

Note from the President

from Noah Lottig, PhD, TLA President

Dear Tomahawk Lake Association Members and Supporters,

As the vibrant hues of autumn transition to blankets of snow on Tomahawk Lake, I find myself reflecting on the summer gone by. It was a season filled with shared memories, laughter echoing across the water, and the collective efforts of our community to ensure the health and beauty of our lake system.

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to every one of you. Your unwavering support, both financially and through countless volunteer hours, has been the backbone of the Tomahawk Lake Association (TLA). Without you, TLA would simply not exist. Your commitment and passion for our lake system have been evident in every endeavor we've undertaken.

Additionally, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of renewing your TLA membership. If you haven't done so already, please consider renewing today. Your membership not only provides vital financial support, but also strengthens our collective voice and commitment to the lake. Together, as a united community, we can achieve so much more. Renew today and continue to help us "Preserve and Protect Tomahawk Lake."

We have many accomplishments to be proud of this summer as a community. One of our most significant achievements was minimizing the impacts of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) on our recreational activities. This was made possible through our harvesting initiative, which we proudly executed in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Aquatic Plant Management, LLC. After the setback of the unsuccessful ProcellaCOR trial in 2019, we are thrilled to report a successful application in Town Bay this year. Jim Kavemeier led an effort, in collaboration with the Town of Lake Tomahawk, to install a new sign and information center at the Town Bay landing. This center serves as a hub for information dissemination. Finally, our commitment to preserving the pristine nature of our lakes continued with the Clean Boats Clean Waters program. Through

(Continued on page 2)

Lake life in the Northwoods

Hazelhurst • Lake Tomahawk • Minocqua • Woodruff

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," which gives us greater capacity to preserve and protect this beautiful lake through our combined efforts and financial resources.

SIGN UP ONLINE FOR E-NEWSLETTER

www.tomahawklake.org

Learn More About Your TLA

We hope you take a little extra time to carefully read through all the educational articles in this newsletter. Feel free to reach out to any board member with questions or concerns.

**Tomahawk Lake Association's Purpose,
Vision, and Mission** Page 2

**Leading The Way -
Lake Management Plans** Page 4

**Update on Town Bay
Chemical Treatment** Page 8

**Strategy Behind Fall Harvesting
of Milfoil** Page 8

**Why TLA No Longer Operates
DASH Boats** Page 9

**TLA's Evolution in Managing EWM
with Chemicals.** Page 10

Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Please shop local for your holiday gifts and gift cards to support our area businesses!



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[www.facebook.com/
groups/104527072922/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/104527072922/)

info@tomahawklake.org | www.tomahawklake.org

Tomahawk Lake Association
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Minocqua, WI 54548

Note from the President

(Continued from page 1)

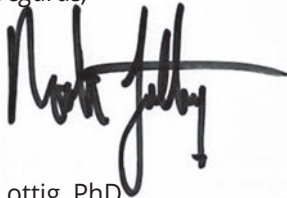
this initiative, we've emphasized and taken proactive steps to minimize the introduction of new invasive species into our beloved lakes.

The overarching goal of our newsletters is to keep you informed, engaged, and inspired. We aim to provide a comprehensive overview of our activities, insights into our strategies, and a glimpse of our vision for the future.

In this newsletter, we share our purpose, vision, and mission along with our overarching lake management plans. We are also including a brief history of our fight against EWM and how the use of mechanical harvesting, chemicals, and DASH (Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting) boats all figure into our strategy. It's a testament to our shared journey: our challenges, our successes, and our unwavering commitment to Tomahawk Lake.

As we look ahead, I am filled with optimism. With your continued support, I am confident that we will overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and ensure that the Tomahawk Lake System remains a cherished haven for generations to come. Thank you for being a part of this journey.

Warm regards,



Noah Lottig, PhD
President, TLA, Inc.
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Tomahawk Lake Association's Purpose, Mission and Vision

Organization Purpose: As outlined in our Articles of Incorporation, TLA's foundational purpose is **"to provide for education and support for the protection of the Tomahawk Lake Watershed."** The document further elaborates on our commitment to *"promote and support the public and users of Tomahawk Lake, Little Tomahawk Lake, Mud Lake, and Ink Well Lake."* In alignment with these goals, TLA actively acquires, shares, and circulates information among its volunteer members concerning environmental protection, water quality, land use, and other related topics.

In essence, TLA's overarching objective is to lead the efforts to protect the Tomahawk Lake Watershed through **education, advocacy, and support**. Our purpose is multifaceted by addressing both the environmental and regulatory dimensions of lake conservation and ensuring a comprehensive approach to the well-being of our cherished lake system.

Mission Statement:
"To promote and enhance the health of the Tomahawk Lake System and its watershed."

Originating from our 2009 Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (CLMP), TLA's mission underscores the vitality of the lake system, encompassing facets like water quality, biodiversity, and ecological equilibrium. The terminology "promote" conveys our dedication to raising awareness and advocacy, while "enhance" signifies our active endeavors to uplift the lake's present condition.

Vision Statement:

"The Tomahawk Lake System is a place where water quality, wildlife habitat, natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and peace and tranquility are preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of both current and future generations."



