control grants.
- The awarding of another in a string of Clean Boats Clean Waters grants.
- The awarding of our first Shore-land program grant.
- The continued fiscal support of every Township which borders our watershed.

(You should all be aware that there is a WDNR proposal which is asking for comment on restructuring the State Shared Grant Programs. The availability of shared grants in the future may be in question.)

All of these funding accomplishments are wonderful and portend a bright future for TLA's efforts to maintain and enhance the quality of the Tomahawk Lake watershed. Our future successes, however, will not hinge upon the funding that we are able to bring to the table.

Our biggest challenge is to resurrect the lake community's interest in volunteering to do the essential things that are required to continue to protect our lake!

Over the past few years our TLA membership has dropped and our volunteer base has dwindled to very low levels. While our social and community based activities have grown, our volunteers to do the tasks which are required to protect our watershed have shriveled.

The Tomahawk Lake shoreline community has to an extent lost interest in volunteering, even as we have made substantial strides in controlling our longtime adversary Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Let me say something as Executive Director that we all need to understand:

"Having the funding to pay for our operations does not make our initiatives work. People make our initiatives work!"

If you are not a member of the Tomahawk Lake Association or if you have not been willing to volunteer a small amount of time and effort to protect and preserve the quality of our Lake, then

we are asking you to reconsider, and join TLA and volunteer for a short and fun work period.

At the end of each year, the Tomahawk Lake Association runs an ad in the Lakeland Times which lists the names of people who have volunteered to help in the many programs that our Association has been involved with during the course of the season. Some years the numbers rise and some years the numbers fall. One thing I can tell you is that the names in the ad are always the same. On our Lake, like many lakes in the Northwoods, it's the old 80/20 rule in terms of who carries the load. I'm asking you to get involved as a TLA volunteer and become a part of the 20 percent. Your children and grandchildren will thank you for your good works.

*If you are not a member of the association, then **TLA needs your help** to make its programs accomplish the goals that we have set. If the goals of protecting and enhancing the quality of our Watershed are the same goals that you have, then please give serious consideration to joining with us in membership, and **volunteer** for the short and fun projects that we do every summer.*

Ned

Ned Greedy, Executive Director
Tomahawk Lake Association, Inc.
edgreedy@gmail.com

Lake Plan Approved by WDNR

(Continued from page 1)

The Tomahawk Lake System includes Tomahawk, Little Tomahawk, Mud, and Inkwell Lakes, Paddle Pond, and the Tomahawk Thoroughfare to the Thoroughfare Road Bridge.

CLMP survey results from our lake community indicated respondents were very concerned with aquatic invasive species and water quality followed by protection of wildlife and shoreline erosion.

As mentioned in the Executive Director's letter, not only do Tomahawk Lake and Little Tomahawk Lake have good water quality; they both are designated as Outstanding Water Resource Waters (ORWs). Of Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes and impoundments, 97 are designated ORWs. Waters designated as ORW are surface waters, which provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fisheries, and wildlife habitat, and have good water quality.

The watershed, the land area that drains into a body of water, for Tomahawk Lake System is small relative to the lakes themselves. A small watershed tends to reduce the amount of nutrients draining into a lake because there is a lower volume of runoff. *When a watershed is maintained in natural vegetation, there is less runoff of pollutants that adversely impact the lakes.* Watershed land use and activities can influence water quality and lake sediment characteristics in localized areas. Excess erosion, for example, could lead to an accumulation of nutrient-rich sediment, which may be more likely to support invasive aquatic plant growth. (Wang, 2008) (Brenkert & Amundsen) The Tomahawk Lake watershed is largely forested, but residential land use makes up the second highest percentage of land use. Other lakes within the Tomahawk Lake System are mostly forested. Given the lake community's interest in maintaining water quality, the CLMP outlined a watershed/water quality recommendation:

Because Tomahawk Lake System water quality is excellent, activities should be focused on avoiding degradation. Residential land uses provide the best opportunity to maintain water quality, because they have **high potential of nutrient rich runoff and sediment entering the lake**. Practices such as **rain gardens, shoreline buffers, and other methods to capture and infiltrate runoff can be used to protect** Tomahawk Lake system water quality.

To move forward on the recommendation, the TLA made application and received a **cost-share grant from the WDNR for the purpose of developing a shoreland restoration and stormwater management program** for Tomahawk Lake System. Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental was retained by the TLA Board to guide develop of the plan.

In a nutshell: What are the goals, objectives and desired outcome of the TLA shoreland restoration and stormwater management program?

