

Established 1983

CFAPOA

Winter 2019-2020

CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE AREA
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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The Big Chip News

View from the Chair

by Connie Peterson CFAPOA Chair

Parties

The attendance at the **Holiday Christmas Party** at the Rusty Hook was outstanding. It was a bitter-cold, snowy night and it seemed many people were seeking a little fun and company. Wow! The food was so good and fresh. The 50-50 winners were happy and so were the other members who carted home the many prizes. Here is another big shout-out thank you for all those who donated prizes. And here is another big shout-out thank you to our social chair, Patty Swaffield who did another terrific job producing another party.

The next party is the **Spring Fling on June 7** at 4:00 pm at Treeland Resorts on Hwy B. Please mark your calendars. Your attendance is important because the Spring Fling event is in jeopardy due to poor attendance. So please show us that you want to continue this event and have a good time at the Spring Fling.

CFAPOA 2020 Goals and Projects

At its December 12, 2019 meeting, the Board of Directors voted to focus on the following goals and projects in 2020.

1. Support the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program;
2. Support the Loon Monitoring Program;
3. Support the Purple Loosestrife Control Program
 - a. Expand Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol from a 4,000-beetle count to a 20,000-beetle count.
 - b. Partner with LCO to dig loosestrife rootstock;
4. Support fisheries enhancement activities (feeding, stocking and habitat improvement);
5. Support aquatic vegetation studies and surveys;
6. Explore an associate-member program to expand communication and funding for projects; and
7. Evaluate and improve the CFAPOA web site.

Draw Down Decision Tree Lake Partners Group

The Lake Partners Group (stakeholders in the Flowage – CFAPOA, Resort Association, LCO, WDNR, U.S. Forest Service and residents) met at the WDNR office on December 12, 2019 to further discuss a decision-tree approach to analyze winter drawdowns of the Flowage. The Partners Group has been in existence since 2006 to assist with management activities of the reservoir and surrounding lands to benefit the Flowage ecosystem. The Partners Group made good progress for the creation of a decision tree. The purpose of a decision-tree approach to a winter drawdown is to provide an objective basis for a drawdown rather than relying on only anecdotal information. At the September 2019 meeting, the Partners Group gave the decision-tree point system a test run and as a result, recommended a Habitat Drawdown for Winter 2019-2020.

The next Partners Group meeting is **April 16** at 9:00 am at

Continued on Page 2



View from the Chair
Continued from Page 1

the WDNR offices on Hwy 27. Recommendations concerning the fisheries will be made to the Conservation Congress for its spring meeting.

COLA Support Letter

In October, 2019 the Board of Directors authorized a letter to WDNR in support of the Courte Oreilles Lakes Association (COLA) in its efforts to revise NR 102 to establish the site-specific phosphorus criterion for Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) at 10 parts per billion (ppb) limit. LCO is a neighbor lake of the Chippewa Flowage and we join with COLA's concern for the quality of the northland.

We supported COLA's quest with the WDNR to set a lower phosphorus concentration limit from the current 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 parts per billion (ppb) limit for the LCO lakes because the present criterion endangers the water quality and public health and safety. LCO is a rare, Outstanding Resource Water, and one of only five lakes in Wisconsin with a "two-story" fishery supporting both cisco and lake whitefish. An upper-limit of 10

ppb of phosphorus is essential to preserve LCO's water quality and two-story fishery. LCO has faced phosphorus pollution for decades. In 2014, LCO's largest Bay was designated by the EPA and WDNR as an impaired water body because of high phosphorus concentrations. In 2018, all of LCO was listed as an impaired water body because of low dissolved oxygen – a result attributable to high phosphorus concentrations.

We agreed with COLA that the current limit of 15 ppb phosphorus is not adequately protective for LCO. Big LCO has already experienced extensive whitefish and cisco die-offs, and there is ample evidence showing that high levels of phosphorus led to oxygen depletion in the critical habitat layer. The high phosphorus and low dissolved oxygen levels will continue to result in the loss of fish habitat and lead to a wholesale change in the ecology of LCO.

We pointed out that COLA presented evidence to WDNR in 2016 showing that the current 15 ppb standard is a disaster for the two-story fishery. WDNR failed to respond and COLA and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of the Lake

Superior Chippewa joined in legal action in Dane County Circuit Court to require WDNR to establish a revised phosphorus standard. On July 2, 2019, after more than three years of litigation, COLA and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band prevailed. and the Court ordered a revised phosphorus standard. however, the proposed rule change also includes an option B – no change from the current 15 ppb. It is obvious that many lakes are facing such severe challenges from phosphorus. The status quo is not in the interest of public health. Recreational uses are threatened by toxic blue-green algae, mats of aquatic vegetation and invasive plants. (To date, there has been no action from WDNR.) This is also a reminder to be mindful of phosphorus risks to our Flowage. Use phosphorus-free laundry detergent. Leave a natural buffer intact along your lakeshore and minimize your use of fertilizer.

The days are getting longer. The seed catalogs have arrived in the mail. But it is a long time to the Spring Equinox. Stay warm and be well.



Clean Boats Clean Waters

Barb Salomon and Diane Hulke, CBCW Co-coordinators

Welcome to the CFAPOA Clean Boats Clean Waters 2020 season. Our application for another year of inspections at Winter Dam, Hay Creek, CC North and CC South DNR boat ramps was approved and our advance from the total of \$16,000 in grant funds will be paid to us this winter. From then until our final request for reimbursement of Clean Boats program expenses, the Association pays for current program costs.

We usually start looking for our group of inspectors in early March. However, if you know someone, including yourself, who would be interested in training and service as a boat inspector and aquatic invasive species educator, please contact us at your earliest convenience. We will be looking for several new people to fill out our roster. You can work as a volunteer or earn a \$12.50 per hour wage. Our inspection hours are on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays beginning Fishing Opener weekend and ending in September after Labor Day. We work flexibly with our staff to accommodate personal schedules while maintaining our best possible coverage of the Flowage's public ramps.

Last year we inspected 3600 boats and interacted with 8800 people. Our goal this year is to

exceed 4000 boats and 10,000 people by adjusting our inspector scheduling to increase coverage at peak launch use times. We would also like to increase our inspection hours but we can only do that if we have volunteer labor to supplement our paid inspectors!

As a joint project with the Lake Chippewa Flowage Resort Association we will be installing bigger signage and tools at the public ramps to designate boat cleaning stations. Locations have been identified and approved by DNR; volunteer Pete Czarnecki is assembling the signs this winter for installation in spring. Treeland Resort, Timber Kove and R&R Bayview are the first of our resorts to be installing the same signage and tools. We hope they will be followed by other LCFRA members with boat ramps.

We also welcome the help of members interested in helping manage our project, including mentoring inspectors, data entry, scheduling, and working on special events such as fishing tournaments.

Enjoy the winter season, and look for us in Spring as we organize Clean Boats Clean Waters to protect the Flowage from Aquatic Invasive Species for another year.

Barb Salomon and Diane Hulke,
CBCW Co-coordinators.

Clean Water Lobby Day

Join citizens from across Wisconsin at Clean Water Lobby Day, January 30 in Madison

Your voice alone carries great power.

But your voice, in chorus with hundreds of fellow clean water advocates, is more powerful than you can imagine.

Let the Wisconsin Legislature hear that voice by speaking directly to lawmakers, in the Capitol building itself. Wisconsin Conservation Voters, Wisconsin Lakes, and other conservation organizations are proud to offer "Clean Water Lobby Day" the afternoon of January 30 in Madison. We'll kick things off with some presentations and information session on the issues and how to lobby, and then head over en masse to talk to legislators in small groups.

With the Speakers Water Quality Task Force just releasing their proposals and bills, there will be lots to talk about and lots to fight for. After all, every Wisconsinite deserves clean water: from the tap, in the ground, and in our rivers, streams, wetlands, and lakes.

<https://conservationvoters.org/events/clean-water-lobby-day>



HOLIDAY PARTY





Please update us with any address, phone number & email changes:

GIFT SELECTION

Members making total contribution of \$125 - \$499 may select ONE of the following three gifts (check one):

Men's Port Authority Silk Touch Polo **OR** Ladies Port Authority Silk Touch Polo
Size: _____ (S through 10XL) and (LT through 4XLT) Size: _____ (S through 6LX)

Men and Ladies Polo Colors (please choose.)

