SHORE LINES

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association

May 2022 Volume Number 62 Issue 1

www.ciscochainroa.com_email: ccroa49969@gmail.com

"Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes"

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Eugene Clark

Hello everyone! Hello to those hardy full-timers up here; welcome back to the wise snowbirds! Spring has sprung and we are back to warmer weather. The winter clothes and shovels are stowed; swimming suits and boats come out! In this letter I want to address three items: our lake culture, volunteerism, and membership in the CCROA. They are inter-related and necessary.

The Cisco Chain folks have a common bond here; I call it "Our Lake Culture". We are united in our vision of "Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes". The Cisco Chain is in nearly pristine virgin condition. Being on our waters is akin to waters in Canada. We all enjoy this in a special way. We respect this gift; some would say revere it.

This carries over to how we enjoy it. How we behave when on the water. Avoiding behaviors that spread invasive species, erode our shorelines, harm our fisheries, or impact others on the lakes. This responsibility drives our culture here on the Chain. We need to pass on this culture to new riparian owners, to visiting family and guests, and to tourists enjoying these waters.

We have a strong sense of volunteerism here. We know it takes a "nature activism" to preserve our Chain for generations to come, for our children and grandchildren. We depend on volunteers to do the work in this organization, to support the programs, and lead by example. Some view volunteering as an obligation; I say it is an honor to serve. We need people to step forward and help in various functions.

Contact me or your Lake Representative to find out how you can help. Learn about our different activities and what it takes to implement them. If you chose to accept, you will be richly rewarded in memorable personal experiences. And you will not fail! Don't say "I can't do that." See Greg Wenzel's article below on the benefits of volunteering. Step up, you will enjoy the view!

We make this all happen as members in this organization. Some say it is not necessary to be a member now that we have the Special Assessment Districts established. Let's remind ourselves that these districts



Respecting No Wake Zones

were established to fairly spread the cost of controlling the spread of aquatic invasive species, putting this program on a stable financial footing. This has become an important function of the CCROA.

But we do so much more. We promote safe fun on the waters, encourage respect for others on the Chain, stock the lakes with walleye, and work with Watersmeet Tsp and the Town of Land o' Lakes on needed ordinances. We partner with the USFS, WDNR, Michigan DEQ, ISCCW, Vilas and Oneida County organizations in Wisconsin, Iron County Michigan organizations, and neighboring lake associations. This is an integrated web of organizations all working to protect our waterways.

Equally important, a strong and vibrant CCROA membership projects unity and solidarity in our activities. Become a member, tell your neighbors to become members. We become your conduit of information. You will be informed through email on issues facing us all. Our website keeps you updated on our activities. This bi-annual Newsletter summarizes our activities. If you are on the Cisco Chain you definitely benefit as a member of the CCROA!

So, remember, our treasured lake culture is sustained through volunteerism and membership in the CCROA.

Enjoy this Summer Season!

HOW VOLUNTEERS BENEFIT FROM GIVING BACK

By Greg Wenzel

Many people are compelled to volunteer out of a desire to help others or support organizations that align with passions they have. It is not a surprise that the incredible beauty and natural resources of the Cisco Chain and surrounding areas have inspired the officers, board of directors and many other supporting people to step forward and do the good work of our organization.

The benefits from volunteering far exceed the simple satisfaction of the accomplishments of a collective group. A study by Mayo Clinic Health System has attempted to measure the benefits that volunteers receive from their efforts. It has been referred to as a "helpers high." Various positive health benefits have been identified, but personal gains extend beyond that.

Positive benefits include but are not limited to the following: make new friends, increase social skills, build community, stave off dementia, overcome loneliness, and reduce stress levels. Volunteers walk away from their experience benefitting personally as much as the organizations they chose to help.

Currently the CCROA has the need for a Lake Representative on Fishhawk Lake, and someone with the skillset to be the editor for our newsletter Shorelines. We also have open positions for Board members at large for individuals with a strong desire to be part of this incredible organization and the ongoing great work we collectively do!

