



NORTH & SOUTH TWIN LAKES

Riparian Association
P.O. Box 163, Phelps WI
54554 www.nstlra.com
Spring /Summer 2015



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Earlier in the week I got an email from NSTLRA VP Bob Bailey saying the ice was off South Twin but North Twin was still covered. He added that temperatures should be in the 60's this week. A few days later Doug Best called and reported North Twin ice was thin but while temperatures were rising snow and highs of 41 were predicted for this week. This all sounded like very typical early spring weather in northern Wisconsin.

Twelve of us representing NSTLRA held our second annual NSTLRA Gathering at DOC's in Bonita Springs, FL on March 18. See separate article and photo.

The board of directors received the report on the results of the 2014 EWM treatments on North and South Twin Lakes. The Late-Summer EWM Survey was conducted on August 26 and 27, 2014 to assess the hand harvesting efforts as well as to understand the peak growth (peak biomass) of the EWM on the lakes. Within the 2014 hand harvest areas of South Twin Lake, much more EWM was observed than when compared to pre-hand harvesting in September 2013, indicating that 2014 hand-harvesting efforts were not sufficient to overcome the overall population increase in South Twin Lake. While not as dramatic as in South Twin, North Twin also saw an increase in AIS growth. Please see the more detailed article by board member Cap Pedersen. With these results the NSTLRA board will need to carefully consider past treatment results and the very strong likelihood that NSTLRA will not qualify for any DNR matching funding for future treatment programs.

Our social planners have been busy planning events for the 2015 season. New and special on the list is our 20th anniversary party scheduled for Saturday, August 22. The 2015 ANNUAL MEETING will be on Saturday, July 11 at Waverly Park. The ever popular 2015 POKER RUN is scheduled for Saturday, July 18 with a party afterwards at the Dublin. While I make no promises to change my attire or clubs, I expect to be on the Big Sand Lake Golf Club course on Friday, July 31 for the annual NSTLRA Golf Outing.

I'm sure you know that each of these events require a lot of planning, coordinating and "hands-on" oversight. We thank our directors and volunteers who help make each of these events a fun and successful time.

It's nearly May so Katherine and I will soon be packing the car for the trip back to Flag Pole Point on North Twin Lake. "Up north" in Wisconsin is a special place, the lakes, look and smell of the evergreens, the temperate climate, opportunity to swim, sail, fish, hike, bike and just enjoying our surroundings and times with our friends.

See you soon, Roger

Save these 2015 dates!

Annual Meeting – Saturday – **July 11** – Waverly Park – noon

Poker Run – Saturday – **July 18** – Dublin Sports Bar and Grill

Golf Outing – Friday – **July 31** - Big Sand Lake Golf Club

NSTLRA 20th Anniversary Party – Saturday – **August 15** - Holiday Lodge

FISHING REPORT



Fishing this past winter had its ups and downs. It was the first time in 10 years that I was out on the ice as early as the day after Thanksgiving. That was some seriously early ice. We also had some early snow. We dodged the first 20 plus inches with the lake not being frozen, but soon after the lake froze and we got dumped on again. This got things a little sloppy. From this point there was a series of unseasonably warm temps mixed in there and eventually cleaned up the top of the ice and we had some pretty good travel conditions out there. In the long run it became very cold again and the snow piled on creating some tougher travel conditions by the end of winter.

Walleye fishing was very good at times and especially early on. Then it was all about hitting a good window, which got tricky in the very cold temps. Just when you thought it was going to start warming up in February and boost the fishing a new level of cold pushed in and would not let go. The perch once again did not react well to the cold temps. Although once again there were some pretty good windows for catching some nice fish, overall it was a tough winter for this species. I did see some really nice bluegill and some nice crappie come through the ice this winter, but predominately the same story.

So, for the first time in the last three years we will actually have open water for the game fish opener in May. Actually, the last bit of ice came off of North Twin sometime in the early morning hours of April 19th. South Twin cleared up a few days prior to that. What does this mean? Well, it gives the lake a nice timetable for a normal spring warm up, normal weed growth, and normal fish spawns. We have not seen this in a couple of years with the ice coming off in the second week of May. All of this is very exciting news in light of the new walleye regulations for 2015.

All in all things look bright for fishing this year. All species should have the potential to be a great year. Let's have fun and enjoy all that our lake has to offer.

Thanks,

Marti Primich - North Twin Lodge

LAKE PLAN REPORT

NSTLRA received the annual 2014 EWM Monitoring and Control Strategy report from Onterra on March 6, 2015. Highlights of the report are as follows:

" The Late-Summer EWM Peak-Biomass Survey was conducted on August 26 and 27, 2014 to qualitatively assess the hand harvesting efforts as well as to understand the peak growth (peak biomass) of the EWM population throughout the vegetated areas of the lake. Within the 2014 hand harvest areas of South Twin Lake, much more EWM was observed than when compared to pre-hand harvesting in September 2013. Within South Twin, the area that was hand harvested increased from three areas of colonized scattered and dominant EWM to one very large colonized area of scattered, dominant, highly dominant and surface matted EWM. This indicates that while a great deal of EWM biomass was removed during the 2014 hand-harvesting efforts, the efforts were not sufficient to overcome the overall population increase in South Twin Lake."

