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SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Finally, 2020 is over and as I write this article, life is getting back to a sense of normalcy. We can all take a deep breath, raise our glasses to a big "cheers" that spring is here with summer right around the corner. RCLA activities are already well under way, so please take the time to read each committee report in the newsletter as they will clearly outline the work they will be conducting in 2021. Even though we will continue to adhere to any COVID safety measures, you will be thoroughly impressed on work they are doing to ensure Red Cedar Lake and it's surrounding chain of lakes is some of the best that Wisconsin can offer.



Photo courtesy of: Bruce Wise • Photography <https://www.wisewoodimages.com>

There are a couple of important topics that I would like to ask for help from our members. I have addressed these topics in the past, but I think it warrants a continued recap given the importance to all of us:

1. Please continue to support the Red Cedar Lakes Association through membership dues and purchasing of the coupon book. We have been fortunate that our lakes have not been impacted **yet** by milfoil, zebra mussels or other extremely aggressive aquatic invasive species but we need to ensure we have the funds necessary to react quickly when that day comes. A testimonial to the importance of having the appropriate funds available is the work the AIS committee has been doing to manage the Curly Leaf Pond weed (CLP) in our lakes ... because of our continued work with the WI DNR for grants and having the additional funds available, we have been able to keep the CLP at bay, allowing the natural plants to thrive and keep our lakes extremely clear. One



Photo courtesy of: Bruce Wise • Photography
<https://www.wisewoodimages.com>

more point I would like to make is in the event of an issue, like milfoil, in order for us to react quickly, we will need to use our RCLA funds upfront and then submit paperwork to the WI DNR for “potential” emergency AIS funding.

- Volunteering is still needed and important to accomplish our goals each committee has set forth in 2021. Volunteering is easy, Volunteering is fun, Volunteering is rewarding and **ALL SKILLS ARE WELCOME!!** The AIS, Water Quality and Shoreline and Island Restoration Committees are always looking for volunteers, as an example, and we actually have an obligation to report a certain amount of volunteer hours in order to keep our WI DNR grants for each of those committees. 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 or you can send an email to me at vbause@yahoo.com. **A special THANK YOU to those that have volunteered throughout the years ... your time and dedication is greatly appreciated!!**

I'm sure a number of you are wondering about the RCLA Annual Meeting, currently scheduled for Sat., July 10, 2021. At this time, the board has decided to hold the annual meeting, adhering to appropriate COVID safety recommendations and protocol, so please mark your calendar now!! At the annual meeting, you will get an overview of the committees, financials, and this year we have 3 new board members that require membership approval. Per our policy, we will be sending out a postcard to all members 30 days in advance of the meeting and will continue to keep our website up to date on any additional information required about the annual meeting.

Valerie Bausch
President

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) COMMITTEE

Spring came quickly this year. The ice is out and we've experienced some great early warm weather. We have another very active year planned. Below is a brief description of the upcoming projects:

Curly Leaf Pondweed:

In early May we will be on the lake completing our curly leaf pondweed (CLP) pre-treatment surveys. These surveys provide us information on the amount of CLP we have actively growing in our lakes. The results of this survey allow us to determine where and how much herbicide treatment should take place to control CLP in our lakes.

Last year we were very fortunate to have experienced little growth of CLP. As a result, last spring we only treated 6 acres in

all three of our lakes. Each spring the degree of CLP growth in our lakes can vary significantly. We modify the amount of herbicide treatment each year to match actual CLP growth that occurs.

We have contracted with Freshwater Scientific Services to perform two studies for us. First, in late June/early July they will do a CLP bed mapping survey. This survey provides GPS mapping of all the significant CLP beds that exist within Balsam, Hemlock and Red Cedar Lakes.

Typically, the CLP bed mapping study is done each year by RCLA volunteers. We've decided to have Freshwater Scientific Services complete the study this year to provide us with a professional performed baseline study.



Photo courtesy of: Leslie J. Mehrhoff,
University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

In addition, Freshwater Scientific Services will be performing a CLP turion study in the fall. Turions are the CLP seeds that fall off mature plants into the lake bed and form the basis for future plant growth. Turions can remain dormant in the lake bed for up to seven years.

