



## Note from the President

from Noah Lottig, PhD, TLA President

Dear Tomahawk Lake Association Members,

*As the vibrant colors of autumn surround us and another beautiful summer season on Tomahawk Lake comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past few months and express my heartfelt appreciation to each of you. It's been another fantastic summer filled with community events, recreational activities, and ongoing stewardship efforts. I want to personally thank all of you for being such active participants in these activities, whether it was through attending events, volunteering your time, or simply enjoying the lake with family and friends. Your engagement helps foster the supportive community that is essential to preserving the natural beauty of Tomahawk Lake.*



*The TLA Board would also like to extend a special thank you to Adam Redman for his 12 years of dedicated service on the TLA Board of Directors. Adam has decided not to seek another term on the board as he shifts his focus toward other pursuits. His commitment and contributions to our lake community over the years have been invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and passion he has invested in the TLA's mission.*

*I'd also like to extend a special thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Tomahawk Lake Association (TLA) this year. Your generous donations are critical to our mission of protecting and enhancing the lake's environment. We have a number of accomplishments that wouldn't have been possible without your support. First, we continue to develop and refine our Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) harvesting program and, although not perfect, we are making progress in leveraging this tool to maintain recreational access on the lake. The Wisconsin DNR and our consultants have consistently reinforced that this approach is the most effective for Tomahawk Lake and has the least negative impacts on the lake's overall health. Managing EWM fragments remains a challenge, both from recreational activity (boaters navigating through EWM patches) and from the harvesting process itself.*

*We were very encouraged by the success of the dock pickup program*

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### DEDICATED TO TOMAHAWK LAKE

The Tomahawk Lake Association is the only resource dedicated exclusively to Tomahawk Lake. This does not mean that the issues we address necessarily are unique to our lake, but they are of high concern to those who care about the lake. Tomahawk Lake unites us as an "interest group," which gives us greater capacity to preserve and protect this beautiful lake through our combined efforts and financial resources.

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## THANK YOU!

from your TLA  
Membership Committee

**Thank you for your contributions to your Tomahawk Lake Association!** Your generosity clearly indicates your commitment to our Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (CLMP) to preserve and protect Tomahawk Lake for future generations. For the 2024 calendar year through September 30, 205 members contributed over \$130,000. Membership contributions continue to be our largest and most important source of income. A list of our 213 members who have contributed since November 1, 2023 (when we published our list of contributors in last year's Fall newsletter) appears on page 4.

Although we have been fortunate to receive significant Wisconsin DNR grants in the last

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

## Note from the President

(Continued from page 1)

for EWM and are looking to expand this service to run weekly from late June through Labor Day weekend next year. Additionally, we completed another year of targeted chemical treatments for EWM, which again yielded positive results. We plan to continue using this tool where appropriate in the lake. A full report on EWM management, including details on the prior two years of chemical treatments, will be available on our website in late spring and will be reviewed at our annual meeting in June.

Several of the TLA Board members attended the Minocqua Kawagasaga Lake Protection Association (MKLPA) annual meeting this year, and I want to provide you with an update on the EWM management efforts throughout the chain. As many of you may recall, we completed the update to our Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan two years ago. This process required a significant amount of effort. It was developed using the input you all provided in surveys, as well as the work of a planning committee composed of residents from different areas around Tomahawk Lake. As a result of that effort, the TLA established the management goal to "Actively manage EWM to keep populations from negatively impacting recreation, navigation, and aesthetics."

The MKLPA just completed their updated APM plan this year, and their new management goal is now very similar to ours. Their goal is to "Actively manage EWM to keep the population from negatively affecting water recreation and navigation, while maintaining a healthy and vibrant ecosystem." Our two management goals are nearly identical, and central to both of them is minimizing the impact of EWM on recreation and navigation. Embedded in these goals is the recognition that there is no mechanism to permanently eradicate EWM. As such, the goal isn't necessarily to reduce how much EWM is present in our lakes, but rather to manage the EWM populations in a way that minimizes their impact on the usability and enjoyment of our lakes.

Given the similarities in our management goals, our management approaches were also very similar in 2024, and I anticipate substantial alignment in our strategies moving forward. This past year, both organizations invested around \$250,000 in managing EWM. Approximately 20-25% of our budgets were dedicated to targeted chemical treatments, while the remaining budgets were used for mechanical removal efforts, including DASH (Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting) and large-scale mechanical harvesting. Both associations are focused on managing EWM populations that impact recreation and navigation,

while recognizing that some areas are best left unmanaged to maintain the overall health of the ecosystem.

The commonalities that have emerged in the management of EWM on our lakes are largely influenced by the Wisconsin DNR's preferred approaches for managing EWM:

- (1) DASH,
- (2) harvesting, and
- (3) chemical treatments as a last resort.

