



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

President's Message

For everyone that persevered another Winter in the Northwoods, it's time to shed the Winter parkas and welcome back those returning from warmer climates. We all look forward to another incredible Summer on the Chain.

This year provides us an introspective opportunity to remember where we came from, as it marks our 25th anniversary as a lake association on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. What initially started as a group of individual lake associations was consolidated into one unified organization, known today as ERCLA. We unveiled our anniversary logo on Facebook and Instagram and will continue to use it throughout the year.

We acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of our predecessors and rededicate ourselves to our charter to protect and preserve our chain. This focus has successfully guided us through those first 25 years. Our chain and the challenges on the horizon have changed over the years. We have evolved from jet skis to wake boats, and from the initial steps of addressing invasive milfoil to a comprehensive program that monitors and manages invasives and protects our lakes for future generations.

Each of us needs to remain diligent and work together to ensure we manage our properties and utilize our lakes in a manner that protects our great resource. As you prepare your properties for Spring and Summer, please review the articles, projects and best practices within this newsletter and on our [website](#). ERCLA's programs, such as our Shoreline Restoration team, can aid with project design, paperwork approvals and grant funding to address areas of direct run-off and shoreline erosion.

ERCLA consists of an incredible group of dedicated volunteers that make this an effective and rewarding endeavor. I am humbled and appreciate working with a group of individuals that over time have become close friends. Our continued success depends on all of us working together and we invite and appreciate input and involvement from all our members.

Thank you for your continued support and belonging to ERCLA. On behalf of the ERCLA Board, please have a safe and enjoyable Summer on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes.

Warm Regards,
Jody Voight, ERCLA President



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The Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association Inc., is a 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 tax exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Yellow Birch Lake Report

By George Katich, Yellow Birch Lake Captain

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

The 21st Yellow Birch Lake Picnic and Social event will be held on Saturday, July 11, 2026, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to meet neighbors and connect with others who may have similar interests and hobbies as you. More information will be distributed via email or postal mail during early Summer 2026.

Summer 2025 was the first time since 2017 that Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was not hand harvested on Yellow Birch Lake. Upon completion of the July survey, Onterra LLC did not find enough EWM to warrant hand harvesting, noting only some scattered areas. They found even less EWM after completing the late September survey on our lake. With thick ice and heavy snow cover on our lake this past Winter, we are hopeful that Onterra LLC will find even less EWM when the survey is conducted again in early July 2026.

There have been several great articles in our past newsletters that explain to homeowners what they can do and what ERCLA is doing to try to control EWM and improve our shorelines and waters. These articles can be found on ERCLA's website at www.ERCLA.org.

I want to thank Jim Logan for volunteering to represent Yellow Birch Lake on ERCLA's Aquatic Plant Management Plan Committee. There was an article about the plan in the [Fall 2025 newsletter](#), and more information is included in this Spring newsletter.

Whether you are a full-time or part-time resident, 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 value on the Chain.

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

Watersmeet Lake & Rivers Report

By Skip (Hugh) McCann, Watersmeet Lake Captain

Happy Spring y'all. Skip McCann here, your Watersmeet Lake Captain. As lake or river residents and friends of Watersmeet, we all share something special: a deep appreciation for this beautiful place in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. What often goes unseen is the behind-the-scenes work that helps keep our chain of lakes healthy, safe and enjoyable for everyone. That's where ERCLA's members make a real difference.



If you are a member reading this, thank you for your support. As a member, you understand the investment value of your membership, namely supporting efforts that protect water quality, monitor invasive species, represent our lakes' interests and keep neighbors informed about issues that affect us all. It gives us a stronger collective voice when decisions are made that impact our chain of lakes' future.

As your Lake Captain, one of my responsibilities is membership. We need your help. According to ERCLA's membership records, Watersmeet Lake and the adjoining rivers have over 400 property owner addresses. Of these, only 145 are ERCLA members, which means only one in three are currently members. With your help, I believe we could realistically increase this ratio to one in every two by finding 55 new members. If all 145 members simply talked to neighbors and friends about the value of ERCLA membership, we could easily meet or exceed this goal. As you know, our \$60 membership fee is one of the simplest ways to invest in the waters we all enjoy, and every additional member strengthens our ability to preserve them for future generations.

