Wow! That was a wonderful fall! Blue skies, beautiful color and warm temperatures into October! It is a privilege to live in the Northland.

There was a change in some Board positions following the August Annual Meeting. I was elected chair and Laura Rusk was elected secretary. New Directors are Mark Zich and Terry Wall. Continuing Directors are Terry Moe (vice-chair), Barb Salomon, Patty Swaffield (treasurer), Dennis Clagett, Pete Czarnecki, Brenda Dettloff and Doug Kurtzweil.

I want to thank Doug Kurtzweil for his many years of service as chair and the projects that occurred during his watch. Doug’s heart is filled with a desire to see the Flowage wilderness preserved into the future. There is a separate interview with Doug in this newsletter that I am sure you will enjoy.

The Board has been very active since the August Annual Meeting and some highlights deserve mention.

The Loon Group. Dennis Clagett, Mark Zich, Barb Salomon and I met at The Landing to discuss the formation of a CFAPOA Loon Group to study the loon population on the Chippewa Flowage in three areas: (1) monitor and study; (2) loon platforms; and (3) GLO – “get the lead out.” The Flowage has been included in the Northland College loon study. Because the Flowage is on the southern border of loon territory, we wondered if loons are a “bellweather” species for our lake. In other words, what does it mean if the loon population is not healthy? The second question was whether fluctuating water levels affect loon nests and, if so, at what locations, and, if so, would loon platforms help nesting loons? The third focus is to make lead-free fishing tackle more available to anglers.

We need YOU to get involved with this project by monitoring the loons in your area of the Flowage, help with platform construction, if necessary, and help put more lead-free tackle on the store shelves. Monitoring would include such things as recording the date: loons arrive in the spring, nest, chicks in the water, chick survival, adults fly south and chicks fly south. I plan a bigger article on our loons in the winter newsletter. If you are willing to help, please contact Mark Zich at markzich@rocketmail.com or 715-214-5020.

Communication. Have you visited the CFAPOA website, recently? We have been getting an unbelievable number of “hits” thanks to Brenda Dettloff who quickly gets information on the site. Do you think something is lacking on the website? We also want to communicate with members on special issues that need direct and immediate input through “blast emails” but we promise not to burden you. You can communicate with the Board in person or through cfapoa@yahoo.com.

Membership. We want more members and more member involvement. If you think someone should be a member, please contact them with a membership form that is available on our website. Please tell us how would you like to be more involved in the association.

2015-2016 Winter Drawdown. The Board approved of the Partners’ Group recommendation to Xcel to draw down the Flowage five-feet by freeze up and if conditions permit, to draw down another three-to-five feet after freeze up. There is a separate article on the draw down in this newsletter.

Shoreline Zoning. I am sure you are all aware of the shoreline zoning issues over local control v. state-wide control. The Board voted to support the efforts to repeal those sections of Act 55 that mandate state-wide shoreline zoning. The Sawyer County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to support the repeal and imposed a 180-day moratorium on boathouse permits.

Enjoy the Holidays!!
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
Carolyn Fritsch, Membership Chair

Members enjoyed another beautiful day with friends and neighbors on August 2 at the Annual Meeting and free summer picnic, again hosted at Deer Run by Ruth and Denny Aaron. Thank you! Over 100 members enjoyed the good food and warm weather. Erica LeMoine, executive director of LoonWatch at Northland College spoke on the loon population, narrated fantastic pictures and shared interesting facts on the loons we have on the Big Chip.

CFAPOA membership dues for 2015-16 were due on August 1st. Thanks to all members who have paid! If you don’t remember whether or not you paid, just check the mailing label on this newsletter. If you have not paid, please use the enclosed Registration form. If you have paid, share the Registration form with a friend or neighbor who is not already a member. THANK YOU to members who sent a donation over and above their $25 annual dues. They are listed later in this newsletter. Selected gifts for members donating $125 or more should be shipped to their home in January.

Our Membership Directory will be compiled and mailed in December. Dues must be received by December 1 to be listed in the Directory. Also, this will be your last newsletter if dues are not paid, so JOIN! RECRUIT! RENEW! For members who are winter snowbirds, please let us know if you would like your Membership Directory and January Newsletter sent to a different address.

