

Minocqua – Kawaguesaga Lakes
Protection Association
2024 Spring Newsletter



Message From the Prez – Sally Murwin

Greetings To All!

What a Winter! “Father Winter” Did not give us what we wished for!

Now time to think Lakes, Fun, and MKLPA activities!

Please refer to the enclosed committee reports by MKLPA board Members and a very informative update by Sue Riebe, Loon Ranger, Kawaguesaga Lake. We will continue to work with OnTerra Corporation, and Eddie Heath, our consultant.

MKLPA was very fortunate to receive two AIS Small Scale Population Management Grants – one for each lake. Two sites on Lake Minocqua will be chemical treated. Other sites of EWM on both lakes, will be addressed using DASH, Hand Pulling, and Mechanical Harvesting.

We Welcome New Board Member- **Tim Melms!**

to see our current board members: <https://minocquakawaga.org/board-of-directors/>

To Volunteer :



Starting our 2024 Season, we are hoping to add more volunteers for our 2024 season. There is a lot of talent around our two lakes. If you are interested, please call me at 715-499-2837 or email: niwrum@charter.net

Clean Boats, Clean Waters CBCW

Our CBCW program will begin on Memorial Day weekend. Boat Inspections, Boat Counts, and Important Boat Safety Regulations will be shared with lake users.



Please give the team a “Hi Five” when you see them at the landings!

Please Note: Summer Employment

Watercraft Inspector needed for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program

If interested, please contact Sally Murwin at 715-499-2837 or email: niwrum@charter.net

Wishing All A Happy and Safe Summer!

2024 Aquatic Plant Management Strategy—Dave Riebe

Our 2023 Fall survey provided by our lake management consultant OnTerra, established the locations and density of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) throughout Minocqua and Kawaguesaga lakes. With this information we began working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on a strategy for managing EWM.

As in years past, we had many discussions with the DNR regarding appropriate methods for treating the identified areas. One point of concern that always comes up is protecting fish spawning areas as much as possible. This year we are going to use four different methods for attacking EWM throughout the system.

Our first method will be chemically treating with ProcettaCOR two areas. One area is located in the library launch bay, area A-24 if you refer to our maps on the website. The other area scheduled for treatment is Huber bay, area B-24 on website. We anticipate treating those areas sometime in June.

The second method will be to use Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) in various locations where there is some density of EWM, but not enough to justify chemical treatment at this point. Since there are many locations throughout the lakes, please refer to maps on website for specifics.

The third method we will be using is hand harvesting. This method sends divers into areas that have scattered EWM, by which the divers hand pull the weeds. Much like DASH, we are doing this throughout the entire system, referencing the maps on website for specifics is encouraged.

The last method we are deploying is mechanical harvesting. This will be the first time we use this method in many years. Since it is new, we are limiting the size and scope to the area off Cedar Street identified on the website map as D-24. We selected this method because the DNR views this area as a critical spawning area. We had tried DASH for several years but made little progress since there are so many native weeds intermixed with EWM.

We consider the mechanical harvesting a critical test that if proven successful would give us another weed management tool to use. For more info, click here:

[Mechanical Harvesting - Minocqua / Kawaguesaga Lakes Protection Association](#)



We will be administering this method three times throughout the season. Late June, August, and sometime in October. There will be a focus on collecting weed fragments during the cutting process.

We have secured Aquatic Plant Management to provide all four services this year. We would like to thank Onterra, the DNR, and APM for all the time and effort to establish our plan for 2024.

Check out the MKLPA Business Supporters !

Keeping our lakes Clean & Healthy would not be possible without the passionate support of our business community.

We are thrilled to have their support!

Through their donation(s) we have been able to maintain and improve the quality of our lakes and continue working towards protecting the Minocqua and Kawaguesaga Lakes and their surroundings by enhancing water quality, fishery, and the aesthetic value of our lakes as public recreational facilities for today and future generations. Please join us in thanking each business listed here for their generous support and donation(s) to the MKLPA!

MKLPA supporters

click the link below or QR code
then click on their logo or photo.

<https://minocquakawaga.org/business-supporters/>



Matching Corporate Gifts

click on link or use QR code to view

<https://minocquakawaga.org/matching-corporate-gifts/>



LOON UPDATE—KAWAGUESAGA LAKE

By Sue Riebe—Loon Ranger, Kawaguesaga Lake

Ice out was on May 4th last year. This year we had ice out on March 16, 2024 and then ice back on again. Then ice out around April 6, 2024. A very weird year indeed! Our loons started returning on April 14, 2024.

As you may recall from past articles, on Kawaguesaga Lake we have two breeding pairs of loons. One on the East side of the lake and one on the West side.

In 2022 the East side loons were not successful. The male returned with a new female and they did not nest on the floating platform. Their first nest was destroyed by a predator, and their attempt at a second nesting failed due to heavy rains. But in 2023 they made up for it. They hatched 3 chicks on June 24, 2023 which is very unusual. And, they all grew and made it to migration!

