

In this Issue.....

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# The Big Chip News

# View from the Chair

by Mike Gardner CFAPOA Chair

# Lake Stewardship

Stewardship is an attitude. It is the understanding that what we do on the land and in the water affects the lake. It is a recognition that lakes are vulnerable and that to make them thrive, citizens, both individually and collectively, must assume responsibility for their care.

Your lake association, the Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association (CFAPOA) recognizes that people use lakes in different ways and may have different goals for enjoyment of the lake. We work with partner agencies and organizations to gain an understanding of general lake processes and ecology to inform you, our members what is happening in your lake.

### How can you promote lake stewardship?

- Renew your membership to CFAPOA: Membership (<u>cfapoa.org</u>)
- Volunteer for our programs: loons, invasive species, or boat landings.
- Join Wisconsin Lakes:
   <u>Wisconsin Lakes Protecting</u>
   Wisconsin's Lakes
- Visually assess your shoreline, seek technical assistance where needed.
- Promote boating safety:
   <u>Boating Safety Tips | Wisconsin DNR</u>
- Report illegal activity to WDNR Hot-line: Call or text 1-800-847-9367
- Celebrate 2022 Wisconsin Water Week: April 4-8.

### **BOATING SAFETY TIPS**

Winter 2022

BOATING IN WISCONSIN







In this new year make a difference by helping keep your lake clean and healthy for future generations. Your help and support are always appreciated.

# But Just How Many Walleye Are There?

by Max Wolter - Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist

I hope this winter finds everyone well and by the time you're reading this we have safe ice to venture out on to explore and play. I'm going to use this opportunity to preview some really big happenings for the Chippewa Flowage fishery in 2022. There's a lot coming up!

#### **Panfish regulations**

Those keeping a close eye on local fisheries matters have watched a proposal to lower the bag limit for panfish as it snaked its way through the Conservation Congress and other review steps. That change was recently finalized. Starting on April 1, 2022 the bag limit for panfish on the Chippewa Flowage will be 10. That's 10 combined, so an example of a full bag limit would be 8 crappie and 2 bluegill (8 + 2 = 10, nomore harvest that day). That will be a year-round regulation going forward.

## Walleye population estimate

We will also be using 2022 to answer a huge question: How many walleye are in the Chippewa Flowage? We want that answer so we can evaluate our regulations and other management decisions. We also use that estimate to set harvest limits for the shared angler-tribal harvest fishery. In the past you may have heard me refer to numbers like "30 per net night". That's a relative measure of abundance that can be compared from one year to the next, but it doesn't give us an estimate of the total number of walleye in the lake.

Generating that total estimate is a massive undertaking, which is why we only attempt it once every 10 years on a lake the size of the Chip. We expect to have 8 netting crews (compared to 1 or 2 in a normal year) on the water when the ice goes out. We may also do some electrofishing up the East and West forks of the Chippewa to capture fish making spawning runs. The goal is to "mark" as many walleye as possible in a short period of time. In this case we think we'll need to capture 8,000-10,000 walleye initially.

A "mark" is something we use to show that we've already handled a fish. In this case the mark will be a clipped fin. This is a common fisheries technique that does not harm the fish. The clipped fin will be visible for a few months and then it will regrow. But that's long enough for our purposes. All the marked fish are released back into the lake.

The next phase of the estimate process will be the "recapture". Over the span of 2-3 nights we will electrofish as much of the shoreline as possible, capturing any walleye we encounter. We will carefully record which fish are marked and which are not. By plugging those numbers into an equation, we can generate an estimate of the total number of walleye in the lake without having to capture each and every walleye. The estimate will have a lot of useful details. including numbers within each sex and size class.

#### **Creel survey**

The other component of this work will be a creel survey. These surveys involve interviewing anglers at the end of their day of fishing to find out what the fished for, what they caught, and what they harvested. These data are critical for ensuring that populations are not being overharvested. We can also use them to determine if regulations are having their intended effect and see how fishing experience has changed over time.

