Clean Water Action Council

OF NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

Celebrating 39 years of working to protect public health and the environment in Northeast Wisconsin

SPRING 2024

Photo courtesy of East Metro Water, Minneapolis.

Introduction

by CWAC President Dean Hoegger

An invasive species is an organism that is not indigenous, or native, to a particular area. Invasive species can cause great economic and environmental harm to the new area according to National Geographic. Writing in *The Life and Death of the Great Lakes*, Dan Egan chronicles the harm caused by successive invasions of lampreys, alewives, and zebra and quagga mussels. These invasions were caused by modification to the hydrology and ecology of the Great Lakes for shipping. The creation of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1969 opened the previously isolated Great Lakes to cargo ships from around the world. In the ballast tanks of these ships were "hitchhiking" organisms that were foreign to the freshwater ecosystem.

Other canals, such as the Welland Canal, which bypasses Niagara Falls, provides additional routes for non-native invaders. Today, the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal is providing a route for non-native carp to enter the enter Lake Michigan from the already decimated Mississippi river system.

There are many other cases of invasive species hitch-hiking to Northeast Wisconsin. The emerald ash borer is one example. It travels under the bark of transported firewood and nursery stock. Thought to arrive in 2008, it has already decimated vast stands of ash trees in Wisconsin.

In this issue, read more about the current threats from invasive species in Northeast Wisconsin, the efforts to remove them, and how climate change is likely to open the door for more that will be coming.

Invasive Insects Found in NE Wisconsin

By David Verhagen

The Insect Diagnostic Lab at the University of Wisconsin discovers two to three new, non-native insects each year. Not all of them are pests, but given new ones appear every year, the pest numbers add up.

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (Aug. 2, 2023) interviewed Bill McNee, a forest health specialist at the WDNR. In the past twenty years, he said, invasive species have replaced native insects as the biggest problem facing Wisconsin's trees. The biggest threats are these:

The **Spongy Moth**, formerly called the Gypsy moth. Introduced from Europe in the 1800's, it feeds on 300+ species of trees and shrubs, spreading over the entire state. While they do not kill a tree directly, they can defoliate, that is, eat every leaf off a tree in short order. It leaves trees starved for food and energy, forcing it to use reserves to recover. If a tree is defoliated repeatedly, it runs out of stores, and dies of stress.

During the dry summer of 2023, which favored insects, Spongy moths defoliated over 300,000 acres in Wisconsin, mostly in the far northwest part of the state.

Next is the **Emerald Ash Borer**, (EAB). It is the deadliest invasive by far. EAB have already killed most ash in southern Wisconsin and are spreading northward. The long, shiny green beetles are primarily transported in firewood. EAB live under tree bark, often undetected. In many areas of the far north, ash are 90% of trees. It is expected that EAB will kill 99% of Wisconsin's ash trees.

You may have not yet heard of **Spotted Lantern Flies**. They are not established here yet but are being found in increasing numbers. McNee said to expect them to be a huge problem for agriculture. They feed on the sap of trees and woody fruits including apples, pears and grapes.

Spotted lanternfly courtesy of datcp.wi.gov.

The brightly colored Spotted Lantern flies from eastern Asia were first identified in Pennsylvania in 2014. They arrived in Walworth County last year in a shipment of landscape trees. They favor ornamental landscape species where they are considered just harmless pests. But UW researchers estimate damage caused by the flies could cost agriculture, logging, wine, and beer industries $5.1 billion.

With **Beech Bark disease** already decimating trees in Wisconsin, another attack looms. Beech Bark disease was identified in Door County in 2009 and is caused by a tiny scale insect. Beech Leaf disease is a newer threat being carried by insects first identified in Ohio in 2013. Insects carry small roundworms that deform leaves, disrupting their ability to perform photosynthesis. When enough leaves are damaged, it leads to the death of the tree.

The **hemlock wooly adelgid** is another threat on our horizon. Native to Asia, it was found in Virginia, and has spread to Michigan where it is well established along Lake Michigan's eastern shores. It's eventual arrival here is seen as a major ecological threat, McNee said, the adelgid feeds off the sugar in sap, robbing trees of their vigor and eventually killing them.

Wisconsin streets were once lined with graceful elm trees. We lost most of them to Dutch elm disease. A few elms have weathered the storm. Now newer, more resistant varieties have entered the market. Type "Dutch Elm Disease" into Wikipedia for a detailed account of the insect invasion responsible, its spread, and the response to DED worldwide. It provides a "case history" about the cycle of infestation of DED and the worldwide response.

And finally, cockroaches are here, and more are coming. The one-inch wood cockroach is the only species native to Wisconsin and is rarely found indoors. Today, other species have invaded, and they are not so polite. They were originally found in the southern regions of the state, but as our winters have moderated, they are migrating northward.

German cockroach courtesy of UW-Extension.

The **German cockroach** is most common in urban Wisconsin. These light brown, half-inch long critters prefer to live near plumbing, food preparation and storage areas. They seem to be found most often in multi-story buildings.

The **American cockroach** is the most common nationwide. It grows up to two inches long and prefers food preparation areas within single story buildings.

The **Oriental cockroach** adapts well to cold weather, living both indoors and outdoors. This dark brown bug is only a quarter inch long but may be the dirtiest type of roach, as its preferred habitat is around garbage and sewage. It also smells quite foul. And there are others showing up in lesser numbers.

Cockroaches are extremely dangerous to have in your home. Before entering a home, their bodies pick up bacteria and then transfer it to surfaces they touch. Their saliva, feces and shedding body parts can trigger both asthma and other allergic reactions.

Charles Mann in his book, *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*, posits that the biggest mistake we make is thinking that the environment we first encounter is how it has always existed. This is never true. He goes on to tell the story of invasive species to and from the New World in his book. The consequences of invasive plants, animals and

insects are huge drivers of history but receive little historical reporting. His discussion on environmental history is essential to understanding how our world has come to be in 2024.

Resources:

https://www.invasive.org/index.cfm

https://insectlab.russell.wisc.edu/wi-invasive-insects-maps/

Watch for These Invasive Land Animals

By Jane Benson

Jumping worms (Amynthas) Sound Cute, but They're NOT!

Jumping worms are non-native, invasive earthworms firmly established in Wisconsin. They get their name from their behavior. When disturbed, they thrash, spring into the air and can even shed their tails to escape. The worms present challenges to homeowners, gardeners, and forest managers.

They feast on mulch and strip vital nutrients from topsoil. This kills plants, increases erosion, and may leave the soil open to the spread of invasive plant species. They leave a distinctive grainy soil full of worm castings (feces) that can damage forest understory habitat. Homeowners may see garden plants killed and may have difficulty growing plants in affected soil.

Jumping worms live for one year. They range from 1.5" to 8" in length. In spring, juvenile worms hatch from overwintered cocoons the size of poppy seeds. Adults have a smooth milky-white collar (clitellum) close to the head end. They can reproduce without mating during their active season.

The jumping worm will not harm humans or other animals physically. The concern about this pest is more about ecological system damage, which in turn negatively affects humans and animals. Do NOT use jumping worms for fishing bait. That's another way to spread them.

Photo by T. Potterfield, Flickr.

Remove and destroy jumping worms when you see them. Simply seal them in a plastic bag and throw it in the trash. They will not survive long. Reducing the adult population will eventually reduce the number of egg-carrying cocoons in the landscape.

Report sightings to the Department of Natural Resources to: Bernadette.Williams@wisconsin.gov

Ferocious Feral Pigs (Sus domestica)

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) considers feral pigs animals that pose significant threats to both the environment and to agricultural operations. Most recently sighted in Florence County, WI, the DNR promotes aggressive removal (shooting) anywhere feral pigs are reported.

They are mid-sized hoofed mammals with a long, pointed head and stocky build. Males and females look much alike. Wild hogs exhibit great variation in color and size. The average wild sow weighs about 110 pounds, and the average wild boar weighs about 130 pounds. Boars have four continually growing tusks that can be extremely sharp.

