



Red Cedar Lakes Association Fall 2019 Newsletter

RCLA Board 2019–2020

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President's Letter

As summer grows to a close and a hint of fall is in the air, I hope everyone had a chance enjoy our fabulous lakes with friends and family. The RCLA Board of Directors, along with the many volunteers that spend countless hours each summer, had another very active summer on numerous projects that you can read about in this newsletter. I want to personally thank each and every one of the Board Members and volunteers. Without you, we would not have healthy lakes to enjoy with all our bountiful wildlife.

I would like to take this opportunity to recap a couple important topics that were discussed during the RCLA Annual Meeting in July. There were two proposed changes to our By-Laws under Article III – Membership. The first change, under Article III, Section I – Eligibility: “Membership in the association shall be open to any individual, family, business, or organization, that subscribes to the purposes of the association” was changed to “*Membership in the association shall be open to any individual, business or organization that subscribes to the purposes of the association.*” The second change was under Section II – Dues: Dues shall be \$10 per membership on a calendar year basis was changed to “*Dues shall be paid on a calendar year basis and the amount will be determined by the board with formal approval required by a majority vote of members present at any special or annual meeting*”. Both proposed changes were passed with a majority vote of the membership.

For the past 20+ years, the membership dues have been \$10 per individual, but times have changed and the board recommended an increase to \$20 per individual (\$40 per household). There are four main drivers for the increase:

1. **DNR Grants** – The AIS and Water Quality Committees have done a fantastic job in applying and receiving DNR grants that significantly supplement the funding for our work to manage aquatic invasive species and water quality activities. Each of these grants come with their own financial obligation from the RCLA and due to the scope of the grants and how they must be structured, RCLA has a larger funding obligation. We have a 25% obligation for all approved grants in either volunteer commitment at \$12 an hour per

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volunteer time recorded or money out of our budget. Over the past couple years the mix has significantly changed from reduced volunteer-ism and increased budget expenditure, which is putting a strain on our budget reserves to pro-actively address new AIS situations as they occur.

2. We need to be **proactive in building up our financials** to be prepared for something more serious (i.e. Eurasian milfoil, zebra mussels, etc). The time to find funding is not when we already have a serious issue.
3. **Don't expect as many grants or amount of funding of grants in the future.** What this means is that if the grants are not available, RCLA would be expected to supply the funds to continue AIS and water quality activities.

4. The **responsibility of lake management falls squarely on the individual Lake Associations!!**

Many of us has taken for granted the excellent water quality of our lakes, the lack of serious AIS and the abundance of wildlife, but those only exist because of the aggressive work of the board, the volunteers on the committees, partnering with DNR for grants and a strong RCLA membership. The membership dues brochure will be coming out later this year and your continued support in keeping our watershed the best in WI is greatly appreciated.

Valerie Bausch
President

Board of Directors Changes

At our RCLA Annual Meeting, the Board and attending members recognized Directors whose terms were expiring and decided not to renew for another 2-year term. Rich Hokanson, Becky Garthofner and Jeff Iverson decided not pursue another term leading our Shoreline and Island restoration, Newsletter/Website and Coupon Committees respectively. I would like to thank Becky and Jeff for their commitment and dedicated services to the RCLA over the past two years and Rich for several years of service on the board.

Also, the membership unanimously voted to accept the Board's recommendation to renew Dan Ellefson to another 2-year term leading the Fish Habitat Committee and John Page to another 3-year term as Treasurer.

The membership also unanimously approved the Board's recommendation to appoint Runae Maloney, Brett Heinlein, Ryan Linder and Michael Klutho to the RCLA Board.

Runae Maloney will chair the Coupon Committee. Born in Bemidji, MN, Renae lived on the family farm in Solway until graduating from Bemidji State University and later moved to Minneapolis. She pursued her career as an IT person, working the majority of the years at Liberty Diversified Industries. She retired in March 2018. Runae



Runae Maloney

and husband Mick moved to Birchwood in 2004 and have 4 grown children, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. She is actively involved at First Lutheran and hobbies include bowling, gardening

and keeping herself busy with her very long "to do" list.



