

# TOMAHAWK LAKE

Association, Inc.

*Lake life in the Northwoods*

Hazelhurst • Lake Tomahawk • Minocqua • Woodruff

## President's Letter

by Noah Lottig, PhD, TLA President

Dear TLA Community,

I hope you all had an amazing summer on Tomahawk Lake this year. Our family has transitioned from summer days on the lake to full-time hockey and swim schedules with our two boys. I suspect that this is true for many of you and your families. These transitions from "lake life" also provide the critical opportunities to reflect on the prior summer and think broadly about the upcoming year.

First and foremost, I want to extend the TLA Board's gratitude to each and every one of you for your support of Tomahawk Lake. Our fundraising this year allowed us to leverage 100% of the grant money from the DNR for the trial harvesting program. With your generous support, we were able to harvest the entire season (90 days) and removed approximately 123,000 cubic feet of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) from the lake. We are now going to begin the process of critically examining how the harvesting program worked this past summer and determining how to increase its effectiveness next year.

Our EWM management plans for 2023 are beginning to take shape. We will still be relying primarily on harvesting to maintain recreational access and minimize the aesthetic impacts of topped out EWM around residential properties. As outlined in our Aquatic Plant Management plan, which we presented to our community at our annual meeting in June of 2022, we have submitted an application to the Wisconsin DNR for a second trial treatment of ProcellaCOR in 2023. We anticipate that this chemical treatment will cost \$65,000 and encompass approximately 26 acres of the roughly 180 acres of EWM in the lake. In addition to harvesting and the potential chemical treatment trial program, TLA members will also have access to discounted Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) services around their individual docks. As we develop our management plan for 2023, we will send it out via our email list for community comment.

As we move into the new year, I urge everyone to think about what they can do to act on behalf of the lake

*(Continued on page 2)*



GO ONLINE TODAY TO DONATE

[www.tomahawklake.org](http://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, and financial resources.

SIGN UP ONLINE FOR E-NEWSLETTER

[www.tomahawklake.org](http://www.tomahawklake.org)



GO GREEN

## Go Green with the Newsletter!!

**To help us reduce costs, would you like to receive our semi-annual newsletter by email?**

We currently have 33 members who have gone green and signed up for the electronic newsletter which we will implement with this Fall 2022 newsletter.

If you would like to have the newsletter emailed to you, **please email your request to [membership@tomahawklake.org](mailto:membership@tomahawklake.org)**. You'll also be able to request the electronic version on our annual membership renewal form.



Join our Facebook page at:  
[www.facebook.com/  
groups/104527072922/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/104527072922/)

[info@laketomahawk.org](mailto:info@laketomahawk.org) | [www.tomahawklake.org](http://www.tomahawklake.org)

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

## President's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

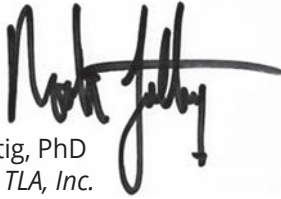
that gives us so much. Whether it's joining the TLA, volunteering, enhancing your natural shoreline, or just starting out on a journey to understand the lake needs, every action counts.

Together, we can make a difference. By acting now, we can continue to preserve and protect Tomahawk Lake for future generations that have yet to

enjoy the shores of this amazing resource and lake.

Thank you for your continued support. TLA couldn't do it without you.

