

TOMAHAWK LAKE

Association, Inc.

Spring 2025

Lake life in the Northwoods

Hazelhurst • Lake Tomahawk • Minocqua • Woodruff

Note from the President

from Noah Lottig, PhD, TLA President

Dear Tomahawk Lake Association Members,

As the days grow longer and the ice melts away, it's time to welcome another season on the lake. There's something truly special about the return of summer to Tomahawk Lake—the familiar sound of loons, boats on the water, and neighbors reconnecting after a long winter. On behalf of the Tomahawk Lake Association, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all of you, whether you're returning for another summer or joining us for the first time. I look forward to seeing everyone out enjoying the lake in the coming months.



Our commitment to protecting this incredible water body remains strong. This summer, we continue our comprehensive strategy to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) using a thoughtful, science-based, and integrated approach. This includes mechanical harvesting to control high-use areas, the careful and limited use of chemical treatments in locations where they're both effective and permitted by the Wisconsin DNR, diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH), and allowing natural ecological processes to manage EWM in low-impact zones.

Over the years, we've heard passionate feedback from members on both sides of the management conversation—some strongly advocating for chemical-only approaches, while others urge us to avoid chemical use altogether. We understand and respect these differing perspectives. However, it's important to emphasize that while individual methods like harvesting or DASH can be effective in certain areas, **using any single approach in isolation is not effective across the lake.** Moreover, a chemical-only strategy would not be approved under current DNR guidelines and does not align with best management practices. The Wisconsin DNR has consistently recommended a blended strategy that includes: (1) DASH, (2) mechanical harvesting, and (3) carefully targeted chemical treatments as a last resort. Our current plan reflects these best practices and aims to strike the right balance—protecting the lake's ecology while maintaining recreational access and water quality. It's not about choosing sides; it's about doing

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GO ONLINE TODAY TO DONATE

www.tomahawklake.org

DEDICATED TO TOMAHAWK LAKE

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

SIGN UP ONLINE FOR OUR E-BLASTS

www.tomahawklake.org

SUMMER EVENT



TLA 2025 Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 14, 9:00 a.m.

Kemp National Resources Station,
9161 Kemp Road, on Tomahawk Lake
Continental breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m.
More details on page 2.

Hermit Island Swim & Paddle Challenge on HIATUS this year!

After hosting this event for nearly 20 years, Hermit Island dwellers are going to take a break from this annual swim-around-the-island fundraiser. Blame it on kids' summer sports and the crazy chaos that goes with raising a family in 2025! We hope to bring back this event in the future with more volunteers to help. Thank you to those who contributed toward the Hermit Island event over the years!

We hope you will consider adding your past buoy & paddle sponsorships to your 2025 TLA membership contribution.



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

info@tomahawklake.org | www.tomahawklake.org

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

Note from the President

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what works best for the lake, now and for the future.

To maintain this level of management, we need your support—not just in participation, but in timing. One of the most important things you can do to help the TLA this spring is to **send in your membership and donation promptly**. Early support allows us to plan and budget effectively for the season ahead. Without timely contributions, we may be forced to delay or reduce our management activities—particularly harvesting and chemical treatments. Your early action truly makes a difference.

As we outlined in our Fall newsletter, protecting Tomahawk Lake requires not just smart strategies—it requires collective commitment. While we are deeply grateful to the dedicated group of residents who contribute each year, we continue to face a major challenge: only about half of the property owners on the lake are current members of the TLA. This limits what we can achieve and puts undue pressure on those who do support our efforts. Preserving the quality of Tomahawk Lake—something we all benefit from—should be a shared responsibility. We need every lake resident to become a member and help cover the cost of sustaining the recreational access, water quality, and scenic beauty that define life on Tomahawk.

With the rising costs of EWM management and reduced grant availability, we are now exploring the possibility of forming a **Lake District**. A Lake District is a local taxing authority that would

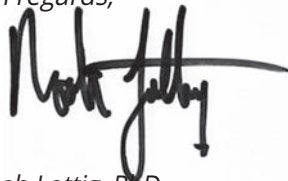
ensure every property owner contributes to the maintenance and protection of the lake through an annual tax levy. Our initial estimates suggest this would require a levy of approximately **\$800 to \$1,000 per \$1 million of assessed property value**. While this approach could solve our long-term funding needs, it would also create legal and administrative changes that could limit TLA's current flexibility and community-driven governance model.

Personally, I would love to see our community come together voluntarily—through increased membership and donations—to avoid the need for a new tax structure. This is our opportunity to act collectively, not because we're required to, but because we care deeply about Tomahawk Lake and the legacy we leave behind.

This summer, I hope you'll enjoy every moment on the water—but I also hope you'll take a moment to reflect on how you can support the lake that supports all of us. Whether it's renewing your membership, talking to a neighbor about joining, or volunteering your time, your involvement matters.

Here's to a safe, fun, and meaningful summer on Tomahawk Lake. I look forward to seeing you on the water.

Warm regards,



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



SAVE THE DATE – **JUNE 14, 2025**

Tomahawk Lake Association Annual Meeting

*Mark your calendars for
Saturday, June 14.*

WHERE: Connor Forestry Center at
Kemp Natural Resources Station
9161 Kemp Road, Woodruff

WHEN:

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
Meet the Board and other TLA
members; join the TLA; or renew your
membership if you haven't already.

9:00 a.m. Meeting Begins

Agenda:

Welcome, Noah Lottig

*Onterra Presentation on EWM Lake
Management*, Eddie Heath

TLA Financial Outlook, Bruce Forsberg
Exploring Forming a Lake District,
Noah Lottig

*Environmental Health and Water
Quality*, Jim Kavemeier

Open Board Discussion

Adjourn

MERCHANDISE: All the TLA
merchandise will be for sale at the
meeting. See page 11 for details.

