



May 2023 Membership - Association Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

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

Association Membership and Prospective Members,

For the last several years, we have tried to get our first Membership Newsletter out to as many of you as we can. We feel our process for getting Lake Home Addresses is good, but we know occasionally we still miss someone. Therefore, once you have read this newsletter, please check with your lake neighbor to make sure they have received a copy. We want everyone to have the opportunity to join the organization which represents their voice on our Chain of Lakes. One question I get every year with the membership newsletter is, "Why am I getting this newsletter in print and by email?" For those who were members last year, you will be getting this first newsletter both by an email and in a mailed version. This is ONLY for the May membership newsletter. We have decided to do this in order to make it as easy as possible for everyone to renew their membership. **Please see the 2023 membership form at the end of this newsletter and pay your 2023 membership by our second meeting, June 8th. Unpaid memberships after this date will be removed from our mailing list, therefore you will not receive newsletters after this date.** Once again, all members will receive a free association calendar in 2023. You can pick up your calendar at a lake association meeting or with your lake representative after the first meeting of the year. Thanks to our Calendar sponsors, Chris Butterfield with Woods and Water Realty, Bischel's Septic, K & L Prop Repair, TSB Lakefront Restoration and Diving and Gerald Staniszewski with Re/Max Affiliates. Thank you again to Linda Carpenter for her graphic design expertise in putting the calendar together. Also, thank you to John Kowaleski for getting the sponsors and lastly, thank you to all the members who submitted such great photos from around our chain of lakes.

We continue to keep the membership dues very reasonable as we don't want it to hinder anyone's desire to be an active member. Membership to your lake association encourages healthy lake practices and encourages property management to support the future health and vitality of our lake ecosystem and shoreline community. That being said, we do know there are many of you who desire to pay/give more when you send in your membership dues and this is welcomed and allows our organization to continue to support projects on our lakes. On the membership form, if you wish to have a receipt for larger donations you can check the box and John Kowaleski will get a receipt for the contribution to you.

Sitting down to write this first newsletter of the year, it is with mixed feelings. Happiness, as I look out the window and watch the last of the ice breaking up and melting away. Sadness, as my weather app keeps sending me notifications every hour or so that is telling me that in the next two days we will be again hit with a powerful winter storm predicted to drop anywhere from 5-10 inches of heavy wet snow.

Lastly, spring and the return of open water brings a sense of optimism. Optimism for another great year of recreating on our great chain of lakes. Optimism for this year's projects, and hope that this year we continue to increase the membership so that everyone who is eligible to become a member will become a member.

The lake association board decided to switch our Lake Days to every other year so we are hoping to bring it back in 2024 pending being able to schedule with Arrowhead Bible Camp. We do have some other projects that are off to an early start in 2023 and I would like to share just a few. The first week of April, ICOLA was a **Silver Sponsor to Rusk County's Wildlife Restoration Association's (WRA) Banquet**. This organization's fundraising banquet raises thousands of dollars to support projects throughout Rusk County and has in the past assisted our association with multiple projects.

Walleye Committee project with the DNR- with help from your lake board representatives. In Mid April, the Lake Board Representatives were asked to keep the DNR updated on the ice conditions so a netting survey could be completed. Several members of our Walleye Committee have been asked to take part in the 2023 DNR Netting Survey. We will share results of the survey as they become available. The walleye committee also completed their shoreline substrate study at the end of 2022. This substrate report was then provided to the DNR providing them an outline of the shoreline substrate around 100% of our lakes.

Buoys: In efforts to promote safe boating we have started an annual replacement of our aging buoys on the Chain. The crew is slated to have the buoys placed before opening fishing weekend.

Pontoon: We continue to maintain the lake association pontoon which is used for projects throughout the year. Its most frequent use is putting in and taking out the buoy's. Thanks to Rick and Deb Krahn for providing a storage location and to Rick for periodic maintenance.

Shoreline Restoration: In 2022, thanks to a very generous donation from an association member we established the Shoreline Restoration Committee and Shoreline Restoration Fund to assist property owners with their very own restoration projects. See article to follow on how you can apply for funding.

