



Red Cedar Lakes Association

Fall 2018 Newsletter

RCLA Board 2018–2019

President / Officer / Nature Committee Chairperson

Valerie Bausch 651-308-2242
vbausc@yahoo.com

Vice President / Officer

Gerry Johnson 715-410-5341
geraldjj@centurytel.net

Secretary / Officer

Rose Kopras 651-491-6648
lakwism@gmail.com

Treasurer / Officer

John Page 651-208-2379
john.page.rcl@gmail.com

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Committee Chairperson

Tom Goodwin 612-868-4857
tlgfin1@gmail.com

Coupon Book Committee Chairperson

Jeff Iverson 715-308-7815
jeff@lakeplace.com

Fish Habitat Committee Chairperson

Dan Ellefson 913-484-4733
dan.e@stievincapital.com

Lake Information & Safety

Committee Chairperson

Len Christianson 612-247-9771
lenc@centurytel.net

Membership Committee Chairperson

Sue Sleik 712-790-1278
jonsleik@centurytel.net

Newsletter/Website Committee Chairperson

Becky Garthofner 651-343-4831
stpaulycat@gmail.com

Shoreline & Island Restoration

Committee Chairperson

Rich Hokanson 763-807-7387
richard.p.hokanson@gmail.com

Water Quality Committee Chairperson

Tim Lewis 937-215-2297
oldtobylewis@gmail.com

VISIT US AT
redcedarlakes.com

President's Letter

Another summer is almost over and what a wonderful summer it has been on the Red Cedar Lakes ... countless sunny days, boats loaded with friends and family with plenty of laughter and an abundance of wildlife for everyone to enjoy. I want to first personally thank the entire RCLA Board of Directors along with the incredible volunteers for the countless hours they spent again this year on the many projects associated with the various committees, all of which you will be able to read about in this newsletter. It is because of your commitment and dedication that we continue to have such healthy lakes and a wonderful place to share with everyone.

During the Annual Meeting in July, I emphasized the value and importance of having a solid mission statement for our Association. We unanimously voted to add the following new mission statement to the RCLA By-Laws:

“To preserve, protect and improve Red Cedar, Balsam, Hemlock, Bass and Mud Lakes, their watershed and ecosystem”. Having a solid mission statement is critical to our association for a number of reasons:

1. It keeps us grounded and determines the association's direction
2. It focuses the association's future and helps shape strategy
3. It helps provide a platform for decision making
4. It helps form the basis for alignment



The success of our association is not only because of the members and great volunteer base, but because we hold true to our mission statement that emphasizes its ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of our lake community. I would also like to take this time to call out to anyone that has an interest in becoming a volunteer for one of our great committees. We are always looking for additional help and it is important that we have each of our committees staffed with enough volunteers to ensure they continue to run efficiently and effectively as possible. It also ensures that if and when an issue comes up, we are prepared to meet it head on. If you have an interest in becoming a volunteer, please reach out to the committee chairs or you can always send me an email at vbausc@yahoo.com

Board of Director Changes

At our Annual Meeting in July, the Board and attending members recognized Director Roger Menk, whose term was expiring and decided not to renew for another two-year term. Roger has been with the Board for a number of years leading the Membership Committee and most recently the Lake Information and Safety Committee ... thank you for your commitment and dedication to the organization.

Also, the membership unanimously voted to accept the Board's recommendation to renew Tim Lewis (Water Quality), Tom Goodwin (AIS) and Sue Sleik (Membership) to another two-year term. The membership also unanimously approved the Board's recommendation to appoint Len Christianson to chair the Lake Information and Safety Committee.

Len retired in March after a 33-year career in the airline industry; however, he continues to own and operate Red Cedar Services with Larry Johnson. Len and his wife, Doris, moved to Birchwood in 2001 and currently live on Hemlock Lake. Len and Doris have three sons and eight grandchildren.

When they are not entertaining family, Len is out fishing,



Len Christianson

camping, hunting and trying to get in a little motorcycle riding.

