



Spring 2024

Lake life in the Northwoods

Hazelhurst • Lake Tomahawk • Minocqua • Woodruff

Note from the President

from Noah Lottig, PhD, TLA President



Dear Tomahawk Lake Association Members and Supporters,

As winter recedes and spring takes hold, we look forward to a new season on Tomahawk Lake. The melting ice and budding trees signal a fresh start and remind us of the vibrant community we're fortunate to be a part of.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to the Tomahawk Lake Association (TLA). Your involvement is crucial to our success and the preservation of our lake system.

With the arrival of spring, I encourage each of you to renew your TLA membership. Your contributions are vital, not only for our continued operations but also for strengthening our community's commitment to the lake's well-being.

In this newsletter, you'll find updates on our activities and a preview of our strategic plans for the coming months. Our focus remains on the careful stewardship of Tomahawk Lake, through both current projects and upcoming initiatives.

As the new season unfolds, let's remain committed to protecting and enjoying our beautiful lake. Together, I am confident we can tackle any challenges and make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead.

Please mark your calendars for our Annual TLA Meeting and breakfast. This event is a cornerstone of our community engagement, offering a chance to discuss our collective efforts and future plans. For those unable to join us in person, a live stream will be available to ensure everyone can participate. We look forward to seeing many of you there and discussing our shared commitment to the lake.

Thank you for your crucial role in our community and your steadfast commitment to our shared goals.

Warm regards,

Noah Lottig, PhD
President, TLA, Inc.
218-310-7460
info@tomahawklake.org

GO ONLINE TODAY TO DONATE
www.tomahawklake.org

DEDICATED TO TOMAHAWK LAKE

The Tomahawk Lake Association is the only resource dedicated exclusively to Tomahawk Lake. This does not mean that the issues we address necessarily are unique to our lake, but they are of high concern to those who care about the lake. Tomahawk Lake unites us as an "interest group," which gives us greater capacity to preserve and protect this beautiful lake through our combined efforts and financial resources

SIGN UP FOR OUR E-BLASTS AT
www.tomahawklake.org

Summer Events

TLA 2024 Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 15, 9:00 a.m.

Connor Forestry Center at Kemp National Resources Station, 9161 Kemp Road, on Tomahawk Lake
Continental breakfast will be available beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Details on page 2.

Hermit Island Swim & Paddle Challenge

OUR ONLY FUNDRAISING EVENT THIS YEAR!

Saturday, July 6, 9:00-11:30 a.m.
SWIM, WALK, FLOAT or PADDLE your way around Hermit Island with your kids, neighbors, and out-of-town guests!

Details on page 8.



Join our Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/groups/104527072922/

info@tomahawklake.org | www.tomahawklake.org

Tomahawk Lake Association
P.O. Box 535
Minocqua, WI 54548



2024 Annual Lake Tomahawk Association Meeting

Saturday, JUNE 15, 2024

Mark your calendars!

WHERE: Connor Forestry Center at Kemp Natural Resources Station
9161 Kemp Road, Woodruff

WHEN: 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

Meet the Board and other TLA members and join the TLA or renew your membership if you haven't already.

9:00 a.m. Meeting begins

- *Welcome, Noah Lottig*
- *Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) Management, Noah Lottig*
- *Lake Steward and Environmental Health, Jim Kavemeier*
- *TLA Financial Status, Bruce Forsberg*
- *Hermit Island Swim & Paddle Event & Fundraiser, Bruce Forsberg, Mary DeNamur*
- *Other Business, TLA Board*
- *Q&A, TLA Board*
- *Adjourn*

MERCHANDISE: All the TLA merchandise will be for sale at the meeting. See page 3 to view our new fleece pullovers and hats!

ZOOM MEETING OPTION: You may also participate via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. if you can't join us in person. Details will be sent to everyone via email and also posted on the TLA Facebook page on Friday, June 14.

Hope to see you there!

Our Continuing Efforts to Fight EWM

by Noah Lottig

As we look forward to summer 2024, we are pleased to share exciting updates about our ongoing Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) management efforts in Tomahawk Lake. We are continuing to build on our Comprehensive Management approach, which we detailed in our fall newsletter (available at tomahawklake.org/resources).

ProcellaCOR Treatment in Clearwater Bay

In partnership with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), we have received approval for a focused chemical treatment in Clearwater Bay—historically responsible for nearly 25% of our harvesting efforts. Utilizing ProcellaCOR, we aim to efficiently control EWM growth in this area. This targeted approach allows us to allocate our harvesting resources more effectively across other parts of the lake. We anticipate treating this area in late June. We will keep you informed with timely updates as the treatment date approaches. *See map to the right outlining the area.*

Enhanced Harvesting and Fragment Management

With the help of a \$150,000 large scale invasive species management grant from the Wisconsin DNR, spanning over the next two years, we are set to further enhance our EWM harvesting program. This year, similar to last, our harvesting operations will span 90 days. With the reduced need for harvesting in Clearwater Bay, more of our focus will shift towards extensive post-growing season efforts in the fall. Late-season harvesting has shown promise in curbing the early growth of EWM in the subsequent spring, due to its evergreen nature. Additionally, to address the inconvenience caused by EWM fragments during peak recreational periods, we have arranged for multiple fragment pickups throughout the summer, particularly around major holidays. Aquatic Plant Management (APM) will likely coordinate the pickup locations with where they are harvesting at the time.

Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH)

Continuing our partnership efforts, we are excited to offer special rates for Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH). This service is ideal for tackling EWM in areas difficult to reach by our harvesters, such as around docks. For more details on this service and applicable rates, please contact APM directly at 715-438-3269.

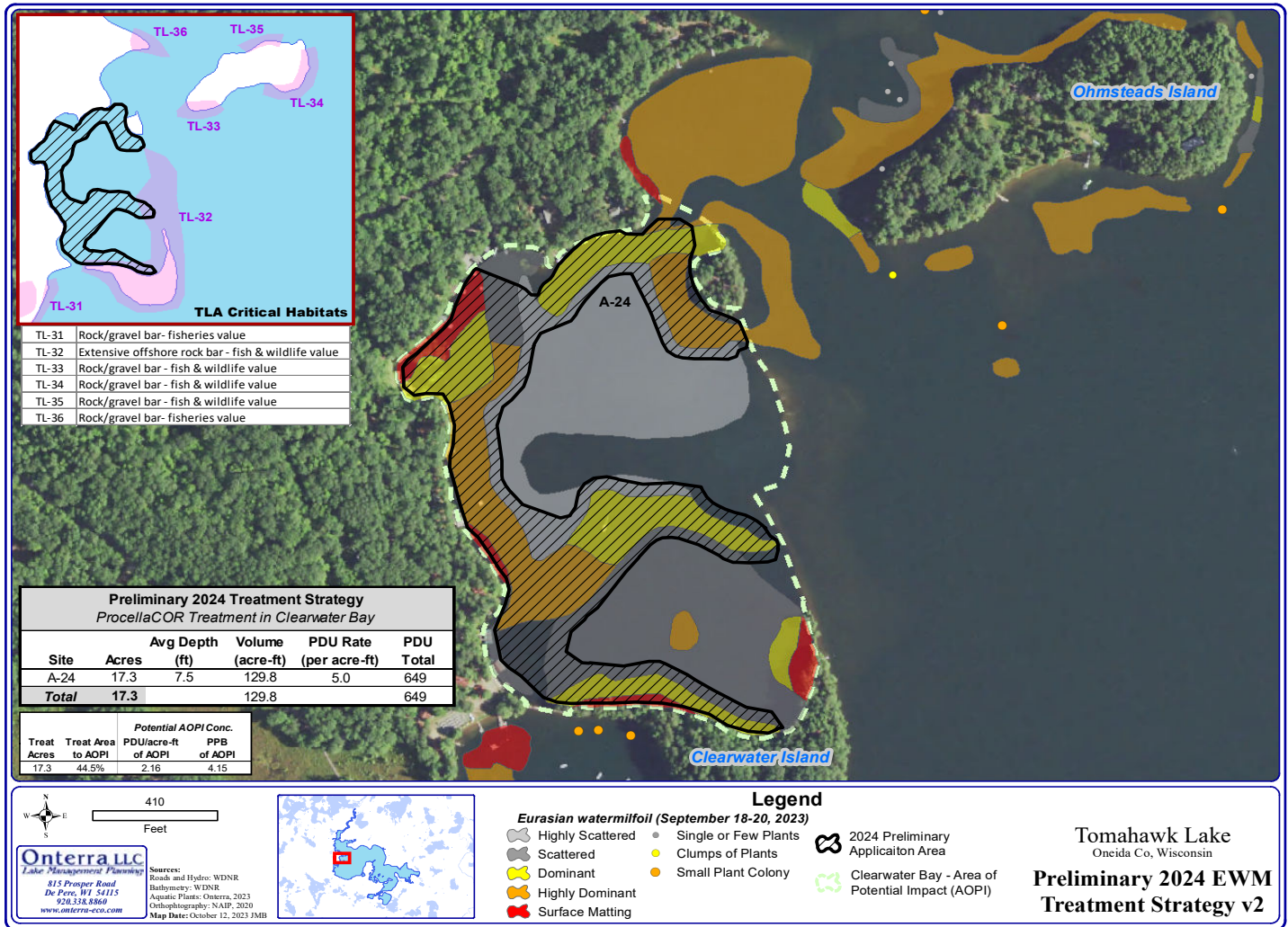
Join Us at the Annual TLA Meeting

To learn more about our comprehensive EWM management plans and to discuss other community-related topics, we warmly invite you to attend our Annual TLA Meeting. This event will provide an excellent opportunity to engage with the management team, ask questions, and provide your valuable input on our collective efforts to preserve the health and beauty of Tomahawk Lake.

Join our Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/104527072922/>



Preliminary 2024 EWM Treatment Strategy – Clearwater Bay



It's that time of year!

Time to put in the docks and boats, dust off the lawn chairs, and update your closet! We are excited to announce two new additions to our line of TLA merchandise.



