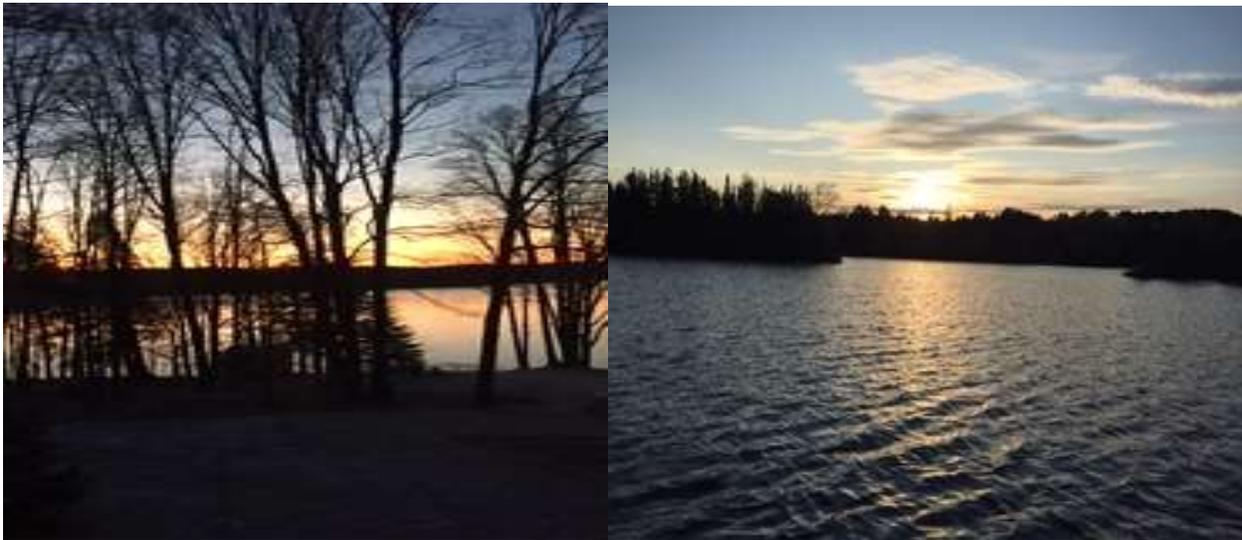


Turtle Rock Rag

Turtle Lakes Chain Association

Autumn 2019



A frosty late October sunrise over South Turtle Lake powers an evening sunset between the islands on Rock. Pic: Staff

Investing in Your Investment

As we shared at the 2019 TLCA membership meeting, the full results of our lake study were successfully completed. We have the collective good fortune to have a lake chain free of devastating invasive species and an excellent quality of water that we continue to monitor with yearly testing.

As we noted in our meeting, though we have been testing our water quality in recent years, our lake health relative to invasive species has been largely a function of good luck and location.

In the meeting we surfaced the notion of whether we wish to continue riding our streak of good luck (we will certainly embrace all of the good luck we can get) or, take a more proactive approach with an effort designed with the intention of minimizing future exposure to AIS.

What Can We Do?

Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) is a key undertaking in positioning awareness in the minds and actions of our lake's boaters and in particular, for those launching and pulling boats from our chain. This includes our residents who boat on other waters and anyone else that floats a boat on our chain.

What Can You Do?

You can invest in the future by becoming accredited to inspect boats, which is really no more than a discussion and exchange of information with boaters at the launch sites.

But, it requires investment of your time at the launches weekdays or most importantly, on weekends when the boat ramps are the busiest, primarily from fisherman launching boats that represent the most exposure for us.

Your investment does not require hours and hours at a time nor that you spend your days away from your house, family or friends. A couple of hours – perhaps with a neighbor, friend or spouse is all it takes....if all of us acknowledge and embrace the benefit of proactively monitoring our lake health for the future.

