

# SHORE LINES

*Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes*

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association

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October 2024

## President's Report

*By Eugene Clark*

Hello everyone! Summer has come and gone again! We are stowing summer gear and bringing out the Winter. Snow is just around the corner. We hope to see more snow to bring people here to recreate. Our community needs the winter business. We can also use the moisture. I see many lakes are down. We are grateful that the Chain maintains its water levels during these times. To all you snow birds, I hope you are having fun somewhere in the sun!

A big thank you to our Officers and Board Members who have served us all this past season. "Thanks for your service" to the outgoing Board Member Laura Mans (Membership). Thanks to Ron Buczkiewicz for stepping up for the position. Thank you to our membership who

support our activities and programs on the Chain to maintain the pristine nature of our waters.

Our financial position remains strong. We finished our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our 3-year grant from the Wisconsin DNR covering \$115+k of our water quality programs for 2023-24-25. We have applied for renewing our Clean Boats/Clean Waters grant for the 2025 season. We will also be working with the US Forestry Service to see if any Resource Advisory Committee ((RAC) grants will be available in 2025.

This past Summer was a bumper year for all aquatic plant life given the light winter and early ice out. That meant we saw a resurgence of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) on the Chain. We spent extra funds in managing this growth and our budget for next year will be higher. See the AIS report on this below. We put orange buoys on the water marking the presence of EWM, and we ask all boaters to keep 100ft from these orange buoys. The propeller can cut up the plant which will further spread it. Please also let your visitors know about this.

The CCROA remains committed to balancing the various recreational activities on the Chain. We support everyone's right to enjoy their private property. These rights need to be balanced with potential long-term impacts on the quality of our waters. We ask that all activities be consistent with our Mission: "*Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes.*" This is our *Lake Culture*. We ask that operators of all motorized watercraft be aware of their wakes, the depth of the water you are in, and impacts on shorelines, other users of the lakes and wildlife habitat.



The value of this Chain of Lakes is important to our whole community; that is Watersmeet and Land O' Lakes. The tourist trade generated here supports many of our local businesses and tradesmen. This is one of the few large bodies of water in the lower 50 that retains the wilderness feel. So, enjoy the natural beauty of these waters, have fun with your water activities, and be respectful of each other.

We want to encourage all riparian owners to become members of the CCROA and contribute to our programs. During the year, we send out but a few emails notifying members of important issues we all face. Join and stay informed! Your membership and donations help fund our operations and minimize the need for an assessment under our Lake District organizations. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row that you have not seen such an assessment. ***Your membership is important!*** Find the Membership Form in this newsletter.

Lastly, this *Shore Lines Newsletter* is being emailed to all CCROA members for which we have email addresses. It will also be mailed via US Post to all addresses on file for riparian owners on the Cisco Chain. The mailing address will be that to which Watersmeet or Land o' Lakes mails your tax bill. You can also access this newsletter online at [www.ciscochainroa.com](http://www.ciscochainroa.com).

## A Thank You from ISCCW

*By Rachel Wheeler, ISCCW President*

Welcome to Winter! I am Rachel Wheeler, the new President of the ISCCW. I succeeded Denise Fauntleroy in August of this year. I am also a Cisco Chain resident, living in Michigan Bay of Big Lake with my husband, Bob.

ISCCW is recognized as one of Michigan's leaders in the fight against Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). We pride ourselves in our extensive AIS Management Plan. We use qualified biologists and partner with the National Forest Service and Department of Natural Resources to monitor the waterways in Watersmeet Township and several border lakes with Wisconsin. We develop and implement plans for each body of water, working with local lake associations as needed. We employ various methods of removal of AIS including hand pulling, Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH), or use of DNR-approved chemicals to control or eradicate Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). We ensure the recreational quality of our pristine

waters for the benefit of Watersmeet and neighboring townships which encourages tourist traffic and supports our local businesses. Finally, our boat inspection work at landings offers free boat and trailer washings; the best way to control the spread of AIS.

The most basic and grass roots part of our management plan is the boat washing at lake landings and the opportunity it provides to make contact with boat owners and operators to educate and spread awareness of AIS. You often see us on your boat landings where we monitor, inspect and power wash boats coming and leaving your Chain of Lakes. Steve, Danny, Dave, Nathan and Gary have all mentioned how much they enjoy working on the Chain.

The value of these boat inspection/washing and educational services to you is approximately \$30,000 per year. The CCROA's current grant with the Wisconsin DNR also allows the CCROA to submit services we supply for free at your Wisconsin boat landings for reimbursement for just over \$7,000 per year for the 2023-25 boating seasons.

The ISCCW thanks the many CCROA Members who continue to support our activities in Watersmeet Township and on the border lakes with Land O' Lakes. We know you have many nonprofits vying for your dollars. We appreciate your continued support of our organization as we partner with you to protect the Chain. You currently make up approximately 40% of our total membership, contributing about \$18,000 to our efforts. Please continue this support and encourage others on the Chain to participate!