ZOOM MEETING OPTION: You may
also participate via **Zoom at 9:00 a.m.**
Details will be sent in a separate email
and posted on the TLA Facebook page
on Friday, June 13.

Hope to see you there!



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

By the Numbers\$!!

Bruce Forsberg, TLA Treasurer

The Year in Review and the Challenges Ahead!

Although we are waiting for final DNR approval for our planned chemical treatments this summer, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors has approved our 2025 Annual Budget. The chart to the right compares our budget to our actual financial performance in 2024 and how 2024 compares to our financial plan for 2025.

Here are the key messages behind the numbers.

1) With your overwhelming continued financial support, we finished 2024 in basically a **break-even** position with \$275k of income to match our \$275k of expenses. **Your membership contributions of \$131k were nearly half of our total income.**

2) We received over **\$97,000 in grant revenue from the DNR in 2024**, including the first half (\$75,000) of our final 2-year \$150,000 mechanical harvesting grant. We also had \$15,000 of chemical grant dollars we carried over from 2023. All DNR grants directly fund costs we incur to fight EWM and our goal of providing recreational access to our outstanding lake.

3) **Our challenge for 2025 and beyond is that the DNR grant revenue will be significantly less than recent years.** As we communicated last year, the DNR revised its grant funding criteria to

Tomahawk Lake Association Annual Operating Budget Comparison 2025			
	Total 2024 Annual Budget	Total 2024 Actual Results	Total 2025 Annual Budget
	90 DAYS OF HARVESTING	90 DAYS OF HARVESTING	80 DAYS OF HARVESTING
Income			
Town Revenue	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 15,000
Grant Revenue	98,082	97,490	91,711
Membership Dues	130,000	130,999	135,000
Event Income	5,500	6,800	-
Misc. Income	15,418	16,146	13,000
Total Income	\$ 273,000	\$ 275,435	\$ 254,711
Expenses			
Payroll Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,729	\$ 10,000
EWM Monitoring/Planning	9,595	9,740	25,375
Chemical Treatment	51,558	51,083	60,000
Harvesting Contractor	189,300	189,379	169,300
Member Communication	8,000	4,964	6,500
Lake District Committee	5,000	-	5,000
Event Expenses	5,000	2,426	1,500
Shoreland Stewardship	2,000	1,610	12,695
General Operations	6,182	2,880	4,661
Depreciation	365	361	360
Accounting & Legal Serv.	10,000	4,968	10,000
Total Expenses	\$ 297,000	\$ 275,140	\$ 305,391
Shortfall / Surplus	\$ (24,000)	\$ 295	\$ (50,680)

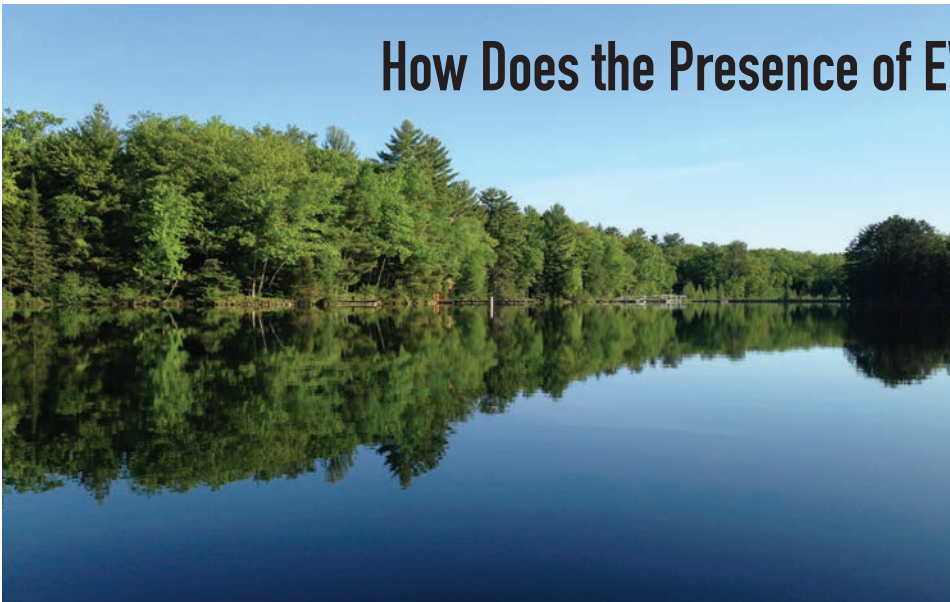
ensure funds are distributed more broadly among lake associations throughout the state. As a result, we should expect to receive a grant only once every 4-5 years. This change will have a significant impact on our ability to sustain current levels of EWM management.

4) Based on feedback from members who attended last year's annual meeting, and the successful chemical treatments in Town Bay and Clearwater Bay, we have applied to the DNR for 4 additional treatment areas this year. At this time, we believe only 2 of the 4 areas will be approved and our budget is based on this assumption. What this means is that **despite no chemical grant funding,**

we intend to spend about \$60k for ProcellaCor treatments. This is the reason we are showing a nearly \$50k budget shortfall in 2025.

5) **We are addressing this shortfall in multiple ways**, including asking property owners in the treatment areas to help fund the chemical treatments with additional contributions. The membership committee is also reaching out to all non-member property owners with a special appeal, asking them to join the TLA. We do have some reserve funds that will be used if we cannot make up this budget shortfall with these expanded fundraising efforts.

How Does the Presence of EWM Affect Lake Health?



from Environment &
Education Committee

Jim Kavemeier, Chair

Members:

David Burbie

Donna Kempf

Tess Mallery

Paul Shain

Art Sonneland

During a recent Environment and Education Committee (E&EC) meeting, questions were raised about Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and its impacts on Tomahawk and Little Tomahawk lakes. We are sure the questions raised by the E&EC members are the same questions that many members of TLA have. We invited **Eddie Heath**, Aquatic Ecologist, Onterra, LLC, **Scott Van Egeren**, WDNR Water Resource Manager for Oneida County, **Kevin Gauthier**, WDNR Water Resource Manager for Vilas County, and **Nathaniel Lederman**, WDNR Fisheries Biologist for Oneida County, to discuss **not** how to manage EWM, but how the presence of EWM in Tomahawk and Little Tomahawk Lakes affects the lakes' overall health.

