

TOMAHAWK LAKE

Association, Inc.

Lake life in the Northwoods

President's Letter

by Noah Lottig, PhD, TLA President

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Fellow Lake Residents,

As I look out my window this morning at the six inches of fresh snow on my deck, it is clear that the seasons are changing. Our pond and the channel to Lake Katherine are frozen enough for my Golden Retriever to run across them, though I expect it will be at least two – four weeks before the main lake freezes. Another big change around the lake this year is that Paul Shain has retired from the TLA Board after more than a decade of service to the lake. First and foremost, I want to thank him for all that he has done for the lake and the countless hours he dedicated to working to protect our lake for future generations.

For those that do not know me personally, I've been living on Tomahawk Lake since 2009 when I moved up here with my fiancé, Bryn. Initially, we just spent summers on Tomahawk at Bryn's family's property and winters in Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin. This past year, we moved to the lake permanently and are beyond excited to have Tomahawk Lake as our year-around residence.

I am a research scientist with the University of Wisconsin-

Madison Center for Limnology and manage a long-term research program at the Center for Limnology Trout Lake Station (www.limnology.wisc.edu). I completed my undergraduate degree in pre-law and environmental science, followed by a Masters in Biology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2005 and a PhD in Limnology and Marine Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2009. My research focuses extensively on understanding the factors that influence water quality in lakes in the Northwoods and across the entire United States. In fact, some of my published research includes data that was collected from Tomahawk Lake by our Citizen Lake Monitoring Volunteers.

We are fortunate to have one of Wisconsin's premier lakes as our backyard, in which countless memories are made each year and traditions are passed down generation to generation. I also think that it is extremely important for us to think about what each of us can do to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to experience the lake in the ways we all know

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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

Tomahawk Lake Proud

by Jim Kavemeier, Education and Environment Chair

In early September, I was sitting on our deck looking at the water at about 5:30 a.m. in the morning. The sun was rising. The eastern skies had a rose-colored glow. I looked up and saw two Eagles soaring silently above the trees. Three Loons swam in the bay breaking the silence by calling out occasionally. The wind rustled through the trees. There were no boats on the water, not even a fishing boat. As the sun rose the sky changed from its previous rosy glow to a clear blue with strikingly white clouds scattered throughout the sky. I thought how fortunate my wife, Kathy, and I were to be able to live on this clear water lake with all its natural and scenic wonders.

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info@laketomahawk.org | www.tomahawklake.org

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

President's Letter

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and love. **We have two primary mechanisms available to us** as both individuals and as a lake association to protect our lake and ensure that it maintains its outstanding status for future generations to come. **The first is protecting our watershed and shoreline habitats.** Many of our lakes in and around urban centers face significant challenges with water quality, toxic algae blooms, and many other impairments. These are directly correlated to impervious surfaces, runoff, and land-use practices that result in fertilizers and other contaminants making their way into our waterways. Tomahawk Lake is the lake that it is because of the amount of natural shoreline and undeveloped area around the lake. We all need to do our part to ensure that we maintain and enhance our shorelines and the land around the lake. Our lake's future depends on this. As a lake association, TLA will be spending a considerable amount of time exploring the role we can play here and how we can help facilitate shoreline restoration and protection activities around the entire lake.

The second threat our lake faces is invasive species and, as a lake association and as individuals, **we can play a significant role mitigating their impacts on our lake.** While most of us are likely keenly aware of our Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) challenges. Zebra mussels, invasive zooplankton, invasive crayfish, and rainbow smelt are in regional lakes all around us. Management of EWM is challenging because of the social, economical, and ecological consequences of the invasions and subsequent management

activities. Mats of EWM make it difficult to recreate in some areas of the lake and can decrease property values and thus have a real social and economic impact that needs to be addressed. At the same time, chemical treatment of plants kills native species, has the potential to contaminate lakebed sediments, may cause reproductive issues for fish and other organisms, and appears to select for chemically resistant strains of EWM that cannot be killed easily with existing chemicals. As managers of the lake, we have to balance both of these concerns and that is very hard. Up until the last couple of years, we had been treating the lake with chemicals every single year. It is becoming more and more clear that this is not an appropriate management technique. This has forced us to reevaluate how we manage invasive species in our lake. Much of our work over the next year will be thinking outside of the box with respect to this issue to come up with new ways to address the challenges our lake faces and protect it for future generations.

