



The Big Chip News

ESTABLISHED 1983

WINTER 2017

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR BY CONNIE PETERSON

Winter in Northern Wisconsin: land of the free and home of the brave.

Remember the Holiday Party? It seems like it was just yesterday that we were celebrating at the Holiday Party in December. It was a good gathering in the dark of night with lots of prizes to give away. Thanks again to Patty Swaffield, our social committee chair, for getting this all together. Patty always puts on a good party – after all, Patty is just one letter away from party! If you missed the party, hope we see you next year!



AND NOW IT IS TIME TO CALENDAR THE SPRING FLING ON JUNE 3 AT 4:00 AT TREE-LANDS RESORT.

More on Trolling: April 10 at 7 pm at Hayward High School is when the Sawyer County delegates to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will meet to hear your comments and give their recommendations on proposed trolling regulations for Sawyer County and, specifically, the Chippewa Flowage. This is a critical meeting for trolling regulations on the Flowage. The proponents for three-line/angler trolling will be there. Join them or oppose them or just watch the process BUT attend the meeting! This is your lake!!

Bogs at Hwy CC Bridge: Cheryl, Tyler and Harold Treland and Mario Reyes met with a representative of LSM Contractors in December to discuss the feasibility and cost of pushing the bogs to the northwest to find a “new home” for them. The cost was estimated to be \$40,000 -- \$65,000 to push the bogs with no guarantee that they would stay in a new location. The project would involve a minimum of a 100-ton crane to lift a tug boat in and out of the water, the tugboat, two other support boats and extensive measuring of water depth by GPS along the proposed route. This exercise was a good wake-up call to show the extent and expense of this long-discussed project. There are no plans to pursue this project.

The DNR Recreation Opportunities Analysis: The DNR’s mission includes providing a healthy, sustainable environment in which a full range of outdoor opportunities may be enjoyed by all people. To that end, DNR is kicking off an effort to look at recreational opportunities and needs across the state by embarking on a study known as the Recreation Opportunities Analysis (ROA) of existing outdoor-based recreation opportunities and future recreation needs in eight state regions, and will publish a report for each region. The ROA will use the same eight regions that the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) uses to evaluate outdoor recreation trends and issues. Recommendations resulting from the ROA will then be used to help decision-making about use of DNR lands including future master planning efforts. The ROA’s stated goal is to identify highest priority future recreational needs in each region and DNR properties that are best suited to meet these priorities and to accomplish this goal through public and stakeholder input through informal hearings, later in the spring. To learn more about the ROA and to know the dates for public input, go to the DNR website and search “ROA.”

The ROA is part of the 2017-2022 Wisconsin SCORP update. States are required to complete SCORP reviews every five years to be eligible to participate in the Land and Water conservation Fund State Assistance Program for federal funds assistance. Some components of a SCORP are required to describe the supply and demand for outdoor recreation in the state and to describe the criteria and system to distribute these federal funds.

DNR Strategic Alignment: DNR started a strategic alignment effort in July 2015 to prioritize core work and align the department’s functions and organizational structure with available resources. Following a year-long effort to analyze staff resources and prioritize core work, in late 2016 the DNR announced implementation plans for a strategic effort to better align its functions and organizational structure with the public’s needs. The alignment effort will involve significant changes for approximately five per cent of the DNR’s 2,549 employees. These changes may include changes to position descriptions, differences in reporting structure or changes in division assignments resulting from the transformation of seven operational units to five: Forestry; Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Environment Management; and Internal Services and External Services. Responsibility for law enforcement will be shifted to the Bureau of Law Enforcement (wardens in grey uniforms.) (Presently, law enforcement officers are found among conservation wardens, park rangers and forest rangers.) The Fish, Wildlife and Parks Division will manage property management staff and functions.

(Continued on page 2)

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR *(Continued from page 1)*

Within the Internal Services Division, a new bureau will focus on facility and property services including real estate operations and property planning. For more on this realignment, go to the DNR website and search "strategic alignment."

Lurking in Madison: A Competing Plan to Break up the Department of Natural Resources by Bureaucratic Tsunami:

Despite what you've just read about DNR's organization efforts, Representative Jarchow has plans (known as the Governor's Plan) for the DNR which are being watched, state-wide, for signs of traction and funding.

In response to Representative Jarchow's request, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau (service agency that provides fiscal and program analyses to the Wisconsin Legislature) sent him a memorandum in late 2016 associated with his idea/proposal that would break up the DNR in its present form. The full text of this memo can be found on the CFAPOA web site.

Under this proposal, the outdoor recreation and property management of the Chippewa Flowage will be transferred out of the DNR and into the Department of Tourism. But more on this later ...

Currently, DNR is generally organized into seven divisions of land; forestry; public safety and business support; air, waste and remediation; water; and customer and employee assistance. DNR is governed by a seven-member advisory Natural Resources Board with a secretary appointed by the governor and approved by the state senate. Under the proposal, the DNR would be divided into two separate agencies and also melted into other state agencies, leading to the big question – Who is accountable for what? Where does accountability lie?

Under Jarchow's proposal, a Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) would be responsible for hunting and fishing programs, motorized outdoor recreation (including recreational boat, snowmobile and ATV/UTV programs) and related conservation law enforcement activities. The Natural Resources Board would be renamed the Fish and Wildlife Board and continue to have policy oversight over the reconfigured DFW (only.) The governor would appoint DFW secretary (now the DNR secretary) with state senate approval. Additionally, the proposal would authorize two unclassified division administrator positions in DFW to oversee the two divisions of (1) Division of Fish and Wildlife; and (2) Division of Recreational Aids and Enforcement.