Also developed in the 2009 CLMP, our vision for the Tomahawk Lake System is both ambitious and inspiring. It seeks a harmonious blend of ecological preservation and recreational enjoyment. By emphasizing the interests of both today's community and generations to come, our vision sets a clear and sustainable path for TLA's strategic efforts.

Tagline: "Preserve and Protect Tomahawk Lake"

TLA's tagline, both brief and resonant, captures the essence of our association's commitment. The term "Preserve" reflects our pledge to uphold the lake's existing splendor, while "Protect" reiterates our proactive stance against potential threats.

We invite all members and stakeholders to join us in our continuous journey to uphold and realize these guiding principles for the betterment of the Tomahawk Lake System.

A Huge Thank You to Margo!



It is at this time that the Tomahawk Lake Association (TLA) announces Margo Oppenheim's decision not to seek another term on the TLA Board.

This is done

with tremendous respect, admiration, and appreciation for all Margo has contributed to the TLA and its Board.

The Tomahawk Lake Association is grateful for Margo's dedication and commitment to protecting the pristine waters of Tomahawk Lake through her volunteer service to the TLA. Margo has been an important part of the TLA dating back nearly to its inception in the early 2000's. She served on the Executive Committee as secretary for many years before becoming vice president. She also chaired the Events Committee, on which she led the efforts for the Hermit Island Swim & Paddle Challenge and Sip 'n Bid fund-raising events. Margo coordinated donations from local business owners to make fund-raising events a success, sold TLA merchandise out of her garage, and served as a historian of sorts on many matters surrounding the Minocqua area. During the last several years, Margo supplemented our newsletters with "Margo's Minocqua Minute," allowing those of us from afar to stay abreast of local changes on the restaurant scene and other "big developments" in town.

Margo has spent almost her entire life on Tomahawk Lake. Her family owned Klippel's Landing (now Lakeside Grill) in the 1950's and 60's. She and her husband, Al, built a home on the site of the old homestead and spent many wonderful summers with their daughter, Lindsay, on the lake.

Margo, we thank you for your years of service and dedication to the Tomahawk Lake Association. Your contribution and passion for Tomahawk Lake are immeasurable. You will be missed!

By the Numbers\$!!

from the Treasurer's desk

Dear TLA Contributing Members,

Thank you is again the message of this article. The chart below summarizes our performance to the 2023 annual budget. Although the year is not complete, I am pleased to report we should finish the year with a small surplus of \$3,400 vs. the \$22,000 deficit we projected earlier this year.

Here are a few words behind the numbers...

- Membership dues exceeded expectations. In our Spring newsletter, we asked you to "Stay the Course" and consider renewing your 2023 membership at the same level as 2022. Your commitment to the TLA is appreciated and helped us exceed our budgeted income by over \$15,000.
- Chemical Treatment expense will be under budget by \$20,000. Since the Wisconsin DNR did not approve our permit to apply ProcettaCOR in Echo Bay, these unspent grant funds will be carried over to treat another bay next year based on permit approval.
- Harvested 95 days instead of 90 days. Our original budget of \$180,000 included 90 days of harvesting at \$2,000 per day. We decided to extend harvesting into early October to give us a head start on controlling EWM in the spring (see the Strategy Behind Fall Harvesting of Milfoil article on page 8).

The Board of Directors remains committed to managing all sources of our income with the utmost care and does not take any of them for granted. We appreciate the funding we receive from our town governments and support from DNR grants when awarded. **But most of all, we appreciate you and your support of the TLA!** Your membership dues are our most important source of income to help us preserve and protect Tomahawk Lake.

Bruce Forsberg, TLA Treasurer

Tomahawk Lake Association 2023 Annual Operating Budget Comparison

	ANNUAL BUDGET	ANNUAL FORECAST
	90 DAYS OF HARVESTING	95 DAYS OF HARVESTING
Income		
Town Revenue	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000
Grant Revenue	137,759	121,469
Membership Dues	110,000	135,855
Event Income	8,000	4,650
Misc. Income	7,241	16,026
Total Income	\$ 287,000	\$ 302,000
Expenses		
Payroll Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,437
EWM Monitoring / Planning	22,745	20,866
Chemical Treatment	59,920	39,887
Harvesting Contractor	180,000	190,800
Member Communication	8,000	8,027
Event Expenses	10,000	4,858
Shoreland Stewardship	8,450	8,343
General Operations	4,875	5,162
Depreciation	510	510
Accounting & Legal Services	4,500	10,710
Total Expenses	\$ 309,000	\$ 298,600
Shortfall / Surplus	\$ (22,000)	\$ 3,400

Tomahawk Lake Association – Leading the Way

Comprehensive Lake Management Plan and Aquatic Plant Management Plan

Preserving the Tomahawk Lake System's health, beauty, and recreational use requires careful stewardship. This effort is Tomahawk Lake Association's (TLA) primary goal.

The Tomahawk Lake System includes Tomahawk, Little Tomahawk, Mud, Inkwell Lakes, Paddle Pond, and the Tomahawk Thoroughfare to Thoroughfare Road Bridge. Tomahawk Lake and Little Tomahawk Lake are designated Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). To receive the ORW designation, a lake must meet three criteria: *provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat, and have good water quality.* Unfortunately, only 1% of all Wisconsin lakes, rivers, and streams have received this designation.

Two documents guide TLA in its lake management decision-making process. The Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (CLMP) and the Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APM).

