

SHORE LINES

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association *"Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes"*
www.ciscochainroa.com email: ccroa49969@gmail.com

Cisco Chain
of Lakes



President's Report

By Greg Wenzel

Happy New Year! In the waning months of 2015 as activities on the Chain slowed, activity behind the scenes involving the Board and the CCROA Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force ramped up. This issue of Shorelines will be primarily focused on Aquatic Invasive Species related information as well as water quality topics.

The first item to update you on was a Shoreline Zoning workshop presented by Michigan State University Extension Program. The event was presented in two sessions during consecutive weeks. I attended the workshop along with Board members Tom Krautkramer, and Linda Hammer and CCROA AIS Task Force member Julie Mathiesen. Responsible stewardship of lakes demands thoughtful consideration of shoreline preservation and restoration. The CCROA is obliged to promote balance in Riparian Owners rights to viewing and access corridors yet maintaining healthy shoreline buffer zones to protect the lakes from erosion, nutrient and fertilizer runoff and other pollutants. The workshop stressed and reinforced the need for strong and up to date Township Master Plans that are supported by sound Zoning Ordinances. Additionally it promoted Lake Management Plans as a compass to drive action and educational initiatives to protect lakes.

In November, the CCROA AIS Task force met to evaluate the success and challenges of our efforts to stay ahead of EWM. -

Clearwater Lake - Following the 2014 costly whole lake treatment of Clearwater Lake, not a single EWM plant has been found on post treatment surveys.

Thousand Island Lake - In several areas on Thousand Island Lake EWM has been removed or substantially reduced as a result of aggressive hand pulling by divers and herbicide application. It is not anticipated that herbicide treatment will occur there in 2016.

Morley Lake - We seem to be holding the Morley colonies in check and will be watching closely in the spring to determine the best action plan for that area of the Chain.

Lake monitoring, lake surveys and hand pulling of EWM will continue.

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New dock at the Cisco Lake Boat Landing

Big Lake - AIS continues to test our mettle. We have been stymied due to the fact that the areas of concern have not met the protocols to secure a permit from Wisconsin DNR for herbicide application. Furthermore, low visibility has prevented any effort for hand pulling EWM from being an effective activity. To that end, Kevin Gauthier the local Lakes Management Coordinator of the Wisconsin DNR was invited as well as our contracted biologists from Many Waters LLC to the November AIS Task Force meeting to aggressively discuss these challenges. The conversation was focused on developing a plan of action for 2016. Extensive surveys were conducted by Many Waters this past fall to lay the ground work for securing a permit and developing a plan for herbicide application and possible diver assisted suction harvesting of EWM in 2016. Final plans hinge on results of early surveys in spring.

Resulting from the continuing challenges of Expanding EWM in Big Lake, I met with Catherine Higley the Vilas County AIS coordinator last month to apply for a WI DNR grant to staff the Palmer Bay boat landing with a Clean Boats Clean Waters ambassador during the entire summer of 2016. I am happy to report that the CCROA was awarded the grant. The landing will be staffed by an environmental science student intern from UW Oshkosh. This will provide us with yet another layer of oversight and educational outreach.



One of the many beautiful shores lines on The Cisco Chain

Shortly after the Task Force meeting, Bob McGuffin and I met with Dr. Randy Lehr, Professor of Environmental Science and Management at Northland College. We have worked with Northland College the past several years in generating Chain wide aquatic plant surveys, conducting transect surveys on Big Lake and more recently developing a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan specific to our Wisconsin Lakes but applicable Chain wide. We were presented with the final draft of the plan and discussed the document extensively. The document will be posted on our web site after review by the Wisconsin DNR. All the deliverables outlined in our Memorandum of Understanding with Northland College were completed with the delivery of the lengthy document.

The salient points of the Comprehensive Management Plan will drive the discussion and outreach efforts of the CCROA for months and years to come. Historic, contemporary and projected data supports the need for protection of shoreline buffer zones as well as water quality concerns primarily nutrient loading as a result of increased development and impacts of septic systems.

Having concluded this work with Northland College, the CCROA AIS Task Force has recommended all future AIS surveys, monitoring and mitigation strategies be overseen by Barb Gajewski and Bill Artwich of Many Waters. They have a long standing relationship with us working on the Michigan side of the Chain. Additionally, they have worked on the Chain under a collaborative partnership between the CCROA and the Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW). Barb and Bill have consistently provided us with the highest level of excellence.

All the AIS related initiatives undertaken by the CCROA are costly. I urge you to thoughtfully consider your response to our annual appeal for donations to our Lake Management Fund. I want to assure you that the Association aggressively avails itself to grant opportunities, however we are not always successful. Available grant money has been diminished in some cases and many grants are experiencing increasing demand. We presently are awaiting word from a cooperative grant application submitted by ISCCW

from the State of Michigan, and a grant request from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. We just received word of a grant opportunity from the Bond Falls Mitigation and Enhancement Fund which we will pursue. All these grants require matching funds so we must maintain the reserves necessary to support the grant requests and complete the projects proposed in the requests. Again, membership support is key to success.