***THANK YOU!***

Do not hesitate to reach out to our Educator, Michelle Kanipes at [educator@isccw.org](mailto:educator@isccw.org) or Rachel Wheeler at [info@isccw.org](mailto:info@isccw.org) when questions arise. Visit our website at [isccw.org](http://isccw.org) to learn more and renew your membership.

## Enhanced Wave Regulation Update

*By Steve Kessler, Aquatic Invasive Species Manager*

The CCROA adopted voluntary guidelines for wake enhancement in May 2023. The guidelines recommend

that boats operating in “surf mode” be 500 feet from shore, in water at least 20 feet deep and only on lakes larger than 500 acres. These guidelines were overwhelming supported by Cisco Chain Property Owners as shown by a survey done last winter. Voluntary compliance was relatively good throughout the 2024 boating season.

On February 28, 2024, State of Michigan Representative Julie Rogers (D) Kalamazoo introduced House Bill 5532 which limits “wake sport mode” operation to 500 feet from shore and to 20 feet of water. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation where it is likely to sit without further action until after the November elections. The Michigan Lakes and Streams Association immediately supported the bill, and the Michigan Boating Industry Association immediately began opposition lobby efforts.

The Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW) issued “Position on Wake Surf Boat Operation” in May of 2024. Per the ISCCW: “We support any legislative activity at the State level and the Watersmeet Township level that seek to meaningfully regulate Wake Surf Boat (WSB) activity consistent with peer reviewed independent studies. We support any lake association that wants to create their own voluntary guidelines consistent with peer reviewed independent studies.” See the entire ISCCW position paper at <https://www.isccw.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/ISCCW-Wake-Surf-Boat-Position-May-2024-1.pdf>.

Thirty-four WI towns have adopted ordinances regulating the operation of a boat in a manner that creates an enhanced wake. Twenty ordinances have been passed in the last nine months. Vilas County towns with ordinances include Winchester, Lac du Flambeau, Plum Lake, Presque Isle, and Cloverland. The WDNR has completed review of an ordinance proposed by the Boulder Junction Town Board and that ordinance awaits Town Board action. A Land O’Lakes proposed ordinance has also been approved by the WDNR. The LOL Town Board voted against adoption on June 19, 2024, and the LOL Plan Commission is currently completing a review of identified concerns. Manitowish Waters has started an information gathering process.

On February 19, 2024, the Madison law firm Lawton Cates filed a petition with the WDNR asking that the

agency adopt the “Home Lake Rule”. This rule would require all ballast systems to be decontaminated before the system can be used in a water body and that the ballast system only be used in a single water body following decontamination. This process would permit owners of ballast systems to use the systems without spreading invasive species. The State of Vermont adopted the Home Lake Rule statewide on February 15, 2024.

On September 3, 2024, five Wisconsin environmental groups announced formation of a coalition to advocate for meaningful statewide regulation of wake-enhanced boating. Originating members of the coalition include Wisconsin Lakes, Wisconsin’s Green Fire, Lakes at Stake Wisconsin, Last Wilderness Alliance, and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Numerous other groups have since joined the founding members. Together they have defined their minimal requirements for statewide legislation to be 1) 700 feet from shore, 2) minimum depth of 30 feet, 3) all ballast systems to be subject to the “Home Lake Rule, and 4) no restrictions preventing local towns from adopting requirements more restrictive than those specified in statewide legislation.

Editor’s note: The author, Steve Kessler, is on the Board of Directors of the Last Wilderness Alliance and is an original signee to the Home Lake Rule Petition submitted to the WDNR.

## Walleye Stocking Update

*By Tim Lathrop*

It is a sad day when we are approaching “boats out weekend” with our neighbors on Thousand Island. A wonderful summer has passed. I always reflect on how I can be better positioned to spend more time on the Chain with my family and friends.

During these past months we have been working to continue our Walleye stocking program. Recall that the CCROA stocked 10,000 fish in the Fall of 2023. Phil Wolbrink has been critical in the success of the program over the years. Thank you, Phil!

The Walleye fund is not depleted. We were targeting a Fall 2024 stocking to continue the program. There have been some changes that are worth mentioning. The MDNR biologist that was formerly responsible for the MI side of the chain retired in January. While the process transpired to staff the position, the MDNR Biologist from the Eastern portion stepped in. It has been a pleasure to work with Cory Kovacs. His response to all our questions has been thorough and guiding. Cory plans to be involved during transition.

As I write this update the new MDNR Fisheries Biologist for our region (Baraga office), Kris Nault, begins his post. Kris is getting up to speed on Fisheries Division processes and protocols. Since Kris is a native of the western Upper Peninsula, he is already very familiar with the waters.

Sourcing over the last several years has been a challenge (see Spring 2024 Shore Lines newsletter for detail: <https://www.ciscochainroa.com/newsletters/Spring.2023.Newsletter.pdf>). To make a long story short, the MDNR recommends that we do not stock this Fall. They recommend a skip year. To that end, we will focus on the Fall of 2025 for our next stocking event.

