

McKenzie Lakes Association Accomplishments 2020

The McKenzie Lakes Association (MLA) and its volunteers were very busy in 2020. Some of this year's activities were altered because of Covid-19; in all instances CDC guidelines were followed. The following is a list of accomplishments and activities completed or performed. This list is not necessarily all inclusive of MLA volunteer activities as there are many others working to protect our lakes in their own silent way.

- MLA contracted with the Town of Scott to hire Clean Boat/Clean Water boat inspectors at Big McKenzie (BM), Middle McKenzie (MM), and Lower McKenzie (LM) public boat landings between May and September. All weekends and the major holidays had boat inspectors at the public landings to remind boaters to inspect, clean, and decontaminate their boats.
- MLA volunteers provided Clean Boat/Clean Water inspectors at the BM, MM, and LM boat landings during times when paid inspectors were not present.
- Members of MLA serve on the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference Board, responsible for the annual NW Lakes conference in June; the conference was presented on-line due to Covid-19 concerns.
- Members of MLA serve on the WI DNR Zebra Mussels Management Committee.
- Members of MLA presented programs to other lake associations as well as the Burnett and Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Associations on our efforts to contain Zebra Mussels (ZM) and to educate the public about this invasive species.
- MLA coordinated the monitoring of ZM status in the McKenzie Lakes which included the following.
 - 38 volunteers deployed and monitored sampler plates on the three lakes.
 - Veliger tows on the three lakes with the help of MLA volunteers.
 - eDNA sampling on the three lakes with the help of MLA volunteers.
 - Volunteers from each of the three lakes, donating many hours and miles, maintained the decontamination stations at the three public boat landings.
- MLA volunteers completed a shoreline survey on BM and MM (also the island) for Purple Loosestrife and treated any found.
- MLA volunteers performed water clarity tests (Secchi) disk readings during the summer months on all three lakes and reported the results in the DNR SWIMS database.
- MLA volunteers performed water testing on all three lakes which included temperature monitoring and water sample collections which were sent to the Wisconsin state laboratory to monitor chlorophyll and phosphorous levels in the lake.
- MLA volunteers contributed and maintained the MLA website to keep members informed about the Association's activities.

- With regret, the annual Booya fundraiser in August was cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns. The loss of funds would have impacted the 2021 budget and MLA's ability to continue on-going programs. MLA members and friends of the Assoc generously responded to a Booya donation drive and \$4,891 was collected.
 - With the help of the Land Service Department Conservation Division of Burnett County, the Aquatic Invasive Species Point Intercept Plan for all three lakes was updated.
 - MLA volunteers maintained and placed the shallow water buoys on BM.
 - Volunteers placed signs warning boaters to stay away from known loon nesting sites.
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- A big thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers and donors who made this a very successful year for the Association.