

# SHORE LINES

Cisco Chain  
of Lakes



Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association *"Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes"*  
[www.ciscochainroa.com](http://www.ciscochainroa.com) email: [ccroa49969@gmail.com](mailto:ccroa49969@gmail.com)

January, 2015  
Volume Number 55, Issue 1

## Letter from the President

By Greg Wenzel

The beauty of the Northwoods during these winter months is breathtaking. While there is a peaceful serenity during this time of the year, much is going on. People are enjoying snowmobiling, ice fishing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and many events hosted by surrounding communities. The summer crowd may be gone but the winter crowd is here enjoying the countless opportunities the season presents.

The summer, seemingly far away is actually not that far off and much needs to be done in anticipation of its arrival. The Board's primary focus at the moment is in the realm of Aquatic Invasive Species. This is the time of year we develop strategies for prevention, education and AIS management for the coming summer. To bring you up to speed on a few things, last October I attended the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference in Duluth, MN. I attended over 35 workshops and presentations during the three day event. The reality of invasive species and potential havoc they can wage is sobering. However, the advancement of technologies, techniques and trends in combating invaders is encouraging. The conference is not only a venue for education, but it provides an important opportunity to network, build relationships and learn about trends and innovation elsewhere across the Upper Midwest and beyond.

On the last day of the conference, the State of Michigan announced the availability of a first time new AIS grant opportunity. This was exciting news for organizations in Michigan combating both terrestrial and aquatic invaders. A quick overview of the program revealed a narrow timeline in which to apply and limited funds for which there would be substantial competition. Our best hope for tapping into the grant money was as part of a partnership of regional organizations. Ultimately, a grant proposal was developed in which the CCROA joined in a cooperative and collaborative effort with ISCCW and



numerous other organizations and partners in Gogebic and Iron Counties including the United States Forest Service. The grant application has been completed and submitted. We are cautiously optimistic on the outcome. Candidly, the success of securing the grant is diminished due to the limited funds available and the intense competition from interested applicants from across the entire state. In spite of the uphill battle, we were obligated to vigorously pursue the grant even more so in view of the noise I have made to elected officials in the form of passionate appeals for the state to provide greater support to our efforts on the Cisco Chain. Keep your fingers crossed for a happy outcome.

Responding to another opportunity, I have been working with our biologist Barb to draft a grant request for continued help from the Bond Falls Implementation Team (BFIT). We are integrating an exciting water monitoring component in the request. We are hopeful to initiate more comprehensive water quality studies this year which will require some volunteer involvement. The commitment is minimal and involves taking secchi disk readings (see page 2), to document water clarity, once a week or every other week and taking water samples two or three times a year. If you would like to volunteer to assist with the project on your lake, please contact me! This is an extremely worthwhile and beneficial program.

On the topic of the dam purchase, I am frustrated to inform you once again that there is absolutely nothing to report. The final decision lies in the hands of FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission).

The final drafts of the CCROA Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation as well as Principles of Investment documents presented at the 2014 annual CCROA membership meeting have temporarily stalled due to health issues our attorney is addressing. At this point, there is not a projected timeline for completion of the documents and presentation of them to the membership.

Hopefully, the next newsletter will provide good news on all of the fore mentioned subjects. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership for 2015. Your financial support in the form of dues and contributions toward our Lake Management and Walleye Stocking funds are critical to ongoing efforts to maintain and sustain the Cisco Chain of Lakes. Also, your voice as a member is important. Member's concerns and ideas have been a driving force behind numerous initiatives. Do not underestimate the importance of being a member of the CCROA. We encourage you to be an ambassador of the CCROA and champion the organization's good work by reminding neighbors to join or renew their membership.

*Greg Wenzel*

### Secchi Disk Water Quality Monitoring

The secchi disk is a simple but effective tool that measures water clarity. Good water quality is important for fish and aquatic plants.

A secchi disk is an 8 inch diameter, black and white disk. It is attached to a dowel rod, rope or chain. The rod, rope or chain is marked in inch or centimeter intervals using permanent ink, paint or clamps. The length of the rod, rope or chain depends on how clear the water is requiring the disk to be lowered deeper than if the water was somewhat murky.

Weekly or bi-weekly readings are done in the same location each time. Date of the reading is recorded, the depth at which the disk disappears and after lowering the disk more & the raising it, the depth at which the disk reappears. The secchi disk measurement is the average of the two measurements.

### Battling the Barberry CCROA Collaboration

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> through July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Lac Vieux Desert Youth Corps, along with their Crew Leader, sprayed and hand pulled Japanese Barberry on several properties on the west shore of 1000 Island Lake and on Long Lake, in an effort to control this terrestrial invasive species.

