



Minocqua Kawaguesaga Lakes Protection Association May/June 2022 Newsletter

[Message From the Prez](#) – Sally Murwin

Welcome back to all our snowbird members and the “tough winter guy members”,
and this was a tough one!

Time to think Lakes, Summer, Fun and MKLPA activities!

The MKLPA board has been working on the 2022 agenda of issues that will be addressed.

Please refer to the following articles:

Special Loon Article – Sue Riebe

Safety Committee – Mark Clarke

EWM Committee – Dave Riebe

2022 Surface Water Grant – Sally Murwin

Treasurer Update – Sandy Kreps



President: Sally Murwin - niwrum@charter.net

V. President: Mark Clarke, Treasurer: Charles Kreps, Secretary: Mary Taylor

Board Members: Dick Garrett, Lance Krolczyk, Jim Russler, Dave Riebe, Christy Steinle, Peter Meyer, Communications: Julie Nickelsen

LOON UPDATE KAWAGUESAGA LAKE

As you may recall from past articles, on Kawaguesaga Lake we have two breeding pairs of loons who have both returned this year. Last year ice out was on April 4, 2021 and the loons started nesting around May 12th. This year ice out was around May 4th and it appears the loons are just getting ready to nest.

The loons on the East side of the lake have had successful chicks for many years, mainly due to the location of the floating platform in a secure private bay. Last year they raised one chick to migration. Both adult loons were banded, but after observing them this spring, it looks like one of the pair is not banded. So, we may have a new adult or a new pair in that territory.

The loons on the West side of the lake have not been successful in many years. Beth and Dale Nagel built a floating platform and put it in a small bay and the loons took to it right away. The pair did hatch one chick, but there was a lot of eagle activity and the chick did not survive. We hope this year is different.

Having good lake clarity is vital for loons to continue to nest and raise families here. Loons rely strongly upon vision to catch fish and other prey underwater. Research from Walter Piper of the Loon Project has shown that reduced lake clarity hinders loons foraging, which leads to poor body condition of both loons and their chicks.



Water clarity declines with increased rainfall. Rain does not merely stimulate plant growth and raise water levels. Rainfall also washes all sorts of matter into our lake. This includes visible organic material such as sticks, leaves and soil, but also invisible nutrients and chemicals. Many substances that reach lakes via rainstorms reside naturally in soils or on the forest floor. Others, like fertilizers and sewage, have been added by humans to the environment. Human-added materials that contribute nitrogen and phosphorous to our lake can cause populations of phytoplankton to surge, which reduces water clarity.

Of course, rainfall itself is not the true villain. Rather it seems to be fertilizers, leaking septic tanks and maybe even pet waste that have been added to the ecosystem that are contributing to the loss of lake clarity.

It is important to have good lake clarity if we want loons to continue to nest and raise chicks here.

What else can you do to help the loons?

Keep a distance of 200 feet when loons are nesting, or when loons and chicks are out on the water.

DO NOT FEED the loons. I know this sounds somewhat ridiculous, who would feed loons? But it happens, and when it does the loons follow fishermen and start diving for the lures and either get hooked or caught in fishing lines. A fed loon is a dead loon!

Get rid of all of your lead fishing tackle. A loon that digests a lead sinker can die within days. And not only loons, other species that feed on fish are at risk as well.

Never cast your line directly at a loon.

Harassing loons carries a fine of up to \$1,000 and up to 90 days in jail. We need to protect this wonderful symbol of our northern Wisconsin waters. If you have any questions on loons, feel free to e-mail me at sue.riebe@yahoo.com.

Sue Riebe
Loon Ranger, Kawaguesaga Lake

MKLPA Water Safety Program Updates

Mark Clarke - MKLPA Board Member

Here are our accomplishments from last season:

WATER SAFETY TRI-FOLD HANDOUT - developed and produced a tri-fold Water Safety brochure and distributed to over 40 locations including all boat landings for handout.

CHAIN OF LAKES MAP - Inside foldout is a map of the Minocqua Chain with a QR code to download the map to your iPhone.

OBJECTIVE - *"To educate and inform users of the Minocqua and Kawaguesaga lakes on watercraft safety ordinances and proper etiquette."*

BOAT LANDING COMMUNICATION CENTERS – developed and produced new signage along with a FULL SIZE Minocqua Chain of Lakes Map. This also includes a QR code so you can download the map to your iPhone. The Town of Minocqua constructed new communication center structures. The Communication Centers are located at the Thrifty Whale (double sided), the Library, and Throughfare boat landings.

OBJECTIVE - MAP - Minocqua Chain of Lakes Navigation MAP showing NAVIGATION hazards, no wake ZONES, gas availabilities, restaurants.

NO WAKE ZONE – with Town of Minocqua approval – completed a NO WAKE ZONE covering the entire water system from the exit of Lake Minocqua to the entrance of Lake Tomahawk – thus the entire Throughfare river system.

IMPROVE CHANNEL AND BUOY SYSTEM – new channel marker buoys (**red/green**) to improve navigation around the east side of Fifield Island.

SHORELINE PRESERVATION – continuing to improve communication and awareness of wake and wave damage to shorelines from wake board boats and violations of NO WAKE zone areas.

LAKE ASSOCIATION RELATIONSHIPS – developed relationships with key members of Lake Tomahawk and Mid Lake to share common goals and improve water safety throughout the chain.