A Nike club fleece pullover is perfect for those chilly evenings around the campfire. The sweatshirts are navy with a white screen-printed TLA logo. Sizes small through XXL. \$75

Due to the unbelievable popularity of last year's TLA hats (we only have one left), this year you can get



a Nike Dri-Fit perforated hat. Great for the boat or on the golf course, this blue sapphire hat is embroidered with a white TLA logo. \$35

We still have plenty of TLA t-shirts and beach towels for sale, along with a limited supply of our men's and women's Nike golf pullovers.

We're sure you are wondering how to get your hands on this amazing TLA apparel. It's easy! **All merchandise will be available at our annual TLA meeting on Saturday, June 15 and at the Hermit Island Swim and Paddle event on Saturday, July 6.** Bring cash or your checkbook so you don't miss out! If you are unable to attend either event, please contact Trish Burbie at tmareck@yahoo.com to order your TLA merchandise today.

Remember... All purchases help support and maintain the most beautiful lake in the Northwoods—Tomahawk Lake!

Wakeboarding and Wake Surfing on the Tomahawk Lake System

by Jim Kavemeier

Preserving and protecting the Tomahawk Lake System's health, beauty, and recreational use requires careful stewardship. This effort is the Tomahawk Lake Association's (TLA) primary goal.

This work is essential, but TLA also recognizes the need to be vigilant in identifying and taking action to protect the Tomahawk Lake System from currently unknown threats. Therefore, we will continue to invest in common sense and science-based practices to preserve and protect this fantastic resource.

One of the current hot topic issues is the enhanced wake created by wake boats. Wake boats, also known as wakeboard boats or wake-surf boats, have become increasingly popular among water sports enthusiasts in recent years. These boats are designed to create large, powerful wakes, ideal for wakeboarding, wake surfing, and other water activities.

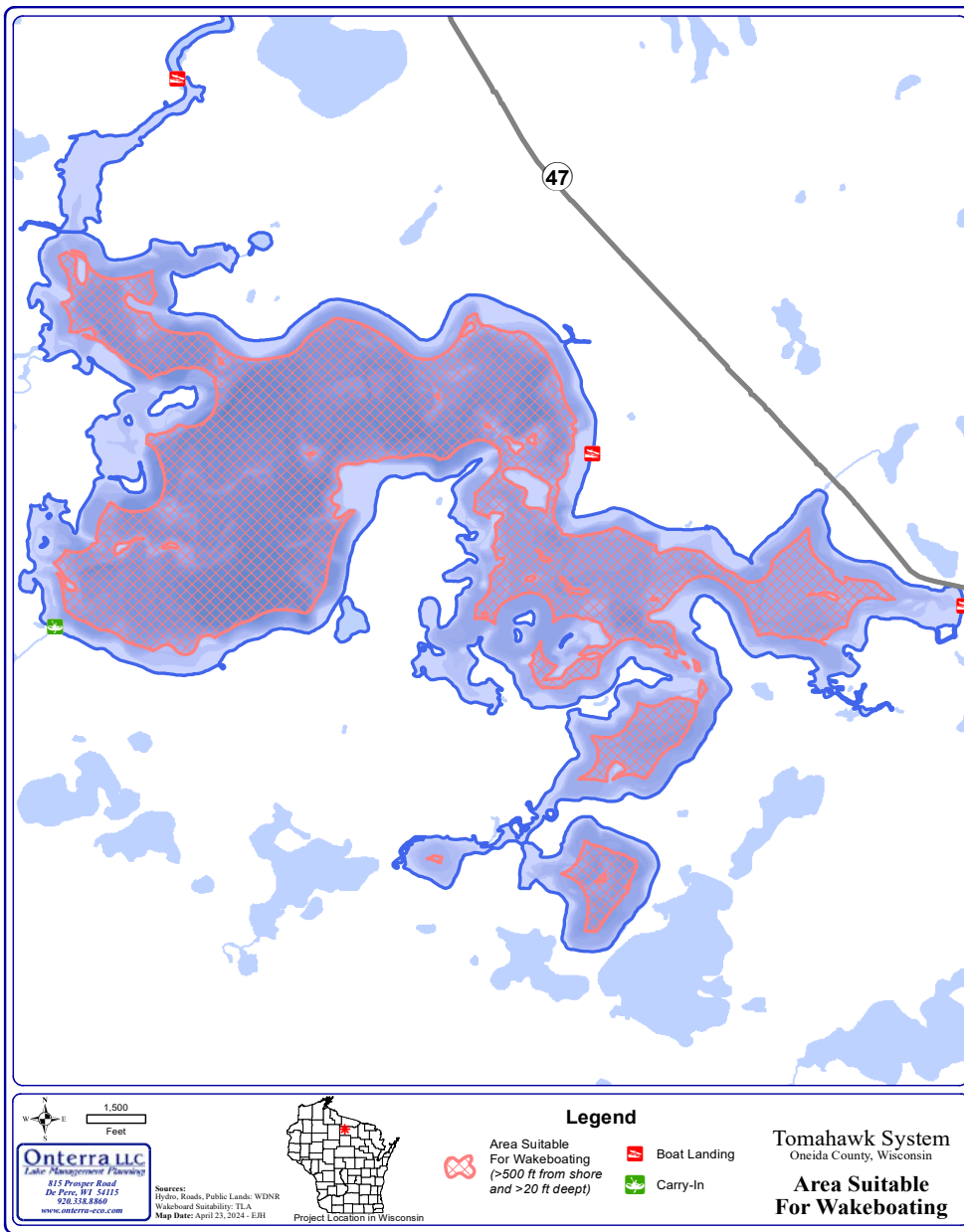
Wakeboard boats are designed to create a large, specially shaped wake for a wakeboarder to jump the wakes from side to side doing aerial tricks. Wake surfing requires a boat capable of generating large surfing waves, large enough for people to ride them without a tow rope.