If any of this inspires interest, please reach out to our President Eugene Clark or any of the officers or board members noted in this edition of Shorelines. Learn about what you can do. We all believe it will be worth your time! We will gratefully welcome you aboard!

VERNAL POOLS

By Greg Wenzel

As the snow melts each spring, small ponds, begin to appear in depressions across the landscape. Some folks call them mud holes, others consider them as ponds or wetlands. While not necessarily incorrect, they are more scientifically referred to as Vernal Pools. They form when a depression in the landscape sits upon a layer of clay hardpan which prevents the accumulated water from thawing snow and spring rains from seeping into the ground. They are complex and dynamic ecosystems.



They are different from wetlands and ponds because in the ensuing months, the water evaporates, and they disappear. They are void of any aquatic plants as well as wetland plants that depend on water accumulation year-round. They do not contain any fish.

Vernal Pools are an important part of the surrounding habitat. During their existence, they are teeming with life. They are perfect habitat for frogs, toads, salamanders, and a myriad of invertebrates which in turn attract birds and mammals that feed on them. Vernal Pools satisfy the thirst of the roots of trees and vegetation surrounding them as well as animals that may be inclined to drink from them. Over time, the water evaporates and the bottom land of the pond merges with the surrounding vegetation and little remains as a reminder of the previous ecosystem.

In a similar fashion to other integral components of our surroundings such as downed trees and stumps in waterways and wetlands that may seem unsightly or problematic for our life's enjoyment, Vernal Pools share frequently unseen benefits that enhance our enjoyment of the Northwoods. If downed trees in the water or stumps are problematic, move them, don't remove them. Don't fill wetlands or Vernal Pools. Relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of the nature they bring us. In the words of the famous naturalist Aldo Leopold, "The first rule of intelligent tinkering is save all the pieces!"

THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY

By Lucy Brundage

The CCROA has been included in a grant request submitted by Wisconsin Headquarters Invasives Partnership ("WHIP"). WHIP has received funds to do an initial survey of trailheads and public boat launching sites. The Wisconsin side of the Cisco Chain qualifies for this grant and we have submitted our public launch sites. If you have knowledge of trailheads near your property in Wisconsin let me know. WiDNR also has funds for their Deer Management Assistance Program ("DMAP"), a cooperative effort with landowners, and hunters to provide habitat and deer herd management assistance to those interested in managing their property for wildlife. We have been working to find 160 acres to establish a connection with DMAP for the survey of the health of the forest on the Wisconsin side of our Chain.

At this time, we have just under 100 acres. There are other properties under consideration that would bring the total to just under 140 acres. Please talk with your neighbors, including any properties that are located behind your riparian property

There are two invasive terrestrial species to watch for: Hemlock Woolley Adelgid and Japanese Barberry. The Adelgid is an insect native to East Asia. It can destroy hemlock and spruce trees by sucking the sap. The Hemlock is very important to a balanced habitat. Let us know if you see this.

The Japanese Barberry was sold by nurseries as a decorative plant. This popular, non-native, ornamental shrub forms dense, prickly thickets that crowd out plants and disrupt native ecosystems. Sale of this plant has been outlawed in many states. Maplewood and Carrie Roads have been treating this plant for several years. The Japanese Barberry can be treated chemically or dug up. If neither of these options are agreeable, simply cut or mow them down prior to the berries growing. The barberry is difficult to eliminate; controlling the spread is very important.

We will continue to find solutions to terrestrial invasive species through grant opportunities.

Hemlock Woolley Abelgid





Japanese Barberry

HIGH LINE INSTALLATION OF HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

By Yvonne Clark

The installation of high-speed internet in Watersmeet is likely delayed until 2023. On February 16, 2022, Bruce Moore, CEO of Highline, appeared before the Township Board to provide an update of the installation of the high-speed internet in Watersmeet. Bruce explained that there have been unforeseen delays in the installation in the first two counties Highline serviced that is causing the delay to the installation process in Watersmeet. The Board asked Bruce how we can help move the process along. The Board volunteered to set up connections between Highline and the County Road Commission to start the permit process early. Following the February 16, 2022 meeting, CCROA member and Gogebic County Road Commission Chair Roy D'Antonio was introduced to Highline and the pertinent County employees with hopes of accelerating the permitting process.