Eddie addressed the EWM population question based on previous studies. Scott and Kevin, — the two DNR aquatic invasive species specialists—addressed the EWM impact questions, and Nathaniel handled the fisheries questions. Scott stated, “We tried to keep the answers specific to what is likely in a large, deep, clear lake like Tomahawk Lake, as the answers may be slightly different for different types (i.e., shallow, small, very productive) of lakes.”

The following questions were asked, and these are responses we received:

1. Eddie, based on previous studies, what percent of Tomahawk and Little Tomahawk lakes contain EWM? What percent of that percentage is dense, matted EWM?

a. While the **EWM mapping data** is helpful to understand the overall EWM population and its varying densities, this method has its limitations when trying to numerically define the population. For example, there are more EWM plants in a one-acre highly scattered colony compared to a one-acre highly dominant colony. Also, EWM mapped with point-based methods are not accounted for in colonized acreage metrics, but that doesn't mean that EWM is absent from those areas of the lake. For these reasons, the point-intercept survey methodology is better to produce overall metrics regarding percent coverage. That being said, I first offer the following thoughts in regards to the last system-wide EWM mapping survey, which occurred in 2023. Onterra will be conducting a replicated survey in the late-summer of 2025.

b. EWM Mapping Survey

According to the 2023 EWM mapping survey and reported in the 2023 EWM

Management & Monitoring Report (Feb 2024), Onterra crews located approximately 270 acres of colonized EWM in Tomahawk/Little Tomahawk/Mud Lakes, about 182 acres of EWM most folks would consider “dense” (dominant, highly dominant, and surface matting colonies). We also found point-based EWM occurrences throughout most of the other parts of the littoral zone except for Mud Lake. EWM was largely found growing from 2-13 feet of water in the Tomahawk System. Based on historic bathymetric maps, the area of the system 15 feet in water depth or shallower is about 927 acres. Using 15 feet of water depth or less as the likely footprint EWM can establish in, here are the following calculations:

Total Acreage of Tomahawk/Little Tom/Mud	3,778.0
Acreage of system 15 feet deep or shallower	927.3
≤ 15 feet deep	
Colonized EWM	29%
≥ Dominant Densities	20%

c. Point-Intercept Survey

The last lake-wide point-intercept surveys were conducted in 2021. As discussed within the Tomahawk Lake System Aquatic Plant Management Plan (Dec. 2022), these surveys should be completed within 5-year intervals to ensure grant eligibility. The littoral zone determination differs slightly

from the example given above, as it is calculated for the area of the lake where any aquatic plant can grow, including plants that can grow deeper than EWM. That being said, the EWM littoral frequency of occurrence calculations produced in the figure below are relatively in-line with the values calculated from the Late-Season EWM Mapping Survey.

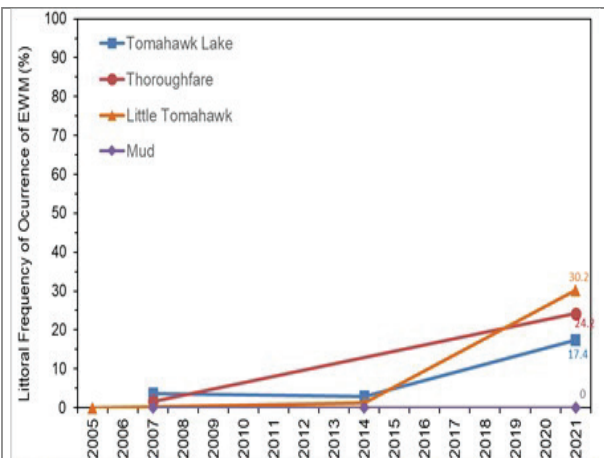


Figure 3.3-3. EWM littoral frequency of occurrence within the Tomahawk Lake System. Data from available point-intercept surveys.

2. Scott, Kevin, et al., does the presence of EWM in a lake impact the water clarity? If so, how?

a. The answer may depend on how you are defining water clarity. Some people may mean just looking at the top of the water surface, while others think about looking down into the water. In the answer below we define water clarity as looking down into the water such as measured by a Secchi disc.

In general, aquatic plants (including EWM) improve water clarity. Aquatic plants dampen wave action, prevent shoreline erosion and sediment resuspension (from the lake bottom), and take up nutrients that are also needed by algae. A change to fewer aquatic plants in a lake generally means that there will be more nutrients available and algae in the water.

3. Nathaniel, does EWM affect fish spawning areas?

a. Large aquatic plants, including EWM, can impact fisheries through

their growth, metabolic activity, and role as habitat for fishes and their prey (Engel 1995). Fish and aquatic plant relations are influenced by the water body size and type (Maceina 1996). Add in the fact that each fish species has a different spawning strategy, and general statements about the specific impact of EWM on fish spawning are challenging.

To demonstrate this, the various spawning characteristics of some fish species within Tomahawk Lake are described.

Bluegill: create nests in sand or gravel in water depths of 1-2 feet, but spawn regardless on pretty much any type of bottom including muck and vegetation (Becker 1983; Pflieger 1997).

Black crappie: create nests on substrates of fine

gravel near logs, divided plant roots or other large objects in water depths from a few inches to 20 feet; increased vegetation levels may improve their spawning (Pflieger 1997).

Largemouth bass: prefer to spawn on sand or gravel, but will nest on any soft bottom where they can expose hard objects such as roots, twigs, shells or rock bottom to build nests in water depths of 1-6 feet (Becker 1983).