I would also like to introduce another recent addition to the RCLA board that has previously not been featured in one of our newsletters. Dan Ellefson accepted the role to Chair the Fish Habitat Committee when our previous chair stepped down mid-term. Dan and his wife, Michelle, purchased property on Red Cedar in 2015 and after "mostly" retiring in 2017, built a home where they currently reside. Dan's career in finance included positions in St. Louis and Kansas City. When Dan is not working, you can usually find him out on the lake fishing or enjoying a little golf.



Dan Ellefson

I know I'm speaking on behalf of the Board and the entire RCLA membership when I say "welcome" and "thank you" for stepping forward to continue our rich history of volunteerism to an outstanding organization.

Valerie Bausch

President

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

With our very late spring this year it seems that summer has flown by. As I write this article we are starting to already see signs of fall with a few trees starting to turn color.

It was a very busy summer for the AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Committee. THANK YOU to all the volunteers who again put in many hours this past summer, from RCLA members, lakeshore owners, Boy Scout Troops #28 and #106 and all the Clean Boats Clean Waters landing monitoring volunteers. Your efforts are greatly

appreciated and make a big difference in ensuring we continue to preserve our beautiful lakes.

We began the summer by treating two areas of Red Cedar lake with herbicide to help curb Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP). We treated as early in the spring as possible to help ensure we would not negatively affect our native plants. These treatments worked as we had hoped – CLP was significantly curtailed in the treatment areas and we saw the native plants return on a robust basis. The treatment of CLP is a long term project as we know the plant's seeds (turions) can lie dormant for up to seven years before regenerating. Our plan going forward is to continue to treat the most heavily infected areas on our lakes to help ensure CLP is kept in check.

Over the summer we conducted the following studies:

- Dye study on Balsam Lake
- Professional mapping of CLP in Balsam, Mud, Red Cedar and Hemlock Lakes
- Professional study of the native plants in Balsam, Mud, Red Cedar and Hemlock Lakes



Note that the results of these studies are still being compiled as I write this article. I will provide an update regarding the study findings in the Spring Newsletter.

These studies will provide the foundation for our request for a new three-year grant from the Wisconsin DNR. The grant request will be written this fall with submission to the DNR by December 10th.

Within the new grant we are hoping to receive funding for the following key areas:

- Continued herbicide treatment for CLP in heavily impacted areas of our lakes (hopefully to include Balsam)
- Continued funding for our AIS monitoring work, purple loosestrife control, CLP annual mapping and member and lakeshore owner education
- Continuation of our Clean Boat Clean Waters program
- Conduct a native plants study of Bass Lake

We typically hear back from the DNR regarding our grant requests by late February so look to the Spring Newsletter for an update on what has been approved.

I want to thank all the volunteers and particularly the Nature Committee for their efforts in monitoring and going out to manually cut and treat purple loosestrife with herbicides. This plant may be considered attractive to some; however if left unchecked, it can quickly spread and take over areas of our lakes, eliminating our native plants.

Our Clean Boats Clean Waters landing monitoring continued this past summer. A big "THANK YOU" to Boy Scout Troop 29, Troop 106, Derek Penzkover, Jenny Landes and Cheyenne Okey for all their help this year. In addition, this summer we hired LEAPS (our lake consultant) to provide an additional 200 hours of monitoring at our key landings.

The Clean Boats Clean Waters program is the most important program we have to help ensure we do not see an introduction of new invasive species in our lakes. This program involves monitoring our landings and boater education; and it is critical as we know zebra mussels and eurasian milfoil have infected nearby lakes.

We will be continuing the Clean Boats Clean Water program in 2019. If you'd like to get involved as a volunteer or to provide a financial donation to this program it will be greatly appreciated. We do receive grant monies from the Wisconsin DNR for this program but not enough to cover all of the Association's costs.

As we go into the fall I ask our members and lake shore owners to inspect their docks and boat lifts as they remove them for the season. Please check your docks to ensure there are no zebra mussels attached. We have an active zebra mussel monitoring program throughout

the summer but it helps if everyone checks as well. If you find anything that you feel may be a zebra mussel or have questions, please feel free to give me a call at 612-868-4857.