The last Turion study was performed in 2012. This new study will provide updated information and help determine if the CLP management work completed these past several years is reducing the presence of CLP in our lakes.

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.

Last year, due to COVID restrictions, we were not able to raise and release beetles to help control purple loosestrife. We are hoping we can restart this program this spring. This is a cooperative effort between the Birchwood Charter School, Washburn County Conservation and RCLA volunteers. 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. Last summer we found purple loosestrife in several new areas of the lake. This illustrates the need to continually monitor and remove this invasive plant.



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

Shoreline Habitat Studies:

This summer we will be completing shoreline habitat and woody debris studies on Hemlock and Bass Lakes. These studies examine the health of our shoreline. The results of the study give us insight concerning whether water quality improvements can be achieved through better shoreline management.

These same studies were completed in the past two years for Red Cedar Lake, Balsam and Mud Lakes. If you are a lake shore owner on one of these lakes and are interested in the study results for your property, please contact Michael Klutho – Shoreline Restoration Board Chair.



Ongoing Monitoring of AIS:

Throughout the summer we will 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.

Clean Boats Clean Water:

We will be expanding our Clean Boats Clean Water program this year with the installation of decontamination sites at public landings on Hemlock Lake, Balsam Lake and on Red Cedar at the intersection of V and 48. Please utilize these stations whenever you're launching watercraft. Even if you feel your



watercraft is free of invasive hitchhikers, using the decontamination station sets an example for those around you and encourages visitors to use the station as well.

Is someone in your home 16 years of age and looking for summer employment? The Red Cedar Lakes Association is looking for help this summer in monitoring our landings for the Clean Boats Clean Water program. Landing monitors are able to work flexible hours and can earn \$12 per hour while having the opportunity to enjoy our beautiful lakes. For additional information please contact Brett Heinlein at 414 254 0810.

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 this continues this 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. Have a wonderful summer!

**Tom Goodwin &
Brett Heinlein**

NATURE COMMITTEE

After such a challenging 2020 with COVID-19, it's so nice to see that spring came a little early this year with the ice going out on Red Cedar around March 29 and loons already spotted on the lake March 30!!

The Nature Committee has made the decision to cancel the 2021 Nature program, usually scheduled for the first Sat. in June due to COVID concerns. Although we are very disappointed in having to cancel this great program for the second straight year, our #1 priority continues to be the safety of our community. We already have Steve Betchkal, who is an experienced birder, author of birding guides and leader of birding travel groups lined up to come speak with us on June 4, 2022. If you have never had the opportunity to hear Steve speak, you will not want to miss his knowledge of birds and his amazing bird photography. Although we are unable to conduct our Nature Program this year, we would like to encourage you to check out our friends and neighbors at Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, where they will have several programs going on this summer. To check out their nature programs, hiking, and everything else they have to offer, go to www.hunthill.org

The Nature Committee continues working on key activities, including our top priority of participating in the Wisconsin LoonWatch Program, which helps protect common loons and their aquatic habitats through education, monitoring, and research. Other key activities of the committee include expanding our "dark skies" program to educate residents on reducing bright lights on our lakes, promoting the value and importance of using lead-free tackle, monitoring the bald eagle nests, GPS mapping the wild rice beds, and partnering with the AIS committee to monitor and eradicate Purple Loosestrife.

Nature Committee Spring Fun Facts: Did you know that as of 2019, Wisconsin had over 3,800 Bobcats north of Hwy 64 (unknown how many south of Hwy 64 but overall, Wisconsin's bobcat population appears to be very robust)! Here are a few more fun facts about bobcats:

1. The bobcat is the most abundant wildcat in North America and has been around for more than 1.8 million years.
2. Female cats are relatively smaller than the male cats, who's average length is around 3 feet and weighs between 20-30 pounds.
3. They have 1-6 kittens and when born, they are blind and weigh 10-12 ounces. Juvenile cats leave their mother around the age of 8 to 11 months
4. Bobcats can jump 12 feet high and run 30 mph!!
5. Typically, bobcats live 12-13 years.
6. Bobcats are crepuscular- meaning they are most active during twilight (dawn and dusk). Their prey is mainly rabbits however, they will also eat rodents, insects, birds, chickens, snakes, and even deer!

