

TURTLE ROCK RAG

TURTLE LAKES CHAIN ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN 2018



thetlca.org rises from the pumpkin patch

ACOUSTIC BAT MONITORING PROJECT

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a bat fungal infection that was first detected in a single cave in 2006 in New York State. The disease was named “White-Nose Syndrome” due to the white, fuzzy growth that occurs on the nose, ears and wings of some affected bats. Since that time it has spread rapidly across the U.S. and Canada being detected in twenty-nine (29) States and five (5) Canadian Provinces resulting in the death of an estimated 6 million bats in the first 6 years alone. WNS has been identified in Wisconsin and the UP of Michigan.

The impact of WNS on the bat population has been alarming with up to 99% of the bat population succumbing within a few years in affected areas. The Little Brown Bat, once the most common bat species in the Northeastern U.S., may face regional extinction within the next 10 years because of the disease.

Wisconsin has eight (8) bat species that fall into two major categories, 1) Cave bats which hibernate and 2) Tree bats which migrate. The hibernating Cave Bats include:

1. Little Brown
2. Big Brown
3. Northern Long-Eared
4. Eastern Pipistrelle

The migrating Tree Bats consist of:

1. Silver-Haired
2. Eastern Red
3. Hoary
4. Evening

The hibernating cave bats are the species most susceptible to the WNS.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) determined that current bat inventory and monitoring efforts were not adequate to address bat population trends, distribution and range, habitat requirements and habitat condition. These are all important parameters in determining the health and welfare of the bat population in Wisconsin. In order to address the lack of information on bat population and distribution, the WDNR initiated a bat monitoring project through the Wisconsin Citizen-Based Monitoring Network. In our area, the Monitoring Program is being administered by Licia Johnson at the North Lakeland Discovery Center.

Bats are difficult to study because they 1) are nocturnal, 2) fly relatively fast, 3) produce sound above the range of human hearing, 4) roost in cavities, cracks and crevices that are difficult to find and/or 5) their coloration allows them to blend in with tree foliage or bark on which they rest during the day. The discovery in the 1930’s that bats produce ultrasonic signals to locate and intercept insect prey in flight helped solve the monitoring problem. The emission of the high frequency calls and echo detection by the bat is called echolocation and allows the bat to fly in complete darkness while capturing prey and avoiding objects such as tree branches.

Since the bat’s echolocation calls are above the range of human hearing, we



need to employ an acoustic monitoring system capable of detecting and recording the high frequency calls while the bats fly through an area. A hand-held system has been developed that records these calls while stamping them with the date and time of each encounter. Combined with a global positioning system (GPS), the detector automatically records the position (latitude & longitude) of each bat passing the surveyor along with the route travelled during the survey. Another benefit of the technique is that individual bat species can be identified since they possess a unique acoustic signal signature.

The results of an Acoustic Bat Monitoring Survey performed on Rock Lake in August 2018 are shown below.



The Survey shows forty-seven (47) bat encounters representing four (4) different confirmed species. The

individual species identified along with some information on each include:

Little Brown Bat (Cave/Hibernate)

The Little Brown is a medium sized bat that prefers to forage near water and along field edges. They can live for up to 10-15 years. They eat many species of wasps, moths, leafhoppers, and flies, including **MOSQUITOS**.

Big Brown Bat (Cave/Hibernate)



The Big Brown has similar coloring to the Little Brown, but is

about twice the size and has a wide black muzzle. They live for 15 or more years. The Big Brown is known for eating large amounts of insect species including moths, wasps, true bugs and beetles.

Silver-Haired Bat



This is a medium-sized species with dark fur with

silver tips giving it its name. It prefers to roost under bark and in tree hollows and forages in wooded areas. Silver-Haired bats eat moths, flies and beetles.

Hoary Bat



The Hoary bat has brown, tan or yellowish fur, often tipped with white and is the largest

Wisconsin bat. The Hoary roosts and

forages in deciduous and evergreen forests. It prefers moths and the echolocation calls can sometimes be heard by humans since they are lower frequency than other bats.

We will conduct another Bat Survey in September 2018 and plan to continue to establish this important population and distribution information in following years. This data will be important in determining population trends and the effectiveness of treatment initiatives to combat the WNS.

If you are interested in participating in Bat Surveys, contact Licia Johnson (licia@discoverycenter.net) at the North Lakeland Discovery Center.