Photo credit Taviphoto

Feral pigs can transmit diseases and parasites to livestock and people. They can be disastrous to recently planted fields and can damage pastures, facilities, and fences, resulting in serious financial losses. Wallows can affect ponds and wetlands by muddying the water, creating algae blooms, destroying aquatic vegetation, and lowering overall water quality. Their digging and rooting activity near a watercourse leads to bank erosion. All this activity can lead to decreased livestock use and poor fish production.

Due to their trampling and rooting behaviors, wildlife biologists are becoming increasingly concerned about the devastation they can cause to ecologically sensitive native habitats, particularly native plants and rare, threatened, or endangered species. Biologists are documenting the population declines that feral pigs are inflicting on grassland birds, wetland wildlife and various small mammals. Report any sightings to Invasive.Species@wisconsin.gov.

Destructive Nutria (Myocastor coypus)

Nutria are an invasive, semi-aquatic rodent weighing about 12 pounds. Their body length is 16-24" with a 12-18" tail. They have coarse hair, dark brown in color with a soft dense grey under fur. The muzzle has a white patch, and they have bright orange-yellow incisors.

Like a beaver or muskrat, they typically live in areas next to bodies of water but can adapt to a variety of habitats. They are often found in wetlands, where they can cause extensive damage. They also negatively affect agricultural crops and roads, and they can spread diseases to humans and livestock.

Photo credit Bugwood.org network

Nutria breed year-round and spread rapidly. Beyond their native range, there are no

natural forms of population control. They clear areas of vegetation before migrating.

Fences, walls, and other barriers can be erected to keep nutria from entering sensitive areas. To be effective, these barriers must be at least three feet in height and extend a minimum of 12" underground since nutria are likely to dig.

Shooting and trapping nutria are currently the most effective methods of removal from infested areas. Traps are baited using sweet potatoes, carrots, and other vegetables and fruit. More recently, the use of dogs trained on nutria scent have been employed allowing hunters and trappers to effectively catch/eliminate the animal. Their furs have value, and their meat is edible by humans.

Other methods include releasing sterilized nutria fitted with tracking devices to further locate nutria populations. Relocation is not a viable option. Moving nutria to other locations will increase their spread and potentially lead to greater damage.

Report any sightings to Invasive.Species@wisconsin.gov.

Invasive Land Plants in NE Wisconsin

By John Hermanson

Land-based invasive plants found in Northeastern Wisconsin challenge private landowners, municipalities, parks, and land trust conservancies. Ecosystem health and well-being are affected by these problem plants.

A plant's attractive bloom, hardiness, and utility along with its plasticity in a new or changing ecosystem contribute to a new plant's existence and a tendency to go rogue. They may have gotten here by hitchhiking via commerce, or introduced as a landscape plant, or by birds with wings, or four pawed furry creatures. In any case, we must deal with them and make peace in the garden.

Climate change often favors terrestrial invasive plants spreading. Improved management tools such as data mapping, plant identification apps, institutional experience, along with more science helps to positively address invasive species management.

At the local level are city and township ordinances such as in Green Bay under Article IV § 24.84(g)(2)(a)(4) where it states, "No species identified on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Regulated Invasive Plant list, whether designated as Prohibited or Restricted shall be permitted." While Sturgeon Bay's Code 1992, §11.01(2)(f) ordinance on the subject is a bit less definitive with their wording, prohibiting "All noxious weeds and other rank growth of vegetation."

Once you identify an invasive plant, you can find out how to manage it. There are many phone apps that have made plant identification easier. One example is PlantSnap. The next step is to look it up on Management of Invasive Plants in Wisconsin, a UW Extension publication available online from The Learning Store, which will give plenty of alternatives to managing it. (https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/management-of-invasive-plants-in-wisconsin-set-p1680)

Organizations and government invasive pest management budgets are limited, and a triage strategy is usually adopted. This includes continual monitoring for small outbreaks that can be eradicated, according to Matt Manders, a Field Technician, that worked for The Nature Conservancy in Door County.

Some of the worst plants we deal with in Northeast Wisconsin include the following:

Photo courtesy of Devil's Lake State Park

Phragmites are a tall reed grass that likes wet soils and lines many roadside ditches in Brown County. It creates poor habitat for native species and impacts swimming, boating, and fishing.

Photo courtesy of Total Landlord Insurance

Japanese Knotweed is extremely persistent and hard to eradicate. It spreads quickly and looks a bit like bamboo. It forms a colony that shades out native vegetation reducing native wildlife with bare soil underneath that is easily eroded. The plant degrades property values by growing up through asphalt and damaging building foundations.

Photo courtesy of Plantamus

Japanese Barberry is a commonly found landscape shrub from two to four feet in height. It has escaped its confines of the

city and taken to the woods. With red berries, these thorny bushes can form thickets that have been shown to offer cover to white footed deer mice who have been implicated as hosts for ticks carrying Lyme disease.

Photo courtesy of The Western Producer

Wild Parsnip is four to five feet tall and has a single stem with a large flat umbel of yellow flowers. It is known for the sap that can cause blistering and burning when in contact with skin exposed to the sun. It is found along many highways and other disturbed soil. These plants have morphed to become more shade tolerant and are being found in some wooded areas.

The following organizations aid homeowners with invasive plant control, as well as providing volunteer opportunities:

Northeast Wisconsin Invasives Partnership serves Waupaca, Outagamie, Winnebago, Brown County, and the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin as a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area offering some cost-sharing programs while providing a regional platform to coordinate and administer efforts to manage invasive species.

Door County Invasives Species Team leads the charge to control invasives. They have had a successful cost-share program to control phragmites county wide.

The Wisconsin First Detector Network (WIFDN) is a community science program that empowers people to take action on invasive species through invasive species monitoring, management, and outreach. WIFDN provides training and resources through a combination of webinars, instructional videos, and hands-on workshops, in addition to providing volunteer opportunities for community scientists. There are other programs such as the Master Gardener Volunteer organization, Heritage Hill State Park volunteers, and Crossroads at Big Creek in Sturgeon Bay that support volunteers to remove invasives.

Opportunities for removing invasives can be good news for teenagers that need to earn some spending money, and for newly retired adults looking for meaningful activities to occupy newfound time. Most of the heavy lifting in the form of applying herbicides or doing prescribed burns involves government and non-government trained land managers.

Please take action to remove invasive plants from your own property and consider volunteering to do so at our parks and public access lands.

Aquatic Invasive Animals Threaten Native Species and Infrastructure

By Laurn Felder

Wisconsin is known for its beautiful waters and beloved by those that utilize its waters for fishing, boating, and swimming. Unfortunately, several species of invasive plants and animals threaten the ecosystems that make these waters so great.

Some of Wisconsin's most destructive invasive aquatic animals are red-swamp crayfish, Quagga and zebra mussels, round gobies, and several varieties of carp. The problem with these species is that they outcompete native species (or even invasive species; Quagga mussels have outcompeted zebra mussels for habitat in Lake Michigan!) for food, nesting sites, and shelter, resulting in fundamental altering of aquatic ecosystems. Lack of access to food and shelter, and the fact that species such as round gobies and red-swamp crayfish eat the eggs and young of native aquatic animals, means greatly reduced populations of these animals. This proliferation of undesirable invasive species drives away commercial and recreational fisherman who can no longer catch the native species they desire.

Quagga and zebra mussels are filter feeders that eat plankton and phytoplankton. The reduction of plankton and phytoplankton results in a lake being clearer, but it removes a major food source for other species. Mussels produce phosphorous as a waste product, which can cause algae outbreaks. Algae outbreaks can cause die-offs and problems for fisherman, since the algae clings to fishing nets left in the water overnight, which makes the net more visible to fish and easier to avoid. Mussels can also make their way into municipal water systems where they clog pipes and cause thousands of dollars' worth of damage. Other species, like faucet snails, carry parasites that infect fish and waterfowl, affecting hunting and fishing opportunities by reducing populations of ducks, geese, and fish.