The Invasive Species Committee will be continuing their work in 2023 to work to stop the spread of Purple Loosestrife. They plan to obtain more beetles in 2023 and work to address areas on the chain where heavy stands of Purple Loosestrife are located.

AED Reminder: Please remember we the Association has provided 3 AED's for public use in case of a Cardiac Emergency. They can be found at Shep's, the Backwoods and Hawks. This past winter one was used. Unfortunately, it was too late in this case, but you never know when it will save a life.

Lastly, I would like to welcome new board members Kristi Thoreson and Larry Bins. Kristie is our new secretary, and Larry is our new Clear Lake board representative. A huge thank you to the on-going support of our current board members, and thank you to the out-going secretary Alec Christianson and past Clear Lake Representative, Tom Slowinski, for their volunteer service to the organization over the last several years.

ICOLA MEETING LOCATIONS, DATES AND TIMES

May 13, 2023 @ 10 AM Shep's

June 10, 2023 10 @AM Backwoods

July 8, 2023 Brat Feed 11 AM @Sunny's (Note the one hour later start for the Brat Feed)

**August 12, 2023 10 AM @ Hawks *Will need to hold elections for Vice President, Treasurer,
And Lake Reps for McCann and Chain Lakes**

ICOLA Shoreland Stewardship Project – Grants Available

The Island Chain of Lakes Association, Inc is able to offer up to \$750 to members of the Association and landowners on Chain, Clear, McCann and Island Lakes reimbursement for three simple shoreland stewardship practices. Native plantings along your shoreline; rain gardens on your property, and reimbursement for rain barrels to collect and store runoff from your roof surfaces. These three practices help to maintain and improve our water quality. (We are not reimbursing for rip rap or for labor costs, but we are able to fully reimburse you for the costs of native plants, shrubs, and trees - up to \$750.)

Spring is nearly here, and this is a great time of the year to apply. The growing season is just around the corner. We have 5 properties that have been approved and are in the process of doing some plantings. We have a few more that we are waiting to receive applications on. You may use a landscape service, or make this a small DIY with friends or family. We recommend that you start small, start early, and have a plan – which we can help you put together. The funds can accommodate up to 20 more applications on the existing funds. Any small effort to restore your shore will be of benefit to all!

There is a simple application process needed prior to seeking the funds. Please contact Carol Hakala or your Association board for more information or with any questions. (carolhakala@gmail.com – 715-353-2733).

COME JOIN ICOLA'S FACEBOOK PAGE

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



CONSIDER LEAVING A LEGACY

If the Island Chain of Lakes, and the Island Chain of Lakes Association, have been an important part of your life, consider including a gift in your estate planning. Naming the Island Chain of Lakes Association in your will, trust, or by beneficiary designation. Your Legacy Gift will keep living on to support future generations and projects to help maintain, protect and improve our Chain of Lakes Recreational opportunities well into the future. If interested please consult your financial advisor will assist you in setting this up.



**"THE GREATNESS
OF A COMMUNITY
IS MOST
ACCURATELY
MEASURED BY THE
COMPASSIONATE
ACTIONS OF ITS
MEMBERS."**

CORETTA SCOTT KING

Show off your
ICOLA apparel!

NOW OPEN

Order online! Please visit

<https://cvssports.chipply.com/icla2023>.

Available to purchase: tees, sweatshirts, and a variety of hats. New this year are beach towels and TALL apparel. In order for the items to get ordered/processed in a 3-4 week timeline the online store must close on Monday, May 15th @ midnight! If you have any questions, please contact Mary Baldeshwiler-Nordin @715-829-2542 or mbaldesh@gmail.com