Meanwhile, and this is great, the CCROA and the MDNR will be meeting to strategize on genetic strains and sourcing, allowing the CCROA to better plan for the future. Historically, the MDNR required a specific genetic strain to be used in these efforts. That requirement is open for discussion. The MDNR is also planning to engage with the DNR in Vilas County, WI in an attempt to strategize for best practices going forward.

We have unearthed some alternative sourcing which will hopefully allow the CCROA to get the best value for its Walleye budget while remaining in step with the DNR.

We plan to begin discussions with the MDNR and hopefully the WI counterparts this Fall after our new MDNR Biologist is comfortably in place.

Further updates to come.

## Highline High Speed Internet Update

*Collaborative Article*

Highline is providing a one gig fiber optic service. A lot of cable has been laid and service is up and running in many households. Thanks to Bob McGuffin, John Oliver, Greg Clark and Yvonne Clark for their work with Watersmeet Township and Highline in getting this going. If you have questions about your service or still have not received it, call Highline Service at 888-212-0054.

## Cisco Chain Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program: 2024 Season

*By Steve Kessler CCROA AIS Manager*

A recap of our 2024 spending is as follows:

Activity	2024 Budget	2024 Est. Spend
Survey, Dive, DASH EWM	\$60,691	\$60,000
Chemical Treatments	\$33,637	\$62,000
WaterQuality	\$20,270	\$22,000
Boat Landing Inspections & Washes	\$32,141	\$32,000
AIS Education & Admin	\$9,000	\$9,000
Total	\$155,739	\$185,000

Light snow cover and an early ice out led to a robust aquatic plant growing season throughout northern WI and the upper peninsula of Michigan. Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) sites that had previously been identified as “sparse” grew to “dense” levels this year. Many new sites were discovered.

Survey work and hand pulling was completed per plan. Planned herbicide treatments were applied to small sites on Morley and on Thousand Island Lakes between June 26 and July 11. Two sites were treated on Big Lake during July including a 7.4-acre site in front of the Palmer Bay boat landing and a second two-acre site.

At the September CCROA Board meeting we voted to expand the 2024 herbicide plan by pulling forward applications which would have otherwise been included in the 2025 plan. The “pull forward” plan was made after consulting with our biologist Many Waters and our licensed applicator, PLM and was made subject to the limitations of the permitting process. On September 18 PLM treated five small sites on Thousand Island Lake and five small sites on Fishhawk Lake.

The additional September herbicide treatments account for the actual spending vs budget excess apparent on the spending recap.

The herbicide treatment plan for the 2025 season will be created this coming winter. There are many sites to consider including at least two sites that exceed ten acres. One on the south end of Big Lake, a second on Cisco



Lake. This is just the beginning of the list. There is a lot of work to be done on West Bay and on and on.

Our annual spend for herbicide treatments is going to increase.

A lot of grant work is underway. The 2025 season will be the final year of our three-year grant with the Wisconsin DNR. We are going to try to get an amendment to the final year of that grant to get some of these added herbicide treatments covered. Wish us luck. Since the WDNR grant will be in its final year we will be working on the next WDNR grant which will cover 2026, 2027 and 2028. A prerequisite for a new WDNR grant will be a required update to our five-year Master Management Plan. We will be applying for a grant to offset the cost of preparing the Master Plan update. Fortunately for us, Many Waters, our consulting biologist, does most of this grant application work.

We continued to partner with ISCCW on the Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program for boat washing and inspections at the boat landings this past season and hope to do so in future years as well. We will be applying to the WDNR for a new Clean Boats Clean Waters grant.

Finally, in September we submitted a \$33,000 grant request to the Ottawa Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). The grant process is managed by the USDA Forest Service. This is a new opportunity, and it is hard to guess the likelihood of being successful.

## Cisco Chain Lake District (CCLD) and Michigan Special Assessment District (MSAD)

*By Steve Kessler, Chairman, Cisco Chain Lake District*

Lake Districts may levy assessments on the members of their districts. These assessments are specifically identified on member property tax bills. Neither the CCLD nor the MSAD assessed their members in December 2023. The CCLD and the MSAD have both notified their respective towns, Land O'Lakes and Watersmeet, that they have once again elected to forego assessing their property owners in December 2024.

Therefore, there will be no lake district assessment on December 2024 tax bills.

Both Lake districts are foregoing assessment as additional funds are not needed to fund expected 2025 AIS management efforts. The cash required is already in the treasury.

It has been a few years since either district assessed their member property owners. Past assessments were \$100 per parcel. The rising cost of managing Aquatic Invasive Species, mainly Eurasian Water Milfoil, may lead us to reevaluate. We have a year to discuss before we decide for December 2025 tax bills. Let us know what you think.

