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CFAPOA

CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE AREA
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Established 1983

Fall 2025

The Big Chip News

View from the Chair

by Mike Gardner CFAPOA Chair

Cybersecurity is a global problem with local impacts. From ensuring clean water to protecting financial transactions, digital security involves everyone, everywhere. The CFAPOA Board of Directors takes its responsibilities seriously and implements best practices to keep your organization secure. As we consider data systems to improve operations to track grants, membership, donations and funds we take inventory of all types of data collected to assess any organization risks. We never ask for or collect any data that is not necessary to track your membership and donations. Our responsibilities in accepting grant funds from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to support Clean Boats Clean Water launch monitors and Aquatic Plant Management Planning are rigorous.

CFAPOA has been operating since 1983, and times have changed both environmentally and socially. The needs of the lake and the efforts to keep the area clean and safe for all people, to protect the environment; to provide a forum for the collection and exchange of ideas and the pursuit of objectives that may benefit this pristine reservoir have multiplied. We are working diligently to assure you have an organization with the capacity to meet the challenges.

As you consider joining, renewing your membership or making a year end donation be assured that your information is safe and protected. We utilize premium website hosting and email services to ensure member service is exceptional.



@ The Rusty Hook
Saturday, December 6, 2025

5:00 Happy Hour -- 6:00 Dinner

See Pg. 17 for Details

CFAPOA Needs Your Help

With your membership, you can volunteer and help us with our mission to:



Membership Update

by Kevin Flesch

New Members

Jams & Linda Andrews
Dave & Debbie Bessette
Steve & Kathy Duerdoth
Gene & Donis Dzialo
Troy & Molly Gilles
Greg & Lori Glitto
James Haines
Mike & Ann Hargas
Edward & Mary Hartert
Duncan Jochimsen
Steve & Sue Jonjak
Michael Moran
Stephen & Shelley Donnary
Norton
Kurt & Katie Levernier Teuber
David Wentland
Burt & TJ Wilson
Dan & Rose Zajac

Contributor

Pat Erickson
Brad & Becky Sanderson

Steward

Dave & Mary Bykowski
Kurt Teuber & Katie Levenier
Connie Piper

Special Thanks

to the Lake Chippewa Flowage
Resort Association for their
\$1,000 donation. It will be put
to good use.

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.

MIKE TOUTANT MEMORIAL

There has been a special donation made in the memory of Mike Toutant. This memorial is being brought forward by lifelong friends of Mikes. We all grew up in Beaver Dam, WI and our journey continues on from there. We all spent many summers at the cabin on the Chippewa Flowage growing up. We helped build fish cribs prior to the CFAPOA being formed. Many of the activities we participated in came through Deerfoot Lodge. Through the years we became acquainted with numerous people from the Hayward area and took part in the Birkebeiner as starters for the race. During the winter we enjoyed snowmobiling and helping with the building of fish cribs for the Flowage. We as a collective group, fell in love with the Flowage and still visit the area. Through our friendship with Mike, we created lasting memories that will be forever cherished.

*Paul Breuer, Steve Riebrandt, Dale Garczynski, Ray Oestreich,
Mark Goetsch, Chip Kaiser and Moose Smith*

Lifetime

Conservationist

Thank you for your Lifetime Conservationist donation. Your support and investment in our organization helps to promote our mission to keep the Chippewa Flowage clean and safe, to protect the environment.

David Carland
Tom & Tia Clark
Chris & Jessica Conard
Dean & Kristin Elmer
Joe & Lora Garceau
Scott & Erin Hartman
Chris & Patti Jeffords
Karl & Stephanie Kann
Brad Krizan
Douglas Kurtzweil
John & Shelley Lamoreaux
Cheryl Treland & Betz Latsch
Mike & Kris Maly
Pablo & Renee Miranda
Mike & Lynn Muench
Kyle & Sara Nemetz
Brian, Juliane & Tyler Novak
Brian & Sibley Pauling
Gene & Pat Schubert
Barbara Sealy
Tucker Silberhorn
Michael & Shirley Singer
Barb Schweig
Phil and Mary Stanfield
Mike & Jennifer Toutant
Linda Treland
Richard & Lisa Uihlein Jr.

Meet the Board Members



CFAPOA Board of Directors

L-R Back Row: Kevin Krug, Mike Gardner (Chair), Dennis Clagett, Terry Wall, Mark Zich, Randy Hulke (Treasurer). Front Row: Kevin Flesch (Secretary), Mark Mantey and Tony Schubert (Vice Chair.)

