

SHORE LINES

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



President's Report

By Greg Wenzel

We have experienced an unusual sequence of weather patterns this winter. We enjoyed an extended autumn that led to the lakes freezing over later than usual. Then the cold came and made up for lost time. During Christmas week rain fell followed by colder temps which iced things up fairly well. Snow followed in early January providing a sight to behold and great opportunities to recreate outdoors. Mid-January brought an extended melt down resulting from temperatures rising into the 40's with periods of rain. Secondary roads were reminiscent of what we encounter during spring thaw and ski and snowmobile trails were severely compromised. Ice fishermen I spoke with gave mixed reports of success. The last week of January saw temperatures return to normal with intermittent snow. There is still plenty of winter left to hold hope for the return of outdoor activities in their full splendor.

The biggest news is that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has released the dam from the license of the Cisco Dam. It is the latest step in moving us forward to purchase the dam. (see article below).

The lull of the winter has given me the opportunity to ramp up work for 2017, to ensure CCROA activities fall into place seamlessly. We have secured a WI DNR grant for Clean Boats Clean Waters that will allow us to hire a CBCW ambassador to monitor the Palmer Bay Landing on Big Lake. We have expanded our participation in Michigan Lakes and Streams Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, which I spoke of in greater detail in the last edition of Shorelines. We have committed to participate in Wisconsin's Drain Campaign in June and both Michigan's and Wisconsin's Landing Blitz which will be held the week of July 4th. All three programs deploy volunteers to educate folks on AIS at boat landings and distribute ice packs during the Drain campaign and towels during the Landing Blitz initiative. Please let me know if you wish to participate! I am working with USFS to modify a grant to extend it from two to five

February, 2017
Volume Number 57 Issue 1



years to better allow us to utilize the funds to combat AIS over an extended period. Lastly, work to be done under our portion of the Michigan grant for AIS monitoring and mitigation is being scheduled.

Our Big Lake South Lake Rep Annie Rapp spearheaded an effort to develop a survey to gather member's thoughts regarding our annual picnic. A trend of declining attendance has been noted. We want to be as responsive to the membership's input on the subject as possible. So help guide us by taking a few moments to thoughtfully respond to the survey. See page 5 for more survey information.

I am working to develop a collaborative partnership with the LVD Tribe to participate in creel counts, harvesting spawn from walleyes, rearing fry and fingerlings and planting walleyes back into the Cisco Chain. If you are interested in participating as a volunteer beginning at ice out, please let me know. In conjunction with this effort, I want to focus on an educational outreach to Riparian Owners this year on the importance of shoreline buffer zones, shoreline restoration, and the importance of downed wood in the water on fish populations and keeping our waters clean. Watch for additional information on this important subject!

Looking forward to a great summer of Safe fun on Clean Waters!

Greg

On January 19th, 2017, FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) issued a ruling to remove the Cisco Dam from the license. While this allows the CCROA to move closer to purchasing the Dam, there are numerous procedural questions and other issues to be resolved before we can acquire the dam. For example, once removed from the license, the dam will be regulated by Michigan DEQ and that process requires clarification.

Additionally, the FERC ruling did not resolve the dispute between the Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO) and the Bond Falls Implementation Team (BFIT) regarding installation of a weir to replace the dam. It is not clear whether that dispute will be continued.

The CCROA will be having conversations with the Upper Peninsula Power Company and the Bond Falls Implementation Team to move the effort ahead. Updates will be provided in future email blasts and in editions of *Shorelines*. A copy of FERC's ruling is posted on the CCROA website. Your continued patience is greatly appreciated during continued efforts to finalize the purchase. Again, as soon as we have more information, rulings or decisions from the Michigan DEQ, UPPCO or BFIT, we will provide it to the membership by email "blasts" and in future CCROA newsletters.

A Call to Action

By Vice-President Bob McGuffin

Ordinarily, my *Shorelines* article would be used to tell our members what your Association has been doing to protect the Cisco Chain of Lakes from Invasive Species, notably Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). However, in this article, I am asking for your help. We have been working for several years to secure a permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) that will allow us to chemically treat with herbicides the large area of EWM on the south side of Big Lake. We are now being told that, contrary to past practice, the WDNR is having a 'policy shift' and will not issue a treatment permit until our EWM problem in Big Lake gets worse, much worse. They want to wait until half of the littoral zone- the part of the lake closest to shore which is habitable to plants- contains EWM. In other words, they won't act until Big Lake is ringed with EWM and every land owner has significant issues getting out from their docks into the deeper section of the lake where plants can't survive. Their position is that a single study indicates that in northern waters, over a 10 year period, EWM populations will rise, peak, and then fall to an 'acceptable' level as native plants adapt and compete with EWM. This is not what we are seeing on Big Lake as EWM was first detected 10 years ago and the problem continues to grow and spread. Nor is it what we have 20 years of firsthand experience mitigating EWM on Clearwater Lake on the Michigan side of the Cisco Chain.

