

# WAUPACA CHAIN O'LAKES ASSOCIATION

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*Dedicated to preserving these unique spring-fed lakes  
and their surrounding environment for present and  
for future generations of residents and visitors.*



## SPRING 2023

### CATCH SOME FUN!

*By Mark Kuntsman*

Association Board Member and Chair of the Fish Sustainability Committee, Barry Gill, is excited to revitalize the Chain O'Lakes fish population. On May 19, 2022 Barry and a crew of eager assistants released 800 perch fingerlings. He was very pleased with the process and would like to continue this on a similar scale in the future perhaps adding crappies. The fish must have proper health certifications and mapped genealogy sourcing. Funding was obtained



predominately from private donors along with budgeted funds from the Association. The picture above shows Fred



Silloway, Barry Gill, Dennis Peterson and Ingmar Hallin after releasing the fingerlings.

### LET'S GET THE YOUTH INVOLVED!

At the time of this writing, plans are in the works for a fishing photo contest in 2023. The concept is to have a summer long contest for youths age 15 and under who can record their catch with a photo and enter the photo into the contest. Start dates are tentatively May 12, which is Wisconsin's opening fishing day, through September 3, the day after Labor Day. Winners will receive gift cards to local area businesses. The committee will be meeting throughout early spring to finalize the details, which will likely be provided in an email blast or separate mailing. This will be a great opportunity for residents on the Chain to introduce the sport of fishing to their children and grandchildren as well as to reignite interest in those kids who have already developed the skills to catch dinner for the evening! Stay tuned for more information.

### YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A GRUMPY OLD MAN TO ICE FISH

*by Ted McCartney*

The Chain O'Lakes becomes quieter in the winter months, but recreational activities like ice fishing can make those shorter, colder days a lot more fun. Driving an automobile on these lakes is not recommended, but once the ice is safe, ATV's, snowmobiles and hiking can get you to your favorite fishing hole. Check out the DNR's Ice Safety web page for more information on staying safe on the ice, including tips for creating ice claws and what to do if you fall through ice.



*"There's no such thing as a bad day when you're fishing." - John D. Williams*

## A MESSAGE FROM SHARON

Greetings!

As you'll discover within this newsletter the Association is fortunate to have determined members who are saying "fasten your seatbelts we are ready to go!" Our board members are co-chairing restructured committees who are passionate about our mission that will provide education and advance progress on shoreline restorations, invasive species control, improving fisheries, boater safety awareness, youth activities, being good stewards and having fun getting together. In addition, we are extremely grateful to those working with us who are outside our membership. This includes individuals from the DNR, Waupaca County, Townships of Dayton and Farmington, Lake District, Sheriff's Department and other organizations who share our goals. Area residents/stewards who reside beyond the lakes are also volunteering to make a positive impact. As you read about the plans for 2023, we hope something excites you to get involved or visit a project in action. Stay tuned...there's more to come!

Best,

*Sharon Peterson*  
President

## ASSOCIATION EMAIL BLASTS

We expect that the Association committee chairs will have much news to share in 2023. As you will learn further into this newsletter, the committees have been staffed and work will once again begin after Covid-19 derailed in-person meetings and projects. Email blasts will give you quick updates on invasive species, exciting news on the fishing front, educational opportunities, involvement with a number of community partners and other accomplishments during the year. We will also share updates from the Lake District through our email platform and may direct you to their website for more detailed information.

## MEMBERSHIP FORMS

For your convenience, the enclosed membership forms have been personalized to include your membership information and directory information for publication in the Who's Hoo. Kindly review the information for accuracy and indicate any changes on the form and return in the envelope provided. The form also lets you know whether your membership is up for renewal this year or in a future year. If your membership form says "Your dues are paid in full" any checks sent to the Association will be considered a charitable contribution for the year in which they are given and the amount will not be applied to extend the length of the membership.

Please circle any information, other than mailing addresses, you do not wish to have included in the Who's Hoo.

