



# TWIN LAKES NEWS

• MAINTAIN • PROTECT • ENHANCE

• FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

• EDUCATION • COOPERATION

SUMMER, 2018

TLPA NEWSLETTER

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## Why No-Wake Rules?

It's finally summer! Time to be out on the lake to fish or just enjoy the view.

On all Wisconsin lakes there is **no wake** within 100 feet of shore for powerboats and within 200 feet of shore for personal watercraft. **No wake** is defined as "the slowest possible speed at which you can still steer your boat." This applies to North and South Twin Lakes. On Middle Twin, there is no wake allowed at all. In addition, there is **no wake** within 100 feet of any other boat, any swimmer or any swim raft. Observing the 100' or 200' from shoreline **no wake** rule requires boats and PWC's to taxi slowly in and out from a shoreline property.

Why? No wake rules are designed to protect people, property, water quality, and wildlife.

- Moving too fast near other boats or too close to shore can endanger people, especially children, by swamping or dousing them.
- Similarly, no wake near shore prevents waves and splashing which can erode banks and damage docks.
- Boating or operating personal water craft too close to shore can stir up nutrient-rich sediments, leading to more weeds and algae and reducing the quality and clarity of the water.
- No wake is important to protect wildlife habitat, such as duck nesting sites, fish spawning grounds, etc. This is the reason Middle Twin has a no wake



# President's Message

## Welcome back to the Lake!

We arrived back at Twin Lakes in late April and were somewhat surprised to find the lake iced over. Despite that, the lake was warm enough for swimming by Memorial Day weekend.

I have been involved in a sizable construction project on my cabin, this spring replacing an existing rotting deck with a new covered deck. That has held most of my attention. I was brought back to normal a few days ago as I happened to observe a bald eagle land on my neighbor's dock, with a large fish grasped tightly in the talons of one foot. An amazing sight! Then later, as I was mowing around my cabin, carefully avoiding the patches of wild flowers, I realized I had been missing all of the beauty of nature, going on around me. I need to take more time to enjoy nature's beauty.

We enjoyed the summer social on July 7th. And now we are looking forward to the annual meeting on August 4th. As last year, it will be held at the town hall with continental breakfast and social time at 8:30 with program and brief business meeting to follow. This is another opportunity to socialize with our Twin Lakes neighbors and make some new friends. Hope to see you there.

As you enjoy your summer at the lake, don't forget to "stop and smell the roses!"

Sincerely,

Gary Bergh



## Getting to Know our Neighbors: the Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Many of us have had the opportunity of seeing a red fox run across the road and up into the woods. These beautiful animals are quite small, about 3-4 feet in length and weigh generally less than 20 pounds when grown.

Unlike some of their distant cousins, like the coyote or wolf, foxes are not pack animals. They forage on their own or in small family groups. According to EEK (Environmental Education for Kids, [eekwi.org/critter/mammal/redfox.htm](http://eekwi.org/critter/mammal/redfox.htm)), "Male and female foxes breed in mid-January and have 5 or 6 pups in mid-March. Young foxes are called kits. They start hunting with their parents when they're 3 months old, and are ready to strike out on their own after only 7-8 months."



We have the privilege of living with a resident fox family on Pash Drive. Litters of kits have been raised under sheds and garages and have been seen playing in the road. But usually foxes will bear their young in abandoned burrows.

Fox families have their own territories which they will defend. From his/her base, an adult fox will forage for small animals, rodent, insects, or even berries over maybe 150-400 acres. They hunt by crouching close to the ground and then using their hind legs to pounce on their prey. According to the EEK website, "nighttime is the right time for red

foxes to be active. They do most of their hunting from 2 hours before sunset to about 4 hours after sunrise and travel up to 9 miles a night. When they aren't  
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## Town Noise Ordinance under Consideration

A discussion took place at the May 9 Town of Chicog meeting about whether the town should create an ordinance regulating noise. This discussion was in response to the request of a number of private citizens for such an ordinance.

Various points of view were expressed. At the present the town government has no authority to regulate noise and some felt such an ordinance could not be enforced since the town has no constable. Others pointed out that the town has an ordinance regulating quiet hours on the lakes, which is generally observed in the absence of formal enforcement.

The management of the campground felt an ordinance would interfere with his business. Others felt that their ability to enjoy their homes is hampered by noise, which comes from sources other than the campground as well. A resident of Matthews Lake expressed support for a noise ordinance.

The town board passed a resolution to establish a committee to do research on what such an ordinance might encompass and to make a recommendation to the board.