The DNR has adopted a more conservative stance with respect to permitting chemical treatments in recent years, and both the MKLPA and TLA have experienced multiple permit denials for chemical treatments. The DNR's emphasis has been on exploring mechanical harvesting and other non-chemical approaches first before considering chemical options.

Fortunately, TLA has been a regional leader in this transition, and because of our proactive stance, we have received significant support from the DNR to develop and refine best practices for harvesting. This funding, along with our already-established harvesting program, has positioned us well to manage EWM effectively, even when chemical treatment permits are not granted.

Over the years, TLA has been extremely fortunate to receive significant support from the Wisconsin DNR through grant funding for EWM management on Tomahawk Lake. In the last four years alone, we have been awarded \$350,000 to support these vital activities. **However, this past year the DNR revised its grant funding criteria to ensure funds are distributed more broadly among lake associations throughout the state. As a result, moving forward we should expect to receive a grant only once every 4-5 years. This change will have a substantial impact on our annual budget and our ability to sustain current levels of EWM management.**

In addition to changes in DNR funding, we are receiving indications that the towns may reduce their contributions to our budget, due to financial constraints they are facing. So, what does this mean for our lake? Over the next couple of years, we will likely need to increase our fundraising by at least \$100,000 annually to maintain our current efforts. Currently, we have a very dedicated group of contributors on the lake, and I, along with the TLA Board, want to thank each of you from the bottom of our hearts for your unwavering support. However, only about half of the residents on Tomahawk Lake currently support our lake association through membership and donations.

If we are to overcome these funding challenges, we need more widespread support from all residents around the lake.

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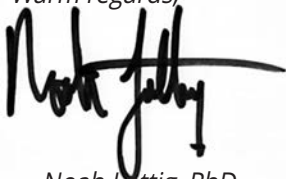
The only viable path forward is to work towards having all residents of Tomahawk Lake support the management of our lake to preserve and protect it for future generations. In 2025, we anticipate nearly doubling our expenditures on chemical treatments for EWM, bringing our overall EWM management budget to approximately \$300,000.

If you haven't yet joined and supported the TLA this year, I urge you to consider doing so. If you are already a member, please take a moment to review the list of members and see if any of your friends or neighbors are not yet involved. Talk to them about the importance of the TLA and the critical work we do to preserve and protect this lake. Increasing our fundraising will require greater participation from all residents so that the burden does not fall disproportionately on just a few.

We are approaching a crossroads. Either we work together to increase our membership and financial support from residents who are not currently members of our association, or we will need to consider forming a Lake District, which would involve establishing a tax levy on all properties. My preference is to avoid forming a Lake District, but to do so, we will need your help in reaching new members and conveying the importance of supporting the TLA.

This is my challenge to all of you in the coming year: engage with your friends and neighbors who are not yet members of the TLA and help convey the value and necessity of supporting the lake association. The future of Tomahawk Lake depends on all of us coming together to preserve and protect this outstanding resource that we love and call home.

Warm regards,



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

## TLA Membership Committee

(Continued from page 1)

two years for both harvesting and chemical treatments, the DNR scoring system to award grants has recently changed. The goal of the new scoring system is to "spread the resources" so that more lake associations receive state funding. As a result, we will most likely not receive similar grants in the next several years. This means more of the burden will fall on our members to support our efforts. So, **please reach out to your lake neighbors and ask them to join the TLA if they are not already a member!**

**Your contributions enabled us to harvest Eurasian Water Milfoil for 90 days for a third straight summer.** The main goal in our fight against EWM is to provide recreational use of our lake. The harvester cuts the plants to a depth of 6 feet below the water surface allowing boats and PWCs the navigational access they require. This year, we treated Clearwater Bay with the ProcettaCOR herbicide, a similar treatment we did in Town Bay in 2023. Preliminary results are positive, but we always hold off a final assessment until the following year's growing season.

Your contributions also allow us to continue staffing 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 benefitting from our *Clean Boats Clean Water* program.

In June, we held our annual meeting again at Kemp Natural Resource Conference Center with over 50 participants in person and via the online web stream. Our President, Noah Lottig, and Eddie Heath of Onterra Consulting provided a status of our CLMP. Board member Jim Kavemeier reviewed our lake stewardship initiative and the best practices you can take to ensure the best environmental health of our lake and shorelands. I had the privilege of sharing our membership profile and overall financial status noting where your dollars go. Watch for details about our 2025 meeting in our Spring newsletter. We encourage everyone to attend.

