



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

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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 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



As I write this letter, we've reached the point in the Fall where we enjoyed Cranberry Fest, amazing colors and, unfortunately, the removal of buoys from our beautiful Chain and its waterways.

It's easy to get a little saddened by the thought that it will be another six or seven months before the boats, paddleboards, jet skis, kayaks, tubes and fishing return to the Chain.

It was certainly a very busy Summer in the Northwoods. ERCLA had a great Summer! We continue to see increasing numbers of enthusiastic members and volunteers who support our mission of promoting the safety and health of the Chain. We are approaching 1,000 members!

Our Annual Meeting in July saw record attendance, participation and enthusiasm. In addition to reports regarding our ongoing efforts to combat invasive species, membership and finances, we heard from deputies with the Vilas County Sheriff's Office responsible for patrolling the Chain and promoting safe boating. Patrol hours increased significantly this year because of their new permanent pier that eliminated the need for many hours spent putting the boat in and taking it out at public landings. We also heard from Eric Wegleitner, Senior Fisheries Biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. His presentation centered around fish sticks to improve fish and wildlife habitat and as a shoreland preservation technique. Attendees had a lot of questions and comments for the speakers.

During the past year, you have heard a lot about the picnic area on Cranberry Island. Initially there was concern that Vilas County might consider selling that portion of the Island due to ongoing maintenance issues. Numerous ERCLA members expressed their concern, and several regularly attended county meetings where the topic was discussed.

Shortly after ice-out, ERCLA representatives accompanied county and town representatives to the Island to assess the state of its facilities. This led to the county making several significant changes or plans for the toilet, fire pits, barbeques and signage, as well as future efforts to stem significant erosion. More than 20 ERCLA members volunteered to help monitor the Island during the Summer season for trash, damage, etc. Those efforts were well received by the county, and we have established a great working relationship with officials going forward. Many thanks to all who got involved in that effort.

You may read more about ERCLA's member and volunteer efforts in the articles that follow. Please reach out to any of the officers and volunteers if you have questions, comments, or want to get involved in any way.

Fall 2022

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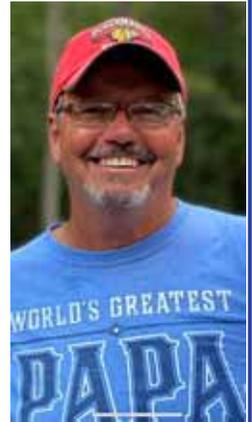
Membership Update

By Mark Brenner, Vice President Operations

Happy Fall to everyone! We hope many of you are up here and enjoyed the Northwoods colors like my wife and I did.

What an outstanding Summer we had! Below is the membership report as of September 30, 2022.

Thank you all for your generous donations and support. It is critical for our survival as we work to keep our waters healthy and safe. We have the best chain of 10 lakes in the world, because of you! And to all Lake Captains and Co-Captains, thank you for all your hard work.



Awesome job everyone!

As I stated last year, we need your help in our effort to have more Riparians join ERCLA. As we continue to improve and grow, we still have not reached 45% of your neighbors. Please tell them we all need to pull together to keep our lakes healthy and safe.

We also ask that members please get to know your respective ERCLA team. They are here to support you!

Thanks to everyone in advance for your help as we continue to increase our membership. We hope you all have a wonderful and healthy Winter!

<i>As of 9/30/2022</i>	Total # Contacts in Database	2022 3rd Qtr Members		2021 Year End Members	2020 Year End Members	2019 Year End Members	2018 Year End Members
Cattfish Lake & Eagle River	299	157	53%	178	150	154	151
Cranberry Lake & Eagle River	261	145	56%	151	133	152	147
Duck Lake	132	63	48%	55	53	55	48
Eagle Lake & Eagle River	166	92	55%	90	82	89	77
Lynx Lake	21	9	43%	9	9	12	12
Otter Lake & Eagle River	99	71	72%	77	68	69	62
Scattering Rice & Deerskin	114	68	60%	64	57	68	64
Voyageur Lake	81	42	52%	35	31	31	31
Watersmeet Lake & Rivers	411	143	35%	139	120	136	126
Yellow Birch Lake & Eagle River	145	126	87%	117	110	110	100
Property Owners (Riparians)	1,729	916	53%	915	813	876	818
Non-Riparians	51	9		13	14	17	11
Total Database	1,780	925		928	827	893	829

