

Muskellunge Lake Association, Inc.

Newsletter

June 2017



Volume

98

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE - Mike Newmeister, michael.newmeister@gmail.com 414-326-6130

MLA receives Early Detection and Response Grant

Emmons and Oliver Resources selected as consultant

In response to the discovery of Eurasian Water Milfoil in the lake last fall, the Board of Directors of the Muskellunge Lake Association pursued an Early Detection and Response Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. After meeting with the DNR, and upon their advice, the Board initiated a process to choose a vendor to help us work through this situation. Of the 4 entities considered, the Board chose Emmons and Oliver Resources (EOR) of Oakdale, MN as our consultant. Although the firm does not have a significant presence in our Northwoods, a key factor in choosing them was that Joe Pallardy will take the lead for the firm for our grant. Joe is the son of Joe and Kathleen Pallardy, Muskellunge Lake property owners. Joe has an intimate knowledge of our lake, and a vested interest in the success of our response to the discovery of Eurasian Milfoil.

Our grant request was approved by the DNR on March 9, 2017 in the amount of \$14,997 and runs through December 31, 2020. We are obligated by terms of the grant to contribute 25% of the grant amount. In lieu of a financial commitment to the grant, we have the option of contributing in kind by volunteering labor and materials for grant related activities. The Board anticipates that 100% of financial obligation will be fulfilled by such actions on the part of members of our lake association.

The focus of activity for 2017 is the establishment of a baseline of the extent of the milfoil infestation. This will include a "point intercept" of the lake by the DNR, probably undertaken in July. The point intercept is a grid of the lake, and weed identification at each point will be conducted. By this means, we will have a better idea of the extent and locations of the infestation.

The DNR point intercept will be their only direct contact with our lake. Thereafter, the responsibility to monitor the infestation falls upon our lake property owners. To that point, the board in coordination with EOR, will throughout 2017 monitor the intercept points and further investigate the presence of Eurasian Water Milfoil. That obligation entails lake members to become proficient in weed gathering and identification. We are fortunate in that we will be assisted by our Vilas County Invasive Species Coordinator Catherine Higley. We have planned two training sessions led by her this summer.



Once we have an established baseline, we can make a more informed judgment as to what if any interventions should be undertaken to control the extent of the infestation. One possible step is to physically remove Eurasian Milfoil. This is no easy task. The plant has a tendency to fragment, particularly when disturbed. These fragments serve the purpose of spreading the plant to other areas of the lake. Thus, the preferred method of removal is basically to suck it out of the lake and water column with a diver assisted suction harvesting device.

YOU HAVE A STAKE IN THIS LAKE, TIME TO STEP UP

The discovery of Eurasian Water Milfoil in Muskellunge Lake is an unprecedented event that impacts every property owner. The full nature and extent of our infestation will not be known for several years. We can however, take vital steps to insure the best of all possible outcomes. Here's what you can do to help your lake.

- 1 Do not harvest any milfoil from the lake.** Eurasian milfoil closely resembles its cousin the Northern Water Milfoil. Northern water Milfoil is great for our lake, and should be removed for only the most compelling reasons. Removing any milfoil can lead to fragmentation, which in turn can lead to additional infestation. Native plants are our friend here as Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) has a harder time getting started where natives are well established.
- 2 Keep a keen eye on weeds on the lake.** While we do not expect all lake residents to become experts on weed identification, you can do your part by reporting suspicious weeds to the board. The best way is to call any director or drop a note to our Web Master at musky.board@gmail.com.
- 3 Volunteer your time and talents.** Rest assured, your neighbors will contribute to match our obligation imposed by the grant. There will be no need to request your financial resources. However, your choice is clear in this time of need, do I help, or do I leave it to my neighbors?

WHAT'S A WEEVIL AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?

The invasion of Eurasian Water Milfoil in Wisconsin is not of recent origin. Many lakes, particularly in southern Wisconsin have been severely impacted for many years by its presence. As the crisis has been studied, it appears that a friend in the fight may already be helping to address the problem. The Native Water Milfoil Weevil apparently has an appetite for Eurasian rather than Northern Milfoil. While the science is not certain, the opportunity to explore that dynamic will take place on our lake over the coming years. As part of the DNR grant, your neighbors will be harvesting milfoil in a controlled setting and looking for the presence of the weevil. Again, the initial effort is to establish the baseline or presence. Perhaps along the way, we will find the lowly weevil to be a first line of defense to the invasion. Want to know more? Come along as we gather milfoil and get out the magnifying glasses to examine the plants for the bug and its eggs. Contact any board member if interested.



