

To preserve and protect Long Lake, its watershed and ecosystems



# Long Lake

**Preservation Association**

Issue 76 • Spring 2025



## *Ice Out*

— Photo by Randy Poznansky

### *President's Message*

It happened while we slept. I'm surprised I didn't hear a thing because it was taking place all around us. The leaves crept out of tiny branches and have now created a yellow-green haze throughout the woods. Naked objects in yards and behind sheds whose looks improve with a shawl of leaves are now returning to modesty. It is an amazing event that we know is coming and that happens every year, yet it is always a surprise.

A steady week of warm temperatures and longer days has coaxed these leaves out of hiding. Their patient wait is over, and they proudly unfurl in a slow but steady way. It is if they know our eyes need time to adjust to the greenness. So welcome back green, we missed you.

And it may be a welcome back to Long Lake for you as well. The Long Lake Preservation Association has been busy all winter planning how to pursue our mission to preserve Long Lake and its watershed. Some of the projects we are working on are as follows:

*Continued on Page 2*

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## President's Message continued

-Yellow Flag Iris - They may look pretty but you do not want them on your shore crowding out native plants and creating a dense mat of roots. They are toxic to pets and children. We are working with EcoNorth to treat the YFI at no cost to residents; it is fully funded by LLPA and supported by your donations. For more information from our lake scientist, Megan Sorensen, please see the article that follows in this newsletter.

-In response to many concerns and in line with the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan, the LLPA has researched and created an educational map to highlight areas where large wakes will do the least damage to our lake. This map will be posted at the boat landings and shared in other ways throughout the summer. Please see the following article for more information.

-NexGen Campaign and proposed social event—Our goal of lake preservation has always had the next generation in mind. We are hoping to expand our membership to include this group of lake residents and vacationers. Please encourage your young adult children to join LLPA.

-Coffee around the lake—We plan to continue our Saturday morning coffees at our local lake establishments. Residents came together last summer and enjoyed sharing information and ideas on lake preservation as well as suggesting improvements to the LLPA website.

-In line with our Comprehensive Lake Management plan, we will begin a phosphorous study to determine if internal loading is contributing to excess phosphorous and creating algal blooms in the North Basin of Long Lake.

-LLPA will sponsor 3 pancakes breakfasts this summer at Hunt Hill Nature Center. The pancake breakfast is from 8:00 am-9:45 with a program following the breakfast. Don't miss Cakes at the Lake!

- LLPA will provide convenient and clean Porta Potties at Blackhawk and Todd Road boat landings, as well as trash receptacles. Let's keep our lake pristine!

- Clean Boats Clean Waters –LLPA will continue to fight Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) by providing decontamination equipment at the boat landings. It's the law:

- INSPECT your boat, trailer and equipment
- REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading and before transporting on a public highway).
- DRAIN all water from boats, motors and all equipment.
- NEVER MOVE live fish away from a waterbody.
- DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.
- BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer. Use leftover minnows only under certain conditions.

-We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on Saturday May 31. Registration begins at 8:30 am and the meeting will begin at 9:00 am at Tomahawk Scout Camp.

Sandy Hovey Campbell  
President – Long Lake Preservation Association

# NEXT GEN IS NOW

Article by DJ Ehrike

As we work to broaden our reach and grow our support for maintaining our near and dear Long Lake our lake association is embarking on multiple projects. “LLPA Next Gen” is aimed specifically at the next generation of lake enthusiasts, while recognizing the value of our current and past generations which have created a rich family and community history on Long Lake! As we work to grow our membership in all areas of the lake and watershed, we also want to encourage and promote generational and community membership.

In addition, “LLPA Next Gen” wants to hear your stories, what brought your family to Long Lake and the reasons you keep coming back. What traditions, past and present, bring your children, grandchildren, nieces & nephews, extended family, and friend community to the lake? It is our hope to share these in the 2026 calendar (for more detail see “Help Build a Calendar” in this issue) and, if stories keep coming, in future newsletters as well. Subjects may include, for example:

- Family get-together history, lake community events, and/or special places and events that make or have made your Long Lake experience special.
- Favorite past time or event (planned or by chance) that has become a tradition that brings you back to the lake.

