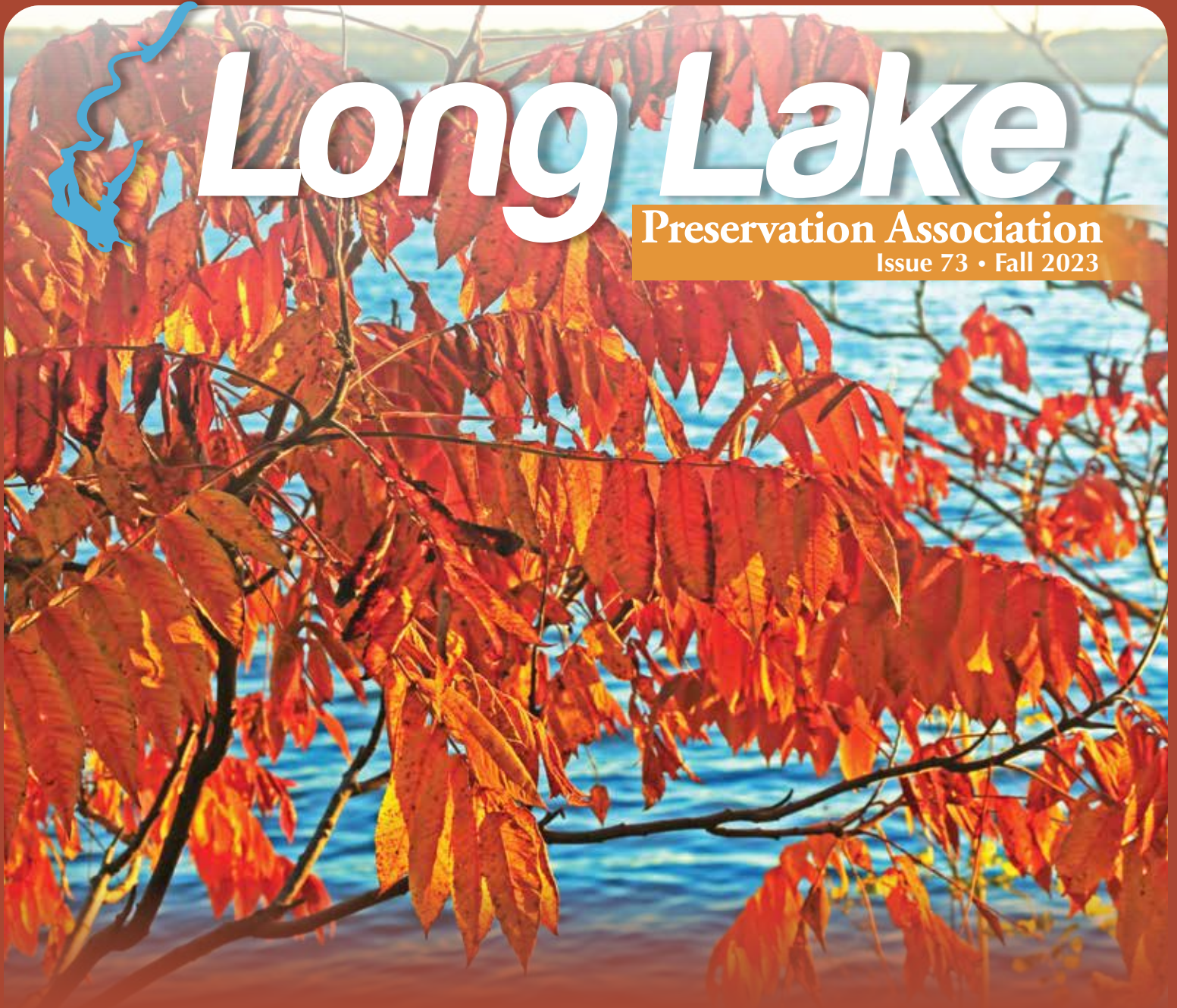


To preserve and protect Long Lake, its watershed and ecosystems



# Long Lake

Preservation Association  
Issue 73 • Fall 2023



— Photo by Joe Thrasher

## *President's Letter*

There has been a great deal of activity this summer on Long Lake. In addition to the usual good times enjoying water recreation with friends and family, a great deal of effort has gone into work on developing our Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (CLMP). In this newsletter, Megan Mader details many of the steps we have taken to gather information to produce the plan. Recently we finished the Shoreline Habitat Assessment. Twenty-two of our members participated in this activity. Today I got word that the Northland College students finished the survey of the coarse woody debris on most of the shoreline of the lake and soon staff from the Tomahawk Scout Camp will complete this survey on the shoreline of the scout property. This will complete the data collection for the CLMP. We appreciated the comments

