

# SHORE LINES

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association

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*"Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes"*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Bob McGuffin

We have finally put the wraps on summer 2020. While we were able to accomplish some of our goals, some of the items on our to-do list remain incomplete. First, let's focus on the positives! We were able to obtain permitting for a highly successful herbicide treatment on Big Lake for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). In conversations I have had with our biologists, they have indicated that they are pleased with the results which is very good news. Secondly, our biologists harvested more EWM through Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) on the west side of West Bay Lake. Throughout the Chain, EWM was hand-pulled by divers. Overall, our EWM efforts were largely unhampered by Covid-19.

Covid-19, unfortunately, did impact some of our other projects. We had hoped to complete the process of creating a Township ordinance making our long-standing no wake zones legally enforceable. Additionally, because of frequent complaints around the sand cut, we had hoped to create a safety zone which would prohibit beaching and swimming within 100 feet of the sand cut. This process requires a public meeting with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources which we were unable to schedule. We are hopeful that we can complete this project in 2021. Secondly, we were unable to stock walleye this year. I am told that our walleye vendor was unable to get their fish to Lansing for required



testing and therefore unable to provide fish to stock. We will try again in 2021.

I also receive frequent calls and comments about the barge that has remained moored in the Thousand Island channel for what seems like 3 or 4 years now. We have attempted to facilitate its removal through both Watersmeet police and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. At present, there does not appear to be any avenue for your Association to compel its owner to remove it. The barge is an eyesore and inconsistent with the natural beauty of the Cisco Chain. Please know that it is on our radar and we have been trying to get it removed.

As we transition to winter, I would like to remind all homeowners of the dangers and potential liability of operating bubblers/aerators to protect their piers. There are legal requirements for our Wisconsin properties which would also be a very good idea for our Michigan properties. These requirements can be found elsewhere in this issue of Shorelines. I have gone thru the ice due to a nearby aerator. Believe me- it is not fun.

That is it for now. Be careful and be safe.  
THINK SNOW!!!!

### **REMEMBER TO CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY AND DISPOSE!!**

Clean boats, trailers and equipment; drain live wells, bilges and all water; dry boats and equipment; dispose of unwanted bait in the trash...do not throw it into the lake...It's the Law! To help stop the introduction and spread of AIS (aquatic invasive species) the State of Michigan past laws effective in 2019, that require all watercraft and/or trailers are free of AIS prior to launching; watercraft must drain all drain plus and drain all water from bilges, ballast tanks and live wells prior to transporting; unused bait must NOT be released into the water.

# Using Aerators and Aeration Systems

## Knowing your options

Heaving ice and ice buildup can dislocate pilings, footings and other waterway structures during the winter months. When boating season is over, many landowners avoid such potential impacts by choosing to remove piers, docks and other structures from the water prior to ice up.

Aerators can be a helpful tool to lengthen the structural life of permanent waterway structures. Proper installation, size of waterbody, ice force, and other factors can influence the overall success of this practice. Many landowners choose to attach an aerator or circulator to a pier to maintain open water in the vicinity. As a general rule of thumb, installing these devices to existing authorized structures such as piers does not require permitting; however, additional DNR permitting may be required if you are placing a free-standing structure on the lake bed or actions result in lake bed or river bottom disturbance. Visit <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/construction/avoidIceDamage.html> for more information.



Knowing the rules can help keep people safe and help protect structures from ice damage

## State Regulations:

DNR permitting is not required provided:

1. The aeration system is attached to a legal structure (pier, retaining wall, etc.). This can be a previously permitted structure or a structure that is exempt from permitting.
2. The mixing action from the aerator does not disturb the lake bottom. Pointing the aerator flow perpendicular to the lakbed or towards the water surface will help ensure that the lake bottom is not significantly disturbed.

If these standards cannot be met, please visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword, "water permit"

## Other Regulations:

In order to protect public safety, ice holes formed from an aerator must be marked with one of the following methods. Please contact the local sheriff's department to report a violation of this requirement (s. 167.26, Wis. Stats.):

- Erect and maintain a barricade around the holes consisting of uprights that are spaced at adequate intervals to maintain the barricade and that are connected by a continuous rope, cord, or similar material placed at least 2.5 feet and not more than 4.5 feet off the surface. The connecting rope, cord, or similar material shall have reflectorized, fluorescent, or lighted ribbon or tape or other reflectorized devices attached to it, so as to be highly visible, and shall be of sufficient strength to allow for the retrieval of the barricade following melting of the ice.
- Erect and maintain a visual warning mechanism that is highly visible and that is reflectorized, fluorescent, or lighted.