There will be up to 4 "creel clerks" on the water throughout the flowage starting on opening day in May. You may encounter them as you return to a landing or resort at the end of a day of fishing. Please be cooperative and friendly. They are professionals and their goals are to get the important information and send you on your way as quickly as possible. They are not out there to get people in trouble or harass anyone. The creel survey will run through the end of the open water season.

At the end of all this we're going to have a lot of great data on the fishery and fishing experience in the Chippewa Flowage. I'll be excited to share those results with CFAPOA when they're available and we'll all work together on any new directions we might want to take based on what we observe.

## Membership Update

by Patty Swaffield

Happy 2022 Everyone! To all members who have paid their 2022 dues - THANK YOU!

For those of you who have not yet paid, please use the Membership

Registration included in this newsletter, or, go to our web page at

www.cfapoa.org and take advantage of the PayPal option to renew.

It is not too late to be included in the Membership Directory that will be printed some time in February.

Thank you for your support!



#### Welcome New Members

Tucker Silberhorn\*\*

#### Contributor

Bill & Nancy Althoff Tom & Arlene Bahr Bob & Kathy Baker Rick & Angela Busch Jim & Marion Dier Eleanore Dzialo Gasper & Rita Ficarrotta Lee & Barbara Gutbrod Ruben 'Chip' & Holly Kaiser Steve & Cindy Karstaedt Charles & Joanne Keyes Kris & David Jordheim Koehnen Brian & Jen Lemke Janice Litwiller Jerry Metz Rob & Rebecca Nesse John & Anne Nikolai John & Diane Sanchez, Jr. Roger & Christine Schrank Steve & Marilyn Schwarz Jim & Colleen Strouss James & Marcia Suchy Charles Tibbetts Family John & Heidi Traxler Tom Trudel Gary & Tami Varilek

#### Steward

Gary & Holly Becker Jim Colbert **Bob & Pam Cummings** JB, Adam & Spencer Ellis Merle Erickson Dan & Marcia Hardy Warren Hensel John & Judy Hensler Randy & Diane Hulke John & Shelley Lamoreaux Norm & Carol Linnell Buzz & Mary Ann Minton III Floyd Nelson **Pokorny Family** Rick & SeDell Rehfeldt Joe Reker Nathan Reynolds Jim & Lisa Rikkers Moose Speros Jason & Mary Speros Pamela & Linda Ellwein Tibbetts Amanda & Nathan Reynolds Wilson Jim & Beverly Wilson

### Lifetime

Chris & Jessica Conard Michael & Shirley Singer

#### **Membership Levels**

\$25: Individual/Property |
\$26 to \$124: Contributor –
newsletter recognition. | \$125
to \$999: Steward – newsletter
recognition and a gift. | \$1000 and
up: Lifetime Conservationist –
newsletter recognition, a gift, and
lifetime membership.

- \* Contributor
- \*\* Steward
- \*\*\* Lifetime

January 1, 2022 is the start of a new membership year. It's time to renew your membership. Renew online at <a href="https://www.cfapoa.org">www.cfapoa.org</a> or use the form included in this newsletter.

Pat & Gina Wherley

Walt Wyczawski



Name	East	West
Ron & Jan Bergman		1
Mike & Lynn Muench	M	
"Needs Adoption"		12, 13
Gary & Lind Crank		3, 5
Tony DeJoode	T	
LCO Conservation Dept.	H, I, Z	
Jim & Marion Dier	S	
Alan & Lynda Fish		8, 17
Whitley and Donna Gilbertson		2, 18
"Needs Adoption"		10
Roman Rowen	U	
Chris & Patti Jeffords		4
Jerry & Nancy Johnson		6, 9
"Needs Adoption"		10, 14
Roger & Kathy Kisch	W	
"Needs Adoption"		7, 14
Rob and Rebecca Nesse	J	
Brian and Sara Priester	О	
Chris & Jess Conrad	A2	
Rick & Linda Olson	R	
Tony & Laurie Schubert	T	
Dave Carland Family and Friends	X	
Don & Sue Reinardy	E1-2	
Steve & Jane Richardson	W	
"Needs Adoption"		15, 16
Bruce and Gina Dingman	D	
Darrell & Jean Weliihert	E1-2	
Greg and Amy Sanders		11
Mike & Phyllis Gardner	Q	
Mike & Lynn Muench	P	
Dennis Clagett	Y	
Linda Treland	A1	
Tony & Laurie Schubert	U	
	•	•

