

# CFAPOA

CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE AREA  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Established 1983

Spring 2020

## The Big Chip News

### View from the Chair May 2020

by *Connie Peterson*

#### SPRING FLING

The Spring Fling scheduled for June 7 is canceled. Hopefully, we can all attend in 2021. In view of the Covid-19 progression, we think that June 7 is too soon to promote a social event such as the Spring Fling.

#### SPEARFISHING

Max Wolter (WDNR) emailed an e-edition of a book titled *Growing Up Ojibwe – Spearfishing Adventures* and, although, it is a children's book, it is an interesting resource on tribal harvest and clears up some misconceptions. I learned that spearfishing is highly regulated. The link to the book is: [http://www.glifwc.org/publications/pdf/Spearfishing\\_web.pdf](http://www.glifwc.org/publications/pdf/Spearfishing_web.pdf).



#### WISCONSIN LAKES AND RIVERS CONVENTION ON-LINE SPRING PROGRAM

This year, it wasn't necessary to travel to UW-Stevens Point to attend the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention because it was offered on-line. I hope you attended because it was very good and I would like to see them continue the on-line presentation in addition to the in-person convention. I was particularly impressed with a presentation by John Magnuson, a limnology professor at UW-Madison. He spoke of a meeting at which world-wide limnologists compared their individual local data on inland lakes. He said that, according to the data, the earth has not been so warm since the Eocene epoch. His prediction is that, in the very near future, there will be 21 fewer days with below-zero temperatures in the Chippewa Flowage/Hayward area. [www.wisconsinlakes.org](http://www.wisconsinlakes.org)

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#### EARTH DAY

April 22 was the 50th anniversary celebrating Earth Day. Did you know that Earth Day has its origins in Wisconsin? Earth Day started in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson.

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## **LOON TIME**

No, I don't mean the loon time we are experiencing as a result of social distancing. The loons are back, and soon they will try to nest again.

When you live on a lake with loons, you almost view them as some of your wild pets. When they are sitting on their eggs, you are nervous and protective. When you spot a tiny chick, you are excited and apprehensive. When you see the chick catching a ride on a parent's back, you are hopeful. You recognize a good parent. How to keep the gangster floaters and predators away? Then, the chick is diving and flapping its tiny fuzzy wings and you feel like a grandparent.

When the loons return, they "pair-up" on their territorial lakes. Since they have just returned from a migration of 1,200 miles or more, they will spend a lot of time eating before the nesting and chick-rearing season. Our Flowage has been a great place for loons because of the many bays that allow privacy. Nesting loons do not share a bay or territorial area in sight of other loons.

Since 1993, Walter Piper, a professor of biology at Chapman University in California, spent his summers in Northern Wisconsin (mostly, Oneida County) with a team of graduate students and, presently, two post-doctoral researchers monitoring nesting, territorial and chick-raising behavior and weighs and bands chicks and adults. (Look at [www.loonproject.org](http://www.loonproject.org)) Using funding, principally from the National Science Foundation, his project has



accumulated a trove of information on age, physical health and survival over time. (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, January 26, 2020 – (MJS))

When loons return to the northland, they exhibit sex-specific natal dispersal pattern characteristics of birds generally: males settle close to where they were hatched and reared and females disperse in much greater distances. A female breeder on a lake could be tens or even hundreds of miles from where she reached near-adulthood. Hence, the loons in northern Wisconsin are part of a vast interdependent network that stretches to other counties, states and provinces. (Piper)

I believe that the same male will return to the same nesting area and calls for a female. Why do I believe that? The first loon to return to the bay closest to my house will call out, starting at the top of the loon musical scale and slide down the scale. Every other loon I've heard starts at the bottom of the scale and works upward. When I hear him in the spring for the first time, I always say, "Welcome back." I hope I hear him, again, this year. He seems to be a good breeder because it is common to see two chicks in our bay.

I have been observing the loons in my CFAPOA Loon Group Zone for five years. I know the common nesting areas where the male will bring the female to nest. 2019 was different. I observed fewer nests and fewer chicks – not a lot less but enough for me to notice. I would see a single loon swimming near a traditional nesting site and never see a partner. I would see a territorial pair swimming near a nesting site observe a nesting pair but never see chicks. I have no idea why things were different. 2019 featured a weird "ice-out" and the flowage was quickly full but I don't think those facts carry the changes.

