



TWIN LAKES NEWS

• MAINTAIN • PROTECT • ENHANCE

• FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

• EDUCATION • COOPERATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2015

VOLUME 21, NO. 1

THINK SPRING 2015.....WELCOME TO THE LAKES

IN THIS ISSUE

WILD & SCENIC RIVERS COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)

A plan to reduce the risk to life and property, increase fire fighter and public safety and improve preparedness for wildfires in our high risk area of the Twin Lakes and surrounding area. *THIS IS A MUST READ FOR OUR RESIDENTS. THE DNR HAS IDENTIFIED OUR AREA AS BEING IN ONE OF THE HIGHEST RISK AREAS FOR WILDFIRES IN THE STATE...FIRE RISK DISTRICT 15.*

FISH STICKS PROGRAM

A WI DNR program designed to improve fish habitat in our lakes.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FOR THE SPRING AND SUMMER IN THE TLPA AREA

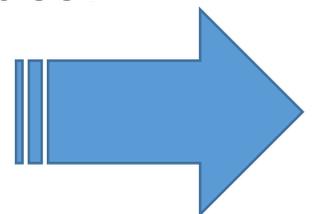
WHAT YOU CAN DO TO "SPEAK OUT" ABOUT YOUR INTERNET SERVICE

A REMINDER OF WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP LAKE WATER QUALITY

DON'T FORGET WE HAVE OUR WEBSITE LINK.....CHECK THIS OUT

A CAUTION FROM THE DECK OF THE "LAST WORD"

A MESSAGE FROM TLPA PRESIDENT DUANE BERGH



A MESSAGE FROM THE TLPA PRESIDENT.....

Hi Everyone,

It's sure been nice to have spring arrive on time this year. I feel like I've been able to get a head start on my spring projects and I'm hoping to have more time for things like fishing and golfing this summer.

Although the water level in the lakes is quite high, we didn't have much snow this winter. I'm concerned that this will increase the fire danger this spring. As you may know, the Twin Lakes area has been identified as being an "extremely high fire risk area". On that note, the TLPA is partnering with the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Group (CWPP) to help make the Twin Lakes area a Firewise community. Look for articles in our TLPA Newsletters to help become more informed about precautions to take with the increased potential for wildfires in our area. Since some areas around Twin Lakes have very limited escape routes, it is important to have an emergency plan in place in the event a wildfire blocks any of the escape routes.

Please make time to attend these upcoming summer events - mark your calendars:

Saturday, July 11 Ice Cream Social 2-4 p.m. at Glenys and David Thorsens

N11958 Pasch Drive North Twin Lake

Saturday, August 1 TLPA Annual Members Meeting at Chicog Town Hall

9:30 a.m. Coffee, juice, donuts will be served

10:00 Presentation on becoming firewise & improving our lake ecology through the fish sticks program. Annual meeting to follow.

We are so fortunate to be on lakes that have such excellent water clarity and quality. I hope we can all pitch in and work together to ensure that future generations can enjoy the lakes as we do.

Hope to see you this summer!

Duane Bergh

FISH STICKS PROGRAM.....A WI DNR SPONSORED PROGRAM TO IMPROVE FISH HABITAT

This is a program designed to improve fish habitat by restoring the woody habitat in the lakes by adding trees to the near-shore area. These trees or woody habitats may be either grouped together or single trees, which are anchored to the shore and may be partially or fully submerged near the shoreline. DNR representatives have toured our 3 lakes, and have determined that Middle and North Twin have good habitat, but that South Twin could benefit from this program. What we need now is participation from lakeshore owners, that would be interested in having "Fish Sticks" on their shoreline. If you are interested in improving our fish habitat, and would like to get involved in this program, please contact any TLPA Board member, or send your interest to TLPA, P.O. Box 410, Minong, WI 54859. **THE LAKE NEEDS YOUR HELP.**

PLEASE CONSIDER GETTING INVOLVED WITH THIS TLPA PROJECT FOR OUR LAKES. THANK YOU

Wild & Scenic Rivers Community Wildfire Protection) Plan (CWPP Written by Milly Thissen

