

SHORE LINES

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association

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“Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes”

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

By Eugene Clark

We hope everyone had a great summer! Hello, I am Eugene Clark, the new President replacing Bob McGuffin. We all owe Bob a debt of gratitude for his hard work in setting up the special taxing districts, putting our efforts in managing AIS on a secure financial footing. I know I am standing on the broad shoulders of both Bob and Greg Wenzel as I start my tenure in this position. I am also very fortunate to have the strong team of officers and board members supporting our projects. It was a busy summer. We continued to see increased traffic on our beloved Chain, an increase that started last year due to Covid travel restrictions. We love to see more people enjoying this wonderful resource. Our local businesses surely benefit from it. But we also experienced a decline in lake etiquette, and disrespect for private shorelines. Need I mention the sand cut? The Chain is big enough to accommodate all of us; visitors need to respect the common-sense rules governing behavior on the water. We will look for ways next season to make these communications more visible. We need to reach out to anyone doing short term rentals. The resort owners remain our valued partner on this and other lake issues.

We continue to work with our Township in creating a “No Wake Zone” ordinance that is legally enforceable.

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.



We also want to see an ordinance regulating the use of “wave enhancement watercraft” (WEW). We are starting to see these watercraft on the Chain, generating 4–5-foot waves that a person can surfboard on. They are prevalent on the Minocqua and the Eagle Chains. Both these ordinances would go a long way in protecting our shorelines, water quality and fish habitats. See the article in this newsletter on this topic.

The CCROA continues to implement programs “promoting safe fun on clean lakes”. Managing our AIS programs, promoting healthy shorelines, measuring water quality, fish stocking, and encouraging a polite and respectful “lake culture”, this is what we are about. We all want to leave this legacy resource to our children and grandchildren; they deserve the same experiences that we all enjoyed. To this end, we need your continued support. I ask all property owners on the Chain to become members of the CCROA. We will keep you informed on what is happening, what issues we are supporting, and where we may need your help!

Lastly, winter is coming with its venue of recreation activities. Be safe on the ice, wait until we have good ice conditions before venturing out. Look out for others on the snowmobile trails. It always amazes me how fast these sleds go. And stay warm!

WAKE ENHANCEMENT WATERCRAFT

By Eugene Clark

Wake Enhancement Watercraft (WEW) are fast becoming an issue here in the Northwoods. The Minocqua Chain of Lakes is already suffering with this new boating experience. Mid Lake, the fish hatchery that feeds the Minocqua Chain, is being harmed by them. Presque Isle Twp residents have formed the Last Wilderness Alliance (LWA) to create an ordinance regulating this activity on their lakes. Four townships in Sawyer County and 4 other townships in northern Wisconsin have created WEW ordinances.

Wake enhancing watercraft [WEW], also known as wake/surf boats, create a wake from two to five feet high behind which an individual may surf, ski, wake-board, wake jump and the like. This is not about jetskis, water skiing or even wake boarding boats. This about the operation of a watercraft that creates this large wave. This larger, more destructive wave can be produced in a number of ways: 1) a ballast system in the back of the boat that pumps lake water into a bladder to increase the boat's water displacement; 2) a mechanical hydrofoil, or a little flap that opens up at the bottom of the boat to divert water; and 3) the user operates the watercraft in a manner that would intentionally increase the size of the wave, such as adding people or rocks to the rear of the boat or driving very slowly to amplify the wave. These boats, by carrying lake water in their bladders, increase the chance of spreading AIS as the owners go from lake to lake.

WEW drive slowly, 10 miles an hour, with the prop is aimed down, some 48 inches into the water at a 40-degree angle. Such a wake surfing boat can turn over the bottom of a 200-acre lake in just 22 hours of boating time (water depths less than 20 feet). This disrupts the weeds and fish habitat.

The ordinance drafted by the LWA does not specifically call out wake surfing boats or WEW. It specifies a mode of operation that generates the enhanced wake. To be clear, it is ok to take your kids tubing, doing figure eights to generate waves for the thrill of the ride. It is ok to operate a wake board boat pulling the wake boarder. You just follow the wake rules in place; do not create these wakes within 100ft of the shoreline. The LWA Hazardous Wakes ordinance states in part, "The operation of a boat in a manner that intentionally magnifies its wake for recreation purposes such as wake boarding, wake surfing or wake jumping is prohibited on a lake or river within the township boundaries."