The participating youth enjoyed the opportunity to learn. The use of chemical treatment on the LVD properties is prohibited and only allowed by permit. It was a learning experience for them as an alternate method of control of an invasive species. In doing so, they felt their efforts had a major impact in the control of Japanese Barberry.

Many thanks go out to the LVD Youth Corps and Crew Leaders for all their hard work. Hand pulling barberry is not an easy endeavor. Thanks also to the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians for this innovative youth program.

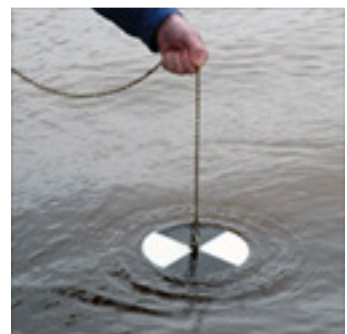
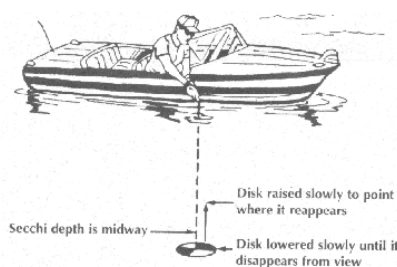
Contact information for CCROA Board Members and Lake Representatives is on Page 6 of the Newsletter.

Measurements are most accurate when done on relatively calm, sunny days during the middle of the day.

Turbidity is produced by sediment (brownish muddy color), phytoplankton (greenish color) or humic stain (tea color from decaying leaves or plants). Very often it is a combination of 2 or 3 of these sources.

In addition to collecting very important data about your lake, it is simple and fun to do. It is a great family or neighborhood project. The data is then sent to the State where detailed lake readings are maintained.

For more information on volunteering for this important program, please contact CCROA president, Greg Wenzel.



CCROA Collaboration

Lunch, raffles and fun kids games made for a great fellowship opportunity with fellow CCROA members, family and friends.

Raffles as always are fun and a source of fantastic prizes for the winners. This year we featured a Prepaid Registration Special Prize raffle of a laptop computer. Everyone that paid for their dinner tickets in advance was given a raffle ticket with each dinner ticket. Annie Rapp was our big winner. Maybe it was winning the laptop, but Annie volunteered to be the Big Lake South Lake Representative. We are happy to have her join the CCROA Board.

All in all there were 33 great prizes plus the always popular 50/50 raffle. Some prizes were purchased for the event but many were graciously donated by individuals (see the Fall Newsletter picnic article for the list).

Lunch included grilled hamburgers and hotdogs along with baked beans, coleslaw, grilled corn on the cob with butter, pickles, and yummy homemade cookies for dessert. Social hour started at 11:30, lunch serving started at 12:30.

Denise Fauntleroy had beautiful new CCROA clothing set up for sale at the picnic.

Thank you again to everyone that volunteered their time, donated prizes and came and enjoyed another great CCROA picnic. Volunteers are what make the CCROA work. Volunteering to help at the picnic is a fun way to meet Cisco Chain neighbors. It only involves a 1/2 hour of your time allowing plenty of time to enjoy the picnic.

## A Day on the Chain with Senator Tom Tiffany

CCROA Collaboration

Wisconsin Senator Tom Tiffany and Representative Rob Swearingen joined CCROA members, Paul Lucas, Bob McGuffin, Greg Wenzel, Jessica Ryden and Jim Okraszewski for a pontoon boat tour of the Cisco Chain.

It was the perfect way to "show off" the Cisco Chain of Lakes and instill upon them how important these waters are to protect and enhance.

We were able to talk face to face about the ongoing battle to control AIS and all the efforts and work that the Association puts into the caretaking of these pristine lakes.

Luckily we had a sunny day for the boat tour which was followed up by a delicious BBQ lunch on Mamie Lake at Paul and Lisa Stemen's house.

Thank you Paul and Lisa for your much appreciated hospitality and to Jim O. for being our boat captain.

The following are just a few of the many prizes awarded:

50/50 Raffle

1/2 Day Fishing w/Guide Al Knutsen  
Diana Sparks Oil Painting  
1/2 Day Fishing w/Guide Bruce Becker  
1/2 Day Fishing w/Guide Bruce Becker  
1 hour Massage w/Joy Massage & Wellness  
Keurig Coffee Maker  
Grosbeak/Finch Wall Hanging  
1/2 Day Pontoon Boat Ride  
Deer Hoof Coat Rack  
50-RND Shooting Clays  
50 RND Shooting Clays  
Turquoise Necklace  
Rustic Bench  
"Let's Fly South" Painting  
Fishing Rod & CCROA Hat  
Bistro Table Set  
2 RNDs Trap Shooting  
Bicycle  
Weed Wacker/Leaf Blower  
Eagle Wood Carving

