



PO Box 101  
Presque Isle, WI 54557

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**Have Something You Want to Sell, Buy or Trade or a Service to Offer?**

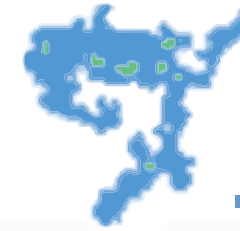
A "Classified Ad" section will begin appearing within the 2019 Oxbow Lake Association Annual Newsletter. Coincident with the newsletter mailing, the classified ad section will also be made available on the website (<https://oxbowlakepi.com>). Here's the scoop:

**Ad Rates** – 2 lines (up to 74 characters) free for Paid OLA Members, \$25 for non-members  
 1/8 page (up to 444 characters) \$25 for Paid OLA Members, \$50 for non-members  
 1/4 page (up to 888 characters) \$50 for Paid OLA Members, \$100 for non-members  
 Larger ads will be considered and rates will be determined on a case by case basis

- Rules** –
1. All Ads must be received via e-mail no later than midnight on April 30, 2019.
  2. Ads will be printed/displayed as they appear when received (we will not edit your ad).
  3. Payment for all Ads must be received via USPS mail no later than May 31, 2019.
  4. Payment ensures your Ad will appear on the website until June 15, 2020 or until you notify OLA via e-mail to discontinue displaying the Ad.
  5. Only those Ads deemed appropriate by the OLA Board of Directors will be accepted.
  6. Ads must be sent via e-mail to: [oxbow50@aol.com](mailto:oxbow50@aol.com)
  7. All payments must be made via check payable to: Oxbow Lake Association

P.O. Box 101  
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Note: Acceptance of your Ad by the Oxbow Lake Association Board of Directors does not imply endorsement of your product(s) or service(s).



**THE OXBOW UPDATE**

Summer 2018 Volume 16, Number 1

**What Are These Guys Doing on the Lake?** by Otto Novak

For those of you who weren't present at the 2017 Oxbow Lake Association Annual Meeting, you missed an opportunity to interact with a recognized expert in their field regarding the health of Oxbow Lake. The feedback regarding the presentations by Dean Premo, Phd and President of White Water Associates, has been nothing short of outstanding! Not only did Dean captivate those of us in the meeting room, we also had the privilege of interacting with him while on the lake. Rather than commit an injustice and try to relate to each of you what he shared, I'll summarize his presentation. Pertinent to plant community health, Oxbow Lake is ranked near the top of all lakes studied in Presque Isle - not bad, for a lake that had been written off by many during the 90's.

For those of you who were indeed present during the annual meeting, I'm sure you left feeling confident that Oxbow Lake is among the healthiest lakes in the country. I know when I left that day, I walked away with some swagger. So much so, that I felt that it was way too good to be true. So, I decided to do some digging. I poured through lake study results and reports, checked bios and references and even toured White Water Associates facilities in Amasa Mi. I could find no flaws – White Water Associates is a top-notch company and the Oxbow Lake study results are pure. However, while reading and comparing the results of different reports side by side, something suddenly stuck out.

As many of you know, aquatic plant studies were performed in both 2007 and 2014. **WARNING!** *This may start to get a little technical, so hang in there.* The results in 2014 indicated a 10% improvement in overall Floral Quality Index (FQI). Though 10% sounds like solid improvement, by itself, it doesn't carry much weight.

However, while "peeling back the onion", we discovered that common waterweed which had dominated the aquatic plant community in 2007, was all but gone during the 2014 survey. Common waterweed offers very little conservatism value and thrives in disturbed habitats. In conjunction, the 2014 study revealed the presence of more sensitive plants which weren't present during the 2007 study and which carry a much a higher degree of conservatism value. I know many of you involved in our Adopt-A-Shoreline program (see associated article), have also identified new plants in addition to the increase in the sheer volume of plants.

