

LAKE WAUSAU ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WWW.LAKEWAUSAU.ORG

SUMMER, 2016



Paddle Pub Crawl 2016

THE LAKE WAUSAU ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN BUSY!

LWA 4th Annual Fund Raiser was a huge success!

Thanks to you we raised over \$23,000 and had a great time doing it! Nearly 300 people attended the event held May 20th at the Rothschild Pavilion. The grand prize ticket (\$2,000.00) was won by a group from River Valley Bank. There were 100 items in our raffle and auction (thanks to our sponsors and supporters,) free beer, wine, soda, and dinner catered by Gullivers!



Your Fundraising Dollars at Work!



Major cleanup of Lake Wausau yielded 1/2 a million pounds of curly leaf pondweed removed from our lake! This slimy invasive species is detrimental to our water quality and over all health of our lake.

For more information on curly leaf pondweed visit:
www.lakewausau.org/files/lake-wausau-association-newsletter-spring-2016.pdf



**Contact Us! We'd
love to connect!**

Website:

www.lakewausau.com

Email:

lakewausau@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/Friends
oflakewauau](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLakeWausau)

Board of Directors:

Russ Graveen, President
Rick Parkin, Vice President
Sherri Wagner, Secretary
Holly Kohl, Treasurer
Mark Peter
Mary Kate Riordan
Al Weinkauff
Jim Wagner
Theresa Graveen



Domtar Dam, Rothschild Wisconsin

Repairs to Rothchild Dam - Significant Lake Drawdown after Labor Day

Much of the 1918 acre Lake Wausau is the result of the dam system on the Wisconsin River. Domtar has determined the upstream portion (concrete piers) of the dam are in need of significant repair as a result of damaged by the freeze thaw cycle and log/debris strikes. After many decades of patching these damages, necessary repair work requires Domtar to lower the lake in a controlled manner. Starting Sept. 12, 2016 the lake will be lowered by 4 inches per day and is not expected to exceed 5 feet at the headwaters. The areas that are in need of repair are 3-4 feet below the normal waterline. The complete draw-down will occur by Oct. 1st and refilling of the lake will start no later than Nov. 15th at the rate of 4 inches per day.

DNR Requirements for Public Safety During Draw-down

- Foot traffic only on the exposed flowage bed - vehicles and ATVs are strictly prohibited.
- Metal detecting and driftwood collecting are prohibited in the reservoirs (to protect aquatic fisheries, insects, amphibians and plants and to reduce public exposure to Blastomycosis and other hazards associated with rotting wood.)
- Use caution when carrying boats or canoes to/from navigable waters.
- Boaters should be aware that navigational hazards such as logs and stumps may be more common during the draw-down.

Opportunities and Concerns for Riparian Landowners and Lake Users

- Many boat landings will be unusable due to exposed ramps. Plan ahead for boat and dock removal!
- Sprinkling systems drawing from the lake may be inoperable during this draw-down.
- Lake bed clean-up will be possible - but take care to stay away from rotting wood and digging in the lake bottom.
- Riprap and shoreline repair projects will be more easily accessible. Please note any new riprap projects require a permit (see contact information below.)

Questions? Contact Information!

- For questions related to prohibited activities, or to report someone engaging in harmful/dangerous/prohibited activities, please contact the WDNR hot-line at 1-800-847-9367 (operates 24 hours, 7 days a week)
- For information related to permits for shoreline restoration projects or lake bed clean up, please contact Dean Johnson, Marathon Co. Conservation, Planning and Zoning at 715-261-6031 (8am - 4:30pm, M-F)
- For information about the draw-down project and dam repairs, as well as the permitting process, please contact Domtar at 715-359-3101.
- For other general questions (i.e., fishery/gaming, boating/recreation, etc.) please call Randy Dunkel, DNR Conservation Warden 715-393-7473 or randy.dunkel@wisconsin.gov.

Things You Can Do to Preserve Lake Wausau's Shoreline

With the lake levels down many of us are going to be anxious to take advantage of the opportunity to clean up our water fronts. Please take a minute to read some important steps suggested by the [Wisconsin Lakes Partnership](#) to make sure that you are improving and preserving the shoreline, and not cause damage to our valued resource.

Shorelands are a hotbed of activity on a lake. 90% of all living things found in our lakes—from fish, frogs, turtles, insects, birds, and other wildlife—are found along the shallow margins and shores. Many species rely on shorelands for all or part of their life cycles as a source for food, a place to sleep, cover from predators, and to raise their young. Shorelands and shallows are the spawning grounds for fish, nesting sites for birds, and where turtles lay their eggs. There can be as much as 500% more species diversity at the water's edge compared to adjoining uplands.