Welcome New Board Member Mark Mantey

Having grown up in Grafton, WI our family spent summer vacations going “Up North”. In those days, up north was Eagle River and St. Germain. In 1997 we made the ultimate mistake of not booking a year in advance. After what seemed like a disaster, we found an opportunity to book a cabin on the Chippewa Flowage. We fell in love with the most beautiful lake in Wisconsin. In 2002 we purchased a lot on Ikwe Bay, upon retirement built a home in 2015. Twenty-eight years later we are still in love with the flowage. Unmatched beauty,



wildlife, sunrises and sunsets, the call of the loons, honking of geese and eagles soaring overhead. Some may say its heaven on earth. With all its pristine beauty it's the many people we have met, and friendships developed on and around the flowage that makes it home. We are truly blessed.

After hanging out with the board members this past year

during their board meetings I was impressed with their dedication and commitment to preserve the flowage for the property owners. Being asked to join the board is an honor, and I'm happy to accept. I look forward to supporting the initiative to preserve the flowage for future generations. The water calls!

Returning Board Members

Dennis Clagett
David Carland
Kevin Flesch
Mike Gardner
Randy Hulke
Kevin Krug

Tony Schubert
Lindsey Schubert
Paul Tweed
Terry Wall
Jeff Wolf
Mark Zich

Member Adventures

by Kevin Flesch

This Spring and Summer the Membership committee has been active in reaching out to the community through door-hangers and get togethers to include the Spring Fling in June, a Bingo Night at Chief Lake Lodge in July and some conversation at the Annual Meeting in August. The Committee is very excited to be working on possible new adventures in 2026 to include a potential change in the organization by-laws to include more users of the Chippewa Flowage to be eligible to become members and to interact in new ways to benefit the organization and its members to better sustain all the resources the Flowage has to offer.

We also are interested in any new ways to get together to socialize and create opportunities for our members and non-members to get to know each other. If you have a social event you think would be great for the organization to get involved with, let us know.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help us grow the organization and to widen our reach. The coming Fall and Winter months are a great time to meet and plan for the busy Summer months next year. Our monthly meetings are held via Zoom and all members are invited to attend.

If you wish to get involved or have any comments, suggestions or concerns about the organization and how we can make the CFAPOA better for all please contact me at kevinflesch@hotmail.com.



Members have fun at Bingo Night!



HELP US PRESERVE THE CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE

CFAPOA, formed in 1982, is a non-profit, community-based organization that promotes, encourages and fosters a wide variety of projects, programs, and education that protect and preserve the Chippewa Flowage. Programs we currently focus on include:

- Improving the quality of our fishery
- Educating people on how they can preserve shoreline quality
- Monitoring and promoting wildlife health
- Encouraging safe recreational activities
- Controlling invasive species

Invasive Species

Non-native plants and organisms are the greatest threat to the Big Chip and currently our main focus. Some of the well-known species that threaten Wisconsin lakes include Eurasian Water Milfoil, Purple Loosestrife, Zebra Mussels, and Starry Stonewort. CFAPOA actively works to prevent and control these species. Some of our activities include:

- Clean Boat / Clean Waters inspections at boat launches to prevent introduction
- Winter drawdowns to kill off submerged invasive aquatic plants
- Volunteers that monitor infestations and eliminate shoreline invasive plants

Please support these programs by making sure your boat and bilge have been properly cleaned prior to launching. Also consider supporting CFAPOA and volunteering.

www.cfapoa.org

Best Practices on Shore

If you own land on the Big Chip, there are many resources available to help you design and maintain native shorelines. Check out the "shoreline restoration" tab on our website. www.cfapoa.org

If you're a visitor, please follow best practices to avoid runoff and shoreline erosion. Also, make sure you're aware of and follow Island rules and etiquette.

Best Practices on the Water

Be a steward of our water and shorelines by observing wake rules and maintaining a "soft touch" as you enjoy using the waters and islands of the Big Chip.

Please do everything you can to provide future generations with the same opportunities you have. Follow the rules, use common sense, and become informed. Our newsletter regularly features articles that provide information on the Big Chip fishery.

Be a responsible boat owner who knows and follows the rules and contributes to a safe recreational environment. Our website has more information on safe recreational activities – click on that circle at the bottom of the home page.

If you see unsafe practices on the water, you're encouraged to call the tip line at **800-847-9367 (800-TIP-WDNR.)**

A special Thank You to the Resort Owners and their partnership. We encourage you to visit their great establishments/properties, they'd love to meet you!

To learn more or to support our organization, check out www.cfapoa.org or Scan the QR code.



A promotional door hanger that is designed to solicit new members.