The Nature Committee currently has 9 active members that 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 2021 activities, please contact nature committee chair:

Valerie Bausch



DARK SKIES MOVEMENT

Join the Dark Skies Movement to Help Clearly See Our Magical Northwoods Night Sky

If you ask some of our Northwoods' long-time local residents, they will fondly recall the days when they could gaze up at the magical, clear skies above.

Unfortunately, due to areal ight pollution, the beautiful night sky above Red Cedar, Balsam, Hemlock, Bass or Mud lakes is gradually becoming less and less visible.

COVID has enabled many families to enjoy more weekends at the lake, but with the increased amount of people in the area, the skies are becoming brighter due to increased lights in the area.

The Red Cedar Lakes Association's dark skies initiative is a part of a global movement committed to seeing the stars again and reducing light pollution by promoting sustainable light sources.

As a cabin or home owner in the Northwoods, you can help reduce light pollution by:

Assess the lighting around your residence

Poor lighting practices create light pollution, which can disrupt wildlife, and waste energy and money. Take a few minutes to assess your property for inefficient, poorly installed, or unnecessary outdoor lighting. Consider turning off unnecessary lighting at night. Learn more by visiting <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/lighting-for-citizens/residentialbusiness-lighting>.

Use dark sky friendly lighting at your home and business

Look for the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) fixture seal of approval on any outdoor lighting you purchase; these products are certified to minimize glare, light trespass, and skyglow and are recommended when replacing outdated light fixtures.

Talk to your friends, family, and neighbors or spread the word to your online community

Become a dark sky advocate for our Northwoods. Help solve the light pollution problem by raising awareness so people are empowered to make better decisions. Spread the word by inviting others to visit <https://www.darksky.org>.

We can all do our part. We believe that through responsible, cost effective actions—even small changes—we will once again clearly see the magical night sky over our beautiful Northwoods.

Nicole Engler



Photo courtesy of: <http://www.seda-lighting.com/dark-sky-friendly-and-lighting-pollution/>

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

What a year it has been! Thankfully we all have a lake property we could retreat to and the serenity it brings certainly has helped traverse the difficulties of 2020.

I want to start by informing everyone that I will be leaving the board at the end of my commitment, which is August 2021. As a young father of two it has been proven difficult to be able to dedicate enough time to this great association that it deserves. I have met some great people throughout the past two years and you all will be missed. The board has tentatively approved my replacement (official vote pending) and I can say that I am very excited to see where things on the communications front are going.

For starters, hopefully you are noticing the updated look to this newsletter. We have introduced some brighter colors and different design elements to give it a refreshed look and make it more enjoyable to read.

Have a great Memorial Day and see you on the water!

The Final "Lindy's Line"

This previous fishing season I had lot of success on Red Cedar lake plus many others using a new technique and that's what we are going to focus on. Its called a Tokyo Rig. This rig is most effective for both walleyes and bass, using either plastics or live bait.

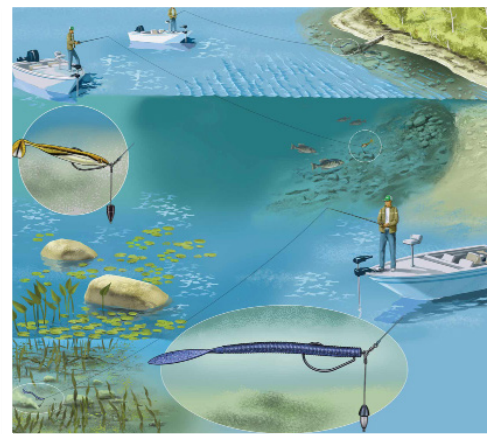


The rig is pretty simple. Three pieces of hardware slide freely around a solid metal ring, which ensures the whole thing stays together. There's a hook, a swivel for tying your line and reducing twist, and a 2 1/2-inch stainless-steel dropper arm. The dropper gives the rig its versatility because it allows you to add or quickly change any size or style of weight. It's easily bendable, so to use it you just fold the tip over to keep the weight from falling off and bend it back straight if you need to change weights.

