

Lake life in the Northwoods

Hazelhurst • Lake Tomahawk • Minocqua • Woodruff

President's Letter

by Noah Lottig, PhD, TLA President



Dear Friends, Neighbors and TLA community,

The seasons are changing once again in the Northwoods. There was ice on our pond this morning and multiple opportunities for snow in the 10-day forecast. I know for our family and community, the past several months have not gone the way we would have hoped and have been filled with uncertainty and anxiety on multiple fronts. I suspect for many of you, your summer plans may not have been exactly as you planned, but from our vantage point on our deck overlooking the lake, it looked like many of you had the opportunity to enjoy all that Tomahawk Lake has to offer. I hope that your time spent on the lake provided a reprieve from all that 2020 seems to be throwing at us.

Looking forward, there are some big changes on the horizon for TLA. First, after more than a decade of dedicated service, Ned Greedy will be stepping down as Executive Director and begin enjoying life on Tomahawk Lake during the summer as a newly retired resident. TLA is forever indebted to Ned. We have been able to do more with Ned's leadership and creative problem solving than many folks realize. As an example, Ned designed one of the first hydraulic conveyor system boats for TLA in the state of Wisconsin and we operate those boats for a little less than \$40k a year. There are several firms now that operate these boats on a contract service basis and would charge TLA in excess of \$200k/yr if we contracted with them instead of relying on Ned's expertise. If and when you see Ned, please give him a well-deserved congratulations and thanks for all that he has done for us.

During this transition, we will be dividing out some of Ned's responsibilities to other board members and I will be temporarily taking on many of his administrative duties as we determine our approach moving forward. Long-term, we envision hiring a new executive director, but are using this opportunity to reimagine what that position could look like and ensure that we have identified the critical skillsets the future individual needs

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GO ONLINE TODAY TO DONATE
www.tomahawklake.org

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

Diversion Excursion Boat Parade

Nets almost \$6,000 Thank you!!

TLA and the Events Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to all that participated and purchased a Tomahawk Lake Proud flag for our only fundraiser this summer, the Diversion Excursion Boat Parade. We wanted to let you know we had not disappeared but were only trying to keep you all safe with a fun social distancing gathering. It was a spectacular site with 26 boats actually lining up and touring the shoreline of our beautiful lake. We had 4 families share boats and 16 shoreland participants. It was well received

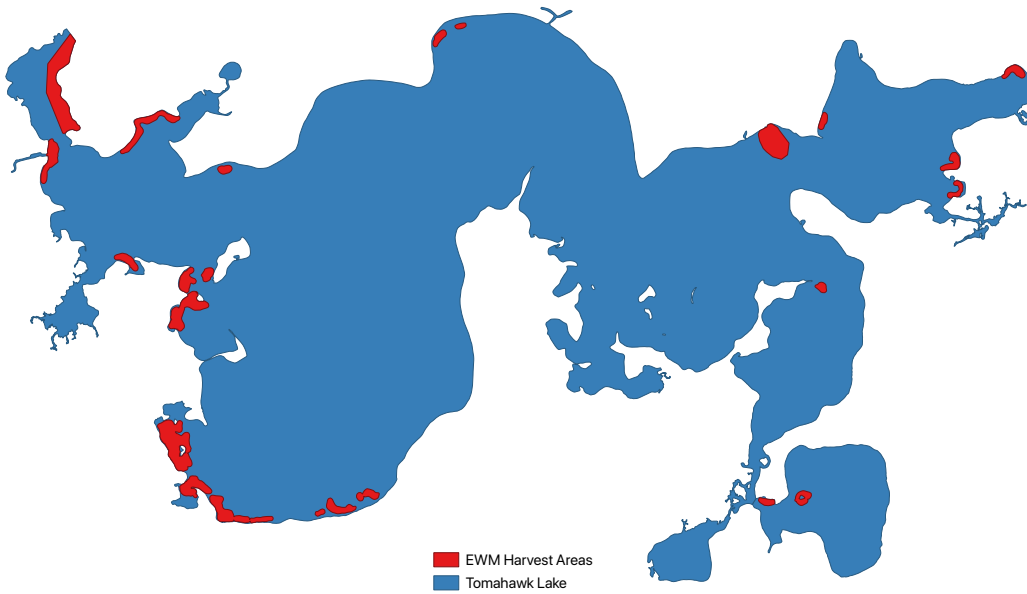
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Join our Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/groups/104527072922/

info@laketomahawk.org | www.tomahawklake.org

Tomahawk Lake Association
P.O. Box 535
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President's Letter