Last, join us for our Holiday party on December 12 at the Chippewa Inn. Please RSVP with your $15 check by December 4, and if you can please bring donations for the Hayward Community Food Shelf and the Northwoods Humane Society.

23rd ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 12, 2015 at the Chippewa Inn, 9720N County Rd. B

5:00 Cocktails (cash bar) – 6:30 Hot & Cold Appetizers

$15.00 per person

Name______________________________________________

Name______________________________________________

Name______________________________________________

Name______________________________________________

Please return this reservation and your check made payable to CFAPOA by

December 4, 2015 - CFAPOA, PO Box 555, Hayward, WI 54843

(No refunds after December 4)

I will donate a raffle item: ____yes   ____no
FISHERIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Brenda Dettloff, Committee Chair

2015 brought with it an abundance of Crappie and Bluegill for all anglers throughout the season, but the size class is not where Max Wolter, DNR Fisheries Biologist, or anglers would like to see. The preferred size for Crappie (greater than 10”) made up only 17% and Bluegill (greater than 8”) made up only 2% of those captured. Max will be surveying the public as to the future panfish fishery and the best means to achieve the desired results in the future.

This season also brought changes in the walleye regulations in the way of a slot limit which will remain in effect next year as follows: 3 bag limit with harvest of 15-20”, protected/release 20-24”, only one of 3 bag limit may be over 24”. The Large Mouth Bass limit will remain in effect with no length restriction and 5 bag limit. The DNR is pleased with the reduction in numbers and hoping for improved size class with this regulation. The DNR stocked 72,965 total Extended Growth Walleye from the state fish hatcheries into the Chippewa Flowage, finishing on October 27. The fry were 6-9 inches in length and hand netted into the lake.

The musky numbers are more difficult to determine as they are more elusive during the fall survey. Personally, my husband John Dettloff and I had our best year with less fishing time available. Earlier in the season the size class was in the mid to upper 30” class but as the season progressed we saw more large fish in more areas on the lake than I had ever personally seen. They seemed to be bulking up early and John caught a 34# 48.25” musky (weighed on an accurate scale), which is a very stocky fish by any standards. In the 2016 season the Chippewa Flowage female muskies will be stripped and used as brood stock with a percentage of Extended Growth Muskies being returned to the lake. The Chippewa Flowage is considered a brood stock lake and takes its turn in the DNR’s collection process to acquire eggs for the hatchery.

The DNR is asking the public to keep all Northern Pike less than 21” within the daily bag limit which is still at 5 per day. This will help reduce the number of this devastating predator of both Musky and Walleye fry as Northern muskies hatch first and feed on the fry, while at the same time improving the size class.

Max classified the fish that fared well with the more traditional 8’ drawdown as being the Panfish, Walleye, Small Mouth Bass and Musky. He also stated that the drawdown was more difficult on the Large Mouth Bass and Northern Pike, therefore helping to better achieve the desired fishery results. The Chippewa Flowage has been the only local lake to see improvement in the walleye fishery with natural recruitment. The main reason is the ability to manipulate the water levels and drawdown is considered a benefit to the fishery and in reducing shoreline erosion as ice is the main culprit.

CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE TREE DROP PROJECT

Max Wolter, WDNR Fisheries Biologist

This winter Max Wolter will be starting a tree drop project on DNR shorelines to improve fish habitat, and he will be looking for volunteer help. He also has told the POA how private landowners as a group can participate, which would require a separate permit process. This will be discussed by the Board. Here are portions of his emails:

This winter WDNR staff will be placing trees in the water along several sections of State owned shoreline on the Chippewa Flowage. The goals of this project are to improve fish spawning success, provide habitat for juvenile fish, and create attractive areas for anglers to fish. The project calls for selected trees along the shoreline to be felled out into the lake so the crown of the tree sits in 3-10 feet of water. Trees in the water are an important component of the ecosystem and have wide ranging benefits to many different fish species as well as wildlife. Trees in the water have been shown to increase perch production, improve bluegill growth rates, and have been found to be an important habitat for juvenile muskellunge. Work is expected to start in December after safe ice is established that crews can work on. Trees are selected strategically to provide fishery benefits without affecting the aesthetic of the shoreline or disrupting wildlife habitat such as eagle’s nests. Sections planned for work in 2015 include Dorazio Bay (in coordination with the new handicap accessible fishing pier), Moss Creek, and the Bananas. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with these projects should contact max.wolter@wisconsin.gov.