## Invasive Species Update

by Dennis Clagett

How is the Chippewa Flowage faring in controlling and preventing aquatic invasive species? In comparison to other lakes in the area, the Chip is a leader. This is due to at least three factors: Our Clean Boats Clean Waters program (CBCW); the graciousness of Xcel Energy to work with us by agreeing to the occasional early, before freeze-up, drawdowns (Habitat drawdowns); and, lastly, and importantly, the many volunteers that have joined the Adopt- A-Shoreline program.

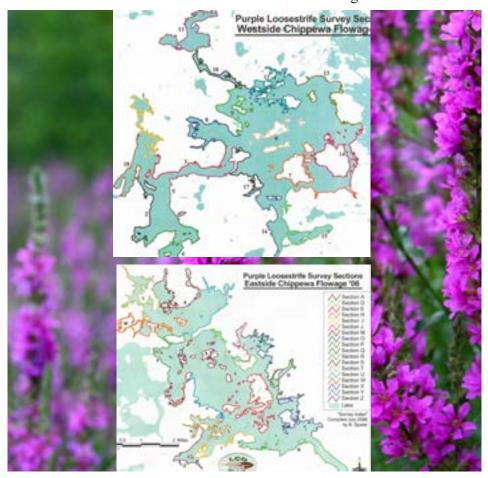
Currently, 50 people have stepped up to protect this great body of water with their time and effort. The Adopt-A-Shoreline program will be 17 years old this Spring. That's 17 years of volunteer dedication. I feel that recognition is deserved for the folks that joined in 2005 and are still doing their jobs: Terry and Deb Wall (retired this year to assume new duties for the lake), Don and Sue Reinardy, Darrel and Jean Weihert, Rick and Lynda

Olsen, Tony DeJoode, Jim and Marion Dier, Roger & Kathy Kish, Steve & Jane Richardson, Terry and Kay Moe (Terry and Kay have recently retired from the program), Ron and Jan Bergman, Kris and Patti Jeffords, and Nancy and Jerry Johnson.

There were many others I haven't mentioned that were the first to answer the call for help. It is due to people like these that the Chippewa Flowage is recognized as a leader in defending our lake from invasive species. We should be proud of this accomplishment.

Welcome to new volunteers Chris and Jess Conrad for section A2. Tony and Laurie Schubert have added section U to their section T, and Mike and Lynn Muench have added another section P.

Even with all this support, there are six sections on the West side in need of adoption -- so please contact me if you are interested. Again, thanks to all our great volunteers!





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#### **CFAPOA Member Registration/Membership Renewal**

January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

Member Nai							
Member Information: (New Members please compete) MAILING Address			please compete; <u>R</u>	FLOWAGE Address (if different)			
City		ST	Zip	City		ST	Zip
Phone				Phone			
E-mail (for CFAP	OA use only)						
Please send my I	Newsletter by en	nail: Yes	No	Do NOT publish ema	ail in Director	ry:	
				newsletter. Shared (3) organization and d			
Membership \$25 \$26 - \$124 \$125 - \$999	Individual/P Contributor Steward	<u>roperty</u>					
\$1000 and up	<u>Lifetime Cor</u>	<u>iservationi</u>	<u>st</u>				
Contribution \$			be \$25 or greater	for General Operatio	onal Expense	s)	
\$	Additional donation to General Operating Expenses						
\$	Additional donation to Conservation Project Fund (for Board approved projects)						
\$	Additional donation to Conservation Trust Fund (Endowment retained for long term support)						
\$	TOTAL CONT	RIBUTION	/PAYMENT				
	Send check t	o: CFAPOA	, PO Box 555, Ha	ayward, WI 54843	}		

Contributions of \$125 or more are eligible for a gift, please complete Page 2.

