

## TO THE RESIDENTS OF UPPER ST. CROIX LAKE AREA

Hi! My name is Joanne Zosel and I have been acting as coordinator for the Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program for ten non-consecutive years. From tremendous efforts on behalf of your Lake Association, you have been the beneficiaries of at least nine lake protection grants. Each of these has provided an opportunity for local students to be trained in an educationally based protocol to help inform users of our local treasure, Upper St. Croix Lake, of the dangers of aquatic invasive species and to help them understand the laws put forth by the WDNR. These student monitors also earn a small paycheck for their efforts and a much needed environmental prospective. The way the grants work is through "match dollars" earned by having volunteers sit beside the students while they go about their jobs of informing boaters. It is a task that benefits the students, the volunteers, and our lake. Last year, 2017, we did not receive a lake grant but our Board felt it was essential that we continue to educate our lake patrons. We ran the program just like any grant year but used solely Lake Association Memberships to help pay for the student work. Our coffers went to just above zero. We need to replenish them now. If you have not already become a Lake Association Member, please consider doing so now. Last season, I was able to have 59 volunteers sit at the launches from our little town of Solon Springs! Most volunteers sat with a student twice at one of the two launches that we monitored. This season we are monitoring all three sites: Main Street Launch in the Village by the Inn, the launch at Lakeview Lodge, and the WDNR Launch at Palmer's Landing. The grant specifies that each launch must be staffed no less than 200 hours. If you are willing to be one of the volunteers or if you would like more information about this extremely worthwhile project, please contact me either by telephone: 715-378-2603 or via email: jzosel@solonk12.net.

The purpose of this project is to make sure that boats launched into our lake do not bring with them harmful invasive plants like Eurasian Water Milfoil. We also need to educate boaters about their practices dealing with "invisible invaders" such as zebra mussel larvae and bait infected with VHS. Since these species currently do not occur in our lake, but do occur in progressively more and more local lakes, we are making every effort possible to keep them out of Upper St. Croix Lake. Our monitoring program last year included 59 area adult volunteers along with 22 students. Working in 3-hour shifts during the weekend hours, we inspected 1255 boats and spoke with over 3041 boaters. I would like to think that our educational efforts helped to maintain the quality of our lake. As of this writing, we have inspected 351 boats and have spoken with 680 people. We have 95 volunteer hours from 26 different people.

Lake Association membership is a great financial help to enable the projects we do for the lake to be continued. Please join or renew by completing and returning the dues form found in this newsletter. Thank you!

## OUR LAKE LOST A CHAMPION

Last December, 2017, Jim Heim was shoveling snow, slipped and fell, hitting his head. He passed away the following day, about a week before his 90th birthday. Jim was always active and involved right to the end. He was instrumental in forming our lake association and leading the projects we have done. Jim was our USCLA board president and treasurer. He would attend meetings of the village and town boards, NW Lakes Conferences, Douglas County Lakes and Streams and any other meetings relating to lake environment and legislation locally, regionally and statewide.

Jim worked with the WDNR to improve their grant application for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. He would take people on his pontoon that were here to do studies about our lake. Jim and his wife Patricia went out six times from May through October to do volunteer sampling of the water of Upper St. Croix Lake. They would take Secchi disk readings for water clarity, temperature readings and collect water sample for lab analysis regarding dissolved oxygen and other chemical elements.

Jim was active in the Solon Springs Lions Club and the Solon Springs Fire Commission. He was a leader in many areas. This article just hits a few high points of his contributions. An article in the Superior Telegram, Jan. 23, 2018 is available online to read. The Village of Solon Springs has placed a bench at the St. Croix Inn boat landing in honor of Jim's memory. Activities this summer and fall will be different without his involvement. Truly a planner and doer with a sense of humor, he will truly be missed!!

## STUDENTS CLEANUP COUNTY A

During the morning of June 13th, six youngsters along with Mrs. Zosel met at the Community Center just before 9:00 AM and embarked on the annual highway clean up from Hidden Greens Golf Course to Dahlberg Light and Power. This is a part of the Adopt-A-Highway program the USCLA has been doing. Three and one-half hours, countless wood ticks, and thirty-two garbage bags later, we were done. These fine individuals earned a small check from your Lake Association towards their upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. in June 2019. This is just one way that your lake association memberships help the entire area. We have been proudly helping students with a small travel stipend for both here and abroad from many years. In turn, the largest amount of road that parallels our local gem, Upper St. Croix Lake, gets a thorough cleaning. It is definitely a win-win situation.



