

TOMAHAWK LAKE

Association, Inc.

Lake life in the Northwoods

The Winds of Change

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NED GREEDY

Even as I write these words, there are ongoing discussions within the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), lake associations, and lake districts across the state of Wisconsin concerning the efficacy of utilizing chemical herbicides in the control of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) and other aquatic invasive species (AIS).

These discussions are taking place because of research findings in ongoing studies done by the University of Wisconsin which show the negative effects of chemical use in the states waterways. These results are not only generating discussions about how water managers should proceed in the fight against invasive species, but they are generating a number of changes in the way the WDNR approaches both the permitting process, and just as importantly, the way they allocate grant money.

Let me give you a little history to help you understand both **why** these studies were initiated and, by **whom**. Several years ago, nine WDNR fisheries biologists from across the

state came together to look at walleye recruitment in the state's lakes. As an outcome of this meeting the biologists asked the University of Wisconsin to study the long-term effects of treating lakes with chemical herbicides to control EWM as well as curly leaf pond weed and other AIS. The University initiated a number of targeted studies which tried to answer the questions put to them by the biologists.

As these studies progressed, the **University of Wisconsin began to see patterns** within Wisconsin lakes that indicated that chemical herbicide use on a continual basis does indeed have negative impacts on both walleye and other species reproduction success. Study results indicated that the reproductive rates of walleyes and other game fish species were lower in lakes that had received long-term aquatic herbicide treatments when compared to similar lakes which had received no chemical treatments at all. In addition, some results indicated that herbicide concentrations within the bottom sediments of lakes with long-term chemical application programs were in many cases far higher than the

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Hazelhurst • Lake Tomahawk • Minocqua • Woodruff

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DEDICATED TO TOMAHAWK LAKE

The Tomahawk Lake Association is the only resource dedicated exclusively to Tomahawk Lake. This does not mean that the issues we address necessarily are unique to our lake, but they are of high concern to those who care about the lake. Tomahawk Lake unites us as an "interest group," and therefore gives us greater capacity to have an impact on our shared concerns through our combined efforts, financial resources and political influence.

SIGN UP ONLINE FOR
E-NEWSLETTER

www.tomahawklake.org

TLA SUMMER EVENT

Come with friends and neighbors!

4th Annual Hermit Island Swim Challenge Mark your calendar for **Sunday, July 2, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

See insert for all the details!

Wine Tasting and Silent Auction

The Wine Tasting & Silent Auction event will be taking a year off. Please look for information on next year's event in the Fall Newsletter.



info@laketomahawk.org | www.tomahawklake.org

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P.O. Box 535
Minocqua, WI 54548

The Winds of Change

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highest concentration rates of any single application year, indicating a substantial buildup of herbicide residue within the lake bed.

At the same time, results from an **Army Corps of Engineers study** examining chemical concentration requirements to control EWM indicated that the effectiveness of 2,4-D was heavily dependent upon the length of time that the chemical was held in suspension at high chemical concentrations. This was especially true in small spot treatment situations where the size of EWM infestation sites were less than 5 acres. In these areas chemical dissipation takes place much more rapidly which greatly reduces the effectiveness of the application.

Finally, in a **study done in the northeastern counties of the state**, data indicates that the long-term frequency of occurrence of EWM in untreated lakes was very similar to the frequency of occurrence of EWM in lakes which had received long-term treatments of EWM. The conclusions drawn from this study seem to indicate that EWM infestations over time will seek an equilibrium within a given body of water, where the total area of EWM infestation will increase and decrease over time and average less than 10% of the total littoral zone in the body of water. *(The littoral zone is that area within the lake where plant life exists.)*

Armed with the results and corresponding conclusions made by UW and WDNR researchers from these studies, the **WDNR has made changes to the permitting process for the use of chemical herbicides in the control of Eurasian water milfoil**. Effective beginning in 2017, the use of aquatic 2,4-D in spot treatments of areas smaller than 5 acres will not be allowed. Within Oneida, Vilas, and Forest counties, the use of both systemic and contact

herbicides in the treatment of areas of less than 5 acres will not be allowed.

In the Tomahawk Lake watershed, TLA has had great success in reducing the long-term growth of EWM utilizing a two-tier control regime which has included the judicious use of chemical herbicides in the spring, coupled with the use of our innovative Hydraulic Conveyor System (*HCS – diver assisted suction harvester*) throughout the summer months. Over the last few years, our infestation levels have reached historic lows and the current suggested treatment area for 2017 was just 14.85 acres of heavy dense EWM. This is in a watershed of roughly 3,600 acres. **With the new WDNR permitting rules we will not be allowed to utilize any chemical herbicide treatments for 2017.**

In effect this ends our two-tiered treatment regime and puts a great deal of additional pressure upon our Hydraulic Conveyor System. We are not alone in this predicament, as Minocqua, Kawaguesaga, the Eagle River chain, and big St. Germain lakes all find themselves under these rules.