What caused such a dramatic improvement within the plant community throughout the lake? The most obvious answer is the focus placed on protecting the perimeter of the lake and islands which began shortly after receiving the recommendations from the 2007 study. Do we have enough information for other lakes to implement and benefit from? At this point, the answer varies from scientist to scientist – imagine that. In order to help facilitate the answer, I'm proud to share that Oxbow Lake has been awarded an unprecedented third lake study grant and that an advanced aquatic plant study will occur on the lake this summer. In addition to the aquatic plant study, the first ever Oxbow Lake shoreland assessment will be conducted as well as another fish population and creel survey (see associated article).

I'm sure those of you who spend time on the lake will encounter WDNR personnel while they're conducting the fish creel survey. If you're interested in observing the work performed by White Water Associates as they conduct the aquatic plant study or shoreland assessment, please contact me at (715) 686-2628.

**2018 BOARD**

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## 2018 is a Banner Year for Research on Oxbow Lake: By Jeff Kenkel Adopt-A-Shoreline does its share

Oxbow Lake is in great shape! While some other lakes in northern Wisconsin are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars battling invasive aquatic plant species, researchers are intrigued at the resurgence in native plants on Oxbow. While many lakes depend on costly, and less effective, stocking to maintain walleye fishing, Oxbow has a naturally reproducing population.

2018 is a big year for research on Oxbow Lake. White Water Associates is conducting an unprecedented third lake study. DNR biologist are researching the improvement of our aquatic plant community, and they are conducting a fish creel survey to look for correlations. That is a lot of interest in Oxbow!

Meanwhile, our very own citizen-led Adopt-A-Shoreline program is in its ninth year. Our volunteers cruise the near-shore waters watching for exotic or invasive species. Early detection is our goal. Aquatic invasives have a reputation for ruining native habitats and spoiling water recreation. History proves that quick action is both more effective and less costly than after-the-fact remedial action.

Please consider joining in! We are always interested in additional volunteers. Please contact Jeff Kenkel or Otto Novak, if you would like to help or learn more about this program.

## Northern Wisconsin Lake Temperatures Rising

By Stu Whipple

Very recent reports from the UW-Madison Department of Limnology (John Lenters) have revealed rising temperatures of lake waters in Northern Wisconsin and in several other states and provinces. The rate is more than three times than the rate of overall world warming! This is dramatic in that water temperatures have significant impact on everything growing in and about lakes. For Oxbow Lake this means such critical factors as fish species, their growth, procreation and/or decline, bacterial load or ability of the lake to keep at bay harmful growths of everything up to and including algae and invasive or overly productive current species. It means the presence of frogs, their types and numbers and the bugs on which they feed may be radically altered.

This suggests that unchecked or impossible to remedy, Oxbow Lake will become a significantly different lake for our children than it is for us. Gone forever might be the mighty musky replaced by "dirty" water with algae blooms, invasive species, and eroding shorelines.

Sound "alarmist?" Perhaps not if we look to our South at Oneida County where one lake suffered up to 40% real estate devaluation due to lake degradation from misuse/overuse. (As reported by last summer's edition of the [Lakeland Times](#)).

Obviously, Oxbow Lake starts from a higher state of quality and the fact that it is at this state means residents are doing a number of the "right things." The question is will this be enough for future challenges? Fortunately, we are going to get a head start at the annual meeting where Dr. Susan Knight will help us understand the threat and some actions we can plan for our lake's future...if for nothing else than keeping the lake property values as high as possible in what appears to be a challenging future market.

Here are a couple of concerns I've asked Susan to address regarding a warming Oxbow Lake and in particular what I can do to keep the bladderwort, bryozoans and fresh water sponges active in Peaceful Bay (the bay at the outflow of Basin Creek)? Given that these organisms act as vacuum cleaners for Oxbow waters and that they may be sensitive to increasing water temperatures I am concerned how accelerating bacterial and algae loads may affect "my" bay and what can I do to maintain the health of my lake?

Secondly, what can I do to maintain my property to make sure it remains a healthy ecosystem in support of my lake?

Please bring your own questions for Susan to our annual meeting.

If we work together our task becomes lighter and we become better friends.

## FISHING REPORT by Paul Cieslak and Gary Hughes

"Do you want to catch fish on Oxbow Lake" What a difference a year makes. Last year the ice went out in early April. This year April came and went and the ice was still THERE.....it finally went out on May 5<sup>th</sup> just in time for the Walleye Opener.