Riding those waves is a fun water sport for some, while the strength and height of those waves are sparking concerns in others about:

- shoreline erosion,
- disturbance of wildlife habitat,
- disturbance of lake bottoms causing the re-suspension of phosphorous and sediment,
- disturbance or removal of native aquatic plants, and
- safety concerns by shoreland property owners.

The boating industry, universities, and state agencies have conducted and are conducting scientific research studies to determine the size and impact wake surfing and wakeboarding have on the lake. The boating industry has also established a "Wake Responsibly" campaign to educate homeowners and boaters about courteous behavior to ensure that every moment on the lake is safe and enjoyable.

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Three bills related to wake-enhanced boating were introduced in the 2023-24 Wisconsin legislative session.

However, they have yet to receive a hearing. In the absence of state law on wake boat legislation, Northern Wisconsin towns and Oneida County are asking for meaningful discussion to set an enhanced wake standard and allow local controls beyond state minimum standards. *The TLA has been encouraging wake boating in the deep-water areas of the lake.*

Fortunately, Tomahawk Lake is large enough for everyone to enjoy recreational use of it and in Little Tomahawk Lake. Until the state adopts enhanced wake legislation or information comes forward from new scientific studies, **TLA is asking people to follow the most recent recommendation to help preserve and protect our valuable resource and create respect between all people enjoying the lake. The recommendation is that wake boat operations be 500 feet from shore and in water depths greater than 20 feet when creating an enhanced wake.**

Please refer to the enhanced wake-safe map (on the left) for Tomahawk and Little Tomahawk. This map shows the areas of both lakes that are deeper than 20 feet and 500 feet from shore. TLA will add the wake-safe boat information map, with a QR code, on the TLA-sponsored information sign at the Lake Tomahawk Boat Landing. This will allow wake boat operators to download the wake-safe places on the lake. A wake-safe brochure will also be created for distribution to local boat rental businesses to give to people who are renting boats.



By the Numbers\$!!

from the Treasurer's desk

Dear TLA Contributing Members,

The Board of Directors recently approved our 2024 Annual Budget. The chart below compares our budget to our actual financial performance in 2023 and how 2023 compares to our financial plan for 2024.

Tomahawk Lake Association Annual Operating Budget Comparison 2023 vs. 2024

| | 2023 Budget | Total 2023 Actual Results | 2024 Budget |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | 90 DAYS OF HARVESTING | 95 DAYS OF HARVESTING | 90 DAYS OF HARVESTING |
| Income | | | |
| Town Revenue | \$ 24,000 | \$ 24,000 | \$ 24,000 |
| Grant Revenue | \$ 137,759 | \$ 121,470 | \$ 98,082 |
| Membership Dues | \$ 110,000 | \$ 139,690 | \$ 130,000 |
| Event Income | \$ 8,000 | \$ 6,566 | \$ 5,500 |
| Misc. Income | \$ 7,241 | \$ 15,004 | \$ 15,418 |
| Total Income | \$ 287,000 | \$ 306,730 | \$ 273,000 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Payroll Expenses | \$ 10,000 | \$ 9,437 | \$ 10,000 |
| EWM Operations | \$ 22,695 | \$ 16,270 | \$ 9,595 |
| Chemical Application / DASH | \$ 59,920 | \$ 44,745 | \$ 51,558 |
| Harvesting Contractor | \$ 180,000 | \$ 190,800 | \$ 189,300 |
| Member Communication | \$ 8,000 | \$ 7,572 | \$ 8,000 |
| Lake District Committee | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 5,000 |
| Event Expenses | \$ 10,000 | \$ 4,858 | \$ 5,000 |
| Shoreland Stewardship | \$ 8,500 | \$ 8,343 | \$ 2,000 |
| General Operations | \$ 2,000 | \$ 3,181 | \$ 4,000 |
| Depreciation | \$ 510 | \$ 510 | \$ 365 |
| Insurance | \$ 2,875 | \$ 1,565 | \$ 2,182 |
| Legal Services | \$ - | \$ 5,070 | \$ 5,000 |
| Accounting Services | \$ 4,500 | \$ 5,075 | \$ 5,000 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 309,000 | \$ 297,426 | \$ 297,000 |
| Surplus/(Shortfall) | \$ (22,000) | \$ 9,304 | \$ (24,000) |

Let me briefly summarize the messages behind the numbers.