If you have not had a chance to renew your membership or your neighbor would like to join the TLA, go to 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   Sheila Forsberg   Jake Harmsen   Adam Redman



# Thank You to our TLA Members!

The following list includes contributions and Hermit Island Swim & Paddle Challenge sponsorships received from 213 members between November 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

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

Abbott, Kathryn  
Andersen, James  
Anderson, Tom & Pam  
Arias, Gil & Kate  
Bany, Stephen & Lynda  
Beech, Tom & Carol  
Bergman, Don & Bonnie  
Boles, Sarah  
Clearwater Camp Foundation  
Dagit, Aaron & Julie  
Daly, Kathy  
Dell, JD & Ann  
DeNamur, Steve & Mary  
Donner, Keith & Gail  
Filippo, Sam & Susan  
Fites, Donald & Joyce  
Foster, Race & Lynne  
Fox, Tony & Erin  
Francois, Joseph & Penny  
Gauchel, Peter & Brenda  
Gauerke, Scott & Pam  
Gerstner, Jeff & Dian  
Griffin, John & Kimberly  
Groth, Michael & Linda  
Harmsen, Scott & Tammy  
Jenkins, Dave & Joy  
Kavemeier, Jim & Kathy  
Kirschner, Dean & Barb  
Krueger, Ken & Mary  
Kujak, David & Erin  
Lakeside Landing  
Condominium Assoc.  
Larsen, John & Theresa  
Laurino, Carl & Jerilyn  
Mallery, Ryan & Denise  
Mallery, Tess & Matt Hankins  
Mallery, Tuck  
Marrinson, Ralph & Martha  
Moews, Dirk & Barb  
Morrissey, Scot & Christine  
Orr, Joanne  
Redman, Adam & Melissa  
Ridders, Fred & Linda  
Roehl, Richard & Tamie  
Schuette, Jay & Gretchen  
Schuette, Rudie  
Shain, Paul & Suzy  
Solberg, Trygve & Tula  
Swaney, Tom & Pat  
Thompson, Patrick & Janet  
Tomahawk Shores Owners  
Association  
Vehrs, Don & Chrisy  
Willer, Kurt & Constance  
Wright DVM, David

## Whispering Pines \$500 – \$999 (68 members)

Ackermann, Sara & Todd Nagel  
Albee, Alan  
Baines, Jim & Cathy  
Bateman, Bill & Marsha  
Coriell, Gene & Chris  
Drummond, Gary & Lori  
Ferguson, Sue & Family  
Fisher, Russell & Chris  
Fitzgerald, John & Kate  
Forsberg, Bruce & Sheila  
Fowler, Jim & Susan  
Gabby, Bill  
Gantz, James & Jean  
Gazeley, Janis & Gail  
Gerdin, Michael & Nicole  
Gjerme, Bruce & Sherri  
Good, David & Patricia  
Hanson, Mark & Marisa  
Hardel, Jeff & Jen  
Harrold, Greg & Shirley  
Harry, David & Kathy  
Hartwig, Mary  
Hearthwood Property  
Owners Assoc.  
Hertz, Bob & Leslie  
Hoehne, Faye  
Hoellerich, Daniel & Lynn  
Hogan, Scott & Shelly  
Indian Shores RV Resort &  
Campground  
Janssen Family  
Johnson, Todd & Ellen  
Keele, Doug & Christy  
Kehart, Michael & Linda  
Kennedy, Kyle & Nikki  
Klement, Jeff & Patricia  
Lottig, Noah & Bryn  
Lynch, Patrick & Gail  
Lynch, Ross & Ruth  
Malsack, Philip  
Martin, Ann & Sally  
McDonald & Family  
McNamar, Pat & Marlys  
McNamar, Justin  
Nisk, Alice  
Olson, Tom & Nancy  
Oppenheim, Alan & Margo  
Paulsen, Patti  
Paulsen, Richard & Theresa  
Petersen, David & Carlene  
Pregont, Daniel & Sally  
Priebe, Becky  
Randa, Michael &  
Laura Riesterer-Randa  
Ripp, Mickey  
Rogers, Jeff & Karen

Scharer, Brandon & Christine  
Schuette, Clark & Kathy  
Schwantes, William & Nanette  
Scuglik, Jim & Betsy  
Seramur Family Foundation  
Steiner, Kimberly & Dean  
Stengl, Jim & Chris  
Thiel, Eric & Julie  
Van Asten, Michael  
Van Ells, Chris & Doreen  
Vintika, Raymond & Jori  
Walsh, Jim & Kim  
Wanserski, David & Lorri  
Watson, James & Beverly  
Winchester, Brad & Casey