Sincerely,



Noah Lottig, PhD  
President, TLA, Inc.  
218-310-7460  
info@tomahawklake.org

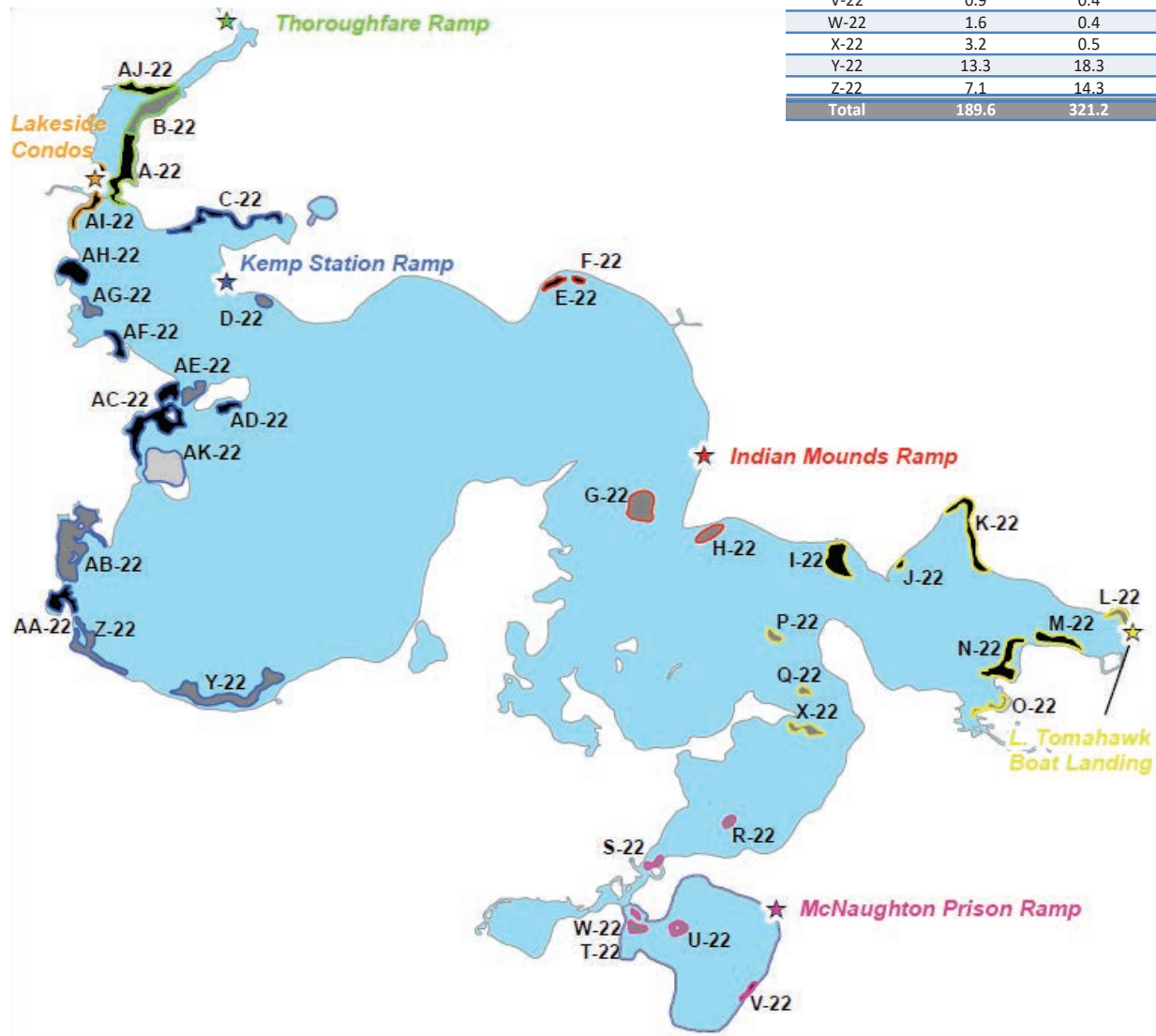
Site	Acres	Treatment Hours	CF Removed
A-22	10.6	14.8	3,954
AA-22	5.1	3.3	1,287
AB-22	18.9	27.9	10,682
AC-22	16.1	48.9	20,371
AD-22	2.1	3.3	982
AE-22	3.5	10.3	3,769
AF-22	2.7	13.4	4,441
AG-22	2.5	6.9	2,243
AH-22	5.7	14.5	5,594
AI-22	5.8	19.7	5,728
AJ-22	4.8	1.9	300
AK-22	13.8	0.4	90
B-22	8.5	2.9	956
C-22	7.1	18.3	4,925
D-22	1.6	7.5	2,584
E-22	1.6	3.6	1,220
F-22	0.7	2.0	700
G-22	7.5	-	-
H-22	2.9	1.3	820
I-22	7.4	14.9	11,676
J-22	0.9	2.3	756
K-22	8.1	6.9	1,300
L-22	2.4	6.0	3,100
M-22	4.7	9.3	3,454
N-22	7.8	19.4	8,212
O-22	2.3	13.1	4,003
P-22	1.7	5.1	2,084
Q-22	1.7	-	-
R-22	1.1	2.4	950
Schuetz's Rock	-	0.8	175
S-22	1.2	6.3	1,222
T-22	0.5	0.1	39
U-22	2	0.5	367
V-22	0.9	0.4	49
W-22	1.6	0.4	64
X-22	3.2	0.5	442
Y-22	13.3	18.3	9,342
Z-22	7.1	14.3	4,753
<b>Total</b>	<b>189.6</b>	<b>321.2</b>	<b>122,634</b>



Aquatic Plant Management LLC

## 2022 Mechanical Harvesting Results

Source: APM Harvest Records June–October, 2022



## TLA BOARD MEMBERS

**Noah Lottig – President**  
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**Josh Ridders – Director**  
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# Margo's Minocqua Minute

