



# Dedicated to Maintaining, Protecting and Improving the Quality of the Eagle River Chain

## President's Message



Chuck Berg,  
President

I hope this message finds all of our ERCLA members and friends as healthy and happy as possible while we all continue to hope for an end to the death, suffering and fear that has been with us for most of 2020.

I hope that in spite of the virus, all or most of you were able to enjoy the wonderful summer and fall weather in the Northwoods, and all the terrific activities that are possible on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. With so many cancellations and closures, we are blessed to have the Chain as an opportunity for joy and relief, more so than any other time in memory.

ERCLA again enjoyed a very solid level of member support in 2020, financially and with enthusiastic volunteers. ERCLA continued to support the Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission and its consultant Onterra in the ongoing efforts to eradicate Eurasian Watermilfoil from the Chain and its rivers. These efforts in 2020 were very successful, and 2021 plans are in place to further advance this program.

Our membership and communications teams have continued to upgrade our website membership process and offer more communications in digital format. Our lake captains and co-captains have increased their outreach efforts to members and potential members using email more extensively. We continue to work with the Vilas County Sheriff's Department to promote boating safety on the Chain. We plan to add additional communications to our newsletter and Facebook page regarding answers to some of the frequent and recurring questions we receive from our members as to, among other topics, placement of buoys, noise and boating regulations.

In 2020, we developed a document listing seven reasons why you should become a member of ERCLA. This has been mailed to many non-member Riparians, and our captains and co-captains use it in discussions with Riparians on their lakes. I won't repeat all of those reasons. But I would like to remind all who read this newsletter that one of the primary reasons ERCLA exists is to protect property values on the Chain through its ongoing efforts to eradicate and control invasive species, and to promote safety on the Chain through education on regulations and safe boating practices.

If you have never been an ERCLA member, or if you did not renew your membership in 2020, please consider becoming a member in 2021. We also encourage everyone who is able to let us know of volunteer activities you are interested in; we always need and welcome your participation and support.

Thanks everyone.

Chuck Berg, President

## Winter 2021

### This Issue

President's Message	1
ERCLA's Structure	2
Membership Update	3
Q & A	3
7 Reasons to Join	3
Help Our Lakes	4
EWM Update	4
ERCLA Officers	4
EWM Hand Removal	5
CB/CW Program	5
Communications Update	5
Lake Reports	6 - 7
We Need You	7
No Wake Areas	8
ERCLA Safety Efforts	8
2020 Annual Meeting	8
Lake Captain Profiles	9 - 10
2021 Dues Form	11
2021 Annual Meeting	12

*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 the Burnt Rollways Dam to the Otter Rapids Dam on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes.*

*Formed in 2001, ERCLA 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.*

## How the Current ERCLA Organizational Structure Came to Be

By Dave Tidmarsh, Director At Large

Many of you will recall that the Eagle River Chain of Lakes had an organizational structure that included each lake incorporated as an individual lake association with its own Board of Directors. ERCLA was an umbrella organization that assisted all the lake associations with their variety of needs.

In November 2015, the ERCLA leadership team revisited its role along with each lake association's roles, and realized they were one and the same, resulting in redundancy and confusion for our members. Members questioned why they were asked to support ERCLA and their own lake association, which in most cases doubled their fees. ERCLA also realized the advantage of bringing together each lake's leadership teams to create a much stronger team of ERCLA volunteers. It was obvious that consolidation of all ten lake associations into one would ensure our continuing dedication to preserving and protecting the Eagle River Chain of Lakes.



In the summer of 2016, the ERCLA leadership team prepared a presentation that was given at each lake association's annual meeting. Some of the benefits of one unified organization included:

- Clear identity
- Unified message and presence
- Pooling of leadership with dedicated supporting staff
- Simplified dues structure
- Continued leadership representation on the United Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission
- Eliminate duplication of activities such as newsletter, websites, membership recruitment, record keeping, board meetings, annual meetings, and filing required state and federal documents.

