

# Turtle Rock Rag

## Turtle Lakes Chain Association Spring 2021



Up or Down - A Strong Sense of Direction

Pic: Dave Peters - Rock Lake

**ANNUAL MEETING IS JULY 3 AT 9 AM  
\*\*\*\*\* AT THE WINCHESTER PARK\*\*\*\*\***

**THE MEETING WILL BE AT THE PARK  
JUST AS WE HAD IT WHEN THE TOWN  
HALL WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

**Bring a chair or sit at the picnic tables**

**Look forward to seeing you at 9am on  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Park.**

### **Dissolved Oxygen Meters**

Over the past winter, and thru the efforts of Rock Lake rep Gary Engstrom, the Winchester Town Lakes Committee has purchased a dissolved oxygen meter for use on Winchester area lakes. A dissolved oxygen meter generally consists of the instrument itself with an attached cable of a specific length with an attached probe at the end. What good is it and why should we care, you wonder?

A dissolved oxygen meter measures both water temperature and the amount of dissolved oxygen present in the water column at a specific depth. Over the course of the open water season from May through October this information is helpful in a number of ways. Temperature is directly related to weed growth; both native and invasive; and directly related to how much oxygen the water can hold at a specific temperature.

During the course of the open water season as the lake water warms, many lakes stratify which is basically the layering of water due to differences in density. Warm water remains near the surface while colder water remains near the bottom. The narrow transition between warmer and colder water is called the thermocline. Knowing at which depth this thermocline occurs is also helpful to fisherman as there is generally not enough oxygen below it to support fish life.

A lake's water quality and ability to support fish are affected by the extent to which the water mixes within the water column during the extent of the open water season. Using a dissolved oxygen meter during this open water season gives us the ability to track this mixing.

Going forward I will be the keeper of this meter (715-686-7852) with Gary Engstrom (715-686-2582) as back up. We anticipate the dissolved oxygen meter will be available for sign out starting around May 1<sup>st</sup>. Anticipate a brief "class" when you come to check out the meter.

Those of you who do secchi disk (water clarity) monitoring on your lake are

already familiar with the Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring Network ([dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn](http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn)) and the state forms used to record the data. Others who have not been involved in this activity would be wise to check out this website before planning to use the meter.

Dissolved oxygen meters generally require some annual maintenance and are also recalibrated after each use. This maintenance and/or recalibration will be done by myself or Gary. Anyone with questions going forward, please contact me at your convenience.

*Steve Budnik, 8666 W Rock Lake Rd, Winchester. 715-686-7852 and [skbudnik@centurytel.net](mailto:skbudnik@centurytel.net).*

### **Loons on Rock Lake**

Facing a long winter with most Covid restrictions still in place, I decided last



November to find a way to share the many photos of loons I have taken over the past 10 years on Rock Lake. Having volunteered as a Loon Ranger through LoonWatch over the past 12 years or so, I have been monitoring our pair of loons and filling out a packet each year that is sent to LoonWatch each November. Recording the date of arrival in Spring, the location of a nest, and whether or not

a chick or chicks are successfully hatched are part of the report. I also record if the chick(s) make it to 8 weeks and then again if they make it to

maturity of at least 12 weeks, at which point they are quite self-sufficient and capable of full flight ability. Needless to say, I have had many opportunities, with a serious nature photography hobby, to capture 1000's of loon photos through these past years.

I decided to place my very best photos into a book, LOONS on ROCK LAKE, telling the events from Spring to Fall and sharing the ups and downs of our male and female. Banding research concludes the average length of time a pair stays together is 8 years. Either partner may be challenged in the Spring and can possibly lose their place on the lake. Should the male or female be evicted by a new loon, the remaining partner will stay on the lake with the new mate and remain loyal to the lake. Our male was banded in 2006 and our female in 2009. If they both successfully return this April, from most likely the Gulf of Mexico, it will be their 13<sup>th</sup> year together on Rock Lake. The average loon lifespan is 25 to 30 years. It is highly likely they were about 5 or 6 when first



banded, which means the male is pushing 20 years old. Unfortunately, with a lack of state funding, banding in Vilas County stopped in 2015.

The book discusses what makes a lake suitable for loons to establish a territory there. Potential predators are



discussed, as well as lead poisoning from sinkers. Fascinating photos of take offs and landings are included. Numerous photos of chicks riding on parents' backs are included. Photos of the chicks being fed various types of foods in their diet are included. Bathing, preening, and peering photos are included and discussed.

