

Turtle Rock Rag

Turtle Lakes Chain Association
Spring 2020



A deer herd practices social distancing while hydrating in the twilight on Loos' Lagoon, South Turtle Lake. Pic: Karen Loos

A Moment's Reflection...For a few years after my folks passed, I would occasionally reach for the phone, thinking they would like to hear about this or that, have a laugh. A couple of times, I actually held the hand set in my grasp. Each time, I smiled – there was a happy memory behind that reaction. Smiles- -I had lots of them.

Now decades later, it happened a couple of weeks ago. It was a wisp of a thought so fleeting as to not even cause an involuntary flinch toward my cell phone, but it was there nonetheless. This time, however, there was no smile. I was calling because I was worried about them- -a sentiment so compelling that amazingly, it entered my mind after 34 years.

Mindfully transitioned to the present, I was struck by the struggle that so many people, including close friends that have lost a loved one to the pandemic, wrestle with every day. Absent the presence of family, loved ones are passing with as much touching and genuinely tender response that caregivers can provide, the experiences likely shaping their own memories in future years.

Within our TLCA membership, is perhaps the possibility of lost loved ones, friends or acquaintances that know this sorrow, confronted with a reality encased in the manufactured solitude of today's social environment. We will climb-out of this muck and mire. Better? Hopefully. Different? Certainly.

Lacking words, I have a wish for everyone, including our caregivers:
Smiles. Lots of them. *Mike*

Note: I did not feel that I could just launch into "Summah-yippee!"...though mightily tempted and still at odds whether this belongs here at all. But, no acknowledgement in the Rag of recent events seemed to leave a void. So...smiles. MB

July 4th Membership Meeting

I suspect we are all looking forward to milder days and evenings and to some easing of our restrictions or just for access to the open spaces that the season inspires for many. My hope is that our daily news updates will reflect what we will certainly have earned by then as spring plants, trees and new growth turns to summer colors.

Much of our membership resides elsewhere and travels to the lake(s), mixing in with our mostly senior, year

round resident membership...shoulder-to-shoulder in the Town Hall.

When the TLCA Board convenes over Memorial Day Weekend, with a Zoom/Conference call, a final decision will be forthcoming on whether we will hold a meeting, if the Town Hall is available for it at all.

What to expect: Anticipate that our membership will receive an email update on typical agenda items in lieu of a meeting this year. *Mike Bantz*

Pale Yellow Iris Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update

The results of the recent Turtle Chain Water Quality Study sponsored by the Town of Winchester revealed that we had one invasive species currently present on the Turtle Chain, the Pale Yellow Iris. Figure 3.4-13 from the final report shows the distribution of the yellow iris on the chain.

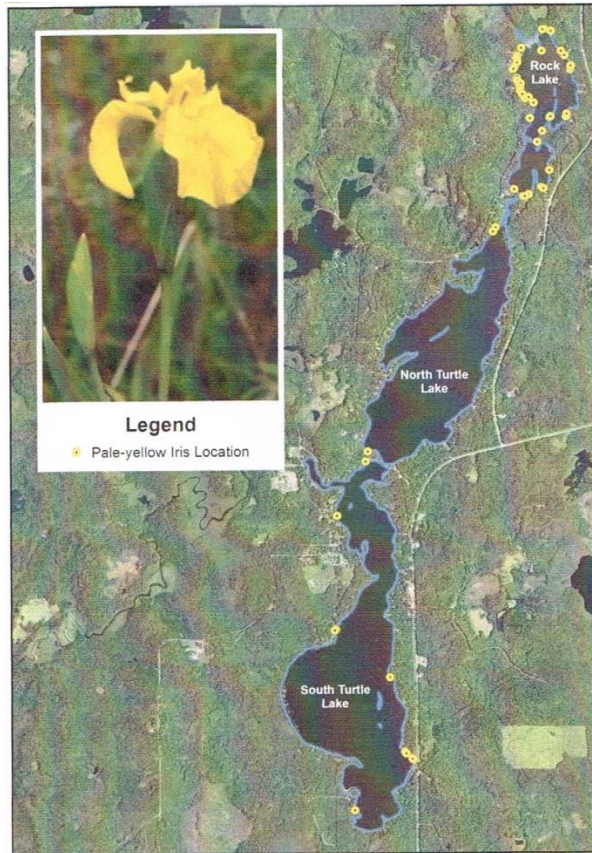


Figure 3.4-13. Rock, North Turtle, and South Turtle lakes 2017 pale-yellow iris locations.