## YELLOW IRIS PROBLEM

Upper St. Croix Lake has been experiencing a large infestation of Yellow Iris, a beautiful yellow flower that is toxic when its sap gets on your skin causing redness and itching. The other problem it creates is that it is beginning to slow the flow in the river to a point where lake flooding is becoming a concern. The density of the plant is forming floating bogs that could cause problems for all of us. It first became evident in 2013 and was reported to the Douglas County Conservationist. The county had been the recipient of a Wisconsin DNR AIS Grant to determine what invasive exotic plants are currently in our lakes and streams and what could and should be done about it.

Back in July of 2013, control work began, with the assistance of Upper Lake St. Croix Association and Solon Springs High School student volunteers. Canoes were launched from the Prevost Landing, off of Prevost Road at the southern end of Upper Lake St. Croix. Yellow Iris plants were cut under water or pulled by hand. The Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters Canoes on Wheels Program provided canoes for the project. On July 20, 2013, a presentation on the Yellow Iris Project was given to the Upper St. Croix Lake Association to review the project goals and progress.

In July of 2014 an assessment was made of the Yellow Iris work done and the results were not nearly as successful as we anticipated. The same program was tried again and after a review in 2015 showing similar results it was agreed that stronger measures must be utilized. Letters were sent out to the Lake Association with instructions on how to handle Yellow Iris on their property and announcing an informational meeting at the Community Center on June 21 to discuss the problem. There were five people in attendance.

In 2015, a plan was devised to hire workers from the Minnesota Conservation Corp who came here for three days in June of 2016 to cut the plants. They used underwater cutters to attack the area at the outlet of the lake. Cuttings were bagged up and transported on pontoon boats, supplied by Lake Association members, to the Prevost Landing. There they were off loaded and taken to a facility for disposal. The MCC was paid \$1,000 for each of the 3 days. Douglas County had enough money left from their grant to cover the cost.

Last summer, 2017 a group of student volunteers from our Clean Boats Program, along with Angelique Dahlberg, and members of Upper St. Croix Lake Association and Project Red tried to emulate the MCC's work of the previous year. On June 26th, 2018 there was another yellow iris eradication day planned. Students, USCLA members and Project Red volunteers cut the yellow plant below the waterline, bagged them, and transported them on pontoon boats to the Prevost Landing. From there they were taken to the recycle center to be disposed of. The rest of the story is that our cutting efforts, though effective, cannot keep up with the proliferation of the plants. This problem affects all of us who identify with Upper St. Croix Lake. It is not a problem for any single group, but for all of us who live in the Village and Town of Solon Springs. Please do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions or suggestions.

## WALLEYE REGULATIONS

Walleye fisherman should be aware of the regulation that the minimum length 15", but no fish from 20" to 24" may be kept, and only 1 fish over 24" is allowed. The daily bag limit is 3. The latest survey indicates a decline in our walleye population while the bass population has been increasing.

## THE KNIFE OF CROWNHART ISLAND

The first recorded birth on Crownhart Island was in 1820 when Baptiste St. John first saw the light of day from the six-acre island in Upper Lake St. Croix. Some years later, it is said in the year 1869, this Indian returned to his birthplace and constructed a log cabin on the southern end of the island, the location of the old Indian village which was there in the days of Schoolcraft and earlier. A new cabin was later built by the Butler family of Superior, and still later when it became the property of Justice Crownhart.

In the construction of the Butler cabin, holes were dug in which large rocks were placed as foundation stones. Several feet below the surface, a knife blade was found in the soil which contained a large amount of partially burned wood and obviously was the location of an old campfire site.

When the island became the property of Henry Butler, this old knife and Baptiste St. John's pipe were passed along to the Crownhart family. Those who have examined the knife believe it is of the type manufactured in England for trade with the Indians, and doubtless is of vintage antedating the 1800s. The Butler family attached the bone handle which now appears on the knife and during the summer when the Crownhart family occupies the cabin, the knife is on display to visitors.

The knife played a prominent part in the traditions of Crownhart Island. When Schoolcraft visited the island in 1824, he remarked that the Indian tribe then villaged there was removing to the mainland due to a murder which had occurred on the island, and the annoying visitations from the spirit of the murdered individual. It was doubtless from that circumstance that the island was long known as the "haunted island," but the Crownhart family now assures its visitors that the last possible visit of the ghost was about 1920 and the island's reputation as being "haunted" may no longer be deserved. The actual circumstances of the ghost's last (?) visit is told only under certain circumstances, and is not narrated in written form.