I'm excited for the future of Tomahawk Lake. We have a great team of individuals to help figure out how to address the challenges we face. I also would welcome the opportunity to hear about the challenges you feel our lake is facing and ideas you may have



Noah

nrlottig@gmail.com
218-310-7460

about addressing those challenges. Feel free to reach out to me either by phone or email.

TLA and WDNR Moving Forward with "Treat / No-Treat" Study

by Ned Greedy, TLA Executive Director
November 3, 2018



Yesterday morning it snowed 3½ inches of heavy wet early-season slushy cold snow on to the shores of Tomahawk Lake. This afternoon my wife and I pulled our pontoon boat out at the thoroughfare landing and officially began what I call our "Northwoods winter." It seems to me that our "Northwoods winter" begins a little earlier every year and that time of year between the end of "summer" and the beginning of the "Northwoods winter" gets shorter and shorter as my age gets longer and longer. Packed into that period of time (I call it "Indian summer"), TLA and the TLA Executive Director are busy trying to get all of the "Indian summer" tasks completed before the beginning of the "Northwoods winter."

One of the "Indian summer" reoccurring tasks which the Executive Director is responsible for is the development and presentation of a TLA year-end report to the four townships that border our watershed. These reports include a recap of the initiatives taken during the current year, an overview of TLA's plans for the upcoming year, and a request for funding support from each of the townships to aid us in the implementation of the next year's initiatives. Also included in each of these reports is a TLA financial statement for the current year and the proposed expenses for each of the initiatives TLA will undertake in the upcoming year.

In the month of September of this year, I made four presentations to the town boards of supervisors of Minocqua, Woodruff, Lake Tomahawk, and Hazelhurst, Wisconsin. All of the presentations were well accepted, with each of the town boards asking good questions and receiving good answers. This year's presentations are particularly pertinent in that they outlined where TLA

is going next year as well as in future years beyond 2019. A small amount of background information will help you to understand the information that you are about to read:

1. Over the past two summer seasons, the Department of Natural Resources has had in effect a moratorium on the use of any chemical aquatic herbicides to control Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and other aquatic invasive plant species in the Tomahawk Lake and Minocqua/Kawagousaga watersheds, as well as many other watersheds in the northeast part of the state.
2. During the time of the moratorium (summer seasons of 2017 and 2018) the spatial coverage and the plant density of Eurasian Water Milfoil in our watershed has expanded greatly.
3. At the end of 2017, I proposed to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) a scientific study for 2018 through 2021 which would examine the outcomes in the growth and expansion of Eurasian Water Milfoil in the Tomahawk Lake watershed of:
 - a. making no control efforts to Eurasian Water Milfoil infestations in one half of Tomahawk Lake.
 - b. Applying a "contact herbicide" in one small protected Bay in the other half of the lake,
 - c. applying a "fast acting systemic herbicide" in another small protected Bay in the other half of the lake
 - d. discontinuing the use of any further herbicide controls for a period of two additional summer seasons to examine the long-term effects of these two herbicide treatments.

After taking 10 ½ months to make a decision, **the Wisconsin Department of natural resources agreed to participate with TLA in this study**, beginning with the herbicide applications to take place in the spring of 2019. The costs for these two small herbicide applications will be borne by TLA. The use of TLA's signature Hydraulic Conveyor System (HCS) for the removal of Eurasian Water Milfoil plants in areas not included within this study will be permitted, and the shared cost of labor to operate the HCS may be requested via a surface water grant application.

