SHORE LINES

Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association
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President's Report

By Eugene Clark

Ice is out; check. Docks are in; check. Boats are in; check. Let the summer season begin! We hope that you have all made it back to your homes here on the Chain. For those who spent the winter here, we survived a thankfully normal winter. There was enough of winter this season to keep our local businesses flourishing. This was good for everyone.

Spring has now fully sprung. It is great to see everything turning green. The sun feels great. The "no see ums" remain a pest! But we will get through that just fine.

Dock is in!

This newsletter features many important articles. Please take a look. The AIS spend in 2024 was high, and we expect it to remain high in 2025. We will know more when our biologists complete their first survey of the lakes. Steve Kessler will cover this in his article. Steve will also cover our successful grant applications over the Winter. Tim Lathrop will have news on planned walleye fingerling release for 2025.

Our volunteers are geared up to do their secchi disk readings. Carol Steinbrecher is managing that program as well as other water quality control activities. Check out the other articles of interest on the Chain. Also read articles on our website; learn how Little Africa, Big Africa, and Record Lakes became wilderness lakes!

The CCROA promotes activities that protect our land, shorelines and waters. The near wilderness pristine nature of the Chain is a treasure to protect for the generations to come. This body of water is really unique compared to the waters in south and central Wisconsin and Michigan. We encourage everyone to balance their recreational activities with preserving the Chain's natural qualities. We ask that all activities be consistent with our Mission: *"Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes."* This is our *Lake Culture*.

This Shore Lines newsletter will be emailed to all members of the CCROA for which we have email addresses. In addition, it will be mailed to riparian owners for which we have physical addresses. This address will be the one that the real estate taxing authority has on file, where your real estate tax bill is sent. Those riparian owners who are not members, please join the Association, and show support for the programs on the Chain. We are all in this together

The ISCCW, a Good Partner

By Rachel Wheeler, ISCCW President

The Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW) remains a key partner with the Cisco Chain in protecting all the waters in Watersmeet Township and border lakes with Land O' Lakes. This includes the Cisco Chain. We man the boat landings at Palmer Bay on Big Lake, Thousand Island Lake, and Cisco Lake, providing boat inspection, washing and education. The ISCCW also provides educational and awareness programs in the area. The CCROA coordinates many of its activities with the ISCCW.

ISCCW Poster

Early this spring, the ISCCW held its Second Annual Muskie Expo at the Lac Vieux Desert Casino & Resort. It featured 5 well-known local muskie guides as speakers, many vendors, and a focus on preventing the spread of AIS in our waters. It was well-attended, and it is looking to grow in the years to come.

The ISCCW provided specific aid to Duck Lake and Langford Lake last year in their management of EWM. This support was warranted as both lakes are visited by fishermen, who can carry EWM to other waters. Duck Lake residents have been a strong partner with the ISCCW. The ISCCW is also supporting Crooked Lake in removing EWM over the 2023-25 seasons. Crooked is a common entry point to other lakes in the Sylvania Wilderness tract, and a neighbor to the Chain. These activities help protect the Chain and other Watersmeet waters.

The CCROA highly recommends supporting the ISCCW. The ISCCW has approximately 400 members and Chain riparian owners make up about one-third of that number. This support is well deserved. The ISCCW spends some $30,000+ on activities that directly impact the Chain. Please continue your support! Those not members of the ISCCW: please access their website www.isccw.org and contribute!

Town of Land O'Lakes Adopts Ordinance Restricting Wake Enhancement

By Steve Kessler

On May 21, 2025, the Town of Land O'Lakes adopted an ordinance restricting certain artificial wake enhancement.

The ordinance is applicable to waters wholly within the Town of Land O'Lakes and also applies to the Wisconsin waters of the following lakes: Tenderfoot Lake, Big Lake, West Bay Lake, and Mamie Lake.

The ordinance prohibits the use of ballast tanks, water sacks, or wake shaper fins to cause a boat to operate in a bow-high manner, or which increases or enhances a boat's wake. The ordinance also prohibits the operation of any boat in an artificially bow-high manner having the effect of increasing the boat's wake. This prohibition includes continuous operation at transition speed (the speed below planing speed in which a boat is operating in a plowing mode).

