



RED CEDAR, BALSAM, HEMLOCK, MUD,
BASS LAKES & MURPHY FLOWAGE
Preserve and Protect for the Future.

VISIT US AT: WWW.REDCEDARLAKES.COM

PRESIDENT/OFFICER

Michael Klutho (612) 875-8014
mklutho2801@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT Currently Unfilled

SECRETARY/OFFICER

Deanna Hessling (563) 949-0473
deanna@gatheringplaceresort.com

TREASURER/OFFICER

Steve Tracey (715) 377-2331
swtracey@baldwin-telecom.net

**AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

Lori Anderson (610) 533-7471
llamiller0912@gmail.com
Brett Heinlein (414) 254-0810
bwheinlein0810@gmail.com

**COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

Michelle Fischer (763) 954-0039
rclacommunication@gmail.com

COUPON BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Kathy Salvi (828) 228-8993
kathy.salvi@gmail.com

FISH HABITAT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Dennis Zingen, Joey Leonard, Randy Kotval
(715) 225-8517; (715) 281-9986; (612) 201-2985
denniszingen@gmail.com

**LAKE INFORMATION & SAFETY
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

Len Christianson (612) 247-9771
lenc@centurytel.net

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Runae Maloney (612) 597-2906
runaed@skcable.com

NATURE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Valerie Bausch (612) 308-2242
vbasc@yahoo.com

**SHORELINE & ISLAND RESTORATION
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

Currently Unfilled

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Tim Lewis (651) 962-6741
oldtobylewis@gmail.com

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Another Summer season “up at the lake” is coming to an end. We sure enjoyed some really nice warm weather throughout the Summer so be sure to remember that in a couple of months as Winter sets in!

This is my first column as our Association's President. First, as I take over the “reins” of our Association, I'd like to first comment that I'm always amazed at the quality and enthusiasm of our Association's Board. It's a lot of work and the pay isn't great (read – non-existent). We do it because we love our lakes and the communities surrounding them. It's worth repeating – our lakes are just about the best Wisconsin has to offer!



Our Association is here to “preserve, protect and improve Red Cedar, Balsam, Hemlock, Bass, Mud Lakes and Murphy Flowage and their watershed and ecosystem.” That's our Mission Statement. It's our guide in all that we do.

So in my first column I'd like to pose a question. But first a bit of background. Years ago, we were fortunate to have some very forward-thinking individuals decide to form our Association. Their vision was to preserve the quality of our lakes using volunteers. And it's worked. Decades later, we are now confronting new and multiple threats to our lakes. Invasive species, invasive vegetation, phosphorus loading, etc. And we fight all of this with volunteers.

And on this point, we need to be frank. As with many worthwhile endeavors, volunteers are getting harder to find and retain. All of us are pulled in countless directions especially when we are “up at the lake.” It's understandable that we'd rather be out on a boat, casting a line, and spending time with our kids and grandkids. So, the job of fulfilling our Association's Mission Statement falls to our small “rag tag group” of volunteers who give of their time in order to serve all of us.

So here's my question. Have the circumstances and realities our lakes are experiencing – and frankly just the normal evolution occurring in all “volunteer associations” – gotten us to

the point where we consider taking the next step in our Association's evolution? That is, becoming "Lake District?"

Here is a summary of how Lake Districts operate taken from this publication **A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations** <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/organizations/guide.aspx>; or, take a photo of the QR code below for access.

"A lake district's day-to-day operations are carried out by a board of commissioners composed of elected volunteers and local officials. The financial direction of the district is determined by district residents (electors) and property owners at an annual meeting. Unlike other governmental units like towns or sanitary districts, nonresident property owners have the right to vote in lake districts."

"A lake district is not a club. Unlike a lake association, a lake district is a governmental body with statutory responsibilities to the resource, local citizens and taxpayers. Like all government entities, the powers and operations of a lake district are set by law with legal responsibilities and consequences designed to ensure that the rights and interests of the public are protected."

Our Lake Association has created a new Committee (Deanna Hessling, Tim Lewis, Runae Maloney, Lori Anderson and me) designed to study and analyze the pros and cons of becoming a Lake District. So, please keep this question in mind as our Committee takes a dive into Lake Districts. We expect to report back with our findings. So stay tuned on this potential endeavor.

Michael Klutho,
President



BOARD OF DIRECTOR CHANGES

LORI ANDERSON **CO-CHAIRPERSON OF AIS**

Lori Anderson and her husband Jeff Miller moved to Birchwood in the summer of 2021 from Pennsylvania. Lori worked for over 30 years as an R&D engineer and manager for a large industrial gases company and has degrees in chemical engineering from Michigan Tech and the University of Massachusetts. Lori has one son and one daughter. She enjoys reading, kayaking, crafting and hanging out with her elderly cat Buckley.

JOEY LEONARD, RANDY KOTVAL AND DENNIS ZINGEN **CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF FISH HABITAT**

Joey grew up in the Waupaca, WI area. He and his wife Rachel purchased a cabin on Balsam Lake in 2011. Rachel's great grandfather had a place on Red Cedar for many years and her parents still live on the lake. In 2019, Joey and Rachel moved from their Balsam Lake cabin to a lake home on Red Cedar and now live here full-time. Joey looks forward to doing anything he can to help protect our lakes now and for future generations.

Randy has enjoyed his time in their cabin on Balsam Lake for 34 years. He previously served on the RCLA board for 10 years which included constructing and placing fish cribs as well as helping with "Walleyes for Tomorrow" and other volunteer initiatives. Randy's daughters grew up fishing on our lakes and he looks forward to improving the fish habitat for my kids and all kids who just love to fish!



From left to right: Dennis, Joey, Randy

Dennis was fortunate to acquire his cabin on the Balsam Lake Narrows in the fall of 1998. He previously served on the RCLA board for 8 years and helped install the informational kiosks on the landings. Randy also assisted with lake quality testing and installation of the fish cribs throughout our lakes. He looks forward to serving again and helping our association achieve its mission to maintain and improve our lakes.




AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) COMMITTEE

YELLOW FLAG IRIS



Photo Credit: thisandthat-robort.blogspot.com

Yellow Flag Iris was identified in Red Cedar Lake for the first time this year. This plant is classified as an invasive species by the Wisconsin DNR. It grows 3-4 feet tall in wetlands, with showy yellow flowers that are 3 to 4 inches wide. It is quite difficult to distinguish from other native types of iris including blue flag iris except by the color of its flowers, which are present from April to July. Yellow flag iris does have a more pronounced midrib in its leaves compared to blue flag iris, and seeds grow in 3 rows versus 2 rows.

Yellow flag iris most often escapes from garden cultivation. Once present on a body of water, it can spread through its seeds and rhizomes which float. It can establish large floating mats and can crowd out native iris and cattails. This plant causes skin irritation and all parts are toxic to wildlife and livestock. (see  for more information).



Yellow Flag Iris Seeds - Photo Credit Leslie J. Mehroff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

An initial mapping survey of yellow iris was done at the end of the season. It will be completed in 2024 and a comprehensive plan to control it will be written and submitted to the DNR for approval. Please check your property for yellow flag iris in April when it can be positively identified. It's best removed by digging the entire plant, taking care to remove all of the underground rhizomes. Growth can be slowed by snipping the plant stem below water; spread of the plant can be slowed by removing flowers and seed capsules. Protect your skin from irritation by wearing gloves. Contact the RCLA at the numbers on page 1 if you'd like help identifying yellow flag iris.



Close up of Yellow Flag Iris - Photo Credit: Nancy Loewenstein, Auburn University, Bugwood.org

CURLY LEAF PONDWEED:

In spring, pre-treatment studies were completed that identified the areas and amounts of CLP actively growing in Birch, Hemlock and Red Cedar lakes. Only a few acres of CLP were found that required treatment. This reduction from several years ago reflects the effectiveness of our combined CLP herbicide and DASH (diver assisted suction harvest) treatment as well as growing conditions that are less favorable to CLP. As the size of our CLP beds within our lakes shrink the need for CLP herbicide treatment is reduced. We are hopeful that no herbicide treatment will be needed in 2024.

As a reminder, DASH is a system that has only recently started to be used on our lakes. Divers use a suction system that removes

the CLP from the lake bottom and transfers the plants to containers on a boat. CLP that



has been removed from the lake is properly disposed of on land. This approach works well on smaller beds of CLP. In addition, it allows us to remove CLP from portions of Balsam Lake where herbicide treatment hasn't been allowed due to the presence of wild rice.

A CLP bed mapping study was completed in late June/early July. This map will be used to plan treatment in 2024.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE MONITORING:

Purple Loosestrife is a very persistent invasive perennial plant that was introduced from Europe and Asia. While it is attractive, in our environment it does not have insects or diseases to keep it from spreading. It can grow taller and faster than native plants and shade out and reduce diversity of native plants. Loosestrife has spread rapidly in Wisconsin over the last 20 to 30 years.

One effective method to control purple loosestrife is biocontrol using beetles. These beetles feed exclusively on purple loosestrife and reduce plant height and seed output, which allows native plants to compete more effectively.

For the past several years, the RCLA Nature Committee has worked with Blue Hills Charter School students along with teacher Jenny Landes. The students planted rootstock and raised beetles. This year, the beetles were released by the Discover Wisconsin

sin summer school class in the bogs on both sides of the Narrows between Red Cedar and Hemlock lakes on June 28, 2023.



Photo Credit: Linda Wilson,
University of Idaho,
Bugwood.org

MAPPING STUDIES/ MONITORING:

A Wood debris study will be done toward the end of this season on Bass and Hemlock Lakes. Large woody debris left in place in streams and lakes improves water clarity and helps promote biodiversity by providing shelter to invertebrates and fish. The results of this study will guide future plans for RCLA.



Ongoing monitoring of the lakes this summer identified no other new AIS species.

CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATER:

This summer our lake association paid for over 500 hours of landing monitoring on our lakes. One significant contributor to this achievement was Gail Molohon who alone completed 200 hours of monitoring. When Gail moved to the area from Minnesota in 2022, she wanted to get involved in the community. Gail had learned about the opportunity to get involved with Clean Boats Clean Water from a member of the RCLA board. After doing some research on the



Gail Molohon Photo Credit: Brett Heinlein

CBCW program she felt the need to do her part in keeping our lakes pristine for future

generations. Gail shared her passion with boaters educating them on the importance of defending our lakes from invasive species. On behalf of the RCLA board, we want to thank Gail for her diligent efforts in supporting our Clean Boats Clean Water program. Our CBCW efforts would not have been the success it was without her!

Looking ahead to the summer of 2024, the RCLA will once again be looking to hire landing monitors for our CBCW program. Whether you're looking for a summer job or just want to do your part. Being a CBCW monitor is a great opportunity to spend some time near our lakes while educating boaters on preserving our beautiful aquatic resource. Landing monitors should be at least 16 years of age. The RCLA pays Clean Boats Clean Water landing monitors \$15 per hour. For more information please contact the RCLA or Brett Heinlein directly.

**Lori Anderson &
Brett Heinlein**

NATURE COMMITTEE

Only in WI can you have temps in the 90s during Labor Day weekend and two days later it's barely in the 60s. Looks like fall is officially here with the trees turning color, the loons congregating on Red Cedar and the hummingbirds already starting to migrate ... and it's only early September!!

The Nature Committee had a very active summer this year with plenty of activities,

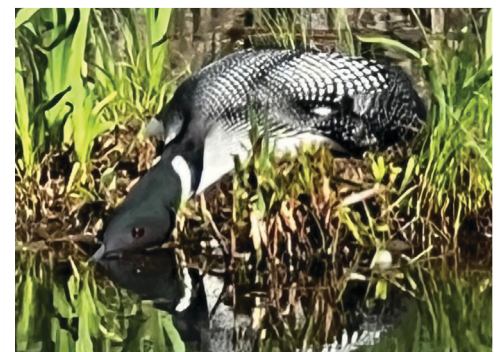


starting with the Nature Program in June. Megan Giefer, Naturalist at Beaver Creek Reserve. Megan did a fantastic job educating us on Monarchs and various backyard butterflies and what we can do to create a sustainable habitat for butterflies to flourish in our own yard. We will be sponsoring another Nature Program on Sat., June 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. so please mark your calendars now. We will be sharing additional details regarding the topic and other important information on our website (www.redcedarlakes.com) and Facebook in the near future and also in the RCLA 2024 Spring Newsletter.

Reminder - this is free and a great family activity with plenty of yummy refreshments!!

Other activities the Nature Committee completed was the continued participation in

the LoonWatch Program. This summer, we had only 1 loon chick make it into the fall! The loons had a hard time this year dealing with the black flies on the nest and basically abandoning the eggs. We had a couple pairs try to re-nest but sadly no positive results.



The committee cannot emphasize enough the importance of taking the lead from

NATURE COMMITTEE CONTINUED...

your tackle boxes and making sure you do not leave any tackle in our lakes, minimizing the possible impact to our wildlife.. Please fish responsibly, use lead free, do not fish near loons, and if you accidentally hook a loon, please report it immediately as this is a "Death Sentence" to a loon.

**For Loon Rescue Call:
(715) 966-5415 or
(715) 453-4916**

We continue to have an abundance of Purple Loosestrife (PLS) on the bogs at the southern end of Red Cedar. A big THANK YOU to the Birchwood Blue Hills Charter School (BBHCS), where they raised beetles and released them on the bogs to help combat the PLS. These kids and teachers are amazing and we couldn't be successful without their help and dedication.



Students from Birchwood Blue Hills Charter School releasing beetles on the bogs to help combat Purple Loosestrife



We also have a new invasive plant called Yellow Iris that has been identified on our shorelines. The Nature Committee will be working to determine the best method for combating this plant and will continue to educate the

community as we will need your help. The wild rice that grows by the Balsam Lake boat landing was GPS mapped and results sent to the DNR. Although there was not a significant amount, there was more than last year and it's important that we continue to track this area.



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 vbause@yahoo.com.

Valerie Bausch

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Greetings from the communications committee. I hope you're enjoying the 2023 Fall RCLA newsletter. You will see QR Codes in this newsletter. The following tips will let you know how to access the information embedded in the QR codes.

According to WikiHow...

<https://www.wikihow.com/Scan-a-QR-Code>

"4 QUICK WAYS TO SCAN A QR CODE WITH A PHONE OR COMPUTER"

QR codes are black-and-white squares that store information such as links, phone numbers, images, and so on. Newer smartphones have built-in QR readers right in the Camera app. If you're using a laptop or computer, you can install an app specifically for reading QR codes. Before you scan any QR codes,

make sure you know its source to avoid visiting any malicious websites. This wikiHow will show you how to scan a QR code using your iPhone, Android, Windows, or Mac computer.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- On iPhone, open the camera and point it at the QR code. Tap the link above the code to open it.
- On Android, open the camera. Tap the cog icon and toggle on "Scan QR codes". Point the camera at the code and click the link that pops up.
- On Windows, download the Codex app. Click "Scan QR Code" then "Camera" then hold the QR code to your camera.

You can practice by scanning this QR code to access the WikiHow article on

"4 Quick Ways to Scan a QR Code with a Phone or Computer"



You will see QR codes in the future to access additional information; RSVP to an event; or to refer to our website at www.redcedarlakes.com for resources.

Please frequent our Facebook page: Red Cedar Lakes Association and our website: www.redcedarlakes.com.

Thank you for your patronage.

Michelle Fischer

COUPON BOOK COMMITTEE

Summer just races by in the blink of an eye but then winter takes too long to leave. I hope everyone had a wonderful spring and summer and enjoyed every moment to it's fullest. Coming to Northern WI always brings an appreciation for the little things such as fun on the lake with family, listening to the backyard birds or watching fox kits play as they grow to adulthood. We still have several more weeks to enjoy great weather, fishing, family gatherings and a few RCLA coupons to spend!! Let us get busy and enjoy what time we have left of the season before cool weather arrives to stay!

I would like to extend a thank you to our RCLA members who sent donations for coupon books. Our mission is to "preserve and protect for the future" and your donation for a coupon book has a direct impact on which projects we are to continue. The couponbook and independent donations allowed us to continue treatment for purple loosestrife, install/manage boat treatment stations, promote water safety, recreate eroded shoreline, generate new habitat for the fish population and rigorous water testing to ensure the lake remains at the highest quality! The projects we completed were initiated by the RCLA committee but funded by YOU!

I would also like to thank the generous individuals, businesses and corporate sponsors in our community who offered their coupons and sponsorships to the RCLA. Their continued support and often generous contributions make all the difference, and our book would not be possible without them! This allowed us to collect a total of \$7305.00 which will be used to support the health and longevity of our lakes.

I look forward to your continued support! As work begins on next year's couponbook, it is my goal is to have even more exciting coupons available for your use in April 2024. The 2024 Red Cedar Lake Fundraiser couponbook should be available at the following locations:

- Birchwood Café
- Butternut Hills Gold Course
- Cedar Lake Grill
- Dairy State Bank
- Loch Lohmond Beach Club
- Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Tagalong Golf Course

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at (828) 228-8993 or relakathysalvi@gmail.com email if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Kathy Salvi



COUPON BOOK RESTAURANTS, GOLF COURSES & BUSINESSES

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Agonic Brewery | My Last Resort |
| Airtec Equipment | New Reflections (2) |
| Airtec Sports | Northside Café |
| Bear Tracks (2) | Northwoods Lift & Dock (2) |
| Birch Lakes Resort | Outdoor Ventures |
| Butternut Golf | Paws at Play (4) |
| Cabin Coffee (2) | Pitstop BBQ Smokehouse (5) |
| Cedar Lake Grill (2) | Rice Lake Printery (2) |
| Cumberland Golf | Rolling Oaks Golf |
| Dairy State Bank | Sunset View Golf (2) |
| Don Johnson (2) | Tagalong Golf |
| Gary's Grocery (2) | The Birchwood Café (2) |
| Grinders | The Creamery |
| Jason Market (2) | The Hair Garage (2) |
| Jimmy John's (2) | The Roost (2) |
| K Hair Studio (2) | Turtleback (2) |
| Kincaid's Country Inn | Two Sisters |
| Lake Kids | Unique Design Bakery |
| Lehman's | Ventures Clothing and Apparel |
| Marshall House | Wagon Wheel (2) |
| Mary's Blue Gill (2) | Wildflower |
| MTJ Home Security | |

FISH HABITAT COMMITTEE

One of the many joys of being on the Cedar Lakes Chain is the fishing quality. For years the RCLA has been installing different types of structures to insure the continuing quality of our fishery. In the past we would combine pallets and sink them formations to create fish cribs. Later we participated in the fish sticks program. We would place trees on the ice, weigh them down and hope they would sink where they were placed.

We are now doing a Tree Drop placement where we attach trees to the shoreline. This allows us to control placement of the trees. Currently we are looking for shoreline locations to place more fish Habitat trees. If you would like to improve the fishing around your property for future generations please contact one of us and we will assess the shoreline for possible placement. Shoreline owners are required to be present while the trees are placed.

Randy Kotval
randy.kotval@yahoo.com

Joey Leonard
joey.leonard@yahoo.com

Dennis Zingen
denniszingen@gmail.com



LAKE INFORMATION AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Another summer season has come and gone and it's always a sad day when we have to start thinking about putting our toys away. Fall though is still a great time to be on the water and enjoy the colors. This year we have had very few complaints as far as unsafe boating or excessive speeds in our No Wake zones. Thanks!

The buoys will come out around the third week of October and our large channel marking buoys will go through rehab with a fresh look for next spring. The kiosks are in good shape for the winter but if you see signs of any damage or vandalism please report it to us so we can get it taken care of.

Len Christianson



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Well, that was a quick summer! It is my hope each of you had an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful waters of Balsam, Red Cedar, Hemlock, Bass, Mud Lakes, and the Murphy Flowage. We currently have 652 members from 370 households. We are happy to welcome 52 new members. Thank you, to each of you, for joining the RCLA. We also truly appreciate the membership renewal and support of all our 'old' members. In addition to the Membership dues of \$13,040, our members contributed \$10,017 in designated committee donations. Thank you for your membership and for your generous support of the association. I also want to recognize and thank our Corporate Members listed below. We are grateful for their commitment to us and I urge all our members to generously support them whenever they can.

Be on the watch for the 2024 Membership Application Forms coming in your November mail. As you read about all the work that has been done, and continues, even into the fall and winter, I hope you see value in being a member, and will renew your membership. Please encourage your non-member neighbors and friends, to join us. We would love to have their support. The new membership form can be found on our website. Thanks again for being part of a very active lake association and for your generous donations. Take care and have a safe and healthy fall and winter. Hold the camera from your cell phone over the QR code — to access our website membership page.



Runae Maloney

AIRTEC SPORTS

Birchwood, WI 54868
(715) 500-5232
<https://airtecsportsbirchwood.com>

BIRCHWOOD CAFÉ

120 Main Street
Birchwood, WI 54817
(715) 354-3000
<https://www.birchwoodcafe.com>

BULL DOZIN' INC.

2259 20 1/8th Street
Rice Lake, WI 54868
(715) 234-1175
<https://bulldozinin.com>

CEDAR LAKE GRILL

2670 27th Street
Mikana, WI 54857
(715) 254-9951
<https://cedarlakegrill.business.site>

CEDAR RIDGE WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP, LTD

8530 Eagle Point Blvd., Suite 250
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
(651) 200-4144
<https://www.cedarridgewealth.com/>

DAIRY STATE BANK

124 S Main Street
Birchwood, WI 54817
(715) 354-3411
<https://dairystatebank.com/>



GATHERING PLACE RESORT & LODGE

2738 27 1/2 Avenue
Birchwood, WI 54817
(715) 354-3029
<https://gatheringplaceresort.com/>

LOCH LOMOND BEACH CLUB

2754 28th Street
Birchwood, WI 54817
(715) 354-3400
<https://www.llbeachclub.com/>

MIKANA MARINE & RESORT

2718 26 1/2 Ave
Rice Lake, WI 54868
(715) 234-3008
<https://www.mikanamarineresort.com>

MY LAST RESORT, INC.

2337 29th Street
Rice Lake, WI 54868
(715) 651-7345
<https://mylastresortinmikana.com>

PAWS AT PLAY BOARDING & DAYCARE LODGE

2307 26th Street
Rice Lake, WI 54868
(715) 307-2407
<https://pawsatplayboarding.com>

PERLICK DISTILLERY

W5150 County Hwy. B
Sarona, WI 54870
(715) 296-5087
<https://perlickdistillery.com>

PINES AT THE LAKE

2801 27th Street
Birchwood, WI 54817
(612) 875-8014
<https://pinesatthelake.com/>



SYNERGY COOPERATIVE PIT STOP BBQ SMOKEHOUSE

701 Highway 48
Birchwood, WI 54817
(715) 354-7991
[Synergycoop.com/pitstopbbqsmokehousecenex](https://synergycoop.com/pitstopbbqsmokehousecenex)

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING
THESE BUSINESSES!**

SHORELINE & ISLAND RESTORATION COMMITTEE

YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!



Our Shoreline and Island Restoration Committee needs a volunteer to Chair this important Committee. Here is the “job” description. Actually reviewing this description might take more time than the actual “job.” Please contact Michael Klutho, RCLA President (612-875-8014) for more details and to volunteer. We can sure use your help and rest assured we are here to work with you to make this service to our Lake Association easy and rewarding!

COMMITTEE’S OBJECTIVE

Restore and preserve our lakeshores and public islands utilizing the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Healthy Lakes Initiatives and other programs as well as Member donations.

COMMITTEE CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES & OVERSIGHT OF VOLUNTEERS

1. No experience is necessary! Prior Committee Chair will guide you through all aspects of this Committee’s important work. We can even help with the “public speaking” associated with the two presentations RCLA offers each year. In other words, if you’d rather not make the public presentations, we can do that for you.
2. Monitor public islands in Red Cedar and Hemlock lakes regarding island condition overall and island shoreline erosion. This means riding around in a

boat looking at our beautiful lakeshores and islands and noting what areas might benefit from improvements!

3. Monitor/maintain the island restoration work we completed in 2022 on the island cross from Waldo-Carlson Park. More boat riding and visually checking on our past work!
4. Identify potential shoreline restoration projects/candidates for WI DNR Healthy Lakes Grant consideration (rain gardens, native plantings, diversion, and rock infiltration). Boat riding and looking at our shorelines and jotting down some notes.
5. Work with landowners and a Healthy Lakes Initiative’s expert consultant to design shoreline improvements for submission to WI DNR. Work with interested shoreline property owners to enhance and add beauty to their properties.
6. Submit potential Healthy Lakes Initiative project candidates to WI DNR for potential grants to construct approved initiatives during the grant period. Past submissions will serve as your guide.
7. Work with landowners, VOLUNTEERS, and a Healthy Lakes Initiative’s expert consultant to construct/install and maintain approved shoreline improvements. You work will help stabilize soils and island shorelines on the public islands in Hemlock and Red Cedar Lakes.
8. Keep track of volunteer hours and expenses and submit expenses for reimbursement to RCLA.
9. Secure contracts with Healthy Lakes Initiatives recipients to confirm that they will maintain the shoreline improvements for ten (10) years.
10. Within six (6) months of the end of a Grant’s end date, submit documentation to the WI DNR to document all improvements that were completed and to

secure reimbursements pursuant to the Grant requirements.

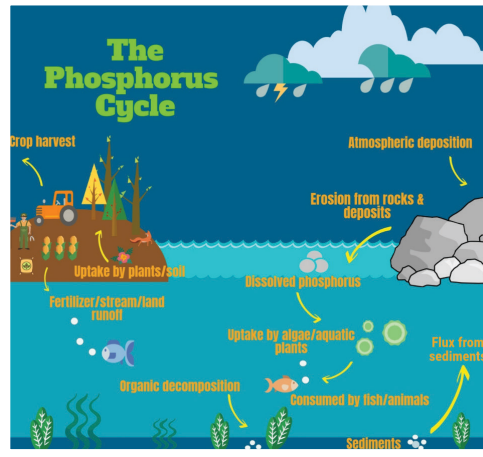
11. Submit an proposed budget each year for anticipated work and expenses. The RCLA President (and past chair of this Committee) will assist with this submission.
12. Attend six (6) scheduled RCLA meetings (monthly Spring to Fall on one Saturday each month) to report on progress of the Committee.
13. Attend our Lake Association’s July Annual Member Meeting and overview island and shoreline restoration projects underway and completed. Again, if you’d prefer, another Board member can make this presentation.
14. Attend annual our Lake Association’s Annual Education Meeting to present on work planned and accomplished by the Committee and answer member questions. Again, another Board member can present.
15. Respond (and work with other Committee Chairs) to Member inquiries directed to the Committee.

Michael Klutho,
President and former
Shoreline & Island
Restoration Chairperson



PHOSPHORUS, WHY ALWAYS PHOSPHORUS?

We live and play on one of the cleanest chains of lakes in Wisconsin. We do not know of any toxic waste seeping into our streams. We have invasive plants largely under control thanks to a very active and effective control program funded through state grants. If you boat on neighbor lakes you will often see green soupy water by this time of the year, and our water looks very clean. If you motor along our shores (slowly if within 100 feet of shore, that is a no-wake zone which helps prevent erosion), overwhelmingly you see good stewardship of the lakefront. There are few places that lack a vegetative buffer to help protect the shore from erosion and to divert overland runoff that can pick up herbi-



parison to most other lakes, but not to our own lakes of 20 years ago.

We can do better. We need to do better. Long-term property values will be adversely affected if we do not, not to mention the de-

ons. They cost on the order of a hundred thousand dollars a year and are not grant fundable. Examples include treatments like alum to bind the phosphorus in the water, or property acquisition when key pieces that need protecting become available.

There are only three ways this association can get the funding it needs to reverse the damage to the lakes. Some donor out there might adopt us and provide substantial funding. That would be great, most welcome, and if you are thinking about that please let us know! So far, that has not happened. We could go for larger grants, but we are already overextended managing the many grants we have. The path that other lakes associations have taken is to create a Lake



cides. Mostly our tasks now are to maintain the excellent systems we have in place.

One area that we now know for certain threatens our lakes is phosphorous buildup. Phosphorus is a great fertilizer for lawns, but in a lake, it fertilizes algae. Green soup. When those algae dies, it sinks to lake bottoms, releasing phosphorus and consuming oxygen needed by fish. Shoreline protection helps keep phosphorus out of the water. Our biggest sources of phosphorous in our lakes come from upstream tributaries. Long-term monitoring data show our lakes are getting greener over time. We are still good by com-

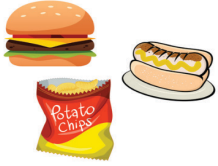
creased quality of our fishing and swimming. The small projects on individual properties have, well, small and localized impacts. They are super important, but alone they cannot address the rising buildup of phosphorus. For that we need to take some lakes-wide action. Unfortunately, that is not cheap. Our Lakes Association annual budget for water quality is in the thousands of dollars. State grants all together add maybe another hundred thousand dollars for the many different funded projects. But to effectively protect our lakes and reverse the insidious accumulation of phosphorus, we need bigger weap-

District. Over 200 lakes associations like ours in Wisconsin have already done this. It would move your lakes management from a dedicated group of volunteer amateurs (great people, I assure you, and two of us have natural resources degrees, but not in aquatic ecology!), to a more professional operation subject to democratic votes of the area residents setting priorities with a budget that could address the issues before us. It seems to be the natural progression of lakes associations such as ours.

Something for us all to think about.

Tim Lewis

RCLA MEMBERS...THANK YOU!



Chillin' AND GRILLING

On Saturday June 24, 2023 the RCLA board held a Chillin' and Grilling social at the Cedar Lake Grill. It was a fantastic turn out and our members had the opportunity to meet and great one another while having a bite to eat. For those of you who were able to attend,

Thank you!

Please keep a look out for future social events.





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