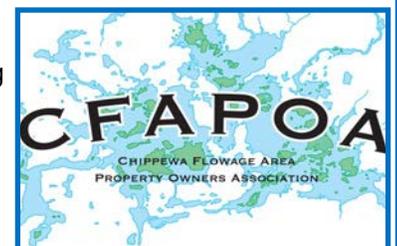
A new Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would have authority for endangered resources and most non-game species (but not all), environmental protection, pollution control and environmental regulatory functions (such as air emissions, contaminated land, solid waste, recycling, hazardous waste, wastewater, drinking water, groundwater, navigable waters, dams, wetlands, shoreland zoning, wharves, piers, boathouses and dredging permits.) The DEP would have authority and power over a lot of important every-day concerns that affect a lot of people, right? The governor would also appoint a newly-created cabinet position DEP secretary (with state senate approval) – staff and fiscal support to follow -- but the DEP secretary would not be required to interact with any citizen board such as the present Natural Resources Board or the proposed DFW Board. Additionally, the proposal would authorize two unclassified division administrator positions in DEP to oversee the two divisions of (1) Division of Air and Waste; and (2) Division of Water. All this stuff under the DEP would be spun out into orbit someplace unknown. But wait! We are not done, yet.....

Aspects of the current DNR would be transferred to other state agencies. Also, duties related to outdoor recreational property management of the *Chippewa Flowage* and Willow Flowage "Recreation Areas" would be transferred to the Department of Tourism. (It is the specific reference to the Chippewa Flowage that I find the most interesting.) Representative Jarchow and Senator Tiffany usually ride together. Senator Tiffany has property on the Willow Flowage and is a member of the Department of Tourism Board. Duties related to the state forestry program, including the current DNR Division of Forestry and northern state forests, would be transferred to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP.) Tourism and DATCCP would be given law enforcement authority that is found in current DNR conservation wardens.

Sixteen unclassified positions (compared to the 12 at DNR, currently) would be authorized for DFW and DEP (Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Chief Legal Counsel, legislative liaison, communications director, two division administrators and support staff.) Both DFW and DEP secretaries would be placed in the executive salary group six range of \$88,700 to \$146,400. The current DNR legal services program would be transferred to the Department of Administration. The Department of Administration would become responsible for most aspects of the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program.

Really? Let's keep an eye on all this. And meanwhile, it's only three months until fishing opener! See you around the Lake.

Connie



MEMBERSHIP REPORT: JOIN NOW FOR MEMBERSHIP THROUGH JULY 2018

Our membership year begins each August 1. For new members who join now, your membership will be good for the remainder of this membership year AND keep you current until August 1, 2018. For those of you who have not paid your 2016-2017 dues, at our bargain \$25 per household, how about writing a \$50 check now for your current AND upcoming dues? We rely on you to pay our modest expenses to keep you informed of news critical to the health of our Lake and your enjoyment of it. If you have misplaced your membership form you will find it on line at our website. Your membership includes your Membership Directory, emailed lake news updates, and social and committee activities.

If you ask to have your newsletter sent via email, you will get a confirmation email from **NOREPLY@CFAPOA.ORG**. Please click the link provided to "confirm" your email address. If you do not confirm, eventually your email will be dropped from the list. We check the list periodically, but some may be missed.

If you signed up for an emailed newsletter and it suddenly stops, contact us at cfapoa@yahoo.com. Chances are there is a problem with your email address. Be sure our email is not going to your junk mail, and be sure that we have your updated email address. If you receive a mailed copy, you will still enjoy looking at the newsletter on our website, where it is in color and easy to read. Please consider switching to email delivery for full color and to save paper and postage.

Once again we thank all of you who so generously support your lake through this organization. Please see the list of our newest members and those who have renewed at higher levels since our last issue, and give them your personal thanks as well.



HOLIDAY PARTY at the CHIPPEWA INN!!

The Chippewa Inn was the site for our Holiday Party on December 3. We know many of you have already left for the season by December, but really, try to make it next winter. The food was excellent and plentiful, the comradery was warm and welcoming, and there were MANY door prizes for our members' enjoyment. We thank our many generous donors including Jane and Steve Richardson who donated the metal art canoe paddle to auction.

Stop missing these opportunities to meet new people, and come enjoy the company of old friends and acquaintances!



Now just a couple of requests to you, our members, from your membership committee. Please tell your friends and neighbors about us, their very own lake association. Mark your calendars now for our Spring Fling on June 3. Then bring those new members with you.!

Keep us updated on your contact information, including email address. Find us at CFAPOA.org on the web, and email us at CFAPOA@yahoo.com. Keep warm. Take care of each other. Enjoy our lake paradise.

Patty, Barb and Mark, your Membership Committee.

BIG CHIP NEWS BRIEFS

2017 LCFRA Winter News

Barb Czarnecki, our CFAPOA liaison to our lake's resort association, provides this report to our membership from the meeting on January 31, 2017. Thank you Barb for keeping our members informed.

Lake Chippewa Flowage Resort Association board approved donating custom printed Tote Bags with zippered closure, key ring and mesh pocket to the participants of the 2017 Fishing Has No Boundaries event to be held on the Chippewa Flowage in May. The board agreed on a new billboard design at B and 27. Watch for it! Musky Hunt registrations have been mailed out. New participants to this fun tournament can enter starting March 1st. Entry forms can be downloaded from www.chippewaflowage.com. The Winter Pin Tour is underway. Free tour cards are available on our website. If you haven't been there lately, this is our newly developed, responsive website. LCFRA will be making refrigerator magnets available to our members at a minimal cost that clearly list what is recyclable and what isn't for our guests. Did you know for example that pizza boxes are NOT recyclable? Lastly, the board presented a personalized jacket to Scott Schultz in appreciation of his many years of service as treasurer of our organization. Our next meeting will be in April.



Winter Dam Discharge Rate and Reservoir Elevation

Xcel Energy's data about elevation and discharge rate from the Winter Dam are posted on line on its website at https://www.xcelenergy.com/Energy_Portfolio/Electricity/Hydro_Level_and_Discharge_Rates. For example, as of February 1, 2017 the website provided the following information:

Location Elevation: 1,309.84 ft.

Full Pool: 1,313.0 ft.

Discharge: 900 cfs.

Xcel has customarily issued a quarterly projection for its operation of the reservoir. If not available by the time this newsletter goes to the printer, the winter projection will be posted on the CFAPOA website as soon as made available to us. See it at www.cfapoa.org.

