



August 2022 Association Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Karl Nordin 715-577-8692 karlnordin61@gmail.com

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead

Lake Association Members,

I am proud of you! These are five powerful and encouraging words. In this last newsletter of 2022, I found it fitting to share that I am proud of this organization and I am proud of the character that the majority show when recreating on our Chain of Lakes. 2022 has been a great year for the Association. We were able to hold in person meetings with outstanding turnout. We continued growth in annual membership and had a successful Area Lakes Days event again at Arrowhead in April. There we heard from great keynote speakers and were treated to a variety of vendors. I believe all those who attended felt the education provided by the speakers was very valuable.

In June, we were able to learn from Lia Landowski with Beaver Creek, the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator and Citizen Science Technician. She spoke about resources available to the association to ensure the management of Aquatic plants in our lakes.

In July, we had a great question and answer session with Sheriff Deputy, Burt Zielke, the Rusk County Boat Patrol Sheriff. (see the July minutes for notes related to his session)

I am excited to announce that at our August meeting, we will end the year with education with Nick Stadny with the Rusk County Land and Conservation and

Development Department. He will be sharing resources the County has available to residents interested in shoreline restoration.

I am proud of our group because we have continued to see great activity from the Walleye Committee and the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee. The Walleye committee started out the year as soon as the ice went off and began evaluating the shoreline spawning areas for active spawning activity. I was able to be a part of at least one of these nights and it was truly a fascinating experience. This was requested to us by our fish biologist to help the DNR to track spawning activity on our lakes. The Walleye Committee members also did a shoreline substrate study to map the entire Chain of Lakes shorelines to report again to the DNR the make-up of our shorelines.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Committee also had another active and productive year. The group provided a booth at Area Lake Days educating on Aquatic species and practices to promote a healthy lake. They were also able to obtain and hatch purple Loosestrife Beetles which are leaf eating beetles which affect the growth and seed production of Purple Loosestrife. We have had excellent results from past efforts and this year we are hoping for more great results.

I am proud of our Association that after receiving a \$15,000 dollar shoreline restoration donation from the Presto Foundations via efforts of Joseph Steinsson (Association Member) we were able to put together a exceptional new committee in 2022 that has worked very hard to develop criteria for which Association Members will now be able to apply to receive up to \$750 dollars for shoreline restoration projects. If you get the email newsletter, you will receive the application and an outlined list of projects that will qualify your lake shore property and make you eligible to receive these funds. If you get the snail mail newsletter, please note due to the size of the materials you will not be getting the application but you can pick up the application by coming to the August Lake Association Meeting at Hawk's where we will have printed packets available. You can also download the packet on the website at Islandchainoflakes.org. A huge thanks to the entire committee, the Committee Chair Carol Hakala and Linda Carpenter who provided her expertise of Graphic Design to the final packet.

I am proud of the Association for purchasing, maintaining and ensuring the hazard buoys and channel markers are maintained each year to make sure that we have another safe year of boating for all on the lakes.

I am proud of the Association for assisting again in 2022, with donations to both fireworks displays on our Chain of Lakes.

Lastly, I am proud of the people as a whole on our Chain of Lakes who have chosen to do their best to keep our natural resources as good or better than we inherited them. I had the opportunity last week to visit with the new Shoreline Restoration Committee Chair, Carol Hakla, at one point of the conversation we both said how proud we were of our Lake Property Owners and how when traveling our beautiful shorelines how many property owners have already adopted excellent shoreline buffer zones. These buffer zones help stabilize erosion, increase fish and wildlife habitat, filter harmful nutrients and pollutants, enhance water infiltration, reduce lawn maintenance, reduce geese on your property, and lessen impacts of wave and shoreline erosion. Thanks so much for being a part of protecting our future enjoyment on our amazing Chain of Lakes. I am proud of you!



Custom Lake Maps given to Mark Schmitt (Left) and Ron Ottum (Right) at the July Brat feed for their years of service to the Lake Association. Mark served a Vice President, and continues to store the lake Association Buoys and assist with their placement and removal, Ron served the Association as the Chain Lake Representative he says for at least 25 years. Thanks again for all your donated time.

SPECIAL REQUEST: From Member Linda Bohacek, She is asking if anyone is doing Asphalt work this fall could you please reach out to her to let them know who you are working with. She has some driveway that needs some small patchwork and would like to work with the vendor to see to also have her driveway repaired. If you can help her out please reach out to her at 715-579-5009 she would appreciate your assistance.