## Calling Loons \$100- \$499 (92 members)

Andersen, Randy & Kathy  
Bartling, Peter & Lynn  
Bilik John & Lisa  
Blackwell, Tricia  
Bortner Family  
Bradish Family  
Broomell, David  
Buchheit, Charles & Susan  
Chupita, Diane & Amy  
Clausen, Annemette & Henrik  
Coleman, Christopher & Kelly  
Combs, Virginia  
Connor, Eugene & Yvonne  
Converse, Arlan & Marilyn  
Converse, Patrick &  
Suzanne Clements  
Correnti, James & Carol  
Correnti, Christopher & Cynthia  
Cote, Steven & Lyn  
Cote, Mark  
Cotherman Family  
Dalton, Daniel & Sheila  
Davidson, Michael & Martha  
Dierberg, Jeff & Birgit  
Drewke, Denise  
Dure, Lisa  
Etsel, Gary & Holly  
Faulks, Robert & Christine  
Fink, Bryan & Amanda Zoellner  
Fisher, Roger & Donna  
Franck, Aaron & Carla  
Glencoe Lake House LLC  
Goltermann, Christine  
Gudenkauf, Steven & Tami  
Hagnauer, E.F. & Julie  
Hamel, Joseph & Ruth  
Harding, Ann  
Harmsen, Jake  
Harrold, Nathan

Harwood, Richard  
Haugh, David  
Haugh, John & Pamela  
Haugh, Patricia  
Hilgemann, John & Sandy  
Hilgemann, Paul & Rene  
Hill, Jeffrey  
Hilltop Condominiums  
Hodek, Michael & Morgan  
Johnson, Mike & Dawn  
Jones, Wendy  
Kempf, Donna  
Kleckner, Francis & Judith  
Laszewski, Joyce  
Lloyd, David & Rose  
MacDonald, Helen  
Mackie, Alexander & Kelly  
Markey, Larry & Lana  
McCarthy, Justin & Nora  
McLay, Douglas & Kathleen  
Molepske, Sr., Louis & Sue  
Nichols, Christopher &  
Maureen  
Nikolai, Allan & Rob  
Oberpriller, Mary  
O'Connor, Brian & Nicole  
Olson, Tom & Nancy  
Palmer, Sarah & Pete  
Pokorny, Laddie & Evalyn  
Rheinschmidt, David & Judie  
Rich, Mark & Devra  
Riesterer, Rick & Sherry  
Robinson, Delbert & Cathy  
Romanski-Morlock Family  
Saari, Robert & Susan  
Scharer, Nathan & Krista  
Schindler, Gary & Margie  
Sexton, Glen  
Simenstad, David & Martha  
Sloan, Raymond & Laurie  
Smith, Laird & Nancy  
Smithing, William & Patricia  
Sobocinski, Michael & Sarah  
Sonneland III, Arthur & Kay  
Stankowski, Ervin & Patricia  
Thalacker, Rick & Cyndi  
Thiede, Bob & Cindi  
Thompson, Brad  
Troyer, Bryan & Jane  
Vance, Hobey & Carol  
Weddle, Andrew  
Winger, Kevin & Patti  
Wisnewski, Myron & Rita  
Woller, Steve & Nancy  
Zimmer, David & Patti

# By the Numbers\$!\$!

from the Treasurer's desk

Dear TLA Contributing Members,

Thank you for your continued financial support of your lake association and our partners who we team with to execute our Comprehensive Lake Management Plan. The chart below summarizes our performance to the 2024 annual budget. Although the year is not complete, I am pleased to report we should finish the year with a small deficit of around \$5,000 versus the \$24,000 deficit we had in our budget.

## Tomahawk Lake Association Annual Operating Budget Comparison 2024

	Total 2024 Annual Budget	Total 2024 Annual Forecast
	90 DAYS OF HARVESTING	90 DAYS OF HARVESTING
Income		
Town Revenue	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000
Grant Revenue	98,082	95,234
Membership Dues	130,000	127,423
Event Income	5,500	6,800
Misc. Income	15,418	15,963
Total Income	\$ 273,000	\$ 269,420
Expenses		
Payroll Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,934
EWM Monitoring / Planning	9,595	6,740
Chemical Treatment	51,558	50,922
Harvesting Contractor	189,300	191,280
Member Communication	8,000	5,566
Lake District Committee	5,000	-
Event Expenses	5,000	2,426
Shoreland Stewardship	2,000	958
General Operations	6,182	3,272
Depreciation	365	365
Accounting & Legal Services	10,000	5,000
Total Expenses	\$ 297,000	\$ 274,463
Shortfall / Surplus	\$ (24,000)	\$ (5,043)

### Here are a few words behind the numbers...

- Membership dues will finish close to our budget of \$130,000. Your contributions continue to be the largest source of our overall income. A handful of members also supported our annual Hermit Island Swim Challenge fundraiser which resulted in an additional \$6,800 of support.
- DNR Grant Revenue will be around \$95,000. As I outlined in our Spring newsletter, we were very fortunate to receive another two-year \$150,000 Mechanical Harvesting grant which will cover 2024 and 2025. We harvested another 90 days this year at a cost of \$180,000, in which \$75,000 will be funded from our new grant. Although we did not receive a 2024 grant for chemical treatment, we carried over \$16,000 from the 2023 grant and used it toward the total cost of \$51,000 to treat Clearwater Bay with ProcettaCOR. Our *Clean Boats Clean Water* program of boat inspections continues to be funded in part by the DNR.