Duck Lake Update

By Marc Groth, Lake Captain

First and foremost, I'd like to introduce Steve Burr, the new Duck Lake Co-Captain. Steve and his family live on the west shoreline for those of you who don't know him. He will be a tremendous asset supporting ERCLA's mission to preserve and protect the Eagle River Chain of Lakes, its watershed, and its ecosystems. We'll have more information about Steve in our Spring newsletter.

As usual, it was a busy Summer on Duck Lake with a lot of recreational water activities. I'd argue that Duck may be the busiest lake on the Chain. I hope everyone enjoyed their time on the water and, more importantly, had a safe Summer. Please keep safety in mind going forward.

There were some interesting events that occurred on Duck this Summer. The steamboats had their annual outing at the Wild Eagle Lodge, and we also witnessed the Wisconsin Bass Anglers Single Series Round 5 tournament on August 28th at Sweetwater Spirits & Resort. It was their first ever tournament held on the Eagle River Chain.



I was not able to follow through with my project to float into the Yellow Birch bullpen shallows to hand-pull EWM. The reason is that we couldn't find any plants this year that required pulling. Obviously, it's a good thing we didn't find any plants, so we'll keep monitoring and pick up the project next Summer, if required.

I did have the opportunity to perform the peak biomass survey on Duck Lake along with Otter, Lynx and Yellow Birch with Jody Voight from Otter Lake. I'm happy to tell you we found only a couple of plants on the west side of the lake.

We had more Duck Lake Riparians join ERCLA this year than in years past. Steve and I thank you for your continued support!

Finally, please feel free to contact myself at (847) 951-1761 or Steve at (715) 891-6100 with any questions or concerns you may have regarding Duck Lake or ERCLA. We are happy to help wherever we can.

Scattering Rice Lake Update

By Liz Roskopf, Lake Captain

Happy Fall everyone. The Summer sure went by fast.

One of the main concerns brought to my attention this year was the issue of dredging the silt between the shoreline and the south end of the bog island on Scattering Rice. Speaking to several past and present board members, I learned that this is an issue that is out of ERCLA's control. In talking with several retired DNR officers, they stated that the DNR most likely will not fund this due to nature taking its course. We will continue to work towards an answer that will help those homeowners with this issue.

We have been doing Citizen Lake Monitoring of water quality on Scattering Rice and are glad to report the clarity of our lake averages 4.2 feet. The last several years measured about 3.5 feet.

I'm sure everyone has noticed a new home being built on Scattering Rice in the hill on Chain O' Lakes Road. Talking with the owner Brent J., he and his family are excited to spend more time in Eagle River enjoying the lakes. We would like to give them a warm welcome, along with others who bought homes on our lake.

With snowmobiling around the corner, PLEASE be careful traveling on the lakes and in the channels. Make sure the ice is safe before crossing.

Have a great and safe Fall and Winter.



Scattering Rice Lake - November 3, 2022

Yellow Birch Lake Update

By George Katich, Lake Captain

Yellow Birch Lake includes all property owners on Yellow Birch Lake and on Eagle River from the T-Docks west to the Highway 45 Bridge.

Thank you to Jim and Beth Logan for hosting the 18th Annual Yellow Birch Lake Picnic and Social on their beautiful lakefront property.



SAVE THE DATE: Next year's picnic and social event will be held on July 15, 2023, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. More information will be distributed to you via email or postal mail early next Summer.

Jeff Long, owner of Dash Aquatic Services, LLC., reported that 186 pounds of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) was hand harvested in 14 1/2 hours in the northeast bay of Yellow Birch Lake through Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) this past Summer.

I enjoyed distributing to the homeowners on Yellow Birch Lake the *Protecting Your Waterfront Investment* booklet this past Summer. This gave me the opportunity to chat with some homeowners for the first time and to catch up with those that I have met in the past years. If I was not able to reach you, please contact me to receive your booklet.

