

# LAKE WAUSAU ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Spring, 2018



Wausauqua Ski Team  
1976

## Lake Wausau clean up efforts and how you can help!

This winter there was a lot of on-line activity concerning excessive littering on Lake Wausau after a bonfire on the ice. To their credit, much of the litter was later cleaned up by the bonfire participants. Littering on the lake is an ongoing problem on Lake Wausau, as well as other lakes across the country. We are lucky to have an active program (Wisconsin River Cleanup) and another in the initial stage (Adopt a River Bank) that aim to reduce the impact of littering on our lovely Lake Wausau. (Continued, page 2.)



*Partnerships formed at the 2017 Wisconsin River Cleanup.*



**Contact Us! We'd  
love to connect!**

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Board of Directors:

Russ Graveen, President

Rick Parkin, Vice President

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Mark Peter

Mary Kate Riordan

Jim Wagner

Dan Weilep

## Wisconsin River Cleanup 2018

On Friday, May 11th, student and adult volunteers; and DNR staff will take place in the 19th Wisconsin River Cleanup (lasts about 4 hours, followed by lunch.) This valuable program that makes Lake Wausau cleaner, and provides a volunteer opportunity for over 250 area high school students. Last year over 1.5 tons of debris were removed from our waterway. The focus of this program is for students take pride in this River system for today and the future. If students take away a feeling of ownership in the river, it will carry forward to future generations.

Lake Wausau Association Board members, Rick Parkin, Mark Peterson and Russ Graveen have volunteered in past Wisconsin River Cleanups. Mark and Rick used their boats to transport students, and, Russ worked with students along a segment of the river bank. This is what these active board members have to say about this outstanding experience. “I found the event very rewarding. Our task was not only to beautify and improve the aesthetics but also to improve the shore land and shallow water habitat. This event contributes to the quality of recreation in our community. Friendships and partnerships are forged by working together. (Russ Graveen) It was great working together for a cause that benefits not only the people using the lake but the animals around and in it. (Mark Peterson). “It’s great to see the participation from the kids and the excitement the kids have knowing that they’re doing a good community deed and making a difference with our lake and river. It’s an absolute worthwhile event. The best thing about the event is the kid’s involvement and seeing how they react to what they find and seeing the joy they get from participating. (Rick Parkin)

Mark, Russ and Rick said to make sure to plan on the possibility of cold and inclement weather. And expect your boat to get dirty as you fill it with hundreds of pounds of trash. They all enjoyed the experience however, and look forward to participating again!

For more information on how to take part in this program or donate to the Wisconsin River Cleanup, please contact Jon Cooksey, Secretary/Treasurer, Wisconsin River Cleanup, at 715-614-9003.

## Adopt a River Bank Program!

The Lake Wausau Association is in the early stages of developing a program to help reduce littering along the shorelines of Lake Wausau. We are looking for individuals, community groups, organizations and companies to adopt sections of Lake Wausau and commit to cleaning up those sections a minimum of two times per year. Adopters will be able to choose from locations along Lake Wausau and the Rib River. If you know of a group or individuals that would be interested in more information about this environmentally friendly program please email the Lake Association at [LakeWausau@gmail.com](mailto:LakeWausau@gmail.com), or contact Mary Kate Riordan at 715-302-0108 or [riordanmk@gmail.com](mailto:riordanmk@gmail.com). Benefits of the program:

- create healthier habitat for wildlife and aquatic animals,
- build teamwork,
- give back to your community,
- fulfill volunteer hours,
- explore the watershed you live in, and
- build fieldwork into your educational curriculum.



*Wisconsin River Cleanup along river bank.*

**Mark Your Calendars for May 18th for the 6th Annual Lake Wausau Fund-raiser, Dales Weston Lanes from 6pm-10pm. See details, and information on how to purchase tickets on page 4!**



## Social, Sewage, and Song!

On February 7th we held our yearly lake Wausau social at Gulliver's Landing. It's was a fun night getting together with fellow association members over great food and drinks. Eric Lindman, The Director of Public Works for the City of Wausau gave an informative and candid report on the sewage spill that happened January 23rd off of Sturgeon Eddy Road. This was followed by entertainment provided by Double Vision, a local acoustic duo.

Here is a summary of what Eric Lindman informed the group about the spill. A plugged sewer main on Wausau's southeast side has been cleaned and opened after the city discovered sewage was overflowing a manhole and flowing into the Wisconsin River. The city discovered the sewage overflow after officials responded to an odor complaint. The pipe, where the plug occurred, is one of the city's two sewer main river crossings which was originally from installed in 1939. Sewer mains plugging with debris and breaks to older infrastructure are inevitable, but they are taking increased steps to monitor, for detection of and notification of future back ups. The city will be installing a monitoring system in the manhole that overflowed which will provide for early warning of future flow problems in this pipe section crossing the river.

