

# The Big Chip News

## View from the Chair July 2020

by Connie Peterson

### *Annual Meeting and Picnic*

You should have received Notice that the Annual Meeting and Picnic for 2020 has been canceled. The only business from the Board of Directors is the election of Mike Gardner and Dennis Clagett as Directors for another term. Ballots were included with the Notice. There may be additional nominations for a vote. Hopefully, we can all attend in 2021.

### *Passing*

Dennis Winkler, a Member since 1998, has passed away. Our condolences to his friends and family.

### *Fake or Fact?*

How to Spot Fake News and How to Avoid it.

We are living in volatile times. Do not throw gasoline on the fire.

“A lie can travel half-way around the world before truth gets

its boots on.” This quote is said to be attributed to Mark Twain, although there is no written or oral record of that fact. The quote and its potentially false attribution are a reminder that news travels fast (and can easily go viral) but is not always accurate. We are a society of information consumers, now more than ever. However, information overload can make it more difficult to make decisions and to differentiate the real from the fake. This is also true for the consumption of news.

In the past, when most people relied on print newspapers for their news from the day before. Now, the expectation is instant delivery of digital news. This goes hand-in-hand with the reader’s desire to reinforce his or her existing beliefs and disregard those that are contradictory. How many times have we read some social media that strikes us and we quickly “think”, “Yeah. That’s good. I

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like and support that.” And then bam, we repost the statement like an evangelist. Then, when other comments are posted, we may feel the need to defend our original post. Notice how the majority of the posts we received reconfirm our beliefs? That is because through other posts and “likes” we have indicated our preferences and beliefs to “trolls.”

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According to Claire Wardle of FirstDraftNews.com, there are seven types of misinformation and disinformation: fabricated content, imposter content, misleading content, manipulated content, false content, false connection and satire or parody. Fabricated content is totally false and intended to do harm through deception. Imposter content makes readers believe that it is from a verifiable or credible source but it is not. Imposter content is often in video form because it is easy to splice together snippets that create something false.

We need to slow down the intake of information and give concentrated thought to whether the information we are receiving is true, false or somewhere in between. The first step is to figure out when to be worried – when to spot a red flag. If something seems too amazing or too horrifying, it just might be false. Be on the lookout for news that overtly appeals to strong emotions or plays on a sense of partisanship or bias.

The second step is to make sure the URL or link is legitimate. This can be tricky. I have a great-niece that posted a partisan claim which linked it to, let's say, XXXX.org. XXXX.org did not exist but XXXX.com did exist and it was a children's outdoor organization and not at all related to her posted claim. Be careful, out there. Checking the origin of the information is paramount.

Also, try to determine what the story or information really means. Sloppy writing, poor grammar and misspelled words are a red flag that a site or story is fake.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. ([www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)) There is also [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org) which is a project of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center, a nonprofit organization that acts as a consumer advocate for voters. Its stated mission is "reducing the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics." By monitoring the content of television and advertisements, debates, speeches, interviews and news releases, [factcheck.org](http://factcheck.org) helps to increase public awareness of what is fake information and what is truthful.

Snopes.com bills itself as



the "Internet's go to source for discerning what is true and what is total nonsense." The site's team of researchers has been fact checking for over 20 years and the site boasts an impressive archive based on topics, as well as ratings: true, mostly true, a mixture, mostly false, false, unproven, mis-attributed, outdated or scam. Snopes.com tends to focus its fact checking and fake news debunking on hot topics, the top 50 rumors circulating on the Internet and current news stories. Snopes.com researchers list the materials they use to check facts so users can

further verify information.

Many factors influence how we process material. A critical eye will always be important in the fight against fake news and deceptive information.

## ***Good Bye***

Three terms as your Board chair brings me to the end of a special journey to preserve and protect the Chippewa Flowage. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the fine people who serve on the Association Board and volunteer their time and resources on behalf of their neighbors, the lake, its habitat, and its creatures great and small. There have been so many challenges, so many opportunities, so many accomplishments. I will not list all of the people who have contributed to our successes, for fear of leaving someone out, but the list is long and the contributions mind boggling.

And yet our "to do" list is long, waiting only for you to step up and step in. There is no time like the present, when lake life is quieter than in recent years, to add yourself to our cadre of volunteers. We need more Member involvement. Join the Board; be an officer.