This year, 87% of Yellow Birch Lake homeowners are members of ERCLA. Whether you are a full-time or part-time resident, or renting or selling your home, we need every property owner to be a member. It's up to all of us to continue to protect our water and shorelines to maintain our property values on the Chain.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at (847) 309-4008 or gwkatich@gmail.com. As always, thank you to all the members for your continued support of ERCLA.

A Historical View of The Braywood

By Gary Conger, Lake Captain

The Year: 1949; The Cast: Billy Bray and Frances Woods; The Location: Small Town in Wisconsin

Billy Bray and Frances Woods were a famous dancing couple who gained their prominence by playing for almost every major hotel and nightclub in show business. They performed with many names including Lawrence Welk, Cab Calloway, Guy Lombardo, Bob Crosby, and they owned and operated The Braywood, too!

Fast forward to Summer 2022. Perhaps the biggest news on Catfish this Summer was the reopening of The Braywood. I asked Molly, one of the owners, about their vision at this iconic resort. Molly said that it's to maintain the historical significance of this facility, thus the recent change in paint color. By the way, the view is amazing from the deck, clearly helped by the trees lost in the Summer storm of 2021.



We found the menu changes to be really tasty and the seating was expanded. They are supported by a great staff who mentioned their loyalty to the owners. Additionally, I enjoyed their dockside valet service; a young man helping to dock boats. The beach, with sand volleyball and live music, made for memorable afternoons. My granddaughters love to make sandcastles!

Thinking about the future, Molly mentioned perhaps an indoor-outdoor enclosure complimenting Winter activities and recreation, such as ice fishing and hockey. Personally, I think curling would be fun too.

Well that's all from Catfish Lake for now. One of the beauties of the Northwoods, there is always a unique next season just around the corner and soon enough we can visit on the ice!

2022 Annual Membership Meeting Recap

By Teri Stecker, Secretary

On Saturday, July 9, 2022, more than 50 property owners attended ERCLA's Annual Membership meeting. Our meeting featured three speakers on two different topics.

Jason Molle, Vilas County Deputy and Recreation Officer, and Matt Wilson, Vilas County Deputy and School Liaison Officer, spoke about our Boat Patrol Program. The Sheriff's Patrol strategy on the Chain focuses on Presence, Education, Safety, Warnings and when warranted, Citations.

Most of their activity comes from no wake speed, jet ski operators not observing 100' to 200' rules; safety issues with inexperienced drivers such as: number of accessible life jackets, passenger overload, passenger in unsafe position (laying on sundeck or sitting or standing outside pontoon seating area while under power) and drivers operating under the influence. Deputy Wilson said 95% of his time is dedicated to the Eagle River Chain; the Sheriff Department has another response boat for other lakes in the county. They also held a question and answer session including the significant differences of boating regulations on the river system versus lake systems.

To report incidents or reckless operations, call Vilas County Sheriff Dispatch at (715) 479-4441.

Eric Wegleitner, Senior Fisheries Biologist with the Wisconsin DNR, provided the members with a history and overview of fish sticks as a tactic to improve fish and wildlife habitat and prevent shoreline erosion. A coarse woody habitat creates a fish refuge for egg laying and promotes growth rate through decreased activity and increased appetite.

Fish sticks also prevents sediment and erosion along your shoreline. Eric and ERCLA representatives will be working on a joint venture to find appropriate locations on the Chain for fish stick placements. Also read our feature article on fish sticks as a simple and inexpensive project for your Shoreline on page 7.

The business meeting agenda included election of directors, a financial review, prior meeting minutes, committee reports and an open forum. The date of our 2023 Membership meeting will be posted in future newsletters and on our website at ERCLA.org.

Meet ERCLA Volunteer Steve Skora

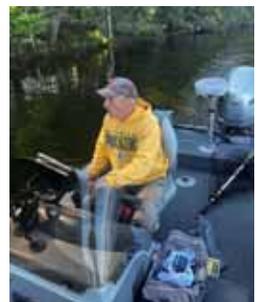
Steve has been volunteering with ERCLA for several years. He and his wife Sue, along with their black lab Ellie, have owned their house on the Catfish/Cranberry channel since September 2001. They live full time in Lake Zurich, Illinois, and come up to their Eagle River home every weekend in the Summer and a couple of weekends a month in the Winter.

