



Dedicated to Preserving and Protecting The Eagle River Chain of Lakes

Summer 2019

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Our Future is Bright!



Dave Tidmarsh

President

The 1st quarter of 2019 is in the books and by any measure it was a great start to the year. Income is up 50.8% over Q1 2018. The really exciting number for me is the amount of donations members have given in addition to their dues. This year donations are up 31.5% over Q1 2018; we have nearly half of our entire year's budget in already. Net income is up 75.7% over Q1 2018.

While the P&L is very important, our balance sheet is key and it remains strong. ERCLA'S total assets are up 9% over Q1 2018 to \$358.7k.

That sounds like an impressive number, and it is; but we all need to bear in mind that we will have fully used the last of the WI DNR grant for AIS this year. The grant is administered by The Commission but expenses for AIS treatment are paid for, for the most part, by ERCLA. Onterra's end of season report to The Commission, dated Nov. 2018 was good news; we are keeping AIS in check. The method of treatment this year will again be the use of DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvest). This year ERCLA'S expense after grant reimbursement will be \$10,000. With the grant exhausted this year and if AIS expands in acreage it could cost ERCLA \$50,000 in 2020.

We concluded Phase III of the Lake Management Plan in 2018. We now have 80% of the chain covered by the plan. The final Phase III plan, along with Phase I and II, is posted on our website, www.ercla.org. Phase IV plan for Yellow Birch and Watersmeet was kicked off last summer with the volunteer workshop. Onterra activities and development of the final Phase IV plan will be by the end of this year.

Your Lake Captains have been doing excellent work. I want to call out 2 captains that have done some really outstanding stuff. Bill Krostue, Lynx, headed a team of captains last year to design, purchase, and install our new ERCLA membership signs. His work continues this year because of the significant increase in the number of members so far this year.

George Katich, Yellow Birch, was the person behind the new boat safety brochures that you saw last year. This year George worked hard to improve the brochure for this year. It will include the map of the chain, as seen on the large signs we have put up at the boat landings. Over the last several months

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The Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association is the first non-profit, voluntary lake organization whose purpose is to maintain, protect, and improve the quality of the lakes and connecting waterways from Burnt Rollways Dam to Otter Rapids Dam on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. Formed in 2001, it is incorporated as a Non-stock Corporation under Wisconsin law. It is recognized as a public charity under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Future is Bright (continued from pg 1)

George went around to each business that is on or near the water to get their name on the map in the new brochure. He signed up 20 businesses.

The first half membership and financial results will be presented at the annual membership meeting this summer. Our Annual Membership Meeting will be held July 13th at the Lincoln Town Hall at 9am.

Most important of all is our annual social event. Ask anyone that attended last year and you will hear that a lot of fun was had by all. This year we will have the social event again at Eagle Waters Resort, it will be on Sunday Aug. 11th 2 to 6. As with last year we will mail out an invitation card to all riparians. But mark your calendars now; you don't want to miss it.



How Does ERCLA Spend Your Money?

The Lake Captains and other ERCLA Board Members are sometimes asked, "What does ERCLA do with the money it receives from dues and donations?"

ERCLA's mission is to preserve and protect the health of our beautiful Chain of Lakes. In conjunction with the Unified Eagle River Lower Chain of Lakes Commission, grants have been obtained to support ongoing treatment of invasive species. We maintain a Treasury of more than \$300,000 and are committed to preserving those monies for additional Chain water and shoreline protection activities such as AIS treatments. The Commission's and ERCLA's efforts have been very successful in treating and preventing the spread of AIS and we have been in a lower cost maintenance

mode for the past few years. But we are no longer expecting State of Wisconsin grants in the future to fund a significant part of the costs of treating AIS and the most recent Onterra report on treatment plans speculates that more significant and expensive treatment years will be needed starting in 2020. Because of this we could be required to draw down significant amounts from our treasury if other sources of support are not found.

Our primary sources of income each year are (2019 budgeted amounts in brackets) annual dues payments from our members (\$55,500), additional contributions from many of those members (\$12,000), and interest earned on our invested funds (\$4,500).

Our primary operating expenses include:

(2019 budgeted amounts in brackets)



Lake Management Projects net costs after grants (\$10,000), Clean Boats Clean Waters (\$2,000), Aquatic/ Shoreline Invasive Species, ERCLA's share (\$9,150), Chain Buoys (\$5,000), Communication, including Newsletters, Website, Printing & Mailing and Social Media and Other (\$16,600), and the annual Member Social Event (\$5,000).