CFAPOA *Annual* PICNIC





PO Box 555, Hayward, WI 54843
E-mail: cfapoa@gmail.com Web: www.cfapoa.org

CFAPOA Member Registration/Membership Renewal

January 1st through December 31st

Member Name(s): _____

Member Information: (New Members please compete; Returning Members complete if information has changed)

MAILING Address			FLOWAGE Address (if different)		
City	ST	Zip	City	ST	Zip
Phone			Phone		
E-mail (for CFAPOA use only)					
Please send my Newsletter by email: ☐ Yes ☐ No			Do NOT publish email in Directory: ☐		
Note: Each paid membership receives one vote and one quarterly newsletter. Shared property owners wanting separate votes shall pay an additional membership fee. The CFAPOA is a 501(c)(3) organization and dues may be tax deductible.					

I am interested in Volunteering: (Please indicate choices)

☐ Social Events ☐ Membership ☐ Invasive Species ☐ Loons ☐ Website ☐ Newsletter

Other: _____

Membership Levels: (Based on TOTAL CONTRIBUTION)

\$25 Individual/Property
\$26 - \$124 Contributor
\$125 - \$999 Steward
\$1000 and up Lifetime Conservationist

Contribution Designations:

\$ Membership Dues (Must be \$25 or greater - for General Operational Expenses)
\$ 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 CONTRIBUTION/PAYMENT**

Send check to: CFAPOA, PO Box 555, Hayward, 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 **OR** ☐ Ladies Port Authority Silk Touch Polo
Size: (S through 10XL) and (LT through 4XLT) Size: (S through 6XL)

Men's and Ladies Polo Colors: (Please choose)

☐ Red ☐ Pink ☐ Burgundy ☐ Maroon ☐ Lavender ☐ Light Blue ☐ Navy
☐ Teal Green ☐ Kelly Green ☐ Coffee Bean ☐ Steel Gray ☐ Black ☐ Marine Blue

OR ☐ Poly/Fleece Travel Blanket

Colors: ☐ Black ☐ Grey/Black ☐ Red/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 **OR** ☐ Ladies Midweight Fleece Hooded Jacket
Size: (XS through 4XL) Size: (XS through 4XL)

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:

☐ Men's 3 in 1 Jacket **OR** ☐ Ladies 3 in 1 Jacket
Size: (S through 4XL) Size: (S through 4XL)

Men's Colors: (Please choose)

☐ Black ☐ Grey ☐ Navy Blue

Ladies Colors: (Please choose)

☐ Black ☐ Grey ☐ Navy Blue

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.

Wisconsin Lakes Opens Discussion for Statewide Legislation

by Tony Schubert

Wisconsin Lakes and the Last Wilderness Alliance are starting a new approach to Wake surfing issues in the State Legislature. We support these efforts.

Statewide legislation would alleviate the need for every Town or Jurisdiction in Wisconsin to pass local ordinances to protect their vulnerable lakes. It would also help the wake surfers know where they can enjoy their sport, by creating “designated wake sport areas.”

Lastly a Statewide Law would allow better enforcement on our lake by bringing the DNR on board to enforce the State Law.

The CFAPOA board supports this approach. We want you to be well informed about what is going on in Madison. Expect to hear more about this in the news, since now our lobbyists are going on the offensive, with proactive legislative ideas.

Please read their approach and reasoning for the problem below. Feel free to share and discuss this with your friends, family and neighbors.

The following has been copied from a recent Wisconsin Lakes newsletter.

October 15, 2025 – WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Lakes and the Last Wilderness Alliance today call for bipartisan legislative cooperation to create statewide regulations for enhanced wake sports. The proposal seeks to address the environmental and safety impacts of wake sports.

The call focuses on three key areas: controlling the spread of invasive species, establishing specific lake metrics for wake sports areas to protect the environment and the rights

of other lake users, and preserving the authority of local governments to enact stricter regulations.

Controlling Invasive Species

To prevent the spread of quagga and zebra mussels some boat manufacturers recommend flushing the ballast system with hot water. Additionally, hot water kills spiny water fleas. The DNR Administrative Rule we seek would require all recreational boats with ballast systems to be flushed with hot water (120°F or greater) before being launched into a different Wisconsin lake. This flushing would be mandatory for every new lake launch.

All flushing certifications would expire on January 1st of each year, requiring a new system flush and decontamination certificate at the beginning of each boating season. This will prevent antifreeze from being discharged into the lake after winter storage.

Establishing Lake Metrics

To improve safety for all lake users, reduce conflicts and protect shorelines and habitats, we ask that legislation define a qualifying “wake sports area” as not less than 700 feet from all shorelines, not less than 30 feet deep, and not less than 100 contiguous acres.

On qualifying lakes, the designated “wake sports area” would be clearly posted at all public landings. If a lake does not meet these criteria or the designated area is not properly identified, enhanced wake sports would be prohibited on that lake. This proposal does not ban the use of wake boats. The legislation we seek would clarify that in no event shall any of the following operations be subject to the “wake sports area” requirement, provided such operations do not use or employ ballast tanks, water sacks or wake enhancing fins: i) water skiing, ii) tubing, iii) wake boarding employing a tow rope; iv) brief

transition operation to empty a boat of bilge water, or v) brief transition operation of a boat accelerating into a planing condition.