## NEWS ABOUT TOWN

### FALL 2022

- **White Arrow Home** is moving from their current location next to Minocqua Pizza to the 13th Colony building (further south on Hwy. 51) which is going out of business.
- A new business, **A Diamond in the North**, is opening next door to the Golden Karat on Main Street. It is a boutique and permanent jewelry store.
- **Packerland Plus** is now home to **Hooked & Tagged**, a Northwoods clothing store.
- The **Copy Cat** building, which burned down in a fire this summer, has finally been demolished.
- The lines were long for the opening of the new **Taco Bell** just south of Kwik Trip.
- The **Marshfield Medical Center** is amid expanding their hospital. They have completed the expanded parking lot for the clinic. Completion summer 2023.
- A new **tanning salon** is under construction in the building next to Bella Capelli in Arbor Vitae.
- **Lakeside Rentals** is building a new storage facility to make room for more winter storage for boats.
- The old **Home Medical building** has been torn down to make room for some other business soon. Will it be a Starbucks, a Dunkin' Donuts, or a Baskin-Robbins?
- A new entrance to **Lakeland Union High School** has been established. The T-Bird Country bridge has been placed at the Hwy. 70W entrance.
- **P J's Burger Barn** is back open after remodeling their building.
- The exceedingly popular **Nacho's Mexican Grill** restaurant in the Trig's strip center is up and running.
- Work is still being done in **Torpy Park**. It appears they are upgrading sewer lines.
- **Lake Tomahawk** has undergone road construction on Hwy. 47 throughout the downtown area as well as the entire highway from Woodruff to a few miles south of town. Making for a real mess.
- **The Waters** has cleared the trees on a lot abutting the hotel for cute little cabin buildings to add to their hotel property.

- **Unwind**, a spa in Woodruff, is busy adding more spa workshops including a popular sauna and cold bath. New providers have then been added as well. A massage therapist, acupressurist, an alexander therapy therapist and an office manager have all been hired.
- **Kozey Krane** will now be known as **Mammoth Dock & Lift** as Kasey Lisner has purchased the business after the sudden passing of Jacob Kozey.

*Please buy local whenever you can to keep our merchants in business!*

# Thank You!!



Ann & JD Dell, our 2022 Sip & Bid event hosts.



# Thank You!

from your TLA

## Membership Committee

Well, you did it! Your **membership contributions exceeded** our 2022 annual budget and 54% of our renewing members met our challenge to "DOUBLE DOWN!" their investment to preserve and protect Tomahawk Lake. THANK YOU for your continued support of our collective efforts.

A complete list of our 208 contributing members can be found on the following page. Your membership dues enabled us to harvest EWM for an additional 14 days beyond what we planned! Studies show that a late season harvest will give us a **head start on controlling** this invasive species next spring.

Our partners at Aquatic Plant Management **harvested a total of 90 days** which is the maximum number of



## Our Membership Profile

Tier	Contribution Range	Contributing Members	Percent
Soaring Eagles	\$1,000 & over	48	23%
Whispering Pines	\$500 - \$999	81	39%
Calling Loons	\$100 - \$499	79	38%
Other	< \$100	1	0%
		209	100%

**Average 2022 Contribution per Member through September is \$625!**

days that our DNR grant allowed for us to maximize our reimbursement from the state.

Your dues also allowed us to continue our effort to staff our boat ramps with attendants who check boats to prevent the spread of other invasive species from entering our lake. Their attention to detail is exactly what we need to continue to benefit from our *Clean Boats Clean Water* program.

In June, we held our annual all member meeting and had over 50 members participate either in person at Kemp Natural Resource Conference Center or via the online web stream. Eddie Heath of Onterra Consulting shared the highlights of our updated Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan. He helped educate all of us by sharing the scientific aspects of lake management including myths around milfoil fragmentation.

We'll announce the details of our 2023 meeting in our Spring newsletter and encourage all our members to attend.

If you have not had a chance to renew your membership or you would like to **join the TLA**, a 2022 **membership form is included** with this newsletter, or you can do so on our website at <https://www.tomahawklake.org/join-tla-or-renew-your-membership/>

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you and your family and friends a safe and healthy winter season.

Sincerely,

**TLA Membership Committee**

Bruce Forsberg

Jake Harmsen

Sheila Forsberg

Adam Redman

Echo Bay on the western shore of Tomahawk Lake, looking east towards Ferguson's Point...which used to be Scotty's Point...which used to be Wright's Point. The names change, but the view never does!

# Thank You to our TLA Members!

List includes all membership contributions and buoy sponsorships received as of September 30, 2022.