With this information in hand, I prepared the township presentations with the following included information:

1. TLA's "Treat / No-Treat" Study will Begin In 2019:

For the past two years (2017 & 2018), the WDNR has refused to issue an aquatic herbicide treatment permit within the Tomahawk Lake Watershed. The resulting EWM growth rate has been extremely aggressive. In November of 2017, TLA proposed a "Treat / No-Treat" study to the WDNR. Recently, the

WDNR has approved the study, and will participate with TLA in the study.

In May of 2019, TLA will be applying two new aquatic herbicides to two separate test areas in west Tomahawk Lake. In partnership with the WDNR, we will be initiating the trial of "AquaStrike," a contact aquatic herbicide to approx. 14 acres of heavily infested Eurasian Water Milfoil within Echo Bay, and also "ProcelloCor," a fast-acting systemic aquatic herbicide within Pickerel Bay. Neither of these herbicides have been used in Tomahawk Lake in the past. Following these initial applications, a study of the effects of these applications will proceed for a period of 3 years (2019-2021). At the same time, three isolated heavily infested bays in the eastern half of Tomahawk Lake will be left untreated to test the "No-Treat" theory of EWM control.

While the WDNR has approved the study, and will hopefully aid in partially funding the monitoring effort, the cost of the herbicide treatments will be paid for entirely by TLA. The projected cost of the applications is \$55,816.

2. TLA to add 2nd Hydraulic Conveyor System (HCS)

TLA's signature Hydraulic Conveyor System has set new annual EWM harvesting records in each of the past three seasons. In 2018, the HCS will set a new record of approx. 45,000 lbs. of harvested drained EWM removed (roots and all). With the expansion of HCS operations to two boats, TLA sees the day when our HCS program will eclipse 100,000 lbs. of harvested EWM plants each year.

In the spring of 2019, TLA will build a second Hydraulic Conveyor System boat, to be placed into operation in June of 2019. Our projected one-time estimated cost to build the 2nd boat is approx. \$31,000. Once in operation the annual expense to operate the boat will be roughly \$44,500 (all inclusive). While we are hopeful of shared grant funding for the labor portion of operation for the 2nd boat, we are not at all confident that we will receive it.

3. TLA's Shoreline Restoration and Stormwater Runoff Program

In 2018, TLA instituted it's "Shoreline Restoration" pilot program by providing selected properties within the watershed with shoreline property site evaluations which highlighting the restoration potential for the evaluated properties.

In 2019, TLA will be expanding it's "Shoreline Restoration" efforts by initiating the following elements:

- Opening up the shoreline site evaluations to all members
- Providing shared funding for restorative actions taken by members
- Providing a shoreline property self-evaluation program integrated within the TLA website (in conjunction with the Michigan DNR)
- Developing and distributing a shoreline educational pamphlet to members

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TLA SHORELAND STEWARDS PROGRAM

by Jim Kavemeier,
Education and Environment Chair

Comprehensive Lake Management Plan

The Tomahawk Lake Association (TLA) completed a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (CLMP) for the Tomahawk Lake System which was approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on January 9, 2016. ***The plan guides the Tomahawk Lake Association and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in management for the Tomahawk Lake System from 2016 through 2020.***

The plan includes data about the plant community, watershed, and water quality of the Tomahawk Lake System. It also presents a strategy for lake management actions to achieve the lake management plan goals.

This plan is guided by public input, scientific data, and requirements from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The plan is required by WDNR regulations for certain aquatic plant management activities and to obtain grants that fund aquatic invasive species, shoreland land management and other lake management activities.

The Plan Vision

The Tomahawk Lake System is a place where water quality, wildlife habitat, natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and peace and tranquility are maintained and improved for present and future generations to enjoy.

The Tomahawk Lake System

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

The lakes have excellent water quality which is influenced by the watershed or land area which drains to the lakes. *The emphasis of the CLMP is to preserve the excellent water quality present here.* Areas of residential and commercial development have the potential to negatively impact water quality when runoff of stormwater carries pollutants such as nutrients and sediment to the lakes.

The shorelands and shallows are critical to sustain fish and wildlife that live in and near the lake. A shoreline inventory conducted of the Tomahawk Lake System provided information about vegetative cover, slopes, hard surface, erosion and woody debris in the water—all important factors that influence habitat and stormwater runoff from waterfront property.