Zebra mussels found in a pipe system operated by the Army Corps of Engineers. Photo courtesy of the U.S. National Archives and Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

Climate change is expected to create a longer warm season, which allows invasive species a longer amount of time to travel to and establish themselves in a native species' habitat. Warmer conditions favor quick reproduction of invasive species that then outcompete native species for food and habitat space because the native species simply

cannot reproduce fast enough to replenish their numbers. Native Wisconsin species also are not used to constant warm weather; species such as the walleye prefer cool water, which may disappear entirely as temperatures continue to rise. With the combined pressures of invasive species and climate change, many native species may be at risk of dying out completely.

NR 40 is the governing administrative code that controls the handling of all types of invasive species in Wisconsin. It prohibits the possession, transport, transfer, or introduction of certain types of invasive species to Wisconsin without a permit. With respect to aquatic species specifically, Wis. Stat. § 23.24 controls Wisconsin's handling of invasive aquatic plants, including the distribution, introduction, and cultivation. It requires permits for each of these actions, with exceptions, and requires the department to establish a program to protect and develop stable communities of native aquatic plants and regulate how these plants are managed. The DNR does this via NR 107 (aquatic plant management) and NR 109 (aquatic plant manual and mechanical removal regulations).

The most common way aquatic species move between water bodies is by intentional transport or "hitchhiking" on aquatic recreational equipment. Thus, Wisconsin law requires boaters, fishermen, and seaplane operators to inspect their boats and other equipment before and after launching. Any plant or animal matter on the boat or equipment must be removed before launch, after loading, and before transporting equipment on public highways. Water must be drained from all equipment, leftover bait must be disposed of in garbage cans, and live fish cannot be removed from a waterbody. These and additional regulations are codified in NR 40.07, NR 19.05, NR 19.055, and NR 19.057.

Aquatic Hitchhikers Sign at Lake Wissota, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

So, what can you do to prevent the spread of and reduce invasive aquatic species in northeastern Wisconsin? Follow the law regarding removal of invasive species from equipment used in water bodies, never transport live invasive species, only buy bait from sellers licensed in Wisconsin, and properly dispose of leftover bait. If you would like to take your involvement a step further, become a member of the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, a network of over 1,000 volunteers that measure water clarity and other data and monitor for appearance of aquatic invasive species (learn more here: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/clmn). You can also become a Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer inspector. These volunteers check boats launching and coming into their local boat landings and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (learn more here: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/cbcw).

To report an invasive aquatic species, visit: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/report

For more information, visit:

Aquatic invasive species info: https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/AquaticInvasive.aspx

Lake Michigan invasive species: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/lakemichigan/InvasiveSpecies.html

Best management practices: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/bmp

List of prohibited/restricted species: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/RegulatedSpecies

Eurasian Water Milfoil; An Aquatic Invasive Plant and a Cancer on Our Lakes

By Charlie Frisk

There are hundreds of species of aquatic invasives in Wisconsin. A short list of the most harmful would include sea lamprey, quagga and zebra mussels, spiny water flea, all the different species of imported carp, white perch, round goby, curly leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, Eurasian watermilfoil, non-native cattails, and Phragmites.

In this article I am going to focus on one aquatic invasive plant, **Eurasian water milfoil**, which illustrates well the problems that these non-natives can cause.


Photo courtesy of East Metro Water, Minneapolis, MN, Angie Hong Aquatic Biologist.

Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) was introduced by the aquarium industry. It is a plant that survives well in aquariums and was sold in pet stores for years. When people tired of maintaining an aquarium the plants were frequently dumped in local waterways. It is native to Europe, Africa and Asia.

A lake in the Nicolet National Forest that my family loved camping on was for all practical purposes destroyed for recreation by EWM. The first time we camped there the lake was crystal clear, great for swimming, fishing, canoeing and listening to the haunting calls of the common loon.

We came back two summers later to find the lake overwhelmed by EWM. A lake that formerly had a healthy diversity of native plants providing shelter and food for many types of invertebrates and fish was now a monoculture of EWM.

The weed mat was so dense you could not swim a single stroke or even push a canoe paddle through it. Loons and larger fish were eliminated because they could not swim

through the weed mat.

EWM can actually change the water chemistry of a lake. The roots of EWM pull nitrogen and phosphorus up from the lake bed and into the water which greatly accelerates eutrophication of the lake. When EWM dies back in the fall, the decomposition of its biomass uses up the oxygen in the water and can lead to fish kills.

Once EWM gets established in a lake, total eradication is almost impossible. Hand harvesting, mechanical harvesting and herbicides are techniques that are used to control population levels.

The problem with hand or mechanical harvesting is that EWM reproduces effectively either sexually by seeds or asexually by fragmentation. EWM is a very brittle plant; I took part in a EWM pulling party on the lake where we have our cottage, and I realized that every time I pulled a plant out of the lake bottom fragments were breaking off and floating away.

Every one of those fragments has the potential to become a new plant and our efforts to wipe out that colony may have actually contributed to the formation of new colonies in other parts of the lake.

Mechanical harvesting is done with a machine resembling an aquatic combine that cuts, harvests and transports EWM out of the water body. I watched one of these large mechanical harvesters on Little Sturgeon Bay in Door County and observed hundreds of fragments breaking off and dispersing. Because of the fragmentation of the plant, mechanical harvesting is viewed as a control method, with no hope of ever eradicating the EWM.

Herbicides do the best job of actually eradicating colonies of EWM but their use has the attendant problem of also killing desirable native plants. However, if an invasion is caught before EWM becomes widely established in a lake, eradication can be possible with minimal damage to native plants. Professional herbicide applicators will put a screen around small EWM colonies to prevent the spread of the herbicide to other areas in the lake. This spot application of herbicide becomes impossible once EWM becomes widely established throughout a lake.

A DNR issued Aquatic Management Permit (NR 107) is required to apply herbicides to Wisconsin waters for the control of aquatic plants.

Wisconsin Code NR 40 makes it illegal to possess, transport, transfer or introduce invasive species such as EWM. Unfortunately, NR 40 was not passed until 2009, and by then EWM was well established in many water bodies throughout Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Code NR 19.055 was passed in 2008 to prevent transfer of aquatic invasives from one lake to another. It requires boat operators to clean the outside of boats and trailers and to completely drain all ballast water before moving boats between lakes. However, wake boats have ballast tanks that are impossible to completely empty as well as to inspect and thus are efficient transporters of EWM and other harmful invasives such as spiny water fleas from one lake to another.

Early detection of an infestation of EWM is essential for eradication. Lake users need to educate themselves on how to identify EWM and to be constantly on the lookout for invasions of the plant.

The Invasive Curly-leaf Pondweed

By Jenna Strei, Intern

Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR

Another invasive aquatic plant is the **curly-leaf pondweed**. This green and brown, scalloped weed that originated in Eurasia, Africa, and Australia was accidentally introduced to the Great Lakes region in the early 1900s. There are several reasons why the curly-leaf pondweeds are hazardous to local waters, including the threat to native vegetation, disruption to fishermen and citizens, and increased phosphorus levels.

Traces of this invasive weed were introduced to the United States when brought over from Europe with the introduction of carp fish. It travelled through water ways with other invasive fish, landing in Wisconsin and the Great Lakes region.

The growth cycle of the curly-leaf pondweed vastly differs from other aquatic plants, creating vulnerability to native species. While most plants tend to bloom and reach their prime in summer, curly-leaf pondweeds begin their growth in late fall. The weed favors cooler waters, allowing it to thrive after most plants revert to their dormant state. By spring when most aquatic plants begin to grow and come out of their dormant state, the curly-leaf pondweed has already maximized its growth, casting a large net of mature leaves over the water, absorbing sun rays that are crucial for other plants.