AUGUST ELECTIONS: Association Meeting HAWKS August 13,2022

BALLOT:

President:

Karl Nordin

Any nominations from the floor

Secretary:

Stepping down Al Christianson

NEW Nomination: Kristis Thoreson

Any nominations from the floor

Clear Lake Rep:

STEPPING DOWN: Tom Slowinski

NEW NOMINATION:

Larry Bins

Any nominations from the floor

Island Lake Rep:

Rick Krahn

Any nominations from the floor

**Last proud moment and thank you goes to...Vice President Sandy Johnson
for her work in setting up...**

Introducing the ICOLA Facebook Group!

The ICOLA now has a Facebook group called ***Island Chain of Lakes Association***. The group is a private group for people interested in the Island Chain of Lakes and the Association. Its purpose is for group members to share information including pictures, meetings, events, ask questions, educate, etc. in a positive and respectful manner. It is NOT a forum to sell, advertise, complain, or report unlawful activity. Posts that violate the group rules will be deleted and the member may be deleted from the group. The group rules include:

- Be kind and courteous
We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.
- Please keep all content relevant
This page is the official Facebook page of the Island Chain of Lakes Association and all posts should promote the Association and the Island Chain of Lakes.
- Non-commercial group
This is not a commercial site and should not be used for selling and advertising for profit by any individual, group, or organization.
- Report rule-breaking
If you see a post/comment that violates our rules, report it to the admins. DO NOT verbally attack the author of said post/comment.

Everyone is encouraged to join and share information. You can use the link or QR code below to join the group or you can search on Facebook by the group name ***Island Chain of Lakes Association***. Once you are a member, you are encouraged to use the "invite" button to invite family and lake neighbors to join the group as well. And don't forget to post and share – this is everyone's group!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/447896983490573/>



ISLAND CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC
MEETING MINUTES July 9, 2022
SUNNY'S CLEAR LAKE RESORT

INTRODUCTION

- I. Call to order – President Karl Nordin called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance.
- II. Karl asked for new members to identify themselves. No one identified themselves as new members.
- III. Karl advised that the secretary's report had been emailed to everyone and asked the members if there were any discrepancies found. Karl then advised that his email address needed to be corrected to karlnordin61@gmail.com. Tom Meisner motioned to accept the amended report and Ted Hakala seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.
- IV.** Treasurer John Kowalewski advised that the current ICOLA membership is 243, with 225 members and 18 associate members. He also advised that he is working on the ICOLA's Annual Report and will have that completed by August's meeting. He gave the treasurer's report as follows:
 - a. Unrestricted funds total – \$22,508.90
 - b. Walleye account - \$19,456.59
 - c. Land acquisition - \$15,345.59
 - d. Shoreline Restoration - \$15,001.23Carol Deluge motioned to accept the treasurer's report and Tom Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.
- V. Karl offered a thank you to Shep's and the Bonacorda/Higgin's families for another phenomenal fireworks display. He also advised that both had sent thank you for the support of the displays. The members gave a great round of applause to both Shep's and the Bonacorda/Higgin's families.
- VI.** The committee reports were as follows:
 - a. Walleye committee – Rod Steege was not available for the meeting and there was no report.
 - b.** Invasive species committee – Tom Frank advised that the Purple Loosestrife (PL) should bloom within the next two weeks and a recent survey of the lakes showed no blooming PL. Joe Pye weed, which has more reddish blossoms than PL, has been sighted in the channel between Island and McCann Lakes. Joe Pye weed is a desirable plant.
 - c.** Karl advised that he had earlier in the day received a text from Greg Lemmer regarding Chinese Mystery Snails, an invasive species. Karl read the text, "Chinese Mystery snails can form dense populations and out compete native species for food and habitat in lakes and streams. They are intermediate hosts for parasitic worms and can transmit trematodes that kill waterfowl. Banded mystery snails (BMS) prey on fish embryos. Shells often litter shorelines and clog screens of water intakes." Sandy Seilheimer added that parts of the snails are edible and that they can be identified with a flap that covers the hole of the shell when they are picked up. Sandy said to contact her regarding methods to cook the snails.