In April of last year, the first OLA fish crib was sunk on Oxbow. In conjunction with the sinking of the "CRIB", the fishing committee published an article on "FISHING THE CRIB ON OXBOW". The article

offers information on the crib's purpose, location and tips on how to fish it. We hope you find it helpful. For pictures of the **crib's construction process**, visit the Oxbow Lake website under the menu "Fisheries" at <http://oxbowlakepi.com>.

This year our lake is fortunate to host and support the Wisconsin DNR efforts as they conduct a "**FISH POPULATION AND CREEL SURVEY**". Among many other

activities is the counting and marking of fish. The fish gathered during the population survey were marked by clipping one of the fins. This is a summary of the DNR's walleye-targeted netting and shocking results this spring. In three days of fyke netting they captured 483 walleyes. The bulk of the males ranged in size from 10 -15 inches, while the bulk of the females ranged from 15-25 inches. The largest walleye sampled was a 28.7-inch female. During the

## FISHING REPORT - Cont.

electrofishing recapture survey, they captured 319 walleyes (116 of those were juvenile/immature fish), with 63 of those being recaptures that were originally caught during fyke netting. We'll have a good adult population estimate with relatively tight confidence intervals and a high degree of confidence. The DNR feels confident in saying that the adult walleye population in Oxbow Lake continues to look strong, containing a healthy male:female ratio with good size distribution....all sustained through good consistent natural reproduction.

In addition to the walleye, they caught 24 musky (including a couple of tiger musky) even though they weren't targeting musky; indicative of a solid musky population. They also caught a

good number of relatively small pike most between 15-20 inches), which is common in our area. A "spring summary report" maybe available by end of June.

We request that you report any caught fish, especially clipped ones, to DNR personnel stationed on the lake or to an OLA Board Member. A detailed explanation of these processes can be found on our **website** at "FISH & CREEL SURVEY INFO". As the preliminary creel survey results become available WE WILL POST THEM ON OUR **website**.

The following are the results of this year's Walleye Tournament and spearing activity. A total of 36 walleye were registered, 17 from Oxbow, 8

from PI chain, 8 from Big Horsehead, 2 from Wildcat, 1 from Birch with the biggest being 21 ¾ inches. Oxbow once again produced the greatest number of fish. These are the lowest numbers in recent memory, probably due to the late ice out. Oxbow was speared. The ceded quota was 134 walleyes and 5 musky 104 walleyes and no musky were taken.

Please report your fishing experiences and stories so we can share them in our report

ALL FISHING RELATED REPORTS AND ARTICLES CAN BE ACCESSED ON OUR WEBSITE. "<http://oxbowlakepi.com>" under menu "FISHERIES"

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"<http://oxbowlakepi.com> under menu "FISHERIES"

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## Oxbow Lake Association remembers...

This past year we lost two long time members of the Oxbow Lake Association – Terry Rockenbach and Dr. James (Jim) Rose. Terry enjoyed the beauty and serenity that Oxbow Lake continues to offer. Jim, who had previously served as an OLA Board Member, will always be remembered as a man with the utmost concern for the safety and well being of others on the lake.

## Oxbow Lake Web Site by Gary Hughes

<http://oxbowlakepi.com>.

I'll be presenting a quick overview of the Oxbow Lake web site. We've all spent numerous hours navigating web sites, so I don't see a need to spent a great deal of time on site navigation. Instead, my intent is to allocate more time for a Dialog/Q&A session so that you have an opportunity to provide feedback. With that said, I ask/urge **all Oxbow Lake stakeholders** to grab a couple of idle minutes, before the Annual Meeting (July21,2018), to **review/navigate the web site**.

The web site has been "live" since mid-July, 2017. Presently, the site functions primarily as a "digital" repository of the Association's internal documents. Although there are a few areas of the site in which the user can offer feedback, our future goal is to steer the site towards a more functional interactive/ feedback site. An additional goal would to save some expense on printing and mailing by driving more of the communications to the web site.

Thanks for Your Time & See Ya at the Annual Meeting.