OUR FEATHER FISHING FRIENDS

By Patrick Mans Thousand Island Lake

We humans have become very skilled anglers. Much of this skill has been artificially enhanced through advanced equipment such as efficient reels and ultrasensitive fishing rods. Terminal tackle including braided line, tank tested lures, and readily available live bait have made our ability to "give the fish what they want" much easier to do. Add to this, the modern fishing electronics now available, and this author wonders how the fish stand a chance. As successful as we humans have become at the fishing game, we still cannot compete with the success rate of perhaps the greatest feathered fish catcher in the natural world, the common loon.

Despite all of man's perceived mental and technological advantages over the loon, when it comes to fishing success, loons are in a class by themselves. Biologists estimate that a loon family consisting of a breeding pair and two chicks will consume nearly a halfton of fish over a fifteen-week period. That is nearly ten pounds of fish per day, every day, for 105 days. Given their size, that is an incredible number of fish consumed daily. Evolution is an amazing thing, in that when one's existence depends on a certain skill, just how far that skill can be honed. One wonders how we humans' fishing prowess would evolve if our next meal truly depended on our ability as anglers. "Fish or Die" as an expression, which is seen on hats and t-shirts, would take on a completely new meaning if it were our reality.

As advanced and successful as some humans have become at angling, there are still days when we are skunked and go fishless. Of course, when this happens to us on the Chain we can just go to Bent's or Cisco Lake Resort, get out of the boat and go order a burger. Loons do not have such days. It is a good thing they do not because loons are not adapted to being out of the water. Their legs are far back on their bodies, which makes them great swimmers but causes them to be very awkward on land. In fact, loons only go ashore to lay and incubate their eggs. Loons, unlike other birds, have solid bones and are able to push air out of their plumage enabling them to expertly dive and maneuver underwater. Lining their beaks and tongue are backward pointing projections, which give them solid grip on slippery fish.



Loons are more like airplanes than other birds in that they need a runway to take off. They need thirty yards to a quarter mile, depending on the wind, to flap their wings and literally run across the surface of the water to gain enough speed for flight. Interestingly, loons cannot take to the air from land. After a storm, this past fall, forced a large number of migrating loons to land in fields, the DNR was advising people to carefully capture the loons by covering them with a towel and then release them into the nearest body of water so they could once again get into the air and continue their migration. Loons have also been known to mistakenly land on wet highways or parking lots. Once stranded on land the loon is very awkward which likely led to its name. Loon, according to Google, likely comes from either the Old English work lumme, meaning lummox or awkward person or, the Scandinavian word lum meaning lame or clumsy. Once in the air though, loons can fly up to seventy miles an hour. Though awkward on land, if you have ever seen a loon "flying" underwater, you know that it is poetry in motion. Their underwater movement appears effortless and is strikingly fast and agile. Loons can stay underwater for up to five minutes and its red eyes help it locate fish while submerged.

The next time you are out fishing and see a loon, tip your cap to the greatest angler on the Chain!

Tight Lines! Patrick Mans

WE NEED YOU!!!!!

By Christina Studlow

Over the last almost 3 years, I have had the greatest pleasure of bringing to all of you, my vision of the Shorelines. While many have enjoyed the newest version of this newsletter, it was not for everyone. And that's ok!!! This is where you come in to play. I unfortunately am stepping down as editor of the Shorelines Newsletter. I know I know, insert the tears. This was a very hard decision for my family and I as I take enormous pride in my work and responsibilities and enjoy those I have met and worked with in my "hometown."

