



July 2021 Newsletter

Lake Association Members,

It is hard to believe we are already rapidly approaching the Fourth of July! In the previous newsletter, I wrote about playing a word association game and used one phrase "We are heading to the lake this weekend." As you "head to the lake this weekend," I encourage you to be extra cautious and alert during the upcoming busy holiday weekend. I would like to reiterate how important it is to be safe in and around the lake. The past few weeks have been extraordinarily dry and depending on what this week brings with rain, we need to use great caution around campfires and with any fireworks you may set off privately.

For those of you that have picked up your calendars, please note that due to the availability of the fireworks company that Shep's sponsors, there is a change of date. Shep's fireworks will be on FRIDAY, JULY 2nd at dusk and NOT on Saturday, July 3rd. It was brought to our attention at the June meeting that you must make sure that you KEEP 1000 FEET AWAY FROM THE LAUNCH SITES FOR THE FIREWORKS ON ISLAND LAKE AND CHAIN LAKE. Also, for everyone's safety, on Sunday, July 4th, when the Higgins/Bonacorda families host their fireworks show, NO BOATS SHOULD TRAVEL WITHIN OR AROUND 1000 FT OF THE LAUNCH ISLAND which is directly across from THE HIGGIN'S (SARAH'S SMILE RESIDENCE.) Failure to abide by this safety measure is a liability for those setting off the fireworks. Also, following this simple rule will not only prevent possible injuries, it will also increase the likelihood that the fireworks shows can go on in future years for us to enjoy.

BRAT FEED: The brat feed is back!! Please join us on July 10th for an 11 AM meeting at Sunny's Bar and Resort. Following the 11 am meeting, we get to enjoy a brat plate and each other's company. The cost is \$5 dollars for adults and \$3 for children. Exact change is appreciated. Also, a Rusk County Sheriff/Water Patrol representative is scheduled to be our guest speaker for a question and answer session.

Update after the last meeting from the invasive species committee Chair Kent Gierhart

Kent shared...He has been in contact with AJ Leiden (Invasive Species Coordinator at Beaver Creek Reserve) and he was unable to find a viable source of active beetles (see below picture) to put on the purple loosestrife plants we have been growing. He indicated that we will need to destroy the purple loosestrife plants that were harvested as the breeding plants and try again next year. He also shared that once the Purple Loosestrife plants expose themselves this summer they will be working to remap the lake for areas of plant presence on our shorelines.



Karl Nordin, President. Please feel free to contact me at karlnordin61@gmail.com or call or text to 715-577-8692.

Custom Made Wooden Lake Map Items

Association member John Nahorniak and his son are making cribbage boards and wooden maps of lake areas. John has graciously offered 10% of the proceeds from the sales from ICOLA members to be given to our organization. Anyone interested in ordering from John can contact him at 715-967-2844 or by email at john.nahorniack@gmail.com.



REMINDER SIGN UP FOR AMAZON SMILE:

Smile.amazon.com We have now set up the Island Chain of Lakes as a beneficiary of Amazon's charity give back programs for 501c3's. Instead of making purchases through Amazon.com if you sign up for an Amazon smile account Amazon will donate 0.5% on eligible purchases to your favorite Charity or organization in this case the **Island Chain of Lakes Association** at no cost to you. To set this up, search for us using the EIN Number 83-0802634 or Island Chain of Lakes Association. Thanks in advance for selecting us as your Organization of choice. Once you sign up you should get a email like this...**Dear Karl Nordin,** Thanks for visiting [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile)! Per your request, we have successfully changed the AmazonSmile charity you are supporting to Island Chain of Lakes Association Inc.