The results of those meetings indicated that ERCLA needed to move forward to develop a strategic plan to evolve into one consolidated association. A transition team that included representatives from each lake association worked together to achieve full consolidation at the end of 2017. Legal counsel was retained to guide the transition team through the state and federal requirements of dissolution for each lake association and the bylaws for the new consolidated association.

This process took all of 2017 and included each lake association's approval at their summer annual meetings. As a result, ERCLA is in its current organizational structure, and was launched in January 2018.

## ERCLA Lake Captains and Co-Captains

<u>Lake Captain</u>	<u>Lake</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Gary Conger	Catfish	608-469-7490	gdconger@gmail.com
Michael Queoff	Cranberry	262-707-4214	mqueoff@gmail.com
Marc Groth	Duck	847-951-1761	msgroth@sbcglobal.net
Greg Hendricks	Eagle	920-202-0064	greghendricks@hotmail.com
Bill Krostue	Lynx	920-470-3522	krostu@charter.net
Dave Mueller	Otter	715-297-6636	muellerd@dwave.net
Dennis Burg	Scattering Rice	414-588-2070	dburg8648@aol.com
Teri Stecker	Voyageur	920-428-6743	erclaonline@gmail.com
Aubrey Dalbec	Watersmeet	847-431-6505	aubreydalbec@gmail.com
George Katich	Yellow Birch	847-309-4008	gwkatich@gmail.com
<u>Lake Co-Captain</u>	<u>Lake</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Steve Wagner	Catfish	262-444-8882	eagleriver1996@gmail.com
John Haunfelder	Cranberry	262-442-4016	jhaunfelder@wi.rr.com
Dave Cyrtmus	Duck	715-218-2956	dcyrtmus23@gmail.com
Tom Newkirk	Eagle	715-891-5098	newkorama@gmail.com
Jody Voight	Otter	262-287-4521	jody.voight@gmail.com
Larry Springer	Scattering Rice	715-572-0881	larrandar@gmail.com
Dan Newitt	Watersmeet	715-891-0549	knewitt@earthlink.net
Skip McCann	Watersmeet	847-274-9792	hugh.mc@hotmail.com
Bill Morgan	Yellow Birch	847-254-9623	morganwm@comcast.net

## Membership Update

2020 was a solid year with ERCLA achieving 830 members, including 75 new members.

Special thanks to our Lake Captains and Co-Captains for their exceptional work in recruitment.

Thanks to all of our members for your support! Just a reminder that ERCLA's membership year is January 1 to December 31st. We're asking again for your continued support by renewing your membership using the form on page 11.

We added PayPal on ERCLA's website as an option for our members to pay their dues, receive donations, and to reduce our expenses. In 2020, 18% of our members used the PayPal option. Our goal for 2021 is for 35%.

You don't need a PayPal account to use this feature, simply pay as a Guest. See our Q & A section for more information on how to use PayPal.

If you have questions, please email Teri Stecker at [erclaonline@gmail.com](mailto:erclaonline@gmail.com).

## ERCLA Q & A

By Teri Stecker, ERCLA Secretary

**Question:** Why do I have a separate post for our ERCLA lake sign? Could it be put on our fire number post?

**Answer:** Local ordinances do not allow ERCLA to affix a lake sign to your fire number post. You'll find the language in most local ordinances read that a fire number sign post is "used solely for display of the address".

View Vilas County zoning codes online at <https://www.vilascountywi.gov>

**Question:** How do I pay my membership online with a credit card?

**Answer:** On ERCLA's Membership page, click on the "Join or Renew" button. ([www.ercla.org/membership/membership-join-or-renew](http://www.ercla.org/membership/membership-join-or-renew))

Select the amount to pay. You will also see two options:

- Select the bottom WHITE button to pay with your credit card.
- The top BLUE button gives you the option to pay with your PayPal account.

PayPal is a safe way to pay online, and does not share your personal information.

We ask that you please check the option to "Share your mailing address with ERCLA" so that we are able to keep our records updated.

Please contact Teri Stecker at [erclaonline@gmail.com](mailto:erclaonline@gmail.com) if you have any questions or problems paying online.

