



# Dedicated to Preserving and Protecting The Eagle River Chain of Lakes

Winter 2020

## ERCLA Officers

President  
Chuck Berg

VP of Finance  
Dennis Burg

VP Operations  
Mark Brenner

Treasurer  
Julie Brenner

Secretary  
Teri Stecker

AIS Coordinator  
Dave Mueller

Director At Large  
Bill Lochte

The Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association Inc 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.

## President's Message



Chuck Berg  
President

**H**appy New Year to all of you who are so lucky to live and/or work on and enjoy our wonderful Eagle River Chain of Lakes.

I am honored to serve as President of the Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association and to work with our many enthusiastic volunteers to make 2020 another fabulous year for our rivers and lakes. Our mission continues to be to maintain, protect, and improve the quality of the lakes and connecting waterways on the Chain. Our primary ways of pursuing that mission include (1) supporting the Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission in its ongoing efforts to eradicate Eurasian Water Milfoil in the Chain, (2) educating boaters on the Chain of the need to remove aquatic plants from boats and trailers, (3) completion of our comprehensive lake management plans and (4) supporting the municipalities buoy maintenance and replacement efforts and the Sheriff's boat patrol safety program. We fund these programs using monies received from our members annually as well as the funds we have accumulated over previous years. Our goal is to preserve these funds for as long as possible in order to face any threats to the health and safety of the Chain in the future.

ERCLA completed its consolidation with the previous individual lake associations at the end of 2017. The ERCLA Board structure was changed to accommodate this consolidation by establishing volunteer captains for each lake responsible for ongoing communications with residents on the lake, putting up ERCLA membership signs and representing the lake at ERCLA Board Meetings. This model further evolved in 2019 when we established the co-captain role for each lake. This provides additional resources for each lake and has attracted several more enthusiastic volunteers, some of whom are profiled in this newsletter. Please give your captain and co-captain your input, ideas and questions. We want to hear from you.

We had a very successful financial year in 2019, record membership and donations. And we think we can do even better in 2020 with the help of our volunteers, and all of you who live and work on the Chain as well as all who enjoy the Chain even without living on it. Thanks to all of our members, we appreciate you and your support. For those of you who have never been ERCLA members, we invite you to please join us.

Thank you,

Chuck Berg

## Summer Social Event

Last August, over 200 ERCLA Members and their families met at Eagle Waters Resort for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Social Event intended to thank our members for their support and to encourage ongoing socializing and friendships across all of the ten Lakes and Rivers on the Chain.

We picked a perfect weather day for the event. Judy Barr at Re/Max and Laura Koranda from Eagle Waters Resort generously donated drinks for the afternoon. Laura and her team served a delicious variety of snacks and foods, and Justin Pitlik did a fabulous job of being the master of ceremonies and spinning music all afternoon.

A good time was had by all. Please join us next year for the Third Annual Event, date to be determined.



**Come Join Us Next Year**



## Funding the EWM Project

2020 marks the fourteenth year in the fight against Eurasian Water Milfoil in the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. Our program is in maintenance mode. The goal is to keep EWM at a low level. Part one of the program is to quantitatively measure the presence of EWM. We use the professional services of Onterra, LLC to survey and report on how much EWM is in the chain. Part two is to selectively remove EWM through diver assisted suction harvesting. Areas in Catfish Lake and Cranberry Lake have qualified for hand harvesting.

A professional diving company DASH, LLC provides this service.

The program is administered by the Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission. Formed under a joint powers agreement it consists of an elected member each from the City of Eagle River and the Towns of Cloverland, Lincoln and Washington. The private sector is well represented by volunteers from ERCLA. Grant funds from the

**By Dave Mueller, AIS Coordinator**

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have been exhausted. Costs are funded by the municipalities and the private sector represented by ERCLA.