ISLAND CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC
MEETING MINUTES June 12, 2021
BACKWOODS BAR AND RESORT

GUEST SPEAKER – Andrew Gullickson
Aquatic Biologist
TSB Lakefront Restoration
715-577-7541 or 715-967-BOAT (2628)
tsblfr@yahoo.com

Prior to the ICOLA meeting starting, Karl told the attendees that the speaker for the meeting, Andrew Gullickson, from TSB Lakeshore restoration, would be first on the agenda due to him having another commitment. Andrew said that there is money available from the government, up to \$25,000, for projects on the lakes for shoreline restoration. He said that there is up to \$1,000 per approved project. He added that the projects must be submitted by either this September or early fall for approval and approved projects have two years to be completed. Andrew said that the projects can vary from water quality to shoreline restoration, but added that rip-rap projects are not usually approved except for certain circumstances. The Association would have to have projects and a grant writer to proceed. TSB would be open to discuss projects but the Association would need to have an accepted grant before money could be provided to the land owners.

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to order – President Karl Nordin called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and opened with the

II. Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Karl welcomed any new members to the ICOLA but no one in attendance identified themselves as a new member.

IV. There was no secretary's report due to the last meeting having been August 10, 2019 due to COVID-19.

V. Treasurer John Kowalewski advised the ICOLA was being charged six months' worth of interest each time a withdrawal is made from CDs. Therefore he consolidated the accounts into one fund. Association funds report was as follows:

- a. Unallocated funds – 16,796.90
- b. Walleye account - \$19,484.48
- c. Land acquisition - \$15,264.25

Mark Schmitt motioned to approve the treasurer's report and Ron Ottum seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

VI. Karl reminded everyone who had not picked up their calendar to do so.

VII. Karl advised that there has been an excellent response to the membership drive. Over 200 families, out of 355 address holders, have paid membership dues so far this year. 78 of the members live here year round.

VIII. Karl said that this year the ICOLA purchased additional buoys so that a buoy is always visible while traveling through a channel. He reminded everyone that when going through the channel boats should stay to the right of the buoys. He also asked that everyone be courteous when on the water and to be watchful for nesting loons.

IX. Karl told everyone that because there was no May, 2021 ICOLA meeting, the board approved providing funds to Shep's and the Higgins family at the same amount as was provided in 2020. The Higgins were approved for \$400 and Shep's was approved for \$425 as Shep's has to obtain a \$25 permit for their fireworks display. Shep's display will be on Friday, July 2, 2021 and Higgins' display will be on July 4, 2021.

X. Karl advised that the ICOLA is a sponsor for the WRA. The ICOLA works with the WRA to complete projects and submissions for project requests must be submitted early.

XI. Karl asked if anyone else had old business to discuss without anyone responding.

NEW BUSINESS

XII. Karl said that since it is an odd numbered year, the Vice President, Treasurer and the Chain Lake and McCann Lake representative positions were up for election in August. He said that Mark Schmitt was not going to run again for the Vice President position and Ron Ottum was not running again for the Chain Lake representative position. Karl encouraged those interested in being on the ICOLA board to contact him. He also encouraged women to consider running for the board as currently the board consists of all men.

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Karl gave the Invasive Species Committee report as Kent Gierhart, the committee chairman, was not available. Karl said because of COVID-19 the committee had little activity in 2020, but the committee did do some work on the Purple Loosestrife (PL) by emplacing Galerucella beetles to eat the PL. Beetle survival is dependent on the severity of the winters and currently getting the Galerucella beetles are difficult. Karl asked that anyone interested in joining the committee to contact Kent.

b. Rod Steege for the Walleye Committee and said that 2020 was slow due to COVID-19. The DNR also had limited activities due to the virus. The DNR is planning for stocking this coming fall at a rate of 10/acre of lake for the ICOLA lakes. Rod added that the

committee is watching what other lake associations are doing to increase the walleye population to determine what they should do. Rod said that walleye spawning around the state is decreasing. Rod gave the DNR 2019 restocking figures. Karl said that he has heard from several fisherman that they have been catching more walleye lately.

XIV. Karl advised that the ICOLA store orders close on June 15, 2021. The reason for the cutoff date is so that ordered items can be made available for the next ICOLA meeting. Karl thanked Mary for all of her work organizing and coordinating the ICOLA store.