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## *President's Letter continued*

many of you shared with us on the draft of the Goals and Objectives section of the CLMP. Over the next several months, we will complete the entire plan and make it available to you for your review. Again, we will look forward to the feedback you provide before finalizing the plan and submitting it to the DNR for their approval.

This summer thirteen members of the LLPA volunteered to monitor the loon activities on Long Lake. From comments shared by these members, not only did they help monitor the loon activities on Long Lake, but they also learned about loon behavior and shared their experiences and love of loons with friends and family.

In another article in this newsletter, Randy Poznansky provides updates on the buoys on the Long Lake. We often take it for granted that there will be buoys positioned to warn us of rocks or other submerged hazards, or to remind us to slow down for the safety of boaters and the shoreline. Again, we all benefit from the efforts of the volunteers involved with the maintenance of these buoys that protect us when boating.

There is a theme in these updates...we benefit from the many dedicated volunteers that provide a valuable service in maintaining Long Lake and promoting safe and enjoyable recreation on Long Lake. During my 18 months as President, I have been impressed with the many volunteers with whom I have spoken and developed a great appreciation for the many of you that volunteer your time and talents to the Long Lake community. If you are interested in being more involved with the LLPA, please contact me. Thank You.

Another "Thank You" goes to Sandy Campbell. Sandy has stepped up and with the endorsement of the Board of Directors agreed to serve as Vice President of the LLPA. She will be filling the term that opened when Steve May unfortunately had to resign. Assuming the membership concurs at the next annual meeting, she will become the next President of the LLPA.

I hope you all enjoy the splendor of the fall season on Long Lake.

Byron J. Crouse

President – Long Lake Preservation Association

# TOMAHAWK SCOUT CAMP

## CONTINUES TRADITION OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE AND EDUCATION IN 2023

Article by Ian Flickinger

As Tomahawk Scout Camp adjourns its 70th summer of operation on Long Lake - serving over 3000 youth this year - it continues to be a hub for outdoor education, youth development, and character-building experiences.

### Discovery Day Camp Delights Young Residents of Long Lake

Among the highlights of this celebratory season was the continued extension of Tomahawk's programs to the young residents of Long Lake through the Discovery Day Camp program. Throughout the week of July 4th, local kids were dropped off at the shores of the Scout Camp by car or by boat and picked up in the afternoon following a fun-filled day of activities from archery to tie-dye, climbing to nature exploration, and boating to horse rides. This summer, Tomahawk's discovery programs served nearly 100 youth outside of scouting. To join the fun next year, check out [Camp.NorthernStar.org/Discovery](http://Camp.NorthernStar.org/Discovery).



### Tomahawk Splashes Back into Offsite Odysseys with Whitewater Kayaking Overnight



Another noteworthy triumph of Tomahawk's summer season was the revival of its overnight whitewater kayaking program, where participants spend two days paddling down the Brule River learning how to safely navigate the rapids and explore the world of low-impact camping adventures. The success of this saga was a mile marker on Tomahawk's trail back to the offsite adventures offered before the mudslide summer of 2020 – a journey that will continue into next summer with the opening of a new weeklong sailing program in the Apostle Islands.



For those interested in learning more about Tomahawk Scout Camp and its programs, visit our website at [www.camptomahawk.org](http://www.camptomahawk.org) or stay connected through our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/camptomahawk](http://www.facebook.com/camptomahawk).

# Buoys on Long Lake

Article by Randy Poznansky

Water buoys are an important part of safely navigating the world's waterways. They exist on many lakes, rivers, harbors and oceans around the world so a multitude of international regulations have been established controlling their use.

The same is true for buoys on Long Lake and over the years the LLPA has been involved with the maintenance, replacement and working with the volunteers who manage them. Please make no mistake, this is a lot of work for those volunteers and we owe them a special thank you for taking up their valuable time to manage these buoys (please see list below).