Comprehensive Lake Management

Plan: The CLMP, as its name implies, provides a comprehensive foundation to make good management decisions for years to come. The plan includes data about the aquatic plant community, watershed, shoreland management, fisheries, wildlife, and water quality to determine the condition and quality of the Tomahawk Lake

System. It also presents a strategy for lake management actions to achieve the lake management plan goals. The plan is guided by shoreland property owner input, scientific data, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requirements.

The WDNR considers the CLMP current for a period of ten years. The WDNR may determine that a longer lifespan for the CLMP is appropriate when the plan has been actively implemented and updated during its lifespan. To continue eligibility to apply for WDNR grants, the CLMP must be considered current.

A CLMP for the Tomahawk Lake System was approved by the WDNR in 2016.

The 2016 CLMP goals are:

1. Maintain a diverse, native aquatic community.
2. Preserve the quality of Tomahawk Lake System waters.
3. Balance recreational uses important to lake residents and visitors with preserving the natural lake environment.
4. Engage the lake community in lake and watershed stewardship practices.
5. Partner with area organizations, government agencies, and local businesses to support the goals of the lake management plan.

Since 2016, TLA implemented the CLMP goals by:

- Managing existing invasive species while preserving native aquatic plant communities and providing recreational access to the lake;

- Preventing the introduction of new aquatic species; and
- Promoting good shoreland management practices by encouraging shoreland owners, through the *Lake Steward Initiative*, to maintain and improve critical shoreland habitats and minimize runoff from entering the Tomahawk Lake System.

Aquatic Plant Management (APM)

Plan: Aquatic plants are a critical component of the freshwater environment. They help to ensure good water quality and clarity through their influence on sediment stability, nutrient uptake, and oxygen content while providing habitat and food for fish and wildlife. *Said differently, without a healthy balance of native aquatic plants, water can become cloudy, smelly, and filled with algae.*

The APM Plan includes:

- (a) native and non-native shoreland and aquatic plant surveys, so we know what plants are growing and where they are growing,
- (b) a riparian property owners survey,
- (c) aquatic plant best management plan (BMP) options and recommendations, and
- (d) a public presentation of the plan. BMPs for aquatic plant management change rapidly as new information about the effectiveness, non-target impacts, and risk assessment emerges.

Because the science and understanding of aquatic plant management is constantly evolving, and to be eligible to apply for

grants that provide cost sharing for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control and monitoring, the WDNR recommends the APM Plan be updated every five years. The WDNR may determine a longer life span when the plan has been actively implemented and updated during its lifespan.

During 2021-2022, content of the APM Plan was updated based on the lessons learned and also incorporated aspects of shoreland condition and lake stewardship. The WDNR approved the updated APM Plan in December 2022.

APM Plan Key Takeaways

1. The APM Plan fulfilled two main objectives:
 - a. Collect detailed information regarding the aquatic plant community of the Tomahawk Lake System, with additional emphasis on Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM).
 - b. Collect sociological information from Tomahawk Lake riparian owners regarding their use of the lake and their thoughts on its past and current condition and management of the lake, including use of herbicides and harvesting.
2. Native aquatic vegetation is the foundation of a lake ecosystem. The Tomahawk Lake Systems' overall aquatic plant community continues to be healthy and diverse.
3. Vasey's pondweed, a species listed as a special concern by the WDNR Natural Heritage Inventory Program, was found in the Tomahawk Thoroughfare. Two submergent non-native species were found: EWM and curly-leaf pondweed. Four non-native emergent species were discovered: pale-yellow

iris, purple loosestrife, narrow-leaf cattail, and flowering rush.

4. Best Management Practice is often used in environmental management to represent the current management option supported by the latest science and policy. The herbicide strategies used in the past on the Tomahawk Lake System were considered the Best Management Practices of the time. However, some of these management actions have gone out of favor as new research and information have become available.
5. TLA started EWM treatment using a small granular herbicide 2,4-D. Emerging research demonstrated that liquid 2,4-D treatment provided more consistent results at a fraction of the cost of granular products, which prompted TLA to move towards liquid herbicides. The exposed and offshore locations of many of the EWM colonies on the Tomahawk Lake System still proved difficult for 2,4-D to reach sufficient exposure times. New herbicide chemistries, such as ProcellaCOR, have recently been found to be effective in spot treatments, particularly when employed in partially contained bays. While ProcellaCOR's toxicological rating may suggest it is safer than other herbicides, it is not without risk. The TLA Planning Committee discussed these risks and was mainly concerned with the unknown long-term risks of herbicides.
6. The TLA Planning Committee devised an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for managing EWM populations on Tomahawk Lake and portions of Little Tomahawk Lake. An IPM program is an approach to manage a species that utilizes

a combination of methods more effective when applied collectively as part of a defined strategy than when conducted separately. Because most of the lake is not conducive to herbicide management, TLA will primarily use mechanical harvesting to minimize the nuisance conditions caused by EWM populations.

7. TLA intends to use herbicide management in areas less compatible with mechanical harvesting, such as shallow back bays, and areas of the lake which are constrained on three sides where chemicals are expected to be most effective.



8. TLA promotes diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH). Removing EWM in navigation lanes through hand harvesting can be an effective nuisance mitigation technique. TLA intends to help connect the benefiting riparian owner with a contracting firm and assist with the permitting. The cost of the activity will be the responsibility of the benefiting riparian owner.