The MJS reported Piper's developing conclusion that the loon population in northern Wisconsin may be declining and the main cause may be the dwindling fish supply. All do not agree with Piper. The federal North American Breeding Bird Survey and Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, also based on observations from volunteers, indicate that the population is stable. (MJS) The WDNR has not come to this conclusion and a biologist spokesperson points out that Piper may be observing only a specific area or that Piper is "on to something" and is on the

cutting edge of this science. (MJS) Northern College's Wisconsin Loon Population Survey, Loonwatch, ([www.northland.edu](http://www.northland.edu)) is the longest-running and only statewide survey dedicated to the species. Loonwatch estimated the population at 4,350 adult loons – an increase of 9.1% from the last survey in 2010. The next Loonwatch survey is scheduled for this summer on July 18. (MJS)

Piper does not feel his studies are at odds with the other surveys. He is paying special attention to juveniles and floaters (young adults with no established territory) and he is focusing on health and survivorship and implications for the entire population. Also, because loons live a long time (up to 25 years) it takes time for a decline in breeding success to reach the adult population. (MJS)

The loons that Piper is following indicate that the adult population is declining about 5% each year and he is looking at how the drop correlates with juveniles that migrate back to northern Wisconsin. Piper reports that

15 or 20 years ago, about half of banded chicks returned to northern Wisconsin but, now, only about one-sixth return. He says this is the most alarming fact. He is also finding that chicks are lighter (weighing less) and that from 1993-1998, 53% of broods were single-chick broods but from 2015-2019, the number jumped to 73%. Piper is focused on the vulnerability of loons as chicks and the possibility that there are inadequate supplies of small fish in the lakes where they are nesting. (MJS)

Other biologists point out that other causes could contribute to a declining population, if one actually exists, such as: singleton floaters (who begin to evict pair members and kill chicks when the floater is five years old); climate change warming (northern Wisconsin is the loon's present southern boundary); predators (increase in bald eagles); water pollution.

The state-wide survey, this July, will be telling. Our local Loon Rangers will be on the Flowage participating.

**STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY.**



## THANK YOU!

Courte Oreilles Lakes Association (COLA) and the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe want to thank you, for the broad, collective support you provided in our efforts to have the WDNR set a tighter, 10 ug/L standard for phosphorus in LCO.

It made a big difference. Your e-mails and letters and those from your associations and contacts, combined with the outpouring from the COLA members, tribal members and other concerned organizations helped overwhelm the WDNR and impress on them the protection of all of our lakes is a huge priority. They could not ignore this kind of attention.

WDNR has agreed and recommended the 10 ug/L for Lac Courte Oreilles to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board for adoption.

There is still a lot of work ahead. Convincing WDNR to adjust their thinking and recommend a more stringent criterion is an important step. But now COLA must secure a full lake impaired water listing for phosphorus and most importantly direct our full attention to reducing the phosphorus loading to LCO. But we have a standard, a goal to work toward and measure against.

So, again, thank you.

*Kevin Horrocks, President, COLA  
Brian Bisonette, Director, Lac  
Courte Oreilles Conservation  
Department*

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Patty Swaffield

## NEW MEMBERS

Richard & Angela Busch  
Kevin Krug  
Stanley & Donna Loebaka  
Brad & Becky Sanderson

## CONTRIBUTOR

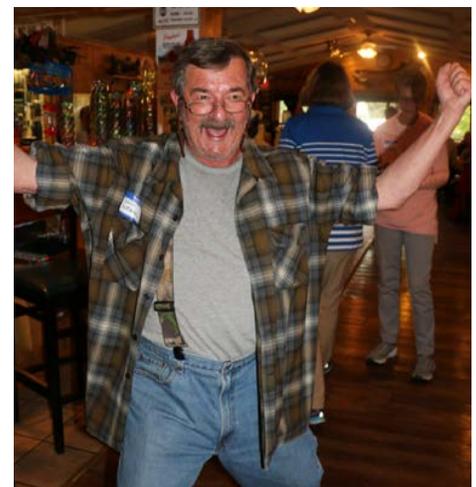
Mark & Trish Andracke  
Bobby & Kathy Baker  
Steve Bodenshatz  
Tom Bruseth  
Mike Chernohorsky  
Russell & Pat, Andy & Janice Platz  
Chesmore  
Jim Colbert  
Ed & Carol Dutton  
Eleanore Dzialo  
JB, Adam & Spencer Ellis  
Jim & Sue Fox  
John & Evelyn Grothendick  
Sharyn Gunderson  
Dan & Martha Hall  
Bruce & Diane Johnson  
Jerry & Nancy Johnson  
Dennis & June Kucia  
Lee Litzau  
Jim & Diane Mazzone  
Bryan & Kristen Mock  
Jeremy & Shayna Reichert  
John & Diane Sanchez, Jr.  
Chris & Tatum Treland Schlapper  
Steven & Marlene Schultz  
Ed & Lynn Sennett  
James & Marcia Suchy  
Cheryl & Betty Latsch Treland  
Harold & Jan Treland  
Tyler & Mallory Treland  
Paul & Dawn Tweed  
Walt & Pat Wyczawski  
Dale & Marylyn Zwiefelhofer