## NEW AND IMPROVED CHAIN O' LAKES MAPS AVAILABLE SOON!

*By Jan Behnke, Chair, Government and Community Relations Committee*

Last year, the Association applied for and received a grant from the Waupaca Area Convention & Visitors Bureau to produce and actively distribute new and enhanced Chain maps to rental properties and rental boat owners in 2023. This idea was brought up during the member input portion of the Association's Annual meeting last June, where members requested that boat renters and vacation property renters receive additional education. We will be revising the current map that the Association distributes with the new Incident Report information and actively distribute multiple copies, including a laminated copy to rental properties and boat rentals, along with the Wisconsin Boating Safety pamphlet.

*"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." -Aldo Leopold*

## INTRODUCING THE CHAIN O'LAKES ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

As mentioned on page one, we have restructured the committees, renamed some of them and most of all, populated each one with energetic members who are willing to give of their time to help our mission; preserving the lakes and surrounding environment. As Covid started to ease, ideas that were put on hold are coming to life. The chairpersons have set agendas, goals and budgets to develop educational seminars, upgrade safety materials, improve our fisheries, and our shorelines. They are forming stronger liaisons with the DNR, the Lake District, the townships of Dayton and Farmington, the Sheriff's Department, various Waupaca county departments and UW extensions. Getting more done is easier with lots of partners! Here are the committees:

Government and Community Relations: Chair Jan Behnke, Co-Chair Bob Underberg.  
New Project: Jan recently secured a grant from the Waupaca Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau to help with the expenses of printing and distributing new Chain O'Lakes maps.

Stewardship and Resource: Chair Julie Mazzoleni, Co-Chair Susan G. Walla.  
Educate, encourage, and assist Association members in becoming environmental stewards of their lake property and the Chain. In 2023 look for the beautification of two launch areas with native plants, as well as several member properties who have chosen to take this approach to improve their shorelines.

Safety and Recreational Use: Chair Carl Nelson, Co-Chair Rose Spaar  
Launch in-person boating safety classes, work with DNR, the Sheriff's Department and the Lake District to review buoy placements and methods for keeping the lakes safer.

Fish Sustainability: Chair Barry Gill, Co-Chair Mark Kuntsman  
Youth fishing photo contest, fingerling release, improving fish habitat.

Signs: Chair Peggy Jesion, Co-Chair Mark Kuntsman  
Maintain the green road signs on the Chain as well as the lake identification signs in the water

Communications: Chair Sharon Peterson, Co-Chair Peggy Jesion  
Publicity, annual newsletter, membership drive, the Who's Hoo, scholarships, neighborhood chairpersons, neighborhood meet/greet and website.

Nominating: Chair Sharon Peterson, Co-Chair Bob Underberg  
Members can always submit names for consideration for open board positions.

Any Association member is welcome to volunteer doing something that interests you. You could help for an hour, a day or whatever fits your schedule. Feel free to contact the Chair of the committee you are interested in helping.



## SHERIFF'S REPORT

**Sergeant Dan Lewinski of the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity for the summer of 2022:**

The water patrol unit worked a total of 516 hours of patrol for the boating season during the summer of 2022. We issued 50 citations and 40 written warnings, including 2 operating while intoxicated incidents. During patrol we completed 125 Compliance and Safety Checks and assisted 5 vessels. Once again, this past summer proved to be a safe boating season as there were no reportable accidents. We look forward to the warm weather and another boating season upcoming in 2023. As always, we encourage safe boating by following regulations so everyone can enjoy what a wonderful natural resource we have in the Waupaca Area.

Waupaca County Sheriff non-emergency (715) 258-4466

WI DNR Tips/Violations (800) 847-9367

## PERMANENT BOAT STRUCTURES

By Scott Koehnke , Senior Water Management Specialist, Enforcement & Compliance  
Bureau of Waterways, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Department has seen an uptick in permanent boat shelters on piles with permanent wood roofs. **These structures require written authorization from the Department of Natural Resources.** Property owners should review requirements listed on this website: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/permits/water>. There are also several permit conditions; Condition number nine below may address many questions that Chain residents have had recently:

Condition # 9. The boat shelter may not include walls or sides **unless all** of the following conditions are met: a. The sides are removed seasonally between December 1 and April 1 annually; b. The sides are made of a flexible material with a minimum openness factor of 5 percent; c. The sides are placed no less than 36 inches above the water surface; d. The watercraft being berthed is registered under ch. 30 subch. V, Wis. Stat. or is exempt from registration requirements under s. 30.51, Wis. Stat.; and e. The watercraft being berthed has a wooden hull or is designated as a boat with significant historic or cultural value as determined by the state, county or local historical society.