"In North Twin Lake, the area near which the hand harvesting efforts were undertaken also saw an increase in overall size and density. In the 2013 survey, there were two highly dominant colonized areas found in close proximity. One of the highly dominant colonies appears to have been partially reduced and is now within a larger highly scattered EWM colony, although a separate dominant colony was located just east of where efforts may have been focused. The other nearby colony of highly dominant EWM which may not have been targeted, grew in size and remained highly dominant."

"On a lake wide basis, the EWM population was found to have expanded throughout much of South Twin Lake, increasing from 34 acres of colonized EWM in 2013 to 121 acres in 2014. An increase in EWM was also observed within North Twin Lake with an increase in colonized EWM from 0.9 acres in 2013 to 7.0 acres in 2014. Some additional EWM occurrences were located within North Twin Lake in areas not previously known to contain EWM. "

"Overall, the 2014 professional hand-harvesting on North and South Twin Lakes did not reduce or maintain the level of EWM. An increase in EWM was observed throughout South Twin Lake, including within the areas targeted for hand removal in 2014. Hand removal efforts in 2014 had a minimal impact in reducing EWM in North Twin Lake. It is likely that the amount of hand harvesting time/effort spent during 2014 simply was not sufficient to keep up with the rapidly expanding EWM population. Since, it is not feasible to conduct hand-harvesting on South Twin Lake to a level that would reduce or stop the EWM population from increasing, it is recommended that paid hand-harvesting not be used on South Twin Lake in 2015 and instead the NSTLRA focus efforts on EWM management in North Twin Lake."

"North Twin Lake EWM levels are still considered relatively low lake-wide and professional hand-harvesting should be considered for 2015. The 2014 peak bio-mass survey located 7.0 acres of colonized EWM within North Twin Lake as well as numerous smaller point-based occurrences. It is recommended that professional hand-harvesting efforts be directed at EWM locations identified in North Twin Lake in 2015 with a priority on newly located occurrences furthest from the inlet to South Twin Lake. If sufficient hand removal efforts are available in 2015, any other colonized areas of EWM in North Twin Lake should be considered for professional removal."

"If active management of EWM is to occur on South Twin Lake in the near future, a whole-lake herbicide treatment strategy is likely the most effective route. This report contains first-hand reporting of South Twin Lake's response to a whole-lake 2,4-D treatment, albeit at measured concentrations higher than would be targeted in a future strategy. These data suggest that approximately 5 years of EWM control can be achieved by a whole-lake treatment of this use pattern."

"While the EWM population in South Twin Lake is not currently suspected of being tolerant to 2,4D, this concept needs to be considered as future treatment strategies are devised. Prior to initiating a third large-scale herbicide treatment in South Twin Lake, it may be appropriate to perform challenge testing, a laboratory procedure that will grow plants collected from South Twin Lake and subject them to a few select herbicides to determine if they are indeed less susceptible to certain herbicides compared with a reference strain of EWM."

"By presenting these data at this time, the NSTLRA encourages active conversation that will help them determine the appropriate next steps for South Twin Lake in the near future. This discussion will inevitably also include the option of not conducting active management of the EWM population on South Twin Lake, a management decision being made by some lake groups that are not willing to allocate financial resources and assume a certain level of native plant impacts if longer EWM control cannot be achieved."

Cap Pedersen



ANNUAL MEETING – SATURDAY – JULY 11 – WAVERLING PARK, PHELPS



Potluck Assignments to Serve 6-8 people

- A-K Salad or Veggies
- L-Q Dessert
- R-Z Meat or Casserole

Many thanks to Katherine Naherny for chairing the event, knaherny@gmail.com, 715-545-3650
Please consider helping with set-up and serving.



North Twin and South Twin Poker Run



Saturday, July 18, 2015

1:00 till 4:00 pm

50/50 raffle will be held, 3 winners shall be divided 25/15/10

Proceeds from the Poker Run go to the Amen Fund. This event has become fun along with raising money towards our Lake Association. We will have a few changes this year hoping to make the event a bit easier to navigate. There will be two starting points one on South Twin and another on North Twin reducing the traffic jams at starting point. You will still go to 7 docks 4 on North and 3 on South Twin. I will also have a car drive up starting point 4050 Twin Lake RD. 1 hour before scheduled event where if you so choose to purchase your first card, directions and map you may do so avoiding again back up traffic at starting points by boat.