*Thank you!*



## 7 Reasons to Join ERCLA

### SAFETY & EDUCATION:

**#7 - Buoys Program** - ERCLA assists with funding the maintenance and replacement of buoys to keep the Chain safe for all to enjoy. We need your help with reporting damaged buoys and those that may need replacement.

**#6 - Signage Program** - Banners and maps are placed at several boat landings by ERCLA, identifying some local businesses, dealerships, marinas and much more.

**#5 - Vilas County Sheriff's Boat Patrol** - We partner with the Sheriff's Department to keep the waterways safe with regular patrols and provide education, warnings and citations when necessary.

### VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS:

**#4 - Clean Boats, Clean Waters** - Boats and trailers are inspected for invasive species, and educational materials are distributed to boaters at boat landings. Pink Buckets - These bright pink buckets, located at various boat landings, help us eliminate invasive plants from our waters.

**#3 - Citizens Lake Monitoring Network** - ERCLA organizes volunteers to participate in this partnership of more than 1,000 statewide volunteers working with the Wisconsin DNR.

**#2 - Invasive Species** - ERCLA works diligently to prevent the spread of invasive species and assists in management efforts to control or eradicate Eurasian Watermilfoil, Purple Loosestrife, Yellow Loosestrife, Yellow Iris and other invasive species.

**#1 - You will stand "ERCLA Proud" with our Membership sign identifying your lake or river.**





## What You Can Do to Help Our Lakes and Rivers

Keep your shoreline as natural as possible. A natural shoreline is a complex ecosystem that protects shoreline erosion, improves water quality and provides habitat for wildlife and fish.

A natural shoreline buffer zone of at least 35 feet from water's edge to the shoreland intercepts lawn nutrients and reduces runoff erosion and sediment.



If trees, branches, etc., fall in the water, leave them unless they affect navigation on the water. Coarse woody habitat consists of trees, limbs, branches, roots and wood fragments that are at least four inches in diameter and enter the lake naturally or by human means.

Coarse woody habitat provides shoreland erosion control, a carbon source for the lake, and prevents suspension of sediments.

One of the greatest benefits of coarse woody habitat is providing a surface for algae growth, which is important for aquatic macroinvertebrates and creates a habitat for fish species.

ERCLA is in the process of creating a sub-committee to help Riparians with shoreline protection and restoration projects. ***Stay tuned for more information!***

## 2021 Eurasian Watermilfoil Program

*By Dave Mueller, AIS Coordinator*

2021 marks the 15th year in the fight against Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) 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 how much EWM is in the Chain. Part two is to selectively remove EWM through diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH). Areas in Catfish Lake, Cranberry Lake and Yellow Birch Lake have qualified for hand harvesting. A professional diving company, DASH Aquatic Services, LLC., provides this service.

The program is administered by the United Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission (ULERCLC). Formed under a joint powers agreement, it consists of elected members from the City of Eagle River and the towns of Cloverland, Lincoln and Washington. The private sector is well represented by volunteers from ERCLA.

The commission was recently awarded a three-year Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Aquatic Invasive Species Established Population Control Grant.

Costs will be shared by the municipalities, WDNR grant funds, ULERCLC treasury funds and the private sector represented by ERCLA.

The ULERCLC will determine the funding breakdown for each of the entities sharing costs.

EWM Project Cash Expense Summary Estimate	
Hand Pull	\$30,900
Manage/Monitor	\$21,050
CB/CW	<u>\$780</u>
	<b>\$52,730</b>

## ERCLA Officers

### President

Chuck Berg  
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### VP Finance

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### Treasurer

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## Follow ERCLA Online

Website:  
ERCLA.org



Facebook:  
facebook.com/  
EagleRiverChain

## Riparian Hand Removal of EWM

The following was provided by Eddie Heath of Onterra, LLC., to the Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission (ULERCLC). ERCLA would like to thank the ULERCLC for sharing the information with ERCLA members.