Gary Engstrom-Rock Lake

CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS INSPECTION

The TLCA needed 200 CBCW volunteer inspection hours for the state grant. Over achieving volunteers donated 215 hours. TLCA also needed 411 AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) volunteer hours and over 500 AIS monitoring hours were achieved. The numbers say a lot about the commitment to healthy lakes by TLCA members. Here are the TLCA members who are CBCW certified: Mike and Diana Bantz, Steve and Kay Budnik, Gary and Barb Engstrom, Gee and Susan Esslinger, Jim and Marcia Hochstetter, Arlene Kellett, Darryl Osikowicz, Bruce and Ruth Peterson, Tom and Julie Rued, Ed Satterson, Carole Theesfeld, Phil Williams.



Carole Theesfeld

EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEERS

Not downplaying anyone's hours, "they all count and volunteering in any form is awesome" said Emily Heald, Water Specialist at Discovery Center. A special thank you to the Engstroms. They organized the landing BBQ in early



summer and worked CBCW almost every day during the summer months, and to Carole Theesfeld for the great number of hours she added to the grand total.

When not inspecting boats at the landings, CBCW volunteers kept busy in the following ways: walking those Fitbit numbers sky-high, reading, game playing on their smartphones,

crocheting, taking photographs, enjoying quiet conversations with a view. The grant closes in 2019. Volunteers for CBCW and AIS can continue to turn in hours to Emily Heald and she will continue to enter these hours in the database. Emily says, “Continue with CBCW volunteering until the end of time-it’s good for the lakes!”

Gee Esslinger-North Turtle

NEW AIS SIGNS

The Winchester Town Lakes Committee (WTLC) donated two AIS signs for the two Turtle Chain’s boat landings. The TLCA was responsible for mounting and installing the large signs for display. We are grateful to the WTLC for the signs in support of Clean Boats Clean Waters.



Gary Engstrom and Gee Esslinger installed new AIS sign at Rock Creek boat landing

WINCHESTER LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN - UPDATE

The Lakes Management – “On the Water” segment is fully complete on our Lakes



in partnership with Onterra LLC, who led and conducted the survey, the Township of Winchester and the Discovery Center. The TLCA is developing a forward looking management plan with Onterra, based on the study, for our lakes.

ON-GOING MONITORING

While no concerning invasive species were discovered in the lake, it is important that AIS monitoring and Clean Boat Clean Water (CBCW) inspections are continued to keep our lakes free of such species or to spot them early if they develop.

- We need certified CBCW Inspection volunteers.
- AIS Monitoring: Please contact your lake representative if you spot invasive species in the lake.

Look for a future announcement on CBCW Certification Training and please plan to attend.

Mike Bantz-South Turtle

*****REMINDER*****

UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS:

Do you have an update to your email address? Many of our notices are sent only by email. Email is faster and is the only way we can send time sensitive communications out to our members.

If you have new contact information or changes to your current listing, please forward them at any time to Board Treasurer Gee Esslinger: geesslinger@gmail.com

THE TREES AROUND US

This spring I noticed a few dead Balsam Firs in the yard, just here and there with healthy trees around them. I was concerned that we were seeing the start of a tree disease or insect infestation. I emailed John Bates, the Naturalist and



he said that he had received several inquiries. He put me in contact with a couple of tree experts who finally figured out that it was the early warm weather. With snow on the ground and frost in the ground, the needles had dried out from the heat. They were not able to bring up

moisture from the ground to the needles, killing what had been a healthy tree. It hit mostly Balsam and other Firs. The dying of the trees really depended on where they were and the conditions surrounding them.

Phil Williams-North Turtle

TLCA MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to everyone for your continued membership and support of our beautiful Turtle-Rock Lake Chain. We have representation at the meeting of around 30 to 40 households and about 50 (multiple family members) attending at the July meeting. *Have you been to the meeting lately?* Come by and meet your neighbors at the July meeting next year- -we will get updates on our Association and review the future plan for our Lakes. *Mike Bantz, President TLCA*

OLD O ROAD CLEAN-UP

Thanks go out to those who pick up litter along the roads around the lake. We had our Highway O cleanup in May and were lucky to have sunshine and not too many skeeters! Although we found no “treasures” this year, you never know what may turn up, so put next year’s date, May 25th, on your calendar and join the fun. It’s become a tradition to have some socializing afterwards as well.

We also have dedicated members who routinely pick up trash from their “adopted” section of the local roads adjacent to our lakes. I truly feel we’ve made a difference in keeping the roadsides cleaner for everyone. As you encourage your neighbors to join the TLCA, let them know that this is one of the benefits our group provides!!