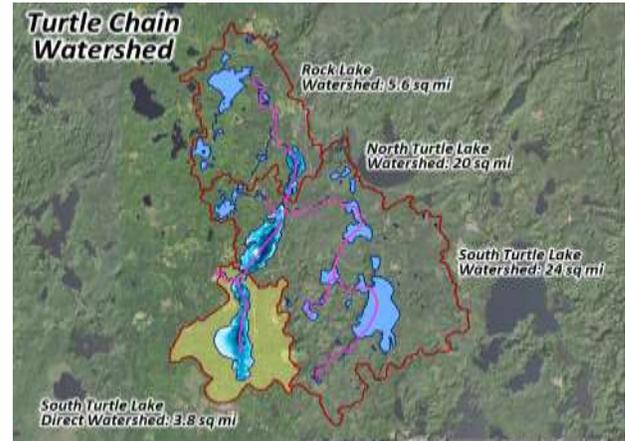
How do I do it?

The Discovery Center conducts accreditation seminars, short and informative so that you can become capable and comfortable with how to conduct an inspection and then...head for the ramps on weekends – yes, holiday weekends too.

A schedule in thetlca.org where you can view sign up times is forthcoming or you can just go to the ramp and “Invest in Your Investment.”

Mike Bantz, President TLCA

The Turtle Lake Chain Watershed



- As a drainage lake chain, we enjoy excellent water quality with minimal AIS.
- With most of the water from Rock and North Turtle flowing into the Turtle River, South Turtle is considered a ‘headwater.’
- Important to Remember: Looking at the map on the origin of our water, what is discarded, dumped or sprayed inside those parameters can leech into our lake waters.

Yellow Iris Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Identification & Removal

The Town of Winchester Lakes Committee in cooperation with the Turtle Lakes Chain Association (TLCA) recently completed a comprehensive Turtle Chain water quality study with Onterra, an external environmental consulting company. The purpose of the study was to identify any emerging/potential water quality issues and to identify any aquatic invasive species (AIS) that may have been

introduced into the chain by transient boat traffic.

The waters of Winchester are some of the most pristine in the state. One exception to this is the presence of yellow iris, an aquatic invasive species, in the Turtle Chain.

Once sold in nurseries, yellow iris is a garden escapee that has become widespread throughout many parts of Wisconsin.



Yellow Iris – Multiple Plants
Yellow Iris – Single Plant

Yellow iris is capable of spreading rapidly and growing in dense mats. It can grow so densely that wildlife cannot access the shoreline from the water. Large mats of yellow iris compact soil and elevation topography around the mats, which dries out the surrounding habitat and can inhibit water flow. This has happened in a few areas of Oneida County. The plant is poisonous and therefore does not supply food for wildlife. Yellow iris spreads through rhizomes and seeds, and the seeds can float down streams to other lakes.

As part of the AIS study, the North Lakeland Discovery Center (NLDC) plotted the location of the plants using GPS coordinates. We have approximately 60 locations with yellow iris and many of these have multiple plants. It is especially widespread on Rock Lake, and also is seen on North Turtle and South Turtle.

The TLCA is working with the NLDC to develop and implement a removal plan for the yellow iris, the only AIS currently found on the Turtle Chain. We plan to address this during the summer of 2020.



The following provides an outline of the plan:

1. We employed State of Wisconsin/Vilas County land owner maps to identify the owners of the land where the plants are located.
2. We will contact the owners of the property where the plants are located by letter this winter to inform them that they have yellow iris on their property.
3. We will request the owner's permission to remove the yellow iris during 2020 or gain their commitment to remove the plants themselves. We have enlisted assistance from the NLDC for plant removal, if the owner elects that option.
4. We will monitor the successful removal of the plants over the next several years to ensure that the iris does not spread to new locations.

If you receive a letter notifying you of the presence of yellow iris on your property, please take the time to respond with your election regarding plant removal. We plan to include a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the notification to simplify your response.