The ordinance stipulates that violators shall forfeit $500 for the first offense and $1,000 for subsequent offenses within one year.

The Land O'Lakes Town Board's review of this issue was extensive beginning at their meeting December 14 of 2022. The "Hazardous Wakes Issue" appeared on the LOL Plan Commission's agenda nineteen times between February 14, 2023, and January 14, 2025. The Plan Commission approved resolutions recommending that the Board adopt the ordinance on two different occasions.

The proposed ordinance was the primary topic at the LOL Annual Meeting held April 15, 2025. Numerous citizens spoke in favor of the ordinance and asked that it be put on the May 21 Town Board Meeting agenda. Ordinance adoption was on the May 21 agenda and the ordinance passed.

More than 50 WI towns have adopted ordinances restricting enhanced wakes. LOL joins the following Vilas County towns: Winchester, Presque Isle, Plum

Lake, Cloverland, Lac du Flambeau, and Boulder Junction.

The Michigan waters of the Cisco Chain are not subject to the new Land O'Lakes ordinance but are subject to the voluntary, unenforceable, guidelines adopted by the CCROA in May 2023. Those guidelines recommend that the creation of enhanced wakes be limited to waters that are more than 20 feet deep, further than 500 feet from shore and to lakes greater than 500 acres.

A Strong Step Forward for Walleye in the Cisco Chain

By Tim Lathrop

The Cisco Chain of Lakes—a remarkable system of 15 interconnected lakes straddling the Michigan-Wisconsin border—has long been cherished not only for its natural beauty but also for its robust game fish populations, especially walleye. Over the past several decades, the walleye fishery has been supported largely by dedicated riparian property owners and volunteers, who have funded and championed the stocking of this iconic species.

As a board member of the Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association (CCROA) and volunteer on the walleye program, I'm thrilled to share that our efforts are being formally recognized and supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) following a recent review led by our new Fisheries Management Biologist, **Kris Nault**.

Kris assumed his position in January of this year and has already proven to be a valuable and collaborative partner. Building on dialogue with his predecessors Cory Kovacs (interim) and George Madison, Kris recently completed a comprehensive review of fish survey data spanning decades of work by the MDNR, Wisconsin DNR (WDNR), and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWIC). His conclusions affirm what many of us on the Chain have long observed and hoped: **walleye stocking remains not only viable but strategically necessary for portions of the Chain.**

Key Findings from the Review

The Cisco Chain covers approximately 4,000 acres, divided evenly into northern and southern lake groups. Historical and recent sampling reveals two relatively distinct walleye populations within these groups.

- **Population Estimates (2002):**
  - North Lake Group: 5,761 adult walleye (1.9 walleye/acre)
  - South Lake Group: 35,062 adult walleye (17.5 walleye/acre)

- **Growth Rates:**
  Walleye in the northern lakes grew slightly below the state average (-0.6 inches), while growth in the denser southern lakes lagged further behind (-3.2 inches). The higher density in the south has likely led to resource competition, suppressing growth.

- **Natural Reproduction Trends:**
  Natural reproduction thrived from 1986–1998, primarily in the southern lakes. However, recent data shows a decline in natural recruitment in Cisco and Thousand Island Lakes. By 2016, age-0 walleye were absent in Cisco Lake and sparse in Thousand Island.

- **Stocking Impact:**
  Year classes tied to stocking made up **72% of aged walleye in Cisco Lake** and **64% in Thousand Island Lake**, underscoring how vital stocking efforts have been.

Moving Forward: A DNR-Backed Strategy

Considering these findings, the MDNR has laid out a robust, science-driven plan that aligns with CCROA's vision and long-standing investment in the fishery:

1. **Continued Private Stocking (2025):**
   CCROA may apply to stock up to **10,000 fall fingerling walleye** in Cisco or Thousand Island Lakes using approved Wisconsin "local" or Bay de Noc strains.

2. **Biennial Stocking Cycle:**
   Stocking will proceed every other year to ensure sustainability and proper assessment of results.

3. **MDNR-Sponsored Stocking (Starting 2027):**
   The MDNR will submit for state-sponsored stocking beginning in 2026, for 2027 implementation—marking a significant milestone in state-level support.

