

WAUPACA CHAIN O' LAKES ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 169, King, WI 54946
waupacachainolakesassociation.com



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

Spring 2016



KEEPING THE CHAIN LAKES HEALTHY HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

The Goal - Wisconsin's Healthy Lakes initiatives goal is to protect and to improve the health of Wisconsin lakes by increasing projects for lakeshore habitat restoration and erosion control. The Department of Natural Resources Grant program is designed to boost waterfront property owners' interest by encouraging simple do-it-yourself projects to improve fish habitat, integrate native plantings, divert and clean runoff water and promote natural beauty. The benefits of these projects increase cumulatively as more property owners participate. Lakes with good shoreland habitat tend to have better water quality and sustainable property values.

The Sponsor - Waupaca County became a Healthy Lakes Grant sponsor when the Land and Water Conservation Department adopted the Healthy Lakes Implementation Plan by resolution, which was approved by the County Board in January 2016. A sponsor may apply for grants on behalf of multiple property owners who do not have to be on the same lake.

Grant Funding - \$200,000 in funding is available statewide, and Healthy Lakes Grant awards to sponsors will be capped at \$25,000, with up to \$1,000 in grant dollars for each planned "best practice" project. Because Healthy Lakes Grants are reimbursement grants, the State does not provide advance payment for project start-up expenses. The State grant award requires a 75/25 state/sponsor match including up to 10% of the state share available for technical assistance and project management. Sponsor match can include technical assistance and grant administration beyond the 10% state share. Healthy Lakes Grant funding is designed to encourage committed property owners with planned projects.

Grant funding is not available for compliance purposes such as shoreland mitigation projects or for complex sites with substantial runoff or erosion problems where an engineering design is more appropriate. Individual lakeshore owners may implement best practice projects without grant funding. However, before undertaking any shoreland project, consult the Waupaca County Planning and Zoning office, 715-258-6255 to make sure a proposed plan complies with local ordinances.

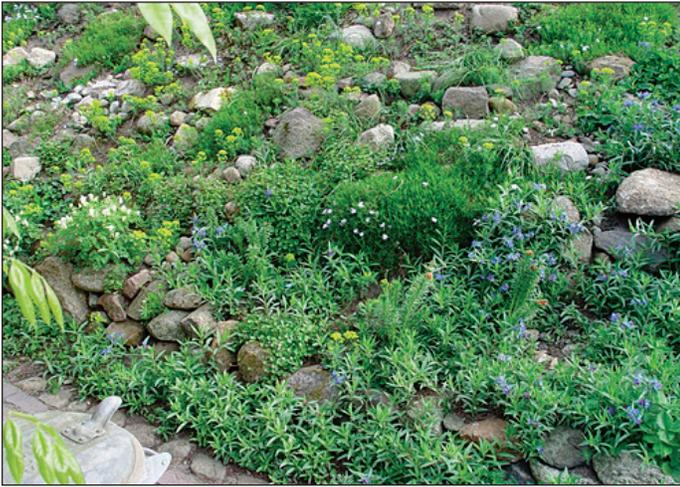
Best Practice Projects - Five examples of best practice projects included in the Healthy Lakes Plan follow.

Installation of native plantings. Native planting packages include plan designs and lists of suitable plants for areas at least 10 feet wide and covering a contiguous 350 square foot area along the lakeshore. Examples include packages for attracting birds and butterflies and those for woodland plantings. Property owner preferences and site features will determine which packages would be most appropriate. Final shape and orientation to the shoreline are flexible. For a 350 square foot area, installed costs total about \$1,000. Waupaca County shoreland zoning requires that this area of native plantings remain in place in perpetuity. When adopted by multiple homeowners, plantings improve habitat, slow runoff and promote natural beauty.



Native Plantings, courtesy of naturalshore.com

Diversion of runoff water. By building small berms or shallow dips, homeowners can capture runoff causing erosion and can divert water into an area where it can be absorbed. Diversion practices average about \$200 installed.