There are approximately sixty (60) yellow iris sites on the Turtle Chain representing thirty (30) riparian property owners with the vast majority being located on Rock Lake. As part of the study, a Turtle Chain Implementation Plan was developed to ensure we take appropriate actions to monitor and maintain the quality of the lakes going forward for future generations. One Action from that Implementation Plan is the removal of the Yellow Iris from the Turtle Chain before it spreads further.

The following summarizes the current status of the Implementation Plan summarized in the last issue of the Rag:

1. The thirty (30) property owners who had yellow iris growing on their shorelines were contacted via letter in early January explaining the situation and requesting their permission and assistance in plant removal.
2. Twenty-two (22) of the thirty (30) individuals contacted returned the self-addressed, stamped postcard indicating their removal preference (73%). Fourteen (14) of the owners requested assistance in the iris removal and provided permission to remove the plants from their shoreline property. The remaining eight (8) owners who responded indicated that they would remove the plants themselves.
3. We have enlisted the assistance of the North Lakeland Discovery Center (NLDC) to remove the yellow iris plants for those owners requesting assistance. This work will be carried out in the early summer by NLDC interns under the supervision of Emily Heald, the Water Naturalist at the Discovery Center. We will notify folks by phone when we have potential dates available for iris removal.
4. We will continue to monitor the pale yellow iris population on the chain and facilitate its ultimate removal with the property owners.

If you received a letter in January 2020 and have not responded, please take the time to contact me (ggengstrom@aol.com) regarding your removal preference. Thank you to all who responded to our request.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or your Lake representative. We will provide additional information at the TLCA Annual Meeting regarding project status.

Gary Engstrom, Rock Lake Representative

When Ice Pushes Back: Ice Heaves

Over the winter, did you hear any eerie, warping, moaning sounds coming from the lake? You may have been quick to assume your property was haunted, when it was actually the lake making and moving ice. The full process of ice formation and movement is complicated. Lots of variables go into the overall quality, thickness, and actions of ice. For the purpose of this article, we will simplify things.

When water freezes, its volume expands by about an eighth. This is why pipes burst when they freeze. The power behind freezing and thawing is also what splits granite and causes the mountains and earth to change over time... it is also what causes potholes to get worse in the spring! Ice also contracts with considerable drops in temperatures, and subsequent warming causes it to expand slightly.

For example, a temperature increase from 14 to 32 degrees can cause a lake one mile across to expand by about 32 inches. That ice force can be exerted outward by as much as 30,000 pounds

per square inch. If ice warms and expands while attached to something, like the shore or your dock, it will push outward against those objects (hence the destruction of piers or the upheaval of trees). The ice sheet farther from shore, however, expands at different rates from top to bottom. This causes internal stress fractures, which fill with water, which then freeze and expand the ice even more. This causes the overall process of ice heaving (ice shoving, ice jacking, etc), where ice can act like a giant bulldozer along the shoreline.

While ice can definitely be something to bring you relief on a hot summer day, it can also be an incredibly powerful force in the winter.

Emily Heald, North Lakeland Discover Center

Getting Your Watercraft Ready for Spring

There are several important things that need to be done before you launch your watercraft. First, the battery needs to be charged. Do NOT hook up the charger and turn it on until you check to see that there is distilled water at the bottom of each cell. There was a fire on a snowmobile this past winter on our lakes due to improper battery/charger hook up.

Second, you need to put in a new spark plug(s). Next, fill the tank with fresh gasoline. Gasoline is a lot less expensive now than last fall when you put your watercraft for storage so it must be better gasoline, right? If you said "yes" I have swamp land to sell you. The next thing (if you did not do this in the fall) is to grease all fittings and change the

lower unit oil. If the oil comes out “milky” you had water in your lower unit. If there was a lot of water it could have frozen during the winter months and possibly cracked the lower unit housing. This is why it is recommended to change the lower unit oil in the fall.

The next thing to do is to hook up a hose to the engine and start it up. It may take a few cranks and it may be a little smoky due to fogging the engine. By doing this now will assure you the engine will start when you take your watercraft to the boat landing to launch.