The **long-term goals of the WDNR** are to bring these lakes into a long-

term equilibrium level of 10% or less of the littoral zone within these lakes, without the use of chemical herbicide treatments, and secondly to restore the reproductive levels of walleyes and other game fish to self-supporting and expanding populations. They fully expect initial EWM infestation rates to rebound above the 10% level and then recede over time. They also recognize that the return of game fish reproductive rate successes will take time to occur. (This may happen faster in some lakes considering the walleye program that we are currently utilizing which stocks extended growth walleyes on an every other year basis and prohibits the taking of walleyes).

So the question is considering the new rules, **what can we do to help ourselves continue to control EWM growth both within our watershed and around our individual shorelines?**

- We will continue to **aggressively monitor** the size and shape of our EWM infestations over the course of the summer seasons. I have applied for and received a WDNR shared grant to cover the cost of continued plant surveys which we have historically done.



BLUEBERRY BAY ON THE WESTERN SHORE

- We'll use one of our **most efficient assets** in the monitoring process, the **TLA Sentinels** organization to continue our twice a year sentinels monitoring program as in years past.
- We will **continue to utilize the Hydraulic Conveyor System (HCS)** to remove EWM in critical areas within the watershed as we have in the past. We will operate the HCS eight hours a day, five days a week, June through September, removing EWM. I have applied for and we have received a grant to cover the labor portion of the cost of its operation.
- We will continue to provide **"Clean Boats Clean Waters"** aquatic invasive species education, as well as inspect watercraft and trailers for new aquatic invasive species coming into and out of our watershed.

In addition, there are efforts which the individual lakeshore owner can make that can and will have a positive effect on the control of EWM:

- The lakeshore owner has the right to **hand remove nuisance weeds** from his shoreline. Hand removing EWM from in and around boathouses and docks can have a great effect in reducing the fragmentation of EWM from boat props.
- Individuals are encouraged to **remove EWM strands found floating** within the lake at any location.
- Boaters are encouraged to **report stands of new EWM** that they find to Ned Greedy at edgreedy@gmail.com. Please include GPS coordinates if possible.

If the WDNR goals are realized over the next two or three years, these changes may well have been warranted. If the WDNR goals are not met, or progress is not made, in all likelihood further changes will be made. For now, we should do all that we can to make the program work. TLA will continue to diligently monitor the condition of our watershed to evaluate the success or failure of the new DNR permitting rules. **Now more than ever, if you are not a member of the Tomahawk Lake Association, I respectfully ask you to join our efforts.** It's in all of our interests that you do. It is vitally important that all of our lakeshore owners partner in the effort to "hold the gain" that we have made in fighting EWM over the past several years.



Ned Greedy
Executive Director

Meet the 2017 Hydraulic Conveyor System Summer Staff

Every spring, TLA hires four summertime employees who work throughout the summer months, doing a number of jobs in support of TLA projects. Over the years, we have been blessed with good employees who work hard on our *Clean Boats Clean Waters* boat ramp education program and on our Hydraulic Conveyor System (HCS) suction harvesting boat.



HYDRAULIC CONVEYOR SYSTEM AT WORK

This year our summer staff members are:

- **Mike Rinski** – Mike will be working his fourth summer as our *Clean Boats Clean Waters* Ramp Attendant at the town of Lake Tomahawk boat landing. Mike has become a fixture in Lake Tom and has done a great job of representing TLA. Mike also works for the WDNR as a fisheries technician.
- **Matt Jesse** – Matt is also beginning his fourth season working for TLA as a *Clean Boats Clean Waters* Ramp Attendant. He has worked at both the Thoroughfare landing and at the Indian Mounds State Park landing. Matt also works at the Shamrock in Lake Tom as a bartender.
- **Angela Clothier** – Angela is beginning her second season as an HCS diver. She has extensive diving experience at a large number of international diving sites including in the Philippine Islands, the Caribbean, South America and Hawaii. She has also trekked to the high base camp of Mount Everest (22,000 feet). She was a member of last year's HCS dive team which set an all-time record for drained weight of Eurasian water milfoil and is looking forward to this year's effort as well.
- **Mike Greedy** – Mike will be beginning his first year in our HCS program as a diver, and while he will have to learn the ropes, he shares a passion for our lake. Mike has considerable diving experience in Florida, here in Wisconsin, in the upper Peninsula and in Lake Superior. I can personally guarantee "he will never be late for work" as he lives at the HCS dock.