As of [March 1, 2015](#), the Wild & Scenic Rivers Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) has been completed and it is a game changer for our area. In the last Twin Lakes Preservation Association (TLPA) newsletter, (go to www.wclra.org; then to "Member Associations"; then to "Twin Lakes Preservation Association"; then "TLPA Fall Newsletter 2014"; then to "page 4"), there was an article on the basic information of this CWPP. Since then, the name has changed from the Northern Washburn County Community Wildfire Protection Plan to the Wild & Scenic Rivers Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). As stated, Jason Laumann, senior planner with NWRPC in Spooner, lead the project with the funding for the planning meetings and materials provided by federal funds from the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Besides Jason Laumann, Ben Garrett, wild land urban interface specialist for the WI DNR, has been working closely with the surrounding towns of Minong, Frog Creek, Brooklyn, and the Village of Minong as well as Chicog in a collaborative effort over the last nine months.

The overall goal of the CWPP is to reduce the risk to life and property, increase fire fighter and public safety and improve preparedness. It follows right along with the mission of the TLPA which is to maintain, protect, and enhance the quality of the lakes and surrounding area for future generations.

The final CWPP report is 56 pages with some pages having informative maps of the area, and it is designated to be a short-term plan as well as a five-year plan. Because of its length, you will be receiving this information in at least six correspondences to you in 2015-2016. Also more information will be contained in the 2015 Spring Fire Chief newsletter, on the town website, www.townofchicog.com, and in the Chicog News of the Spooner Advocate. These critical maps in the 56 pages will be posted at the Summer social at the Thorsens in June, and at the Annual TLPA meeting on [August 1, 2015](#) at the Chicog town hall.

The Chicog CWPP Advisory Board was voted in with members assigned at the [March 9, 2015](#) Town Meeting and the members are Terri Corrie, Betty Harrison, Brad Harrison, Glenys Thorsen, Dave Thorsen, and Milly Thissen. This Board's responsibilities are to 1) lead in prioritization, execution and implementation of the CWPP's actions, 2) seek and apply for project grant funding, and 3) do the overall plan coordination and administration between all the organizations involved in this project.

The landowners of the Twin Lakes are directly impacted by this CWPP with over one-third of our upcoming proposed grant request to affect Twin Lakes in a positive manner. If we do not receive the grant funding, Emergency Support Group (ESG), Town of Chicog, and the Chicog Fire Department believe that these action plans are very important and have agreed to support the necessary funding. All of the items in the grant request which pertains to the Twin Lakes will be without cost to the landowners. There may be some actions that you choose to do that might incur cost, yet this will be your decision. We plan to submit the grant request in April with hopes to hear the outcome in June 2015. The next step is to have two members of the Chicog CWPP Advisory Board meet with the TLPA Board at their [May 2nd](#) Board meeting to provide them with an overview of what is the action plan. Also Ben Garrett, wild land urban interface specialist for the WI DNR, will join the meeting to provide his expertise and knowledge concerning specific areas of the action plan. Second step is to have Ben Garrett do a community assessment that will tell us what areas and actions needs top priority at the Twin Lakes. The outcome of this community assessment will be communicated to all of you. In the requested grant, we are asking for funds to assist in printing the TLPA newsletters for the rest of 2015 and 2016 so to ensure that the CWPP activities are communicated to all of you in a timely manner.

During this whole process, we welcome any additional input that you consider important for us to know, and you may contact Glenys or Dave Thorsen [612-437-0753](tel:612-437-0753) or Milly Thissen [612-670-8541](tel:612-670-8541) or email m.thissen55437@comcast.net There will be several Chicog activities that will involve the Twin Lakes such as the placement of 20 evacuation road signs at important locations in Chicog, along with evacuation maps provided for all landowners. Betty Harrison is Lead on the "2015 Community Guide Emergency Numbers" refrigerator magnets which will be distributed to landowners starting early summer. All this will be provided without cost to you because of the CWPP and the ESG.