Muskellunge: spawn in shallow bays over muck bottoms covered in dead vegetation and detritus (Becker 1983).

Northern pike: spawn in shallow flooded marshes or inlet streams to the lake (Becker 1983).

Smallmouth bass: build nests on shores protected from prevailing winds on gravel or rubble in depths of 1.25-20 feet next to structure such as logs, stumps, boulder and vegetation (Becker 1983).

Walleye: use rocky wave-swept shorelines in water depths of 12-30 inches for spawning with no nest

preparation (Pflieger 1997). Walleye will also sometimes spawn on flood wetland vegetation (Becker 1983).

Yellow perch: drape eggs in submerged vegetation or brush in depths of 2-10 feet with no specific substrate requirements (Becker 1983).

In general though, fish use aquatic vegetation for refuge, food resources, reproduction and nursery habitat including EWM at some point no matter the species (Valley et al. 2004). Aquatic vegetation, including EWM, at moderate to high levels are felt to be optimal for fish use, growth, and survival (Killgore et al. 1993). This is because a positive relationship between the amount of aquatic vegetation and the number of fish species and abundance of those fish species has been found (Giacomazzo et al. 2022). Eliminating large areas of vegetated cover, including EWM, has been found to reduce zooplankton abundance, decrease the size of fish, and reduce the spawning species success of fish (Bettoli et al. 1993). Extensive beds of EWM throughout the entire lake (>60%) have been found to depress fisheries though (Valley et al. 2004). However, if EWM is part of a system with many plant species or EWM is patchy permitting movement of fish in the lake, fish appear to be mostly unaffected (Valley et al. 2004).

What was demonstrated above indicates that aquatic vegetation, including EWM, has the potential to influence fish spawning within Tomahawk Lake and Little Tomahawk depending on the species of interest. Emphasizing the important role vegetation and EWM plays throughout the life of a fish and their reproduction is crucial (Valley et al. 2004). Working towards viewing EWM as habitat while acknowledging the need for recreational use of system through an integrated fish-plant management program (Engel 1995) like the Tomahawk Lake Association

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How Does the Presence of EWM Affect Lake Health?

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Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan is striving to employ, should help strike that balance.

4. *Scott, Kevin, et al., does EWM weaken or eliminate existing native aquatic species? If so, under what conditions?*

a. EWM (and other aquatic plant) populations naturally fluctuate over time, with or without active management. Often, native plant populations also increase with EWM populations, which means that all plants in the lake are responding to the same favorable conditions. A comparable example would be observing both the “weeds” and vegetables in a garden growing rapidly after a fertilizer is applied or after an extended period of humidity and sunlight.

While we don't see overwhelming evidence of EWM's negative ecological impacts on native aquatic plants in Wisconsin, that doesn't mean they don't exist—it's just that they are not as frequent as we might assume. EWM (and other invasive species) are commonly rare and rarely meaning EWM does not grow to high abundance in most of the waterbodies where it occurs. So, it isn't surprising that the impacts are not always large (WI DNR 2022).

Disturbances such as shoreline development/modifications, polluted runoff or other excess nutrient inputs, and/or aggressive aquatic plant management can impact existing native aquatic species and reduce diversity. The disturbances tend to give an advantage to aquatic plant species that are better at tolerating

degraded ecosystems (such as WM, curly-leaf pondweed, coontail, Elodea, and other tolerant aquatic plant species). Long-term aquatic plant management means stopping more runoff and nutrients from getting into the lake in the first place.

5. *Scott, Kevin, et al., does EWM impact the lake's ecosystem?*

a. Aquatic plant species (including EWM) provide benefits including shoreline erosion protection, prevention of sediment resuspension, shelter and food for fish, wildlife, and zooplankton, and water quality benefits.

Aquatic plants (including EWM) can influence fish communities in lakes. Different fish species interact with different aquatic plant species in various ways. This means that each individual lake may observe different responses in the fish community as a result of EWM or other aquatic plant species.

It is important to regularly update data collection (for aquatic plants, fish, water quality, etc.) on the lake to check for changes in aquatic plant community, water clarity, fish, etc. Riparian owners and lake association members are often the first to notice changes. Have you as riparians noticed changes in the lake since EWM was discovered?

Disturbance caused by shoreline development/modifications, polluted runoff or other nutrient inputs, and/or aggressive aquatic plant management can also impact lake ecosystems. All four National Lakes Assessments that have been completed since 2007 have found that poor shoreline habitat quality and/or excess nutrients are the largest lake ecology stressors for the lakes in the nation.

DNR would recommend that

shoreline property owners address the stressors to lakes that they can control on their properties. Owners can revegetate the buffer zone along the lake shoreline, make sure that water running off of homes and pavement towards the lake is infiltrated into the ground, and leave native aquatic plants adjacent to their property in place. DNR and County staff can provide technical assistance and funding to implement these practices to maintain lake health.

6. *Scott, Kevin, et al., WDNR designates Tomahawk and Little Tomahawk Lakes as ORW. Could the presence of EWM in the lakes jeopardize the ORW designation for Tomahawk and Little Tomahawk Lakes?*

a. No, EWM will not endanger the outstanding resource water designation. The outstanding or exceptional resource water designations (ORW/ERW) were meant to prevent water quality degradation to protect high quality lakes, flowages, rivers, and streams from additional wastewater pollution (i.e. – industrial sources or municipal sewage treatment plant outfalls). The DNR does not have plans to create new or remove ORW/ERW designations.