I do have 2 young children, one who just graduated 8th grade and is moving on to High School and one still in elementary school. Those who have been in my position know that when it comes to children's extra curriculars, you have ZERO time left for what us adults want to do. On top of that, I have taken a full-time position with our local Park District and LOVE my new job. I was lucky enough to be a stay-at-home mom for many years. My husband will be retiring in a few short years so it's my time to "bring home the bacon."

The CCROA is in need of a new Shorelines editor. Your responsibilities would be a Bi-Annual newsletter, monitoring the CCROA emails and Admin of the CCROA Facebook page. Which I also created for the sole purpose of getting information to our members and maybe drawing in a younger crowd. They are our future!! If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please email me at Chrissystudz@yahoo.com or the CCROA email ccroad-9969@gmail.com.

While I may be stepping down, my family and I will still be in the area vacationing in our Up North Cabin and enjoying the wonderful chain and all it has to offer. I was lucky enough to grow up on the chain and enjoy raising my children on what I call my "old stomping grounds."

See you out on the water, or at Rogers or at Cisco Lake Resort!!!



SAVE THE DATE!!! SAVE THE DATE!!! SAVE THE DATE!!!

Our Annual CCROA Meeting and Picnic will be July 18th at 10:00 am with a picnic to follow.

Join us at Cisco Lake Resort

Please join us for our Annual meeting and a gathering of all our members at this fantastic yearly event. This is a great time to bring your neighbor!! The CCROA can always use new members to help out our cause.

SEE YOU THERE!!!

CISCO CHAIN AIS PROGRAM START OF 2022 SEASON

By Eugene Clark

We finished our 2021 AIS Programs close to what was projected in our October 2021 newsletter. Our budget is lower this year as we reap the benefits of our past year's activities. The use of the more expensive ProcellaCOR herbicide is yielding multiple year benefits. October surveys by Many Waters show a reduction in EWM locations and no areas of higher density that would necessitate an herbicide application this year. We keep vigilant with our survey and quick response work. Our total budget for this season is at \$114,700 down from our actual spend last year of approximately \$121,000. Below is the chart showing our activities:

2022 Summary AIS Budget		Funding Source		
		Lake Mgt		
Activity	Total Cost	Fund	Grants	ISCCW
Survey, Dive, DASH EWM	\$54,302	\$37,224	\$17,453	
Chemical Treatments (Provision)	\$10,000	\$10,000		
Water Quality	\$13,964	\$13,964		
Boat Landing Inspections & Washes	\$29,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$25,000
AIS Education & Admin	\$7,500			\$7,500
Total	\$114,766	\$62,188	\$20,453	\$32,500

Note: Lake Management Fund consists of the two Taxing Districts and monies contributed specifically for this purpose.

The Survey/Dive/Dash activities regain their importance. We have two Wisconsin DNR grants that will reimburse us \$17,000. It is important to note that these grants run out in 2022; we will look re-establish them this year. As noted above, we anticipate no chemical treatments this season, but we made a \$10,000 provision just in case. We hope this will not be needed. Our Water Quality, Boat Landing Inspection, and Education costs remain similar to previous years. Our partner, ISCCW, has purchased a new boat washer and will have this new asset deployed most of the time at the Palmer Bay Landing on Big Lake. This landing has increased in popularity over the last 2-3 years.

We continue to partner with the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in the Clean Boats / Clean Waters Program. We are hoping they can find a student to help with boat washing duties on Palmer Bay. The ISCCW continues to actively pursue candidates for this job. The starting wage is now \$15.00/hour and mileage is covered. Hours are flexible, the person can job share. This could be a good opportunity for someone from Big Lake to step-up! If you are interested or know of anyone who may be, have them contact me. I will put them in touch with the right people at ISCCW.

In June you will see new bright orange EWM buoys deployed. These will have increased visibility compared to the old, faded ones. We hope to see fewer buoys out there this season! Our optimism is high but guarded. We need to keep up our efforts. Rick Nevers has sold his Big Lake home. He was the Chairman of the Cisco Chain Lake District (CCLD). We need some Wisconsin resident to volunteer to take his place. The workload is well documented and not imposing. Call me if you need more information.

