

Red Cedar Lakes Association Spring 2017 Newsletter

RCLA Board 2017–2018

President / Officer /

Nominating Committee Chairperson:

Gerry Johnson 715-354-7061
geraldjj@centurytel.net

Vice President / Officer / Lake Information and Safety Committee Chairperson:

Roger Menk 612-247-4591
rsmenk@yahoo.com

Treasurer / Officer:

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

Secretary / Officer /

Nature Committee Chairperson:

Valerie Bausch 651-337-2124
vbasc@yahoo.com

AIS Committee Chairperson:

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

Water Quality and Safety Committee:

David Voller 507 250-1591
davidvoller@gillettechildrens.com

Coupon Book Committee Chairperson:

Patty Ricchio 715-790-0619
patriciaricchio@gmail.com

Fish Habitat Committee Chairperson:

Open

Newsletter / Website Committee

Chairperson:

McKensy Voller 507-250-0407
vollerm4515@my.uwstout.edu

Membership Committee Chairperson

LuAnn McMannel 651-983-6517
cumom1@juno.com

Shoreline & Island Restoration

Committee Chairperson:

Rich Hokanson 715-354-3912
richard.p.hokanson@gmail.com

**VISIT US AT
*redcedarlakes.com***

**RCLA Annual Meeting is set for
Saturday, July 8.**

Look for details regarding location, time
and agenda in a post card to be mailed to
all members in early June.

President's Letter

RCLA BUSINESS MODEL:

Operational Implementation & Long Term Strategic Direction

As I'm writing this article, it's really a great feeling to know that spring is upon us and the wonderful seasons of summer and fall will be ushered in by Mother Nature over the next few months. Whether you're on the lake or nearby in the woods, one cannot help to marvel at the beautiful environment we all have the privilege to experience, regardless if it's for a few days or many weeks.

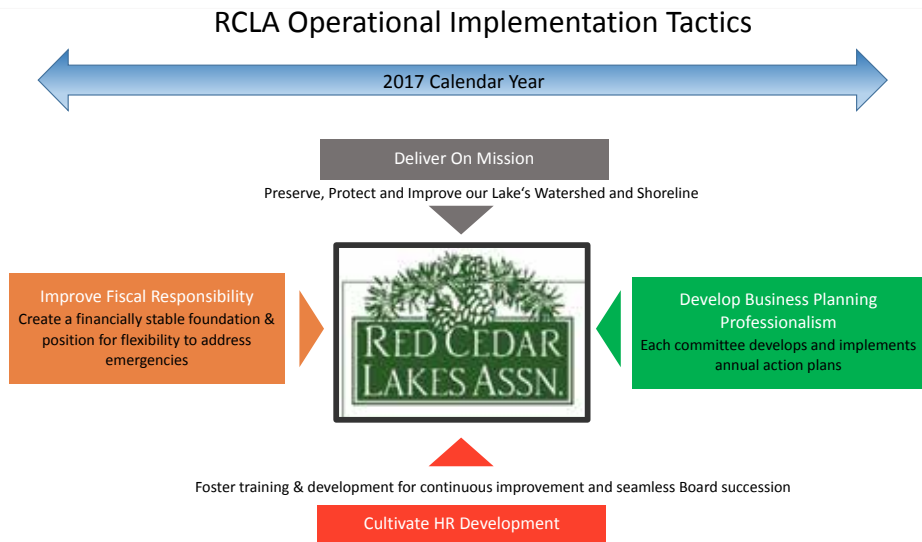
That being said, we have many good and interesting articles and pictures in this edition of our Newsletter. The volunteers that write these articles and lead their committees in implementing their plans make up your RCLA Board. I can't say enough about these individuals, and their commitment, dedication and professionalism as they lead their respective areas. I'm honored to know them and to serve with them.

The timing seems right to share with you the RCLA Business Model. It is two-fold. It includes the original operational implementation process that drives our actions each year. In addition, this summer we will begin the process of developing a longer-term strategic direction that more effectively addresses our mission statement for generations to come.