DNR does have numerical water quality criteria to determine whether a lake is impaired for fish and aquatic life or recreational use. The determination of impairment for these uses is based primarily on the amount of phosphorus (the primary nutrient controlling aquatic plant and algae growth) in the lake. Again, the best way to protect Tomahawk Lake is to prevent runoff and nutrients from reaching the lake in the first place.

b. *Nathaniel added*, “Outstanding Resource Waters are surface waters that provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat, have good water quality and are not

significantly impacted by human activities. Valuable fisheries for bass, cisco, musky, panfish, walleye are present with Tomahawk and Little Tomahawk. These fisheries draw anglers and lake user from all across the state and nation. From a fisheries perspective, even with the presence of EWM, Tomahawk and Little Tomahawk would still align as an ORW."

As Michelle Nault, WDNR Natural Resource Program Manager, states in her article *The Science Behind the 'So Called' Super Weed*, "While EWM is still of management concern in certain lakes, it does not appear to be the 'super weed' that many feared it would be. Data collected over the past decade indicate that EWM populations in Wisconsin are complex, and ongoing research will help us better understand the role a lake's ecology contributes to EWM population dynamics, as well as, how effective integrated management techniques control EWM over the short and long term."

In its 2020 Aquatic Plant Management Plan, TLA implemented an Integrated Pest Management Strategy that:

1. Oversee the management of current invasive species, safeguarding native aquatic plants, wildlife habitats, and fisheries, while ensuring recreational access to the lake.
2. Promote and implement programs to prevent the introduction of new aquatic species.
3. Encourage shoreland owners to adopt effective management practices through the Lake Steward Initiative, emphasizing the importance of maintaining and enhancing vital shoreland habitats while reducing runoff into the Tomahawk Lake System.

A Profile of Tomahawk Lake Property Owners

Each spring, our annual renewal letter and membership form is sent to members who contributed to the TLA in the prior three years. In March, we sent renewal requests to 266 current and past supporters. This year, the Board of Directors asked the Membership Committee to expand our annual appeal to all Tomahawk Lake property owners. With grant funds becoming harder to get and with increasing expenses to effectively manage EWM, it is more critical than ever for us to expand our membership beyond the approximately 220 members who support us in any given calendar year.

A new subcommittee has been formed to increase membership. Its initial focus will be on property owners who have not supported the TLA within the last three years. We worked with Oneida County Land Information Office representatives to identify all riparian property owners and those within a hundred feet of the lake who have lake access rights.

Here is a profile of the ownership of Tomahawk Lake:

Ownership Profile of Tomahawk Lake			
	Parcel Count	# of Owners or Mailing Addresses	Comments
Single Parcel owners	348	348	1:1 Relationship
Multiple Parcel owners	222	90	90 families own 222 Parcels
RER Indian Shores LLC*	381	1	Mgmt Company of Indian Shores
State Owned Parcels	44	0	We would not solicit the state
Private Access Parcels	5	0	Woodland Acres is example
Total Parcels	1,000	439	439 Unique owners or Mailing addresses
Total TLA Contributors in 2024		222	Includes 12 non-property owners

A separate appeal to join the TLA was mailed in May to 215 property owners who did not receive our annual renewal letter. Families who contributed to the TLA between January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, are listed on the following page. The Board of Directors is asking for your help to nudge your friends or lake neighbors who are not on this list to join the TLA. The more people we can get to join our team, the more we can continue our efforts to provide recreational access for everyone who enjoys this amazing lake!

Thank You to our current TLA Members!

Abbott, Kathryn
 Ackermann, Sara & Todd Nagel
 Albee, Alan
 Andersen, James
 Andersen, Randy & Kathy
 Anderson, Tom & Pam
 Arias, Gil & Kate
 Baines, Jim & Cathy
 Bany, Stephen & Lynda
 Bartling, Peter & Lynn
 Bateman, Bill & Marsha
 Beech, Tom & Carol
 Bergman, Don & Bonnie
 Bilik, John & Lisa
 Blackwell, Tricia
 Boles, Sarah
 Bortner, Rebecca
 Bradish, Alan
 Broomell, Dare & Mary
 Broomell, David
 Buchheit, Charles & Susan
 Burbie, David & Trish
 Chupita, Diane (& Amy)
 Clausen, Annemette & Henrik
 Clearwater Camp Foundation
 Coleman, Christopher & Kelly
 Combs, Virginia
 Connor, Eugene & Yvonne
 Converse, Arlan & Marilyn
 Converse, Patrick &
 Suzanne Clements
 Coriell, Gene & Chris
 Correnti, James & Carol
 Correnti, Christopher & Cynthia
 Cote, Steven & Lyn
 Cote, Mark
 Cote, Roger & Frances
 Cotherman Family
 Dagit, Aaron & Julie
 Dalton, Daniel & Sheila
 Daly, Kathy
 Davidson, Michael & Martha
 Dell, JD & Ann
 DeNamur, Steve & Mary
 Dier, Gary & Nanette Teodoro
 Dierberg, Jeff & Birgit
 Donner, Keith & Gail
 Drewke, Denise
 Drummond, Gary & Lori
 Dure, Lisa
 Faulks, Robert & Christine
 Ferguson, Sue
 Filippo, Sam & Susan
 Fink, Bryan & Amanda Zoellner
 Fisher, Russell & Chris
 Fisher, Roger & Donna
 Fites, Donald & Joyce
 Fitzgerald, John & Kate