Copies of the CLMP, APM, and APM appendices are available on our website at www.tomahawklake.org/resources

Environment & Education Committee

*Jim Kavemeier
David Burbie
Donna Kempf
Tess Mallery
Paul Shain*

THANK YOU! *from your TLA Membership Committee*

For the second consecutive year, your membership contributions exceeded our annual budget! Your generosity clearly indicates your commitment to our Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (CLMP) to preserve and protect Tomahawk Lake for future generations. For the 2023 calendar year through September 30, 232 members contributed over \$137,000. A list of our contributing members can be found on the next page.

Membership contributions continue to be our largest and most important source of income. Although we have been fortunate to receive Wisconsin DNR grants in each of the last two years for both harvesting and chemical treatments, those carry the biggest amount of uncertainty given the competitive nature of the process, limited state resources, and increasing number of lakes competing for funding to fight invasive aquatic species.

Your membership dues enabled us to harvest Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) for 95 days, 5 days beyond what we planned! Your dues also allowed us to continue our effort to staff the Lake Tomahawk and Indian Mounds campground 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 meeting at Kemp Natural Resource Conference Center with over 70 participants in person and via the online web stream. Eddie Heath of Onterra Consulting provided a status of our CLMP. He

also educated us on how the effectiveness of chemical treatments is dependent upon the geography of the treatment area (i.e., why past chemical treatments in Lakes Minocqua and Kawaguesaga were more effective than in Lake Tomahawk). The Aquatic Plant Management team also provided a summary of the 2022 harvesting activity and the June 2023 chemical treatment of Town Bay.

This annual meeting communicates critical updates regarding our lake management plan and shares education regarding the latest science on EWM management methods such as harvesting and herbicides and their impact and effectiveness of our lake and chain. Just as important, the annual meeting is an efficient time when you can share feedback and ask questions. After-all,

Contribution Profile through September 30, 2023

Tier	Contribution Range	Contributing Members	Percent
Soaring Eagles	\$1,000 & over	48	21%
Whispering Pines	\$500 - \$999	74	32%
Calling Loons	\$100 - \$499	107	46%
Other	< \$100	<u>3</u>	<u>1%</u>
		232	100%

Average contribution per member is \$591.

your input helps shape TLA's lake management plan, so please come learn and share your thoughts! Details for our 2024 annual meeting will be in our Spring newsletter.

If you have not had a chance to renew your membership or you would like to join the TLA, 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.

TLA Membership Committee

Bruce Forsberg

Sheila Forsberg

Jake Harmsen

Adam Redman

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THANK YOU! to our TLA Members!

The following list includes contributions and Hermit Island Swim & Paddle Challenge sponsorships received from 240 members between November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023.

Soaring Eagles \$1,000 or more (53 members)

Abbott, Kathryn
Andersen, James
Anderson, Tom & Pam
Beech, Tom & Carol
Bilik, John & Lisa
John Black & Ann Taylor
Sarah Boles & David Norris
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
Gerstner, Jeff & Dian
Griffin, John & Kim
Groth, Michael & Linda
Harmsen, Scott & Tammy
Hoehne, Faye
Kavemeier, Jim & Kathy
Krueger, Ken & Mary
Kujak, David & Erin
Lakeside Landing
Condominium Assoc.
Larsen, John & Theresa
Laurino, Carl & Jerilyn
Lynch, Patrick & Gail
Mallery, Ryan & Denise
Tess Mallery & Matt Hankins
Mallery, Tuck
McFarlane, Tim & Deborah
Morrissey, Scot & Christine
Orr, Joanne
Redman, Adam & Melissa
Rikkens, Fred & Linda
Roehl, Richard & Tamie
Roehl, Donna
Schuette, Jay & Gretchen
Schuette, Rudie
Schutz, David & Susan
Schwantes, William & Nanette
Shain, Paul & Suzy
Solberg, Trygve & Tula
Sperling, James
Swaney, Tom & Pat
Thompson, Patrick & Janet
Tomahawk Shores Owners Assoc Ltd
Vehrs, Don & Chrisy
Willer, Kurt & Constance
Wright, David

Whispering Pines

\$500 – \$999 (77 members)
In Memory of Mike Igoe & Don Janssen
Albee, Alan
Baines, Jim & Cathy