Please help spread the word to neighbors, friends and new property owners. Share your thoughts on membership and what ERCLA does. Direct them to our website for membership forms and information on the Association's valuable activities. Ask them to call or email me with any questions. If you have any ideas on how to increase membership, I would be happy to hear from you.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Duck Lake Report

By Marc Groth, Duck Lake Captain

Hello to all my fellow Duck Lake property owners. I'm sure you are aware, as I am, that Duck Lake continues to experience increasing watercraft traffic each year. With that said, I thought I'd share a few thoughts that come to me as I sit on my pier watching the activity on the lake. The first thing that comes to mind is safety.

It's important that we all observe boating safety laws and have respect for our fellow boaters as we enjoy time on the lake. Please take a few minutes this Spring to review the [Wisconsin boating regulations](#), as it certainly can't hurt for all of us to revisit them using the WDNR Boater Safety link on the [Resource page](#) at [ERCLA.org](#). Let's be sure that everyone in your family who operates watercraft and was born on or after January 1, 1989, has the required WDNR Boater Safety Education Completion Certificate.

The second thought that comes to mind is maintaining, protecting and improving the quality of our lake, and all the lakes on the Chain for that matter. As Duck Lake property owners, we can do our part to protect Duck Lake by evaluating our shorelines. The question we can ask ourselves is: are there steps we can take to keep them natural, or possibly enhance more developed, urban-like shorelines, where cut and trimmed grass lines the shoreland?

I respectfully request that you refer to my article, "Shoreland Restoration – Things to Consider," on page 10 in this newsletter, which discusses letting your lawn grow three to five feet from the shoreline without cutting.

Something so simple and easy as that will help keep our waters cleaner and help prevent shoreline erosion. I have been doing this to my lawn for the past few years and discovered another benefit that I did not anticipate. Geese no longer enter my property from the water because they don't like to walk through tall grasses for fear that they won't be able to see predators ahead of them. I'm respectfully asking my Duck Lake neighbors to consider joining me in setting an example by leaving your grass to grow three to five feet from the shoreline all Summer. Let's work together to keep our lakes clean moving forward.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Otter Lake Notes

By Dave Mueller, Otter Lake Captain

Do you remember your first fishing opener on the Eagle River Chain? My first was in the Spring of 1978, and when I looked around Otter Lake, I counted twelve boats fishing.

In recent years, we are often the only boat fishing. Now, as I approach a half century on the Chain, this reflection highlights just how much things have changed. The primary use has shifted toward recreational boating, bringing higher activity levels to our waters.

When you are out on the water or enjoying it from shore, please be respectful of other water enthusiasts.

Also, consider one small change you can make that will help protect our waters.

Slow, No Wake Areas

If you are a regular user of the Eagle River Chain of Lakes, you most likely know where the "Slow, No Wake" areas are located. The WDNR considers "Slow, No Wake" speed a speed at which your vessel moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control.

We'd like to ask that if the "Slow, No Wake" buoys are not yet put in place, have pulled loose or shifted, or have been removed in the Fall, please continue to treat these areas as No Wake zones. "Slow, No Wake" areas, which are determined by the WDNR, are for your safety, the safety of others and to protect our river system and its shoreline.

To report dislodged, missing or damaged buoys call [Jody Voight at 262-287-4521](tel:262-287-4521) or visit our [Contact page](#) at [ERCLA.ORG](#). Thank you for preserving and protecting our waterways.





Scattering Rice Lake Report

By Howard Van Dyke, Scattering Rice Lake Captain

Hello to all Scattering Rice Lake and Deerskin River Riparians. I hope you had a great Winter and were able to enjoy some of the many Winter activities. It was great to have a season with enough snow to enjoy all the usual Northwoods Winter activities. For me, Springtime brings much anticipation and excitement as I look forward to Summer on the lake.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association. Much has changed in those 25 years, but what remains constant is our commitment to the preservation and protection of our lakes, so they continue to provide recreational opportunities for visitors and owners. Our family has been enjoying our lake for 31 years and vacationing in the Eagle River area for over 60 years.

Here are some memories that have changed in those years: I remember a time when there were no "Slow, No Wake" zones due to the limited boat traffic on the Chain; a floating barge that delivered rental wave runners to your pier; and when The Bog around the south side of the island was smaller, allowing boat traffic to navigate around the entire lakeshore.

For those interested, Scattering Rice has a social club for owners of property on Scattering Rice and the Deerskin River that meets a few times per year to enjoy fun activities and fellowship. If you are interested in information on meeting times and dates, please contact Kim Swanson at riemerkim@gmail.com.

Unfortunately, the Deerskin River Dredging project did not receive state funding. Please see the article from Larry Spring in this newsletter for further information and future plans.