Please submit stories and photos to [ltlport@gmail.com](mailto:ltlport@gmail.com), cc: [musicaldje@yahoo.com](mailto:musicaldje@yahoo.com). Please include a phone number in case we have questions, and thanks for sharing.

## Help Build a Calendar

It may still be spring, but it’s time to start work on the 2026 LLPA calendar. Once again, we want to focus on you, our members, and how you enjoy the lake. And, as explained in the companion article “Next Gen is Now,” we wish to include younger lake enthusiasts.

Long Lake has a treasured multi-generational culture and we want to highlight your “Next Gen” stories. Share your generational memories of times on Long Lake... fun around the campfire, making s’mores, digging worms, fishing, and boating. We’d love to include original artwork from the young people in your life!

Submit photos, drawings and artwork work that illustrate:

- The traditions, past and present, that bring your children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews and extended family to the lake
- How the children in your life partake in the lake
- Activities and annual events you enjoy with multiple generations
- Sneak Preview: one calendar page will feature this artwork by President Sandy Campbell’s grandson.

Email submissions or your ideas to [ltlport@gmail.com](mailto:ltlport@gmail.com), cc: [musicaldje@yahoo.com](mailto:musicaldje@yahoo.com). Stories should be about 300 words. Need help with writing or photography, no problem. Reach out to an LLPA board member. Let’s share our Long Lake Next Gen experiences and create a memorable 2026 LLPA calendar!





# Wake Boat Concerns

Article by Megan Sorenson  
Northwest Regional Planning Commission

In response to our 2023 member survey, many people voiced concerns about large wakes and shoreline erosion. To deal with these concerns LLPA has been working to develop a map as an educational guide for boaters to preserve and protect Long Lake while enjoying its boating opportunities.

How do large wakes affect the lake? Large wakes – from all types of boats – can drastically accelerate shoreline erosion, re-suspend sediments and reduce water clarity, damage and uproot aquatic plants, and impact habitat for fish and wildlife. For example, large waves can wash out a loon's nest, and the suspended sediment impairs visibility and hence their ability to forage for food.

Based on the evolving science on large wake impacts and the concerns voiced in the 2023 survey, the LLPA has researched recommendations for mitigating large wakes and has mapped areas of the lake where recreation activities are least likely to have substantial negative impacts.

The Recommendations:

1. Obey the State of Wisconsin Slow-No-Wake law within 100 feet of the shoreline. Personal watercraft must operate at slow-no-wake speed within 100' of other boats and 200' from shore.
2. Reduce the size of your wake within 500 feet of the shoreline.
3. Reduce the size of your wake in areas less than 20 feet deep.
4. Stay 500 feet away from DNR designated Sensitive Areas\* that provide critical habitat for the lake.
5. Have fun and be safe!

These recommendations (other than the Slow-No-Wake law) are recommendations arising from various studies, not enforceable law. This project is designed to assemble in one place both state law and current recommendations from various studies to serve as an educational tool to help protect and preserve Long Lake. It is important to state that we desire for all users of legal watercraft, from canoes to wakeboats, to be able to enjoy the lake without inadvertently damaging it. It should be noted, however, that the science of the enhanced wake issue is evolving. Studies are ongoing, and further recommendations are expected. There have been statewide calls for outright bans on wakeboats, and some legislative action is a possibility. If there are changes we will keep you posted. In all events we are hopeful that a little bit of education and common courtesy will allow us all to share our Long Lake resource in an equitable manner.

We posted these recommendations and an early draft of the map for public comment last summer, and received significant response, which we have incorporated as much as possible. Based on present state law, our research of studies to date and your recommendations, we created the accompanying map, available on the LLPA web site and to be displayed at the public boat landings, as an educational tool for boaters to help preserve and protect Long Lake. Happy and safe boating.

\*DNR designated sensitive areas are at high risk for damage to the shoreline and lake floor when boats creating large wakes are in operation. In these areas we ask that you do not operate your boats in a manner that creates unnecessarily large or enhanced wakes. In general, a properly trimmed boat operating at cruising speed will make a sufficiently acceptable wake to operate near these areas. To view a more detailed map of these areas go to <http://longlakellpa.org/resources> and click on 1998 Long Lake Sensitive Area Survey Report under Informational Material.

