

TURTLE ROCK RAG

TURTLE LAKES CHAIN ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN 2017



Sunrise over Rock Lake- -October 9th, 2017

Pic: Dave Peters

WINCHESTER LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN-UPDATE

The Turtle Lakes Lake Management –
“On the Water” segment is completed,

with the results compiled and under
analysis by Brenton Butterfield’s team
from Onterra, LLC, who led and
conducted the Lake Management phase
on our Lakes in partnership with the

Discovery Center. Onterra will provide their detailed, written report next summer, including recommendations for productive and preventative lake management ecology going forward.

GOOD TO KNOW:

Completion of the on-water study and full mapping of all three lakes in the chain, yielded no highly-concerning invasive species (Eurasian Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed, etc.) discovered in the lake. A small amount of Yellow Iris (not native) were found in the creek and in North Turtle.

SHOULDERING OUR SHARE:

We have another year of AIS monitoring and Clean Boat Clean Water (CBCW) remaining on our monitored time to mitigate the cost associated with the project and TLCA's expense responsibility.

- CBCW Total: 74.5 of 200 completed. *We need certified CBCW Inspection volunteers.*
- AIS Monitoring Total Hours: 504.5 of required 411 hours completed. WOW!!

Look for a future announcement on CBCW Certification Training and please plan to attend.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) TRAINING

When: Spring 2018 TBA

Where: South Turtle Boat Launch

Time: TBA (Anticipate 10 am to Noon)

Learn how to identify invasive species. This is your chance to do it. Emily Heald, Water Program Coordinator at the North

Lakeland Discovery Center will conduct the training for AIS identification exclusively for the Turtle Chain.

We will spend about 30-45 minutes on land at the Boat Launch going over AIS identification and facts, and then possibly go out briefly on a pontoon so that Emily can teach sample techniques.

TLCA LAKE MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Thank you to our Lake Representative Steering Committee who volunteered to help coordinate our lake member efforts.

- Steve Budnik and Gary Engstrom from Rock
- Laura Giffin and Jim Hochstetter from North Turtle
- Tom Brogelman and Tom Rued from South Turtle

CLEAN BOAT CLEAN WATER INSPECTION TEAM GATHERS FOR A BRAT FRY



Pictured:

Phil Williams, Darryl Osikowicz, Gary Engstrom, Barb Engstrom, Jim Hochstetter, Nancy Williams, Marcia Hochstetter

LOST & FOUND

On Sunday May 21, eight TLCA members (Phil & Nancy Williams, Rick & Gail Kubisch, Mark & Marjean Schuelke, Mike Bantz and Darryl Osikowicz) converged on “our” section of County O to clean the ditches of trash accumulated over the course of the last year. For the most part, the trash consists of aluminum cans, bottles, paper and plastic bags. Once in a while a tire, hub cap or a piece of dimensional lumber may be found. It’s always somewhat interesting to see what people feel they have to immediately discard before reaching a proper waste receptacle. This year was no exception. The oddity this year was 7 pair of ladies underwear! The interesting part of this discovery was that they were not all found in one location, but, spread out over our 2 mile route. The other interesting part of this discovery was that all pairs identified had Victoria Secrets labels (for inquiring minds...size small)! One can only imagine the urgency or immediate need to discard these valuable pieces of clothing out the window...and quite possibly over a period of time. After all, how many women out there wear 7 pair of underwear all at once? Needless to say, this discovery spear headed a rather interesting conversation at the end of the day. So...if you are interested in joining next year’s “expedition”, sign up as soon as the spring announcement comes out. Only 8 positions are available...slots fill up fast...sign up early! *Mark Schuelke - North Turtle*

2017 SPRING ROAD CLEAN-UP- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: DATE TBA

THANK YOU once again to those who helped with the road cleanups around our lakes. The few who did County O this spring enjoyed some social time afterwards at the Schuelke home. A special thanks to them! Watch for the May date to be announced in the spring RAG! All of the roads around our chain are being kept cleaner by many volunteers. If you are one of those special folks, thank you. If you decide you are unable to continue upkeep of your section, please let me know, and we will put out a call for replacements!!!