1. With your overwhelming continued financial support, we finished last year with a \$9k surplus vs. our budget which was a \$22k deficit. Our membership contributions approached \$140k vs. \$110k we budgeted. As a result, we were able to operate our state-of-the-art harvester for an additional 5 days and we intend to do at least 90 days this summer.
2. We received over \$120k in grant revenue from the DNR in 2023. This included the second-year funds for our mechanical harvesting grant, ongoing Clean Boats Clean Water grant, and chemical grant we were awarded last year. This year, we were awarded an additional \$150k to continue our harvesting program for another 2 years (\$75k per year). We carried over about \$16k of funds from last year's \$50k chemical grant which will fund a portion of our ProcellaCOR treatment in Clearwater Bay. All DNR grants directly fund costs we incur to fight EWM and our goal of providing recreational access to our outstanding lake. For 2024, we will receive about \$25k less in DNR grant

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By the Numbers\$!!

(Continued from previous page)

revenue than we received last year. This is why our 2024 budget shows a deficit of around \$24k.

3. Our 2024 expenses should be approximately the same as 2023 level of \$297k. TLA will fund the majority of the chemical treatment since actual costs will exceed the amount of carryover funds mentioned above. We have again contracted with Aquatic Plant Management (our harvesting partner) to do the application using some of the best technology available. We are hoping for the same level of success with ProcellaCor as we had in Town Bay last year.

4. In a joint effort with the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, our Environment & Education Committee designed and contracted with a local construction company to build and install a large information sign at the Lake Tomahawk Boat Landing in 2023. Efforts are underway to see if something similar can be done at the Indian Mounds landing. This effort is part of our Shoreland Strategy to educate everyone who operates a watercraft.

5. As I have noted before, our goal as a not-for-profit organization is to match our expenses to the amount of income we receive every year. We will never be perfect in any given calendar year. We recognize that as our members give more to our cause, they expect us to manage our resources and spend those contributions in the most efficient manner that achieves our goals. In years like 2024 when DNR funding will be less, we will fund any deficit from the surplus of funds we have from past years.

Bruce Forsberg, TLA Treasurer

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN THE TLA

*“Individual commitment to a group effort...
that is what makes a team work.”*

This is the membership theme for 2024 and beyond. Vince Lombardi said it about his Packers who won 5 championships in 9 years in the 1960's. Sixty years later, it's still true in just about anything in life that involves teamwork.

As a TLA member, your commitment to our overall Lake Management Plan and its multi-faceted approach in fighting Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is the key to our team's success.

The Board of Directors, along with our partners and industry experts, Onterra Consulting and Aquatic Plant Management, LLC, comprise the team that is executing the game plan outlined in our 5-year lake management plan. Your financial support this year will enable us to again harvest and remove over 100,000 cubic feet of EWM and help fund the TLA's cost of another herbicide treatment of ProcellaCOR in Clearwater Bay.

Your membership contributions continue to be our largest source of income. This year, your contributions take on even greater importance since DNR grant funds are about \$25,000 less than last year. We would greatly appreciate you renewing your membership at the same level or consider increasing your contribution if you are able. We mailed our annual renewal letter and personalized forms to our past contributors in March. As of April 30, over 100 members have already renewed their membership. Thank you for your commitment!

There are multiple ways for you to renew your membership or join the TLA:

- 1) Complete your personalized 2024 Membership Renewal Form, mailed to you in March, and send it to us with your check.
- 2) Go online to www.tomahawklake.org/membership and complete the 2024 Membership form. Click through to the PayPal link and make your contribution using your PayPal account or as a guest with your credit card information.
- 3) If you want to join our effort, a blank Membership Form is included in this newsletter.

We will acknowledge your tax-deductible contribution with a thank-you letter in the month following receipt of your contribution. It will include your 2024 paid dock sticker. Please retain this letter for tax purposes.

We appreciate your continued support of the TLA!

Sincerely, TLA Membership Committee

Bruce Forsberg Sheila Forsberg Jake Harmsen Adam Redman



Meet our New Board Members

Art Sonneland

As a lake property owner since 1987, I feel privileged to have the opportunity to serve on the TLA board and to help maintain and hopefully improve the quality of our unique and beautiful lake. I was fortunate to meet my wife, Kay (Gabby), whose family has been on the lake since 1926. In 2003, Kay and I left the family cottage on Pickerel Bay and bought our home on Sunflower Bay.

I'm a retired physician, graduate of UW-Madison undergrad, medical school, and residency. We have three children and five grandchildren with a sixth coming in July. Tomahawk Lake has provided so much enjoyment for the entire family over the years and now it's my chance to give back. I look forward to doing my part to help deal with some of the current challenges facing the "King of Lakes."



Wes Smithing

My wife, Trish, and I have been part of the lake community for our entire lives. We met and started dating over 30 years ago while working at Spangs in Minocqua. My family purchased the Woodhill resort in 1978. It was originally part of the St. Charles Community and built in 1920. My four brothers, sister,



and I still operate the resort in Town Bay. Trish and I have three college-age boys who spend time at the lake working and enjoying Woodhill. When not in Lake Tomahawk, I work as a Manager of Design and Construction for United Airlines and I live in Brookfield, Illinois. I look forward to meeting the Tomahawk Lake neighbors and helping foster new and exciting ways to keep this precious resource beautiful and special for the next generation, as it has been for me and my family.