(Continued in next column)

- The towns that border our lake met their budgeted commitment of \$24,000.
- Aquatic Invasive Species Management & Control comprise over 90% of our annual spend and will approximate \$250,000. Our three-pronged approach of mechanical harvesting, strategic chemical treatments and DASH services, along with outstanding management oversight by Onterra, LLC, is where most of your dollars are spent.

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 continue to 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!

Bruce Forsberg, TLA Treasurer







## The Tomahawk Lake System is a precious resource, and you are a crucial part of its preservation.

### Its beauty and recreational opportunities add immeasurably to our quality of life.

As a shoreland property owner, you can preserve and protect the lake's water quality for present and future generations. By practicing good shoreland nutrient management, maintaining and enhancing shoreland wildlife habitat, and boating in a manner that does not harm what we are trying to preserve and protect, you are making a significant difference. These are the principles on which the *Lake Steward* Initiative is founded.

**The Lake Steward Initiative is not just a suggestion, but a crucial call to action.** Many shoreland owners believe that the appearance of their shoreland reflects their character. A meticulously maintained shoreland may signal diligence and care, but these practices, while suitable for urban areas, are not in the best interest of our lake's health. The *Lake Steward* Initiative is a call to action, urging us to rethink our approach and adopt practices that align with the lake's needs.

**As Lake Stewards, we are entrusted with a delicate balance.** We must honor our cultural need for order

while **respecting the lake's NEED for natural wooded shorelines, emerging vegetation in shallow waters, woody debris, and mucky bottom sediment** along our shallow areas. This balance is not a compromise, but a testament to our understanding and respect for our environment.

The *Lake Steward* Initiative is not just a set of suggested practices but a beacon of hope for Tomahawk Lake. **These practices are easy and doable.** We understand that every shoreland property is unique, and only some of the suggested practices may not suit your property for cultural or site-specific reasons. However, we encourage you to consider the simple and doable *Lake Steward* shoreland practices. Think, 'I can do this', if not, think what you could do. **Every Lake Steward practice you can implement on your shoreland is a step towards a better future for the lake's health.** We must work as a community to preserve this incredible body of water we call home.

## Get Immediate Results

Here are several easy, no-cost, or low-cost Lake Steward shoreland practices that can result in a healthier lake.

### 1. Simply Stop Mowing

The easiest and least expensive way to reduce nutrients from entering the lake and establish critical habitats for bees, butterflies, birds, and insects is to **establish a no-mow buffer zone.** A vegetative, no-mow natural buffer zone reduces the time and costs of maintaining a lawn to the water's edge. It also deters geese who prefer well-manicured lawns with unrestricted access from the water to the lawn. The minimum distance needed to filter water runoff and provide wildlife habitat areas is 25 to 35 feet from the water's edge landward to your lawn. If the suggested buffer distance is impossible for cultural or site-specific reasons, do what buffer distance you can, but establish a no-mow buffer zone.

### 2. Stop or Minimize Broadcast Fertilizer, Herbicide, and Pesticide Use

These products are often used to maintain lawns and are used in commercial mosquito sprays. Save the money! **It will reduce the nutrients entering the lake, which causes algae and plant growth.** An added benefit is it will provide enjoyment in viewing nesting birds because there will be insects for the birds to eat.

### 3. Allow Dead Trees That Fall into the Water to Stay in Place

This wood **provides feeding, breeding, and nesting areas for wildlife**, from fish to birds. Above the water, ducks, turtles, and other wildlife use the wood to sun themselves. It is less work and less expensive for you.

### 4. Inspect and Maintain Your Septic System Regularly

Just like owning a car, septic systems require service. **Seepage from a failing**

**septic system acts like a fertilizer, increasing algae and plant growth.**

In this case, the money should be spent to protect the lake.

### **5. Keep Fallen Leaves Within the Shoreland**

On land, leaves provide natural winter protection for butterflies, moths, bumble bees, and beneficial critters like beetles, millipedes, and spiders. If you have abundant leaves, rake them into shrub, tree, flower, or vegetable gardens. The leaves suppress weeds and insulate the roots. **Fall leaves blown or raked into the lake contain phosphorus, which increases plant and algae growth.**

### **What About Doing More?**

Some *Lake Steward* shoreland practices may require advice or professional assistance, depending on your site conditions. Information sources include the WDNR Healthy Lakes and Rivers website. <https://healthylakeswi.com> and the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department. <https://www.oclw.org>.