Now it is time to clean your watercraft. Even if it was covered or in a garage it did acquire dirt/dust and maybe a critter spent the winter in it. Don’t forget to wash off the engine. Many people wax the bottom to prevent grease, oil and grime to build up, which will slow your overall speed. Wax the bottom you say? Not YOU, this is why you have son-in-laws and grandchildren.

Probably the most over looked maintenance on your watercraft is the trailer. It goes in the water a minimum of twice a year so you need to at least inspect the wheel bearings. Packing the bearings (remember: there are two bearings per side) is a little messy but it is worth the effort to keep the water (rust) out. Hook up the trailer to your vehicle and check the lights. You are now ready for launch.

The last thing to do is to *review the laws* pertaining to operating a watercraft on Wisconsin waterways. Be mindful of that fisherman fishing and slow down and keep the minimum of 200 feet from him. Don’t get too close to that water skier or

in the path of the boat that is ready to pull the skier. If we all respect the rights of everyone using the waterways it will be another safe and great boating season on the Turtle Lake Chain.

Tom Bawulski, Rock Lake

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

Acoustic Bat Monitoring Project

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a bat fungal infection that was first detected in a single cave in 2006 in New York State. The disease was named “White-Nose Syndrome” due to the white, fuzzy growth that occurs on the nose, ears and wings of some affected bats. Since that time it has spread rapidly across the U.S. and Canada resulting in the death of an estimated 6 million bats in the first 6 years alone. WNS has been identified in Wisconsin and the UP of Michigan.

The impact of WNS on the bat population has been alarming with up to 99% of the bat population succumbing within a few years in affected areas. The Little Brown Bat, once the most common bat species in the Northeastern U.S., may face regional extinction within the next 10 years because of the disease.

Wisconsin has eight (8) bat species that fall into two major categories, 1) Cave bats which hibernate and 2) Tree bats which migrate. The hibernating Cave Bats include:

1. Little Brown
2. Big Brown
3. Northern Long-Eared
4. Eastern Pipistrelle

The migrating Tree Bats consist of:

1. Silver-Haired
2. Eastern Red
3. Hoary
4. Evening

The hibernating cave bats are the species most susceptible to the WNS.

In order to address the lack of information on bat population and distribution, the WNDR initiated a bat monitoring project through the Wisconsin Citizen-Based Monitoring Network. In our area, the Monitoring Program is being administered by Licia Johnson at the North Lakeland Discovery Center. Barb and I have been conducting Surveys on Rock Lake for the past two (2) years.

The discovery in the 1930's that bats produce ultrasonic signals to locate and intercept insect prey in flight helped solve the monitoring problem. The emission of the high frequency calls and echo detection by the bat is called echolocation and allows the bat to fly in complete darkness while capturing prey and avoiding objects such as tree branches.

Since the bat's echolocation calls are above the range of human hearing, we need to employ an acoustic monitoring

system capable of detecting and recording the high frequency calls while the bats fly through an area. A hand-held system has been developed that records these calls while stamping them with the date and time of each encounter. Combined with a global positioning system (GPS), the detector automatically records the position (latitude & longitude) of each bat passing the surveyor along with the route travelled during the survey. Another benefit of the technique is that individual bat species can be identified since they possess a unique acoustic signal signature.

The results of an Acoustic Bat Monitoring Survey performed on Rock Lake in August 2, 2018 are shown below in Figure 1.

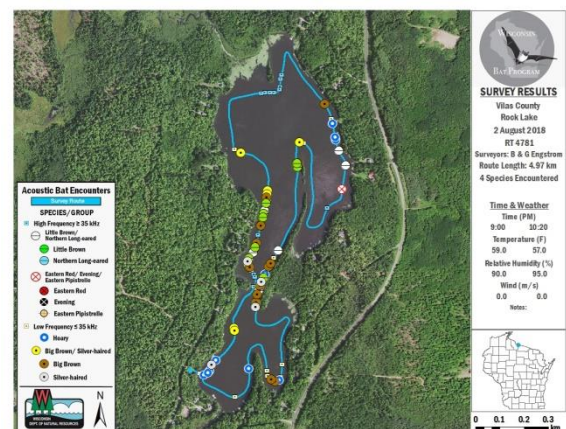


Figure 1: Rock Lake Survey 8/2/2018

The Survey shows forty-seven (47) bat encounters representing four (4) different confirmed species. The individual species identified along with some information on each include:

Little Brown Bat (Cave/Hibernate)



The Little Brown is a medium sized bat that prefers to forage near water and along field edges. They can live for up to 10-15 years. They eat many species of wasps, moths, leafhoppers, and flies, including **MOSQUITOS**.