Preserving Local Control

The proposed legislation would not alter local governments’ long-standing authority to enact more restrictive regulations. According to Susan Trier, President of Wisconsin Lakes, this ensures that communities can implement additional measures to protect their lakes and waterways. Learn More about “Local Control.”

The Last Wilderness Alliance and Wisconsin Lakes call for bipartisan legislation and DNR Administrative Rulemaking.

Jeff Meessmann of the Last Wilderness Alliance said, “This is what the public wants.”

Many of our supporters have been asking why we haven’t developed a specific legislative proposal for the state to introduce. This establishes our position and provides a clear, science-based path balancing responsible recreation and environmental protection.”

Wisconsin Lakes is the only statewide 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization working exclusively to protect and enhance the quality of Wisconsin’s lakes. We are the citizen arm of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership.

The Last Wilderness Alliance’s 501 (c) (4) mission is to advocate for the protection of our natural resources to support Wisconsin’s long-term environmental and economic viability. CONTACT:

Last Wilderness Alliance: Jeff Meessmann, jmeessmann@aol.com, 715-385-0268

Wisconsin Lakes: Ben Wojahn – Executive Director, bwojahn@wisconsinlakes.org, 608-661-4313

Adopt-A-Shoreline Volunteers

Name	East	West
Kris Koehnen & David Jordheim		1, 2
Mike & Lynn Muench	M, P	
Jim & Jan Evenstad		12
Gary & Linda Crank		3, 5
Christine and Jayson Grams		13
LCO Conservation Dept.	H, I, Z	
Brian & Juliane Novak	S	
Alan & Lynda Fish		8, 17
Up for Adoption		18
Greg & Amy Sanders		10, 11
Chris & Patti Jeffords		4
Jerry & Nancy Johnson		6, 9
Dave Szymanowski		7, 14
Roger & Kathy Kisch	W	
Rob and Rebecca Nesse	J	
Dave Carland & Family	O	
Chris & Jess Conard	A2	
Rick & Linda Olson	R	
Tony & Laurie Schubert	T, U	
Dave Carland Family and Friends	X	
Brent and Jeanne Drapeau	E1, E2	
Mark and Joni Zich		15, 16
Bruce and Gina Dingman	D	
Mike & Phyllis Gardner	Q	
Dennis Clagett	Y	
Pete and Sarah Ross	Y	
Up for Adoption	A1	
Clayton Wanta & Kurtis Burton	E1	
Mark Mantey		1

Visit our website for a detailed map of East and West locations.

<https://cfapoa.org/invasive-species>

Purple Loosestrife and a NEW Invasive

by Dennis Clagett

This summer our Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers had difficulties spotting the brilliant flowers of purple loosestrife during the usual time frame of early to mid-July. Something had affected the normal pattern. Later, around the first of August, there were the more normal crop of purple flowers. New growth from seeds may be the answer as many of the old legacy plants have been removed by volunteers like Linda Treland. Linda adopted Section A-1 in the Moss Creek area 12 years ago and is now putting it up for adoption. Thank you, Linda! Section A-1 located on the northern area of the east side is very active area and needs looking after.

Our Adopt-A-Shoreline Volunteer program is 40+ members strong and continues to be the envy of many other lake organizations for both its success and longevity. These 40+ members deserve our appreciation, so a big **Thank You** for all you do! There are sections on both the east and west side that need adoption. Please consider joining this program, our shorelines and waters need you.

Now some bad news: we have a new invasive species: Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) has been discovered during this summer's (2025) aquatic plant full lake survey at three locations on the west side. Earlier surveys (2015/2016) found small amounts of CLP in three locations. For some reason, it hasn't become problematic in the flowage as it has in neighboring lakes. Let us hope this continues.

Curly-leaf pondweed is an invasive aquatic plant. Originally from Eurasia, it spreads rapidly and often forms dense underwater and surface mats that outcompete native plant species. This aggressive growth reduces biodiversity, alters habitat structure, and disrupts the balance of aquatic ecosystems. Because curly-leaf pondweed grows early in the spring and dies off by early summer, its decay releases large amounts of nutrients—especially phosphorus—back into the water. These nutrients often fuel harmful algae blooms during the warmer months, leading to decreased oxygen levels and potential fish kills. Curly-leaf pondweed is one of the few aquatic plants that has the ability to survive and grow under the ice in winter, giving it a huge competitive edge in spring. This year's aquatic plant full lake survey will supply important data as to the water depth the CLP was discovered. Hopefully its roots will be intolerant to freezing as are Eurasian Watermilfoil.