WELCOME COMMITTEE – Lillis Raboin, wlraboin@aol.com 920-374-9784

Larry and Bonnie Duffee purchased 2215 Balsam Lane, formerly owned by Donald DeCaster. The Welcome Committee was happy to send them a welcome packet. We hope they are enjoying life on Muskellunge Lake.

If you are listing your lake home, you notice a for sale sign on a neighboring property, or you notice new folks moving in on the lake, please let me know. I can follow up and when a sale takes place I can send a "welcome to the lake" packet. You MLA members are my best sources!! We want all owners to know about our hard working lake association and our wonderful web site. I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting July 29.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – Judy Peterson, Bob67judy@frontier.com or 715-479-2555

After a long snowy winter, it feels great to jump through spring into summer.

A (SHOUT OUT) to Bill and Lillis Raboin for “cleaning up” Musky RD. Thank You!!

A Get Well card was sent on November 3, 2016 to Maureen Kurhajec.

A Sympathy card was sent November 14, 2016 to Pat McKean for the passing of her sister.

A Sympathy card was sent November 26, 2016 to Sally Olsen for the passing of her husband.

A Sympathy card was sent December 7, 2016 to Ray Rhinehart for the passing of his wife Shirley.

A Sympathy card was sent January 11, 2017 to “ Betts” Fountaine for the passing of her husband Tom. Betts and Tom were active members in the MLA from the start of the Lake Association and Tom served as President.

A Sympathy card was sent May 7, 2017 to the Cooper Family for the passing of Rosemary Cooper who was a long time member from the start of the MLA.

In closing I would like to find someone to take over this small task. It has been rewarding. Please let any MLA member know or call me if you are interested.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE – Miriam Johnston mirog@frontier.com 715-479-5961

The annual meeting of the Muskellunge Lake Association is set for Saturday, July 29, 2017 at 9:00 AM at the Kalmar Center, Eagle River. Our program will be of particular interest in light of recent development. Joe Pallardy of Emmons and Oliver Resources will outline the nature and scope of an Eurasian Milfoil infestation and what we can do to minimize the impact on our lake. This is a great opportunity to understand the problem and learn what we all need to be doing to confront the adverse effects.

Many thanks to all attended the MLA winter social Jan 28th. We had dinner and a fun evening at the Eagle River Inn. It sure helps break up the long winter and it's a great time meet or touch base with your neighbors. A special thanks to the social committee and helpers to keep this fun event going.



WEBMASTER – Jeff Rappold, musky.board@gmail.com 920-585-9133

Thanks again to everybody for continuing to use our web site www.muskellungelake.org . Web activity continues so we know you are checking in on occasion. Well, as you have read above in the president's message, we now have more reason than ever to use www.muskellungelake.org as our primary means to share information to our membership about what we learn along the way regarding the invasive species now found in our lake.

Communication is important and on occasion we will send out group emails notifying you about events or important news you should be aware of. With this in mind, make sure you notify us about any additions or corrections to your email address. We promise to never share this info with anyone other than the MLA Board. Please send any changes to your contact information to musky.board@gmail.com or by phone at 920.585.9133. If you are not internet active perhaps a family member or friend can act as your liaison.

For those family members addicted to their smartphones, remind them to LIKE our Facebook page. Post pictures and comments about the lake and I will share with all our users. Our Facebook page is underutilized and can be a good way to share photos or quickly get something out to many members.

BOAT LANDING – John Kurhajec john.kurhajec.b1h7@statefarm.com 715-479-1703

Clean Boat, Clean Waters (CBCW) has a training scheduled for June 30, Arbor Vitae. Let me or Mike know if any of you can attend any of these training sessions. Call Cathy Higley to register at 715-479-3738.

In addition, Cathy (Vilas Co. AIS Coordinator) will assist us in setting up training with Sandy Wickman (DNR) on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) monitoring. Dates available for us to do that are June 12, 13, 14, 23, or July 3 If we need a weekend date, the only one is Sunday July 16. I suggest the sooner the better. I have also designed a brochure to be handed out at the boat landing to make visitors aware of the Eurasian Water-Milfoil invasion in our lake.

