



25 Years and 25 Ways ERCLA Members Protect the Chain

Ever wonder what your \$60 annual membership actually funds?

2026 is our 25th Silver Jubilee Anniversary!

Here are 25 active projects that keep our lakes beautiful.

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer visit our website: ercla.org

Five Ways We Protect Our Water Quality and Ecosystems:

Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN): Our incredible volunteers conduct regular water sampling to track chlorophyll, phosphorus and temperature providing critical data to the WDNR for long-term lake health trends.

Shoreline Restoration: We promote and support projects that restore natural shorelines, preventing erosion and keeping harmful runoff out of our lakes.

Shoreland Plant Protection: Educating and monitoring native plant health to maintain a balanced, vibrant ecosystem for local wildlife.

Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan: Our guiding framework to manage lake vegetation responsibly, balancing recreation with ecological preservation.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) & Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) Maintenance: Ongoing mitigation efforts to keep aggressive, non-native weeds from taking over our waterways.

A Safe Lake Is a Fun Lake! Keeping the Chain Safe and Easy to Navigate:

Vilas County Sheriff's Boat Patrol: We proudly help fund the Sheriff's Patrol Boat, keeping deputies on the water to ensure safe boating practices. Report unsafe acts at 715-479-4441.

Navigational Buoys & Maintenance: Buoys mark our waterways to provide safe boating. We provide annual donations for maintenance and replacement costs and offer volunteer assistance to the Town of Washington with its seasonal installation and removal.

Boat Landing Signage: To help visitors and locals navigate the Chain, we've placed large 4' x 8' informational map signs at major boat landings on Catfish, Yellow Birch, Eagle and Cranberry.

Chain of Lakes Map & Brochure: We print 5,000 free copies annually of our Chain Map and Boating Safety Flyer, highlighting local rules and member businesses accessible by boat. Grab yours at local retailers or download and print our digital version: ercla.org/about-the-lakes

Boat Safe & Educational Flyers: Need to teach the kids, renters or guests the rules of the water? Printable "Boat Safe" educational flyers are available here: ercla.org/resources

Stopping Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Is a Team Sport!

Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW): We fund trained interns at our boat landings to give boaters hands-on demonstrations and materials on how to prevent spreading invasives.

Pink Buckets: Have you seen our bright pink buckets at nine local landings? Grab one, collect floating weed fragments while you cruise, toss the weeds in the trash and return the bucket.

Government Grants & Partnerships: We work closely with the Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission (City of Eagle River, Towns of Cloverland, Lincoln and Washington) to secure vital WDNR grants to fund EWM and other invasive plant removal.

Active Commission Participation: While the association doesn't hold a vote on the Commission, our volunteers hold officer positions and dedicate countless hours.

Facebook Reels & Posts: We use social media platforms to spread real-time awareness, urgent lake alerts and AIS identification tips to thousands of residents and visitors.

How Do 950+ Lake Lovers Stay Connected? Digital Tools Keep Us United:

Newsletters: What started in 2003 as a one-page flyer has evolved into a beautiful, multi-page color newsletter tracking lake safety, invasive species updates, Captains' reports and more.

Digital Communication: Going digital in 2020 boosted our reach from 300 to over 935 members!

Tip: Add erclaonline@gmail.com as a contact so we don't hit your spam folder!

Our Website: Upgraded in 2020, our secure site is your ultimate resource to pay dues, check WDNR links, find Lake Captains, or read past news and more. 📍 ercla.org

Association Membership Decals: Show your lake pride! Perfect for vehicle windshields, ATVs, boats or condo windows where traditional signs aren't allowed. Grab yours from your Lake Captain or email us at: erclaonline@gmail.com

Online Apparel Store: From cozy hoodies and tees to floating keychains, koozies and tumblers – shop great gifts while supporting lake conservation at ercla.org/apparel

The Heartbeat of Our Association - Our People:

Our Volunteers: We are 100% volunteer-powered! None of this happens without the passion and efforts of our amazing community.

High School Scholarships: We invest in the future of our lakes by providing scholarships to local high school students pursuing university or technical degrees in environmental sciences, biology and conservation.

Media Outreach & Articles: We consistently write for local news outlets and magazines to keep the public educated on why protecting the Chain matters to our local economy.

Instagram Reels: Engaging the next generation of lake stewards by using quick, fun video content to highlight the natural beauty of the Chain and the reality of conservation.

Our Membership: Since our very first meeting in August 2002 at the Kalmar Center, this meeting has kept our community engaged, unified and informed. On Saturday, July 25, 2026, the 25th meeting of members was once again held at the Kalmar Center.