Steve and Sue are avid Packer fans and spend their time in Eagle River fishing, pontooning, biking, hiking, snowshoeing, and hanging out with their Circle Drive neighbors.

Every year, Steve helps perform the late Summer peak biomass survey on Catfish Lake, and participates in the shoreline invasive surveys looking for Yellow Iris, Yellow Loosestrife and Purple Loosestrife on both Cranberry and Catfish Lakes. He has volunteered to monitor Cranberry Island, along with others, to help keep it clean of garbage left behind by users.

From May to September, Steve monitors the bat population on Cranberry Lake for the Wisconsin DNR, due to the White Nose Syndrome fungus which is decimating the bat population.

ERCLA sincerely thanks Steve for his commitment to protect and preserve the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. Please contact us at erclaonline@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more about getting involved in our various ongoing projects.



Buoy Update

By Mark Brenner, Vice President Operations

Happy Fall! What a Summer we had! We sure hope you had a wonderful 2022 Summer season.

Thank you all for the emails, texts and voicemails pertaining to buoys that were out of place or needed maintenance. You continue to be our eyes, and we do our best to take care of the issues as soon as possible.

The town of Washington does not always have the manpower to perform repairs during the season. ERCLA has gladly stepped up to help and assist in the removal and placement of the buoys each year, as well. We also work closely with the Three Lakes Chain to have the same buoy guidelines on both sides of the Burnt Rollways Dam.

Speaking of going to the Dam, as many of you know, the pilings need repair. Neither the town nor ERCLA maintain these buoys. The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company advised us that the pilings are being replaced or repaired this Fall. Visit www.wvic.com for more information.

There was quite a bit of buoy abuse this season on our portion of the Chain, so we have requested 25 new lights and cages for the 2023 Summer season. The cost for these exceeds \$7,500. As mentioned last year, the town did purchase 10 new buoys. Many of them were not put out this year, so they will be used next Spring. ERCLA's \$5,000 Buoy donation was presented to the town of Washington Board at their October meeting. This donation helps with the purchase of new lights and cages.

We are talking to the local DNR warden, the state, and the towns of Washington and Lincoln to discuss your many concerns about the current placement of several buoys. Keep those emails, texts and calls coming if you see something out of place.

Enjoy our beautiful Fall as we get ready for the upcoming sledding season. Thank you for your support and involvement!



Mark Brenner, ERCLA Vice President, presents a \$5,000 Donation to Jim Egan, Chairman of the town of Washington, to support their buoy effort.

Vessel Safety Check

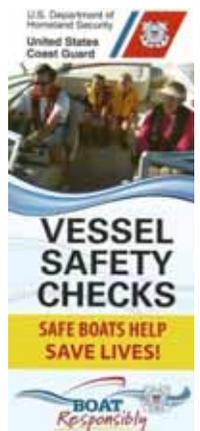
By Michael Queoff, Cranberry Lake Captain

On June 4, 2022, ERCLA partnered with the United States Power Squadron for the second annual Vessel Safety Check at the bridge at Riverview Park in Eagle River.

This FREE inspection of your boat, personal watercraft, canoe, kayak is all about educating our Riparians on safe boating and taking inventory of all safety equipment required on your boat.

There is no penalty for not having all the required safety equipment. If your vessel passes the inspection, you receive an inspection report and a decal to be displayed on your vessel.

Look for the third annual event in June 2023.



Improve Habitat and Water Quality at Your Shoreland Property

By Jody Voight, Otter Lake Co-Captain

When asked why ERCLA members have invested in property on the Chain, they often reference things such as "peaceful," "quiet," "wildlife," "serenity" and many other terms identified with the Northwoods. All of these depend on a clean, healthy environment.

As a lakeshore property owner, you have a great influence in assuring our chain of lakes continues to remain healthy. Protecting your investment with simple and inexpensive projects may be sufficient motivation, as water quality directly influences property values.