Hughes Jeffords Chippewa Flowage Fund

Thanks to the generosity of the Hughes-Jeffords family, an annual \$500—\$1000 grant is available to preserve, protect and enhance Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, and Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe-managed lands and waters of the Chippewa Flowage.

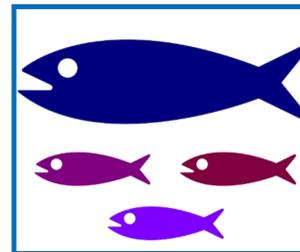
"The fund can be used to support natural resource programs and projects that take place in or directly benefit the Flowage. The primary purpose of the Fund is to support natural resource management activities including habitat protection and restoration, wildlife monitoring and management, fisheries management, invasive species monitoring and control, and enforcement activities. The secondary purpose is to support outreach and education programs and projects. Fund disbursements cannot be used for operating and administrative expenses," according to Caitlin Williamson of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin which administers the grant. The CFAPOA is a qualified organization to apply for the grant.

If you are interested in coordinating a conservation project using these grant funds, contact a board member and look at the materials at <http://www.wisconservation.org/how-we-work/donor-advised-competitive-grants>. We will work with you to formulate a CFAPOA project and reach other members so you are ready to apply for project funds. Grant applications must be submitted by February 1, and it is never too early to start planning.

FISHERIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Brenda Dettloff, Committee Chair

There is a lot of news about our fisheries. The panfish report comes from fishing guide John Dettloff after attending the January 25 DNR fisheries meeting. The walleye report comes from WDNR Fisheries Biologist Max Wolter's November 11 report on walleye. The musky report comes from Max's December 11 musky report -Ed.



Panfish.

On January 25, there was a very informative Sawyer County Fisheries Forum held by DNR fish biologist Max Wolter. Among the topics discussed were the Chippewa Flowage's panfish fishery. Reminding those present of how popular panfishing is on the Flowage, Wolter stated that more anglers target panfish than musky, walleye, and bass combined.

Regarding panfish numbers and size distribution, Wolter said that because walleye abundance has improved recently (with the outstanding walleye recruitment that occurred in the Flowage during both 2014 and 2016), there are now more predators eating the panfish. This is a good thing because it thins the panfish numbers and sets the stage to create a better average size.

The drawdown during the past three winter seasons on the Flowage no doubt contributed to better walleye recruitment (greater survival of the newly hatched fry) while at the same time probably thinning panfish numbers down a bit. In fact, bluegill abundance has reduced somewhat on both sides of the Flowage while their average size appears to be up by about an inch. This makes for some great bluegill fishing!

As illustrated in surveys done in 2009, 2013, and 2015, crappie numbers seemed stable on the West side while they did show a bit of a reduction on the East side. The average size of crappie that were netted by the DNR dropped about a half inch, although angler reports yielded more 11 to 12 inch crappie and better growth.

There was discussion on how to improve the Chippewa Flowage's panfishery at the meeting, with recommendations being made by both Max Wolter and Conservation Congress member Rick Olson that we reduce panfish bag limits from 25 fish a day/person to 10 fish a day/person. Wolter commenting that 10 fish bag limits have worked very well for Bluegill on other waters.

Max stated that every once in a while mother nature creates conditions to where there is a massive panfish hatch in our lakes. The question was then asked from the floor whether – during that circumstance – when populations become pumped up can a more restrictive bag limit of 10 fish create a “stunting issue” by not allowing enough of a harvest. Wolter stated that could be a concern; however, in the long run he still felt the 10 fish daily panfish bag would give us our best quality panfishery.

The DNR has also worked hard adding more panfish habitat to the Flowage with shoreline tree drops. - John Dettloff

Walleye.

...We just completed a growth analysis of walleye on the Chippewa Flowage. I had a batch of spines from the spring of 2016 and another from the fall of 2016. We focused on walleye between 14-17 inches to get a feel for how quickly they are getting to the minimum length limit (15”). Overall, growth looked good. Walleye still get to 15 inches in about the same amount of time as they did a few years ago. Most are hitting 15 between age 4 and 5. Of course there is variation on this, some are faster and some are slower growers. But there is no indication of a systematic problem with growth...

My recommendation at this time will be to stick with the current walleye regulations that include the 15” minimum length limit. I understand that it was a point of frustration for people to be catching a lot of small fish this summer, but that speaks to how strong the 2014-2016 year classes are. Now that we know they are still growing at a good rate we simply need to step back and let them get to legal size. Other than the 2016 class, the 2014 class is our strongest in the lake right now and it comprises most of the fish that people were catching between 14-15 inches this year. All signs point to a lot of those fish being legal sized very early next summer, many might be there already. I stopped getting calls about people catching only short walleye around September. I have had no complaints throughout the fall... - Max Wolter

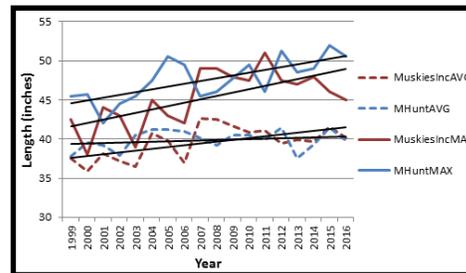
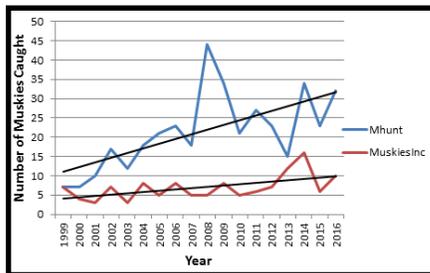
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FISHERIES (Continued from page 5)

Musky.