Show your support of MKLPA!

Contact Lance Krolczyk
lance5620@gmail.com

To get your wearables!



2022 Eurasion Watermilfoil (EWM) Plan

Dave Riebe, MKLPA Board Member

We completed our third year of using the chemical ProcellaCOR as herbicide treatment on both Minocqua and Kawaguesaga lakes in 2021. The chemical was applied in late June and resulted in another effective reduction of large colonies on both lakes.

We also continued our partnership with Aquatic Plant Management (APM) to provide both Diver Assisted Suction (DASH) and hand harvesting services for smaller EWM colonies on our lakes. This has proven to be an alternative to chemically treating areas that are not dense enough to justify chemical treatment. We also feel that APM has been a great partner in EWM reduction on both lakes.

In September of 2021, Onterra LLC, our lake management consultant did an extensive survey and evaluation of the lake to identify any areas of concern with remaining EWM plants. Upon completion we were provided with a comprehensive detailed report including maps to show plant locations and density. Please access this report through the MKLPA website for all the details.

Based on the report, we have determined that there were no EWM locations that would qualify for chemical treatment in 2022. We are excited that working with the DNR, Onterra, and our members over the last 3 years has gotten us to the point chemical treatment is not necessary.

Our strategy for 2022 is to use APM to provide DASH and manual harvesting throughout the summer. They will be focused primarily on harvesting smaller colonies in high traffic or specified areas of concern. Additionally, they will be helping us monitor the areas that have been chemically treated over the last three years to monitor any new growth.

If you, family or friends are out boating this summer, please give the dive boats 200 feet of safety clearance.



2022 DNR Grant

Sally Murwin - MKLPA President

It is the policy of the DNR that for registered Lake Associations, an Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APM) needs to be updated every ten years. MKLPA is due, so we applied for a Surface Water Grant for 2022, and we were awarded this grant.

This project would update the APM of this plan by gathering and analyzing historical and current ecological data, identifying threats, determine the goals and values of stake holders. This survey was sent to all property owners around Lakes Minocqua and Kawaga. The survey will help in management of lake activities in the future, and how we will deal with EWM.

Because of the requirements for this plan, we are not able to use chemicals this year, but as stated by Dave Riebe, at this point we have the EWM under control. We will be using DASH and Hand Harvesting, contracted with APM. These 2 methods of control will not be covered by the 2022 grant. This expense will come out of our budget. Therefore, we are asking that our members, if possible, could consider a donation along with your membership.

After completion of the 2022 update of the APM Plan, we will be able to again apply for Aquatic Invasive Species Grants as needed.

Please remember to fill out the lake survey you received and return by June 27th!

Please, if you have any questions regarding this issue, please give me a call or email.

Sally Murwin

715-499-2837 niwrum@charter.net

Web page and Dues

Our Website at www.minocquakawaga.org is being modernized and updated. Not all pages have been updated as yet, but members of the Board are working on them.

We do not have an option to pay by credit card. Both PayPal and Stripe have declined to process credit card payments for us because they are concerned that we do not have an owner (we are 100% volunteer) and that we conduct our business through a P.O. Box only and have no physical location for a home office (they will not accept a personal residence since we are a 501(c) 3 organization). Dues and donations can only be by check this year. Despite what the "Join" page indicates only option 1 of the two options offered works at the moment. We expect to have the page corrected and the fill-in form working within the next couple of

Summer of 2022 is going to be terrific!

We are putting together a list of events needed to introduce our members to each other and promote our association. One great way to meet others is to become an active member of your Association. At these events we will promote our association and sell raffle tickets for our Stand up Paddle board to be raffled off at our Labor Day weekend Pig roast. Please reach out to us if you want to participate in planning and working any events. If you have any suggestions that would be great as well. It's hard to make everyone happy but as a social organization we want to use it to introduce more people and become good protectors of our lakes.

- Lance Krolczyk

VOLUNTEER

Upcoming Events



The Minocqua Antique & Classic Boat Show LLC will occur on **June 17-18, 2022** on Lake Minocqua at Torpy Park. This annual event draws 60+ beautiful boats and 1000's of spectators over the two (2) day event. The in-water and on-land boats include nostalgic wooden boats from the 40's - 60's, vintage fiberglass boats, as well as newer wooden boats. Don't miss the boat parade Friday evening during the intermission of the Min-Aqua-Bat Water Ski Show. Food, beverages, and great music are featured in conjunction with the Minocqua Lions Club. Don't miss the Friday Old Fashion Shore Lunch Fish Fry. The show starts on Friday, June 17 around noon and goes until 8PM. Saturday the show starts at 10AM and lasts until 8PM. Live music and full throttle fun are in store for captains and mates of all ages. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the boats, music, and fun.

MKLPA Annual Meeting – Saturday, August 6, 2022

Minocqua Fire Dept.

9:30 Coffee and Social

10:00 Guest Speaker – Eddie Health – Aquatic Ecologist Onterra, LLC

An Update of our Aquatic Plant Management Plan

You don't want to miss this!

For Reservations: please call Sally at 715-499-2837 or niwrum@charter.net

Pig Roast & Silent Auction – Saturday, September 3 – Torpy Park

Wishing you a Happy & Healthy Summer – Please Play Safe



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