There is much information online you can access. We believe that we need to act quickly on this type of boat operation before its presence increases on the Cisco Chain. Our local community spends approximately \$250,000 a year and contributes some 3,000 hours of volunteer time between the CCROA, ISCCW, USFS and the other key lake associations. This underscores the importance of your membership to the CCROA, as we can deliver a more impactful message to our townships. Please renew your memberships and inform neighbors who may not be members to join.

WALLEYE STOCKING REPORT

By CCROA Collaborative

We could not stock walleye this October for the second year in a row. Last year, stocking was canceled due to Covid, as the Michigan DNR was closed down and was not able to inspect the fingerlings prior to release. This year, our supplier had a very reduced yield on walleye fingerlings. As you may know, we generally release approximately 8,000 walleye fingerlings each October. These fish range in size from 5 to 7 inches. They are released in 3 locations on the Chain. The CCROA remains committed to this program, as it helps maintain the walleye population in the Chain. We will keep you posted on future developments.



THE BENEFITS OF WOODY DEBRIS SHORELINES

By Rick Nevers, with Greg Wenzel (Author's note: some of the information for this article is taken from the January 27, 2021 and September 1, 2021 Outdoors Columns of the Vilas County News Review, written by Kurt Krueger, writer and publisher)

There was a time when most every riparian owner on the Cisco Chain had either stumps, logs, or downed trees along their shoreline. These items are a natural and integral part of lake ecosystems and are known as “woody debris”, or more technically coarse woody debris. And while it may seem unsightly, woody debris shorelines play a valuable role in the overall health of a lake or chain. If you're familiar with the proverbial “food chain”, you know that it begins with aquatic insects that form the base of the food chain. These lattices of submerged trees and branches provide homes to insect larvae, insects, minnows, baitfish, and ultimately gamefish, as well as a host of other aquatic life such as tadpoles, frogs, and crayfish (which are also fish food!). They are critical habitat for fish, birds and amphibians that we cherish as part of our lake experience. Additionally, downed trees and logs along the shoreline are vital in helping to minimize shoreline erosion and in some cases helping filter nutrient runoff into the lakes they are in. Unfortunately, as lakefront development has continued and increased, many riparian owners have unwittingly damaged the lake ecosystem by removing the woody debris, changing natural shorelines into lakefront lots. For some, they are a distraction from a perceived pristine shoreline. In these cases, the old NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard) has been transformed into NAMS (Not Along My Shoreline). In other cases, they are a barrier to pier access or swimming areas.

A friend of mine who has fished the Cisco Chain for 60+ years and knows it like the back of his hand, remarked to me that “fishing here ain't what it used to be”, and the number one reason he cited was the absence today of “wood along the shorelines”. The research on the benefits of woody debris shorelines is extensive and conclusive, to the point that the U.S. Forest Service is now promoting manmade “tree drops”, wherein felled trees are actually brought in to be anchored to the bank of the lake. In these instances, private lakeshore owners or lake associations work with fish biologists from the state DNR to determine where best to place these “drops”.

In-lake structure such as rock bars, weed beds, underwater humps, and deep holes are all well and good as fish structure, but for effective fish propagation to occur, the value of woody debris shorelines must be known, understood, and supported. Fortunately, the effective management of woody debris shorelines doesn't need to be an all or nothing proposition. Riparian owners can have their piers and swimming areas while still maintaining woody debris shorelines. How? By use of the simple practice of “Move, don't Remove” woody debris from the shoreline. With this practice, rather than completely removing the woody debris from the shoreline, simply move it to the side and out of the way of pier access or a swimming area, to another area along the shoreline. This is the practice I use with my shoreline. Any branches that fall onto my property or into the lake in my swimming area, are moved into existing tree downfalls that happen to exist on either end of my shoreline property.

Education is the key to increasing participation in woody debris shoreline management. Through this relatively simple but highly effective ecosystem management technique, we can improve and maintain our chain for generations to come.