Brett Heinlein

Brett Heinlein will Co-Chair the AIS Committee. Originally from Minnesota, Brett attended North Dakota State University and has 36 years of experience in the cement industry. He currently sits on the board of the Wisconsin Concrete Paving Association, Concrete Paving Association of MN and serves as

President of the Minnesota Concrete Council. Brett and his wife Terryll have 3 grown children. They moved to Red Cedar Lake in the fall of 2015, which they now consider their permanent home. Hobbies include cooking, fishing, golf and playing guitar.



Ryan Linder

Ryan Linder will chair the Communications Committee (formally known as the Newsletter / Website Committee). Born and raised in New Richmond, WI and currently resides in Hudson, WI. Ryan has worked for Mortenson Construction for the past 15 years as Chief Estimator for their Civil Group. Ryan has been

married to his wife Jenni for 4 years and together have 2 young children. They bought a lot on Red Cedar a year ago and have plans to build within the next year or two. Ryan is an avid fisherman, hunter, snowmobiler and all-around outdoors kind of guy.



Michael Klutho

Michael Klutho will chair our Shoreline and Island Restoration Committee. Michael has a BS in Fisheries & Wildlife Management from the University of Missouri-Columbia and an MA in Zoology from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He served as a Fisheries Biologist with

the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in 1983-1984. Michael has also served as the Chair of our law school's Environmental Law Committee and in the initial years, he was also involved in a variety of wetland and superfund cases. Michael has been married to his wife Jill for 34 years and have 3 wonderful children. They have a place on Balsam Lake since 1999 and also own "Pines At The Lake". Hobbies include woodworking, landscaping, boating, fishing and antiquing.

I know I'm speaking on behalf of the Board and the entire RCLA membership when I say "welcome" and "thank you" for stepping forward to continue our rich history of volunteer-ism to an outstanding organization.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee

It hard to believe that another summer season is coming to a close. As I write this article the weather is starting to turn cooler and you can begin to see a change of color in the leaves.

The great news to report is that we have not found any evidence of new aquatic invasive species within our lakes.

It was a very busy summer for the AIS Committee. Below is a summary of the projects undertaken this past summer:

Clean Boats Clean Waters:

The landing monitoring program started on the fishing opener weekend and will wrap up on September 15th. Over the summer we actively monitored the Waldo Carlson, Loch Lomond Beach Club, Hemlock and V & 48 landings. We logged over 400 hours in landing monitoring time this past summer. We want to thank all those individuals

who helped with our landings monitoring efforts to ensure boaters were educated as to draining their live wells and removing all weeds upon entering and leaving the lake. Related to the Clean Boats Clean Waters program we received permission to install decontamination sites at the Waldo Carlson and Loch Lomond Beach Club landings.



These decontamination sites should be in place sometime next spring. The addition of these decontamination sites will provide another level of protection in ensuring we prevent any new AIS from entering our lakes.

Curly Leaf Pondweed Management:

Approximately 28 acres of curly leaf pondweed (CLP) was herbicide treated in our lakes. This includes treatments that took place on Balsam lake for the very first time. We have permission from the Wisconsin DNR to treat up to 58 acres each year. We are planning to pursue additional treatments next spring in Balsam, Hemlock and Red Cedar Lakes. The exact number of acres we will treat will be dependent on a pre-treatment survey performed early in the spring.

Our post CLP treatment survey results indicate that the herbicide treatments performed well. We are hopeful that as we continue future treatments we will see the size and density of our CLP beds significantly reduced.

In June the annual CLP lake mapping was completed. This provides an annual perspective of the size and density of the CLP beds throughout our lakes. This process takes approximately 2 days to GPS map all the CLP beds on our lakes. Thanks to Cheyenne Okey, Rich Weingartner, Becky Garthofner and Jerry Woefel for their help in completing this process this past year.

Shoreline Study:

The first phase of our shoreline study was completed for properties on Red Cedar Lake. This involved evaluating each property from the shoreline going back 35 feet. The purpose of the study is to determine if there are potential shoreline improvements that would positively impact the lake water quality. Over the winter the study information will be compiled for each individual property. If you are interested in getting information on your specific property this should be available sometime next spring. Please note we will only release this information to the property owner. The Lake Association will be using this data in aggregate form to better understand the existing shoreline management & the impact on our water quality.

The shoreline study will be completed for Balsam, Hemlock, Mud and Bass lakes in the next two years.

Purple Loosestrife Management:

Again, this year we worked with the Birchwood Charter School and Washburn County Conservation to have beetles raised and released on Red Cedar Lake. The beetles were released in mid-July in a bay adjacent to John Bolles property. The RCLA Nature Committee hosted a lunch on the beetle release day.



A big thanks to Jenny Landes and her students from the Birchwood Charter School, Lisa Burns from Washburn County Conservation, John Bolles for letting us use his place to launch and have lunch and to the Nature Committee volunteers for hosting and preparing the lunch.

Thanks also to the Nature Committee volunteers who spent time on the lake tracking down purple loosestrife, removing and treating this plant. These efforts really help control and prevent the spread of this invasive plant

Education Meeting:

In August we held an educational meeting in the Mikana Town Hall. The meeting provided an in-depth review of the efforts the lake association is undertaking in the areas of water quality management, AIS management and shoreline and island restoration efforts. As part of the presentation an overview of the resources available to individual properties owners to help them management their properties were provided.

If you were not able to make this meeting, we will be uploading the presentation soon to the RCLA website: www.redcedarlakes.com.



In closing we want to thank all the volunteers that helped with these various projects throughout the year. Your help really makes a difference in ensuring these projects are completed and making them fun. We are very fortunate that our lakes continue to be very healthy - your efforts go a long way to ensure this continues into the future.

If you are interested in volunteering next year please contact either of us and we will be happy to get you up to speed and involved.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee

Lake Information & Safety Committee

Nothing new to report as far as buoys, kiosks, and lake safety information. In fact, it appears that we enjoyed a safe summer on our chain of lakes. Concern has been brought to us about the bog floating in the channel between Hemlock and Red Cedar. As it turns out though, there is not much we (RCLA) can do about it. In August as the water temperature rises, gases from decaying matter in the bog become more active causing it to rise more to the surface and even move to a certain degree. It is a natural cycle and nature normally takes care of it. It has been there for many of years and will most likely be there for many more.

As part of our lake safety program we have offered a youth boater safety program to those interested. This class has not taken place now for two years. We would like to restart the program for 2020 with the help of a volunteer to become trained and conduct the class. Anyone interested can call me and I can walk you through the steps to become qualified to teach the class. It is usually a three day event offered in the week leading up to the Forth of July.

Lake Information & Safety Committee

Coupon Book Committee

Jeff and Penny Iverson have passed the torch to me. I appreciate all they did to make this a smooth transition. As I take up the reigns, I look forward to working with the businesses which participate in the RCLA Coupon Book, and all new future participants. RCLA is committed to protecting our lakes, and this is one way in which all of us, both participants and recipients, can help raise funds, which together with grants, will help preserve our local natural resources. As of the end of July, the donations from the coupon books are \$8,140. Remember, the coupons are valid until April 30, 2020, so if you are still thinking about it, there is still time to purchase and enjoy the many benefits offered. The books are available at our local Dairy State Bank, Birchwood Café, Butternut Golf Course, Cheers, Ed's BBQ, Rustic Corner and Northwoods Country Store. If you have fully enjoyed the book you

have, we encourage you to purchase another, and do it all again. They are also wonderful welcome gifts to offer new neighbors or appreciation gifts for old neighbors. Why not consider an early Christmas gift???

RCLA
2019 - 2020
Savings Guide
\$30 Donation

OVER \$850
in **SAVINGS!**
64 Local Coupons

RED CEDAR LAKES ASSN.
BALSAM, RED CEDAR & HEMLOCK LAKES
Preserve and Protect for the Future.

The Red Cedar Lakes Association thanks you and the following participating restaurants, businesses and golf courses for supporting our organization to "Preserve and Protect for the Future"

Restaurants, Golf Courses & Businesses

Bair's Edgewater Store (2)	Grinder's (2)	Rice Lake Printery (2)
Bear Tracks (2)	Jason Market (2)	Rolling Oaks Golf Course (2)
Birch Lakes Resort	Lake Kids	Rustic Corner Cafe (2)
Butternut Hills Golf	Lehman's	Spider Lake Saloon (2)
Butternut Hills - Marshall House	Miller's Cheese House	Stout's Island Lodge (2)
Cedar Lake Grill (3)	MTJ Home Security	Sunset View Golf (2)
Cheers (8)	My Last Resort - Cedar Lake Grill	Tagalong Golf & Resort
Chit Chat Bar, Restaurant & Resort	Norske Nook Restaurant & Bakery	The Birchwood Cafe (2)
Cousin's	Northwoods Country Store (2)	The Country Inn
Cumberland Golf Club	Outdoor Ventures	The Roost (2)
Don Johnson Motors (2)	Pine Ridge	Wagon Wheel (2)
Ed's Pitstop (6)	Prop's On Long Lake	

Work on the 2020-2021 Coupon Book will begin very soon. If you have a business you would like to see included in the book, let me know. We love including businesses you support, as you are already one of their valued customers. Remember your coupon book donation is used 100% for the work being done 'To preserve, protect and improve Red Cedar, Balsam, Hemlock, Bass and Mud Lakes, their watershed and ecosystem'.

Coupon Book Committee

Membership Committee

RCLA had a total of 529 members in 2018. In 2019 we lost 36 of those members. Usually the reason for non-renewal of membership is the selling of property. I sent information to those on our lakes that were not members and we got 158 new members for a total at this time of 651 members. Thank you to those of you who recently joined! I will continue to seek out new members. If you know of someone who is interested in joining RCLA, please contact me or refer them to our website where there is a membership form. Membership renewal forms for 2020 will be mailed mid to late November to 2019 members.

This year we started a new category of membership called Corporate Members. If you own a business and

wish to become a corporate member, please contact any board member. With your membership you will receive recognition in our newsletters. Thank you for the support of our current Corporate Members. They are Birchwood Café, Cedar Lake Pub & Grill, Cheers Bar & Grill, and Pines at the Lake.

Our organization is now 20 years old. When RCLA was formed, dues were set at \$10 a person. At our annual meeting in July, those present voted to increase dues to \$20 a person (as detailed in the President's Letter). I hope you will continue to support RCLA as we work to maintain and improve the health of our lakes.

Membership Committee

Communications Committee

The new website is now operational! Please visit www.redcedarlakes.com and take a look at the improved website.

We are dedicated to having a website that provides information everyone in the association is looking to see and are always open to comments, ideas and improvements. If you do have comments please contact Ryan Linder. The first improvement is currently underway. We are creating a page for the Aquatic Plant Management Plan and its appendices. This should be done in the coming months.

Did you know that the RCLA has a Facebook page? We currently only have 71 followers of the over 500 RCLA members. We have a ways to go! It would be great if all

members that use Facebook go and like the page. This will be updated regularly throughout the year. It would also be great to see the fun you are having on the lakes as well!

Lastly, we are seeking volunteers to assist with marketing of RCLA. This would include distributing newsletters to local businesses, meeting with local business regarding corporate memberships, hosting educational event(s) for non-members and much more. Contact any board member if you have interest volunteering.

As you read in the President's Letter, I am new to the board and also an avid fisherman. This section going forward will also include a fishing tip to help you (hopefully) catch more fish, it is titled Lindy's Line.

Lindy's Line – Fall 2019

With Labor Day behind us, many docks being pulled from the water and the leaves soon changing I want to remind everyone that Fall fishing is arguably the best fishing of the year. As the water temperatures start to cool down in the fall, the fish aren't limited to those deeper, main lake areas and they get really active. They're moving back toward the shorelines and they are feeding voraciously (in preparation for the winter). Find the weed line this time of year on the

edge of deeper water and you'll find fish but the key is to find the weeds that are still green and healthy. Lots of techniques will take fish along the weedline in the fall, Live bait & plastic rigs/jigs and crankbait can't be beat. Position your boat so the deep edge of the weeds is an easy cast away. Good luck!

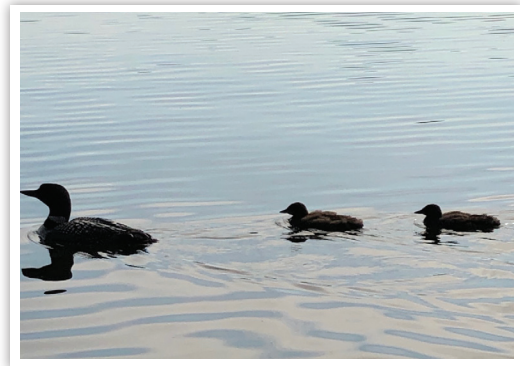
Communications Committee

Nature Committee

What happened to summer?? Seems like just yesterday everyone was putting in their docks in anticipation of summer activities on our wonderful lakes. But then again, who can argue that fall is an amazing time of the year in Wisconsin with the trees changing colors, listening to the geese fly overhead and of course, sitting around the campfire without bugs!!

The Nature Committee has been observing loons as part of the LoonWatch Program since 2012 and we were happy to have 4 chicks this summer that hatched and are still thriving on our lakes. This is down from last year when we had 7 chicks mainly due to so much rain early, flooding their nests or so many black flies swarming and the adults abandoned their nests. As part of the AIS DNR grant we received, the Nature Committee was required to map the wild rice that was growing in abundance by the Balsam Lake boat landing and submitting into WI DNR for future reference.

The Nature Committee was plenty busy with their summer activities, starting off with our annual Nature Program on June 1 at Loch Lomond Beach Club. This year we had Chris Cold, Wildlife Technician for the Wisconsin Department of Nature Resources presenting "Bears – A Natural History". We had a great turnout with over 100 people enjoying the program!! You will want to mark your calendar right now for our 2020 program, scheduled for June 6. More details to come in the spring newsletter as we are currently finalizing our topic and locking in our guest speaker. This program is free and, perfect for the whole family!



The committee cannot emphasize enough the importance of taking the lead from your tackle boxes, minimizing the possible impact to our wildlife. One final note, the Nature Committee will not be selling trees this year due to low volumes over the last couple years.

The Nature Committee currently has 9 active members and if you have any wildlife pictures you would like to share with us or if you have any questions for the Nature Committee, please contact chair Valerie Bausch at vbausc@yahoo.com

Nature Committee

Shoreline & Island Restoration Committee

What is it about a nice clear picturesque lake that puts your mind at ease? Good water quality, good fishing, good aquatic habitat, boating, swimming, bird-watching and more all combine to lower one's blood pressure -- and improve your mood! Great lakes don't happen by accident. Our great lake quality is the result of our combined efforts to



maintain and enhance our lake shoreline. It really is thanks to the joint efforts of our RCLA members and volunteers that we are able to enjoy our unique lakes, and all that they bring, year after year.

So, what can each of us do to keep our lakes healthy? We literally have miles of shoreline on our lakes. And of course, we have our islands too. Preserving and restoring their natural state while still allowing each of us to have access to our lakes and great "sight lines" are the goal of this Subcommittee. Thankfully great lakes and development are not mutually exclusive!



Each of us who are lucky enough to have "a place on the lake" have a vested interest in not only maintaining our lake quality, but in enhancing it. As our lakes continue to be developed and use increases, we need to continue our efforts and actions to ensure that our shorelines are protected, restored and enhanced! Without our continued collective efforts and dedication, our lakes will suffer. It really is up to us.

Much of the runoff into our lakes comes from the lots surrounding them. Before "civilization," our lakeshores were filled with trees, underbrush, fallen logs, etc. that served to slow and filter the runoff before it went into our lakes. With understandable development that allows all of us to use and enjoy our lakes comes a joint responsibility to serve as stewards of our respective slices of a little "heaven on earth." So, what can we do?



Fortunately, the Wisconsin DNR has established a grant program that will assist us. For example, assistance is available to develop rain gardens – areas that contain beautiful natural vegetations and flowers – that help to contain runoff and allow it to seep into the land instead of washing directly into our lakes. Grants can help construct these. Diverting runoff is a big plus for all of us and it will benefit us for years to come especially as development continues. You can also consider managing runoff through the use of "pervious" materials for driveways and paths like pavers or gravel that allow water to pass through and sink in rather than run off your land and into our lakes.

Another stewardship principle is to commit to maintaining and re-establishing natural buffer zones along our lakeshores. This not only helps our lakes, but it also increases lake lot values precisely because we are maintaining our quality

lakes. Lakeside management is one of perhaps the single most important things a lakeshore owner can do to further our Association's efforts to keep our lakes the true gems that they are. Plus of course maintaining our septic systems! RCLA volunteers are in the process of surveying all of the shoreline surrounding our lakes. With this survey information, we can then select areas that provide the "best return on investment" when it comes to managing our lakeshores for

the benefit of all of us. Our goal is to improve our shorelines wherever possible utilizing grants, volunteers and property owner involvement. We are all in this together and with our collective commitment, we can ensure that our lake resources will be here for our enjoyment for many years to come.