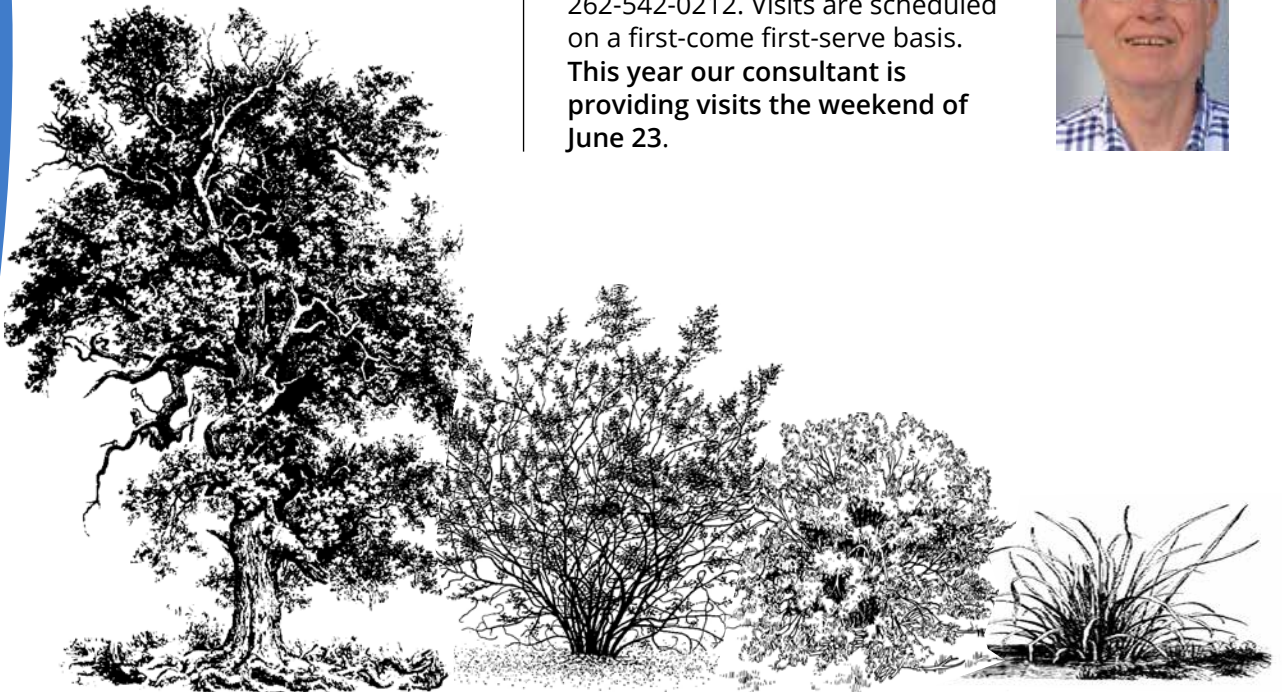
If you get a chance when you're out and about, say hello to these folks as they are doing the good work of TLA, and as such, works for you!

Help maintain the Outstanding Resource Water designation of Tomahawk and Little Tomahawk Lakes

When everyone does their part to be stewards of the OUTSTANDING RESOURCE WATERS we share, we can enjoy clean water for decades to come. Shoreland restoration and storm water practices can help to make this future a reality.

How are shoreland restoration and storm water practices beneficial to our lake system?

Extensive natural areas surrounding Tomahawk and Little Tomahawk Lakes help protect our lakes water quality. The deep roots of native grasses, groundcovers, shrubs, and trees hold the soil in place and allow rain water to soak into the soil. The canopy of tall trees creates a layer of protection against strong rains that may cause erosion. Vegetation next to the water also prevents erosion caused by waves.



When homes and businesses are constructed, this natural protection can be eliminated.

Rain storms and snowmelt create runoff that flows to the lake. This runoff picks up nutrients and particles from decaying plant material and chemicals that may be on our lawns and driveways. More hard surfaces and lawns result in more runoff, more nutrients carried to the lake, and more erosion from the force of water flow. The big storms we have seen in recent years present even more of a threat.

Shoreland restoration and storm water practices allow your property to mimic natural systems and encourage runoff water to soak in the soil and enter the lake as purified groundwater.

Want to help, but unsure what to do? Take advantage of a free site visit!

The Tomahawk Lake Association is offering a limited number of free, no obligation site visits to review your property and provide recommendations. Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental will provide the site reviews. She has extensive experience working with property owners who wish to protect their lake.