The dedicated volunteers serving on the Board and AIS task force work hard to protect the precious natural resources we enjoy. We hope you share our zeal and enthusiasm and remain mindful of best practices when enjoying life on the Cisco Chain. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

Good Morning!

Winter was certainly slow in starting this year. Winter outdoor activities such as ice fishing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling on the lakes are always a good time. Due to the late ice up on the lakes, we would like to remind everyone to use extra caution. It is possible that many lakes will not be uniformly frozen. As always avoid areas with currents or river channels.

Both Michigan and Wisconsin offer free fishing weekends (see snippets). This is a link to a fun How to Ice Fish article from the Michigan DNR - [Ice Fishing, the Coolest Sport Around](#).

Important ice fishing guidelines -

1. Never fish alone
2. Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return
3. Always test the ice with a spud/ice bar
4. Take a cell phone with
5. Bring a chair or empty bucket to sit on, some even bring a waterproof mat for their feet
6. A thermos of hot coffee, chocolate or tea can be a nice warmer upper.

Many who enjoy ice fishing use shanties, they vary from simple portable ones to insulated & heated "condos". Just blocking the wind can make all the difference.

Lucky are the snowshoers and cross country skiers. All that movement helps keep you warm, sometimes a little too warm. Be aware of becoming chilled if you stop for a while.

Winter outdoor fun does require some forethought. Dress for the weather, layers work best. Warm, dry boots and gloves or mittens are a must. Winter in the Northwoods truly is a wonderland, enjoy every minute of it.

Mark Your Calendar

**July 14, 2016, CCROA Annual Business Meeting
9:00 am at the Cisco Lake Resort Pavilion**

**July 17, 2016 CCROA Annual Picnic
11:30 am at Vacationland Resort**

Annual Business Meeting Report

By: CCROA Collaboration

Thank you to Jim & Kirsten Boehm, the new owners of Cisco Lake Resort, for allowing the CCROA to hold its annual business meeting in the Resort Pavilion. It is greatly appreciated plus it is the perfect venue for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order on July 16, 2015 at 9:08 am. Invitations were extended to Watersmeet Township Supervisor, Mike Rogers, and Land O'Lakes Town Chairman, Dan Balog. They were invited to foster better communication, build a greater sense of community, and give members a chance to ask questions. Supervisor Rogers talked about the breakdown of taxes and how money is spent, plus future township projects that will not require funding from increased Watersmeet's taxes. He fielded several questions from the membership. Town Chairman Balog, was not able to attend; however, he gave Greg Wenzel an update on Land O'Lakes that was read at the meeting.

The restated By-laws, amended Articles of Incorporation and the Principles of Investment were briefly discussed. Current CCROA members received ballots upon arrival and voting was conducted after the discussion. The documents were approved unanimously. If anyone is interested, the documents are posted on the CCROA website, www.ciscochainroa.com.

Vice President, Bob McGuffin, gave his Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) report. (AIS report on page 3) He reported that education is a key factor to help prevent the spread of AIS. This summer people have experienced problems with boaters that do not slow down through "no wake" areas. He also noted that there has been a greater presence by the Gogebic County Sheriff on the Chain.

Treasurer, Dave Fauntleroy gave the treasurer's report. He talked about the four different funds that the CCROA has, Working Fund, Dam Fund, Lake Management Fund and the Walleye Fund. Account balances were provided.

At the time of the meeting, the CCROA had 311 current members. A reminder was given that membership dues are due on January 1st.

We would like to bring in more members to the CCROA and ask that members be ambassadors of the Association and to encourage non-members to join.

Election of officers was held and approved.

A brief dam discussion was held. No news at that time, but with the passage of the new By-laws, the CCROA will be ready for it when it does happen.

Discussions were held about the Lake Monitoring Program, the MDNR "Landing Blitz", and perhaps we need additional "No Wake" signs posted. It was emphasized that if people report safety concerns to the Gogebic County Sheriff, there is a good chance we may see more patrols on the Chain.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:44am.

Minutes from the July 16, 2015 meeting as well as previous year's annual minutes are posted on the CCROA website, www.ciscochainroa.com. At the bottom of the home page, click "Annual Meeting", then choose 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes.



Donate the easy way to the various CCROA funds. Go online to www.ciscochainroa.com. Click on "Donations" in the bottom right corner of the home page. You are able to donate to these 4 different funds - Walleye Stocking, Lake Management, Dam Purchase or the General Fund. All donations are tax deductible.