One way that you can positively impact our water resource is through the use of "fish sticks" projects intended to restore woody habitat in lakes by adding trees to the near-shore area.

These woody habitat structures utilize whole trees either grouped together or single trees anchored to the shore, partially or fully submerged near the shoreline. Fish sticks provide feeding, breeding and nesting habitat for fish, birds, amphibians and insects. They also break up wake energy to protect our shorelines from erosion.

The placement of fish sticks requires a general or individual permit from the Wisconsin DNR. These types of projects may also require permits from the county and/or the Army Corps of Engineers. ERCLA can help facilitate this process by working with Eric Wegleitner, Senior Fisheries Biologist at the Wisconsin DNR. Some of you may have heard Eric's presentation at our July Annual Membership Meeting. You may call Eric at (715) 356-5211, extension 246.

Additionally, ERCLA works closely with Quita Sheehan, Conservation Specialist, and Cathy Higley, Lake Specialist, at the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department. You may reach the department at (715) 479-3747.

Funding Options:

- Wisconsin DNR Funds: competitive grant opportunities.
- Lake Protection Grants: available to implement activities recommended in a comprehensive lake management plan, restore shoreline habitat, and fund technical assistance.
- Lake Planning Grants: available to develop comprehensive lake management plans or implementation plans for specific activities like fish sticks.
- Vilas County Land & Water Healthy Lakes Program: funding is available to homeowners for shoreline restoration activities such as fish sticks, native plantings, diversion practices, rock infiltration and rain gardens.

ERCLA is your resource to help facilitate this process. If you have questions or would like additional information on how you can participate in a Fish Stick project, please contact me at (262) 287-4521 or erclaonline@gmail.com.

Fishery management is an important aspect in the comprehensive management plan of the Eagle River Chain of Lakes ecosystem. As a stakeholder of this plan, you can help implement a very positive outcome in the long-term future of our resource.



The Backstory of the Commission and Our 2022 Fight Against AIS

By The Executive Committee

In April 2007, at the urging of numerous property owners on the Chain, the towns of Cloverland, Lincoln, Washington and city of Eagle River, signed a Joint Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement.

The economic value of the Chain was well known to each municipality and Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), had become established in varying degrees throughout the Chain.

Since infestation of AIS can best be managed, both environmentally and economically, by regarding the Chain as one continuous body of water, the groups agreed to create the *Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission* for the purpose of coordinating aquatic invasive species awareness, prevention and management efforts. The agreement tasks the municipalities to apply for grants and to sponsor grants that may provide funding of AIS programs.



Where Does ERCLA come in? We occupy a chair at the table and we provide volunteers for projects. As stipulated in the agreement, ERCLA designates a representative to sit on a committee that advises the Commission as to treatment and prevention options. The Joint Agreement allows the Commission to seek other methods of funding, so our Association is a full cost-share partner.

2022: A two-part program, currently in maintenance mode, aims to keep EWM, a harmful, aggressive invasive species, at a low level. First, the presence of EWM is quantitatively measured using the professional services of Onterra, LLC., to survey and report where EWM is present on the Chain.

Second, EWM is selectively removed by DASH, LLC., a professional diving company using hand-held diver assisted suction to harvest the plants.

In 2022, there was 3,046 lbs. and 186 lbs. pulled from Catfish and Yellow Birch, respectively. The Watersmeet Lake EWM area was surrounded by surface-matting native plants, making it difficult to place the DASH boat in a location to efficiently work without drawing native plants into the pickup hose of the pump. To avoid significant damage to native plants, it was decided to forego harvesting this year. We found that harvesting this area earlier in the season will have better results, and plans are to resume in early 2023.



The Commission secured funds through the Wisconsin DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Established Population Control Grant, and the 2022 AIS project costs are shared by these grant funds, all four municipalities, the Commission's Treasury funds and ERCLA.

Save the Date: On Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm, the Commission will hold an informational meeting at the town of Washington Town Hall. Onterra, LLC., representatives will present the 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species Plan Results and 2023 Strategies. ERCLA members are encouraged to attend. More information is available at www.eagleriverchaincommission.org.

We Need You!

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.