This Summer, the Association will be working on buoy management, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) management and Shoreline Preservation. This year we have an association membership goal of 1,000 members, so if you know someone who is not a member and would like to become a member, please let me know so I can get them information.

As always, if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to address them.

Thank you again for your support of ERCLA. I look forward to a great Summer and seeing you all on the lake.

Scattering Rice Lake-Deerskin River Update

By Larry J. Springer, Deerskin Property Owner and ERCLA member

On July 3, 2025, Governor Evers vetoed the funding for the Lower Deerskin River Dredging Project from the 25/27 state budget. Since that time, Senator Felzkowski and Representative Swearingen introduced standalone bills (SB816 & AB838) to fund the project in the amount of \$1.75 million. The bills went out for co-sponsors and only received two interested partners.

On January 21st, we delivered supporting information to the members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and the Minority Leaders. On January 28th, Senator Felzkowski, Representative Swearingen, Mark Brenner, Joe Dauterman, Jeff Zimmer and I testified before the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

On February 3rd, we received word from Senator Felzkowski that they pulled the bills because SB816 was not going to make it out of committee. This funding would have come from the 25/27 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) budget, and the committee concluded that because the Department gave the county and a citizens group the opportunity to take ownership of the dam in 2001 and make repairs per WDNR specifications, and the WDNR had followed dam removal protocol at the time, any remediation efforts should be conducted on a cost-shared basis.

This Fall, we will apply for a \$10,000 WDNR Surface Water Planning Grant (maximum 67%). Additional grants and donations will be needed to cover the remaining 33%. This funding will support a bathymetric survey to identify the amount and distribution of sediment. The survey will be shared with WDNR's pre-application form. Then, the WDNR will conduct plant and fish surveys to determine if sediment sampling will be required and if the project can move into the permitting process. If we are successful, the grant would be awarded in early 2027, after which we would pursue full funding for the project in the 27/29 budget. Thanks to everyone who has supported this effort. You may call me with any questions or comments at 715-572-0881.



CELEBRATE ERCLA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY AT OUR MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON SATURDAY, JULY 25TH AT KALMAR COMMUNITY CENTER 9:00 - 11:00 AM.

Details to Follow.

The Ultimate Volunteer Commitment: The Beginning of ERCLA in 2001

By Bill Lochte and Carole Linn, founding members of ERCLA

The formation of the Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association was truly the ultimate volunteer commitment, with its existence brought about through the efforts of Gil Rosenthal, a resident of the Burnt Rollways channel, back in the late 1990s.

From the outset, a core group of ERCLA members known as the “Tiger Team” took on most of the responsibilities: establishing the organization, forming individual lake groups, creating the public-private partnership, beginning and sustaining the efforts to manage aquatic invasive species (AIS) and providing direction and oversight during the consolidation phase.

For almost two decades, ERCLA relied on their leadership and commitment. The structure and resources ERCLA possesses today are a testament to their enduring legacy. These four key individuals are: Bill Lochte, Carole Linn, Dave Mueller and Harvey Overturf. Today, Bill, Carole and Dave continue to actively support ERCLA’s mission to preserve and protect the Eagle River Chain of Lakes, along with its watershed and ecosystems. Harvey and his wife recently moved out of the area to be closer to family.

Here’s a condensed timeline of the past 25 years of ERCLA:

The Beginning:

- Awareness of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM).
- Challenge: Can it be managed, who will manage it, how will it be managed and how will it be funded?
- Volunteer action: Volunteers recognized the need to organize and in 2001 ERCLA was founded.

The Formation of Lake Groups:

- Several lakes managed EWM using herbicide treatments from 2001-2004.
- The Town of Washington obtained grants to fund the development of aquatic plant management plans in 2005.
- Grassroots efforts resulted in the formation of 10 individual lake associations for the purpose of collectively managing EWM under the umbrella of ERCLA in 2007.

PPP: Public-Private Partnership:

- In 2007, under a Joint Powers Agreement, the Towns of Washington, Lincoln and Cloverland and the City of Eagle River formed the Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission (ULERCLC) to implement and coordinate aquatic invasive species awareness, prevention and management efforts on the Eagle River Chain.
- *WDNR + ULERCLC + 10 lake associations + ERCLA is the first of its kind public-private partnership in the state and served as a model for Aquatic Invasive Species management.*

Attack, Guard, Care:

- The first coordinated herbicide treatment of EWM on all 10 lakes began in 2008.
- Annual herbicide treatments from 2008-2015 and hand harvesting only from 2016-2025.
- The Comprehensive Lake Management Plan was updated and finalized through phased projects from 2014 to 2025.