Due to their large canopy leaves that stretch across water surfaces during their maturity, it is common for boats to get stuck in the mats of the leaves. This poses danger for both the boaters as well as surrounding plants that could get tangled in the weed.

When the curly-leaf pondweed dies, the dead plant releases a mineral called phosphorus. Excess phosphorus in water causes algae blooms. When the algae dies, oxygen is consumed during its decomposition causing a lack of oxygen for aquatic animals.

It is possible to remove the plant from waters, which can reduce phosphorus as well. According to Wisconsin DNR, this is only true if curly-leaf pondweed is a major source of phosphorus.

Other remedies for clearing this invasive aquatic plant can take years to succeed and can be extremely expensive. Chemically removing it also may not be the most sustainable method of treatment as continued maintenance would be required to eliminate the possibility of regrowth of the curly-leaf pondweed.

The Wisconsin DNR is identifying lakes and other waterbodies that are contaminated with this invasive weed. This can help reduce the spread and reproduction of the plant. Wisconsin law requires boaters to inspect watercrafts, drain all water, and remove any sort of plants or animals

from the watercraft and its equipment. These actions will help prevent the weed from spreading to other lakes and waterbodies.

Sources:

https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/CurlyLeafPondweed

https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/programs/CLMN/publications/Ch3-CLP.pdf

Humans as Invasives

It is recognized that humans have long been thought of as an invasive species. We continue to disrupt the natural environment in many ways. Here are two articles that describe unique ways that we are disrupting the environment in northeast Wisconsin.

WAKE BOATS—THE ULTIMATE LAKE DESTROYER AND HUMAN INVASIVE

By Charlie Frisk

In my article on aquatic invasive plants I mention wake boats several times. If you spend much time on a lake that has wake boats you are already familiar with them and the problems they create. However, they are a fairly new addition to the boating scene, so many of our members are probably unfamiliar with them.

When tied up at the dock they look a lot like any speedboat used for cruising the lake, waterskiing, or towing inner tubers. However as soon as they are moving, the differences are easy to see.

A wake boat is designed to create a large, powerful 4-6 feet high wake for wakeboarding and wake surfing. This large wake is produced by hull design, a 350+HP engine and a ballast tank system that can hold from 1,000 to 5,000 lbs. of water.

With most forms of outdoor recreation, damage to the environment occurs primarily when the participant is misusing their equipment. However, with a wake boat, incredible damage to the lake, fish and wildlife, shorelines, docks and other boats takes place when the wake boat is being used as intended.

The downward angle of the prop-wash from wake boats can stir up sediment that has been accumulating for thousands of years. In shallow lakes, wake boats act like a fire hose on the lake bottom, ripping up plants and churning sediment. This makes the lake murky, destroys fish habitat and spawning grounds and causes phosphorus and nitrogen to be mixed into the water promoting algae blooms and encouraging invasives.

Loon nests can be washed into the lake by the wake and the increased turbidity makes it difficult for loons to see their prey. The most desirable game fish; musky, bass, walleye and trout are primarily sight-feeders and will also find it more difficult to feed.

One or two wake boats on a small lake can make it impossible for anglers, water skiers, kayakers and canoers to enjoy the lake and in some cases actually make it dangerous for the other boaters by swamping or capsizing them.

Can wake boats be used without causing these problems? Theoretically yes, but not on the vast majority of Wisconsin lakes. Used as intended, wake boats will cause damage unless they are more than 500 feet from shore and in water more than 20 feet deep, conditions that are very rare on most Wisconsin lakes.

A quick search of the internet will show many examples of proposed legislation to control wake boat problems ranging from a complete ban, to limiting where and when they can be used. With the Wisconsin legislator's anti-regulatory bias, the odds of any of the legislation becoming law is very slim.

The one piece of existing legislation that could affect wake boats is NR 19.055 passed in 2008 to prevent transfer of aquatic invasive species between water bodies. The rule states "any person who removes a boat from any water body must drain all water from any bilge, ballast or live well immediately after removing the boat from the water".

The design of the ballast on wake boats makes it impossible to drain all the water. As much as 20 gallons can remain after drainage, making compliance with NR 19.055 impossible.

However, the "Catch 22" is that the design of the ballast tanks makes it impossible to see if there is still water present. The DNR advises that they cannot enforce NR 19.055 on wake boats because they cannot inspect sealed ballast tanks.

There is no way to prevent wake boats from transferring invasives such as spiny water fleas, Eurasian water milfoil and quagga mussels from lake to lake.

A number of lake associations are pushing for a "home lake" rule which would make it illegal to move wake boats from one lake to another. Such a rule would prevent wake boats from transferring invasives from one lake to another, but would do nothing to prevent the problems the boats are causing on their home lakes.

Wake boats would still continue damaging the biotic integrity of the lake, destroying personal property, eroding shorelines and creating a safety hazard for everyone else using the lake.

John Bates, well known naturalist and author from Manitowish Waters, had this to say about wake boats, "Let's hope practical common sense wins the day. It's a no-brainer, wake boats need to be banned to save Wisconsin's lakes from destruction."

Photo courtesy of Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Scott Brown, Executive Director.

AIRBOATS DISTURB THE PEACE AND TRANQUILITY OF ICE FISHING.

By Dean Hoegger

Ice fishing has long been recognized as a silent sport. Sitting for hours enjoying winter views with the sounds of seagulls, the ice cracking, quiet conversations with friends, and sometimes the sounds of children playing or dogs barking. The sunrise and sunset on the ice is often spectacular; quiet and peaceful. At the very worst, the occasional old fashion gas ice auger, a snowmobile, or four-wheeler might be heard. If you have seen the play, *Guys on Ice*, then maybe even a trombone.

That tranquility is now being disturbed in northeast Wisconsin by fishing guides running airboats across the ice. One ice fisher stated that an airboat went by close to him eight times during a day on the ice.

These airboat operators claim to be making ice fishing safer since the ice has been affected by a warmer winter. However, ice fishers have found that these airboats break up the ice. In some cases, they have threatened a safe return to shore, even to the point of calling 911 for help.

A petition opposing the use of airboats near shorelines and established ice fishing activities generated over 75 signatures from ice fishers in a two-week period. Most of the petition signers were out-of-state tourists. Will a continued use of iceboats impact tourism in counties along the bay of Green Bay?

Airboat on Little Sturgeon Bay. Staff photo.

Local Organizations Working to Remove Invasive Species and Improve Habitats

Submissions Edited by Rachel Weber, Administrator Assistant

Activities occur all around the state to tackle invasive species problems ranging from cutting and treating, to native habitat restoration. There are many opportunities in our region to volunteer your time for these efforts. Four organizations in our region that are engaged in this important work are highlighted in this article. These examples illustrate the breadth and reach of the invasive species problem affecting all corners of our state.

Fond du Lac County Audubon Society

The Fond du Lac County Audubon Society has work sessions each spring and early summer to pull garlic mustard, Dames Rocket, and Lesser Celandine. The removal efforts occur along a county bike trail, in a county park, in a six-acre area in the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest, and in one city park. Their volunteer hours range from 300 to 450 hours. In the fall, the group tackles buckthorn in the same areas and usually has 75 to 100 volunteer hours. Of course, they also pull little buckthorn all year when they see them!

The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation

The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation's efforts are targeted at removing buckthorn, honeysuckle, and autumn olive as well as garlic mustard and pockets of phragmites. The foundation focuses on a cycle of success that includes cutting and treating invasives, facilitating prescribed burns and then planting native species.

Areas that have been restored show regrowth of natives and that in conjunction with the planting of additional native species has shown an increase of the quality of habitat in understory areas for wildlife. The goal in restoring habitats is to provide nesting, foraging, overwintering, and movement for pollinators and wildlife. Other goals include soil health, buffering from neighborhood and industrial runoff before it reaches Baird Creek, and reducing erosion.