# LONG LAKE WAKE ZONES

Long Lake is a place we all share. To ensure the healthiest lake possible please be mindful of your boat's impact on the shoreline, lake floor, and other boaters.



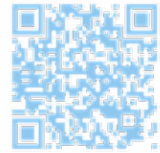
The Water Sports Industry Association reminds you to wake responsibly:

1. Minimize repetitive passes
2. Keep music at a responsible level
3. Stay 200' from other boats

Other than the Slow-No-Wake law, these recommendations are dependent on your good citizenship.

We hope that we can all agree how important it is to preserve and protect Long Lake.

Learn More



## Public Access

Please help prevent invasive species and follow instructions on the decontamination stations.

## Sensitive Areas

These areas are valuable habitat and extra consideration should be given to the impact of wakes and prop wash. Sensitive areas are at high risk for damage to the shoreline and lake bottom when boats creating large wakes are in operation. In this zone, we ask that you do not operate your boats in a manner that artificially creates large waves or enhanced wakes. In general, a properly trimmed boat cruising at speed will make an acceptable wake to operate in this area.

## Enhanced Wake Boating Area:

**Have fun, be safe:** This area has the water depths and distance from shore to tolerate all types of recreation, including artificially enhanced wake activities. It is encouraged that boats operating with the purpose of generating larger wakes do so in these open water areas.

## 100' from shore: Slow-No-Wake Zone for boats

This law is set and enforced by the state of Wisconsin.

## 200' from shore: Slow-No-Wake Zone for personal watercraft

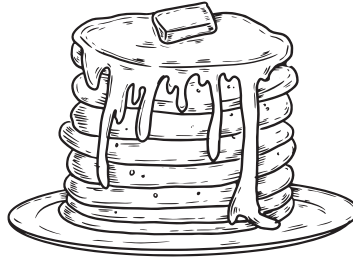
This law is set and enforced by the state of Wisconsin.



Map is informational only, not intended for navigation

# CAKES AT THE LAKE 2025

*(And Other Hunt Hill Programs)*



The ever popular Cakes at the Lake, presented at Hunt Hill Nature Center, is back for this summer. The all you care to eat pancake breakfast, put on by Hunt Hill, opens at 8:00 AM. The cost is \$8 per person, \$4 for children ages 4 to 12. Breakfast is followed by a free and open to the public nature oriented program, produced by LLPA, from 10:00 TO 11:00. You may attend either or both. The program schedule for this summer is as follows:

## **Snake, Rattle & Roll with Snake Discovery Center • Saturday, June 28, 2025**

Join us for an exciting, hands-on program exploring the reptiles and amphibians of Minnesota and Wisconsin! Watch a salamander eat, debunk turtle myths, and maybe even touch a snake, if you're up to it! This program will feature native turtles, snakes, a salamander, and exotic reptiles. After the presentation, enjoy a chance to interact with the animals!

## **Raptors of the Great Lakes Region with Chris Cold, Retired Wildlife Educator • Saturday, July 19, 2025**

This family-friendly program introduces you to hawks, owls, osprey, and eagles that call this area home. Learn how to identify these incredible birds and discover their behaviors, habitats, and important roles in the environment. You'll also gain a new appreciation for raptors as key indicators of a healthy ecosystem and reflect on their place in the world we share. Christian Cold is a retired wildlife technician and educator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. His presentations typically include the display and interpretation of live, native animals which he maintains for this purpose.

## **A Far Side to Birding with John Bates, Naturalist & Author • Saturday, August 9, 2025**

Birds! Their evolution, natural selection, population dynamics, adaptations, reproductive strategies, behaviors, migration, management – here's Birding 101 in 45 minutes through the comic lens of Far Side cartoons. Laugh your way to enriching a hiking/paddling adventure by knowing more about the birds you'll see and hear in the woods, on the water and along the shores.

*If you enjoy nature related programs in which you can actively participate, Hunt Hill will also be presenting the following:*

## **Citizen Science Programs:**

### **Bluebird Nest Watch Training • Saturday, May 3, 2025**

Visit Hunt Hill and learn how to identify a bluebird, the importance of nest watching, and how to conduct your own nest watch! After we touch base with a quick presentation, we will work outside checking the bluebird nests around Hunt Hill's main campus and prairie.

