



August 2021 Newsletter

Association Members,

Hard to believe that I am writing the last of the newsletters for 2021. It was so good to get back to in-person meetings this year. With each passing year, my wife Mary and I become more awestruck by the beauty we get to enjoy living on this amazing chain of lakes. I also marvel at the amazing ecosystem that our chain supports. Observing our chain for over the past 29 years, I have also grown more passionate in my desire to ensure this resource is protected.

One recent way of working towards this goal of protection was to file the paperwork with the DNR to see if our Association would qualify for the Healthy Lakes Grant through the DNR. Due to some by-law criteria for membership, we did not qualify to complete the grant application, however they have worked with us and we did qualify in a different way. However, it appears that even though we had a few projects submitted, we will not be able to qualify for the grant in 2021. Also, even if/when we would apply in 2022 it is not a given that our association would receive this grant. Upon discussions with the group working on this project we have decided to continue to work on the requirements to see if we can make this project a reality in 2022. We will continue to keep you posted on the progress and the potential opportunities for you as landowners.

2021 brought the largest membership our Association has ever had! I hope our organization continues to grow until we have 100% of lake shore property owners as members. This increase in membership shows people's interest in protecting our chain of lakes and being part of the only group that is the voice of the Chain. I also would like to thank the membership for working to protect our lakes and shorelines. I have talked with and have seen more people using shoreline buffers, and I have spoken with Andrew with TSB Lakefront Restoration and diving who has shared with me that he has gotten many inquiries from members who are looking at doing lakefront restoration projects. Actions like these by members show a commitment to the health and future of our lakes.

Our last meeting of 2021 will be on August 14, 2021, at 10 AM at Hawks. We will be holding board member elections at this meeting so there will not be a guest speaker. Positions being voted on this year will be Vice President, Treasurer and the Lake Representatives from McCann and Chain Lakes. Thank you to all who expressed interest in running for board positions. I was thrilled by the willingness of members to step up and run. Board members Mark Schmitt (Vice President) and Ron Ottom, (Chain Lake Representative) are stepping down from their board positions . I can't thank these two men enough for their long commitment and dedication to our Chain of Lakes Association. Both board representatives were in place when I started as president 5+ years ago and have been great assets.

Finally, I want to again thank all those who have assisted with the Brat feed over the years. After the completion of the 2021 Brat feed, I was informed that the group who has organized and ran the brat feed since I believe it's origination have decided to step down at their post as the organizers for this event. I would like to specifically thank Bill and Bea Burnap, and Donna and Mike Cousino for their principel leadership over the years. We hope to continue this event in the future but will be looking for new faces to be the leaders of this project.

Karl Nordin, President KarlNordin61@gmail.com or call or text 715-577-8692

ISLAND CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC
MEETING MINUTES July 10, 2021
CLEAR LAKE RESORT

INTRODUCTION

- I. Call to order – President Karl Nordin called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. and opened with the
- II. Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Karl introduces the ICOLA board members. Karl then welcomed any new members to the ICOLA and the following identified themselves as such:
 - a. Blake Conde – Island Lake
 - b. Dave Turner – Chain Lake
- IV. There was a correction to the June 12, 2021 secretary’s report. John Nahorniak’s email had a spelling error and was corrected to read as john.nahorniak@gmail.com. Lin Bobb motioned to accept the corrected secretary’s report and Deb Krahn seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.
- V. Treasurer John Kowalewski provided the association funds report:
 - a. General funds total – \$17,478.62
 - b. Walleye account - \$19,488.27
 - c. Land acquisition - \$15,267.27John advised that the ICOLA currently has 222 members, of which 9 are associate members. Linda Carpenter motioned to approve the treasurer’s report and John Frank 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 (while supplies last).
- VII. Karl thanked the Higgins/Bonacorda families and Sheps Northside Resort for the July 4th fireworks displays this year.
- VIII. Karl reminded everyone that four ICOLA board member positions (Vice President, Treasurer and Chain Lake and McCann Lake representatives) are open for election this year. He encouraged anyone interested to contact him.
- IX. Karl advised members that the ICOLA now has an Amazon Smile account. John Kowalewski advised that any member using Amazon can sign into Amazon Smile, enter “Island Chain of Lakes” and authorized orders made this way will provide funding from Amazon directly to the ICOLA.
- X. Karl advised that the Rusk Co. Forestry Dept. has been notified of the concrete issues at the McCann boat landing and of the rutting issues at the Clear Lake boat landing.
- XI. Karl asked if anyone else had any old business to discuss.
 - a. Chris Hirschinger asked about what an associate member was and Karl advised it was a non-voting member due to not owning waterfront property.
 - b. Jim Geraghty advised that he had found a child’s life jacket and he had it should anyone have lost one.