Be sure to read Dave Carland's article on our Bio Control project, and Mark Zich's article on the aquatic plant survey. Dennis Clagett 715 462 4814 relagett@centurytel.net.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters

by Dennis Clagett



Our Mission

Emphasize education over enforcement, connecting boat ramp users directly to the health of their lakes.

Our Work

Greet boaters at the ramp, demonstrate simple but vital prevention steps such as inspect boats and trailers, remove plants and animals, drain water, and never move live fish between lakes. These actions stop hitchhiking invasive species from traveling lake to lake.

Our Team

Another year of Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) has come to a close and there are many to be appreciated that manage this program that deserve recognition starting with Diane and Randy Hulke.

Diane is the CBCW Lead Coordinator and writes the WDNr Grant applications for our association (CFAPOA). She also schedules all boat ramp monitors days/hours/and ramp locations. She documents their work hours to meet the grant requirements and coordinates refresher and education for new and returning boat ramp monitors. Diane also purchases the ramp monitors clothing and needed equipment, crafts and places want ads, and interviews new monitor applicants to name a few of her duties.

Randy is the association's Treasurer, making sure all grant financial responsibilities have been met, and processing payroll checks/direct deposits for the 5 boat ramp monitors that are responsible for the 4 public WDNr boat ramps. Shelley Lamoreaux, also a coordinator, is involved in the monitor interviews and hiring, (I do the firings). She takes care of the WDNr data entry to meet grant requirements--not an easy task! She works closely with the ramp monitors visiting them on site and cares for their esprit de corps during all types of weather and day-to-day challenges.

Meet the Team



L-R: Diane Hulke--CBCW Coordinator*, Dennis Clagett--CFAPOA Invasive Species Chair*, Terry Hollinger--Inspector, Greg Waterhouse--Inspector, Ron Craig--Inspector, Robert Mack--Inspector, Kim Acosta--Inspector. Not shown/or present: Randy Hulke--CFAPOA Treasurer*(camera man), Shelley Lamoreaux--CBCW Coordinator* and Patty Swaffield--Clerk for Town of Hunter. * Indicates Volunteer

Patty Swaffield works with all the above making sure all goes smoothly with the monitors daily logs paperwork and coordinates with Shelley. In many ways, it is similar to a small business that works as a team doing its best to protect this beautiful body of water from outside invasive species.

All the above are volunteers; the ramp monitors are paid hourly. The CFAPOA thanks the Lake Chippewa Flowage Resort Association for their contribution of \$1000.00 to help offset this year's CBCW expenses. The picture above by Randy Hulke is of a thank you lunch for this year's boat ramp monitors--the unsung heroes. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Fall Fisheries Report

by Terry Wall

It's the middle of October and as we approach the end of the open water fishing season the weather continues to be mild and the fishing good. In spite of the low water, launching and recovering boats has not been a problem at the improved landings. Speaking of improved landings, it looks like the plan to improve the Hay Creek landing has been put on hold once again. The fishing reports I have received indicate anglers have been having success catching all species. Muskies, Walleyes and Crappies seem to be getting the most attention from the reports I have seen.

The Pike improvement project wrapped up at the end of September and the results are in. LCFRA volunteer Barb Czarnecki sent me the results a few days ago and while I haven't had time to go through all the numbers I can report that the total pike registered fell right in line with past numbers. Anglers registered 3,329 pike this year with an average length of 18.32 inches. Numbers were slightly ahead of last year and slightly behind the previous year but still way short of the annual harvest goal of 10,000 established when the program began. Once the winners have been finalized and prizes awarded I will report the results in the winter newsletter. For a more comprehensive breakdown of the Pike Improvement Project please take a few minutes and read the article from Max Wolter in this issue. Max is our Senior Fisheries Biologist and he was instrumental in getting the program started back in 2019.

In case you missed it, the Wisconsin DNR has published a preliminary summary of the input they received during the public scoping period for the development of the updated "Chippewa Flowage Joint Agency Management Plan". You may remember that earlier this year they had an online survey for the public to use to answer specific questions and make comments pertaining to the new management plan. The news release was published in the October 1 issue of the Sawyer County Record. If you missed it, you can find it online if you google it. I was surprised that they had received only 106 survey responses along with two letters, six emails and two phone calls about the plan. A previous comment period back in 2022 resulted in 375 on line responses and 11 letters. As expected 80% of the responders in the current survey indicated fishing as their primary activity with many comments about improving stocking efforts and better enforcement of regulations. The summary is interesting reading and I would recommend all CFAPOA members who are concerned about the future of the flowage take the time to read it.