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

Spring Flowers

My thanks go out to those who helped water our bridge flowers again this year. I have made it easier as far as scheduling by having volunteers who are willing to take more than one week and also letting members sign up for July—October weeks at the annual meeting. If you would like to take multiple weeks and/or would like to water in June, feel free to contact me, and I will put you on the calendar! *Laura Giffin – North Turtle*



Please email me at:
ml.giffin.1984@gmail.com or call
920-279-0182

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 (715) 904-1971

LAKE HAZARD BUOYS

Our lake association places buoys in hazardous areas each spring and try to do our best to make our waterways as safe as we can. To help insure your safety please note the following points:

- 1) The buoys off of islands and points mark the approximate ends of rock bars. Do not navigate near these buoys or between them and the shore or island points.
- 2) The two buoys on the north end of North Turtle mark the two ends of a very shallow rock bar. Do not navigate in between them. You can navigate around the buoys on either end, but note there is a single large rock off of shore to the north of the northern most buoy.
- 3) The buoy on the South end of South Turtle marks the approximate middle of a large rock hump. There are 4 high spots around this buoy that are possible to hit with your motor. It would take 4-5 buoys to mark all of these spots but they are within 75 feet of this marker. Please do not navigate anywhere near this buoy until you have totally learned this area with your boat electronics. Thank you and get out and enjoy our beautiful chain this fall!
Tom Rued – South Turtle Lake Rep

TURTLE LAKES CHAIN WATER LEVELS

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 Rick Clem at 715-543-2094 or 715-892-2056 with your questions or concerns.

OF INTEREST...

Please note that the notice below was posted on the town website about a full month before the meeting. *Do you check in on the town site for updates on important votes and meetings?*

TOWN OF WINCHESTER, VILAS COUNTY SPECIAL TOWN MEETING of ELECTORS Posted on September 18, 2017 at 3:43 pm. NOTICE TOWN OF WINCHESTER, VILAS COUNTY SPECIAL TOWN MEETING of ELECTORS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Special Town Meeting for the Town of Winchester Electors in the County of Vilas, State of Wisconsin will be held at the Winchester Municipal Building in said town on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

Brief Observations: The October 17th Special Town Meeting of the Electors was called to discuss and possibly act on the addition to the fire hall, town offices and a new town garage. Two meetings were scheduled. The first was to consider current Board positions and was postponed. The second meeting focused on town municipal complex renovations and expansions. Only one response was received for the RFP that had been sent out. The response was for \$1,003,831.00 from Nasi Construction. Adding additional expenses of

approximately \$154,000.00, project costs totaled approximately \$1,157,831. Since only one bid was received, a motion was made and passed to reject the bid and go out with a new RFP in January, 2018.

The town garage project was not covered nor was the question of a new tanker truck for the fire department. It is anticipated that the town garage RFP will also be sent out for bid in January or some near-term, future date. No cost estimates were provided at the October 17th meeting. Combined, they are significant, in the upper six figures.

Primary Residence: Many members of the TLCA have a primary residence elsewhere and the lake is a second home. As such, these members are not entitled to vote locally in Winchester. As a property owner and tax payer, however, you are encouraged to attend the meeting, contact the town council when you wish and... 'have a voice'.

Special Meetings: Typically, the Town Council meets regularly on the first Monday of each month and the public is invited. Special meetings may be called occasionally to vote on important issues such as the town hall addition, new garage and new tanker truck, among other important matters. The public is invited to these also. The meetings are often held in months other than summer. Accordingly, some vigilance with respect to the town website and special meetings (dates) may be required if you wish to be informed, attend and have your voice heard. Thanks to various contributors.

Mike Bantz, President TLCA

ROCK LAKE TWINS

It did not look good for the possibility of baby loons on Rock Lake again this year. Heavy rains in May, causing a very significant rise in the lake level, put the chances of the adults abandoning the nest very high. Two of the last three years, no chicks were hatched, even though the parents did nest and incubate the eggs. Two years ago twins were born only to lose one of the chicks to predation during the first week.

As a Loon Ranger for Rock Lake over almost the last decade, I noted one of the adults on a nest May 11th on the west edge of the entrance to No Man's Creek. Suddenly late on June 7th, while returning from fishing on North Turtle, there were the parents with two tiny chicks out in the center of Rock Lake.

It is truly amazing to observe the care and protection afforded the babies during that first month of development by the parents. With bald eagles above and large musky and snapping turtles below, the first several weeks are dangerous times.



By the end of week two, both chicks were growing rapidly, too large now to continue riding on the parents' backs. During the first 9 days, I had observed them being fed plant matter, small fish, and also crayfish. At one month old the

babies were being left alone for short periods of time. On July 7th, while fishing on North Turtle, I noted the adult female among a social gathering of five loons at the north end of the lake. Knowing the Rock Lake female was banded in 2009 with an orange over yellow band with black strip on the left leg made it possible to identify her.



August 2nd spelled the 8 week birthday of the twins. This is viewed as a critical time on the Loon Ranger reports. If the chicks make it to 8 weeks, the chances are excellent they will make it to adulthood. At that time the young loons were huge and doing very well.