Have a great fall and winter!

Tom Goodwin
AIS Committee Chairperson



Coupon Book Committee

Red Cedar Lakes Association is committed to diligently monitoring and working to improve our lakes. And it's working! But we cannot let it slide. Please, if you haven't yet paid for your book sent this past spring, send a check today.

Penny (my wife) and I want to thank all of you that have purchased the 2018 Coupon Book. We share in your concern and commitment to protecting our lakes. You get it. Protecting our lakes protects our lake home investment. We still have Coupon Books available. It's not too late to purchase your 2018 Coupon Book. They make great gifts and at the same time you're helping to fund the hard work of RCLA.

We have begun to work on the 2019 RCLA Coupon Book. We vow to make it even better and bigger. We will have more coupons for your favorite restaurants, merchants and golf courses. Supporting these businesses makes you a valued customer. It helps the community and creates a stronger RCLA. We are always happy to hear from you and value your ideas.

Jeff Iverson
Coupon Book Committee Chair

Lake Information & Safety Committee

As a new member to the RCLA board I am anxious to hit the ground running. My board position consists of managing the buoys on the lake chain, managing the kiosks at the landings, and ensuring we provide the boater safety class to our upcoming youth.

I can quickly say that our buoys are in and operational. And thanks to those who report to us when one goes adrift, we have chased down a couple this year and they're back in place. The kiosks we hope are spreading the word on current laws and regulations pertaining to our lake system.

Regarding the final area, safety, I'm working to get up to speed here. I attended my first board meeting and a hot topic that has been generated by some of our lake citizens was discussed: the operation of wake boats and their

impact on safety and shoreline erosion. RCLA hopes we can all respect everybody's right to enjoy the lake and wake boat operators should do the same. The RCLA though is not an enforcement body. This is left to state and local law enforcement if a violation occurs. There are existing laws on the books that regulate boater operation and safety. However, most of these laws were written at a time when wake boats and their safety ramifications were nonexistent. There is a movement under foot at a state level by a group called Wisconsin Lakes that is specifically looking to understand the impact of wake boats. It is possible that they may consider establishing new legislation in this area. In the meantime, all of us have a responsibility to report any kind of boating safety violations to the proper state or local authorities and get them involved.

As far as shoreline erosion is concerned, this is an area of lake quality that fits into our mission statement. The RCLA is currently looking into organizations that are in sync with our shoreline concerns and may join up with them.

The final subject to report on is boater safety instruction. This will be handled by Larry Johnson in 2019. Dates, times, and places will be published in our Spring Newsletter.

Membership Committee

As I write this, there are sure signs that fall will soon be here. I have a bumper crop of acorns falling on my lawn and deck. RCLA has 529 members this year, an increase of five over last year. I know there are many more potential members out there that we can reach. I will be sending a mailing to non-members this fall, but you can help me increase our membership by talking about RCLA to friends and neighbors. Tell them about the great things we do

If you have concerns pertaining to the buoys, kiosks or the water safety program, please call me at 612-247-9771 or email me at lenc@centurytel.net. Thanks.

Len Christianson

Lake Information & Safety Committee

to preserve and protect our lakes. If you find someone interested in becoming a member, please contact me with their mailing address. Current members will receive their membership renewal in November. Thank you for all you do to support our efforts.

Sue Sleik

Membership Committee Chairperson

Newsletter/Website

It has been a summer filled with deer running through our yard as we see them almost daily. It has been a real treat when mama deer comes through with her two fawns, and it has been fun to see how fast they grow. But despite the deer sightings this summer, Fall is my favorite time of year with the warm days/cool nights and the beauty of the fall colors...it is what comes after it that is more difficult to anticipate.