## Soaring Eagles

**\$1,000 or more** (48 members)

Abbott, Kathryn  
Anderson, Tom & Pam  
Arias, Gil & Kate  
Beech, Tom & Carol  
Bilik, John & Lisa  
Black, John & Ann Taylor  
Boles, Sarah  
Buchheit, Charles & Susan  
Clearwater Camp Foundation  
Daly, Pat & Kathy  
Dell, JD & Ann  
Donner, Keith & Gail  
Fites, Donald & Joyce  
Foster, Race & Lynne  
Fox, Tony & Erin  
Francois, Joseph & Penny  
Gauchel, Peter & Brenda  
Gauerke, Scott & Pam  
Gerdin, Michael & Nicole  
Goltermann Jr., Louis  
Griffin, John & Kim  
Groth, Michael & Linda  
Harmsen, Scott & Tammy  
Kavemeier, Jim & Kathy  
Kehart, Michael & Linda  
Krueger, Ken & Mary  
Kujak, David & Erin  
Larsen, John & Theresa  
Laurino, Carl & Jerilyn  
Mallery, Tess  
Mallery, Tuck  
Mallery, Ryan & Denise  
Morrissey, Scott & Chris  
Orr, Joanne  
Redman, Adam & Melissa  
Ridders, Fred & Linda  
Roehl, Richard & Tamie  
Roehl, Donna  
Schuette, Jay & Gretchen  
Schuette, Rudie  
Schutz, David & Susan  
Shain, Paul & Suzy  
Solberg, Trygve & Tula  
Sperling, Bruce & Elizabeth  
Swaney, Tom & Pat  
Thompson, Patrick & Janet  
Tomahawk Shores Owners Assoc. Ltd.  
Vehrs, Don & Chrisy

## Whispering Pines

**\$500 – \$999** (81 members)

Ackermann, Sara & Todd Nagel  
Albee, Alan  
Andersen, James  
Baines, Jim & Cathy  
Bartling, Peter & Lynn  
Bateman, Bill & Marsha  
Bergman, Don & Bonnie  
Bloom, John & Judith  
Bortner, Rebecca  
Broomell, Ken & Nancy  
Burbie, David & Trish  
Chupita, Diane (& Amy)  
Clausen, Annemette & Henrik  
Cooledge, Richard & Barbara  
Cote, Roger & Fran  
Crone, John & Linda  
DeNamur, Steve & Mary  
Drummond, Gary & Lori  
Egen, James & Mary  
Ferguson, Sue  
Fisher, Russell & Chris  
Fitzgerald, John & Kate  
Forsberg, Bruce & Sheila  
Fowler, Jim & Susan  
Gabby, Bill  
Gantz, James & Jean  
Gerstner, Jeff & Dian  
Gjermo, Bruce & Sherri  
Goltermann, John & Lori  
Good, David & Patricia  
Hanson, Mark & Marisa  
Hardel, Jeff & Jen  
Harry, David & Kathy  
Hartwig, Mary  
Hearthwood Prop. Owners  
Assoc.  
Hertz, Bob & Leslie  
Hoehne, Faye  
Hoellerich, Daniel & Lynn  
Hunt, Jon & Kris  
Igoe Family  
Janssen Family  
Johnson, Todd & Ellen  
Jones, Donald & Susan  
Kennedy, Kyle & Nikki  
Kirschner, Dean & Barb  
Lynch, Ross & Ruth

Malsack, Philip  
Marrinson, Ralph & Martha  
Martin, Ann & Sally  
McCorison, Kyle & Katie  
McNamar, Pat & Marlys  
McNamar, Justin  
Nisk, Alice  
Olson, Tom & Nancy  
Oppenheim, Alan & Margo  
Paulsen, Richard & Theresa  
Paulsen, Patti  
Petersen, David & Carlene  
Pregont, Daniel & Sally  
Priebe, Becky  
Randa, Michael & Laura Riesterer  
Ripp, Michael  
Rogers, Jeff & Karen  
Ross, Bill & Cindy  
Scharer, Brandon & Christine  
Schuette, Clark & Kathy  
Schwantes, William & Nanette  
Scuglik, Jim & Betsy  
Seramur, John & Joan  
Sonneland III, Arthur & Kay  
Stankowski, Ervin & Patricia  
Stengl, Jim & Chris  
Thiel, Eric & Julie  
Van Asten, Michael  
Van Ells, Chris & Doreen  
Walsh, Jim & Kim  
Wanserski, David & Lorri  
Watkins, Clyde & Cheryl  
Watson, James & Beverly  
Willer, Kurt & Constance  
Winchester, Brad & Casey