[Volunteering with the DNR this winter] …gives those folks a good chance to learn the ropes in preparation for future projects on private shorelines. Then this winter and next summer someone in the POA/ROA could organize private shoreline folks and get a permit together. That would give us a chance to do this right and without feeling rushed to get something done this winter.
The best summer in years brought some bad news to the Chippewa Flowage in the form of new aquatic invasive species called Curly-leaf pondweed, a species of aquatic plant native to Eurasia, and it should have stayed there! It grows using horizontal roots called rhizomes. If a rhizome is separated into pieces, each piece can form a new plant. So boat props chop it up and spread it. I may ask the Adapt-A-Shoreline volunteers to help identify and track this plant. All the equipment needed to identify Curly-leaf is a magnifying glass as the leaf edges are saw-toothed.

Our lake has a non-invasive relative called Clasping-leaf pondweed and for the most part is not troublesome. I have been told that because Curly-leaf is a pondweed it won’t respond to early lake drawdown and freeze-up as does Eurasian watermilfoil. I will have more detailed information to share as to the locations and amounts after the results of this year’s extensive aquatic plant survey are made available. This survey is using a technique called Point Intercept. A point Intercept survey documents all the different types of aquatic plants throughout our lake on a grid of waypoints. About 5000 waypoints! Plants are identified at each sampling waypoint and the most abundant species is recorded to create plant/species distribution maps. This survey was funded by a grant to the LCO.

The early drawdown has all but eliminated milfoil on the East side, but has had a lesser effect on the West due to the clearer water allows the plant to grow in deeper water. The 8 foot total drawdown does not affect these plants, and an additional 2 foot deeper drawdown has been recommended. All of this will be dependent on what the late fall and winter brings for moisture. The return of our native aquatic plants has been noticeable especially on the east side where there is little to no competition from Eurasian watermilfoil.

We have some new volunteers to our Adopt-A-Shoreline program to control purple loosestrife. Lisa Costa & Bill Hunkins for section 13, and Rick & Lynda Olson sections R, X. Section X in the Cranberry Lake area is a PL hot spot. For some reason the two beetle colonies established there died out last winter. I am planning to restart the beetle rearing program next spring. There are just too many locations with large amounts of plants to harvest by hand. I could use some help next spring collecting seed stock beetles from around Lake Hayward. You will need good eyes and hip boots or waders. To all the volunteers, a big thank you! And see you on the lake!
EDITOR’S CONVERSATION WITH DOUG KURTZWEIL
By Barb Salomon, Newsletter Editor

Doug Kurtzweil, CFAPOA Chair for the past 12 years, handed the gavel to Connie Peterson, incoming Chair, at the August 6 board meeting. The Editor begins a conversation at The Landing with Doug to learn about how he came to the Flowage and became leader of its lake organization.

Barb: When and how did you learn about the Chippewa Flowage?
Doug: I grew up on a farm in southern Wisconsin. It was my grandfather who taught me to hunt and fish. I learned about the Flowage in the early 1970s from a book called Lunkers Love Crawlers. I moved to the area with my family on Labor Day, 1976 and found a job, 40% pay cut, no benefits, but I was able to live here. A friend told me we were moving to God’s Country. Because only God could afford it.

Barb: What was your impression of the Flowage then?
Doug: I started fishing on the Flowage in about 1977 out of a canoe. I didn’t get a boat with a motor until the week before the opener in 1986.

Barb: When did you move onto the Flowage?
Doug: That was about 15 years ago. I lived on Callahan Lake, Reed Lake, and then in town for a number of years. When the opportunity came up to get property on the Flowage the sellers worked with me to make it possible. I can live anywhere I want now, and I do.

Barb: What have you done for work since coming Up North?
Doug: I built modular homes for a company in Winter when I first got here. I worked at the DNR tree nursery in 1977 that is now closed. I made snow for Telemark. I did construction jobs. Then in 1980 I took the new state exam to be a tax assessor. My father had done that to add to farm income. My son has worked with me now for 10 years. I did my first big project in 1982 and have been working at it ever since.