Another concern is related to seasonal roofs/canopies that exceed the exemption standard. Specifically, these structures are lifts that include a roof more than 30" in length measured from the peak. Additionally, some have sides which are only possible if the boat in the lift is a wooden-hulled or historically significant watercraft. The Department has received concerns from the public and made contact with numerous properties already. More contacts are in the process of occurring so that there is a consistent assessment of these structures. Enforcement actions including voluntary compliance, civil forfeitures, and potential DOJ referral are part of the review process. It is the Department's hope that most, if not all, can simply be brought into compliance voluntarily and the need for elevated enforcement can be eliminated.

ANY work completed on a boathouse located below the ordinary high watermark requires written certification from the Department and in some instances floodplain approval from the County. Under some scenarios, the owner is limited to repairs that do not exceed 50% of equalized assessed value of the boathouse. However, depending on the age, use and type of boathouse an exception to the 50% rule does exist.

The following are the statutory definitions of boat shelter and boathouse:

**30.01(1c), Stats.** = "Boat shelter" means a structure in navigable waters with a roof but no walls and, except as provided in par. (b), no sides, designed and constructed for the purpose of providing cover for a berth place for watercraft. Such a structure may include a device for lifting a boat.

(b) "Boat shelter" includes a structure under par. (a) that has temporary sides made of flexible material with a minimum openness factor of 5 percent if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The sides are placed and maintained by the owner or easement holder of adjacent riparian land or his or her agent.
  2. The boat is registered under subch. V or exempt from registration requirements under s. 30.51 and either has a wooden hull or is designated as a boat with significant historic or cultural value, as determined by the state historical society or a local or county historical society established under s. 44.03.
  3. The sides are located entirely within the riparian owner's riparian zone.
  4. There are no more than 2 boat shelters for the first 100 feet of the riparian owner's shoreline footage and no more than one additional boat shelter for each additional 50 feet of the riparian owner's shoreline footage. For purposes of this subdivision, shoreline footage is measured along a straight line connecting points where property lines meet the ordinary high-water mark.
  5. The sides are placed no less than 36 inches above the water surface.
  6. The structure is no more than 24 feet in length, unless the boat that will be sheltered is longer than 24 feet from bow to stern.
- 30.01(1d), Stats.** = "Boathouse" means a structure with one or more walls or sides that has been used for one or more years for the storage of watercraft and associated materials, regardless of the current use of the structure.

## LAKES DISTRICT UPDATE

*By Chair, Fred Silloway*

The Waupaca Chain O' Lakes District (WCOLD) is an independent governmental body that can levy taxes, accept grants, and state aid to monitor water quality and treat aquatic plants, among other powers. It manages aquatic plants on the waterway through monitoring, surveying, chemical treatments, mechanical harvesting, and hand pulling.

Two invasive aquatic species (AIS), curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) and hybrid Eurasian water-milfoil (HWM), are present in the Chain. Curly-leaf pondweed has primarily been found at low levels, not requiring management. Eurasian water milfoil can interfere with recreation and negatively impact our property values.

The Lake District's goal is to control HWM without unintended collateral damage to desirable adjacent native vegetation. Healthy native vegetation will compete with the invasives and offer another (natural) level of control against further spread.

In early 2022, we implemented a plan of action after management discussion between the District and Wisconsin DNR. Efforts included early season control for the densest areas of HWM, treatment area monitoring, and post-treatment surveys. All lakes within the Chain had year-end AIS mapping surveys completed to update current conditions, further map areas of AIS growth, review results from the 2022 control applications, and plan for 2023.

In June of 2022, select area treatments totaling 7.9 acres occurred on Otter, Rainbow, Sunset, Columbia, and Miner Lakes.