## Calling Loons

**\$100- \$499** (79 members)

Andersen, Randy & Kathy  
Bany, Stephen & Lynda  
Bradish, Alan  
Combs III, Earle & Virginia  
Connor, Eugene & Yvonne  
Converse, Patrick  
Converse, Arlan & Marilyn  
Correnti, Christopher & Cynthia  
Cotherman Family, Scott & Jinny  
Dalton, Daniel & Sheila  
Dierberg, Jeff & Birgit  
Drewke, Richard & Denise  
Engler, Margaret  
Etsel, Gary & Holly  
Faulks, Robert & Christine  
Filippo, Sam & Susan  
Fisher, Roger & Donna  
Forni, Annina  
Gazeley, Janis & Gail  
Gelinas, Mike & Cathy  
Gudenkaufs

Guisinger, Robert & Patti  
Hagnauer, E.F. & Julie  
Hamel, Joseph & Ruth  
Harding, Ann  
Haugh, David  
Haugh, John & Pamela  
Hogan, Scott & Shelly  
Huggett, Wes & Kelley  
Johnson, Mike & Dawn  
Jones, Wendy  
Klecker, Francis & Judith  
Kuettner, Allen & Karen  
Ladowski, Casey & Ann  
Laszewski, Joyce  
Lesch, Donna  
Lloyd, David & Rose  
Lottig, Noah & Bryn  
Mackie, Alexander & Kelly  
McCarthy, Patrick & Nora  
McDonald Family, Bob & Marge  
Meitus, Scott  
Molepske, Sr., Louis & Sue  
Narrows Resort  
Nichols, Christopher & Maureen  
Nicholson, Jim & Bow  
Nikolai, Allan & Rob  
O'Connor, Brian & Nicole  
O'Connor, Todd & Patricia  
Pagel, Keith & Lisa  
Palmer, Sarah & Pete  
Perina, Robert & Sarah  
Pokorny, Laddie & Evalyn  
Rengel, Robert  
Rheinschmidt, Dave & Judie  
Riesterer, Rick & Sherry  
Rine, Gary & Sharon  
Robinson, Delbert & Cathy  
Romanski, Roger & Paulene  
Saari, Robert & Susan  
Scharer, Nathan & Krista  
Schindler, Gary & Margie  
Simenstad, Dr. David & Martha  
Smith, Laird & Nancy  
Smithing, William & Patricia  
Steiner, Kimberly & Dean  
Stodola, James & Karen  
Sullivan, Joe & Linda  
Thalacker, Rick & Cyndi  
Troyer, Bryan & Jane  
Vintika, Raymond & Jori  
Weddle, Andrew  
Weldon Robert & Elizabeth  
Winger, Kevin & Patti  
Witte, Mark  
Woller, Steve & Nancy  
Wotruba, Fredrick  
Yentz, Dr. Tom & Patty  
Zimmer, David & Patti



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

# By the Numbers\$!!

## from the Treasurer's desk

Dear TLA Contributing Members,

The chart below summarizes our performance to our 2022 budget. Although the year is not quite complete, I am pleased to report we should finish the year with a small surplus versus the original deficit we projected last fall. We couldn't have accomplished this without your positive response to our "Double Down" Challenge.

Our original budget included 90 days of harvesting at a cost of \$180,000 (\$2,000 per day). We estimated our membership contributions at \$100,000 based on 2021 contribution levels. This would have resulted in a deficit of \$41,000 as published in our Fall 2021 newsletter (*see first column in the chart*). At that time, we had not been notified by the DNR of the status of our mechanical harvesting grant application.

**In early 2022, the DNR awarded us the harvesting grant of \$75,000 per year (for two years)!** As a result, we revised our budget with the goal to shrink the deficit. We calculated that the award would allow us to harvest 76 days at a cost of \$152,000. Accordingly, we reduced our grant revenue projection since DNR grant revenue is directly related

to how much we spend in eligible harvesting costs. This revised budget (*shown in the middle column*) reduced the deficit to \$15,000 for the year.

With our "dock-out" harvesting focus, we asked members to consider contracting directly with our partner, Aquatic Plant Management (APM), for "dock-in" diver-assisted service at a discounted rate. This allowed us to reduce our anticipated payroll costs by not having to run our own Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) boat. But the real difference was that many of our members answered our call to increase their contribution to help us fight EWM. 100 of our 209 contributing members met or exceeded their "Double Down" challenge amount. Through October, we now have an overall average contribution of over \$600 per member! We have exceeded our 2022 membership contribution goal by more than \$25,000.

This kind of support enabled the Board of Directors to approve an additional 14 days of harvesting and our latest view of our performance to budget should be a small surplus (*shown in the far-right column*). You made this possible!

On behalf of the Board, thank you all for your continued support of the TLA and helping us achieve our mission of "Preserving and Protecting Tomahawk Lake."