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prior to beginning a search for a new executive director. I also recently completed a bidding process with several environmental consulting firms, and we are excited to announce that we will begin working with Onterra Consulting who will take over Ned's grant writing and monitoring responsibilities. Onterra has extensive experience working on the Minocqua Chain. Onterra is currently working with both Mid Lake and Minocqua lake associations. We are in the process right now of submitting grants to update our aquatic plant management plan and continue our whole lake monitoring of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). Please look for more info in the spring newsletter on our plans to involve all of you in deciding how we manage EWM in our lake.

As many of you know, we saw an aggressive expansion and growth of EWM in our lake this summer. This was due in large part to the hot, wet weather we experienced which provide great conditions for aggressive plant growth (both natives and invasive species). We were not able to do as

much as we wanted to manage EWM due to a lack of funding from the DNR. Nevertheless, we were able to successfully complete a trial mowing harvest of EWM. We also removed in excess of 26,000 lbs. of EWM from nearly 80 locations with our HCS boat. Given the success of our harvester trial, we are seeking approval from the Wisconsin DNR to harvest approximately 100 acres of EWM from large dense beds across the entire lake (see map). We also plan to operate the HCS boat again this summer and have it focus on removing EWM in and around docks, while relying on the harvester to remove EWM in the larger dense beds. It is important to remember though that our HCS boats can only remove EWM and there are often a lot of native plants growing around our docks that we are not permitted to remove. If you want to remove other plants around your dock, you can do that yourself with a weed razor or contract with local firms like Aquatic Plant Management.

One of the most important things that we can do—as lakeshore residents and property owners to protect our lake and ensure future generations can experience the lake in the same way we do—is to implement best practices

along our shoreline. These include simple things like no-mow buffers, erosion and runoff mitigation, and native plantings. The single largest source of anthropogenic nutrients and sediment to Tomahawk Lake is from our lawns! Please have a close read of Jim's column (*on page 5*) and look for more information in the spring newsletter as we work to develop a more holistic approach to preserving and protecting our lake.

Finally, I want to extend a huge thank you to all of you that have and continue to support TLA and all that we do. TLA wouldn't exist without your support. If you haven't contributed to TLA this year, please consider joining TLA and supporting our mission to preserve and protect Tomahawk Lake. You will find a membership form in the newsletter packet as well as online (www.tomahawklake.org). If you are unsure if you contributed already, you can email: membership@tomahawklake.org or check the list of current TLA members on our website. Thank you again for your support.

Noah Lottig, PhD, TLA

President
218-310-7460
info@tomahawklake.org

Farewell from Our Executive Director

by Ned Greedy, TLA Executive Director

Dear friends,

The fall newsletter article that you are reading today will be the last TLA news article that you will read posted by me. On August 1, I informed the TLA Board of Directors that I would be retiring effective January 1 of 2021. This upcoming January will be my 71st year on this good Earth, and as I am entering middle age (*remember that 70 is the new 40*) I have a few things that I would like to do in my next few years that will require more of my time. I have thoroughly enjoyed the past 13 years as a Board Member and as Executive Director of the Tomahawk Lake Association. I have made so many wonderful and dedicated friends who have supported TLA and by extension me. I will always appreciate those friendships.

Without a doubt, the subject matter of the majority of my newsletters has been our trials in controlling aquatic invasive species, and in particular Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM.) Over the years we have had some successes in controlling the areas of heavy dense EWM, but we have more recently experienced some severe setbacks. Eurasian Water Milfoil has proven itself to be a tenacious adversary, which when given an inch will quickly take a mile.

In future years, starting now, TLA will have to rely on many entities to regain control of the EWM infestation in Tomahawk Lake:

Membership!!! Expansion is critical! We will have little to no effect if only 50% of our shoreline owners take any responsibility for the watershed. In my opinion, that means face to face membership drives.

Individual shoreline owners need to step up and take concrete actions to expand Shoreland best practices on their individual properties.