Otter Lake – HWM control from the 2022 application in the southern portion was excellent, with only individual plants noted at widely scattered portions of the lake. 2022 results show no active control of HWM is warranted for 2023.

Rainbow, Sunset, and Nessling Lakes – As a recurring theme across the Chain, populations of HWM are reduced compared to 2021. Areas that experienced targeted control saw excellent results in Rainbow and Sunset Lakes.

Columbia Lake – Populations of HWM in Columbia Lake were similar to most other lakes in the Chain, consisting of scattered beds and spots or clumps. Targeted control in 2022 was very successful. Current populations are not dense enough to warrant control in 2023.

Miner Lake – The north bay has historically been the densest location for HWM in the lake and had a very dense, topped-out area of HWM controlled in 2022. Initial results show good control with a significant reduction in density and frequency within this area.

At this time, formal plans for 2023 have yet to be finalized. We anticipate, however, that Dake Lake will receive heavy treatment in 2023.

While hybrid Eurasian milfoil continues to exist on the other lakes, the populations are considered too small for chemical management. The District with DNR approval may consider hand removal via scuba divers when very small colonies exist in highly trafficked or sensitive areas.

Unfortunately, a new invasive was detected at four locations in Miner Lake. Starry Stonewort is a dense macro-alga that can out-compete desirable vegetation. It is difficult to control, so the emphasis will be placed on hand removal and education to prevent its spread to other lakes via hitchhiking on watercraft. More information will follow on the Lake District's effort to mitigate this new invasive. For further information, contact us through the Lake District website:

<http://www.waupacachainolakesdistrict.com>

## SAFETY ON THE CHAIN

### IN-PERSON BOATING CLASSES TO RESUME

As was reported in our December 2022 email blast, in person boating safety classes will once again be offered! Dan and Fawn Johnson, Association members, will be getting certified as boating safety instructors and along with Association Board Member Carl Nelson, who is already certified, have been scheduling classes at both the Town of Farmington and Town of Dayton town halls this spring and summer. If you have a youth in your family who wants to operate your boat, please familiarize them with the following Wisconsin boating laws:

- A person younger than 10 years may not operate a motorboat.
- A person 10 or 11 years old may operate a motorboat only if accompanied by a parent, a guardian or a person at least 18 years old who is designated by the parent or guardian AND the parent, guardian or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate or was born before Jan. 1, 1989.
- A person 12-15 years old may operate a motorboat only if:
  - They are accompanied by a parent, a guardian or a person at least 18 years old who is designated by the parent or guardian AND the parent, guardian or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate or was born before Jan. 1, 1989 OR...
  - They have completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR.
- A person who was born on or after Jan. 1, 1989, and who is 16 years of age or older may operate a motorboat only if:
  - They have completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR OR...
  - They are accompanied by another person in the motorboat who is at least 18 years of age AND that person holds a valid boating safety certificate or was born before Jan. 1, 1989.

Wisconsin law requires those born on or after January 1, 1989, to pass a boater safety course and to carry a boater education card if operating a motorboat or PWC in Wisconsin. ([dnr.wisconsin.gov](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov))

**Boater Safety Course** dates as posted on the DNR's GoWild system and also on our website:

Dayton Town Hall: N2285 Hwy 22, Waupaca, 54981 – June 6, 7 and 8 from 5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Farmington Town Hall: E 913 Prairie View Lane (Hwy 54 & Hwy Q) Waupaca, WI 54981

June 13, 14 and 15 from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The last night will include the course review and test and may go a half hour longer. Parents are also welcome to sit in on any part or all of the course and, are welcome to join in and actually take the course if they had never had it before.

### INCIDENT REPORT FEATURE ON WEBSITE

An inconsiderate boater just raced way too close to your kayak and almost swamped you. Another boat is running circles at wake speed on a no-wake lake. These incidents seem to be more frequent these days and now you can help to raise awareness to law enforcement by documenting these unlawful and unsafe activities. Get as much information as you can in terms of registration numbers, boat brand, color or other identifying features and write it down. Go to <https://www.waupacachainolakesassociation.com> and click on the box on the top right of the home page. Record your situation on the form. The purpose is to provide law enforcement with a record of what occurs when water patrol may not be in the area at the time of the incident.