Bruce Forsberg, TLA Treasurer

## Tomahawk Lake Association Annual Operating Budget Comparison 2022

	Published budget Fall 2021		Current Budget Spring 2022		Total 2022 Annual Forecast	
			76 DAYS OF HARVESTING		90 DAYS OF HARVESTING	
<b>Income</b>						
Town Revenue	\$	30,000	\$	30,000	\$	30,000
Grant Revenue	\$	84,065	\$	75,629	\$	81,664
Membership Dues	\$	100,000	\$	100,000	\$	125,681
Event Income	\$	15,000	\$	15,000	\$	13,205
Misc. Income	\$	4,935	\$	4,371	\$	2,315
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>234,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>225,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>252,865</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Payroll Expenses	\$	35,000	\$	34,448	\$	9,012
EWM Operations	\$	33,000	\$	26,062	\$	16,730
Harvesting Contractor	\$	180,000	\$	152,000	\$	179,560
Member Communication	\$	10,000	\$	11,190	\$	8,864
Event Expenses	\$	6,000	\$	6,000	\$	4,080
Shoreland Stewardship	\$	3,000	\$	3,000	\$	6,864
General Operations	\$	2,500	\$	1,800	\$	3,194
Depreciation	\$	2,000	\$	2,000	\$	2,196
Accounting Services	\$	3,500	\$	3,500	\$	3,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>275,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>234,000</b>
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(41,000)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(15,000)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>18,865</b>





## The TLA Lake Steward Program Enhanced

We share this program enhancement at a time when Eurasian Milfoil (EWM) is a top concern for many of us. While there isn't anything we can do to eradicate EWM from Tomahawk Lake, our shoreline management steps are intended for all property owners and allow each of us to do our part to help keep our water clean.

**Choosing not to practice shoreline management is detrimental to the lakes health.** Remember, it isn't someone else's responsibility to preserve our lake. It is yours and mine. Your property is an essential part of Tomahawk Lake's fragile ecosystem. *What you do or do not do on your shoreland directly affects the health of the whole lake system.*

As you know, our Lake Steward Program educates and asks property owners to execute five small steps that make a significant difference in preserving and protecting the health of our beloved lake. The five steps you can use to preserve and protect Tomahawk Lake are:

### 1. CAPTURE WATER RUNOFF BEFORE IT REACHES THE LAKE

Ideally, property owners capture water runoff before it reaches the lake. This is known as **diversion, rock infiltration, and rain garden** practices. Diversion, rock infiltration, and rain garden practices move water to areas where it can soak into the ground vs. reaching and ultimately polluting the lake.

### 2. ESTABLISH A 'NO MOW' AREA OR PLANT A NATIVE GARDEN

The easiest and least expensive way to filter water runoff is to **leave your shoreline natural** and establish a 'no mow' area between your land and the water. As such, do not mow to the edge of where your property meets the lake, but leave a natural shoreline area. The Wisconsin DNR recommends leaving a **minimum 10' foot buffer** between your lawn and lake, but if the minimum 10' is not possible, try to start with several feet of no-mow area.

### 3. MINIMIZE CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZER USE

While it's probably apparent that chemicals—like ant poison applied to an ant hill in your yard—are toxic for our lake, it's important to note that things like fertilizer and grass clippings can cause as much damage. Action Step 3 is to minimize chemicals and fertilizer used in your yard. Insecticides and pesticides kill pollinators and birds, so cease using these, too.

### 4. MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Septic seepage can also run into the lake under the ground. This waste acts like a fertilizer, so it, too, will cause an increase in weeds and algae. **Have your septic system inspected** every three years by a professional. Please schedule an inspection if you don't recall the last time someone checked your septic system.

### 5. ALLOW NATIVE AQUATIC PLANTS AND FALLEN WOOD TO REMAIN IN THE LAKE

Action Step 5 is another simple, no-cost, effective way to better the health of our lake: **allow native aquatic plants and fallen wood/trees to remain in the lake.** Below the water, this wood acts as feeding, breeding, and nesting areas for all critters—from fish to songbirds. Above the water, ducks, geese, turtles, and other creatures use the wood to sun themselves. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the UW-Extension developed a program to promote riparian property owners to implement relatively straightforward shoreland restoration activities. The program is called the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant Program. Coincidentally, TLA's Environment & Education committee must have known a thing or two about lake health because the Wisconsin Healthy Lakes & Rivers program also includes "5 simple and inexpensive steps that improve habitat and water quality." The Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program website contains resources and technical guidance on implementing the five identified shoreland best management practices. Go to <https://healthylakeswi.com> for more information about the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program.