We want to be clear that the LLPA is not and has no desire to be the buoy police, but we do want to educate and inform as a service to our readers. To legally place a non-mooring buoy on Long Lake the riparian has to go to the local township for its approval of the permit, and then the town will submit it to the DNR for final approval.

1. **Every buoy regardless of use requires a permit** except mooring buoys within 150 feet of shore.
2. **Mooring Buoys:** The mooring buoy is for mooring a boat and no permit or DNR approval is required if it is within 150 feet of the shore. A neighbor's permission is not required unless the neighbor's access is negatively impacted. For mooring buoys 150 to 200 feet from shore (200 feet is the maximum) a permit is required from the Town which first must approve it and then submit it to DNR for final approval. Please note that a mooring buoy must conform to the uniform navigation aid (see below).



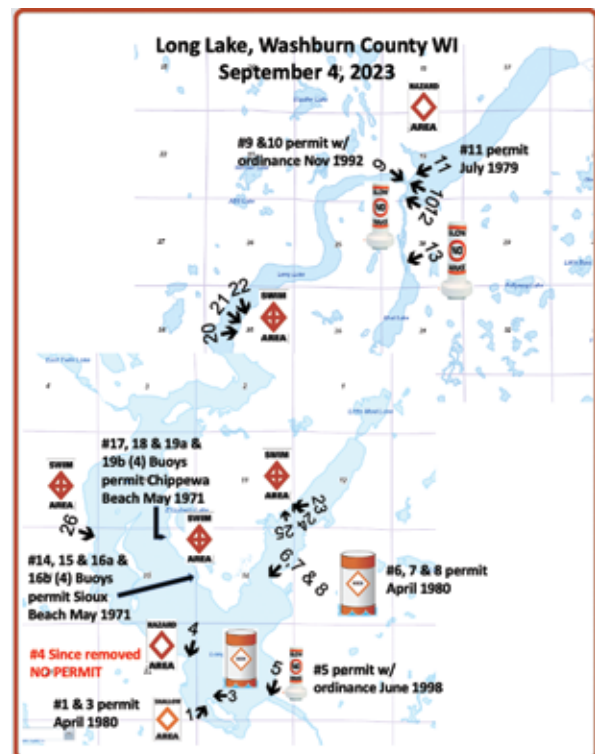
**Mooring buoys are white with a blue band and are spherical or ovate in shape.**

3. **Control Area Buoys:** Marks an area of restriction such as "Slow No Wake" speeds which not only requires a permit but a town ordinance as well.
4. **Hazard Buoys:** Such as "Danger Rocks" requires a permit but not a town ordinance.
5. **Swim Area Buoys:** Swim area buoys require a permit but not a town ordinance. Swim area buoys can only

be approved for placement in conjunction with swim areas operated by resorts, clubs, or civic organizations that are open to the public or used by large numbers of people. The Tomahawk Scout Camp is a good example.

6. **Informational Buoys:** Informational buoys require a permit but not a town ordinance. Informational buoys inform boaters of direction, distances, locations, rules, etc. The informational buoy must be white with an orange square with the information on the buoy printed in black. The buoy must be cylindrical in shape, a minimum of 7" in diameter and at least 36" above the waterline.

For those who want more details on buoy regulations the WDNR has created **A Guideline for Creating Local Boating Ordinances and Placing Waterway Markers in Wisconsin Waters** which can be found at the link: <https://widnr.widen.net/s/lldpzb12s/le0317>



Current Long Lake Buoys with Placement History

Continued on Page 5.

## Long Lake Buoys

Location/Reason	Responsibility
1. Holy Island Shallows (#2 removed)	Andy Bangsberg
3. Holy Island Rocks & Shallows	Andy Bangsberg
4. Little Bear Point - Tree fall and No Wake Zone (Removed)	Tim Kiehl
5. Entrance to Dam - Shallow Water and No Wake Zone	Ronda Moe & Mark Kohler
6, 7 & 8. - Rock Hazards	Jim Kleven (Dave's Outboard)
9 & 10. Narrows - No Wake Zone	Randy Krautkramer
11. Hazard Area	Paul Gubrud
12 & 13. Mud Lake - No Wake Zone	Randy Krautkramer
14, 15, 16a, 16b, 17, 18, 19a, 19b, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, & 25. - No Wake / No Boating Zone as these are swim only areas for the Tomahawk Scout Camp	Brian Halloran - Tomahawk Scout Camp Director
26. Marawarden - Swim Area	Dan Lubensky

## Controlled Area Buoy

- A white buoy or sign with an orange and black lettering indicates a controlled or restricted area on the water. "Slow-No Wake" means operating your boat at the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but not greater than 5 mph.