Gone for several weeks, I missed the early attempts with practicing to fly. At week 12, on September 1st, I did observe both babies taking off, flying circles around Rock Lake, and then landing. On September 3rd, neither of the young loons was on the lake. Finally, one flew in and landed by the female. While observing for over 2 hours on the early morning of September 4th, neither of the young loons appeared.

From that day forward to our departure from the lake on October 11th, I only was able to observe one of the babies for a brief time on the morning of September

28th. After a short stay on the lake it flew south. Unfortunately the DNR is no longer banding loons in Vilas County, which makes it impossible to positively identify them once they are moving from lake to lake. Research indicates the male typically leaves to migrate first, followed by the female, followed by the babies. Having the twins leave our lake first did not follow the typical pattern.

If you love loons and enjoy observing them, this was truly a wonderful year to watch this family grow and mature on Rock Lake. *Dave Peters – 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 to everyone for your continued membership and support of our beautiful Turtle-Rock Lake chain. We have representation at the meeting of around 30 to 40 households and about 50 (multiple family members) attending at the July meeting. *Have you been to the meeting lately?* Come by and meet your neighbors at the July meeting next year- -we will get updates on our Association and review the

results on the **Winchester Lakes Management Plan.**

Mike Bantz, President TLCA

FUN DAY 2018

Fun Day was established shortly after the creation of the TLCA in 1990 and is intended as a 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 (28th this 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*

FUN DAY 2017 CANOE AND KAYAK PADDLE

It was a fantastic day for our paddle



trip on Rock Lake for Fun Day! We had 17 paddlers starting at the Rock Creek boat launch. Our youngest kayaker was Mattie, Tom and Gale Brogelman's

granddaughter. Tom and Julie Rued's son, Cory and his fiancée, Corinne, paddled the farthest to join us. All were rewarded at the picnic. I am thinking we will meet at the boat launch on South Turtle next year. Hope you will join us if you're not into golf. We start

10 AM, so you can sleep in! *Laura Giffin – North Turtle*



2017 TLCA GOLF TOURNAMENT 🏌️

Forty seven golfers enjoyed a beautiful day at the Lake Gogebic Country Club for our Association's annual outing. The course was in prime condition and the staff was very accommodating!! It was nice to see familiar faces like Stan Wilson (founder) and Tom Bawulski (long time organizer) participate in this event! A Good Time Was Had By All!!

Individual Awards:

Closest to the Pin- Tom Bawulski, Patty Potts

Longest Drive- Brent Speechley, Patty Potts

Longest Putt- Ed Sattersten, Pam Stemper

Team Championship: 🏆

Team Osikowicz-Brent Speechley, Katie Speechley, Andy and Darryl Osikowicz

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FOR A FINE EVENT!! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!

Check-In Time 8:30am 😎

Tee Off 9:00am

FIRST 36 GOLFERS ONLY

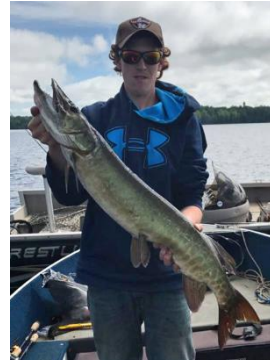
Complete Foursomes or Individuals Welcome!! Contact: *Darryl Osikowicz* to reserve your spot!!

Darryl@pmisports.com

715-686-2956

2018 - 16TH ANNUAL TLCA MUSKY TOURNAMENT

2017 - 1st Place Winner: **Matt Weber 37 1/2"**



Archie Clark and Tom Brogelman will be responsible for the Musky Tournament again in 2018. The date of the 2018 Tournament is the Saturday before Father's Day –

June 16, 2018. Register by phone, mail, email or in person with either Archie or Tom as indicated below.



2017 - 2nd Place Winner: **Alex Yde 35"**

Participating boats must include one member, in good standing, and all participants must be registered for the contest with paid entrance fee no later than Friday, June 15, 2018. So, be sure to check the Spring Rag for finalized details on the Tournament and mark your calendar for June 16th, 2018!

Tom Brogelman

Archie Clark

2350 Black Forest Rd
Winchester, WI 54557

920-851-2066

cty22530@centurytel.net

2346 Black Forest Rd
Winchester, WI 54557

715-696-7770

FACEBOOK GROUP

Kathy Leeder has started a Facebook group for residents of the chain. It is a closed group for anyone interested in sharing photos, info, etc., that has a residence on the chain. Interested parties can email Kathy or friend her on Facebook and she will add them as a member. Once you are a member, any member can add other members from their friend list of those residing on the lake.

Kathy Leeder – STL. kathyleeder@inlanta.com

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

TLCA MERCHANDISE ORDER NOW 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**





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



Paddle Pics: Laura Giffin





Loon Pics: Dave Peters



Osikowicz Family Fish Fry