As I write this, there will be no treatment for EWM in Wisconsin waters. The only course of action we as property owners, citizens, and tax payers have is to let the Wisconsin elected officials and the WDNR hear our displeasure and urge them to issue a permit to treat Big Lake immediately. I am calling on every member- especially those with properties in Wisconsin to email AND call the following persons and engage them. Let them know you want action on Big Lake. EVERY person on this list works for the taxpayers of Wisconsin. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HEARD!

Senator Thomas Tiffany	608.266.2509	Sen.Tiffany@legis.wi.gov
Representative Rob Swearingen	608.266.7141	Rep.Swearingen@legis.wi.gov
Carroll Schaal Section Chief DNR	608.261.6423	Carroll.Schaal@wisconsin.gov
Kevin Gauthier DNR Water Resources Management Specialist	715.356.5211	Kevin.Gauthier@wisconsin.gov

Be polite, courteous, and professional but be clear that you are not happy and want to address the EWM problem on Big Lake NOW before it gets any worse.

Thank you!!
Bob McGuffin

Fish Stocking Report (CCROA Collaboration)

Once again the CCROA was successful in obtaining permits to stock both walleye and musky fingerlings! Thank you, Phil Wolbrink, for managing and implementing fish stocking on the Cisco Chain! 5,000 6 to 8 inch walleyes and 200 12 to 14 inch muskies were planted in late October. The fish must be handled with the utmost care and expediency, releasing them gently into the water. If you have any questions about the CCROA walleye planting, you can contact Phil Wolbrink at 906-358-4734 or 715-367-9976

In addition to the CCROA fish stocking program, Lac Vieux Desert tribal members released over 1,000 6 to 9 inch walleyes into the Chain. These fish were raised by Lac Vieux Desert tribal members using spawn collected from the Cisco Chain. (As reported in the October, 2016 edition of *Shorelines*)



By: CCROA Collaboration

The Annual CCROA Business Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on July 14, 2016, at the Cisco Lake Resort Pavilion. Thank you to Jim Boehm, owner of Cisco Lake Resort for allowing the CCROA to hold the Annual Meeting in the pavilion. The minutes for the 2014 and the 2015 annual meetings were read & approved. Copies of the minutes were available to the membership.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) permission to treat or hand pull/diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH) forms were available. In an effort to be pro-active, President Greg Wenzel encouraged members to complete & sign the form. Having signed forms on file allows the board to rapidly respond to any new sightings of AIS by hand pulling or DASH.

The dam purchase was discussed. Nothing has changed; FERC is still sitting on this. The donated money was discussed - if all fails and the purchase is not approved, detailed records have been kept of all donations and the money will be refunded.

The importance of receiving grants and working with the federal & state governments including other groups such as the DNR and the ISCCW was discussed.

Denise Fauntleroy, who is employed by ISCCW, talked about efforts in the surrounding areas, monitoring, treating, educational efforts at boat landings, boat washers, jet skiers, kayaks, etc.

Greg and other board members have attended seminars and workshops to be better educated in order to help others. Another topic was shoreline preservation and its importance to good fish habitat and healthy clean lakes. Pamphlets were available. Also available was a book called "Saving Our Lakes & Streams" by James A Brakken. The price of the book is \$10 (CCROA cost).

There were two bad accidents on lakes this year, one on the Cisco Chain and one on Black Oak Lake. Boating safety and wearing your PFD were emphasized.

Vice-President, Bob McGuffin gave his AIS report. Large clumps/balls of EWM were found floating around in the lakes. It is believed these balls of EWM were from propellers. Clearwater had no EWM; Thousand Island North shore had some, but was much better; Morley Lake has EWM on north & south end. It will be hand pulled. No herbicide treatment for 2016. Big Lake continues to be a problem due to Wisconsin DNR rules. Barb from Many Waters had a table set up with weed samples. Bob thanked everyone for their generous Lake Management donations.

Dave Fauntleroy gave the Treasurer's Report. Report was approved. Membership report by Linda Hammer - as of the meeting there were 351 current members. Members were encouraged to simply talk to neighbors and encourage them to join the association.

The Lac Vieux Desert tribe is planning on stocking walleye in the 6-8 inch range in the Cisco Chain. Bent's Camp got a donation for Musky stocking.