Volunteers Not just Board of Directors, but more importantly mid-level managers and boots on the ground volunteers for our initiatives.

We suffer from too many chiefs and not enough Indians!

Support of Townships, Oneida County and Area Businesses.

We need to tell them our story, tell them our plan, and finally and **perhaps most importantly we need to ASK!** for their help. We do this with the towns and we need to do it every place else.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Over the years, we have viewed the WDNR as our patrons rather than a government service provider who supports the citizenry. I don't mean that we look at them as an adversary, and we certainly want to meet requirements for cost sharing grants which greatly aid our efforts in controlling aquatic invasive species. But in my opinion, we need to utilize our state representatives when we believe that we are not being supported appropriately in Madison. In 2016, our local lakes manager informed us that we are a "second-tier" grant qualifier. Somehow, in some way we need to change that attitude/perception.

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Diversion Excursion Boat Parade

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and certainly very generous of everyone who donated to the cause. We purchased 50 flags to begin with wondering how we would ever sell that

many. A GREAT Surprise, the donations and buying of the flags went over that amount and we had to order another 50!! We have now sold all but 8 of the total 100 flags. We will not be ordering any more of these special onetime flags so if you still want to purchase a flag text or call Margo Oppenheim at 715-614-3722 ASAP. The flags can be picked up at her house any time. Thank you for all your support in helping us clear approximately \$6000!!



Photo by Sheila Forsberg



Photo by Ruth Lynch

Farewell

(Continued from previous page)

Expansion of the "Toolbox" Thinking outside of the box!

In 2008, four TLA members met in Blueberry Bay to brainstorm and test ideas about harvesting Eurasian Water Milfoil utilizing divers and suction removal. Out of that meeting was born the concept of the Hydraulic Conveyor System (HCS), which we developed and placed into service. Now known as "Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (*DASH boats for short*)" this concept continues to operate throughout the state as a means of control of aquatic invasive species and in particular EWM. ***That was a time when TLA thought "out-of-the-box" to expand the number of tools in our EWM control toolbox.***

It's past time that the Tomahawk Lake Association put major efforts into "restocking" the toolbox. In my opinion (*this is my last newsletter so I get to state my opinion*) TLA needs to examine every opportunity to reduce the EWM infestation in our watershed:

- **Mechanically harvesting** (mowing) in some areas.
- The **judicious use of chemical herbicides** (*especially ProCellaCOR*) which have proven greatly successful in the vast number of lakes where they have been used. Retest if necessary, but start today!
- **Hands-on EWM hand pulling seminars** to teach our shoreline owners how to reduce the effects of EWM at their own shoreline sites.
- Continuing to **offer the use of TLA's "weed razor"** to members to reduce nuisance weeds around their docks.
- **Expand Fund Raising events** to raise money to overcome grant shortfalls.
- **Develop a "business solicitation model"** to aggressively promote business support for TLA's efforts. Recognize their support through window stickers and newspaper ads.
- **Maximize the use of the Hydraulic Conveyor System** to assist shoreline members in removing nuisance plants from their dock areas and **asking for donations** to support these efforts. Shoreline members are paying outside companies to provide this service on Tomahawk Lake.
- Assign TLA board members areas around the lake to **meet face-to-face with non-member shoreline owners**, asking for their support through membership as a *Fair Share* donation. This should be a requirement of all board members.

Thank You

Finally, I want to say thank you to all those folks who have supported the Tomahawk Lake Association over

the years through their continued membership and more importantly their efforts on the behalf of our watershed. In particular, certain families around the lake have been the stalwarts of TLA for many years, and I appreciate each and every one of them: Rybski, Mallery, Oppenheim, Nicholson, Kavemeier, Shain, Michels, Thompson, Bloom

I know that I've left some families out that deserve recognition, but when you are 70 sometimes you forget.

Challenge to you all

Finally, I challenge all of you who either live on or enjoy this wonderful watershed. Please **stand up for your lake**. Commit to taking responsibility for her. Do all you can to enhance her quality water and beautiful shores. Demand others to take responsibility as well. Most of all, **join our TLA membership in paying your Fair Share** toward the preservation and enhancement of our lake. This is a minimum investment in your children and their children!

Thank you again for your support and good wishes. We will see you out on the water.