### Project Cash Flow Summary Estimate

Hand Pull	\$20,600.00
Onterra	\$21,050.00
CB/CW	<u>\$ 520.00</u>
	\$42,170.00
State CB/CW	\$ .00
Municipal	\$11,343.50
ULERCLC funds	\$18,826.50
Private - ERCLA	<u>\$12,000.00</u>
	\$42,170.00

## Membership



### 2019 Full Membership Report

	Total	2019	2018
Number of		Members	Members
Riparians			
Catfish	286	154	151
Cranberry	289	152	147
Duck	120	55	48
Eagle	172	89	77
Otter	118	69	62
Lynx	30	12	12
Scattering Rice	117	68	64
Voyageur	87	31	31
Watersmeet	424	136	126
Yellow Birch	142	110	100
Non-riparians		17	11
<b>Total members</b>	<b>1,785</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>829</b>

We were pleased to see total members increase or stay the same for every Lake and category in 2019. Our budget for 2020 will work toward reaching 1,000 total members.

## TEAMWORK

Alone we can do so little.

Together we can do so much.

Helen Keller

## Clean Boats Clean Waters

ERCLA has contracted with Vilas County Land and Water Conservation to provide 24 hours of CB/CW inspection services during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week. A Limited Term Employee from Land and Water will do the inspections at the Eagle Lake County Park, Braywood on Catfish and T-Docks on Yellow Birch boat landings.

Additionally, we will do volunteer CB/CW inspections during the course of this summer. For more information please contact:

Marc Groth, [msgroth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msgroth@sbcglobal.net)  
or  
Dave Mueller, [muellerd@dwave.net](mailto:muellerd@dwave.net).



## Book Review

by Chuck Berg

I recently finished reading “The Death and Life of the Great Lakes” by Dan Egan.

I found it to be a fascinating and effective description and history of changes to the natural ecosystems in each Great Lake over the past 125 years or so. One of the biggest impacts was from navigation construction efforts that enabled huge cargo container ships to travel through the Great Lakes from around the world. The ballast from these ships was released in the Great Lakes and contained myriad non-native species that changed the natural order in the Lakes. The book also describes efforts by regulators on the Lakes to offset these changes, and the often unintended consequences of those actions. Because watercraft often go from one of the Great Lakes to smaller inland waterbodies, there are also sometimes negative impacts on the smaller lakes. It is a fairly quick and easy read and I think you would enjoy these stories.



## Lake Captain & Co-Captain Profiles

### Voyageur Lake:

#### Teri Stecker



Hi everyone, my name is Teri Stecker; my husband, Jim,

and I finished our year-round home on the south shore of Voyageur Lake in 2013, coinciding with my retirement and our permanent move to Eagle River. We have been enjoying these beautiful northwoods for more than 35 years. We are avid golfers and water activity enthusiasts. In July, I became a Lake Captain for Voyageur. The 2019 Aquatic Species results for Voyageur are excellent.

Visit our [ercla.org](http://ercla.org) website regularly, for updated reports. This year, our Lake's Membership goal is to increase our active property

owners by 15 new members. Your Co-Captain, Harry Clayton, and I will be reaching out to you. If you have concerns or comments for the Board, use the "Contact Us" website page; or use the Contact info in this newsletter. I welcome the opportunity to represent each of you and can be reached at 920.428.6743 or [jestecker@hotmail.com](mailto:jestecker@hotmail.com). Let's talk to our neighbors about ERCLA; and we'll see you on the Trails.

**Stay  
Informed  
Get  
Involved**

(more profiles, continued on pg 5)

## ERCLA Officers

### President

Chuck Berg  
[pwchuck@gmail.com](mailto:pwchuck@gmail.com)

### VP of Finance

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[dburg8648@aol.com](mailto:dburg8648@aol.com)

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[muellerd@dwave.com](mailto:muellerd@dwave.com)

### Director At Large

Bill Lochte  
[mblochte@frontier.com](mailto:mblochte@frontier.com)