The picnic on Sunday was discussed - Picnic starts at 11:30am at Vacation Land Resort.

Election of officers was held. A motion to accept all current board members for another year was made, seconded and approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.



Mark your calendars for July 20, 2017, the CCROA Annual Meeting
9:00 a.m. at the Cisco Lake Resort Pavilion

We encourage all members to attend the annual CCROA business meeting. This is every member's opportunity to learn about and discuss Cisco Chain business and issues such as the dam purchase and invasive species both aquatic and terrestrial. Renew or check on your membership at the membership table, meet the board members and lake reps one on one. An information kiosk is set up such as the one in the above left hand picture.

Broadband Internet is coming to Watersmeet!!

By CCROA collaboration

Northern Michigan University (NMU) has secured the rights to broadband service to the entire Upper Peninsula, and has plans to bring it to Watersmeet Township. We have not heard the timetable yet, but the town board has expressed support for the project and will help in any way they can.

If you have not yet contacted Sherry Zoars about the NMU broadband project, and are interested, do so now. Here is what to do:

At a high-speed internet location (Land O' Lakes Library is good) go to "google earth" and put the cursor on your home's exact location (a google map does not always have our proper street address locations) and send the GPS coordinates of your exact location to me along with your street address.

This will help greatly in determining the number of potential subscribers to build secondary sites. The water tower will not reach those of us outside of a few miles of the water tower. The Cisco Lake area is a good possibility. **Each of you should email your GPS coordinates to Sherry Zoars at zoars@copper.net.** That is the only way we will get full township coverage.

On January 30, 2017, Eric Smith at NMU emailed the following to Sherry -
 "All agreements with Watersmeet are now signed and equipment has been delivered to your location. We're waiting for tower climbers to install the antennas and for a short fiber optic cable to be installed at the water tower location. Since we're now dealing with winter weather, the timing of this work makes completion difficult to predict. We are trying to move as quickly as possible and will be working with Mike Rogers on a plan to inform Watersmeet residents as soon as our EAN is ready for use. As always, please let me know if you have any other questions. We appreciate your interest and support! "

Rafting Loons

By CCROA Collaboration

It's no secret, we love our loons. They delight us with their haunting and sometime eerie calls and their aquatic abilities. Common loons have been known to dive 60 meters (200 feet) after its prey and have been clocked in flight at 90 mph!!!

In the late fall we often observe loons "rafting" (gather in large numbers). Often times these are the chicks, which are left behind when the parents leave for the winter. The chicks usually do not leave their "birth" lake until just before it freezes. How do they know where to go? That is a question that biologists cannot answer. The chicks will not migrate north until they are about 3 or 4 years old and will not reproduce until they are about 6 or 7 years old.

Rafting Loons (continued)

In late summer, adult loons molt out of their beautiful breeding plumage. The new plumage grows back in plain brownish grey feathers, with white belly and throat feathers, preparing for the flight back to their winter habitat along the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico. Adult loons migrate usually in large groups about 2 to 3 months after their chicks have hatched. Loons do not winter in southern inland lakes - they are too warm and or too shallow, plus there is the real threat of alligators. Loons need cool, clear and deep water for fishing. Like airliners, loons also need a long "runway" in order to take off.

Not all loons head south. Studies of banded loons in the northeast (Maine to Rhode Island) have shown that they simply winter off the Atlantic coast.

In late winter, the loons molt their drab winter plumage. They do this by losing all their feathers at once, leaving them unable to fly and very vulnerable while they grow new stunning black and white breeding feathers, which will allow them to fly back to their summer breeding grounds. Loons need all their feathers to fly. Their bodies are so heavy that if the wings were missing just 3 feathers, the loon would be unable to fly.

When you are on the lake, be it in a power boat or kayak/canoe, please give these amazing birds plenty of space. Especially avoid nesting areas. Stressed loons have been known to abandon their nests and eggs. If a loon rises up out of the water and spreads its wings, while beautiful to see, it is telling you that you are too close for comfort.



Autumn Loons, 1000 Island Lk
 Courtesy of Wendy Peschman

To Picnic or Not To Picnic???- A Big Decision

Recently a picnic survey was emailed to members with email addresses and mailed via USPS to the few members that have not given us an email address. The “*To Picnic or Not To Picnic?*” article in the October 2016 edition of *Shorelines* discussed the future of the Annual CCROA picnic. Declining picnic attendance has brought about the discussion as to whether the annual picnic should be continued. The picnic has been a CCROA tradition since the beginning. For years it was partnered with the Annual Business Meeting, (the annual business meeting is a by-laws requirement). It was since changed to holding the business meeting on the Thursday prior to the Sunday picnic date.