Ned

Ned Greedy
edgreedy@gmail.com

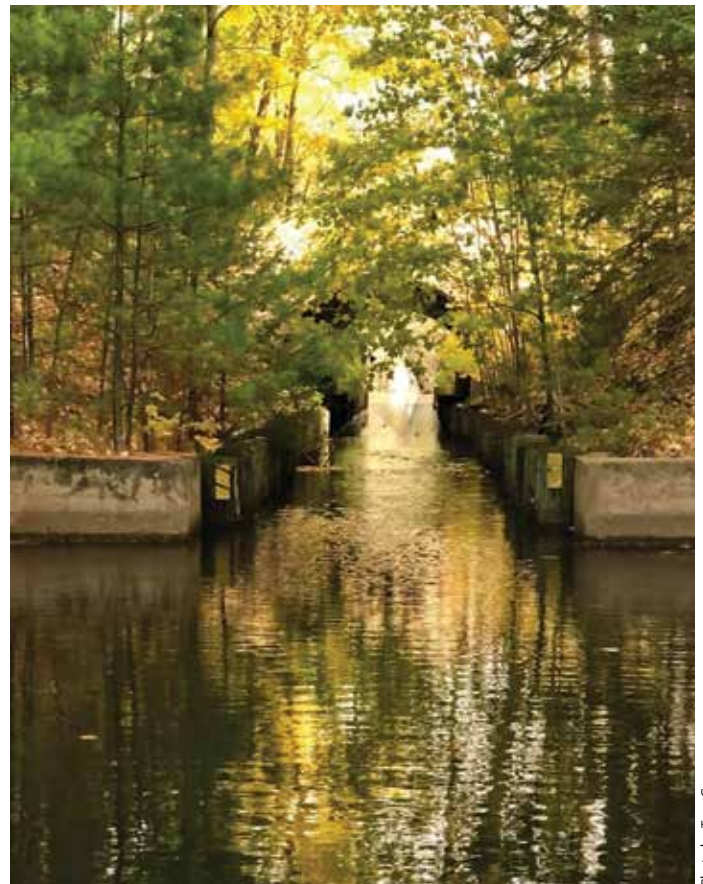


Photo by Tom Gray

TLA SHORELAND STEWARDS PROGRAM

Environment & Education



by Jim Kavemeier,
Chair –
Environment &
Education Committee

What is Tomahawk Lake Proud?

I wrote an article for the TLA fall 2018 newsletter entitled “Tomahawk Lake Proud.” The essence of the article is that we can be **proud** to be on a lake with pristine water quality, natural beauty, varied fisheries and wildlife habitat, and participate in a variety of water-based activities. It is a fun, scenic place on which to live and recreate. The article stated **with pride comes responsibility**. The responsibility to insure our shoreland maintenance activities protect the water quality, scenery, and wildlife of Tomahawk Lake. By doing this future generations of shoreland owners will, as we do, enjoy Tomahawk Lake. I think the word is *pass it on*. **Put simply, what kind of lake do we want to leave to our children and their children?**

What is the Shoreland Stewards Program?

So, I will bet you are wondering what is the link between “Tomahawk Lake Proud” and the “Shoreland Stewards Program?” The Shoreland Stewards Program contains information on and action steps shoreland owners can take to keep us “Tomahawk Lake Proud.” Go to www.tomahawklake.org/shoreland-stewards-program.

What of interest is on the TLA Shoreland Stewards website?

• **Shoreland and Stormwater GIS Mapping and Planning project** New on the website is a three-part report of the recently completed *Shoreland and Stormwater GIS Mapping and Planning* project. The project summary can be found on the TLA home page. It is a quick read and informs the Tomahawk Lake community of existing critical habitat features, shoreland conditions and their importance for the health of Tomahawk Lake.

Two companion reports can be found within the Shoreland Stewards website page. The report entitled *Assessing the State of Tomahawk Lake’s Shorelands 2020* identifies properties that have buffer conditions in need of improvement, have potential erosion and run-off issues, and are near shoreland areas of high ecological value (e.g. Critical Habitat). The report entitled *Getting to Know Tomahawk Lake’s Special Places* identifies and maps 39 critical habitat areas and the shoreland condition of properties in close proximity to the critical habitat areas. Management recommendations for the critical habitats are included in the report.