Activities such as replacing natural vegetation with lawns, clearing brush and trees, importing sand to make artificial beaches, and installing structures such as piers, can cause water quality decline and change what species can survive in the lake. In addition to removing essential habitat for fish and wildlife, clearing native plants from shorelines and shallow waters can open up opportunities for invasive species to take over.

Shoreland plants provide food and cover for the lake's creatures. They also prevent shoreline erosion by buffering lake waves and slowing down runoff washing into the lake from the watershed. Plants help filter pollutants entering the lake, use nutrients that might otherwise be consumed by algae, and aquatic plants release oxygen into the water which helps support lake fish. In addition, natural shorelines can also help control flooding, make it harder for aquatic invasive species to establish themselves in a lake, muffle noise from watercraft, and preserve privacy and natural scenic beauty.

Leave fallen trees in the water to provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

Trees that have fallen into the lake are an important source of nutrients and minerals for the lake, and help protect shorelines from erosion. Fallen wood forms critical habitat for tiny aquatic organisms that feed bluegills, turtles, crayfish and other critters. Many species—such as turtles, frogs, dragonflies, songbirds, and otters—use downed trees as both a feeding area and hiding place.

Gun Raffle - Browning 12 Gauge Semi-Auto Shotgun - Ducks Unlimited with Hard Case

Tickets for sale at Gullivers or contact us by email - lakewausau@gmail.com. Tickets costs \$10.00 each. The winning ticket will be drawn on August 17, 2016 at 7:00pm at Gulliver's Landing. Need not be present to win. (Gun on display at Gullivers!)

The Goal of the Lake Wausau Association is to protect and maintain the Lake for the entire community and to assure that this treasured resource remains healthy for current users and future generations. We welcome all to join our efforts

Up Coming Events

July 31, Aug 14, 21: Water Walkers Ski Shows, Eagles Landing, 6 pm.

August 6-7: Wausau Whitewater Recreational Release, any paddler can use the course freely.

August 15-16: Team River Runner. Wausau Whitewater's 4th annual Team River Runner weekend for disabled veterans.

August 17: Winner drawn for gun raffle, Gulliver's Landing, 7 pm.

August 18-21: Midwest Freestyle Kayak and Canoe Championships, Wausau Whitewater course.

August 19-20: Big Bull Falls Blues Fest, Fern Island Park.

September 7: LWA Membership Meeting, Trails End, 6:30

September 24: Beer & Bacon Fest, Fern Island Park, 1-4 pm

How many of these Lake Wausau Aquatic plants can you identify?

1



2



3



4



In Memory of Phillip Schoenfeldt

The Lake Wausau Association dedicated a park bench in Blue Gill Park in memory of Phillip Schoenfeldt for his many years of dedication to the Lake Wausau Association. Mr. Schoenfeldt was one of the citizens who created the Association in 1988 to address the rights of boaters, property owners, the environment, and the safety of all users on Lake Wausau. He remained an active member of the association throughout the time period of 1988-1999. The Lake Wausau Association became inactive after various goals had been fulfilled and member involvement dissipated. He personally filed the paper work necessary to keep the association an official body until its reorganization in 2011. His dedication to the Lake Wausau Association will be remembered and honored by all who enjoy Lake Wausau from this peaceful vista overlooking Lake Wausau at Blue Gill Park.



4. Spatterdock

3. Water Star Grass

2. Wild Celery

1. Creeping Bladderwort

Aquatic Plants of Lake Wausau - how many did you get right?



Marathon County Lakes

Shoreland Restoration

Recently, Marathon County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department (CPZ) was awarded a \$100,000 Lake Protection Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This grant will assist with the implementation of Lake Management Plans and will assist in building citizen involvement with lake and river protection efforts, countywide.

Through this grant, Marathon County can cost-share up to 70% for shoreland buffer restorations on private shoreland lots. This incentive will ease the financial burden for individuals who would like to protect and preserve their shoreland property by establishing native plant stock.

Eligible for Cost-Share

- *Native plant stock & seed mixes*
- *Erosion control materials (excluding rip-rap)*
- *Compost, peat, topsoil*
- *Herbicide*
- *Deer & Rabbit repellent*
- *Plant protection materials*
- *Sod cutter rental fees*
- *Other materials approved by CPZ staff*

Not Eligible for Cost-Share

- *Labor or landscaper fees (The restoration is expected to be completed by the landowner with assistance from CPZ staff)*
- *Shovels, rakes, and other tools*
- *Watering cans, water pumps, hoses, sprinklers, and timers*
- *Work gloves, sunscreen, and other personal items.*

Schedule an on-site visit to review your shoreline property by contacting Tyler Betry, Shoreland Protection Technician.

Phone: (715) 261-6027

Email: tyler.betry@co.marathon.wi.us