4. **Monitoring and Research Collaboration:** The MDNR will collaborate with other agencies to monitor recruitment, compare natural vs. stocked contributions, and adapt as needed.

5. **Data-Driven Flexibility:** Stocking may be discontinued if adverse effects on naturally reproducing populations are detected.

It's important to note that **Lindsley and Fishhawk Lakes are excluded from future stocking** due to already slow growth rates and high density.

A Shared Success

This progress represents years of hard work, persistence, and shared commitment among property owners, CCROA leadership, and state officials. We especially commend Kris Nault for his transparent, thorough, and practical approach—balancing science with the reality on the water.

As we prepare for our 2025 permit submission and continue to track the MDNR's 2026 proposal, we encourage all CCROA members to stay engaged and informed. Your contributions—financial and otherwise—continue to make a difference.

We look forward to stronger, healthier walleye populations in the years ahead and thank everyone who's helped us get here.

Cisco Chain Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) 2025 Plan and 2024 Recap

By Steve Kessler CCROA AIS Manager

We were faced with unusually robust Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) growth in 2024. This was attributable to light snow cover during the 2023 - 2024 winter followed by early ice out in the spring. EWM sites that had previously been identified as "sparse" grew to "dense" levels last year. Many new sites were discovered.

Herbicide treatments were completed, as planned, on Morley, Thousand Island, and Big Lake during June/July. The largest of these sites was a 7.4-acre site in front of the Palmer Bay boat landing. In September 2024 the CCROA Board voted to expand the 2024 herbicide treatment plan by pulling forward some applications which had been envisioned for 2025. Existing permits and late season growth enabled the treatment of five small EWM sites on Thousand Island Lake and five small sites on Fishhawk Lake.

Total herbicide treatment costs in 2024 were $61,449, $27,812 more than had been budgeted. Our 2024 plan for hand pulling and Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) was modified based on conditions observed. Use of these techniques was often not appropriate given the aggressive growth encountered. We underspent on planned hand pulling and DASH costs resulting in total cash outlays for the year being $14,000 less than the total budget. The hand pulling/DASH costs foregone in 2024 are not a savings but rather a deferral…. probably to 2026.

The 2025 AIS budget totals $263,000 as compared to the 2024 budget which totaled $155,000.

The 2025 Budget is heavily impacted by the robust EWM growth in 2024. The herbicide treatment budget for 2025 is $110,000. We believe this to be the "worst case" scenario. Twelve sites (60 acres in total) have been identified for treatment. Each site has been defined based on last year's growth. Spring surveys may show less emergence in 2025 resulting in required treatment of fewer acres than planned. The largest site is a 23.6 acres site on the south end of Big Lake. Two sites are more than ten acres; one is on Clearwater Lake and one on Cisco. The herbicide treatment plan includes four sites on Big Lake (29.7 acres), five sites on West Bay (8.1 acres), two sites on Cisco (11.5 acres) and one site on Clearwater Lake (10.8 acres).

A summary of the 2025 budget follows:

2025 Summary AIS Budget	2025 funding Source			
Activity	Grants	ISCCW	CCROA	Total 2025 Budget
Survey, Dive, DASH EWM	$60,774	$0	$17,491	$78,265
Chemical Treatments (Provision)	0	0	109,988	109,988
Update Aquatic Plant Mgmt Plan	9,150		4,506	13,656
Water Quality	7,008	0	15,286	22,295
Subtotal	76,931	0	147,272	224,204
Boat Landing Inspections & Washes	3,675	25,000	1,225	29,900
AIS Education & Admin		9,000	0	9,000
Total	$80,606	$34,000	$148,497	$263,104

The following is a summary of the grants we have obtained to off-set our AIS management costs.

	Total Cost	Award	CCROA Share
Update AIS Mgmt. Plan WI	$ 17,959	$12,032	$ 5,927
MI RAC	41,500	33,200	8,300
CBCW	4,900	3,675	1 ,225
WDNR	42,265	31,698	10,567
Total	$106,624	$80,605	$26,019

Note that none of our existing grants cover any herbicide treatment costs. We are exploring whether these costs might be covered in the future.