LAND O' LAKES ANNOUNCES NEW PLAYGROUND

By Linda Coyle and Rhonda Sprague, Co-Chairs LOL Community Playground Committee

Land O' Lakes Public Art and its Community Playground subcommittee are excited to announce plans for a new playground on the Town Hall grounds. Our theme for this project is "PLAY, THEN STAY" because once families are in town to use the playground, we believe they will stay to patronize local businesses. This will be a great addition to the Town.

The playground will be installed in two phases.

Phase One (Summer 2022): New swings on safe surfaces; a musical playground; and community events, including events for families and seniors.

Phase Two (Summer 2023): Play areas for 2-5 and 6-12 year-olds; and introduction of day camps, in collaboration with the school, library, LOLA, and others.



Photo: Equipment in Phase 2

We are pleased that Phase 1 is completely funded through donations. Thank you to all of the generous community and business members who have donated to this project. We now need \$150,000 for Phase 2. This will be funded by private donations, grants, fundraisers, and corporate sponsorships. Donations can be made by mailing a check to "LOL Community Playground," c/o Town Hall, 4331 Highway B, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540 or with PayPal at their website

https://landolakeswicommunityplayground.org/donate. Land O' Lakes Community Playground, Inc., a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt public charity.

Volunteers are needed for fundraising, communication, finance, and more. We are doing a "community build" to save money on installation costs, so opportunities for handy people also will be available. To find out more, volunteer, or donate to the project, please Email us at landolakescommunityplayground@gmail.com, or see the above website.

Effective June 1, 2022

WATERSMEET TRANSFER STATION FEE SCHEDULE

(Report to and pay attendant prior to dumping)

Cash or Check - Credit Cards Not Accepted

Transfer Station is available to Watersmeet Township residents and homeowners only.

Owners of vacant property are not permitted to utilize transfer station services.

Attendant may require proof. Vehicle window stickers* are available at the Township office.

*Proof of residency and/or home ownership required, i.e. utility bill.

Tires	2000
Less than or equal to 35 inch	\$5.00 each
Greater than 35 inch	\$8.00 each
Large Truck/Semi on a split rim	\$12.00 each
Large Truck/Semi	\$20.00 each
Batteries	100000000
Lead Acid (Motorized vehicle types)	No charge
All other battery types are considered hazardous waste	NOT ACCEPTED
Household Appliances	HOT HOUSE TED
Freon Based: Refrigerator, Freezer, Air Conditioner, Dehumidifiers	\$30.00 each
All Others - Wash Machine, Dryer, Kitchen Stove, Hot Water Tank, Heater, Dishwasher, Microwave	No charge
	No charge
Household Furniture	****
Standard Couch	\$30.00 each
Mattress	\$20.00 each
Box Spring	\$7.00 each
Recliner Chair	\$25.00 each
Stuffed Arm Chair	\$25.00 each
Dresser, Large Chest of Drawers, Buffet, Large Table	\$10.00 each
All Other Types	\$5.00 each
Televisions, Computer Monitors: LCD, Plasma, CRT, Projection TV	
Up to 32 inch diagonal	\$25.00 each
33 inch diagonal and larger	\$35.00 each
Electronics	Contract of the Contract of th
Desktop Computer Box, System Server Box, Laptop Computer, Auto Power Supply	\$20.00 each
Desktop Copier, Fax, Printer, Shelf Size DVD/DVR/VCR player, Audio Tuner/Player	\$5.00 each
Floor Copier Machine	\$50.00 each
All Other Types - Hand Held Devices, Keyboard, Routers, Modems, Cable, etc.	No charge
LP Gas Cylinders	110 onargo
With Hole in Cylinder	No oborgo
All Others	No charge \$15.00 each
	\$15.00 each
Automotive Gasoline Tanks	0.500
Must be drained with hole in tank	\$15.00 each
Construction Waste	
Roofing Material - Shingles and Rolled Roofing (see note below)	\$105.00 per 3 cu. yd
	\$35.00 per 1 cu. yd
Other Material - Drywall/Plaster Board, Doors, Windows, Boards, Siding, Carpet	\$60.00 per 3 cu. yd
AND LEGISLES BERNELL MARKET TO A	\$20.00 per 1 cu. yd
Cement Pieces/Bags, Stone	NOT ACCEPTED
Note: 3 cubic yards (81 cubic ft) is approximately equivalent to a standard sized pickup truck 8' box level filled or 8x5 ft trailer filled 2 feet high. 1 cubic yard is appoximately equivalent to a mid-sized car trunk volume. ATTENDANT has the authority to increase or decrease the listed fee amounts in \$5.00 increments depending on the actual assessed volume of construction material to be deposited.	
Miscellaneous Items	1000
Watercraft - 20 foot maxium - Metal	No charge
Watercraft - 20 foot maxium- All Others	\$100.00 each
Lawnmower (push/riding), Chain Saws, Pumps, Generators, Power Washers, ATVs,	No charge
Automobiles/Trucks	NOT ACCEPTED
Hazardous Waste: Paints, Varnishes, Cleaners, Solvents, Chemicals, Flourescent Bulbs, Mercury Items, Motor Oil Small Electronic Batteries, Radioactive Devices	
	NOT ACCEPTED

