



# TWIN LAKES NEWS

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• EDUCATION • COOPERATION

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FALL NEWSLETTER 2014

VOLUME 20, NO. 3

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TWIN LAKES AREA

## ***ANNUAL MEETING*...GREAT GATHERING, PROGRAM, AND BUSINESS MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the TLPA was held August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Chicog Town Hall. The gathering started with coffee and breakfast pastries at 9:30, and a very interesting program presented by Chicog Volunteer Fire Department Chief Brad Harrison, and then the Annual Meeting at 11:00 AM. The gathering was well attended and the new format for the Annual Meeting seemed to be well received by all in attendance.

THE PROGRAM.....Fire Chief Brad Harrison talked about new and existing firefighting equipment the town has for the different situations, such as structural fires, wildfires, or a major disaster in our area. He reported that the DNR may opt to use our Town Hall as a command center in certain situations. But in any emergency affecting our area, they will activate the ESG and our Emergency Management Leader to coordinate what needs to be communicated and done in our area. Brad talked about the Wild Fire Chain of Command. In the case of a Wild Fire, the DNR has command, and will be responsible to assign all resources. The Local Fire Departments will be assigned duties and areas of operation and responsibilities, commanded by the local ranking officer. Attendees were then able to tour the facility, learn more about the trucks and other firefighting equipment. We thank Brad for updating us on the Fire Department, and for a great program.

THE BUSINESS MEETING.....Was called to order by President Ann Jackson. Minutes from the 2013 Meeting was approved, as well as the financial report, showing a balance of \$332.09 in checking, and \$2,000.00 in savings. Membership reported that we had 46 paid members as of the date of the meeting, and that reminder letter would be mailed for dues that are due. The water clarity report was deferred to be included in this Newsletter. See page 5 for details. The Loon Watch Committee reported a failed nesting attempt on North Twin, and an abandoned nest on Middle Twin.

ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**ANNUAL MEETING...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

The Spring Social was hosted by Glenys and Dave Thorsen, at their residence on North Twin. It was well attended by members and guests. The board has established a Post Office Box for all correspondence to the TLPA. That address is: TLPA, P.O. Box 410, Minong, WI. 54859. The Board reported on a new "Business Network Initiative" has been established to build relationships with the business community in our area, and to build on membership. The board will be working with businesses to see what they can offer, and what we can offer them in return. The proposed budget for 2014-2015 was approved. The "FISH STICKS" program, which is a DNR Program to improve fish habitat in our lakes, is being pursued by the board. See article below on this page for more details. *THE TLPA NOW HAS A WEBSITE LINK WITH WCLRA*, go to [wclra.org](http://wclra.org). Don Shaner has pursued this project, and will be our representative for the website. He also has completed archiving historical and current TLPA Data electronically for record retention. **ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS....**Don Shaner and Kent Shifferd's terms on the board had expired, and Gary Bergh and Steve Myhre volunteered to serve 2 year terms to the board. Meeting was adjourned prior to noon.

***TLPA BOARD ELECTS DUANE BERGH NEW PRESIDENT***

The new board met on August 30<sup>th</sup>, and elected the boards officers. The officers elected are as follows:

President.....Duane Bergh  
 Vice-President.....Gary Bergh  
 Secretary.....Glenys Thorsen  
 Treasurer.....Stu Eickelberg  
 Other Directors Are.....Elaine Dietrich, Steve Myhre, Mary Kay Dooley  
 Past President.....Ann Jackson

***FISH STICKS PROGRAM.....BEING PURSUED AND UNDER WAY***

Fish Sticks is a WI DNR Sponsored Program designed to improve fish habitat in our lakes. The program projects are intended to restore woody habitat in lakes by adding trees to the near-shore area. They are large woody habitat structures that utilize whole trees either grouped together or single trees, which are anchored to the shore and are partially or fully submerged near the shoreline of the lake. Board representatives have met with Craig Roberts, Fisheries Biologist with the WI DNR, who has toured the 3 lakes, determining that North and Middle have good habitat, but that South would benefit from some fish habitat. The DNR is projecting that there will be some Grant Money available in 2015 for a limited number of these projects. The board is pursuing this, but now needs some lakeshore owners involvement. What is needed are some volunteers that would be willing to have "Fish Sticks" on their shoreline. If you would like to get involved in this fish habitat program, please contact any member of the board, or by mail at TLPA, Box 410, Minong, WI 54859. For more details on the program, visit the WI DNR website.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.....**

Hi everyone,

Hope you have had a great summer! Every so often a year comes along that just sticks in your memory (like the great 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend wind storm). This year will be noted for all the moisture we have received. We had so much deep snow last winter and now we have seen incredible amounts of rain in the weeks around Labor Day. I measured about 12 inches in the Bergh rain gauge! That put my dock underwater for the second time this summer.