## Hazard Buoys

- A white buoy or sign with an orange diamond warns watercraft operators of dangerous rocks, dams, rapids, etc. The source of the danger may also be lettered in black.
- Rocks or logs are abundant in certain areas of the lake, please use caution when boating in these areas.

# HUNT HILL HAPPENINGS

Although construction on our new Welcome Center and toilet/shower house limited access to parking and areas of camp earlier in the summer, we were able to reopen all of camp by mid-July. The new building is a more welcoming space for visitors, and will feature nature displays, along with the offices, laundry facilities, public restrooms, and showers for our residential programs. The new building was funded by three donors and improves accessibility and safety in camp. On top of improving accessibility in camp, we also improved it along our trails by widening, flattening and slightly rerouting the Vole Trail for an easier hiking option for visitors. For those with limited mobility, we offer rides on our new-to-us electric golf cart. Rides can be requested by contacting Hunt Hill ahead of time at 715-635-6543.

In addition to hosting the wonderful Cakes at the Lake events this summer, in partnership with the LLPA, Hunt Hill also continued to offer crowd favorites like our Youth Day Camps, adult Beasts & Beer programs, the upcoming Glow Hike, our winter Soup Lunches and more. Be sure to check out our website, [www.hunthill.org](http://www.hunthill.org) and like and follow us on Facebook to stay in the loop about upcoming events like our luminary hike, bird count, and the 2024 program line up.

Our seven miles of trails remain free and open to the public any time during daylight hours. Maps can be found on our website or at the kiosks around camp. The Discovery Trail, aka Barred Owl Trail, continues to host I Spy items that change each month - making it a fun monthly family outing. In the winter, snowshoes are available at no cost in the screen porch located on the west side of the farmhouse. Two restrooms, one on the north side of the new office and one on the west side of the Richard Grand Recreation Hall are open during daylight hours year-round and a new freeze proof water fountain and bottle filler is available near the restroom on the north side of the new office.

Article by Nikki Janisin  
Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary



Bog Trail at Hunt Hill, photo credit Laura Ward.

# Loon Report



Article and Photos by Byron Crouse

2023 has been an active year for the loons on Long Lake. There were 8 nesting pairs this year but only 4 pairs were successful hatching chicks, fewer than in recent summers. Seven chicks hatched and one chick was lost over the July 4th holiday in the Rice Island region. On a recent observation trip around the lake, there were 15 adults sighted along with 6 juveniles. This is important since these juveniles are now 12 weeks of age or older. At this point it is felt these juveniles are now able to be independent and will migrate to their winter grounds later this fall.



*Adult loon with fall plumage, characterized by 'graying' around the bill, loss of the distinctive 'necklace' and loss of the white square patches over their body.*

Our loons faced harsh challenges this summer. There is a black fly species that targets loons' heads and eyes. They can harass loons to the point that the loons abandon their nest and eggs. Two of our nesting pairs this year abandoned their nest because of the black fly harassment. This was noted throughout northern Wisconsin and Minnesota and felt to be the result of optimal temperatures during the black fly season at the end of May and early June – prime nesting time for loons.

We also observed more territorial disputes this summer. This is where a nesting pair occupying a prime nesting area is confronted by a loon searching for a nesting area. Since the male loon selects the nesting area, it is usually a male that confronts the nesting pair. The behavior seen during a dispute between males can range from swimming in circles sizing up each other, bill dipping, vocalizing, and synchronized diving to physical contact with wing flapping and striking each other with their bills. This can be as extreme as a fight to the death. We had one nesting pair involved in an extreme territorial dispute and the nesting male appeared to be driven off the nest with its two eggs abandoned. We also had a very dedicated nesting pair incubate their nest for 8 weeks (usual incubation is 4 weeks) before abandoning their nest. It appears that the egg that was laid was infertile.