The most effective way to fish this rig is cast it into cover, whether that is weeds, rock, logs or around docks. Let it sink to the bottom and slowly retrieve while remaining in contact with the bottom. You can also use it similar as a jig and pop it off the bottom as well. VMC sells this rig completely assembled as shown in the previous picture without the weights & bait, those are pur-

chased separately. It also comes in multiple hook sizes depending on what type of fish you are targeting.

Give this new rig a shot this year and I promise it will catch fish!



Ryan Linder

COUPON BOOK COMMITTEE

Once again, it has been my privilege to work with the many businesses that support the RCLA by providing coupons for our Savings Guide, AKA 'The Coupon Book'. With their help our book continues to be value-packed with 76 coupons from 43 business entities. They are happy to serve our organization by providing us with their coupons to create this fundraiser for RCLA. In turn, the book serves as a vehicle to help our members know about our local business community. I would encourage you, even more than ever, to support our local community.

By the time you are reading this article, the 2021-2022 Savings Guide will already be in your possession – and hopefully, you have returned your donation. As you browsed through the book, were you able to spot the changes? If so, you would have discovered coupons from 3 new businesses, coupons

from 2 businesses which changed ownership and have a new name, and coupons from one business, which has the same owner, Mark, but changed its name. You will have also discovered coupons with new offerings; as well as, found the 'tried and true favorites' that we all love. Thank you to each and every one of our participating supporters.


Coupon books were mailed at the end of April to all member households who returned a Coupon Book donation last year. If you did not receive a book and were expecting one, please let me know and I will follow-up. If you need/want an additional book, they will be available for a \$30 donation at The Birchwood Café, Butternut Hills Golf Course, and in the lobby of Dairy State Bank in Birchwood. I hope you enjoy the book and have a wonderful summer. Thank you for continuing to support the RCLA with your dollars; as

well as, your volunteer time. As you redeem your coupons, remember to thank our loyal community supporters for partnering with us.

Runae Maloney

RCLA
2021 - 2022
Savings Guide

\$30 Donation



**RED CEDAR
LAKES ASSN.**
BALSAM, RED CEDAR, HEMLOCK,
BASS & MUD LAKES
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*The Red Cedar Lakes Association
thanks you and the following
participating restaurants,
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supporting our organization to
"Preserve and Protect for the Future"*

OVER \$850
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Bair's Edgewater Store (3)
Bear Tracks (2)
Birch Lakes Resort
Butternut Hills Golf
Butternut Hills - Marshall House
Cedar Lakes Grill (2)
Cheers (7)
Chit Chat Bar, Restaurant & Resort
Cumberland Golf Club
Don Johnson Motors (2)
Ed's Pitstop (4)
Gary's Grocery (2)
Grinders (2)
Jason Market (2)

Jimmy John's (2)
Kincaid's Country Inn
Lake Kids
Lehman's
Mary's Blue Gill Bar (2)
MTJ Home Security
My Last Resourt - Cedar Lake Grill
Norske Nook Restaurant & Bakery
Northwoods Country Store (2)
Northwoods Lift & Dock (2)
Outdoor Ventures
Paws at Play (4)
Pine Ridge
Red Cedar Country Store (2)
Rice Lake Printery (2)

Rolling Oaks Golf Course (2)
Rustic Corner Cafe (2)
Spider Lake Saloon (2)
Sunset View Golf
Tagalong Golf & Resort
The Birchwood Cafe (2)
The Creamery
The Landing On Long Lake
The Roost (2)
Thomas Marine
Two Sisters
Unique Design and Spa (2)
Wagon Wheel (2)

FISH HABITAT COMMITTEE

I will be retiring from my position on the RCLA board this summer. I have enjoyed leading the Fish Habitat Committee during my term and, while not all the fish sticks projects which I envisioned have come to fruition, I am pleased that five installations were completed. Those projects were highlighted in the Newsletter last fall. A special thanks goes out to all those who assisted our endeavors.



