

Turtle Rock Rag

Turtle Lakes Chain Association Autumn 2022



Nature sends a brushstroke of clouds adding its October pallet of colors to the shoreline of South Turtle Lake

Pic: Maya Discianno

Turtle Chain Yellow Iris Update

The TLCA has been actively engaged with the North Lakeland Discovery Center (NLDC) to remove the Yellow Iris from the Turtle Chain since 2020. The Yellow Iris was

identified in the Lakes Management Plan as an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in 2019.

In 2020, Yellow Iris was removed from seventeen (17) locations on the chain employing sixty (60) hours of NLDC Intern time.

Figure 1 shows the Yellow Iris population mapped by the NLDC in 2021 using GPS.

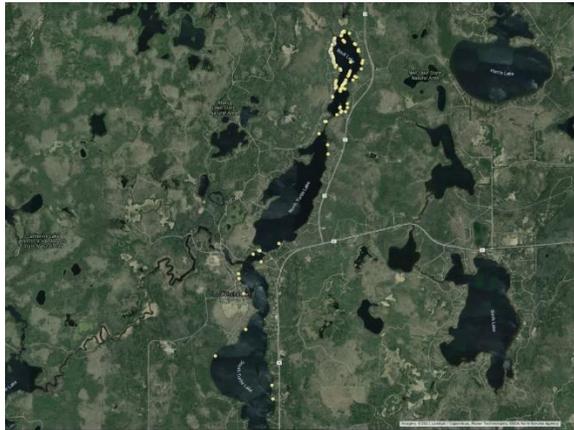


Figure 1: Yellow Iris Plants on the Turtle Chain 2021

As was true in the initial study, Rock Lake has the majority of the plants. In the 2021 survey there were 133 populations identified which ranged from individual plants, to moderate to heavy/dense beds. These sites represented forty-five property owners of which eighteen (18) were TLCA members and twenty-seven were non-TLCA members.

Each owner was contacted for permission to remove the plants from their property. We received responses from fourteen (14) TLCA members (78%) and thirteen responses from non-TLCA members (48%).

NLDC Interns Abby Vogt, Richard Dollhoph & Michael Small were tasked with removal of the plants which involved using shovels and culti-hoes to dig out the large tubers that form under the surface (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Water Monitoring Intern Michael Small brings in another huge load of Yellow Flag Iris on Rock Lake

This year the Team removed forty-three (43) targeted light and medium density



populations which translates into approximately 1650 pounds of Yellow Iris. This effort required seventy (70) hours of labor. In addition, individual property owners removed Yellow Iris from another twelve (12) locations on the chain for a 2022 combined total of fifty-five (55) of the 133 sites cleared.

The TLCA will continue to address Yellow Iris removal over the upcoming years in partnership with the NLDC. It has been recommended by the NLDC that an erosion or shoreline protection plan be put in place before removing some of the well-established populations. These locations are currently being identified and plans developed for consideration by property owners.

In the interim, it is extremely important to keep an eye out for Yellow Iris on your shoreline. The sooner they are detected, the easier they are to remove. To prevent the spread to new locations, it is recommended that the blooms be cut off in the spring when they bloom (usually in early June) and disposed of in a

landfill or burned. The seed pods form after the bloom dies.

We would like to recognize and thank all of the property owners who responded and gave their permission to remove the Yellow Iris or volunteered to remove them on their own.

Gary Engstrom -Rock Lake & Michael Small -NLDC

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 40 households and about 50 (multiple family members) attending our annual meeting.

Please, bring your neighbor to the next meeting to become a member and meet their lake neighbors.

Emil Bertalot, President TLCA

*****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 (such as new fire numbers), please forward them at any time to Board Treasurer Gee Esslinger: geesslinger@gmail.com

Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) Update

TLCA Members have been active CBCW inspectors over the years to help prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) into the Turtle Chain. AIS can be transported from lake to lake by plants or aquatic species that are carried out on boats, motors and trailers as well as in bait buckets, live wells and sumps that are not properly drained or discarded.

We currently have a team of twenty-three (23) certified CBCW inspectors. In 2022, fourteen (14) inspectors were active at the South Turtle and North Turtle (Rock Creek) boat landings. Through August, the team had spent over ninety-four (94) hours at the boat landings, inspected thirty-six (36) boats for AIS and interviewed seventy-eight (78) individuals either entering or leaving the Turtle Chain.