## Membership Level Dues:

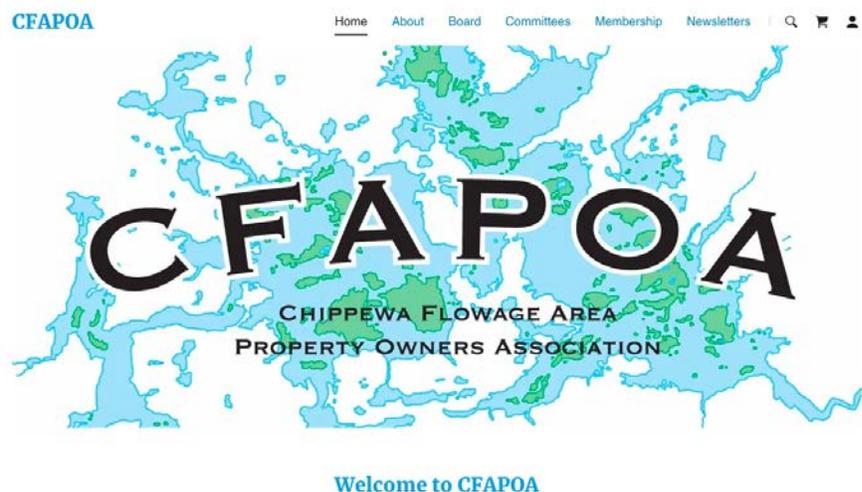
- \$25 Individual/Property
- \$26 - \$124 Contributor
- \$125 - \$999 Steward
- \$1,000 + Lifetime Conservationist

## STEWARD MEMBERS

Bill & Nancy Althoff  
Bill & Lynn Biederman  
Curt & Pat Chaon  
Bob & Pam Cummings  
James & Shirley Dolezal  
Gasper & Rita Ficarrotta  
Joe & Lora Garceau  
Mark & Peggy Haumersen  
John & Judy Hensler  
Rob & Rebecca Nesse  
Tony & Laurie Schubert  
Jason & Mary Speros



**Flashback to Spring Fling 2018**  
At least Doug won't win all the \$  
at Spring Fling!



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

# CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS PROGRAM STATUS FOR 2020

by Barb Salomon and Diane Hulke, CBCW Co-coordinators



For those who may be new to Chippewa Flowage or new to the CFAPOA, annually, for more than five years now, our organization receives a \*conditional grant from the DNR to hire watercraft inspector/educators. These inspectors work seasonally from Fishing Opener through Labor Day on the four primary Chippewa Flowage public boat landings roughly 14 hours a week per landing. This arrangement gives us eyes and a voice to mitigate transfer of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) into our lake through watercraft inspection and education of its users. This is referred to as the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program. We are committed to this program as it provides a layer of protection to our precious resource, the Chippewa Flowage.

Earlier this Spring, while Covid-19 was still background noise, we began to plan for staffing, training and kickoff for the 2020 CBCW season. As of March 26, we were informed that the Governor's 'Safe at Home Order' had impacted our program. We received word that due to DNR curtailment of travel and contact with others, we were to temporarily cancel for 2020.

Recent news informs us now that Wisconsin Fishing Opener is on schedule for the first weekend in May however 'Safe at Home' has been extended. This means there will be fishing and there will be boating on the flowage without

the usual inspection screening the CBCW program provides. This is an opportunity now for our CFAPOA membership to personally review and share with others our message of protection.

**Steps 1 & 2 – INSPECT AND REMOVE:** Plants and animals can easily attach to boat/equipment or become entangled in boat motors and fishing lines and then be moved to another lake.

**Step 3 – DRAIN BOAT AND EQUIPMENT -** Many organisms such as spiny water flea, juvenile zebra mussels, or plant fragments are microscopic and invisible to the naked eye and easily transported in water from one waterbody to the next.

**Step 4 - – DRAIN LIVEWELLS & CONTAINERS HOLDING CATCH -** If bait comes in contact with water that contains Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), the bait or water within the container can carry AIS that can be transported to another waterbody.

We are hopeful June will normalize some of our restrictions and CBCW staff will return. Until then, we thank you for your program support and hopefully you will consider yourself all deputies in our mission.