Water Quality

Outstanding Resource Water Designation

Both Tomahawk Lake and Little Tomahawk Lake are designated as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW). Waters designated as ORW or ERW (Exceptional Resource Waters) are surface waters which provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat, have good water quality, and are not significantly impacted by human activities. The state of Wisconsin assigns ORW and ERW status to waters that warrant additional protection from the effects of pollution.

ORWs receive the state's highest protection standards, with ERWs a close second. ORWs and ERWs share many of the same environmental and ecological characteristics. They differ in the types of discharges each receives, and the level of protection established for the waterway after it is designated.

ORWs typically do not have any point sources discharging pollutants directly to the water (for instance, no industrial sources or municipal sewage treatment plants), though they may receive runoff from nonpoint sources. New discharges may be permitted only if their effluent quality is equal to or better than the background water quality of that waterway at all times—no increases of pollutant levels are allowed.

Of Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes and impoundments, 103 are designated as ORW—fewer than 1%.

Aquatic Habitat

Natural shorelines benefit waterfront owners in significant ways by absorbing and filtering runoff, thereby maintaining water quality, controlling flood waters, stabilizing shorelines, providing habitat on the shore and in the water, and establishing a natural green screen.

The area where the water meets the land is critically important to fish and wildlife. In Wisconsin, 80% of endangered or threatened species spend all or part of their lives in shoreland areas. Important habitat elements in the water include emergent, floating, and submerged aquatic plants and woody debris. On the

land, bird diversity and abundance is directly related to shoreland trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. Amphibians benefit from wet areas and gentle slopes next to the water. (UWEX, *Protecting Our Living Shores*, 2014)

Woody cover in lakes, provided by fallen trees and branches, are used by fish, birds, and turtles. In Wisconsin lakes, over 15 different fish species may inhabit a single downed tree at a time. Smallmouth bass construct their spawning beds next to large rocks or woody cover. Studies of northern Wisconsin shorelines find this cover decreases with residential development. (UWEX, *Protecting Our Living Shores*, 2014)

Shoreland/Watershed/Water Quality Practice Recommendations

Because Tomahawk Lake System water quality is excellent, activities should focus on avoiding degradation. High density residential land uses have a high potential of loading of nutrients and sediment to the lake. Through the application of best shoreland maintenance practices they provide the best opportunity to maintain water quality. Practices such as rain gardens, shoreline buffers, and other methods to capture and infiltrate runoff can be used to protect lake water quality.

Shoreland Stewards Program

TLA will launch—in the coming months on the TLA website—the Shoreland Stewards Program. The program provides information on what residential lakefront property owners can do to maintain the water quality of Tomahawk Lake. Webpage content will include the 'Rate Your Shoreland' interactive survey, shoreland best maintenance practices, shoreland plant guides, grant availability, and stories of shoreland critters.

Rate Your Shoreland Survey

A key component of the Shoreland Stewards program is the 'Rate Your Shoreland' survey. How well are your shoreland maintenance practices, protecting the water quality of Tomahawk Lake? Are your shoreland management practices gold, silver, bronze or starter? Take the survey and find out.

TLA will support your shoreland maintenance efforts. Contact Jim Kavemeier at jimkavemeier@mac.com with questions.

TLA Report

(Continued from page 3)

TLA will expend in excess of \$15,000 in accomplishing these initiatives and will be applying for a state shared cost grant with the WDNR.

4. TLA is active in many on-going programs to protect and enhance the Water and Shoreline quality of Tomahawk Lake:

TLA has on-going initiatives in the following areas. Volunteers are always needed to keep these programs effective, and moving forward:

- A. Purple Loosestrife Control Program – Surveys, Bio-Control treatments
- B. *Sentinels* EWM Monitoring – 2 per season, identifies and maps new AIS sites.
- C. *Clean Boats Clean Waters* Ramp Education – Indian Mounds and Lake Tomahawk launches, Volunteer Support during week days
- D. Citizens Lake Monitoring Organization – TLA and WDNR /UW Extension Lakes Partnership Program – Monitors the lakes water chemistry bi-weekly.
- E. Good lake stewardship education – lake association annual meetings & educational events, picnics, civic clubs, etc. Conservation association events.