**The TLA Lake Steward Program will continue to focus on the importance of shoreland best management practices.** We are enhancing the program by providing more information

*(Continued on next page)*



## The TLA Lake Steward Program Enhanced

*(Continued from previous page)*

on the resources and technical guidance available on the Healthy Lakes and Rivers website to assist in implementing your shoreland protection project. The significant difference between the TLA Lake Steward Program and the Healthy Lakes & Rivers Program is the inclusion of **fish sticks** in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program. It is not easy to implement a fish sticks project. **Fish stick projects** must be implemented by approved technical requirements from the local WDNR fisheries biologist and comply with local shoreland zoning.

**Fish sticks are an in-lake best management practice that utilizes groups of whole trees anchored to the shore.** They may be partially or fully submerged in the water along the lakes shoreline. Fish sticks create food, shelter, and breeding areas for all sorts of creatures, from small aquatic insects to fish, turtles, ducks, and songbirds. Fish sticks can also help prevent bank erosion. It is not easy to implement a fish sticks project. Fish stick projects must be implemented by approved technical requirements from the local WDNR fisheries biologist and comply with local shoreland zoning.



## Permanent Shoreland Protection Tools

*by Carrie Rasmussen,  
Northwoods Land Trust*

A priority of the Northwoods Land Trust (NWLT) is to assist landowners in conserving sizable properties to protect our world-class water resources. **Permanent land conservation is one of the most effective ways to safeguard our lakes and rivers.**

Fortunately, in the Tomahawk Lake System, there is a large amount of state-owned land. These natural forested areas play a big part in maintaining the Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) designation given to Tomahawk Lake and Little Tomahawk Lake by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Protecting more land today will help maintain this designation and lessen the chances of needing to restore degraded water resources tomorrow.

### **Land conservation also takes place outside of the government sphere.**

Today, private landowners hold the key to building on past conservation successes. Community-based conservation—by working with a nonprofit land trust—is local, voluntary, and permanent. Landowners that take the personal initiative to protect the land they love also provide greater public benefits in the form of clean water and air, wildlife habitat and scenic beauty.

**NWLT has several conservation tools available when collaborating with private landowners.** A common approach involves a land protection agreement, known as a **conservation easement**. A conservation easement is a binding agreement between a landowner and a nonprofit land trust to permanently protect a property's natural characteristics. The easement is the legal document that is forever tied to the property's deed (so future owners are obligated to the terms). The land remains private, and it can only be managed and developed to the extent specified in the easement (for example, a defined footprint for existing or future structures is common).

Unlike deed restrictions and covenants, a conservation easement comes with a stewardship commitment from the land trust. **Land trusts annually monitor lands protected by a conservation easement** to ensure the terms are honored in perpetuity. In addition, conservation easements are considered qualified charitable contributions by the IRS, and so there are tax benefits available.

Another approach landowners can consider is **transferring ownership of land to a land trust** or to another entity (such as a nonprofit lake association). The natural portion of a property can be separated from a house lot area and gifted for the land trust (or other entity) to own and manage. NWLT has worked collaboratively with property owners



and lake associations in the past to protect land. For example, a family can donate property to the lake association, and NWLT can then place a conservation easement on the donated land to ensure that it remains undeveloped. Some people prefer to donate land (and in certain cases, their homes) through their wills to leave a lasting legacy after they are gone.

These are the tools available to private property owners to preserve shoreland and protect water quality, as well as conserve forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitat for the future.