The Cisco Chain has two lake districts: one in Michigan and one in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin lake district is known as the Cisco Chain Lake District or CCLD. Under Wisconsin law the CCLD is a separate legal entity. The Michigan lake district is the Michigan Special Assessment District or MSAD. Watersmeet town officials sometimes refer to the MSAD as the "Cisco Chain of Lakes Special Assessment District". Under Michigan law, the MSAD is not a legal entity but rather, an extension of the Watersmeet Town Board.

The CCLD has an elected Board of Commissioners the MSAD does not. The CCLD Commissioners are Steve Kessler (Chairman), Ron Buczkiewicz (Treasurer), and Paul Steinbrecher (Secretary).

## Salmon, Zebras, Quaggas, Alewives, Boom, Bust and Botulism: A Great Lakes Warning for Inland Lakes

*Steve Kessler, Aquatic Invasive Species Manager*

The following highly summarized information was taken from the book *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan

The first class of hatchery raised salmon were planted in the Great Lakes in 1966.

The goal was to create a sport fishery. Controlling a booming population of another invasive, the alewife, was a secondary objective. By the fall of 1967 some of these cohos had grown to 20 pounds by feasting on the hordes of alewives.

Thousands of sportsmen descended on the lakeshore that fall. Motels filled for 50 miles around, restaurants ran out of food, tackle dealers ran out of tackle, and gas stations ran out of gas...the introduction of cohos to Lake Michigan would trigger one of the greatest spikes in outboard motor sales in history. Retail sales, in the northeastern Michigan region most affected by the salmon craze, jumped by \$11.9 million during the three-month salmon run of 1967. The economic boom spread across all the Great Lakes.

Biologists boosted annual hatchery plantings into the millions in each of the Great Lakes during the 1970s and 1980s.

The salmon boom, and the economic boom related to it, did not last. By the early 1990s the catch rate plunged to just 15% of what it was in the mid 1980s. By 2010 the harvest crashed to barely 3,000 and it has since shown little sign of rebounding.

The salmon crash exemplifies the results of disrupting a food chain. Salmon ate alewives and alewives ate plankton. Zebra Mussels were discovered in the Great Lakes in 1988. Each adult zebra mussel can consume all the plankton contained in one liter of water each day. The zebra mussel population surged, and the alewives' food source disappeared. Additionally, the number of salmon feeding on alewives was far greater than biologists expected as stocked salmon reproduced naturally sooner and more successfully than had been expected. By 1988 Lake Michigan chinook started dying from starvation as the alewife population was one fifth of the 1960s peak.

Zebra mussels, as well as spiny water fleas, traveled to the Great Lakes in the ballast water of overseas ships. Biologically contaminated ballast water is the worst kind of pollution because it cannot be fixed by plugging a pipe or capping a smokestack. It does not decay and does not disperse. It breeds. By the end of 1989 zebra mussels had been recorded in every Great Lake.

The Clean Water Act, adopted in 1972, exempted the water discharges from ships as an exclusion and "reduced administrative costs drastically".

In 1989 researchers found the quagga mussel in Lake Erie. The ecological damage wrought by zebra mussels is minor in comparison to their cousin, the quagga mussel. Unlike zebras, quaggas do not require a hard surface to attach to. By attaching to sand and muck they can blanket

vast swaths of lake bottom. Zebras only feed during warmer months. Quaggas filter nutrients out of water year-round.

The mussels now stretch across Lake Michigan, almost from shore to shore. Under some conditions, the plankton feasting mussels can now "filter" all of Lake Michigan in less than two weeks, sucking up the life that is the base of the food web and making its waters some of the clearest freshwater in the world.

In the late 1980's, before mussels blanketed the lake bottom, Lake Michigan's average Secchi depth was 20 feet. By 2010, readings began coming in at beyond 100 feet. This nearly vodka clear water is not the sign of a healthy lake, it the sign of one in which the bottom of the food web is collapsing.

Heightened water clarity triggers a chain of events: sunlight penetrates to greater depths, Cladophora (an aquatic plant) blooms, dies, and decomposes burning up massive amounts of oxygen. Poisonous botulism causing bacteria thrive in oxygen starved water. Mussels suck up the bacteria. Gobies (a fish) eat the mussels and birds eat the poisoned gobies. The birds die. Biologists estimate more than 100,000 dead birds, including bald eagles, great blue heron, ducks, and loons have piled up on Great Lakes beaches since the botulism outbreaks turned rampant in 1999.

In 2011 the EPA finally agreed to mandate treatment systems for overseas ships discharging ballast in US Waters.

Mussels arrived in the Great Lakes via the ballast water discharges from ocean going ships. Many WI and MI inland waters are now infested by zebra mussels as well. The inland migration is attributable to infested residual water being moved between water bodies by recreational boating. In July of this year, the first documented observation of quagga mussels in a WI inland lake occurred on Geneva Lake in Walworth County.

