



## June 2022 Association Newsletter

### FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Karl Nordin 715-577-8692 [KarlNordin@gmail.com](mailto:KarlNordin@gmail.com)

Association Members,

What an outstanding kick off to our 2022 association calendar year. First we had a successful Area Lake Days in April at Arrowhead Bible Camp and then we had a packed house at our first meeting on May 14, 2022, at Shep's. I am excited by the reports and activities from the Walleye Committee and the Invasive Species Committee and the projects they are working on this year (see minutes for their report/activity). I am also excited about the lake education that was shared at Area Lakes Days.

I was lucky this year to take in all three Area Lakes Days speakers. It was interesting that all shared a very different message but they also all had an overarching theme of doing all we can to protect our natural resources today! If we wait until tomorrow, it might be too late. Speakers stressed the need to ensure we do what we can do as individual property owners to protect and maintain the ecosystems in and around our lakes, shorelines, and marshlands.

I have always admired life long learners and I strive to be one as well. New knowledge helps me grow both professionally and personally. I'm relatively certain that we all have been around the young child that asks why after everything you tell them. I don't know what happens as we age, but it seems like we sometimes stop asking why and seeking out answers. I sometimes even have to admit that I too get stuck in my ways. We should try not to accept our natural instinct to think "It is just the way I do it" without constantly questioning if there is a better way.

Maya Angelou is quoted as saying, "I did then what I knew to do. Now that I know better, I do better." I think that learning how to protect our shorelines, the water, and the ecosystem when moving from the city to the lake is an exact example of this. As I listened and learned from each of the Area Lakes Days speakers I found myself asking, "What changes am I willing to make now that I know better?" Am I willing to incorporate best practices around my property to not only benefit my frontage, the ecosystem, but also benefit my lake family? Will our practices today ensure that we all have the opportunity to enjoy and recreate within this beautiful chain of lakes while protecting it for those who get to enjoy it in the future?"

I will leave my remarks by challenging you all to be open to new learning and I ask you, what are you willing to do differently this year, to protect our precious resources?

"Be the change you want to see in the world." Gandhi

# EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT

## NEW SHORELINE RESTORATION FUND

I am grateful and excited to announce that the Association has received \$15,000 from Joseph Stenison through the Presto Foundation, to open a Shoreline Restoration Fund for our Chain of Lakes. We are currently developing the criteria that will be shared with the membership soon. Once that has been developed, I will let you know how you can apply to become considered to receive money from this fund to support projects on your Lake Property.

If you would like to also make a personal contribution to this fund please send your contribution with a memo noting you want the donation to go to the

**“Shoreline Restoration Fund”** to...

John Kowalewski - Treasurer  
30961 117<sup>th</sup> St  
New Auburn, WI 54757

### Area Lake Days- Saturday April 30, 2022



Morning Keynote Speaker/Author Ted Rulseh  
Book: [A Lakeside Companion](#)



Sandy Johnson (Island Lake and Association Vice President) introducing speakers



In the Vendor area, Vendor, Speaker Sponsor, and provider of the people mover (Golf cart) Jerry Salter (Chain Lake) with Trubilt Auto



Carol Hakala (McCann Lake) introducing Barb Barrickman who spoke about Shoreline Restoration



Gary Dunsmoor with Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary spoke about Amphibians

## From The Buoy Crew

2022 Buoy Team: THANK YOU to Ralph Deluga (Chain Lake), Mark Schmit (Island Lake) Mike Kasel (McCann Lake), Rick Krahn (Island Lake), Rod Steege (Island Lake) Tom Meisner (Island Lake) and John Kowalewski (Chain Lake) for assisting in repairing, upgrading and placing 24 buoys.





**ISLAND CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC**  
**MEETING MINUTES May 14, 2022**  
**SHEP'S RESORT and CAMPGROUND**