Landowners, without a permit, are allowed to remove non-native aquatic plants anywhere within a lake so long as non-mechanical devices are used and all plant material is removed from the lake. To be effective, hand-harvesting of EWM needs to remove the entire root crown.

Folks are encouraged to watch the EWM Hand-Harvesting Instructional Video composed by Golden Sands RC&D - <http://bit.ly/EWM-HandHarvesting>. Please also reference the corresponding manual removal brochure - <http://bit.ly/EWM-RemovalBrochure>.

A good source of local information is Catherine Higley, Vilas County Lake Conservation Specialist. Cathy's email is [cahigl@vilascountywi.gov](mailto:cahigl@vilascountywi.gov), and she often organizes workshops that help with invasive plant identification and hand-removal methods.

## 2021 Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program

*By Dave Mueller, AIS Coordinator*

ERCLA has contracted with Vilas County Land and Water Conservation to provide 24 hours of CB/CW inspection services during the 4th of July week. An additional 12 hours to be done during other weeks has been requested.



A Limited Term Employee from Land and Water will do the inspections at boat landings at Eagle Lake County Park, Braywood on Catfish, and at the T-Docks on Yellow Birch.

Additionally, we will do volunteer CB/CW inspections during the course of this summer. Consider donating some of your time to support this worthwhile program. For more information, please email Marc Groth at [msgroth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msgroth@sbcglobal.net) or Dave Mueller at [muellerd@dwave.net](mailto:muellerd@dwave.net). As you move from lake to lake this summer, remember to "Clean, Drain and Drive."

## Communications Committee Report

The Communications Committee members are Aubrey Dalbec, Marc Groth, Bill Morgan, Michael Queoff, Teri Stecker and Jody Voight.

The Communications Committee continues to work with Kim Swisher Communications, LLC., to keep you informed through our Facebook page, website, YouTube channel and with various news articles.

Recent communications highlighted since our last newsletter include:

- Otter Rapids Dam video
- DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) video
- Onterra spring biomass survey
- Shoreline invasive survey
- Recognition for the boat landing signs maintenance
- 2020 Onterra AIS report

The videos may be viewed on ERCLA's YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/ERCLA-YouTube>.

The Communications Committee updated the Lake Management Plan, and added the 2019 and 2020 Annual Meeting minutes along with the latest Board of Directors meeting minutes to our website.

Please take the time to review these reports and feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding the reports. If you have a story about your lake that you'd like us to tell, we would love to hear from you!





## Lake Report - Yellow Birch

By George Katich

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 Lake Captain is to represent you and present your interests to ERCLA's Board of Directors. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 847-309-4008 or [gwkatich@gmail.com](mailto:gwkatich@gmail.com).

I would like to thank and welcome Bill Morgan for agreeing to be co-captain for Yellow Birch Lake. Please find Bill's profile in this newsletter.

This past summer, the shores of Yellow Birch Lake were surveyed for Yellow Iris and Purple Loosestrife, two invasive plants, by Bill Morgan and myself. If Yellow Iris was found on your shoreline, you will receive a letter explaining what can be done to stop the spread of this plant.

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, July 10, 2021.** The ERCLA annual meeting will be held at 9:00 am at a location to be determined. The annual Yellow Birch Lake meeting and social event will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. More information will be mailed to you about these upcoming events.

In 2020, we had 11 new property owners move onto Yellow Birch Lake. As always, I enjoyed meeting and talking to so many of the Yellow Birch Lake property owners. In 2020, over 80% of our property owners on Yellow Birch Lake were members of ERCLA.

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 value on the Chain.

Thank you members for all your continued support of ERCLA!

## Lake Report - Voyageur

By Teri Stecker

"Ugh!! The weeds are too thick by our dock!"

*What kind of weeds are you dealing with?*

Native aquatic plants cleanse the waters by absorbing nitrogen and phosphorus runoff that stimulate algae blooms. Plant beds stabilize lake and river bottoms, and reduce shoreline erosion by reducing the effect of waves and current. You benefit with improved water clarity, increased food and cover habitat for fish and prevent the intrusion of invasive species.