### **6. Stop Mowing and Establish a Shoreline Buffer Zone using Native Plants**

A natural buffer zone using native pollinator plants provides valuable wildlife habitat, attracting birds, butterflies, dragonflies, bees, and other critters. It can also play an essential role in the life cycle of fish and reduce nutrients from entering the lake.

### **7. Capture Water Runoff Before It Reaches the Lake**

Ideally, water runoff is captured before it reaches the lake. Based on site conditions, in addition to the natural shoreline buffer zone, the following practices can be used to capture nutrient-rich runoff before it reaches the lake:

- **DIVERSION** – *Prevent Runoff from getting Into Your Lake*

Diversion Practices move water to areas where it can soak into the ground instead. Depending on your property, multiple diversions may be necessary.

- **ROCK INFILTRATION** – *Capture and Clean Runoff*

Rock infiltration practices fit nicely along roof drip lines and driveways and provide space for runoff to filter itself. They work best on sandy or loamy soil.

- **RAIN GARDENS** – *Create Wildlife Habitat and Natural Beauty While Capturing and Cleaning Runoff*

### **8. Reduce Road Salt Use**

The message is to use road salt sparingly and to investigate other methods to reduce slippery surfaces. Remember, everything on land ends up in the water, and increased salt concentrations are toxic to aquatic life.

## **Boating Stewardship**

**Boating stewardship is boating on the lake in a manner that preserves and protects our valuable resources.**

### **9. Boat Respectfully**

While enjoying a day on the water, please ensure your boat is handled

respectfully, that your wake does not cause shoreline erosion, and that the propeller wash does not adversely impact aquatic vegetation or wildlife habitat areas

### **10. Practice Good Wildlife Boating Etiquette**

Never chase, harass, or disturb wildlife found on the lake. Don't navigate over areas where loons have been seen. Loons and loon chicks have died from being hit by boats and propellers. Boat wakes, and waves may also wash eggs from nests.

## **Need Help Deciding Which Shoreland Management Practices to Implement?**

**Use the WDNR Healthy Lakes & Rivers Score My Shore Evaluation Tool.**

*Go to:* [survey.healthylakeswi.com](https://survey.healthylakeswi.com). Take the survey and then review the results to determine which shoreland management practices you want to implement to preserve and protect Tomahawk Lake.

**Contact a TLA representative for a site visit.**

A TLA representative will come to your property to discuss shoreland management practices.

*Email a site visit request to:* [lakehealth@tomahawklake.com](mailto:lakehealth@tomahawklake.com)





## Take The Pledge – Become A Lake Steward

### Join the following TLA members who have taken the pledge:

David Burbie  
Chip Combs  
Jeff Dierberg  
Bruce & Sheila Forsberg  
Robert Guisinger  
Leslie & Bob Hertz  
Jim Kavemeier  
Carl Kwak  
Tuck Mallery  
Tess Mallery  
Alan & Margo  
Oppenheim  
Richard Paulsen  
Patti Paulsen  
Paul Shain  
Art Sonneland  
Marte Witte  
Ryan Mallery  
Tom Beech

#### THE PLEDGE:

*As a property owner within the Tomahawk Lake System, we pledge to support the Lake Steward Initiative of the Tomahawk Lake Association. We agree to implement and promote the Tomahawk Lake Association's efforts to maintain shorelands that protect and preserve our healthy water, create habitat for wildlife, and endorse boating lake stewardship.*

#### For immediate results, we agree to:

1. Create a no-mow shoreland buffer zone of 25 – 35 feet back from the edge of the water.
2. Stop or minimize the broadcast spreading of fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides.
3. Allow dead trees that fall into the water to stay in place.
4. Maintain your septic system regularly.
5. Keep fallen leaves within the shoreland.

#### For long-term results, we agree to consider:

6. Establish a shoreland buffer zone containing native plants.
7. Capture water runoff before it reaches the lake.
8. Reduce road salt use.