Forni, Annina
 Forsberg, Bruce & Sheila
 Foster, Race & Lynne
 Fowler, Jim & Susan
 Fox, Tony & Erin
 Franck, Aaron & Carla
 Francois, Joseph & Penny
 Gabby, Bill
 Gantz, James & Jean
 Gauchel, Peter & Brenda
 Gauerke, Scott & Pam
 Gazeley, Janis & Gail
 Gelinas, Mike & Cathy
 Gerdin, Michael & Nicole
 Gerstner, Jeff & Dian
 Gjermo, Bruce & Sherri
 Glencoe Lake House LLC
 Goltermann, Christine
 Goltermann, John & Lori
 Good, David & Patricia
 Griffin, John & Kim
 Groth, Michael & Linda
 Gudenkauf, Steven & Tami
 Hagnauer, E.F. & Julie
 Hamel, Joseph & Ruth
 Hanson, John & Carolyn
 Hanson, Mark & Marisa
 Hardel, Jeff & Jen
 Harding, Ann
 Harmsen, Jake
 Harmsen, Scott & Tammy
 Harrold, Nathan
 Harry, David & Kathy
 Hartwig, Mary
 Harwood, Richard
 Haugh, David
 Haugh, John & Pamela
 Haugh, Patricia
 Hearthwood Property
 Owners Assoc.
 Hertz, Bob & Leslie
 Hilgemann, John & Sandy
 Hilgemann, Paul & Rene
 Hill, Jeffrey
 Hilltop Condominiums
 Hodek, Michael & Morgan
 Hoehne, Faye
 Hoellerich, Daniel & Lynn
 Hogan, Scott & Shelly
 Huggett, Wes & Kelley
 Indian Shores RV Resort
 & Campground
 Janssen, Greta
 Jenkins, Dave & Joy
 Johnson, Todd & Ellen
 Johnson, Mike & Dawn
 Jones, Wendy
 Kavemeier, Jim & Kathy

Keele, Doug & Christy
 Kehart, Michael & Linda
 Kempf, Donna
 Kennedy, Kyle & Nikki
 Kirschner, Dean & Barb
 Klecker, Francis & Judith
 Klement, Jeff & Patricia
 Krueger, Ken & Mary
 Kujak, David & Erin
 Lakeside Landing
 Condominium Assoc.
 Larsen, John & Theresa
 Laszewski, Joyce
 Laurino, Carl & Jerilyn
 Lloyd, David & Rose
 Lottig, Noah & Bryn
 Lynch, Patrick & Gail
 Lynch, Ross & Ruth
 MacDonald, John
 Mackie, Alexander & Kelly
 Mallery, Ryan & Denise
 Mallery, Tess & Matt Hankins
 Mallery, Tuck
 Malsack, Philip
 Markey, Edmund (Larry) & Lana
 Marrinson, Ralph & Martha
 Martin, Ann & Sally
 McCarthy, Justin & Nora
 McDonald Family
 McLay, Douglas & Kathleen
 McNamar, Pat & Marlys
 McNamar, Justin
 Moews, Dirk & Barb
 Molepske, Sr., Louis & Sue
 Morrissey, Scott & Christine
 Nichols, Christopher & Maureen
 Nikolai, Allan & Rob
 Nisk, Alice
 Oberpriller, Mary
 O'Connor, Brian & Nicole
 Olson, Tom & Nancy
 Oppenheim, Alan & Margo
 Orr, Joanne
 Pagel, Keith & Lisa
 Palmer, Sarah & Pete
 Paulsen, Patti
 Paulsen, Richard & Theresa
 Perina, Robert & Sarah
 Petersen, David & Carlene
 Pokorny, Laddie & Evalyn
 Pregont, Daniel & Sally
 Priebe, Becky
 Randa, Michael & Laura
 Redman, Adam & Melissa
 Rheinschmidt, David & Judie
 Rich, Mark & Devra
 Riesterer, Rick & Sherry
 Ridders, Fred & Linda

Ripp, Mickey
 Robinson, Delbert & Cathy
 Roehl, Richard & Tamie
 Rogers, Jeff & Karen
 Romanski-Morlock Family
 Ross, Bill & Cindy
 Saari, Robert & Susan
 Scharer, Brandon & Christine
 Scharer, Nathan & Krista
 Schindler, Gary & Margie
 Schuette, Clark & Kathy
 Schuette, Jay & Gretchen
 Schuette, Rudie
 Schwantes, William &
 Nanette
 Scuglik, Jim & Betsy
 Seramur, John & Joan
 Sexton, Glen
 Shain, Paul & Suzy
 Simenstad, Dr. David &
 Martha
 Sloan, Raymond & Laurie
 Smith, Laird & Nancy
 Smithing, William & Patricia
 Sobocinski, Michael & Sarah
 Solberg, Trygve & Tula
 Sonneland III, Arthur & Kay
 Sperling, James & Rhyen
 Stankowski, Ervin & Patricia
 Steiner, Kimberly & Dean
 Stengl, Jim & Chris
 Swaney, Tom & Pat
 Thalacker, Rick & Cyndi
 Thiede, Bob & Cindi
 Thiel, Eric & Julie
 Thompson, Brad
 Thompson, Patrick & Janet
 Tomahawk Shores
 Owners Assoc.
 Troyer, Bryan & Jane
 Van Asten, Michael
 Van Ells, Chris & Doreen
 Vance, Hobey & Carol
 Vehrs, Don & Chrisy
 Vintika, Raymond & Jori
 Walsh, Jim & Kim
 Wanserski, David & Lorri
 Watson, James & Beverly
 Weddle, Andrew
 Weldon, Robert & Elizabeth
 Willer, Kurt & Constance
 Winchester, Brad & Casey
 Winger, Kevin & Patti
 Wisniewski, Myron & Rita
 Woller, Steve & Nancy
 Wright DVM, David
 Zimmer, David & Patti

Renew your Membership

Your membership contributions continue to be our largest source of income. This year, your contributions take on a greater importance since DNR grant funds are decreasing while our expenses to effectively manage EWM continue to increase. We would greatly appreciate you renewing your membership at the same level or at a higher level if you are able. We mailed our annual renewal letter and personalized forms to our past contributors in March. Thank you to those who have already contributed so far this year!

There are two ways you can renew your membership:

- 1) Complete your personalized 2025 membership renewal form and send it to us with your check, or
- 2) Go online to www.tomahawklake.org/membership and complete the 2025 membership form. Click through to the PayPal link and make your contribution using your Pay Pal account or as a guest with your credit card information.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a blank 2025 membership form. You may use this if you misplaced your personalized form. Or, you can give this blank form to a friend or lake neighbor to join the TLA.