Although my beach has disappeared slowly as the year has progressed, I have noticed a lot more vegetation growing along the shore lines, along with a return of schools of minnows and a lot more frogs.

Having a family cabin on South Twin Lake since 1955, I've seen nuous cycles of dry and wet years. During the wet cycles, the water quality and overall fishing improve. I'll dearly miss my nice beach, but it's nice to know the lakes aren't going to dry up anytime soon. Not only has all the rain greatly reduced the wildfire risk, but it should also lead to great fall colors.

Summer has ended and fall is now here. I can honestly say I truly enjoy all the seasons at the lake. Each season is unique, with numerous adventures to experience. As your new TLPA President, I'll do my best to continue our mission to maintain, protect, and enhance the quality of the lakes and surrounding area for future generations.

Enjoy the seasons!

Duane Bergh, TLPA President

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**A REMINDER ABOUT *BURNING PERMITS*.....**

You are required to have a burning permit, and you are required to check on burning rules for the day of any burn. The DNR will have the rules for our area posted by 11 AM on its website [dnr.wi.gov/forest/fire](http://dnr.wi.gov/forest/fire) and select "View Burning Permit Restrictions" or by telephone call 1-888-947-2876. We are in county 66. The time and days allowed will vary based on the snow cover being of 2 inches or greater comprehensive snow cover, allowing in general, 24 hours a day 7 days a week burn. During non snow cover periods, if permits are not suspended, the hours may vary, thus you MUST check to see the rules for that day and time period. Remember, your fire must be attended to at all times. You need to have tools such as shovels, rakes, and a water hose available to control the fire. Do not burn if the wind is or predicted to be stronger than 8 mph for the time of your burn. Make sure your fire is out. Proper disposal of ashes is very important. Ashes can start a fire for days after the fire. Ashes should cool a minimum of 96 hours before disposing of or place in an air tight container.

**YOU HAVE A LEGAL RISK....if you are found in violation of your permit, you can be fined by an agent of the DNR. If your fire gets out of control, you may be charged for all extinguishing costs.**

## ***WATER CLARITY REPORT .....***

### **South Twin...report from Tom Feldmann (Summarized from his report)**

The average clarity in 2013 was 14 feet. (This year the average clarity was 20 feet. It has never been this high before but might be attributed to the cooler summer or fewer sunny days?) By comparison, the Northwest Georegion was 8.5 feet in 2013. The average chlorophyll was 4.5ug/l, compared to the Northwest Georegion summer average of 15.4 ug/l. And the Total Phosphorus average was 9 ug/l. The lakes that have more than 20 ug/l may experience noticeable algae blooms. The overall Trophic State Index was 46, which suggests that South Twin is a mesotrophic lake, which are characterized by moderately clear water, but having a chance of low dissolved oxygen in deep water during the summer. Water temperature was in the 77 range on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 2013.

### **North Twin...report from Mike Vandenberg (Summarized from his report)**

Mike Reports that at the end of May this year, the clarity reading was 16 feet, which was a few feet better than last year. July 26, 2014, it was 10 feet compared to last year's 11 feet. Water temperature is running about the same. Lake was iced over November 24<sup>th</sup>, and ice was off on April 29, 2014. The average secchi disk reading for 2013 was 10.5 feet. The Average Chlorophyll was 4.3 ug/l, and the Phosphorus average was 15.4 ug/l. The overall Trophic State Index was 46. Showing North Twin as about the same as South Twin, making it also a mesotrophic lake. Water temperature was also around 77 on September 1, 2013.

DETAILED INFORMATION ON WATER CLARITY MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE WI DNR WEBSITE at type 53, station numbers 663103 and 663104.