**INTRODUCTION**

- I. Call to order – President Karl Nordin called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance.
- II. Karl asked for new members to identify themselves. Four new members (memberships) were identified as:
  - a. Greg and Gail Lemmer on Island Lake
  - b. Rod Olson, an associate member (lives on Plummer Rd)
  - c. Jackie Hannon on Chain Lake
  - d. Fred and Jackie Weisenburger on Island Lake
- III. Karl advised that the secretary's report had been e/mailed to everyone and asked the members if there were any discrepancies found. No one identified any discrepancies and Linda Grefsheim motioned to approve the report and Mark Schmitt seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- IV. Treasurer John Kowalewski advised that the current ICOLA membership is 210, with 197 members and 17 associate members. He said the 2022 Lake Days netted the ICOLA \$1,620.90. He gave the treasurer's report as follows:
  - a. Unrestricted funds total – \$24,182.30
  - b. Walleye account - \$19,453.07
  - c. Land acquisition - \$15,342.82
  - d. Total - \$58,978.19
- V. The committee reports were as follows:
  - a. Walleye committee – Rod Steege advised that the committee has been conducting night and daytime surveys on Island and Chain Lakes. Active spawning has been seen once the lake temperatures reached 47 degrees with moist Walleyes in the 14" to 16" range but some as large as 20". The DNR stocks 10 Walleyes per acre in the odd years so no Walleyes were stocked this year but they should stock our lakes in 2023. Some Muskies were stocked and there is a Musky Club that will help stock. Rod advised the DNR will be doing a complete substrate survey of Walleyes in 2023.
  - b. Invasive species committee – Tom Frank advised that personnel from the Beaver Creek Reserve have been very helpful in advising and helping the committee with Purple Loosestrife (PL) beetles. The beetles, which only eat PL, help control the expansion of the PL but do not kill the PL. Tom advised that at the south end of the Island/McCann channel there is a "big dip" which he believes may have been the result of the beetle killing off PL which had killed off the natural habitat there.

Tom is hoping the committee can get beetles this year and they can begin raising beetle for the ICOLA. Linda Carpenter advised that she used to be on a lake with PL and the beetles and the beetles killed the PL and then died, doing no ancillary damage. Karl added that Lia Landowski, an Aquatics Invasive Species Coordinator, will be the guest speaker for the ICOLA June 2023 meeting. Any questions can be directed to Tom Frank at [tgf1500@gmail.com](mailto:tgf1500@gmail.com). c. Karl advised that the ICOLA Lake Days were very successful despite of the poor weather.

VI. Karl reminded members that the ICOLA Store is open until midnight on May 16, 2022. He said that the store must open and close so that orders can be processed. Members can pay for shipping to their homes or during the ordering process select "PICK UP" as an option, Mary will pick up the orders and hand them out at the next ICOLA meeting.

VII. Karl wanted to thank the following persons/committees:

a. Lake Days thanks:

i. The ICOLA board (Alec Christianson, John Kowalewski, Sandy Johnson, Tom Slowinski, Ted Hakala, Rick Krahn and Jeff Pippenger) for their planning, set up work at the event.

ii. Arrowhead Bible Camp for their hosting and supporting the event.

iii. Kent Gierhart and Tom Frank from the Invasive Species Committee for manning the ICOLA table at the event.

iv. The speaker sponsors:

1. Jerry Stanisewski (REMAX Realty)
2. Jerry Salter and family (TruBilt Auto Body)
3. Chris Butterfield (Woods and Water Realty)
4. TSB Lakefront Restoration and Diving

b. John Kowalewski and Linda Carpenter for their work on putting together the ICOLA calendar and Jerry Stanisewski, Chris Butterfield, TSB Lakefront Restoration and Diving and K & L Props for sponsoring the calendars.

c. Kent Gierhart and Tom Frank for helping out manning the ICOLA table the entire day. d. Rod Steege for handling the Walleye committee. Karl added that the Walleye Committee and Invasive Species Committee both produce maps of their respective topics and Karl thought maybe the maps could be combined into one product.

e. Todd & Sandy Johnson, Ralph & Carol Deluga, Mark Schmitt, John Kowalewski and Linda Carpenter for stuffing the envelopes for the May newsletter.

f. Ralph Deluga, Mark Schmitt, Mike Kasel, Rick Krahn, Rod Steege, Tom Meisner and John Kowalewski for assisting in repairing, upgrading and emplacing 24 buoys.

g. Rick Krahn for the winter preparation and storage of the ICOLA pontoon.

h. Rick Krahn for summer dockage of the pontoon. Karl added that the ICOLA has a pontoon because the buoys are very dirty when transporting, emplacing and removing as well as in the past some private boats damaged lowered units emplacing the "hazard" buoys.

i. Darrel Bauman for his support in repairing and welding ICOLA equipment as needed. j. Stephanie Barber for assisting in updating the ICOLA website and Bob Jensen for IT support in advising and repairing web related problems.