We will acknowledge your tax-deductible contribution with a thank-you letter in the month following receipt of your contribution. It will include your 2025 paid dock sticker.

If you haven't received our redesigned dock sign yet, please send an email to membership@tomahawklake.org and let us know when you'll be at the lake. A Board member will contact

you to get you a new sign with your 2025 paid sticker to proudly display your support for the TLA.



We appreciate your continued support of the TLA!

Sincerely,

TLA Membership and Subcommittee Members

Bruce Forsberg	Jake Harmsen	Wes Smithing
Sheila Forsberg	Scott Harmsen	Brad Winchester

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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 79 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.

Windy Point, an Altar to Manitou?¹

by Louis J. Molepske, Jr., TLA Board Member

In the summer of 2019, the Tomahawk Lake Association (TLA) embarked on an intensive shoreland GIS (Geographic Information System) project “to encourage private and public landowners to implement shoreland best management practices in ecologically sensitive shoreland regions of Tomahawk Lake where needed.”¹ “Under contract with TLA, Nova Ecological Services (NES) identified 39 critical habitat sites on Tomahawk Lake.”²

“A primary objective of TLA’s shoreland GIS project is to educate property owners of the location and value of important natural ecological features in the shorelands of the Lake.”³ One critical habitat site identified in the survey was TL-24, a.k.a. Windy Point. Described as a point with an extensive offshore rock bar. “It was selected primarily for its scenic beauty, fishery value...(and) wildlife benefits.”⁴ This 100 percent wooded and publicly owned point was found to have pristine “near-shore terrestrial, shoreline, and littoral zone habitats. Also found, natural physical buffers protected the shoreline against erosion and plant fragmentation while existing vegetation created natural nutrient sinks” at the site.

The survey of Windy Point also captured the most prominent part of the point, a large monolith at the end of Windy Point’s finger. Looking like a small version of the Rock of Gibraltar, this lone boulder likely has watched over our Lake since the last glaciers retreated, leaving this massive rock by itself.

The Windy Point monolith has acted as a navigation marker, a picnic spot, and a reminder of what is below the waterline for many of us over the years. Yet, in our hustle to round Windy Point’s rock bar on our way to our favorite place, have we been missing a much more significant part of our Lake’s history? Could in fact Windy Point’s monolith have a spiritual significance? Is this jutting boulder an altar-like place that indigenous people spoke to Gichi-Manidoo⁶ in ceremonial offerings? Is Windy Point’s rocked tip a vantage point that served

This 1930’s picture of Windy Point was contributed by Peter Bobe.



as a place to connect with the natural world by recognizing the life-permeating power of Tomahawk Lake’s ecosystem in human life?

Is there a postcard or article that speaks to Windy Point’s possible significance? On April 23, 1922, an article appeared in the Milwaukee Journal entitled *Tomahawk Lake’s Giant Rock Once Altar to Manitou*.⁷ The article, written by a “special correspondent of the Journal,” discussed an oral “tradition” that indigenous people used the monolith at Windy Point as an altar to Manitou, (Gichi-Manidoo).⁸ The special

correspondent wrote, “Each year, after winter’s snows had departed and spring’s magic touch had begun to brighten and freshen Tomahawk’s wild shores, the (indigenous people) came to the boulder to make offerings to their deity. Standing upon the great rock, they cast tobacco upon the water and petitioned Manitou for a generous season of fishing.”⁹

Was Windy Point’s monolith a sacred place to the indigenous people that lived near the shores of Tomahawk Lake long before the Lake was developed? The 1922 article has no cites or ability to “fact check,” but it is likely loosely based on the people of the Ojibwe Nation or “Anishinaabeg”¹⁰ who have occupied the Great Lakes region long before French explorer Samuel de Champlain arrived at Lake Huron in 1615.

¹¹ We likely will never know if in fact Windy Point’s monolith was a sacred place to the Ojibwe people, because “the Ojibwe religious life was largely personal”¹²...but it was “a world filled with spirits which inhabited birds, animals, rocks, and cosmic phenomena including the sun, moon, the four winds, thunder, lightning, and thunderbirds.”¹³

The TLA’s 2020 finalized GIS study of our Lake’s 39 critical habitat sites looked at the natural features of our lake we often see from a moving boat, but not necessarily stop to appreciate. Tomahawk

Lake is a special place that has sustained humankind for over a millennium. The people that came to Tomahawk Lake before us knew their survival depended on a plentiful fishery that in turn needed a cool, clean watershed to thrive.

We are the people now entrusted to manage and protect our Lake’s fragile ecosystem and those critical habitat areas that need us to care about them like we do with a family member. Small steps like not mowing to the water’s edge, reducing runoff into the lake, reducing or removing shore riprap when not necessary¹⁴ and protecting or restoring native plants near

(Continued on page 12)

Footnotes on page 11



Lakeview Loon Calls

The **Hazelhurst Sub and Deli** opened on Hwy. 51N where the former Quiet Side Deli was located, next to R&R Motorsports.

Dan's Minocqua Fudge opened their second building just south of town on Hwy. 51. This is an expansion of their facilities. They will be making their chocolate and ice cream there, while continuing the fudge production at both locations.

Fritz's Bar & Grill in Woodruff is under new ownership. They reopened March 23 with a few fun changes, but kept the classic Fritz's charm.

Popeye's is moving into the old Burger King building in Minocqua.

The **Knotty Barrel Supper Club** is due to open in the lower level of the old Minocqua Brewing Company building next to Torpy Park. The upper level of the building will be a newly remodeled Airbnb unit called **The Knotty Barrel Lodge**.

Highway 51 construction has started. Front Street to Hwy. 47 will be resurfaced, the curb ramps upgraded and the pedestrian accommodations near the overhead signal crossing will be improved. There will be one lane closed in each direction. Construction will take place from April 24 thru October 2025. Construction will halt from June 13 thru September 1.