Big Brown Bat (Cave/Hibernate)



The Big Brown has similar coloring to the Little Brown, but is about twice the size and has a wide black muzzle. They live for 15 or more years. The Big Brown is known for eating large amounts of insect species including moths, wasps, true bugs and beetles.

Silver-Haired Bat (Migrating/Tree)



This is a medium-sized species with dark fur with silver tips giving it its name. It prefers to roost under bark and in tree hollows and forages in wooded areas. Silver-Haired bats eat moths, flies and beetles.

Hoary Bat (Migrating/Tree)



The Hoary bat has brown, tan or yellowish fur, often tipped with white and is the largest Wisconsin bat. The Hoary roosts and forages in deciduous and evergreen forests. It prefers moths and the echolocation calls can sometimes be heard by humans since they are lower frequency than other bats.

The results of a comparable Acoustic Bat Monitoring Survey performed on Rock Lake one year later (August 29, 2019) is shown in Figure 2.

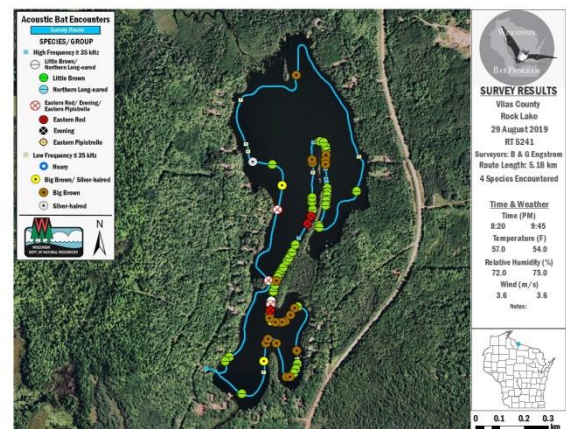


Figure 2: Rock Lake Survey 8/29/2019

This Survey shows sixty-one (61) bat encounters representing four (4) different confirmed species. Three (3) of the species encountered in the 2018 Survey are the same, the Little Brown, Big Brown and Silver Haired. Unlike the

2018 Survey, the Hoary Bat was not detected in the 2019 Survey, but the Eastern Red was. Information on this newly detected species is listed below:

Eastern Red (Migrating/Tree)



The Eastern red bat is a large, common species in Wisconsin. It has a brick-red to yellowish-red fur, often with white tips, giving the bat a frosted appearance. It is easily identifiable since no other bat in Wisconsin possesses red fur. The Eastern red bat roosts and forages in deciduous forest and can be easily overlooked because it can appear to be a dead leaf. It primarily eats moths, but also true bugs and beetles.

If you are interested in participating in the Bat Surveys, contact Licia Johnson (licia@discoverycenter.net) at the North Lakeland Discovery Center.
Gary Engstrom-Rock Lake

*****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:
geeesslinger@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.

Mike Bantz, President TLCA

Fun Day 2020: See What to Anticipate

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 provide a basis for establishing a social network. The “Day” is always set for the fourth Saturday in July:

TENATIVELY 24th this year – look for the update in the same email on the July 4th meeting notification.

What to Anticipate: The picnic, also a shoulder-to-shoulder affair, may not be held this year - something to look forward to in 2021.

Road CLEAN-UP – Saturday May 23rd WE NEED HELPERS- -a couple hours

We will plan on doing road cleanup as usual this year, but suggest masks along with your gloves and boots! Help keep our County Highway clean! Our association is responsible for County O from Old O to Star Lake Road. We meet at the intersection of Old O and County O at 10:30 AM. Safety vests and bags are provided. Many hands make for quick work and more fun!

Questions? Contact Laura Giffin:
ml.giffin.1984@gmail.com ml.giffin.1984@gmail.com.

Call for Bridge Flower Caregivers!!!