VIII. Other old business.

a. The ICOLA was a silver sponsor for the Wildlife Restoration Association (WRA) and collaborated with the WRA on project. All money the WRA raises stays in Rusk Co. b. Karl advised that the ICOLA has moved away from applying for lakeshore restoration grants from the DNR due to onerous rules the DNR has for the grants which are labor intensive. Karl said that one of the speakers at the ICOLA Lake Days was from the Lake Wissota Assn and their group paid \$50,000 for a group to help write and document their grant requests. Mark Schmitt added that the Rusk Co. Conservationist has a \$10,000 fund for such support but that the grants are a "matching funds" grant. Karl said the deadline for the grant is September 1, 2022.

c. Tom Frank requested that a round of applause be given to Karl and Mary for all the work they do

for the ICOLA. The request received a resounding response.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. Firework donations to Shep's Northside and the Bonacorda family were discussed. 2021 donations in 2021 were \$400 to each with Shep's receiving and additional \$50 due permit requirements.

- a. After a discussion of whether the ICOLA should continue to support funding the firework displays Linda Grefsheim motioned to continue to support funding the events and Carol Hakala seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.
- b. After some discussion on a dollar amount to support the fireworks events Bonnie Bins motioned to donate \$1000 each to Shep's and the Bonacordas for their firework events and an additional \$50 to Shep's for their fireworks permit. Buck Paulsen seconded the motion and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

XI. Karl reminded the members that in August 2022 the following board positions were up for election:

- a. President (incumbent: Karl Nordin)
- b. Secretary (incumbent: Alec Christianson)
- c. Island Lake Representative (incumbent: Rick Krahn)
- d. Clear Lake Representative (incumbent: Tom Slowinski)

XII. Karl reminded everyone that the ICOLA board is always looking for projects to support and if anyone has any ideas for a project or projects, to please contact him.

XIII. Karl asked the members for any recommendations or suggestions for speakers for the upcoming monthly meetings. He reminded the members that Lia Landowski was the June 2022 speaker. XIV. Karl asked members if there was any other new business. The following items were brought up: a. Jerry Salter told members that on July 2, 2022 at about 9:30-10 AM at his lake property (30560 122<sup>nd</sup> St, New Auburn) there will be Yoga. Donations are accepted for the event which will be divided between Shep's and the Bonacorda's for their firework displays. b.

Larry Bins mentioned that beavers have been very active on the channel between Clear and Chain Lakes. John Kowalewski recommended Larry call the Ladysmith DNR office as there is a new warden in Rusk Co. Karl said that he had spoken with a trapper in the past who had told him not to shoot at the beaver as it will not get rid of the beaver but that "you will not see the beaver doing the damage." Sandy Johnson said that Elsmore Hans, who lives on Island Lake, traps beavers.

- c. Ralph Deluga advised the Clear Lake landing is very "rutted up."
- d. Don Gunderson advised that there was a "sunken boatlift" about 100 yards off the shore of the west side of McCann Lake. Discussion revealed the lift had been there about 7 or more years. The board will discuss options regarding the lift.
- e. A member mentioned that lake owners should avoid raking/blowing leaves or other yard waste into the lakes as leaves are high in phosphorous content, which is a major cause of algae.
- f. LaNette Flunker advised that she had contacted Tom Meisner about an unlicensed rental property and that she was informed that there were about 20 rental properties on the lakes. She advised that it was a two bedroom house that rented for twelve occupants. Mark Schmitt said that short term rental require a "conditional use permit" in which the health department check out the properties and the number of potential occupants are determined by the size of the septic system and number of bedrooms.

XV. Karl reminded everyone that today is "stamp out hunger day" and that the USPS will collect donations at your mailbox.

XVI. Linda Grefsheim motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jeff Pippenger seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**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



## **ASSOCIATION MEETING SCHEDULE**

June 11, 2022 - 10 AM @ Backwoods Bar and Grill  
W14549 Plummer Rd

Guest Speaker: Lia Landowski  
Rusk County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator  
Citizens Science Technician with Beaver Creek Reserve

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July 9th, 2022 - 11:00 AM @ Sunny's Bar- Brat Feed  
N 207 Park Lane

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August 13, 2022 - 10 AM @ Hawk's Bar  
30994 122nd St

Elections for President, Secretary, Island and Clear Lake Representatives.