The CBCW year began on June 4th with the Annual Kick-off Picnic at the Rock Creek Boat Landing. This Picnic coincides with the Statewide “Drain Campaign” with the focus on preventing aquatic “hitchhikers” from being transported from lake to lake in sumps and live wells.



TLCA CBCW Inspectors (L to R): G. Esslinger, C. Theesfeld, J. Bruhn, S. Bruhn, J. Sattersten, E. Sattersten, B. Engstrom, M. Small (NLDC), N. Williams, P. Williams, D. Osikowicz, J. Hochstetter, G. Engstrom (Camera)

This summer the TLCA applied for and received State of Wisconsin approval as a Qualified Lake Association. This allows the TLCA to be eligible for State Surface Water Grant funding. We have submitted a Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) Project Funding Request to the State for the amount of \$4,000. These funds will allow us to contract with the North Lakeland Discovery Center (NLDC) to have college interns man the Turtle Chain Boat landings during high usage Fridays and Saturdays during the summer.

The Grant requires the TLCA to provide 25% of the total amount through volunteer hours or payment-in-kind. These volunteer hours will be provided by our current team of CBCW Inspectors and, hopefully, new volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming a CBCW Volunteer Inspector, please contact Gary Engstrom (ggengstrom@aol.com) or your Lake Representative.

We will host a CBCW Inspector Certification Training Session at the 2023 Kick-off Picnic which is usually held early in June to coincide with the Statewide “Drain Campaign”.

In the interim, one of the most beneficial things you can do to prevent AIS from coming to the Turtle Lakes Chain is to continue to practice good Clean Boats, Clean Waters principles. These include:

INSPECT boats, trailers and equipment for attached aquatic plants or animals

REMOVE all attached plants and animals

DRAIN all water from boats, motors, live wells and other equipment

NEVER MOVE live fish away from a waterbody

DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash

BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer

ONLY USE leftover minnows when either fishing with them on the same body of water or other waters if no lake/river water or other fish have been added to the container.



Gary Engstrom – Rock Lake

2022 TLCA Golf Tournament Results

42 Golfers enjoyed a beautiful day at the Annual TLCA Golf Tournament. The Lake Gogebic Course was in excellent shape. Gary(course pro) and his staff provided us with another awesome event! The competition was fierce as only one stroke separated the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. The returning Champions from last year, eventually took home the Championship for 2022.



Winning Team: Larry Sturgeon, Greg Miljevich, "Bun" Randall, Scott Sturgeon

Wildcat Winners:



Marjean Schuelke, Maya Discianno, Janice Ryan, Julie Rued

Individual Awards:

Marjean Schuelke
Maya Discianno
Jack Eldred
Larry Sturgeon

Congratulations to ALL the Winners and Mark Your Calendar for Next Year: Saturday, July 22, 2023.

A special thanks to Gary Engstrom, Jim Hochstetter, Rick & Joyce Clem, Rose & Mike Martin, Stinky Gibson, and Phil Williams for their help at the event!
Darryl Osikowicz – Rock Lake

thetlca.org

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

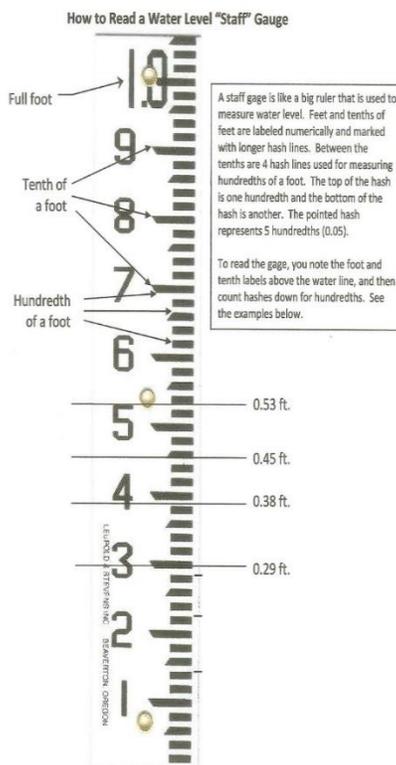
Measuring the Lake Chain Water Level: Staff Gauges

In previous articles, mention has been made regarding water levels in our chain of lakes. As you may recall, water levels are required by Order to be maintained between 96.0' and 97.0'. It has been found that maintaining the level in the upper part of this range allows for better recreational activity, more water over hazardous areas, better navigation between Rock Lake and North Turtle Lake and better access to docks and boat hoists located along the shallower shorelines. So, just how are these levels determined?