A little loon said **Mavericks** in Woodruff has a new owner; the new restaurant will serve new twists on usual supper club fare.

There is also talk about town that a **new wine bar** will be going in where the previous Ann Marie's gift shop was in downtown Minocqua.

A Step Up gift shop has opened in a new location on West Milwaukee St. in downtown Minocqua.

Tip-Ups food truck is under new ownership, serving the Northwoods fresh food fast, with the finest of local ingredients! Check them out on Thursdays at Northern Waters Distillery, Saturdays at Rocky Reef Brewing, in addition to other places in the Northwoods area including the Friday night food truck pop-ups at The Bottled Bean.

Two new bath and body shops will be opening in downtown Minocqua. The **Splash Soap Company** store will be on main street, two doors down from Minocqua popcorn. The **Magnolia Soap and Bath Co** store is located in the Gaslight Square.

Have a great summer on the lake, and please SUPPORT all our wonderful local businesses, as they are the backbone of our community!

Show Your Lake Tomahawk Pride: Grab Your TLA gear today!

Whether you're cruising the lake at sunset, sitting by the campfire, or just dreaming of your next Northwoods getaway, now's the perfect time to show your Lake Tomahawk spirit in style.



(Footnotes from Windy Point, page 10)

Getting to Know Tomahawk Lake's Special Places, TLA 2019 Shoreland GIS Project – Critical Shoreland Habitat, p.1, Mike Meyer and Jim Kreitlow, Nova Ecological Services, August 1, 2020

Id. at p. 3 (This work was sponsored by TLA and supported with WDNR Lake Planning Grant LP168819)

Id. at 59.

Id. Ojibwe People's Dictionary, 2012-2021, (meaning great spirit, god, the creator) online at <https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/main-entry/gichi-manidoo-na> viewed online on April 24, 2025.

Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin Local History & Biography Articles; Milwaukee Journal; April 23, 1922; viewed online at <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org> on April 24, 2025.

Id. Milwaukee Public Museum, Ojibwe Culture; viewed online at

<https://www.mpm.edu/content/wirp/CW-51#:~:text=Ojibwe%20religious%20life%20was%20largely,thunder%2C%20lightning%2C%20and%20thunder-birds> on April 24, 2025.

Id.

Id.

See the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, "Shoreland restoration plans / plant choices / establishment tips / maintenance" seen online on April 25, 2025 at https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/programs/LakeShoreTraining/15.1_installation/130_215%20shoreland%20restoration%20plans%20plant%20choices%20establishment%20tips%20maintenance%20GOG-GIN%20FINAL.pdf

The Tomahawk Lake Association provides on site reviews of TLA member's property.

https://www.tomahawklake.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/TLA-Lake-Steward-Pledge-Form_r2.pdf

- **Nike hats** (\$30) and **sweatshirts** (\$75) that are as comfortable as they are classic—perfect for lake lovers of all ages.
- **Ogio t-shirts** (\$25) in men's and women's sizes – great for hot summer days on the boat.
- **Beach towels** (\$30) with blue and white stripes and the TLA logo – just what you need to dry off after a swim in our beautiful lake.

Each item proudly displays the TLA logo—a symbol of community, conservation, and connection to the lake we all love. Every purchase helps support TLA's mission to protect and preserve the beauty and health of Tomahawk Lake for generations to come.

Quantities limited, don't wait! All merchandise will be available for purchase at TLA's annual meeting: Saturday, June 14 or contact Trish Burbie: tmareck@yahoo.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!**

TLA Receives WDNR Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Grant

from Environment & Education Committee

Jim Kavemeier, Chair

Members: David Burbie, Donna Kempf, Tess Mallery, Paul Shain, Art Sonneland

The Tomahawk Lake Association was **awarded a WDNR Surface Water Grant to improve AIS prevention signage and disposal** at the heavily used Lake Tomahawk Boat Landing Park. The project cost is \$10,695.00. The grant covers 75% of it, or \$8,021.25. This initiative will have a positive impact on the health of our beloved lake.

In conjunction with the existing CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Water) program, the project will educate boaters and visitors about the importance of inspecting, draining, and removing aquatic plants and animals from their boat, trailer, and equipment before and after using the launch site. The grant will fund new signage outlining boat cleaning and disposal procedures for invasive species. By enhancing these educational and preventive measures, the Tomahawk Lake Association is demonstrating its commitment to protecting the lake's ecosystem and ensuring it remains a quality water for our recreational pursuits.

This project implements the TLA Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan –
Goal 3 – Prevent the Establishment of New Invasive Species.

Windy Point

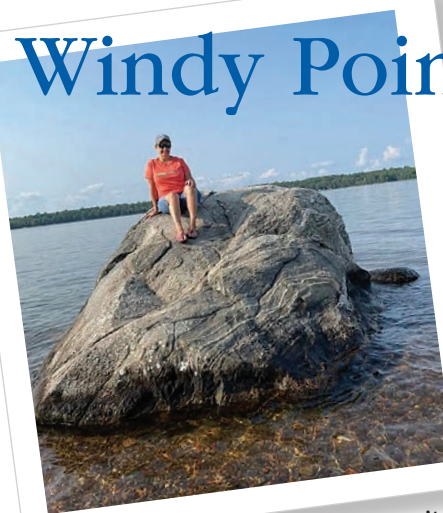


Photo by Tom Gray of his wife Susan Kritz Gray

(Continued from page 10)

the lake's edge is a great way each of us can help our lake thrive.

Take the TLA Lake Steward Pledge found on the TLA website¹⁷ and begin your own recognition of the life-permeating power of Tomahawk Lake's ecosystem in all our lives. Your cottage lakefront can be your own "Altar to Manitou" by following this simple pledge that even Gichi-Manidoo and our ancestors would approve of.

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