If you do not receive a letter this winter, you do not currently have yellow iris on your property.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me (ggengstrom@aol.com) or your TLCA lake representatives.
Gary Engstrom, Rock Lake Representative

Know More About AIS

As we focus more on protecting our wonderful lake chain, an understanding of aquatic invasive species is central to our mutual goal of keeping them out. Visit thetlca.org for pictures and tutorials of:

- * *Eurasian Water-milfoil ID card*
- * *Purple Loosestrife glossy fold-out*
- * *Regulated Aquatic Invasive Plants in WI fact sheet*
- * *Help stop aquatic hitchhikers 4 x 9 glossy fold-out*
- * *Clean Boats, clean waters watercraft inspection program fold-out*

Turtle Lakes Chain Water Level

Water levels on the chain are important to all of us for a variety of reasons. They can affect our enjoyment of the chain, property values and our safety while boating. The water levels are controlled by the Town Board and it is their policy that water levels be maintained at or as close to 97' as possible during the boating season. You may call Town Chairman Joe Discianno at 715-686-2123 with your questions or concerns. *Mike Bantz – President, TLCA*

Of Interest...

The Township of Winchester held elections this past Spring for open

positions to serve on the Board. Results included:

Town Chairman

Joe Discianno



Town Chairman Joe Discianno

Town Supervisors

Galen Brownwell
Sulo Wainio

Town Treasurer

Geri Sell

Town Clerk

Joan Wainio

*****Reminder*** Update Your Email Address**

Do you have an update to your email address? Many of our notices are sent only by email. Email is faster and is the only way we can send time sensitive communications out to our members.

If you have new contact information or changes to your current listing, please forward them at any time to Board Treasurer Gee Esslinger:
geesslinger@gmail.com

TLCA Membership

Thank you everyone for your continued membership and support of our beautiful Turtle-Rock Lake chain. We enjoy representation at the meeting of around 30 to 40 households and about 50 (multiple family members) attending our annual meeting. *Have you been to the meeting lately?* Come by and meet your neighbors at the July 4th meeting- - we will get updates on our Association review the continuing Turtle Lake action plan and highlight our social calendar.
Mike Bantz, President TLCA

Fun Day 2020

Fun Day was established shortly after the creation of the TLCA in 1990. It is a great way for people to meet their neighbors on the lakes and help to establish a social network. The “Day” is always set for the **fourth Saturday in July (25th next year)**. Participants can choose between golfing and kayaking during the day followed by a picnic in the late afternoon at the Park. The picnic features barbecued pork, perhaps a libation or two and plenty of summer-time food and fun follows, with tons of awarded prizes. Stay tuned for details at the **July membership meeting**.

Mike Bantz

THANK YOU Road Cleanup Crews

I hope that you are all aware of those who have been picking up garbage from the ditches of the roads around our lakes! Besides the “major” Highway O cleanup in May, members also patrol the roads all summer, keeping them looking good. If you’re one of those that

participate...THANK YOU!!! If you haven’t yet, but would like to next year, watch for the date posted on the website and in the Spring RAG. Whether it’s one day in May, or whenever you’re out for a walk in your lake neighborhood, you make a difference!

Thank you Bridge Flower Tenders!



Thanks to our many volunteers, we again enjoyed flowers gracing the bridge at

the divide. This is just one way that your TLCA dues are used to make our lake area a pleasant place to be. Please watch the spring RAG for the call for volunteers to care for the bridge flowers next summer! It has been working well for me to get June weeks set up via email and then fill in the rest of the season at the annual meeting. I may also ask for help retrieving the filled boxes from Dawn at Lil’ Bits in May for installation. Consider signing up!

Laura Giffin

2019 TLCA Golf Tournament 🎉

Our 2019 Golf Tournament was held Saturday July 27, 2019 at Lake Gogebic Country Club.

Next year the Tournament will be held on Fun Day July 25th. Look for more information on how to register in the Spring Rag. Individual awards went to Kathy Wilson, Hayden Potts, Rose Martin, Nate Gibson and Darryl Osikowicz.



Pictured L to R: Tournament Winners Kate Speechly, Brent Speechly, Hayden Potts, Rick Clem

Musky Contest 2019

Tom Rued with a beautiful winning 41.5 inch Musky caught on Rock Lake during this year's contest.