Diane Baldassari & Dick Bories  
Karen Sattler  
Bill McNicholas  
Karen Sattler  
Joan Patton  
Lisa Hesse  
David Fauntleroy  
Linda Hammer  
Julie George  
Bruce Becker  
Julie George  
Diane Baldassari  
Carolyn Rohlen  
Mary Jo Korn  
Phil McNicholas  
Mark Warner  
Helen Hayhurst  
Laurie Tellier  
Scott Krusick  
Jerry Palmquist  
Wayne Diestler

The 2015 Annual CCROA Picnic is set for July 19, 2015, at Vacation Land Resort. The spring edition of Shorelines will have all the detailed information and prepaid dinner reservation form included. Everyone is welcome; bring family, friends and neighbors!

2014 picnic pictures are available on the CCROA website, <http://www.ciscochainroa.com/>. Click on Latest New and the 2014 Picnic Pictures.

Left to right: Paul Lucas, Bob McGuffin, Rob Swearingen, Senator Tom Tiffany, Greg Wenzel, Jessica Ryden and Jim Okraszewski  
Photo courtesy of Jessica Ryden



Here's a dandy that was caught winter, 2014 on 1000 Island Lake. Ice fishing can be rewarding and sometimes just cold.

Even though it is winter we all need to remember Aquatic Invasive Species involves more than just plants. All bait should be disposed of properly, NOT thrown into the lake or left on the ice. That includes worms, grubs and especially minnows. Dress warmly and enjoy a day on the ice.

## Road Work and Closures On The Chain

Thousand Island Lake Road repairs will resume this summer. A series of culverts will be replaced starting at US 2 and heading south. There are about 8 to 10 culverts that will be replaced. Fortunately these replacements are not as deep or extensive culverts as last summer's culvert replacements. There will be road closures on Thousand Island Lake Road, but not to the extent of last summer's closures. Work is not anticipated to begin until after July 4, 2015.

All of this is preparation for a paving project for summer 2016/2017. The upcoming culvert replacement and subsequent paving project are all part of a 3 year Federal funding program.

Lindsley Bridge rehabilitation begins this year. As soon as Gogebic County received MDOT final review, the Lindsley Bridge along with 3 other bridge projects in Gogebic County will be sent out for bids. Final review from MDOT is not expected until April. At this time, the County does not have a projected start date for the bridge work but it will be sometime this summer.

The bridge will be done on a ½ width project with only 1 lane closed at a time.

It is estimated that the Thousand Island Lake Road project and the Lindsley Bridge rehabilitation project will cost over \$400,000.00.

Yes, road construction is inconvenient; however, it is sorely needed and the end result is gratefully appreciated. Plan accordingly and be patient. Please extend courtesy to the construction workers. They are out there in heat, cold, wind and worst of all the **BUGS**.

Gogebic County Road Commission will keep the CCROA updated on road work plans or changes. We'll keep the membership advised.



## Winter Wonders

Have you ever walked or gone snowshoeing or skiing through the woods and observed tiny black specks (like grains of pepper) on the snow that seem to move and jump? You are seeing "Snow Fleas". They are **not** fleas, they are springtails. They don't bite; they prefer bits of rotting vegetation. These tiny insects are here year round and on warm, sunny winter days they work their way up through the snow to feast on debris on top of the snow. Why do they jump? It might be to avoid predation; however, I like to think they are so happy the sun is shining that they are jumping with joy.

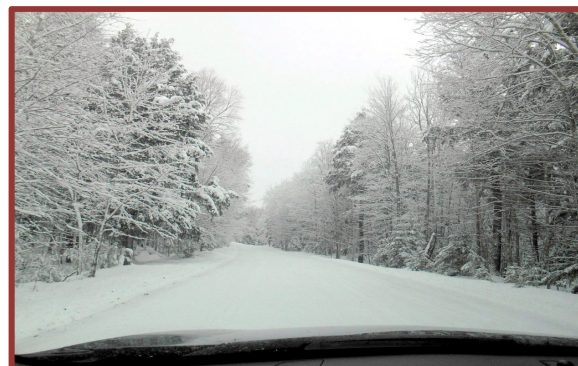
When you're out in the woods in the winter, take the time to observe the amazing evidence of life around you. Deer, wolf, and coyote tracks are of course evident; but take the time to look closely and see the little creatures' tracks, too.

## GET OUT AND PLAY!!!!

Snowshoeing and cross country skiing are fantastic ways to get out and play this winter. Beautiful trails through the Ottawa National Forest are right here. Try the Land O'Lakes Cross Country Ski Trail which is maintained by Land O'Lakes Fish & Game Club and the Ottawa National Forest trails maintained by Sylvania Outfitters. Website links for both trail systems are listed below.