ERCLA’s story is shaped by the dedication of a core group of property owners on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. Preserving and protecting this unique treasure in northern Wisconsin was a daunting task, yet these individuals devoted countless hours over many years to reaching their goal. Although challenges remain, ERCLA’s determination continues to drive its ongoing success.



*In loving memory of
Gil Rosenthal – ERCLA Founder*

ERCLA's Organizational Change: The Consolidation 2015 to 2018

By Dave Tidmarsh, Past President and Past Board Member of ERCLA

Many of you will recall that prior to 2018, the Eagle River Chain of Lakes had an organizational structure where each lake was represented by an individual lake association with its own Board of Directors. In 2001, ERCLA was created as an umbrella organization that would assist and support all the individual lake associations with a variety of their needs, including Aquatic Invasive Species management.

In November 2015, the ERCLA leadership team revisited its role along with each lake association's role 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 plus their own lake association. ERCLA realized the advantage of bringing together each lakes' leadership team and volunteers to create a much stronger single unit. It was obvious that consolidation of all ten lake associations into one lake organization would ensure a continuing, long-term dedication to preserving and protecting the Chain.

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 with a simplified dues structure and a unified presence and message
- Pooled leadership and dedicated volunteers for support
- Continued representation on the Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission
- Eliminated duplication of activities such as
 - newsletters, websites, membership, recruitment and recordkeeping
 - 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, which 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 all the state and federal requirements of dissolution for each lake association and the bylaws for the new consolidated association. This process took the entire year of 2017, which included each lake association's approval at their 2017 annual meetings.

As a result, ERCLA in its current organizational structure was launched in January 2018.

Membership and Social Media 2016 to 2026

By ERCLA Membership Committee

In 2016, waterfront property owners on the Chain totaled 1,954 and ERCLA's dues-paying members totaled only 580. By the end of 2018, after the first full year of ERCLA's consolidation with the 10 individual lake associations, we had 829 members. Today, we have 970 members and that number is climbing every year.

Until 2019, all of ERCLA's correspondence was mailed to over 1,900 households. In January 2020, the Board of Directors expanded the social media and digital footprint of ERCLA by upgrading to a secure "https" [website](#), which enabled us to add the online payment options we now offer.

Online payments have had a significant and positive impact on our deposit turnaround time, decreasing the man-hours involved in handling mail and deposits, and most importantly, the improved security of our funds.

Only 50% of all contacts within our database use email to communicate, with 25% paying online. Yet, within our membership group of property owners, email solicitation and response rates exceed 80%, with 35% of our members paying their dues online. Email correspondence reduces our mail costs and man-hours.

In January 2020, our [Facebook page](#) had 1,900 followers. Today, we have over 21,000. Our reach extends to members and interested parties from coast to coast and Canada. Recently, our January 29th post had over 13,000 views, and several times we amassed over **100,000 views** from a single post. Facebook gives us the opportunity to interact with the public and share the importance of conservation and protection of our chain.

In February 2026, we created an Instagram account: [@eagleriverchainassociation](#). Be sure to follow us and interact with short reels and photos. Our membership is changing, and our communication pieces must continue to adjust as well.

We cannot say it loud enough or often enough, thank you to all our members for the continued generosity, support and involvement in ERCLA. We are here because of you.



2026 Eurasian Watermilfoil Program Update

By Dave Mueller, AIS Coordinator, Commission Treasurer and Otter Lake Captain

2026 marks the 20th year of the fight against Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. Our program is currently in maintenance mode, with the goal of keeping 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. Annually, Onterra presents its findings to the public and ERCLA members at a Fall meeting.

Part Two is to selectively remove EWM through diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH). Areas in Catfish Lake, Cranberry Lake, Voyageur Lake, Yellow Birch Lake and Watersmeet Lake are dense enough to qualify for hand harvesting. A local professional diving company, DASH, LLC provides this service.

This program is administered by the Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission (ULERCLC). Formed under a Wisconsin 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.