#### CFAPOA Member Registration/Membership Renewal, Page 2

Gift Selection: (Note: All items will have the CFAPOA logo) Members making a total contribution of \$125 - \$499 may select ONE of the following gifts: Men's Port Authority Silk Touch Polo Ladies Port Authority Silk Touch Polo Size: (S through 10XL) and (LT through 4XLT) (S through 6XL) Men's and Ladies Polo Colors: (Please choose) Red Pink Burgundy Maroon Lavender Light Blue Teal Green | Kelly Green | Coffee Bean | Steel Gray | Black Marine Blue Poly/Fleece Travel Blanket Grev/Black Red/Black Black Royal Blue/Black Members making a total contribution of \$500 - \$999 may select ONE of the gifts above or ONE of the following gifts: Men's Midweight Fleece Hooded Jacket Ladies Midweight Fleece Hooded Jacket Size: (XS through 4XL) (XS through 4XL) Size: Men's and Ladies Jacket Colors: (Please choose) Black Grey/Blue Grey/Citron Members making a total contribution of \$1,000 or more may select ONE of the gifts above or ONE of the following gifts: OR Ladies 3 in 1 Jacket Men's 3 in 1 Jacket Size: (S through 4XL) (S through 4XL) Men's Colors: (Please choose) Ladies Colors: (Please choose) Black | Insignia Blue/Navy Blue/Black Berry/Black Red/Black **Black** 

Mission Statement: The Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association, Inc. (CFAPOA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, formed to generally promote, encourage, and foster the interests of all property owners. Its major objectives are: to keep the Chippewa Flowage area clean and safe for all people; to protect the environment; to provide a forum for the collection and exchange of ideas; to support acquisition of land for protection and conservation and to pursue any other lawful objectives that may benefit this pristine lake, its wetlands, wildlife and tributaries.

# Fisheries Committee Update

by Terry Wall

Now that winter is upon us we can reflect back on the past fishing season and the programs our association supported.

The Pike improvement project sponsored by the resort association and supported by our organization as well as local businesses was a success. After skipping a year because of the pandemic, participation was good for 2021 and 33 prizes with a value of \$2665.00 were awarded at the Oct. membership meeting of the Chippewa Flowage Resort Association.

Two of our members won the bonus prizes awarded to CFAPOA members who participated and registered the most fish. New board member Terry Herder won the first bonus prize with 97 fish registered and Jim Wilson won the second with 59 fish entered. All the other prizes for entrants were awarded by random drawing which took place at the meeting. Talks

are underway to determine if the PIP will continue again in 2022 so check the spring newsletter for more information.

You may recall that our association was asked for donations to help fund a study on mortality of Musky caught during periods of high water temperature. The study involved the capture of twenty fish which were transferred to a holding pond for the duration of the study. Once water temps reached the 80 degree mark, attempts were made to catch the fish using surface baits. This took place on several occasions with some success. The latest update we received is a bit too long to include in this newsletter so it will be available to read on our web site. So far, from what I have read, the results are inconclusive but the data is still being reviewed. I hope to have more to report in the spring newsletter.

The fisheries committee is currently working to identify a

project or projects for 2022 with a primary focus on improving fish spawning habitat on the Chip. We have been in contact with current and former DNR persons with knowledge on the subject and hope to come up with a worthwhile project for 2022.

As a reminder for allm the DNR has revised the panfish bag limit on the Chip to 10 total in aggregate. This new bag limit goes into effect on April 1, 2022.

# Update from recent Partners Group Meeting

- According to DNR, Fall walleye survey was 44.33 per mile. Best since 2006.
- New Panfish Flowage limit of 10 aggregate starting April 1, 2022.
- LCO hatchery released 52,000 two inch walleye on west side in July 2021.
- The Resort Association has stated they are working on continuing PIP program in 2022.