<http://www.landolakes-wi.org/Ski%20Trails.cfm>

<http://www.sylvaniaoutfitters.com/winter.html>



1000 Island Lake Rd Photo courtesy of Mary Congdon

### Membership Renewal

CCROA membership runs January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

In these busy times, it is easy to forget to keep membership to the CCROA current. Please take a moment to ensure you are up to date on dues. Even though you are receiving this edition of Shorelines, it does not mean you are current on your dues. We have been sending it to members in arrears as a courtesy and gentle reminder to please make sure their membership status is up to date. If you are unsure if your membership is current, please email the CCROA at [ccroa49969@gmail.com](mailto:ccroa49969@gmail.com).

If your membership has expired, we encourage and welcome you to rejoin the CCROA for 2015. Membership is only \$25. Dues can be prepaid for upcoming years.

We kindly ask that you complete the form listed below and mail along with your check to CCROA, PO Box 687, Watersmeet, MI 49969.

If you are not able to print the form, please include your information and mail to above.

Thank you,  
Denise Fautleroy, Membership

### News on Big Lake

The WDNR plans for improving the Palmer Bay Public Landing on Big Lake are in the works. The improvement will include a designated parking area. We have not been notified if it will be this summer or a future summer. More information will be in future editions of *Shore Lines*



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS and JOIN US!!!**

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**9:00 am on Thursday, July 16, 2015**

**ANNUAL PICNIC**

**Sunday, July 19, 2015**

**11:30 am at Vacationland Resort**

## Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association Membership Application 2015

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

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

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

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Lake 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 Lake Management Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount for Dam Purchase 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 \_\_\_ (just ½ hour of your time)

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

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

**President:**  
Greg Wenzel  
906-358-0242

**Big Lake North & Morley Lake:**  
Tom Krautkramer  
906-358-0469

**Lindsley Lake:**  
Laurie Cooney  
630-730-4067

**Members-at-Large:**  
Jack Erhart  
906-358-9969  
Paul Lucas  
906-358-4767

**Vice President:**  
Bob McGuffin  
630-280-9542

**Big Lake South:**  
Ann Rapp  
715-547-6073

**Mamie Lake:**  
Open

**Shore Lines Editor:**  
Linda Hammer  
906-358-0500

**Secretary:**  
Jessica Ryden  
meleeandb@yahoo.com

**Cisco Lake:**  
Jay Sweney  
sweneycr@yahoo.com

**Poor Lake:**  
Kully Rohlen  
906-358-4460

**Webmaster:**  
Gary Ebert  
906-358-4246

**Treasurer:**  
David Fauntleroy  
906-358-0106

**Clearwater Lake:**  
Helen Hayhurst  
906-358-4125

**1000 Island Lake N:**  
Dean Stanton  
906-358-0214

**Membership:**  
Denise Fauntleroy  
906-358-0106

**East Bay Lake:**  
Bobby Warren  
robertfwarren@me.com

**1000 Island Lake S:**  
Joan Cavanaugh  
angel5508@aol.com

**WE ARE IN NEED OF A LAKE REPRESENTATIVE FOR MAMIE LAKE**

**Parliamentarian:**  
Wes Kiley  
715-547-3283

**Fish Hawk Lake:**  
Dean Challed  
906-358-4260

**West Bay Lake:**  
Tom Wilson  
906-544-2680

Visit the CCROA website for more news & information - [www.ciscochainroa.com](http://www.ciscochainroa.com)

## SNIPPETS

Did you know that the Cisco Chain of Lakes is the only chain of lakes in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan? What a treasure it is.

The AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Fund has a new moniker. The scope of dealing with AIS goes beyond just treatment. AIS Fund is now the Lake Management Fund.

Check the CCROA website regularly at [www.ciscochainroa.com](http://www.ciscochainroa.com). The website has a wealth of information available, including detailed reports on the dam, Invasive species and what is done and can be done, pictures, CCROA clothing and links to other information sites.

Like to snowmobile? Here are links to trail reports for Watersmeet: <http://www.upthunderriders.com/conditions.html>  
  
Land O'Lakes: <http://www.landolakes-wi.org/Snowmobile%20Report2010.cfm>

Below are links to the websites for Watersmeet Township & the Town of Land O'Lakes -  
  
Watersmeet Township  
[www.watersmeet.us](http://www.watersmeet.us)  
  
Town of Land O'Lakes  
[www.http://townoflandolakes.com/](http://townoflandolakes.com/)

The Cisco Chain Riparian Owners' Association is a completely volunteer organization. All volunteers are welcome. Help is always needed from the annual picnic to something as simple as helping to "stuff" envelopes.  
Email the CCROA at [ccroa49969@gmail.com](mailto:ccroa49969@gmail.com) or contact your lake representative and find out where you can help.