Diversion Berm, courtesy of landscapingnetwork.com

Installation of upland rain gardens. Rain gardens improve wildlife habitat while diverting and cleaning runoff water. When placed in upland areas near homes, rain gardens collect roof, road and driveway runoff and prevent it from reaching a lake. Rain garden costs vary greatly depending on size and plantings. Initial costs may be in the \$500-1000 range and average about \$2,300 installed. In addition to a potential \$1000 Healthy Lakes Grant, Waupaca County has a \$600 cost share grant available for rain gardens that may be used as part of the sponsor match.



Rain Garden, courtesy of Waupaca Land & Water Conservation Department

Placement of rock infiltration pits or trenches. Rock infiltration projects capture, store and allow runoff water to soak into the ground where it is filtered instead of streaming directly into a lake. Many infiltration projects can be accomplished in the \$1000 range.



Infiltration Steps, courtesy of awatersheds.org

Deployment of fish sticks. Fish sticks include whole downed trees stacked in a cluster and anchored to the shore either fully or partially submerged. Use of fish sticks prevents shoreline erosion while improving fish and wildlife habitat. Property owners participating in fish stick projects must commit to leaving a 350 contiguous square foot no-mow or native planting zone if the property's shoreland buffer area does not comply with the local shoreland zoning ordinance. Fish stick projects average about \$500 for a cluster of three to five trees.



Fish Sticks, courtesy of Mallard Lake Association, Burnett County

Grant Application – Interested property owners should have a plan in mind and should contact the Land and Water Conservation Department, 715-258-6245, before December 1 to avoid planning on snow covered ground. After talking with an interested landowner, the Department will do a site visit. The deadline to apply for the DNR grant is February 1 each year. Each grant has a standard timeline with an April 15 start date and a June 30 end date two years later. Project funding requires that property owners sign a conservation contract, including operation and maintenance information and a ten-year requirement for retaining the project. The owner may sign a participation/commitment pledge to document a strong interest in following through with the project.

Grant Review - Healthy Lakes Grants are competitive. A review team, including DNR staff and County and UW-Extension partners, will consider the following aspects of a proposed project: water quality, habitat and natural beauty protection or improvement; public access and public use of the lake; diversity and appropriateness of best practices, costs, neighbors participating together, ability to measure improvements, level of commitment by property owners and likelihood of a successful project. Property owners will be notified if their applications are successful.

For additional information, go to healthylakeswi.org or contact Brian Haase, Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation Department, Brian.Haase@co.waupaca.wi.us or 715-258-6245.

SHORELINE ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Healthy shorelines have an abundance of native grasses, trees and shrubs that provide habitat for fish, mammals, amphibians, birds and insects. These diverse habitats are essential for a healthy Chain O'Lakes system. A Chain shoreline assessment to evaluate the habitat health of the vegetated buffer areas, the first 50 feet of land from shorelines, was completed in 2014 by the Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation staff. The staff used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and field assessments to measure the condition of the entire Chain shoreline. Survey results revealed that most of the shoreline disturbance was due to the loss of shrubs and native grasses and much of the Chain shoreline has been

altered by property owners. The majority of natural shoreline was found on the Upper Chain where a large portion of land is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Results of the entire Chain showed: **46% of the shoreline buffer area is classified as Human-Disturbed**, cultivated lawns or man-made structures such as boathouses, decks and stairs; **36% is Human-Natural**, some native vegetation, but not in a completely natural condition; and **18% occurs in a Natural state**, areas with no human influence.

Dan McFarlane, Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation Department, who headed the assessment project, will be the guest speaker at the Association Annual meeting. Members will be able to see the assessment of the entire Chain as well as of their individual properties. Depending on assessment results members are encouraged to take steps to restore their shorelines to a more natural state by applying for a Healthy Lakes Grant. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/hybdefg> for the Chain shoreline assessment. If you would like additional information, McFarlane can be reached at Daniel.McFarlane@co.waupaca.wi.us or 715-258-6245.