### **Snapshot WI Camera Checks • Thursday, May 29, 2025 & Thursday, August 28, 2025**

Let's discover wildlife together! Hunt Hill partners with the Wisconsin DNR and provides data needed to help support and inform wildlife management decisions. Join us as we walk to our trail camera and see what is out and about Hunt Hill!



**Bat Roost Counts • Sunday, June 1, 2025 & Friday, July 11, 2025**

Help track bat populations by participating in our roost count! Experience a twilight setting, observe bat roosting sites, and contribute valuable data to ongoing conservation efforts. Embrace the mysteries of the nocturnal world while aiding in the protection of these essential and elusive creatures.

**Youth Programs:****Little Explorers • Saturday, May 17, 2025, Saturday, June 14, 2025 & Saturday, August 16, 2025**

Join Hunt Hill for a fun morning of stories, crafts, songs and nature activities geared towards 3–6 year olds!

**Day Camps • Monday–Thursday of the following weeks: June 23rd, July 7th, July 14th, July 21st, August 4th**

Day Camps for children ages 7-12 feature environmental-themed learning activities, games, swimming, and crafts in small, age-appropriate groups.

**Two-Day Workshops:****Amazing Migratory Birds • Saturday, May 17 – Sunday, May 18, 2025**

Please join us for a fun and informative weekend of presentations and guided birding with Bill Volkert, retired WI DNR educator and naturalist. Bill has been featured as Wisconsin's bird expert on Wisconsin Public Radio for more than 30 years. He has traveled the world birding and teaching about birds.

**Geology of WI • Thursday, July 17 – Friday, July 18, 2025**

Dr. Ken Bradbury, retired Wisconsin State Geologist and director of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, will lead this two-day workshop on the geology of Wisconsin.

**Lake Ecology & Shoreline Conservation • Saturday, September 6 – Sunday, September 7, 2025**

This workshop will introduce concepts of Lake Ecology, especially as they pertain to shoreland protection and restoration on lakefront properties. Other topics include best practices for lakeshore restoration, advantages of native plants, the benefits of aquatic plants, “fish sticks” and practical help with grants and resources for restoration. The workshop will include indoor lectures and outdoor field trips, including visiting examples of best management practices of lakefront properties on nearby lakes.



# Fish Sticks Update



Article by Eric Anderson

The last of the fish sticks projects that were approved in the permit obtained in 2022 were completed in February.

Randy Krautkramer led the effort in getting the permit approved in 2022. Randy asked me earlier this year if I could take over the LLPA's part in getting the fish sticks placed this year, as he was not going to be available. Fish sticks placement is usually done in February, when weather and ice conditions allow.

The permit from 2022 was set to expire last year, but due to the poor ice conditions the last two winters, we were granted an extension to 2025. There were four locations remaining on the permit. One was at Rice Island and the other three were north of the scout's White Pine beach. All the fish sticks projects were on Camp Tomahawk shoreline. Each of the four placements consist of 4 bundles of four trees each, placed on the ice and anchored to the shore with steel cables. So, a total of 64 trees were cut and placed on the ice. When the ice melts, the trees will sink to create a structure of fish habitat.

A map showing the location of previous fish sticks projects in on the LLPA website here: <https://longlakellpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Fish-Sticks-compressed-1.pdf>. The map has been updated to include the sites added this year.

Thanks go to Long Lake Chamber of Commerce members Paul Osborne from Butternut Hills, Donnie Marker from Lakeplace.com and Robb Duncan from Dave's Outboard for helping provide the labor to get the trees placed and cabled. Thanks also to Jason Breaker from North Lakes Tree Service and Jon Ecklor from Ecklor Logging & Tree Service who donated their time, equipment and expertise in cutting the trees on Camp Tomahawk property for the project.



