

LAKE OF THE FALLS  
*A Not-for-Profit Organization*



ASSOCIATION, LOFA INC.  
*Dedicated to the Preservation of Nature*

## A Message from the President

Greetings Lakeside Neighbors. How much life can change in the time since our last newsletter! The Covid-19 pandemic will likely make summer on the Lake of the Falls very different from years past. Hopefully we'll all find ways to enjoy our lake homes while staying safe following whatever the CDC recommends to get us through these rough times. We can assume that Covid-19 is not going to go away overnight, so our diligence in following any recommendations will protect those we love and our lakeside neighbors. Although Covid-19 is probably forefront in our minds at the moment, there are always those things that we need to do to try to reduce our human footprint on our lake and surrounding watershed. We've been informed that there are threatening invasive species in the watershed upstream of Lake of the Falls that may eventually impact water quality. Being proactive with watershed management will help the overall fight to reduce the threat invasive species have on our environment. Maintaining our natural shorelines, reducing the use of chemical fertilizers/pesticides and septic system maintenance, is more important now than ever. Remember that watching a beautiful sunrise or sunset over the lake is always special and our protection efforts will not go unrewarded. Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy summer ahead. —Jan Tesch

## Picnic and Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! Our annual picnic is coming up on Sunday, August 2 at Beaver's Resort. The general membership meeting will start at 11:00, followed by a picnic at 12:00. Thanks to our good friends at Beaver's Resort for hosting our picnic again this year!

Four positions will be up for election in 2020: President, Secretary, and two at-large directors (currently held by Mike Moriarity and Randy Roets). We will hold elections at the annual meeting. Consider becoming a board member! It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and keep up with what's going on around our lake. In addition to the annual meeting, the board holds 2 other meetings each year. This year's meetings are scheduled

for June 14 (rescheduled from May 24) and September 6 at 10:00 am at Beaver's. Everyone is welcome to attend!

### AIS Monitoring with Zach Wilson



Photo by FE University.

Join Iron County Land and Water Conservation Specialist Zach Wilson on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 (after the Board meeting) to learn about Water Quality and Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring. Zach will be discussing the latest information on the Turtle River curly leaf pondweed occurrences and spread as well as proper monitoring techniques for Lake of the Falls.

Please note that all dates are tentative and are dependent on any new developments with regard to the Covid-19 pandemic. We will do our best to notify LOFA members via email and on our website if any changes become necessary. Thanks for your understanding, and please, stay safe!

## Proposed amendments to the bylaws

In the past year your LOFA Board of Directors has taken a close look at our organization's bylaws and has made extensive revisions to the document. Special thanks go to Jim Hannemann for all the work he put in on this! The revisions have been reviewed by Zach Wilson and also by Patrick Goggin, Lake Specialist at the UW Extension Lakes, and both have approved the changes. We think it is important that our bylaws be in compliance with DNR standards so that, if we apply for any state grants in the future, there won't be any stumbling blocks.

While the revisions are too extensive to print in this newsletter, they can be read on our website at lakeofthefalls.org under the tab "About LOFA," or are available by mail upon request. We will vote to adopt these changes at the annual meeting on Sunday, August 2.

## LOVING OUR LAKE

### The Turtle River Watershed Management Program & aquatic invasive species



Curly Leaf Pondweed. Photo by the Wisconsin DNR.

LOFA members received an email in March detailing the issue we all face with the presence of Curly Leaf Pondweed in Rice Lake and Pike Lake. The Turtle River Stewardship Program was conceived as a direct response to this threat and consists of lake associations along the river working with the ICLRA, the Iron County Department of Land and Water Conservation, and the Wisconsin DNR to meet this threat and prevent the spread of these invasive plants into Lake of the Falls and on down to the Flowage. Volunteers will be needed this summer assist in this effort. Everyone is encouraged to pitch in! Several posts on our website contain resources for understanding the problem and information on how to volunteer. Please contact the LOFA Board at [lofassociation@gmail.com](mailto:lofassociation@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## BOATS ON THE WATER

Most of us love to get out on the water in our boats and enjoy our beautiful lake, but every year we hear from members who are concerned about those few boaters and jetskiers who don't follow the rules of safe boating. Here is what we should know and what we can do:

### Mercer Town Ordinance

Personal Watercraft (i.e. jet skis) must operate at least 200 ft. from shore and may only be operated between the hours of 11:00AM and 4:00PM according to Mercer Town ordinance. If you wish to file a complaint about someone violating this ordinance, jot down the numbers on the side of the watercraft and call the sheriff's department at 800-243-2131.

### Wisconsin State Law

Among other things, it is illegal to operate a boat at a speed in excess of "slow, no wake speed" within 100 feet of the shoreline, any dock, raft, pier, a swimmer, or restricted area on any lake; or chase, harass, or disturb wildlife with your vessel. A PWC may not be operated at faster than "slow, no wake speed" within 100 feet of any other vessel, 200 feet of shore, or 100 feet of a dock, pier, raft, or restricted area on any lake. Chasing, harassing, or disturbing wildlife with a PWC is also prohibited.

If you wish to file a complaint about someone violating any of these state rules, call or text the Wisconsin DNR Tip Line at 1-800-847-9367. Complete boating rules can be found online at [dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf).

These boating rules are intended to keep our lakes safe while protecting shorelines and improving water quality. Boats operating in shallow waters often churn up sediment and chop up vegetation, decreasing water quality, and potentially spreading invasive aquatic species. In addition, eliminating near-shore wakes reduces shoreline erosion.

When transporting boats between waterways, boat owners MUST do the following: INSPECT your boat, trailer and equipment; REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading and before transporting on a public highway); DRAIN all water from boats, motors and all equipment; NEVER MOVE live fish away from a waterbody; DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash; and BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer. Use leftover minnows only under certain conditions (go to [dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/boat](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/boat) for details). It's the law! LOFA members, PLEASE encourage your guests to help us prevent further spread of invasive species by following these practices.

## LAKE ENHANCEMENT FUND



Thanks to these LOFA members who donated to the Lake Enhancement Fund last year: Dave & Pat Anderson, Chet & Sookki Bach, Bryan Berry, Kevin & Linda Collins, Bill & Nancy Dalpiaz, Franco & Maria Gamberale, Jeff & Holly Gawlik, Dan & Christine Hargarten, Arch & Judy Johnson, George & Bonnie Laugerman, Tom & Debi McTavish, David & Boni Paugel, Floyd & Terry Roberts, Ronald & Joan Sabel, Fred & Joan Sass, Clinton & Jennifer Schmidt, Andy Schuett, Jack & Diana Schuett, Dave & Di Sino, Susan Sullivan, Tom & Jan Tesch, Terry & Amy Thayer, James & Nancy Thornton, Doug & Anne Wenzlaff, and Tom Zeigler.