## Ping Pong Anyone?

The Northwoods Table Tennis Club plays year-round every Monday and Thursday morning from 8:30 to 11:00. On occasion, there is Saturday morning play as well. Players of all levels meet at the Presque Isle Community

Center at 8306 School Loop Road, Presque Isle, WI. For additional information please contact Steve Kessler at (262) 903-4284. All are welcome and encouraged to enjoy this great sport.

## Zebra and Quagga Suitability

*By Steve Kessler, Aquatic Invasive Species Manager*

According to the UW-Madison Center for Limnology, zebra mussels are found in approximately 80 Wisconsin lakes.

Lakes with known infestations include many SE WI lakes, the Madison lakes, the Winnebago system, Green Lake, and WI River impoundments.

The Center has a tool which identifies lake suitability for various invasive species. The tool can be found at <https://uwlmnology.shinyapps.io/AISSmartPrevention2/>. Lakes in our near-by area do not have known zebra mussel infestations. Is this attributable to “good luck” or are these lakes not suitable for zebra mussels? Zebra mussel suitability is determined by calcium levels. The Center believes that zebra mussels require a water chemistry with calcium levels > 10 mg/l. Most of the lakes in our area have calcium levels too low to sustain zebra mussels. However, a review of the Center’s maps indicates that there are some nearby lakes which have been identified as “suitable” for zebras. These include Big Lake on the Cisco Chain, High Lake, Fishtrap Lake, Wildcat Lake and Spring Lake. Lakes classed as “borderline suitable” include West Bay, Cisco, Thousand Island and Black Oak.

What about quagga mussels? Quagga mussels thrive in the Great Lakes. The first documented occurrence of quagga mussels in a Wisconsin inland lake was observed by the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency in Geneva Lake (Walworth County) in July.

Like zebra mussels, quaggas feed by filtering plankton from water. They clog water pipes and have the potential to damage aquatic ecosystems and disrupt food webs. The quagga has shown the ability to live at greater depths, in colder water, at greater densities and on a wider variety of surfaces than zebras.

But do quaggas share the same water chemistry limitation that zebras have: are they inhibited by calcium levels below 10 mg/l?

There is limited research, but the short answer unfortunately is that quaggas are probably not inhibited by low calcium levels.

Once introduced to a lake or river, there are no viable options for the eradication of quagga or zebra mussels. “Prevention” is thereby key.

The best prevention approach is to avoid putting your boat into waters that are infested with mussels. You can use the “More” tab on the WDNR “Find a Lake” site to see a listing of invasive species for each WI lake (see <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/Default.aspx>). If you do put your boat into an infested lake let it dry for five days before putting it into another lake. If your boat has ballast tanks which cannot be completely emptied, consider restricting use to one lake per season.

## Farmer’s Almanac is Forecasting a Cold Wet Winter for the Great Lakes Region.

*By Debra Kessler – Source Farmer’s Almanac 2024-2025  
Summary by Ria Bhagwat*

Farmers’ Almanac states that there will be a La Nina weather pattern to be present this winter. This will cause the winter to be both wet and cold for most locations, including the Great Lakes Region, and the Midwest will experience high levels of precipitation.

### Dates to Keep in Mind

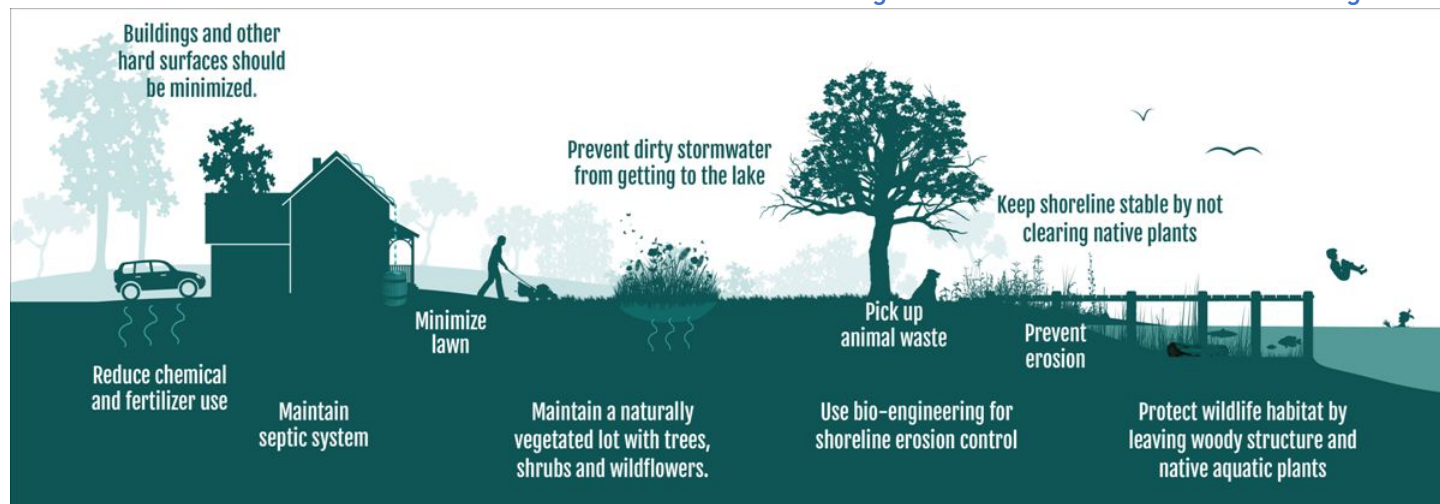
Farmers’ Almanac predicts the coldest temperatures to take place during the final week of January into the first week of February, with heavy snowfall and frigid air making their way across the Northern Plains. “We would especially highlight the time frames from January 20 to 23 and 24 to 27, which could mean copious amounts of snow, rain, sleet, and ice (depending on where you live),” the report reads. Make sure you have your warm coats, scarves, earmuffs, snow shovels and snowmobiles ready to go!