*What can we do as individuals?* Each individual property owner can create a healthy lake environment by reducing lawn fertilizers, nutrients and sediments that spill into the lakes from our yards, which increase the aquatic plant's growth spurt. You can create filtration or diversion practices that reduce lawn runoff and/or plant native grasses and wildflowers along the shoreline. Visit [healthylakeswi.com](http://healthylakeswi.com) to create a specific plan for your property.

*What does our association provide?* ERCLA educates members and the public through our Citizens Testing and Monitoring Network, Clean Boats/Clean Water and Pink Bucket programs. We produce website and newsletter articles, Facebook and YouTube videos, and distribute thousands of flyers and brochures.

Learn more about our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) programs at [www.ercla.org/projects/aquatic-invasive-species](http://www.ercla.org/projects/aquatic-invasive-species).

View the 2020 AIS lake report on the ERCLA website at [eagleriverchaincommission.org/lake-reports.html](http://eagleriverchaincommission.org/lake-reports.html).

The Wisconsin DNR understands your need to access your boat lift, dock and swimming areas. ***Individual property owners can cull the overabundance of native plants with the proper techniques.***

Learn more at [dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants](http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants) for specific rules and permitting requirements.

## Lake Report - Scattering Rice

By Dennis Burg

I am your Lake Captain, and I have good news to report on the fight against Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). The survey conducted on our lake in 2020 showed little concentration of EWM. There are scattered plants along the east shore and near the bog, but not enough to warrant either chemical treatment or hand harvesting in 2020 or 2021. We will continue to monitor the growth of EWM and try to keep it under control.

We do have a bit of a concern over the amounts of phosphorous in Scattering Rice Lake. A number of samples were taken last summer, and the samples showed high levels. This is nothing new as we have had high levels over the past decade. Phosphorous is necessary for plant growth and reasonable levels are good. However, high levels can cause excessive algae growth and, during hot summers, can cause algae bloom. One type of algae bloom that is of particular concern is blue green algae bloom, as this can be harmful to swimmers (and dogs) if inhaled. I did not see any blue green algae bloom in our lake in 2020; I did see it three or four times in 2019. It usually dissipates in two to three days. We will continue to monitor the phosphorous levels. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. Have a great winter!



## Lake Report - Otter

By Dave Mueller

Say hello to Georgia Czapek and Bryan Kainz, veteran peak bio-mass surveyors for Eurasian Watermilfoil on Otter Lake and Lynx Lake.

Every year since 2013 Georgia and her husband Ed have volunteered with their pontoon for this effort.

Ed has passed and Georgia continues to assist in the survey. Bryan is my stepson.

Thank you very much!



## Lake Report - Duck

By Marc Groth

Have you ever wondered who owns the house on Duck Lake across from Wild Eagle (as you're boating into Duck from Lynx Lake) with the big smiley face? I know I did until I was fortunate enough to meet Ken and Joan Holdman when I moved down the street from them.

Ken and Joan are originally from Milwaukee. After vacationing in Eagle River for many years, they decided to purchase the property in 1973. They moved into what I call the "Smiley Face Home" in the winter of 1999. They have three boys, nine grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren that visit regularly and enjoy spending time with Ken and Joan and all that the Eagle River Chain has to offer.

The property was originally the "Idle Awhile Resort" in the 1950s and 1960s, and included four cabins. Ken and Joan bought cabins #2 and #3. An addition was added to cabin #2, which became their permanent home. Cabin #3 is a guest cabin right next door. Unfortunately, on July 14, 2010, the main house burned to the ground, caused by lightning. The Holdmans decided they weren't going anywhere, so they stayed in their guest cabin until they moved into their newly built home on October 26, 2010. Ken volunteered his time over the years to ERCLA by regularly doing water clarity and chemistry testing on Duck Lake, and assisted in the annual peak biomass survey on Duck, Lynx and Otter lakes. Joan volunteers at the Ascension Eagle River Thrift Store, as she has done for many years.