Now, armed with all this information, I hope that you have an understanding of just how involved TLA is—and continues to be—in the good stewardship of the Tomahawk Lake watershed.

I also hope that you understand the commitment that TLA has to accomplish our stated goal of protecting and enhancing the health and beauty of this "Jewel of the North." I also hope that you understand that **now more than at any time** that I can remember, TLA needs you to make those same commitments. As within any lake association, there are always many opinions on the best path forward, and all of those opinions are needed to develop and implement the plans needed to achieve our goals. In order to be heard however **you need to be a member of this organization.**

Within this newsletter there is an application for TLA Membership.

Please use it!

You will be reading about many of the initiatives that we are involved in within this newsletter. I hope that as you read about them, that you realize that *we all need to take responsibility* for them. Thank you for your interest and involvement within the Tomahawk Lake Association. If you're not a member, then I invite you to become one, and as a member I invite you to participate by sharing your thoughts with any of our board members. You will find their names and email addresses within this newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your positive response.

Ned Greedy

TLA Executive Director, edgreedy@gmail.com

2019 Tomahawk Lake Association EVENTS

Did you get your 2019 calendar yet? Well, we've got some events for you to mark down that you don't want to miss. **Yes**, we have enthusiastic hosts for next summer's events already. Like to party with your lake neighbors? We've got the dates for you!

Wine Tasting & Silent Auction has a new name...

SIP & BID We wanted something a little catchier that people could relate to. Besides, it is not going to be wine only anymore, we are adding beer and hard liquor to the drink menu.

So, now all our non-wine drinkers can partake in the fun as well. Food will again be prepared by our famous caterer, Julie Kay's Kitchen! Of course, there will be numerous items to bid on to spice up the fundraiser a bit. This casual affair will be held at *Kyle & Nikki Kennedy's lake home* on **June 22, 2019 from 4-7 p.m.** Put this one in your calendar now, in ink, as you'll want to be a part of this occasion for sure!!



Hermit Island Swim & Paddle Challenge

Our famous 4th of July weekend event, will be held at the same location, Hermit Island (*Olmstead Island*), on the Saturday

following the 4th. That means adults and children will be joining the Hermit to swim or paddle their way around the island on **Saturday, July 6, 2019**. Look for details in the spring newsletter or on our website next spring – www.tomahawklake.org. Let the winds be calm and the temperature warm!

Family Fun Feed

Our annual version of a potluck dinner is scheduled for **August 17, 2019 from 4-7 p.m.** We will gather at *Noah & Bryn Lottig's home* off of *Sylvan Shore Road* for this occasion. This is a great opportunity to meet your new TLA president (*Noah*) as I'm sure he'll be there! Oh, that's right, he and his wife are the hosts. Bring your kids, bring your chairs and bring your dish to pass. Everyone is sure to have a good time!



Details to Come...For all three events, details will come in the months to follow...so please keep your eyes peeled for our email blasts, website information and spring newsletter.

Mark your calendars now!

We hope everyone has a healthy, warm and safe winter.

TLA Board Members

Welcome to New Board Members

Jake Harmsen

I'm originally from Pewaukee, but tend to tell people I feel like I grew up in Minocqua. I've shared every summer with my family at our cabin, first on Lake Minocqua and later on Tomahawk Lake. Here in the northwoods, I've enjoyed the opportunity to serve as announcer for the Min-Aqua Bats for a few years, as well as working alongside my sisters at Lakeside Grill. Since graduating from Montana State University with a degree in Economics, I've moved to Minneapolis and started work at Deloitte. When able to visit Minocqua, I enjoy skiing, cooking and hiking.