Lake	Captain	E-mail address	Co-Captain	E-mail address
Catfish	Gary Conger	<a href="mailto:gdconger@gmail.com">gdconger@gmail.com</a>	Steve Wagner	<a href="mailto:wagnerstevepix@yahoo.com">wagnerstevepix@yahoo.com</a>
Cranberry	Tom Atchison	<a href="mailto:Tom.atchison3@gmail.com">Tom.atchison3@gmail.com</a>	Micheal Queoff	<a href="mailto:mqueoff@gmail.com">mqueoff@gmail.com</a>
Duck	Marc Groth	<a href="mailto:msgroth@sbcglobal.net">msgroth@sbcglobal.net</a>	Vacant	
Eagle	Greg Hendricks	<a href="mailto:packerman2@hotmail.com">packerman2@hotmail.com</a>	Tom Newkirk	<a href="mailto:newkorama@gmail.com">newkorama@gmail.com</a>
Lynx	Bill Krostue	<a href="mailto:krostu@charter.net">krostu@charter.net</a>	Vacant	
Otter	Dave Mueller	<a href="mailto:muellerd@dwave.com">muellerd@dwave.com</a>	Vacant	
Scattering Rice	Dennis Burg	<a href="mailto:dburg8648@aol.com">dburg8648@aol.com</a>	Larry Springer	<a href="mailto:larrandar@gmail.com">larrandar@gmail.com</a>
Voyageur	Teri Stecker	<a href="mailto:jestecker@hotmail.com">jestecker@hotmail.com</a>	Harry Clayton	<a href="mailto:hclayton22790@gmail.com">hclayton22790@gmail.com</a>
Watersmeet	Aubrey Dalbec	<a href="mailto:aubreydalbec@gmail.com">aubreydalbec@gmail.com</a>	Dan Newitt	<a href="mailto:knewitt@earthlink.net">knewitt@earthlink.net</a>
Yellow Birch	George Katich	<a href="mailto:gwkatich@gmail.com">gwkatich@gmail.com</a>	Vacant	

## Lake Captain & Co-Captain Profiles

(Continued)

### Catfish Lake: Steve Wagner



Steve and Jean Wagner live on the east side of Catfish Lake.

We've had the place on Catfish Lake since 1996. We moved up from Waukesha in 2019.

Our favorite activity is being on the water and getting to all 28 lakes.

The natural beauty is unbelievable and a rare treasure to enjoy.

We have 4 adult children - 3 are married and we have 5 grandchildren.

### Cranberry Lake: Michael Queoff

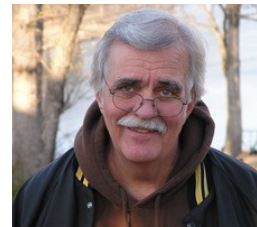


Hello fellow riparians, my name is Michael Queoff. As co-captain for

Cranberry Lake, I am happy to answer any questions or provide you with information about ERCLA. My family has been seasonal residents since 2001 and permanent residents since 2017.

When I am not somewhere on the chain chasing walleye, I can be found selling real estate at Eliason Realty. For any ERCLA needs call me at 262.707.4214 or [mqueoff@gmail.com](mailto:mqueoff@gmail.com)

### Otter Lake: Dave Mueller



Hello. I am captain of Otter Lake. I purchased a three-season cottage on the north

shore in March, 1978. I've enjoyed many hours of relaxation on the lakeside screened-in porch. I moved across the lake to the southeast shore in August, 1996. Muskie fishing is a passion of mine and I have been an integral part of ERCLA and ULERCLC since 2007. Currently I hold the positions of ERCLA AIS Coordinator, ERCLA executive committee and ULERCLC treasurer. Let's all work at improving the ecology of our chain!

## CHECK IT OUT !! New Look for 2020 by the Communication Committee

- 1) Newsletters - We'll add more photos and personal stories. We now have an Electronic Newsletter format to improve efficiency and reduce print and mailing costs.
- 2) Membership form - View the changes. The 2020 document is in this Newsletter. When you send in your dues, be sure to complete the form in its entirety and add preference options for receiving future correspondence from us. Our database is expanding, too.
- 3) Speaking of Dues and Donations - We have partnered with Pay Pal to add an online payment option. Use the Dues / Donate Button on our [ERCLA.org](http://ERCLA.org) website. You will not need a PayPal account to use this online option; PayPal allows for guest payments with a credit or debit card. If you have a Pay Pal account, you pay thru your preferred payment method.
- 3) Website - [www.ercla.org](http://www.ercla.org) has movement to it. Visit the website and watch it change over the year with more interaction between it and our Facebook Page. Don't forget to view the videos on the ERCLA YouTube channel, too.