The question is how did the smiley face come about? The original smiley face was actually a cable spool sitting on the side of the road and was originally used as an outdoor table. As the table aged, Ken and Joan's children decided to turn it on its side toward the lake and paint the smiley face on it for all to enjoy. The picture shows the original smiley face next to the original house before the fire. The original smiley face has since been replaced by a second, and now you will see the third version.

I suggest the next time you go by this summer and see Ken and Joan outside enjoying their lake view as you pass by, please take the time to say hello with your own smiley face. I know they would enjoy it.



### ERCLA is always on the lookout for volunteers!

If you have an interest in learning more about how you can help, please take the time to review the descriptions on our website at [www.ERCLA.org](http://www.ERCLA.org).

For this coming summer, we are specifically looking for volunteers to help with our Clean Boats-Clean Waters program. Please consider helping.

For more details, please contact Dave Mueller at [muellerd@dwave.net](mailto:muellerd@dwave.net) or Marc Groth at [msgroth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msgroth@sbcglobal.net).



## No Wake Areas

If you regularly boat on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes, you most likely know where the “Slow No Wake” areas are located.

The Wisconsin DNR considers a “Slow No Wake” that of a speed at which your vessel moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control.

We’d like to remind you that if the “Slow No Wake” buoys have not yet been put out in the spring, or have been removed in the fall, we respectfully ask that you please still treat these areas as “Slow No Wake” areas. These areas are determined by the Wisconsin DNR, and are for your safety and to protect our shorelines.

*Thank you for preserving and protecting our Chain of Lakes.*



## ERCLA Safety Efforts

The boat and jet ski traffic, high speeds, distance from piers, and near misses are serious concerns with our members. *What does ERCLA do about this?*

- ERCLA regularly promotes boating safety and rules about distances to docks, rafts and shorelines, etc. We distribute thousands of flyers with pertinent safety material thru local rental shops, dealerships, marinas, boat landings and these newsletters. We educate members and the public on how to report incidents.
- ERCLA has no enforcement capabilities. Vilas County Sheriff’s Department handles law enforcement on the Chain. Beginning this year, their patrol boat will be at a permanent pier near the courthouse which should allow for increased patrol hours.
- The Sheriff’s department receives funding for their boat patrols from ERCLA, the City of Eagle River, local townships including Cloverland, Lincoln, Washington, and the Wisconsin DNR.
- 2020 Vilas Countywide report totals: 21 citations; 46 written warnings; 8 accidents and 20 complaints. (Excerpt from *Vilas County News-Review*).



*What Can You Do?* Contact the Sheriff’s non-emergency number at 715-479-4441 to report incidents. Provide details of the incident, take a video or photo of the offender’s actions, get the boat or jet ski registration number, if visible, and provide an address if you see them at docks or parked along a shoreline.

## Summary of the 2020 Members Annual Meeting

The ERCLA 2020 annual Members Meeting was held on Saturday, July 11th at Eagle Waters Resort. The meeting was a virtual Zoom meeting for members while the board of directors attended in person practicing social distancing. Some of the meeting’s highlights include:

- Mark Brenner, VP of Operations, introduced all of the officers and board members and presented a membership report which was approved by the board.
- Chuck Berg, President, presented a year-in-review highlighting a reduction in shoreline and aquatic species presence, board of director changes, a Vilas County Sheriff boat patrol update, and volunteer highlights with a special thanks to Mark and Julie Brenner for their extra duties.
- Teri Stecker, Secretary, reviewed the membership report and nominated several lake captains to serve another two-year term per the by-laws. The nominations were accepted and approved by the board.
- Dave Mueller, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, presented an extremely positive shoreline and aquatic invasive summary.
- The January through June 2020 financial report was reviewed and approved.
- The Communications Committee explained their responsibilities and activities.

Finally, the floor was opened to ERCLA members who were in attendance for questions and comments.

We encourage you to visit the ERCLA website, [www.ercla.org](http://www.ercla.org), to read through the details of the meeting. Please direct any questions or comments regarding the meeting minutes to [erclaonline@gmail.com](mailto:erclaonline@gmail.com).