**NOTE:** Please load the web site in your **browser** (aka address area)..... It isn't a WWW site... doesn't work well with search engines.

# OLA Summer Events 2018

Annual Meeting  
July 21, 4:00 PM

Our annual meeting will be held at the Presque Isle Community Center on July 21, 2018. The agenda includes officer and board elections. Contact Paul Cieslak if you wish to nominate someone for an office.

## Annual Meeting Agenda

- 3:30 Registration  
4:00 Annual Meeting
- President's Welcome
  - Secretary's Report
  - Treasurer's Report
  - VOTE: Officers and Directors
  - Web-Site Q&A
  - Lake Warming Presentation
  - Open Discussion
- 5:00 Happy Hour  
6:00 Dinner (Picnic)

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## **FAMILY PICNIC** *Leave the cooking to us!*

Immediately following our annual meeting, we invite you to a family style picnic featuring your choice of broasted or baked chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, rolls, and dessert! **YUM!** (Please RSVP on our membership form so we can estimate how much food to order!) We've scheduled the meeting in the evening so you can enjoy a day on the lake with your family and friends...then come out and visit with your fellow neighbors from Oxbow Lake! BYOB cocktails for during and after our meeting! (Soda and water will also be provided.) Maybe you'll be lucky enough to win a bottle of award winning wine courtesy of Howard and Sally Hasselkus. And again, please RSVP via your membership form.

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## **FLOTILLA** August 18, 6:00 PM

The 2018, annual Oxbow Flotilla will be held at 6:00 pm Saturday, August 18. We will pick-up anybody who wants a ride, either at their pier, or at the boat landing, around 6-6:30 pm. Everybody brings a dish or snack to pass around....and the beverage of your choice. If you have a pontoon, and will be able to drive it, and can accommodate guests, let Jim Zientek know (jcz74@yahoo.com).

Last year, we had three pontoon boats tethered together, for a casual, and fun evening of visiting our lake neighbors. This is always a nice activity, and a great way to learn about your fellow lake residents and all that we share, in living on Oxbow lake.





# THE OXBOW LAKE ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 101, PRESQUE ISLE, WI 54557

## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Oxbow Lake Association is to

- Preserve and protect Oxbow Lake and its surroundings
- Defend water quality, fishery, boating safety and aesthetic values of Oxbow Lake as a public recreational facility for today and future generations
- Maintain the natural shoreline of Oxbow Lake
- Inform individuals, organizations and government bodies on issues affecting and pertaining to Oxbow Lake.

## OLA TIMELINE

2001 – The Oxbow Lake Association (OLA) is founded.

2004 – Oxbow Lake (OL) is rezoned Residential (R1), restricting use of lake front properties to single-family residential homes, grandfathering existing resorts, and preventing commercial development.

2005 – OLA helps form the Presque Isle Town Lakes Committee with representatives from 11 other area lake associations in a joint effort to prevent invasion of aquatic invasive species. OLA members are elected to critical officer positions and are instrumental in the formation and direction of the committee.

2006 – OLA begins official lake clarity measurement (Secchi disk) and reporting to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

2006 – OLA board members form a partnership with the WDNR to gain insight into the WDNR's expectations and garner support (e.g. fish creel surveys, grants, etc.) for future preservation activity.

2007 – OL is one of seven area lakes awarded WDNR grants for the purpose of performing lake studies, including an aquatic plant inventory which confirms the absence of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The lake study also serves as required baseline documentation needed to secure WDNR funding to combat AIS, should it ever be encountered.

2007 – In conjunction with the WDNR, OLA board members replace the boat landing kiosk with a new kiosk that includes all required WDNR and Town of Presque Isle notices. Additionally, an informational map is included to inform boaters of the protected shoreline perimeter.

2007 – The Clean Boats – Clean Waters Program is initiated on OL to help prevent the invasion of AIS. OLA members begin inspecting boats and trailers on days when the boat landing has increased activity (e.g. fishing tournaments, holiday weekends).

2007 – 2008 Fish Creel Survey and Study is conducted in response to the 2006 OLAWDNR joint meeting. The study reveals a healthy, natural reproducing fishery which requires no additional stocking.

