## President's Letter

Association, In

by Paul Shain, TLA President

As I write this letter for our "Spring" newsletter, the snow is falling and the concept of spring seems hard to imagine. But the calendar says it is Spring, so that means it is time to get ready for another year of enjoying the beauty of Tomahawk Lake. This letter will mark my last as TLA President – after more than 10 years on the board, and 9 as President, I am passing the baton to Noah Lottig, who will

take over in September. It has been a pleasure to serve you, and I am proud of the work that has been accomplished by the dedicated board and volunteers of TLA.

Now, on to the important stuff. There are three main topics I want to cover in my letter this spring. The **budget**, our plans for invasive species treatment, and our new focus on Shoreland Stewardship. There are detailed articles on the last

(Continued on page 2)

## **TLA and WDNR Moving Forward with** Eurasian Water Milfoil "Treat / No Treat" **Study Beginning in August**

by Ned Greedy, TLA Executive Director



You may recall from last year's Tomahawk Lake Association fall newsletter, that TLA would be proposing a study to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that would begin in 2018, and would examine Aquatic Invasive Species control methods in small "spot treatment" areas within the Tomahawk watershed. The need for this

proposal was due to the local WDNR's decision to limit chemical herbicide treatments utilizing the aquatic herbicide 2,4-D in areas of infestation of 5 acres or less. This policy creates real problems for watersheds like Tomahawk Lake which have over the years reduced areas of infestation of Eurasion water milfoil (EWM) to well under the 5-acre spot treatment threshold. You may recall that our success in limiting and reducing EWM in our watershed has been due to our two-tiered program of judicious chemical

(Continued on page 3)

## **GO ONLINE TODAY TO DONATE** www.tomahawklake.org

Hazelhurst • Lake Tomahawk • Minocqua • Woodruff

## **DEDICATED TO TOMAHAWK LAKE**

Lake life in the Northwoods

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

## SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT

## SHORELAND STEWARDS For Today and Future Generations

by Jim Kavemeier, Education and Environment Co-Chair



#### What do shoreland property owners think about Tomahawk Lake? Responses

to the TLA 2014 Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Survey have provided TLA with insight as to your level of lake

concerns.

 83% of respondents were fairly or very concerned about protection of wildlife habitat.

(Continued on page 5)

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

## **President's Letter**

(Continued from page 1)

two items elsewhere in this newsletter, but I would like to share my perspectives and the impact on the financial side of the house.

**The Budget** A quick summary of our 2018 budget is as follows:

INCOME	Amount	Comments
Town Revenue	\$20,000	Committed in 2018 budgets
Grant Revenue	62,300	Some carry-over from 2017 payments
Fair Share	65,000	Assumes \$270 from 60% of our residents
Hermit Island Buo	y 7,250	Need to broaden donor participation
Other	6,500	Hat sales, wine tasting auction, in-kind
Total Revenue	\$161,050	

<b>EXPENSES</b>	Amount	Comments
Labor	\$110,200	HCS divers, Exec Director, Ramp Attendants
HCS Boat Expens	se 4,000	Gas, Misc. repairs
Shoreland Steward	ship 10,000	Site surveys, demonstration sights
Marketing	10,000	Website, newsletters
Other	18,220	Insurance, accounting, postage, etc.
Total Expense	\$152,420	
Net Income	\$8,630	Contingency fund

Our budget has been quite stable over the last several years. Our Executive Director has worked hard to secure grant funding from the DNR, and support from our various townships. With no planned chemical treatment this year, our investment will focus on the planning for our upcoming Treat/No Treat research study, which will require selffunding for the treatment and follow-up surveys. We are also planning incremental investment in our new Shoreland Stewardship program, as we feel strongly that member education on best practices for managing lake shorelands will be a critical component of future lake health. You can read all about our proposed study as well as our Shoreland Stewardship program in dedicated articles in this newsletter.