The goal is to preserve the quality of the Tomahawk Lake System.

The objectives are:

1. Support watershed land use practices, which will limit nutrient and soil runoff.
2. Encourage the preservation, enhancement, and restoration of natural shorelines.

The desired outcome is:

1. To specifically identify self-help, government, and professional technical assistance for shoreland restoration and stormwater projects.
2. Develop partnerships with nurseries and landscape professionals who can provide native plant material and professional services for shoreland restoration and stormwater projects.
3. Develop an educational strategy to encourage Tomahawk Lake System shoreland property owners to participate in and implement shoreland restoration and stormwater projects.
4. Initiate demonstration projects and provide design assistance to encourage shoreland restoration and stormwater projects. TLA plans to encourage shoreland property owners to consider shoreland restoration and stormwater management program activities such as:
 - Allow a 10 foot or deeper no mow area along the shoreline
 - Consider a 350 square foot or larger native planting
 - Consider installing a shoreland restoration or stormwater management project as a demonstration site
 - Encourage growth of natural vegetation such as tag alders to prevent shoreline erosion



The bottom line is that we are fortunate to live, and play on the quality water that is the Tomahawk Lake System. To be good stewards of the Tomahawk Lake System, it is incumbent upon us to participate in activities that will preserve and protect Tomahawk Lake System waters for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Have Questions, Concerns, or Want To Learn More?

TLA will be hosting an **informational session for waterfront property owners** to introduce simple shoreland restoration and stormwater management projects. Listen to and discuss your questions and concerns about the shoreland restoration and stormwater management program. Seek interest in offering your property as a residential demonstration project. The meeting will be held at the Kemp Natural Resource Station – Boathouse Classroom, on **Saturday, June 18, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Margo's Minocqua Minute



- The **Minocqua Dog Park** will be up and running before summer on Hwy. 70W and North Ridge Way. The property was donated by Bill Gardner of Minocqua Land Company.
- **Deer Run Stone** is constructing a new building and moving to Hwy. 51S next to Minocqua Hardware.
- A **sporting goods store** will open in the Train Station Shops.
- Look for the **new downtown mural** to be painted this summer by Joan Christgau.
- Massive amount of **trees have been leveled** for new updated construction of Hwy. 51S between Rocky Run Road and Hwy. Y.
- A **Dragon Boat Race** will be held August 20th at Torpy Park. Paddlers needed to man a Tomahawk Lake resident boat. Contact Margo at mmoppy@deerrunstone.com or 715-356-3722.
- **Kwik Trip** to open mid-July across from McDonald's.

DRAGON BOAT RACE

An Event to Support our Community and Have Some Fun with Friends!

(NOT FUNDED OR SPONSORED BY TLA)

Saturday, August 20, 2016

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Torpy Park, Minocqua

By now some of you have read or heard about the plans put forth by the Howard Young Foundation to host the **Lakeland Area's first ever Dragon Boat races on Lake Minocqua** on August 20th.

A group of Minocqua Lake residents and a group of Kawaguesaga Lake residents have challenged the Tomahawk Lake residents to join them in this event to help raise money that will go towards technology and enhancements for the hospital. Other lake teams in our area have also signed up to participate in this important cause.



All proceeds go to the Howard Young Foundation and all funding is by individuals entered in the race (This is not a TLA funded event.)



Tomahawk Lake is planning to field a team.

A Team is made up of 10 women and 10 men paddlers and one drummer. Each team will have a captain. GOOD NEWS! An individual donor has donated the \$900 entry fee, so everything else we accumulate will go directly to Howard Young Foundation!

Team members can and should ask for pledges to generate more funds to donate to a great cause. All donations are matched by Ministry Health Care so if we raise \$3000 the total donation from our team would become \$6000. What a wonderful measure of raising funds while having a tremendous amount of fun with your lake neighbors.

To join the Tomahawk Lake Water Bugs team...

Please contact Margo Oppenheim at mmoppy@deerrunstone.com or 715-356-3722 or private message her on Facebook. Space is already limited! Make checks payable to Howard Young Foundation (HYF) and mail check to Margo at 7848 Leary Road, Minocqua, WI 54548. HYF is a non-profit organization so this can be deducted from your taxes. Space is limited to 48 teams, so please register early.

Visit minocquadrdragonboat.com to learn all about the event. You can make pledges on this site just remember to sponsor the Tomahawk Lake Water Bugs when donating.



The Tomahawk Lake Association is in need of volunteers...

to do the many tasks which will lead to the enhancement and beautification of our watershed.

