

# COLORS

It is quiet on our lake these days. Piers are out, boats are scarce and the colors of fall are changing on a daily basis. Our early colors were a bit muted - subtle, mild and short-lived like the first maple syrup of very early spring. Today, you could say that the visual "volume" is getting turned up to high... I wake each day to the penetrating and powerful colors of late fall, as deep and intense as the last dark syrup of the harvest.

I am new to this time of year in Sayner. Duck season usually takes me south for October and have always missed this part of the year in the north. It has been a BIG miss.

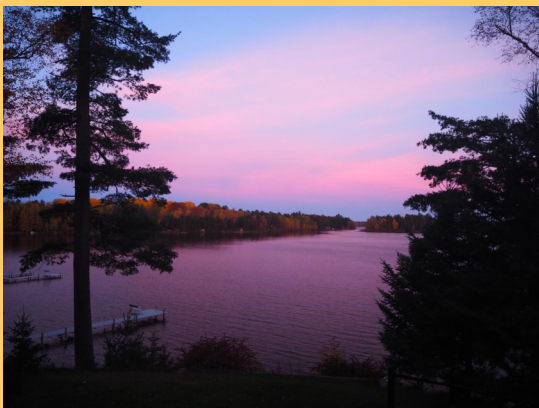


It really began with fields of golden birch, unchallenged by all but the early pink/red maples. Today, we have the huge deep reds that oaks so seldom display, backed by the blindingly bright golden yellow of aspen, all splashed on a field of deep green pine and hemlock. The hard maples are now equally bright yellow and the pallet is nearly full, as rapidly yellowing tamarack hurry to catch up.

It seems the sky is not going to be outdone and it competes each morning and evening. The un-retouched photos below

show how serious this rivalry has become. The Northwoods is showin' off ... struttin' its stuff.

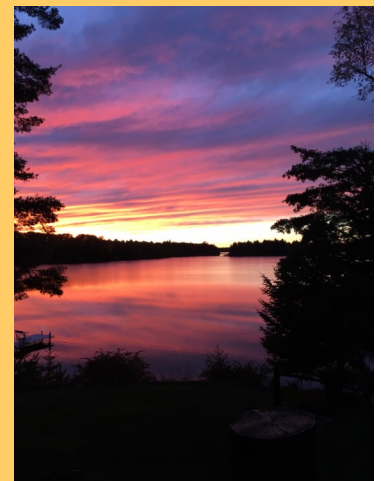
I heard I have missed some good duck hunting and Ivory is more than ready to get back in the marsh, but immersing myself in this, and play-



SUNRISE

ing a final round of golf or two, folded into this amazing display, was worth it. I'm glad I stayed for the show. If you left before the main event, you might consider lingering a bit longer next year. You'll need a camera....and sunglasses.

AJR



SUNSET

October 22, 2017

## LOON HOOTS

*The Newsletter of Plum Lake Association*



## North and South Twin Lake District Petition Approved by County Committee

*[Gail Shea attended the public hearing on this lake district. This is her report]*

Choosing to go directly to the Vilas County Board of Supervisors rather than through local town boards in Phelps and Conover, the North and South Twin Lake Riparian Association (NSTLRA) presented their lake district petition to the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Committee on October 10.

They are fighting a severe, recurring Eurasian water milfoil infestation that covered 40 percent of 640-acre South Twin with a dense mat of vegetation in 2015 and has invaded North Twin (2780 acres).

After an hour of testimony from leaders and comments from lake residents, the county committee approved the petition and sent it forward for consideration of the full board of supervisors at their November 14 meeting. Lake leaders said that milfoil treatment cost \$40,000 this year.

Because only 30 percent of lake property owners contributed to the voluntary effort to finance remediation eradication, they concluded that a lake district was the only fair, predictable and sustainable way to combat aquatic invasive species such as milfoil.

In addition, the current legislature's cuts in DNR funding, the availability of state grants, especially for lake associations, is shrinking. Lake districts have a higher priority for available state funding.

The director of a South Twin girls' camp cited safety concerns. He said that milfoil mats stopped ski boats cold, tossing children into the windshields. He also was concerned about campers and others falling out of sailboats and drowning in the tangle of weed mat.

The owner of a lakeside resort testified that longstanding guest families have said that they will not return unless the milfoil was controlled, endangering her business.

Milfoil was first found in South Twin in 2001. Initial treatment efforts including herbicides (2, 4-D) and hand-harvesting were sporadic and produced mixed results, including impacts on non-targeted lake vegetation.