I strongly encourage you to take a **look at the reports, learn about your property** and important critical habitat areas in Tomahawk Lake. It is really interesting information and beneficial to all lake users.

• Rate Your Shoreland survey

Although not new, the survey provides shoreland owners with a method to evaluate their current shoreland management practices. It also provides information on and recognition for best shoreland management practices. Implementation of the suggested shoreland best management practices protects your property investment.

• Technical assistance

Experience has shown that shoreland owners interested in protecting shoreland property by improving shoreland habitat, controlling drainage and/or preventing erosion, often feel more comfortable retaining professional assistance to identify and then follow through with implementing shoreland best management practices. **Watch for information on a new and improved technical assistance program in 2021.**

• **New for 2021 will be a recognition program** to celebrate properties exhibiting good shoreland management practices.

If you have questions or comments about the project, please contact Jim Kavemeier at: 262-542-0212 or jimkavemeier@mac.com



Photo by Barb Kirschner

Tomahawk Lake Association EVENTS NEWS

by Margo Oppenheim, Event Chairperson

It certainly has been a strange summer. The Events Committee felt it necessary to cancel all 2020 events due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of us have missed the socialization of our great lake neighbors. Hopefully, next summer will be more "normal" and we can visit with old and new friends once again. We have scheduled the 2021 summer events as follows.

2021 EVENT DATES

SIP & BID

Saturday, June 26, 2021 4:00-7:00 p.m.

John & Kim Griffin, our 2020 foreseen hosts, have generously offered to host next summer at their home at 8197 Blue Jay Road, Lake Tomahawk. The caterer, Julie Kay's Kitchen, is again booked to assure us of an excellent spread of delicious appetizers and refreshments. Once again, we will offer a silent auction as a fundraising option. Watch for the spring newsletter to donate items for this cause. Mark your calendars now so as not to miss this especially fun party!

Hermit Island Swim & Paddle Challenge

July 3, 2021 9:00 -11:30 a.m.

Set aside date! Put on your swimsuit, grab your paddle and join your lake neighbors in a race around Hermit Island. Or come just for the fun of it and enjoy a leisurely swim or paddle with your family or friends. Meet at 9:00 a.m. to register before the event starting time of 10:00 a.m. Being a holiday weekend, we encourage you to include your family or friends that are staying with you for the weekend. This is a FUN family event for everyone from 2-90 years old. We will provide a shallow sandy beach area for the little ones (1-10 yrs.) to either swim or walk this shortened course. All little Hermits will enjoy a medal after finishing.

Tomahawk Lake Proud Boat Parade

August 7, 2021 3:00 p.m.

Yes, we are bringing it back again next summer! The Diversion Excursion Boat Parade was such a hit and the upbeat feedback we have received has convinced us that we should host this event one more time. So instead of the Family Fun Feed, we will substitute it with the Tomahawk Lake Proud Boat Parade. It will again be a fundraiser. This year we will offer a one-time-only Tomahawk Lake Proud blanket for your nippy boat rides or afternoon naps. Look for the spring newsletter for the decorating theme and have your TLA Proud flags ready to parade around the shores of Tomahawk Lake.

Margo's Minocqua Minute



10-1-20

- Our second Mexican restaurant has opened in downtown Woodruff. **Mavericks** has been open all summer. Hopefully, you had a chance to try their food.
- The **new Marshfield Medical Center** has opened next to the Marshfield Clinic in Minocqua.
- **Bitters & Bull** is under new management in Lake Tomahawk.
- Another change in Lake Tomahawk is Smiley's Bar has reopened the Pizza Vault as **Smiley's Pizza**.
- The Plantation restaurant in Woodruff has been bought and is now being run by the prior management from Bitters & Bull. The new name is **North Fork Fin & Filet**.
- **Crystal Marie's** flower shop has opened its doors once again in Lake Tomahawk.
- **Indian Shores Mobile Park & Campground** was sold to the Jellystone Corporation.
- **New pavement is under way on Hwy. 51 S.** from the bridge to Hazelhurst. Pavement has already been replaced in parts of downtown by Torpy Park.
- We now have **three CBD stores** in the Lakeland area.
- The **Summer Ice Shanty** is for sale in Woodruff.
- **Ann Marie's** downtown store is for sale.
- Copper Top restaurant, the old Dairy Queen, has a new name and management. It is now called the **Wild Turkey Smokehouse**.
- It has certainly been a different summer with the Covid-19 pandemic hovering over us. **Restaurants** continue to offer carry-out, but outdoor seating has come to a halt due to the fall and upcoming winter weather.
- Please continue to **buy local** as much as possible to help keep our little businesses in the Northwoods running smoothly and food on their tables.