CHAIN WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Citizen Lake Monitoring (CLM) is a program designed to educate volunteers, to collect high quality data, and to share this data and knowledge. The information gathered by Wisconsin's 1000 + volunteers is used by the Department of Natural Resources, UW-Extension, university biologists and researchers. Volunteers may perform chemical and/or secchi testing.

A Secchi disk is a standard tool used to measure water clarity. The disk is lowered into the water while observing the depth at which it disappears. Then it is lowered further and raised while observing the depth at which it reappears. The measurement is the average of the two observations. The date, disk measurement, appearance and water color are recorded each time water clarity is measured. Water chemistry volunteers measure phosphorus levels and chlorophyll-A concentrations, algae populations. Chemistry monitoring, done four times per year, helps determine if nutrient pollution is occurring in a lake or if seasonal fish die-offs may be possible due to low oxygen levels.

The following volunteers will be trained for CLM and will perform chemical and/or secchi testing on Chain lakes this summer: Bob and Marilyn Dixon, Marl; Phil Peterson, Manomin and Pope; John Miller, Long; Sharon Peterson, Round; Susan Gaastra and Mary Ann Wells, Taylor. Thank you volunteers!

WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT MARY ANN WELLS!

As your new President I would like to share some of my history on the lakes and my love of the Chain. Since 1962 when my parents bought our first cottage, I was a seasonal resident and spent as much time at the cottage as I could while growing up. I am also one of the original members of the Chain Skiers. As an adult the first place I brought my future husband was to my family's beloved cottage and we have been on the lakes ever since. In 2004 we purchased the family home on Rainbow and it became our permanent residence. I know that these special lakes need love and care and I believe that as Association President, I can work with the current Board of Directors and members of the Association as a team to make sure that the lakes will be maintained. It is very true that the lakes are unique and I will do my best to keep them the gem they are so that the Chain will continue to be beautiful for generations to come.

Please consider making a tax deductible contribution to the Chain O'Lakes Foundation. The goal of the Foundation is to assist in efforts to protect and improve the Chain O'Lakes. Checks should be made payable to **Chain O'Lakes Foundation** and mailed to Bob Ellis, Treasurer, E1228 Pine Tree Point, Waupaca, WI 54981.

Thank you to Jed DeYoung, Miner; Maryann Jenner, Taylor; Don Komis, Sunset; Scott Panzenhagen, Columbia; Barry Tomaras, McCrossen; and Jeff Treu, Ottman, who served on the Board for 6, 4, 18, 12, 10 and 6 years respectively. The Board truly appreciates all the time and effort you gave to the Association. Welcome aboard to new Board members Marilyn Dixon, Marl; Susan Gaastra, Nessling; and Sharon Peterson, Round.

At last year's Annual Meeting two resolutions were passed, one regarding waters skiing hours and one regarding the Central Sands Water Action Coalition. Information about these two resolutions follows.

All members are invited to attend this year's Annual meeting, 9:00 AM, June 25, Marden Memorial Center, Wisconsin Veterans Home in King.

WATER SKI HOURS RESOLUTION

The water ski hours resolution states that the Members of the Waupaca Chain O'Lakes Association agree that any action or effort by the Association or its Board of Directors that would involve changing the current ski hours on the Chain would first require an affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present at the Association's Annual meeting.

CENTRAL SANDS WATER ACTION COALITION (CSWAC) RESOLUTION

CSWAC is a volunteer coalition of Lake Associations, Lake Districts and Conservation groups concerned about negative impacts to water resources in the six-county region of Waupaca, Adams, Marquette, Portage, Waushara and Wood Counties. The CSWAC resolution states that the Association will: designate one member to attend Coalition meetings, participate in Coalition functions, respond to Coalition requests for member actions and decisions, and entrust and delegate authority to the Coalition Steering Committee to develop positions that comply with the CSWAC Mission to advocate for protection and sustainable use of ground and surface waters.