# Water Elevation

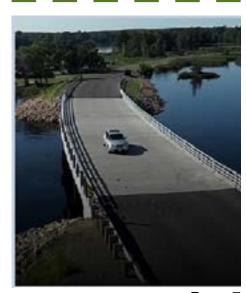
by Mark Zich

'Since the Chippewa Flowage is a reservoir recreationalists are frequently concerned about ever changing water levels which are dependent on inflow, outflow, rain fall, and snow pack. For those who are interested in the most currently available water level information the following URL can provide that information. Just input the following URL into web browser and scroll down near the bottom of the Xcel Energy web page to Reservoir Levels and Discharge

Rates. This data is collected at the Winter Dam and is the most current information available to lake users.

https://wi.my.xcelenergy.com/s/energy-portfolio/hydro#-61

In addition, Xcel Energy built a new water level gauge and replaced the unreadable old gauge located beneath the CC Bridge in October 2021. The new gauge is easy to identify as boaters travel beneath the CC Bridge. The new gauge is aligned with the water elevation at the Winter Dam.



## Shoreline Stabilization: A Guide for Homeowners

by Tony Schubert

We have all seen our lake properties skyrocket in value the last couple of years. We also know that the length and quality of our shoreline makes up much of the value of our lots, whether that be monetary value, natural beauty or the value of a healthy and productive ecosystem. Since this valuable asset is almost irreplaceable, we need to protect our shoreline from the natural and unnatural forces that deteriorate it.

Erosion is one of the strongest forces that affects shorelines. Natural forces, like wind, waves, rain and ice, are constantly at work on our shorelines. Manmade forces, like wakes, runoff, pollution and traffic, also contribute to erosion. While some of these forces are inevitable and some are necessary for our enjoyment of the lake, there are many things we can do to mitigate their impact. The design of our shoreline can determine how much these natural and man-made forces affect our shores and the health of the lake.

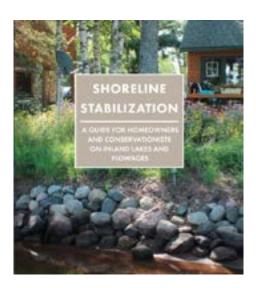
When we build out our lake lots, we destroy a certain amount of what was natural habitat. Some of that is necessary, but we know that habitat loss near the lake is a threat to the lake's health. We have learned that the ecology within a lake is tied to the ecology around the lake: a healthy shoreland area fosters insects and wildlife that support a diverse and robust fishery. Leaving dead trees in the lake plays a key role in supporting

aquatic insects, young fish and slowing shoreline erosion. Buffers of native plants along the shore slow runoff and protect the lake from excess nutrients.

The Shoreline Stabilization Guide is a nifty handbook to help us better understand shoreline erosion and how we can slow it down. This guide was made for homeowners on Wisconsin lakes and flowages and was written mostly by people in northern Wisconsin. We should all take a look at it and use its simple tool to Score Your Shore. There are 7 simple questions that you answer about your shoreline and lot. Each answer is assigned points to give your shoreline an overall score. The higher the score, the more you should be concerned about erosion.

The handbook also has a Decision Table to guide you to the best practices to slow erosion given your particular lot. There are 4 levels of mitigation practices recommended. Level 1 is vegetative buffers and native plantings. Level 2 explains bioengineering with natural fiber. Level 3 is wave reducing natural timbers. Level 4 is the most complex and costly: rock riprap with bioengineering.

The higher the level of erosion controls you implement, the more it could cost. Grants are available from the State of Wisconsin that can help pay for up to half the cost. However, it is relatively easy to start small.



Level 1 practices are the simplest and lowest cost things that you can do without a permit from Sawyer County or the DNR. That is why we want to encourage our members to try out some native plantings that will improve the quality of our lake and preserve our shorelines. If you are interested in purchasing some native plants, contact me on my email tony@contractexchange.net. I would like to organize a plant sale on the flowage, if we have enough interested people.

The Shoreline Stabilization Guide also has a simple soil test which can help you identify your soil type for the Shoreline Assessment questions and a glossary of terms that will help you understand what the pros are talking about if you call a landscaper, DNR officer, or county official.