RCLA Operational Implementation Tactics

It dawned on me that, while we have discussed components of this at our Annual Meeting, we probably haven't articulated it in its entirety to all of our members who receive our semi-annual Newsletter. This part of the Business Model focuses on operational excellence, tactical implementation, financial responsibility and human resource development/recruiting (see chart on next page). Allow me to explain:

- Deliver on Mission - Our mission statement developed by our organization's founding fathers sounds simple: "Preserve, Protect and Improve our Lake's Watershed and Shorelines". Trust me, it is anything but simple. Think about it – 4 lakes covering nearly 2,500 acres, all having their individual ecosystem, characteristics and management needs. Throw in annual climate changes, foreign aquatic invaders, increasing phosphorous sources, higher lake usage, just to mention a few, and one can see the challenge in delivering on our mission.



- Developing Business Planning Professionalism – You're probably yawning in boredom on this one. But, it's probably one of the most important parts of the plan. Each committee annually develops its short plan that addresses objective, top three strategies and supporting actions, responsibility, timing and budget requests. The Board reviews, provides feedback and approves for implementation. This is where the rubber hits the road. The articles in this Newsletter reflect our committee's work in 2016.
- Improve Fiscal Responsibility – Several years ago when we discovered our lakes had their first major aquatic invasive species (Curly Leaf Pondweed), we also learned about the DNR Grant process to help address, manage and fund the situation. We've been pretty effective in developing, submitting and receiving DNR grants and money to manage CLP and pro-actively keep out new AIS. Thanks to the DNR, our consultant and our many volunteers who support our AIS Committee, so far so good. But, that could change overnight. One boat bringing in Eurasian Water Milfoil, as an example, triggers our emergency response plan requiring significant up-front Association dollars to immediately engage in management. RCLA has to be in a financially solvent position to cover these up-front costs, with reimbursement coming back to us months later from the DNR. I'm happy to report we've been building up our net worth for many years to be in a position to react if needed. Another big thank you to our members for their financial support of RCLA.

• Cultivate HR Development – We've made a concerted effort to recruit, train and develop both our Board of Directors and our volunteers. A committee was formed last year to help with succession planning and recruiting of Board members. The ability to meet our mission relies heavily on you – our members. Without your selfless volunteerism, we would not be able to deliver on our mission. If you have any interest in serving, please call me on 715-410-5341.

RCLA Long-Term Strategic Direction

In addition to our annual operational implementation, we will be looking at longer term strategies that will help us achieve our mission well into the future. Some of these we are just starting to look at, while others need analysis and solid planning (see chart):

- Red Cedar Watershed Project - I've written about the Red Cedar Watershed Project before, but it is now gaining traction with significant EPA, DNR and Army Corp of Engineers funding forthcoming to help drive the 67% phosphorous reduction goal in 10 years. Most



of the early effort has been focused on the highest phosphorous producing areas in the watershed – the farm-related issues south of Rice Lake. However, Bill Miller of Big Chetac and Birch Lake Association, Alex Smith of the DNR and myself are members of the committee and working to address the issues in the Northern Watershed. I think the updating of our Lake Management Plan (emphasizing water quality improvements) , under the leadership of our Water Quality Committee director David Voller, will help identify the programs, human and financial requirements, timing, etc. to help our efforts on our lakes. This will set the foundation to leverage support from the project.

- Big Chetac and Birch Lake Association Stakeholder Committee -- You can view the committee's key objectives in the chart. I have been asked to be a member of the committee, representing the Red Cedar Watershed Project and RCLA. This is important for us, given that nearly 40% of our phosphorous is coming from upstream, which is nearly three times more than the next largest source. The key issue here is to help guide their new lake management plan and process, and to ensure key stakeholder and public support. This effort is in its infancy, with a long way to go.

- RCLA Partnership with West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT) – Like RCLA, WWLT is a non-profit organization which partners with lake association and conservation groups to protect, conserve and pursue land acquisitions. Since there are opportunities on our lakes for such a strategy to be effective, it is an effort worth exploring and analyzing. DNR involvement is critical, as is the financial support of WWLT. Potential big wins could come from negating future residential and commercial development on large parcels of undeveloped lakeshore land. This would create a very favorable scenario of eliminating potential new sources of phosphorous from coming into our lakes.

In order to address both pieces of the Business Model simultaneously, the Board needs to determine how best to organize itself to effectively and efficiently drive the model forward. More to come.

Gerry Johnson
RCLA President

Aquatic Invasive Species Committee

Greetings from your AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Committee.

2016 marked the first year of two completing tasks under the control grant extension with the Wisconsin DNR.