Volunteers have been a huge help in invasive removal as well as planting in the Baird Creek Greenway and Watershed. Volunteers have helped remove invasives in 100-acres and planted trees in 15-acres in the last couple years. Invasive removal, tree planting, native seed planting, tree maintenance, are all things that volunteers can help with. They rely so much on

Volunteers with Baird Creek, photo courtesy of The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation

helping hands to get done what they do!

Baird Creek areas are public land, so the work that gets done benefits not only wildlife and pollinators but also opens space for the recreation and education efforts that they are also consistently working on. If anyone is interested in helping with efforts through the foundation, they can get more information at https://bairdcreek.org/volunteer/. The next volunteer date is Saturday, April 20th. In honor of Earth Day, they will host a large-scale invasive removal, tree planting and much more during the event. Watch their event page for things posted throughout the year.

Photo courtesy of Door County Invasive Species Team

Door County Invasive Species Team

Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) works to empower Door County citizens and municipalities with the information, tools, and skills to tackle invasive species. It is a unique resource that allows the public an opportunity to ask management questions about their properties with a professional at no charge. Invasive species can pose threats to human safety and certain measures can be taken to manage those populations. DCIST is there to help with identifying those species and possibly providing tools for rent to assist with treatments.

DCIST and Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department along with the help of partners and municipalities aim to control four priority terrestrial species on private and public land that include: Phragmites, Japanese knotweed, teasel and wild parsnip through donations and grant funding. Landowners must sign a permission form each year to allow treatment. Treatments are typically done by LTE Conservationists who are trained young professionals starting out in their careers in natural resources with the guidance of DCIST. Aquatic invasive species are also a high priority and DCIST assists the WI DNR with Clean Boats Clean Water outreach and the more recent issue of European Frog-Bit.

There are opportunities to volunteer and help stop the spread of invasive species throughout the growing season. For more information about invasive species or volunteering, please visit: Door County—The Door County Invasive Species Team (doorinvasives.org)

Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area through LNRP

While the previous efforts highlight the activities organizations are doing on land, the Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership is working alongside other organizations to tackle invasive species affecting waterways.

A collaborative team called the Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area (LISMA) has been working on invasive Phragmites control efforts for over a decade throughout northeast Wisconsin. Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP), Glacierland Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D), Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, and Stantec Consulting Services Inc. are championing LISMA to protect and enhance the resiliency of the Great Lakes region through an innovative, grassroots approach.

This project is unique in its size, scope, logistical complexity, long term commitment, use of GIS technology for web mapping, and collaborative approach between partner organizations and communities. Over the course of this project, the LISMA team has protected and enhanced 111 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and hundreds of miles of inland waterways, coastal wetlands, and wildlife habitat corridors.

Photo Courtesy of Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership

After each Phragmites area is treated, the LISMA team plants native plants and shrubs to increase biodiversity, ecosystem health, and climate resilience. Ultimately, mapping, treating, monitoring, and providing long-term control of thousands of acres of Phragmites over the course of this project will have significant long-term benefits for migratory shorebirds, waterfowl, marsh-spawning fish, pollinators, and other native fauna.

The efforts of these local groups are just a snapshot of the good work being done in our region. Removing invasive species is important to the ecological health of an area, and these activities rely on volunteer efforts, so please think about offering your time to this work.

The Action in Clean Water Action Council

By Dean Hoegger, CWAC President and Executive Director

Please renew your membership for 2024. Thank you if you have already done so.

Memberships are for a calendar year. We keep your membership active even when you renew later in the year, but please renew as soon as possible, and maybe donate a little more if you forgot to renew in 2023.

To check your membership status, look at your address label which shows your last renewal year. Emailed newsletters include the last renewal year in the body of the email. **Membership donations are critical as they account for nearly half of our operational funds. Employee salaries are paid from a trust fund, our Packers' concession stand, and grants, not from membership donations.**

You can mail your membership donation with the enclosed or attached form, or go online to http://www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org/membership/. If we have your current membership information, then all you need to do is click on the "Donate" button on our website's home page or in our email signature block. **Please know that you do not need a PayPal account to pay with a credit card, and a monthly donation is an option.**

We are thankful for members who wish to sponsor any of the following starting at the $250 level: Newsletter ($800 per issue), intern ($500 per semester), or office rent at UW-Green Bay ($2500 for 2024).

We would like to thank the members who have volunteered to help with our Packers concession stand, water sampling at Baird Creek, and mailing the quarterly newsletter. There are many volunteer opportunities with CWAC. Contact us to discuss the ways you can volunteer to help us protect human health and the environment. Banquet volunteers are needed. We are seeking volunteers to help with obtaining silent auction donations, setting up the auction items for bidding, selling tickets, and helping at the banquet. Please contact us at 920-421-8885 if interested.

Please consider joining our Planned Giving Circle of Friends to bequeath a donation to CWAC from your estate. See the planned giving mini poster in this issue and contact us with any questions.

Below are the actions that member donations supported in the last three months.

Be sure to contact us if an environmental issue arises in your community. CWAC is here to support citizen action.

Preparing for the Annual Banquet

The April 25th banquet is taking shape with the menu, speaker, music, date, and location set. Our intern Jenna Strei has taken charge of soliciting for auction donations and coordinating the creation of gift baskets. We are looking for ticket sellers and offer one free ticket for every five sold. Contact us to sell tickets or volunteer for other banquet needs. See the banquet details on page 16.

Seeking New Board Members

We are pleased to report that we have added two more board members that have great backgrounds to provide support and guidance for our work. See the bios for Jane Benson and Rick Adamski on page 14.

Get Our Weekly Update by Email

Each Tuesday, our Administrative Assistant Rachel Weber emails the *CWAC Weekly Update* with Actions, Permits, Jobs, Events, In the News Updates, and Resources. If you have any information relevant to the content of the *Weekly Update*, please send us your information by Monday evening to be posted the following day. If you are a member with an email address and you are not getting the *CWAC Weekly Update*, check your spam folder before emailing us to request to be put on the mailing list.

If you are reading this newsletter as a non-member, email us at contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org to be placed on the free *Weekly Update* emailing list. Emails are sent via BCC to protect your privacy.

Many of the legal actions in the following section have been addressed in our *Weekly Update* under the Actions section with suggestions for actions that readers can take.

Legal Actions

As a citizen organization, an important function of CWAC is to take legal action on behalf of our members to protect human health and the environment. Here is an update on ongoing actions.

Our Effort to Ban High PAH and Coal Tar Pavement Sealants Continues

These sealants contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are known to be a serious health threat. According to the Army Corps of Engineers, children living near surfaces treated with this sealant have a 13-fold increased risk of developing certain cancers. Lifetime exposure can result in a 38-fold higher risk of some kinds of cancer. **Children living near parking lots or playgrounds treated with coal tar sealant are at the greatest risk.**

Photo courtesy of Environ. Sci. Technol. 2012, 46, 6, 3039-3045.

We gave presentations in January to a league of women voters group and we are working to get more presentations in Door and Outagamie counties. The towns of Gibraltar and Jacksonport, and the cities of Sturgeon Bay, Green Bay, De Pere, Algoma, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan have banned this product, which especially helps protect children living near parking lots treated with coal tar pavement sealants. We are seeking more presentation opportunities, including in the Appleton area. According to Representative Joel Kitchens, the state will not ban the product, at least not in the next few years. He encouraged us to seek local bans through village and town ordinances.

Contact us to help get an ordinance passed in your community. Click this link for a slide presentation on the topic: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xjvi-leDHg&feature=youtu.be

CWAC Alerts Readers about Pollution Permits, Hearings, and Files Comments.

We monitor notices for new water pollution permits and renewals, and then alert over 750 readers via our emailed *Weekly Update*. Email us at contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org to receive the privacy protected emailed update sent once a week.