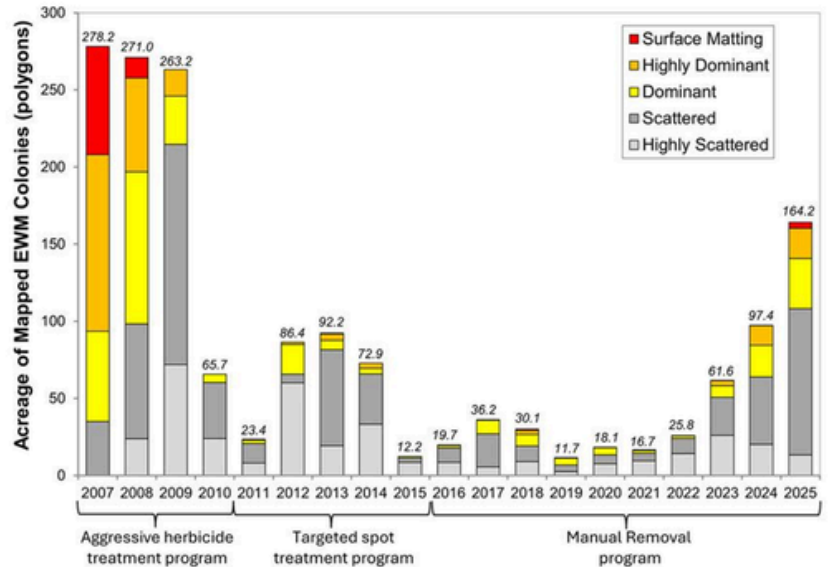
Grant funds from the WDNR were secured again last year through an Aquatic Invasive Species Established Population Control Grant. The three-year grant is for \$150,000 which will be used to cover 65% of project costs. These costs are shared by the four municipalities, WDNR grant funds, ULERCLC treasury funds and ERCLA. The ULERCLC determines the funding breakdown for each contributing entity.

Project Cash Expense Summary Estimate for 2026	
Hand Pull	\$37,860.00
Onterra	\$47,413.33
Clean Boats/Clean Waters	\$900.00
Total	\$86,173.33

These two websites provide interesting and useful information:

- Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission at: eagleriverchaincommission.org
- Commission's EWM Individual Lake Reports by Onterra LLC: <https://eagleriverchaincommission.org/reports/>

EWM Colonies 2007 - 2025



Help ERCLA Stop the Spread of Invasive Species

Here are two examples of what ERCLA and its members can do to help prevent the spread of invasive species.

1. EWM is spread from place to place in several ways. One common way occurs when fragments break off existing plants and are transported or float to other locations in the water. Eventually these fragments take root, new plants are established and more of our chain will be negatively impacted by the new growth.

ERCLA encourages all boaters to pick up floating plant fragments and properly dispose of them. Located at nine boat landing sites within the Eagle River Chain, look for ERCLA's dedicated deck boxes with bright pink buckets for your use on the water. All users are asked to simply collect the fragments from the water and dispose of the plant materials in the **trash receptacles, not in the deck box**, at the boat landing after leaving the water. We do ask that you return the pink buckets to the bin after you are done so others can use them.



2. Our invasive species focus has broadened to include shoreline plants that have the potential to negatively impact the Chain. With our partners at Vilas County Land & Water, a monitoring program is in place for invasives found along our shores such as Purple Loosestrife, Yellow Iris, Phragmites, Japanese Barberry and Knotweed. If you are interested in spending more time on the water, contact us and volunteer for this program. ERCLA.org has information on these plants, including their removal.

Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan: Background and 2026 Activities

By Marc Groth, ERCLA APM Administrator, Duck Lake Captain and Commission Secretary

Background: ERCLA is required to renew our APM plan every five years to continue to apply for future WDNR surface water control grants. Approved control grants provide significant funding toward managing and controlling the Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) population in the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. Our current WDNR control grant, valid through 2027, will contribute \$100,000 toward EWM's 2026-2027 program expenses.

Two APM surface water grants were submitted to the WDNR in November 2025 and were approved in February 2026, allowing us to move forward with executing the plan.



2026 activities:

1. **Release of an Online Anonymous General Use Stakeholder Survey** that will help us understand perceptions and preferences from users that live on and off the Eagle River Chain's waterways. The Planning Committee representatives from all 10 lakes are listed on page 9. This Committee is working with Onterra LLC, our lake management planning service, to develop the stakeholder survey questions.
 - a. The plan is to make this anonymous survey available throughout the Summer months to as many Chain users as possible.
 - i. ERCLA members will receive the survey link and QR code via email.
 - ii. The survey will also be accessible on ERCLA's website, Facebook and Instagram pages.
 - iii. Look for the survey QR code postings at local boat landings, dealerships, repair shops, marinas, restaurants, Chambers of Commerce and other retailers.
 - iv. The media release will include the survey QR code and link in their publications.