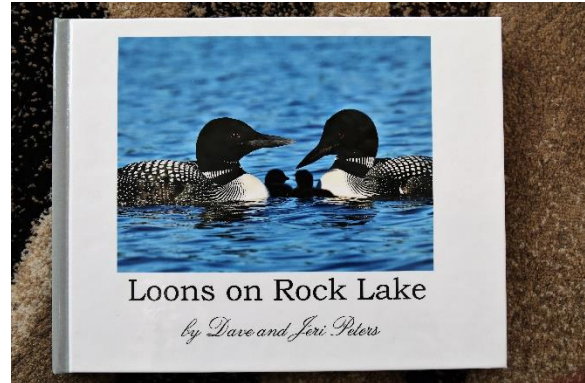
This book will shed light on the mystery of the loons social gathering. One of my favorite times of the year with the loons is late July and early August. Having observed and been mystified as to what I have been observing over the last decade is discussed in the book. Sitting out in the middle of the lake in a kayak is like being at a small airport during these weeks. Loons will be landing and taking off during the early sunrise hour. Normally only our male, female, and chick(s) will be on the lake, but suddenly, visitors start approaching and landing on the lake. My largest count at one time was 10 adults, with the most ever captured in one photo being 7. The



questions remain, who is visiting and why are they visiting Rock Lake?? Research done with extensive banding in Oneida County in recent years by a group called the “Loon Project” headed by Walter Piper from Chapman University in California are finding answers to these questions.

Loons from neighboring lakes are visiting, most likely looking for a potential territory suitable for raising their young next year. Some are too young for this but others have possibly been evicted from a territory and are searching for a new lake. Others are potentially adult parents from a neighboring lake territory. This group of loons may be attempting to SPOTLIGHT the Rock Lake territory. They are trying to draw attention away from their neighboring lake and their chick(s), causing other loons to gather on Rock Lake, thus hoping to make their lake appear less desirable. The idea being you hide the chicks on your lake, go to neighboring lakes to draw attention there instead of to your lake. I have documented our female visiting North Turtle while leaving a 4 week old chick on Rock Lake. This theory seems complicated but in a devious way, if true, does make sense.

My wife and I are donating a copy of LOONS on ROCK LAKE to the Winchester Library, and it should be available to check out and read when the library opens on May 6<sup>th</sup>. If you have any interest in loons at all, it will be well worth your time to check out the photos and stories in this book.



*Dave and Jeri Peters-Rock Lake*

### **Don't Forget Clean Boat, Clean Water (CBCW) Actions When Launching and Removing Boats/Watercraft**

Wisconsin boaters have become pros when it comes to draining all water from their boats and gear before leaving one lake or river and heading to another. Thanks for showing others the routine when they see you at launches taking this step plus removing any plant or tiny animal debris from your boat and trailer.

Draining all water helps prevent the spread of numerous invasive species that we can't easily see. These include diseases, such as Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), and microscopic larvae and spiny water flea. When it comes to moving your catch, ice will keep the fish fresher than water as you move them from the lake to the plate, too. Draining and rinsing your engine, especially if you don't use your boat frequently, reduces the chance of mussel's larvae doing irritating things like plugging your engine intake.

Every year, Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) boat inspectors are at launches throughout the state reminding anglers and all boaters about the water draining

law in Wisconsin as well as looking for aquatic plant hitchhikers on boats and trailers. The CBCW program is one of our premier prevention efforts. We plan to be at the Turtle Chain boat landings periodically during the summer, especially during heavy use weekends. So far, the Turtle Chain has avoided any infestations of curly leaf pond weed or other aggressive AIS that are in the area. We would like to maintain that status.



*TLCA CBCW Inspectors at the Rock Creek Boat Landing*

No matter where you launch, always remember before you leave the launch to:

- Inspect boats, trailers and equipment for attached aquatic plants or animals.
- Remove all attached plants or animals
- Drain all water from boats, motors, livewells and other equipment

- Never move live fish away from a waterbody (out of water = dead)
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash
- Buy minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer
- Only use leftover minnows when either 1) fishing with them on the same body of water or 2) on other waters if no lake/river water or other fish have been added to the container.

Following these steps also helps boaters comply with Wisconsin state law, which prohibits the transport of aquatic invasive species. To learn more about invasive species and their impacts to Wisconsin's waters and economy, visit [DNR.wi.gov](http://DNR.wi.gov) and search "Invasive Species."

Wisconsin's annual Drain Campaign will kick off June 4th-6th, aligning with both the WDNR Free Fishing Weekend and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Action Month. Anglers, a major action you can take is to remember to drain those livewells and fish buckets before leaving the launches this fishing season.

*Gary Engstrom – Rock Lake*

### **Getting Your Watercraft Ready for Spring**

There are several important things that need to be done before you launch your watercraft. First, the battery needs to be charged. Do NOT hook up the charger and turn it on until you check to see that there is distilled water at the bottom of each cell. There was a fire on a snowmobile this past winter on our

lakes due to improper battery/charger hook up.