## Board Member Profile - Mark Brenner, VP of Operations

Hello to all from the Northwoods! My wife of 40 years and I live full-time (yes, full-time) on Scattering Rice. If you explore Scattering Rice and come across a seaplane at the mouth of the Deerskin River, our home is to the left.

I have been coming to the Northwoods since I was born many years ago. Crystal Lake, west of Sayner, was our big two week vacation for the seven of us (five sisters, one brother). We were big campers since my Mom and Dad loved the lake life. We were all taught to swim at a very young age, since Mom would tell us all to go walk around the lake. (I think she needed a little peace and quiet; I can't imagine why?). The older ones watched out for the younger ones. Year after year, we would meet back up with the same families. Even at that young age, I knew this was the area I wanted to live.

Julie and I have three kids and four grandbabies. Careers and spouses have distributed them all over our nation, but they find their way north once or twice a year for their extended vacations. We are very blessed that all three love coming back and enjoying time in the Northwoods! The grandbabies range from one to five, and are all water bugs!!

I'm still working but find plenty of time to enjoy our beautiful waters. Not sure if summer, fall or winter is our favorite season since we love all three. We both love searching out the gorgeous fall colors and jumping on the sleds all winter!

As Vice President of Operations for ERCLA, I enjoy working with a team of great volunteers that cover our 10 lakes. We aim to protect our waters and keep them safe for years to come. The countless hours all our volunteers put in are commendable! We are always looking for more help so please feel free to join us. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me at [mbrenner@tcipowder.com](mailto:mbrenner@tcipowder.com) or call 815-298-8582.



## Lake Captain Profile - Gary Conger

Hello. My name is Gary Conger. I am the Lake Captain for Catfish Lake.

Our family history on the lakes began with my grandfather who had a talent with horses. During the logging days, around 1900, he worked in the logging camps using the horses to pull the logs out of the forest to water.

Ultimately, the loggers would make large rafts and float the logs down the Wisconsin River or put them on train cars. This huge forest, now regrown, was used to build our country.

Now the lakes are recreational. What a beautiful resource we all have to enjoy. At the same time, we are charged to be good stewards of these lakes for our generation and future generations. This is why I volunteer! Please contact me any time with suggestions or concerns. Together, we can all make a difference.



## Board Member and Lake Captain Profile - Dave Cyrtmus

Hello, I'm Dave Cyrtmus. My wife and I have had our place on Duck Lake for 10 years. We moved here full-time nearly two years ago. We enjoy boating, fishing, golfing and biking in the summer. In the winter we snowshoe, ski and snowmobile.

I work for Your Boat Club as the corporate controller, and my wife works from home for an insurance agency in central Wisconsin.

We feel very blessed to be able to live here full-time in our second careers that we like to call semi-retirement.

As Duck Lake Co-Captain and ERCLA Treasurer, I am looking forward to lending my time and expertise to keep our Chain of Lakes enjoyable for years to come.



## Lake Captain Profile - Skip McCann

Hello to our all our wonderful readers who have the interest and desire to keep the Eagle River Chain of Lakes one of the most beautiful areas in the world!

My name is Hugh McCann, AKA Skip. I have owned a home on the Chain since 2013 but, prior to then, visited the Chain several times each year for many years.

I am Co-Captain of Watersmeet Lake. I retired in December of 2018, and though I still visit my hometown in northern Illinois, I am now a year-round resident at my home on Watersmeet.

I have three wonderful adult children and nine beautiful grandchildren. There is nothing better than having the whole crew visit up here and enjoy the water, wildlife, and everything else the Chain and surrounding area has to offer.

I love to fish and golf, and yes, I am an avid Cubs and Bears fan! I became a Co-Captain in 2020, and must say the ERCLA Board and Captains are an impressive and dedicated group.

With ERCLA's and your commitment to the Chain's management and care, we can all enjoy everything the Chain has to offer for many years to come. I urge you to contact any of us with any concerns, questions or ideas. We are all in this together.