We commented directly to the EPA regarding "Future Regulation for Emergency Release Notification Requirements for Animal Waste Air Emissions," and we signed on to a letter circulated by Food and Water Watch along with many environmental groups across the country.

Our *Weekly Update* also included information about a digester proposal and hearing in Waupaca, including details of a plan for carpooling to the hearing.

Request to support more restrictive manure spreading ordinance in Door County

We reported in the last issue that we were asked by a citizen to support an effort to convince the county to pass a manure spreading ordinance in Door County that was similar to the "Chapter 30" Groundwater Protection Ordinance in Kewaunee County. After discussions with land and water conservationists from Door and Kewaunee counties, it appeared that other than Kewaunee County's calendar moratorium on manure spreading versus Door County's non-frozen or snow-covered soil requirement, there was little difference.

Both conservationists were invited to speak at a Zoom presentation about the tools they use to control manure spreading. However, Kewaunee County's Davina Bonnes declined to participate noting that "in talking with Greg [Door County S&W Conservationist], the protections offered under our Groundwater Protection Ordinance are covered under Door County's current Ordinances or do not apply. Therefore, I do not see a need for a zoom meeting."

I attended a meeting on December 30 sponsored by some of the key folks seeking the manure spreading ordinance. At that meeting, I shared the information from the county conservationists and explained that to pass a manure spreading ordinance in Door County would require a referendum at every municipality. This would be a significant challenge because many municipalities north of Sturgeon Bay receive very little or no manure from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and would not be motivated to go through the referendum process.

As an alternative, we scheduled MEA attorney and farming laws specialist Adam Voskuil to give a presentation on requirements for a CAFO moratorium and other laws that could control factory farm manure pollution. In the presentation Adam confirmed the need for passing referendums at municipalities, but he also shared other strategies for passing manure spreading regulations more restrictive than Wisconsin regulations.

The presentation can be seen here: https://youtu.be/9W_uuSQO-do

The Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) vs the DNR decision is alarming!

In a 2-1 decision on March 6, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling in favor of the WMC vs the DNR. The decision undermines the state's ability to regulate PFAS and other emerging contaminants under Wisconsin's Spills Law. Environmental and public health advocates express hope that the state Supreme Court will ultimately reverse the decision, saying that if it stands, the decision could have far-reaching implications for the state's ability to protect Wisconsinites from toxic environmental pollution. We want to make sure the state doesn't lose that ability and that it continues to prioritize public health over industry profits.

Read more at: https://midwestadvocates.org/assets/news/Press-Release-2024-03-06-WMC-v-DNR-Appeals-Court-Decision.pdf

Informing members about PFAS legislation, SB 312 and LRB 5764.

SB 312 has been coined the bill with the poison pill by environmental groups. Since its introduction in May of 2023, we have followed this bill and informed members of our concerns. One concern was that it would weaken the state's spills law, which allows the DNR to hold polluters responsible for testing, cleanup, and remediation.

The Senate passed the bill with additional amendments in November. Those amendments were not well received by environmental groups. Midwest Environmental Advocates' Rob Lee believed the amended bill would further limit the DNR's ability to protect the public.

At the time of this writing, the Assembly passed the bill which allows funding to go to governments and individuals where it is needed to deal with PFAS contamination. However, Governor Evers previously informed Senate leaders that he would likely veto the bill due to the enforcement restraints placed on the DNR, and he reaffirmed that intent on February 27. There was no word as to the status of LRB 5764, which would allow the DNR to continue their work to establish ground water standards for PFAS in private wells.

In the *Weekly Update*, we also urged readers to tell legislators that they support LRB 5764. This bill would remove a procedural roadblock that is preventing the Wisconsin DNR from moving forward with setting health-based water quality standards for PFAS in groundwater.

Another bill related to groundwater that we are following is making its way through the legislature. Assembly Bill 64 and Senate Bill 58, could give homeowners with nitrate contamination in well water additional funding under the Well Water Compensation grant program. We will follow this bill and give updates in the *Weekly Update*.

The "Fill Bill" (SB 541 / AB 579)

The bill would allow the conversion of 'public trust lands' (lands that were lakebed at the time of statehood but have since been filled) to private ownership and use. These lands were lakebeds or riverbeds at the time of statehood but since then have been filled to extend the shoreline. Our position was that since Wisconsin's Constitution grants citizens the rights to waters of the state, these filled waters should not be lost forever to private ownership. The bill will likely go to the governor soon, and when it does, we will use the *Weekly Update* to urge readers to ask the governor to veto the bill.

Don't let our Legislature sell our shorelines. Tell the Governor to veto SB 541.

Photo courtesy of Midwest Environmental Advocates.

The Petitions to the EPA for Enforcement of The Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act.

The EPA took no recent action on these ongoing petitions. It is likely that meetings with EPA will be held in 2024.

Some recent victories!

We used the *Weekly Update* to help friends of the Pelican River Forest bring attention to protecting this valuable resource. In the 2024 State of the State address Gov. Evers announced that the DNR will take final action to protect more than 54,000 acres of forest in one of the largest forest conservation efforts in state history.

Midwest Environmental Advocates successfully defended the right of the DNR to regulate concentrated animal feeding operations. The DNR was sued by Wisconsin Dairy Alliance and Venture Dairy Cooperative with support from Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce. While CWAC was not able to be a party to this lawsuit, we cheered on the work of attorney Adam Voskuil.

Educational Efforts in the Community

As previously mentioned, we gave an online presentation on coal tar pavement sealants in January which can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zyTSpzvwbk. We also organized and hosted an online presentation on CAFO moratoriums and other laws to control CAFO expansion and reduce the water pollution they cause. See the presentation at https://youtu.be/9W_uuSQO-do

These Presentations Are Available from CWAC

Here is a list of current presentations that can be given in-person or via Zoom. Call or email us for scheduling. The presentations can be tailored to your group's geographic location, age, and available time. Also, contact us if you would like us to promote or co-sponsor your event or presentation.

- Citizen Action to Protect the Waters of Northeast Wisconsin
- Using Local, State, and Federal Laws to Protect the Waters of Northeast Wisconsin
- Communities on the Road to Zero Waste
- The Health Hazards of Burn Barrels
- The Health and Quality of Life Hazards from Manure Spraying
- The Health Threat from Coal Tar Pavement Sealants
- Micro-plastic Pollution from Clothing
- Food Waste Composting Made Easy

Newsletter Outreach

The Winter 2023-2024 letter was sent to 550 members in December. There are a limited number of printed newsletters remaining if you would like to distribute them to a friend, group, or organization. Newsletters are also available on our website at: https://www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org/newsletter/ Let us know if you would like printed copies of any of those issues.

Outreach through Newspaper and Radio

CWAC sends press releases to local media, and we are often contacted to comment on developing environmental issues.

Website Updates

Updated articles, resources, CWAC events, board member bios, and previous newsletters can be found on the website https://www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org/

CWAC Provides College Students with Valuable Learning Experiences.

We provide our interns with valuable experiences and strategies for managing a non-profit organization. Rachel

Weber, our fall intern, was hired as our administrative assistant, replacing Gracyn Holcomb, who graduated in December. UWGB Sophomore Jenna Strei is our spring semester intern.

Other Actions

Water Sampling for Sodium Chloride

We began water sampling at Baird Creek in December as part of a Lower Fox River Watershed monitoring program for sodium chloride from road salt entering the watershed. We will take a total of five water samples this season.

Winter Manure Spreading

We have established a team of manure spreading verifiers to monitor winter manure spreading based on satellite imagery. Due to the lack of snow cover, we have not yet received satellite images to verify.

Cultivation Monitoring

We continue to monitor for cultivation near bodies of water that are not in violation of the setback, which generally is only 5'. We notified Door County Soil and Water of one case in which cultivation occurred right to the water's edge of a creek.