All processing is secure through PayPal. You are not required to set up or use a PayPal account in order to donate. Donations can be made using any major credit card. You'll receive your tax receipt right away. Another "going green" step for the CCROA!

The following editorial was written by Steve Pearson. He is a guest columnist for the Inter-County Leader, a newspaper in Polk County. It was recently published in the Leader and we have been granted permission to use it. As mentioned in my report elsewhere in this edition of Shorelines, tremendous outrage resulted from the new Shoreline Zoning Law that was placed in the recent Wisconsin State budget which removes Shoreline Zoning authority from local government. Many Lake Associations across the state immediately joined forces, formed the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative and began work to mitigate the perceived damage caused by the law change. The CCROA has joined the initiative. I want to strongly emphasize that in no way should it be presumed that our association has taken a political stand on the issue. In fact we have enjoyed a productive respectful rapport with one of the co-authors of the legislation Sen. Tom Tiffany. It must be understood that we focus not on the political backdrop rather a pragmatic and fundamental focus on the wellbeing and preservation of the natural resources we are entrusted to deliver to future generations.

Steve Pearson | Leader columnist

Major changes in the regulation of our pristine lakes, rivers and other waterways in Wisconsin, changes that take power away from local governments and concentrate it at the state level, have occurred in the past year with more being proposed. No longer will local communities be able to decide how to take care of their lakes and rivers, more pollution-filtering wetlands will be filled in, exemptions will be allowed for obtaining a permit to discharge hazardous or toxic wastes into wetlands and there will be fewer protections for lake beds and other special waterways in our state. All of these changes have one thing in common, Rep. Adam Jarchow of Balsam Lake.

Recall that it was Jarchow who, along with Sen. Tom Tiffany, slipped a midnight-hour sweeping change into the state budget last summer that eliminated shoreline zoning at the county level in favor of "one-size-fits-all" state regulations. And now he's back with two new pieces of legislation, this time partnering with Sen. Frank Lasee, R-DePere, to "put power back into the hands of people," as the representative said in a column in last week's Leader. Jarchow also vilified local governments in that column, lumping them together with other legislative entities that have "crept into every corner of our lives."

Jarchow wants to reduce the argument to simplistic terms, "You own your property, not the government." But owning property, especially on a public waterway, has little in common with other types of ownership. The flip side of the "rights" coin is responsibility, and living on water brings with it incumbent responsibilities that are unique. Rather than taking the long view, Jarchow's concept of "property rights" is shortsighted, designed to benefit a few at the expense of the many.

Jarchow would have us believe that the collective concern for our waterways "puts our liberties as free people at risk." Such talk is reckless at best and sets up a false dichotomy. When local governments, citizens commissions and lakes associations, folks like you and me, band together to preserve a precious, vulnerable resource for perpetuity, they do more than ensure that land values along our waterways will retain their value. They preserve the public trust. And when state government abdicates its responsibility to preserve pristine resources for future generations, legislators must be called to task.

If you go to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website, you'll find evidence of that obligation of government in the form of something called The Public Trust Doctrine. And by way of explanation, you will read, "Wisconsin law recognizes that owners of lands bordering lakes and rivers - 'riparian owners' - hold rights in the water next to their property. These riparian rights include use of the shoreline, reasonable use of the water and a right to access the water." No one would dispute this expression of property rights that are assumed when one buys a piece of waterfront property.

But the website goes on to cite a pertinent court ruling in the realm of property rights: "However, the Wisconsin State Supreme Court has ruled that when conflicts occur between the rights of riparian owners and public rights, the public's rights are primary and the owner's secondary." The court has further concluded that the DNR must take into consideration the cumulative impact of individual projects on water quality, and in doing so, act to protect public rights in these cases. Jarchow's legislation turns this concept on its head, stating that where there is conflict between or confusion around individual landowners or developers plans and local ordinances, court rulings should favor the property owner over the interests of the public. In essence, this bill tells the courts how they must rule in these cases, an unprecedented overreach.

There is no other sphere of our lives where we adhere to that logic. Imagine a family structure where one person's "rights" trump those of the family as a whole. Or a workplace where one person's desires outweigh those of the company. In all areas of life, we strive to find the "common good." This doesn't negate the individual, but instead recognizes that sometimes our individual desires are subservient to the greater whole. We call that "growing up" or "maturity." "We the people," says the U.S. Constitution, not "I, the person."

Since our country's earliest days, limits have been in place affecting how one can use their private property. Building height, spillover, noise, smoke and other "injurious" harms have been regulated by local and state governments from the beginning. An 1887 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, *Mugler v. Kansas*, held that property ownership carries with it the implied obligation to not engage in behavior on private property that would be "injurious to the community." Since then, various rulings have upheld that premise while seeking to safeguard the rights of property owners to "do as they please" as long as their behavior doesn't impact the surrounding landowners or the public trust.