NEW BUSINESS

- XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
- a. Kent Gierhart was not in attendance and Karl provided a brief update. He said the committee was hoping to do emplace the beetles for the Purple Loosestrife (PLS) but was unable to get any beetles from AJ Liden from Beaver Creek Reserve. Karl explained that due to the unavailability of the beetles, placement of the beetles is suspended until 2022; depending again on beetle availability. He added the committee is going to produce a map of the lakes indicating where PLS has been sited.
 - i. Sandy Seilheimer advised that if anyone sees and PLS with buds to cut and package the buds so that the seeds do not spread and then to burn the buds.
 - ii. Tom Frank advised that he had a copy of the PLS brochure and anyone could see him to view it. He also the PLS location map from 2019. Tom also said that mid-July is when PLS is in full bloom.
 - iii. Tammy Naves advised of the “picturethis” app which allows you to photograph a plant and the app will identify it for you.
 - b. Rod Steege advised that he had no new updates on the walleye committee but is contacting committee members to set up a post-COVID meeting.
 - c. While not a committee, Karl identified Bill and Bea Burnap as the Loon Rangers and asked for an update. They said that the two loon chicks on the northern part of Chain Lake did not survive; neither did the sole loon chick on McCann Lake. They said they do not get onto Island Lake much and Karl said that he has not seen any loon chicks on Island Lake.
 - d. While also not a committee report, Karl warned everyone that he had received a message from someone on Island Lake that the person had a boat parked on shore and that he had had gas stolen from the boat.
- XIII. Karl updated members on the Andrew from TSB, the June meeting speaker, that anyone interested in a DNR Lake Restoration Grant, that the applications for those grants MUST GO through the ICOLA. Karl said three persons to date have contacted him about such grants. Karl also advised that grants for 2022 projects must be submitted this fall, believed to be not later than August 12, 2021. Chuck Christopherson if this requirement was for the Healthy Lakes grant also and Karl advised to contact him with questions.
- XIV. Karl recognized Bea and Bill Burnap for their years of service to the ICOLA. Bea was treasurer for the first five years of Karl’s presidency and Bill was Karl’s “biggest fan”, helping Karl out. Bea (they) were presented a wooden carving of the lakes with depths for appreciation of their years of service and assistance to the ICOLA and the chain of lakes.
- XV. Karl asked for a special thanks to all the assistance from the Brat Feed planners, cooks, servers and others providing assistance. He also thanked the owners of Clear Lake Resort and a round of applause and appreciation was given to them and the Brat Feed personnel.
- XVI. Karl advised because of COVID precautions, the brat feed would be served cafeteria style rather than buffet style.
- XVII. Karl asked if there was any new business and Mary advised that the ICOLA store is currently open and will be open this week. She asked if anyone had any suggestions for new products to please contact her.
- XVIII. Karl asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Lin Bobb motioned that the meeting be adjourned and Tom Frank seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.
- XIX. After the brat feed had been conducted door prize winners were drawn. The winners and prizes won were:
- a. Jeff Rossow – Luggage Rack (made by John Kowalewski and Linda Carpenter)
 - b. Jan Bauman – Cribbage Board made by John Nahoriak
 - c. Andy Miller – Corn Feed for Two at Fireside
 - d. Shirley Christopherson - Corn Feed for Two at Fireside
 - e. Mike Bjorkstrand - Corn Feed for Two at Fireside

GUEST SPEAKER: DYLAN BELISLE – WI DNR Conservation Warden

Warden Belisle said that the WI DNR works very closely with the Rusk Co. Sheriff's Department. He said that he had spoken two years ago and recalled that at that time the two major issues were wake boarding and the new law (at the time) allowing for mirrors to be used in lieu of spotters when pulling skiers, boarders and tubes.

