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CFAPOA

CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE AREA
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Established 1983

Summer 2026

The Big Chip News

View from the Chair

From the Forest to the Fishery

by Mike Gardner CFAPOA Chair

As property owners, we all benefit from a natural system that has been adapted to the needs of modern society. Our mission requires that we work collaboratively to better understand all the elements and processes that interact within the drainage basin. Ecologically healthy watersheds require the maintenance and protection of the woods, streams, rivers and wetlands that are connected. To better understand this mosaic, we have invited two dynamic speakers to our upcoming Annual Meeting.

Mike Dombeck and Dave Neuswanger, both Moose Lake residents, will provide a brief overview based on their years of diverse experience. Historically

the people who study forests and the people who study fish rarely interacted creating a fragmented science. These two individuals dedicated their careers to building collaborative processes at the state and federal level to instill watershed thinking.

The recent successful Fire Up the Flowage event demonstrated what can be accomplished when entities pull together for a common cause. As CFAPOA members it is time to Show Up at the Annual Meeting to learn what your organization is doing and what we can do together to protect and restore this dynamic system. I look forward to seeing you at Deer Run on Sunday, August 2 at 11 a.m.



CFAPOA Needs Your Help

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



Membership Update

by Kevin Flesch

The Summer months are busy interacting with members and continuing to grow membership in a variety of ways. This Summer we have been instrumental in organizing and developing the Fire Up the Flowage Fest that occurred at Deerfoot Resort on June 6th. It was great to see the community rally around the festival to raise money for fire protection within the Town of Hunter. A big Thank You to all the sponsors and members who took part in the event.

Bingo Night was a success on June 25th as members gathered at Chief Lake Lodge to take part in several rousing games of Bingo. It seemed we all enjoyed the social time together, some won a little bit of money and we raised some money for the CFAPOA.

If you still want to take part in other social activities with organization this Summer please come to the Annual meeting/picnic on August 2nd at Deer Run and we have another Bingo night scheduled for August 13th at 6 pm at Chief Lake Lodge.

We are always looking for new ways to engage with the membership of the organization, if you have ideas on how we can better interact with the membership please email me at kevinflesch@hotmail.com or call me 303-884-1037.

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.

New Members

BJ & Amy Jordan
Joe & Jane Bosworth

Contributor

Jim & Diane Mazzone
Steve & Sheryl Sorenson

Please note that the members listed in this update are only those that are NEW Steward or Lifetime members this quarter.

Member Acknowledgement

William “Bill” H. Pokorny, Jr., age 79, longtime resident of Western Springs, IL and, later, Blanchardville, WI, died peacefully at home on May 26, 2026, surrounded by his family. Bill was a Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owner Association member for 36 years and contributed significantly in support of the lake association. Bill loved his family, his friends, the family cottage on the Chief Lake portion of the Chippewa Flowage. He also enjoyed kayaking around the Apostle Islands, and exploring the Midwest on his motorcycle. CFAPOA sends our condolences to the family and sincerely appreciates the decades of the family’s support for the Chippewa Flowage.

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
Mark Follenweider
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.
Mark & Joni Zich

Summer Picnic Guest Speakers

Dr. Michael Dombeck

Mike Dombeck is one of the most respected and renowned contemporary conservationists. He dedicated a quarter of a century to managing federal lands and natural resources, leading the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. He's most recognized for forging partnerships and crafting policies that integrated economics, science, and watershed protection to manage federal lands in the long-term public interest. Following his federal service, Dombeck brought his experience back to share with students, early-career scientists, and a variety of national and local conservation organizations as University of Wisconsin System Fellow and Professor of Global Conservation.

Dombeck grew up wandering the woods, lakes, and streams of rural Sawyer County. His love of the outdoors, fish and fishing led him to pursue undergraduate and master's degrees in biology and teaching from UW-Stevens Point and zoology from University of Minnesota. In 1984, he earned a PhD in Fisheries Biology from Iowa State University.

Dombeck has authored, co-authored, and edited over 300 popular articles and scholarly publications. Among many other honors and awards he's the recipient of the highest award in career federal service, the Presidential Rank—Distinguished Executive Award. Throughout his career he remained focused on the critical importance of water, connecting people to nature, and keeping wild places wild.

Dave Neuswanger

August 2, 2026 Annual Meeting Guest Co-Speaker

- Grew up on the south side of Chicago
- Graduated from Northland College in 1977 with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology
- Graduated from University of Missouri - Columbia in 1979 with a Master's Degree in Fisheries
- Worked 23 years for the Missouri Department of Conservation, first as a fishery management biologist, then as a supervisor of fishery management for 16 counties in Northeast Missouri



- From 2002 until retirement in 2014, Dave worked for the Wisconsin DNR as supervisor of fishery management for 6 counties in north central Wisconsin, including Sawyer County.
- Developed the first-ever, individual-lake fishery management planning process in the State of Wisconsin, which resulted in publication and implementation of the first Chippewa Flowage Fishery Management Plan in August of 2007.
- Along with Cheryl Treland, Dave was a founding member of the Chippewa Flowage Partners Group.
- Currently volunteers as Chairman of the "Creating Paws-itive Space" fund-raising committee of the Northwoods Humane Society.

Dave will speak and answer questions about fishery management and aquatic ecology on the Chippewa Flowage, followed by a brief introduction to upgrades underway at the Humane Shelter, with opportunities for prospective donors to learn more at the picnic following these presentations.

Muskies and More

by Terry Wall

If you read my article in the spring newsletter, you are aware that the WI DNR is planning to stock Muskies in the Chippewa Flowage this fall. Along with the planned stocking, they also want to get a good estimate of how many muskies are living in our lake. In order to get an accurate estimate, nets were placed on the east and west side during April to capture spawning fish. Nets were checked every few days and netted fish were measured, checked for a tag, the number recorded, then released. Fish without tags were tagged and tag numbers recorded before release.

One group of nets north of Hay Creek Narrows were monitored by Spooner hatchery personnel who collected eggs and roe to be hatched and raised at the hatchery and then stocked in our lake this fall. I had the good fortune to accompany two DNR technicians on a net check on one of the final days of the netting program. **We checked 8 nets that morning and recorded 10 fish, the largest being a healthy female measuring 48 inches.** She was in a net with 4 males and proved to be a handful but the guys handled her carefully and after measurements and tagging she was released unharmed.

At the June partners group meeting our fish biologist Max Wolter gave a short summary of netting results and progress on the stocking plan. While it is early in the study with data still being analyzed, Max had this to report. A total of 172 muskies were netted. 109 of those fish were captured by the Spooner



DNR fish techs, Dan and Scott, with a 48 inch musky netted.

Hatchery personnel for egg and roe collection. Eggs were collected from 26 females and roe from 3 males for fertilization. Egg hatching went well at the Spooner hatchery and after hatching the fry were then moved to the LCO hatchery ponds to grow to extended growth size. LCO will feed them tiny fatheads to start and larger fatheads in August with planned release in September. They should be about 12 -1/2 inches in length by the time they are released. It is hard to gage rearing success while they are still in the ponds, but a better count will be determined when they are moved for release. More information on the count and rearing success will be available for the Fall Newsletter.

In addition to the hatchery fish, our local chapter of Musky Inc has purchased 1000 additional muskies from a private MN hatchery to add to what the DNR is able to provide. In support of these efforts, the LCFRA and CFAPOA are also raising funds to purchase additional fingerlings. This effort seems to be off to a slow start so far in part due to the "Fire up the Flowage" event earlier this month. It is still early and there is plenty of summertime

left to raise money for this project. Even a small donation will help the cause so donate if you can.

A short update on PIP so far this season. As of June 1st 2000 pike have been registered and an additional 172 pike were removed by the DNR during the spring netting. Barb Czarnecki reports a lots of new names registering fish this year so PIP 2026 is off to a good start.

As promised, the Hay Creek landing was closed on June 22 for much needed upgrades. Ramp improvements, better toilet facilities and larger parking area will be a welcomed change. The DNR plans to reopen the landing on September 4th.

Be safe and respectful on the water and watch out for loons when motoring. Hope to see you all at the annual meeting in August.



The Art of Raising Hatchery Muskellunge

by Max Wolter

Muskellunge are our most revered and storied local gamefish. Everyone wants to catch one, but in some lakes they are not as abundant as we'd like. There are a variety of reasons for that, but a common one is that they don't successfully reproduce at the level we are looking for. In these cases, DNR biologists will often request muskellunge from the DNR hatchery system to supplement the population. But raising musky, especially at a large scale, is no simple task.

Jared Boucher is the supervisor at the Governor Thompson Hatchery in Spooner, and he reports that muskellunge can be very difficult to raise compared to some other fish species. The process starts with collecting and fertilizing eggs from wild fish. Those eggs are decontaminated and brought back to the hatchery. Hatchery staff carefully monitor and adjust water temperature so that most of the eggs hatch at the same time. This reduces cannibalism later on. The first few weeks after hatching are critical. Jared and his staff know exactly what day the young muskies need to be introduced to different types and sizes of food, starting with zooplankton, then white sucker fry (also hatched at the hatchery), and then the smallest fathead minnows available.

By mid-summer the muskellunge get on a regular diet of fathead minnows that would be similar in size to what an angler might buy at the bait store. But the care that goes into the fish

never relents, with staff constantly monitoring water quality, deterring potential predators like herons and osprey, and ensuring that feeding happens on time. Anticipation builds for hatchery staff until September rolls around. That's when hatchery ponds are drained, fish are collected, and the brave little muskies are loaded up onto

trucks to go to their new forever homes (our local lakes and rivers).

Hopefully this summary gives people a better sense of all the work, expertise, and decades of experience that goes into producing these fish. We are very fortunate to have hatchery staff that are literally the best in the world at rearing these prized fish.

WAKESURFING IS PROHIBITED ON 95% OF THE CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE



Town of Hunter, Sawyer County
Chippewa Flowage Wakesurfing Prohibition Area



- Water Depth Equal To 30 Feet or Greater And 700 Feet From Any Shoreline
- Water Depth Less Than 30 Feet in Depth And/Or Less Than 700 Feet From Any Shoreline

SECTION 8 - WAKESURFING PROHIBITION AREA
Ordinance #: 2025-01

No person shall operate a motorboat, as defined in s. 30.50(6), Wis. Stats. on the waters within the Town of Hunter in a manner to enhance an elevated wake for over 50 feet in length, closer than 700 feet from any shoreline, dock, pier, raft or other restricted area(s), and only with a minimum of 30-feet of water depth, within the Town of Hunter, Sawyer County. An elevated wake is a trail of disturbed water left by the passage of a watercraft in excess of 24 inches. Such prohibited operation shall apply to wake enhancement watercraft by the use of ballast, mechanical hydrofoil(s), uneven loading or operation at transition speed. Transition speed means the speed at which the boat is operating at greater than slow-no-wake speed, but not fast enough so the boat is planing.

Loon Interest and Activities Increase on the Chippewa Flowage

by Mark Zich

CFAPOA loon volunteers have been observing and counting loon activities for the past fifteen years on the Chippewa Flowage and activities are increasing in popularity. Originally the LoonWatch program was managed by Northland College for many years and that responsibility has now been transferred to the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute.

As mentioned, the popularity has increased and includes the construction and placement of 10 new aluminum artificial nesting platforms (ANPs). It often takes awhile for volunteers to attract loons to the new ANP's and we had 3 nested on this year and another 2 with natural nests built a few feet away. The benefit of the ANP is to minimize the negative effects of flooding nests with changing water levels on the flowage.

Xcel Energy funded 90% of the ANP construction costs and they were interested in observing the placed nest platforms. CFAPOA invited Lynn Hall, Manager of Community Relations, to take a tour. In early June, we observed multiple territorial pairs with chicks which included the still-incubating loon in the above photograph which eventually hatched two chicks in Chicago Bay.

In addition, we thank the Schuberts and Don Reinardy for providing pontoon loon tours for the Cable Natural History Museum on the Chippewa Flowage. Numerous tours were conducted



in June and lots of loon activities were viewed and information provided by Emily Stone.

Preliminary reports from volunteers indicate that new loon chick counts are likely going to be within the ten-year range of 15 to 30 chicks per year surviving through August. Years with heavy black fly populations, flooded nests or heavy predation adversely impacts chick survival.

Loons are not only iconic representatives of the Northwoods but they are an indicator of water quality and clarity which is the reason the loon summer range has been receding northwards in the United States for the past century.



www.cfapoa.org



Visit our website for more information on the Loon Study Group and Committee.

Invasive Species

by Dennis Clagett



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website currently lists 3 invasive species for the Chippewa Flowage: The Chinese Mystery Snail, Eurasian Watermilfoil (EW), and Purple Loosestrife (PL). To my knowledge, the Chinese Mystery Snail has not become an issue. However, a recent full lake survey of all aquatic plants discovered Curley Leaf Pondweed in a few small areas. This invasive has existed in the Chippewa Flowage for years, but never gets a foothold as it thrives in cold water. It tends to appear early in the spring then dies back during the summer's warmer water.

The survey also revealed an increase of Eurasian Watermilfoil. Concerning, but nothing like many of our neighboring lakes. Purple Loosestrife is being kept under control by our Adopt -A-Shoreline volunteers that hand cut the plants mature flowerhead, place it in a garbage bag where it is deposited in a land- fill. This requires many hands and many volunteers, so welcome to new volunteers Bill & Mary Ludford. They have adopted west side Section 2.

This year we will be doing an important 10-year purple loosestrife survey documenting how many bags and ½ bags of PL flowerheads are harvested. In 2023 there were 24.5 bags. This is way less than early years when there were hundreds of bags. Are we making progress? Yes. Unfortunately, this year we have 6 sections, East side D, E2, S. West side 3,7,14, needing adoption. Can you help? Especially as this 10-year survey is an important goal.

If you are unfamiliar with our program this is how it works. The Chip's shoreline has been divided into 36 sections, 18 on the west and 18 on the east. CFAPOA members "Adopt" a section (or two) usually close to their home. During the summer months they monitor shorelines looking for invasive aquatic plants like purple loosestrife, Eurasian Water-milfoil, but primarily focusing on purple loosestrife.

We should thank our Adopt -A-Shoreline volunteers for their continued dedication to this program now in its 20th year. Call or email me for questions.

Dennis Clagett
715 462 4814
rclagett@centurytel.net



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

Visit our website for a detailed map of East and West locations. <https://cfapoa.org/invasive-species>

Clean Boats, Clean Waters

by Diane Hulke



The early years of our Clean Boats Clean Waters Program (CBCW) began in 2004.

Yes, more than 20 years ago our CFAPOA organization was one of the first in Sawyer County that had inspectors at some of the major official WDNR provided boat ramps that accessed the Chippewa Flowage. Boat ramp Monitors became necessary when it was discovered that many types of invasive species were hitchhiking on boats and trailers from the already infested lakes in Minnesota and southern Wisconsin. Particularly southern Wisconsin.

At first, we use volunteers to monitor the ramps, but it soon became apparent we required WDNR grant money and all its associated documentation to

structure a long-lasting program. It is at this point that people should be acknowledged.

Jim and Jane Montag were responsible for surveying the 33 private boat ramps, grant work, and running the fledging CBCW program prior to 2014.

In 2014 **Diane Hulke** took the helm as Coordinator for the 4 official WDNR boat ramps doing the advertising, hiring, and scheduling, with **Barb Salomon** as Co-Coordinator responsible for grant writing, staff management, and payroll. Payroll was assisted by then Treasure **Pete Czarnecki**. Barb retired summer of 2021.

Randy Hulke, now treasurer, assists with payroll.

Recently **Shelley Lamoreaux** has joined the team having the

necessary talent for data entry into the WDNR's SWIMS program, and new energy and ideas.

We are always looking for help to run this vital Clean Boats Clean Waters program. Please contact either Diane or myself.

Diane- dihulke@gmail.com

Dennis - rclagett@centurytel.net
715 462 4814

Flashback to 2018



Pat Brown, county AIS Coordinator, holds early season CBCW training at Hay Creek landing



CFAPOA

BINGO

is Back!

Summer 2026

The Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners' Association (CFAPOA) will host two BINGO nights this summer in partnership with Chief Lake Lodge!

Thursday, June 25th
and
Thursday, August 13th

Save the Dates! →

Come enjoy the company of your fellow Association members, or learn more about the work of our organization!

Chief Lake Lodge
 "A TRULY 4-SEASON/FULL SERVICE RESORT"
 • 10 completely remodelled lakekeeping cottages • 1-5 BR units
 • Spring/Fall/Winter special rates • Gas, oil, bath on the lake
 • Boat/motorpower rental
 RESTAURANT & BAR • "Casual dining at it's finest"



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 email: chief@cllresort.com • website: www.chief.lake.lodge.com

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...AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CFAPOA AT CFAPOA.ORG





Fire Up the Flowage Recap

by Kevin Flesch

June 6th turned out to be a perfect weather day to have the first annual Fire Up the Flowage Festival at Deerfoot Resort. Special thanks to the Round Lake Fire and Rescue, Auxiliary and the Couderay Fire Department for the equipment they brought out for display and all of the volunteers we had show up and put on a really fun and worthwhile event. Lots of raffles, good food and new friendships were formed.

As many of you know, the event was created to help the Town of Hunter with fire protection services and to assist in making sure all of our lake properties are safer with prompt and active

fire protection. The CFAPOA had a major impact on helping with the event coordinated by the Town of Hunter and Deerfoot Resort. In the end the event had some great sponsors from all over the community and it was an exceptional event, highlighting the great community we have here around the Chippewa Flowage.

The event not only raised awareness but it also raised \$12,500 to be put to good use with the increase in fire protection services that are needed for the next fiscal year. Thank you all for volunteering and attending. The event would not have been a success without your involvement.





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

- August 2, 2026 Annual Meeting
- August 6, 2026 Meeting
- September 3, 2026 Meeting
- October 1, 2026 Meeting
- November 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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