White Red Pink Burgundy Maroon Lavender Light Blue Navy Teal
 Green Kelly Green Coffee Bean Steel Grey Black

OR Tablet Sleeve

OR Laptop Sleeve

Color: Black Blue Denim Black Plaid Brown Plaid

Members making total contribution of \$500 - \$999 may select ONE of the three gifts above or ONE of the gifts below

Soft Shell Vest Men's size (S-4XL) _____ Ladies size (S-XL) _____

Color: Navy Red Black

Lifetime Conservatoinist members making total contribution of \$1,000 or more may select ONE of the four gifts above or one of the gifts below:

3 in 1 Jacket Men's Size: _____ (S-4XL) Ladies Size: _____ (S-XL)




Men's Color: Black Charcoal/Burnt Orange Imperial Blue/Navy
 Navy/Mountain Blue

Ladies Color: Navy/Denim Black/Charcoal Red/Black



Summary of 2019 Loon Observations Annual Lakes Monitoring Program (ALMP)

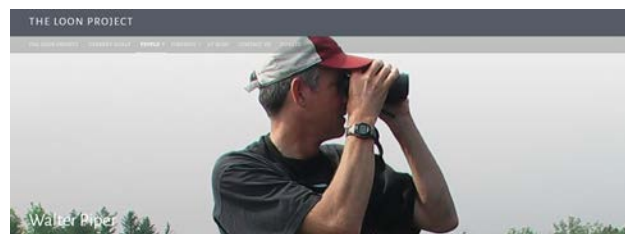
Erica LeMoine, Northland College LoonWatch Program Director recently sent an email to CFAPOA thanking all of the Chippewa Flowage LoonWatch volunteers for an “impeccable job” in providing 2019 observations. Erica also offered to provide volunteers with a training session which Jim Dier is currently attempting to coordinate. More information this spring if we are able to find an acceptable training date sometime in June 2020. Anyone interested in participating in the ALMP are welcome to contact CFAPOA.

A summary of the 2019 loon observation report the CFAPOA submitted to loon watch includes the following:

-  Normal ice out, normal rainfall and a full reservoir in the spring of 2019 provided good conditions for returning loons observed in early April. Nesting was not impeded; however, some negatives to nesting success included black flies chasing nesting loons off nests, jet ski encroachment, and an abundant eagle population which results in chick predation.
-  The graph on Page 9 depicts a decline in all categories when compared to recent previous years. The total loon population declined approximately 23% from 2018 where loon rangers observed a total of 159 loons compared to 122 loons observed in 2019. We did however have fewer recorded daily observations this year down from 83 last year to 59 this year which may have played a role in viewing fewer loons. However, this decline was observed by other statewide loon rangers especially those in the northeast region of Wisconsin.
-  Loon rangers maintain 8 artificial nesting platforms (ANP's) which aid in providing loons a nest site that rises and falls with fluctuating water levels. This reduces the chance that near shore nests with eggs are flooded prior to hatching. For the first time we have observed two successful loon pairs nesting on ANP's with both nest sites having a successful hatch of chicks.

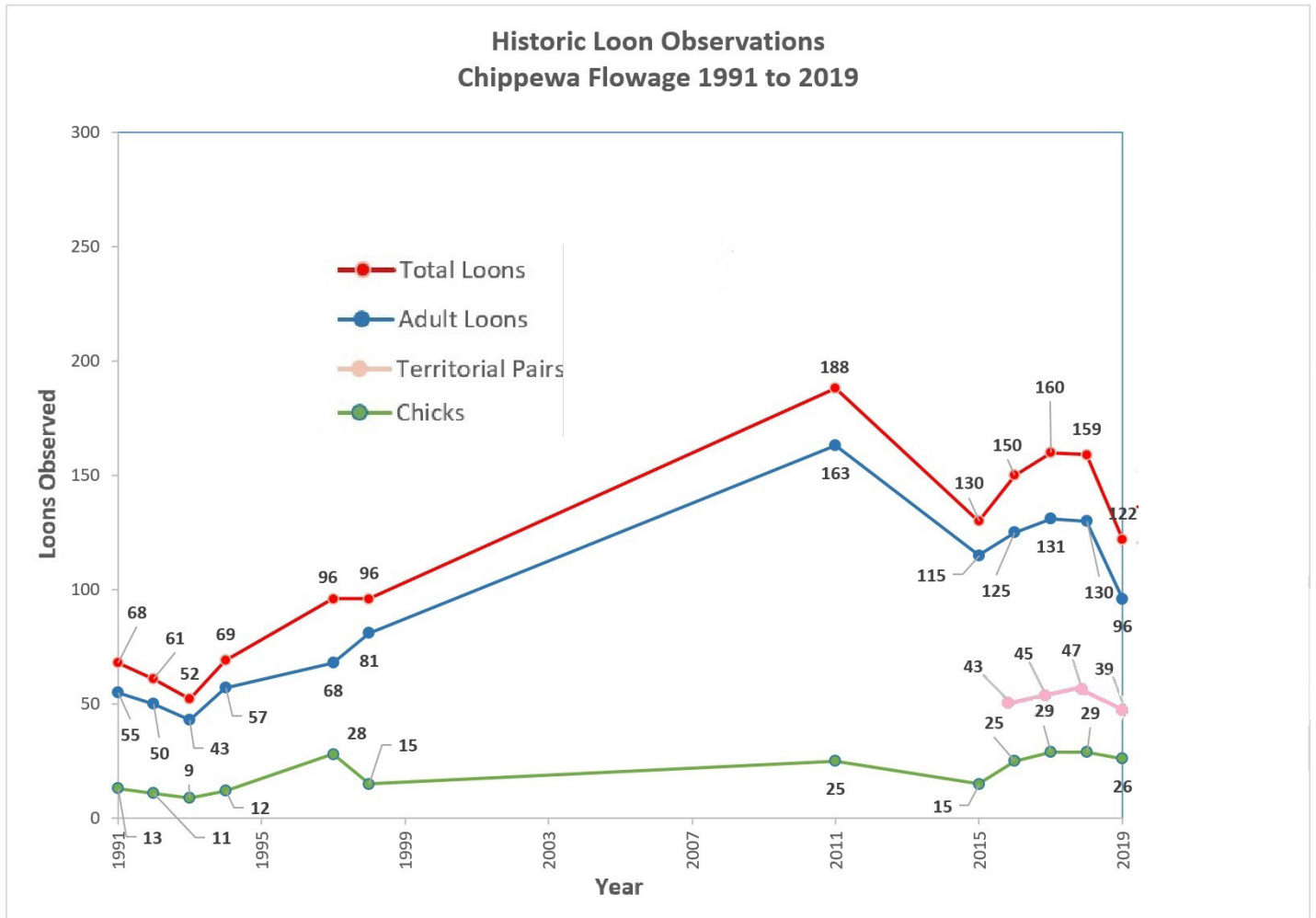
Some additional information regarding Wisconsin loon populations and studies can be found at <https://loonproject.org/>. If you are interested in learning more about Wisconsin loons, you can also sign up to follow Walter Piper's, The Loon Project blog by providing your email at the following web page. <https://loonproject.org/walter-piper/> Periodically research updates are provided via email blasts to those who sign up to receive them.

-  Walter Piper is a professor of biology at Chapman University, Orange, California and has been involved in The Loon Project since inception in 1993. The Loon Project is located in northeastern Wisconsin and is a scientific study that focuses on common loon territoriality, breeding behavior, habitat selection, and population dynamics. The Loon Project has captured and individually-marked adults and chicks on about 200 lakes that Project members visit regularly. Thus, they have accumulated a large sample of longitudinal data that permits robust statistical analysis and provides a rare, life-history perspective. The Project has followed the entire breeding lives of 65 loons and observed as adults 427 birds that the Project banded as chicks in the study area. This large sample of individuals followed since hatching allows the Project to investigate the behavior of young birds — especially how young birds learn about and settle on breeding territories. The Project is ongoing and has a number of research goals that the Project is now striving to achieve.
-  Walter Piper's latest blog references an ongoing decline in Wisconsin loon populations and although not conclusive The Project research indicates that the steady decades long decline could be associated with reduced small fish populations and thus less forage for loon adults and chicks which leads to higher mortality. Piper goes on to write in his blog that, “Our search for answers will continue until we learn what factor -- probably related to a decrease in small fish populations -- explains loons' reproductive slide.”





Above, Barb Salomon with the loon platform put out last spring. Success!



Membership Update

by Patty Swaffield, Membership Chair

Join CFAPOA

The Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association (a non-profit corporation) was formed to generally promote, encourage, and foster the interests of all residents and property owners within two miles of the Chippewa Flowage.

Membership Levels

- \$25 – Individual/Property
 - \$26-\$124- Contributor – Newsletter Recognition
 - \$125-\$999- Steward – Newsletter Recognition & Gift
 - \$1000 & Up- Lifetime Conservationist – Newsletter Recognition, Gift, & Lifetime Membership
- Donations are accepted in addition to dues and can be put toward the following:

- Operating Expenses
- Conservation Project Fund (Board Approved Projects)
- Boat Ramp Extension Fund
- Conservation Trust Fund (Endowment Retained For Long Term Support)

Each paid membership receives one vote and one quarterly newsletter.

Shared property owners requesting an additional newsletter shall pay an additional membership fee.

