

SHORE LINES

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association

www.ciscochainroa.com email: ccroa49969@gmail.com

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"Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes"

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Bob McGuffin

Happy Spring to everyone! Thankfully, if you are reading this, you survived 2020 and are ready to get back to life. I know I am! This will be the last time that I write to you in these pages. After 11 years of CCROA Board service, I will be stepping down as President. When I joined the Board in 2010, I had no idea what I was signing up for. I knew nothing about the dam purchase or the drama that it would create. I knew nothing about the presence of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) on the Chain and how it would come to dominate my life. After moving here in 2010, I wanted to simply get involved and give back to a place that I had been visiting since around 1990.

To say I got involved would be a massive understatement. Right out of the gate, I was tasked with raising money to buy the dam and, oh by the way, we have this little EWM issue on Clearwater Lake and if it's not too much trouble, figure a way to pay for it. After starting out with voluntary donations from our generous members, it became apparent that this strategy would not suffice long-term. So, we did what anyone would naturally do- set up two governmental taxing entities across a state line. Well, fast-forward 11 years, and we do not own the dam and our little EWM issue on one lake has grown into a big EWM issue on more lakes than not.

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.



Having said all of this, it is time for me to step down and turn my attention to other things in life. My CCROA Board involvement has been both rewarding and frustrating. Setting up our Special Assessment District and Lake District wasn't easy and adding a new line item to everyone's property tax bill is a sure-fire way to lose a popularity contest. If we want to protect the Cisco Chain, however, it needed to be done and we did it. That's where the reward comes in. As I write this, who will take over the Association is unclear. What is clear, however, is that I step down with the CCROA well positioned to address the EWM threat well into the future.

I challenge all our members to get involved. What that looks like is up to you. It can range from getting on the CCROA Board to recruiting a new neighbor to sign up for the CCROA to just picking up a piece of trash floating in the water or on the side of the road. Our percentage of property owners that are members of the CCROA hovers around 50%. It would be great to see that number much closer to 100%!

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve and as always, I have very much appreciated all the support I have received through the years. I look forward to seeing the vision of whoever takes over the CCROA!

ROADSIDE CLEAN UP

By Jay Sweney

The semi-annual roadside garbage clean-up along U.S.2, just east of Cisco Lake Road, was completed during the 1st week of April. An earlier than normal spring with no snow allowed for an earlier clean-up. A big thank you to, Jim Boehm, Scott Dillner, Don Dornan, Art Heabel, Dave McEachran, Nick Schanstra (one of the new owners of Cisco Lakeside Cabins, Bar, and Grill), and Krista Van Bree, who helped with the clean-up.

Nick was nice enough to open the bar so we could quench our thirst from all the hard work! A thank you also goes out to the Watersmeet Maintenance Dept. for supplying the vests, bags and picking up the 11 bags of garbage 3 big truck tires, some construction material, and 1 TV. That's correct, a TV!!! Again, thanks to all that helped this spring! Our next clean-up will be sometime this fall, before the snow flies!!!



A BANNER DAY ICE FISHING

By Gregory Wenzel

In late February, Rick Brown, and Greg Wenzel invited some friends and family members for a day of Ice Fishing. Gear was stowed and the group headed out onto the Chain in hope of landing enough panfish for a fish fry. The bite was sporadic but yielded a keeper here and there. A tip up flag received the expected attention by the group. A quantity of slack line was pulled in without resistance and Suddenly there was a rapid strong payout of line. After a long period of retrieval and payout a 48-inch Musky emerged from the hole! It was swiftly measured, photographed on the ice and returned to the depths.



Not long after that, one of Rick's guests had a hit on his jig pole. The drag allowed the fish to repeatedly run and be reeled back in until it came into view. Another Musky! It was hooked in the corner of its mouth with a tiny panfish jig secured to four-pound test braided line. Repeated efforts were made to carefully land it. The fish rolled and it could be seen to have the line wrapped around the head. Rick reached into the hole and rolled the Musky and twice nearly got the fish out of the hole. But on the final attempt it slipped his grasp and disappeared. It was estimated to be over 40 inches. It would have been released anyhow but the group was deprived of a photo of the second Musky. Fortunately, a video of the effort to land it remains as a reminder of a banner day of Ice Fishing!



By Patrick Mans Thousand Island Lake

Chances are we have all said or heard someone say, “I’m going fishing.” Fishing is defined by Wikipedia as the activity of trying to catch fish. There are a few reasons people fish including but not limited to relaxation, for food, competition, etc. Everyone has his/her own reason(s) to go fishing. Those reasons can even vary for the same person at different times and locations. Personally, my reasons to fish can vary from catching a few for a fish fry, to chasing musky simply because it is a great challenge.