For this coming Summer, we are specifically looking for Volunteers to help with our Clean Boats/Clean Waters program. Please consider helping.

For details, please email us at erclaonline@gmail.com.



WE NEED YOU

Vilas County Sheriff's Boat Patrol Report

Excerpts from the Vilas County News-Review article, August 31, 2022 edition

Deputy Jason Molle, Recreational Officer with Vilas County Sheriff's Department, reported 341 hours of boat patrol reacting to 13 complaints, 11 reported accidents, 28 issued citations and 62 written warnings in Vilas County. "We're looking for safety violations, such as not enough life preservers and speeding by jet skis near other persons or property," he said.

Molle also stated a Wisconsin boating safety certificate, or out-of-state equivalent, is required for operators born on or after January 1, 1989. The DNR safety course, recommended for all boaters, is available at www.dnr.wisconsin.gov.

"We get a lot of people that come up who haven't taken the safety course. They rent a jet ski, or they go on grandma's pontoon boat, or whatever it is and there is a boating violation," said Molle. "They ask 'How were we supposed to know?' Well, if they would have taken the course they would know."



- ERCLA distributes a Boater Safety Rules and Regulations bulletin with our Spring Newsletter. This Bulletin can be shared with friends, family, visitors and renters.
- To prepare for going out on the lakes, visit the Resource Page on our website at www.ercla.org for the link to *Wisconsin DNR Boating Rules & Regulation* booklet.
- See page 11 in this newsletter for our first of a series of informational pieces so you *Know The Rules – Safety First*.

Q & A with the Membership Committee

When Are Membership Dues... Due?

All ERCLA Memberships are on a Calendar Year. We are on a cash basis and a nonprofit organization, so all dues received in 2022 must be applied to 2022. Your 2023 dues are due after January 1st.

Each year, in late January, everyone in our database receives a Dues Membership form. A Renewal form is either emailed or mailed via first class postage to all members.

A separate "New Member" Dues and Membership packet is mailed to everyone else in our database. Over 800 contacts will receive this packet. New owners of waterfront property are added to our database as we become aware of the information.

In early May, a Reminder letter is sent to members who have not paid yet. Lastly, the Spring newsletter includes a Dues and Membership form for anyone still needing one.

- Email reduces print and mail expenses and gets the document directly to you.
- Please take a moment now to add us to your contacts – erclaonline@gmail.com.
- Mark it "SAFE" to receive emails from us or our correspondence and e-newsletters may end up in your spam folder. Gmail users can also add us to your *Promotions* tab.

We hope this explanation answers your questions and helps to reduce duplicate payments.

Thank you all for your continued generosity, support and involvement in ERCLA.



A Brief Discussion on Not-for-Profit Donations

By the Finance Committee

As we enter the last months of the year, if you or a family member are looking for a not-for-profit organization to make a tax deductible donation to, you will be pleased to know ERCLA accepts donations anytime. We have received a variety of donations, including those listed below.

Consider an Option that Works Best for You:

- **Employer’s Matching Funds program** – Your Employer may match your donations to nonprofit organizations.
- **401, 403, etc., accounts** – Automatic or manual distributions to nonprofit organizations can be arranged through your administrator.
- **Foundations** – Local foundations may use Donor Advised Fund (DAF) administered by a third party that allow donors to receive immediate tax benefits with the flexibility to support their favorite charities.
- **Legacy Gifts** – Make a current or future gift through a charitable bequest, donation of stocks and bonds or a contribution from donor advised funds.
- **Tribute and Memorial Gifts** – Make a gift in honor of or in memory of a loved one.
- **AmazonSmile** – The Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association, Inc., is listed as an approved nonprofit charity. Designate ERCLA as the charity you wish to donate to and Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases at no cost to you. We receive AmazonSmile (your) donations on a quarterly basis. Sign up on their website at smile.amazon.com.
- **Estate Planning** – Lawyers, financial planners and tax professionals may have a process that will work for you and your family.

Be assured, ERCLA will protect your donations for use over many years to come as we promote the health and safety of our Chain.

Please contact us at erclaonline@gmail.com for more information, or to answer questions. Thank you all, for your continued generosity and support.

