2022 Closes & 2023 Look-Ahead

This year’s Annual Meeting was held on August 13th, 2022. A copy of the slide presentation from the Annual Meeting is available to view or download at the CLPA website (http://www.ChetekLakesPA.org), or request a copy thru our email.

Some of our new projects completed in 2022 included:
1. Establish electronic payment and member renewal online thru our website
2. Increase communications thru more frequent updates on Facebook, website, emails, and the Chetek Alert
3. Formalize a recognition program for donations, memorials, and business sponsorships
4. Aquatic Plant sampling all 6 lakes, update/review new data, and update our Aquatic Plant Management Plan to monitor our lake’s health

Additional projects for 2023 will include:
1. Applying for a DNR grant to study our lake-bottom sediment and determine if/where dredging may improve lake health in the future
2. Expand our Lake Data Monitoring and Clean Boat Clean Waters programs
3. Complete data analysis of Aquatic Plant Samples with our Engineering Firm
4. Participate in Water Quality Improvement Program with the Red Cedar Watershed Partnership

Education & Outreach

Signage: We have completed our third year of public landing sign updates with new constructed CLPA Landing signs throughout our chain of lakes. In total, volunteers have constructed 13 new signs with weather-proof materials and a clean platform for consistent messaging. In addition, you may have also noticed our new Welcome Center sign as you enter Chetek on Hwy I. Also take note of our two new Premier Sponsors (Lakes Country Marina and Wolff’s Den/Wolf Pack Charities) who are featured on the Welcome Center sign.
Sterling Bank and Six Lakes Realty, as Signature Sponsors, are recognized at the Pokegama and Brown’s boat landings.

Website Enhancements: We have added new menu “drop downs” to our website to enable online payments, communicate volunteer interest, and recognize CLPA charitable, sponsor and memorial giving. In order to offer secure transactions and communicate Volunteer interest, please visit the Membership/Donation section. Hopefully, you’ll find this helpful in saving time and postage. Contributing online also helps us reduce volunteer hours required to process paper forms, checks, and bank deposits.

In addition to annual memberships, there are several ways to support the CLPA and be recognized on our website. Our new “Friends of the Lakes” donation category and Business Sponsorship programs were introduced this year to provide recognition on our website for larger contributions. This past year our website had over 13,000 visits from 8,000 unique visitors, becoming a greater resource for Supporters, and Sponsors.

We also now have a way to recognize Memorial donations to the CLPA. Over the last few years, we have had several families specify “in lieu of flowers please donate to the CLPA”. These tributes will remain on our website year after year and are nice ways for family and friends to honor the memory of a “loved one”.

Lake Saving Projects

Healthy Lakes Grant Projects – The CLPA has finished their two Healthy Lakes Grants totaling over $67,000 to assist lake property owners improve their properties and reduce runoff into the Chetek Chain of Lakes. We completed multiple projects for 29 property owners which included native plantings, rain gardens, water diversions and rock infiltrations. In addition, we have placed 29 fish stick bundles on the shores of the chain to improve fish habitat. If you are interested in learning more about Healthy Lakes Projects please see the DNR website at “healthylakeswi.com”. Also, please contact the CLPA if you are interested in doing any projects as we are building a list of interested lake property owners that we will use to write a future Healthy Lakes Grant in 2024 or 2025.
Skimmer Operations Update – This spring’s later than normal ice-out coupled with fluctuating water levels from the dam repairs delayed the start of skimming until early July, almost a full month later than previous years. This contributed to a drop in the amount of material collected to 70 cubic yards. We continued to see a significant increase in floating Duckweed which is common throughout northern WI. While difficult to collect, the Duckweed pools up, dies, and then rots in low flow areas creating moldy matts and foul odors. Including this year’s contribution, we have removed 2,643 cubic yards of plant material from the lakes since starting in 2016. Not bad for a volunteer organization funded 100% through donations!

We are grateful to our great group of volunteers for their continued support. Anyone interested in learning more about the program can reach us by e-mail at skimmer@cheteklakespa.org.

Citizen Sciences

Clean Boats Clean Waters Landing Inspections and Lake Data Monitoring will continue in 2023 but needs to be more comprehensive throughout The Chain. If you can assist, please let us know. Training sessions will be offered starting in May.

CLPA Board of Directors Transitions

We would like to thank Jack Schnell for serving 20+ years on the Board as he retires from the Board this year. Jack’s longevity and commitment have been nothing short of exceptional. We also thank two additional Board members retiring the end of this year: Bud Bremer (former Treasurer) for updating and improving our systems and showing everyone an example of the highest of performance standards, and Jack Rusch (Secretary) for his dedication to assuring the Healthy Lakes Program was one of the most successful in the State, and for supporting the CLPA in several other capacities.

We also thank our new Board members that have volunteered to join our Board and help us lead: Greg Gray, Greg Steele (Treasurer), Logan Tjossem, Sue Schmitz, and Nancy Nix.

2022-2023 Member Renewal

Reminder: It’s not too late to pay your 2022-2023 member dues or make a donation. Many members have requested online/electronic payments for processing membership dues and donations. We are now setup to receive electronic payments from your credit/debit card! Secure payments can be made by going to the CLPA website, or scanning this QR code from your smart phone’s camera: