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# SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Congratulations to those hardy Wisconsin residents that are not snowbirds for making it through a very snowy winter! I was happy to hear the ice is off the lakes, the loons are back and the RCLA activities are already well under way. Please take the time to read each committee report in the newsletter as they will clearly outline the work they will be conducting in 2023.

I have a couple topics I would like to discuss as the board was very active over the winter.



## COMPREHENSIVE LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN (LMP)

Several members of our board have been working with Dave Blumer, RCLA Lake Management Consultant, to complete an updated LMP. The last LMP was completed in 2004 and is updated every 10 years. The whole of the Red Cedar River watershed was assessed under a TMDL (total maximum daily load) study that establishes the amount of a pollutant (nutrients, sediment, man-made pollutants) a water body (lake, river, or stream) can receive and still meet stated water quality standards. From there, an implementation plan is developed to describe the management measures and regulatory approaches necessary to address the pollutant load issues affecting the water body, the parties responsible for such management measures, the costs and sources of funds for these measures, methods to get participation from stakeholders, a timeline for implementation, ways to measure success, and also any adaptive management techniques employed as the plan moves forward. Although the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan goes into incredible detail, I wanted to highlight the 5 key high level strategies we have aligned to focus on:

1. Reduce external total phosphorous (TP) loading into the main stem lakes (Balsam, Red Cedar, Hemlock) from the four major tributaries (Birch Lake (Red Cedar River), Pigeon Creek, Sucker Creek, Hemlock Creek) by 33.4% (4,676lbs) over the next ten years (2024-2033).
2. Reduce internal total phosphorous (TP) loading in the main stem lakes (Balsam, Red Cedar, and Hemlock Lakes) by 10% (270lbs) over the next 10 years (2024-2033) based on values reported in the 2003 USGS Report
3. Reduce surface water phosphorus sediment loading into the main stem lakes (Big Chetac, Birch, Balsam, Red Cedar, and Hemlock Lakes) from the whole of the northern Red Cedar River Watershed outside the "measured" portions of the watershed (Lake Chetac and Knuteson Creek Sub-basins, that portion of the Red Cedar Lake Sub-basin not already included in the Pigeon Creek Sub-basin - NW of Red Cedar Lake, and the southern portion of the Hemlock Creek Sub-basin) by 20%.
4. Reduce the number of businesses and private parcels contributing phosphorus and sediment loading through surface water runoff into the Red Cedar Lakes.
5. Develop and put into practice an organizational structure that is scaled to meet the human and financial requirements necessary to implement the tactics, actions and relationship-building efforts outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

If you are interested in reading more about the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan, it will be posted on the RCLA Website at [www.redcedarlakes.com](http://www.redcedarlakes.com).

## OPEN BOARD POSITION



One of our RCLA Co-AIS Chairs, Tom Goodwin, will be taking on a new position within the board that will focus on our strategies coming out of the LMP, leaving a vacancy in the AIS Committee. The great news is Tom will continue leading a critical role within the board and will also be available to help an eager candidate who would be willing to help lead the AIS committee. If you are interested or know anyone that would be interested, please contact me at [vbausc@yahoo.com](mailto:vbausc@yahoo.com) or Tom Goodwin at [tlgfinl@gmail.com](mailto:tlgfinl@gmail.com). As you know, this is an important committee for the RCLA and need to fill this position ASAP.

After serving 6 years as President, I have elected to step down in July when my term completed. Pending final approval from the membership at the Annual Meeting, Michael Klutho has volunteered to take over as President. With that, his current role as Shoreline and Island Restoration Chair will be vacant. Once again, if you are interested or know anyone interested in becoming the next Shoreline and Island Restoration Committee Chair, please contact Michael Klutho at [mklutho2801@gmail.com](mailto:mklutho2801@gmail.com) or myself at [vbausc@yahoo.com](mailto:vbausc@yahoo.com).

## VOLUNTEERING



Volunteering is still needed and important to accomplish our goals each committee has set forth in 2023. We have 9 active committees in which you can volunteer and ALL SKILLS ARE WELCOME!! As a friendly reminder, there are various ways to sign up to volunteer ... you can contact the Committee Chair (all are listed on the front page of this newsletter), you can go out to our website at [www.redcedarlakes.com](http://www.redcedarlakes.com) or you can send an email to me at [vbausc@yahoo.com](mailto:vbausc@yahoo.com). A special THANK YOU to those that have volunteered throughout the years ... your time and dedication is greatly appreciated!!

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT/DONATIONS

On behalf of the entire board, we want to thank each and every one of you that continue to support the Red Cedar Lakes Association through membership dues, purchasing our coupon book or donating to a committee of your choice ... we couldn't continue making our lakes one of the best in Wisconsin without your support!!



## ANNUAL MEETING



The RCLA Annual Meeting will take place on Sat., July 8, 2023 from 9:00-10:30 at Loch Lomond Beach Club. We encourage our membership to attend as you will hear updates from our Committee Chairs on the progress of the important work taking place on our lakes, financial updates from our Treasurer, President's direction and membership voting on open board positions. Per our policy, we will be sending out a postcard to all members 30 days in advance of the meeting as a reminder. Details of the meeting will also be on our website.

**Valerie Bausch, President**

# VICE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I have had the pleasure of representing RCLA and the northern part of the watershed on the Red Cedar Watershed Partnership Committee for the past six years. The committee is made up of individuals representing the WI DNR, UW-Extension, Barron, Rusk and Dunn land and water conservation coordinators, UW-Stout, municipalities, business representatives, lake association and more throughout the watershed from the headwaters of Big Chetac Lake all the way down to Menomin and Tainter lakes near Menomonie.

It is a stakeholders group comprised of professionals in water quality management, land management, biology, chemistry, farm management, shoreline conservation, urban and waste water treatment plan experts, business management, etc. all collectively and collaboratively working to improve the water quality of the Red Cedar River, its lakes and tributaries. The goal of the plan is to reduce the phosphorous loading in the watershed by 67%, over 10 years and thereby improve water quality.

Our watershed is very diverse. The northern part is dominated by lakes, rivers, streams and forest land, with some farm land. The middle and lower section is primarily farm land, with some rivers, streams and lakes. Throughout the watershed, we have cities and municipalities also contributing to phosphorous loading. This means the various stakeholders have to use diverse best management practices (BMP'S) to meet our goal.

## LAKES AND RIVERS

All you need to do is read the rest of this newsletter to get a feel for the types of BMP's organizations like us are implementing in lakes and streams aimed at reducing phosphorous loading. Some of the key programs:

- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management such as control of phosphorous-producing Curly Leaf Pondweed, which fortunately RCLA's AIS Committee has been doing for years.
- Shoreline, stream and island restoration projects like rain gardens, water diversions and buffer zones, including shoreline owner's activities like implementation of the 35-foot buffer zone law, use of non-phosphorous fertilizer, septic tank management, etc. RCLA's Shoreline and Island Restoration Committee has been very active in this area
- Increase water quality testing in our streams to better understand the major sources of phosphorous entering our lakes, such as our Water Quality Committee has been doing for the past four years.

## FARMING BMP'S

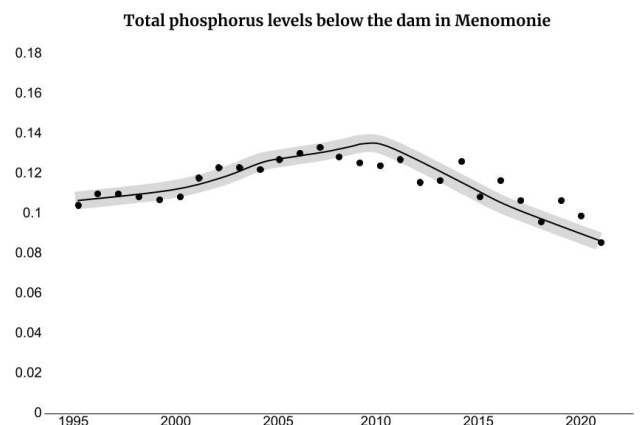
- Implementation of farming best practices like planting of cover crops, no-till plowing and soil sampling to reduce run-off in streams.
- Replication of load-reduction tactics like vegetation buffers, grade stabilization structures and barnyard runoff systems.
- Implementation of managed grazing for cows to graze in fields rather than near streams or in overgrazed areas.

## CITIES, MUNICIPALITIE, VILLAGES

- Construction of new and/or improvement of existing regional storm water ponds.
- Implementation of new street sweeping plans based on DNR technical guidance and research.
- Improvement in storm water management, education and outreach programs

While this represents some of the projects in the watershed, it is by no means comprehensive. Further, many people in the watershed continue to improve land and water management practices to decrease surface runoff and increase infiltration. Much of this work happens without knowledge of our committee. We know our collective efforts are working, based on the estimated 43% reduction to date of phosphorous levels recorded below the dam in Menomonie. (see chart). I would encourage all of us to support proven land and water management practices so we can continue this positive trend, and help maintain and/or improve water quality in our lakes and streams for generations to come.

**Gerry Johnson, Vice President**



# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) COMMITTEE

## CURLY LEAF PONDWEED (CLP)

In May we will be on the lake conducting the CLP pre-treatment surveys for Birch, Hemlock and Red Cedar lakes. These surveys yield information regarding the amount of CLP actively growing in our lakes. The survey results provide the necessary information to determine where and how we will manage CLP in our lakes during the coming year.

Each spring the degree of CLP growth in our lakes can vary significantly. The past several years we have been fortunate that we've only needed to treat a few acres of CLP. The reduction in the amount of CLP in our lakes is a result of very effective CLP herbicide treatments in past years.

As the size of our CLP beds within our lakes shrink the need for CLP herbicide treatment is reduced. This past year we received permission from the Wisconsin DNR to use DASH (diver assisted suction harvest) to manage CLP within our lakes. Below is a picture of a DASH system in use.



The DASH system allows CLP to be manually removed from the lake. 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 will allow us to remove CLP from portions of Balsam Lake where herbicide treatment hasn't been allowed due to the presence of wild rice.

This coming summer we will again be com-

pleting the CLP bed mapping study. This survey will be completed in late June/early July and provides us with information on actively growing CLP within our lakes.



Photo Courtesy of: Northeast Aquatic Research, LLC

## AIS EDUCATION

On August 27, 2022, we held an RCLA Member Education meeting at the Town Hall in Mikana, WI. Several topics were discussed; Water Quality, Shoreline Restoration, and our AIS efforts. Presentations from this meeting have been posted to the RCLA website should you be interested in reviewing them.

## SHORELINE HABITAT STUDIES

We've completed shoreline habitat studies on all our lakes; Balsam, Red Cedar Hemlock, Mud and Bass Lakes. These studies examine the health of our shorelines. The results of these studies provide insight concerning whether water quality improvements can be achieved through better shoreline management. If you would like a copy of the shoreline study for your lakefront property, please contact Michael Klutho - Shoreline Restoration Chair.

## MURPHY FLOWAGE

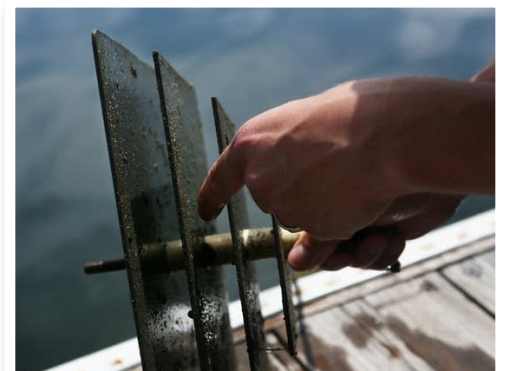
During the 2022 RCLA annual meeting the membership voted to include Murphy Flowage within the Red Cedar Lakes Association. This formal inclusion of Murphy Flowage as part of the RCLA allows us to cover the work we will be doing under grants from the Wisconsin DNR.

This coming year we will begin actively monitoring Murphy Flowage for the presence of AIS. In addition, we will have an aquatic plant study done of the Flowage. We have completed aquatic plant studies of all our lakes. These studies provide us great information on the health of our lakes and serves a base line study for future use.

## ONGOING MONITORING OF AIS

This coming summer we will again be performing ongoing monitoring to determine if any new AIS is present on our lakes. This includes placing Zebra Mussel plates on all our lakes, monitoring them on an ongoing basis and throwing rakes to check for any new AIS plants.

We have been fortunate that no new aquatic invasive species have been discovered in our lakes for many years.



## PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE MONITORING

We will again be identifying and eradicating purple loosestrife in our lakes this coming year. July and August are peak times for this activity. This is when the plants flower and are most easily identified. The RCLA Nature Committee leads the effort to identify and eradicate purple loosestrife each summer.

We are planning to release purple loosestrife beetles in areas of our lakes that have a high concentration of purple loosestrife. This is a cooperative effort between the Birchwood Charter School, LEAPS and RCLA volunteers. If you are interested in helping us with

this effort, please let us know. It's a lot of fun!



Over the years we've done a good job of controlling purple loosestrife on and near our lakes. However, purple loosestrife is a very persistent plant. We continue to find purple loosestrife in new areas of the lake. This illustrates the need to continually monitor and remove this invasive plant.

### **WI DNR GRANT**

We currently have in place a WI Grant for CLP Management and AIS Education. This grant funds much of the work that I outlined above. The grant was awarded in 2019 and was to run for a three-year period. At the end of 2022 the grant had a significant amount of unused funds. We requested an extension of the grant from the WI DNR to allow us to use the remaining funding for our ongoing AIS work. The WI DNR approved our request, and we will be able to use the remaining grant funding through the end of 2024. This is great news!

### **CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS**

The Wisconsin DNR is launching a state wide Drain Campaign this summer along with a Great Lakes AIS Landing Blitz. These two campaigns will ramp up Clean Boats Clean Water efforts across Wisconsin as they tie in with the efforts of other states that border the Great Lakes. The intent is to educate boaters about Aquatic Invasive Species and ensuring their water crafts are free of aquatic hitchhikers.

Last year the Red Cedar Lakes Association Clean Boats Clean Water program paid for over 500 hours of monitoring our lake's public landings. While monitoring our landings helps to ensure the boats entering and leav-

ing the lakes that day are free of aquatic hitchhikers. It creates awareness and reminds people of what a wonderful resource our clean lakes are. Your lake association is always looking for paid volunteers to help with our Clean Boats Clean Water program. More information about being a Clean Boats Clean Water paid volunteer is available through the RCLA website.



A good practice for all of us is to encourage fellow boaters to use one of our Landing Decontamination Stations. The RCLA maintains decontamination stations at four locations:

1. Waldo Carlson Park
2. Hemlock Lake
3. Balsam Lake
4. Loch Lomond Beach Club

Please encourage your families and friends who bring watercraft to our lakes to use the Decontamination Stations. It's another line of defense in keeping our lakes clean.



### **CONCLUSION**

As a reminder, many of the studies that have been performed on our lakes are available on the Red Cedar Lake Association website. The Red Cedar Lake Association - Lake Management Plan is also available on the website. This report provides some great information concerning the historical management that has taken place as well as our vision for the future.

We continue to enjoy excellent water quality in our lakes. We will be working hard to ensure these efforts continue in the coming summer and in future years. This work can't be completed without the help of volunteers. For all of you that have helped in the past - Thank You! If you have an interest in getting involved, please let us know. We would love to have your help - it's fun, educational and helps ensure the future quality of our lakes. There is no doubt that this can be hard work, but it ensures you, your neighbors and future generations continue to enjoy our beautiful lakes.

If you have any questions related to the various studies or presentations that have been posted on the RCLA website, please feel free to give one of us a call. Our phone numbers are located on the front of the newsletter.

Have a wonderful summer!

**Tom Goodwin &  
Brett Heinlein**

## NATURE COMMITTEE

Mother Nature has an interesting way of showing up ... you go from having the 3rd snowiest winter to 80 degrees in early April (not that anyone is complaining). Although ice is not quite off of Red Cedar yet, loons have already been spotted on the lakes ... hurray ... spring is officially here!

### 2023 NATURE PROGRAM

The Nature Committee will be hosting their annual Nature Program on **Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** at Loch Lomond Beach Club. We are excited to have Megan

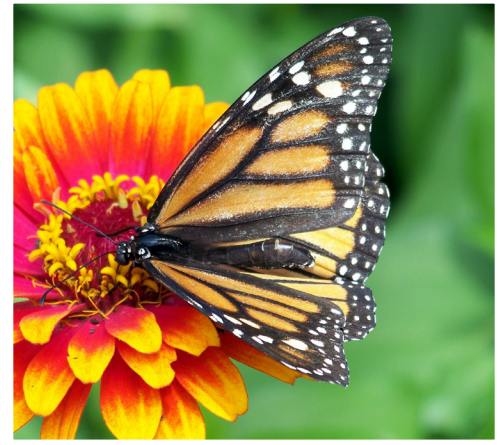


Giefer, Naturalist at Beaver Creek Reserve, be our guest speaker on **“Magnificent Monarchs and Backyard Butterflies”**. Do you love butterflies and want to learn

more? The Monarch Butterfly is one of many pollinators that we find in Wisconsin, but in recent years the population has decreased immensely. Join us as we learn why this mighty migrator is famous and ways we can help its population. We will also learn how to identify some of our local backyard butterflies and what makes the perfect butterfly habitat and what flowers you can add to your gardens to help our butterflies flourish. This program is free and, perfect for the whole family!

### NATURE COMMITTEE TOP PRIORITIES

The Nature Committee's top priority remains the continued participation in the Wisconsin Loon Watch Program, which helps protect common loons and their aquatic habitats through education, monitoring, and research. Other key activities for the Nature Committee will include expanding our “dark skies” program to educate residents on reducing bright lights on our lakes, monitoring and eradication of Purple Loosestrife, wild rice mapping and promoting the value and impor-



tance of using lead-free tackle.

The Nature Committee currently has 9 active members, but we are always looking for more volunteers to help promote our vision and make the Red Cedar Lakes a safe refuge for wildlife. If you are interested in joining this great committee or attending our next meeting to learn more about our 2023 activities, please contact chair Valerie Bausch at [vbause@yahoo.com](mailto:vbause@yahoo.com).

**Valerie Bausch**

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

As the communication committee chair, I hope you're enjoying the spring newsletter and finding a wealth of information from the various committees. In fact there's so much to share that I'm going to ask you to visit our website for further information [www.redcedarlakes.com](http://www.redcedarlakes.com). Here you will find a variety of resources including:

- News & Events
- Lake Information & Safety
- Annual Meeting Presentations
- Educational Meeting Presentations
- Published Newsletters
- Committee Contact Information
- Information on how to donate to RCLA
- Grants and Lake Management Plan



Another excellent resource to keep in-the-know is our Facebook page: Red Cedar Lakes Association. News and announcements are frequently made here along with events and/or educational opportunities for you as our member.

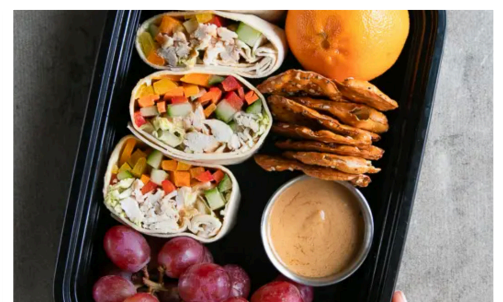
Finally, I enjoy sharing a new recipe I've found with you each season. Today, the recipe is from **the Forked Spoon**. This recipe is fresh and yummy, perfect for a summer afternoon at the lake or on the boat.

### LOW CARB THAI CHICKEN WRAPS

These wraps are easy and delicious! They are filled with crunchy vegetables, shredded chicken, cashews and homemade Thai pea-

nut sauce. You will find the recipe by scanning the QR code below with the camera on your phone. Enjoy!

**Michelle Fischer**



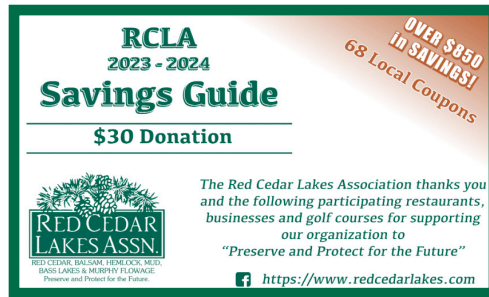
# COUPON BOOK COMMITTEE

What a snowy winter it has been.... Who is ready for warmer weather?

Soon the lake will come to life, spring will kick into high gear, and we will begin to plan our spring and summer activities. To help with those plans, around the end of April, you will receive the Red Cedar Lakes Association (RCLA) 2023-2024 Savings Guide, aka 'The Coupon Book'.

This year, we are privileged to welcome new businesses (Turtleback, Cabin Coffee, Agonic Brewing, Ventures Apparel, The Hair Garage, and Unique Bakery) to our lake association fundraiser. Your favorites are still available such as The Birchwood Café, Mary's Blue Gill, The Wagon Wheel, Paws at Play, and Bear Tracks! The RCLA is extremely fortunate to have so many loyal business supporters in the surrounding communities and YOU! I hope you will take time to look through the book and discover the ways our local community has chosen to support the RCLA to keep our lakes and shoreline healthy!

This is our only RCLA fundraiser and a donation of \$25 allows you to freely use these



coupons. You may return your donation in the enclosed envelope, and then use your book to enjoy the discounts offered by our supportive businesses. The monies received from this fundraiser strengthen our financial position for the purpose of being ready to respond to initiatives that help fulfill our mission, 'to protect and preserve for the future.' As you redeem the coupons, please let the businesses know you appreciate their support.

If you did not receive 'the Coupon Book' and feel that this is a must have for your family, please reach out to the RCLA:

- Send a message through our website <https://www.redcedarlakes.com/> or Facebook page

- Contact an RCLA Board Member
- Email or call: [kathy.salvi@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.salvi@gmail.com) (828) 228-8993

Coupon books are also available at the following locations for \$30.00:

- Dairy State Bank in Birchwood
- Birchwood Café
- Butternut Hills Golf Course
- Cedar Lake Grill
- Loch Lomond Beach Club
- Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Tagalong Golf Course
- Gathering Place Resort

I hope you enjoy the coupon book as much as I did while working with our local business community.

Enjoy your time on our beautiful lakes and stay safe!

**Kathy Salvi**

## COUPON BOOK RESTAURANTS, GOLF COURSES & BUSINESSES

Agonic Brewery  
Airtec Equipment  
Airtec Sports  
Bear Tracks (2)  
Birch Lakes Resort  
Butternut Golf  
Cabin Coffee (2)  
Cedar Lake Grill (2)  
Cumberland Golf  
Dairy State Bank  
Don Johnson (2)  
Gary's Grocery (2)  
Grinders  
Jason Market (2)  
Jimmy John's (2)

K Hair Studio (2)  
Kincaid's Country Inn  
Lake Kids  
Lehman's  
Marshall House  
Mary's Blue Gill (2)  
MTJ Home Security  
My Last Resort  
New Reflections (2)  
Northside Café  
Northwoods Lift & Dock (2)  
Outdoor Ventures  
Paws at Play (4)  
Pitstop BBQ Smokehouse (5)  
Rice Lake Printery (2)

Rolling Oaks Golf  
Sunset View Golf (2)  
Tagalong Golf  
The Birchwood Café (2)  
The Creamery  
The Hair Garage (2)  
The Roost (2)  
Turtleback (2)  
Two Sisters  
Unique Design Bakery  
Ventures Clothing and Apparel  
Wagon Wheel (2)  
Wildflower

# FISH HABITAT COMMITTEE

As I write this article the third week of March, I am waiting for spring to arrive. It is hard to believe that we still have 2 feet of snow on the ground and 2+ feet of ice currently on the lakes. Fishing opener is just 5 weeks away!

They say that “good things come in small packages”. This is very true when talking about fish habitat. The habitat that is in the lakes produces small aquatic life, which is the driving force behind all species of fish. Some habitat is natural - vegetation, rocks and trees. Whether the trees are supplying shade, cover or nutrients, it is all in the chain of life.

The Fish Habitat Committee tries to supplement natural woody debris by placing more of them in prime locations. The Tree Drop and Fish Sticks programs have successfully worked for years installing these structures. If you happen to boat by a fallen tree in June or July, stop and just look around the tree. Many little fish are tucked around the branches. Although this is prime bass habitat, crappies are in the area looking for an easy meal. Bluegill hang in the cover, generally not chasing minnows, but munching on some of the aquatic life. Northerns lurk on the outsides waiting for an unsuspecting bluegill to venture out too far. Walleye, although not generally present during the day, patrol the deeper areas of the habitat at night looking for a snack.



The Habitat Committee will continue to work on the projects along with several other options. Some things we would like to do are highly regulated and require permits. If you would like additional information or to volunteer to help out, please feel free to contact me.

***Tim Plaza***





# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We are winding down winter and gearing up for spring as I write this. We currently have 559 members renewing their membership for 2023. Membership dues total \$11,180. A second, and final, reminder was sent to 53 households who have not renewed their membership. Our 2022 membership was 640.

In addition to the membership dues, our members donated \$7,962 to the work of the individual committees. On behalf of the Board, I want to say THANK YOU for renewing your membership, and for your generous donations. 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.

The Membership Invitation Folder, along with an introduction letter, was sent to 275 property owners who are not currently members but own 'property with improvements' on Balsam, Red Cedar, Hemlock, Mud, Bass Lake and the Murphy Flowage. If you have people you would like to invite, this would be an excellent brochure to have on hand. They will be available at Dairy State Bank (Birchwood) in the rack by the front door (on your right as you enter). I would love your help in growing our membership. A membership form can also be found on our website. Enjoy the summer - volunteer, if you can, and invite your non-member neighbors to become members.

## *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://bulldozinine.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**

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

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(715) 307-2407

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Sarona, WI 54870

(715) 296-5087

<https://perlickdistillery.com>

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(612) 875-8014

<https://pinesatthelake.com/>

### **SYNERGY COOPERATIVE**

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Birchwood, WI 54817

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THESE BUSINESSES!**

# SHORELINE & ISLAND RESTORATION COMMITTEE

Many RCLA members are fortunate to be the proud owners of lakeshore property on our beautiful chain of lakes. No doubt, as a lakeshore property owner you've probably wondered from time-to-time: "What exactly can I do with my lakeshore property?"

Fortunately, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website provides a great overview of the statutes that impact the development of our lakeshore properties. The adopted standards on which the regulations were designed seek to balance a property owner's rights to freely enjoy and develop their lakeshore with the public's co-existing right to use and enjoy our beautiful lakes based on appropriate lakeshore management.

Thankfully, and while it might seem like the balancing of these rights can at times be frustrating, the fortunate reality is that through thoughtful and purposeful protection of our public lakes – especially through well- designed lakeshore management – the benefits serve to maintain and enhance the quality of our lakes which in turn serves to protect adjoining lakeshore properties (as well as improve lakeshore property values).

With this background in mind, it makes sense for those of us lucky enough to enjoy a cabin or lake home on one of our lakes to have an easy overview of the current status of the statutes addressing the management of our lakeshores. And, rather than paraphrase what the DNR already took the time to set out on its website on this important topic, we are taking the liberty of re-printing the DNR's overview below (the links below can be accessed on the RCLA website found at <https://www.redcedarlakes.com> ).

We sure hope this helps answer the question: **"What exactly can I do with my lakeshore property?"**

## SHORELINE ZONING MINIMUM STANDARDS

Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Pro-

gram established statewide minimum standards for shoreland development that must be met or exceeded in county shoreland zoning ordinances. The statewide minimum standards can be found in Chapter NR 115, Wis. Admin. Code [exit DNR], and a summary for each is provided below.

Contact your county zoning authority [exit DNR] to review development standards in the shoreland zone. Many counties have adopted additional requirements that are not listed below.