Shoreline & Island Restoration Committee

Water Quality Committee

You cannot have a discussion on water quality without phosphorous. Phosphorous plays a major role in the healthiness of a body of water. As a part of education and raising awareness this newsletter is dedicated completely to it.

Phosphorous is a naturally occurring element, essential for life, and useful as an easy way to promote plant growth. That's why it is commonly used as a fertilizer. It readily dissolves in water, so it is easy to apply, too. Great stuff. Except for that part about being easily dissolved in water and making plants grow. When you get too much of it, the wrong plants can grow. They choke out the native plants. You can even get soupy green water. Who wants to swim in that? Too much phosphorus is also hard on fish, both cool water fish and warm water fish, reducing populations. Because phosphorus dissolves in water so readily, it is also very difficult to remove it. That means prevention is the key.

Close monitoring of phosphorous is a lot like checking your blood pressure. It is a good indicator of health. Just as your blood pressure can be too high or too low, so can your lake's phosphorous levels. You usually measure blood pressure in units of millimeters mercury (mmHg) but no one remembers that, and you don't need to. You really can forget the units if you know the target range for the number, right? Likewise, we measure phosphorus in micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). One $\mu\text{g/L}$ is the same as 1 part per billion. You can ignore the units if you like, and just focus on the number. Much below 10 $\mu\text{g/L}$ makes for a unproductive lake. Much above 30 $\mu\text{g/L}$ gets too productive, which is far worse in a lake than a stream. The state standard for lakes varies by the hydrological characteristics of the lake, but for lakes like ours, 30 $\mu\text{g/L}$ is the threshold. Because streams are more tolerant of high phosphorus levels, the state standards for streams is 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$. For our lakes, just remember 30. We don't want to go above that. Thirty.



The Red Cedar Lakes Association has several new water quality grants through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Two of those are for monitoring phosphorous over the next two years. RCLA is partnering with my lab at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, for water sampling and analysis. Lake Education and Planning Services in Barron collaborates with material support and consulting. Science really is a team sport.

We sample streams flowing into the Red Cedar Lakes chain, water flowing out, and the lakes themselves, following strict state guidelines. We use only the state labs to analyze the phosphorous in the water to make sure that the results are comparable to other sites in Wisconsin.

Mostly our lakes are 15-30 $\mu\text{g/L}$, which is great! Our streams occasionally go over 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$, which we need to keep an eye on. What I want to focus on today is where our phosphorous is coming from. The graphic here of our lakes with the arrows shows the total phosphorus coming in from various sources so far in 2019. Each arrow is placed where we take samples, so you can confirm that we have pretty good coverage of the water coming in and going out. Total phosphorus

is the phosphorous concentration ($\mu\text{g/L}$) multiplied by the volume of water at the time of the sample (L). Total load is measured in μg , but enough μg is grams, and grams are another measure of weight like pounds, so go ahead and think pounds of phosphorus. Phosphorus load is important for lake management. The larger the arrow, the more pounds of phosphorous. A tiny stream of concentrated phosphorus contributes little over all to a large lake, but a river of moderate phosphorus levels can dump a lot of phosphorous into a lake, raising its concentration to problematic levels.

As you can see, the largest external phosphorous load comes from upstream of Balsam Lake. Successful lake management will require positive, collaborative partnering with our friends and neighbors to the north, because we all use the same water. We also need to be vigilant about invasive plants like curly leaf pond weed,



because it releases a lot of phosphorus back into the water. We need to make sure our septic tanks are functioning well as they contribute phosphorous to the lakes. And we need to be careful about shorelines because they buffer surface water that carries phosphorous from our lawns. If we are careful, and if we partner with our neighbors on our chain of lakes and the waters upstream, we can keep these lakes as beautiful as they are, with great fishing and recreation. For that to work, we need you to talk to your neighbors. Teach them about phosphorus and how to control it. Please invite them to join the Red Cedar Lakes Association. And if you are so inclined, come sample water with us.

Water Quality Committee

Managing Shoreline Weeds

This past summer I received a number of calls from lake shore owners expressing concern that they were finding weeds along their shoreline where they hadn't seen weeds before. The property owner was concerned that the weeds appearing were some form of aquatic invasive species.