Bany, Stephen & Lynda
Bateman, Bill & Marsha
Bergman, Don & Bonnie
Burbie, David & Trish
Coriell, Gene & Chris
Cote, Roger & Fran
Cote, Steven & Lyn
DeNamur, Steve & Mary
Dierberg, Jeff & Birgit
Drummond, Gary & Lori
Egen, James & Mary
Sue Ferguson & Family
Fisher, Russell & Chris
Fitzgerald, John & Kate
Forsberg, Bruce & Sheila
Fowler, Jim & Susan
Gabby, Bill
Gantz, James & Jean
Gjerme, Bruce & Sherri
Goltermann, John & Lori
Good, David & Patricia
Hanson, Mark & Marisa
Hardel, Jeff & Jen
Harry, David & Kathy
Hartwig, Mary
Hearthwood Property
Owners Assoc.
Hertz, Bob & Leslie
Hoellerich, Daniel & Lynn
Igoe Family
Indian Shores RV Resort
& Campground
Janssen Family
Johnson, Todd & Ellen
Keele, Doug & Christy
Kehart, Michael & Linda
Kennedy, Kyle & Nikki
Kirschner, Dean & Barb
Lottig, Noah & Bryn
Lynch, Ross & Ruth
Malsack, Philip
Martin, Ann & Sally
McCorison, Kyle & Katie
McEachron, Andy & Barbara
McNamar, Pat & Marlys
McNamar, Justin
Nicholson, Bill & Katie
Nisk, Alice
Olson, Tom & Nancy
Oppenheim, Alan & Margo
Paulsen, Patti
Paulsen, Richard & Theresa
Petersen, David & Carlene
Pregont, Daniel & Sally
Priebe, Becky
Michael Randa & Laura Riesterer
Ripp, Mickey
Rogers, Jeff & Karen
Ross, Bill & Cindy
Schuette, Clark & Kathy
Scuglik, Jim & Betsy
Seramur, John & Joan
Sonneland III, Arthur & Kay

Steiner, Kimberly & Dean
Stengl, Jim & Chris
Thiede, Bob & Cindi
Thiel, Eric & Julie
Van Asten, Michael
Van Ells, Chris & Doreen
Vintika, Raymond & Jori
Walsh, Jim & Kim
Wanserski, David & Lorri
Watkins, Clyde & Cheryl
Winchester, Brad & Casey
Wisnewski, Myron & Rita
Yentz, Tom & Patty

Calling Loons

\$100- \$499 (110 members)
Andersen, Randy & Kathy
Bartling, Peter & Lynn
Blackwell, Tricia
Bloom, John & Judith
Bortner, Rebecca
Bradish, Alan
Broomell, David
Broomell, Ken & Nancy
Broomell, Dare & Mary
Buchheit, Charles & Susan
Chupita, Diane & Amy
Clausen, Annemette & Henrik
Connor, Eugene & Yvonne
Converse, Patrick
Converse, Arlan & Marilyn
Correnti, James & Carol
Correnti, Christopher & Cynthia
Cote, Mark
Crone, John & Linda
Dalton, Daniel & Sheila
Davidson, Michael & Martha
Drewke, Richard & Denise
Dwyer, Peter & Marika
Edgerley, David & Laura
Elliott, Craig
Etzel, Gary & Holly
Faulks, Robert & Christine
Filippo, Sam & Susan
Bryan Fink & Amanda Zoellner
Fisher, Roger & Donna
Franck, Aaron & Carla
Frost, Jack & Delores
Gazeley, Janis & Gail
Gelinas, Mike & Cathy
Glencoe Lake House LLC
Goltermann, Christine
Gudenkaufs
Hagnauer, E.F. & Julie
Hamel, Joseph & Ruth
Hanson, John & Carolyn
Harding, Ann
Harwood, Richard
Haugh, David
Haugh, John & Pamela
Hilgemann, Paul & Rene
Hilgemann, John & Sandy
Hill, Jeffrey

Hilltop Condominiums
Hogan, Scott & Shelly
Huggett, Wes & Kelley
Jacobs, Mark & Judy
Johnson, Mike & Dawn
Jones, Wendy
Kempf, Donna
Klecker, Francis & Judith
Klement, Jeff & Patricia
Kuettner, Karen
Lesch, Donna
Lewis, Trevor
Lloyd, David & Rose
MacDonald, Helen
Mackie, Alexander & Kelly
McCarthy, Justin & Nora
McDonald Family
McLay, Douglas & Kathleen
Meitus, Scott
Molepske, Sr., Louis & Sue
Mortlock, Kevin & Nicole
Nichol, Patricia
Nichols, Christopher & Maureen
Nikolai, Allan & Rob
Oberpriller, Mary
O'Connor, Brian & Nicole
O'Connor, Todd & Patricia
Pagel, Keith & Lisa
Palmer, Sarah & Pete
Perina, Robert & Sarah
Pokorny, Laddie & Evalyn
Priebe, Dustin & Kimberly
Rheinschmidt, David & Judie
Rich, Mark & Devra
Rikkens Kids
Rine, Gary & Sharon
Romanski, Roger
Romanski-Morlock Family
Saari, Robert & Susan
Scharer, Nathan & Krista
Simenstad, David & Martha
Sloan, Raymond
Smith, Laird & Nancy
Smithing, William & Patricia
Sobocinski, Michael & Sarah
Sosnowski, Brian & Darlene
Sovine, Tom & C.C.
Stankowski, Ervin & Patricia
Stansell, Gil & Sandy
Steiner, Kimberly & Dean
Swaney, Tom & Pat
Thalacker, Rick & Cyndi
Thompson, James
Troyer, Bryan & Jane
Vance, Hobey & Carol
Watson, James & Beverly
Weddle, Andrew
Weldon, Robert & Elizabeth
Winger, Kevin & Patti
Witte, Mark
Woller, Steve & Nancy
Wright, Daniel & Elizabeth
Zimmer, David & Patti