### LOT SIZE

- Sewered lots must have a minimum average width of 65 feet and a minimum area of 10,000 square feet
- Unsewered lots (i.e., lots not served by a public sanitary sewer) must have a minimum average width of 100 feet and a minimum area of 20,000 square feet.

### BUFFER STRIP

A buffer is a vegetated strip of land that protects water from the impacts of nearby development, provides wildlife habitat and screens buildings when viewing from the water. If properly designed and maintained, a buffer can help protect shorelands and adjacent lakes and rivers from physical, chemical, hydrological and visual impacts.



Clear-cutting of trees and shrubs is not allowed in the strip of land from the ordinary high water mark to 35 feet inland unless you are performing the following:

- Routine maintenance of vegetation

- Removal of trees and shrubs to create an access or viewing corridor that may not exceed 30 percent of the shoreline frontage or 200 feet
- Removal of trees and shrubs on a parcel of at least 120 acres, consistent with "generally accepted forestry management practices"
- Removal of exotic or invasive species, damaged or diseased vegetation, or vegetation that poses an imminent safety hazard

Any other vegetation removal would require a permit from the county.

### SETBACKS

All buildings and structures must be set back at least 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark

- Exceptions to the 75-foot setback include piers, boat-hoists, fishing rafts, utilities, walkways, stairways or rail systems, decks or gazebos complying with s. 59.692(lv) and boathouses

"Set back averaging" if an existing pattern of development exists, counties may allow new homes to be built closer than 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark.

### IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

Properties may have up to 15 percent of their lot in impervious surfaces.

If the property owner wishes to expand the impervious surfaces on the lot and exceed 15 percent, the property may have up to 30 percent of the lot in impervious surfaces with shoreland mitigation.

Existing impervious surfaces may be maintained, repaired, relocated and reconstructed, subject to any other county standards.

### LEGAL NONCONFORMITIES

- Property owners may maintain and repair nonconforming principal structures.
- Property owners may vertically expand nonconforming principal structures that

are located at least 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) with shoreland mitigation.

- Property owners may relocate or re-construct nonconforming principal structures that are located at least 35 feet from the OHWM with shoreland mitigation.
- A property owner may expand a non-conforming principal structure laterally or vertically if the expanded portion is beyond the 75-foot shoreland setback.

For more on this topic, visit:



SCAN ME

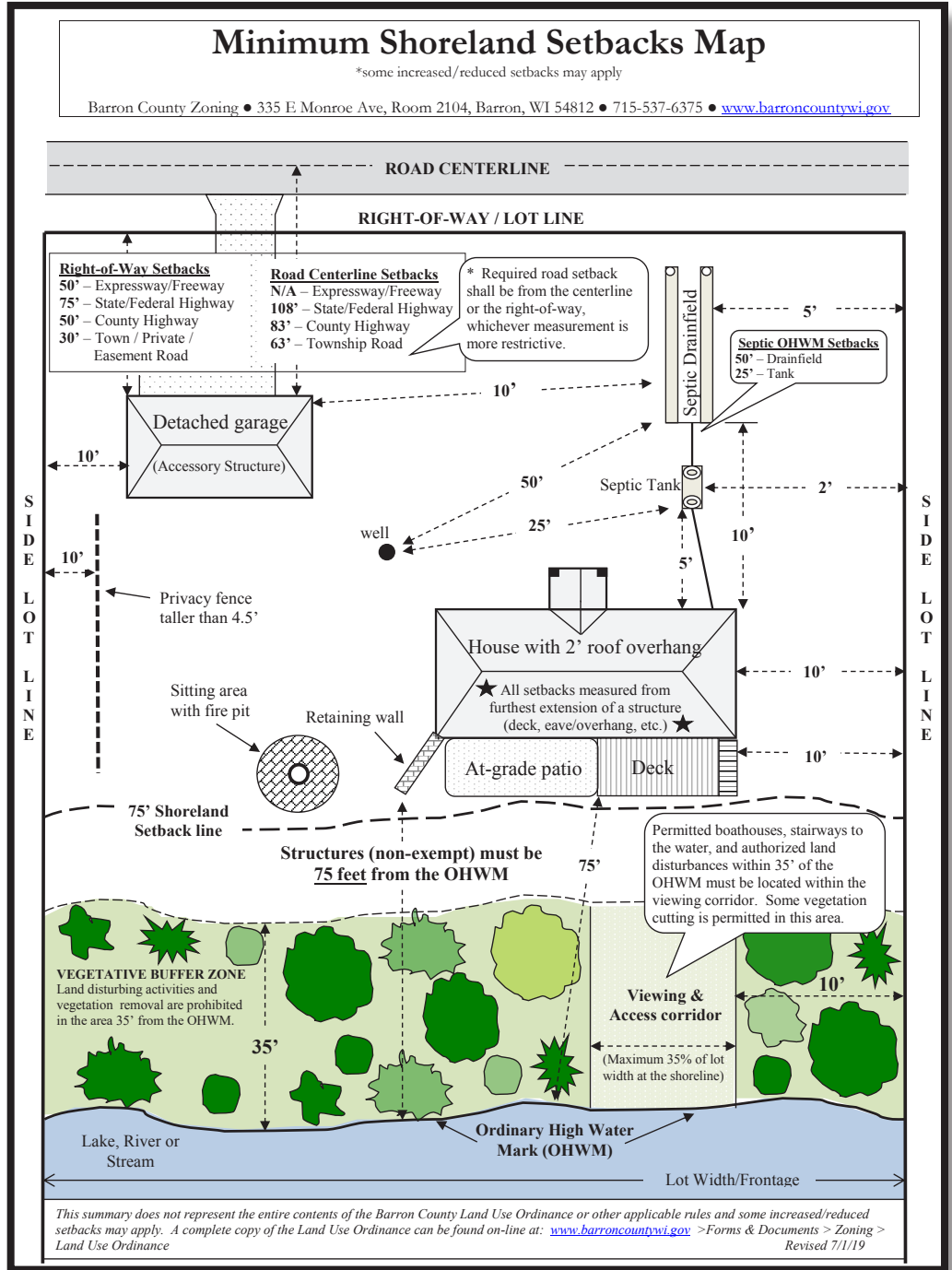
Or, if you're in Barron County, please be sure to check out the following links as well.



