

Established 1983

# CFAPOA

CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE AREA  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2021

Take Note:  
There will not be  
a Christmas party  
this year.

## In this Issue.....

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# The Big Chip News

## View from the Chair

by Mike Gardner CFAPOA Chair

We hope you have enjoyed this amazing Fall season on the Flowage. Low water levels have tempered access for many as we continually adapt to life on a reservoir. Your Board is keenly aware of your challenges and is committed to advocacy and education as we all endeavor to better understand the overall system. The function of the Partners Group continues to improve and evolve with tools to support decision making. The most recent session resulted in a decision to not conduct a habitat drawdown for this winter. Other efforts are underway to better understand the health of the lake, fishery resources and shoreline conditions. The various perceptions and outcomes of the increase in overall outdoor recreation on the lake are continually under consideration.

The newly established Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation reports that in the past year 61% of Wisconsinites have boated and anglers spend \$1.5 billion fishing in Wisconsin annually.

Donella Meadows (1941-2001) Pulitzer Prize columnist and author of Limits to Growth and Thinking in Systems said it best:

*“We humans are smart enough to have created complex systems and amazing productivity; surely we are also smart enough to make sure that everyone shares the bounty, and surely we are smart enough to sustainably steward the natural world upon which we all depend.”*

Some resources for your information:

**Shoreline Living:** a booklet distributed by the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership is available at [Shoreline Living booklet – Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership](#). CFAPOA has printed copies that will be available at events.

**Healthy Watersheds, High Quality Waters:** A WDNR initiative that will provide a road map for how to strike an improved balance between restoration and protection, all while emphasizing and celebrating the wonderful waters of Wisconsin. A Kickoff Strategy document can be found at: [Healthy Watersheds, High-Quality Waters | Wisconsin DNR](#). An Action plan is anticipated to be ready for implementation in 2022.



# Chippewa Flowage Fall Fisheries Update

by Max Wolter – Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist

While this summer seemed to slip away even faster than usual, I'm pleased to report that the DNR's Hayward Fish Team was productive and busy on the flowage and elsewhere. There are a few things to report from the past year, but also a lot coming up that I want to make people aware of. As such, this update will be broken down into "past" and "future" sections.

Here's what we learned in the past year

The DNR's Hayward Fish Team was out on the Chip from April 6-9 using nets to target walleye and pike for a survey on the west side (west of CC). We had great

capture rates for adult walleye, including a slightly higher percentage of legal-sized walleye compared to the last survey (2 years ago). Pike catch rates remain high (more on pike later). We also used this opportunity to help LCO Conservation Department collect walleye eggs that could be reared in their updated facility.

We returned to the Flowage from May 25-27 to do an electrofishing survey for bass and bluegill. The results of both our netting and electrofishing surveys should be available in a report in the near future, but no new issues or concerns were identified.

Now we'll fast forward to September. Fall surveys are used to measure the strength of walleye

and muskellunge reproduction for the year. Our fall survey covers 17 miles of shoreline on both the east and west sides, and we completed it over the course of two nights (September 27-28). I'm pleased to report that 2021 saw another very strong year class of walleye enter the Chip. In fact, a quick analysis of the fall survey data shows this will likely be the largest year class of walleye in the Chip since 2006.

*"A quick analysis of the fall survey data shows this will likely be the largest year class of walleye in the Chip since 2006."*

This is great news, especially in light of continued regional struggles for walleye reproduction.

Muskellunge reproduction is much more challenging to measure. We captured three natural born pure-strain muskies during our surveys and one tiger musky (musky x pike hybrid). That might not sound like a lot, but typically we get zero or one natural musky of that size during this survey; they are rare and difficult to capture when they are small. This points to at least some amount of successful natural recruitment of musky. We also saw several PIT tagged fish from previous stocking events, including the last stocking in 2019 (those fish are in the mid to upper 20 inch range now).

Many around the flowage might be wondering about pike after the Pike Improvement Project 1.0 in 2019 and now 2.0 in 2021. I'll need to dig into the numbers a little deeper this winter, but our first look at the data from 2021 don't show much change in the pike population in terms of either abundance or size. In fact, pike reproduction looks as strong as ever, as we found highly abundant small pike in our fall survey. Pike remain a great option for a fish fry, and we continue to encourage people to harvest them. There will be more discussions about how to handle this complex issue going forward.

Here's what's coming up in 2022

2022 is going to see a lot of fisheries activity on the Chippewa Flowage. When the ice goes out the DNR Hayward Fish Team will partner with several other DNR fish teams to answer an important question: Just how many walleye are in the Chippewa Flowage? Generating an estimate (and it's just an estimate, not a known number) of the total walleye population size is important for several reasons. First, it informs our management decisions regarding fishing regulations, stocking, and more. Second, that estimate is used to set safe harvest levels for the combined angler/tribal-harvest fishery. Periodic estimates of what's out there helps ensure that we don't overharvest the fishery.

*Continued on Page 3*

*Continued from Page 2*

Generating that estimate takes a lot of work on any waterbody, but it's a huge undertaking on a body of water as large as the Chip. We'll have up to 10 different teams on the water running nets and electro-fishing. Additionally, there will be a creel survey conducted throughout the open water fishing season. DNR creel clerks interview anglers at the end of their fishing trip and ask questions about what they targeted, caught, and harvested. They also estimate the total fishing effort (# of hours fishing). These statistics are also very important to our management and can be compared to past creel surveys to understand how the angling experience has changed over time. If you are contacted by a creel clerk next year, please be friendly and open with them. They are good at what they do and they'll have you back on your way as quickly as possible.

Another *\*expected\** change for next year is a reduction of the panfish daily bag limit from 25 to 10. Typically, these changes take effect at the beginning of April. This change has been a few years in the making, having appeared on the Conservation Congress Spring Hearings and being reviewed by DNR Fisheries internally. I emphasized that this is an *\*expected\** change, because there are still several review steps with the Natural Resources Board and legislature. I will update CFAPOA as things progress.

Lastly, the CF Partner's group is looking at several potential habitat projects. This could include erosion control on islands, additional tree drops, fish cribs and other offshore structure. Expect to hear more on that and how you can get involved as projects take shape.



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## Membership Update

by Patty Swaffield

### *Welcome New Members*

Chris & Jessica Conard\*\*  
Kevin & Janet Flesch\*\*  
Keith & Robyn Freel  
Dennis & Marian Furlong  
Jeff & Mary Hughes  
Mike & Brenda Kozlowski  
Jackie Origer  
Chris Schubert  
Jennifer Schubert  
Dan Schubert\*  
Kevin Schubert\*  
Tony Schubert, Jr

### *Contributor*

Paul & Beth Behrens  
Rick & Angela Busch  
Jim & Jean Hardy

### *Steward*

Randy & Diane Hulke  
Brenda & John Long

\* Contributor, \*\* Steward, \*\*\* Lifetime

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## Membership Levels

**\$25:** Individual/Property |  
**\$26 to \$124:** Contributor – newsletter recognition. | **\$125 to \$999:** Steward – newsletter recognition and a gift. | **\$1000 and up:** Lifetime Conservationist – newsletter recognition, a gift, and lifetime membership.

**January 1, 2022 is the start of a new membership year. It's time to renew your membership. Renew online at [www.cfapoa.org](http://www.cfapoa.org) or use the form included in this newsletter.**



## Adopt-A-Shoreline Volunteers

Name	East	West
<b>"Needs Adoption"</b>	<b>T</b>	
Ron & Jan Bergman		1
Mike & Lynn Muench	M	
<b>"Needs Adoption"</b>		<b>12, 13</b>
Gary & Lind Crank		3, 5
Tony DeJode	T	
LCO Conservation Dept.	H, I, Z	
Jim & Marion Dier	S	
Alan & Lynda Fish		8, 17
Whitley and Donna Gilbertson		2, 18
<b>"Needs Adoption"</b>		<b>10</b>
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
Rob and Rebecca Nesse	J	
<b>Brian and Sara Priester</b>	<b>O</b>	
Terry and Kay Moe	A2	
Rick & Linda Olson	R	
Tony & Laurie Schubert	T	
Dave Carland Family and Friends	X	
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	



# Invasive Species Update

by Dennis Clagett

Fall would be a good time to review what we know about Eurasian Water milfoil.

We have more than one milfoil plant in the Chip and I need your help in identifying them. The two are: northern (native) and Eurasian (invasive) water- milfoil (EWM).

EWM is an aquatic evergreen plant that remains alive over the winter and starts growing when water temperatures reach about 50deg. It begins growing earlier in the season than our native(northern) water-milfoil. So, spring is a good time to determine if the weeds around your dock and favorite fishing location belong there or are an invasive. If in the spring you find milfoil looking plants, chances are it is the invasive Eurasian Water milfoil. Please take the time to contact me with your findings. The reason for this is there seems to be

an increase in what may be northern milfoil, a native plant. Later in the summer another identifier becomes apparent on northern milfoil: turions. Most native water-milfoils produce turions (overwintering buds), EWM does not.

As to the Purple Loosestrife, the drawdowns have little effect. This is not surprising. While the roots may have frozen, the plant will grow from single seed to a mature plant in one season. It is these plants that our Adopt -A-Shoreline volunteers need to be on the lookout for as they will flower later in the season and can be missed by early surveys. As a general rule of thumb try to do two sweeps. The first in mid-July, and the second after the annual picnic and meeting.

New volunteers are always welcome and needed, and THANK YOU for all you do!

## Recognizing Eurasian Water-milfoil and Native Look-a-Likes

Eurasian water milfoil is one of eight watermilfoil species found in Wisconsin and the only one that is not native. The most common native water-milfoil in Wisconsin lakes is northern water-milfoil. It bears a strong resemblance to Eurasian water-milfoil and identification between the two plants can be difficult. Using this guide helps to distinguish Eurasian water-milfoil from similar native aquatic plants

Eurasian Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) • Delicate feather-like leaves. Leaflets are mostly the same length. • Leaves are usually limp when out of the

water. • Leaves arranged in whorls (circles) of three to five around the stem. • Usually, twelve to twenty one leaflet pairs per leaf. • Long spaghetti-like stems

Northern Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*) • Rigid feather-like leaves forming a Christmas tree shape. The lower leaflets are usually quite long. • Leaves usually stiff when out of water. • Leaves arranged in whorls (circles) of four to six around stem. • Usually seven to ten leaflet pairs per leaf. • Stem is usually whitish or whitish green in color.



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## CFAPOA Member Registration/Membership Renewal

January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

**Member Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Information:** (New Members please compete; Returning Members complete if information has changed)

<b>MAILING</b> Address			<b>FLOWAGE</b> Address (if different)		
City	ST	Zip	City	ST	Zip
Phone			Phone		
Please Include E-mail (for CFAPOA use only)					
Please send my Newsletter by email: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			Do NOT publish email in Directory: <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Note:</b> Each paid membership receives one vote and one quarterly newsletter. Shared property owners wanting separate votes shall pay an additional membership fee. The CFAPOA is a 501(c)(3) organization and dues may be tax deductible.					

**I am interested in Volunteering:** (Please indicate choices)

Social Events  Membership  Invasive Species  Loons  Website  Newsletter

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Levels:** (Based on TOTAL CONTRIBUTION)

**\$25**                    **Individual/Property**  
**\$26 - \$124**        **Contributor**  
**\$125 - \$999**      **Steward**  
**\$1000 and up**    **Lifetime Conservationist**

**Contribution Designations:**

\$  Membership Dues (Must be \$25 or greater - for General Operational Expenses)  
 \$  Additional donation to General Operating Expenses  
 \$  Additional donation to Conservation Project Fund (for Board approved projects)  
 \$  Additional donation to Conservation Trust Fund (Endowment retained for long term support)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL CONTRIBUTION/PAYMENT**

**Send check to: CFAPOA, PO Box 555, Hayward, WI 54843**

Contributions of \$125 or more are eligible for a gift, please complete Page 2.