The WDNR grant is in its final year. We will not be able to complete all of the hand pulling and DASH work envisioned by this grant by the end of the year. We will amend the grant such that any remaining work can be completed in 2026. Concurrently, we will be applying for a new three-year WDNR grant covering 2026, 2027 and 2028. A prerequisite for a new WDNR grant is a requirement that our five-year Master Management Plan be updated. We have hired Many Waters, our biologist, to do this update. We applied for a grant to off-set the cost of the update, our application was accepted, and we will receive $12,000.

In September we submitted a grant application for a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant from the US Forestry Service. Our application was successful. We have been awarded $33,000 to offset EWM management costs incurred on the Michigan side of the chain.

Once again, our Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) application was successful. We will receive $3,675 to off-set boat landing labor costs. We will continue to partner with ISCCW on the CBCW Program for boat washing and inspections at the boat landings.

Conclusion:
We held our ice longer this spring and we had good snow cover throughout the winter. It is unlikely that EWM growth in 2025 will be as abundant as it was in 2024. Our 2025 costs will likely far exceed our 2024 costs. Although 2025 grant awards will be substantially higher, the amount of funding provided out of the CCROA treasury is on a steep incline.

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

By Steve Kessler, Chairman, Cisco Chain Lake District

Your tax bill contained no assessment from either lake district this past winter. There are approximately 570 private taxable lots on the Michigan side and 175 such lots on the Wisconsin side. Consequently, we could raise $74,500 per year for AIS budget support if both districts were to assess $100 per parcel. Since formation in 2018, the districts have assessed only three times.

As noted in the previous article, we had a bumper crop of Eurasian Water Milfoil last year. We are responding in 2025 with an aggressive management plan. Our 2025 budget will be over $260,000 as compared to $159,000 in 2024. Fortunately, our Grant receipts will increase from $45,000 in 2024 to $80,000 in 2025. Total expenditures funded by the CCROA will increase from $76,000 in 2024 to $148,000 in 2025. We will be discussing the potential need for a tax assessment over the coming months.

The 2025 CCLD annual board meeting will be held on June 18 (time TBD) at the Land O'Lakes Town Hall. The agenda will include approval of the 2025 AIS budget. The Board consists of chairperson Steve Kessler, Secretary Paul Steinbrecher and Treasurer Ron Buczkiewicz. Our Town of Land O'Lakes representative is Sam Otterpohl. District #4 Vilas County Supervisor Michael MacKenzie will join our Board as the Vilas County representative.

The Invasion of the Quagga Mussel – Coming to a Lake Near You !!

From Last Wilderness Alliance Spring 2025 Newsletter

We've heard the horror stories about spiny water fleas and zebra mussels now found in Wisconsin's inland lakes. In

July 2024, a new invasive – the quagga mussel – was discovered in Lake Geneva in Walworth County.

Quagga mussel growth on a pipe in Lake Mead. New, 2 month, 4 month and 6 month.

The quagga mussel can live and thrive on a soft lake bed and in water systems that do not have the calcium content that zebra mussels require. This means that quagga mussels will be able to flourish in lakes that may not be suitable for zebra mussels. In 2000, zebra mussels made up 98% of the mussels found in Lake Michigan. Within five years the numbers have reversed.

Quagga mussels now cover the lake bed of Lake Michigan, in some areas up to 7900 mussels per square meter! Once established, these invasive species can extend their range through natural waterway flow and far beyond neighboring watersheds by human recreational activity.

Quagga mussel excrement is very high in nitrogen and feeds the growth of cladophora, a bottom-dwelling algae. As the algae dies it uses up bottom oxygen which results in the production of botulism – a bacteria that can kill not only fish and birds but also humans. There are areas along Lake Michigan where the mass of washed up cladophora has made it impossible to swim, launch a boat and undesirable to live. *See You Tube video "All Washed Up, Lake Michigan's Algae Challenge".*

The impact of these invasives on our lakes and our economy is devastating. Wisconsin's northern economy is built on our lakes. Tourism, and all the related revenue it produces, is the engine that drives the economy in the Northwoods and other areas of Wisconsin. In Vilas and Oneida counties, lake shore property represents more than 75% of the tax base.