I am working to ensure that the leadership transition on the Fish Habitat Committee is a smooth one. The board has tentatively approved my replacement (official vote pending). I believe that Tim Plaza is an excellent candidate for the position, and I've assured Tim that I am willing to be an active contributor to the committee's future projects. Planning for the coming year has already begun.

Lastly, thanks to all members of the RCLA for the opportunity to serve on your Board. I found this board to be filled with thoughtful, intelligent, well-intentioned leaders who volunteer a tremendous amount of their time to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of our lake system. I deeply appreciate their dedication and service.



The Red Cedar Lake Association expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Mikana Marine & Resort for their substantial contributions of time and equipment during last summer's fish sticks installations on Balsam Lake. Many thanks for helping make these projects a success!

Dan Ellefson

LAKE INFORMATION AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Spring has sprung as they say, and early at that. As a result we are on the move to get our buoys on the lake. A minor mechanical setback with our workboat has put us a little behind but we should have the repairs underway and the buoys out before the fishing opener. As I normally state each spring please keep an eye out for buoys that drift from their anchors as sometimes they do until they become lodged in the lake bed. Call me at 612-247-9771 if you happen to see one adrift.

Our boater safety class which has not been held for the last four years is still on hold for three reasons. One, we have not had anyone who has volunteered to become certified to teach the class. So, if interested, let me know, I can walk you through the process. Two, we are competing against the online training that the DNR offers to get youth certification. I've checked it out and it is a very good training aid and only lacks the hands-on portion which can be a very valuable part of the training experience. The third reason is that we still live in a covid sensitive environment. Getting people together in a group setting does not sit well with everyone yet. We will just have to let covid

run its course before we look at this again.

A new agenda item has appeared on the radar for us to look at. Managing your wake. New to us but not to the DNR and lake associations around the country. So far our

and has a large budget to get the ball rolling. We, as a small association can allocate our funds better for local projects while supporting Wisconsin Lakes through a financial contribution. There are many reasons why wake management falls in line with our other goals here on our lake chain, therefore we feel it is important to support these efforts. Excessive wake generation in the wrong or confined spaces can erode shorelines, disrupt wildlife habitat and increase the amount of phosphorus found in our lake system. This in turn affects those we pass water to downstream. Large wakes can also be a safety hazard to those recreating along our shores. There are laws on the books already but need updating. Boats designed for enhanced wake generation were not available at the time the present laws were written. As a result, law enforcement finds it hard to enforce the laws in their present form.

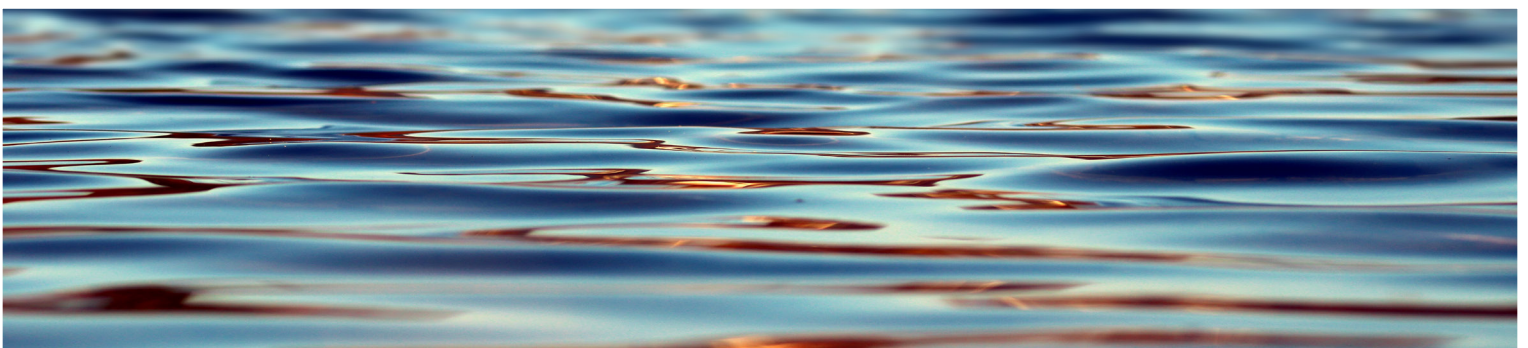
Our beautiful lake chain is for all to enjoy and all to be good guardians for its future. Let's have a safe summer

and be responsible and respectful boaters.