The eagle population on Long Lake appears to be expanding. Eagles are a natural predator of loon chicks. While we did notice more episodes of eagles harassing loon families and diving after loon offspring, we did not document any successful eagle attacks.

The loons are beginning to migrate, leaving for the Gulf of Mexico. The first to migrate are the adult loons that did not have any offspring. The adults with juveniles are the next to leave, doing so mid-

October to November. The last to migrate are the juveniles. While it may seem that they are being abandoned by their parents, they are independent and spend the last weeks preparing for the migration.



*12 plus week old juvenile loon with lighter colored bill, a brownish tint to their body feathers with a cream colored crescent on the end of their body feathers.*

This year we continued to participate in the LoonWatch Program out of Northland College. With their encouragement, we had a group of 13 people on Long Lake participate in monitoring the loon activities. This not only resulted in more observations, but also resulted in more people learning about the life cycle of loons and participate in helping to protect the loons on our lake. This year we were able to document the nesting and hatching of chicks on Little Mud Lake and then swimming through the culvert to reside on Long Lake while maturing. If you're interested in participating in LoonWatch on Long Lake next year, please contact me at [president@longlakellpa.org](mailto:president@longlakellpa.org).

# COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Article by Megan Mader

The Long Lake Preservation Association was one of six lake groups to be awarded a \$25,000 DNR Surface Water Comprehensive Planning Grant in March. This funding is being used for the development of the Long Lake Comprehensive Management Plan. A Management Plan is required to be eligible for other potential WDNR funding for projects. The plan will incorporate new and previously collected data about Long Lake's watershed, fishery, water quality, plant community, and more. This information will help determine management recommendations and decisions to meet short-term and long-term goals for Long Lake for the next ten years.

A social survey was distributed to the LLPA membership in June to help prioritize the goals of the plan – 273 people responded to the survey. Following the survey, the LLPA Board of Directors discussed survey responses and formed the Goals and Objectives for the comprehensive plan. The Goals and Objectives were made public and open for public comment in August – 25 people provided input. There will be an upcoming opportunity to view and comment on the entirety of the draft comprehensive plan.

For additional background data collection, the LLPA completed a shoreline habitat assessment, a coarse woody habitat assessment, and a photo survey loop of Long Lake. This project will provide information on the state of Long Lake's shoreline and areas where projects could be implemented to improve habitat, protect the shoreline from erosion, and preserve natural shoreline components.

These projects involved a large number of volunteers and time. A big 'thank you' is owed to the many volunteers who contributed to collecting data and to those who responded to the surveys distributed this summer. All your efforts and involvement will make the Long Lake Comprehensive Plan better and much more likely to be successful.

The following volunteers provided over 250 hours of combined volunteer time to assess Long Lake's shoreline this summer:

- Joe Thrasher
- Byron Crouse
- Pam Crouse
- Jim Schlesinger
- Jill Schlesinger
- Eric Anderson
- Brian Halloran
- Sandy Campbell
- Kevin Campbell
- Randy Poznansky
- Sage Dunham
- Randy Krautkramer
- Jeff Linkenheld
- Carol Linkenheld
- Jennifer Brigham
- Dan Beebe
- Kathy Chenault
- Lenny Chenault
- Norman Davis
- DJ Ehrike
- Tex Shockey
- Diane Pollock

Upcoming projects include the development of an Aquatic Plant Management Plan (a necessary document required by the WDNR for aquatic plant management permits); a Rapid Response Plan in the case that aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels or Eurasian watermilfoil enter the lake; a 'preferred enhanced wake' boating map to provide guidance on the best areas for skiing, wakeboarding, etc.; and continued education projects.

If you have questions about the survey, shoreline assessment, comprehensive plan, upcoming projects, or volunteering with the LLPA, please reach out to [info@longlakellpa.org](mailto:info@longlakellpa.org) and keep an eye out for upcoming events through constant contact and the LLPA website at [longlakellpa.org](http://longlakellpa.org). The LLPA appreciates your help and your shared passion for preserving and protecting Long Lake, its watershed, and its ecosystems!



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— Photo by Joe Thrasher