If you have any questions or comments about ERCLA's financial matters, please contact Chuck Berg, VP-Finance, at pwchuck@gmail.com.

Lake Captain Reports

Yellow Birch Lake

My name is George Katich and I am the lake captain for Yellow Birch Lake; which includes all property owners on the Yellow Birch Lake and the Eagle River from the t-docks west to the Highway 45 bridge. If you have questions or concerns about Yellow Birch Lake or other lakes of the Eagle River chain, please contact me at 847-309-4008 or gwkatich@gmail.com.

Save the date: July 6, 2019, 4:00 to 7:00 pm for our annual Yellow Birch Lake meeting and social event. More information will be mailed to you on this upcoming event. If you do not receive the information by June 28, please contact me.

The last herbicide treatment on Yellow Birch Lake was in 2014. We are now using Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) to hand-harvest Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). In August 2018 professional divers hand-harvested approximately 96 pounds of EWM from .9 acres on the northeast bay of Yellow Birch Lake. The divers will hand-harvest EWM again this August in the same area. Also, this summer volunteers will survey for yellow iris and purple loosestrife on Yellow Birch Lake.

Whether you are a full time or part time resident; renting or selling your home, we need every riparian to be a member of ERCLA. It's up to all of us to continue to protect our water and shorelines to maintain our property values on the Eagle River

Chain of Lakes. In 2018, 72 percent of Yellow Birch Lake riparians were members of ERCLA. Let's try to increase our membership to at least 80 percent for 2019. If you haven't joined ERCLA in 2019, please do so now.

Scattering Rice Lake

Fortunately, winter is finally over and it's time to kick back and enjoy the long warm summer.

Last year Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) returned to Scattering Rice Lake. There were three areas that had a significant accumulation. In August of 2018 ERCLA retained a contractor to hand pull the Milfoil in those three areas. I am pleased to inform you that the hand pulling was very successful

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Lake Contacts

Lake	Captain	E-mail address
Catfish	Gary Conger	gdconger@gmail.com
Cranberry	Tom Atchison	Tom.atchison3@gmail.com
Duck	Marc Groth	msgroth@sbcglobal.net
Eagle		
Lynx	Bill Krostue	krostu@charter.net
Otter	Dave Mueller	muellerd@dwave.net
Scattering Rice	Dennis Burg	dburg8648@aol.com
Voyageur		
Watersmeet	Dan Newitt	knewitt@earthlink.net
Yellow Birch	George Katich	gwkatich@gmail.com

Lake Captain Reports (continued from pg 3)

(Scattering Rice Lake continued)

and eliminated most of the Milfoil in those areas. We will continue to monitor the presence of any further EWM in our lake and take the necessary steps to control it. Go to the ERCLA webpage to get more information on EWM in Scattering Rice Lake.

Remember to mark your calendars for the ERCLA Annual Meeting on July 13. Steve Gilbert, the DNR fish biologist will discuss the status of the fishery in the Chain of Lakes.

Thank you and have a great summer.

Your Lake Captain, Dennis Burg

Cranberry Lake

Hello Fellow Cranberry Lake Rippers,

I hope you all had a good, safe winter...I think it is over.

For those who do not live on Cranberry Lake full-time, we hope your commute back up to the beautiful Northwoods is a safe one and for those opening your homes and cottages "welcome back"!

Whether you are here only a few weeks a year or a full-time resi-

dent, we need your help to continue to protect and maintain our waters and shores on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. Membership is only \$60 per year (tax deductible) to help protect our amazing waterways. Please encourage your neighbors to join. If you don't see a member sign by their driveway, they are probably not a member. If they are a member and don't have a sign, have them reach out to me so I can install one for them. Membership forms and other ERCLA information can be found on the ERCLA website: www.ercla.org.

Please let me know if you have an interest in helping support our lake community in 2019. ERCLA is always looking for volunteers from things like helping with milfoil surveys, to help with different activities. Any help would be appreciated!

My role as Lake Captain is to be your single contact for any questions or concerns regarding Cranberry Lake. I will bring those concerns to the ERCLA Board. Feel free to reach out to me anytime via email

Tom.Atchison3@GMail.com or by calling 920-422-1866. The Lake Captain role is planned to be short-term, therefore I am currently working on my succession plan. Please let me know if you have any interest in becoming a

future Cranberry Lake Captain.

Hope to see you on the lake soon and at the ERCLA Summer Picnic coming again this summer! Have a great and safe summer...less than 200 days until the snowmobile trails open!