## Lake Captain Profile - Bill Morgan

Hello, my name is Bill Morgan. I am your Co-Captain of Yellow Birch Lake. I am also a technical consultant for ERCLA.

My wife Kay and I have been visiting Eagle River for over 20 years, and as we got closer to retirement, we felt this would be the ideal place to settle. We are on Eagle River next to Trees for Tomorrow. Funny thing is since we vacationed here for so long, it will take me some time to accept that I now live here!

I am fully retired, and Kay still owns and operates a thriving QuickBooks accounting firm. We love to bike ride, play pickle ball, star gaze, golf, hike, kayak, float in the river and cruise the Chain via pontoon.

New to the team, I am looking forward to fielding all questions, concerns, comments and general conversations with the Yellow Birch Riparians. Our goal is to keep the Eagle River Chain of Lakes safe and clean for many years to come.

My contact information is [morganwm@comcast.net](mailto:morganwm@comcast.net) or (847) 254-9623. I will do my best to get back to you promptly.



## Check Out ERCLA's Website

We encourage all of our members to take some time to review the ERCLA website - [www.ercla.org](http://www.ercla.org). There is a wealth of information that will help you better understand ERCLA's mission. There are four main sections that you can navigate through: About, Projects, News and Membership.

The "About" section includes ERCLA's background, by-laws and privacy policy along with our list of Board of Directors and their contact information. It also includes the 2018-2020 Annual Meeting minutes, and a map of the lakes and rivers on our Chain including many of the bars and restaurants located on our shores. The "Projects" section gives an overview of ERCLA's ongoing projects. Please contact us if you'd like to volunteer in a project that interests you!

The "News" section includes detail regarding our shoreline and aquatic invasive species program. You may also read past newsletters to catch up on those you may have missed, or if you want to refresh your memory. There are various links to organizations that you may find useful including the Eagle River Commission or DNR Boater Safety. The "Membership" section leads you through the process to join or renew your ERCLA membership and includes the PayPal option.

Again, we encourage you to navigate our website to better understand our mission and how our various projects and programs help all of us to protect and preserve our Eagle River Chain of Lakes.



# 2021 Membership Dues Form



## Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 1821, Eagle River, WI 54521  
Email: [erclaonline@gmail.com](mailto:erclaonline@gmail.com)

Please join us each year in our mission to improve and protect the waterways & shoreline on our Chain

### January 2021 - Your Membership Dues form

Annual Dues: \$ 60.00 \*\*\*  
Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKS PAYABLE & MAIL TO:  
ERCLA, P.O. Box 1821  
EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521

**Make Credit Card Payments on our Membership Page at:** <https://www.ercla.org>

Provide us with your details in PayPal's Comment Section or, after your transaction, on ERCLA's mini-application

Please Print Legibly:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If this is NOT your 12 month Mailing Address, which months should we use this address: J F M A M J J A S O N D

\*\*Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Our Newsletters are not forwarded by the P.O. because we use reduced, non profit mail rates. Please consider receipt by email

Lake or River Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph#/Cell# \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

Local Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Interest: Y / N  
(if applicable)

Correspondence by Email: Y / N Newsletter by Email: Y / N Signup for Annual billing notice: Y / N

\*\* Our Newsletters are not forwarded by the P.O. because we use reduced, non-profit mail rates. Please consider receiving by email

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### Thank You for Your Support and Generosity!

\*\*\* MEMBERSHIPS are for Fiscal Year Jan 1st to Dec 31st. Donations to ERCLA are tax deductible.  
Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association, Inc is a Not-for-Profit 501(c)(3) corporation





Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association, Inc.  
PO Box 1821  
Eagle River, WI 54521  
[www.ERCLA.org](http://www.ERCLA.org)

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

The background of the poster is an aerial photograph of a large lake surrounded by dense green forest under a clear blue sky. The Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association logo is centered in the upper half of the image.

**Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 10, 2021**  
**9:00 am**  
**More Information Will Be Provided**