



MLA NEWSLETTER – MAY 2023

WHAT IS FIREWISE?

Our guest speaker at the first member meeting of this season will be Jack Taylor, Jackson Township Fire Chief. Create defensible space! Being “Firewise” is the ability to live safely near a fire-dependent natural community. This depends on the use of Firewise USA principals to protect homes including landscape design and vegetation management. Come, learn, and implement. Saturday, May 27th at 9:00 AM at the McKenzie Landing.

ZEBRA MUSSEL MONITORING PLATES

Since discovering zebra mussels in Big McKenzie October 2016 and Middle in 2021, monitoring plates have been deployed to measure the density, size, and location of the invasive species in the three lakes. Last year volunteers placed 37 sampler plates in the three lakes, as well as plates in the McKenzie Creek on Section 1 Rd and in the reservoir at the south end of Big McKenzie. Each spring, the sampler plate is tied at the underside end of the dock approximately one foot above the lake bottom. Each fall, the volunteer removes the plate and counts - or takes a photo of - the zebra mussel shells attached (if any) and reports to the DNR. The plates are cleaned and stored, ready to place in the lake next spring. Zebra mussels will also readily attach to sticks, rocks, plants, and native mussels. Walking your shoreline and examining all sides of these items is also a great way to search. Please follow all decontamination guidelines when traveling between lakes - and this includes smaller crafts such as kayaks and paddleboards.

DRAIN CAMPAIGN – CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS

MLA will be participating in this season’s “Drain Campaign” starting Memorial Day weekend and continuing through June. The goal is to increase public understanding of the draining laws in WI and emphasize the “drain all water” prevention step during watercraft inspections. CBCW inspectors at the boat landings will share AIS prevention information with boat landing visitors and offer anglers free colorful bright blue towels printed with the drain message.

WEBSITE MCKENZIELAKES.COM

Take a few minutes and open www.mckenzielakes.com and “read all about it”. Check out tabs for minutes/newsletters, board members, invasive species, DNR links, apparel and a picture gallery of 2022 MLA events. The website also many MLA archived articles for reference. Thank you to our

new webmaster, Julianne Farrell, for coordinating with North of Eight Design to post and update the web site. We are planning that soon there will be some additions to the website, too, regarding invasive species and information for new cabin owners.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

April 2022 the APM Plan (Aquatic Plant Management) committee met for the first time. They reviewed the previous 5-year plan in anticipation of the field work to be completed that summer. In March 2023 they received the proposed draft which included the findings and results of the field work. Some changes were made as the committee fine-tuned the wording; the draft was sent to Emily Moore, the Plan facilitator and AIS coordinator with Burnett County. The draft will go to the WI DNR office in Spooner for approval this month. The APM Plan which includes 5-year goals and objectives will be available in print, on our website, and on line to the MLA members and the general public fall 2023. The cost of the Plan is a shared DNR grant from Burnett County and matching MLA funds which were approved and included in the 2022-2023 budget. Thank you to the members of the committee: Scott Ballantyne, Doug Lundell and Sandy Swanson from Middle; Tom Foley, Paul Sperling and Wayne and Pam Zitzka from Big; Julianne Farrell from Lower.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Boat monitors desperately needed - and many of the positions are paid! MLA applied for and received a DNR CBCW shared grant for the three lakes. For MLA to be fully reimbursed at the end of the summer, 75% of the paid monitors are to be matched with 25% non-paid volunteers. The goal is for staffing the boat landings on Saturdays and Sundays starting Memorial Day weekend. High school or college student summer money? Retired and would like extra spending money? Volunteer as non-paid and be part of the 25%? On-site training provided and a cool blue CBCW T-shirt and cap. Greet the boater and explain AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) procedures and the decontamination station; boater does the cleaning and spraying. Some outstanding volunteers have stepped forward; will you? Work a ½ day shift or more? A full day? Contact Sandy 715-520-0233.

Registration is NOW OPEN for the NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Spooner WI on June 23, 2023. If interested find out more information on the website: <https://nwwislakesconference.org/>

2023 SCHEDULE All meetings are at the McKenzie Landing Restaurant on Big McKenzie

May 27 – 1st Member Meeting

June 24 – 2nd Meeting – Annual Meeting

July 4 – Boat Parade

July 29 – 3rd Member Meeting

August 5 -- Booya

September 2 – 4th Member Meeting