CFAPOA Still Needs Buoy Brigade Volunteers

by Tony Schubert

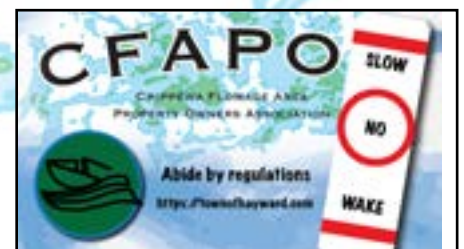
We have now completed our first year of taking care of 15 buoys here on the Flowage. But we need someone to help with the Fletcher's Bay area buoys. This area is in the southern East side of the lake. We had some volunteers take care of the three buoys in that area for this year, but they feel that they will not be able to help us next year.

So, around May 1, 2026 we need a new volunteer to help with these 3 buoys. It does not take much time and is easy for a couple of people who want to work together, putting buoys in and removing them sometime in October.

I can explain the job further if you would call me at 319-350-0067. Or you can email me at tonycontract@gmail.com.

We are happy to report that all 6 areas the CFAPOA adopted had volunteers that took over the responsibilities this year. Thanks again to our volunteers who took care of them in 2026. And a big thank you to our newest volunteer, Ken Schmitz, who has agreed help with the buoys near Pokegama Lake.

Please contact me and volunteer to help keep our lake safe and shores protected.



2025 Biocontrol Project

by Dave Carland

This year the Invasive Species Committee engaged another weapon in our ongoing efforts to control the invasive Purple Loosestrife that was first discovered in the Chippewa Flowage around 1998. To supplement the great efforts of the Adopt-A-shoreline volunteers who harvest the seed-bearing flowers of the plants each summer we released an army of *Galerucella* beetles whose only food source is the Purple Loosestrife leaves and shoots.

While the idea of rearing and releasing one invasive

species to control another seems a bit unnatural, this biocontrol method has been used successfully throughout Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota, without adverse impacts to the natural ecology

for over 25 years, and is actively promoted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with a staff person dedicated to assisting volunteers groups to implement projects. Biocontrol is widely accepted as the most effective long-term strategy for controlling purple loosestrife, although it should be noted that complete eradication is not thought to be possible, and not even desirable since the beetles need an ongoing food source to continue their good work.

After months of planning

including obtaining the required state permit the field work began on a brisk April afternoon as one of the first boats out on the Lake this spring. My supervisor Dennis Clagett and I ventured to a marshy area near Rudy's Island where we were able to dig through the remaining frost to dig out root balls from still dormant purple loosestrife plants. The roots were then transferred to potted plants and partially submersed in wading pools while we awaited the new growth which occurred about three weeks later. In mid-May we strung mesh netting over the pots

as the plants grew quickly to a height of twenty-four inches.

After considerable effort Dennis was able to secure a supply of just over 100 early stage *Galerucella* beetles from a local source. The beetles were quickly introduced into our

12 plants where we monitored them daily watching for signs of larvae and emerging beetles. The DNR estimates that ten beetles can produce 1000 new beetles within each meshed pot. By the end of May we saw our first signs of new beetles, and by the end of June they had devoured most of the 4-foot-high plants. At this time, it was critical to rush the beetles to the Flowage for release at our predetermined hot spots where the mesh was removed and the plants strung to new growth Purple Loosestrife plants to ease

*"We released an army of *Galerucella* beetles whose only food source is the Purple Loosestrife leaves and shoots."*



Dennis Clagett with dormant purple loosestrife plant.



Pots with roots and stalks.

the beetle's transition into the wild. Unfortunately, the beetles were not cooperative in allowing us to do a head count, so we are unable to verify the exact size of the release.

Continued on Page 13



Attaching the mesh to the plant pots.

Continued from Page 12

Over the summer and into the fall we visited each of the release points several times to observe leaf damage on the adjacent purple loosestrife plants as the beetles ventured further from the release plant in search of additional food. The release points were at Shermans Bay, Cranberry Lake, and at several locations around Big Timber Island. The east end of the Flowage was our initial focus since this is where purple loosestrife is most prevalent, but the mature beetles can travel about 1 mile so we hope they will make their homes all over our Lake. As the summer wore on our Adopt-A-shoreline volunteers identified numerous other infestation locations that were difficult to access for flower harvesting, so one objective for next year will be to stagger our beetle rearing in at least two waves so we can better respond to hot spots that emerge later in the season.

Our plan is to increase our beetle production and spread out our distribution over the lake with an emphasis on areas that are hard

to access for manual cutting. It should also be noted that many of the materials for the project are provided by the WDNR, or donated so the cost of the project for the Association was less than \$300 making the project easy on the Association budget.

Thanks to Dennis for his patience in teaching me the program and keeping me from getting lost on the lake. Also, thanks to Gail and Curtis Scherer for hosting our rearing facility and the other volunteers who assisted in the project.



Plants at five weeks of growth.



Beetles in transit to Sherman's Bay.