Noted below are the primary areas where volunteers are needed. Understand that none of the tasks which we are asking volunteers to do are lengthy, difficult or tiresome. On the contrary! Our needs are for folks who will volunteer for two or three hours at a time, doing work that is fun and easy, and at the same time will bring satisfaction and that will help everyone cultivate warm personal relationships with people who share your vision for a better lake.



Sentinels

We are in need of two or three two-person teams to join our **Sentinel's** aquatic invasive species monitoring group. It requires two 2- to 3-hour sessions in a small portion of the Tomahawk Lake looking

for and noting Eurasian Water Milfoil sites. We will train you and provide you with the GPS data collector with which to collect the data. It's easy it's fun and it's flexible! It's great bonding time for a man and a wife and for parents with kids. If you would like to volunteer call Roger Cote at: 715-358-6118 or rmcote@gmail.com.

New Initiative!

Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Program

We are looking for a Purple Loosestrife Program Coordinator who will help in our Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Program. Its easy work and low hours!

This is a new initiative this year. We are in need of up to five, 2- to 3-person teams with a boat this May, to find and dig up purple loosestrife plants in our watershed, which will become the seed plants for **purple loosestrife beetle propagation program**.

We will also need up to five 2- to 3-person teams with a boat, to reinstall the purple loosestrife plants beetles back into the watershed in late June and early July.



We also need a few volunteers to harvest beetles off of our seed plants. All of these jobs are easy and require only one or two work periods a summer. Call Ned Greedy to volunteer at 715-358-7896.

Clean Boats Clean Waters

We are looking for a Clean Boats Clean Waters program coordinator to coordinate worker schedules for midweek boat ramp duty. This is neither hard, nor time-consuming, but does require some telephone work.

CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS PROGRAM

We need volunteers to man one of our three boat ramps for four hours, during midweek periods. This is low-pressure boat ramp education presenting handouts for Lake Stewardship and checking incoming and outgoing boats for any hanging plant material that may have become attached.

Again, no pressure, just a meet and greet type activity. To volunteer, call Ned Greedy at 715-358-7896.



Citizens Lake Monitoring Network

This job is easy and enjoyable, but requires that the volunteer take a water clarity sample once every two weeks for the season. Easy and fun, but requires an hour or so every two weeks.

Call Ned Greedy at 715-358-7896

2016 EVENTS

Wine & Cheese Tasting and Silent Auction

BILL & NANETTE SCHWANTES RESIDENCE
7683 WALTER DRIVE, WOODRUFF
Saturday, June 18, 4:00-7:00 p.m.



Join the fun and meet lake neighbors at the Bill and Nanette Schwantes Residence – reserve your space now! We will also feature different wines than in past years and delicious appetizers from Trigs.

We are looking for silent auction items to be donated. Value should be anywhere from \$50 to \$500. The more items we have

the more fun the auction becomes. Bidding against your neighbor has been the highlight of the auction. Please contact Margo, mmoppy@deerrunstone.com or 715-356-3722, to donate your item or basket. Thank you. Tickets are \$40/person. For reservations please call or email Margo or send check to: 7848 Leary Road, Minocqua, WI 54548.

4th Annual Hermit Island Swim Challenge

HERMIT ISLAND BEACH, TOMAHAWK LAKE

Monday, July 2, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Swim, walk or paddle your way around the island with your friends, neighbors and out-of-town guests! Once again this event is hosted by the Mallery & Daly families. Thank you!

Note date change to accommodate more entries

Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. sharp and continues until 9:45 a.m. sharp. You must register during this time to qualify for medals or trophies. Registration will close at 10:00 a.m. sharp to all other swimmers and kayakers. You must register to participate in any way for liability reasons.

New this year...the Kayak Paddle!

Paddle your way around the island on the outside of the swim course, as you race your neighbors or cheer on your swimmers. Kayaks, paddle boards or canoes are permitted.

Swimmers that want to qualify for awards can wear a wet-suit or use flotation devices like a noodle or life vest, but are not allowed to use other devices to aid speed likes fins or paddles.

2016 TLA Board Meeting Dates



Board meetings are open to all TLA Members.

The TLA Board meets regularly and anyone is welcome to sit in on a meeting. Please contact Paul Shain, paul@badgernorth.com, if you'd like to join a meeting. Meetings usually start at 8:30 a.m., but please check with Paul for details.

May 14, 2016
June 11, 2016
July 9, 2016
August 13, 2016
September 10, 2016

Meeting location to be determined.