Barb: How did you get involved with the CFAPOA?
Doug: I found out about it in 2000 and went to my first picnic and meeting in August that year. At the meeting Pat Dettloff nominated me to serve the last two years of a vacancy on the board. She knew I was familiar with the area from my assessor’s work. The first six months I just got the lay of the land. After that I stepped in for Cheryl Treland, then the board Chair, at the Sawyer County lake classification meetings that were implementing new zoning laws. That is when the Chippewa Flowage was designated a Class 1 lake, with its 100 foot minimum shoreline and 20,000 square foot minimum lots. We worked from a checklist of factors in designating the classifications.

Barb: How did you become Chair?
Doug: In 2003 Cheryl stepped down and I was willing to do the job. It’s been a wonderful fit for this misfit. My vision was to do what I could to help transform a struggling organization primarily building fish cribs into a vital, vibrant, vigorous force to be reckoned with when it comes to protecting, preserving and enhancing the long term viability of this special resource. It is a miracle to have this resource within a few miles of a couple of million people. I just did what needed to be done.

Barb: What impression of the Flowage did you have when you started?
Doug: It was a semi-wilderness area with lots of wildlife, and easy to find empty spaces.

Barb: And now?
Doug: For years Hayward has chased Minocqua and done caught The Dells. (Laughter). We have better access to emergency services, fire prevention education, and quality medical care. We have reasonable, rational walleye and largemouth bass regulation after 10 years of time and effort. We have a drawdown policy that is progress.

Barb: Any final thoughts, at least for now?
Doug: It was an honor and privilege to be asked on the board and serve as chair. I am still serving on the board. And I’m still doing new things. And old things -this is my 10th year of harvesting rice.

Barb: Thanks Doug.
LOON GROUP REPORT
Mark Zich, Chair

The Board voted to establish a loon committee. We started by finding a way to upgrade our loon count activities and get more people involved. There was also some concern that the recent 8 foot drawdowns and a slower refill in the spring might be adversely affecting loon nesting success. So rather than get too ambitious with goals we need to test the waters to see how many people want to contribute labor to loon projects and tailor our goals and objectives to match the available volunteer labor pool.

Here is a draft of the goal and associated short term objectives.

By engaging interested CFAPOA members in the Northland College LoonWatch Annual Lakes Monitoring Program (ALMP), CFAPOA would improve our understanding of the Chippewa Flowage loon population while at the same time support the statewide ongoing annual LoonWatch ALMP population study.

1. Reach out to LoonWatch to get up to speed on their ALMP. (I sent an official notification to LoonWatch stating we wanted to initiate a program on the Flowage.)
2. Describe in relative detail what it entails to fulfill our obligations to ALMP and LoonWatch.
3. Reach out to membership via email blast and/or newsletter to solicit volunteers to help with the program next spring and summer. Part of this will be to convey to the membership what would be expected of them, if they volunteer. Due to the large size of the Flowage we would need to divide the Flowage into the previously used 8 zones and assign one person to be the zone leader. Each leader would coordinate others within their respective zone to provide the necessary observations defined by the ALMP. I would coordinate the leaders.
4. The level of CFAPOA membership interest that can be generated will determine if we: a) try to involve CFAPOA in the ALMP, and b) will the volunteer interest remain adequate to sustain our involvement in ALMP.

We discussed artificial loon platforms but I think perhaps the best approach is to see if we can develop interest for the more simple ALMP before we get too many projects going. A natural extension of the ALMP might be to initiate an artificial loon nesting platform program. We could, however, promote the creation of 1-3 ANP’s this next spring with the objective to get familiar with the permitting, building and ANP monitoring process. It might be difficult to get people to commit a huge amount of time to some of these projects so prior to getting too ambitious it would be nice to test the waters first. The Board can only do so much and I think the goals should be practical and match the involvement interest level of all the members.