Devoured plant with beetles attached to a healthy plant at release site.



The Quest for Better Pike and Bigger Muskies

Are We Winning?

Max Wolter – DNR Senior Fisheries Biologists

If you haven't heard of the Pike Improvement Project (PIP) by now, you're a rare breed. Literally. Our angler survey last winter indicated that 83% of anglers have heard of the program. That number is even higher for property owners due to newsletters like this! The program has been very well-run since its inception, with Barb Czarnecki leading the charge.

The two goals of the PIP are to increase the size of northern pike in the Chippewa Flowage and increase the number of musky. As a biologist, I feel these two goals go well together and they are also in line with what most anglers want from the flowage fishery. Even pike anglers who have no interest in musky agree that bigger pike are better.

The first year of the PIP on the Chip was in 2019 and I've offered updates in different newsletter editions over the years. There have been some PIP results we really like so far, such as successfully getting anglers to harvest smaller pike and some indications of better musky recruitment. There have been some areas where we have fallen short, such as never hitting our total harvest goal (10,000 pike)

in any given year and a stubborn lack of major improvement in pike size. We'll continue collecting data every year, of course, and we'll see how these trends play out. In my profession we often expect that changes in a fish population take "one full generation" to fully show up, which for pike would be roughly 8-10 years. In that context, the PIP is still playing out.

We can also learn from some of the other PIPs that have sprung up in the area. These copycat efforts are really a credit to the original organizers on the Chip. Other lakes have been looking at what you have done and have wanted to start their own. There are now established PIP-like efforts on the Tiger Cat Chain and the Spider Chain. There is a fledgling effort underway on Lac Courte Oreilles, which has its own long history of pike control efforts. There are discussions happening right now on the Quiet Lakes (Lost Land and Teal), Winter area lakes, and Mud/Callahan lake.

The Spider Lake and Tiger Cat Chain efforts offer an interesting picture into a different side of pike control. These are both lakes where the introduction and expansion of northern pike is much more recent

than the Chippewa Flowage. We believe pike got into each of these lakes sometime in the 90s, and the populations really started to take off between 2010 and 2020. These are pike populations that had not hit full "carrying capacity" before we started to intervene. They are each about 1/10th the size of the Chippewa Flowage as well.

On Spider, we've been tracking the expansion of pike and decline of musky basically in real time. In our 2012 survey of the Spider Chain we caught 127 musky and 0 pike, though we ominously caught 3 tiger musky (a muskellunge x northern pike hybrid). Just one year later in 2013 and our catch was starting to change. We captured 7 northern pike, which accounted for about 3% of our total "esocids" (the family to which pike and muskellunge both belong). Fast forward a few more years to 2021, and the catch was 38% pike. By 2024, it was 90% pike and just 10% musky.

Fortunately, the Spider Lake PIP was already in motion by this point in time, and people were getting on board quickly. The organizers at Spider Lake did not have the advantage of a large

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network of resorts like what exists on the Chip for organizing these efforts. They leaned on the lake association and word of mouth through the tight knit community on the lake to get the word out. They set up a website to allow anglers to track harvest. A goal of 1,000 pike was set (about 1/10th the goal on the Chip). They hit that goal in their first year (2021) when 1,592 pike were reported to be harvested. The following years have seen pike harvest range from 500-1,500 total fish.

This level of harvest in this size of lake appears to be making a difference. In 2024 we estimated there were around 3,200 pike in the chain. That year anglers reported harvesting 1,363, or about 43% of the population. That's the percentage of annual harvest that we believe actually moves the needle, based on our work removing pike from Lac Courte Oreilles with nets. And lo and behold, when we returned to survey Spider again in 2025 our catch of pike was down, as was their percentage of our total catch compared to musky. The size of pike was showing signs of increasing as well.

We're seeing some similar patterns over on Tiger Cat where they have been removing around 500-1,000 pike a year, leading to lower catch in surveys by about half from when pike peaked. Musky stocking is starting to have some effect, but we're still

The bigger picture also includes opportunities to get more friends, neighbors, kids, grandkids, etc. directly involved in fish management by participating in this initiative.

not seeing an increase in natural born muskies. We also still like the results of our pike removals on LCO, where pike size remains very good and anglers are turning in more reports of quality musky fishing. These lakes are all smaller than the Chip, which makes pike management easier in some ways, but they are also proof of concept for what we are trying to do.

The mission of the PIP has always been to create more pike harvesters so that we can control pike abundance in perpetuity. If there are enough people out there who are willing to keep smaller pike and they will do it year after year we have a real chance to maintaining an important element of balance in the fishery. That can mean more muskies, but it also is the best chance for having bigger pike for those who target them. As I've said many times before, pike are also just a great fish for eating, and turning more people on to that opportunity is worthwhile in and of itself.