WATCH FOR IT !!

Our 2020 Resolution - **Be Fluid, Responsive and Improve Communication**



## Yellow Birch Lake



My name is George Katich and I am the Lake Captain for Yellow Birch Lake; which

includes all property owners on Yellow Birch Lake and the Eagle River from the T-docks west to the Highway 45 bridge. My role as the Lake Captain is to represent you and present your interests to the ERCLA Board of Directors. 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](mailto:gwkatich@gmail.com).

As always, I enjoyed meeting and talking to so many of the Yellow Birch property owners this past summer. Some of you I've met previously and others for the first time. And in 2019 four new property owners moved onto Yellow Birch Lake.



Boat used for diving



Milfoil



Harvesting Milfoil

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 our first year, 2018, as one association, 72 percent of Yellow Birch Lake riparians were members of ERCLA; at the end of 2019, 78 percent of our Yellow Birch Riparians joined ERCLA. Let's try to get our membership to over 80 percent in 2020.

On September 10, 2019, professional divers using Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) hand harvested 74 pounds of Eurasian Milfoil from .9 acres on the north-east bay of Yellow Birch Lake. I also, surveyed for Yellow Iris and Purple Loosestrife along the shores of Yellow Birch Lake and our lake's portion of the Eagle River. Fortunately, these two species do not seem to be spread-

ing. In fact, I found fewer areas this summer than when I last surveyed in 2016.

Thank you members for all your continued support of ERCLA!!



George Katich,  
Yellow Birch Lake Captain



Save the date: Saturday, July 11, 2020, 4 to 7 pm for our annual Yellow Birch Lake meeting and social event. More information will be mailed to you about this upcoming event. The ERCLA annual meeting is also on July 11, at 9am at the Lincoln Town Hall.

## Dredging The Channel

Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company dredged the Eagle River channel between Burnt Rollways Dam and Cranberry Lake in October and November 2019.



Sand had accumulated between piling numbers 76/75 and 74/73, and made navigation difficult. The goal of the dredging was to restore the channel to at least five feet deep and twelve feet wide. All of the dredging occurred within the first mile downstream of the dam.

All materials removed from the river were deposited into a pond located behind the WVIC house at the dam/hoist. Once dredging is completed the pond will be filled in and the site will be leveled and landscaped.



Burnt Rollways Dam

This project should make boating between the Eagle River and Three Lakes Chains easier. If you have any questions about the project, please contact WVIC at 715-848-2976, or email [staff@wvic.com](mailto:staff@wvic.com).



Channel between Cranberry Lake and the dam

## Help Wanted

We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us in pursuing our goals and mission.



We were very fortunate in recent years to have a volunteer who was skilled at managing our accounting system using QuickBooks accounting software. That person retired from her volunteer efforts during 2019. We have currently outsourced the maintenance of our QuickBooks software to a local accounting firm. That process is going well, the firm is very responsive to our needs. But if anyone reading this newsletter has QuickBooks skills and would like to take on that responsibility with ERCLA, please let any of the people listed elsewhere in this newsletter know.

As you will note in looking at the list of Lake Co-Captains in this newsletter, there are currently four Lakes on the Chain where we do not have a Co-Captain. If you are interested in discussing the responsibilities of Co-Captain with the appropriate Lake Captain, please send them an email.



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

**Our website is awesome!  
Check it out at  
our new address  
[www.ercla.org](http://www.ercla.org)**

Dedicated to Preserving and Protecting  
the Eagle River Chain of Lakes  
and its Tributaries, Watershed  
and Ecosystems

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**



*You're  
Invited*

**ERCLA Annual Meeting**

**July 11, 2020**

**9AM**

**Lincoln Town Hall**