...After this year's Chippewa Flowage Musky Hunt Cheryl [Treland] offered that I could have the data to analyze. I've been doing similar tracking of the Hayward Chapter of Muskies Inc.'s tournament results for several years. I decided to compare the two to see if they told the same story. To do this, I only looked at the Muskies Inc. results from the Chippewa Flowage (though many lakes are included in that one) and only the results since 1999 (when the Musky Hunt records start). Here's what I found out:

People are catching more muskies over time in the Chippewa Flowage. This is demonstrated by the trend lines (black lines) for both the Muskies Inc. and Musky Hunt data going upward. These types of comparisons are always a little tricky because it's tough to figure out how many anglers are actually fishing the Chip each year, particularly in the Muskies Inc. event. But we do know that the overall number of anglers is decreasing in the Muskies Inc. event over time, meaning that we have less anglers, and we're still having more fish caught. So the catch rates are encouraging, but we'd like to see some more anglers coming back to that event! From what Cheryl has said, the Musky Hunt numbers have been pretty stable after the first few years, and we see a pretty strong increase in catch for that event. I found it to be interesting how the numbers caught tracked with each other over the last few years. When catch goes up in one event we often see the same increase in the other, same with when it dips.



We can also compare size, both average and maximum, over time for the two events. These also show the same pattern of increase over time (black trend lines), with maximum size increasing faster than the average. Combine all these trends and it paints a pretty positive picture of the future of this musky fishery. We're catching more fish in these tournaments AND they are getting bigger. Catch and release probably plays a big role in both the size and numbers trends. That's all I have on this for now, although I'd like to keep up with it from year to year. - Max Wolter, WDNR Fisheries Biologist



A MAGNET FOR EVERY REFRIGERATOR: GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT ABOUT CONTROLLING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

To complete its 2012-2016 Aquatic Invasive Species Education Grant, which included funding for Clean Boats Clean Waters education and boat inspections, CFAPOA has created refrigerator magnets about CBCW techniques so that AIS protection instructions can be placed in every rental unit on the Chippewa Flowage. Beginning this spring, magnets will be distributed to resorts and campgrounds for placement in their rental units. Magnets will also be available for lake residents to inform their guests about how to keep our lake as safe as possible from AIS including zebra mussels, round gobies, rusty crayfish, and other unsavory critters. Let's get a magnet on every refrigerator on the Flowage!

Thanks to Tatum Treland for designing and obtaining these magnets to benefit our lake and its denizens.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of invasive species. Clean all recreational equipment. www.ProtectOurWaters.org

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- ◆ **INSPECT and REMOVE** aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat, trailer and equipment before leaving the landing.
- ◆ **DRAIN** all water from boat, motor, live wells, bilge, bait buckets and other containers before leaving the landing.
- ◆ **ICE** your catch; don't leave landing with any live fish, bait or fish eggs.
- ◆ **DISPOSE** of any unused bait in trash, not in the water or on land.
- ◆ **RINSE** boat and equipment with hot or high pressure water, or **DRY** boat for at least five days.

CHIPPewa FLOWAGE
AREA PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOCIATION (CFAPOA)

Questions? Comments or to check on CBCW Job Opportunities join us at www.CFAPOA.org

INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT a/k/a Purple Loosestrife Patrol

Dennis Clagett, Committee Chair

It's apparent to me that the non-existing global warming is killing off our established soldier beetle population, our first line of defense in controlling purple loosestrife.

Four years ago we had 5-6 colonies of beetles that survived and multiplied annually. Last summer there was one (1). This year? Without the beetles helping, it points out how vitally important the adopt-A -Shoreline community of volunteers is in controlling the spread of purple loosestrife. In many ways these folks are similar to a small village where everyone's wellbeing involves helping others.



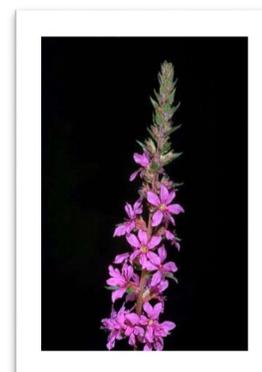
So please take a moment to read the list of adopt-A -Shoreline volunteers. These folks should be acknowledged for their dedication, and years (many have 10 or more) of commitment to the Chippewa Flowage, by working to control our number one invasive species; purple loosestrife. So when meeting these people please take a moment to say "thank you". They deserve it. If you would like to add your name and adopt a section of shoreline (or two) it will be much appreciated. Some of us are getting on in years (myself), and we could use some new blood. Give me a call 715 462 4814 or email rclagett@centurytel.net and we can discuss your options. There are some small sections within these areas that are open for adoption. Crane Creak, Crane Lake, Scott Lake, Kindergarten. On the east side, Cranberry Lake, Hay Creek, Moss Creek, South of Wagon Wheel, The Nursery. As you can see there are many areas that need adopting.

Please mark your calendars! This summer Northland College will be organizing a comprehensive shoreline survey for purple loosestrife across the entire Chippewa Flowage. Northland College will provide a refresher course on plant identification and survey protocol sometime in mid-July 2017. The last comprehensive survey was completed in 2006 and a previous survey was completed ca. 1995. This comprehensive survey will provide researchers with an opportunity to explore how this species distribution on the Chippewa Flowage has changed in the last 30 some years. We will need more volunteers to assist with these efforts. Volunteers will be asked (but not required) to attend a short training in the Hayward/LCO area. Volunteers will then be assigned a section of shoreline to survey (drive along and look for purple loosestrife and document the number of plants in each infestation) to complete sometime between the end of July and the middle of September.

We need some new volunteers to help with this program. The information we gather will be used as baseline documentation for years to come. Please help if you can my number is 715 462 4814 my email is rclagett@centurytel.net

THANK YOU TO OUR ADOPT-A-SHORELINE VOLUNTEERS LISTED BELOW. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET HELPED WITH OUR PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE ERADICATION EFFORTS, LET THIS BE YOUR YEAR!!! -Ed.