\* Conditional grant responsibilities are 200 hours of inspection per landing and a financial contribution from CFAPOA to fund 25 percent of the program payroll. CFAPOA

funding is offset with volunteer hours so volunteers are needed and appreciated.

## LOSS OF JERRY SMITH

We were very saddened in late January of the passing of our Senior CBCW inspector, Jerry Smith.

Jerry was a long-time member of the CFAPOA and a valued employee of the Chippewa Flowage CBCW team for the past four years. He could often be seen on the weekends wearing his blue CBCW hat and shirt at the Hay Creek or CC North Boat Landings. There he cheerfully greeting anglers and recreational boaters and their guests providing inspection and educational information on the prevention of AIS. Jerry frequently provided us valuable feedback. One of his favorite training methodologies was to engage the kids while he educated the parents. He felt if the kids heard the message, they would help the parents remember! Jerry, we think you were right! Thanks for the tip. You are dearly missed!

Stay Safe and Stay Well!

Diane Hulke and Barb Salomon, Co-Chairs CBCW, Chippewa Flowage



# Water Levels on the Big Chip

by Max Wolter

I have been hearing about some on-line chatter regarding oxygen levels and risk of fish kill on the Chippewa Flowage. Perhaps now is a good time to redistribute some facts about what we know regarding winter oxygen in the Chip. These are from years of oxygen monitoring by DNR, LCO Conservation, and citizens in addition to some modeling I did with that data. I would hope this would be given a higher standard of credibility than speculation and other on-line theories.

Here are the main points people should know:

**1** Winter oxygen is always in finite supply – From the moment the ice covers the lake until it leaves there is effectively no new oxygen entering the water, it is only consumed. Oxygen consumption is the result of decomposing biological matter (plants and algae), fish respiration, and anaerobic plant respiration. We know from past monitoring that we typically have about 115 days of good oxygen each winter in the Chippewa Flowage, enough to withstand almost 4 months of ice cover with no issue. Winters with a longer ice cover period have an elevated risk of winter kill. This year we had an early start to ice cover, so there is some reason for concern if the ice remains on later into the winter/spring.



**2** Not all areas are the same, not all species are the same – some areas of the flowage are more prone to winterkill based on a variety of factors. Some species have greater tolerance for low oxygen, including perch and pike. We do not expect conditions observed on one area to be representative of the whole lake.

**3** There isn't a lot we can do – running aerators is immediately brought up as the solution to winterkill. However, most people drastically overestimate the effectiveness of aeration. To be successful, an aerator has to operate all winter to maintain open water. Additionally, most estimate you'd need to keep 10% of the surface area open, which is logistically infeasible on a lake the size of the Chip and would severely impact many types of recreation. Even the aerator that used to operate on Crane Lake was determined to be mostly ineffective. Aeration is most successful on fairly small, shallow, lakes.

**4** Drawdowns don't have a huge impact on winterkill risk – We are still learning about the impacts of drawdowns, but based on what we have seen so far they do not change winterkill risk significantly. Having less volume of water may slightly elevate winterkill risk, but the biggest factor remains to be the length of winter/ice cover. Groundwater inputs are not believed to change significantly based on changes to drawdown timing, a theory that has been circulating. It is also not true that drawdowns reduce winterkill risk, another theory we hear occasionally. As of now there are no data that support either claim.

Please feel free to direct people to me if they are very interested in discussing this topic. This is always a challenging time of year to navigate.

Max H. Wolter  
Fisheries Biologist

*Membership  
News History  
Resources  
Events*

Visit our Website @  
WWW.CFAPOA.ORG

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..... #715-492-6704



Reach us at CFAPOA@gmail.com  
Visit our Website @ www.CFAPOA.org



Sign up at  
[www.Spoonerhatchery.com/adopt-a-musky](http://www.Spoonerhatchery.com/adopt-a-musky)

The Lake Chippewa Flowage Resort Association invites you to Adopt-a-Musky. Certificates are available at many Lake Chippewa Flowage resorts, or go on-line to fill out your adoption form. Follow your fish throughout its lifetime. Passive Integrated Tags (PIT) are scanned every time a musky is netted or shocked by the WDNR with size and location noted. Many fishing guides are also equipped with scanners to update musky data. Adopters will be notified to check the updated website to see if their fish has been recorded.