- Want to create a "meet up" group to introduce new neighbors to each other or the Flowage's resources?
- Remediate invasive plant infestations?
- Work with Clean Boats Clean Waters to keep unwelcome species out of the lake?
- Help host social events as we safely gather again?



*A Project of The Annenberg Public Policy Center*

The CFAPOA is our forum for all of that, and your voice working with the Lake Partners, resort associations and the Conservation Congress to recommend operating protocols and regulations to preserve and enhance Flowage resources. Please, lend a hand or a shoulder. This only works when we all pitch in.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. See you on the lake.

### ***CFAPOA Annual Meeting Notice and Ballot***

The CFAPOA Annual Meeting has been scheduled for August 2, 2020. Because of the risks of Covid 19, the Annual Meeting and the Annual Picnic will not be held in person in 2020. The only business the Board of Directors is bringing before the Members is the re-election of Directors Mike Gardner and Dennis Clagett. The Member vote must be received by email reply or by USPS mail no later than August 2, 2020 (at CFAPOA Box 555 Hayward WI 54843) in response to this Notice.

One vote will be accepted for each Membership.

Please email completed ballot or just responses to [CFAPOA@gmail.com](mailto:CFAPOA@gmail.com).

Shall Mike Gardner be re-elected as a Director of the CFAPOA?

YES  NO

Shall Dennis Clagett be re-elected as a Director of the CFAPOA?

YES  NO

In addition, I nominate the following Member for Director: \_\_\_\_\_ (If there is a nomination for the Board, a follow-up process/vote will occur.)

The next Board of Directors meeting is August 6, 2020.



On July 18, several people teamed their boats to push back the bog that was blocking boat traffic at the County Rd CC bridge.

## **CFAPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019**

- Connie Peterson, Chair ..... [conniepetersonclp@msn.com](mailto:conniepetersonclp@msn.com)  
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..... #715-462-4771
- Brian Priester, Director ..... [brianpriester@gmail.com](mailto:brianpriester@gmail.com)  
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- Julie Thompson (Newsletter/Website)..... [juliet@bevcomm.net](mailto:juliet@bevcomm.net)  
..... #715-492-6704

Reach us at [CFAPOA@gmail.com](mailto:CFAPOA@gmail.com)  
Visit our Website @ [www.CFAPOA.org](http://www.CFAPOA.org)

