

December 2022

Happy Holidays Waupaca Chain O'Lakes Association Members,

The lakes are beginning to freeze, and the holidays are upon us! The Waupaca Chain O' Lakes Association Board would like to wish all of our members a safe and healthy holiday season. We would also like to thank you for your continued support through your dues and generous charitable contributions in 2022. We look forward to working for you in 2023 to continue our mission to preserve the Chain for generations to come!

We have had a few updates since our last email communication late summer. You will recall that the Lake District had a few personnel changes that we told you about in the August email blast. Since then, a new Association member has joined their board as a Commissioner. Kevin Baker is a year-round resident on Round Lake. Kevin's interests align well with the mission of the Lake District, which is mainly to protect the lakes, as he is passionate about finding solutions to the zebra mussel problem as well as controlling invasive aquatic plants. Kevin also understands that we have a rare gem in these lakes. He succinctly stated his philosophy in his bio for the District Board, saying: "Naturalist vs. Economy Balance – While I would love to see every effort made to return the Waupaca Chain O'Lakes District to its historically natural state, it is not practical. The enjoyment of the area by humans must be encouraged but in a responsible way. If it is exploited without restrictions, residents and visitors may discover too late that the entire system is more fragile than we assumed." Welcome, Kevin!

The Association board committees have been very busy this fall. We will have a more detailed article in the Spring newsletter about the structure, goals, and accomplishments thus far for each committee. However, we couldn't wait to release this exciting news: Long-time Chain O'Lakes resident and board member Carl Nelson has worked hard for the past many months to find volunteers to help bring back boating safety classes. In-person classes were suspended during Covid 19. Carl is pleased to announce that Dan and Fawn Johnson, Association members, will be getting certified as boating safety instructors and, along with himself, will be scheduling classes at both the Town of Farmington and Dayton town halls this spring and summer. Details and dates will be posted on the DNR's GoWild system and will also be in the Spring Association Newsletter and on our website. If you have young people interested in driving your watercraft, don't miss this opportunity for them to learn proper safety and navigation. Thank you, Carl, for bringing on the Johnsons and allowing these classes to begin once again.

As a reminder, as the lakes start freezing, we would like to provide this link to the DNR webpage, which discusses aerators. Creating an area of open water in the winter presents possible dangers to all who participate in winter sports on the lakes, especially children. This webpage will provide the answers to your questions about installing aeration in front of your lake property. Of note is the reference to your neighbor's property; as the webpage states, "Ice management systems cannot impact the ice on your neighbor's property, nor can they

create **unsafe ice conditions** for ice skaters, fishermen, snowmobilers, etc.” As always, you can call the DNR for further information. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Waterways/construction/avoidIceDamage.html>

And lastly, you may have read that John Hebring, a devoted Association board member and the person responsible for the Chain’s green road signs, passed away in November. John also developed the brochures that were distributed at the boat landing and to the Waupaca Chamber of Commerce. Association member Mark Kuntsman was learning/working with John on creating and installing the green road signs. He has agreed to continue this work and will recruit others to help ensure that the road sign system stays in place. He will also be completing John’s term on the board. We’re very fortunate that Mark can continue John’s work. Please keep John’s wife, Karen in your thoughts and prayers during this holiday season.

Warm wishes,

Waupaca Chain O’Lakes Association Board of Directors