*Fish Sticks under construction*



# Yellow Flag Iris Update

Yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) is an aquatic invasive species (AIS) posing a significant threat to the health of Long Lake. With its striking yellow flowers and aggressive growth, this non-native species quickly outcompetes native shoreline vegetation, forming dense mats that disrupt the lake's natural ecosystem. Its rapid spread throughout the lake not only threatens biodiversity but also shoreline erosion, water quality, and habitat for fish and other wildlife. Managing its presence on Long Lake requires a coordinated effort of manual removal, targeted herbicide treatments, and ongoing monitoring to prevent its spread and safeguard the lake's ecological balance.

Article by Megan Sorenson  
Northwest Regional Planning Commission



YFI at Long Lake Dam

Many people have noted the spread of yellow iris around the lake. Due to rising concern the LLPA hired Matt Berg, the plant expert from Endangered Resource Services, to professionally survey yellow iris. In the June survey, he found that “the density and distribution [of yellow iris] has increased exponentially (since the last survey in 2022), and it is now present throughout the Narrows and is increasingly common in the lower lake; especially in the lake outlet where large beds lined the shoreline.”

The results of this survey and the recommendations from Endangered Resource Services and our lake scientist prompted the LLPA to hire a consultant to treat yellow iris in dense areas in the Narrows and near the dam. The consultant, Michael Sinclair from EcoNorth, contacted over 50 shoreline property owners for permission to treat and remove the plants and received approval from 21 property owners to apply Glyphosate to the plants. He and his crew did a combination treatment approaches. In dense, larger patches, they sprayed the iris with backpack sprayers. In areas where it was mixed with native species and near areas with wild rice, they wiped the herbicide onto the plants using sponges on tongs. These methods directly target just the iris, so there is very little chance to harm other plants or affect water quality. The results of the treatment seem very positive.

For 2025, the LLPA has hired EcoNorth to come back to Long Lake to treat as many areas around the lake as possible. EcoNorth has contacted 320 shoreline property owners with yellow iris on their shoreline to ask for permission to treat the yellow iris on their shoreline in late May or early June when the flowers are blooming and easily identifiable. They access the plants by water and do not walk across your property. If you received a letter from EcoNorth, please consider granting permission for them to treat your yellow iris. The goal is to reduce yellow iris around the lake and support our shoreline as much as we can. This project is fully funded by the LLPA and supported by your donations.

Managing yellow iris is going to be an ongoing project, and we need your help. If you see yellow iris along your shoreline, you can clip the flowers and seed pods to stop it from spreading to other parts of the lake. Smaller infestations can be dug up -- be sure to remove the entire root system. Caution should be used if pulling out this plant because it can cause skin irritation. All parts of the plant should be placed in trash bags to be disposed of.

Please consider planting native plants in its place. You can order native plants through the Washburn County native plant sale happening right now through May 2nd. Order native plants here and contact the Washburn County Conservation Coordinator, Lisa Burns, at [lburns@co.washburn.wi.us](mailto:lburns@co.washburn.wi.us) for more information.

# AIS Spring Reminder

Article by Eric Anderson

As Spring advances and the ice recedes, we look forward to getting our docks, lifts and boats back into the water. As we do so, we want to remind everyone to think about what we can do to help avoid introducing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) to Long Lake.