Warmest Regards,
Tom Atchison
Cranberry Lake Captain

Watersmeet Lake & Rivers

Hi, this is Dan Newitt. I am the Lake Captain for Watersmeet Lake and Rivers. Our area includes Eagle River from Rt. 45 bridge to Watersmeet Lake, Wisconsin River from Hwy G to the Otter Dam, Mud Creek, Spring Creek and of course, Watersmeet Lake.

If you remember the summer of 2008 Watersmeet had the heaviest infestation of EWM on the entire chain. The milfoil was so badly matted you could almost walk across the lake. Thanks to the efforts of ERCLA and the Commission, we can once again navigate the lake with ease. Previously our milfoil infestation has been treated chemically and hand pulled but there are still a few areas where EWM is returning. This year we will be using diver assist-

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Lake Captain Reports (continued from pg 4)

(Watersmeet Lake continued)

ed suction harvesting (DASH) to clean up the areas where EWM is returning. All of this activity is funded by your membership donations and grants. The grants are drying up and it probably will be impossible to attain further grants.

ERCLA has worked with our consultants to produce the necessary lake management plans for the entire chain, done invasive species surveys and biomass surveys.

Our area has the most riparians, but the lowest percentage of ERCLA members. I would like to encourage you to help support the efforts to keep our waters clean and property values up by joining ERCLA today.

I have been President of Watersmeet Lake and River Association and on the ERCLA board since 2015, and now a Lake Captain since the merger of the lake associations and ERCLA. It is time for me to move on, so we are looking for a volunteer to become the new lake captain. It is very rewarding to know you are helping maintain our beautiful lakes and rivers. Please contact me at knewitt@earthlink.net if you would like to volunteer.

Thanks for your participation!
Dan Newitt
Watersmeet Lake Captain

Duck Lake

Hello to all my fellow ERCLA members!

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring after a somewhat challenging winter here in Eagle River. It sure was exciting to see the lakes open for opening day fishing. Duck Lake is 106 acres and is 20 feet deep at its deepest point. Anglers can expect to catch Bluegill, Perch, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Musky, Northern Pike, and Walleye.

As the weather warms up, we will start to see more recreational activity on Duck Lake like water skiing, kayaking, tubing, and jet skis. With that said, have fun but please keep in mind to follow the boating regulations. We certainly want everyone to be safe.

I'd also like to give a shout out to our Duck Lake businesses that support ERCLA as members. They are Pirate's Hideaway, Kickback Grill, Wild Eagle Lodge and Wildwood Resort. Thanks very much for your support!! It is truly appreciated.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of our Duck Lake riparians for your continued support of ERCLA. For those of you who have yet to renew your 2019 membership, I respectfully ask that you consider doing so. On that note, if you are

a member and have not received your ERCLA/Duck Lake sign, please feel free to contact me and I will get one out to you as soon as possible. My contact information can be found on the ERCLA website.

Have a great summer season and I hope to see you out on the water.

Marc Groth
Lake Caption
Duck Lake

Lynx Lake

Good news for Lynx Lake. The 2018 summer survey found NO Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in Lynx Lake. Without membership dues, volunteers and ERCLA's continued efforts to combat and control EWM this would not have been accomplished. But as Eagle River Chain & River property owners/ riparians we cannot become complacent, the battle to control EWM will not cease and is still present on other chain lakes. State grant money is coming to an end and in the future ERCLA and the United Lower Eagle chain of Lakes Commission, our private public partnership may be on its own to fund new programs.

The 2018 percentage of ERCLA members to total riparians is 46% or 818 members, an increase of 10% over 2017. ERCLA's 2019

(Lynx Lake continued from pg 5)

membership goal is to increase membership by 12%. To achieve the membership goal and control EWM, join and renew today. As a Lake Captain and ERCLA board member I pledge I will always be prudent with your membership dues and contributions to preserve and protect the Eagle River Chain & Rivers.

Bill Krostue
Lynx Lake Captain

Status Report: Boat Patrol on the Eagle River Chain

2019 In Review

At the request of ERCLA Management, we met with the Sheriff's Department to review and assess the success of last year's program as well as assure the continuation of the Program moving forward.

In addition to Sheriff Joe Fath and Recreation Officer Jason Molle, attendees included local leaders from the Towns of Lincoln, Washington, Cloverland, and the City of Eagle River.

Based on approximately 230 hours "on water observation".... 28 written citations and 48 written warnings were generated.