Sue Baron	T	Larry & Sharon Kirby	10,14	Terry & Debra Wall	D
Ron & Jan Bergman	1	Roger & Kathy Kisch	W	Darrell & Jean Weihert	E1-2
Dennis Clagett & Herman the Big Black Lab	M,P,Y	Wayne and Sandy Koenig	7		
Lisa Costa & Bill Hunkins	13	Dan & Denise Lessard	A1		
Gary & Linda Crank	3,5	Al & Nancy McElroy	J,O		
Tony DeJoodde	T	Terry and Kay Moe	A2		
Brenda and John Dettloff	I,Z	Jim & Jane Montag	R		
Jim & Marion Dier	S	Rick & Linda Olson	R,X		
Alan & Lynda Fish	8,17	Steve & Louise Paulson	H		
Whitey and Donna Gilbertson	2,18	Don & Sue Reinardy	E1-2		
Larry Gilmer	10,14	Steve & Jane Richardson	W		
Gary & Mary Lou Hosler	U	Roman Rowan	12		
Chris & Patti Jeffords	4	Nancy Ruhlow & Barb Schweig	15,16	Open	11
Jerry & Nancy Johnson	6,9	Barb Salomon & Connie Peterson	T		



CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS WILL BE BACK IN A BIG WAY: HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Wisconsin has delegated boater education about transporting invasive species between water bodies from governmental agencies (think: WDNR) to local lake entities. The Clean Boats Clean Water program provides \$4000 per public boat landing to do this, so long as 1) the local organization commits to 200 hours per landing or pairs of landings; 2) participants are trained in CBCW protocols for education and boat inspection; 3) the local organization contributes 1/4 of the cost of the program in value, either monetary or volunteer time and treasure; and 4) boat inspection data is recorded and entered into the DNR CBCW data base.

Your CFAPOA is the contracting organization to provide this service on the Chippewa Flowage. The four public landings that are being funded are Winter Dam, Hay Creek, CC North and CC South. Paired with these landings to achieve the required 200 hours of education and inspection are Deer Run Resort, Treeland Resort, Pat's Landing, and hopefully one other commercial landing. These resorts have committed to perform inspections and education with their own personnel at their boat launches to help the CFAPOA meet the 25% local contribution requirement. This is a breakthrough concept, approved by DNR, that will increase capacity to educate boaters about AIS, inform them about legal requirements to prevent transfer of biological matter between water bodies, and teach boat and trailer inspection techniques.

We have increasing AIS exposure for which local residents and businesses need to be vigilant: zebra mussels were recently found in Big McKenzie Lake near Spooner, and round gobies have been found in the Lake Superior drainage in Douglas and Bayfield Counties. This is not just about Eurasian Milfoil.



Please help us with staffing of our landings: be an inspector/educator or recruit one! Finding people to work the landings is our hardest job. Thanks for your support. Your CBCW Team.

YOUR ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SPREADING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!



2016 SEASON RESULTS:

- SPENT 440 HOURS
- INSPECTED 1002 BOATS AT 2 LANDINGS
- CONTACTED 1895 PEOPLE
- BOATS WERE IN 46 OTHER LAKES AND RIVERS WITHIN 5 DAYS OF LAUNCHING ON THE FLOWAGE, 20% OF THE BOATS CONTACTED
- 58% OF BOATS WERE BEING CONTACTED FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THE SEASON

TOWN OF HUNTER GARBAGE AND RECYCLE CENTER HOURS

Winter Hours began the last Saturday in September

Saturdays *only* 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Summer Hours begin the first Saturday in May

Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday and Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Purchase your Garbage Stickers at Hillman's Store

on County Road B for \$2.00 each

Website: townofhunterwi.net

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Mark Zich

(3 seats available)

Reach us at CFAPOA@yahoo.com

WDNR ON THE FLOWAGE: 2016-2017 Winter Fisheries Report.

Max H. Wolter, WDNR Fisheries Biologist



The fall fisheries survey numbers are in and they look pretty good. DNR and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission crews collaborated on the survey. The final catch-per-mile for young of year walleye (born in 2016) came out to 27.7 per mile of shoreline surveyed. Based on that number we can estimate that there are around 80,000 young of year walleye produced this year in the Chippewa Flowage. This is similar to the numbers from 2014, but a little higher. It's also the strongest year class since 2006. It's very encouraging to see the walleye population starting to produce natural born fish again. We will hope that trend continues in 2017.

The Hayward DNR Fish Team has been taking advantage of the warm weather to get out and do habitat work on a number of lakes in the area including the Chip. On January 18, DNR staff dropped 61 trees onto the ice in the Moss Creek area of the flowage. These trees will settle into the water when the ice goes out and will provide spawning habitat for perch and crappie, refuge for juvenile muskies, and will have wide ranging benefits to other fish and wildlife. They will also be great places to fish! A few of these trees needed to be cabled to ensure that they don't float off when the ice comes out. We took care to minimize any aesthetic impact to remove them when the summer 2017. There are several other areas of the flowage where similar habitat work will be conducted when conditions allow. There are several similar habitat work will be conducted in Hay Lake, near CC South, and Moss Creek on 1-18).



When the ice goes out in the spring we will be surveying the west side of the Chippewa Flowage. This survey will have a variety of objectives including checking up on progress of stocked and natural born walleye year classes, assessing changes in panfish populations, and tagging adult muskies so that we can estimate total population size in the near future. The survey will consist of a fyke netting component shortly after ice out and an electrofishing component after the water has warmed to 55-60F. Reports from previous surveys can be found on the DNR website by searching "Fisheries surveys".

The 2017 Conservation Congress Spring Hearings will be on Monday, April 10, 7:00PM at the Hayward High School. The list of questions should be available online shortly (search "Conservation Congress" on the DNR website). Please consider attending the meeting. This is the official advisory body to the WDNR on rule change issues for fishing and hunting.

 *Max H. Wolter*

Fisheries Biologist
Hayward Service Center
Bureau of Fisheries Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
(☎) phone: (715) 634-7429

THERE'S A NEW BAD GUY IN TOWN

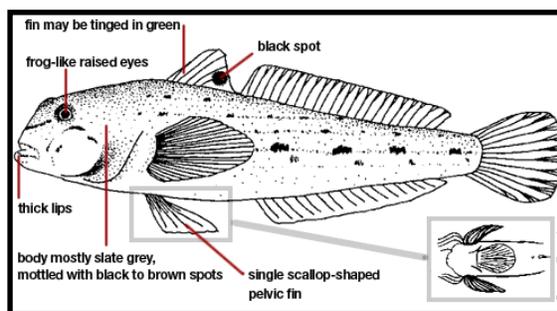
Dennis Clagett, AIS Committee Chair

A new invasive fish has been identified in Wisconsin and close to home at that. Its name is the round goby.