Josh Ridders

Josh and his family have been on Tomahawk Lake since 1984 and have strong family connections to the Northwoods dating back to the 1950s. Josh began spending summers up north at the age of 10 and joined the Min-Aqua-Bats when he was 12. Over the past 4 years he served as Vice-President and then President of the Pottawattomie Colony. Josh enjoys both the winter and summer seasons up north, and his passion for Tomahawk Lake runs deep.

While not on Tomahawk Lake, Josh lives and works in Madison, where he is a partner in a global commercial real estate firm along with two of his brothers.

Noah Lottig, President
nrlottig@gmail.com

Margo Oppenheim
Vice President & Event
Committee Chair
mmoppy@deerrunstone.com

Scott Harmsen, Treasurer
scott.harmsen@us.gt.com

Leslie Hertz, Secretary
lfox3@wi.rr.com

Meg Daly
meg@coachmegdaly.com

Ned Greedy, Exec. Director
edgreedy@gmail.com

Jake Harmsen
jake.harmsen@gmail.com

**Jim Kavemeier, Education
and Environment Chair**
jimkavemeier@mac.com

Scott A. Meitus
Membership Chair
Smeitus@windwardinvest.com

Louis Molepske, Jr.
molepskelaw@gmail.com

Lindsey Oppenheim
Events Committee Co-Chair
lindsey.oppenheim@gmail.com

Adam Redman
Adam@RedmanRealtyGroup.com

Josh Ridders
jridders@cresa.com

Lorri Wanserski
wanserski6@charter.net

Gretchen Watkins
Marketing & Public Relations
Chair
gwsurfacewater@gmail.com

Tomahawk Lake Proud

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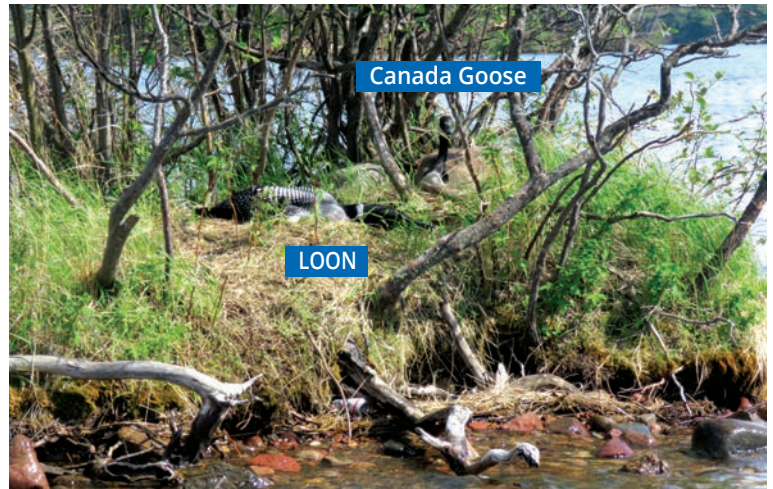
My thoughts then turned to earlier this summer when our great-grandchildren were here for a visit. All they wanted to do was swim or go on a pontoon ride to an island, so they could swim and play in the water again. They also would fish with their grandfather in the evening hours. They were exhausted happy children at the end of each day. I also remembered the days when the bay was filled with families skiing, wakeboarding, wakesurfing, tubing from morning until the evening hours. People in fishing boats were also on the water testing their skills at catching “the big one” or the next fish fry. On calm mornings, you can watch kayakers and paddle boarders gliding through the still waters. I thought how fortunate we are to be able to live on a lake that provides these vast recreation opportunities.

Before purchasing property on Tomahawk Lake, I remember asking one of the local fishing guides this question. “Which lake would you live on and why.” He thought for a moment and said, “Lake Tom.” Taking “Lake Tom” literally I remember saying Lake Tom? I ask “where is Lake Tom?” He replied, “Tomahawk Lake, one of the largest lakes in the area.” I then knew the lake he was referencing. I repeated my question why? The reply was it is a lake a family can grow with. “It is a clear deep-water lake with an extensive shoreline. It has a lot of natural state-owned lands. There is enough natural shoreline and wildlife that you will never get bored pontooning around the lake. The clear water makes it great for swimming and there is plenty of room for boating activities, plus there is a restaurant and availability of gas on the lake. It is a lake you never have to leave because your interest change and by the way it is a good fishing lake.” How right he was! This is truly a lake on which you can be proud to live and recreate.