As we wrap up the 2025 PIP on the Chip, let's take a moment to remember the bigger picture here. That bigger picture now includes efforts on other lakes that we can learn from. The bigger picture also includes opportunities to get more friends, neighbors, kids, grandkids, etc. directly involved in fish management by participating in this initiative. And we'll keep a promise to each other that if you keep doing your thing (fishing), we'll keep doing ours (surveying and sharing information). Let's make 2026 a year in which we all help move the Chip towards even better fishing.

PS. We're hoping to stock a bunch of muskies in the Chip in fall 2026. A few less pike can go a long ways towards how those musky do once they are in the lake.



Results of Invasive Aquatic Plant Surveys

and Partner's Group Discussion Regarding Chippewa Flowage Water Levels

In 2023, 2024 and 2025 the LCO, CFAPOA, WDNR and USFS combined resources to conduct annual 552-point subset Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) aquatic plant surveys in the Chippewa Flowage. Observed and identified were the locations of EWM. In addition, CFAPOA captured the lateral extent of dense, surface-exposed mats of EWM in James Slough which is representative of other shallow bays on the flowage. These mats of EWM are becoming more prevalent. The results show the following:

Year	Frequency of occurrence of EWM within all vegetated sample locations (%)	Number of Visual EWM Observations
2023	20.2%	36
2024	19.5%	29
2025	21.8%	52

Also, full lake aquatic plant surveys were conducted in 2015 and 2025. Endangered Resource Services, LLC completed the full lake survey this year and Northland College and the LCO conducted the full lake survey in 2015. Comparing results of EWM from the two full lake surveys showed the following results:

Full Lake Survey Year	Frequency of occurrence of EWM within all vegetated sample locations (%)	Number of Visual EWM Sightings
2015	2.8%	10
2025	8.9%	8

In addition to finding EWM in the two full lake surveys, another invasive plant species called curly leaf pondweed (CLP) was found in both full lake surveys at the locations noted on the image below.



Based on the extensive experience of the LCO in working cooperatively with local EWM mitigation projects in other lakes the use of a weed harvester or chemical treatment of EWM is likely not a feasible option to control EWM in the Chippewa Flowage. Therefore, the Chippewa Flowage stakeholders are trying to better understand the interaction of how lowering the water levels in the fall and winter on the flowage impacts EWM and native plants. By tracking the water levels and utilizing the habitat drawdown protocol we hope to continue gathering aquatic plant data to correlate changes in EWM with water level changes to determine if we can, indeed, limit the spread of EWM by exposing the invasive plant in dewatered areas of the flowage to freezing temperatures in the early winter.

Information provided by Xcel Energy at the Partner's Group meeting conducted September 18, 2025 explained the late summer low flowage water levels. The reasons are complex and include less than average summer rainfall in the area, low inflow from streams, wetlands and the East and West forks of the Chippewa River and increased outflow to 325 cubic feet per second to generate electricity at the LCO-owned hydro turbines at the Winter Dam.

Due to the increasing presence of EWM, a majority of the partner's group attendees voted to recommend a habitat drawdown to try to limit the increase in EWM on the flowage; however, the votes are merely a recommendation to Xcel Energy and they have the final say in the decision. Xcel Energy did support lowering the Chippewa Flowage 8 feet in the winter and not as supportive, due to current draught and outflow, to lower water levels prior to winter 5 feet by November 15th.

The LCO and CFAPOA are proposing another full lake aquatic plant survey in 2026 and especially if Xcel Energy performs a habitat drawdown this winter. The reason for consecutive year full lake aquatic plant surveys is to determine specifically the impact habitat drawdowns have on invasive EWM and native plants.

CFAPOA Christmas Party

To get everyone in the Holiday Spirit, we are having the Christmas Party again this year! If you can, please bring a door prize. Everyone will get a ticket for a chance to win. Plus, we will have the 50/50!



at the

Rusty Hook

on County Road B & CC

Saturday, 12/6/25

**5:00 Happy Hour –
6:00 Dinner**

Price: \$28.50 per person
(includes gratuity)

**Dinner includes: Smoked
Chicken, Ribs and 3 Sides**

CFAPOA Christmas Party 12/6/25

Please complete the invitation below and return by
November 28 to:

CFAPOA
PO Box 555
Hayward, WI 54843



Name(s): _____

Number Attending: _____ x \$28.50 = \$_____ (Amount enclosed.)

(If you can, please bring a door prize.)

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**

November 6, 2025, Meeting
 December 4, 2025, Meeting
 January 8, 2026, Meeting
 February 5, 2026, Meeting

Board meetings are currently held at 6:00 p.m. in person at the Town of Hunter Hall and/or teleconference. Visitors are welcome to join. Contact Mike Gardner at mgardner@northflow.net



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