FISHING PARTNERS

By Patrick Mans Thousand Island Lake

Those of us who fish know the significance of having a person we can truly call a fishing partner. It's that person who you welcome in your boat because he/she just shuts up and fishes. The person who can say everything that needs to be said in just a few short words. Words like nice fish, beautiful day, grab me a beer, one more cast, and get the net. A real fishing partner is one who allows you to enjoy comfortable silences where the natural world around the two of you is experienced both individually and together simultaneously.

For me that person was my cousin John. His father and mine are brothers. John and I grew up together and stayed close throughout our lives. We coached, hunted and fished together. Our families spent the holidays together. Interestingly, though we took different career paths after college, we both ended up serving as school district superintendents at the end of our professional careers. I lost my fishing partner and best friend this past September to cancer.

John was one of the best people I have ever known. He was also one of the best anglers with which I have ever had the pleasure to fish. He did not start out that way. I, on the other hand, have had a passion for fishing from a very early age and have spent what my wife would likely say is an obsessive bordering on compulsive amount of time doing so since she has known me. When John and I were just kids, we did a little fishing together but it was not as important to John as it was to me. It was mostly some stream trout fishing and sneaking into some private bass lakes near his father's cabin in northern Wisconsin. The couple of rides in the Sheriff's car back to camp proved to us that we were not always sneaky enough. Due to sports, we did not do a great deal of fishing together in high school or college. After college, we both returned home, got jobs and started our own families. A couple years into my career as a teacher I scraped enough money together to get a small fishing boat. After some cajoling John began to join me fishing the Menominee River and the Bay of Green Bay for walleye, trout and salmon. After a couple years, I bought a bigger boat and John bought my first boat. This is when John, who has always been a competitive person, began to take fishing seriously. He and his brother Joe started fishing some pro/am walleye tournaments as amateurs to learn how the pros fished. It wasn't long and he and Joe were a sponsored



professional fishing team on the professional walleye circuit. The two of them even won the PWT National Walleye Championship on the Bay of Green Bay. They won it fishing a spot John and I fished together many times. Joe continues to fish competitively but John's work eventually limited his fishing to that of a weekend warrior like so many of us.

John and I fished together in Canada each summer for over 25 years until COVID-19 closed the border a couple years ago. Rather than skip the vacation, we just moved our destination a little further south to the Chain. Our last trip together was this past June. John loved our chain of lakes and often referred to it as Little Canada. We caught panfish, walleye, bass, pike, and the occasional musky. I will miss having John physically in the boat with me but in a sense, my fishing partner will always be there with me. A real fishing partner is always there to enjoy nature's comfortable silences both individually and together. One more cast John.

Tight Lines!
Patrick Mans

A NOTE OF SINCERE APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE

By Greg Wenzel

During this year's annual CCROA business meeting and picnic Bob McGuffin retired as President of our Association. Bob and I were nominated to board positions over a decade ago. During the ensuing years we worked together on a myriad of issues bringing all to successful outcomes. Any success that may be ascribed to me during my term as President would not have been possible without Bob's wisdom and vision.

During Bob's tenure as President, one of the many achievements he accomplished was suggested to be nearly impossible by legal counsel. Bob established a reliable equitable revenue stream for the ongoing education, prevention and remediation efforts in combating Aquatic Invasive species in the Cisco Chain. Lake Districts were established that were inclusive of two States, two Counties and two Townships that function in concert to protect the incredible natural resource enjoyed by countless property owners, visitors and tourists.

What is equally amazing is Bob's refusal to stand down when confronted by doubters and challenges. His drive and determination to get things done while juggling the responsibilities of family and essentially two full time jobs is astounding. While I would be remiss to not acknowledge the assistance of others that stepped forward to help with various initiatives that Bob championed, he was the driving force with the "get it done" attitude.

The achievements under Bob's leadership positioned the CCROA to ensure that the cherished waters of the Cisco Chain will be enjoyed by future generations in the grand fashion we enjoy the resource, as have the generations before us. Well done sir! We are collectively in your debt.

I am delighted that our new President Eugene Clark has accepted the call to duty. I have had the pleasure to work with Gene both as a board member of the ISCCW and the CCROA. We are in good hands and the transition has been seamless. Both Bob and Gene deserve our sincere appreciation and gratitude.