CSWAC strongly supports use of groundwater for farming and other purposes provided it maintains healthy stream flows and lake levels. However, several bills have been introduced in the State legislature that do little to protect citizens' water rights as these bills assure the slow and steady decline of the State's most valuable natural resource, water. In essence these bills are creating a water ownership position for existing hi-capacity well owners by: (1) removing the DNR's ability to consider cumulative impact from all wells in areas of over-pumping and removing its current protections of wetlands, streams and springs; (2) changing the definition of waters from "waters of the State" to "navigable waters" and (3) reversing Wisconsin's "Public Trust Doctrine," which says the waters of the State belong to all citizens.

The consequences of proposed bills are significant. When water protection is eliminated, wetlands can disappear. Lakes and rivers will continue to decline.

Private and municipal wells may have reduced flow and may go dry. Recreational water use will be reduced. Many jobs created and supported by recreation will start to disappear. Property values and property tax revenues will decline, which will mean less money for schools, roads and infrastructure. CSWAC information will be posted periodically on the Association website.

CALL FOR 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. Nominees for the 2016-2019 term are: Susan Gaastra, Nessling; Phil Peterson, Manomin; and Mary Ann Wells, Rainbow. If you are interested in serving on the Board or as Treasurer of the Board, contact any Board member. Their names are listed at the end of the newsletter and their contact information is in the WHO's HOO. Any five Association members may nominate an additional candidate by submitting a written nomination to the Executive Secretary before May 25. If there are additional nominations, candidate names will appear on ballots provided at the meeting.

CHAIRPERSONS NEEDED!

One chairperson is needed for the Columbia Lake neighborhood from Snug Harbor Ln and N2500s Cleghorn Rd to County Q and Indian Trail. One chairperson is needed for the Taylor Lake neighborhood of E Taylor Lake Ln, County QQ and Park Lane Dr. Please contact Kay Ellis or any other Board member to volunteer. Contact information is in the WHO's HOO. You will be invited to the Chairpersons/Board Appreciation breakfast in May, where Chairpersons packets are distributed. You will have ample time to distribute the WHO's HOO to your neighbors before the June Annual meeting.

LAKE DISTRICT NEWS

Lake Management Plan - The District is now required by the DNR to create a Lake Management Plan for the entire Chain. Onterra, LLC of De Pere has been contracted to develop this Plan during 2016-2017. Onterra prepared a grant application for the District and if the grant is received, it will pay for most of the planning expenses. The District plans to treat

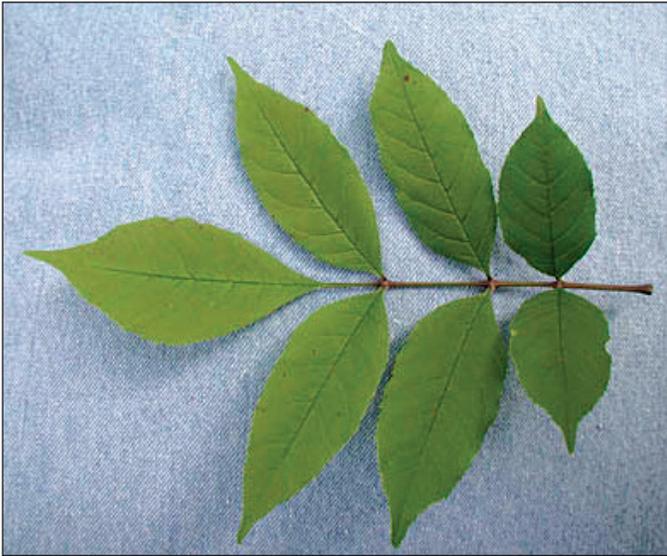
Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed as in the past. In 2015 beetles that eat only Purple Loosestrife were placed in several infested areas on the Chain. Beetles will be used again this summer for purple loosestrife control. The District thanks Sue Eiler and her volunteers for their expertise in raising purple loosestrife plants, for collecting beetles and for placing beetles on the Chain.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters Inspections - Volunteers spent many weekends at the Taylor Lake boat landing inspecting entering and exiting boats. Volunteer hours are a critical component of any future DNR grant awards, which pay for the treatment of Aquatic Invasive Species in the lakes. For every volunteer hour, the District receives a \$12.00 credit from the DNR as an in-kind payment. Volunteer hours are 9:30-noon or noon-2:30 on weekends and holidays. In addition to inspecting boats, volunteers are encouraged to hand out the Association/Lake District pamphlets containing AIS information, a Chain map, boater safety regulations, ski rules and ski hours. The District thanks all volunteers for their support in protecting the Chain. Please volunteer for the 2016 season by contacting Susan Gaastra at smgchicago@yahoo.com or 773-293-2873.