#### We endorse boating Lake Stewardship.

9. Boat Respectfully.
10. Respect the wildlife on the lake.

**To become a Lake Steward, fill out the pledge form below and email it or mail it to TLA at the following:**

**Email:** tessmallery@yahoo.com

**Mail:** Tomahawk Lake Organization, P.O. Box 535, Minocqua, WI 54548

*Our Fall newsletter recognizes you as taking the pledge to become a Lake Steward.*

*Thank you for joining us on this journey.*

### LAKE STEWARD PLEDGE

I AM COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE OF TOMAHAWK LAKE AND HAVE TAKEN THE PLEDGE TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE TEN-STEP PROCESS TO BECOME A LAKE STEWARD!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME AS IT SHOULD BE FEATURED IN THE UPCOMING NEWSLETTER  
(i.e., JOHN SMITH, JOHN & MARY SMITH, SMITH FAMILY)

PROPERTY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_





## Caring for Tomahawk Lake in Fall & Winter

Lake Steward Initiative – Environment & Education Committee

*Lake Steward – Making a Difference on Tomahawk Lake*

### FALL

- **Leave the leaves.** Leaves provide natural winter protection for butterflies, moths, bumble bees, and beneficial critters like beetles, millipedes, and spiders. If you have an abundance of leaves, rake them into shrubs, trees, flower, or vegetable gardens. The leaves suppress weeds and insulate the roots. Leaves blown into the lake add phosphorus, a naturally occurring element, and fertilizer, encouraging aquatic plant and algae growth. Preventing nuisance levels of plants and algae requires keeping phosphorus on the land and out of the lake.
- **Maintain your rain garden.** Fall is an excellent time to ensure that downspouts and conduits are clear of leaves for proper flow.
- **Stem the urge to clean your perennial flower beds.** You may have been taught that once perennials are done blooming in the fall, they should be cut back to the ground and flower beds cleaned up to be spic and span. However, rather than clearing away remnants of perennials, leave them standing over winter. Late-flowering plants provide seeds for birds, and hollow-stemmed plants provide homes for some bee species that hibernate in them over winter.
- **Plant a tree to help anchor the soil in place.**



### WINTER

- **Reduce salt use.** A 12-ounce cup of salt (the size of a standard coffee cup) is enough to treat 20 feet of your driveway. Remember, everything on land ends up in the water, including salt used on our driveways and roads.
- **Stop winter invasive species hitchhikers.** Inspect sleds, buckets, and lures. Even when Tomahawk Lake is covered with ice, aquatic hitchhikers can be introduced to the lake.
- **Take the Lake Steward Pledge.** Take the pledge to protect the health, beauty, and recreation use of the Tomahawk Lake System, so the next generations can enjoy the lake as we do.
- **Take the Wisconsin DNR “Rate Your Shore” shoreland evaluation survey.** The survey results will provide shoreland management improvement suggestions. Then, pick one to implement this year.



### TLA BOARD MEMBERS

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# Northwestern Club House

by Louis J. Molepske, Jr.  
TLA Board Member

For this edition of *Postcards from Tomahawk Lake*, I decided it was time to write about the Northwestern Club House on Tomahawk Lake. If you cheer for Willie the Wildcat on Saturdays you might be thinking of a purple and white appointed abode nestled among towering white pine, and a sign reading *alumni only*.

As a University of Wisconsin alumnus, that was my initial thought after I acquired this edition's postcard in December 2018. I purchased the postcard from Sandra Keys in Barbourville, Kentucky. I never asked Ms. Keys about the card's provenance as I suspected she was not acquainted with our lake's history or even Minocqua, Wisconsin.

For the past six years this postcard, entitled "Northwestern Club House" or possibly "North Western Club House" (depending on the postcard's title script), has remained in my collection unexplored. I have passed it up over the years in favor of known historical locations on the lake, until now.

Here is a possible bread crumb that might lead to the Club's location. According to the United States Department of Interior National Park

Service, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, and the application for



Northwestern Club

the Walter, Luther and Anna, boathouse on Minocqua Lake, the following was written:

"By the 1900s, lakeside resorts began to sprout up along the shorelines. A "sportsman club" was organized in Wausau in 1888 and a clubhouse was built on the north shore of Tomahawk Lake. In 1889, the Merrill Fishing Club was formed and they built a clubhouse on what they called "Lake" Tomahawk for the first time. Besides the sports fishing, commercial fishing was successful in the early years. Barrels of fish were shipped daily to Chicago on the St. Paul line. Sometimes the commercial fishermen used dynamite to get the barrels of fish."<sup>1</sup>

Frankly, I'm calling "uncle" on this one and sending it out to you all to help me discover anything about it. **Now it's up to you!** Please help me locate and rediscover the Northwestern Club on Tomahawk Lake; is it possibly on the north shore of Tomahawk Lake as the clue above indicates? The old boathouse might still be there, but

likely not, as many of the wet boathouses on the lake are no longer present. While I am sure you would like a prize for your efforts, I have not gotten board approval to offer a finder's fee. So, I would suggest whoever can find where the Northwestern Club was or is on the lake will have the distinction of being a great sleuth, but no reward.

**\*If you know where the Northwestern Club was or possibly still is please post your response to our Facebook page @ tomahawklakeassociation.** We would love to hear from you!