The “get the lead out” program likely also falls into initially building our knowledge base on what types of materials are available, contacting local bait shops and understanding the pros and cons of the alternative non-lead materials, and brainstorming the best objectives and methods to carry out a “get the lead out” program. I would assume the overall goal is simple, “save more loons from lead poisoning”. Some ideas we have discussed as possible projects down the road would be information and education to members, maybe raffle gifts that include lead free tackle at the CFAPOA gatherings, posters, tackle exchange program, reach out to local tackle shops, etc., etc. The biggest determinant will be to have a program leader step forward and we again could reach out to membership to see if one or more persons wants to step forward.

So for now, it is my opinion that we need to start slow. I can take the lead on the ALMP program this winter and early spring in an attempt to generate a list of ALMP CFAPOA participants. We can discuss methods to try to reach out and generate that interest in the near future.
COMMUNICATIONS/WEBSITE COMMITTEE REPORT

Brenda Dettloff, Website/Communications Chair and Barb Salomon, Newsletter Editor

Our website is ever changing and “traffic”, both members and non-members, has increased 3 to 4 times since Brenda took over as the chair. We invite all of you to check in often as we try to keep you up to date on current news and informed on what we are doing. We link you to handy resources such as water level reports from Xcel Energy and source documents about lake operations, and post a copy of this Newsletter if you have misplaced your hard copy or would rather save a tree and read online.

We welcome and need our members to take an active role in our lake association with current and future projects. Look for more changes and updates to your website!

Please do consider receiving your Newsletter via “email link”. We don’t spend money for a full color Newsletter, but you will find the color when you look at it on our website.

Finally, we are working on having “email blast” capabilities so that we can reach you, the members, when there are important matters that need your input such as opinions on drawdowns and fishing regulations. We value your points of view and want to know what you are thinking so we can speak for you when important or urgent items come up.

Be sure that we have a current email address for you so that we can keep you “in the loop”.

You can contact us at cfapoa@yahoo.com.

LOON GROUP LOONWATCH UPDATE

Erica LeMoine, Executive Director of LoonWatch at Northland College

Northland College’s LoonWatch program is welcoming the Chippewa Flowage as a participating lake for observation of its loon population. Mark Zich is seeking volunteers to become “loon rangers” who make and report frequent observation of loons. The Flowage is so large that volunteers will be responsible for limited territories. Many hands (eyes) make light work! Erica LeMoine, our guest speaker at our August annual meeting sent the following information to us about our participation:

In an “ideal” world, volunteers are able to monitor loons once a week starting at ice-out until migration; and we’d like volunteers to record the first nesting attempts, which start in early to mid-May.

However, I suspect not all of your Flowage volunteers would be able to participate at this level. This might be the best plan: To get a good idea of chick production and survival, volunteers would make observations at least once every other week from mid-May to mid-July. And then if the chicks have survived to mid-July, volunteers would gather at least 2 more observations in August.

Because your group lives on the Flowage and know it well, I think it would be best if you all determine the sections you want to observe. The DNR maps you mentioned might be a good place to start. I also remember seeing some great maps of the Flowage in sections at your meeting (I think that was for invasive species work?).

After you receive responses from your November 1 newsletter, please give me a call so we can discuss next steps. If possible, it would be helpful to meet in person. With enough volunteer participation, I can see LoonWatch providing the Flowage a training workshop next spring. I hope this information helps to generate a lot of good responses and volunteers!

Interested members contact Mark at markzich@rocketmail.com

Loon Volunteers Wanted as Loon Rangers, Nest Raft Builders, “Get the Lead Out” Educators:
Contact Mark at Markzich@rocketmail.com
WE ARE HERE FOR THE WILDERNESS AND FISHING: Member Survey Results

Connie Peterson, Board Chair

The CFAPOA received approximately 150 completed member surveys. Thank you for your participation. The top three reasons CFAPOA members own property on or near the Flowage are 1) the semi-wilderness environment, 2) fishing and 3) recreational activities. That certainly was no surprise! We love our wildlife and forests, pulling in those big fish and watching the kids on tubes. Most reported that they fish often. Some answered that they think there are more people fishing now than five years ago, but most from the survey did not agree. Most liked the new Walleye size limit.

Trolling? Outboard trolling, standing alone, was disfavored but when combined with electric trolling, trolling was about even with “no-trolling.” Many of our members who answered the survey also like to kayak and canoe, water ski, cross-country ski and snowmobile.