## Other Best Practices:

Please be aware you may be liable for any accidents that occur due to improperly marked ice holes. Disputes between neighboring landowners may be handled through a civil action. To avoid accidents or injuries, here are some additional best practices that should be followed:

- Limit the open water in the pier vicinity by orienting the circulator to create an upflow of water;
- Operate the aerator or circulator on a timer to limit run time to the duration necessary to keep the pier ice free;
- Install the aerator in a manner that avoids impacting the ice on your neighbor's property or creates unsafe ice conditions in recreational areas known to be used by for ice skaters, fishermen, snowmobilers, etc.

**PLEASE NOTE: These regulations are for the State of Wisconsin. Michigan does NOT have aerator regulations at this time.**

# FALL YARD CLEAN UP ALERT

By CCROA Collaborative

While the autumn brings us a breathtaking extravaganza of fall color, those leaves ultimately make their way to the ground. In the ensuing weeks we face a seemingly never-ending routine of raking and leaf blowing to clear our yards and driveways of leaves. Out of convenience, some Riparian Owners rake or blow leaves into the lake. **VERY BAD IDEA!** First of all, it is illegal in both Michigan and Wisconsin. Secondly and more importantly it has a substantial negative impact on water quality and fish. The abundance of deteriorating leaves in the lake contributes to nutrient imbalance creating among other problems water conditions that strongly promotes growth of Algae. Lakes have evolved to handle the normal fall of leaves from trees along the shoreline but any additional leaves entering the lake ecosystem poses substantial harm.

The CCROA has undertaken extensive and costly efforts to monitor, maintain and preserve the treasured waterway that we cherish. Each of us as stewards of our natural resources has an obligation to do our part to protect our lakes and pass them on unspoiled to future generations for their enjoyment. Please refrain from raking or blowing leaves into the lake and kindly ask neighbors to do so as well.



Michigan Department of Environmental Quality



**Top Left:** Leaf pile falling in river

**Bottom Left:** Household waste piled on river bank with woody debris

**Right:** Woody debris and pine needles piled on river bank and in river

Photo Credit: Bob Bishop, Friends of the Looking Glass Watershed Council

## Yard Waste Littering Notice

- Disposing yard waste, including grass clippings and leaves, into our rivers, lakes and streams is bad for the water.
  - The practice violates Michigan's Littering Law (Michigan Compiled Law 324.8902).
- For information regarding proper waste disposal and options for responsible yard waste management please refer to [www.mi.gov/deqwaste](http://www.mi.gov/deqwaste) (Select "Solid Waste," "Recycling" then "How Do I Handle this Waste") or call the DEQ Assistance Center at 800-622-9278.
- To report littering call your local police department or in environmental emergencies the Pollution Emergency Alerting System at 800-292-4706.

**PLEASE NOTE: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as noted in the publication, is now known as the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)**

## LAKE TURNOVER

By Patrick Mans Thousand Island Lake

As we do our fall chores at the lake by putting away summer lawn furniture, pulling docks and lifts, and storing boats, our lakes are busy carrying out an annual chore of their own. Deeper freshwater lakes in northern latitudes go through a “turnover” every fall which involves the de-stratification of the temperature layers found in the lake. If you’ve swam early in the summer, you have likely noticed the water near your feet is significantly cooler than that near your head and shoulders. Like temperature layers in a lake, oxygen levels also stratify during the summer. This time of change can impact fish activity and thereby fishing success. Nature has its ways of taking care of itself and turnover is one of the ways old Ma nature deals with the changing of the seasons in northern climes.