**NWLT encourages you to visit our website to learn more.**

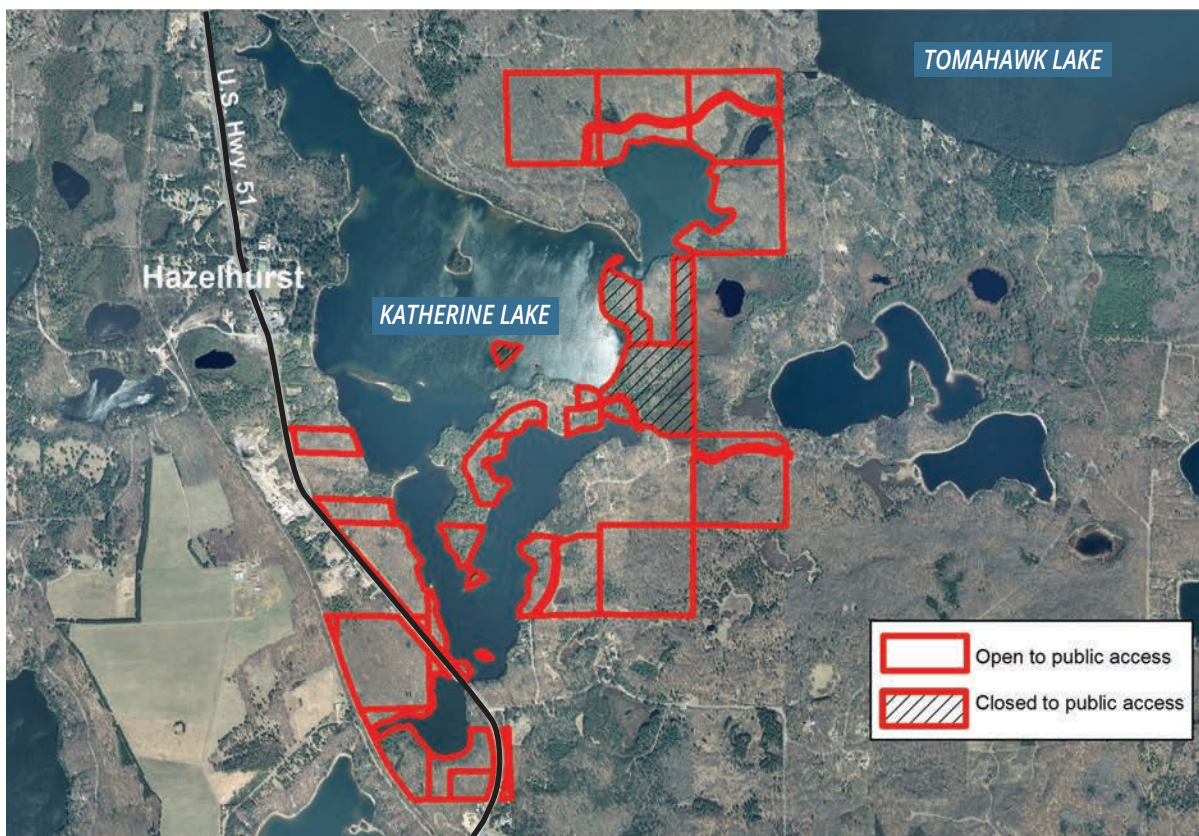
All properties go through a review to ensure that they meet our conservation criteria before we can commit to permanent protection. In most cases, 500 feet or more of undeveloped shoreline is required, unless a property is adjacent to other conservation land or has outstanding ecological features. Inland properties (generally 40 acres or more) are also of interest to NWLT as they protect the health of the overall watershed and help lessen the impacts brought on by climate change.

The Northwoods Land Trust is an accredited, nonprofit organization based in Eagle River. Since 2001, NWLT has assisted over 100 families in permanently protecting nearly 80 miles of

lake and river shoreline and 15,000 acres of land in its seven-county service area in northern Wisconsin.

*To learn more about NWLT's Shoreland Protection Initiative and to receive a landowner's guide to conservation, visit [www.northwoodslandtrust.org](http://www.northwoodslandtrust.org) or call (715) 479-2490.*

**The Yawkey Forest Reserve, owned by the Northwoods Land Trust, includes over four miles of protected shoreline on Katherine Lake. The 400+ acres of land was donated by the Yawkey family in 2018.**



**Yawkey Forest Reserve map**



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**

Email Bruce Forsberg at [membership@tomahawklake.org](mailto:membership@tomahawklake.org) to update any information. We need to keep you up to date on happenings around Tomahawk Lake. *Thanks!*

## Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

### **And snuggle up under your Lake Tomahawk throw (or fleece)!!**

It's that time of year again to start shopping for those on your nice (or even naughty) list! When buying for family and friends this holiday season, look no further than Lake Tom! The Tomahawk Lake Association has a wide variety of gifts, perfect for even the pickiest of elves.

And remember, **all purchases help to support and maintain our most beautiful gem** of the Northwoods – Tomahawk Lake!

**Cozy up under our soft sherpa throw blanket.** Perfect for those cold nights by the fire, or perhaps on those chilly nights on the boat in summer. The gray blanket features a plush microfiber on one side and a sherpa fleece on the reverse. It proudly displays our TLA logo and looks as nice as it feels! *Price \$50.*

**Looking for something else warm this winter?** Also available are a limited number of **fleece**s, great for snowmobiling or ice fishing out on Town Bay this winter! The fleece also displays the TLA logo and is available in navy. *Price \$40.*

Already have enough warm weather gear? We also have **a vast selection of colorful hats**, perfect for those hot sunny days out on the lake or the golf course! Available in gray, red, yellow, and orange. *Price \$15*

**Hats** also available in **youth sizes**, light blue or pink. *Price \$10.*

**Support the Tomahawk Lake Association and snap up these gifts before they are gone!**