## Fair Share

Once again, we will focus our fundraising on our *Fair Share* program. We ask all lake property owners to contribute \$270 towards funding the activities of TLA that support the lake. We have struggled to get full participation and ask current members to talk to their neighbors to make sure our message gets out. One way we are going to recognize our members is to begin a **dock signage program**. It will allow property owners who are *Fair Share* members to show their support in the form of a small, 4" x 8" sign that indicates they are TLA Fair Share members. There will be 5 spots for license plate style annual stickers for 2019– 2023 allowing us to leverage the dock signs for several years. We hope that property owners will display this badge of honor in support of TLA.

Our dock signs will also serve another very important purpose. With

the lack of comprehensive chemical treatment, we have seen the demand for Hydraulic Conveyor System (HCS) removal of invasive species around docks and boathouses increase dramatically. The DNR is supportive of our use of the HCS to clear these areas. However, we anticipate that demand will outstrip the available supply of HCS time, **so we will** be instructing our divers to first focus on TLA Fair Share member property, before clearing non-member locations. We feel an obligation to focus on those that are supporting our efforts by joining TLA. Enclosed in this newsletter is the **Fair** Share donation form for 2018. Once we get your payment, we will make arrangements to get a dock sign to you either via mail or drop off.

## **Membership Form**

Finally, you will see a spot on the enclosed Membership Form for an extra contribution to **support the Hermit** Island Swim & Paddle event through either Paddle or Buoy Sponsorship. A few dedicated TLA members have been generous supporters of this fundraising event for the last few years. This year, we are making it easy for more donors to get involved. All donations go directly to TLA, and this has become an important part of our income each year. Please consider making an additional \$100 (Paddle Sponsor) or \$270 (Buoy Sponsor) donation. And of course, we are always willing to take amounts above and beyond, which many of our donors do each and every year.

So that about covers it for my Spring letter. I thank you for your continued interest and support in TLA and I look forward to seeing you around the lake this summer. Should you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for me, please don't hesitate to call or email.



Paul

paul@badgernorth.com or 608-658-2006

## "Treat / No Treat" program

#### (Continued from page 1)

herbicide applications in the spring, and continuous operation of our signature Hydraulic Conveyor System over the course of the growing season. By removing the ability to utilize small spot treatments of chemical herbicides in the spring, the WDNR has effectively taken away half of our two-tiered program.

There are of course a number of **compelling reasons to limit the long-term use of chemical herbicides within the lake environment**, and I would refer you to last year's spring and fall newsletters (available on www.tomahawklake.org) to gain an understanding of the downsides of chemical herbicides. Almost all of the information—which has been published about the negative effects of aquatic herbicides—has been done with systemic herbicides, and specifically with 2,4-D.



A STAND OF EURASION WATER MILFOIL IN ONE OF THE LAKE'S BAYS.

## In 2017, our watershed experienced a tremendous growth of

**Eurasian water milfoil** within our watershed. Our fall aquatic plant inventory survey indicated that the presence of heavy dense EWM within our lake had grown from 14.8 acres in the end of 2016 to 64.85 acres in 2017. This of course is due to many factors, not the least of which was the incredibly wet spring of 2017, where the lake was subject to a huge nutrient load and runoff waters from adjacent lands as well as a preponderance of warm sunny days throughout July, August and September.

## Options

# As we approached the winter holidays of 2017, our options for effectively treating Eurasian water milfoil in 2018 were few.

- **1.** Live within the local DNR policy of no chemical treatments and watch the spread of EWM within our Lake.
- 2. Utilize our hydraulic conveyor system (HCS) to remove heavy EWM infestations where they occur on heavily used shorelines, understanding that the HCS capacity is not nearly sufficient enough to keep our shorelines free of EWM
- **3.** Educate shoreline owners on hand removal procedures, which include hand pulling EWM plants as well as cutting techniques for the limited removal of nuisance plants on their shorelines.

While these options live within the bounds of the current WDNR local policy, they do not represent a realistic plan to control

EWM within the "milfoil zone" adjacent to people's boathouses, docks and swimming areas.

## It was with this in mind that the TLA board decided to approach the WDNR with a study proposal which would examine the long-term effects of a number of methods of controlling small areas of EWM within the lake environment.