Cindi Thiede, PhD

I grew up in Wisconsin and worked as a Vice President for several community colleges in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Wyoming. In fact, all of my educational degrees are from UW-Wisconsin. I have expertise in strategic planning, marketing, state and federal grant writing, fundraising, community development/partnerships, and project management. After working in Wyoming, we moved to Arizona where I worked at Arizona State University. I recently retired after 10 years at ASU working as the Director for Professional Development Education at ASU Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation specializing in Nonprofit Leadership Management and Executive Leadership Certificates.



While working in Wisconsin, my husband, Robert, and I had a cabin on Long Lake on the Three Lakes chain for 8 years. When we retired, we wanted to have a cabin again back in Wisconsin. My husband and I purchased a lake home next door to Margo and Alan Oppenheim and became members of the TLA in 2022.

Robert and I have three children: Benjamin, Megan, and Rebecca and four grandsons. I am excited to become a member of the TLA Board to help ensure that the lake remains pristine and vibrant.

Brad Winchester

I love the Northwoods. I started coming up to Lake Tomahawk to visit my aunt and uncle when I was younger and immediately was hooked. I've been on the lake since 2010 and created many memories with family and friends. Whether it's the 4th of July parade and fireworks, stopping in at Lakeside Landing for lunch, or just enjoying the scenery, "Lake Tom" has it all. My wife Casey and I love watching kids and dogs jump off the dock, paddle boarding, and pontoon rides. I've met some wonderful folks in the community and look forward to helping protect the longevity of our lake so others can share in the special experience Tomahawk Lake offers!



TLA BOARD MEMBERS

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Cindi Thiede - Director

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Brad Winchester - Director

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Hermit Island Swim & Paddle Challenge

Saturday, July 6
9:00 a.m.

Join in...**OUR ONLY FUNDRAISING EVENT THIS YEAR**

SWIM, WALK, FLOAT or PADDLE your way around Hermit Island with your kids, neighbors and out of town guests!

This will be our only fundraiser this year, so come out and support the TLA.

Donations of any amount will be accepted at the event and will be used to battle Aquatic Invasive Species and help fund our Clean Water Clean Boats & Shoreland Preservation initiatives. If you would like to be a sponsor for this event, please complete the Hermit Island Swim & Paddle Challenge section of the Membership form in this newsletter and follow the payment instructions. Sponsorship levels for the event are:

- Gold Medal Sponsor \$1,000
- Buoy Sponsor \$400
- Paddle Sponsor \$200

Come join the fun and keep our "Jewel of the North" beautiful and pristine for years to come.

DATE: Saturday, July 6, 2024

TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Swim beach on the south side of Hermit /Olmstead Island on Tomahawk Lake

REGISTRATION: 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. There is no entrance fee, but you MUST be registered by 9:45 to participate, so please get there early!

RACE TIMES:

- 10:00 Hermit Wave - a short, 100-yard race for kids 10 years and under
- 10:15 Swim Elite Wave - Competitive swim race for trophies
- 10:20 Swim Fun Wave - Friendly non-competitive race
- 10:30 Paddle Wave - Kayaks, Canoes and Paddle Boards

BRING: Towel and Water Bottle

There will be two race courses around the island - one for swimmers and one for paddlers, and a very short children's swim course where kids can either walk/run or swim. Trophies will be awarded to the first-place male and female swimmer in the Elite Wave, and to the first-place person in the Paddle Wave. Medals will be given to each child age 10 or under in the Hermit Wave.



Swimmers wanting to qualify for Elite and Paddle Wave awards can wear a wetsuit, but are not allowed to use other devices to aid in speed such as fins. **Swimmers in the friendly, non-competitive Fun Wave** can use anything to help make the event easier or more enjoyable (i.e. lifejackets, kickboards, flippers, innertubes, etc.).

We NEED VOLUNTEERS on the day of the event for:

- Welcome & Registration
- Announcer
- Safety Captains

Six safety captains are needed to 'circle' the island. We need one (1) on each end of the East and West sides and two (2) on the South and North sides. Each captain must have a boat, driver and another person who can help assist if a swimmer is in trouble. Captains should be in place promptly at 10:00 a.m.

We are also looking for an event chair to oversee this event in 2025 and beyond.

Please contact Tess Mallery at tessmallery@yahoo.com if you can help during this event.



Caring for Tomahawk Lake by Season

Environment & Education Committee

Lake Steward – Making a Difference on Tomahawk Lake

SPRING

• **Clean up leftover salt remaining on driveways and walkways.** This will prevent the spring rains from dissolving the salt and polluting the lake.

• **Install the shoreland management practice you picked to implement this year.** For example, install a rain garden with native plants, plant native plants along the shoreline, or establish a no-mow area of 10 feet or more. Install a rock infiltration bed or divert water runoff from the lake.

• **Inspect and maintain your septic system.** Just like owning a car, there is maintenance, inspection, and service required for septic systems to prevent premature failure. In addition, septic system drainage pollutes the lake.