ATTENDANT HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANY ITEM NOT LISTED ABOVE

Board of Trustees Approval: 4/20/2022 Effective Date: 6/1/2022

Board Members & Lake Representatives' Contact

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OPEN

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Watersmeet Township Transfer Station

8 am to 4 pm Monday, Tuesday & Thursday thru Saturday Closed on Wednesday and Sunday

Land O'Lakes Collection & Recycling Center

Tuesday 8 am - 3 pm Thursday 12 noon - 4 pm Saturday 8 am – 4 pm Sunday 9 am - Noon

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

> **Watersmeet Township** www.watersmeet.us

906-358-4501

Town of Land O'Lakes http://townoflandolakes.com 715-547-3255

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

AS OF APRIL 1ST, 2019

Watersmeet Township Police will handle all calls for service within

the Township with the exception of those calls on the Reservation, they will be handled by the Tribal Police.

> **CALL:** 911 for EMERGENCIES

(906) 875-6669 for IMMEDIATE response (non-life threatening)

(906) 358-2048 for the Watersmeet office for administrative and

general questions, if no one is in the office, please leave a message.

the Mississippi; and the Paint River flows east into Lake Michigan! Find more Cisco Chain information on the CCROA website

www.ciscochainroa.com

Around Town Events-Land O'Lakes

Most events have been canceled or rescheduled due to Covid-19. Please check the towns website, Facebook page, or call the chamber for more information and or questions.

Around Town Events-Watersmeet

Most events have been canceled or rescheduled due to Covid-19. Please check the towns website, Facebook page, or call the chamber for more information and or questions.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Laura Mans

Our 2022 membership has gone up somewhat from last fall. Poor Lake is looking pretty good with membership at nearly 100%. There are 20 properties and 18 members on the lake. If you are not sure of your current status, drop us an email to ccroa49969@gmail.com with 'Membership' in the subject line. We would be happy to check and let you know if you are current. Below is our current membership counts by lake.

You can help with membership by encouraging Cisco Chain owners that are not members to join and be an important part of the CCROA's mission "Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes".

Below is a breakdown of our current membership:

19

Educate at Boat Ramps

255 active m	iembers as o	f 12/31/2021
ъ.	20	

Big 39 Cisco 32 Clearwater 11 Clover Leaf 1 East Bay 16 Fishhawk 9 Lindsley 21 13 Mamie 1 Morley Poor 18 Thousand Island 72

Not on Chain

West Bay

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association Membership Application

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	and the same of th			
Membership Dues: \$25.00 Per Year \$450 Lifetime Advanced payments are welcome. Membership year starts January 1st and ends December 31st. Please indicate how many years you wish to pay below.					
Number of years	or Lifetime				
Amount Enclosed: 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