My focus in the coming year will be to get the RCLA website redesigned and to make it a source of ongoing information for all of you. I am establishing a committee to oversee this and to help with the ongoing content publishing. I have a few volunteers that have stepped up but if you are interested in this, you are welcome to join in the fun! I expect to identify an expert in WordPress to take this on so I'm looking for either a volunteer with web design/WordPress abilities or a paid consultant. So if you have web design or WordPress skills or know of an expert you would recommend, please contact me at stpaulycat@gmail.com.

Enjoy the fall season.....!



Becky Garthofner

Newsletter/Website Chairperson

Shoreline & Island Restoration

Lakeshore Restoration / Rain Gardens – Wisconsin's Healthy Lakes DNR Grant Program

I am happy to report the completion of two rain gardens and one native planting area that were part of the first Healthy Lakes grant received by our Lake Association. The construction and planting activity took place in the fall of 2017 – refer to the pictures below. The native plants in the pictures have one year's growth. It takes about three years for the plants to reach mature size.

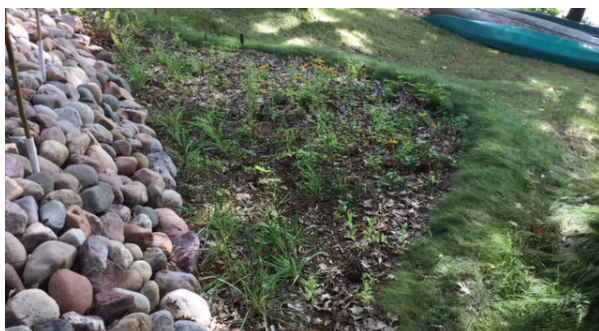
If you are thinking of building a rain garden or doing some planting along your shoreline and want to see some examples, please call me. I will try to arrange a visit as the completed projects are on private property.



Native plantings "before"



Native plantings "after"



Completed Rain Garden

Lakeshore Restoration – Wisconsin's Healthy Lakes DNR Grant Program

Healthy Lakes is a grant program developed in the summer of 2014 by the Wisconsin DNR to make it easier for property owners to implement water runoff reduction projects and improve fish habitat. It is a modification of the current program, Shoreline Habitat, which will continue to be available for large, complex projects. The new program is more limited in scope and does not require deed restrictions. The intent is to help fund shovel-ready projects that are relatively inexpensive and straight forward. It does ask for a statement that the project will remain in place for at least ten years. The scope of this new program is to help improve three areas or zones using selected best management practices.

- 1) Shallow in Lake Zone – improve fish habitat. Fish Sticks would be supported.
- 2) Buffer(transition) Zone – along shorelines
 - 350 square foot native planting areas
 - Water diversions to slow water runoff
- 3) Upland Zone – manage water runoff from structures and impervious surfaces
 - Rain gardens
 - Rock Infiltration/holding ponds

A DNR permit is required for the "Fish Stick" practice but not for the other four. Projects must be completed in two years. Maximum amount of the grant will be 75% of the total project cost not to exceed \$1,000 per practice. Additional information about this program can be accessed on the DNR website: <http://tinyurl.com/healthylakes>. Grant applications for 2019/2020 need to be completed by December 10, 2018.

SO, please give me a call at 715-354-3912 if you have any interest in participating in this program.

Rich Hokanson

Shoreline & Island Restoration Chairperson

Nature

Fall is certainly in the air! The hummingbirds are really active, trying to get as much food in them as possible before starting their migration. You can see a lot more Canadian Geese flying overhead in their known "V" shape and the loons are starting to congregate on the bigger lakes, including Red Cedar.

The Nature Committee was plenty busy with their summer activities, starting off with another fantastic Nature Program on June 2 at the Loch Lomond Beach Club.

This year we had Nikki Janisin, Executive Director at Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, presenting ***"Animals of Shores & Shallows"***.

We had a great turnout with over 75 people enjoying the program.