The committee is beginning to function and includes representatives from the campground, private citizens from Twin and Matthews Lakes, and the town board.

*THE MISSION OF THE TWIN LAKES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION IS TO MAINTAIN, PROTECT, AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THE LAKES AND SURROUNDING AREA FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. WE WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS BY EDUCATION AND THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF OUR MEMBERS AND THE PEOPLE OF THE SURROUNDING AREA.*

## Stay Firewise!

Our woods have “greened up” and we’ve had rain, so the fire danger has declined. But as summer goes along drier conditions might return, leading to increased risk. In any case, it is a good idea to stay alert and to be careful. Some suggestions:

- Don’t let plant debris accumulate on roof, gutters, porches, and around buildings. The town dump is open for yard debris free of charge.
- When grilling, be careful with fuel. Dispose of briquettes and ashes carefully
- Avoid operating vehicles on dry grass or wooded trails. Be careful when using chain saws out in the woods.
- Make sure your fire number can be seen easily.
- The trail run for the Chicog Emergency Support Group was May 19, 2018. If you did not receive a phone call, email or text message that weekend please contact Terri Corrie @ 715-466-4129 or Milly Thissen @ 612-970-8541 so we have a way to contact you in case of a wildfire disaster. You can sign up with Washburn County for their CodeRed emergency notification system by going to the county website (<http://www.co.washburn.wi.us/>) and clicking on CodeRED Emergency Alerts/more info SIGNUP. Have a safe summer!!



### Annual Meeting

**Saturday, August 4, 2018**

**Chicog Town Hall**

**8:30 Continental Breakfast and Social Time**

**9:30 Meeting and Program**

**Program presented by Pat Shifferd: “Our Wild Rivers:”** An illustrated appreciation of how our two wild rivers—the St. Croix/Namekagon which became the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and the Totogatic—came to be preserved.

## No Wake Continued

rule at any time, since it is an important nursery for fish. Moreover, it is against the law to harass loons, whether nesting or not.

If everyone is considerate of others when boating, everyone's pleasure of being on the lake will be protected.

**Best Practices** for operating water craft can be summarized:

- *It is illegal to operate a watercraft if one is legally intoxicated.*
- *On all Wisconsin Lakes there is **no wake** within 100 feet of shore for powerboats and within 200 feet of shore for personal watercraft. No wake is defined as "the slowest possible speed at which you can still steer your boat." This applies to North and South Twin Lakes.*
- *There is **no wake** within 100 feet of any other boat, any swimmer or any swim raft.*
- *On Middle Lake there is **no wake at any time** (State Law).*
- *On South and North Twin Lakes there is **no wake before 10 AM and after 5 PM.***
- *When skiing or towing tubes, all boats should travel counter-clockwise around the lake to avoid head-on confrontations. There must also be a second person ("spotter") watching the tow.*
- *Each boat must have a personal flotation device for each person in the boat.*
- *It is illegal to harass loons or any wildlife with a boat or personal watercraft.*
- *Leave nothing behind but your ripples. Do not throw cigarette butts, bottles, cans or any other litter into the lake.*



## Foxes continued

hunting, foxes like to rest in forests, ravines or woodlots, curling their long bushy tails around themselves to keep warm.” In the wild, they live an average of three years.

Foxes are shy around humans, but seem to adapt well to our presence. They have even been known to feast on garbage!

For more information on our foxy neighbors, see <http://eekwi.org/critter/mammal/redfox.htm> or [http://www.wisconsinhunter.com/Pages/red\\_fox.html](http://www.wisconsinhunter.com/Pages/red_fox.html)



Beauty is composed of many things and never stands alone. It is part of horizons, blue in the distance, great primeval silences, knowledge of all things of the earth. It embodies the hopes and dreams of those who have gone before, including the spirit world; it is so fragile it can be destroyed by a sound or thought. It may be infinitesimally small or encompass the universe itself. It comes in a swift conception wherever nature has not been disturbed.



**TWIN LAKES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. BOX 410**

**MINONG, WI 54859**

Nancy & Donald Shaner  
5749 Heather Ridge Drive  
Shoreview, MN 55126



**Join the Lake Association? Why On Earth Not?** We monitor lake water quality, provide important information via three newsletters a year, publish a free Handbook of Best Practices for lake property owners, and have fun together at the Summer Social and Annual Fall Meeting. Dues are only \$25.00 a year. To join, fill out the form below and mail with a check to TLPA, Box 410, Minong WI 54859. And thanks!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Lake \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Phone \_\_\_\_\_