Lake Captains & Co-Captains

Lake Captains	Name	Phone #	Co-Captains	Name	Phone #
Catfish	Gary Conger	(608) 469-7490	Catfish	Steve Wagner	(262) 444-8882
Cranberry	Michael Queoff	(262) 707-4214	Catfish	Joshua Conger	(608) 960-2042
Duck	Marc Groth	(847) 951-1761	Cranberry	John Haunfelder	(262) 442-4016
Eagle	Tom Batterman	(715) 409-6768	Duck	Steve Burr	(715) 891-6100
Lynx	Bill Krostue	(920) 470-3522	Otter	Jody Voight	(262) 287-4521
Otter	Dave Mueller	(715) 297-6636	Scattering Rice	Alan Queoff	(715) 617-2476
Scattering Rice	Liz Roskopf	(715) 216-3838	Watersmeet	Dan Newitt	(715) 891-0549
Voyageur	Teri Stecker	(920) 428-6743	Watersmeet	Roger Rosenthal	(847) 812-4903
Watersmeet	Hugh (Skip) McCann	(847) 274-9792	Watersmeet	Steve Dalbec	(847) 409-1500
Yellow Birch	George Katich	(847) 309-4008	Yellow Birch	Bill Morgan	(847) 254-9623



WISCONSIN DNR COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL MOTORBOAT OPERATORS

At the ERCLA 2022 Membership Meeting, Vilas County Sheriff Deputy Jason Molle addressed the most common boating violations that the officers on patrol see on our waterways. Many of these violations stem from one component of the law that is misunderstood: **Who is required to hold a valid boating safety certificate in Wisconsin?**

Most may think the answer is 10 to 15 year olds. Please read on for the correct answer and let's get everyone ready for next year's boating season.

- Wisconsin boating safety certification, or out-of-state equivalent certification, is required for all operators born on or after January 1, 1989.
- Wisconsin requires an operator to carry this lifetime boater education card when operating a motorboat or personal watercraft in Wisconsin
- Anyone is eligible to take the class and receive a safety education completion certificate; courses are designed at a 5th grade level and up.



WISCONSIN BOATING RULES & REGULATIONS - WHO MAY OPERATE A BOAT:

There are no age requirements for operating a boat that is not equipped with a motor.

A person younger than 10 years may not operate a motorboat.

A person 10 or 11 years old may operate a motorboat only if:

- They are accompanied by a parent, guardian or person at least 18 years of age who is designated by the parent or guardian, AND the parent, guardian or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate OR was born before January 1, 1989.

A person 12 to 15 years old may operate a motorboat only if:

- They have completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR.

OR

- They are accompanied by a parent, guardian or person at least 18 years old who is designated by the parent or guardian AND the parent, guardian or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate OR was born before January 1, 1989.

A person who was born on or after January 1, 1989, and who is 16 years of age or older may operate a motorboat only if:

- They have completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR.

OR

- They are accompanied by a person in the motorboat who is at least 18 years of age and that person holds a valid boating safety certificate OR was born before January 1, 1989.

BOATING COURSE INFORMATION:

Instruction emphasizes navigation, laws, ethics, personal safety and the proper use of boats.

CLASS AVAILABILITY:

There is at least one class per county, per year. To search for a recreational safety education course visit dnr.wisconsin.gov.

COST OF COURSE:

\$10.00 for classroom; \$29.95 to \$54.95 for online courses.



ERCLA
PO Box 1821
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Dedicated to Preserving and
Protecting the Eagle River
Chain of Lakes and Its
Tributaries, Watershed and
Ecosystems.

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An aerial photograph of a large lake surrounded by dense green forest. The sky is a clear blue. The logo from the top left is overlaid on the image, centered over the lake. Below the logo, the text "ANNUAL MEETING" is written in large, bold, white capital letters with a black outline. In the bottom left corner, there is a cartoon illustration of a hand pointing towards the right. In the bottom right corner, the text "2023 Meeting Information Coming Soon!" is written in bold, yellow capital letters with a black outline.

ANNUAL MEETING

**2023 Meeting
Information
Coming Soon!**