Continued on Page 9

Please check out the Shoreline Stabilization Guide on our website or you can link to it at <a href="https://wisconsinlandwater.org/members-hub/conservation-resources/">https://wisconsinlandwater.org/members-hub/conservation-resources/</a> shoreline

Additionally, we have other good materials to read regarding shoreline preservation. You will find a beautifully done pamphlet called Shoreline Living at the Town of Hunter town hall on Hwy CC. Our association obtained these pamphlets to give our members ideas on what can be done with your property.

Now is a good time to research the best practices to control erosion on your shoreline. You may want to devise a plan of action that you can undertake this spring. Hopefully these materials will help you create a more beautiful, sustainable and valuable shore.





# **CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS**

Important Flowage Habitat Preservation Post Open

If you are interested in exploring the idea of becoming involved in this rewarding program, please contact Diane Hulke at dihulke@comcast.net or 763-458-5392.



### CJAPOA Volunteer Loon Rangers & Summary of 2021 Observations

by Mark Zich

A quote from Erica LeMoine, Northland College LoonWatch Program Director, "CFAPOA's

and then share information to make less than the standard 8 counts. it easier for volunteers.

Annual loon observations typically include 8 counts from

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ZONE ASSIGNMENT
John & Connie	Piper	Zone 1
John & Sam	Donatell	Zone 1, South 1/2
Mark & Brenda	Mantey	Zone 1, North 1/2 & Tyner
Jean	Landon	Zone 1
Mark & Joni	Zich	Zone 2
Тепі	Tuggle	Zone 3
Dennis	Clagett	Zone 4
Jim & Marion	Dier	Zone 4
Wall	Terry	Zone 5
Connie	Peterson	Zone 6
Daryl & Bonnie	Hofer	Zone 7
Rick & Linda	Olson	Zone 8 Cranberry

reports are an amazing feat of coordination and work – many thank you's to all of the Chippewa Flowage Loon Rangers." We all want to thank you for your volunteerism in helping provide information to the Wisconsin statewide LoonWatch Program.

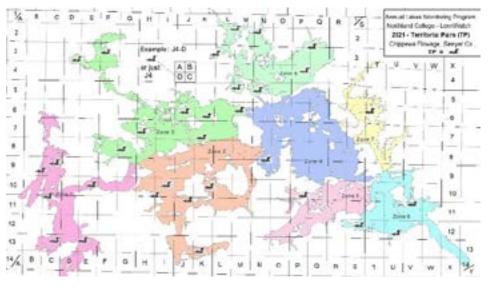
In addition, CFAPOA has recorded other interested Chippewa Flowage enthusiasts who have expressed their interest in participating in the LoonWatch Program. We will be reaching out to you with Zone maps to seek additional help in observing loons in 2022. Areas where we could use some additional help include Zones 4, 5, 6 and 7. We can either assign sub-zone areas to make the job more manageable or we can just have multiple observers in zones

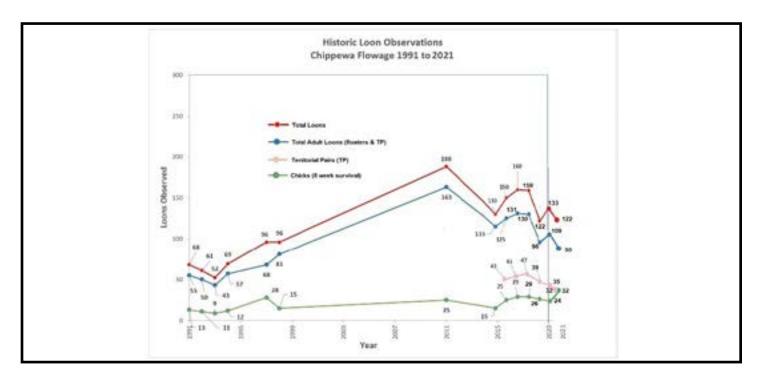
May thru October with 2 counts occurring in August because loon chicks that survive 8 weeks are typically safe from predation. However, LoonWatch welcomes any and all observations even if

Due to limited volunteer time this year we likely under counted loons in Zones 4, 5, and 7 but the totals still reflect a very successful year for Chippewa Flowage loons. Even though territorial pairs were down slightly 8-weekold chick counts were up from previous years. Total loons were also comparable to other years even with reports that extreme cold weather during the spring migration killed a lot of returning adult loons in Wisconsin. The territorial pairs, floaters, chicks and total loon counts are shown in the updated graph for 2021. Floaters are typically the "teenagers" who have yet to find a mate and territory.