One of the first discoveries of the round goby was in the St. Clair River in 1990. It spread into the Great Lakes, appearing in Lake Superior in 1996 where it spread to all Superior's tributaries. This would include the Brule River located in Douglas County and borders with Bayfield County. Both are next door neighbors to the north. One would wonder how close gobies are to us now, or are they here? Round gobies can take over our native fish by eating their eggs and young of the year's fingerlings. Besides that they spawn 2-3 times a year. None of this is very encouraging. In 2015 round gobies were discovered in the lower Fox River immediately below the Neenah dam, and may have made their way upstream of the Neenah and Menasha dams into Lake Winnebago.

Remember the VHS outbreak in the St. Lawrence River in 2005 2008? Well it is still killing Muskies, and it's been discovered that the round goby is a known VHSV carrier (now referred to as VHSV: Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus). The extra V is for virus, and like some viruses it is capable of changing itself to adapt to differing situations, a moving target to populations of fish that have never been exposed to the altered virus, and have little defense against it. Researchers stress that VHSV is still in the Great Lakes and may also be in the Brule River.

Gobies can be identified by a single, scallop-shaped pelvic fin on the belly of the fish (our fish have two fins on the belly), a black spot on the front dorsal fin, frog-like raised eyes and thick lips. They range in size from 3 to 6 inches and have a mottled gray appearance. If you catch one of these things kill it and get it to the DNR.



FISH STICKS UPDATE

According to Matt Miller of Xcel Energy, Xcel and WDNR finalized the agreement for dropping trees into the Chippewa Reservoir to improve habitat. Matt summarizes the agreement as follows:

1. Approximately 200 trees are to be dropped in six zones
2. WDNR identified the shoreline area where the drops will have the greatest impact on fisheries habitat improvement
3. Only WDNR employees may participate in the cutting operation due to liability concerns.
4. NSPW (Xcel) is not considering any licensing of tree drops to private citizens or groups.



Please note the change to our earlier information that private tree drop permits might be available. If you are interested in a coordinated private landowner effort to improve shoreline habitat please contact our Shoreline Committee chair, Dennis Clagett or another one of your directors.

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS NEWS

Douglas Kurtzweil, CFAPOA Director and WCC Delegate

It's back...trolling the Chippewa Flowage!

The 2017 spring Fish and Game Hearings will be held on April 10th this year in every county in Wisconsin at 7PM. The Sawyer County Hearing will be at the Hayward High School.

The Number One item impacting the Chippewa Flowage on the ballot is a DNR proposed "permanent rule change" to allow motor trolling with 3 lines/angler and unlimited lines/boat.

In spite of the 3 year trial compromise agreed to in 2015; and, in spite of that experiment having another full season to be in place before the "sunset"; and, in spite of the results of the 2015 CFAPOA survey (27% support for outboard motor trolling, 53% for NO motor trolling at all, and 20% for electric motor trolling only), the DNR is pushing it's proposal forward.

I have heard of several conflicting scenarios of what might happen if this trolling proposal passes statewide but loses in the Sawyer County vote. The most recent and credible seems to indicate that if the proposal, as written, is defeated locally, we will have motor trolling with 1 line/angler and 3 trolling lines/boat.

The full questionnaire/ballot will be available online for your preview at dnr.wi.gov by clicking on the Conservation Congress link in a few weeks. There will also be a number of WCC initiated advisory questions on air and water quality issues, on other fish and game matters, and on the management/transfer/disposal of public recreational lands.

Remember--very often--decisions are made by those who care enough to show up!

Will you choose to be one of them??



CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE PARTNERS GROUP MEETS DECEMBER 1 AND MAY 18

The lake partners advisory group that meets periodically to discuss management issues for the Chippewa Flowage met December 1, 2017 at the Hayward DNR office. The next meeting is scheduled for the same location at 9 am on May 18. Items discussed in December included the winter drawdown and planned winter fisheries work. New drawdown categories have been finalized and are reprinted in this newsletter for your reference.



For more detailed information, minutes are kept for these meetings and are posted on our website. Members of the advisory group are WDNR, LCO, US Forest Service, Xcel Energy, CFAPOA and LCFRA. CFAPOA representatives are Connie Peterson, Terry Moe, Brenda Dettloff, Dennis Claggett, Mark Zich, Pete Czarnecki and Doug Kurtzweil.

For History
For News
For Resources
For Membership
For Events



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CFAPOA.ORG

Recommended Minimum Ice (Rough Guidelines for New Clear Ice Only)

2" or less
STAY
OFF!!



4 Inches
Ice Fishing



5 Inches
Snowmobile
or ATV



8 - 12 Inches
Car or
Small Pickup



12 - 15 Inches
Medium Truck



Department of Natural Resources



Categories of Drawdowns Performed on the Chippewa Reservoir.

Revised September 15, 2016

Water levels in the Chippewa Reservoir are dictated by an exemption order that was granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on September 28, 1984. The exemption order requires Northern States Power Company – Wisconsin (d.b.a. Xcel Energy) to maintain reservoir elevations between a minimum elevation of 1297.0 ft. and 1315.0 ft. (emergency full). The reservoir level may be lowered during the winter season below elevation 1297.0 ft. to accommodate maintenance requirements at the dam and under unusual precipitation conditions under mutual agreement with appropriate regulatory agencies. The normal full elevation of the reservoir is 1313.0 ft.. The FERC exemption order also requires a minimum flow of 90 cfs be discharged from the dam at all times; although, a side agreement between the Wisconsin DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Chippewa Indians increased the minimum flow to 250 cfs in 1987.

The Chippewa Reservoir dam was built to provide water for flow augmentation to downstream hydro plants and for flood control. The dam is operated such that it captures water during periods of excess river flow (typically spring and fall) and releases water during periods of low river flows (winter and summer months).

