

McKenzie Lakes Association Accomplishments 2021

The McKenzie Lakes Association (MLA) and its volunteers were very busy in 2021. 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.

- Contracted with the Town of Scott to hire Clean Boats/Clean Waters 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.
- Provided volunteer Clean Boats/Clean Waters inspectors at the BM, MM, and LM boat landings during times when paid inspectors were not present.
- Members serve on the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference Board which sponsors the annual NW Lakes on-line conference in June.
- Members serve on the WI DNR Zebra Mussels Management Committee.
- Members presented programs to the Burnett and Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Associations on our efforts to contain Zebra Mussels (ZM).
- Coordinated the monitoring of ZM status in the McKenzie Lakes which included the following:
 - 33 volunteers deployed and monitored sampler plates on the three lakes.
 - Volunteers from each of the three lakes, donating many hours and miles, maintained the decontamination stations at the three public boat landings.
- Completed a shoreline survey on BM and MM (also the island) for Purple Loosestrife and treated any found.
- Performed water clarity tests (Secchi) disk readings during the summer months on all three lakes and reported the results in the DNR SWIMS database.
- 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.
- Contributed content and helped maintain the MLA website to keep members informed of the Association's activities.
- Applied for and was granted a Healthy Lakes "fish sticks" DNR grant (fish/wildlife shoreline habitat project) with seven shoreland sites, six land owners, on BM and MM.

- Association members and friends generously volunteered and helped prepare, plan and staff the very successful 2021 Booya Fundraiser in August. A record net profit of \$6,078 is earmarked towards the cost of the AIS plant survey on the three lakes in 2022.
- Maintained and placed the shallow water buoys on BM.
- Placed signs warning boaters to stay away from known loon nesting sites.
- In spite of a windy, blustery 4th of July holiday, many MLA members and friends ventured out on the water in their decorated pontoons and boats for parades on the three lakes. Gift certificates were awarded to the “best decorated” on each lake.
- Coordinated a roadside clean-up day with volunteers picking up debris in their respective areas, roadsides, and near-by county highways.
- New roadside signs were purchased and then placed by volunteers on all three lakes to alert members and lake residents of MLA’s monthly meetings.
- Members collaborated independently, with resource guidance from our MLA Board, to solicit support from the county on making much needed repairs to the public boat landing on BM. Proud of the work these members did to make this happen on behalf of all BM residents and neighbors who use the landing.
- Online dues payment option via PayPal implemented on website.
- Updated branded apparel purchased and photographed for online store, now under construction.
- Membership growth continued its upward trend in 2021!

A big thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers and donors who made 2021 a very successful year for the Association.