This blockage occurred at the time of Kraft Foods releasing a large amount of milk fat into the system (estimated 2,000 gallons) that the city believes contributed to the blockage. The City of Wausau is following up with increased monitoring of an overflow system to help prevent future incidences and provide for early warning alarms related to pipe blockages. 3.7 million gallons of raw sewage was released into the river. which amounted to around 400th of one percent of the total water flowing through this section of the river. (The Wisconsin River is deep in the main channel - the total volume of Lake Wausau is around 12,994 acre feet.)

Water samples were collected during and after the discharge. WIDNR tested immediately for dissolved oxygen and did not find significant damage. There is no health impact or public health issues at this point.

The DNR is following up with additional testing to see if there are any lingering issues. If we hear of any significant outcomes from this follow up study, we will let you know.



*Eric Lindman, City of Wausau Public Works*

*Lake Wausau Social, 2018*



The Goal of the Lake Wausau Association is to protect and maintain the Lake for the entire community and to assure that this treasured resource remains healthy for current users and future generations. We welcome all to join our efforts.

## Up Coming Events

April 18: Lake Wausau Association Board meetings, Gulliver's Landing Restaurant, 6 pm.  
May 2: Lake Wausau Association Board meeting, Gulliver's Landing Restaurant, 6 pm.  
May 18: Lake Wausau Association 6th annual Fund-raiser, Dales Weston Lanes, 6pm to 10pm.  
June 3: Central Wisconsin Water Walkers Ski Show, 6:00pm, DC Everest Boat Landing, Wausau.  
June 6: Lake Wausau Association Board meetings, Gulliver's Landing Restaurant, 6 pm.  
June 10: Central Wisconsin Water Walkers Ski Show, 6:00pm, DC Everest Boat Landing, Wausau.

## Central Wisconsin Water Walkers 1997

The Water Walkers program has been dazzling the Marathon County area for over 20 years with their water skiing performances. Their shows are open to the public and are local on Lake Wausau 14 times a year, and at Lake DuBay 12 times, with two traveling shows. The theme of the shows this year is "Water Walkers Studio presents the Great Movie Adventure".

The Central Wisconsin Water Walkers Ski Show Team was formed in 1997. Their mission is "to provide quality show entertainment, develop the sport and skill of water skiing and promote team spirit within a family environment". The Water Walkers have had a resurgence since 2010. Lanell Gokey, attributes this regrowth to more families becoming involved. These families brought in a lot of young skiers that stayed to become seasoned water skiers and mentors to new skiers. Right now the team has 10 skiers under 10. Check out the preshow starting at 5:40 which highlights this young talent. Exciting news is that once again the Water Walkers are heading to the State Competition, Division 3, on Thursday, July 19th in Wisconsin Rapids!



Everyone on the team participates, either on the water or behind the scenes. Participants range in age from 5 to 69. Robert Mcmillan is the longest active skier on the team, he has skied all 21 years of the clubs existence. A Board of Directors oversees the operations of the Water Walkers and all directors are skiing participants in the shows, WOW that is an active Board!

For more information on the Water Walkers skiers, their schedule and how to become involved, visit their website at <https://www.cwwaterwalkers.com>. The LWA are proud sponsors of the Central Wisconsin Water Walkers, and you can be to!

## Wausau Water Bugs 1955 - 1956

Water Skiing has a long history on Lake Wausau. The first official water ski team was called the Wausau Water Bugs. They performed at the old Northland Marine Base in Schofield (north of the current Lake Pointe apartments, Grand Ave). Their first show in 1955 boasted "Slalom skiing, leaps off the ramp on Lake Wausau and clown acts" (Wausau Daily Herald, 9/17/1955). At that time the team had about 40 members, each supplying their own boats, with Tom Beacham and Clark Everest as club officials. Hundreds of spectators attended the shows.

## Wausauqua Water Ski Show Team 1971-2002

The Wausauqua Team formed in the late 1960. This family oriented group hosted numerous statewide ski tournaments, over a 40 year span, many attracting over 500 spectators from across the state. They were also active in numerous State Championships. Their first shows were held at Memorial Park Landing, as well as road shows to surrounding communities. They later moved their shows to the DC Everest Landing where the bleachers were installed for show spectators. They disbanded in 2002.

### **Join the Fun and Support Lake Wausau! 6th Annual Lake Wausau Association Fund-raiser**

To be held Friday, May 18th, 2018 from 6pm - 10pm at Dales Weston Lanes. Tickets can be purchased by messaging us on Facebook: Friends of Lake Wausau, or emailing us at [lakewausau@gmail.com](mailto:lakewausau@gmail.com). If you buy 8 tickets you can reserve a table! Tickets are \$50 per person and include entry into cash prize drawings. This is a fun social evening with night-long raffles and auctions, and chances to win cash prizes. Only 400 tickets will be sold. Cash prize drawings - 1st place - \$2500, 2nd place - \$1000, 3rd place - \$500, 4th place - \$300, 5th place - \$200. Price of ticket also includes a buffet style dinner and beer, wine, and soda. (A cash bar will also be available.)

**Hurry the tickets are going FAST!**