2. **Trophic Water Quality Assessment** for water quality testing and chemistry testing will continue in 2026 under the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) program. As mentioned in our [2025 Fall Newsletter](#), this data is an important part of APM, so I am respectfully asking all our CLMN volunteers to consistently execute their testing and make sure the data is entered into the SWIMS system in a timely manner.

3. **Onterra's Aquatic Plant Survey teams** will execute their early season (2nd week of June) and late season (2nd week of September) EWM mapping services, and will add a July, APM required, point intercept aquatic plant survey.

In closing, we encourage all Eagle River Chain users to look for the survey from April through August and submit your answers. Our APM plan is only as good as the information we receive from as many Chain users as possible. Again, this is an anonymous survey. Thank you in advance.

Access Survey from: [ERCLA.org](https://ercla.org) facebook.com/EagleRiverChain instagram.com/eagleriverchainassociation



ERCLA DECALS

Decals are available to advertise and promote ERCLA. Perfect for condo owners, patio doors or windows and vehicle or watercraft windshields.

Contact your Lake Captain or Co-Captain OR email us at erclaonline@gmail.com

ERCLA's Aquatic Plant Management Team and Timeline

By Marc Groth, APM Administrator, Duck Lake Captain and Commission Secretary

Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan updates will be a recurring focus with ERCLA for the next two years. Below is the scheduling worksheet for 2026 with tasks and their estimated completion dates.

Watch for periodic news releases via our website, bi-annual newsletters, [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages and emails to members. Read my other APM article on page 8.

The members of the APM Planning Committee are:

- Marc Groth - ERCLA APM Administrator and Duck Lake Captain
- Jody Voight - ERCLA President and Otter Lake Co-Captain
- Dave Mueller - ERCLA AIS Coordinator and Otter Lake Captain
- Michael Queoff - ERCLA VP of Operations and Cranberry Lake Captain
- Jim Logan - ERCLA Member at Large - Yellow Birch Lake
- Howard Van Dyke - Scattering Rice Lake Captain

- Bill Krostue - Lynx Lake Captain
- Tom Batterman - Eagle Lake Captain
- Mark Slonski - Voyageur Lake Captain
- Steve Skora - Catfish Lake Co-Captain
- Skip McCann - Watersmeet Lake Captain
- Tom Hipp - Communications Co-Chair

ERCLA's APM Project - Estimated Schedule for 2026 and 2027	2026												2027											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Riparian (Waterfront Property Owners) Stakeholders Survey																								
Early Season EWM Mapping Survey with ERCLA Volunteers																								
Whole Lake Point Intercept Survey with Onterra																								
Late Season EWM Mapping Survey with Onterra																								
Aquatic Plant Data Analysis & Results Writing																								
Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Water Quality Workup																								
Planning Committee (2) In-Person Meetings with Onterra																								
Implementation Plan Development by Planning Committee																								
Release of Official First Draft of Citizen Lake Monitoring Plan																								
21 Day Public Comment Period & 45 Day WDNR Agency Review																								
Incorporate Review Comments & Finalize APM Plan																								
Wrap-up Meeting during Fall AIS info Meeting (w/Commission)																								

Let's fill your closets with ERCLA Merchandise!

Visit our store at: <https://www.ercla.org/apparel>



Shoreline Restoration – Things to Consider

By Marc Groth, ERCLA Shoreline Restoration Coordinator

What is the best way to restore shoreland to protect water and wildlife? There are several ways, depending on the site characteristics and desires of the property owner.

Owners of shoreland property often bring with them traditional landscaping ideas centered on the conventional residential yard. Sometimes that means a manicured lawn extending to the water's edge. Unfortunately, that can cause serious problems for the adjacent lake.

When we go from a natural shoreline to a lawn, we damage more than that rich mosaic of life. We could be contributing to the pollution of our lake. It can cause seven times the amount of phosphorus and eighteen times the amount of sediment into the water compared to natural shorelines. Lakeshore property owners can help prevent the negative effects by rethinking the idea of tradition.



Instead of transplanting urban traditions to the natural lakeshore, why not retain the traditional Wisconsin lakeshore? Why not leave a buffer of natural vegetation along the shore? A natural shoreline can be a bridge between the two worlds of land and water. Studies show that there can be as much as 500% more diversity of plant and animal species along your shoreline compared to your upland areas.

Think about creating a “no mow zone” by simply not mowing along your shoreline. It is the easiest method. Turf grasses will grow 12-24 inches tall before going to seed. Creating a curving edge that separates your lawn from the water can also give your shorefront a pleasing, more natural appearance. Over time, shrubs and trees will naturally fill in and provide a more diverse cover. It's certainly something to think about as we work together to protect and preserve our Chain of Lakes.