The CCROA board does not want to make the decision to discontinue the annual picnic without input from the membership on this topic. The email would be from fishcrossing3@ATT.net via surveymonkey.com, titled “The CCROA Survey!” The email has a link to the CCROA Picnic Survey. As with any vote, it is one survey per membership so the survey link was emailed to the primary email address for the membership. If you haven’t received it, check your spam folder. We ask that you kindly complete the survey. The results of this survey will determine if the CCROA will continue to host an annual picnic. The deadline for the survey is March 31, 2017.

As always, the CCROA is concerned about the privacy of its membership. SurveyMonkey states “SurveyMonkey acts as a mere custodian of the email data. We don’t sell these email addresses and we use them only as directed by you and in accordance with this policy. The same goes for any email addresses collected by your surveys”.

We Need You!! - The CCROA is participating in Wisconsin’s Drain Campaign and two Landing Blitzes for Michigan and Wisconsin. Volunteers are needed for June 30th to July 4th, 2017. These will be done at various boat landings on the Chain. An hour or two (or more if possible) of your time would be greatly appreciated. Please contact a board member or lake representative to volunteer (see page 6 for contact information)

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

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association Membership Application 2017

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ DONATION _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ e-mail Address _____

Lake Phone _____ Additional 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 _____

<p>President: Greg Wenzel 414-581-5444</p>	<p>Big Lake North & Morley Lake: Tom Krautkramer 906-358-0469</p>	<p>Lindsley Lake: Laurie Cooney 630-730-4067</p>	<p>Members-at-Large: Jack Erhart 906-358-9969 Paul Lucas 906-358-4767 David Neumann 906-358-0159</p>
<p>Vice President: Bob McGuffin 630-280-9542</p>	<p>Big Lake South: Ann Rapp 715-547-6073</p>	<p>Mamie Lake: <u>NEEDED</u></p>	
<p>Secretary: Jessica Ryden meleeanb@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Cisco Lake: Jay Sweney sweneycr@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Poor Lake: Kully Rohlen 906-358-4460</p>	<p>Shore Lines Editor: Linda Hammer 906-358-0500 kittyisland0500@gmail.com</p>
<p>Treasurer: David Fauntleroy 906-358-0106</p>	<p>Clearwater Lake: Helen Hayhurst 906-358-4125</p>	<p>1000 Island Lake N: Dean Stanton 906-358-0214</p>	<p>Webmaster: Gary Ebert 906-358-4046</p>
<p>Membership: Linda Hammer 906-358-0500 kittyisland0500@gmail.com</p>	<p>East Bay Lake: Bob Warren robertfwarren@me.com</p>	<p>1000 Island S: Joan Cavanaugh angel5508@aol.com</p>	
<p>Parliamentarian: Wes Kiley 715-547-3283</p>	<p>Fish Hawk Lake: Dean Challed 906-358-4260</p>	<p>West Bay Lake: <u>NEEDED</u></p>	

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!
Currently Mamie and West Bay Lakes are without Lake Representatives. Please volunteer to be a Lake Representative today.

SNIPPETS

Check the CCROA website regularly. The website has a wealth of information, including detailed reports on the dam, Invasive species, past newsletters and what is and can be done as well as links to other information sites.

www.ciscochainroa.com

Usually in "Snippets" we feature "Around Town" listing events in the area. In this edition of *Shorelines*, we want to let you know that there is a new website called "Land O'Lakes/Go Beyond" where you can go to find information about Land O'Lakes and Watersmeet and the surrounding areas events, activities, places to stay or eat, natural areas and fun adventures to undertake.

Often, especially when family or friends are visiting or the weather is not conducive to a day on the lake, we are looking for something "new" to do or perhaps just a reminder of all the things to do and see in the Northwoods. Visit "Land O'Lakes/Go Beyond" at

www.golandolakeswi.com

Michigan 2017 Free Fishing Weekends are scheduled as follows – winter: February 18 & 19 and this summer: June 10 & 11.

Wisconsin 2017 Free Fishing Weekend is
June 3rd and 4th, 2017

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.

The CCROA Rocks Thanks to Volunteers!!!!

Thank you to all who volunteer their time and equipment. Volunteers are always needed and greatly appreciated. Board Members and Lake Representatives can't do it all. An hour, a day, a summer or as a board member/lake representative, can help in our mission,

"Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes"

Email the CCROA at ccroa49969@gmail.com or contact a CCROA Board Member and find out where you can help.

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