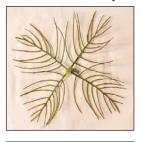
In October of last fall, I approached the local WDNR Lakes Coordinator with a proposal for such a study which would take place from 2018 through 2020. The proposal was met with a somewhat positive response, and I was told to "flesh it out" with more detail and bring it back for them to look at. In February of this year, I brought a more detailed proposal to them, and while their initial reception was neutral, the proposal was sent to a number of scientists within the department to give opinion. The response from the recipients within the DNR was positive, and to make a long story short, meetings were scheduled to develop a protocol from which to work the study.

## Study Plan

At this point in time, the final development of the study plan is taking place and the initial data collection (*pre-treatment baseline*) for the study will take place in August and September of this year. The study will continue through the summer of 2021 and calls for one initial treatment in 3 separate locations of contact herbicides, followed in the spring of 2019 with analysis of the results for three-year term. In addition, roughly half of the lake will receive no chemical treatment, and the EWM growth patterns within those areas will be monitored and mapped.

(Continued on page 4)

#### **NATIVE** Northern water milfoil





#### **INVASIVE** *Eurasion water milfoil*





## "Treat / No Treat" program

(Continued from page 3)

#### What Will We Learn

At the end of the study we hope to know if the WDNR theory that "no treatment" is the best policy or if judicious periodic treatments with contact herbicides have a positive effect on EWM control within our watershed. The study should also help to identify other means of control (hand *pulling, cutting, etc.*) that may have the ability to effectively control EWM as well. There is a great deal of detail which will be included in the study and will hopefully answer many questions regarding the future direction of aquatic invasive species control within our watershed and within the Northwoods in general. While there is much to be done between now and this fall, the information captured in this effort will be well worth the effort. In future newsletters TLA will keep you informed of our progress.

Ned

## Cross-continent Swimmer's Itch Research Initiative

## by Noah Lottig, PhD

As a research scientist at the University of Wisconsin Center for Limnology, citizen collected data has been a critical component of my research on water quality in the Northwoods and the continental United States. In fact, citizen collected data from Tomahawk Lake has been included in my research publications. As scientists, we would love to have data from every lake, but it is not possible for researchers like myself or our state agencies to go out and collect all of that information. This is where you can help! All of you care about Tomahawk Lake and have an opportunity to help collect data that will enable scientists to better understand and manage our lakes. Right now, there is a cross-continental research effort focusing on swimmer's itch. The research scientists are relying on **crowd-sourced** information about swimmer's itch on our lakes. If you or your friends and family experience swimmers itch this summer on Tomahawk Lake, please consider participating in this important research endeavor by reporting your incident online. Information about this study and the online reporting form can be found at: http://swimmersitch.ca/sample-page

# 2017 Loon Breeding Season Report



## ECHO BAY CHICK BORN JULY 10, 2017. ADULT HAS IDENTIFYING BAND ON ITS LEG.

## by Judith Bloom

2017 was a productive year for the loons who nest on Tomahawk Lake. We observed seven territorial pairs. Six of these had one or more nest attempts. Five pairs were successful at hatching chicks: two of these pairs had two each and three had one each for a total of seven chicks fledged.

One of these chicks was still present on the lake on November 11, but I am confident it made it off and headed south before the lake froze. We've been monitoring the loons on the lake since 2008 and this is the largest number of chicks fledged we have observed. **Please remember – and tell your family, guests, friends and neighbors – to 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. Thanks.

## Ed Hoerr and Peg Mallery

The Tomahawk Lake community lost two of its longtime supporters and lake residents this past year. Ed Hoerr served on the TLA Board and fundraising committee for many years, while Peg, her family, and the Daly family were the pioneers of the Hermit Island Swim & Paddle Challenge. Both were often seen attending TLA events year after year with smiling faces and wonderful lake stories. Their dedication and patronage truly showed their love for Tomahawk Lake and its future. Ed and Peg will be sorely missed.