In the fall cooling air temperatures have a corresponding cooling impact on the surface temperature of the water in our lakes. Lake turnover is the seasonal movement of water in a lake. This movement takes place when the upper (epilimnion) layer of water in a lake cools to a point where it sinks and displaces the water in the depths (hypolimnion) forcing it to the surface. Water gets denser as it cools to a temperature of 39 degrees then as it begins to freeze at temperatures below 39 it again gets less dense. This is why ice floats in water. Lake turnover typically takes place when the surface temperature is between 50 and 55 degrees.

During the summer when water is stratified in layers, the lower layers do not mix with the upper layers, so oxygen is depleted in the depths. When turnover happens, the upper oxygenated layer moves down and the lower oxygen depleted layer is moved to the surface. Sometimes, in certain lakes if turnover happens quickly, like in a few hours, it can create a situation where the smell of rotten eggs can be observed as the oxygen depleted water from the bottom of the lake which carries with it sulphuric gasses from rotting vegetation rises to the surface. If the turnover takes place over a longer period of time this is not as noticeable. Soon after turnover, the water at the surface mixes with the air through wave action and re-oxygenates.

During this short but important period, fishing is often negatively impacted. As one can imagine, it takes a few days for fish, having lived in and dealt with the stratified nature of the lake, to get acclimatized to their new environment.

Fish even more so than humans are very sensitive to temperature and oxygen levels. It can be difficult to nearly impossible to catch fish during the actual turnover period. The fish world literally turns upside down during turnover, so the bite one was on the day before can simply stop until turnover is complete and that upper layer of water has had a chance to re-oxygenate. After turnover, fish can be anywhere in the water column. The depths now have adequate oxygen to support baitfish and where there are baitfish there are sport fish. Eighty feet is not too deep for walleye after turnover. There is a caution though, as pulling up any fish except lake trout from that depth will likely result the fish dying if released.

So, as the water temps continue to decline, if you find yourself suddenly struggling to catch fish that seemed like they were practically jumping in the boat the day before, don’t get discouraged. Find some fall chores to do for a couple days and then go give it another try. The fish will still be in the lake and will now be hungry after a few days of inactivity. They may just be in a different location and at a different depth.

Tight Lines!  
Pat Mans



**Pictured Above: Patrick Mans with an impressive fall Crappie haul**

# 4 STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT OUR LAKES

This is a special place where plants, wildlife, fish, and people are neighbors.



## Give wildlife space

Stay at least 200 ft away from wildlife, nests, and marked breeding areas.

Close encounters can disrupt activities like resting, breeding, and finding food.



## Keep the shoreline natural

Leave logs and submerged vegetation in place. Keep shoreline vegetation intact.

Driftwood, downed trees, and plants provide habitat for fish and wildlife, hold soil in place, and filter pollutants and excess nutrients that fuel algae.



## Observe no-wake zones

Slow to no-wake within 200 ft of the shoreline and wildlife.

Wakes can cause erosion, disturb animals, and damage vegetation.



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**

## Prevent the spread of invasive species

Before leaving the water access, clean, drain, and dry all gear.

Invasive species can overtake native plants and animals, creating ecosystem imbalances.

## **CISCO CHAIN AIS PROGRAM END OF 2020 SEASON**

By Eugene Clark

This summer presented many challenges, but we continued to be engaged in the fight against aquatic invasive species (AIS) on the Cisco Chain. Our season is pretty much ended. All the survey work on the Chain is wrapped up. Many Waters did find three locations of EWM on Cisco and one location on Poor. They got in one more round of diving in to cover the location in Poor, Cisco and took a last look at the channels. DASH work was successfully performed on West Bay and TIL. The Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring (Point Intercept) on Big, Cisco and Little Africa was completed. The chemical treatments on Big this year were a success; Many Waters will put together a report later this winter. Secchi disk readings are over and the Cornfields have received the results; thanks to the volunteers. We did not do any supplemental chemical treatments this year, so our provision in the budget for this work (\$13,000) was not used. We did not receive the BFIT/UPPC grants applied for in April to fund efforts in 1) Early Detection/Rapid Response, and 2) the Water Temperature Monitoring & Dissolved Oxygen program. We performed the ED/RR work, as that is critical in the early season. Buoys will be removed shortly here in the end of October. Boat rental places have bookings much later into this year, so we had higher fall traffic than usual. This summer was an exceptionally busy year on the water, and this higher use continued into the fall. Funds for continued AIS work are sufficient for anticipated 2021 programs, and no tax assessment is planned through the MISAD and the WLD this coming year. I will perform an Actual Spend to Budget Analysis later this year after we get all bills in and paid. Again, thanks to your continued support of the ISCCW!