TLA Board Members

Welcome to New Board Member

Tess Mallery

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Tessmallery@yahoo.com



Tess was born and raised in Wausau, Wisconsin, and has been enjoying Tomahawk Lake and the surrounding area for most of her life. She graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison and moved to Chicago where she lived and worked in the advertising media sales industry for about 20 years. Tess, along with her husband, Matt and two children, Luke and Liza, recently relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area, but make it back each year to enjoy summers on Tomahawk Lake. In addition to enjoying the natural beauty, Tess and her family enjoy the Minocqua community and related lifelong friendships. Tess, like many of you, is interested in protecting and enhancing the lake, the natural habit, and the community for future generations to enjoy.

Board Members

Noah Lottig, *President*

Bruce Forsberg, *Vice President*

Scott Harmsen, *Treasurer*

Nancy Olson, *Secretary*

Jim Kavemeier, *At Large*

Kate Arias

Meg Daly

Jake Harmsen

Tess Mallery

Louis Molepske

Lindsey Oppenheim

Margo Oppenheim

Adam Redman

Josh Ridders

Lorri Wanserski

Board of Directors Meeting - Everyone Welcome!

All welcome!	December 12, 2020
Come see what we do.	February 13, 2021
You might want to join our mission!	April 17, 2021
	June 12, 2021
	July 17, 2021
We meet at 8:30 a.m.	August 14, 2021
on the following dates:	September 11, 2021
	December 11, 2021

Please contact Margo Oppenheim the week before for location, 715-614-3722.



Photo by Lindsey Oppenheim

THANK YOU

from your TLA Membership Committee

As the summer of 2020 has ended, you have probably heard someone say, "This has been a year we'd like to forget." While that may be true, we will never forget your generous support this year, and for that, we say **"THANK YOU!"**

In a year with limited DNR grant funding, you stepped up and supported your lake association. Many of you demonstrated your commitment by donating at one of our new higher Membership Levels (*Fair Share Plus* and *Fair Share Platinum*). Whatever the level, your membership allowed us to continue our effort to staff our boat ramps and dive boat with personnel focused on managing and controlling aquatic invasive species.

If you have not had a chance to either renew your membership or would like to join your TLA, a 2020 Membership Form is included with this newsletter. Membership is on a calendar basis.

An additional "Thank You" to those of you who participated in our first Diversion Excursion Boat Parade. Whether you boated with us on the lake or waved to us from your shore, we appreciated the additional display of support. We sold over 90 "Tomahawk Lake Proud" flags which we can all take pride in flying for years to come. As we look forward to resuming our annual social events in 2021 and creating opportunities to get to know each other, let's not forget what we did together this year. We wish you and your family and friends a very safe and healthy winter season.

Sincerely,

Kate Arias

Jake Harmsen

Adam Redman

Bruce Forsberg

Josh Ridders

Lorri Wanserski

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

Update your contact information

Contact information changed?

Email Cindy Ross at membership@tomahawklake.org. We need to keep you up to date on happenings around Tomahawk Lake. **Thanks!**



Photo by Shirley Wamka

More news from Margo!

- There is talk of lowering the speed limit throughout the entire **Thoroughfare** to Slow No Wake. That would eliminate the fast-reckless driving in the area by the Minocqua Country Club. Another option is to not allow any passing of boats. No decision at this time.
- The DNR is considering another year of zero bag limit on **walleyes** in the Minocqua/Tomahawk chain.
- A new business, the **Hippity Hippity Hop**, is opening in the old Jerky business building next to Kilwins Chocolate shop. It will be a coffee and pastry shop.

Fleeces, Hats, Tomahawk Proud flags and Hermit Island Swim & Paddle t-shirts Available

Call Margo 715-614-3722