# Supporting Healthy Lakes

By Debra Kessler

As property owners we can significantly impact the quality and beauty of our lakes. Water quality, algae growth, fish habitat and shoreline erosion are some aspects impacted by our actions on shore. Some good practices to assure our lakes stay healthy and our lake property maintains its value are summarized in the graphic below:

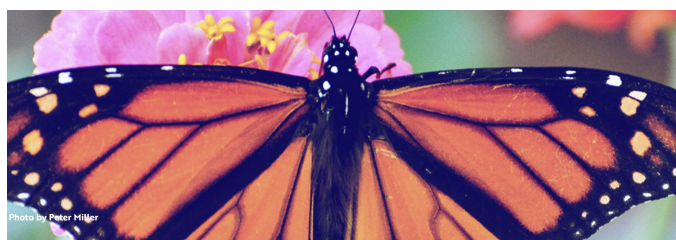
Shoreland Best Practices – Source: MI Shoreland Stewards Program [www.mishorelandstewards.org](http://www.mishorelandstewards.org)



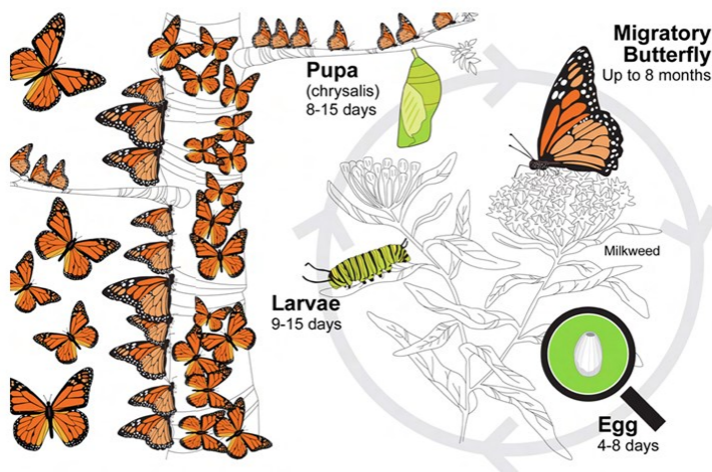
Another good practice is mulching leaves on your lawn instead of picking them up, providing natural fertilizer to nourish the soil. Never rake leaves into the lake where they feed algae growth.

## Back to Native – Milkweed and the Monarch Butterfly

By Francie Stoner -Master Gardener Intern



One of my first nature experiments as a grade-schooler was watching a monarch caterpillar spin into its cocoon and emerge as this gorgeous monarch butterfly after what looked like quite a struggle. I was told that this struggle was important, that it made the butterfly strong, and that if I helped it break out of the cocoon to ease the battle it would be crippled and deformed. (I think they used this as a life lesson to encourage us to see struggles as good for us, too, making us stronger! But I digress...)



Where have all the monarchs gone?



Have you noticed that there are fewer monarchs around in recent summers? It's a fact that their numbers are decreasing significantly – up to 74% over the last decade. So why do we care, other than that they are so pretty? Well, these beautiful creatures provide a great service as pollinators. 35% of the world's food supply comes from pollinated plants. That is kind of a big deal! So, we need to support our pollinator friends – Monarch **Butterflies, Bees, Birds, and Bats – the 4 Bs!**

#### What's the deal with Monarchs and Milkweed?

Common milkweed and Swamp Milkweed are native perennials to Wisconsin and are an essential plant for monarch butterfly survival. Interestingly, the monarch butterfly will only lay eggs on the leaves of the milkweed plants. The caterpillar eats only those leaves to grow. But wait... Did you know that milkweed is outlawed in many cities and states because it is toxic? Cattle and horses are severely affected by it. And because the monarch butterfly eats the leaves, the butterfly, itself, is toxic if eaten. However, the orange and black colors warn predators that they are inedible due to their diet of the milkweed.