The top concerns of those taking the survey were water levels, excessive algae, shoreline, poor fishing and development. These are broad categories that we should explore more specificity.

Regarding property use, most do not test their drinking water annually, but do have their septic systems pumped at least every three years and support a survey of septic systems on the Flowage. Most reported that they have taken steps to slow/reduce runoff water into the lake, and most say they have buffer zones at the shore. Most do not fertilize their lawn and if they do, they report that they do not use fertilizer that contains phosphorus nor do they use herbicides or pesticides on their lawn.

2015-16 Board of Directors

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Laura Rusk, Secretary 715 945-2663 Doug Kurtzweil Position Open
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CFAPOA FALL NEWSLETTER PAGE 8
The Chippewa Flowage Partners Group (CF Partners) has recommended that Xcel Energy, which controls water levels in the Flowage, draw down 5 feet before freeze up (about mid-November) and if conditions permit, to draw down an additional 3 to 5 feet at Xcel’s discretion. Xcel is aware that this winter may be an El Nino winter which, historically, has meant a warm, dry winter. Xcel will monitor precipitation, winter snowpack and inflows to the Flowage to determine whether there will be suitable inflows in spring to refill the Flowage. If it appears the values are minimal, the target drawdown will be adjusted to minimize the drawdown level to 8 feet. With normal weather, this should allow the exposed lake bottom to de-water and freeze hard, deterring weed growth in the exposed areas and providing benefits to the fishery.

The targeted drawdown follows guidelines laid out in the 2008 “Chippewa Flowage Aquatic Management Plan” by Dr. Erik R. Olson and Dan Tyrolt of the LCO Conservation Department.

CF Partners consists of representatives from the CFAPOA, the Lake Chippewa Flowage Resort Association, the WI Department of Natural Resources, the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Government, the U.S. Forest Service, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and Xcel Energy. THE CFAPOA Board of Directors approved this recommendation at its September 3 meeting.

Millfoil. During the fall of 2013, CF Partners voted to modify the timing from previous drawdowns by drawing some water before ice covered the lake, rather than drawing the water from under the ice after freeze-up. The drawdown involved lowering the Flowage levels five feet during the fall period and another three feet during the winter season. This combination late fall and winter drawdown has been used the last two years and has had beneficial effects on the Flowage, based on scientific studies performed to date.

The fall/winter drawdown objective in 2013-14 was to try to help eradicate the Eurasian water milfoil, with other benefits for the fishery and protection of shoreline during the late-fall and early-spring period. In 2013 and 2014, the water level hit five feet below full head in about mid-November (1,308 feet). With extremely cold late Novembers in those years, the lake froze earlier than normal in both years.

Observations by aquatic plant experts during the summer of 2014 and 2015 indicate that the invasive plant’s abundance was reduced and there was a healthy return of native plants in many areas.

LCO is currently in the first year of a three-year study to evaluate aquatic plant response to the changed drawdown regime. Funding was obtained from a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant secured by LCO Conservation to conduct studies of plants over the next three years, with the assistance of Dr. Erik Olson of Northland College in Ashland.

Walleye. Max Wolter, DNR fisheries biologist, and the Great Lakes Indian Wildlife Commission (GLIFWIC) staff have completed annual fish surveys on both the east and west sides of the Chippewa Flowage. One goal of the surveys is to assess whether the drawdowns have improved walleye recruitment.

Wolter said, “The results of the 2014 survey were very encouraging, with an impressive increase in the Young of Year (YOY) walleye fish counts. In 2014, we created great spawning conditions for walleye and it paid off with the largest walleye class since 2006. The 2014-15 drawdown had more limited success at improving walleye recruitment because the reservoir filled much more slowly in the spring of 2015.

“We can use these drawdowns to set the table, but mother nature has to fill in the other half of the equation by providing the precipitation to get things back up in the spring.” Despite a down year in 2015, Wolter said the use of drawdowns is still a powerful and viable tool to improve walleye recruitment. Dissolved oxygen (DO) measurements from last two winters have shown good overwintering habitat in most areas of the Flowage, despite a lengthy and harsh winter in 2013-14. With a similar drawdown design, the CF Partners expect good overwintering conditions for fish again in 2015-16.

