



TWIN LAKES NEWS

• MAINTAIN • PROTECT • ENHANCE

• FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

• EDUCATION • COOPERATION

SPRING, 2019

TLPA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25, NO. 1

Welcome to Summer!

The ice is gone, the loons are back, and the woods are greening up. So the summer here at Twin Lakes is about to move into a higher gear. The Board of the Twin Lakes Preservation Association sends a hearty welcome to one and all: new residents and old, year-round and snowbirds, campers and cabin-ers. And of course, we are glad to see and hear from our feathered and furred neighbors as well. Whether this is your first summer here or one which marks a half-century or more, this time of year is always a busy and enjoyable time.

So as you rake your yards, put in docks, get out porch and lawn furniture, or any of the other many tasks that the coming of summer requires, it is always good to be reminded of a few basics of how we can work together to assure the most satisfying, cooperative, and safe lake area community.



- Quiet hours: the Town of Chicog's ordinance requires that people operate boats and other watercraft slowly with no-wake before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.
- The State of Wisconsin requires that boats and other watercraft observe no-wake (the slowest speed at which you can still steer your boat) from shore, other boats, and swim rafts. These requirements are 100 feet for boats and 200 feet for jet-skis.
- Any fireworks that go up in the air require a permit and a qualified firefighter to be in attendance. Further, fireworks contain harmful chemicals which are harmful to the lake when they end up there.
- Stay away from loon nests or swimming loons, since harassing loons is against the law. Our other wild neighbors should also be treated with respect and non-interference.
- Be sure to tend campfires carefully. And if you want to burn yard waste or brush, you need to get a permit from an area fire warden. A better idea is to dispose of brush at the Town's dump on Christiansen Road.

BOAT BAG for you, courtesy of TLPA. The enclosed bag is for your boat or pontoon. Please use it to pick up fish line, cans, plastic or other trash you come across while out on the lake. Thanks!!

President's Message

While winter around the Twin Lakes can be beautiful, peaceful, and so enjoyable, I'm personally glad winter 2018-2019 is over. We had extremely warm temperatures and almost no snow in January, followed by record cold temperatures and record heavy snowfalls in the months that followed. It seemed that spring would never truly arrive, but now it has and activity at the lakes has certainly geared up.

While sending spring greetings to all around the lakes, I'd like to extend a special welcome to those who are new to this wonderful area. We have new neighbors on or near each of the three lakes – I've met just a few – and I urge you to join in helping us all preserve and safeguard the fragile lake environments as you enjoy all the lakes have to offer. Please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns.

With continued high water levels (is this the new normal?), observing *no wake* shoreline rules is more important than ever to impede erosion along the shores and to help vegetation establish itself in the emergent areas. Many mature shoreline trees and woody understory plants have died with the higher waters. The dying trees and brush that now ring the lakes are providing superb new fish habitat as they fall, but they will dramatically increase the nutrient loading of the water as they decay. Maintaining or establishing vegetative shoreline buffers is also now more critical than ever to prevent additional nutrients from washing into the water from lawns and hillsides. Let's all do our part in keeping these small, vulnerable lakes as beautiful and ecologically healthy as they have been for so long.

Stuart Braem, President
stuartbraem@gmail.com

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.

Board of the Twin Lakes Preservation Association

President: Stuart Braem

Vice-President: Gary Bergh

Secretary: Glenys Thorsen

Treasurer: Steve Myhre

Directors: Duane Bergh, Larry Dau, Sue Jacobsen, Steve Poucher, Darryl Rongitsch

About our Nighttime Neighbors - Owls

Several of the kinds of owls of North America are found here in Wisconsin. And the land around our lakes provides good homes for some, since they like pine woods and lake shores. Since owls are creatures of the night, we seldom see them. But on warm summer nights we will hear them calling, often to each other in what amounts to owl conversation.

Owls are terrific hunters. This is made possible by several of the ways their bodies are built. First, their eyes face forward giving them stereoscopic vision. Second, they have really good hearing; their ear openings are large, and for some the ears are asymmetric allowing precise recognition of the source of the sound. Some have facial characteristics which allow sound to be directed toward their ears. Special soft construction of their wing feathers allows them to fly very silently, so they can get very close to their prey without being heard. And owls have strong talons which gives them the ability to strike and carry away prey that is quite heavy.

Once they have captured their next meal, they swallow it whole. Then they spit out a pellet, consisting of the undigested fur/feather and bones. These can sometimes be seen on the ground under owl nesting or roosting places.