ARE ASH TREES ON YOUR PROPERTY?

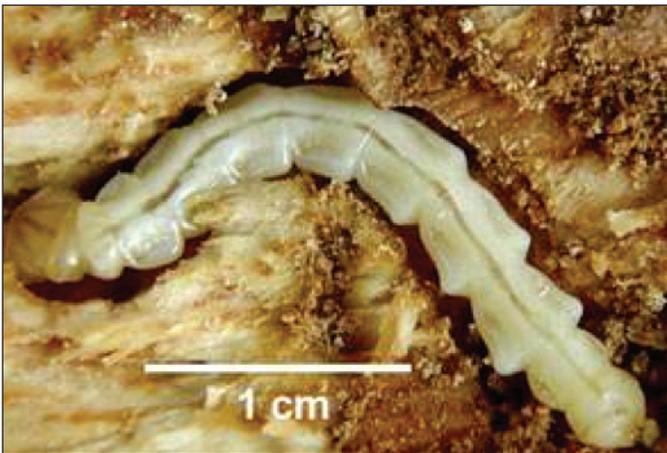
Emerald Ash Borers or "EAB" are wood boring beetles that destroy ash trees as their larva tunnel under the bark and eat tissue. EAB kill all species of native ash trees. EAB were positively identified in Wisconsin in 2008. Since then EAB have been confirmed in many counties which are under quarantine, including Outagamie and Winnebago. Currently EAB have not been identified in Waupaca County. However, the beetles are anticipated here within the next few years.

Ash trees are most easily identified by their branching pattern, two branches coming off the main stem directly opposite each other. Trees have compound leaves with 5-11 leaflets depending on the ash species. Black, green, white and blue ash are found in Wisconsin, blue being the rarest. Black ash bark is thin, ashy-gray, and scaly. Green and white ash bark is smooth when young and becomes thick, diamond-patterned as trees mature.



Ash leaf - msu.edu/ash

Female beetles deposit *eggs* in bark crevices and as the *larvae* hatch, they immediately chew their way into the tree and feed on inner bark, disrupting nutrient and water flow. Larvae feed for one to two years. In the fall they create chambers, remain over winter and pupate in spring. *Pupae*, like larvae, cannot be seen unless the bark is pulled away from the tree. EAB *adults* typically emerge from beneath the bark from May to August completing the life cycle. EAB adults are metallic green and about the size of a cooked grain of rice. They are strong flyers and are most active during warm, sunny days. Most fly only short distances to search for mates, unless carried off in firewood or logs. Once mates are found, females lay 60-90 eggs in bark crevices. Adult beetles feed lightly on ash leaves, but cause only minimal damage as they live only three to six weeks.



EAB larvae - labs.russell.wisc.edu

EAB infestations are difficult to detect when populations are low. Once EAB have been found



EAB galleries - labs.russell.wisc.edu

within 10-15 miles, ash trees may be at risk. If you have an ash tree, look for at least two symptoms.

Crown dieback begins after a few years of larval feeding.

Sprouting occurs when ash trees are stressed or sick and new branches appear wherever they can, including on the trunk.