In 2022 the West side loons hatched two chicks, but quickly lost one due to an eagle. They successfully raised the other chick to migration. In 2023 the loons abandoned their first nest due to a bad black fly outbreak. They re-nested late on the floating platform and successfully hatched one chick on July 8, 2023 and successfully raised it to migration.

I would encourage anyone who follows the loons on Minocqua and Kawaguesaga to provide information to Loon Watch. Loon watch, a program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, protects common loons and their aquatic habitats through education, monitoring, and research. Information they look for to monitor the loons on our lake is: Date of ice out, date the loons return to the lake, nesting sites, nest attempts, eggs hatched and chicks that made it to migration.

Currently Minocqua Lake does not have anyone monitoring the loons. You do not have to monitor the whole lake, you can do a portion of the lake if you wish. I will be leaving the lake this year which will leave Kawaguesaga open for a loon monitor as well.

If you are interested, please contact Loon Watch at 715-682-1220. Training is provided.

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.





Click on link below or use QR Code to see what great things are going on this summer!



[2024 Events - Minocqua / Kawaguesaga Lakes Protection Association](#)

MKLPA Annual Meeting - August 3rd

Minocqua Fire Dept
9:00 am - Coffee
10:00 am -12:00 pm Business meeting
For reservation contact Sally Murwin
at 715-499-2837 or email: niwrum@charter.net

MKLPA Annual Pig Roast - August 31st

Torpy Park
11:00 am - 2:00pm
Public is welcome!



MKLPA member Lance Krolczyk (also a Minocqua Fire Department Member) presented a \$1,000 check to Chief Rich Carani of the Minocqua Volunteer Fire Department to purchase Hazardous Material floating absorbent booms in the event a fuel or other hazardous substance leak or spill should occur in our lakes. These donated funds will purchase 100 feet of boom. These booms are part of a larger overall purchase of hazardous material mitigation supplies.

Thank you Minocqua Kawaguesaga Lakes Protection Association Board and members for your generous donation.

[MKLPA Water Safety Program updates \(April 2024\)](#) - Mark Clarke



Here are our accomplishments from last year and ongoing through out the 2024 boating season:

WATER SAFETY TRI-FOLD HANDOUT – continuing to update the tri-fold [Water Safety brochure](#) and distributing to over 50 locations including all boat landings for handout.

CHAIN OF LAKES MAP - Inside foldout is a map of the Minocqua Chain through to Lake Tomahawk with a QR code to download the map to your Smart Phone.

OBJECTIVE - *“To educate and inform users of the Minocqua and Kawaguesaga lakes on watercraft safety ordinances, wake boat operation, and proper etiquette.”*

BOAT LANDING COMMUNICATION CENTERS – developed and continuing to update new signage along with a FULL SIZE Minocqua Chain of Lakes Map including Lake Tomahawk. This also includes a QR code so you can download the map to your Smart Phone. The Town of Minocqua has updated the new **“PAY HERE BEFORE LAUNCH”** signage with a QR code to register your towing vehicle online. It was also reviewed in the Friday April 12th Lakeland Times newspaper. The Communication Centers with the new LAUNCH FEE are located at the Thrifty Whale, the Library, and Throughfare boat landings.

OBJECTIVE - MAP - Minocqua Chain of Lakes Navigation MAP showing NAVIGATION hazards, no wake ZONES, gas availabilities, and 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 – the entire Throughfare river system, thus providing a quiet and safe cruising environment.

IMPROVE CHANNEL AND BUOY SYSTEM – new channel marker buoys (**red / green**) to improve navigation around the east side of Fifield Island and near Beer Can 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 Association (they also updated their town boat landing like the Minocqua Chain communication centers), and with the Mid Lake Association to share common goals and improve water safety throughout the chain.

For more info:



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

- WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT -

Becoming a member or Re-newing your membership is Easy, Safe & Secure!

MKLPA has partnered with Incredible Bank to provide you with an Easy, Safe & Secure option to make your annual donation and pay your annual dues—online, with a credit card or e-check. You can check out this convenient feature on the MKLPA website, by scanning the QR code with your smartphone, or by clicking on the link below.

[Join - Minocqua / Kawaguesaga Lakes Protection Association](#)



On the membership form/page—

1. Fill out your name, address & etc—click the red SUBMIT button
2. A new page will come up, click on the red PAY ONLINE button—you will now be leaving the MKLPA website and going to Autobooks/Incredible Bank. This is a SECURE site.
3. Complete the credit card or e-check transaction and click on the green SEND PAYMENT button. You are now a new or re-newed member! THANK YOU! *For questions please contact Ted Pittman at: yachtman3@yahoo.com*

2024 Budget Total for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)

Procellacor Estimate= \$57,400 Mechanical Harvest - 3 X = \$30,000 Hand Harvesting \$2000 x 29 days = \$58,000

Total Costs for 2024 estimate = \$203,700

Grants from the DNR

Procellacor - \$49,796.50 Dash - Hand - Mechanical Harvesting - \$41,080

Total Grants for 2024 estimate = \$90,876.50

2024 Total Balance to be covered by MKLPA Membership = \$112,823.50