# Clean Boats Clean Waters Summer Update

by Barb Salomon and Diane Hulke, CBCW Co-coordinators

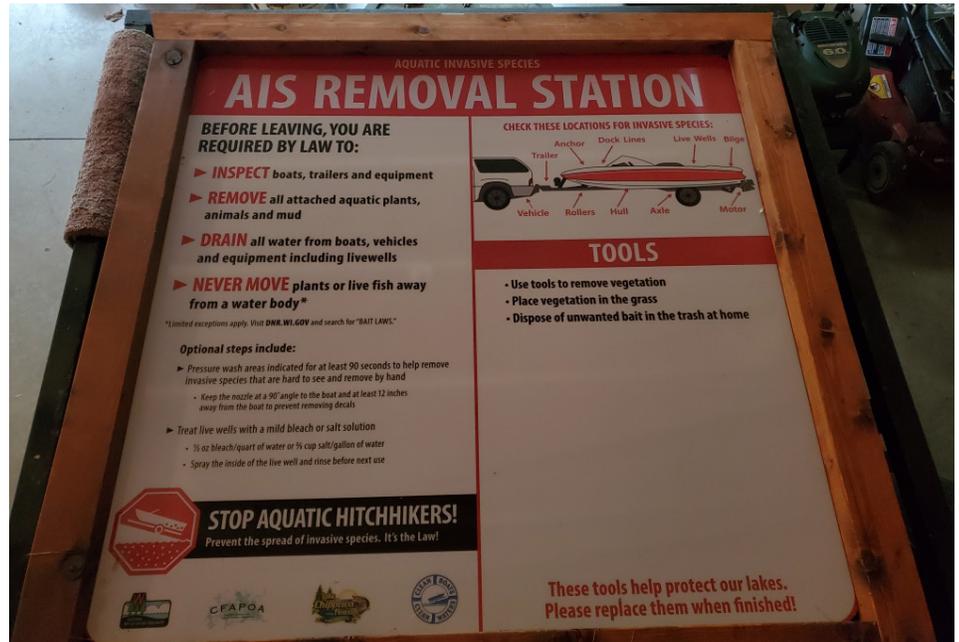


At their meeting in June, our Association Board of Directors approved deferral of our Clean Boats Clean Waters AIS inspection and education program to next season. Prior to the WDNR's recommendation of a delayed program start of June 1, we lost all but two of our inspectors due to safety concerns surrounding the COVID 19 pandemic. Other employers in the county were already experiencing difficulties with hiring and COVID protocols. Due to these circumstances, the decision of "Better Safe than Sorry" carried the day.

For context, according the WDNR data available as of July 21, in Sawyer County only Round Lake (Peninsula and Linden road ramps) and Lake Chetac are running full programs. Whitefish Lake appears to have just one inspector working and Big Sissabagama has reported just one day of inspections.

WDNR has worked to make CBCW as safe as possible for programs that have decided to go forward this summer. We thank its staff for those efforts, including providing masks for all inspectors to be worn when they are on the job. You can see the WDNR and UW Extension-Lakes effort in their COVID materials on the web. <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/cbcw/FAQ.aspx>

Our good news is we have completed the creation of new 4' X 4' informative 'AIS Removal Station' signs to be installed at



our four primary public boat ramps. A resounding thanks to Pete Czarnecki for his handsome framing of the new big CBCW signs for the public ramps. These have been completed and only await WDNR's go ahead for installation. And thanks to Ray Fleszar and Randy Hulke for delivering finished signs to Treeland Resorts and R&R Bayview-Oak Shores where the resorts are installing their own.

Ramp installation was delayed by a COVID-related prohibition of volunteers from working on WDNR projects, and more recently by WDNR's change of property manager for the Flowage. We are following up to see when your volunteer troupe of Ray, Randy, Mark Zich and Terry Wall can get the signs in the ground at the landings.

So our 2020 \$20,000 grant for Clean Boats Clean Waters is being rolled over to 2021. All grantees

were given this option as a strategy to deal with COVID-19's impact on individual programs.

In the meantime, please keep passing the word and doing what it takes to make our lake as free as possible from Aquatic Invasive Species:

**INSPECT** boats, trailers, equipment.

**REMOVE** all aquatic plants and animals.

**DRAIN** all water from ALL watercraft, trailers, equipment.

**NEVER MOVE** plants, live fish, bait\* away from a water body.

\*check regulations to move bait.

And please think outside the box! How can you help? How might you and your equipment inadvertently be moving AIS?

Thanks to you all and be safe!



# Uncertainty Surrounds Many Fisheries Initiatives

by Max Wolter

I hope everyone in the Chippewa Flowage community is staying safe and healthy. I also hope you've had some time to get out fishing this summer. Fishing continues to be one of the best social distancing activities. And it has the built-in bonus of potentially coming home with a meal. The original take-out food, if you will.

I wanted to provide some updates on various aspects of fish management and some of the initiatives we had going on the Chip. As you will see, the name of the game right now is uncertainty. There is just a lot that is not yet known about how and when we will get back to normal in the DNR fisheries program. We did not conduct any spring surveys, which has some implications, as you will read below. The other big theme is missed opportunities. Of course, COVID has many very serious implications and fishing issues are not even close to the top of the list. But the timing of this societal disruption is unfortunate with respect to some of the things we had going on for fisheries initiatives. Here are some bullet items on different fisheries topics:

## ***Pike Improvement Project***

I've had a lot of people ask if the Pike Improvement Project that ran in 2019 had the intended effect of reducing pike abundance and increasing size. Unfortunately, we cannot answer those questions because there was no Spring survey in 2020. We may still have

opportunities to gather that data, but we may find that it will be harder to interpret results a year or two down the road. I do hope to provide an update on this in the future.

## ***Regulation Changes***

There were two regulation changes that were being considered, one for walleye and one for panfish. 2020 would have been an opportunity to gather more information that might have supported those proposals. These proposals are still under consideration internally with DNR. If passed they would appear at a future Conservation Congress Spring Hearings. I will update CFAPOA as that develops.