Unisex Apparel



1 Color Option(s) \$17.00
Gildan® - Gildan Performance® T-Shirt



3 Color Option(s) \$17.00
Gildan® - Heavy Cotton™ 100% Cotton T-Shirt



3 Color Option(s) \$22.00
Sport-Tek® Post-UV™ Pro Tee



2 Color Option(s) \$27.00
Gildan® - Ultra Cotton® 100% Cotton Long Sleeve T-Shirt



3 Color Option(s) \$34.00
Gildan® - Heavy Blend™ Crewneck Sweatshirt



3 Color Option(s) \$32.00
Gildan® - Heavy Blend™ Hooded Sweatshirt



3 Color Option(s) \$47.00
Sport-Tek® Raglan Colorblock Full-Zip Hooded Fleece Jacket



4 Color Option(s) \$53.00
Carlson® Midnight Hooded Zip-Front Sweatshirt



2 Color Option(s) \$37.00
New Era® Slub Therat Polo



1 Color Option(s) \$35.00
Port Authority® Long Sleeve Denim Shirt



2 Color Option(s) \$25.00
New Era® Hex Era Bucket Hat



2 Color Option(s) \$25.00
Port Authority® Outdoor Wide-Brim Hat



2 Color Option(s) \$24.00
Mylon Twill Performance Cap



2 Color Option(s) \$36.00
Port Authority® - Beach Towel

Ladies Apparel



Youth Apparel



Tall Apparel



ISLAND CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC **MEETING MINUTES August 14, 2022** **HAWK'S RESORT**

INTRODUCTION

- I. Call to order – President Karl Nordin called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance. The speaker, Nick Stadyk, spoke prior to the start of the meeting.
- II. Karl asked for new members to identify themselves. Chris Dalan and Kristi Thoreson (Eric), all from Island Lake, 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. No discrepancies were noted and Mark Schmitt motioned to accept the published minutes and Tom Frank seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

IV. Treasurer John Kowalewski advised that the current ICOLA membership is 251, with 232 members and 19 associate members. He thanked Dan Borreson for auditing the ICOLA's Annual Report. He gave the treasurer's report as follows:

- a. Unrestricted funds total – \$22,378.38
- b. Walleye account - \$19,458.24
- c. Land acquisition - \$15,346.89
- d. Shoreline Restoration - \$15,002.50

Ted Hakala motioned to accept the treasurer's report and Tom Meisner seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

V. The committee reports were as follows:

- a. Walleye committee – Rod Steege advised that all the plans the committee had planned have been completed and the committee is planning on meeting in October to plan next year. Spring spawning had been noticed and the DNR is planning a fall survey for the lakes. Karl added that the DNR stocks the lakes every odd year, typically at ten fingerlings per acre of lake.
- b.** Invasive species committee – Tom Frank advised that he has been working with Kent and others with the main focus on the Purple Loosestrife (PL). PL is in full bloom and the look "spikey" and have a square stem, which is unique. He said PL was noted in the bay on Chain Lake and at the north end of the Island/McCann Lake channel. He said if you want to dispose of PL you should cut the bloom off the plant, put it into a black garbage bag and burn the bag. DO NOT DISPOSE of the bag any other way. He advised that PL can take over an entire area and destroy native vegetation. Tom asked for volunteers, especially younger ones, to assist with the emplacement of beetles that eat the PL. Carol asked for a round of applause to thank Tom for his efforts, which was given.
- c.** Shoreline restoration committee. Carol advised that she will be contacting Nick Stadnyk and his Chippewa County counterpart, to discuss their funding programs for shoreline restoration, with the focus on restoration and water quality. She advised she has several handouts for members interested in an ICOLA shoreline restoration grant with the only requirements being the recipient being a property owner and a member of the ICOLA.
- d.** ICOLA Facebook page. Sandy Johnson advised that the Facebook page is now active with her and Eric Thoreson being the administrators. The page is non-commercial as there are other venues for marketers. She said that members could make posts such as having a dock for sale or the like. She added that within two hours of the page being created spam had been posted to the page which was promptly removed.
- e.** ICOLA store. Karl advised that anyone who had placed an order within the past month should see Mary to get their items. Mary said she plans on opening the store next April and new items are being researched.

VI. Karl asked if there was any other old business and no one brought up any.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. Don Gunderson gave a report on the condition of channel on Island Lake leading to the dam. Don and nine other property owners on the channel have agreed to pay for the channel to be cleared of the overgrowth of plants in the channel, as the channel is becoming unnavigable. He stressed that they are not considering dredging the channel as the cost for that is approximately \$30,000. Don said the property owners would like the ICOLA's support, both financially but more importantly recognition of the need for the cleanup. He said there is a meeting with the DNR and other interested parties on Friday, August 19, 2022 at 9 am at his residence on School Rd and he requested ICOLA representation at that meeting. Don estimated the project to take about three years to complete. Karl thanked Don for all his research on the concern.