**The Association would like to thank Sergeant Dan Lewinski and DNR Conservation Warden Jonathan Kaiser, Senior Water Management Specialist Scott Koehnke, and both organizations for their continued support in keeping the Chain O'Lakes Safe.**

Sergeant Dan Lewinski #522  
Patrol Division  
Waupaca County Sheriff's Office  
1402 E. Royalton St.  
Waupaca WI, 54981  
Office: 715-258-4466 Direct: 715-256-4522 Email: [daniel.lewinski@co.waupaca.wi.us](mailto:daniel.lewinski@co.waupaca.wi.us)

Jonathan J. Kaiser  
Conservation Warden - Waupaca  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Phone 715-281-9465  
Email: [jonathan.kaiser@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jonathan.kaiser@wisconsin.gov)

## 2022 REAL ESTATE UPDATE

*By Dave Shambeau of Shambeau and Thern Real Estate*

You should continue to feel good about your Chain O'Lakes investment! My update is going to be shorter than in years past as there were not very many sales during the year. Per the multiple listing service, there were only seven (7) sales of Chain properties in 2022, which is the lowest amount that I can recall in my 20+ years in real estate. The sales prices ranged from a low of \$450,000 for a home on Otter Lake to a high sale price of \$980,000 on Miner Lake. During the year, there were no sales of condos or vacant land on the Chain O'Lakes. A breakdown of sales by lake is as follows: Long (1), Otter (1), Miner (2), McCrossen (1), Dake (1) and Limekiln (1). At the time of this writing, there are only two (2) properties available on the Multiple Listing Service. In my opinion, the Chain real estate market remains strong with demand continuing to exceed supply. The Chain continues to have a shortage of inventory of properties for sale.

## DEMONSTRATION GARDENS: Beautifying with native plants

*By Julie Mazzoleni, Chair, Stewardship and Resource Committee*

The WCOL Association Stewardship and Resources Committee, along with a team of local volunteers, has kicked off an initiative to restore native plants, habitat and shorelines across the Chain O'Lakes area. Look for the first installation of their Demonstration Garden this spring at the Snug Harbor launch site. Although a small site to start, it will be impactful. The committee's goal is not only beautification of the area with native plants, but also education to landowners about the ease and importance of native plants and the impact they have on land, wildlife, shoreline stability and critical lake health. The creation of Demonstration Gardens has just started and will be an ongoing project over the next several years throughout the Chain. If you have any thoughts or ideas of areas you think would be good candidates for a demonstration garden, please feel free to contact the Association through its website or email at [chainolakesassociation.com](http://chainolakesassociation.com). We will make a list to consider for 2023 and beyond. The ideal area would have good foot traffic (walk or bike by) or someplace boaters can easily see from the shoreline. As demonstration gardens, we'd like them to be easily enjoyed by many. Each garden will also have colorful signage explaining the types of plants, their care, environmental impact and the wildlife they attract. There will also be a mention of all associates, partners and volunteers involved.



## EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION-MAY 20,2023

*By Julie Mazzoleni, Chair, Stewardship and Resource Committee*

Are you missing the diversity of fish and frogs that used to thrive in and around our lakes? Do you no longer see the variety and abundance of turtles, birds, butterflies, native bees, bats and other wildlife that used to prosper here? The Stewardship and Resources Committee will be hosting an education program on May 20, 2023 at the Indian Crossing Casino. The Neighborhood Chairperson's Breakfast will be held that same day at 8:30 a.m. followed by an information fair staffed by local partners such as the DNR, the Lake District, WI Extension Lakes (UWSP), Waupaca Land and Water Conservation, Wild Ones, Native Plant and Aquatic Suppliers, Boating Safety information and much much more. At 10:15 a.m., Paul Skawinski (WI Citizen Network Statewide Educator - UWSP Extension Lakes) and Pat Groggin (Lake Outreach Specialist - UWSP Extension Lakes) will be discussing the impact we have on our land, shorelines and lake health. Their presentation will touch on the impact "run-off" is having on our lakes today, and how this can be easily managed by simple diversion techniques, adding beautiful raingardens or barrels. Paul and Patrick will discuss the effect of identifying and replacing non-native invasive plants with WI native plants and how vital and easy it is to restore our land and shorelines for lake health. We will discuss the Healthy Lakes and Rivers "5 simple best practices that improve habitat and water quality on your shoreline property". We will also introduce you to native plant guides and other resources you can use to identify plants on the go, as well as how to use these resources. In a nutshell, you will learn how to restore our missing wildlife, improve or maintain property values, and importantly, keep our land, shorelines and lakes HEALTHY!