The CFAPOA is a 501(c)(3) organization and dues may be tax deductible.



New Members

Brian & Jennifer Remick Family*
Tom & Arlene Bahr*
Cathy LaReau
Jim & Lisa Ridders
Louis Taylor - LCO Tribal Chairman

*Also a Contributor

Lifetime Member

Richard & Lisa Uihlein, Jr.

Contributor Members

Bobby & Kathy Baker
Brian & Jen Lemke
Steve & Sandy Brubaker
Curt & Pat Chaon
James & Shirley Dolezal
Merle & Patricia Erickson
Bill & Maureen Grzelak
Bob & Debbie Hart
Steve & Cindy Karstaedt
Joanne Keyes
Mark & Brenda Mantey
Michael & Dori McCastland Family
Steve & Jeanne Migliacio

Mike & Lynn Muench
Mark & Leslie O'Connell
Phillip & Kathy Pierce
Cliff & Janice Podgorski
Brian & Sara Priester
Jeffrey & Julia Richards
Steve & Marilyn Schwarz
Barb Schweig & Nancy Ruhlow
John & Heidi Traxler
Kevin & Barbara Whelan
Pat & Gina Wherley
Hal & Gini Woolworth
Wayne Young

Steward Members

Gary & Holly
David Carland
David & Michelle Castem
Dan & Marcia Hardy
Warren & Gretchen Hensel
Brad Krizan
Norm & Carol Linnell
Mike & Kris Maly
Floyd Nelson
Lance & Angela Paulson
Rick & SeDell Rehfeldt
Duane Duke Schueller
Michael & Shirley Singer
Pamela Tibbetts & Linda Ellwein

Just a reminder, if you have not renewed your membership for 2020, please do so as soon as possible. We will be preparing the Membership Directory next month and want to be sure to include everyone.

You can use the renewal form included in this Newsletter or go to our web site and renew there using PayPal. Don't forget to let me know if you had any address, phone # or email address changes.

Thank you all for your continued support in CFAPOA!

Adopt-A-Shoreline Volunteers

Name	East	West
"Needs Adoption"	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	
Alan & Lynda Fish		8, 17
Whitley and Donna Gilbertson		2, 18
"Needs Adoption"		10
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 Sharon Koenig		7, 14
"Needs Adoption"	J, O	
Terry and Kay Moe	A2	
Rick & Linda Olson	R, X	
Steve & Louise Paulson	H	
Don & Sue Reinardy	E1-2	
Steve & Jane Richardson	W	
"Needs Adoption"		15, 16
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	



Survey Info Needed

by Max Wolter, DNR

The Wisconsin DNR is looking for feedback from anglers who fish the Chippewa Flowage. This feedback will be used to guide future fish management decisions on the Chippewa Flowage. The survey will only take 3 minutes of your time. Please respond before January 20, 2020.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SKZLR5K>

ICE FISHING SAFETY TIPS

To maximize ice fishing safety when enjoying winter fishing outings, it is important to know a few things about ice.

- New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially thawed ice may not.
- Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.
- Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous. This is especially true near streams, bridges and culverts. Also, the ice outside river bends is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.
- The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.
- Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous. It only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.
- Schools of fish or flocks of waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice. The movement of fish can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake. In the past, this has opened holes in the ice causing snowmobiles and cars to break through.

<https://www.takemefishing.org/ice-fishing/ice-fishing-basics/ice-fishing-safety/>

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Visit our Website @ WWW.CFAPOA.ORG

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

CFAPOA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, formed to generally promote, encourage and foster the interests of all property owners. Its major objectives are: to keep the Chippewa Flowage area clean and safe for all people; to protect the environment; to provide a forum for the collection and exchange of ideas; to support acquisition of land for protection and conservation; and to pursue any other lawful objectives that may benefit this pristine lake, its wetlands, wildlife and tributaries.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BOARD MEETINGS AND EVENTS

January, February and March, 2020 – No meeting
April 2 2020 Regular Meeting
May 7, 2020 Regular Meeting
June 4, 2020 Regular Meeting
Spring Fling – June 7, 2020; 4:00 – 6:00 Treeland Resorts
July 9, 2020 Regular Meeting
August 2, 2020: Annual Members’ Meeting (Sunday) – Deer Run Resort
August 6, 2020 Regular Meeting

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



CFAPOA Board Members.

Back L-R: Terry Wall, New Guy, Mike Gardner, Pete Czarnecki. Front: Barb Salomon (CBCW Chair) and Connie Peterson.