# **Slow down!** ... and read this story

Have you ever wondered where the local WDNR Warden is when some hot-rod boat has just blasted by your dock at 50 miles an hour and only a few feet from shore? Well I can't tell you where he was then, but I can tell you that there is a "new Warden in town," who is working hard to slow that Hot-Rodder down!

Recently, Warden Chris Bartelt was appointed the new warden for the Minocqua chain, and we will no doubt be seeing his patrol boat on Tomahawk Lake. One of Chris' first initiatives has been to work on a project to better inform voters as to the laws about *"Slow-Make-No-Wake within 100 feet of the shoreline."* Back in March, Chris assembled representatives from area lake associations and municipal governments to look at the problem of people



disobeying the laws pertaining to making no wake

within 100 feet of shore. A meeting was held to come up with ideas about signage which gets the attention of boaters coming into and leaving area boat ramps which tell the story of our new laws. The outcome of that meeting was to make arrangements and delegate responsibilities for placement of signs, at all public boat ramps in the area, which make it clear as to what the law is and that it will be enforced. On Tomahawk Lake, signs will be placed at the ramps at the town of Lake Tomahawk landing, the landing at Indian Mounds State Park, and at the Thoroughfare landing on Thoroughfare Road. In addition to the 24" x 18" Slow-No-Wake-Speed signs there will be additional signs placed concerning wake boarding boats responsibilities.

Efforts are being made to post signs at boat dealers, water-based restaurants and other places where boaters tend to congregate. There will be public service announcements in the *Lakeland Times* during the summer.

Warden Chris Bartelt will be making enforcement of the slow-make-no-wake laws a priority this coming season, so if you run across him out on the lake be sure to thank him for his help in making our lake experience more enjoyable and safer.

## **SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT**

(Continued from page 1)

- 72% of respondents were fairly or very concerned about shoreline erosion
- 90% were fairly or very concerned about water quality.
- A general belief was that shoreland property management had small or no impact on the water quality of Tomahawk Lake.

At the Shoreland Restoration and Stormwater Management, 2016 homeowners meeting, **shoreland property owners were asked what barriers would prevent them from adopting healthy shoreland restoration and stormwater shoreland management practices.** <u>Responses received</u> <u>included</u>: it is difficult to get agreement among multiple owners; the implementation costs (how much money do I put into a second home?); the risk it would have an adverse impact on property values; will my lake view be impaired; and concern my neighbors will think my property looks messy.

The bottom line is...there is a direct tie between healthy shoreland property management practices and the maintenance of the water quality of Tomahawk Lake. The challenge TLA has is to create—through information, communication, and neighbor to neighbor contact understanding of the importance of and the values of healthy shoreland property management practices and explain how healthy shoreland property management has a positive impact on the maintenance of Tomahawk Lake water quality.

To respond to that challenge **TLA is developing a Shoreland** Stewards Program. The purpose of the program will be to provide you with information which will be useful in the management of your properties shoreland. Topics will include: natural solutions to lakeshore habitat restoration, shoreland and bank erosion control, and stormwater run-off control. We will feature articles about the wildlife we see around the lake and the fish we try to catch. The articles will inform us about the habitats that attract and support these wildlife species and what we can do to improve



YELLOW IRIS – INVASIVE SPECIES (IRIS PSEUDACORUS) – REACHES 4-5 FT. TALL



GULLY EROSION TO LAKE

and maintain their shoreland habitat. The TLA Shoreland Stewards Program information will be web based and have a neighbor to neighbor component and have relevant handouts. Look for Shoreland Stewards information on the TLA website, tomahawklake.org, under the heading Shoreland Stewards Program and also look for information on Facebook.

If you would be interested in having our consultant provide you a complementary site evaluation of your property or would be interested in having your property be a shoreland demonstration site, please contact Jim Kavemeier at 262-5420212 or jimkavemeier@mac.com.

