

# *Lake Mildred and Clear Lake Property Owners Association*



## Fall 2020 Newsletter

### **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

By Mick Howen

Once again, hello members of the Lake Mildred & Clear Lake Property Owners Association, neighbors and friends. When I wrote to you earlier this year, I mentioned I had hoped we'd be putting Coronavirus behind us prior to our scheduled meeting in May. Well, as you know, we were unable to meet in May and now we will not be able to meet in September either. Although it's extremely disappointing, the idea of trying to meet in a room with members coming from many different places simply didn't seem appropriate. Our hope is that you are safe, you are well, and you are enjoying lake life!

Please know that throughout the year, our team of board members have been communicating regularly and we've met virtually to ensure there isn't a slow down when it comes to our efforts and responsibilities. In addition, since we are not able to meet with you in September, we thought it would be good to release a second Newsletter for the year (a year we will not soon or perhaps ever forget). Please sit back, relax, and read this newsletter. We hope it will bring you up to speed. Of course, should you have any questions or concerns, we're always happy to hear from you.

Before we move on, you may remember that a Board of Directors election was scheduled to take place during the September meeting. Due to the circumstances, Stan and I were asked by the other board members to extend our terms. We are happy to continue. Please keep this in mind. When we are able to meet again, we will address the election efforts. In the meantime, if you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Board of Directors in support of the association's purpose, please submit a nomination.

Please remember it is in everyone's best interest to invite new members into the association. Likewise, we truly welcome supportive nominees into the election process for the Board of Directors.

Okay, here comes my "I've said this before moment". Please remember to slow down on the lake when you are supposed to slow down. It's our responsibility to know the laws and we should follow them to help protect our shorelines. If we can go above and beyond right now, that would be even better. To be sure, damage and erosion is already occurring! As always, I wish you continued enjoyment on the lake as we all do what we can to make sure Lake Mildred and Clear Lake remain truly wonderful!

## LAKE LEVELS AND BOATING

If you have been to the landing recently you probably noticed a banner that was put up by the Lake Association.

### **CAUTION EXTREME HIGH WATER CONDITIONS**

#### **Shore Erosion and Property Damage Occurring NO WAKE WITHIN 100 FEET OF SHORELINE**

We are all concerned about the impact the high water is having on the shorelines of both of the lakes. Dying trees, banks washing away, docks underwater, etc.. Of course we also remember when the water levels were so low we were worried about the future of our lakes. Most of us don't want that to happen again but there are consequences to the high water levels.

The Association is asking boaters to be extra careful and to avoid creating large wakes within 100 feet of the shorelines on Lake Mildred. This is very hard, we know this. The shape of Mildred makes it very hard to follow this guideline. The long shape of a good portion of the lake and narrows between the parts and around islands makes this hard. And going slow with some boats actually creates larger waves than if they were going fast. It can be confusing to owners watching boats go by their property.

So please do the best you can. Avoid creating large waves close to shores. Be especially careful traveling through the narrows and around islands. We also ask you to observe these boating courtesies:

- Sound travels over water. Please keep the volume of boat mounted music systems at levels only needed for people in the boat to hear and enjoy.
- Docks do provide habitat for fish and can be a good place to fish, but please respect the privacy of people by not anchoring or casting next to docks or the adjoining shoreline when people are using their dock or swimming.
- Never run your motorboat between a swim raft and the shoreline. You might not know if someone is in the water.
- Large waves create an unsafe situation for kayaks or canoes. Please be careful when you pass by them. Together we can help reduce the impact of the high water levels and enjoy the lakes safely.

### ***Lake Mildred and Clear Lake Property Owners Association***

8/20/2010

Pier completed out of water



8/16/2020

Same pier 18" under water





## FISHING REPORT AND STOCKING UPDATE

By Paul Evans

One of the most common questions heard on both lakes is “are you catching anything?”. Sometimes yes, sometimes no. Well that is fishing. The high water has caused problems (shoreline deterioration, trees dying, docks underwater, etc) but it also has the potential to improve the habitat and ultimately the fishing. There does appear to be more small fish in the shallows taking advantage of the cover provided by the fallen trees, dead bushes, or rocks. People are catching fish. Muskies, walleyes, crappies, bluegills, and of course smallmouth are being caught. Some of the caught walleyes do appear to be from the first stocking we did. This is of course is just a guess (there are no labels on them!) but given the size they could be from the early stocking we have done. That is very encouraging. Other larger walleye are from natural reproduction which of course is also good to see. Of course crappie, large smallmouth, and walleye are not in the numbers we all would like. Not yet anyway.

We all play a part to improve the fishing. Of course continuing the stocking is an important part of that. And thanks to many of you, we can again stock walleye this fall. Thank you. But we all have to continue to practice good fish management as well. We are asking everyone to follow the following guidelines. We have to keep our larger fish in the lake so that they can spawn and add to the numbers of quality fish.

Please release all muskies and walleye regardless of size. Release all largemouth and smallmouth bass over 18 inches. And release all panfish (including crappie) over seven inches.

If you are lucky enough to catch a trophy or personal best, please handle the fish carefully, measure, take a couple of pictures and let it go. I know that not everyone agrees with these guidelines, but we are asking everyone to help us improve the fishing so we can all enjoy the great sport of fishing.

**If you haven't paid your 2020 dues please send your check made out to LAKE MILDRED PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION and mail to Jim Wheaton, 218 Elm Court, Rhinelander WI 54501.**

*Attached is a form to include with your dues.*

*July 4th flotilla and entertainment by Mick's band*



# Lake Notes

## From Stephanie Parise, Lake Mildred:

As summer is winding down, I reflect on everything that has happened in 2020. While we all know this summer has been anything but normal, I hope everyone was able to enjoy the little things in life and spend some time at the lake. A few weeks ago I sat on our patio and watched a Muskie fisherman casting in front of our place. Within 20 minutes of being out there, I saw him reel one in. It wasn't huge, but it wasn't small either. I felt like I was watching a fishing show on TV, but this was real life! A few days later the same boat was out there again. I watched as someone pulled a kid on a tube very close to him near the narrows. I was worried the fisherman was being disturbed with how close the other boat was driving by. A few minutes later, I watched the same fisherman reel in another Muskie. I couldn't believe it! While the fisherman was still successful, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to respect the fishermen (and women) out there and give them their space. We are all here to enjoy ourselves at the best place on earth!

## From Stan Strub, Clear Lake

I've learned that John Gillen (Team Forestry Leader, DNR, Rhinelander District Office) and his staff are responsible for overseeing the State owned islands on Mildred. I informed John of the high water levels we're experiencing and related problems/concerns. John was very receptive to the update and indicated he will schedule a technician, or two, to survey the islands, timing to be determined based on current work load. John indicated he has me listed as the associations contact and will be in touch when and at such time survey and analysis are completed. Included in my comments to John were our concerns on shoreline erosion and tree die off on the State islands and private owned shoreline

On July 26th of this year I recorded the highest water level as I know it for Clear Lake since 1992. This recording being 81" above the lowest level as I know of and recorded on October 8th, 2013. As of this morning we are 4" below the high water mark of July 26th.



Stan's 'Growboat'