Woodpecker feeding on larvae can make bark look like strips of it have been pulled off the tree. Trees also have *S-shaped larval galleries* or tunnels beneath the bark. *Vertical bark splits* are caused due to callus tissue that develops around larval galleries. If you notice loose bark on an ash, peel it back and check for galleries and *larvae*. As EAB emerge, distinct *D-shaped exit holes* are created. Collecting *adult EAB* can help confirm an infestation.



EAB beetle and exit hole - labs.russell.wisc.edu

Success in treating an ash tree depends on the tree's condition when treatment begins. Consult the UWEX *Homeowner Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatments*. The main EAB defense is to identify and destroy infestations before they become widespread, the most likely source being infested firewood. EAB can be slowed by buying or harvesting wood locally or by purchasing certified firewood from a reputable dealer. Since EAB has not been found in Waupaca County yet, it is permissible to move firewood within

the County, but not from quarantined counties into Waupaca County. A current map of the quarantined counties is available at datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/WI_EAB_Quarantine.pdf.

dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/emeraldashborer.html;

datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article;

labs.russell.wisc.edu/eab;

emeraldashborer.info/files/multistate_eab_insecticide_fact_sheet.pdf;

NEWS FROM THE PAST

Waupaca Republican, December 9, 1881,
“Streets of New York”

The Waupaca Dramatic Society will produce the above exciting five-act drama at Music Hall next week, probably Thursday evening. The object of the play is to raise necessary funds for the Waupaca Rowing Club, something they are sadly in need of. It is the intention of the club to join the Northwestern Rowing Association, and to do this they must have money. The rowing clubs of Neenah, Appleton and other places are backed by large capital, but our boys have to furnish their own means. The club also needs a double scull boat. It is hoped that a large audience will greet the “Streets of New York” and the Republican does not hesitate to say that it will be the finest drama ever presented in this city.

Waupaca County Post, September 20, 1928,
Add Two Lakes to Chain Via Bridge, Channel
Connecting Dake and Miner lakes with the rest of Waupaca’s beautiful Chain o’ Lakes, a channel and bridge will be constructed, joining Columbian lake with Dake lake, by water and road. The agreement was signed in the highway commissioner’s office today, by which a 12-foot waterway and a 24-foot bridge will be constructed. Bids have been let to T.S. Joyce for the bridge, who will receive \$20 per cubic yard for construction of same. This improvement will be another step in the intelligent utilization and improvement of our local scenic resources.

YOUR 2016 MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Five-Year or Annual Membership Details -

Annual dues are \$25 per year for a family or co-owner. A property owner may choose a five-year membership for \$100, a savings of \$25 over the five-year period. For those who own more than one lake property and want an additional membership and *WHO’S HOO* directory listing, dues are the same, \$25 for one year or \$100 for five years per additional property. Indicate your choice on the membership form. Checks should be made payable to **Waupaca Chain O’ Lakes Association**. Membership dues are used for publishing the newsletter and membership directory, updating and replacing name/address arrow signs and lake signs, funding a scholarship for a Waupaca High School student entering environmental studies, and implementing various lake projects.

Five-Year Members and Wingspan Property Owners - If you have a five-year membership or are a Wingspan owner, do not return your membership form unless your information has changed. The five-year members list is enclosed for your reference.

WHO’S HOO Directory - Before completing the enclosed membership form, review your current *WHO’S HOO* information. If any of it is new or changed since last year, highlight, underline or otherwise indicate it on your membership form. Do not cut the form. Directory information includes lake address, two phone numbers, lake where your property is located and an email address. You may choose to exclude any portion of your information by circling it. Your email address will not be shared with any other organization or business. The *WHO’S HOO* will be distributed to members by Neighborhood Chairpersons in late spring.

Sign Request - This section of the membership form is for new members who do not have signs and for current members who have changes in ownership names. If you have a correct sign, DO NOT fill out this section. Membership and sign information must be received by April 1 for *WHO’S HOO* inclusion and for summer/fall sign installation.