# 2018 TLA Events

# Wine Tasting & Silent Auction



We are excited to announce that the Wine Tasting & Silent Auction is back! It will be held at Pete & Brenda Gauchel's home at 8627 Pine Aire Lane, Woodruff Saturday, June 23 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Limited boat parking along the channel will be allowed, but we suggest you come by car. Valet parking will be available to maximize the parking situation. Please drive up to the house and someone will be happy to park your car for you. If you decide to park yourself, you may be able to catch the valet golf cart for a ride.

**Our past caterer will be returning as well!!** Julie, of Julie Kay's Catering, formerly of Trig's catering, has established her own catering business and we are fortunate to have her provide us with her excellent service and homemade hors de oeuvres once again!

The cost this year has increased to \$50 per person. In previous years, Trig's has been giving TLA a generous donation towards this event's cost. We would like to thank Trig's for donating without being asked and without wanting recognition. (*TLA was not aware of this donation until this winter.*) Due to this—and not wanting to cut back on quality—we feel the increase is reasonable and hope that TLA members will understand.

Just like in the past, there will be a Silent Auction to help raise funds for TLA. This is a fun way to raise money, while outbidding and socializing with your neighbor! If you have an item you wish to donate for the Silent Auction, contact Lindsey Oppenheim at lindsey.oppenheim@gmail.com or 715-892-5286. We'll have something for everyone so please bring your checkbook to support TLA in this annual fundraiser.

#### Reservations

Please contact Margo Oppenheim at mmoppy@deerrunstone.com, Facebook private messaging, or text 715-614-3722 to reserve your spot. Cost of \$50 per person may be sent to Margo at 7848 Leary

Road, Minocqua WI 54548. Please make checks payable to TLA. For directions please contact Brenda Gauchel at 608-780-7953.



We hope to see many of you there again as we look forward to mingling with our Tomahawk Lake Neighbors.



The Hermit Island Swim Challenge has a new name...the Hermit is ecstatic about the new name...**Hermit Island Swim & Paddle** (HISP)! This new name accommodates all of the divisions present at the race. The Hermit loves all the paddlers we have gained over the last couple years and has decided there will be a traveling trophy for the paddle division starting this year and going forward.

This year's event will be held on **Saturday**, **July 7**. To make things simpler, the Hermit – along with a little help from his TLA buddies – has decided to host this occasion **annually every Saturday after the 4th of July** – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**REGISTRATION** will begin at 9:00 a.m. for all swimmers and paddlers and end at 9:45 a.m. *Even though there is no entry fee for this event, you MUST register to participate.* 

DONATIONS are accepted for sponsorships, starting at \$270/buoy; \$100/paddle; commemorative t-shirts, starting at \$10/shirt; and TLA baseball hats, starting at \$15/hat. This year t-shirts and hats will also be available in youth sizes, so bring a little bit of cash or a check written out to TLA. Get your whole family matching Hermit outfits! All donations will be used to battle Aquatic Invasive Species, Shoreland Stewardship, and to ensure that the "Jewel of the North" stays beautiful and pristine for years to come.

## Let's get down to bare bones!

DATE: Saturday, July 7, 2018 TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. LOCATION: Swim beach on the south side of Hermit Island on Tomahawk Lake REGISTRATION: 9:00-9:45 a.m. You MUST be registered by 9:45 a.m. to participate so please get there early!



**RACE TIMES:** 10:00 a.m. Hermit Wave - a short, 100-yard race for kids

10:15 a.m. Swim Elite Wave – Competitive swim race for trophies 10:20 a.m. Swim Blue Wave - Friendly non-competitive race **10:25 a.m. Swim Red Wave** – Friendly non-competitive race 10:30 a.m. Paddle Wave - Kayaks, Canoes and Paddle Boards

10 years and under

## Hosted by: The Mallery and Daly Families. Thank you!

New to the event? That's awesome! There will be two race courses set up around the island – one for swimmers and one for paddlers. As well as a short children's course where they can either run or swim in the water. There will be three traveling trophies given out. Our traveling trophies get to visit your house on Tomahawk Lake for one year and your name will be added to the TLA HISP plaque. Two trophies will go to the first female and the first male in from the Swim Elite Wave. Swimmers wanting to qualify for awards can wear a wetsuit, but are not allowed to use other devices to aid in speed such as fins. Swimmers in the friendly noncompetitive waves can use anything and all devices available that they bring with them. The third traveling trophy will go out to the first person in from the Paddle Wave. Medals will be given to each child age 10 and under that participate in the Hermit Wave.