Copied from the brochure June 10, 2006 by Maryann C. Turner

## INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS MONTH

Wisconsin's Fourteenth Annual Invasive Species Awareness Month was June, 2018. Protect the Places Where You Play: Keep Invasives Out!

Let's make every month Invasive Species Awareness Month. It is about being aware and responsible to your surroundings and the areas that are close to your heart. More info at: [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov). National Invasive Species Awareness Week was February 26 – March 3, 2018. There are many ways you can get involved by yourself or volunteer to help where and when needed with others. It would help if every lakeshore owner made sure no purple loosestrife or yellow iris grew on their shoreline.

## REFLECTIONS

Nature never hurries: atom by atom, little by little, she achieves her work. The lesson one learns from boating or planting is the manners of Nature; patience with the delays of wind and sun, delays of the seasons, bad weather, excess or lack of water.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson as found in the publication Lake Tides.*

## PONTOON RIDES

Saturday, July 7th, from 1 - 4  
 Free rides available for rich or poor  
 Loading at the St. Croix Inn dock  
 Don't miss out, watch your clock.  
 Come learn about our lake history  
 Don't wonder and leave it a mystery  
 Enjoy the fresh air environment  
 Don't miss the boat and then lament.

You may see an eagle, a loon or two  
 Experience the water and the sky so blue  
 Upper St. Croix, a beautiful lake  
 A ride you'll be happy you did take.  
 UPPER ST. CROIX LAKE  
 ASSOCIATION JULY 7TH  
 CELEBRATION ACTIVITY  
 Poem by Bud Hinaus

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The following sayings are about life in general, but they can apply to our involvement with Upper St. Croix Lake, an environment that we love and enjoy.

Today is yesterday's future and tomorrow's past – let's make it count!

Those who can read but don't, have no advantage over those who cannot read.

Winston Churchill said: "You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."

An ambitious young person asked a great merchant to reveal the secret to success.

"Just jump at your opportunity", said the merchant.

"But, how can I tell when my opportunity is coming?"

"You can't – just keep jumping."

A new opportunity has presented itself to our lake community. Last December we lost a true steward for Upper St. Croix Lake when Jim Heim suddenly passed away. While shoveling snow, just short of his 90th birthday, he slipped and fell, hitting his head. The next day he left us, active right up to the moment his time on earth ran out. Will new people step forth to help fill in his work for our lake, thus giving, which would enhance their life? Will new people surface to jump at an opportunity to help keep our lake the best it can be, now and in the future? Your membership in the USCL Association is one way you can chip in to help. Volunteering to monitor the boat landings for Clean Boats/Clean Waters is another way to make today count. The fish are jumping, will you be jumping also?

## RED FLAGS

**SATURDAY, JULY 14, THERE WILL BE A TEST OF THE RED FLAG WARNING SYSTEM BY THE USCLA.**

Red flags will be strategically placed all around Upper St. Croix Lake so they are visible from any place on shore.

What is the meaning of the red flags (about eighteen) at the end of your neighbor's docks? If and when Douglas County has detected a danger to swimmers at the public beaches and closed those beaches, they will also notify the USCL Association. Members of USCLA will then post red flags at the end of docks to signal private residents of the potential danger. Red flags will be removed when the lake water contamination danger has passed as determined by Douglas County. Possible contamination could involve E. coli or high levels of blue-green algae. Information on blue-green algae can be found at the site: [dnr.wi.gov/lakes/bluegreenalgae](http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/bluegreenalgae).

## Upper St. Croix Lake Association Board Members 2017-18

Greg Hart .....	218-591-8881
Bud Hinaus .....	715-378-2565
Paul Howman .....	763-242-5295
Dick Kronzer .....	715-378-2200
Tim Mowbray .....	715-378-4320
Doug Nagle .....	715-378-2800
Darlene Olson .....	715-817-2637
Patricia Pearson .....	715-378-4109
Scott Peterson .....	715-520-7732
Joanne Zosel .....	715-378-2603

## UPPER ST. CROIX LAKE NEEDS YOU!!

Please join the Lake Association today. You can help make a difference.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Solon Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with your \$25.00 regular membership 2018 dues check.

Other options are Lake Lover/\$50 or Lake Patron/\$100. Thank you for your support.

Make check payable to: USCLA Box 366 Solon Springs, WI 54873

## WHAT'S HAPPENING? SOLON SPRINGS AREA WEBSITES

Check these sites, be informed and participate in and support happenings in the Solon Springs area.