You will want to mark your calendar right now

for our 2019 program as we will have a special guest speaker talking about Bears!! More details to come in the spring newsletter, but our presentations are usually the first Saturday of June, which would be June 1, 2019. ***This program is free and perfect for the whole family!***



The Nature Committee observed a great year with our loons as part of the LoonWatch Program. We had six known nesting pairs (one on Balsam, three on Red Cedar, one on Bass Lake and one on Hemlock), producing seven chicks. As of September 4, we observed at least six still thriving and learning how to fish on their own. Before long, the adult males will start their migration with the females to follow, and the juveniles will stay as long as possible

Preserve and protect for the future

before starting their journey. Loons from this area will fly to Lake Michigan and hang out for a while before making their final migration to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Nature Committee added a new activity to their responsibility ... we are thrilled to partner with the AIS committee and will now be responsible for monitoring and managing Purple Loosestrife.

The Nature Committee continues to monitor the growth of wild rice in our Lakes. Although there was some wild rice growing by the Balsam Lake boat landing, the committee did not need to map the rice this year and will be paying special attention to the wild rice in 2019 to determine if there is enough volume to map and send the results into the DNR.

Two friendly reminders as get ready to start enjoying another beautiful fall in Wisconsin:

- Please consider taking the lead out of your tackle boxes, as lead kills our precious wildlife.
- If you are interested in ordering trees as part of our Tree Planting Program, you can do so by filling out the tree form included with this newsletter. Please complete and send the form to Jane Johnson by December 15th at the latest.

The Nature Committee currently has eight active members and if you have any wildlife pictures you would like to share with us or if you have any questions for the Nature Committee, please contact chair Valerie Bausch at vbausc@yahoo.com.



Valerie Bausch
Nature Chairperson

Water Quality

Have you noticed how absolutely clear the lakes have been this summer? From my dock, I could see ten feet down and clearly make out fish and rocks on the bottom. Swimming was almost eerie with such clarity. When people saw us sampling water for this project, many times I heard, "Great job keeping the lakes clean." At the Annual Meeting of the Red Cedar Lakes Association, the talk included compliments to the Water Quality Committee for such clear water. It was a very good summer to be on the Water Quality Committee.

However, we don't make the lakes clean, you do. Clear summer water indicates that phosphorous levels are low. Phosphorus causes algal blooms. A shoreline with many trees and non-woody plants intercepts runoff and filters pollutants. Carefully observing no-wake zones prevents shoreline erosion. Well-maintained septic systems keep phosphorous out of our lakes. All of this keeps the water quality up and the algae levels down.



Water Quality Committee Chairperson Tim Lewis checking stream velocity

This year's water quality shows what controlling invasive aquatic plants can do. The late ice-out (May) and quick warm up kept aquatic invasive plants from growing well, and they contribute much of the phosphorus in our lakes. You have now seen what the lakes can look like without aquatic

invasive plants pumping out phosphorus. We can't count on ice every spring to control these invasive plants for us.

Our committee really can't control water quality. We monitor the lakes and the streams feeding into and out of the chain of Balsam, Red Cedar, and Hemlock lakes. Each month we collect water samples from five streams to see what the phosphorus levels and water volumes are coming in and going out. Almost every week we sample the three main lakes for phosphorous, water clarity, temperature and dissolved oxygen.



Former RCLA Board member Larry Johnson showing water clarity measurements from the secchi disk.

How good was the data? I will give phosphorus levels in micrograms/liter. The State of Wisconsin, and most other agencies, consider phosphorus levels of above 100 micrograms/liter to be unacceptable, and levels below 30 are considered clean. Water coming into the watershed from Lake Chetak was around 20, and water leaving the lake chain at Mikana was the same. Water coming into the lakes from tributary streams was 2 to 4 times higher than that (40 to 80), and one reading on one stream this summer was almost ten times higher than the lakes (180). The lakes themselves were all around 20 micrograms/liter, and Red Cedar got as low once as 8 for phosphorus. So how does that compare? This summer, Lake Chetak to the north was between 55 and 85, and Rice Lake to the south was 40-114. And Lake Monona, where I spent a lot of time learning about lakes at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, topped out at 150.

Put another way, we have some of the cleanest lakes around, and we need to keep them that way. Some of our streams have way too much phosphorus. We need to address that.