A small metal plate configured similar to the one at the right is attached at water level to the round culvert structure at the dam. This is known as a staff gauge. Staff gauges measure water levels in tenths of a foot...not inches.

(Editor's note: This makes it difficult to translate to water level movement in inches at your dock).

For discussion purposes, say you are looking at the staff gauge at the dam. The depicted 1.0 foot level will actually show up as 97.0 on the dam staff gauge. The bold 9, 8, 7, etc. numbers below 97.0' represent tenths of a foot and will be recorded as 96.9', 96.8', 96.7', etc. Likewise, the bold 1, 2, 3, etc. numbers above 97.0 will represent water levels of 97.1', 97.2', 97.3', etc. Hundredths of a foot are determined by where the water level is on the hash marks between the tenth of foot markings. A good explanation of this measurement is noted in the description below.



If you are still unsure about determining accurate readings, I would be more than happy to give you some personal assistance.

Reprinted from a previous edition:
Mark Schuelke, North Turtle Lake

Fish Line Recycling Project

Fishing line causes problems when left in the water or put in the trash. Monofilament fishing line is the line anglers most commonly used: single-strand, high density nylon (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Discarded Monofilament Fishing Line

If left in the water or onshore, it can harm wildlife that becomes tangled in it or ingest it (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Loon entangled in discarded Fishing Line

Line in the water can also endanger swimmers and divers and become tangled in boat propellers.

Monofilament can last for up to 600 years in freshwater, meaning it poses a threat for a long time.

Fishing line can remain a problem even if put in the trash. Birds can take it from an open bin or landfill to use as nesting material and become entangled or drop it where other wildlife may become ensnared.

If the line is collected, it can be melted down into plastic pellets, which are then recycled into products such as tackle boxes, spools for fishing line, toys and fish habitat structures.

A State and National fishing line recycle program has been in operation for several years. A simple PVC pipe recovery station has been designed and is being employed at boat landings, marinas and fishing piers throughout the country. The parent company of Berkley is the principal recycler and has been involved since 1990. Over 9 million miles of fishing line has been collected, recycled and repurposed.

Matt Flynn, a summer intern at the North Lakeland Discovery Center (NLDC), took on a project to have some of the Fishing Line Recycling Stations constructed and installed at area boat landings.

The Town of Winchester's Town Lakes Committee supported Matt's idea and

purchased eight (8) of the stations for Township boat landings. Two of those boat landings are on the Turtle Chain and TLCA Lake Representatives have installed them at the Rock Creek (Figure 3) and the South Turtle (Figure 4) boat landings.



Figure 3: Fish Line Recycle Bin at Rock Creek



Figure 4: Fish Line Recycle Bin at South Turtle

Fishing line from the stations will be collected monthly, combined with the line collected from the other Township boat landings and shipped to Berkley for processing and recycle.

This is an excellent way to keep our waterways "tangle free" and protect

waterfowl and wildlife in and around the lakes. I would like to thank Matt Flynn and Emily Heald from the North Lakeland.

Gary Engstrom, Rock Lake

Recipe Corner:

Dee and Tom Shafer's Baked Northern or Poor Man's Lobster:

Coat shallow baking pan with oil and sale. Preheat pan in 450 degree oven. Remove pan and place fillets in pan. Sprinkle with paprika (if skins - skins down).

Dissolve one chicken bouillon cube in cup water.

Remove pan from broiler. Pour bouillon over fish.

Bake 10-15 min in 450 degree oven.

Serve with Butter.

Past President Note:

The Chain is blessed with a wonderfully committed new president and a BoD dedicated to keeping the TLCA grounded in its mission and genuinely invested in a positive, forward looking future around the lake(s).

It has been a distinct pleasure and honor to serve as TLCA President the past seven years and especially rewarding for the opportunity to meet and talk to so many folks around the Chain. I wish everyone great health, good fortune, happiness, and a horn-o-plenty of peace of mind in the future.
All the best, Mike Bantz

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...Emil Bertalot

SECRETARY...Laura Giffin

TREASURER...Gee Esslinger

ROCK LAKE REPRESENTATIVES

- Gary Engstrom
- Steve Budnik

NORTH TURTLE REPRESENTATIVES

- Susan Esslinger
- Matt Yde

SOUTH TURTLE REPRESENTATIVE

- Tom Rued
- Mike Bantz