XV. Karl advised that John Nahorniak and his son, from Clear Lake, is making wooden maps of lake areas and will make items for ICOLA members and give 10% of the proceeds to the ICOLA. Several examples of his products were on display at the meeting. Anyone interested in ordering anything from John can contact him at 715-967-2844 or by email at john.nahorniack@gmail.com.

XVI. Karl updated ICOLA members on Amazon Smile. He relayed that since the ICOLA was had an approved 501(c)(3) designation we were approved for Amazon Smile. Any member using Amazon can sign into Amazon Smile, enter "Island Chain of Lakes Association Inc", and authorized orders made this way will provide funding from Amazon directly to the ICOLA.

XVII. Karl advised he was contacted by Ralph Hutchinson from Chain Lake who provided the ICOLA with the wake signs at the boat landings. These signs were from the Water Sport Industry (WSIA) and promote boating safety and courtesy. The Rusk County Forestry Dept. had to approve the signs prior to the signs being displayed at the landings.

XVIII. Karl said that the ICOLA is in the infancy stages of inquiry about acquiring land for the ICOLA to build a storage facility on. The ICOLA owns a pontoon boat, all the lake buoys and other items which are currently stored at private residences. The pontoon boat is stored outdoors. If anyone has property they that they would donate or sell to the ICOLA at a reasonable price, please let Karl know.

XIX. Karl asked if anyone had any new business to discuss. The following items were discussed:

- a. Deb Krahn recommended that the ICOLA look into building pickle ball courts on the land acquired (should that be approved) for building a shed on.
- b. Jeff Rossow advised that a few nights earlier he had seen a pontoon and jet-ski try to run over loons. He did confront the individuals about their behavior. Karl cautioned persons about confronting other person's behaviors due to safety concerns. He added that the DNR and/or the Rusk or Chippewa County (for southern Chain Lake) Sheriff Departments have jurisdiction on the lakes.
- c. Steve Bartingale expressed concern about some of the concrete on the McCann boat landing ramp in the water has broken out. It was agreed we would notify the Rusk County Forestry Department about this.
- d. Bill Bonacorda advised that he is the responsible person for the Higgins fireworks display. He said he has to be licensed by the ATF to do the fireworks. The license requires that no one be with 1000' of the fireworks for each inch of the firework. He

said that in the past he has seen boats go between the islands on Chain Lake and Sarah's Smile during the fireworks, which is in violation of his license. He asked that the ICOLA help get the word out to not have people go between the islands and Sarah's Smile during the fireworks display.

XX. At 10:55 am Carol DeLuga made a motion to adjourn and Deb Krahn seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned.

XXI. The local snowmobile club donated three "dinner for two certificates" for their annual corn feed at the ADVENTURE AWAITS in August. Winners of these certificates were Rod Steege, Tom Naves and Jeff (unknown last name). John Kowalewski and Linda Carpenter built and donated a luggage holder which was won by Cindy Swenson.

REMINDERS:

Important Phone Numbers

o Rusk County Sheriff 715/532-2200

Call with any lake abuse and/or boating and jet ski issues

o DNR Satellite Office Ladysmith 715/532-3911

o Forestry Department 715/532-2113 Call with any boat landing issues

ASSOCIATION MEETING SCHEDULE

- July 10, 2021, 11 AM

Sunny's Bar and Resort: Brat Feed: Later start 11 AM

Speaker: Rusk County Sheriff- Lake Patrol

- August 14, 2021, 10 AM

Hawk's Bar and Resort

Elections Meeting

On-going request

Do you have or know anyone that might have a small piece of property that they would be willing to donate or sell at a reduced price to the Association?

The board has suggested that I put out an inquiry to find out if there is anyone that might know of land that would have road access, would be close to our chain of lakes that could house a pole shed for Association assets such as our buoys, the association pontoon, etc. If you have or know someone who might have property, please contact Karl at karlnordin61@gmail.com or call or text to 715-577-8692.

Have a Safe and Happy 4th of July!!!