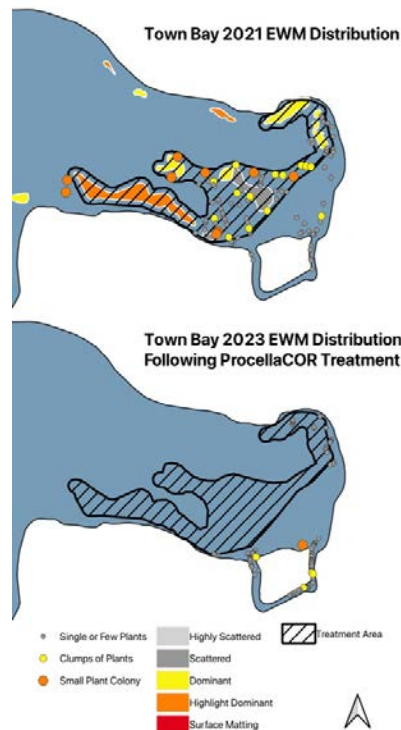
Update on Town Bay Chemical Treatment

In alignment with our Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan, the Tomahawk Lake Association (TLA) sought permits from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to conduct chemical treatments in two specific bays: Town Bay and Echo Bay. Although our application for Echo Bay was declined due to concerns surrounding walleye spawning habitats, we received approval to treat Town Bay.

In mid-June, shortly before our Annual Meeting, we partnered with Aquatic Plant Management, LLC to apply ProcellaCOR in Town Bay. Fast forward to late September, Onterra, our lake consulting partner, undertook a survey of Town Bay to evaluate the effectiveness of the chemical treatment.

The ProcellaCOR treatment proved highly effective in eradicating EWM within the treated zone, leaving no significant areas of EWM this fall as shown in the 2023 map compared to 2021. *Typically, such treatments offer relief from nuisances for an estimated three years.* Considering the unsuccessful application of ProcellaCOR in other areas of the lake in 2019, this recent positive outcome has increased our confidence in incorporating ProcellaCOR into our future management strategies. We plan to apply for a permit to treat additional areas in 2024.

Onterra is still completing its analysis of the Fall 2023 survey data. For a comprehensive analysis of this treatment, as well as results from our entire lake EWM survey, stay tuned for our Spring 2024 newsletter. We're committed to keeping our community informed and ensuring the health and beauty of Tomahawk Lake.



Strategy Behind Fall Harvesting of Milfoil



As the summer season winds down and many residents depart from the serene surroundings of Tomahawk Lake, some might notice the TLA harvester still at work, cutting down milfoil in the late September and early October chill. This might raise the question: *Why does the TLA continue its harvesting operations after most property owners have left for the season? The answer lies in understanding the unique life cycle of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM).*

EWM's Evergreen Nature

Unlike many aquatic plants that die back during the colder months, EWM is evergreen. This means it remains alive throughout the winter, albeit in a dormant state. Come late September, the plant ceases its growth and, rather than dying, it simply slumps over. As winter recedes and spring emerges, the EWM stands back up, resuming its growth from the height it had achieved the previous fall. This gives EWM a significant advantage, as it can overshadow and block out native plants, preventing them from flourishing.

Benefits of Fall Harvesting

Harvesting EWM in the fall offers several strategic advantages:

- 1. Weakening the Plant:** Preliminary evidence suggests that consistent cutting of EWM in the late fall, over multiple years, can weaken the plant. This repeated cutting may reduce the plant's overall health, leading to a decrease in its density in the lake.
- 2. Preventing a Spring Nuisance:** If left uncut, the tall EWM plants would have a considerable head start come spring. They would immediately become a nuisance, overshadowing the lake's surface and hindering the growth of native plants. By cutting them in the fall after they have stopped growing, we ensure that the lake doesn't start the new season already overwhelmed by EWM.
- 3. Giving Native Plants a Fighting Chance:** Removing the tall EWM plants in the fall levels the playing field for the early-growing native plants. Come spring, without the towering presence of EWM, these native plants have a better opportunity to grow, potentially outcompeting the EWM.

In conclusion, TLA's fall harvesting strategy is a deliberate and informed approach, grounded in understanding the biology of EWM and the broader ecosystem of Tomahawk Lake. While it might seem counterintuitive, this approach is a testament to our commitment to preserving the lake's natural balance.

Why TLA No Longer Operates DASH Boats

The Tomahawk Lake Association (TLA) has always been committed to preserving the beauty and health of Tomahawk Lake. One of the challenges we've faced over the years is the proliferation of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) around our docks, shore stations, and swim rafts. In the past, we employed TLA-operated Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) boats as a method to combat this invasive species. However, after careful consideration and consultation with our community, we decided to discontinue the operation of DASH boats on the lake in 2022.

Here's why:

Time Constraints: Providing DASH services for all residents of Tomahawk Lake is a time-intensive process. It would take between 70 and 90 days to cover the entire lake. Moreover, for the treatment to be effective and provide relief to residents before the end of summer, DASH services would need to be completed by mid-July. We would have needed 3 or 4 DASH boats to accomplish this and operators who only wanted to work for a short period of time.

Operational Costs: The two existing TLA boats come with a hefty price tag. The cost to operate each DASH boat exceeds \$30,000 for a summer. With the retirement of our executive director, we lost our in-house expertise in operating, maintaining, and training staff for the DASH boats. Hiring a permanent employee to take over these responsibilities would have added significant costs along with needed upgrades and maintenance of the existing boats.