This research is funded by a generous grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul, Minnesota, along with funds from the Red Cedar Lakes Association. So thank you because one way or another, you contributed money to it! We have a team of dedicated volunteers helping out with boats and waders. This December we will apply for more state funding and we hope to see you out on the lakes and streams next spring.

If you see us out sampling, be sure to say “Hi.” If you want to get involved, email me at OldTobyLewis@gmail.com.



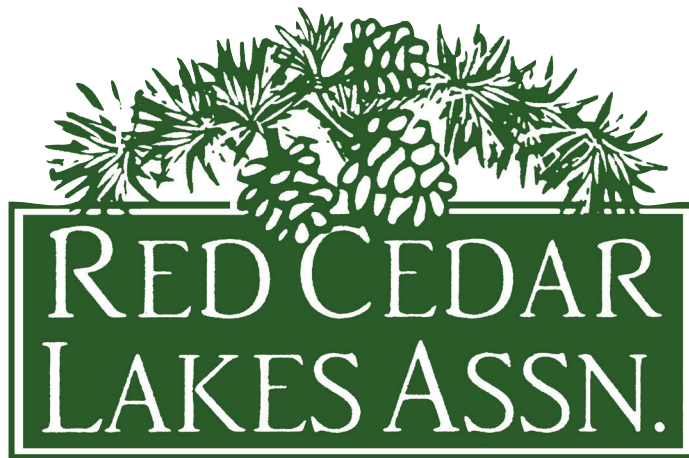
Former RCLA Board member Larry Johnson heads out to gather lake data early one August morning.



Sampling area creeks for phosphorus and dissolved solids, and calculating stream water volume.

Tim Lewis

Water Quality Committee Chairperson



***Check us out
on Facebook @***

www.Facebook.com/redcedarlakesassociation!

RED CEDAR LAKES ASSOCIATION



PLANT A TREE PROJECT 2019

Once again the Red Cedar Lakes Association will be offering one (1) free tree to RCLA members. Additional trees may be purchased for \$1.00 each. The varieties of trees available this year will include the following:

**Norway Pine, White Pine, Norway Spruce, White Spruce, Red Osier Dogwood,
Red Maple, Northern Red Oak, Highbush Cranberry**

ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY DECEMBER 15, 2018. PLEASE USE THE ORDER FORM BELOW.

There are some restrictions. If enough orders are not received for a specific species, those trees will not be ordered and substitution will be made. It is your responsibility to pick up trees when date is set. If you cannot pick up your trees on that day, please ask someone else to do it for you, or call/e-mail and let us know you want them donated elsewhere.

Tree pick-up will be at the Mikana Township Garage and we will notify you as to date and time. **It is very important to include your name, phone number and/or e-mail on the form so we can contact you.** In the past the distribution has been on a Saturday in late April or early May.

If you have any questions, please contact Jane Johnson 715-354-7061 (geraldjj@centurytel.net) or Debbie Johnson 715-354-3311 (dajohnson1226@gmail.com).

Return form to: Jane Johnson
Attn: Tree Planting Project; RCLA
2957 27 7/8 Street
Birchwood, WI 54817

NAME OF RCLA MEMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME OF FREE TREE: _____ (**ONE** free tree per household)

ADDITIONAL TREES: \$1.00 EACH – PLEASE INCLUDE PAYMENT WITH ORDER:

<u>Tree Name</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Price</u>
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____

Check # _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to: RCLA Tree Order. ALL ORDERS NEED TO BE MAILED BY DECEMBER 15,2018.



BALSAM, RED CEDAR, HEMLOCK,
BASS & MUD LAKES

Preserve and Protect for the Future

P.O.Box 2148

Mikana, WI 54857

Address Services Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Eau Claire, WI
Permit #1557



In This Issue:

**President's Letter • Aquatic Invasive Species Committee
Newsletter/Website Committee • Water Quality Committee
Shoreline & Island Restoration Committee • Nature Committee
Lake Information & Safety Committee • Coupon Book Committee
Membership Committee • Tree Program**