NSTLRA officers noted that of 750 eligible respondents, including some properties with multiple owners, 53 percent of residents of the proposed lake district signed the petition. Eighty percent of businesses on the lakes - resorts, restaurants, summer camps, etc. - also signed.

Of more than a dozen public comments, all but two strongly favored the lake district. Opponents said that something must be done but opposed a new taxing body, called for "everyone" to pay for remediation, and reported negative "rumors" about lake districts.

Under state law, lake districts are quasi-governmental authorities that can tax lakeshore and lake-access property owners to pay for remediation of aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian water milfoil. Lake district actions are governed by vote of members at an annual district meeting held in the summer months.

Plum Lake town supervisors rejected a proposed Plum Lake District in September, with two no votes and one abstention. Eurasian water milfoil has been found in Little Star Lake, in the Plum-Star lake system.

Gail Shea Nardi

***Plum Lake and North and South Twin Lakes share similar water quality and lake bottom type with one exception. Plum has more muck bottom, suitable for aquatic weeds.***

Facts and Figures	Plum lake	North Twin Lake	South Twin Lake
Acreage	1057 A.	2871 A.	628 A.
Maximum Depth	57 feet	60 feet	43 feet
Average Depth	20 feet	28 feet	20 feet
Trophic status	Mesotrophic	Mesotrophic	Mesotrophic
Hydrologic Type	Drainage	Drainage	Drainage
Bottom makeup	30% sand, 30% gravel, 10% rock, 30% muck	55% sand, 25% gravel, 20% rock, 0% muck	60% sand, 15% gravel, 25% rock, 0% muck





## Loon News

The adults left in mid September. The 6 kids are flying around the township, but have all been seen at one time in the last month on Plum. They will leave any day now. It will be three years before they come back, but they always do. One day, a lone loon will softly hoot at you as it surfaces next to your boat. Hoot back. Its your way of saying welcome home.

### Lake Laura protozoa

This spring, thousands of tadpoles died on Lake Laura. The State Lab was brought in to conduct a post mortem on the amphibians to determine the cause of the die off. They discovered a protozoa that had caused massive organ failure and is not only new to our town and county, but to the State as well. Research has commenced to try to determine where this protozoa lives within the lake and how it infects the tadpoles. Coincidentally, Laura has experienced a complete reproduction failure of walleyes for the last three years (a first for Laura) and there is no known cause for this event either. It is unknown if they are related but is a major concern. It was reported to the Town Lakes Committee by Bob Jackson, a new member of our committee from Lake Laura and a retired fish biologist, who is an expert in this field. We are lucky to have Bob on our team at this point. We will report more as information becomes available.

### Town of Plum Lake Lakes Committee update

One of the results of the loss of the proposed Lake District for our lake is the increased role the town supervisors envision for the Town of Plum Lake Lakes Committee to carry out the AIS planning and implementation of both prevention and remediation work. The committee, which finally has a representative from each major lake, met on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> to finalize the grant cost share requirements for 2018.

John Richter, immediate past chairman and Doug Pinney who joined this year, both represent our lake.

Early in 2016, we brought an idea to the Lakes committee - a permanently mounted camera system that provides 100% coverage of boat landings, recording video of each boat launched. The system, called I-LIDS, provides full time coverage during the open water season. Since the CBCW monitors are on the landings only for about 15% of hours that boats are likely to be launched, it represented only a partial solution to the problem. Other lakes have dedicated full time paid employees to monitor the landing, but this expense is significantly above the financial ability of our lake association. On Black Oak, it amounts to over \$30,000 for the season.

The I-LIDS solution is eligible for a state grant for installation and is considered to be the most effective tool for prevention of AIS. I have visited locations with this system in two different counties (Fence Lake has one in operation) and went to Sawyer County to check out installations there and talk with officers of Lake Namekagon Association, which has had I-LIDS cameras on all 4 landings for the last 10 years. Their experience has been excellent. Like us, they are determined to do everything they can to prevent AIS from infecting their lake. Like us, AIS is in lakes surrounding them and they see how important and cost effective prevention is by comparison to the long-term financial burden of incredibly costly remediation that spans years and becomes a permanent cost to the towns.

Copy and paste the link below for a short presentation on I-LIDS for your information. The Lakes Committee is proposing to apply for grants for two installations on Plum, and at the last meeting, added one for Star and one for Ballard.

<http://lakesentry.net/Presentations/Preventing%20Aquatic%20Invasive%20Species%20Infestation%20in%20Lakes/index.html>

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