Len Christianson



investigation into this topic has taught us that Wisconsin Lakes Association is in pursuit of wake management on a state level



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

It has been a strange winter with all of us isolating due to Covid. With the arrival of spring and vaccinations available, there is hope that we can soon resume normal activities.

Thank you to those who have renewed their RCLA memberships and to our 63 new members who have joined. We currently have 630 members. There are a few members who have not yet paid their dues. There is a membership form on our website (redcedarlakes.com) that can be used to pay your dues. We have 8 corporate members: Birchwood Café, Cedar Ridge Wealth Management, Dairy State Bank, The Gathering Place, Loch Lomond Beach Club, Mikana Marine & Resort, Pines at the Lake, and Thomas Marine. Please thank these businesses for their support.

We have received \$9,811 in donations. Special thanks go to the DeLaitsch family who made a generous donation in memory of their parents, Millie & Bud.

Jon and I bought our first home on Red Cedar Lake in 1988. Many of you know that Jon died November 30th. I have made the decision to sell my lake home and move to Rice Lake. I have enjoyed meeting so many wonderful people who care deeply about our lakes. Because I am moving, I will be resigning my position on the board as of July. The board has tentatively approved my replacement (official vote pending). Runae Maloney has graciously agreed to become your new Membership chair. I leave you in her capable hands. Thank you to every board member I have served with over the years. Our organization has done so much to protect and improve the quality of our lakes. Keep up the good work!

Sue Sleik

SHORELINE & ISLAND RESTORATION

Our hours of legwork last year investigating potential lakeshore projects that could serve to improve lake quality for all RCLA members has paid off. Your Association submitted an application to the Wisconsin Lake Protection Grant Program -- Healthy Lakes Initiatives -- in late 2020. We requested grants to fund 75% of the cost of nine Healthy Lakes projects of varying kinds.

The requests sought funding to construct four native plantings, three rain gardens and one rock infiltration project. All nine of our grant requests were approved and fully funded. This is great news. The DNR was unable to fully fund all of the grant applications that were submitted by other Associations and qualified applicants.



CORPORATE MEMBERS

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120 Main Street
Birchwood, WI 54817
(715) 354-3000
Serving Breakfast & Lunch

Cedar Ridge Wealth Management
315 E South Street
Rice Lake, WI 54868
(715) 736-2450
<https://www.cedarridgewealth.com/>

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

The Gathering Place
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 Avenue
Rice Lake, WI 54868
(715) 234-3008
<http://www.mikanamarineresort.com/home>

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

Thomas Marine
122 E Elm Street
Birchwood, WI 54817
(715) 354-7070
<https://www.thomasmarinewis.com/>



RCLA, by working with a seasoned Healthy Lakes Initiatives guru (Amanda Kostner with The Green Frog Company) and enthusiastic lakeshore property owners, was able to pull together a well-planned and documented



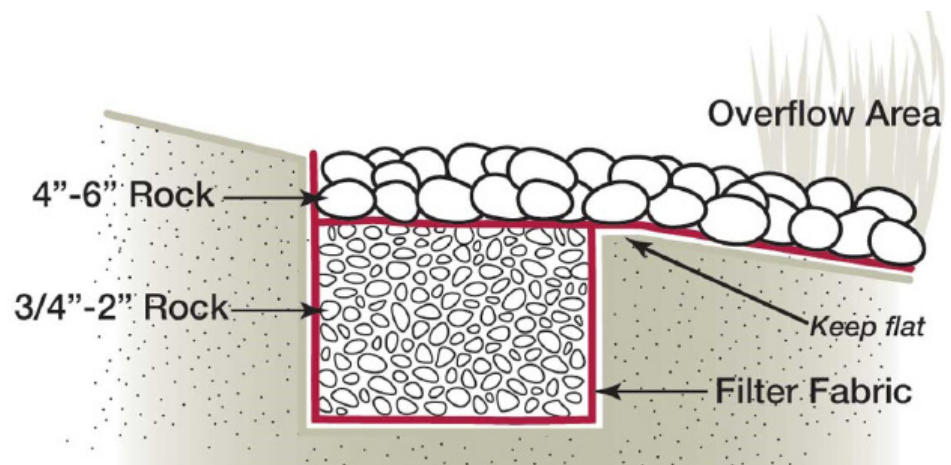
grant application. No doubt demonstrated past success with Healthy Lakes projects helped demonstrate to the DNR that our Association was up to the task of improving the quality of our lakes for years to come with these new projects.