Sign up for a free visit by emailing Jim Kavemeier at jimkavemeier@mac.com or calling 262-542-0212. Visits are scheduled on a first-come first-serve basis. **This year our consultant is providing visits the weekend of June 23.**



Minocqua Dragon Boat Race

Saturday, AUGUST 19, 2017

Tomahawk Lake Water Bugs...do you want to join in the fun again this year? Paddlers from last year and newcomers welcome!!

Are you prepared to spend the day with Tomahawk Lake friends and neighbors?

This is an all-day event, plus a practice round the day before. We need 20 paddlers and 1 drummer to fill a boat. We are guaranteed two races on Saturday, plus a practice round on Friday.

It really is a hoot!

We are making this more of a social gathering this year and the cost will be only \$50 per person for registration. All other donations are welcome and will be directed to the Howard Young Foundation.

The first 21 people to register with Margo will fill the first boat. If we have enough to fill a second boat, we will enter two boats this year. I know there were several people who could not make it last year that really wanted to...so register ASAP so we know how many boats to enter and don't miss out as they already have several boats signed up.

Fun, games, food, drinks, laughs and much comradery, this is a great opportunity to meet and greet old and new friends. As we learned last year, "Let 'er Ride" and have a great time racing your friends and other local lake teams. Hope to hear from you soon!

If you would like to participate again or are new to the sport, contact Margo Oppenheim for more info at mmoppy@deerrunstone.com or text her at 715-614-3722.



WHAT A FUN POSTER FROM LAST YEAR! MUST HAVE BEEN A MIGHTY FIERCE TEAM!!



You can also go online to minocquadrdragonboat.com for further information on the event. Thanks!

*Margo Oppenheim
Team Captain*

THE 2016 TLA
WATERBUGS TEAM
GETS SET FOR THE
RACE!



TLA Board Positions and Officers Welcomed

We would like to take a moment to thank the many people who have donated their time over the years and are currently serving on our Board now, for all the time and energy put forth. Many of our current board members have been serving for much longer than the one- or two-year terms and due to this, we have different **positions available** and are welcoming any and all with fresh ideas and smiling faces to the board.

The following are officer positions that will be in need of new faces come fall of 2017.

One-Year Term:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Member at Large

Two-Year Term:

Board Members

If interested please inquire to current President Paul Shain at paul@badgernorth.com or 608-658-2006.

Future TLA Board Meetings

8:30 a.m. at Redman Realty in Minocqua

June 10, 2017

July 8, 2017

August 12, 2017

September 9, 2017 — Election of Officers & Board Members

Join us any time to get a feel of what we do.



**Eurasian Water Milfoil
EWM reproduces by
fragmentation.**

Avoid EWM weed beds.

**Keep your boat clean
and prevent the spread
of EWM.**

MARGO'S MINOCQUA MINUTE



- **Marshfield Clinic** has applied for a Conditional Use Permit with the Oneida County Planning & Development Committee to construct a 12-bed hospital attached to the Minocqua Marshfield Clinic building. Much controversy has been expressed over this proposed project.

- **Rockets Frozen Yogurt** is closing its doors.

All Things Jerky will be moving their business to that location downtown.

- **Lakeside Grill** had thousands of dollars of ice damage this spring. Make sure to note all the new deck space.

- The **Minocqua Fire House bid** came in under budget. Ground has been broken and construction is underway.

- **Hoggie Doggies** is under new ownership. Stop in and welcome the new owners.

- **The Store** gas station on the corner of Hwy. 51N and 70E in Arbor Vitae is turning into another Kwik Trip and is to open Memorial Day weekend.

- **Earth Goods** is expanding their business and moving location to the old Big Brown Jug on the Minocqua downtown corner with the stoplights.

- **Peoples Bank** on Hwy. 70W has remodeled and expanded their building.

- **US Bank**, downtown Island location, will no longer have Saturday hours after 5/22/17.

- The **Gaslight Bar & Restaurant** in Lake Tomahawk is under new management. A chef from The Boathouse is taking over. The new name is **Bitters & Bull**.

- **Loon Land & Twisted Root** has been purchased by the Paul Bunyan owner, John Tonne, and will reopen as a gift shop called "The Loon."

- The t-shirt shop next to Kilwins has been remodeled and will open as a Northwood's clothing store.

- The **Pine Cone Shop** has gone out of business and Northwood's Zip Line is relocating their office to that building next to McDonald's.

- A **major wind storm raged through the area on April 10 this spring taking all** of the ice out of Tomahawk Lake in one fell swoop. On April 11, we had a snow storm. Welcome to the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

- The 2nd annual **Minocqua Dragon Boat Race** will be held once again at Torpy Park on August 19.