Don't Move a Mussel

It is critical that Wisconsin does everything that it can to prevent the spread of quagga mussels and other invasive species. The principal transporter of invasives is residual water in boats that is transported from one area to another. Wake surf boats, which are unable to empty all the water from the ballast tanks and cannot be physically inspected due to ballast tank design, are of great concern.

The Southern Nevada Authority has spent approximately $32 million to manage the impact of quagga biomass on the water intake infrastructure of Lake Mead, a recently invaded reservoir in southern Nevada. Colorado, Nevada and Utah have now instituted state-wide mandatory decontamination of all boats before launching. No exceptions.

Benefits of Wild Rice

Debra Kessler

Our local Ojibwe tribe is one of the Native American Groups that cultivate and harvest wild rice. This is an important part of their heritage. If you would like to learn more about the great spiritual and cultural importance of wild rice for the Great Lakes tribal communities, there will be a presentation on Manoomin (wild rice) at the Ottawa National Forest Visitor Center on July 17 at 7pm.

Wild Rice isn't technically rice. It's the seed of aquatic grasses native to North America (genus Zizania).
White Rice is a refined grain made by milling brown rice to remove the husk, bran, and germ.

Wild Rice is richer in protein and fiber, helping with satiety and blood sugar control. It is also high in antioxidants—nearly 30 times higher than white rice, according to a study in Food Chemistry (2009). It is also naturally gluten-free and low in fat with a lower glycemic index than white rice (GI of 45 vs. 73).

References:

1. *USDA FoodData Central. https://fdc.nal.usda.gov*
2. *Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. "The Nutrition Source – Rice."*
3. *Hu, C. et al. (2009). "Antioxidant activity of wild rice." Food Chemistry, 115(1), 62–66.*
4. *Jenkins, D.J.A. et al. (2002). "Glycemic index of foods: a physiological basis for carbohydrate exchange." Am J Clin Nutr. and germ—resulting in a softer, faster-cooking grain with a longer shelf life.*

Back to Native – Cardinal Flower – More than a Pretty Face!

By Francie Stoner -Master Gardener

Lobelia cardinalis, cardinal flower. Photos by Alan S. Heilman, University of Tennessee Herbarium.

If you're like me, you're always looking to add a splash of vibrant color to your garden. Cardinal Flowers (Lobelia cardinalis L) are an excellent choice. This native wildflower thrives along Wisconsin lake shorelines and marshy areas but is native to all states except those in the northwest, from North and South Dakota to the Pacific Ocean. They do best in filtered light but can adapt to full sun or partial shade. Given that their roots need plenty of moisture, be sure to add a generous layer of mulch or plant them near a pond or swamp. Interestingly, this beauty is a member of the Bluebell family! (1)

Cardinal Flowers can be propagated by dividing the young plants that grow around established clumps or from seed. The plants often reseed themselves. Alternatively, you can sow the seeds on the soil surface after cold stratification by keeping them in the refrigerator for 30-60 days before spring planting or scatter the seeds in the fall for natural stratification. They need sunlight to germinate. You can also bend a stem down into the soil and secure it with a rock or stick. (3)

The delicate blossoms of the Cardinal Flower open from the bottom up on spikes that grow two to four feet tall, displaying their brilliant blooms from July to September. These flowers are particularly attractive to hummingbirds, as well as bees and butterflies, offering a delightful sight as they feed on the nectar deep within the flowers throat. (2)

Why are they called Cardinal Flowers? When they were introduced to Europe in the mid-1620s, their scarlet-crimson color was said to resemble the robes worn by Roman Catholic cardinals, and the name stuck.(2)

Cardinal Flowers pair well with great blue lobelia (another native, L. silphitica, which blooms around the same time), irises, marsh milkweed (Asclepias incarnata), monkeyflower (Mimulus sp.), and rose mallow (Hibiscus moscheutos). Other native plants you might find them alongside include purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea), blazingstar (Liatris spp.), and penstemon digitalis (foxglove beardtongue). (2)