During 2016, the volunteers contributed a total of 818 hours of their personal time at the lake to assist us in boats and landing monitoring, purple loosestrife control, AIS plant and animal monitoring out on the lake, bed mapping of Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) and wild rice, CLP manual pulling and AIS education. In exchange for these volunteer hours, our Wisconsin DNR grant provided funding for the expenses associated with accomplishing these tasks. The total dollars reimbursed to us in 2016 equaled \$11,158.50.

Thank you to all volunteers who put in hours during 2016!!

2017 Planned Activities:

Curly-leaf Pondweed bed mapping:

In May, we will again be on the lake mapping the current CLP beds. This mapping has taken place for the past several years and provides us a good update on the status of CLP in our lakes. Having year to year data enables us to monitor our control efforts and aids in determining the action steps needed to help control CLP.

Monitoring our public boat landings:

Again, this year we will be partnering with the Boy Scouts and the Wisconsin Clean Boat Clean Waters program to monitor our public landings on all three lakes on the



busiest weekends. Individuals from Rice Lake Boy Scout Troop 28, their Scout Master, and other volunteers from Boy Scout 52 will be monitoring our landings during the fishing opener, Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day. In addition, they will be monitoring the landings on several weekends when fishing tournaments will be held on our lakes.

The Scouts educate boaters on aquatic plants/animals, both native and invasive, proper bait handling, proper bilge water, live well water and bait tank water handling, power loading of boats on trailers, etc..

This program continues to be extremely important to ensuring we do everything we can to ensure the health of our lakes.

Through our grant we are able to provide funding to the Scouts for their volunteering efforts. In 2016 RCLA was able to provide \$4,125 to the Scouts for their work with the Clean Boats Clean Water program. This is a great partnership for all of us!!

Beetle release to control purple loosestrife:

For the past several years we have been working in partnership with the students from the Blue Hills Charter School and their advisor, Jenny Landes to release beetles on our lakes. Students raise the beetles from eggs to maturity and coordinate with us concerning where they will be released in critical areas of our lakes. These beetles are an important element in effectively controlling purple

loosestrife. This program will be continued in 2017 with the release of the beetles to occur sometime in June.

Ongoing AIS monitoring:

Each year we have volunteers who dedicate some of their personal time to monitoring our lakes for AIS and Purple Loosestrife. The monitoring process is very straight forward and only takes a few hours to complete. It's a great way to spend some time on the lake. If you enlist a few friends to help out, it can be a great time. These efforts help ensure our lakes are as healthy as possible.

Please Volunteer!!

All of the activities I've outlined couldn't have happened without the generous dedication of personal time from our volunteers. It is these volunteer hours that trigger funding for the initiatives I've outlined through our current Wisconsin DNR grant.

If you have volunteered in the past - THANK YOU!! - please continue your great work. If you haven't volunteered yet we would love to have your help. If you are interested in helping the AIS efforts, please contact me. I can provide an overview of the various opportunities that exist and bring you up to speed so you can become part of our efforts.

Renewed Grant Evaluation/Application:

2017 is the last year of our current grant we have through the Wisconsin DNR. This coming year the RCLA board will be reviewing additional grant opportunities that may be available. The deadlines to submit an application for a new grant is late fall. We will be pursuing a new grant so we can continue the AIS work outlined above and also to identify and potentially pursue other initiatives that allow us to ensure the ongoing quality of our lakes.

Be safe and enjoy the lake this boating and fishing season!!

Tom Goodwin

AIS Committee Chairperson

Zebra Mussels Found In NW Wisconsin

This past October zebra mussels were discovered in Big McKenzie Lake in Burnett and Washburn Counties. A lakeshore property owner noticed the mussels attached to his pier as he removed it last fall. He took the specimens to the DNR in Spooner who verified they were zebra mussels. During a follow up inspection of the lake, DNR staff found a handful of additional zebra mussels at two separate locations - a water intake and a boat lift.

This discovery is the first inland zebra mussel population verified in the 12 county area of northwestern Wisconsin.



Zebra Mussel

Big McKenzie Lake is a drainage lake and because of this, it presents a challenge in controlling the spread of zebra mussels. Big McKenzie flows north into Middle McKenzie, then Lower McKenzie and finally the Namekagon River. It also flows south to a cranberry marsh, then Lipsett Lake, and finally into the Yellow river. At this point there is no way of knowing if the zebra mussels will spread to these other water bodies.