Laura Giffin-North Turtle

BRIDGE FLOWERS

My thanks again this year to Dawn at Lil' Bits and the many watering volunteers who made this year's bridge flowers beautiful! This is just one way that your TLCA dues are used to make our lake area a pleasant place to be. Please watch the spring RAG for the call for volunteers to care for the bridge flowers next summer! I'm hoping to have a link in the TLCA website to allow volunteers to sign up for watering dates. Have a fantastic winter! *Laura Giffin-North Turtle*

FUN DAY

Fun Day was established shortly after the creation of the TLCA in 1990 and is intended as a way for people to meet their neighbors on the lakes and help to provide a basis for establishing a social network. The "Day" is always set for the **fourth Saturday in July (27th next year)**. Participants can choose between golfing and kayaking during the day followed by a picnic in the late afternoon at the Park. The picnic features barbecued pork, perhaps a libation or two and plenty of summer-time food and fun follows, with tons of awarded prizes.

The cost per adult is minimal- -this year we will raise it to \$6 from \$5 to cover expenses - -our first raise since 1990! Stay tuned for details at the **July membership meeting**.

Mike Bantz-South Turtle

FUN DAY 2017 CANOE AND KAYAK PADDLE



Nicole Rued and Sam Desantos on the water during the Fun Day Paddle.



2018 TLCA GOLF TOURNAMENT 🎵

36 Golfers enjoyed a beautiful day at the Lake Gogebic CC for the annual TLCA Golf Tournament. The course was in great condition and Gary, the club pro, made us feel welcome as always!!

Individual Winners:

Longest Drive- Nancy Hochsteter, Stan Wilson

Longest Putt- Cathy Bawulski, Rick Clem

Closest to the Pin-Kathy Wilson, Chandler Potts

Congratulations to all the Winners!!

See You Next Year!!

Darryl Osikowicz-North Turtle



2018 TLCA Golf Tournament Champions
L/R Jack Olsen, Rose Martin, Greg Miljevich, Mike Martin

2019 - 17TH ANNUAL TLCA MUSKY TOURNAMENT

Archie Clark and Tom Rued will be responsible for the Musky Tournament in 2019. The date of the 2019 Tournament is the Saturday before Father's Day – June 15, 2019. Register by phone, mail, email or in person with either Archie or Tom as indicated below.

Participating boats must include one member, in good standing, and all participants must be registered for the contest with paid entrance fee no later than Friday, June 14, 2019. So, be sure to check the Spring Rag for finalized details on the Tournament and mark your calendar for June 15th, 2019!

Tom Rued

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Winchester, WI 54557
920-585-5867
muskydoctom@gmail.com

Archie Clark

2346 Black Forest Rd
Winchester, WI 54557
715-696-7770

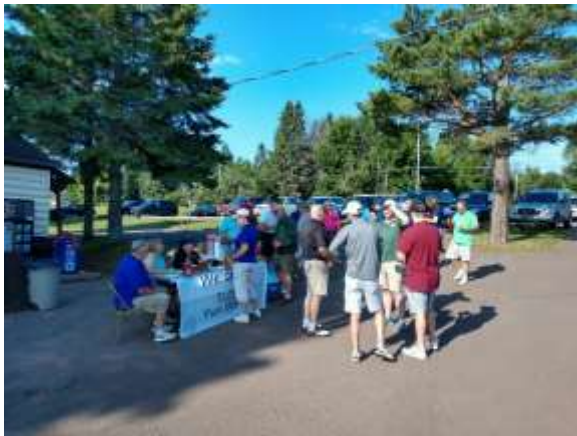
TLCA MERCHANDISE ORDER NOW FOR THE HOLIDAYS.



- **NEW MUSKY Embroidered: Denim Shirts \$32**
- **Hooded Jacket-fleece lined \$38**
- **Long sleeved T-Shirts \$18**
- **Wind Shirts \$26**
- **Embroidered Sweatshirts (in adult sizes-\$30 and youth sizes-\$25)multiple colors**
- **Embroidered Canvas Shopping Bags with front pocket and zippered main compartment: ONLY \$25 (compare to "thirty-one" bags)**
- **Embroidered Fleece Jackets-very warm \$33-\$48**

**Call or email Julie Rued:
715-686-2547 or
julierued@yahoo.com**





Three generations on Rock Lake hit the water...a good summer memory! Kristin Cibelli

Golf Pics: Mike Martin



Pic: Kay Kibbel

TLCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our lakes or the TLCA, please contact any one of the following

Directors:

PRESIDENT...Mike Bantz

SECRETARY...Laura Giffin

TREASURER...Gee Esslinger

ROCK LAKE REPRESENTATIVES

- Gary Engstrom
- Steve Budnik

NORTH TURTLE REPRESENTATIVES

- Susan Esslinger
- Monty Giffin

SOUTH TURTLE REPRESENTATIVE

- Tom Rued
- Emil Bertalot