But Cardinal Flowers are more than just a pretty face. American Indians traditionally used root tea for ailments ranging from stomach aches to typhoid and used leaf tea for colds, fevers, and headaches. The roots, when finely ground, were even said to be an aphrodisiac. Furthermore, the plant's muscle-relaxant and anti-inflammatory properties have been recognized in treating muscle spasms and joint pain. Current research is exploring the full extent of the plant's medicinal potential, with studies focusing on its alkaloids, especially lobeline, and their effects on respiratory, muscular, and nervous system conditions. (4)

Note that proper dosing is crucial, as overuse or incorrect preparation can lead to side effects like nausea or dizziness. For those interested in learning more about the medicinal aspects and ongoing research, I recommend reading this onestopgardenshopco.org article (4) below. It's truly fascinating!

Wishing you good health and a beautiful garden!

(1) https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/lobelia_cardinalis.shtml
(2) https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/cardinal-flower-lobelia-cardinalis/
(3)https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=loca2
(4)https://www.onestopgardenshopco.org/post/draft-blog-12-the-historical-and-medicinal-uses-of-lobelia-cardinalis

Water Quality Monitoring on the Cisco Chain

By Carol Steinbrecher

CCROA participates in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) produced by the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps). Monitoring our 15 lakes provides baseline information and trends in water quality for our individual lakes, giving us data that is needed to make proper management decisions and educate lake residents and users about water quality data, lake ecology, and lake management practices.

CCROA has a group of volunteers who measure each lake's water clarity (transparency) on a regular basis from May through September using an instrument called a Secchi Disk. A biologist from Many Waters Environmental Consultants collects water samples to measure the phosphorous level in each lake shortly after ice-out, and again in September. High phosphorus, and low transparency can result in undesirable algae blooms; poor boating and swimming; as well as low dissolved oxygen which can cause fish kills. If monitoring shows decreases of transparency, and increases of phosphorus, then steps need to be taken to reduce the amount of nutrients coming into the lake.

Transparency, also referred to as water clarity, measures how far light can travel in water. Transparency is directly affected by the level of algae and sediment in the water. Algae is a part of a healthy aquatic ecosystem, but it can increase dramatically when there are high levels of nutrients put into a lake. Excessive algae can block sunlight from penetrating deeper into the water, restricting plant growth and altering the balance of the ecosystem. Nutrients enter the lake during storm events, runoff can carry clay, silt, and sand from streets, yards, fields, and construction sites into streams and lakes. In shallow waters, boats and high winds can stir up bottom sediments. Also in shallow waters, aquatic life, such as carp and crayfish, can stir up the lake sediment.

Repeated Secchi Disk measurements are necessary throughout the growing season since algal species composition in lakes can change significantly during the spring and summer months, dramatically affecting overall water clarity. When transparency is measured consistently week to week and year to year, these measurements are a useful indicator of water quality changes and patterns. When assessed along with other parameters such as total phosphorus, transparency measurements give us a useful insight into the level of biological productivity in a lake, and ultimately its water quality conditions.

Phosphorous is an essential nutrient for algae and aquatic plants, which in turn are food for invertebrates and larger animals. It naturally occurs in sediment, water, and other living organisms in our lakes. If phosphorous increases in lakes due to human impacts on the shoreline or watershed excessive algae and plant growth will occur, causing oxygen depletion. Fish and other aquatic life can become stressed, and a fish kill can occur.
Humans often introduce extra phosphorus into a lake through poorly maintained septic systems, shoreline erosion, and lawn fertilizer.

By measuring phosphorous and clarity, lakes can be divided into categories called trophic states. Lakes with low nutrient levels are classified as oligotrophic and are not very biologically productive. Lakes with more nutrients, but not excessive amounts, are called mesotrophic, and lakes with an abundance of nutrients are called eutrophic.

CCROA has been a part of the MiCorps water quality program for nearly 10 years and has accumulated enough data to show that positive trends are occurring in our waters. Water clarity has improved on nearly all lakes, and phosphorus levels have decreased (in some cases as much as 50%) on 12 of our 15 lakes. Overall Trophic

Status has moved to healthy levels (mesotrophic) in 13 lakes. As we move forward it is imperative that we continue to be good stewards of these beautiful waters we share!