If you wanted to look at the final report of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Community Wildfire Protection Plan to see what is addressed for the Twin Lakes, you will find it at website, <http://www.nwrpc.com/index.aspx?NID=959> , click on [Wild & Scenic Rivers Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#) (HIGH resolution ~35MB) or [Wild & Scenic Rivers Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#) (LOW resolution ~9MB). It will take a while to download, yet if your curiosity is there, you will be patient to see the 56 pages. Or if you are just interested in some of the informative maps, then go to the above website, and click on these maps:

[Fire History](#)

[Fire Risk Analysis](#)

[Hazardous Fuels Reduction](#)

As I mentioned, the Chicog CWPP Advisory Board keeps the focus, chasing down the funding to get the jobs done, and document the steps as we move forward --- communicating and gaining agreement before, during, and after the activities. We are working closely with expertise of Ben Garrett with the WI DNR and our Fire Chief, Brad Harrison. This CWPP is to develop the sense of the future, not merely reacting to the present. The Chicog CWPP Advisory Board encourages you all to be involved in this program and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. We appreciated your input and involvement!

Community Activities

Thanks to Milly Thissen for the community update

April 22: At the Town Hall is the **35 Years Rededication of Oak Lake Fire** from 4 to 7 PM with the program at 5 PM. WI DNR Forester, Rebecca Mouw, of Minong will be the Lead of this project. We are anticipating several State personnel as well as Smokey Bear to be at this program. The Chicog ESG ladies will be serving a free meal of Sloppy Joes, baked beans, potato chips, coleslaw, fresh vegetables, and an assortment of bars with refreshments from 4 to 7 PM. Please come and help with the Rededication of the Oak Lake Fire! Everyone is welcome!

May 2: Christopher Johnston Benefit will be held at the Chicog Town Hall with food served from 5 to 8 PM and the Second Time Around band starting at 7:30 PM in the Chicog Fire Hall and playing until midnight. Families are encouraged to come because the event has food and prizes for children besides for the adults. The menu is grilled chicken, mac and cheese, two hot vegetables, corn and green beans, bread, a wide variety of salads, and tons of different kinds of desserts. Refreshments are lemonade, coffee, and tea. Adult meal ticket is \$7 and children 3 to 10 is \$5. Carry outs are available from 5 to 8 PM. There will be children and adult donated merchandise items available for you to purchase your winning tickets. It is established so that you decide which items you want to place your winning tickets for the drawings. Both adult and children merchandise drawings will start at 8 PM and you do not have to be present to win. All proceeds from the Benefit will go to Christopher Johnson Fund. The purpose of this Benefit is to give support and rally for Christopher Johnston and his family. If you are unable to attend and would like to donate to the Fund, please make your check to "Benefit for Chris Johnston" and mail your check to Shell Lake State Bank, 102 West 5th Avenue, Shell Lake, WI 54871. There are also branches of the Shell Lake State Bank in Spooner, Minong, Sarona, and Stone Lake if you plan to stop in person. Please come to help a family who has a nine year old receiving treatment for a brain tumor, currently having 5 more months of chemotherapy to do with extensive physical therapy sessions to bring back his muscle control and daily functions. During this whole process which started last October, Christopher has not lost his cognitive skills and so it is important for all of us to rally him onward to continue his fight back to routine. Christopher Johnston family appreciated your efforts in helping them during these challenging times. Also the good cooks of Chicog are all coming out for this event so you will want to be eating your dinner at the Chicog Town Hall on **May 2, 2015**.

May 23: Town-wide Garage Sale will be happening in Chicog as well as some other neighboring towns. There are many options for you to be included in this event. You may host the garage sale at your house, or join another neighbor to have a multi-family garage sale, or you may bring your items to the Town Hall for the garage sale to be from 9 AM to 5 PM. There will be a list of who is participating in the town-wide garage sale and this list will be handed out at the Town Hall on Saturday, **May 23** from 9 AM to 5 PM. If you are bringing your items to the Town Hall to do your garage selling there, you may bring them in on Friday, **May 22nd** or on Saturday, and you must have someone handling your table throughout the day when your items are there. All remaining items need to be removed by 5:30 PM on Saturday, **May 23rd**. To sign up to have your individual garage sale on the list, or to request for a table at the Town Hall, please call Milly Thissen **612-670-8541** or email her at chicognews@comcast.net so that she adds you to the list or assigns a table at the town hall for you. You need to have this action done by Thursday, **May 21** by 5 PM to be included on the list.