Now, with the legwork selecting the projects behind us, the spadework begins. Construction of these nine projects will begin in earnest in June. The involved lakeshore owners are anxious for warmer weather so they can get started on the “labor” that goes into the construction. Their labor, in turn, offsets the “grantee’s 25% share” contribution towards the total cost of the improvements as all volunteer work is valued under the grant guidelines at \$12/hour. In a typical project, the value of volunteer labor fully offsets the grantee’s contribution share.

When it comes to “volunteer labor,” we can

use your help! If you are interested in being involved in the construction of a rain garden, a native planting or the rock infiltration project (or just watch one being constructed), let us know.

Your Association is always in need of volunteers. Not only on these projects, but also on other projects underway on our lakes – projects designed to help maintain the quality of our lakes for generations to come. We are an entirely volunteer-driven Association. If interested, shoot me an email at mklutho2801@gmail.com.



As these projects are constructed, we will be sure to take lots of pictures of our progress. Look for those in future newsletters. With these nine projects – the most our Association has ever taken on – we will be busy with construction this year and likely into next year. This means our next grant submission will take place in 2023.

Our Association recently completed Shoreline Habitat Assessments of Red Cedar, Balsam and Mud Lakes. These assessments were designed to identify the best candidates for future Healthy Lakes initiatives. We now will be reaching out to those candidates to gauge interest in undertaking one or more Healthy Lakes initiatives along the identified lakeshore in the future.

Every shoreline improvement we complete will pay dividends far into the future. Keeping our lakes healthy is at the top of our Association’s mission and we truly appreciate the support from our Members in achieving our goals.

Michael Klutho

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Although it is snowing as I write this, spring really is here with the ice off the lakes and boats starting to hit the water. We all know we live on some of the cleanest lakes in the state, and we expect the water to be ready for us as we move back onto the water for our recreation, be it fishing, water skiing, kayaking, cruising, nature watching, or... Clean water doesn't happen by chance, and it is the highest priority of your lakes association. The Water Quality Committee has the task of applying science to measure the quality of the water through careful sampling and recommending management practices to enhance the resource we all cherish.

For three summers, we have used the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources lakes grant money to pay for hundreds of lake and stream water samples. We use the Wisconsin State Hygiene Lab to evaluate phosphorus levels and dissolved solids. We directly measure water clarity, stream flow, dissolved oxygen, and even the septic tank use data you mailed in last year. We will be spending much of the summer doing the data analysis of three years of systematic work at 10 stream and 4 lake sampling sites. So

far, the data for our lakes look really good.

While the stream work for the grant is pretty much wrapped up, we will continue the monthly lake samples as part of a long-term data set available online. The lakes data are stored by county, and our chain of lakes straddle two counties, so go to the DNR page, click on "Graphs and Data" and pick the county and lake you want to see: <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/waterquality/>.

Long-term data does not just fall like rain into the lake. Volunteers, maybe even you, are needed to help get those data. Water samples are timed with satellite passage overhead so the DNR can add other assessments to the samples. If you live on the lake and have a boat, or have flexible access to Red Cedar, Balsam, or Hemlock lakes, we can train you to use our lake sampling equipment, and you can make a significant contribution to the clean lakes we all love. If you are interested in more information, let me know at oldtobylewis@gmail.com.

Tim Lewis





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