To view individual lake reports, go to: https://www.micorps.net/lake-monitoring/individual-lake-reports

THANK YOU to our 2025 Secchi Volunteers: John Oliver, Eugene Clark, Tom Krautkramer, Jim Boehm, Scott Saveraid, Tom Ziehen, Jeff Premetz, Greg Wenzel, Patrick & Loretta Cornfield, Ron Buczkiewicz. Andy Kopf, and Paul & Carol Steinbrecher.

Help save our Hemlock Trees! Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Debra Kessler with excerpts from www.misin.msu.ed

The upper peninsula of Michigan has the largest amount of hemlock trees in North America. Hemlock trees provide important habitat and protect against erosion. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid are threatening these beautiful native trees along our lakeshores in both Michigan and Wisconsin. These tiny insects secrete white wax as they feed on sap from hemlock shoots and branches. This feeding can kill needles, shoots and branches and left untreated the tree will likely die in 4 to 10 years.

Hemlock Wooly Adelgid can be moved from tree to tree by birds and other wildlife, the wind and on gear, equipment clothing etc.

What to look for:

- Small, round, white, cottony masses, 1/16" to 1/4".
- Found on the twig at the base of the needles on the underside of hemlock tree branches.
- Present year-round but most visible November through July.
- Note that hemlock woolly adelgid infests eastern hemlock trees, not pines or spruces.

Hemlock woolly adelgid forms round, white ovisacs on the undersides of eastern hemlock twigs

If you notice white waxy material at the base of needles on a hemlock tree, do not move it from the site, take photos, note the location and report it to the following:

Michigan:1800 292 3939|www.misin.msu.edu.
Wisconsin: 1866 440 7523| DATCPestHotline@wi.gov

Good Old Days on the Cisco Chain

This is the second article in what I hope to be a regular feature in Shore Lines. My hope is to share a flavor of the rich history and precious memories of life on the Cisco Chain. Mary Congdon collaborated with me on the article below. If you have memories you would like to share, please contact me at dkessler718@gmail.com.

Cherishing a Great Northwoods Retreat

Collaborative

When Jack and Mary Congdon were a young married couple in 1961 vacationing in the area, they were fishing on Thousand Island Lake and noticed a for sale sign on a lot with a 20 X 20 cabin on it. They purchased the property on Deerpath Point for $5,000. Jack and Mary were both in education, Jack was an orchestra instructor and Mary a K-2nd grade teacher, so they were able to spend their summers at the Lake. They also visited the cabin at least once a month the rest of the year.

To get to the property in the winter they would drive through the Sylvania on snowy roads and park on the road at the end of their driveway. Jack and Mary would each carry one child through snow and immediately start a fire in the hearth. Then Jack would go back to the car and shovel a space big enough to park the car, then hike back in with a loads of diapers and supplies. Later they were able to ski to the cabin with backpacks and eventually snowmobile.

Initially they melted snow for water and had an outhouse. Eventually they drilled a Sandpoint for water, then

installed gas for heat. Later they added, an indoor toilet and septic. The 20 X 20 cabin was expanded, and a porch was added. In 1991 Jack and Mary built a new year-round house and removed the original cabin. Thousand Island Lake became their year-round home in 1994.

Kevin, Mary, Steve and Jack cutting a Christmas Tree on their property about 1963

After Ed and Barb Hook purchased the old Black Oak Lake Resort, they had a rummage sale of resort items. As they were leaving, Mary and Jack were offered one of the guest cabins for free. They literally sawed the cabin into sections (between the logs) and transported the pieces on a trailer from Black Oak Lake to their Thousand Island Lake Property. The cabin was reassembled near the shore, and after painting it red and adding a rope swing to a nearby tree, it served as a great hang out for their sons and visitors. (The red cabin has since been moved to their son's property on the opposite side of the lake).

Mary and Jack's sons, Kevin and Steve, worked at the nearby Indianhead resort starting at 15 years old. They would deliver supplies, paint, mow lawns and sell gas. They became well known as helpful neighbors by the lake residents and did odd jobs like mowing, pruning and running errands, as well as getting into typical teenage boy mischief.