Once again you may notice the people in the BLUE shirts at the landing. As in the past we, will have college interns here helping to educate people on invasive species and the CBCW efforts. Give them a thanks or a wave when you see them as they are continuing the ongoing process of protecting our lakes.

AERATOR – Bob Hodkiewicz hud4@frontier.com 715-479-7194

It was an eventful year for the aerator. With much help, the fencing went in as scheduled on January 7. However, it was soon discovered that the vertical pipe that carries air to the lines had split. Arrangements were made for a temporary repair by portable welder and we got through the winter.

As soon as the ice went out, volunteers showed up and removed most of the fencing and signage. Some of the fence had washed ashore and was covered in ice. That part was removed a few days later.



With the appreciated assistance of Larry Duffy, the vertical pipe has now been replaced and the system should be ready for next winter. Thanks Larry, a nice bit of help from a new owner on the lake.

We are working on a more effective means to monitor and to keep the pipe ice free during the transition time. The board is also investigating options that may be more cost effective should we need to replace the current system.

Editor's Note: Kudos to Huddy for his unwavering efforts to babysit the aerator and keep it working for all of us. The system is 20+ years old and is in need to constant vigilance.

SPECIAL EVENTS

4th of July Annual Boat Parade

It is time again to celebrate the birth of our nation by engaging in some old fashioned fun, our annual Muskellunge Lake boat parade. Come out and join in the fun!

Date: This year the parade will be on Monday July 3rd. This will allow lots of time to enjoy the fun as many vacationers may have to return home on the 4th.

Time: The time will remain the same – 3:00. This will allow time for family fun before and also allow perfect timing to end the parade with a “hot dog - happy hour” celebration.

Theme: There is no theme, so be creative. Plan in advance or be spontaneous.



Start and the route: We will follow the same procedure as last year. Meet at Kurhajecs' pier (south shore), look for the parade flag. Here you will obtain your number and line up. We will make one circle, counter clockwise of the lake. As the boats finish, return your number at Kurhajecs' pier and join us as we gather between their pier and the Cerulls' pier and await the announcement of the winner. When you return your number you will get your free hot dogs.

Judges: Judges will be on several places along the shoreline. We are looking for judges- any volunteers? Your responses are anonymous and some helpful criteria is provided.



Award: The winner will receive our two most coveted prizes, a traveling trophy engraved with your family name, and the large feather flag to display on your lake frontage for the next year. However, as you all know the biggest prize is simply your “bragging rights”.



Free - Hot dogs and “happy hour” party time: Please join us all for some social time as we gather after the parade. As we await the judge’s decision we can all enjoy free hot dogs, and a chance to get to know our neighbors better.

Follow along and join the fun: We encourage all who cheer on the parade to join in the free hot dogs and happy hour social time after the parade. Once the parade passes you, just follow along to the finish line, or take a short cut across the lake, but please come and enjoy the fun and meet your neighbors!

Non-perishable food drive: We all feel grateful to be part of the Vilas county area. As in the past, we will continue our effort to give back to our community by holding our annual food drive. Please watch your email and our Facebook page for details on drop off locations. All food is donated to the Vilas County Food Pantry and is always appreciated.

Mark your calendars for Monday July 3rd at 3:00. We hope to see you all there.

Boat Parade Committee, the Cerulls, the Kurhajecs and the Rappolds.

Odds and Ends

Board elections are set for July at the annual meeting. While we enjoy seeing the same faces at board meetings, we wouldn’t mind seeing a new face or two. If you have an interest in serving your lake in this capacity, please see a board member or the webmaster know.

Also, the Secretary of the Muskellunge Lake Association, Kathleen Pallardy will soon be leaving our lake. The Pallardy’s have sold their cottage and will be building their retirement home in Three Lakes. Who among you wants to be considered for this position? Contact any board member or the webmaster.

CALENDAR

**June 17 Weed Identification Training, 1:00 to 2:30 at Newmeister’s
2060 Wilderness Trail**

July 3 Annual Boat Parade 3:00 PM



July 14 **Weevil Detection Training , 8:00 - 12:00 at Newmeister's followed by beef brisket.**
Please RSVP if attending for lunch.

July 29 **Annual Meeting** **9:00 AM, Kalmar Center Eagle River**