## ***THE NORTHERN WASHBURN COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN***

Washburn County is working with Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) to create a plan to create a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for our area, which is one of the largest prevention initiatives in the region. Jason Laumann, senior planner with NWRPC in Spooner, is leading this project. He has been meeting with representatives from the Village of Minong, the Towns of Chicog, Minong, Frog Creek, and Brooklyn to establish this plan. These towns and villages are located in an area known as the "barrens", which are areas located in an area of deep sandy soil and pine forests where fires in past have destroyed thousands of acres and hundreds of homes. The DNR considers this area as one of the highest-risk fire districts in the state. According to Laumann, he said that the Germann Lake Fire east of Gordon has shown that those homes that prepared to survive a wildfire, in most cases did survive. In fact he said, those properties that removed fuels from around their structures and had large green open spaces, not only survived the fires but in some places were untouched.

Ben Garrett, wild land urban interface specialist for the WI DNR, said funding for the planning comes from federal funds from the Healthy Forest Restoration Act to help reduce fuels in fire-prone areas. He said this is all pre-fire mitigation. All the stakeholders have to work together and have to identify measures to reduce structural ignitability and to identify hazardous fuel reduction priorities. You will be hearing more in the near future about the FIREWISE Project and how YOU can get involved to protect your property.

**FROM THE DECK OF THE "LAST WORD" .....NEWS, NEWS, AND JUST SOME BOAT TALK...**

***SPECIAL THANK YOU'S GO OUT TO....***

**DON AND NANCY SHANER**, for creating the "20 years of Commitment" review, and for Don creating our website, and archiving all the history and important documents of the TLPA

**GLENYS AND DAVE THORSEN**, for hosting the Spring Social

**DUANE BERGH** for serving as our President for the coming year

**STEVE MYHRE AND GARY BERGH** for volunteering to serve as Directors on the Board

**ANN JACKSON**, for serving as our President this past year

**KENT SHIFFERD**, who has retired from the board as Past President, and served as President for several years.

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE LINK WITH WCLRA..** Go to [wclra.org](http://wclra.org), and select "member organizations". You will be able to read the current and past issues of the TLPA Newsletter, and other information relating to the organization. Thanks to Don Shaner for doing this project.

**"INDOOR MALL TO WALK"** has been established at the Town Hall one day a week for the Landowners of the Town of Chicog. Milly Thissen has organized several activities to take place thru the winter, beginning December 1, ending on May 1, 2015. The proposed time is from 10 AM to 3 PM. Members of the ESG will be available to aid in the organizational activities. Activities will include but not be limited to walking, exercises, coffee and socializing, cards, board games, puzzles, and possibly a potluck at noon on Thursdays. The idea is to have "Our Own Mall to Walkabout" says Milly. Make plans now to get out of the house and "Walkabout." A great idea.

**ROAD WIDENING** on Pash Drive started on October 6. The plan is to make it a 4 rod road, with clearing of brush and trees, reduce some hills and valleys, install several culverts, remove some curves and corners, and improve the roadbed. The goal is improvement for snow removal, fire truck and emergency vehicle movement, and safety for the residents.

**THE EMERGENCY SUPPORT GROUP (ESG)** will be holding its annual meeting Saturday, November 8, 2014, from 10 AM to 12 Noon, at the Chicog Town Hall. New board members will be elected, 2014 will be reviewed, and the planning of 2015 will be discussed.

Glenys Thorsen is representing the TLPA on the Wildfire Protection Plan Project.

If any members have information and or articles that they would like to have shared in our Newsletters, do send them on to our mailing address.....PO Box 410, Minong, Wi 54859. Next Newsletter will be published in the Spring in April. Hopefully, Spring will be here in April 2015.

Until Spring does arrive, I wish for everyone to have a Great Fall, Happy Holidays, and Great Winter.

Tom Jackson, TLPA News Editor



**TWIN LAKES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. BOX 410**

**MINONG, WI 54859-0410**

**TO:**

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**TLPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_

**LAKE PHONE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_ **HOME** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**LAKE ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX EXEMPT**

**DUES \$25.00 ANNUALLY**

**MAIL TO: TLPA, PO BOX 410, MINONG, WI 54859-0410**