Then I thought with pride of being able to enjoy all the water-based activities, the natural beauty, and wildlife...and with that comes responsibility. The responsibility to make sure our shoreland maintenance activities protect the water quality, scenery and wildlife of Tomahawk Lake. This will insure future generations of shoreland landowners will be able, as we do, enjoy Tomahawk Lake. I think the appropriate phrase is “pass it on.”

If you are Tomahawk Lake Proud I would encourage you to tell your story. Send it to Gretchen Watkins at gwsurfacewater@gmail.com. She will include your story in a future TLA Newsletter. Another way to show you are Tomahawk Lake Proud is to use the hashtag #lktomproud when posting pictures on Facebook.

2018 Loon Breeding Season Report



With ice-out being a month later in 2018, we were uncertain what kind of year it would be. There were some surprises to be sure. You may have noticed that the pair that nests on the little island (*some call it Jack's Island, some call it Dead Island*) had to share their space with a Canada Goose. The geese typically are done nesting by the time the loons nest so this was a very unusual occurrence. And it was a successful one. That loon pair fledged a chick this year.

Once again, we observed a total of seven territorial pairs on the lake with four of these pairs nesting successfully. Two pairs hatched two chicks and two pairs hatched 1 chick each, for a total of six chicks hatched. Unfortunately one of the pairs lost one of their chicks early on and therefore a total of five chicks were fledged. This means these chicks survived into the fall such that they were able to migrate south. There were chicks present on the lake on November 17, but as of this writing (*November 20*), we hope that they all made it off, since the ice has arrived early this year and the lake is nearly sealed over.

Please remember—and tell your family, guests, friends and neighbors—to please stay at least 200 feet away from loons and their nesting sites if possible. Sometimes they pop up where you least expect them. If you ever have questions or concerns about the loons on Tomahawk Lake, please reach out to me at bloomvillenorth@frontiernet.net or 715-277-4133.

Judith Bloom

TLA Board Contacts

Here's how to contact your board officers:

President: Noah Lottig • nrlottig@gmail.com • 218-310-7460

Vice President: Margo Oppenheim
mmoppy@deerrunstone.com • 715-614-3722

Treasure: Scott Harmsen
scott.harmsen@gt.com • 414-617-4541

Member At Large: Gretchen Watkins
715-892-2940 • gwsurfacewater@gmail.com

Secretary: Leslie Hertz • lfox3@wi.rr.com • 262-989-5093

TOMAHAWK LAKE

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

Did You Know?

by Jim Kavemeier

The shorelands of Tomahawk Lake and Little Tomahawk Lake have land designated as a State Natural Area. The name of the State Natural Area on Tomahawk Lake shores is the Tomahawk Lake Hemlocks.



What is a State Natural Area?

State Natural Areas (SNA) protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape of natural communities, significant geological formations and archeological sites. Encompassing 402,000 acres on lands owned by the state and its many partners—including land trusts, local and county governments, and private citizens—Wisconsin's natural areas are valuable for research and educational use, the preservation of genetic and biological diversity and for providing benchmarks for determining the impact of use on managed lands. They also provide some of the last refuges for rare plants and animals.



State Natural Areas protect the very best of Wisconsin's native landscapes, including colorful prairies, old-growth forests, wild lakes and sugar maple woods. State Natural areas are also great sites for paddling, hiking among wildflowers or big trees, viewing autumn colors and geological wonders, and discovering butterflies and birds. Fishing and hunting are also allowed on most DNR-owned sites.

SNA Video

Below is a link to a short video, *Explore Wisconsin's State Natural Areas*. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEwDVJe9c90>)

Where is the Tomahawk Lake Hemlocks State Natural Area located?

(The area on map outlined in blue.)

There are 244 acres within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Oneida County. T38N-R7E, Sections 4, 5, 8, 9.