See page 5 for details!

TLA Board Contacts

Here's how to contact your board officers:

President: Paul Shain

paul@badgernorth.com or 608-658-2006

Vice President: Margo Oppenheim

mmoppy@deerrunstone.com or
715-356-3722

Secretary: Jim Andersen

jandersen@madisonradiologists.com or
608-444-9245

Treasure: Scott Harmsen

scott.harmsen@gt.com or 414-617-4541

Member At Large: Kris Hunt

KrisHunt52@gmail.com or 312-246-4244

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND... Tomahawk Lake Assoc. Hats!



Colorful
TLA hats
for sale at
\$15 per hat.
These will
be available
at lake

sponsored events or contact Ned Greedy at 715-358-7896 to purchase and pick up. Color selections can be viewed on our TLA website.

www.tomahawklake.org

Join our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/104527072922/>

Citizens Lake Monitoring Network keeps track of water conditions at “the big hole”

Even though the vast majority of Tomahawk Lake’s shoreline community are not aware of their efforts, there have been citizen scientists monitoring water conditions at a site known as “the big hole” on Tomahawk Lake for more than two decades.

The Citizens Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) has been around and has been taking samples from Tomahawk Lake for well over 20 years.

This organization is part of the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point–Extension Lakes program, which **monitors the health of Wisconsin’s waterways statewide.** Their goals include collecting high-quality data, educating and empowering volunteers, sharing information with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, university biologists and researchers, and other interested individuals. Well over 1,000 volunteers statewide collect the data used in this program from hundreds of lakes within the state.

For more than 20 years, Jim and Dee Dee Thompson worked as CLMN volunteers on Tomahawk Lake. They traveled to a location to the south and east of Hermit Island to collect water samples and record water clarity data in this **84 foot deep location.** Data collections typically take place twice per month, beginning when the ice goes out and ending when the ice forms on the lake. At the end of 2015, the Thompsons sold their lake home on Piene Bay and moved southward. **Thank you Jim and Dee Dee!**

At that time, I asked full-time residents Steve and Lyn Cote if they would be willing to take over the

CLMN duties in our watershed. They said that they would, and as of ice off in 2016, they began their “careers” as CLMN citizen scientists on Tomahawk Lake.

Their duties include taking **bi-monthly Secchi disc water clarity readings** at “the deep hole”, as well as taking **monthly water samples** and processing them to determine phosphorus levels and chlorophyll-a concentration levels (a measure of algae growth in the water). They also **record water temperature** levels at specific intervals from water surface to the bottom of the water column. After performing these tests the water samples and **data sheets are sent to the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point–Extension Lakes** program.



STEVE & LYNN COTY
Citizen Scientists on Tomahawk Lake

Steve Cote is a retired electrical engineer from Rockwell International in Cedar Rapids Iowa. Following his retirement, he and his wife, Lyn, moved full time to Thoroughfare Bay on Tomahawk Lake where he has

kept himself busy by teaching mathematics at Nicolle Community College in Rhinelander.

Lyn Cote is a distinguished author, having written and published over 45 Christian oriented romance novels which can be purchased at most major booksellers.

Both of these people are obviously involved in other important and time-consuming activities and yet have found the time to make a commitment to the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network for Tomahawk Lake. If you run into them around the lake or within the community, please say hello and thank them for their service to the Tomahawk Lake Association and to Tomahawk Lake.

Ned Greedy



Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association Has Excellent Lake Stewardship Book Available FREE!

The Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association has a free Water Stewardship booklet available which has many excellent articles for the shoreline owner.

It’s on their website free to the public: www.OCLRA.org

At the top of OCLRA home page, simply click on the “Do the Right Thing” tab and you can download specific articles or download the entire booklet. *Ned*

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Association, Inc.

W I S C O N S I N

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

Historic Landmark Almost Lost to Ice Damage

***OUR 71-YEAR-OLD TREASURE had
a challenging spring!***

Built in 1946 as Klippel's Landing by Harrison & Ruth Klippel, we have treasured our time over the years at this establishment. We have seen it go through many an owner and names to today's current Lakeside Grille run by Guy Polacek & Mauri Sylier. This spring's ice movement almost took out this wonderful addition to our lake that we call home. How this building was still standing after having every dock and almost every piling taken out by the ice was a miracle. After much work and money from Guy and Custom Caretaking & Landscaping, we will be able to make memories at this establishment for years to come.

by Lindsey Oppenheim



KLIPPEL'S LANDING c.1946



(Before) LAKESIDE GRILLE



(After)
SPRING 2017
ICE DAMAGE AT
LAKESIDE GRILLE