This information was developed in consultation with the Chippewa Reservoir Partners Group and will be used to help educate the public to the various drawdowns that may be utilized over the life of the dam.

Drawdowns throughout the history of the reservoir have been performed during the summer and winter months. Drawdowns of up to 22 ft. have been performed during the winter months whereas drawdowns of around 3.5 ft. have occurred during the summer months. Recently, conditions have allowed for coordination of drawdowns that have the potential to reduce invasive species prevalence and improve aquatic habitat, specifically for fish. The categories of drawdowns that are performed on the Chippewa Reservoir are summarized below:

Drawdown 1: Summer Drawdown (June 1 to September 30)

Summer drawdowns are performed during the summer months with the lowest elevations reached typically in late-September or early-October. A typical low elevation of 1310.0 ft is achieved by early-Fall, although summer drawdowns deeper than 1310.0 ft. have occurred during drought conditions.

Drawdown 2: Winter Drawdown (December 1 to March 31)

A normal winter drawdown generally occurs beginning in early December and ending in mid-March to early April depending on snowmelt runoff. The drawdowns can vary somewhat from year to year based on inflows into the reservoir, the need for downstream hydroelectric production (increased discharge), and the presence or lack of accumulating snowpack. Drawdowns performed during the winter season can reach the minimum elevation of 1297.0 ft., although the 10-year average drawdown is only 4.7 ft. (2006-2015) due to long-lasting drought conditions. Drawdown depths averaged 8.2 ft. from 1970 to 2015 and 13.0 ft. for the period of record (1923 to 2015). Refill of the reservoir in the spring-time usually occurs by early May.

Drawdown 3: Habitat Manipulation Drawdown (October 1 through March 31)

Xcel Energy has been a member of the Chippewa Reservoir Partners Group since 2006 to evaluate environmental conditions in the reservoir. After several years of meetings and research, the committee agreed in the fall of 2013 to perform an earlier (pre-ice) drawdown to return to a more traditional depth of winter drawdown. The hypothesis was that the deeper drawdown would benefit the fishery as well as provide control for the exotic plant species Eurasian Water Milfoil.

The drawdown involves a continuation of the summer drawdown into the fall months until a 5-foot drawdown (elevation 1308.0 ft.) is achieved in mid-November. Lowering the water before ice formation is less harmful to reptiles, amphibians, and furbearing mammals and also aids control of invasive plants. These considerations should be balanced with the need for recreational access to the flowage throughout the fall. The reservoir elevation would then continue to decrease during the winter months until an 8 ft. drawdown is achieved in early-March. A drawdown of 8 feet in the winter has been shown to provide considerable benefits to the fish community as a whole and can reduce invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil populations. Deeper drawdowns carry considerably more risk of fish kills and poor spawning conditions for fish in the spring. Refill of the reservoir may take longer than a normal winter drawdown but it is anticipated that water levels would fill to a satisfactory level by mid-May. Changes to the depth and timing of habitat manipulation drawdowns may be considered as new data becomes available.

Drawdown 4: Construction Drawdown (variable dates)

At some point in the future, it may be necessary to conduct a drawdown to perform construction work. Work at the dam may need to be coordinated through FERC as well as local stakeholders. The drawdown might involve decreasing water levels below the 1297.0 ft. minimum with approval from the FERC depending on the type of work that needed to be completed.

Drawdown 5: Emergency Drawdown (variable dates)

An emergency drawdown may need to be performed if a condition at the dam develops that creates a potential dam safety problem that could lead to the failure of the dam. In order to reduce the likelihood of a dam failure situation, or to minimize the uncontrolled release of water from the dam, the lake would be drawn down in advance. This drawdown would be undertaken very quickly and would involve consultation with FERC and local entities.

For winter drawdowns where drawdown depth will exceed 4 feet, the general recommendation from resource managers is to draw water in the fall, prior to ice formation, to minimize the amount of draw after ice formation. This may provide benefits including 1) reduce amount of hazardous ice shift or cracking after ice formation; 2) reduce impacts to aquatic fur bearers, reptiles and amphibians that overwinter in the ice transition zone; and 3) expose aquatic plant beds to help control invasive plants.

H:\references\Chippewa Reservoir\Chippewa Flowage Drawdown Categories.doc

MOTOR TROLLING TO BE VOTED ON APRIL 10

John Dettloff, Flowage Historian and Fishing Guide

On Monday April 10th, there will be a question on expanding motor trolling on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress questionnaire at the annual Spring hearing to be held at the Hayward High School at 7PM. Ever since the 2013 Spring hearings there has been a push by the Wisconsin DNR to allow motor trolling.

This push to allow motor trolling primarily grew out of the issue (according to Fisheries Supervisor Tim Simonson) of anglers being ticketed for dragging suckers with their trolling motors on non-trolling waters in Wisconsin. Although position fishing was allowed with the use of motors, once suckers were actually being dragged behind boats the anglers were considered to be guilty of trolling and many were ticketed. Because this left a bad taste with the ticketed anglers that was becoming a growing problem, Simonson stated that the wardens recommended motor trolling be legalized on all waters to resolve this issue.

So beginning in 2013, a variety of trolling questions began annually appearing on the Conservation Congress questionnaires. In 2013 the question was worded: **Do you favor allowing trolling statewide with up to 3 hooks, baits, or lures per angler?** The proposal was voted down overwhelmingly in Sawyer County with only 35 in favor and 61 against and statewide with 2391 in favor and 2775 against.

Even though this proposal was voted down statewide by the popular vote, the DNR still supported the statewide 3 line trolling proposal. However, at the Natural Resource Board's meeting that June to review all Conservation Congress proposals, concerns brought forward from a number of sportsmen encouraged the NRB to come up with a slightly more restrictive **compromise trolling proposal** to greatly reduce the chances for potential abuse and boater conflicts. This proposal took 17 of the counties which already had some trolling waters and proposed 1 line per person (and 2 lines per boat) on all of the remaining waters of those 17 counties, with the rest of the counties in Wisconsin having full 3 line trolling. Furthermore, this proposal would have a 3 year sunset.