If this mystery location can be found, I'll make a donation in the person's name to the Tomahawk Lake Association, and I would encourage everyone else reading this to also donate to the Tomahawk Lake Association to support this fun detective work and our mission to promote and enhance the health of the Tomahawk Lake System and its watershed.

*Until next time,  
Keep Exploring our  
Beautiful Lake!*

1. Minocqua Museum. "Strolling Through Time" Historical Walking Tour of Minocqua. Woodruff: White Pine Printing. Fall, 2002. Unpage.



## Lakeview Loon Calls

Exciting things are happening at the **Gaslight Tavern** in Lake Tomahawk as they are now an Asian Fusion Bistro. Chef Brandon Wolff has joined their team and has a brand-new menu featuring dishes from Thailand, China, Japan and Vietnam.

The **Boathouse** supper club has been sold, and rumor has it they will be tearing it down and rebuilding due to the age of the current building. Their beautiful bar will be salvaged and used in the new building.

The **Oakfire** building has gone off the market. The current owners have decided to keep it and rebrand the restaurant. Another great option to stop at on the boat!

A little loon told me some exciting things are coming at the corner of Hwy 47 and Hwy 51 in Woodruff. The former **Woods Café** will become a café and bakery.

The former **Quiet Side Deli** in Hazelhurst will be reopening as **Hazelhurst Sub and Deli**. Watch their Facebook page for updates on when they will be opening.

**Muddy Pawz Lodge** in Minocqua has opened in the former Dick's Doghouse building. They offer daycare, boarding and grooming for your dog, along with a retail store for treats and supplies.

**Earth Goods Art Studio & Boutique** in Minocqua has a new owner, employee Leah Ashe has

taken over the business. Former owner, and longtime potter, Karissa Livingston is in the process of opening her own pottery shop in Minocqua. Check **Earth Goods** Facebook page for fun classes and events for both businesses, or make an appointment to stop by with family or friends to paint pottery, canvases, or wood signs.

The **Bushel + Crate Farm Market** in Woodruff opened this spring in the former Debby's Farm Market building. Stop by for plants, produce, pastas, pumpkins and pies – oh my! They also have fresh “grab ‘n go” artisan sandwiches, salads and homemade bakery items, just to name a few things. They are planning to stay open all winter if possible, so stop by and check out all the delicious options and grab a sandwich to go!

***Remember to support all of our local businesses!***

**Shop local this Holiday season for all your gifts or gift cards.**

## Lake Owner Frontage Treatment Update

The TLA treatment of Crescent (Clearwater) Bay in 2024 was effective and provided a relief from milfoil for the camp and bay residents.

On October 7, the DNR hosted their annual lake planning meeting with TLA and for the first time included lake property owners. The result was encouraging.

We plan to file separately and individually for permits next season in areas that TLA does not treat in 2025. Those individual permits are not dependent on TLA as they are not in tight enclosed bays.

Everyone benefited from the meeting.

*Chuck Buchheit*



## Go Green with the Newsletter!!

***Would you like to receive our semi-annual newsletters by email to help us reduce costs and save trees?***

We have 86 members who have decided to GO GREEN by receiving their newsletter electronically. If you would like to sign up for electronic newsletters, please email your request to [membership@tomahawklake.org](mailto:membership@tomahawklake.org).



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

## It's that time of year...

...to pull out the boat, put away the lawn furniture and... **start Christmas shopping!** What better place to look than the Tomahawk Lake Association? Our new hoodies and hats have been flying off the shelves, but it's not too late to pick up some great gift ideas.



This year we are offering a **Nike club fleece pullover** – perfect for those chilly mornings on the boat or cool evenings around the campfire! The sweatshirts are navy with a white screen-printed TLA logo. This unisex hoodie is available in sizes Small through XXL. **\$75**

Also new this year is our **Nike Dri-Fit perforated hat**. Great for the boat or golf course, this hat is available in blue sapphire, with an embroidered white TLA logo. **\$35**



Looking for something else? We still have men's and women's **Nike golf pullovers** – a very limited supply. **\$95**



**MEN'S**

**WOMEN'S**

**OGIO Endurance t-shirts** Looking for something to wear on those hot July days? Check out the men's gear gray heather and women's gear gray t-shirts with stay-cool wicking technology – a very limited supply. **\$30**

We also have limited supplies of TLA **Beach Towels** **\$30** and our cozy **Sherpa Blankets**. **\$40**

**Browse through the TLA Merchandise section of our website, [tomahawklake.org](http://tomahawklake.org), to view photos of our merchandise.**

To place an order (*shipping available for an additional cost*), please contact Trish Burbie at [tmareck@yahoo.com](mailto:tmareck@yahoo.com).

**As always: All purchases help to support and maintain our beautiful Tomahawk Lake.**