Anyone wishing to VOLUNTEER their two-person manned pontoon boat to act as a saftey boat, please contact Ned Greedy at edgreedy@gmail.com.

To volunteer to sell t-shirts, please contact Margo Oppenheim at mmoppy@deerrunstone.com or 715-614-3722.

SWIM, WALK, FLOAT or PADDLE your way around the island with your friends, neighbors and out-of-town guests! The Hermit of Hermit Island welcomes EVERYONE to a morning full of water races!

Bring your kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, noodles, life jackets, fins and more! For questions ahead of time, please contact Meg Daly at meg@coachmegdaly.com or 414-331-6891.

## Come ready to compete, laugh and share in the good fun! The Hermit hopes to see you there!

There is a designated spot for dropping off and beaching or anchoring your boat. Don't forget your anchor!

Hermit Island

**Family Fun Feed** 

## What is a Family Fun Feed you ask? Well it is our 2nd Annual Family Potluck!



This years feed will be held at Adam & Melissa Redman's home on August 11 at 9360 North Fork Road, Minocqua, from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

We encourage you to bring the whole family and any out of town quests to join in the family games and sharing of food. TLA will provide the main meat dish, wine, beer, water, soda and paper products. We ask that each family bring a dish to pass, anything else you might want to drink and a chair to sit on. Come join in the family fun! Watch for e-blasts for further information.

For directions or any questions please contact Melissa Redman at 715-892-3551.

Please RSVP to Margo Oppenheim by 8/4/18 so we can calculate how much meat to purchase. Call or text 715-614-3722.

#### **EVENTS SIDE NOTE**

TLA's event committee is going to try to start a new trend. Each year we will hold three events in the summer

JUNE will be the Wine Tasting and Silent Auction

**JULY** the Hermit Island Swim & Paddle

AUGUST the Family Fun Feed.

*We welcome any suggestions or comments* on this new idea. If anyone is interested in hosting the next Wine Tasting and Silent Auction or Family Fun Feed please contact Margo *Oppenheim at mmoppy@deerrunstone.com or* 715-614-3722. Thanks!!

## **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 715-614-3722

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

Member At Large: Noah Lottig nrlottig@gmail.com or 715-356-9494

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



WISCONSIN

Hazelhurst • Lake Tomahawk • Minocqua • Woodruff

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

# Margo's Minocqua Minute



Save More & Trig's are now delivering online orders to your home.
New Fire Station is open and operating.

They'll have a second open house on June 2 for summer residents. The station is located on Hwy. 51 S., just south of the Chamber of Commerce building.

- El Mez closed after losing lease. Empty for now.
- Donated Christmas lights outlining roof lines of downtown buildings was a great addition to the season's decorations.
- Taglio Salon moving to the Train Station Shops.
- Mom's Laundry and Bay View Motel torn down. No word yet on anything replacing it.

- Fifth and last condo building under construction at Lakeside Landing.
- Northern Distillery is building a new facility on Hwy. 51 S. next to Wausau Homes.
- Woodruff intersection of Hwys. 47 & 51 will be under construction this spring/ summer. Corner building already demolished. Utility work is underway.
- Marshfield Clinic's 12-bed hospital has been approved. Construction to start this summer.
- Watch for this summer's Town Mural to be painted on the alley side of the 5 & 10 Store on Milwaukee Ave.
- This spring, there were two devastating, tragic accidents that were felt deeply throughout the area.
  - Ascension Spirit Air's medical

transport helicopter crashed in the woods near Hazelhurst killing the three crew members: Greg Rosenthal, Klint Mitchell, and Rico Caruso.

 A well known local landscaper, Tommy Handrick, drowned while working on a dock project.
 Our hearts go out to all of the

families involved.



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