• **Plan to attend the TLA Annual Meeting.** The meeting will be held on June 15, 2024 at the Connor Forestry Center, Kemp Station.



SUMMER

• **Protect your natural areas.** Natural shorelands contain a lush mixture of native grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees that help to reduce and filter polluted runoff and provide essential habitats for songbirds and other animals on the land and in the water. In contrast, lawns provide habitat for geese and create much more runoff that carries pollutants into your lake.

• **Minimize chemical and fertilizer use.** Chemical and fertilizer drainage is toxic to our lake. Be sure the drainage is filtered through no-mow or native shoreline plantings.

• **Reduce insecticide and pesticide use.** Insecticides and pesticides kill bees and other pollinators and, ultimately, birds, so cease using them.

• **Operate your watercraft responsibly.** Ensure the wake you make does not cause shoreline erosion.

• **Respect the wildlife on the lake.** Enjoy the scenery and wildlife on the lake; do not chase, harass, or disturb wildlife with your watercraft.



FALL

• **Leave the leaves.** Leaves provide natural winter protection for butterflies, moths, bumble bees, and beneficial critters like beetles, millipedes, and spiders. If you have an abundance of leaves, rake them into shrubs, trees, flower, or vegetable gardens. The leaves suppress weeds and insulate the roots. Leaves blown into the lake add phosphorus, a naturally occurring element, and fertilizer, encouraging aquatic plant and algae growth. Preventing nuisance levels of plants and algae requires keeping phosphorus on the land and out of the lake.

• **Maintain your rain garden.** Fall is an excellent time to ensure that downspouts and conduits are clear of leaves for proper flow.

• **Stem the urge to clean your perennial flower beds.** You may have been taught that once perennials are done blooming in the fall, they should be cut back to the ground and flower beds cleaned up to be spic and span. However, rather than clearing away remnants of perennials, leave them standing over winter. Late-flowering plants provide seeds for birds, and hollow-stemmed plants provide homes for some bee species that hibernate in them over winter.

• **Plant a tree to help anchor the soil in place.**



WINTER

• **Reduce salt use.** A 12-ounce cup of salt (the size of a standard coffee cup) is enough to treat 20 feet of your driveway. Remember, everything on land ends up in the water, including salt used on our driveways and roads.

• **Stop winter invasive species hitchhikers.** Inspect sleds, buckets, and lures. Even when Tomahawk Lake is covered with ice, aquatic hitchhikers can be introduced to the lake.

• **Take the Lake Steward Pledge.** Take the pledge to protect the health, beauty, and recreation use of the Tomahawk Lake System, so the next generations can enjoy the lake as we do.

• **Take the Wisconsin DNR "Rate Your Shore" shoreland evaluation survey.** The survey results will provide shoreland management improvement suggestions. Then, pick one to implement this year.



Gahler's Cottages

by Louis Molepske, Jr.

Rays of afternoon sun filtered through a single double-hung window, warming Mr. Bell's face, as he stretched out on a small Jenny Lind bed. The room was small, and the bed smaller, so much that Mr. Bell's bare feet dangled between the footboard's spindles. Waves lapped on the shore beneath the window drowning out the low din and occasional screech from the new arrivals in the adjoining cottage.

Having arrived on the evening train from Milwaukee, Mr. Bell heard the children's excitement, eager to explore Gahler's cottages situated on the shore of Tomahawk Lake's Town Bay.

Furrowing his brow, Mr. Bell felt the years clearing pine forests for Knapp, Stout & Co. lumber company. His stiff hands reminded him of the long days working in Wisconsin's pine forests for Knapp & Stout, then the largest lumber company in the world. Years had passed since the forests were cleared and the saws silenced. Mr. Bell thought about the last lumber shipment he helped send on August 12, 1901, ending the need for 2,000 lumberjacks in the Northwoods.

Small gaps of light sneaking through roughhewn ceiling rafters above his bed began to disappear, reminding Mr. Bell the day was fading. Soon it would be time to take the launch to the neighboring Sunflower Cottage Resort for dinner. At that moment, Mr. Bell thought about his family and especially his son, Paul, who so wanted to join

him to explore the cutover area surrounding Tomahawk Lake. A small smile appeared on Mr. Bell's face as he thought about Paul, whom he called Master Paul, Julia his wife, whom everyone called Mamma, and Raquel, who simply was known as Grandma.



Lake Tomahawk Ranger Station c.1914

A worn wooden desk stood opposite his bed near the window. Small flecks of white paint were missing from the window's mullions holding wavy glass that turned autumn's light into colorful prisms. Mr. Bell walked over to the desk, sitting down on an old piano stool with three clawed feet holding glass balls. A loud crack was heard as the stool settled beneath his immense weight. A blank photo postcard showing Gahler's Cottages was on the desk, a new Kodak novelty that Mr. Bell had not come across yet, but had read about.

Mr. Bell looked through the window overlooking Tomahawk Lake and thought about home in Menomonie on 8th Street. He wondered how his family was and hoped Mamma wouldn't be angry,

as he left the house a mess after building an addition for Paul's new room.