The three most commonly heard owls here at Twin Lakes are the tiny Northern Saw-whet, the handsome Barred Owl, and the large, imposing Great Horned Owl. However, the other night I'm sure we heard an Eastern Screech Owl.



1: Northern Saw-whet. Picture by Stuart Braem

The Northern Saw-whet is the smallest of the owls, about the size of a robin, with a round face and bright yellow eyes. They sometimes nest in the hollows of trees. This owl is an efficient mouse hunter. It's most common call is a very repetitive high-pitched toot. It sounds somewhat like a digital alarm clock, quite different from what we think of when we imagine owl sounds.



2: Barred Owl

Barred owls are quite large, about 18 inches long, weighing a couple of pounds, and with a wing-span of 40 inches. They are brown and white and have black eyes and a yellow beak. Their most typical call is very recognizable, typically characterized as "who-cooks-for-you, who-cooks-for-you-all." They are the most frequently heard owl in our area.

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Memories...

Growing up on Twin Lake, in the early years

By Gary Bergh

In the spring of 1957, my parents announced that Grandpa Kidman (Mom's dad), had found two lake lots for sale on a lake in northern Wisconsin. As the price was right (\$180.00 for each adjoining 30' X 100' lot) he would buy them and together we would build a humble cottage. Excitement was running high, especially with the kids. I was the oldest, at age 10. That summer, we began construction.

At the time, there were approximately a dozen cabins on South Twin Lake. No road existed on the entire East side of the lake. I believe North Twin was about the same and it did have a small resort called Jack Pine, now long gone. Middle Twin had only two cabins that were essentially abandoned. I suspect this occurred as a result of the drought during the middle 1930's; at that time Middle Lake was a small pond with the majority of the lakebed dry and being farmed because of the rich soil there. Our family stayed for two weeks at a resort on the north end of South Twin, with four cabins, called Tassione's, owned by Frank Tassione and his wife. It is now known as Watson's Resort. One other resort existed on the south end of South Twin, known as Shangri-La Lodge. It was owned by Ralph and Elsie Dahlgren. There were six small cabins for rent. We quickly learned Shangri-La was the social center of South Twin. There was a bar with a pool table, a Wurlitzer, and adequate space for dancing. Most of the cabin owners gathered there on Saturday nights. We kids loved it, as it meant a bottle of pop, a candy bar and a chance to play pool!

These Saturday night gatherings at Shangri-La Lodge is where we learned that there were a few rules, informally, agreed upon, by the residents of the lake. They included, an agreement to bring no motor boats with a motor over 10 HP, Another agreement was that everyone would side their cabin with half round siding. The concept was to keep the appearance of a wilderness lake.



Over that summer, we managed to frame up that little cottage. We only had tar paper for siding and cardboard insulated the inside walls. Our plumbing consisted of an old hand pump for water and an outhouse. Since there was no electricity, we used kerosene lamps for light. Someone scrounged up an old oil-burning furnace for heat. We had curtains across the bedrooms instead of doors. Of course, there was no T.V. and no radio. We called it "roughing it" and loved it! I, personally, was disappointed the following year, when my dad and uncle wired the place for electricity. In many ways, I miss those years. Those were good summers, growing up at the lake!

Hey Kids!!

Send us your pictures and stories about how you have fun at the lake.

We'll publish them in future newsletters.

Send them to TLPA, P. O. Box 410, Minong WI 54859 or e-mail patriciashifferd@gmail.com

Save The Dates!

June 8: Chicog Town Clean Up at the Town Hall

Bring your unneeded "stuff" between the hours of 8 am and noon. You can get rid of garbage and trash including old furniture, rugs, non-electric household items, and a small amount of construction waste. Appliances, computers, TV's, and tires will be accepted for a fee. NO hazardous substances—paint, chemical substances, oil, fluorescent lights or drugs—can be accepted. This would be a good time to monitor your lakeshore for any trash that may have washed up this winter. Picking up trash from around our roads is also appreciated.

July 13: TLPA Summer Social

Where: The Bergh/Myhre homes. N 12038 & N 12042 Bluebird Trail

When: 4:00 – 7:00 pm

What: Bring a dish to pass and beverages. Yummy fried chicken will be provided.

August 3: TLPA Annual Meeting, Chicog Town Hall

Social time begins at 9:30 am.