Zebra mussels must have the right water chemistry in order to establish themselves. One of the primary factors is the calcium levels of the lake. You can go to the website: [http://dnr.wi.gov/ search "Aquatic Invasive Species"](http://dnr.wi.gov/search/Aquatic%20Invasive%20Species) to see a map of NW Wisconsin which has been color coded to represent calcium content. Unfortunately, the Red Cedar Lake chain has sufficient calcium content to support a zebra mussel population.

To help respond to this threat the DNR has committed \$20,000 for early detection and response to the McKenzie Lakes Association to increase efforts to contain zebra mussels.

This is what zebra mussels look like in the water.



- Zebra mussels can be up to two inches long.
- They have a striped shell that look like a zebra's stripes, which is how they get their name.
- Zebra mussels can live for four to five years.
- Zebra mussels also have sticky byssal threads that they use to attach tightly to any hard surface (rocks, docks, underwater debris, boats, engines, weeds, etc.)

How do zebra mussels spread?

- Zebra mussels can reproduce by the end of their first year.
- They usually spawn when the water temperature is about 65° F.
- A fertilized egg results in a free-swimming planktonic larva called a veliger.
- Veligers are about the diameter of a human hair and are so small you can't see them without a microscope.
- The veliger floats in a water column for 1-5 weeks and then as it grows it begins to sink and search for a hard surface on which to live and grow.

Zebra mussels impact:

- Zebra mussels are effective filter feeders that can deplete the food supply for larval fish and other organisms.

- Individual zebra mussels can filter up to 1 liter of water per day, causing increased water clarity. This allows greater light penetration, which may increase aquatic plant growth.
- Zebra mussels can colonize docks, swim platforms, boat motors, and boat hulls, causing damage and reduced effectiveness.
- Zebra mussels shells are quite sharp and present a danger to swimmers.

How do we control zebra mussels?

- **Zebra mussels cannot be controlled in the wild. Once zebra mussels become established in a body of water there is nothing currently known to be effective in controlling or eradicating them.**
- The spread of zebra mussels can be prevented by draining all the water from boats, live wells, and bait wells.
- Thoroughly inspect your boat's hull and trailer for any zebra mussels and weeds.
- Let equipment sit for 4-5 days or rinse with hot water.
- Never take fish or plants from one lake and put them in another.

What is the RCLA doing?

The primary way in which zebra mussels spread is through boaters unknowingly transporting them from lake to lake.

Nature Committee

It's hard not to love this time of year with the first signs of spring in the air. Ice went out on Red Cedar around April 1st, the trees are starting to bud, all sorts of waterfowl can be seen and of course our Loons and Eagles are already back. How the loons know exactly when the ice will be out continues to be a fascinating mystery.

The Nature Committee has already started planning activities and will be kicking off the summer by sponsoring our annual educational nature program that you will be sure to enjoy. On June 3 at 10:30 a.m. at Loch Lomond Beach Club, Nikki Janisin, Executive Director at Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, will present "Wisconsin Butterflies". Have you ever marveled at the iridescent wings of a

Since 2009 we have partnered with the Boy Scouts and the administration of the Clean Boats Clean Waters program sponsored by the Wisconsin DNR. Individuals from Rice Lake Boy Scouts Troop 28, their Scout Master, and other volunteers from Boy Scout Troup 52, have manned our public boat landings on all three lakes on the busiest weekends. They have educated boaters on aquatic plants/ animals - both native and invasive, proper bait handling, proper bilge water, live well water, and bait tank water handling, etc.. We plan to continue this partnership in 2017.

As Lake Association Members please monitor your lake shore, docks and boats for any evidence of zebra mussels. Please also educate anyone you know that is launching boats on the Red Cedar Chain of the need to remove all weeds, drain their live wells, and bilge prior to launching or leaving the lake.

Volunteer to be on the RCLA AIS committee. The committee works to monitor, control and prevent additional invasive species from entering our lakes. Please see my additional article in this newsletter for more information.

At this point we don't have zebra mussels in the Red Cedar Chain that we know of. We will be working diligently to prevent their introduction.