## **2023 ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE**

The Association's Annual Meeting of Members will be held at **9:00 am on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Camp Cleghorn Chapel on Camp Road**. All members are encouraged to attend. The meeting will include presentation of the proposed budget, recognition of the scholarship recipient, elections, an opportunity to hear concerns of the members and, if possible, an educational program. The agenda will be posted 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting on the Association's website. Other matters not on the agenda may be considered at this meeting on an advisory basis.

### **BOARD NOMINATIONS**

Association By-Laws state that election of Directors shall take place at the Annual Meeting and that the Board shall nominate candidates to fill Board vacancies. As of this printing, nominees for the 2023-2026 term are: Barry Gill and Carl Nelson. Any five Association members may nominate an additional candidate by submitting a written nomination to the Executive Secretary before May 10th. If nominations are contested, candidate names will appear on ballots provided at the Annual Meeting.

### **ANNUAL MEETING DATES**

Dayton Township	Tuesday, April 18, 6:00 pm	Dayton Town Hall
Farmington Township	Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 pm	Farmington Town Hall
Chairperson's Appreciation		
Breakfast and Meet & Greet	Saturday, May 20, 8:30 am	Indian Crossing Casino
Association	Saturday, June 24, 9:00 am	Camp Cleghorn Chapel, Camp Road
Lake District	Saturday, August 12, 9:00 am	Farmington Town Hall

**ASSOCIATION BOARD:** Jan Behnke, Barry Gill, Lindsey Lewitzke, Julie Mazzoleni, Carl Nelson, Sharon Peterson (President), Rose Spaar (Secretary), Bob Underberg (Vice President) and Susan G. Walla (Treasurer). Officer of the Association: Peggy Jesion (Executive Secretary).

### **CONSIDER A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ASSOCIATION**

The Association has a tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization; you may want to consider making a tax-deductible charitable contribution in addition to your continued tax-deductible membership support.

**Thank you to our newsletter contributors:** Jan Behnke, Barry Gill, Peggy Jesion, Scott Koehnke, Mark Kuntsman, Dan Lewinski, Julie Mazzoleni, Ted McCartney, Carl Nelson, Sharon Peterson, Fred Silloway and Dave Shambeau.

**Reminder about the green road signs managed by the Association:** Your membership form includes an area at the bottom for notifying us of changes to your green arrow. Sign listings can be either: 1) last name only; 2) one initial and a last name; or 3) two last names separated by a /. No nicknames please. For cost efficiencies, we place an early spring order, a mid-summer order and the final order of the year in late fall.



***IN HONOR OF THE LATE JOHN HEBBRING, ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER AND BUILDER OF THE GREEN ROAD SIGNS, WE ASK THAT YOU BRING A CAN OR TWO OF A NON-PERISHABLE ITEM TO THE ANNUAL MEETING. WE WILL GATHER AND TAKE THEM TO THE LOCAL FOOD PANTRY. WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THIS AN ANNUAL TRADITION AS A WAY TO HONOR JOHN.***

The Association is thankful that so many people wanted to submit an article for this newsletter. Unfortunately, not all could be included in this version. We will make every attempt to include them next year or in a future email blast. *Coming in a future edition: An article by Ann Silloway and Sue Eiler about an effort by the Friends of Hartman Creek State Park to plant wild rice on the Upper Chain.*