CCROA PICNIC

By CCROA Collaborative

This year's Picnic/Business Meeting was "Business as Usual." Everyone gathered together for our traditional meeting and picnic at the pavilion at Cisco Lake Resort.

We said good-bye to a few members this year. Of course, as stated above, Bob McGuffin stepped down as CCROA President and Eugene Clark took his place. It was also announced that Roy Knoth and Jay Sweney were outgoing Board Members. Roy was the West Bay Representative and on the Lake District board. We welcome Steve Kessler as he took Roy's place. A plaque was presented to Roy for his service. Jay was the Cisco Lake Representative and has been replaced by Jim Boehm. Jay was unable to attend the meeting for his plaque.



The board was happy to hear that Shorelines editor Christina Studlow has decided to stay on for one more year. This position will be open and available at the next picnic for those who may be interested. Greg Wenzel presented a plaque to outgoing president, Bob McGuffin. Greg thanked him for his contributions as President and commented that what Bob has accomplished is unparalleled. He also stated that, going forward, with the exception of the No Wake Zone Ordinance, the job of presidency will be easier with all the work Bob has done.

ATTENTION!!! ATTENTION!!! ATTENTION!!!

Stay tuned for our Spring edition for the announcement of next year's Annual Picnic/Business meeting. More details to come!!!

CISCO CHAIN AIS PROGRAM END OF 2021 SEASON

By Eugene Clark

Many Waters finished a successful season of surveying and controlling the spread of AIS on the Chain. All survey work is finished and there were no new detections of EWM on our lakes and channels. All chemical treatment areas look great. Initial surveys indicate a substantial reduction of EWM on Thousand Island Lake, which was a large priority this season. This is great news all around!

The summer round of water quality sampling is complete. The aquatic vegetation mapping (called Point Intercept or PI) is finished. Spiny water flea sampling on Thousand Island, as part of the ISCCW work is just completed. Buoys will be pulled in mid-October. We are looking at replacing them over the winter.

We started this year with a large budget, due in part to Thousand Island coming up in rotation for a comprehensive chemical treatment and PI. Being the largest lake, this was going to be expensive. Our forecast spend may look close to what you see below:

2021 Summary AIS Budget vs Forecast Activity	Budget Total Cost	Estimated Total Cost
Survey, Dive, DASH EWM	\$48,398	\$45,000
Chemical Treatments	\$70,577	\$38,000
Water Quality	\$16,575	\$16,000
Boat Landing Inspections & Washes	\$22,500	\$17,000
AIS Education & Admin	\$7,250	\$6,000
Total	\$165,300	\$122,000

The biggest reduction in spend was from lower Chemical Treatments. Two significant areas in Thousand Island were determined not to require this treatment and PLM, our chemical application company, was able to more effectively apply the chemical, ProcellaCOR. So, chemical spend declined from a budgeted \$70,000 to a forecast \$38,000. But keep in mind, our Chemical spend in 2020 was \$9,250.

The Boat Landing Inspections & Washing is largely ISCCW employing their boat washers at Cisco and Thousand Island landings, and \$4,000 in the CB/CW program. The AIS Education & Admin are approximately 25% of these expenses incurred by ISCCW on its community outreach programs and the admin costs in supporting all these activities.

So, all totaled, the ISCCW contributed just under \$20,000 in value to the Chain. The Chain responded by becoming members of the ISCCW, some 38% of the ISCCWs 414 members are from the Chain, contributing nearly \$14,000. The ISCCW thanks you for your continued support. This is why it is so important for the Chain residents to support the ISCCW, our valued partner in lake management. (Full disclosure: I also sit on the ISCCW Board.)



Pictured Above: 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.

MAMIE LAKE LODGE AND BOAT HOUSE

By Gary and Lori Doll

We are the owners of this 1929 boathouse on Mamie Lake. It's right across the lake from Bent's Camp. We're trying to gather some history about the boathouse, and wondering if anyone on the chain, or in the area, might have any old pictures, or have any stories / information about it they'd like to share with us. If you do, please contact Lori Doll at mamielake@gmail.com or 262.224.7859.