May 30: Chicog ESG Trial Run will be conducted in the morning. This is vitally important so to keep everyone safe and prepared for a potential emergency. If you have any questions relating to this activity, please contact Terri Corrie **715-466-4129** or Milly Thissen **612-670-8541**.

One of the first two Saturdays in June: Chicog will be having a **Saturday** designed for Clean-Up day which enables you to remove what is hanging out on your property that you intend to get rid of. Updates will be on the Chicog website, www.townofchicog.com after the **April 8th** town meeting when the specific date will be decided. Also the Spooner Advocate Chicog News article will provide you with an update, and there will be more information posted at the front window of the town hall as well as the outside glass bulletin board.

July 25th: Chicog Fire Department Waterfights/Picnic/Dance event starts at 12 noon and goes until midnight. If you are unable to attend the Waterfights/dance and yet would like to have some food, they will have carry-out available so you do not have to cook that day. There will be raffle tickets available to purchase weeks before the event and at the event, and you do not have to be present to win. It is a good way to support the Fire Department and have a good time. More details to follow!

TLPA WEBSITE LINK.....WCLRA.ORG, AND GO TO MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (TLPA)

The TLPA Board has a website for the organization to provide news, information, newsletters, and other information about the TLPA. Go to WCLRA.ORG, and then go to "member organizations" and select TLPA. You will be able to read current and past issues of the Newsletter, and other information relating to the organization. Check this out.

Let Your Voice Be Heard! ARE YOU HAPPY WITH YOUR INTERNET SPEED? YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INPUT. HERE IS WHAT IS HAPPENING. The Washburn County Economic Development Corporation has been working with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and UW-Extension to document the need for broadband (high speed internet) in Washburn County. Use the links below to take this online survey and find out more about broadband access in Wisconsin. We need your participation!

Broadband Assessment Tool/Survey	Broadband Background Information
https://apps.costguest.com/bat/home	http://www.linkwisconsin.org/lwi/Default.aspx

As we tackle our spring yard work, please remember that what we do may impact the water quality of our lakes. Reminders from TLPA Best Practices Handbook.

- *Clear no more than a 30 foot corridor for lake viewing purposes.*
- *Create meandering paths and trails to the water's edge to screen buildings from view.*
- *Pathways down to the lake should follow the natural slope of the land using switchbacks.*
- *Screen satellite dishes, swing sets, grills, fuel tanks and outbuildings from view with vegetation.*
- *Avoid erosion. Leave as much natural vegetation as possible between your cabin and the water's edge.*
- *Avoid carving stairways into slopes which can concentrate runoff and cause erosion.*

Many property owners choose to restore their shorelines for several reasons:

Concern for water quality. A thick vegetative cover slows water runoff, allowing the water to seep into the soil. Deeply rooted native plants reduce erosion by holding the soil. Sharing the land with wildlife, from butterflies and hummingbirds to frogs and enhancing the natural beauty with flowering native plants.