Finding the right balance has been the overriding principle in these decisions. There has never been a recognized "absolute right" to privacy protections on one's property, and public authority or law enforcement has always retained the right to intervene where necessary. You don't have the right to cook meth, abuse your children or dump raw sewage on your private property, and you are subject to the penalties that ensue from those actions. A recent Leader article told the story of a Frederic man found guilty of domestic abuse who used fatuous property rights claims to try to keep county and state officials from "trespassing" on his property, claiming he had a "land patent" right that overruled local officials' authority. People have always hidden behind the mantle of "property rights" to engage in unwarranted or outrageous behavior.

Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative (continued)

One hundred years ago, our lakes and other waterways here in northwestern Wisconsin were largely wilderness areas. The past 50 years, a mere drop in the ocean of time, have seen rapid, often unregulated, growth along our waterways, sometimes two and three tiers deep. Blue lakes became green lakes, choked with algae by late summer. Local governments responded by implementing science-based "best practices" in an attempt to remediate these concerns, lakes associations were formed to protect our waters for now and for all time, and citizens were recruited to draw up forward-looking comprehensive plans.

Jarchow has already undone much of the work of these good people, and his latest legislation would continue that process. There is still time to let him and Republican leaders know how you feel about that. The state Legislature is back in session on Jan. 5, and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos hasn't committed to either of Jarchow's latest bills, LRB 3936 and LRB 3588, so there may still be time to influence the outcome. And if that fails, the representative will face the referendum of the people in less than 11 months, and the people won't forget.



Musky Planting - Fall, 2015



Walleye Planting - Fall, 2015

Note: Membership year starts January 1st and ends on December 31st

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association Membership Application 2016

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ DONATION _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ e-mail Address _____

Lake Phone _____ Lake e-mail Address _____

Name of Lake _____ Lake Address _____

Dues are \$25.00 per year. Advance payments are welcomed. Just indicate how many years in advance you wish to pay

Number of years _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Lifetime Membership is only \$450.00. Amount Enclosed _____

Amount of General Fund Donation _____

Amount of Lake Management (formerly AIS) Donation: _____

Amount for Dam Purchase Donation: _____

Amount for Walleye Stocking Fund: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CISCO CHAIN RIPARIAN OWNERS ASSN.

MAIL TO: CCROA P.O. BOX 687, WATERSMEET, MI 49969-0687

Be a Volunteer! Join Us and Make a Difference!!!

Officer or Lake Representative __ Picnic Volunteer __ (just ½ hour of your time)

Seasonal Committee __ Educate at Boat Ramps ____

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Tom Wilson
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SNIPPETS

Ice On By Mary Congdon
It was Dec. 24th here on Thousand Island Lake when finally ALL looked solid. My guys had hoped to go waterskiing the day after Christmas but their manhood was saved. It had frozen and broken up several times but waves have not been seen since Christmas day.
When we used to come up to our cottage (kids were young) during Thanksgiving vacation, we always planned to skate on our bay and many times would be able to skate out on the lake, too.

“Hats Off” to Paul Lucas for the Hwy 2 CCROA Spring Road Cleanup and to Jim Okraziewski and Dan Sauer for the Hwy B CCROA Spring Road Clean Up - Thank You!!!!

Volunteers make the CCROA “rock”!!

Check the CCROA website regularly at www.ciscochainroa.com. The website has a wealth of information available.
The Cisco Chain Riparian Owners’ Association runs on Volunteers. All volunteers are welcome. Help is always needed from the annual picnic to something as simple as helping to “stuff” envelopes. To volunteer, email the CCROA at ccroa49969@gmail.com or contact your Lake Representative and find out where you can help.

Below are links to the websites for Watersmeet Township & the Town of Land O’Lakes –
Watersmeet Township
www.watersmeet.us
Town of Land O’Lakes
www.http://townoflandolakes.com

Around Town Events

Wisconsin Free Fishing Weekend – January 16 & 17, 2016
For details visit [Wisconsin Free Fishing Weekend](#)

Michigan Free Fishing Weekend – February 13 & 14, 2016
For details visit [Michigan Free Fishing Weekend](#)

In Land O’Lakes -
Three Bear Sled Dog Races February 6 & 7, 2016
Winter Festival Craft Sale February 6, 2016 10am-3pm
Mushers Ball 8pm – 11:59pm

It’s time to renew your CCROA membership for 2016. Many members have paid their dues in advance and we most heartily thank you. If you are not sure if your dues are paid up, feel free to email us at ccroa49969@gmail.com or call Linda at 906-358-0500 to check the status of your membership. Using the membership form is helpful; however, if you don’t have a printer available, just fill out your information on plain paper and mail along with your check to CCROA, PO Box 687, Watersmeet, MI 49969