EXCITING HIGH SPEED INTERNET NEWS

By Bob McGuffin CCROA President (Retired)

In the past, I have communicated to the membership about internet access on the Cisco Chain. It is a subject that comes up very often! Previously, I have shared the exciting news about Highline and its plan to bring gigabit-speed fiberoptic internet to the Michigan side of the Cisco Chain. For those of you who have expressed your interest on Highlinefast.com, I would like to thank you! The response has been very good according to the folks at Highline! Highline representatives have begun calling those interested parties and started taking \$25 deposits for installation scheduled for 2022! It is imperative that if you are wanting Highline's service that you reach out to them at either www.highlinefast.com or ideally calling them at 888-212-0054 to submit your deposit and secure your place in their buildout! It would be very unfortunate if they were to somehow bypass properties because of a perceived lack of interest. Make sure to check out the Watersmeet township website as it has been completely updated and allows you to sign up for news and updates sent to your email. I highly encourage checking it out and signing up for updates. There is a lot going on and everyone should be informed.

In other exciting internet news, Starlink has started shipping equipment to those that gave a deposit. I have it at my home as well as at Wilderness Bay. Early results are very encouraging! It is a requirement that the dish have an unobstructed view of the northern sky. Our Fedex driver says around 8 dishes have been delivered to the area so far. If you are interested in taking a look, swing on down to Wilderness Bay and either Dan Hance or I can give you a tour of Dishy McFlatface! (That's the pet name SpaceX has given to the dish.) These are exciting Times! If anyone has any questions, please give me a call.

MSU VISITS THE CHAIN

By Denise Fauntleroy

On August 9th-11th Dr. Jo Latimore and Erick Elgin of MSU Extension visited the Watersmeet area to conduct tours of area lakes and share their knowledge on lake health. After a storm delay that brought the attendees to Bents Camp for coffee, we headed out on pontoons captained by Ron Verkuilen (Poor Lake) Steve McDonough (Thousand Island) and Steve Muth (Poor Lake). We spent several hours discussing lake shore health, viewing shoreline restoration projects on the chain and identifying native and invasive plants on Big Lake and West Bay Lake.

The second tour launched from the Thousand Island Boat Landing. Our hosts for this tour were Eugene Clark (Thousand Island) and John Oliver (Thousand Island). Many of the same conversations took place as well as an involved discussion about the deep-water Lake Trout and Cisco populations on Thousand Island. We also visited Big Africa and Record Lake. This event was enjoyed by everyone, all asked if it could be scheduled for next year.

Many thanks to all attendees, our captains and Jo and Erick for making this tour possible.



Many of the materials shared at the tours are still available. Contact Denise Fauntleroy (ISCCW) at fishhawk0106@gmail.com. Erick Elgin (above) and Jo Latimore (Left).

Become a Clean Boats, Clean Waters Volunteer

With the growing concern over the spread of aquatic invasive species to Wisconsin's inland lakes, many lake association members and other concerned citizens are looking for ways to get involved. The Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program provides one opportunity to take a front-line defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species. Through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, adult and youth volunteers will:

- Learn how to organize and conduct a boater education program in their community;
- Educate boaters on how and where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride into water bodies;
- Perform boat and trailer checks for invasive species and distribute informational brochures;

Some individuals become water monitoring volunteers as well, collecting and reporting suspect samples of invasive species, particularly for zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil.

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 1st - Memorial Day Weekend)

AS OF APRIL 1ST, 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
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

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

Our 2021 membership has stayed somewhat the same from last spring. 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 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:

243 active members as of 10/01/2021

Big	38
Cisco	30
Clearwater	11
East Bay	14
Fishhawk	9
Lindsley	21
Mamie	13
Morley	1
Poor	15
Thousand Island	70
West Bay	18
Not on Chain	2

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 _____

Membership Dues:

\$25.00 Per Year

\$450 Lifetime

Advanced payments are welcome. Membership year starts January 1st and ends December 31st.

Please indicate how many years you wish to pay below.

Number of years _____ or Lifetime

Amount Enclosed: _____

Donations:

Lake Management _____

Invasive Species _____

Walleye Stocking Fund: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CISCO CHAIN RIPARIAN OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

Be a Volunteer!! Join us and make a difference!!!

Officer or Lake Representative _____ Picnic Volunteer _____ Seasonal Committee _____ Educate at Boat Ramps _____