Tom Goodwin

AIS Committee Chairperson

butterfly or wondered what that flash of orange fluttering away from a flower was? Participants of all ages will learn how to tell the difference between a moth and a butterfly, uncover their natural history, discover unique features of these delicate beauties, understand how to successfully raise butterflies from caterpillars, and learn to identify some of our local species. Nikki prides herself in being an exciting and dynamic speaker and will also be bringing some live specimens for you view up close. This program is free and, perfect for the whole family!

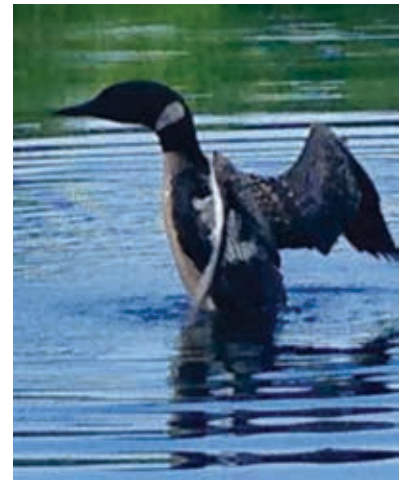
The Nature Committee's top priority will remain continuing to participate in Wisconsin's LoonWatch Program, which helps protect common loons and their aquatic habitats



through education, monitoring, and research. We had a great 2016 for chicks on Red Cedar ... having spotted at least 3 adult pairs with chicks and 5 chicks made it past 8 weeks and migrated last fall. The Nature Committee is continuing its education on the value and importance of using lead-free tackle... remember, one split shot can kill a loon or eagle so please help make a difference!

Other summer activities will include mapping the wild rice between Balsam and Mud lakes, expanding our “dark skies” program to educate residents on reducing bright

lights on our lakes, distribute trees via the Tree Planting Program and monitor bald eagle nests. In 2017, we ordered 400 trees as part of the Tree Planting Program so thank you again for everyone that planted trees as a way to give back to the environment!!



The Nature Committee currently has 7 active members, but we are always looking for more volunteers to help promote our vision and make the Red Cedar Lakes a safe refuge for wildlife. If you are interested in joining this great committee or attending our next meeting to learn more about our 2017 activities, please contact chair Valerie Bausch at vbausc@yahoo.com.

Valerie Bausch
Nature Committee Chairperson

Shoreline & Island Restoration Committee

Native Plants:

Native plants are good choices for your rain garden or shoreline restoration project. The Winter/Spring issue of Lake Tides contains two good articles devoted to Native Plants. They explain the benefits of these plants. I have included their listing of native plant resources which you may find helpful. If you are ready to buy some native plants; search “native plant nurseries” on the dnr.wi.gov website to get a Wisconsin listing, or directly to the link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/er/er0698.pdf>

To see the Lake Tides issue, go to:
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes



Credits to “Lake Tides”; UW Extension, UW Stevens Point

Rich Hokanson
Island Restoration Committee Chairperson



Check us out on Facebook @ www.Facebook.com/redcedarlakesassociation!

Shoreline & Island Restoration Committee

Attention all Landowners! A nasty invasive perennial weed called Garlic Mustard has been found in Barron County. It grows in early spring, is very vigorous and will take over a woodlot and displace all native vegetation. It is important to get control before it takes over. Persistence is the key! Managing this species takes a strong commitment once it becomes established. The following paragraphs contain more information about Garlic Mustard. If you have more questions about the spread of garlic mustard you can call Tyler Gruetzmacher, Barron County Conservationist, 715-537-6246

Garlic Mustard — *Alliaria petiolata*

Origin: Native to Europe

Impacts: Garlic mustard has had a significant impact on forest understory habitats in Wisconsin. Due to its ability to aggressively spread, outcompete important native forest understory species, and create large monocultures, many ecologically important plant communities are being displaced. Habitat suitability for native animals that rely on invaded landscapes for food and shelter can be severely altered.

Description:

Early season biennial herb with alternate triangular (upper) and heart-shaped (lower and rosette) coarsely toothed leaves that produce an onion or garlic scent when crushed. Low-lying rosettes are produced from seeds the first year, staying green throughout the winter. During the second year, the rosettes mature producing erect stalks — 1 to 3 ft. tall — where small white 4-petaled flowers (in the shape of a cross) cluster at the top of stems. In Minnesota and Wisconsin, garlic mustard is generally the only white-flowered woodland species of its height blooming in May. Following flowering, slender seed capsules (1 — 2 1/2 inches long) develop and produce a single row of oblong black seeds. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to five years.