In checking each of the properties, the new weeds are native plants that have started to grow. We are seeing increased native weed growth in our lakes due to the improved water quality we've experienced the past two summers. The improved water quality has allowed sunlight to penetrate deeper water depths resulting increased native plant growth.

This is great news for the health of our lake. This increased weed growth will provide higher oxygen levels in the water and increased cover for our fish. Both will help improve our fishery.

Please note, that individual property owners cannot use chemicals to treat lake weeds unless they receive a permit from the Wisconsin DNR. If you use chemicals without a DNR permit the fines can be substantial. My understanding is that permits to control native plants are rarely issued.

The best way to manage increased weed cover is to use a lake weed cutter. You simply throw the rake into the area you want to remove weeds and pull to shore. It cuts the weeds as it is pulled into shore. This is what I use to control weeds around my dock and it works very effectively. It's a quick and easy process.

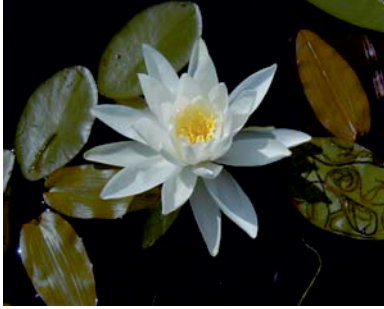
Various lake weed cutters can be purchased on line. The specific one I use is a Weed Gator and it works quite well. We've had it for over ten years and it's still in great shape.

I've placed the Wisconsin DNR guidelines for controlling weeds along your shoreline in the LINKS section of the new RCLA website - redcedarlakes.com.

This will provide you additional information on this topic.

You can also follow the below link from the DNR: <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants/apmfactsheet.pdf>

Tom Goodwin
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee



Aquatic Plant Management

the facts about the laws

Why should I care about aquatic plant management (APM)?

Aquatic plants are an important part of healthy ecosystems – both within lakes and rivers and on the shores around them. Aquatic plants provide habitat for fish, invertebrates, and wildlife; prevent shoreline erosion; and protect water quality by uptaking nutrients and producing oxygen. Furthermore, diverse native aquatic plant communities help prevent the establishment of nuisance exotic plants like Eurasian watermilfoil. In order to maintain healthy lakes and rivers, we must maintain healthy native aquatic plant communities.

What are the APM laws?

The Department regulates the removal of aquatic plants 1) any time that chemicals are used and 2) when plants are removed mechanically or manually from an area greater than thirty feet in width along the shore. Historically the Department required a permit only when chemicals were used to control aquatic plants as described in Administrative Rule NR 107 – Aquatic Plant Management. As of September 2001, however, the legislature passed a bill to further protect Wisconsin's invaluable aquatic plant communities. The result is NR 109 – Aquatic Plants: Introduction, Manual Removal & Mechanical Control Regulations.

Who needs a permit to remove aquatic plants?

Any person that controls aquatic plants with chemicals must apply for a Chemical Control of Aquatic Plants Permit from the Department. Any person or organization (e.g. a municipality, lake association, or lake district) that controls aquatic plants mechanically or manually must apply for a Mechanical/Manual Aquatic Plant Control Permit from the Department. The only time a permit is not required to control aquatic plants is when a riparian manually removes or gives permission to someone to manually remove plants, with the exception of wild rice, from his/her shoreline in an area that is thirty feet or less in width along the shore or when the exotic invasive plants Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, or purple loosestrife are manually removed.

How do I apply for a permit to remove aquatic plants?

Contact the aquatic plant management specialist in your area to discuss aquatic plant removal/control plans and request the appropriate application for your project.

When do I apply for a permit?

Upon receipt of a *complete* application, the Department has fifteen working days to issue or deny a permit to control or remove aquatic plants. Verification of a complete application and permit issuance, however, may depend on a site inspection of the aquatic plant community.

Where do I go for more information about aquatic plants?

The Department's webpage, www.dnr.state.wi.us, contains informational resources such as literature, links, and contacts regarding aquatic plants.



For more information on managing aquatic plants, please contact your local APM coordinator. For more information about the new aquatic plant management rules and their development, please contact Frank J. Koshere, Statewide Aquatic Plant Management Coordinator, at (715) 392-0807 or frank.koshere@dnr.state.wi.us.



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