## ***Walleye Population Estimate and Creel***

2021 (next year) was slated to be a really big year for fisheries data collection on the Chip. The plan was to do a massive mark-recapture population estimate for walleye (in other words, answer the question "How many walleye are in the whole lake?"). A creel survey that estimated what anglers were catching and harvesting was planned to happen as well. These are huge efforts, so we only get the chance to do them about once every 10 years. With surveys canceled in 2020, it is unclear if this will still be scheduled for 2021 or if it will be pushed back to a later year.

## ***Stocking***

This is not a highly impactful issue since the Chip walleye are

back on track and reproducing naturally. But it could have some minor impacts on musky stocking. DNR will be stocking walleye in some lakes throughout Wisconsin in 2020, but muskellunge are not being raised or stocked. The Chip was scheduled to receive a small number of muskellunge in 2020. Again, it is unknown if this will all be pushed back a year or if we will reshuffle the schedule in other ways. DNR stocked 5,003 muskellunge in 2019, so the future of the musky fishery looks good and there are no reasons to be overly concerned about this change.

## ***Draw-down and Fall Surveys***

I am hopeful that we might be able to get out in September/October for our usual fall walleye survey. That survey gives us critical information on the year class strength of walleye, and to some extent, musky. That's one of the key indicators of whether the draw-down is doing what we hope it should do for the fishery. We also have a 30+ year continuous streak of those surveys, which gives us a great long-term picture of the fishery. Let's hope we can keep the streak alive.

I'm guessing people have more questions than what I was able to answer here. You are always welcome to email me directly at: max.wolter@wisconsin.gov. Heck, maybe even send me a fishing report. You all are the ones who are collecting the fish data this spring!

# *Invasive Species*

## *Committee Report*

### *aka Purple Loosestrife Patrol*

by Dennis Clagett



As I write this, Summer is a little more than half over, and the results of last Winter's early (habitat) draw-down before freeze-up is noticeable with a large decrease in Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) our number one invasive species. Last Summer (2019) the bay I live on was choked with EWM to the point that boats could barely motor through. Others I had spoken with had similar experiences in areas of the lake that are relatively shallow. This year, that is no longer the case with very little of the invasive present.

Many of our neighboring lakes are struggling to control Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) by using chemicals and expensive mechanical harvesters with no real solution in site. Please keep this in mind and give some credit to Xcel Energy who are willing to work with the Chippewa Flowage Partners Group by controlling the late fall/early winter water levels when the need arises. The Chippewa Flowage

Partners Group has been in existence since 2006 to assist in management activities of the lake(reservoir) and surrounding lands to benefit the whole ecosystem of the Chippewa Flowage. The group includes the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association, Lake Chippewa Flowage Resort Association, Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Wisconsin Conservation Congress (Sawyer County) and Xcel Energy.

But these draw-downs have little effect controlling another of our troubling invasive species- purple loosestrife. Here we are using membership volunteers to harvest the plant flower-heads before they turn to seed in the fall. This is how 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! Assisting these volunteers is our Beetle Biocontrol program. This year's program had to be scaled back because of the Covid 19 virus canceling help from the conservation arm of the Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO). However, a limited amount (about 4000) beetles were raised and released on the Twin Bay Bogs as was done last year. Progress is evident as of 7/10/20 with a noticeable reduction in plants (so far!)

We always need new and younger members to step in and become part of this program. 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](mailto:rclagett@centurytel.net). Remember to keep your personal distancing of 6', and thank you for all you do!

# Purple Loosestrife Patrol Volunteers

Name	East Section	West Section
<b>"Needs Adoption"</b>	T	
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 Koenig		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 Weihert	E1-2	
Greg and Amy Sanders		11
Mike & Phyllis Gardner	Q	
Gage Muench	P	
Dennis Clagett	Y	
Linda Treland	A1	



## Membership Update

by Patty Swaffield

### *New members*

John & Anne Nikolai

### *Steward members*

Rich & Lora Boley

John & Shelley Lamoreaux

### Membership Level Dues:

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



**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>
August 6, 2020	Regular Board Meeting Virtual on Zoom

\*Board meetings are currently held at 6:00 p.m. CT virtually on Zoom.



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