Warden Belisle said that currently the major issue that the WI DNR is dealing with is boat registration issues and no wake zone violations.

Warden Belisle said that in Northern WI one of the biggest topics is aerators. He said aerators are legal only if the aerator is mounted to a permanent object such as a dock or a pier and is pointing up. An aerator set up on the water bottom requires a permit. Likewise, an aerator which disturbs the lake or river bottom is considered dredging and that also requires a permit. Warden Belisle provided a fact sheet the WI DNR published and can be located at [aeratorfactsheet.pdf \(wi.gov\)](#).

Darrel Bauman inquired about the legal age for youths to be operating a boat. A WI DNR boating regulations brochure can be found at [le0301.pdf \(wi.gov\)](#) see page 7 for age requirements.

An unidentified member advised that he is involved making kiosks for life jackets and that the WI DNR sponsors the kiosk for life jacket usage program.

Mike Bjorkstrand asked about launching an unlicensed boat due to difficulties in licensing the vessel.

Warden Belisle advised that problem was commonly a titling issue and to speak with him separately.

An unidentified member asked about a new law requiring the auto-kill straps to be attached to the boat operator. Warden Belisle advised that currently federal law and only applies to federal waterways.

Another unidentified member inquired about walleye stocking and Karl advised him to speak with him separately.

Another unidentified member asked about the legal age for operating a Jet Ski. See page 8 of [le0301.pdf \(wi.gov\)](#) for licensing requirements for the operation of Personal Water Crafts (PWC).

REMINDERS:

- Important Phone Numbers
 - Rusk County Sheriff 715/532-2200 Call with any lake abuse and/or boating and jet ski issues
 - DNR Satellite Office Ladysmith 715/532-3911
 - Forestry Department 715/532-2113 Call with any boat landing issues

Long Overdue Recognition

Bea and Bill Burnap were recognized for multiple reasons at our July meeting. Bea was recognized for her years of service to the organization as our past Treasurer and they both were recognized for their support to the entire organization of the years. Some highlights of the things they have done are as follows: Both Bill and Bea serve as the "Loon Rangers" for Clear, McCann and Chain lakes reporting loon activity to the Loon organization for Wisconsin. They served in a variety of board positions, assisted with getting our Lake Days event off the ground, recruited speakers for lake days and other meetings, and have donated the loon watch signs to our boat landings for many years. Bill has been active with the Walleye committee, helping with the fish stocking projects, the tree drop project, the walleye wagon project just to mention a few things, and they both helped for years organizing and recruiting friends and neighbors to assist with the Association Brat feed. Thanks to you both for your commitment and for being such great friends of the Association.



Brief Invasive Species Update - Submitted by Tom Frank 7/25/2021

Finished survey today of the four lakes . Saw many Joe-Pye Weed, many Pickeral Weed, Blue Vervain, some Fireweed and some Smartweed . Curiously enough I saw fewer PL blooming plants over-all. No new Purple Loosestrife stands were noted . The largest stand on the south shore of the McCann / Island Channel is significantly reduced. Something changed dramatically in that location . That is also where we released a large proportion of our original *Galerucella californiensis* beetles . At this time, I'm cautiously optimistic.

ASSOCIATION MEETING SCHEDULE

August 14, 2021

Hawks 10 AM

Elections for Treasure, Vice President, McCann and Chain Lake Representatives.

Fireworks

Thank you to Shep's and The Higgin's/Bornacorda Families for the great fireworks on the 4th of July.

BACKWOODS RESORT INFORMATION

I was asked to pass along that the Backwoods will be closed on Saturday, August 21, 2021.