Some folks fish to escape the pressures of everyday life by heading out onto the lake and throwing a bobber and worm out randomly toward shore. Fishing in this manner is not about catching, it is about the act of fishing allowing one to focus on something simpler than the Monday through Friday, nine to five worlds of work and responsibility. Even this type of fishing requires some level of focus, but it is limited to the cast, watching the bobber and setting the hook if it goes down. That focus frees the mind of thoughts of work and other responsibilities, even if for a limited time. The movie “*A River Runs Through It*” directed by Robert Redford speaks to this type of fishing.

In our part of the world, fishing for food is not as common as it once was. Historically, Native Americans who plied the waters of the Chain did so for the food value provided by the fish they caught. The fish were a critical annual food source for Native Americans in the area. Local Native Americans also continue to fish using traditional methods as a way to maintain their historical culture. Though on both coasts and in Alaska there is still an active commercial fishery for both human and animal consumption, in our part of the country commercial fishing is near extinct. That is not to say fish do not provide valuable and delicious meals for many people in our area throughout the year. Our Friday night fish fry tradition is testament to this.

For some the element of competition provides the motivation to get out on the water and fish. Whether that competition is a good natured \$1 for the first fish between buddies or it is thousands of dollars at stake in large musky, walleye, or bass tournaments, the competitive nature within some of us gets us out on the water at all hours of the day and night. This competitive spirit often helps lake associations who host small to medium sized local fishing tournaments, which in turn bring in money to support fish stocking and habitat improvements.

Whatever your reason, ‘tis the season. Get out there and wet a line. Take the kids and or grandkids fishing. Fishing provides a mental break, even if for just a couple hours, allowing us to relax and recharge. It might even result in providing for a great meal among friends. There are few places on earth, which provide a better front row seat to nature’s splendor than on the Chain with a fishing pole in one’s hands.

Tight Lines!
Patrick Mans



CHINESE SKY LANTERNS

By Chuck Sauberlich Big Lake

For the last several years, I have observed more and more Chinese Sky Lanterns being released in our area, particularly at the Fourth of July Fireworks in Land O'Lakes. They are constructed of treated paper with a wire frame supporting a reservoir of fuel. When ignited, open flame produces heated air that lifts the lantern skyward in a similar fashion to a hot air balloon. The lanterns drift away uncontrolled carrying a flame at the whim of the prevailing winds drifting away toward an unknown location. While these devices are fun to watch floating across the sky, they possess great potential to cause devastating fires to forests, fields, and homes and other structures. They also pose dangers resulting to harm to wildlife and livestock.

These devices are banned in Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana Louisiana, Maine, Maryland Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, And Washington. Additionally, they are banned in Argentina, Austria, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Spain, Germany and parts of Canada. Unfortunately, they have not been banned in Wisconsin and Michigan.

THOSE DARN WEEDS

By Gregory Wenzel

Many of us that have tended a garden or lawn have been faced with the task of eradicating weeds. Beyond the immediate confines of our lawns and gardens here in the Northwoods, we are surrounded by forest. The landscape and ecosystems of our forests are being threatened by numerous species of troublesome weeds. These are not plants indigenous to the forests but rather exotic plants brought from lands afar by accident or design. Many of these terrestrial invaders were introduced as ways to add color, dimension or variety to the landscape of our yards. Some of these exotic plants have propagated beyond their intended uses either through seed dispersal by wind or by birds and animals that have used the seeds as a food source.

One of these plants is Japanese Barberry. The ornamental bush used by many landscapers has spread unchecked to yards and the forest surrounding the Cisco Chain. They outcrop and shade out native plants and because they have thorns, restrict use of areas by pets and people. Another invader that restricts use of land recreationally is Canadian Thistle. It also has a prickly nature and overtakes natural plants species.

Two other terrestrial invaders of concern in local areas are Honeysuckle and Garlic Mustard. These plants have the capability of literally carpeting the landscape and in the case of Honeysuckle, they harbor ticks which is an additional unappreciated attribute.

Over the course of the past several years, the CCROA has provided educational outreach to Riparian Owners on Aquatic Invasive Species and best practices to prevent their spread and introduction of new invaders to our lakes. Additionally, information has been distributed pertaining to protection, preservation and restoration of shoreline habitat. The topic of terrestrial invasive plants is increasingly important as awareness of their expansion across natural habitats increases and people recognize their negative impact.

Chinese Sky Lanterns can travel for miles and ultimately return to earth as litter but more worrisome, as a very real fire danger. They have been documented to have caused wildfires and structure fires resulting in substantial losses. Wildlife and livestock have been killed by becoming entangled in or eating the remains of the lanterns that were chopped up becoming components of bales of hay. Other animals have perished in the resulting fires. Considerable documentation exists on the destruction and havoc caused by these seemingly benign objects.