- IX. Karl reminded everyone that the Back 40 Snowmobile Club had a Corn Feed today at Adventure Awaits until 4:30 pm.
- X. Deb Krahn gave an update of the new pickleball courts in Weyerhaeuser. She advised that at the Weyerhaeuser Park the old two tennis courts have been converted into six new pickleball courts. She said she and Sandy Johnson are going to be releasing a schedule as to when pickleball games are being planned so that people who have never played pickleball can do so without having to invest in any equipment. The Weyerhaeuser pickleball court does have a Facebook page.
- XI. Karl then held the elections for the positions of President, Secretary, and Lake Representatives for Island and Chain Lakes.
 - a. President – Karl announced that he had nominated for the President position. He then asked three times if there were any further nominations for the position with no other persons being nominated. He was selected by a unanimous voice vote.
 - b. Secretary - Karl announced that Kristi Thoreson had been nominated for the Secretary position. Karl then asked three times if there were any further nominations for the position with no other persons being nominated. Kristi was selected by a unanimous voice vote.
 - c. Island Lake Representative - Karl announced that Rick Krahn had been nominated for the Island Lake Representative position. Karl then asked three times if there were any further nominations for the position with no other persons being nominated. Rick was selected by a unanimous voice vote.
 - d. Clear Lake Representative - Karl announced that Larry Bins had been nominated for the Clear Lake Representative position. Karl then asked three times if there were any further nominations for the position with no other persons being nominated. Larry was selected by a unanimous voice vote.

SPEAKER – NICK STADNYK (Rusk County Conservationist and Development Dept.)

Nick spoke about the importance of shoreline protection as proper shorelines enhance habitat, aesthetics, water quality and property values. He said there are many ways to do shoreline protection and some of the methods are include logs structures pinned onto the shoreline, rain gardens, rain barrels and natural plantings. Nick advised that there are several grants available to assist with the costs of these projects.

A member asked Nick if there were grants to help with the erosion on the island. He replied that there probably were some grants that would assist with that. John Kowalewski advised that the center island on Island Lake is owned by the DNR while the two islands on Chain Lake are owned by the Federal Bureau of Land Management.

Nick advised that Rusk County has a new shoreline protection grant that will pay 50% of a project up to \$1,000 being reimbursed. They prefer not to do rip-rap because rip-rap does not allow for vegetation growth and it causes the water to heat up. The preference is log structures which allows for vegetation growth over the log structures. Nick said he can help with the permit process and typically Rusk Co. will waive any county permits if funding is approved for the county shoreline grant. The Rusk county grant is only for Rusk county residents. John Kowalewski advised that he understands that any placement into the water requires a DNR permit due to the lakes are designated as ASNRI (Area of Special Natural Resource Interest). Karl Nordin pointed out that the ICOLA grant is available for both Rusk and Chippewa county shoreline property owners that are members of the ICOLA.

Nick said the shoreline protection grant program will be emplacing a log structure on Potato Lake the early part of September. The project will be video recorded and recording will be put onto their website. He said the recording could be given to the ICOLA for our website. Sandy Johnson advised that TSB has video posted to their website on a project they had done.



2023 ICOLA Membership Form

Name _____

Check here if you were a member last year and all your contact information is the same

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Lake Address (if different) _____

City, State, Zip _____

I own ICOLA waterfront property I DO NOT own ICOLA waterfront property

Circle your Lake: Clear Lake / Chain Lake / Island Lake / McCann Lake

Newsletter delivery preference:

____ E-mail Newsletter (RECOMMENDED- also receive periodic important notifications)

E-Mail address _____

Additional E-mail address _____

(Please Print)

____ U.S. Postal (Will use primary address above if USPS is selected)

I am interested in helping with: _____

YEARLY FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$10.00

ADDITIONAL DONATION _____

Your canceled check will serve as your tax deductible receipt.

Check here if donating more than \$50 to request a receipt.

Please make checks payable to: **Island Chain of Lakes Association, Inc.**

Mail To:

John Kowalewski - Treasurer

30961 117th St

New Auburn, WI 54757