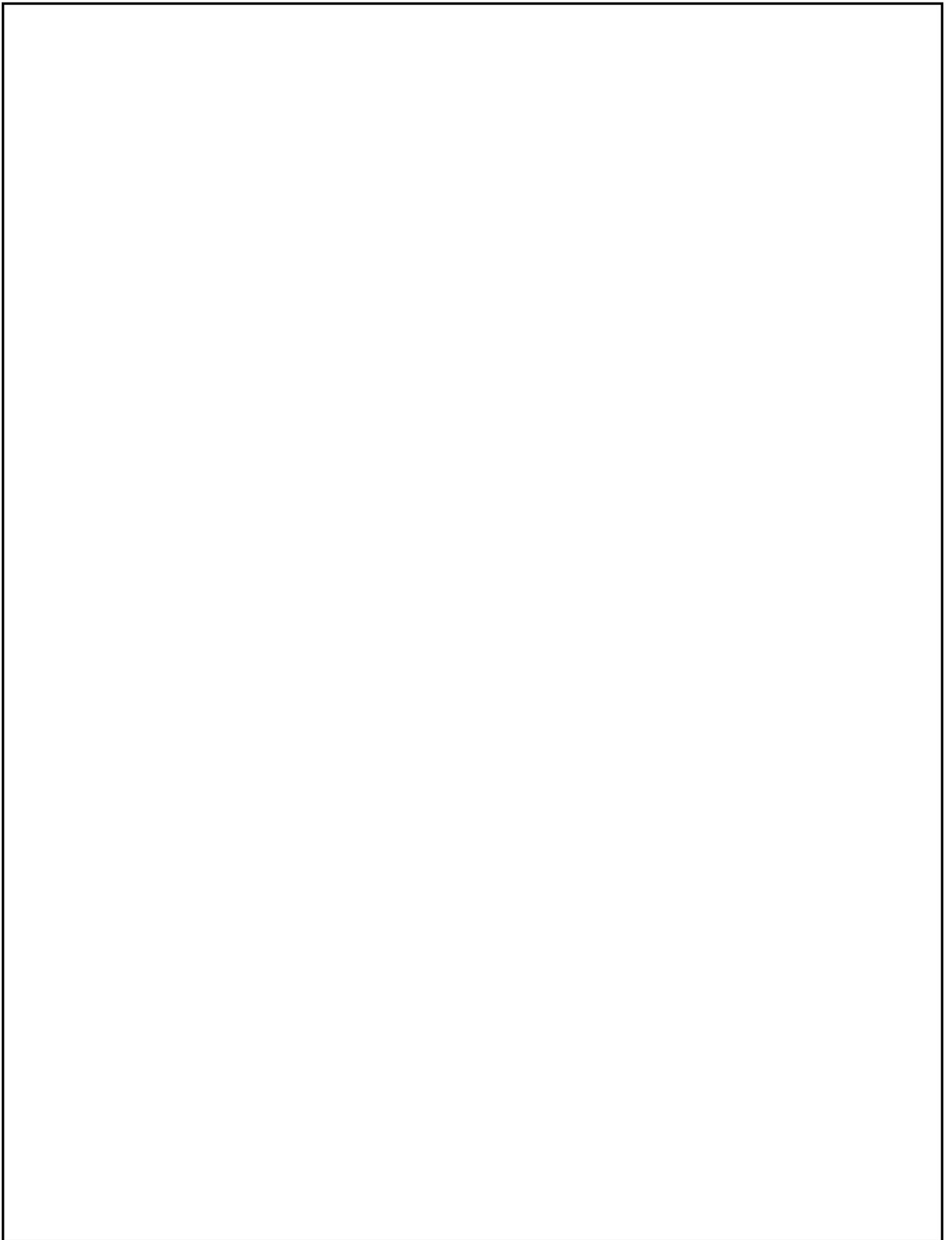
FROM THE DECK OF THE "LAST WORD"

SORRY, NO ROOM FOR TRIVIA

As I close this TLPA Newsletter, I want you to remember this: *THE DNR HAS IDENTIFIED OUR AREA AS BEING IN ONE OF THE HIGHEST RISK AREAS FOR WILDFIRES IN THE STATE. THAT BEING FIRE RISK DISTRICT 15. THERE HAS BEEN MANY DOLLARS AND MAN HOURS DEVELOPING A PLAN, THE CWPP. THIS PLAN IS DESIGNED TO REDUCE RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY, INCREASE FIRE FIGHTER AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND IMPROVE PREPAREDNESS FOR WILDFIRES IN OUR HIGH RISK AREA OF THE TWIN LAKES. PLEASE READ PAGE 3 OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. MAKE SURE YOUR VISITORS AND GUESTS ARE AWARE OF THIS FIRE DANGER. AND PLEASE, HAVE A PERSONAL PLAN PREPARED IF THERE WAS EVER TO BE A WILDFIRE IN OUR IMMEDIATE AREA.*

WE CAN ALL HELP BY TAKING EXTRA PRECAUTIONS, AND BE VIGILANT. BE PREPARED!

ENJOY THE SPRING AND SUMMER AT OUR BEAUTIFUL LAKES. Tom Jackson, News Editor



TWIN LAKES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 410

MINONG, WI 54859-0410

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NEWS, INFO, & TRIVIA FROM LAST WORD

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