Second, you need to put in a new spark plug(s). Next, fill the tank with fresh gasoline. Gasoline is a lot less expensive now than last fall when you put your watercraft for storage so it must be better gasoline, right? If you said “yes” I have swamp land to sell you. The next thing (if you did not do this in the fall) is to grease all fittings and change the lower unit oil. If the oil comes out “milky” you had water in your lower unit. If there was a lot of water it could have frozen during the winter months and possibly cracked the lower unit housing. This is why it is recommended to change the lower unit oil in the fall.

The next thing to do is to hook up a hose to the engine and start it up. It may take a few cranks and it may be a little smoky due to fogging the engine. By doing this now will assure you the engine will start when you take your watercraft to the boat landing to launch.

Now it is time to clean your watercraft. Even if it was covered or in a garage it did acquire dirt/dust and maybe a critter spent the winter in it. Don’t forget to wash off the engine. Many people wax the bottom to prevent grease, oil and grime to build up, which will slow your overall speed. Wax the bottom you say? Not YOU, this is why you have son-in-laws and grandchildren.

Probably the most over looked maintenance on your watercraft is the trailer. It goes in the water a minimum of twice a year so you need to at least inspect the wheel bearings. Packing the bearings (remember: there are two

bearings per side) is a little messy but it is worth the effort to keep the water (rust) out. Hook up the trailer to your vehicle and check the lights. You are now ready for launch.

The last thing to do is to *review the laws* pertaining to operating a watercraft on Wisconsin waterways. Be mindful of that fisherman fishing and slow down and keep the minimum of 200 feet from him. Don’t get too close to that water skier or in the path of the boat that is ready to pull the skier. If we all respect the rights of everyone using the waterways it will be another safe and great boating season on the Turtle Lake Chain.

*Tom Bawulski - Rock Lake*

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**\*\*\*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 (such as new fire numbers), please forward them at any time to our Board Treasurer Gee Esslinger: [geeeslinger@gmail.com](mailto:geeeslinger@gmail.com)

## Call For Bridge Flower Caregivers!

I hope to have the boxes up for Memorial Day weekend and will, as usual,



appreciate volunteers for watering. If you are willing to water and perhaps fertilize (if needed) a week or more this summer, please email me OR see me at the Annual Meeting, and I'll put you on the calendar! You can bring a bucket on a rope or jugs of water from home. We all love to see those flower boxes flowering well into October, so please consider signing up!

*Laura Giffin – North Turtle  
ml.giffin.1984@gmail.com*

## Road Clean-up

We'll plan on doing road cleanup as usual the Saturday before Memorial Day. Come equipped with bug spray, gloves and boots. Help keep our County Highway clean! Our association is responsible for County O from Old O to Star Lake Road. We meet at the intersection of Old O and County O at 10:30 AM. Safety vests and bags are provided. Many hands make for quick work and more fun! Also, please continue to pick up along roads if you're out walking...I try to remember a bag whenever I go out! Questions?

*Laura Giffin, North Turtle Lake  
ml.giffin.1984@gmail.com*

## TLCA Membership:

**Thank you everyone, for your continued membership and support of our beautiful Turtle-Rock Lake chain.**

**We have had considerable turnover in property ownership and would like to add our new neighbors to the TLCA.**

*Please, invite your neighbor to the next meeting – bring them with you - to become a member and meet their lake neighbors.*

*Mike*

## Happenings at the Winchester Public Library

After being closed during the Covid Pandemic, the Winchester Public Library is now Open. The limited hours for now are Thursdays 10-3, Fridays 10-3 and Saturdays 10-12 with Curbside Service also available. During the summer season we hope to be open our regular summer hours Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10-3; Thursday 9-6 and Saturday 9-12.

There are procedures in place – Masks are required, hand sanitizer is available, and the limit of patrons in the library at one time is 3. We are planning programs for the summer – June through early August - that will have limited attendance, be held inside or outside, virtually or in person depending on Vilas County Health Department and CDC guidelines.

*The programs planned include:*

- June 11, at 11-Dottie Reeder – homemade pasta and no cook tomato sauce.