**Pictured Left: Biologist Bill Artwich prepares to remove Eurasian Water Milfoil on Lindsley Lake**

**Pictured Right: The CCROA has two of these tools used for pulling weeds. One Small and One Large. Available for borrowing at any time. Just reach out to your lake representative.**



# Board Members & Lake Representatives' Contact

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**Watersmeet Township Transfer Station**  
8 am to 4 pm Monday, Tuesday & Thursday thru Saturday  
Closed on Wednesday and Sunday

**Land O'Lakes Collection & Recycling Center**  
Tuesday 8 am – 3 pm  
Thursday 12 noon – 4 pm  
Saturday 8 am – 4 pm  
(Winter Hours Oct 1<sup>st</sup> - Memorial Day Weekend)

**AS OF APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2019**  
Watersmeet Township Police will handle all calls for service within the Township with the exception of those calls on the Reservation, they will be handled by the Tribal Police.

**CALL:**  
911 for EMERGENCIES  
(906) 875-6669 for IMMEDIATE response (non-life threatening)  
(906) 358-2048 for the Watersmeet office for administrative and general questions, if no one is in the office, please leave a message.

Below are the website addresses and phone numbers for Watersmeet Township & the Town of Land O'Lakes –

**Watersmeet Township**  
[www.watersmeet.us](http://www.watersmeet.us)  
906-358-4501

**Town of Land O'Lakes**  
<http://townoflandolakes.com>  
715-547-3255

Watersmeet/Land O'Lakes are literally where "Waters Meet" The Ontonagon River flows north from Watersmeet into Lake Superior; the Wisconsin River flows south from Land O'Lakes into the Mississippi; and the Paint River flows east into Lake Michigan!

Find more Cisco Chain information on the CCROA website  
[www.ciscochainroa.com](http://www.ciscochainroa.com)

**Around Town Events-Land O'Lakes**

Most events have been canceled or rescheduled due to Covid-19. Please check the towns website, Facebook page, or call the chamber for more information and or questions.

**Around Town Events-Watersmeet**

Most events have been canceled or rescheduled due to Covid-19. Please check the towns website, Facebook page, or call the chamber for more information and or questions.

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Laura Mans

Summer 2020 has come and gone in a flash. I hope everyone enjoyed the chain this summer and got some time out on the water. We are looking forward to snow season!

Our 2020 membership is down significantly. We lost 71 members from 2019. Letters and emails were sent to the addresses on file of those who were expiring. If you are not sure of your current status, drop us an email to [ccroa49969@gmail.com](mailto:ccroa49969@gmail.com) with 'Membership' in the subject line. We would be happy to check and let you know if you are current. Below is our current membership counts by lake.

You can help with membership by encouraging Cisco Chain owners that are not members to join and be an important part of the CCROA's mission "Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes".

Below is a breakdown of our current membership:

334 active members as of 10/01/2020

Big	41
Cisco	38
Clearwater	11
East Bay	16
Fishhawk	8
Lindsley	23
Little Africa	1
Mamie	16
Morley	1
Poor	15
Thousand Island	84
West Bay	18
Not on Chain	1

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the board via the CCROA email, [ccroa49969@gmail.com](mailto:ccroa49969@gmail.com), or contact a board member directly. A list of current board members can be found on our website.

**Note: Membership year starts January 1st and ends on December 31st**

## Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association Membership Application

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Additional e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Lake \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$25.00 per year. Advance payments are welcomed. Just indicate how many years in advance you wish to pay

Number of years \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime Membership is only \$450.00. Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of General Fund Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Lake Management (formerly AIS) Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount for Walleye Stocking Fund: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CISCO CHAIN RIPARIAN OWNERS ASSN.

MAIL TO: CCROA P.O. BOX 687, WATERSMEET, MI 49969-0687

Be a Volunteer! Join Us and Make a Difference!!!

Officer or Lake Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Picnic Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Educate at Boat Ramps \_\_\_\_\_ Special Projects \_\_\_\_\_