- VII. Karl reminded the members that ICOLA elections for President, Secretary, Island Lake and Clear Lakes representatives would be held at the next ICOLA meeting at Hawk's Resort. Karl advised that the current secretary, Alec Christianson, would not be seeking reelection. He asked that anyone interested in any of the positions to contact him.
- VIII. Karl reminded everyone that there were still several calendars available for sale at the ICOLA lake bars.
- IX. Karl advised that the ICOLA store was currently open. Mary advised that when ordering merchandise, to fill out the "ship to" information but then when later asked to "ship" or "pick up", to use the "pick up" option and she would deliver the merchandise at the August meeting, unless you want it shipped, at shipping costs, to your address.
- X. Karl advised that the Adopt-A-Highway topic would be tabled until August's meeting.
- XI. Karl offered Jeanine and Jeff Rossow a thank you for organizing the 2022 ICOLA Brat Feed. He also offered thanks to Aimee Mikl, Marcie Pippenger, Jeff Pippenger, Ron Ottum, Tom Creviston, Mike and Donna Cousino, Mark Schmitt, Tom Slowinski, Linda Carpenter, and John Kowalewski for assisting in the execution of a successful event. Thanks to Shadick's grocery for use of the refrigerated trailer
- XII. Karl asked if there was any other old business and no one brought any up.
- XIII. NEW BUSINESS
- XIV. Karl advised members that the newly formed Shoreline Restoration Committee, chaired by Carol Hakala and consisting of Chris Hirschinger, Todd Johnson, Deb Krahn, John Kowalewski, Alec Christianson and Karl, had recently met. Carol then advised that there was material available regarding about the WI DNR "healthy lakes" projects but the Shoreline Committee's criteria was much less stringent than the DNR's. A question was asked about using some of the funds for restoring the islands. Carol Deluga said that years ago there was restoration done on the Chain Lake islands but she did not recall the funding details of such. Joh Kowalewski advised that of the five islands, two are privately owned, one is owned by the WI DNR and the other two are owned by the Federal Bureau of Land Management, all of whom would have to give permission to do any restoration projects to the respective islands.
- XV. Karl presented "ICOLA plaques" to Ron Ottum (25+ yrs as Chain Lake rep and Mark Schmitt (6 yrs ICOLA VP) for their years of service to the ICOLA. Members gave them a round of applause for their service.
- XVI. OTHER NEW BUSINESS – ICOLA VP Sandy Johnson, who had volunteered to research a Facebook (FB) page for the ICOLA, advised that the board is considering creating a FB page. ICOLA membership would not be required as many non-members follow what the ICOLA is doing and it may attract more members. The ICOLA is considering a committee to devise rules that would regulate postings on the page with the following considerations:
- a. The page would be a private, POSITIVE group page for persons to contribute photos, reminders, updates and other information for ICOLA members.
 - b. The page WOULD NOT be used for political, sales, complaints or other negative type posts.
- XVII. At 11:35 am Tom Frank motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ted Hakala seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

SPEAKER – DEPUTY BURT ZIELKE (Rusk Co. Sheriff's Deputy)

Deputy Zielke addressed a range of questions regarding ICOLA issues. The following is a list of those issues with his response:

1. Deputy Zielke advised that he had been advised by the DNR warden the ICOLA concern about the “abandoned” boatlift on McCann Lake. Deputy Zielke said he had attempted contact with the owner but had had no response. An option would be to consider the lift an obstruction on the water to have it removed. Buck Paulsen, after then meeting adjourned, contacted Deputy Zielke and got authorization to remove then boatlift and is planning on doing so this week.
2. SLOW/NO-WAKE ZONES. Deputy Zielke advised the following:
 - a. Slow/No-Wake is defined as sufficient power for safe operation of the boat, NOT just to slow down in a no wake zone; basically the boat is “just in gear”. Applies to skiers and rafts pulled by boats also.
 - i. Zones apply to 100’ of shoreline, docks, rafts
 - ii. Permits required to pull skiers from docks
 - iii. Jet Skis – due to speed and maneuverability the following rules apply to jet skis:
 1. Slow/no-wake within 200’ of another boat or shoreline
3. Right of Ways:
 - a. Sailboats ALWAYS have the right of way
 - b. When two boats approach head on the should each go the right
 - c. When a boat approaches another boat from the right, the boat to the left should go to the right
4. WI has a hazardous wake law so boaters need to be aware when making large wakes. This law applies to docked boats also.
5. Water cannons (underwater motors that move water) cannot point downward or erode the lake bottom.
6. Swim rafts must have reflective tape on them and be a reasonable distance from shore. Questions should be addressed individually.
7. Spotter requirements when towing:
 - a. Spotter not required when a boat has a wide angled mirror
 - b. Spotter has no age requirement but must be able to communicate with boat operator
 - c. Mirrors are not legal for jet skis and jet skis must have a operator, spotter, and seating available for each person being towed
8. The Sheriff’s Dept. jurisdiction on all of Chain Lake as does the Chippewa Co. Sheriff’s Dept.
9. The Sheriff’s Dept. is aware of the speed concerns on Plummer Rd and do monitor such when in the area. Deputy Zielke advised that not long ago he ticketed an individual for going 52 mph in the 25 mph zone.

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