Jack and Mary have been instrumental in preserving and protecting the Cisco Chain of Lakes. Jack was a lake rep for the CCROA starting in 1970. He later became vice president then served two terms as president and several terms as parliamentarian.

During his time as CCROA president, Jack was instrumental in assuring the pristine areas of Record Lake, Clearwater Lake, Big Africa Lakes and Little Africa Lakes remained undeveloped. The property had previously been owned by the Boy Scouts and had been used as a canoe base. The Rockford, IL Boy Scouts acquired the property from Marathon Paper Company prior to 1960 with restrictions prohibiting sale or development. The Boy Scouts ceased operations of the camp in 1980. It had come to Jack's attention in 1988 that the restrictions had been removed and the property was to be sold to a developer with closing in 3 weeks. With the help of Howard Palmquist, who had represented Marathon Paper Company when the property had been sold to the Boy Scouts, Emily Forsyth Warren, Dr Tom Rohlen, and others, an agreement was struck to form a trust to purchase the property until the undeveloped portions of the property could be purchased by the US Forest Service, to become part of the Ottawa National Forest. Property on Clearwater Lake and Little Africa, including the area with the Boy Scout Lodge, with development, were kept private with covenants on buildings per lot etc.

Thanks to fast work and great collaboration, this area can remain a pristine wilderness for generations to come. (for more on the history of this area see the CCROA website). Jack also worked for over 15 years with the federal government and the power company regarding the CISCO Dam and setting constant water levels.

(Boy Scout lodge on clearwater lake, was dining hall for canoe camp)

Jack passed away suddenly in 2002. There is a large boulder with a plaque commemorating Jack's contributions to the CCROA and Cisco Chain at the Thousand Island Lake Landing. If you see Mary around Land O Lakes, say hello. She likely will be happy to share more great stories about life on the Chain.

CCROA Annual Mtg July 12!

Collaborative

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the CCROA will be held July 12 from 10 am to Noon at the Cisco Lake Resort Pavilion. Before the CCROA meeting, at 9:45 am, there will be a meeting of Wisc. Residents to elect the CCLD board.

A hot dog lunch will follow the business meeting. Join us to assure you have the latest information and to mingle with your fellow riparian owners.

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 for updates on events.

Northern Waters Museum
Open Late June through Labor Day – Thr, Fri and Sat 11am to 3pm

Our Family Hiked the Appalachian Trail presentation at **LOL Library** May 29 6:30 pm.

Read and Play Storytime at the LOL Library the first and 3rd Tuesday 10:30 am.

Storybook Garden
Memorial Day to October 1 (weather permitting)

Car Park Music Series – Snowflake, Thursdays Late June to end of August 5pm to 6:30 pm

Around Town Events-Watersmeet
See Watersmeet.us for updated information

Ottawa National Forest
Over 196 miles of hiking and backpacking trails and a wide variety of mountain biking trails

2025 Thursday Evening Programs at the Visitor Center 7pm
(see US forest service-Ottawa National Forest Facebook page for full schedule)

Northwest Cleansweep Hazardous Waste Collection
Thursday May 22 – See Township of Watersmeet for acceptable items

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

Watersmeet Township Transfer Station
8 am to 4 pm M, T, Th, F, Sat. Open Sunday Memorial Day to Labor Day
See Watersmeet.US for items accepted and Fee Schedule

Land O'Lakes Collection Site & Recycling Center Summer Hours
Tues 8-3, Thurs 12-6, Sat 8-4, Sun 9-12
See 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
906-358-4501
Town of Land O'Lakes
http://townoflandolakes.com
715-547-3255

CCROA Membership by Lake as of 4/30/25

Cisco	31
Clearwater	9
Little Africa	0
Big Africa	0
Record	0
Thousand Island	82
Lindsley	21
Fishhawk	12
Morley	2
Big	34
West Bay	26
East Bay	16
Poor	14
Indian	0
Mamie	18
Unknown	2
Off Water	2
Total	269

Board Members & Lake Representatives' Contact Info

President:
Eugene Clark
906-287-1871
emclark1223@gmail.com

Vice President:
Spencer Cable
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Treasurer:
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Membership:
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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 1st and ends December 31st.
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"