#### SWAMP, RED OR ROSE



*A. incarnata*

Full ☀ High 💧 Wet 🌿  
June-August 🌸

Monarchs prefer the common milkweed we see in grassy areas in Wisconsin as well as the Swamp Milkweed that thrives on our natural lakeshores to other milkweed varieties.

#### So how can you help the orange and black beauties?

Planting a pollinator garden that includes milkweed specific to your region is a great start. It is

estimated that 90% of naturally occurring milkweed has disappeared because of deforestation to grow crops and build buildings, use of herbicides and pesticides, and also because of the legal situation of not allowing it to be grown in some areas. The good news is that not only is it NOT illegal in Wisconsin, it is encouraged! In 2019, the Wisconsin Monarch Collaborative created a statewide monarch conservation strategy, and is working hard to implement it, with the goal of adding more than 119,000,000 stems of milkweed on the ground before 2038. (4)

#### What do you need to know about growing milkweed?

The best time to plant milkweed seeds is November and December. It's best to scatter seeds when the ground isn't covered with snow so that the seeds can have good soil contact and lie under a moist blanket of snow all winter. This is because in Wisconsin, most native plant seeds require a prolonged period of cold before they will germinate and grow... Milkweed plants prefer sunny areas, so choose a location that has at least 6 hours of full sun per day. For small areas, you can also plant seedlings (small plants) in the spring. Be sure to work them into the soil. For more information on Wisconsin milkweeds, check out this beautiful reference <https://wimonarchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/WisconsinsMilkweeds.pdf> Happy growing and cherish your monarch sightings!

## Fascinating Finds in our Northern Lakes

*By Debra Kessler with references from [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)*

While Kayaking through the Poor Lake Channel I was surprised to see what looked like a sponge attached to a sunken log. Obviously, I was very curious about this strange growth.

These slippery, slimy masses were a community of microorganisms called a bryozoan, or *Pectinatella magnifica* and have been on earth for at least 480 million years. Often overlooked or mistaken for algae or eggs, there are over 24 freshwater species of bryozoans found in North America with over 5,000 marine bryozoans documented to date (Massard and Geimer 2008). These jelly-like masses are communities formed by tiny filter feeding organisms, called zooids, and often attach to plants, fallen trees, docks, boats and other aquatic substrates. Bryozoans are often a sign of a healthy ecosystem and are harmless to humans. The filter feeding process of bryozoans can keep harmful algae blooms at bay and even increase water clarity.

It is very exciting to encounter a colony of zooids! If you do choose to handle one, be sure to take special care because bryozoans are fragile communities that can easily break apart in your hands. It is important to remember that removing them from their substrate or holding them out of water for longer than a few minutes may be potentially harmful to the colony. Be respectful because those tiny zooids are working hard to keep our water clean!

# Good Old Days on the Cisco Chain

*This is the first article in what I hope to be a regular feature in Shore Lines. My hope is to give people a flavor of the rich history and precious memories of life on the Cisco Chain. Tom Krautkramer has graciously written the first of these articles. If you have memories you would like to share, please contact me at [dkessler718@gmail.com](mailto:dkessler718@gmail.com).*

## First Time on The Cisco Chain (It turned me around)

*By Tom Krautkramer*

An invitation to visit the Cisco Chain in 1960 really opened my eyes and changed me for life. For this high school sophomore, it was a great day! The Day family had recently purchased the large island in Michigan Bay of Big Lake. It was a 200-mile drive from Neenah WI and ended at Charlie's Boats, on the South end of Big Lake, now known as the Cisco Chain Marina. The Day's kept their boat at Charlie's. After introductions with Charlie, we loaded the 14' Dunphy molded plywood boat with all the gear needed for a week at the island and motored North for two plus miles.



Charlie Schroeder

Upon arrival we docked at a temporary log pier. On the island there was an interesting new shelter made from peeled balsam posts and poles and covered with translucent waterproof fabric. It was a large bright floor-less tent like structure; comfortable and dry with a kitchen/dining/sitting area and bunk room. The future cabin site was in a different elevated location. The Days' were building their cabin alone; acting as both designer and contractor.

The actual cabin would be built on treated posts buried below the winter frostline with wood plank floors. The walls would be vertical half log siding while

incorporating many natural logs from the wooded island. The open ceiling and roof would be post and beam from natural balsam logs. A loft and 2 small bedrooms would be used for sleeping. Electricity was not available, so all lighting was from a Coleman lantern and later from permanent gas lights throughout. The kitchen would have a Servel propane refrigerator and a gas range. Water for the sink would be provided by a gravity tank filled from a driven well pumped by a generator powered electric motor. The "necessary house" would be behind with a beautiful view when the door was open.



Kitchen in finished cabin

During free time, we fished and explored the interesting shore line and enjoyed the beauty of the wilderness that surrounded us. There were no buildings in all of Michigan Bay, it was all wilderness. The majority of the boat traffic was from the resorts on the South end of Big Lake, and it was minimal. The backwater areas we know today were then loaded with dead but stately standing cedar trees and lots of pike, most of those trees have since fallen. At that time the dam had been in less than 70 years.