Marking an X on the left side of the photo postcard showing his window overlooking Tomahawk Lake, Mr. Bell wrote the following on October 1, 1913...

My Dear Boy: You will see by my card that I have a lovely place to stay at Tomahawk Lake. I have marked my room with an X. I am going to dinner in a launch down the lake to another resort owned by Mr. Woodzicka. Mr. Gahler said last night that maybe someday this week he would take his launch and run down 10 miles to Minocqua over on CM & STP railroad. Tell Mamma I will be home next week to help her clean house and I will be her hired girl... Had a fine audience last night. Near here, 1½ miles, is a government station of "Forest Rangers" looking after the forest reserves. Love to all, and take good care of Mamma and Grandma.

*Daddy
Tomahawk Lake, Wis.
Oct. 1, 1913*

Gahler's Cottages exact location and ending has been lost to time, but creating memories like Mr. Bell's continues 110 years later near its shores. The Tomahawk Lake Association wishes you and your family many happy memories this summer.

***Until next time,
Keep Exploring our
Beautiful Lake!***



Lakeview Loon Calls

Pack your patience when you head into Minocqua. **Hwy. 51 road work started on April 4 from the ball park to the bridge.** They are improving drainage, making 6-foot-wide sidewalks from the bridge to the ballpark on the west side, and reworking the crosswalk and intersection at Country Club Road. Two-way traffic will be in northbound lanes for west side construction and in the southbound lanes for work on the east side. All businesses will remain open. Construction should be completed by July 18.

Don't let the construction stop you from heading over to the **new and expanded Yacht Club.** It is scheduled to reopen mid-May with a whole new look, some new menu items, and of course, live music and great drinks. There will be a lot of outdoor seating and plenty of boat docks to park at too!

Walmart in Minocqua began a remodel in January. They had a grand re-opening in early May, just in time for summer tourist season!



Jacobi's 1922 in Hazelhurst has reopened as a bakery and coffee shop featuring breakfast and lunch items. Check their Facebook page for daily specials.

Congratulations to Pickles Bar & Grill in Hazelhurst for winning the Wisconsin Beef Council's 2024 Best Burger Contest! The winning burger was their All American Burger, a half pound burger made with their special blend of meats and seasons, along with lettuce, tomato, raw onion, smoked garlic mayo, and choice of cheese.

Head a bit further south on Hwy. 51 to the **new restaurant The Grill,** formerly Deakin Shores Inn, scheduled to open early May. Their specialty is gourmet smash burgers and fries. There will be outdoor patio seating and plenty of parking for trailers and RVs for your trip in or out of town. Or, just drive down any time for a great burger.

Pampered Paws has moved to a new location on the corner of Hwy. 47 and Cty. J. They moved from the building they shared with **Wildberry Market, who will now be expanding** their store into that area.

The very popular **Quiet Side Deli permanently closed in January.** A little loon told me someone else has purchased it and plans to reopen, so keep your eyes out for that.

Chequamegon Adventure Company moved to a new location on Hwy. 47, across from Ace Hardware.

Check out the **new Bake Me Happy bakery in Lake Tomahawk,** located in the former Joy Ride building, next to the Gaslight Tavern. Fresh-baked breads and bagels in many flavors, cake slices to go, soups, cookies, and many more delicious selections are available. Check their Facebook page for their daily specials.

Another little loon told me **Gather coffee shop in Lake Tomahawk** is talking about serving sandwiches this summer, with a possible delivery option to the boat landing in Lake Tomahawk. Also, check them out in the evening for live entertainment, along with wine and beer options.

Also new to Lake Tomahawk is the **Rust & Stardust gift shop** which opened in early May. A cute little shop featuring artisan gifts, home décor and upcycled furnishings.

Get your creative juices flowing at the **new Zodiac Stained Glass Studio** which recently opened on Hwy. 47 in Woodruff, just north of Walgreens. Gather your family and friends and register online for a class to create a work of art for your lake home! Check out their Facebook page for current class offerings.

Spring has sprung early in the Northwoods! Docks are going in, boats are hitting the water, some UTV trails and businesses have opened early, such as Hoggie Doggies that opened on April 25! After our mild winter, aka "Mud Season," **our local businesses need your support more than ever.** Frequent your favorites, venture out to some new places, and buy gift cards for a future visit or for giving.

Happy spring and summer everyone and stay safe on the lake!

TOMAHAWK LAKE

Association, Inc.

Hazelhurst • Lake Tomahawk • Minocqua • Woodruff

Tomahawk Lake Association
P.O. Box 535, Minocqua, WI 54548

Update your contact information

Email membership@tomahawklake.org to update any information. We need to keep you up to date on happenings around Tomahawk Lake. **Thanks!**



GO GREEN

Go Green with the Newsletter!!

Would you like to receive our semi-annual newsletters by email to help us reduce costs and save trees?

We have 81 members who have gone GREEN by electing to receive their newsletter electronically. If you would like to sign up for electronic newsletters, please email your request to: membership@tomahawklake.org.

Ice beginning to go.
Official ice out was
April 9, 2024.