This compromise trolling proposal was approved and put onto the 2014 Conservation Congress ballot where it was supported 82 in favor and 34 against in Sawyer County and 3646 in favor and 2250 against statewide. As a result, starting in July of 2015, the **compromise trolling proposal** then went into effect with an ending date in Spring of 2018. That is why the trolling issue is currently being revisited.

Additionally, on the 2015 Conservation Congress questionnaire was the question: **Do you favor a rule change to allow the trolling of a sucker or other fish as bait while casting and retrieving with another line and using the aid of a trolling motor statewide?** The results showed a tie in Sawyer County with 25 for and 25 against and support statewide with 1939 in favor and 1333 against.

In response to the **compromise trolling proposal** ending in 2018, on the 2017 Conservation Congress questionnaire will be the following question: **Do you favor allowing trolling with 1 hook, bait, or lure per angler (and a maximum of 3 hooks, baits or lures per boat) in Florence, Iron, Lincoln, Oneida, Sheboygan, Vilas, and Waupaca Counties and allowing trolling with 3 hooks, baits or lures per angler in all other waters?**

It's important to note that most of the above mentioned 7 counties where the trolling proposal is more restrictive to 1 line per angler and 3 lines per boat were also counties that were more protected by the **compromise trolling proposal** of 2014. Furthermore, most of those 7 counties, like Sawyer County, have long had some waters where trolling was legal.

The key question is: why has Sawyer County been omitted from the group of 7 counties that have a continuation of the more protective compromise trolling proposal? Sawyer County has a diverse variety of angling waters which offer people of practically every angling preference a place to enjoy. Some people like to troll; others do not. Some lakes are better suited for trolling; others are not. Why not try to satisfy the widest variety of anglers by continuing a form of the compromise trolling proposal in Sawyer County just as the other 7 counties have done?

The **compromise trolling proposal** that has been in effect for the past 2 seasons has proven itself to both solve the sucker fishing problem and allow those who wish to troll the opportunity to do it on a slightly restricted basis, while at the same time greatly reducing the potential for the occasional abuses that can arise from such a regulation. This proposal has worked well and with little to no complaint... thanks to the foresight of the Wisconsin Natural Resource Board.

I find it disappointing that our county wasn't included along with the other 7 counties in this year's trolling proposal. Although the question requires either a yes or no answer to the question, one thing is for certain: **a yes vote will permanently make ALL WATERS in Sawyer County full trolling waters with 3 lines per angler and NO LINE LIMIT per boat.** There is too much potential for problems and conflict to allow full blown trolling on all waters in our county. Therefore I encourage concerned sportsmen to vote **NO** on this proposal and encourage the powers at be to craft a similar, more protective, "compromise" trolling proposal for Sawyer County to fall in line with the other 7 counties.

Editor's Note: Senator Tiffany created the trolling carve out for the 7 counties, some or all of which are in his district. To date our local legislators have not done the same for the Flowage or Sawyer County in general. Have they been asked?

LOON RANGER UPDATE: SEASON END 2016

Chief Loon Ranger Mark Zich is taking a well-deserved vacation as this issue goes to the printer. For your information here are kudos from LoonWatch director Erica LeMoine for Mark and the rest of his Loon Rangers for their work last season. Mark will provide a summary of the year for our next newsletter –Ed.



Thanks from Erica to the Loon Rangers for doing such an excellent job. This was Erica's response after glancing at our (summary 2016) report. Great job and thanks for all of the effort and dedication to this program. - Mark

Chippewa Flowage Loon Rangers,

Thank you so much for sending in the monitoring form, and for the incredible amount of work you put into this! Might you have an excel spreadsheet of the loon observations summary? That would help me compile the data for an entire flowage loon season summary.

Wonderful work! Thank you to everyone who submitted data! I did receive the Olson's monitoring form, too, and have noted that the Flowage data will be completed using your form.

How is the Artificial Nesting Platform project coming along? It looks like many areas will potentially benefit from the platforms.

How many people are providing you with data? If there is enough interest, I would be happy to provide a training workshop for the Flowage Loon Rangers. I will also post training workshop dates and locations in the spring packets.

I look forward to reading through your packet thoroughly over the winter and will let you know if I have any recommendations.

Again, many thanks you and everyone who participated to help monitor and protect the loons on the Chippewa Flowage! You've done an incredible job!...

Erica LeMoine

LoonWatch Program Coordinator
Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute

Northland College

For information on the status of ANP construction and our loon ranger program contact: Mark Zich at markzich@rocketmail.com.



BIG CHIP NEWS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE BY SAWYER COUNTY LAKES FORUM

Your very own Big Chip News, the voice of the CFAPOA, was recognized for excellence at the November 10, 2016 meeting of the Sawyer County Lakes Forum. Along with newsletters from Conner Lake and Round Lake, we were commended for our content and appearance. Thanks to all of our generous contributors, including board members, committee chairs, organization liaisons, and community supporters and partners. Please notice writer bylines on their articles. We couldn't do it without them. And thanks to CFAPOA delegate Dennis Clagett for bringing this newsletter to the attention of the Lakes Forum.



PS: **NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED.** Your Editor is ending her term. IS THE NEW CFAPOA EDITOR YOU? Contact Barb Salomon or one of your other directors for details. Barb can be reached at barbara7748@msn.com or 303 947-1117.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Kelley Bohmann & Travis Butterfield (Contributors)

Bill & Deb Bowe

Mike & Phyllis Gardner

Charles Tibbetts



AND THANKS TO THESE NEW DONORS SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

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CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE AREA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. 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.



Please mark your Calendar

Jan-March 2017 No meetings scheduled (subject to change)

April 6, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting @ Hunter Town Hall

May 4, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting @ Hunter Town Hall

June 3, 2017 **Annual Spring Fling**

June 8, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting @ Hunter Town Hall

August 6, 2017 **Annual Membership Meeting and Picnic**

Board meetings begin
at 6:00 p.m. unless
otherwise announced

Newsletter Editor

Barb Salomon

Newsletter Advisors

CFAPOA Board Members

Newsletter Contributors

Friends, Directors and You!