Next year, our tournament will be on Saturday June 20th. The contest is always the Saturday of Father's Day weekend. You can register next year via phone, mail, email or in person. To be

eligible to participate and win, you must be a member in good standing or a guest of a member in good standing as well as be registered for the contest and have paid your \$25 entrance fee per person no later than Friday, June 13, 2020. Be sure to mark your calendar for June 20, 2020!

Contest Chairpersons:

Tom Rued

Bruce (Archie) Clark

2364 Black Forest Rd
Winchester, WI 54557
715-686-2547

2346 Black Forest Rd
Winchester, WI 54557
920-851-2066

muskydoctom@gmail.com



Pictured L to R: Mike Bantz, President TLCA, First Place Musky Tourney winner Tom Rued, Contest Co-Chair Bruce (Archie) Clark

Preparing Your Snowmobile for the Season

The best time to prepare your snowmobile is in late summer or early fall. If you have an electric start machine you should have charged the battery. Be sure the battery charger is for small batteries-not automotive batteries (2 to 6 amps nothing higher because it can start a fire). Make sure the clamps are on the battery terminals tightly. Lubricate: grease every fitting and spray

WD-40 on all rubber except the belt. Check all nuts and bolts to be sure that they are tight. Put in new spark plugs. Add fresh gasoline.

Hopefully, you added a fuel stabilizer when you last used your snowmobile. Check the belt for cracks or missing chunks; replace the belt if either of these is observed. Prop the back of the snowmobile up on a stand and be sure the track is totally off the ground (floor). I usually pull start the machine even though I have electric start because I want to make sure the pistons are moving easily in the cylinders.

It might take a while for the gasoline to get to the cylinders, be patient. Also, make sure the valve from the fuel pump is open and the kill switch on the handle bars is pulled up. After the engine starts SLOWLY increase the throttle until the track starts moving. Check the wear bars. If you have carbides make sure no piece is missing or you will not be able to steer easily.

Clean the machine. I wax it so that water/snow repels off of it and it looks clean. Read the manual if you want to do more than these basic steps (alignment, adjusting the shock absorbers, etc.). Before you go for your first ride, I recommend reviewing the current snowmobile regulations and laws. Get a copy of the snowmobile course handbook and go over hand signals, sign identification, the code of ethics, etc. I teach the required snowmobile certification course for the state and you can contact me if you want to sign up a student. *Tom Bawulski-Rock Lake*

-TLCA MERCHANDISE- ORDER NOW IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- **NEW MUSKY Embroidered:
Denim Shirts \$32**
**Hooded Jacket-fleece lined
\$38**
Long sleeved T-Shirts \$18
Wind Shirts \$26
- **Embroidered Sweatshirts (in
adult sizes-\$30 and youth
sizes-\$25)multiple colors**
- **Embroidered Canvas Shopping
Bags with front pocket and
zippered main compartment:
ONLY \$25 (compare to
“thirty-one” bags)**
- **Embroidered Fleece Jackets-
very warm \$33-\$48**

**Call or email Julie Rued:
715-686-2547 or
julierued@yahoo.com**



TLCA Board of Directors

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our lakes or the TLCA, please contact any one of the following

Directors:

PRESIDENT...Mike Bantz

SECRETARY...Laura Giffin

TREASURER...Gee Esslinger

ROCK LAKE REPRESENTATIVES

- Gary Engstrom
- Steve Budnik

NORTH TURTLE REPRESENTATIVES

- Susan Esslinger
- Monty Giffin

SOUTH TURTLE REPRESENTATIVE

- Tom Rued
- Emil Bertalot

Brent Speechly with his released 20" RL Walleye



Hayden Potts of NTL pictured with his 450 lb bear taken in Mercer



Tim Dessing or RL nailed the Northerns



Patti Potts caught this albino deer relaxing on her North Turtle property



30" Walleye caught/released by Mike Potts on NT



Local volunteer residents apply their energy and skills to painting the exterior of St. Williams Catholic Church in the town of Winchester



Don't forget to post your pictures on thetlca.org