- June 24, at 4 – Darrell Smith-the History of Wisconsin Beer with a sample of his homemade beer.
- June 25, at 11 – Dottie Reeder – casseroles and one dish meals
- June 29-Discovery Center presents Dream Catchers at 10:30
- July 1, at 4-Chad Lewis – Wisconsin Lumberjacks
- July 6, at 10:30-Children’s Activities with Blaze
- July 8, at 4-“Buckshot” Anderson, Hall of Fame Brothers
- July 12, at 2-Colossal Fossils
- July 13, 10:30-Discovery Center presents Dragonflies
- July 15, at 4 -Bill Jamerson, YCC Camps
- July 20, at 10:30-Children’s Activities with Blaze
- July 22, at 4 – Jim Bokern – the History of Winchester and Area
- July 23, at 11 – Dottie Reeder – Stove Top Chocolate Cake
- July 27, at 10:30-Discovery Center presents Animal Tracks.
- July 29, at 4 – John Bates
- July 30, at 2 – Bill Rutherford – Fearless
- August 3, 10:30-Children’s Activities with Blaze

We have an active Book Club here at the Library during the summer. They are reading:

- June 21, 3 pm Glory Over Everything
- July 19, 3 pm – Book Woman of Troublesome Creek
- August 18, 3 pm – Still Life
- September 20, 3 pm – Mrs. Lincoln’s Sisters

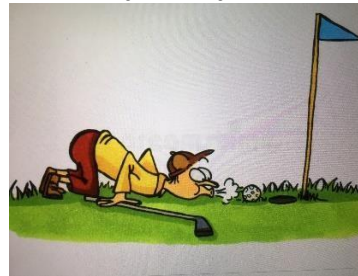
*\*\*Events and Times May Change Based on Availability*

Questions or comments about any of these activities or Library questions contact Betty or Blaze at 715/686-2926. Computer issues, call for Blaze.

*Betty Forster - Winchester*

### **2021 TLCA Golf Tournament**

**Saturday July 24, 2021 9:00 AM**



**Shotgun Start (8:15 Check In)  
Lake Gogebic Country Club  
36 Golfers Only  
Complete Foursomes or Individuals  
welcome.**

18-Holes includes cart)

\$40.00 per person- (includes lunch and “eye opener”

Payment Due Upon Check-In: Cash, Credit Card, Check to Gogebic CC

Questions or to Reserve your spot:

Darryl Osikowicz

[Darryl@pmisports.com](mailto:Darryl@pmisports.com)

(715)686-2956 after May 10, 2021

NOTE: As the number of golfers permitted is limited and this event historically fills quickly, please reserve your spot ASAP to insure your participation!



**Fun Day 2021: Annual TLCA Picnic**  
**It's a go this year!**

Fun Day was established shortly after the creation of the TLCA in 1990. It is a great 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 (24<sup>th</sup> this 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. Stay tuned for details at the **July membership meeting.** *Mike*

**Musky Contest 2021: June 19, 2021**

The day/date of the 2021 contest is the



Saturday before Fathers' Day, June 19, 2021.

You will be able to register via phone, mail, email or in person to either of us as indicated below. To be eligible to participate and win, you must be a member in good standing or a guest of a member in good standing as well as be registered for the contest and have paid

your \$25 entrance fee per person no later than Friday, June 19, 2021. Be sure to mark your calendar for June 19 2021.

*Tom Rued*

7600 Black Forest Rd  
Winchester, WI 54557  
715-686-2547  
[muskydoctom@gmail.com](mailto:muskydoctom@gmail.com)

*Archie Clark*

7642 Black Forest Rd  
Winchester, WI 54557  
920-851-2066

**Recipe Corner:: "DIRT"**

1 box of Oreo cookies  
6 small Butterfinger candy bars or 2 larger bars  
1/4 pound butter  
1/2 gallon ice cream, partially melted for spreading. Any flavor of ice cream, but we always used vanilla.

Directions: Put cookies and candy bars in a blender and grind. (If you want, remove this from the blender).

Melt butter and mix in a little at a time. Put half of this mixture in an 8x12 pan. Cover with the ice cream. Then cover with the remaining crumbs. Freeze and then serve.

Recipe from : Christian Nellemann, Ridge Grade School's 1980's Cookbook, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

*Carole Theesefeld – North Turtle Lake*

## At Last

Since last I looked upon the lake,  
The snow had yet unclasped its grip.  
Fish rested 'neath that chilled vista  
While weary deer could trod across  
Their well-worn paths and seek to eat  
On cedar boughs and young maples.  
They were not quarantined,  
So must have thought, "They hate the  
cold."

Now our lake waves at the winds  
While courting loons sing their love  
songs.  
The tender greens of hardwood trees  
Appear as fine lace dipped in spring's  
Blissful color, a pale chartreuse.  
At last a final wave to snow,  
Warm greetings to the sweeter time.

*Susan Esslinger - NTL*

### 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 (Webmaster)

## TLCA MERCHANDISE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**Embroidered: Denim Shirts \$32**

**Hooded Jacket-fleece lined \$38**

**Long sleeved T-Shirts \$18**

**Wind Shirts \$30**

**Embroidered Sweatshirts (in adult sizes-\$30 and youth sizes-\$25)multiple colors**

**Embroidred 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:  
71 5-686-2547 or  
[julierued@yahoo.com](mailto:julierued@yahoo.com)**