Entry Fee is \$5.00 per person on each Boat (children also welcome)

Needed: Dock tenders anyone interested call us at 715-479-6869 715-617-3237

At 5:30 PM. all participants should come to "Dublin Pub and Grill" where the winners will be revealed and we'll find out how much money was raised! Drinks and food will be on hand for purchasing by each individual.

Extra cards can be purchased at this time for \$10.00 to perhaps make yours the winning hand!

Keep this date open while planning your summer activities, and join in the fun while helping our Lake Association!

Questions Call Jim & Jackie 715-479-6869 or 715-617-3237



PHELPS HISTORIC HOMES TOUR 2015
Saturday, June 27
www.phelpsmuseum.com





GOLF OUTING 2015

Friday, July 31

Big Sand Lake Golf Club

The third annual golf outing for NSTLRA members and families will be the same format as last year, a two-person scramble for both men and women. Ron Ottoson and Cap Pedersen are co-chairs for the event and have planned a lunch at Big Sand where prizes will be awarded in all events. The sign up sheet and more information will be at the annual meeting.

Kay Ottoson
kayottoson@gmail.com



NSTLRA 20TH Anniversary Celebration



The committee will be hard at work planning a celebration of NSTLRA's anniversary this summer. It will be on Saturday, August 15. We welcome any ideas to help plan this event. We need a venue to accommodate our group on or off the lakes. More info at the annual meeting. Our Lake Association has been very active and productive since its beginning 20 years ago keeping our lakes clean and safe for all of us. Many friendships have formed with people working together and participating in our fun events! Let's celebrate !!!

Kay Ottoson, kayottoson@gmail.com

Winter was been a bit milder this year, but it is time to move on to the next season, **SUMMER!** Warm weather, time on the lake and wearing t-shirts is just around the corner. **Lake merchandise** will once again be available. I have been asked to carry more children sizes.



If you are thinking about purchasing our "lake t-shirts" for your children/grandchildren now would be a good to time to pre-order. At print time I'm working on a couple of must have items to show your North/South Twin Lake pride. I hope to have them available at our lake picnic. See you there.

Laura Babe (414) 975-8147



CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATER CB/CW

NSTLRA has again contracted with UW Oshkosh for 200 hours of student CBCW services at Phelps Boat Landing. NSTLRA has been awarded a Grant to assist in the funding.

Project Cost	\$3020.00
Grant Amt.	2265.00
Local Share	755.00

CBCW Training will be Fri., May 22,(1-4 PM) at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River. Students will work that weekend. Memorial Day is May 25. Please consider attending if you would like to volunteer at our Boat Landings, meet the students, or to learn what the students are doing as CBCW inspectors

Mary Schindler,



Great Headwaters Trails

First section of Conover-Phelps Trail bid out, to be built this summer!

The westernmost 3.2 miles of the Conover-Phelps Trail (GHT 1) is on track to be built this summer, and so is part of the middle section (GHT 2) that goes to Song Hill Lane and Cty K. The GHT 1 project is fully designed, has cleared all DOT and federal approvals and was bid out in March.

Additional funding for the Conover-Phelps Trail has also come in from the DNR! In February the Town of Phelps was awarded an additional \$41,000 and in April it received more, an additional \$21,400! The DNR grant administrator also suggested that Phelps and GHT might want to apply for a third grant, so an application for \$55,000 was submitted by the May 1 deadline. It included strong letters of support from the towns of Phelps and Conover, and the Vilas County Forestry Committee.

A challenge remains – While additional trail funds have come in in the tens of thousands of dollars, Conover also received a higher than expected bid for GHT 1. The bid was from Pitlik & Wick which has built excellent bike-ped trails all around Vilas County, and the bid prices seem justified. There are also cost reductions in the tens of thousands possible once the project is awarded and underway. But about \$100,000 of the fundraising that is now underway for the entire Conover – Phelps Trail will need to be used to completely fund the \$1 million GHT 1 project. For a complete analysis of the GHT 1 project and bid, and the cost savings possibilities, as well as ways to donate to building the Conover- Phelps Trail go to www.GHTrails.org. If you want to help with fundraising for the trail, contact Trail Capital Campaign treasurer Brian Blank at Brain.B.Blank@gmail.com , 715-545-2142



Once again NSTLRA members “wintering” on Florida’s Gulf Coast, from Venice to Naples, gathered in Bonita Springs for a fun time and great food at Doc’s. After a few beers there were lively discussions about the potential for a “new Phelps”, ideas for new NSTLRA activities like Casino Night, alternative venues for the anniversary celebration, and much more. All Phelps residents were also reminded to return their absentee ballots.

From the right: Ben and Priscilla Vanden Huevel, Mike Schindler, Dick Donarski, Mary Schindler, Katherine Naherny, Doug and Margaret Best, Marty Schmidt, Gloria Leetz, Roger Ganser (not pictured: Sharon Donarski)