Needless to say, I fell in love with the Cisco Chain and visited multiple times to help build the cabin. Future visits continued and my love of the Chain continued to grow. Fifty seven years ago, my bride Kathy and I honeymooned on the island. We now live within sight of the island that brought us to this unique land of water, woods and wilderness.

# Miscellaneous

## CALL 911 for EMERGENCIES

### Non-Emergency Dispatch

Negaunee Regional Dispatch (for on reservation):

906 475 1199

Watersmeet Police: 906 366 0189

Vilas County Sheriff's Office: 715 479 4441



### AED Locations

Cisco Lake Resort, Wilderness Bay, McCormack's Cisco Chain Marina, Bents Camp, The Black Oak, Bear Trap, Brew's Pub, The Alley

### Around Town Events-Land O'Lakes

See [Landolakeswi.gov](http://Landolakeswi.gov) for updates on events.

Zombie Crawl 2024 and Witches Ball  
Saturday October 26

Halloween Free Movie Night – at the Elementary School  
7 pm Ghostbusters, 9:15 Last Exorcism  
See LOL Chamber Facebook page for details

Holiday Open House and Art Bazaar – Artistree Gallery  
December 7 to 10<sup>th</sup> 10am to 4pm

LOLA Make Music Day  
Saturday Dec. 21 – all day throughout town

Land O Lakes Fish and Game Club  
Cross Country Ski Trail map at [lolfishandgame.wixsite.com](http://lolfishandgame.wixsite.com)

Land O' Lakes Area Artisans Inc. (LOLA Arts).  
See [lolaartswi.com](http://lolaartswi.com) for classes and events

### Around Town Events-Watersmeet

See [Watersmeet.us](http://Watersmeet.us) for updated information

Ottawa National Forest  
Over 90 miles of ski trails ranging from beginner to expert

For snowmobile trail conditions call 906 358 9961

Watersmeet/Land O'Lakes are literally where "Waters Meet"

The Ontonagon River flows north from Watersmeet into Lake Superior; the Wisconsin River flows south from Land O'Lakes into the Mississippi; and the Paint River flows east into Lake Michigan!

Find more Cisco Chain information on the CCROA website [www.ciscochainroa.com](http://www.ciscochainroa.com)

### Watersmeet Township Transfer Station

9 am to 3 pm Monday - Fri, Closed 11:30am – Noon  
See [Watersmeet.US](http://Watersmeet.US) for items accepted and Fee Schedule

### Land O'Lakes Collection Site & Recycling Center

#### Winter Hours

Tues 8-3, Thurs 12-4, Sat 8-4

See [LandOLakesWi.gov](http://LandOLakesWi.gov) for items accepted and fees see Land O Lakes Town website

Below are the website addresses and phone numbers for Watersmeet Township & the Town of Land O'Lakes .

Town meetings are posted on these sites **You can subscribe to automatic updates to your email on these websites**

Watersmeet Township

[www.watersmeet.us](http://www.watersmeet.us)

906-358-4501

Town of Land O'Lakes

<http://townoflandolakes.com>

### CCROA Membership by Lake as of 9/30/24

Cisco	38
Clearwater	9
Little Africa	0
Big Africa	0
Record	0
Thousand Island	94
Lindsley	23
Fishhawk	13
Morley	3
Big	41
West Bay	27
East Bay	18
Poor	14
Indian	0
Mamie	18
Cloverleaf	1
Off Water	1
Spring Lake	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>

# Board Members & Lake Representatives' Contact Info

**President:**

Eugene Clark  
906-287-1871  
[emclark1223@gmail.com](mailto:emclark1223@gmail.com)

**Vice President:**

Spencer Cable  
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**Treasurer:**

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# Membership in CCROA

## Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association Membership Application

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Additional e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Lake \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues:

\$25.00 Per Year

\$450 Lifetime

Advanced payments are welcome. Membership year starts January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends December 31<sup>st</sup>.  
Please indicate how many years you wish to pay below.

Number of years \_\_\_\_\_ or Lifetime ☐

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ or PayPal to: ccroa email

### Donations:

Lake Management \_\_\_\_\_

Invasive Species \_\_\_\_\_

Walleye Stocking Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CISCO CHAIN RIPARIAN OWNERS ASSOCIATION

MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 687 WATERSMEET, MI 49969

Be a Volunteer!! Join us and make a difference!!!

Officer or Lake Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Picnic Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Educate at Boat Ramps \_\_\_\_\_

The Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association (CCROA) provides many benefits to the property owners on the Cisco Chain. If you are not already a member, please consider joining the Association so you receive important information about CCROA activities in a timely manner and to assure you have a voice in future priorities. Also consider becoming a volunteer to the CCROA to help ensure the CCROA can continue to meet its mission of "Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes"