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# CFAPOA

CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE AREA  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Established 1983

Winter 2026

## The Big Chip News

### The Waters Edge

by Mike Gardner CFAPOA Chair

As the snow begins to melt and the water levels increase it is a suitable time to visually assess your shoreline. Healthy shorelands improve wildlife habitat, natural beauty, privacy and decrease runoff. If you are curious how your shoreland is performing some of its functions, spend time outside during or immediately after a heavy rainstorm. Watch your property to see where the water goes. Look for opportunities to divert runoff into flatter areas where it can spread out and soak in. Evaluate the stability of your lakeshore and the shoreline vegetation protecting the banks.

If your shoreline is eroding, any of the following events may be destabilizing your soil, resulting in erosion: fluctuating water levels, increased wave or wake action, ice pushes, loss of natural vegetation,



and human activity. Protecting your shoreline from erosion may not require you to replace natural shoreline with high-cost, highly engineered retaining wall or riprap. There are affordable, low impact methods to stabilize your shoreline and still protect property values, water quality, and habitat. CFAPOA encourages you to consider planting native vegetation to control shoreline erosion, enhance aesthetic values, and to contribute to better water quality in the lake.

As you complete your assessment, keep in mind that any project constructed below the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) requires a permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Activities above that mark are regulated by Sawyer County zoning ordinances. Be sure

to check and make inquiries early in any planning process. Check the CFAPOA website for upcoming details regarding our Native Plant Sale and information on healthy shoreland stewardship.



Native Plant Sale returns  
Order Form on Page 8

Like us on  
facebook

## CFAPOA Needs Your Help

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



# Membership Update

by Patty Swaffield

## New Members

Al & Patty Arnold  
Kyle & Janet Rosedahl

## Contributor

Rob & Brenda Anderson  
Mark & Trish Andracke  
Al & Patty Arnold  
Rich & Lora Boley  
Mike & Debra Chernohorsky  
Jim & Jan Eventstad  
Bob & Rhonda Gazdik  
Sharyn Gunderson  
John & Jennifer Hoehn  
Randy & Diane Hulke  
Ruben 'Chip' & Holly Kaiser  
Charles & Joanne Keyes  
Jeff & Vanessa Krumholz  
Steve & Jeanne Migliacio  
Cliff & Janice Podgorski  
Rick & SeDell Rehfeldt  
John & Diane Sanchez, Jr.  
Tom & Doreen & Family  
Schnaderbeck  
Roger & Christine Schrank  
James & Marcia Suchy  
Paul & Dawn Tweed  
Ronnie & Cheryl Weberg

## Lifetime

Mark & Joni Zich

## Steward

Bill & Lynn Biederman  
Eleanore Dzialo  
Kevin & Janet Flesch  
Jim & Sue Fox  
Dan & Marcia Hardy  
Mark & Peggy Haumersen  
John & Judy Hensler  
Jon, Kevin & Jason Klohs  
John Meulemans  
Lance & Angela Paulson  
Tony & Megan Schubert Jr  
Steve & Marilyn Schwarz  
Lynn Sennett  
Jason & Mary Speros  
Pamela & Linda Ellwein Tibbetts  
Tom & Gina Toutant  
Terry & Debra Wall  
Pat & Gina Wherley  
Dale & Mary Zwiefelhofer

## Special Thanks

To these Lifetime Members for their additional donations:

Dave Carland  
Brad Krizan  
Barb Schweig

## 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.

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.  
Mark & Joni Zich

# Membership Committee Update

by Kevin Flesch

Membership Committee was busy in 2025 in reviving the Spring Fling, planning a bingo night at Chief Lake Lodge, attempting to increase membership through email blasts, door hangers and getting to the many seasonal neighborhoods around the Flowage and providing education about the organization. Membership increased last year and we want to continue the positive momentum for 2026. We need your help. If you haven't renewed your membership please renew soon. We have found the best way to increase our membership is through referral from those that are members now and their ability to pursue their neighbors and others who are unaware of the organization and its benefits. If any member has additional ideas or suggestions to help our mission to increase membership please email

me at kevinflesch@hotmail.com.

As to communications, we have created a Facebook page. Check out CFAPOA Facebook page, become a member and please add content that you think the organization would value. In the next few weeks, you will see a survey that will be distributed electronically to determine if there is a desire to modify our by-laws regarding the definition of our membership qualifications. Please complete the survey to be heard.

For 2026 we are already planning for a really exciting event for the Spring Fling. The event will be on June 6th at Deerfoot. Many of the details are in development and it will involve multiple organizations working together for the benefit of the Round Lake Fire Department. Please put the event on your calendar and watch for updates through our Facebook this Spring.

**“If you haven't renewed your membership, please renew soon.”**

<https://cfapoa.org/membership>



# 2025 Christmas Party Rewind



The Christmas Party was on December 6th. I think the pictures of many of the Forty Nine members tell the story as they were welcomed to Rusty Hook.

This festive event included excellent food, companionship and many people brought door prizes to distribute throughout the evening. There was also a 50/50 raffle.

The highlight of the night was the give away of the door prizes that were brought by members or procured by Patty Swaffield. A big thank you to all the members that attended and especially to Patty Swaffield for organizing this great event again this year.



## Let's Get Social!

Your CFPOA Membership Committee is always looking for ways to connect with our members. This year, we have ventured into the world of social media with our first Facebook page! Search “Chippewa Flowage Property Owners Association” on Facebook, and like and follow to see what’s to come!

If you are a current member of our association, we also have a members-only group that will be beneficial in communicating opportunities for connection as we head into the spring and summer. If you are interested in joining our members group, please email us at [cfpoamembership@gmail.com](mailto:cfpoamembership@gmail.com) and we’ll get you a link!



# Native Plants and Where to Get Them

by Tony Schubert

## The Case for Native Plants

A native plant is a plant that has evolved and adapted to an area's environmental conditions, such as local climate, geography and soil. They occur naturally in a region without human introduction. These plants are an integral part of the food chain which sustains the whole ecosystem of the area. Native plants are the nesting habitat and food for the native insects. The insects are the food for our birds, amphibians and bait fish. These smaller animals are the food for the larger predators in our ecosystem. So, without the native plants in our environment, we could lose different species of fish and wildlife we now enjoy. The loss of any species in our lakes or forests is almost irreversible and can start further declines in the population of other species dependent on the extinct species. Can you imagine the Chippewa Flowage without walleyes?

European-American settlement altered or destroyed much of Wisconsin's lands, waters and natural communities in favor of agriculture, natural resource, and urban development. Many nonnative species have been introduced, both intentionally and unintentionally. While we cannot turn back the clock on what has been done, we can restore Wisconsin's natural heritage and ecological identity in our urban and rural landscapes by planting the species that evolved here in a natural community. A natural community is an assemblage of interdependent plant and animal species coexisting in one habitat in a given time period. By emulating Wisconsin's natural communities with diverse, hardy and locally adapted species, we can create essential habitat for native wildlife, like birds, fish, amphibians and pollinators, as well as humans!

Here are 11 commonly cited benefits of native plants.

1. **Save Water.** Our planet might be full of water, but the availability of clean, safe drinking water is shrinking. The clean water we have here from our lake and wells is worth saving. Native plants generally require less watering by the homeowner than non-native plants. They have adapted to the climate here and have deep root systems that allow them to store water for long periods. Homeowners save time and money not having to turn on the hose and sprinklers.
2. **No Fertilizer needed.** Fertilizing your non-native plants (including your lawn) is a drain on your time and money. Native plants have adapted to their ecosystems soil. They can survive off the soil's available nutrients without the need for fertilizers. Fertilizers runoff our land and pollute the lake, which hurt our fish and encourages algae blooms.
3. **No pesticides needed.** Pesticides are another pollutant native species don't require. After years of adaptation, native plants have developed their own natural defense against the area's insects, diseases, and fungi.
4. **Resistance to local weather.** Because native plants have adapted to the local climate and weather conditions, they are more likely to survive than non-native plants. We have 4 season that sometime bring severe cold and snow, but the native plants are OK with that.
5. **Rarely invasive.** Invasive plants can take over a garden, shoreline or forest. Native plants restore balance in the yard, and do not require the maintenance that an invasive plant would.
6. **Erosion control.** This is something we all must deal with to some extent on our lake shores. It can be very costly to slow down or fix after it occurs. You can help prevent erosion by planting native plants in troublesome areas. Thanks to their deep root systems, native plants help stabilize and anchor the soil.
7. **Restore natural habitats.** By planting native plants in the landscape, you are enhancing the natural habitat of local wildlife. Birds, pollinators, chipmunks--- all sorts of animals rely on native plants for fruit, nuts, nectar, seeds, and shelter.
8. **Preserve biodiversity.** Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth, big and small. From humans to the tiny organisms we can't see, biodiversity is the interconnection between all living things. When you grow native plants, you're preserving the natural connections shared between the organisms in your

community, including humans. The organisms in an ecosystem depend on each other for survival, and your native plants play a vital role by providing food and shelter for insects and wildlife. Pollinators enable our crops to produce fruit for human consumption, dragonflies eat mosquitoes and flies that otherwise prey on humans. The ecosystem provides the food for the fish in the lake, which we enjoy at our Friday Fish Frys!

9. **Reduce water runoff.** When rain falls from the sky, the water needs to go somewhere. The soil soaks up some of the water and replenishes the groundwater. But most of the water flows into the lake as runoff. Runoff is often polluted by fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and all sorts of chemicals we find on our roads, driveways, roofs, parking lots, and lawns. By growing a rain garden made of native plants, you can help minimize the effects of runoff. Rain gardens help capture and filter storm water runoff before it escapes into the waterways. As the water seeps into the ground, the native plants' deep roots help filter the pollutants from the water.
10. **Low-maintenance alternative to turfgrass.** Most lawns grow non-native turf grasses. It's no wonder we spend so much time fertilizing and maintaining grass -- it needs our help to survive unfamiliar territory. Lawns also require heavy maintenance equipment, many of which are gas-powered and harmful to the environment. Transforming a portion of your yard into a native plant sanctuary or meadow garden will help lower your use of toxic chemicals and gas-powered tools. By reducing the use of your gas-powered tools, you can minimize air pollution and help protect the planet.
11. **Provide beauty.** I couldn't make a list of native plant benefits without including their beauty. Showcasing a variety of textures, heights, and colors, native plants are a stunning visual in the yard. Filling your landscape with splashes of colors, aroma, and visually exciting plants gives your neighbors and houseguests a positive impression of your home before they even step through the door.

## CFAPOA 2026 Native Plant Sale

After a year off we are now planning our third Native Plant Sale. We decided to open the sale to more than just our members, so if you have neighbors or friends that are interested, you can give them a copy of our order form.

Native plants are good for our ecosystem wherever they are planted, not just riparian properties. The order form is below. The mix of plants are different this year. There are 4 different collections that vary by the amount of sun and type of soils that will be their final home. So, we hope that past planters will order more and mix things up in your gardens in 2026.

All you need to do is choose the type of plants you want to purchase and fill out the form. Then send it to CFAPOA PO Box 555 Hayward WI 54843 with a check for your total order, made

payable to CFAPOA. You also may drop off your order form and check at the Town of Hunter Town Hall on Hwy CC. They have a mail slot you could use. We will place the orders with Dragonfly Gardens from Amery, WI and they will bring the plants to us on June 4th. We want to have all orders made by April 30, 2026. If you have any questions, email them to me, [tonycontract@gmail.com](mailto:tonycontract@gmail.com) or call 319-350-0067. Mary Stanfield, Master Gardener, will be assisting me with the sale.

We will need your order form and check by April 30, 2026. Again, I am planning the pick-up to be at my lake house, 9580 N Summers Point Lane, Hayward WI. That is just off Hwy B near Treelands. That way I can keep an eye on the merchandise and give you a few days window to pick

them up. I would like to have your email address, since that will be the easiest way to keep you up to date.

In previous years I found the native plants did not require nearly as much water as my lawn did. The easiest way to have a successful planting is by purchasing the Wetland Collection and planting them at or near your shoreline. The small plants will find water easily and not need much or any further care. A wetland planting on your shore will benefit our lake greatly. The price is \$80.00 for 32 small plants in a collection. Retail price for these same plants, if you can find them, is currently \$100 That is a bargain for these quality plants.

*See next page  
for Order Form*





## CFAPOA Native Plant Sale – 2026 Order Form

Dragonfly Gardens Native Plant Bundles | \$80 per bundle



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Select Bundle(s)

**Dry Sun Mix** – Full Sun | Dry–Med Soil | 1–3 ft | Blooms Jun–Sept | Pink/White/Orange/Yellow/Purple/Blue | 7 Flowers : 1 Grass

Wild Onion, Pearly Everlasting, Butterfly Weed, Prairie Coreopsis, White & Purple Prairie Clover, Alum Root, Rough Blazing Star, Hoary Vervain, Pussy Toes, Upland White Aster, Harebell, Spotted Bee Balm, Prairie Coneflower, June Grass, Blue Grama, Side-oats Grama

**Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_ × \$80 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Prairie Mix** – Full Sun | Medium Soil | 2–5 ft | Blooms Jul–Sept | Purple/Yellow/Pink/White/Orange/Red | 5 Flowers : 3 Grasses

Anise Hyssop, Early Sunflower, Meadow Blazing Star, Smooth Penstemon, Orange & Purple Coneflower, Wild Bergamot, Royal Catchfly, Culver’s Root, Indian Grass, Switch Grass, Little Bluestem

**Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_ × \$80 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Shoreline Mix** – Sun–Part Shade | Med–Wet Soil | 2–5 ft | Blooms Jul–Oct | Pink/Purple/Yellow/Red/Blue/Orange | 5 Flowers : 3 Sedges/Rushes

Sweet Flag, Swamp Milkweed, New England Aster, Sneezeweed, Prairie Blazingstar, Cardinal Flower, Blue Lobelia, Orange Coneflower, Brown-eyed Susan, Blue Vervain, Common Rush, Green Bulrush, Bottlebrush, Hop & Fox Sedge

**Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_ × \$80 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Woodland Mix** – Shade–Part Sun | Dry–Med Soil | 1–2 ft | Blooms Jun–Oct | Red/Yellow/Pink/White/Lavender | 6–8 Woodland Species

Columbine, Big-leaf Aster, Calico Aster, Short’s Aster, Northern Bedstraw, Wild Strawberry, Hairy Beardtongue, Eastern Star Sedge\*, Pennsylvania Sedge

**Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_ × \$80 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Bundles Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Orders Due: April 30, 2026 | Pickup: June 4, 5, or 6, 2026  
Payment: Check payable to CFAPOA (no online payment available)

I am interested in volunteering for CFAPOA projects.

Questions? Tony Schubert | (319) 350-0067 | tonycontract@gmail.com



# Clean Boats, Clean Waters

by Diane Hulke

Love the Outdoors?  
We have the Best Office in the World!

The Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program for 2026 is looking for a few personable and responsible people to monitor the four public boat launches on the beautiful Chippewa Flowage.

- Hours are Friday late afternoons, Saturday, and Sunday mornings, Monday mornings on holiday weekends
- Scheduled weekends off available for those special summer events
- Paid training
- We love retirees, anglers, and environmental students!

For more information contact  
Dennis at 715-462-4814 [rclagett@centurytel.net](mailto:rclagett@centurytel.net)



## Wisconsin DNR Tree Drop Program

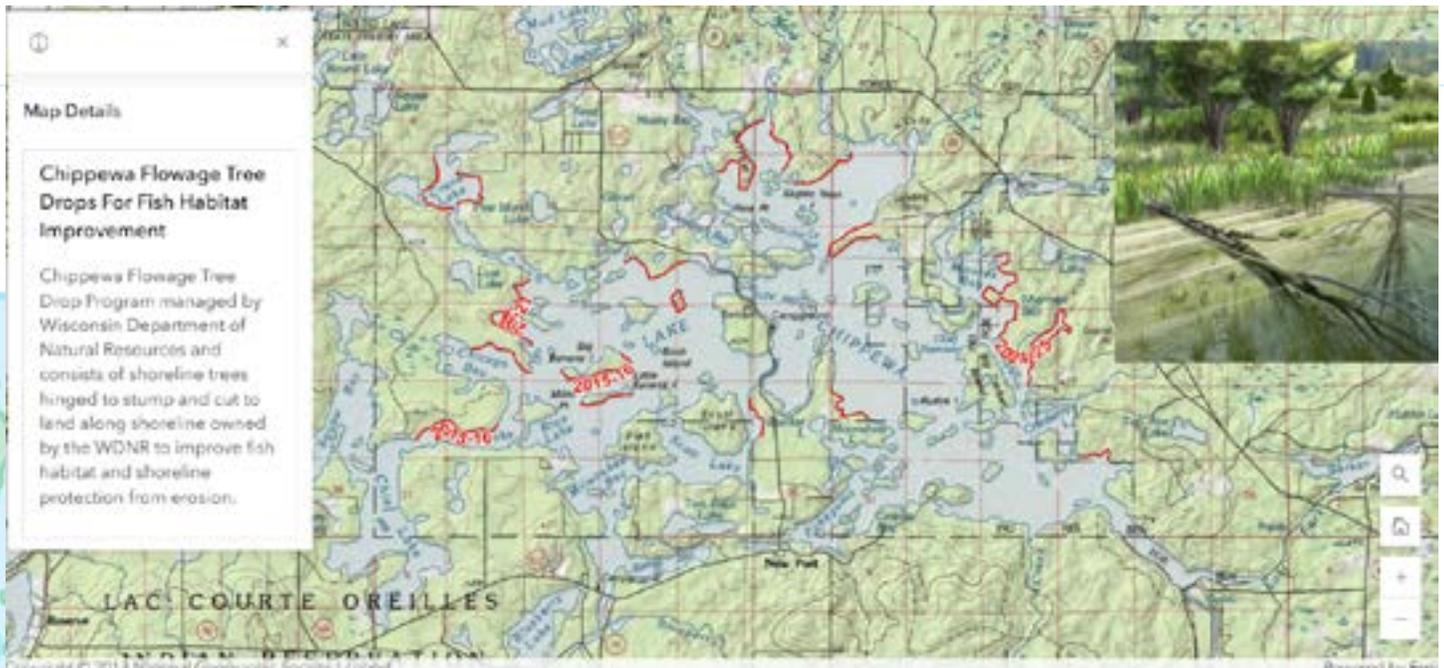
The Wisconsin DNR Tree Drop Program is designed to improve fish habitat in navigable waters by allowing the placement of tree drops. These tree drops are used to provide cover for fish and are placed within the riparian zone of interest. The program requires

that the tree drops be securely anchored to the shore at intervals of no less than 50 feet apart and that they be placed solely for the purpose of improving fish habitat.

Our local DNR has actively been completing permitted tree drops for many years adjacent to

DNR-owned lands that abut the Chippewa Flowage. The following URL is a map of the Chippewa Flowage Tree Drop Locations and the year(s) that each segment was completed.

<https://arcg.is/1ir8Cr4>



# Meet Chip\*

by Diane Hulke

\*Our Chip represents both our male and female inspectors.



I thought it would be fun to have a chat with one of our star Clean Boats Clean Waters boat inspectors, to hear from him, what he does and how he does it. As our guy prefers to remain humble and anonymous, I will refer to him as Chip. How's that for creativity!

## What does **Chip** and the rest of the team do?

**Conduct inspections:** Inspect boats and trailers at local boat landings to ensure they are clean and free of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

**Educate the public:** Provide information and educational materials to boaters about AIS prevention and control.

**Participate in outreach:** Engage in outreach and educational activities to raise awareness about the importance of preventing AIS spread.

**Collect data:** Collect and record data on inspections and educational activities to contribute to the statewide database.

Our guy **Chip** is one of five paid inspectors on the Flowage. They work about 14 hours a week from Fishing Opener weekend to a week or two after Labor Day.



**Chip** starts his day early, working at his assigned ramp, Hay Creek, CC North, CC South, or Winter Dam Boat Ramps. Upon arrival he will count and record number of trailers in the parking lot for boats which have already been launched. At the same time, he will remove any trailer weeds that may have been picked up at launch time.

After that, he monitors the ramp site for boats or any other watercraft arriving to launch or retrieve. How many boats in and out depends on several variables, mostly weather and fishing conditions. Busiest launch times are when the Flowage hosts fishing tournaments, fishing opener and holiday weekends. **Chip's** job is to look at the operator's boat, keep them informed and in compliance with state regulations. He manages his busy time by working the 'waiting to launch' line when engagement is easy, greeting the operators with a smile, inspecting the boat and getting responses to a few questions for his DNR data collection clip board.

As time allows **Chip** likes to share stories about fines he has witnessed for live fish being transferred (one fine) or live fish being transferred in lake water (two fines). He also shares bait management responsibilities and with anglers as well. He finds the examples are most effective in getting people to pay attention.

### How do people react to your inspection efforts?

Most encounters are positive. A positive outgoing disposition goes a long way towards a positive interaction. Our goal is really to teach as well as inspect. Self-regulation is the best!

### How do you handle your downtime?

Although occasionally boring, a benefit of this job is during downtime it is permissible to read or to fish!

### Why do you come back every year?

- The people you meet!
- Getting outside and enjoying the great outdoors. loon, deer and occasional bear sightings. Nibbling on wild blackberries!
- Seeing some beautiful boats.
- Ideal for early risers.

Stop at a ramp this year and say hello and bring a treat to **Chip**. Remember they are our the first line of defense protecting our beloved Flowage.

# Invasive Species

by Dennis Clagett



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	
Phil & Mary Stanfield	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>

Boiling it down, the Chippewa Flowage has two primary aquatic invasive species--Eurasian Watermilfoil and Purple Loosestrife. The annual fall/winter drawdown of the Chips water level seems to at least partially control the growth and spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil, but so far has had little effect on Purple Loosestrife.

The unfortunate truth about purple loosestrife is that it is a hardy plant. Its genetics provides endurance, strength and the capability to survive adverse conditions such as drought, our winters freezing temperatures, and resistance from native plants crowding it out. However, it doesn't tolerate constant manual control by our Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers cutting flower heads or removing the entire plant.

Experience has shown that repeated cutting of its flowerhead or stem will discourage the plant to the point where it will give-up allowing native communities to recover and diversify. Species diversity is nature's kryptonite against PL. This is one reason using herbicides as a chemical control is not encouraged as overspray and wind drift may permanently kill the surrounding native plants allowing the purple loosestrife to fill in the void. Another reason is glyphosate (Roundup) is very controversial as to its toxicity and it may be carcinogenic. Glyphosate while showing almost immediate results will have no effect on the PL seeds that will remain viable for years after the plant is long gone. This is the main reason for removing the flowerhead before it turns to seed.

Each tall purple spike of a PL plant is made of dozens to hundreds of tiny individual flowers that are pollinated by insects most likely bees and butterflies. Knowing where the PL plant or flower heads were removed is a powerful tool in its control as the Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteer can return year after year to the same location.

This program continues to be the envy of many lake organizations for both its success and longevity, plus it is a great way to enjoy and appreciate the natural world around us. There are a few sections available for adoption. Can you help?

I am always available for questions, and new volunteers are always needed. My contact information is Dennis Clagett 715 462 4814 [rclagett@centurytel.net](mailto:rclagett@centurytel.net).

# 2026 to be "Year of the Musky" for the Chip

Max Wolter – Wisconsin DNR

There is no fish that is more associated with the Chippewa Flowage than the musky. We estimate that anglers spend between 75,000 and 100,000 hours chasing muskies on The Chip each year. But quality musky fishing in this special lake is not a foregone conclusion. Your ultimate prize may be a great photo of a big toothy 50-incher, yet that photo only exists as the end result of a lot of fishery management actions. In 2026 specifically, there are plenty of ways for anglers to chip in and do their part. That's why I am declaring 2026 to be The Year of the Musky on the Chippewa Flowage and I am challenging all flowage anglers to get involved. Here's how:

## STOCKING PLAN

The Chippewa Flowage has the distinction of being one of just 3 waterbodies in northwest Wisconsin that provides muskellunge eggs to the DNR's Governor Thompson hatchery. Staff come and collect a few quarts every third spring (a very tiny percentage of all the eggs in the lake) that become the fall fingerling muskies that DNR stocks. In those years, I put in a request for many of those fish to be stocked back into the Chip. Stocking muskies can be successful in a lake filled with other predators because it lets them spend the summer in the relative safety of the hatchery ponds until they are too big for most\* (see below) other predators to eat.

I've asked for a big number of stocked fish in 2026 to match the size and importance of this waterbody. However, we could still use more. Our DNR staff are the best in the world at raising muskellunge, and I am confident they will deliver us high quality fish. But we also have the opportunity to supplement that with fish supported directly by the Chippewa Flowage community. Look for details about how you can support musky stocking that is being organized by the Lake Chippewa Flowage Resort Association as a supplement to the fish coming from DNR.

## TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT PIKE HARVEST

Big stocking numbers are exciting, but I often feel the need to inject a reality check. Some of the most successful muskellunge stockings in our area have a survival rate of about 15%, and often it's as low as 5%. Why is that? Well, it's because we are not stocking fish into a nice welcoming hatchery pond with no predators and lots of food. No, stocking into a lake like the Chippewa Flowage means introducing these delicate fingerlings into an environment with lots of other predators and plenty of competition for a limited amount of available food.

But we can have some impact here. Northern pike are the most direct competitor with muskellunge. A 14-inch stocked muskellunge and a 16-inch

northern pike eat the exact same things, and will compete for similar food and habitat for several years. Larger pike can be a main predator on stocked muskellunge. It is very important that we reduce the abundance of pike (especially

*"Sawyer County will be going to 3-line trolling for all waterbodies, including the Chippewa Flowage."*

small ones!) before musky stocking happens in the fall of 2026. The Pike Improvement Project and its organizers have been doing a great job building a coalition of pike harvesters. We need to crank that into the highest possible gear this year and get all hands on deck. As always, harvesting the smallest pike you catch is more important and helpful than just harvesting the big ones. Please register the pike you catch at a PIP location, even if you are not interested in winning prizes (you can always decline them). Having the record of how many pike and which sizes are harvested is very useful for our planning efforts. Let's make the flowage the most welcoming home possible for all the new muskies!



### **SURVEYS AND MUSKY ESTIMATES**

How many muskies are in the Chippewa Flowage? It's a great question, and one we have NEVER had a reliable answer to. The size and complexity of the Chippewa Flowage make it a difficult waterbody to survey. However, our new fish researcher out of Spooner thinks he finally has a method to estimate how many are out there. Dr. Colin Dassow has used our PIT tag data from the last 12 years to work on an estimate of the number of muskies in the lake. I'll report back with what he finds in that analysis. In 2026, we plan on doing a bigger than usual survey effort to capture and tag more muskies, which will help further dial in that estimate. Guides and volunteer anglers with PIT tag readers can really help out here by scanning and documenting any tagged fish they catch (you have to have a scanner to detect the tag). An estimate of how many muskies are in the lake is critical to justifying stocking in future years.

### **NEW REGULATIONS AND FISHING BEST PRACTICES**

There are some changes coming to Wisconsin that will also affect your musky fishing opportunities. First, Sawyer County will be going to 3-line trolling for all waterbodies, including the Chippewa Flowage. This comes after a period of analyzing catch and harvest rates related to trolling. The next big change is that the muskellunge fishing season opener will be moving up to the first Saturday in May, coinciding with the opener for other gamefish. Some will be excited about these changes, both of which lead to more opportunities and options for anglers, while some will have concerns. It's important for people to understand that these were both changes that were made at a statewide or regional scale, and each one went through the regular channels for changing fishing regulations (data analysis, comparing rules with other states, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, legislative review, etc.). In both cases, and really across most fishing activities, we will continue to rely on people acting courteously towards each other and maintaining

a conservation mindset when they make decisions about how they want to fish and what they want to keep. We will continue to monitor the fishery and its health and will provide regular updates in spaces like this.

When thinking specifically about our precious muskies, please consider the following best practices and help communicate these to other anglers:

1. Be prepared to catch a musky if you are fishing on the flowage (even if you are targeting other species!). Have the right size net and tools on hand to unhook the fish.
2. If hooked deeply, cut hooks rather than removing them.
3. When fishing with live bait, set the hook quickly, so hooks are not swallowed.
4. Avoid fishing during extreme heat, stick to cooler times of year or even cooler parts of the day.
5. Minimize air exposure and dropping fish by keeping them in a net boatside for as much of the process as possible.
6. Hold fish horizontally for photos, using one hand to support the fish's body weight.

I hope all who care about the Chippewa Flowage and these noble fish can find one or more of the above items to help with this year. If so, we'll have a really great Year of the Musky!



# Musky Recruitment on the Chippewa Flowage

by Terry Wall

The WI DNR defines “Recruitment” as the natural reproduction of a native species or by stocking programs to keep fish populations in balance.” To maintain a viable fishery, recruitment is vital to replace fish harvested or lost due to natural causes each season. Every year the DNR conducts a number of surveys to gage the numbers and health of fish species in the flowage. After crunching all the numbers, the fish biologists determine if stocking is required and to what extent.

The last Musky stocking on the flowage was in 2023 when the DNR stocked 3000 musky fingerlings with an additional 800 extended growth fish provided by Muskies Inc. 2026 is again our turn for musky stocking, so a request was made by Max Wolter for 8000 fry with an expectation of maybe getting 5000 actually delivered.

Due to limitations at the hatchery, in order to meet the goal of 8000 fish the Chippewa Flowage Resort Association, with support from CFAPOA and Musky’s Inc., have launched a fund raising venture in order to purchase up to an additional 3000 musky fry.

Max is working out the details of obtaining the hatchlings from the Spooner hatchery and the LCO hatchery has agreed to raise the fish in one of their pens. The theme of the program **“Tomorrow’s Trophy Starts Today- Stock a Musky”** will rely on merchandise sales and donations to raise funds to cover costs to rear the fish at LCO. Donations

will be tax deductible if done using the QR code printed on the posters at the local resorts and on lake maps provided free to guests. This undertaking is in the very early stages and more info will be forthcoming in the months ahead, so watch for announcements on our web site and our new Facebook page.

PIP 2026 kicked off in January with the “Tipper Tournament” sponsored by Pat’s Landing on Chief lake. On January 10, they held the 14th annual tournament with 117 participants competing for cash prizes.

Prizes were awarded for the smallest pike registered with 1st prize awarded for a 13.25 inch fish, 2nd prize for a 13.5 and 3rd for a 14 inch fish. A total of 232 fish were caught and registered by anglers competing for the \$50.00 - \$500.00 prizes. The fish that were caught were donated to the Winged Freedom Raptor Hospital and will be put to good use feeding injured birds.

Remember the PIP runs from January until the end of the open water fishing season. Pike can be registered at all of the resorts and at Jenk’s bait shop. Remember the goal is to remove small pike so keep the little ones and register them for a chance at a cash prize at the end of the year.

A few more weeks of winter and then we can start thinking about getting our boats ready. I know I can’t wait.



Native Plant Sale returns  
Order Form on Page 8

# Loon Artificial Nesting Platform (ANP) Project in the Works for 2026

In 2015, CFAPOA received a \$1,000 grant from Xcel Energy to obtain a WDNR permit and construct ten Artificial Nesting Platforms (ANP's) and place in the Chippewa Flowage. The primary purpose for the ANP's were to help protect egg incubation on nests that were often flooded by fluctuating water levels. In addition, these ANP's were placed in areas slightly away from shorelines which helps protect incubating eggs from predators. It is estimated that these originally constructed ANP's helped hatch approximately 30 to 40 loon chicks on the Flowage over the past ten years.

Unfortunately, these PVC-constructed ANP's are deteriorating from exposure to the elements. CFAPOA members John and Anne Nickoli have agreed to construct and replace these failing ANP's with ten lighter, more durable aluminum ANP's. It is anticipated that the lifespan of these new aluminum ANP's will far exceed the life of the older PVC ANP's.

Xcel Energy has again funded this ANP project for CFAPOA with a donation of \$1,848.60 which we received on January 23, 2026. Construction of these aluminum ANP's should be completed by early March. Please notify the Citizen Science Committee if you want to place and manage one of these new ANP's or if you want to participate in the annual loon monitoring program.

It is not an exact science in attracting nesting loons to nest on the ANPs; however, placement in



shallow water, near shore helps avoid potential boat contact and adds protection from land predators. The best advice in placement is to watch where nesting loons fail to hatch chicks and move the ANP the following year to that location. If they fail to occupy the platform move it again to a new area with nesting loons. Eventually, we have attracted loons to nest on a significant number of ANP's over time and once they occupy the floating nest they return every year to nest on the ANP unless one of the loon pairs is replaced by a territory-seeking male or female that forces the older loon out of the territory. Loons frequently have a lifespan of over 30 years. Please demonstrate respect for the nesting loons by keeping boating activity at least 200 feet away from nesting loons.



# Cable Natural History Museum Loon Pontoon Tours 2026

by Emily M. Stone, Naturalist/Education Director

The Cable Natural History Museum has been leading Loon Pontoon Tours on Lake Owen, Lake Namakagon, and the Chippewa Flowage since 2011. These popular programs allow visitors to witness incredible loon behavior with a Naturalist on board to provide commentary and detailed information. We are always looking for additional volunteers with large pontoon boats to help run these pontoon tours. Most pontoon drivers love the chance to share their lake knowledge and learn more about loons right along with the participants!

- Participants register with the Museum and sign a risk waiver before they attend.
- Pontoon Tours on the Chippewa Flowage run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- They are always scheduled on Thursdays, with a few Tuesdays. The full schedule is below.
- Please make sure you have the legal number life jackets on board—which is one for every person. We’ll probably never need to use them, but I’d hate to get pulled over by the DNR. Because of the popularity of Loon Pontoon Tours, for most tours, we will be full to the capacity of your boat!
- If kids sign up, they are required to wear life jackets, and we require participants to bring their own child life jackets.
- I will remind you about a week prior to your tour.
- If the weather looks iffy, I’ll communicate with you about how much lead time we need on the decision to cancel. I’ve had quite a few pontoon tours start just after a thunderstorm ends or end just before the rain starts. Sometimes the weather guys are just flat out wrong, so I prefer not to cancel the night before based on a forecast that might not come true. However, if the logistics of that make your life a lot harder, we’ll deal with it on a case-by-case basis.
- We do not compensate drivers for time or gas. We consider these a donation to the Museum and are very grateful for your generosity!



I’d like to have a driver assigned to each tour by the end of February or very early March. I’m also reaching out to our regular pontoon drivers on Lake Owen and Lake Namakagon.

## 2026 Loon Pontoon Tour Dates

Month	Date	Day
June	18	Thursday
June	25	Thursday
June	30	Tuesday
July	2	Thursday
July	9	Thursday
July	14	Tuesday
July	15	Wednesday
July	16	Thursday
July	23	Thursday
July	30	Thursday
August	6	Thursday
August	13	Thursday
August	20	Thursday
August	27	Thursday

### Cable Natural History Museum

P.O Box 416, 13470 County Highway M  
Cable, WI 54821 | (715) 798-3890

[www.cablemuseum.org](http://www.cablemuseum.org)

# Be the change Earth Day



Keep shorelines natural  
Plant Native Plants  
<https://wisconsinlandwater.org>



# 4-22-26

## ICE THICKNESS GUIDELINE

The minimum thickness to access a frozen body of water safely. This is a \*estimate, not a rule. Always proceed with caution and take the appropriate steps to ensure safety.

**STAY OFF**



Less than 4"

4 Inches

6-8 Inches

9-12 Inches

WALK ON

SNOWMOBILE & ATVS

UTVS & LIGHT VEHICLES

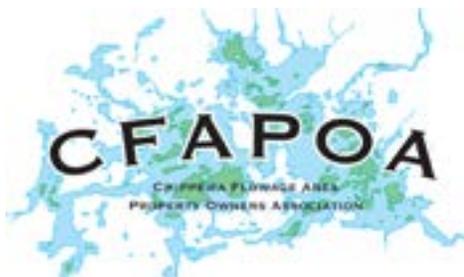
\*Based on newly formed, hard / clear ice. Ice thickness does not guarantee safety - proceed at your own risk!

# 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

- March 5, 2026 Meeting
- April 2, 2026 Meeting
- May 7, 2026 Meeting
- June 4, 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](mailto:mgardner@northflow.net)



### CFAPOA Board of Directors

- Mike Gardner, Chair ..... [mgardner@northflow.net](mailto:mgardner@northflow.net)
- Tony Schubert, Vice Chair ..... [tony@contractexchange.net](mailto:tony@contractexchange.net)
- Randy Hulke, Treasurer ..... [rdhulke@gmail.com](mailto:rdhulke@gmail.com)
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