Logistical Challenges: Beyond the operational costs, we faced logistical challenges. Finding docking locations for the boats during the summer proved difficult. Additionally, we lacked the necessary vehicles and trailers to transport the harvested EWM to waste facilities. Addressing these challenges would have further increased our operational costs.

Limited Coverage:

With only two boats, it was impossible to provide shoreline services to every homeowner on the lake. This posed a significant challenge: how do we decide who receives the services and who doesn't?



Outsourcing Considerations: We explored the option of contracting out these services. Estimates ranged from \$138,000 to \$200,000 annually. While this might seem extremely expensive relative to running our own boats, when factoring in insurance, maintenance, storage, vehicles, trailers for disposal, and the salary of an operations manager, the costs to run our own boats would likely be similar.

Community Involvement: On September 25, 2021, the TLA board held a public meeting at Kemp Station to discuss these challenges. We ensured that the entire TLA community was invited and even live-streamed the event for remote participation. The consensus from this meeting was clear: it was not financially feasible to continue providing free DASH services to all homeowners. Moreover, operating a limited DASH service would be problematic due to the challenges in determining service recipients. This meeting resulted in the collaborative decision to embrace a Dock-Out strategy that we have implemented in our management activities.

A New Approach: Understanding the importance of addressing the EWM issue, we negotiated a reduced DASH rate with Aquatic Plant Management (APM) for our Whispering Pines and Soaring Eagles TLA members. This allows individuals to acquire DASH services on their own, at a discounted rate. Furthermore, to simplify the process for homeowners, as part of TLA's services to homeowners, TLA now handles the annual permit applications required for homeowners to work with APM. This eliminates the need for homeowners to navigate the often-burdensome process of obtaining their own permits for DASH services. For individuals who are concerned about the cost of DASH services, there is also the ability to use weed razors to cut weeds around docks, boat lifts, and swim rafts.

In conclusion, the decision to discontinue the operation of DASH boats was not taken lightly and funds allocated to prior DASH efforts are now allocated to harvesting and chemical treatment activities. We believe that our new approach not only addresses the financial challenges we faced, but also provides a more sustainable and equitable solution for all residents.

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



TLA's Evolution in Managing EWM with Chemicals

From 2,4-D to ProcellaCOR

The Tomahawk Lake Association (TLA) has been at the forefront of managing the invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) to ensure the health and beauty of our beloved lake. Over the years, our approach has evolved, adapting to new research, regulations, and the unique challenges each year brings.

This article aims to provide an overview of our journey in managing EWM, especially focusing on our use of chemicals.

Historical Approach

Historically, TLA employed a two-pronged strategy to manage EWM: the use of a chemical called 2,4-D and Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) boats. However, in 2017, due to several scientific studies, Wisconsin DNR (WDNR) determined 2,4-D was no longer deemed suitable for Tomahawk Lake. For a detailed account of this decision, please refer to the article by our former executive director in the Spring 2017 newsletter located on our website at www.tomahawklake.org/resources.

Treat-no-Treat Study

In 2018, with the absence of 2,4-D, TLA embarked on the Treat-no-Treat study to test ProcellaCOR—a newer chemical alternative. The following year, we invested approximately \$56,000 to treat two bays, Echo and Pickeral. The weather conditions seemed perfect, and our neighboring Minocqua Kawaga Lake Association employed the same

contractor for the same treatment on Minocqua Lake the following day. However, by summer's end, it became evident that the chemical treatment had failed, as detailed in Ned Greedy's article, "Treat/No Treat" Eurasian Milfoil Study, in the Fall 2019 newsletter at www.tomahawklake.org/resources. Understandably, this failure made us hesitant to retry, especially considering the financial implications.

Challenges of 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic brought its own set of challenges in 2020. Early in the year, we faced uncertainties about hiring staff due to restrictions on state funds intended for our DASH operations and we were also hoping the prior chemical treatments in 2019 would miraculously show success the year after treatment. Unfortunately, our EWM surveys in the treated areas demonstrated that there was no longer any difference in EWM populations in the treated and untreated areas of the study.

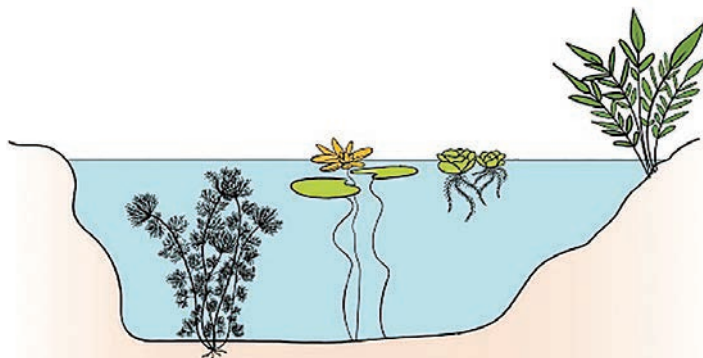
Regulatory Hurdles and A New Plan

In 2021, we encountered another obstacle. Due to changes in WDNR regulations, our Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan, which is required to obtain chemical permits, had to be revamped sooner than expected. To address this, we contracted with Onterra to update our APM plan—which was finalized in 2022. This update not only made us eligible for grant funding but also identified ProcellaCOR as a potential treatment option, replacing the now-outdated 2,4-D. A group of lake residents in consultation with Onterra, as part of this planning process, recommended a new trial in 2023 of ProcellaCOR to ascertain if the 2019 failure was an anomaly or due to other factors.