SCAN ME

**Michael Klutho**

# MINIMUM SHORELINE SETBACKS MAP





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## IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Letter • Vice President's Letter • Aquatic Invasive Species Committee  
Nature Committee • Communication Committee • Coupon Book Committee  
Fish Habitat Committee • Lake Information & Safety Committee  
Membership Committee • Shoreline & Island Restoration Committee



## WHO MAY OPERATE/ AGE RESTRICTIONS



It is illegal for a parent or guardian to allow a child to operate a vessel in violation of the requirements below. A person born before January 1, 1989, is exempt from the safety course requirement.

### MOTORBOATS (OTHER THAN A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT)

- A person younger than 10 years may not operate a motorboat.
- A person 10 or 11 years old may operate a motorboat only if accompanied by a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old who is designated by the parent or guardian and the parent, guardian, or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate or was born before January 1, 1989.
- A person 12-15 years old may operate a motorboat only if he or she:
  - Is accompanied by a parent, a guardian, or a designated adult and the parent, guardian, or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate or was born before January 1, 1989, or...
  - Has completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR.
- A person who was born on or after January 1, 1989, and who is 16 years of age or older may operate a motorboat only if he or she:
  - Has completed a boating safety course accepted by Wisconsin DNR or...

- Is accompanied by another person in the motorboat who is at least 18 years of age and that person holds a valid boating safety certificate or was born before January 1, 1989.

### PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)

- A person younger than 12 years may not operate a personal watercraft (PWC).
- A person 12 - 15 years old may operate a PWC only if he or she has completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR. (Parental supervision is not a substitute for boating safety course certificate as with other motorboats.)
- A person at least 16 years old may operate a PWC only if he or she has completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR. A person born before January 1, 1989, is exempt from the safety course requirement.
- A person younger than 16 years may not rent or lease a PWC.

### BOAT SAFETY EDUCATION

Persons required to have successfully completed a boater education course must carry their boater education certificate on board and make it available upon request by a law enforcement officer. Visit the DNR website at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and enter the keyword "boat safety" to find Boat Safety Education Courses.



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BOATER SAFETY  
EDUCATION  
LINK

## ENFORCEMENT



Wisconsin conservation wardens, county sheriffs, and municipal police enforce the boating laws of Wisconsin. USCG officers also patrol and have

enforcement authority on federally controlled waters.

- It is illegal to refuse to follow the directive of a person with law enforcement authority.
- A vessel operator who has received a visual or audible signal from a patrol boat must reduce speed to "slow, no wake speed" and give way to the patrol boat.
- A vessel operator must stop when requested or signaled to do so by a law enforcement officer or a patrol boat.
- In addition to yielding and stopping for a law enforcement patrol boat when signaled to do so, it is required that you reduce speed to "slow, no wake speed" and stay at least 100 feet from a law enforcement patrol boat when its emergency lights activated when it is contacting another boat on the water, You create a safe environment for law enforcement officers and the boat occupants they are contacting when you do so.
- Federally controlled waters include: Coastal waters; the Great Lakes (Lake Michigan and Lake Superior); territorial seas; and bodies of water connected directly to one of the above, up to a point where the body of water is less than two miles wide, including the Mississippi River and portions of the Wisconsin, St. Croix, Wolf, And Fox Rivers. When preparing to go out, the operator must check that the legally required equipment is on board.

*Len Christianson*