Habitat:

Garlic mustard typically invades woodlands and riparian forested habitats. It can also be found along forested roadsides, trails, and waterways- Garlic mustard will invade disturbed

areas, but will also spread into high quality woodland habitats.

Control and Management:

Garlic mustard is a biennial and only reproduces by seed. The key to successful management is to eliminate seed production in maturing second year plants and to continually monitor populations for several years until the seedbank has been exhausted. Both early spring and fall management works the best.



Small patches of garlic mustard can be hand-pulled in the early spring prior to or at flowering. Flowering in Wisconsin and Minnesota occurs in mid-late May depending on the temperatures and weather conditions for a given spring. It is important to remove the entire root system since new shoots can re-sprout from root fragments left in the soil. Root removal is easiest when the soil is moist. In case root fragments are left behind, be sure to recheck the site for several weeks following hand removal to ensure that no re-sprouting has occurred. If plants are hand-pulled prior to flowering, plant material can be composted off-site. However, if flowering has occurred, it is best to compost plants on site since there could be danger of contaminating community compost sources with garlic mustard seeds.

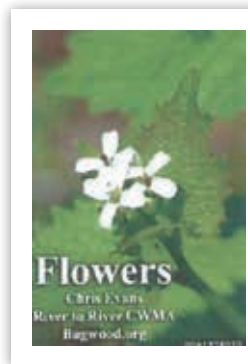
Larger patches can be cut at the ground level prior to or at flowering with a weed whip or a lawn mower, depending on the terrain or layout of the landscape. It will be necessary to recheck the site periodically to determine if further cutting or re-growth is required. Mowing is not recommended if seedpods are present because it will disperse seeds.

Chemical control using broadleaf herbicides can be effective on large infestations in the early spring before flowering and late fall. Late fall applications of herbicide can be applied after many of the other forest understory plants are dormant, thus reducing non-target impacts. Early spring applications should consist of spot spraying specific plants and or infestations to limit non-target impacts. If using herbicides, check with your local extension agent, co-op, or landscape care expert for assistance and recommendations.

Credits to Minnesota and Wisconsin DNR web sites

Rich Hokanson

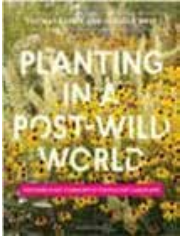
Island Restoration Committee Chairperson



Shoreline & Island Restoration Committee



If you would like to connect with others interested in the native plant movement or would just like to learn more about it, the Wild Ones website is a great place to start. www.wildones.org

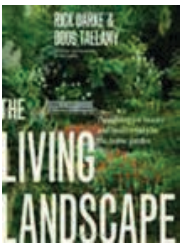


If you would like to read more about the native plant movement, check out these books:

Planting in a Post-wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West



Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change by Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher



The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden by Rick Darke

If you are looking for assistance and ideas in planning and installing your own native plant project, check out these timely resources.



The recently updated Healthy Lakes 350 ft² Native Planting Companion Guide has six example planting plans: lakeshore edge, bird and butterfly, bare soil/erosion control, woodland, low growing and deer resistant. Check it out at the Healthy Lakes web site: <http://healthylakes.com>



Midwestern Native Shrubs and Trees: Gardening Alternatives to Nonnative Species is a new book being published in March 2017. This is a companion piece to the best-selling native plant guide



The Midwestern Native Garden: Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard Schwartz.

Rich Hokanson

Island Restoration Committee Chairperson

Island Restoration Committee

The restoration work planned for the public island close to the Waldo Carlson county park was completed in 2015. Several inspection trips were made to monitor erosion during 2016. I will continue to monitor the erosion situation on this island in 2017. For the most part the rocks are staying in place.

The plan to assess the other public islands in Red Cedar and Hemlock did not happen in 2016, but this island inspection

project will be done this May or June. I need two volunteers to help with this effort. I estimate the work to be no more than 4 to 6 hours. If you would like to help with this project, please give me call at 715-354-3912.

Rich Hokanson

Island Restoration Committee Chairperson



Water Quality Committee

As a reminder, the definition of water quality is very broad when viewed through the eyes of each user such as boaters, fishers, tubers, skiers and wild life enthusiasts etc. It's more than just the chemistry.