(Continued on page 10)
Other Wildlife. Another concern during prior fall-winter drawdowns in 2013-14 and 2014-15 was for wildlife (frogs, turtles, etc.) that hibernates in the shallows and for fur-bearing such as beavers and otters. Although no studies were conducted, there were no indications of problems with these animals’ survival. There are no studies currently on these species, but it has been suggested that a citizen group might be trained to do a study in the future.

Shoreline erosion. Erosion of shorelines and islands is a great concern on the Big Chip. The proposed lower water level limits major erosion of shorelines during the ice-free seasons when the Flowage is at a higher elevation (late fall and early spring). Historically, Xcel Energy and their predecessors would try to have the lake at full head (1,313 feet) going into the winter months, as they would be using that water to produce hydroelectric power during peak electrical demand periods when daylight is minimal and temperatures are the coldest late December through early March. Both fall and spring are windy seasons, so the lower water level prevents the pounding of shorelines with high water late in the open water season, as occurred historically. Lower water levels in the spring should also minimize shoreline erosion at that time.

A benefit that was not initially considered by the CF Partners was the opportunity to perform erosion control projects during the periods when Flowage levels are low. The DNR and private landowners have taken advantage of lower water level in the fall to perform riprap work and work on public boat landings. Many permits have been issued for rip-rap work and other shoreline work, so landowners should take advantage of the opportunity to do so again this fall.

Studies of the modified drawdowns and their effects on aquatic plants and fish have been planned. Results will allow CF Partners to make recommendations for the future control of the water levels of the Chippewa Flowage.

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BIG CHIP NEWS BRIEFS

Accessible Fishing Pier Installation at CC North

The CFAPOA’s $1000 contribution to construction of an accessible fishing pier at the CC North boat ramp came to fruition this summer with installation of the pier after prefabrication in Iowa and delivery to the site. The site has been improved with upgraded and expanded parking and hardscaping to ease approach to the pier for disabled anglers. The DNR obtained the necessary funding after demonstrating local support from local contributions like the CFAPOA’s. Other donor organizations included LCRA and Fishing Has No Boundaries.

Xcel Hosts Tour of Downstream Power System

Rob Olson and Matt Miller of Xcel Energy led a group of CFAPOA members and Chippewa Flowage Partners group delegates on a full-day tour of facilities downstream of the Big Chip that depend on it and the Flambeau Flowage pools to generate the power in the Chippewa River Hydro System. Participants visited Holcombe Reservoir where they inspected Xcel’s erosion control work using rock and plantings, and learned about Xcel’s lake oxygenation efforts by pulsing of the water levels there. There are five power generating reservoirs downstream of the Big Chip. Of those the group toured Holcombe Hydro, Cornell Hydro, Jim Falls Hydro, and Wissota Hydro. The Big Chip’s role as a storage pool means that Xcel must manage water levels so that water is available for power generation downstream while working with CF Partners to maintain fisheries, habitat and recreation. Participating in the tour were CF Partners chair (and former CFAPOA chair) Cheryl Treland, CFAPOA chair Connie Peterson, and Rick Olson, Dennis Clagett, Pete Czarnecki and Barb Salomon, all delegates to CF Partners or CFAPOA board members.
LIFETIME CONSERVATIONIST - $1000 and UP
Brian & Sibley Pauling
Richard Uihlein, Jr.

LIFETIME MEMBERS
Chris and Patti Jeffords
John & Marlen Kaiser
Leonard J. Kuba
Doug Kurtzweil
Brian & Sibley Pauling
Richard Uihlein, Jr.

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CFAPOA is committed to keeping the Chippewa Flowage area clean and safe for all peoples; to protecting the environment; to providing a forum for the collection and exchange of ideas and to pursuing any other lawful objectives that may benefit this pristine reservoir.

Please mark your Calendar

11.05.15  CFAPOA Board Meeting — 6 pm Town of Hunter Hall
12.10.15  CFAPOA Board Meeting — 6 pm Town of Hunter Hall
12.12.15  CFAPOA Holiday Party — 5 pm Chippewa Inn
1.16-3.16 Board Meeting Recess (as currently scheduled)
4.07.16  CFAPOA Board Meeting — 6 pm Town of Hunter Hall

Newsletter Editor
Barb Salomon

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