2008 - OL becomes the first area lake to have an approved and completed Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP) which, in addition to an aquatic plant inventory, details the actions recommended by ecology scientists.

2009 – OLA members receive tools and training from the WDNR to begin water chemistry profiling used to help determine lake health. This activity along with lake clarity readings, indicate improving lake conditions as compared the previous most recent measurements from the 1980's and 1990's.

2010 – OLA initiates the all-volunteer Adopt-A-Shoreline Program to provide early detection of AIS and lessen the damage and associated expense should AIS ever invade OL.

2011 – OLA expands focus to include terrestrial invasive species (TIS) after recent discoveries of both garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed in Presque Isle, including on an OL property.

2011 – The first OLA Flotilla is held, beginning what has become an annual, on-water social event.



# THE OXBOW LAKE ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 101, PRESQUE ISLE, WI 54557

- 2012 – WDNR awards OL with an \$8,600 grant award for a 2<sup>nd</sup> lake study to begin July 2014.
- 2014 – The 2<sup>nd</sup> aquatic plant inventory is performed on Oxbow Lake showing Oxbow lake remains AIS free.
- 2014 – Dissolved oxygen readings are added to monitoring efforts.
- 2014 – OLA membership exceeds 50 family memberships.
- 2015 – OLA expands focus to include wetlands.
- 2016 – OLA applies for and obtains 501c3 status.
- 2016 – Annual recreational lake use studies begin.
- 2017 - OLA members construct fish crib and initiate associated contest.
- 2017 – OLA Website is launched.
- 2018 – OL is awarded an unprecedented 3<sup>rd</sup> aquatic plant study and first shoreland assessment grant.
- 2018 – Subsequent fish population study and creel survey takes place.

## OLA BOARD

Otto Novak President, 2006-	<u>Background</u> – Telecommunications Management & Executive Leadership <u>Organizations</u> – Presque Isle Committees: Accommodations Tax, Board of Adjustments, Parks and Recreation, Town Lakes; Director, Wilderness Veterans Memorial Flame Foundation; Parish Council Chairman, St Rita Catholic Church
Stu Whipple Vice President 2016 - Director 2014-2016	<u>Background</u> – US Air Force Veteran, Psychotherapist, Social Services Instructor, National Park Ranger <u>Organizations</u> – Disabled Veterans of America, American Legion Post 480 Presque Isle <u>Accreditations</u> – B.S. Political Science, History Sociology, M.S. Clinical Social, Clinical Social Worker Emeritus
Jeff Kenkel Treasurer, 2016 - Vice President, 2005-2016 Director 2002-2004	<u>Background</u> – Environmental Engineering <u>Organizations</u> – Board member, George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center <u>Accreditations</u> – BS Civil and Environmental Engineering, <u>University of Wisconsin</u>
Jim Zientek Secretary, 2014- Director 2012-2014	<u>Background</u> – Dentistry <u>Organizations</u> – Sheboygan County Dental Society; Sheboygan Evening Lions Club; Sheboygan County Community Players <u>Accreditations</u> – PhD Dentistry, Marquette University School of Dentistry
Paul Cieslak Director, 2002-	<u>Background</u> – Banking, Management and Executive Leadership <u>Organizations</u> – American Management Society, Izaak Walton League of America, National Bankers Association <u>Accreditations</u> – B.S. Marketing, St Joseph's College Indiana
Gary Hughes Director, 2016-	<u>Background</u> – Military Veteran, Business Owner, Peterbilt of Wisconsin, Leadership Academy <u>Organizations</u> – JXE Steering Council, Peterbilt National Parts Council Chairman, Volunteer-Meals on Wheels & Henry Vilas Zoo
Linda Novak Director, 2016 - Treasurer, 2014-2016 Director 2006-2014	<u>Background</u> – Emergency Services, Commercial Restaurant Industry Management <u>Organizations</u> – EMT/AHA Instructor, Nicolet Area Technical College; Secretary, Vilas County Fire Chief's and Emergency Services Association; Presque Isle Committees: Presque Isle Volunteer Fire Department, Town Lakes Committee <u>Accreditations</u> – Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, National Registry of EMTs, Firefighter