CWAC Attends Meetings with Other Environmental Groups

We attended many of the monthly meetings with the directors of other state environmental groups and network with other state and national organizations. We attended the February meeting of Sustain Door to assist with planning educational activities in the coming year.

Citizen Complaints

Many of our more extensive actions, some requiring legal work, resulted from a follow-up of citizen complaints. Keep us in mind if you have an environmental concern and our support is needed.

CWAC's Non-Profit Status

To learn more about our non-profit status and financials, go to the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, Credential Lookup, and then go to Credential Search for Clean Water Action Council (https://www.wdfi.org/ice/berg/Registration/Financials.aspx?chid=933009&h=1122515367)

Please follow us on Facebook.
Click here for our page: ***Facebook***

https://www.facebook.com/cleanwateractioncouncil

Have you renewed your membership for 2024?

See your newsletter label or email notice which indicates the last year that you renewed.

Jane Benson joins the CWAC Board of Directors

Jane has been an independent web developer creating online presences for many kinds of businesses since 2008. She is a decades-long issues activist involved with League of Women Voters; Fair Maps Coalition; WI Grassroots Network; Citizen Action; and North Shore Fair Maps. Jane delved into PFAS forever chemicals, CAFOs, and farm nutrient runoff when she ran for state office.

Jane has a Bachelor of Arts in German with double minors in Biology and Chemistry; and holds technical college degrees, including E-Business Technology Specialist. For fun, she sings, takes photographs, hikes, and treasures her home in the country with her husband, Jeff.

Longtime member Rick Adamski joins the CWAC Board of Directors

Rick Adamski is a farmer from Shawano County. All his farming career has been dedicated to understanding how farming can best emulate the workings of nature. He has been guided by the writings of Aldo Leopold, Wendell Berry, Frances Moore Lappe', Robin Wall Kimmerer and many others.

Rick is managing the grass-based beef herd on their 240-acre farm. He is married to Valerie Dantoin. Their son Andrew grows fresh vegetables on the farm with his partner Heather Toman and their business partner Scott Rosenberg. Andrew is the 5th generation of the Adamski family operating this land. The family respects the long history of the Menominee people that occupied this land for countless generations. Rick and Valerie's daughter, Genevieve just recently started working for the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa as a wildlife specialist.

In 1980 Rick completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Soil Science from UW-Stevens Point. Since returning to the farm in the mid-80's, he has dedicated much time to conservation efforts and activism. He has many connections around the state and the nation as he has worked towards good agriculture and good conservation. He has served on many boards of directors, advisory councils, and various committees guiding the science, and policy of agriculture lands conservation efforts.

Rick is looking forward to working with the board and the members of the Clean Water Action Council, because his experience and passions bring him to this organization. Because he is an amateur philosopher/economist he has ideas beyond the normal scope of actions but understands the limits of societal change. He is a dreamer based in reality, but a persistent dreamer.

STOP THE USE OF COAL TAR PAVEMENT SEALANTS

Coal tar pavements contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) which are a known carcinogen.

Coal tar sealants are used in parking lots, driveways, and children's playgrounds and pose a risk to everyone, especially the sick, elderly, and young children, and are a biohazard to aquatic life.

Educational presentations are available to civic and governmental groups.

CLEAN WATER ACTION COUNCIL of Northeast Wisconsin

CWAC is available to help organize efforts to pass an ordinance to ban this substance from your community.

Contact us today to learn more at
contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org

920-421-8885

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Meetings, Events and Happenings

March 30, 10:00 AM
Baird Creek Preservation Owl Prowl
Christa McAuliffe Park, 3100 Sitka Street, Green Bay

Join owl expert, Mike, for a walk through the Greenway on Saturday, March 30th, at 10:00 a.m. Mike has been observing both Great Horned and Barred Owls in the Greenway, and he will lead you on a hike to try and observe them, and possibly get some photographs. Registration IS REQUIRED for this event as space is limited. Meet him at Christa McAuliffe Park (3100 Sitka Street). $5 per person, Baird Creek Members FREE

If you have questions about the hikes or about the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation, please contact us at 920.328.3505 or lexi@bairdcreek.org. Check out https://bairdcreek.org/ or www.facebook.com/BairdCreek for more information.

April 8, 6:00 PM (in person) or April 10, 12:00 PM, April 13, 12:00 PM (online)
Annual Spring Hearing and Public Input Opportunity

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will once again offer their annual opportunity for the public to provide input on a variety of natural resource-related questions with an in-person opportunity April 8, 2024, at 6 p.m. in each county or online starting at noon April 10 to noon on April 13, 2024. https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing

April 19, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
PFAS External Advisory Group
Attend online

Gov. Tony Evers declared 2019 the Year of Clean Drinking Water and signed Executive Order #40 [PDF exit DNR] in August 2019 to address the issue of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in Wisconsin.

The PFAS External Advisory Group is a collaborative forum for the DNR to solicit constructive feedback on PFAS initiatives in Wisconsin. This group is staffed by the DNR. Members include stakeholders, community members and interested parties from both private and public sectors. All meetings are open for the public to attend. https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/PEAG.html

April 22, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Earth Day: The Winged Garden: Tips to Turn Your Yard into a Butterfly Oasis
Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd, Green Bay

We'll cover butterfly identification, host plants for monarchs and many other butterfly species, best nectar plants and more. Participants will leave with a packet of wildflower seeds to grow at home. https://www.gbbg.org/events/earth-day-winged-garden/

April 18 - 22
Every Day is Earth Day
Various Locations in Fish Creek, Sturgeon Bay, and Egg Harbor

This event celebrates the people, organizations, and businesses that uphold our sustainable culture in Door County and beyond. Every Day is Earth Day comprises an environmentally focused weekend of resource exchange, an open house, guest speakers, demonstrations, films, and activities for people of all ages. https://www.everydayisearthdayfest.org/

May 4, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance: Watershed Cleanup
Pierce Park, 1035 W Prospect, Appleton

Northeast Wisconsin's largest volunteer trash cleanup is happening Saturday, May 4, 2024. Join over 1,600 volunteers as we clean up over 65 public sites in our watershed. We anticipate removing over 7,000 pounds of trash. Volunteer at your site from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. with celebration picnic from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
https://secure.qgiv.com/for/2024watershedcleanup/event/attendthe2024watershedcleanup/embed/?blm_aid=1176015

May 4, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Wisconsin Grassroots Festival
Lawrence University, Appleton

On May 4th, at Lawrence University in Appleton, WGN will be hosting its landmark 15th Annual Wisconsin Grassroots Network Festival, with this year's theme being 'Our Future Our Choice; Rural and Urban Together'. CWAC will be hosting a table at the event. Stop by to engage in conversation about efforts in our area.

May 15, 7:00 PM
Aldo Leopold Audubon Society PFAS Presentation
Zoom

PFAS Concerns, complexities, and clarifications will be discussed. This presentation is hosted by the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society, Central Wisconsin. Presentations are Free and Open to the Public. Presenter is Meleesa Johnson, the Wisconsin Green Fire Executive Director.
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rduyhrzguGNbu-azNWKsi3XoJ5VukX09v#/registration

June 21 - June 23
The Energy Fair: ReNew the Earth Institute
7558 Deer Rd, Custer, WI

Clean Energy and Sustainable Living: Each year The Fair brings over 11,500 attendees together to learn about clean energy and sustainability, connect with others, and take action towards a just energy transition. Join the MREA for a weekend of educational workshops, family-friendly events, live music, inspiring keynotes, camping, food trucks, solar-brewed beer, family activities, and so much more!
https://www.travelwisconsin.com/events/fairs-festivals/the-energy-fair-clean-energy-sustainable-living-41348