**Follow the movement and growth of your fish throughout its life.**

**\$5**  
(Suggested Donation)  
Your contribution is tax deductible.  
Tax ID #47-1250605

# INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT

## aka Purple Loosestrife Patrol

by Dennis Clagett

Do you remember last summer? The bay I live by was extremely choked with weeds to the point that boats could barely motor through. Others I have spoken with had similar experiences in areas of the lake that are relatively shallow. A great percentage of these weeds were Eurasian water milfoil (EWM), our number one invasive species. If you recall the previous fall and winter (2018-2019) there was not an early drawdown, and the lake froze over at full pool. This minimized the winter-kill of the EWM and the following summer we paid the price.

I want to make clear that these are non-scientific deductions, with no data to back-up my and other Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteer's observations. Last fall and winter (2019-2020) there was an early (Habitat) drawdown before freeze-up. It wasn't the full 5' that was agreed upon by the Chippewa Flowage Partners Group because ice settled in around Nov 23rd at about the 4' (1309) mark. The maximum drawdown of 7.89 ft. was on March 14, 2020, and should have killed many of the EWM roots, and this is where our Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers come in. This summer we will have an excellent opportunity to compare the density of EWM to last summer, and you can begin early in the season.

Late last spring I noticed thick infestations below the surface that I thought unusual, and by July it was on the surface choking the bay. Please contact me with a simple observation of what

you have noticed, and I plan to email to some volunteers also. For new members reading this and a refresher course for others, Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) is a submerged aquatic plant that poses a serious threat to a lake's native plants and the animals that depend on diverse living conditions. It is not a native of Wisconsin and has no natural predators or competitors. Initially it will hold fish, but it can form thick underwater colonies of stems that form vast mats that are all but impenetrable on the surface of the water crowding out both boats AND fish. This stuff is now the most troublesome submerged aquatic invasive species plants in Wisconsin. However, one thing it cannot tolerate is freezing of the roots as can most of our native plants. This is why I usually recommend an early pre freeze-up (Habitat) drawdown to get these roots exposed to freezing temperatures. As to our other troubling invasive: Purple loosestrife: This is where our Adopt-A-Shoreline started many years ago, and has been remarkably effective in controlling both its population and spread. So, a big thank you to all you volunteers! We always need new and younger members to step in and become part of this program.

Let's welcome new Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers Rob & Rebecca Nesse. They have adopted Section J.

You are welcome to contact me to sign up. If you cannot care for you adopted section please contact me 715 462 4814 or rclagett@

centurytel.net. Remember to keep your personal distancing of 6', and thank you for all you do!



### Raising Beetles.

Above are photos of our biocontrol program raising beetles to control purple loosestrife. Each of the nets will raise about 1000 beetles for distribution to high density infestations.

# Purple Loosestrife Patrol Volunteers



Name	East Section	West Section
<b>"Needs Adoption"</b>	<b>T</b>	
Ron & Jan Bergman		1
Mike & Lynn Muench	M	
Lisa Costa		12, 13
Gary & Lind Crank		3, 5
Tony DeJoode	T	
Brenda and John Dettloff	L, Z	
Jim & Marion Dier	S	
Alay & Lynda Fish		8, 17
Whitley and Donna Gilbertson		2, 18
<b>*Needs Adoption</b>		<b>10</b>
Gary & Mary Lou Hosler, Roman Rowen	U	
Chris & Patti Jeffords		4
Jerry & Nancy Johnson		6, 9
Larry & Sharon Kirby		10, 14
Roger & Kathy Kisch	W	
Wayne and Sandy Koening		7, 14
Rob and Rebecca Nesse	J	
Brian and Sara Priester	O	
Terry and Kay Moe	A2	
Rick & Linda Olson	R, X	
Steve & Louise Paulson	H	
Don & Sue Reinardy	E1-2	
Steve & Jane Richardson	W	
<b>*Needs Adoption</b>		<b>15, 16</b>
Barb Salomon & Connie Peterson	T	
Terry & Debra Wall	D	
Darrell & Jean Welihert	E1-2	
Greg and Amy Sanders		11
Mike & Phyllis Gardner	Q	
Gage Muench	P	
Dennis Clagett	Y	
Linda Treland	A1	

**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**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
May 7, 2020	Regular Board Meeting
June 4, 2020	Regular Board Meeting
June 7, 2020	<del>Spring Fling @ Treeland Resorts</del> CANCELED
July 9, 2020	Regular Board Meeting
August 2, 2020	Annual Members' Meeting @ Deer Run Resort
August 6, 2020	Regular Board Meeting



\*Board meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. CT at Town of Hunter Hall.

CFAPOA Newsletter Editor: Julie Thompson; Newsletter Advisors: CFAPOA Board Members;  
Newsletter Contributors: Friends, Directors and You!