## CFAPOA Member Registration/Membership Renewal, Page 2

**Gift Selection:** (Note: All items will have the CFAPOA logo)

Members making a total contribution of \$125 - \$499 may select **ONE** of the following gifts:

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 6XL)

*Men's and Ladies Polo Colors: (Please choose)*

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

**OR**  Poly/Fleece Travel Blanket

Colors:  Black    Grey/Black    Red/Black    Royal Blue/Black

Members making a total contribution of \$500 - \$999 may select **ONE** of the gifts above or **ONE** of the following gifts:

Men's Midweight Fleece Hooded Jacket      **OR**     Ladies Midweight Fleece Hooded Jacket  
Size:  (XS through 4XL)      Size:  (XS through 4XL)

*Men's and Ladies Jacket Colors: (Please choose)*

Black    Grey/Blue    Grey/Citron

Members making a total contribution of \$1,000 or more may select **ONE** of the gifts above or **ONE** of the following gifts:

Men's 3 in 1 Jacket      **OR**     Ladies 3 in 1 Jacket  
Size:  (S through 4XL)      Size:  (S through 4XL)

*Men's Colors: (Please choose)*

Black    Insignia Blue/Navy

*Ladies Colors: (Please choose)*

Navy/Denim    Black/Charcoal  
 Red/Black

**Mission Statement:** The Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association, Inc. (CFAPOA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, 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.



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www.xcelenergy.com

## **Xcel Energy to increase water level in Chippewa Flowage**

*Habitat-based drawdown will not occur*

**EAU CLAIRE, Wis.** (Oct. 4, 2021) – A habitat-based drawdown, conducted six of the last eight years, aimed at managing aquatic vegetation and improving fishery habitat will not occur this fall on the Chippewa Flowage. Local residents, property owners and users of the flowage will notice a more historical operation, where the reservoir level increases throughout the fall until freeze-up and then water level will drop gradually throughout the winter.

The idea of the habitat-based drawdown was developed by the Chippewa Flowage Partners Group (CF Partners) and specifies a deeper fall drawdown followed by a continuing winter drawdown until the target elevation is reached on the 15,300-acre flowage. The CF Partners is comprised of appointed representatives from federal and state resource agencies, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, Xcel Energy and local stakeholders that have a strong interest in the flowage. The habitat-based drawdown has resulted in a significant reduction in the abundance of Eurasian Water Milfoil and improved fish recruitment to the flowage.

"The CF Partners has had a lot of success working cooperatively with Xcel Energy over the last few years to use drawdowns to manage fish habitat and control invasive aquatic plants," said Max Wolter, fisheries biologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "A habitat-based drawdown was not recommended this year after looking at all the relevant resource factors, including fisheries, aquatic plants and recreational access."

"Xcel Energy has been working with the CF Partners Group since 2006 to better manage the flowage and surrounding lands," said Rob Olson, manager Hydro Operation. "This public/private partnership has proven to be successful in accomplishing that goal."

The flowage level will be increased beginning in October with near-full levels expected by early December, pending suitable precipitation and inflow. The annual fall drawdown of the upstream Moose Lake reservoir will begin Oct. 16, which will increase the Chippewa Flowage elevation by about six inches by early November.

Xcel Energy urges caution on the Chippewa Flowage for boaters during the end of the open-water season as well as for other recreationists utilizing the reservoir during the winter season.



# Those Beautiful Leaves

by Tony Schubert



We are all enjoying the spectacular colors that fall weather brings to the Northwoods right now. But as the leaves fall to the ground on our properties, we have to decide what to do with them. Some of us rake them in piles and burn them. Some of us blow them in the woods. Some people mow them into mulch on their lawn. Some of us hire a disposal company to take them away. Some people even blow them into the lake (HEAVEN FORBID). Never put dead leaves in the lake! It will make algae blooms even worse and muck up your shoreline. So, what should we do with all those beautiful leaves?

We should treat leaf litter like a perfect mulch to all of our properties. It also provides so many other free services for us: free fertilizer, free weed control, and free soil amendments. Leaf litter also provides habitat for arthropod predators that keep an ecological balance in our garden or forest floor.

The best feature of a thick blanket of leaf litter is that it acts like a sponge to soak up enormous quantities of water during a down-pour. Without leaf litter, rainwater flows off our houses, driveways, paths and lawns and rushes directly into the lake. After the rain stops, leaf litter that has been allowed to accumulate slowly releases its moisture, keeping the plants and trees in your garden or woods well hydrated, even during dry periods. Bare ground or lawn does none of this!

Leaf litter is one of the best tools we have for controlling erosion and keeping harmful chemicals out of our lake. You probably know where the worst runoff area is on your property. Many times, it comes off a gutter or drains from a driveway or path. Creating a garden area to catch that runoff before it goes into the lake will beautify your property, prevent erosion, and keep the lake healthy for the fish and wildlife. Leaf litter can also be home to a rich assortment of native plants while it is fertilizing, mulching, and watering your land. Many wildflowers grow only in soil with lots of humus (leaf litter), including pink and yellow lady slippers, trout lilies, bloodroot, Solomon's seal, Jacob's ladder, Jack-in-the-pulpit, trilliums, mayapples, wild ginger, dwarf crested iris, foam flower and numerous species of ferns. (source, Douglas Tallamy, Bringing Nature Home)

This fall I have identified an area near a path to the lake where I have seen some of my worst runoff. I had for years kept it in grass, but I now plan to pile as much leaf litter into that area as I can. Yes, I know it will kill the grass. I will probably place a log, horizontal with the shoreline, to hold my leaf litter in place and slow down erosion. Then, just before the snow falls, I may get some wildflower seeds that are native to northern Wisconsin and toss them onto my newly created little garden. We will see what happens in the spring. Likely, native plants that are already present in the soil will pop up.

So, as you are raking your leaves, and wondering where to put them, think about using those beautiful leaves as a way to improve your property. It is simple and low cost. It will beautify your shoreline and protect our lake and wildlife.





# CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS

## *Important Flowage Habitat Preservation Post Open*

The CFAPOA is the Chippewa Flowage's operator of its Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) pro-gram to educate and supervise boaters entering and leaving WDNR landings to minimize spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Stopping spread of AIS to and from the Flowage is one of CFAPOA's most important functions.

Two volunteer coordinators have supervised the CBCW program for the last several years, and one of those positions is open. We are seeking a new coordinator to assist with tasks and learn more about the CBCW program going forward.

### **Time Commitment:**

The job is seasonal, with most time spent in the spring and summer months. During spring organization, the job can take a day or two a week for two to three weeks. Once the program is up and running for the boating season the job can take as little as an hour or two a week. Processes referenced below have been established and are documented.

### **High level Program Management Tasks:**

1. Learn/review and follow WDNR grant administration directions and deadlines for CBCW pro-grams
2. Make annual grant application
3. Learn and follow CBCW inspection and education processes

(review all WDNR website materials and periodic communications)

4. Set up and coordinate payroll and workers compensation insurance with CFAPOA treasurer and accountants
5. Submit reimbursement application

### **Seasonal Program Management Tasks:**

1. Review and update established Policies and Procedures for Inspectors
2. Establish new season staffing by contacting past rehirable employees and soliciting new hires (March-April)
3. Inventory materials remaining from last season. Order new materials as needed.
4. Organize and schedule inspector training, which is to include hiring paperwork, handout of materials, training of inspectors on CFAPOA CBCW Policies and Procedures. Inspection training to be provided by Sawyer County AIS Coordinator.
5. Schedule, supervise and manage inspector staff during program season
6. Instill pride and camaraderie for inspectors and the CFAPOA
7. Review ramp logs and timesheets as received from inspectors for reasonability
8. Provide timesheet hours to



Accountant for payroll report processing. Accountant will then provide reports to Treasurer for distribution of payroll.

9. Input ramp log data into DNR SWIMS system.

### **Miscellaneous Tasks:**

- Perform other tasks and projects as they might arise.
- Report to the CFAPOA Board and membership, including by newsletter articles

If you are interested in exploring the idea of becoming involved in this rewarding program, please contact Diane Hulke at [dihulke@comcast.net](mailto:dihulke@comcast.net) or 763-458-5392.



**CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE AREA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
**PO BOX 555**  
**HAYWARD, WI 54843-0555**

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR**

**BOARD MEETINGS  
AND EVENTS**

November 4  
December 2

Board meetings are currently held at 6:00 p.m. virtually on Zoom. Visitors are welcome to join. Contact Mike Gardner at [mgardner@northflow.net](mailto:mgardner@northflow.net)

**CFAPOA Board of Directors**

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