The Territorial Pairs and Zone Map shows the active 2021 Territorial Pairs that were observed nesting and/or with chicks during the 2021 season. As noted above, Zones 4, 5 and 7 likely had a few more loons that we were unable to observe so our counts may be a bit low for 2021.

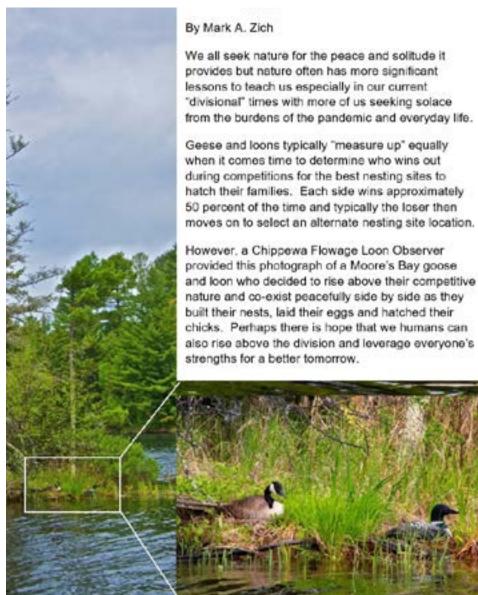
Loons are not a threated species since Canada has an abundant loon population; however, the midwest summer





Continued from Page 10

loon breeding territory use to extend south into Illinois and included all of Wisconsin but due likely to degrading water quality loons have been forced off of southern Wisconsin lakes and the Chippewa Flowage is near the southern extent of the breeding territory. Monitoring loons allows those interested in monitoring water quality a way to identify those surface waters that are degrading. Loons require clear water to feed and waterbodies with algae growth from phosphorus or other polutants forces them to continue to migrate further north to find clean water to survive. Even though loons compete for the popular fish we all like to catch on the Flowage there is indeed room for all to co-exist and the lake experience without the "northwoods" call of loons would leave any Flowage experience less then satisfactory.



#### CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE AREA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION PO BOX 555 HAYWARD, WI 54843-0555

#### ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

**CFAPOA** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, formed to generally promote, encourage and foster the interests of all property owners. Its major objectives are: to keep the Chippewa Flowage area clean and safe for all people; to protect the environment; to provide a forum for the collection and exchange of ideas; to support acquisition of land for protection and conservation; and to pursue any other lawful objectives that may benefit this pristine lake, its wetlands, wildlife and tributaries.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BOARD MEETINGS AND EVENTS

> February 3 March 3 April 7

Board meetings are currently held at 6:00 p.m. virtually on Zoom. Visitors are welcome to join. Contact Mike Gardner at mgardner@northflow.net

#### **CFAPOA Board of Directors** Mike Gardner, Chair mgardner@northflow.net #715-462-4771 **Brian Priester, Vice Chair** bpcfapoa@gmail.com #715-462-4346 Randy Hulke, Treasurer rdhulke@comcast.net #763-577-0805 **Kristin Elmer, Secretary** ktans8@yahoo.com 608-332-5728 **Dennis Clagett, Director** Rclagett@centurytel.net #715-462-4814 Terry Wall, Director Twall26@centurytel.net #715-462-3867 Mark Zich, Director markzich@rocketmail.com #715-214-5020 **Tony Schubert, Director** tony@contractexchange.net Doug Kurtzweil, Director douglasjkurtzweil@gmail.com Karl Kann. Director kfk@hotmail.com Terry Herder, Director esoxboy69@gmail.com Julie Thompson (Newsletter) juliet@bevcomm.net #715-492-6704

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