2023: ProcellaCOR Take 2

With our updated APM plan in hand, TLA sought grant funding to support our trial ProcellaCOR treatment. The WDNR awarded us a grant in early 2023, and we applied to treat two bays, Echo Bay and Town Bay. However, the WDNR denied our application for Echo Bay, citing concerns about walleye spawning and the ongoing walleye rehabilitation effort on the Minocqua chain. Minocqua lakes faced similar

herbicide permit denials for two of their three proposed treatment areas in summer 2023. Fortunately, our application for Town Bay was approved and the treatment there proved highly successful based on Onterra's survey this fall.



Looking Ahead

As we move into 2024, TLA plans to identify additional bays for treatment in 2024 and beyond. We remain committed to using chemicals in a scientifically supported and judicious manner, as outlined in our WDNR-approved APM plan. While we recognize that we may not always be able to use chemicals everywhere we'd like, we'll continue collaborating with the WDNR to identify the best potential treatment areas. Our multifaceted approach from the approved APM plan, including DASH, harvesting, chemicals, and in some cases, allowing nature to take its course, will continue to guide our efforts.

Concerns with Chemicals

The use of chemicals in our lake management strategy is not without its concerns. It took years to fully grasp the non-target impacts of 2,4-D on our lakes. With ProcellaCOR being a relatively recent addition, first used in WI in 2019, there's limited research available on its non-target impacts. As responsible custodians of Tomahawk Lake, we are committed to staying updated with the latest research on ProcellaCOR's effectiveness and any unforeseen effects it might have on the ecosystem. Our primary goal is to ensure that while we address the challenges of today, we do not inadvertently compromise the lake's

health for future generations. We are deeply invested in preserving the legacy of this magnificent lake, ensuring that the decisions we make today are both informed and considerate of tomorrow.

In conclusion, TLA's journey in managing EWM reflects our unwavering commitment to Tomahawk Lake. Through challenges and changes, our goal remains the same: to ensure the health and beauty of our lake for generations to come through sound, scientific-based management actions.

Introduction to – Shoreline Services Group

Chuck Buchheit, a Pottawattomie Colony resident, is forming and overseeing a new entity called Shoreline Services Group (SSG). This is a service for property owners, within Pottawattomie Colony, who are interested in using the herbicide ProcellaCOR to manage EWM around their individual docks and shorelines. SSG is not eligible for WDNR grants, so the cost of the treatment will be an expense to the individual property owner.

Herbicide application permits for ProcellaCOR treatments are required by the WDNR. SSG will assist Pottawattomie property owners with completing their WDNR permit application. The applications will be collected by SSG and submitted in bulk for approval. If the DNR approaches TLA, TLA will indicate that they are not part of this management effort and will not take a position either in support of or against the herbicide treatment application. If the SSG applications are approved, ProcellaCOR will be applied by Aquatic Plant Management LLC (APM). APM LLC has been approved to apply ProcellaCOR by the WDNR. This past June, TLA used APM LLC to apply ProcellaCOR in Town Bay as part of its awarded 2023 chemical grant and approved permit by the WDNR.



TLA and SSG share a common interest in avoiding overlapping treatment areas. As 2024 plans develop, TLA will advise SSG which areas it proposes for chemical treatment and expects SSG to inform TLA of its plans to treat shoreline areas that are approved for individual ProcellaCOR treatment.

TLA will continue its multifaceted approach to manage EWM throughout the entire lake as set forth in its WDNR-approved Aquatic Plant Management Plan (see the Leading the Way article on page 4 about this plan). Therefore, it is imperative that property owners continue to contribute to TLA to protect and preserve our entire lake.

If you have questions or interest in SSG, contact Chuck Buchheit directly at chuck.buchheit@gmail.com.

TOMAHAWK LAKE

Association, Inc.

Hazelhurst • Lake Tomahawk • Minocqua • Woodruff

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

Update your contact information

Email membership@tomahawklake.org to update any information. We need to keep you up to date on happenings around Tomahawk Lake. *Thanks!*

'Tis the Season...

...to start shopping for those on your Christmas list! What better place to start than the Tomahawk Lake Association!

Our new merchandise has been flying off the shelves, but it's not too late to pick up some great gifts.

Nike Dri-Fit ½-zip Pullovers

For those chilly mornings or evenings on the boat, we offer Nike Dri-Fit ½ zip pullovers, embroidered with our TLA logo. Available in royal blue (men) and white (women). **\$95**

OGIO Endurance t-shirts

Also new this year are men's and women's OGIO Endurance t-shirts with stay-cool wicking technology. T-shirts boldly display the TLA logo for all to see! Available in gear gray heather (men) and gear gray (women). **\$30**



MEN'S



WOMEN'S



MEN'S

WOMEN'S



Hat \$30 or Beach Towel \$40

Need another great gift idea? How about our new hats or towels embroidered with the TLA logo?

Sherpa Throw Blanket

For those cold winter nights, we have a few cozy sherpa throw blankets available! 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! **\$40**

Remember: All purchases help support and maintain the most beautiful lake in the Northwoods –Tomahawk Lake!

To order your TLA merchandise, please contact Trish Burbie at tmareck@yahoo.com