In my last article, I wrote about clarity as measured by the use of a Secchi Disk. Generally, the article noted that water clarity changes over time, within a season and over the years. Of course, we are concerned if it appears to show a trend of getting worse over time. As seen in that article and in the data posted on the WDNR page for the Red Cedar Lakes monitoring, it appears the clarity in our lakes has remained relatively consistent.

The next element I had hoped to trend is water temperature. As I researched this on the Citizen Lake Monitoring page, it appears that the DNR started to collect this data more consistently beginning in 2000. Without pulling all the data and applying greater statistics, it generally shows that the temperature does what you would expect it to do. Early in the summer it is cooler than the later part of summer. Shallower water tends to be warmer than deeper water. Ideally, it would be nice to trend this data with air temperature and maybe even correlate it with rainfall since each of these can have an impact on the water temperature. Again, what we

really want to look for is a trend. Is it getting progressively warmer, staying consistent or maybe even cooler over time? As this data analysis is not done on the monitoring page and statistics is not my passion, I do not have such detail to share. However, it is something we will continue to assess as we look at other elements that attribute to our water quality.

Over the next several months the Water Quality team will be meeting to dig deeper into the data. We will also explore a possible grant application that would allow us to obtain better monitoring equipment. Such equipment includes deeper analytical resources to show how the various elements of clarity, temperature and water chemistry impact each other as well as further analysis of trends whether good, bad or neutral.

For more information on the data for our lakes go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/>. You will need to search for Red Cedar, Hemlock (Barron) and Balsam (Washburn) to get to the details as well as a general summary.

Enjoy our waters!

David Voller

Water Quality Committee Chairperson

Membership Committee

We did it!!! Made it through another winter. It was a mixture of everything.

I am sure we all are looking forward to warmer weather and getting ready for our Spring and Summer. It is always fun to see our woods and water come to life.

I want to thank everyone for your membership dues and your donations. We all make a difference.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in RCLA give any of our members a call, text or e-mail.

Have a safe summer and enjoy...

LuAnn McCannel

Membership Committee Chairperson

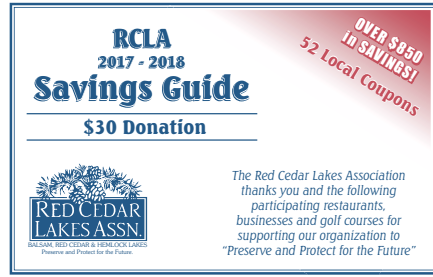


Coupon Book Committee

Happy Spring!
As you read this newsletter you should have already received your 2017-2018 coupon book. I am so grateful to the many

vendors who agree to put a coupon or two in our book. Without their support this coupon book would not be able to raise the thousands of dollars from your donations that help our association complete many projects on our lakes. Their names are listed in this article.

Once again we have a few new merchants who have helped add to the variety of services and items available with these coupons. Kayak rental, pre-made healthy meals (so no one has to be in the kitchen while the rest of the group is playing), and as always, discounts on clothing, golf, home security, ferry rides and food!



Restaurants, Golf Courses & Businesses

Bair's Edgewater Store (2)	Lehman's	Rolling Oaks Golf Course (2)
Bear Tracks Bar & Grill	Miller's Cheese House	Skate City
Birch Lakes Resort	MTJ Home Security	Spider Lake Saloon (2)
Butternut Hills Golf	My Last Resort/Quillen's Big Bear	Stout's Island Lodge (2)
Butternut Hills - Marshall House	Norske Nook Restaurant & Bakery	Sunset View Golf
Chit Chat Bar, Restaurant & Resort	Northwoods Country Store (2)	Swil's Grills and Smoothies (2)
Cumberland Golf Club	Outdoor Ventures	Tagalong Golf & Resort
Don Johnson Motors (2)	Pine Ridge	The Birchwood Cafe (2)
Ed's Pitstop (5)	Prop's Sports Bar & Grill	The Country Inn
Grinder's (2)	Quillen's Big Bear Restaurant (2)	The Roost (2)
Jason Market (2)	Rice Lake Printery (2)	Wagon Wheel (2)

I would also like to thank the local merchants who agree to display and collect donations for our book. Because of their support, we are able to reach folks who are not members. Watch for our posters letting you know where they are available. Again, I encourage you to consider purchasing a second book as a welcoming gift to a new neighbor, or to keep a second one at your home for visiting friends and guests who enjoy our area.