Dine and Bid for the Environment

Thursday, April 25, 5:00-8:30 p.m., Riverside Ballroom, 1560 Main St., Green Bay

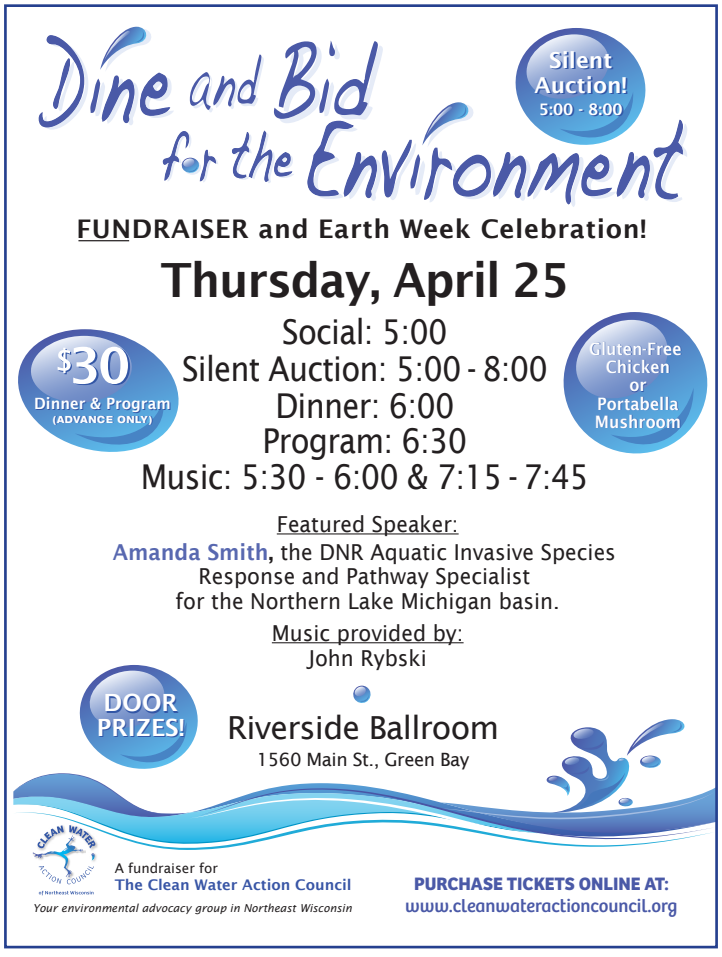
Our annual banquet features a silent auction with a huge selection of art, collectables, and unique gift certificates. The auction begins at 5 PM and ends at 8 PM.

Our dinner choices are gluten free, and mostly locally sourced and organically grown. Choose a roasted chicken quarter or a roasted portabella mushroom with Marianna sauce. Both include baby red potatoes, a vegetable, salad, gluten free dessert, and coffee. Tables can be reserved for parties of six.

*** The program includes our Environmental Citizen Award and introduction of board members. ***

Our featured speaker is **Amanda Smith**, an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Biologist for the DNR, pictured here on the job. Her work covers northeast Wisconsin including coordinating responses to high-profile AIS, leading AIS prevention efforts and is the point of contact for the public and partners. Originally from North Hudson, she has a BS from UW-Stout and an MS from UW-Madison. She values creativity and forward thinking inspired by the Seventh Generation.

*** Live Music, 5:30-6:00 and 7:15-7:45 PM by local folk musician John Rybski ***



John Rybski, a folk musician from Kewaunee County, began playing guitar and singing in coffee houses in high school. He learned guitar from friends and at workshops at the Old Town School of Folk Music with instructors including Pete Seeger. He has been performing at fund raisers and venues in northeast Wisconsin for the past ten years.

Make it a group gathering! Buy 5 adult tickets, get one free, and have a table reserved for your group. Use the enclosed order form, or go to www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org/events/ to order individual tickets with no group pricing.

COVID-19 Information

We are limiting attendance to 200 people at the Riverside Ballroom which has a capacity of 575 people, and we will follow the CDC's local recommendations. Tables will be set for six people instead of the usual 8-10.

FOOD WASTE
Composting Workshop

Tues., April 16, 5:00 - 6:00 PM
at Mary Ann Cofrin Hall, Rm. 201, UWGB

FREE workshop with Dean Hoegger and John Hermanson

- **Dig into** surprising facts about what really happens when you put your food waste in the trash or garbage disposal.
- **Discover** the many benefits of composting instead.
- **Learn** techniques, equipment, and which items you can compost.
- **Get tips** for small yards, renters, or year-round indoor composting.

Call 920-421-8885
or email contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org to register

Food and Yard Waste Composters Available

The composter features a locking lid, two doors for removing compost, and comes in two sections plus the lid for easy transport, set up, and take down. It can easily be moved to a new garden location. Made from a sturdy sun absorbing plastic, they have been in operation in Northeast Wisconsin for over a decade.

A limited number of composters will be available from CWAC this spring. Help the environment and produce your own soil amendment by composting your food and yard waste.

Food and Yard Waste Composters can be purchased for $60 by contacting us at contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org or call 920-421-8885

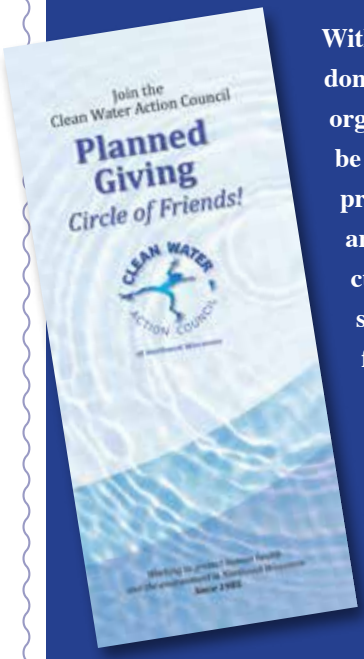
A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from an IRA to an approved charity will exclude that amount from your taxable income. QCDs also can help satisfy your required minimum distributions (RMDs) and do not require that you itemize. You must be 70.5 years old to take advantage of this tax benefit option to giving.

Gifts of Securities, including appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund are another way to reduce your tax burden. They can be outright or a Charitable Gift Annuity. No donor info is transmitted with a stock transfer.

Grant from a Donor-Advised fund (DAF) allows recurring gifts. It is an investment account used for charitable giving to manage your tax situation.

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is often referred to as a "split gift" because a portion is an immediate donation, and a portion is invested to for future income payments. You must be 65 or older. A CGA may be funded by cash donations, securities, or gifts of personal property.

Join Our Planned Giving Circle of Friends



Without planned giving donations or legacies, our organization would not be able to do the work of protecting human health and the environment at its current level. Please consider supporting our endowment fund at the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation with a gift in your will or bequest.

Contact us for a Planned Giving Brochure

Join or Renew Your Membership to Clean Water Action Council for 2024!

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member Date_____

( ) $25 Individual ( ) $50 Sustaining **(this amount would really help)**

( ) $35 Family ( ) $100 Donor ( ) $500 Benefactor

( ) Non-member donation of $ _____for_____

( ) Other $_____

( ) Please send me information about making a planned gift to CWAC

Name(s)_____

Address _____

City _____State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Receive FREE newsletters with each membership.

Please choose one... ☐ Printed version ☐ E-mailed version

Send check or money order to:

Clean Water Action Council
P.O. Box 9144
Green Bay, WI 54308

To pay with a credit card or to make a monthly contribution, please go to:
https://www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org/membership/

CWAC is a registered non-profit organization.
Your contributions may be tax-deductible. ***Thank you!***

.....

PLEASE VOLUNTEER!
(BE SURE TO PROVIDE PHONE NUMBER ABOVE)

☐ the newsletter ☐ events ☐ work at office ☐ mailings

☐ joining or leading one of the committees ☐ other

Office location:
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2420 Nicolet Drive
Green Bay, WI 54311

www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org

Find us on Facebook or updates on hearings and current or upcoming events.

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contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org

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of Northeast Wisconsin
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Order your tickets today!
CWAC BANQUET
April 25, 2024

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For previous newsletters, go to: www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org/newsletter/