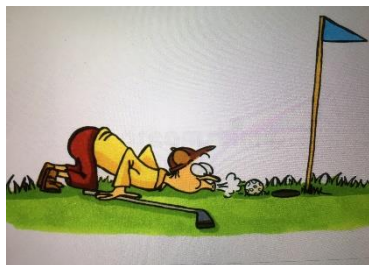
CALL FOR
BRIDGE
FLOWER
CAREGIVERS!!!
I hope to have
the boxes up for
Memorial Day
weekend and

will enlist a few “regulars” for watering through June! If you are willing to water and perhaps fertilize (if needed) a week or more this summer, please email me OR see me at the Annual Meeting, if we have one this year and I will put you on the calendar!

You can bring a bucket on a rope or jugs of water from home. We all love to see those flower boxes flowering well into October, so please consider signing up! PS- last year we had an anonymous donor earmark money for the flower boxes..THANK YOU!!

Laura Giffin: ml.giffin.1984@gmail.com

2020 TLCA Golf Tournament: TBD for a date and a ‘good to go’ on the Golf Tourney.



As golf can be (arguably) done with some distancing, we anticipate that the tourney will be held again this year.

Update forthcoming in a future email.

We may keep it on the same “Fun Day” date as usual, pending confirmation from the golf course and Darryl O.

If so, it would be:

Saturday July 24, 2020 at
Lake Gogebic Country Club
\$40.00 each includes lunch.
9:00 AM Shotgun Start

ONLY 36 GOLFERS

Complete Foursomes or Individuals
Welcome! For Reservations contact at
Darryl Osikowicz after May 31st, 2020
at Darryl@pmisports.com or call
715-686-2956.

Musky Contest 2020

The day/date of the 2020 contest is the
Saturday before Fathers’ Day, June 20,
2020.

You will be able to register via phone,



mail, email or in person to either of us as indicated below. 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 19, 2020. Be sure to mark your calendar for June 20, 2020!

Tom Rued

2364 Black Forest Rd
Winchester, WI 54557
715-686-2547
muskydoctom@gmail.com

Archie Clark

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

TLCA RECIPE CORNER:

SPICY PRETZELS

30-32 OZ. MINI PRETZELS

1 - 16 OZ. JAR OF ORVILLE
REDENBACHER'S POPPING & TOPPING
BUTTER FLAVORED OIL

4-5 TSP. GARLIC POWDER

5 TBSP DILL WEED

1 PACKAGE HIDDEN VALLEY RANCH
SALAD DRESSING AND SEASONING

Directions: In a LARGE bowl with a cover, put the pretzels and pour over them the oil. Mix, well, both together. Mix all the dry ingredients together and pour over the pretzel/oil mixture. Mix everything together. Cover!!!! Every couple hours rotate/shake this container to get everything mixed nicely..(I even let it sit overnight and re-mix the next morning). You can store it in the refrig. OR put in freezer bags and freeze for later.. Betty and I don't know why but when taken out of the freezer to use the pretzels don't get soggy. Note: I use the big old green Tupperware green salad bowl with it's cover. That is the size you need. Great for snacks/parties.
Carole Theesfeld and friend Betty Kormelink

thetlca.org

Remember that you can post pictures, captions, lost and found and look for updates to our events- -including the July 4th meeting and Fun Day Picnic on our very own TLCA site. thetlca.org.
Mike

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



Darryl Osikowicz with a Rock Lake Walleye



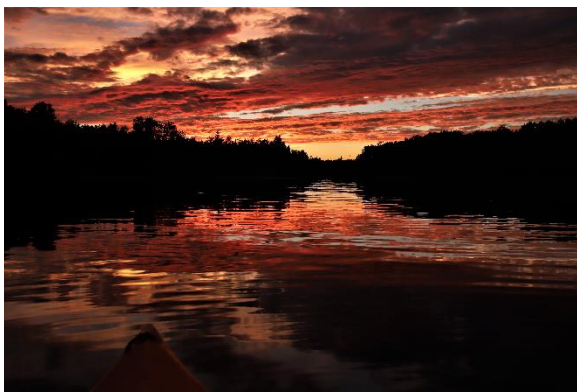
Gus Speechley and his Rock Lake Walleye



Jeri Peters edges further into the night



Guesses on who the ice fisherman is?



Jeri Peters at night's edge