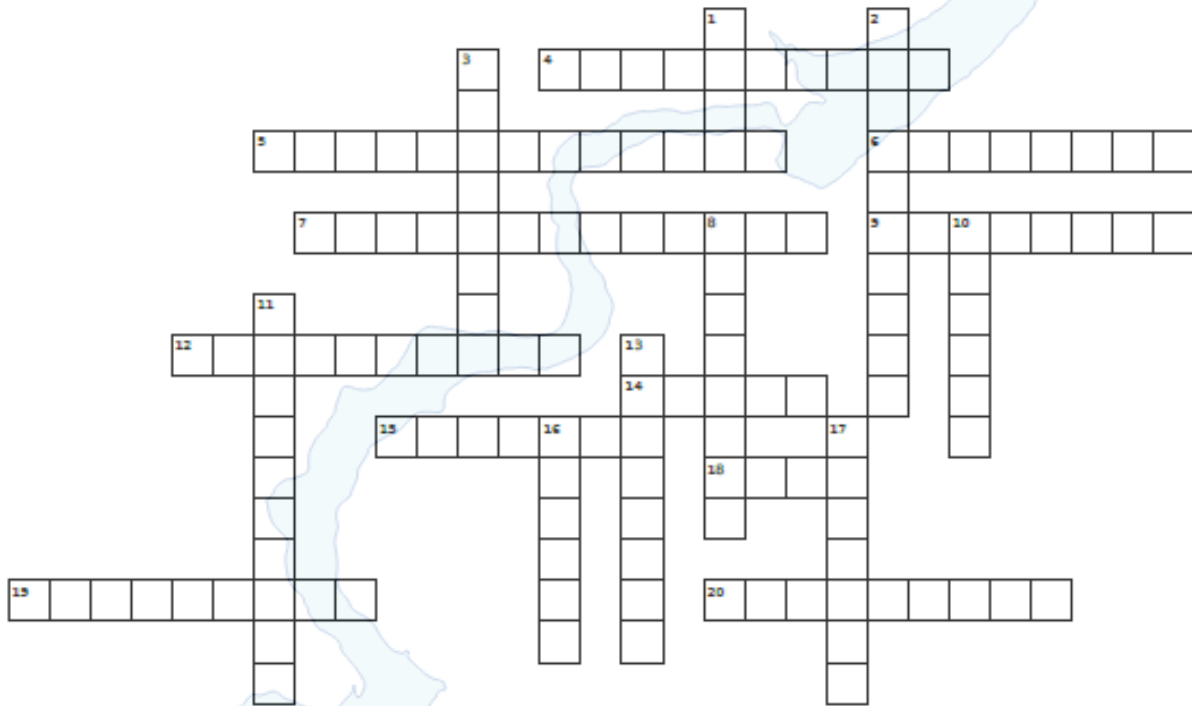
We are all aware of the spread of AIS in our region with Zebra Mussels now found in Big McKenzie Lake and Eurasian Watermilfoil existing in a number of lakes around Long Lake. The LLPA has been monitoring for AIS and intervened by treating Curly Leaf Pondweed a number of years ago and we are currently treating Yellow Flag Iris (YFI). As part of the Long Lake Comprehensive Lake Management Plan approved by the DNR in 2024, an Aquatic Plant Management Plan has been developed for Long Lake. Last year, a dedicated Committee was established to monitor for AIS more aggressively in Long Lake. A significant spread of YFI was noted and the LLPA has contracted with EcoNorth to treat this. Fortunately, YFI has a treatment option.

We should all be on the lookout for any evidence of new AIS while docks, boat lifts and boats are being put in or taken out. We ask that you help us by letting us know if you see any new or unusual aquatic plant growth or if you suspect that there may be an AIS in the lake. Any intervention is greatly enhanced by early recognition and intervention. Prevention is also an important practice to help stop the spread of AIS to Long Lake. LLPA participates in the Clean Boats Clean Waters program promoted by the DNR to treat boats and trailers going from lake to lake to prevent the spread of AIS. We trust that you practice the “best practices” recommended by the DNR to 1) Inspect 2) Remove 3) Drain and 4) Decontaminate as you move your boats, docks or lifts between lakes in the region.

Thank you for your assistance in keeping Long Lake a high-quality water resource. If you have any questions, please contact an LLPA representative (email addresses in this newsletter) as we would be happy to meet and discuss any questions you may have.



# Long Lake Crossword Puzzle



## Down:

1. A black and white diving fish-eater
2. Trees placed in the water for habitat and shoreline protection
3. Comes with your LLPA membership
8. Dock-dwelling worm eater
10. Precipitation that enters the lake from overland flow
11. Prior home to missionaries
13. Long Lake county of residence
16. Plants produce it and fish breathe it
17. Long Lake's capital of the world

## Across:

4. A bright yellow invasive species
5. Where you can get yearly updates and information about LLPA and Long Lake
6. Local environmental learning center
7. Aka "The Thumb"
9. A fall event where the whole lake mixes
12. 'P'rimary fertilizer for lakes
14. Small floating plants at the base of the food chain
15. Long skinny stretch of the lake
18. Abbrev. for the lake association
19. Outdoor activity skills hub
20. Area of land draining to the lake





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— Photo by Joe Thrasher