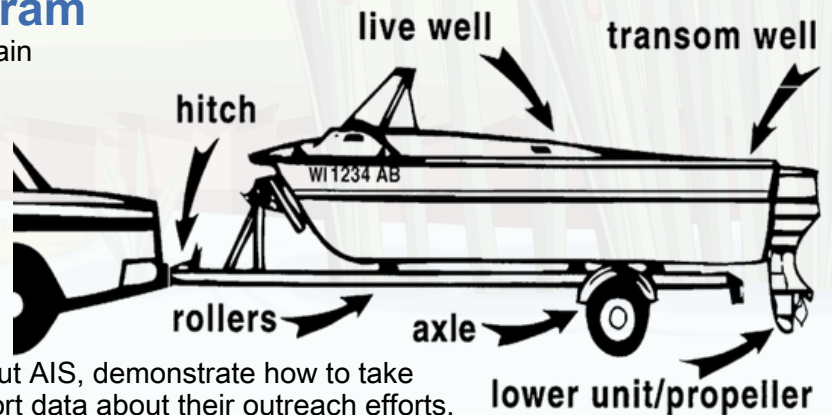


Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program

By Dave Mueller, AIS Coordinator and Otter Lake Captain

This program was originally created by high school students as part of their environmental studies. Since 2004, the Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CB/CW) watercraft inspection program has been an opportunity for participants to take a front-line defense against the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) while also offering a meaningful way to get involved.

Watercraft inspectors talk with boaters and anglers about AIS, demonstrate how to take steps to prevent the spread of AIS, and collect and report data about their outreach efforts. The WDNR maintains a statewide database that tracks information collected at boat landings and provides training material for new boat inspectors.



ERCLA has again contracted with the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department to provide 24 hours of CB/CW inspection services during the 4th of July week, with an additional 12 hours scheduled throughout the Summer. A limited-term employee from Land and Water will conduct the inspections at the Eagle Lake County Park, Braywood on Catfish and T-Docks Yellow Birch boat landings.

Each of us, by taking simple prevention steps while enjoying Wisconsin's waters, can help contain and prevent the spread of AIS. Additionally, we offer volunteer CB/CW inspections in the Summer. Consider donating your time to support this worthwhile program. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Marc Groth at 847-951-1761 or Dave Mueller at 715-297-6636.



When boating, as you move from lake to lake this Summer, remember to “Clean, Drain and Drive.”

Keep Your Dog Safe and Happy on the Chain

Many of us are dog lovers who bring our precious pets to the Northwoods for vacation, hunting or as full-time residents. This is a reminder about a condition which many people are unfamiliar with, shared in the hopes that it will save lives and prevent serious harm or loss. It's called Acute Water Intoxication (AWI), and it affects dogs who love to play in or with water. It also impacts dogs who simply drink voluminous amounts of water in a short time period.



If your dog plays in the lakes, or drinks excessively from a sprinkler or hose, be aware of the risk. Dogs who bite at water or constantly retrieve toys from the water are especially susceptible. When a dog ingests too much water in a short amount of time, their body's cells cannot process it effectively, causing sodium and chloride levels to drop precipitously.

Once that happens, the cells swell, and if not attended to immediately by a veterinarian, cerebral edema can develop, followed by death. The time between onset of symptoms and death can be a matter of just a few hours. Symptoms include vomiting, staggering, loss of balance, pale gums, nausea, glazed eyes, lethargy and abdominal distension.

If your dog exhibits any of these symptoms and has recently ingested water, please take them to a veterinarian immediately. If it is detected early on, electrolytes can be intravenously administered, as well as diuretics and medications to reduce the brain swelling. Protect your dog with plenty of breaks during playtime and ensure regular intakes of water for proper hydration.