My hope is to heighten people's awareness of the genuine dangers and risks posed by Chinese Sky lanterns and urge people to refrain from using them. Educate your friends and neighbors on the inherent dangers they pose. A dry summer and high winds present ideal conditions to put our area in the news in the same fashion as California, Colorado and Oregon did during devastating wildfires last year. Untold acres of forest, grassland as well as homes and structures were lost. In Australia, it was estimated that there were over a million casualties to wildlife from fire that ravaged areas. Granted, there were various causes of the forementioned fires but knowing the fire hazard these lanterns pose carrying an open flame, one must weigh the risk of the moments of awe watching them drift across the night sky to their potential harm. I hope you agree with me it just is not worth it.

CISCO BAR AND RESORT NEW OWNERS!!!

By Spencer Cable

Cisco Bar and Resort is located on Cisco Lake right next to the public boat launch. The bar was founded in 1936, and despite a few changes over the years, it has remained somewhat of a time capsule in the Northwoods. Cisco still houses the same glass display cases full of mounted fish that have been over the bar for decades. Many families have been visiting the bar for decades to eat, drink, and share their love of fishing and snowmobiling with everyone else in the area. Several customers have shared their fond memories of coming here as children and the many unforgettable times they've had here.

After being closed for a few years, the bar reopened in 2019 and revived many families' traditions of coming to the bar while on their getaways in the UP. This May, two new owners will be purchasing Cisco Bar. Nick and Spencer are moving up to the Cisco Chain from Rockford, IL to run the bar and continue its tradition of serving the lake chain. They are looking forward to meeting everyone who will be stopping in to share some good food, drinks, and memories. Starting May 1st and continuing through the summer, Cisco will be open Tuesday-Sunday and it will be open on Memorial Day Monday. Stop in to say hi to the new owners and check out the Cisco Lake Resort Facebook page for news and upcoming events.



**Pictured Above from Left to Right:
Previous owner Jim Boehm, New
owners Spencer Cable and Nick
Schanstra**

SAVE THE DATE!!! SAVE THE DATE!!! SAVE THE DATE!!!

**CCROA ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC
JULY 17, 2021
10:00 AM CISCO BAR**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is unclear at this time whether or not we will have a limited attendance meeting outdoors on the lawn. A mass email will be sent out to all members closer to the date with further information.

If the meeting must be held outdoors, a rain date will be set as well.
Thank you for your understanding.

CISCO CHAIN AIS PROGRAM START OF 2021 SEASON

By Eugene Clark

Below is a summary recap of our spending in 2020. This spend was addressed in the September 2020 meeting with some estimates. The variance analysis provided then remain the same.

Activity	2020 Budget	2020 Act Spend
Survey, Dive, DASH EWM	\$36,600	\$27,250
Chemical Treatments	\$30,000	\$9,250
Water Quality	\$18,600	\$12,100
Boat Landing Inspections & Washes	\$15,240	\$13,000
AIS Education & Admin	\$6,600	\$3,500
Total	\$107,040	\$65,100

We have now completed the 2021 AIS budget. Here it is:

2021 Summary AIS Budget	Total Cost	Funding Source		
		Lake Mgt Fund	Grants	ISCCW
Survey, Dive, DASH EWM	\$48,398	\$38,148	\$10,250	
Chemical Treatments	\$70,577	\$70,577		
Water Quality	\$16,575	\$16,575		
Boat Landing Inspections & Washes	\$22,500	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$18,500
AIS Education & Admin	\$7,250			\$7,250
Total	\$165,300	\$126,300	\$13,250	\$25,750

Note: Lake Management Fund consists of the two Taxing Districts and monies contributed specifically for this purpose.

This budget represents a significant increase from 2020 actual spend. Chemical treatments are budgeted to be much higher this year, due to 9 locations identified on Thousand Island that may require treatment. We also have treatment areas on the channel between Fishhawk and Lindsley. Many Waters will make a judgement in late June as to whether all the areas on Thousand Island will receive treatment, and if areas are deleted, it is likely these areas will receive Dive/DASH treatment. So, funds could shift from Chemical to Dive/Dash. This increase is believed to be a one-time event as Thousand Island has come back after three years to see some increased attention. Boat Inspection & Washes increases as the ISCCW hopes to hire a 4th boat washer this season to man the Palmer Bay Landing, which is seeing increased use.

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 – 6 pm
Saturday 8 am – 4 pm Sunday 9 am – 12 noon
(Summer Hours Memorial Day Weekend – Sept 30th)

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.

715-5473432
www.golandolakeswi.com

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.

906-358-9961
www.watersmeet.org

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Laura Mans

Well, we made it! 2020 is in the history books, and wow what a year it was.

Our membership is down significantly. Due to Covid and the changing of ownership on so many properties. 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.

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:

281 active members as of 5/01/2021

Big	43
Cisco	37
Clearwater	12
East Bay	17
Fishhawk	8
Lindsley	23
Little Africa	1
Mamie	17
Morley	1
Poor	14
Thousand Island	87
West Bay	19
Not on Chain	2

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the board via the CCROA email, 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 _____