**Solon Springs** [www.visitsolonsprings.com](http://www.visitsolonsprings.com) (CHECK IT OUT)

**LWPAC** [www.lwmusic.org](http://www.lwmusic.org)

**Water events** [www.fotsch.org](http://www.fotsch.org)

**Land events** [www.fotbs.org](http://www.fotbs.org)

**Solon Springs Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/vsswi>

Get out and ENJOY what's happening in your Solon Springs area.

## ICE OUT TRIBAL SPEARING HARVEST HISTORY

(YEAR – # WALLEYES)

1989 - 219	2000 - 319	2011 - 178
1990 - 215	2001 - 121	2012 - 274
1991 - 184	2002 - 229	2013 - 30
1992 - 178	2003 - 205	2014 - 0
1993 - 212	2004 - 293	2015 - 75
1994 - 0	2005 - 197	2016 - 136
1995 - 0	2006 - 277	2017 - 173
1996 - 283	2007 - 199	2018 - 94
1997 - 198	2008 - 281	
1998 - 231	2009 - 194	
1999 - 154	2010 - 242	

## ICE OUT DATES

Compliments to the record keeping of Werner Wenske (passed away 2003) and Bud Hinaus 2004-2018

April 22, 1975	April 28, 1983	April 10, 1991	April 9, 1999	April 17, 2007	April 9, 2015
April 16, 1976	April 16, 1984	April 21, 1992	Mar. 28, 2000	April 25, 2008	April 14, 2016
April 10, 1977	April 18, 1985	April 20, 1993	April 27, 2001	April 16, 2009	April 4, 2017
April 19, 1978	April 12, 1986	April 16, 1994	April 17, 2002	Mar. 31, 2010	May 3, 2018
April 19, 1979	April 6, 1987	April 21, 1995	April 21, 2003	April 13, 2011	
April 16, 1980	April 16, 1988	May 2, 1996	April 18, 2004	Mar. 24, 2012	
April 10, 1981	April 24, 1989	April 21, 1997	April 11, 2005	May 11, 2013	
April 23, 1982	April 18, 1990	April 6, 1998	April 12, 2006	May 7, 2014	

Check out lake info posted on the Lake Association bulletin boards at the St. Croix Inn and Palmer's Landings.

# Upper St. Croix



## Lake Association

P.O. Box 366  
Solon Springs, WI 54873  
715-378-2565

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*The Association exists to preserve and protect the Upper St. Croix Lake and its surroundings. It strives to enhance the water quality, fishery, wildlife, boating safety and aesthetic values of the Upper St. Croix Lake as a public resource for today and for future generations.*

## MARK YOUR 2018 CALENDARS

June 9	Lions Kids' Fishing Contest – Park Pond	9:00 AM – Noon
June 22	NW Lakes Conference - Spooner HS	
<i>(If you missed the above events, be sure to enjoy the following events)</i>		
July 7	Solon Springs Family Fun Days	
July 9th - 18th	Solon Springs Lions sponsored Swimming Lessons	
	Lucius Woods Beach	
<i>Lucius Woods Performing Arts Center</i>		
June 30	The Fractals (Free Concert) - LWPAC	7:00 PM
July 7	Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra - LWPAC	7:00 PM
July 14	Copper Box (16 years Award Winning) - LWPAC	7:00 PM
July 21	USCL Association Annual Meeting	9:00-11:00 AM
<i>See details back page of this newsletter</i>		
July 21	Reverend Raven & The Chain Smokin' Altar Boys - LWPAC	7:00 PM
July 28	Blue Water Big Band - LWPAC	7:00 PM
August 5	Whitesidewalls (50s & 60s) - LWPAC	7:00 PM
<i>Note: Gate opens 5:30 PM Silent Auction</i>		
December	Christmas in the Country Celebration	

## HANDY PHONE NUMBERS

Douglas County Sheriff .....	715-395-1371	Town Office .....	715-378-2295
	or 800-924-9956	Dahlberg Electric .....	715-378-2205
Douglas County Conservationist		Sewer Repair .....	715-378-2610
Christine Ostern .....	715-395-1266	LWPAC www.lwmusic.org..	715-378-4272
Douglas County Zoning .....	715-395-1380		
Village Office .....	715-378-2235		

**EMERGENCIES..... 911**

# Upper St. Croix Lake Association



## ANNUAL MEETING 2018

**Saturday, July 21**

**Solon Springs  
Community Center**

**9:00 – 9:30 AM  
Coffee & Conversation**

**9:30 AM  
Membership Meeting  
Speaker to follow**

**Please join us and find out what  
YOUR Lake Association  
is all about.**