Meeting and program will be over by 11:30

Owls continued

The last and biggest of our owl neighbors is the Great Horned Owl. It gets its name from the large ear tufts. This bird weighs around 3 pounds, has a wing-span over 50 inches, and is up to about 25 inches long. Like other owls, the Great Horned is an efficient night-time hunter, swooping silently upon its prey, which may include mice, rabbits, squirrels, skunks, ducks, and quail. The males and females sometimes call back and forth to each other, the female call a bit higher than the male. Their call is what we often think an owl is supposed to sound like: *hoo-h'HOO-hoo-hoo*.



3: Great Horned Owl

All three have several different calls depending on what their situation is, whether defending territory, mating or whatever.

Spend some time on the marvelous Cornell Lab of Ornithology website (<https://www.birds.cornell.edu>) to learn about these owls and to listen to recordings of their calls. You can also download their free phone app at www.merlin.allaboutbirds.org.

Where Does The Money Go?

Did you ever wonder how the money collected in membership dues is spent? Annually at the membership meeting, the TLPA treasurer reports on the budget, income and expenditures. However, if you have been unable to attend the meeting or the information has not been clear then take a look below.



For the last full fiscal year Sep 2017 through Aug 2018 the breakdown is as follows:

Income received: \$2,338.88 & Expenditures: \$2,329. 24

- 48.3% (\$1,130.50) was used for the newsletter – keeping everyone informed
- 21.4% (\$500) moved to TLPA savings account - \$2,516.13 total savings
- 9.2% (\$214.95) was administrative – PO box, stamps & annual fed / state filing
- 8.4% (\$196.81) for annual social – getting to know your neighbors
- 7.5% (\$175.00) annual meeting – town hall rental and deposit
- 3.3% (\$76.98) for conservation – signage for lake boat landings
- 1.5% (\$35.00) for sponsorship – membership in Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association
- .4% (\$9.64) net income – positive balance

Every year is slightly different in income and in projects / expenditures. Hope to see you at the next annual meeting. Otherwise if you have any budget questions, please contact the Treasurer Steve Myhre – email: mylake2@msn.com.

Maintaining Septic Tanks keeps Water Clean

It is important to keep your septic system in good working order to protect your drinking water and to minimize the chance that unfiltered water will get into the ground water and hence into the lakes.

Wastewater from our homes--from appliances, toilets, and sinks/showers--contain harmful bacteria, viruses, and nutrients that can harm both drinking water and the lakes themselves. Our septic systems are designed to filter these harmful substances out before they enter the groundwater or lake. But if the septic system does not provide adequate filtering and drainage, the results can be contamination of wells and eutrophication and contamination of the lake.

Contamination: The bacteria in the tank and in the soil of the drain field break down most of the harmful substances in waste water. But some substances cannot be removed, particularly medicines and some household cleaning products.

Eutrophication: This word refers to the process by which some substances, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen, provide fertilizer for algae and some bacteria. This can reduce water quality by causing algae blooms which kill lake plants and animals and form toxins in the water. Unfortunately, our sandy soil allows these nutrients to filter through more quickly than more dense soils. This makes septic system maintenance even more important.

How to keep your septic system working properly:

- Do not put medicines down the drain. Medicines are not broken down in the septic system. Dispose of unused medicines by taking them to local law enforcement offices. The Spooner police department accepts these substances for proper disposal.
- Use phosphorus-free detergents for dishes and laundry. Similarly use low or phosphorus-free cleaning products.
- Avoid flushing harmful chemicals and minimize the use of garbage disposals.
- Most importantly, have your system pumped regularly and the filters inspected.

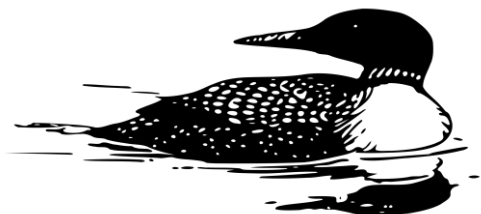
Washburn County recommends that septic tanks be pumped every three years, even if the system is used only seasonally. Surprisingly, tanks that are used only intermittently are more subject to transmission of harmful substances than those that are in continual use. This is because the bacteria-rich sludge which breaks down the harmful substances does not form as effectively in a seasonally-used system.

Recently the Washburn County Zoning Department has become more active in monitoring septic systems. For example, this winter we received a card from them requiring us to verify that our tank had been pumped within the last three years.

So make sure your septic system is in good order both for your health and the health of our lakes.

**TWIN LAKES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 410
MINONG, WI 54859**

TO:



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 _____