The total cost of the Program was \$17,500 of which the WDNR re-

imbursed the Sheriff's Department \$13,130.

The remaining uncovered balance was satisfied equally by ERCLA and it's four Municipal Partners. (Your dues and tax dollars in action)!

2020 Projection

1. Continue weekend and holiday surveillance from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
2. Maintain all Stakeholders vigilance and loyalty for the Program.



EWM Treatment in the Cranberry Channel

This article reviews efforts to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil in the channel leading into Cranberry Lake. Prior to 2015 treatment designed to remove EWM was largely ineffective. Initially the pellet form of the 2,4-D herbicide was used and then the liquid form.

The treatment plan for 2015 was designed to maximize the amount of time the herbicide stayed in contact with the EWM. The entire area of 42.4 acres was treated with liquid 2.4-D by Schmidt Aquatic LLC. Water flow through

the Burnt Rollways Dam was reduced to the maximum allowable by Wisconsin Valley Improvement 12 hours prior to treatment. Our management firm Onterra LLC measured water flow prior to and during treatment. Volunteers gathered water samples in the treatment site. The samples were analyzed by the state hygiene lab.

The peak bio-mass survey in the fall showed a few highly scattered occurrences of EWM present. Our reaction was close to euphoric.

Each year since then the fall peak bio-mass survey has shown an increasing presence of EWM. The 2018 survey shows EWM nearing treatment levels including a tiny surface matting area. Clearly we are in a mode of trying to manage the level of EWM so as to keep a high level of water quality. At this time the Wisconsin DNR is reluctant to grant herbicide treatment applications. Time will tell if we will be able to treat with herbicides.

For more information on the status of EWM in our chain consult the Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission website: <https://eagleriverchaincommission.org/lake-reports.html>

Dave Mueller
ERCLA AIS
Project Chair



Supporting The Future

As you know the Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association is all about ensuring that our beautiful chain of lakes is preserved for our collective enjoyment now and into the future. It is the future that we must be most mindful of; not just the water quality but the people that will be around to care for our environment.

ERCLA continually works to involve as many volunteers as possible to make sure our mission is carried out



for years to come. It is through our volunteers and the use of several communication tools that ERCLA is able to educate our broader community on the need to take care of our water and shoreland. The water quality is impacted in several ways; most notably by runoff from

farms and clear cutting the land around our lakes.

One very important way ERCLA invests in the future is by getting the young people in our community to take an interest in caring for our environment. To that end every year ERCLA awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating Northland Pines Senior that will pursue a degree in conservation or environmental sciences.

This year we had the largest number of scholarship applicants. It was a difficult choice because each applicant showed desire and determination. This year's scholarship recipient is **Thomas Priefer**. Thomas will be attending the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point; working toward a degree in conservation and forestry. Thomas was very active in extracurricular activities; he participated in football, cross country, track, and basketball. He attended

conservation camp sponsored by Trees for Tomorrow. All the while holding several jobs.

Thomas' interest in forestry

started at a young age when his father and grandfather would take him hunting and fishing. His love for the outdoors helped him to understand the importance of a healthy environment. His goal after graduation is to return to the beautiful northwoods and work to improve our environment in any way he can.

Congratulations Thomas; ERCLA wishes you all the best in your pursuit of your degree and your career.



Membership Report

	Total	2019	2018
	Number of	YTD	YTD
	Riparians	Members	Members
Catfish	286	133	81
Cranberry	289	125	65
Duck	120	42	20
Eagle	172	69	36
Otter	118	57	28
Lynx	30	10	5
Scattering Rice	117	52	27
Voyageur	87	28	11
Watersmeet	424	108	52
Yellow Birch	142	68	35
Non-riparians		14	6
Total members	1,785	706	366

Our membership numbers continue to look fantastic. As of the same date in 2018 we had 366 members, this year we have 706; that is a 52% percentage increase.

Thanks to Yellow Birch Lake Captain, George Katich, our business members have gone way up. We now have 26 business members. George updated our boat safety brochure to include a chain map with the business member names on it.

BE A MEMBER
Join or Renew Today!



Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association
PO Box 1821
Eagle River, WI 54521

**Our website is awesome!
Check it out at our new
address
www.ercla.org**

Dedicated to Preserving and Protecting
the Eagle River Chain of Lakes

**ANNUAL
MEETING**



*You're
Invited*

ERCLA Annual Meeting

July 13, 2019

9AM

Lincoln Town Hall