TLA Web Site Hacked

Thanks for your patience while we get the TLA web site up and running again.

Medals will be given to each child age 10 and under that participate in the shortened Hermit Wave. A male and female winner in the Elite Wave will be awarded their name on the traveling trophies which they get to keep in their lake home for the year and on the TLA Hermit Island Swim Challenge (HISC) plaque.



2015 HERMIT WAVE PARTICIPANTS

T-shirts will once again be available to anyone wishing to donate a minimum of \$10 per shirt. Remember there is no entry fee! All donations

are welcome and if you want to sponsor a HISC Buoy the fee is \$270.

Race start times:

Hermit Wave	10:00 a.m.
Elite Wave	10:15 a.m.
Kayak Wave	10:20 a.m.
Blue Wave	10:20 a.m.
Red Wave	10:25 a.m.

Race officially ends at 11:20 am. All swimmers still in the water at this time will be picked up by a safety boat and returned to the ending dock.

Anyone wishing to volunteer their 2-person manned pontoon boat or volunteer to sell t-shirts should contact Margo Oppenheim at mmoppy@deerrunstone.com or 715-356-3722. Thanks!



W I S C O N S I N

Hazelhurst • Lake Tomahawk • Minocqua • Woodruff

www.tomahawklake.org

2016 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

By contributing your *Fair Share*, you will be supporting efforts to address Aquatic Invasive Species (A.I.S.) and helping implement the long range Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (CLMP). With your donation you will receive updates on issues of concern, connect with like minded people, be notified of volunteer opportunities and have an opportunity to present your concerns to a group of dedicated volunteers taking action on your behalf. *“Fair Share” donations are on a calendar year basis, and fully tax deductible.*

FULL NAME/NAMES _____

YEAR ROUND MAILING ADDRESS _____

LAKE FIRE NUMBER ADDRESS _____

SUMMER PHONE _____ WINTER PHONE _____



EMAIL ADDRESS _____ *(Please provide. Will not be sold or shared outside of this organization)*

Go green! If you would like the newsletter sent to you electronically, please check here. _____

	Recommended Amount	Sub Total
I would like to contribute my “Fair Share” now	\$270	
I intend to contribute my “Fair Share” over time	Quarterly – \$68	
	Monthly – \$23	
I would like to donate more than my “Fair Share”	At your discretion	
I would like to donate 20 hours of in-kind time		
I would like to donate as a “Friend of the Lake”	At your discretion	
	TOTAL ENCLOSED	

- Please make checks payable to *Tomahawk Lake Association, Inc.* and mail to P.O. Box 535, Minocqua, WI 54548 – OR –
- PLEASE also email in any updated contact information to Cindy Ross: crosscpa@yahoo.com.

Thank You!

We greatly appreciate all donations. Tomahawk Lake Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax exempt to the extent allowed by law. An inclusive receipt will be mailed to you for your donation at year end.

The TLA website is temporarily down, so Fair Share contributions must be mailed in this year. Thank you.

TOMAHAWK LAKE

Association, Inc.

W I S C O N S I N

Hazelhurst • Lake Tomahawk • Minocqua • Woodruff

Tomahawk Lake Association
P.O. Box 535, Minocqua, WI 54548



What's happening on Tomahawk Lake?

Join the TLA Facebook Page!

Want to view a pretty sunset? Want to know the water temperature? Interested in what your TLA Board is doing? Need to sell or rent something? Need a babysitter for a special occasion?

Check out Facebook! Yes that's right, join the TLA Facebook page and find answers in no time. Facebook is just one more way of communicating with other Tomahawk Lake friends. This is the place to advertise your needs and get quick responses. Join our Facebook page today!

How? Search for Tomahawk Lake Association on Facebook, click on the page and hit join. You will then be approved by one of our Facebook page administrators and ready to see all notifications from other members. Then share your own posts with TLA and more people will be in the loop and enjoying notifications of happenings on Tomahawk Lake. You can also go through your own Facebook contacts and invite your friends to join the TLA site. Awareness is key to our social media site so all can enjoy the benefits of the notifications. Tell your friends and neighbors today!



Purple Loosestrife grows in all kinds of wetlands, from marshes to the ditch along the road.

Purple Loosestrife Update

Pretty purple flower found in wetlands? **NO!** Those purple flowers are just another invasive species we need to keep under control. Currently, the *Minocqua and Tomahawk Thoroughfare areas have severe problems with Purple Loosestrife.*

See how you can help on page 5.