Board of Directors and Lake Captains Contact List

Officers	Name	Phone	Other Directors	Name	Phone
President	Jody Voight	262-287-4521	Director at Large	Bill Lochte	715-477-1999
VP-Finance	Scott Peterson	847-848-4142	Director at Large	Chuck Berg	312-927-3365
VP-Operations	Michael Queoff	262-707-4214	Co-Captains:	Name	Phone
AIS Coordinator	Dave Mueller	715-297-6636	Catfish	Steve Skora	847-293-4393
Secretary	Teri Stecker	920-428-6743	Cranberry	John Haunfelder	262-442-4016
Treasurer	Dave Cyrtmus	715-218-2956	Cranberry	Heidi Dunn	952-270-6997
Shoreline Restoration	Marc Groth	847-951-1761	Duck	Stephen Burr	715-891-6100
Captains:	Name	Phone	Eagle	Christine D'hondt	773-551-8721
Catfish	Steve Wagner	262-444-8882	Otter	Jody Voight	262-287-4521
Cranberry	Michael Queoff	262-707-4214	Scattering Rice	Alan Queoff	715-617-2476
Duck	Marc Groth	847-951-1761	Voyageur	Lynn Kenning	715-891-2560
Eagle	Tom Batterman	715-409-6768	Watersmeet	Dan Newitt	715-891-0549
Lynx	Bill Krostue	920-470-3522	Watersmeet	Roger Rosenthal	847-812-4903
Otter	Dave Mueller	715-297-6636	Watersmeet	Steve Dalbec	847-409-1500
Scattering Rice	Howard Van Dyke	708-557-1613	Yellow Birch	Bill Morgan	847-254-9623
Voyageur	Mark Slonski	708-738-5925			
Watersmeet	Hugh (Skip) McCann	847-274-9792			
Yellow Birch	George Katich	847-309-4008			



ERCLA
PO Box 1821
Eagle River, WI 54521

New Ways to Connect and Support the Chain!

By Tom Hipp, Communications Co-Chair

We are excited to announce that keeping our lakes pristine just got a little easier. To better serve our members and keep up with the digital age, **ERCLA** is expanding our payment options and our social media presence.

More Ways to Pay:

- You can now pay your annual association dues via Venmo! Whether you are out on the boat or relaxing on the dock, you can support our water quality and safety initiatives in seconds.

How to pay with Venmo:

- **Via the Venmo App:** Open the Venmo app and search under the “charities” section for Eagle River Chain of Lakes or by our Venmo name [@ERChainOfLakes](#).
- **Via Our Website:** Head to [ERCLA.org](#) and navigate to the Membership tab.
 - At this time, we are experiencing technical difficulties with the Venmo payment feature on our website. We are working hard to resolve the issue, as this is important to many of our members. We will share an update on Facebook once this feature becomes available.

Your contributions are vital to the continued health of the Chain, and we hope these digital options make staying current with your dues more convenient than ever.

Follow Us on Instagram!

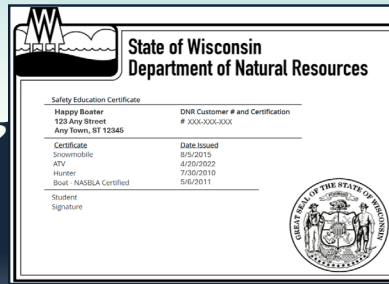
Want to see the beauty of the Eagle River Chain right in your social feed? We've officially launched our Instagram account! Search for [@eagleriverchainassociation](#) and hit follow.

Stay tuned for stunning photos and short reels highlighting:

- Breathtaking **lake sunsets** and **local wildlife**.
- Updates on our latest **restoration projects**.
- Our amazing **volunteers in action**, making a difference.

Don't forget to tag us in your lake photos — we'd love to see the Chain through your lens!

Who is required to pass a WISCONSIN BOATER SAFETY COURSE and hold a Lifetime Education Certificate?



Per the Vilas County Boat Patrol Officers, this subject receives the most warnings and citations on our waterways and it's the most misunderstood by the boating public.

ANSWER: ALL operators born on or after January 1, 1989, must pass the WI Boater Safety Course and hold the Lifetime Boater Education Certificate to operate a motorboat or personal watercraft (PWC) in WI.

*Are you and your family members in compliance?
Don't be caught out on the lakes and rivers without certification.
Sign up now and be ready for this boating season.*

WI DNR - WI BOATING RULES & REGULATIONS - Who may operate a motorboat (Excerpt)

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

- They are accompanied by a parent, a guardian or a 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 12-15 years old may operate a motorboat only if:

- They have completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the WI DNR. **OR**
- They are accompanied by a parent, guardian or a 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 WI DNR. **OR**
- They are accompanied by another 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.

COURSE INFORMATION: Instruction focuses on navigation, laws, ethics, personal safety and the proper use of boats. **Cost: \$10.00** in a traditional classroom **OR \$29.95 - \$54.95** online.

To search for a recreational safety education course near you visit:
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/safetyEducation>

Retain this insert and share it with neighbors, family, friends and renters.