Name/Address Arrow Signs - As signboards deteriorate, the Sign Committee will replace them with more durable boards. While placing arrow signs last year, the Sign Committee found several deteriorating signboards and consequently some sign changes could not be done. Scheduled for replacement are: Butternut Road, Country Lane,

three signs at Whispering Pines Road/W Columbia Lake Drive, Highland Lane, Hicks Lane, E Taylor Lake Lane/County QQ and White Pine Lane.

Each property will have one address arrow, and ONLY Association Members' names will be placed on new signboards. Co-owners may choose to have two last names or possibly three, depending of name length. If more than one name is requested, each co-owner must be a current Association member. Initials will not be included on multiple name arrows.

PATROLLING ON THE CHAIN

Total water patrol hours for 2015 were 778. Patrol boats used 413 gallons of gas, which were purchased at Becker Marine for \$1404.83. There were 385 compliance/safety inspections, 46 citations and 470 warnings. One subject was apprehended and cited for running his boat over buoys between Long and Columbia Lakes. Another individual was cited for landing a float plane. The Alumacraft patrol boat was removed from the water in August due to continued problems with the electrical system and boat leakage. Consequently Dayton and Farmington will be purchasing a new patrol boat. The most frequent infractions were for speed, personal flotation devices (PFDs), registration and distance violations. The number of kayaks and paddleboards increased and compliance with PFD requirements was much better this past summer. In 2014 many of the paddleboards encountered did not have any PFDs on board. Also, the number of noise/loud music incidents were fewer this season as compared to past years.

The DNR is on Chain waters along with the Water Patrol. DNR Wardens are there not only for boater safety, but to observe fish and shorelines and to respond to complaints. If you have concerns about activities on the Chain, call the Water Patrol at 715-258-4466, DNR Warden Dremel at 715-258-4951 or the anonymous DNR tip line, 1-800-TIP-WDNR. Thank you to the Water Patrol Officers and DNR Wardens for their continued efforts to keep the Chain O'Lakes safe!

2016 ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Association Meeting will be held at 9 AM, Saturday, June 25 at Marden Memorial Center, Wisconsin Veterans Home, King. All members are encouraged to attend. The guest speaker will be Dan McFarlane from the Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation Department. The proposed budget will be presented and the scholarship recipient will be recognized. Matters to be voted upon will be: approval of minutes; election of members to the Board of Directors; amendments to the Association's Bylaws, including clarification changes, as well as changes to quorum requirements, notice provisions for meetings, provisions on amending the Bylaws, and other provisions. The agenda and details of the proposed Bylaw amendments will be on the website, waupacachainolakesassociation.com, 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Other matters may be considered at the Meeting on an advisory basis.

Please read the enclosed insert about proposed changes to the Waupaca County Zoning Ordinance that could affect your property.

ANNUAL MEETING DATES

Dayton Township	Tuesday, April 19	6:00 pm	Dayton Town Hall
Farmington Township	Tuesday, April 19	7:00 pm	Farmington Town Hall
Chairpersons/Board Breakfast	Saturday, May 21	8:30 am	Clearwater Harbor
Lake District	Saturday, August 6	9:00 am	Marden Center, Veterans Home

Thank you to the following newsletter contributors and editors:
Bryan Stelzner, Water Patrol; Brian Haase and Dan McFarlane, Waupaca County; and members Jed DeYoung, Marilynn Dixon, Bob Ellis, Kay Ellis, Phil Peterson, Jeff Treu, Joe Udoni and Mary Ann Wells.

ASSOCIATION BOARD - Dick Conover, Jed DeYoung-Treasurer, Marilynn Dixon - Secretary, Kay Ellis - Executive Secretary, Jack Fulcher, Susan Gaastra, John Hebring, Margie Metzger, Phil Peterson, Sharon Peterson, Gary Prell, Jeff Treu, Joe Udoni, Bob Underberg - Vice President, Mary Ann Wells - President