Thank you for your donation,

Patty Ricchio

Coupon Book Committee Chairperson

Lake Information and Safety Committee

Another Wisconsin winter behind us and we are ready to set sail for a glorious season on our version of "the Great Lakes!" My committee has had limited activity throughout the winter season, but we look forward to a busy and productive summer.

Buoys and Markers

When we brought in the buoys last fall, we determined we needed to replace three of them. They were ordered and will be in place by the time you read this article. I occasionally get questions regarding buoy placement, so I thought I would provide some background information for you. The RCLA is responsible for the installation, removal, and maintenance of the buoys; however, we operate under a permit issued by the WI DNR. They determine the number, location, and type of buoy we utilize. Requests for buoy changes can be sent to me for analysis, but recognize that the WI DNR has ultimate authority.

Boater's Safety

It is likely we will not be offering Boater's Safety classroom training this year. Our instructor will not be available

this summer and I am one seminar shy of receiving my certification from the WI DNR. If you know of someone interested in obtaining their certificate, they can go online and take the course. Keep in mind anyone born after January 1, 1989, must have a Boater's Safety certificate to legally operate a watercraft in the State of Wisconsin!

Kiosks

Last Fall, I asked for volunteers to 'Adopt a Kiosk.' I had one volunteer who will take on the responsibility for the Pigeon Creek landing. I'm still looking for volunteers for the other five kiosks. Your monthly job (April through October) would be to remove weeds and debris, monitor signage and brochures, and report maintenance needs to me. If you are interested, please contact me at rsmenk@yahoo.com.

Roger Menk

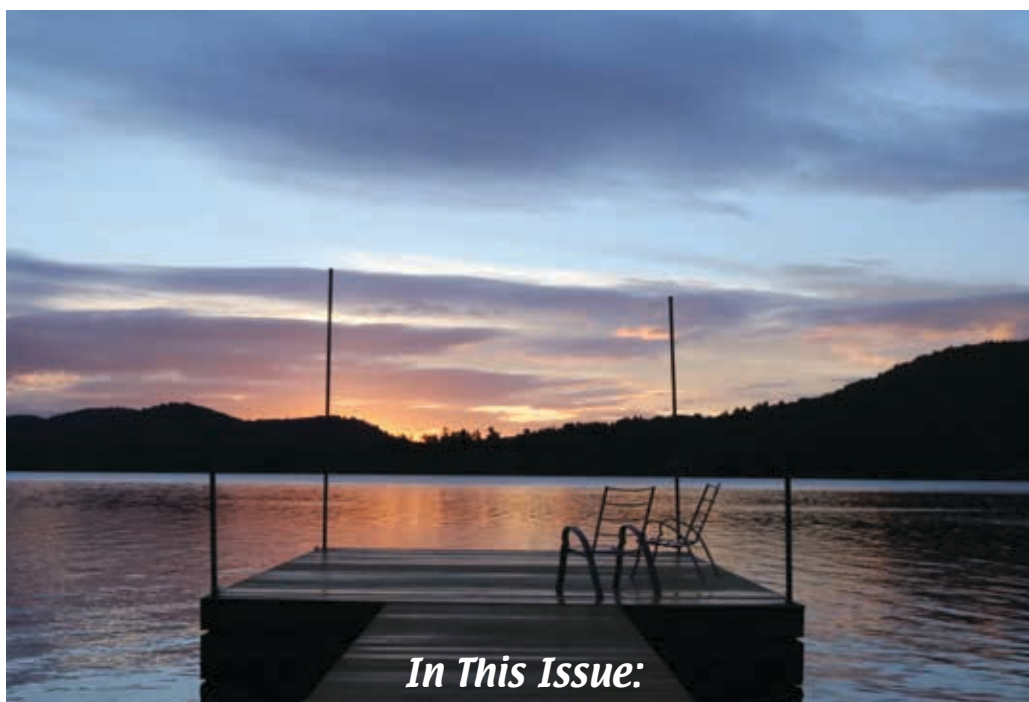
Lake Information and Safety Committee Chair



BALSAM, RED CEDAR & HEMLOCK 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
Nature Committee • Shoreline & Island Restoration
Water Quality and Safety Committee • Membership Committee
Coupon Books • Lake Information and Safety Committee**