

The Round Trade Lake Improvement Association

Fall 2023 Newsletter and Notice of Annual Fall Meeting

Saturday September 16th at 10AM

T-Dawgs in Grantsburg WI

<http://tradelakeassoc.org/>



Facebook Group Volunteer Hours



Spring Meeting and Picnic

The Round Trade Lake Improvement Association (RTLIA) had a good showing at the Spring Meeting and Picnic at the Pickerel Point Boat Launch on Big Trade Lake. We counted over 50 attendees representing at least 22 lakeshore properties. **Our next meeting will be held at T-Dawgs Event Center in Grantsburg on September 16, 2023. The information presented at this meeting will be vital to the success of the Association as described in the next article.**

2023 Fall Meeting and Election of Officers

Currently the Association is supported at about 60%, 4 volunteers are responsible for all the activities of the Association. We currently support 4 Wisconsin DNR funded grants totaling almost \$100,000. We held 2 Invasive Species Workshops, sent out 3 newsletters, arranged and implemented a large-scale Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) herbicide treatment on Round Lake, held the Spring meeting and picnic, and finally, we are planning the annual Fall meeting in which this newsletter is intended to encourage attendance. We can really use some help, currently we are in need of Big Trade and Little Trade Lake Representatives and the Secretary position is also open. This work is fun, rewarding and appreciated by your friends and neighbors.

We will be holding elections for open positions and those up for re-election at the Fall meeting. With Round Lake establishing a lake district, their participation in the Association will likely decline over time. Round Lake members currently hold 2 of the 4 occupied positions on board, Treasurer and Round Lake Representative. Round Lake understands the value of the Trade Lake community and has no plans to abruptly exit the Association. Round Lake board members plan to support all existing grant projects to completion. Those projects all must be completed and submitted to the Wisconsin DNR for final reimbursement by June 30th 2024.

However, as we go into 2024, the Association plans to take on a new project, a large-scale Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) treatment implementation on Big and Little Trade lakes. Since we are short on resources, we are in the process of scaling back the project. The original plan that was presented at the 2022 Annual Fall Meeting was a three-year project to manage both Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). The revised plan is a simple, one-time EWM only treatment similar to the one that was done on Round Lake this past Spring.

We would prefer to take on the original "large-scale" plan. This plan has been several years in the making with hundreds of hours of planning. It is difficult for us to abandon our previous planning efforts and compromise our original plan but 4 volunteers cannot take on a project of this scale. Your financial donations help but implementation requires physical effort. We need volunteers on the ground to implement and complete a project of this scale.

In summary, we need Big and Little Trade Lake volunteers to help us support this project. The goal of this newsletter is to get a discussion going. Use the Facebook page, email, personal communication... Reach out to a board member, talk to your friends and neighbors and let's take on the full project as planned.

Big Thanks to our 2023 Water and Shoreline Monitoring Volunteers

Trained RTLIA volunteers collect water clarity and water quality data that is compiled and analyzed by the Wisconsin DNR. Volunteers also monitor for both aquatic and shoreline invasive species. This is valuable and rewarding work. For example, the data for Big Trade Lake can be seen here: <https://dnr-wisconsin.shinyapps.io/WaterExplorer/?stationid=073056>

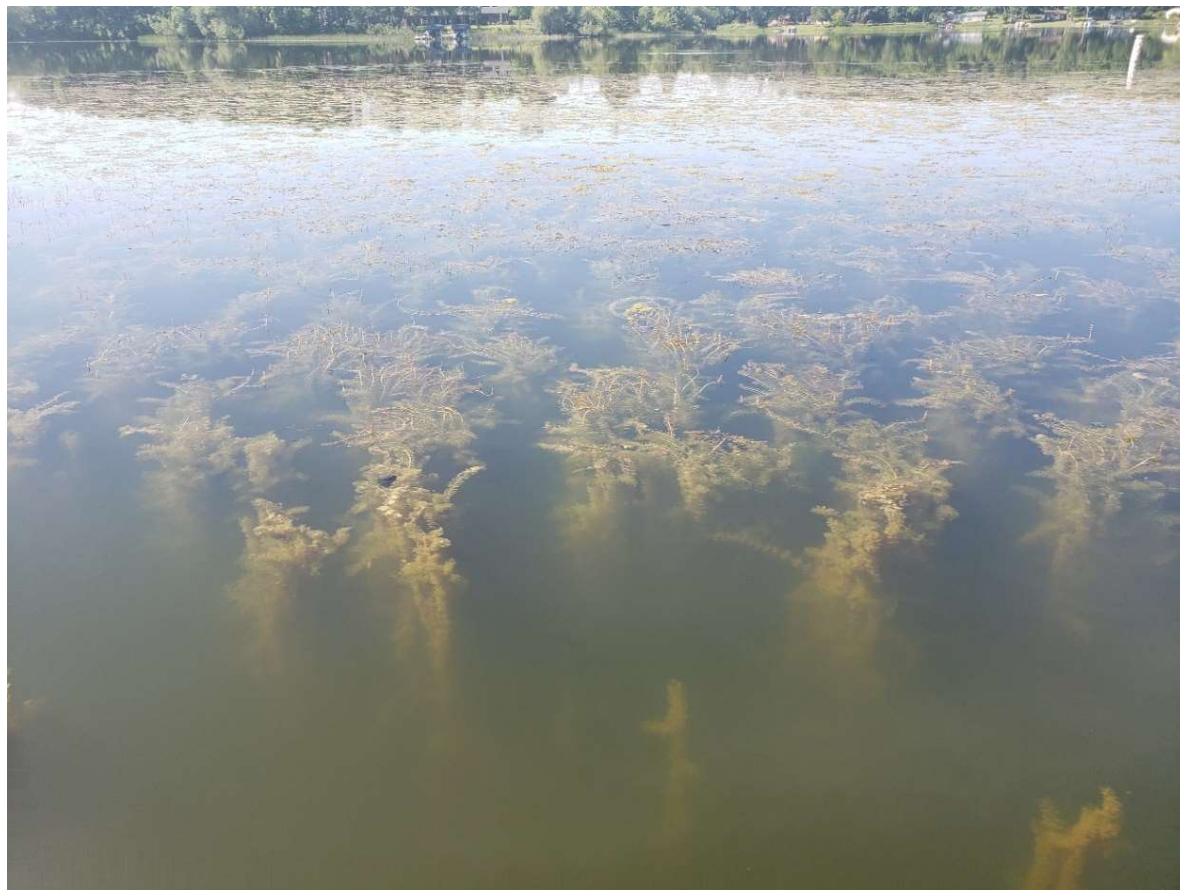
Water Quality	Big Trade: Buck Thompson	Little Trade: Bob Berry	Round: Greg Younker
Aquatic Invasive Species	Big Trade: Richard Tober	Little Trade: Mike Moe	Round: Greg Younker
Purple Loosestrife Control -	Big Trade: OPEN	Little Trade: OPEN	Round: Bill Piotrowski

We will need volunteers on Big and Little Trade Lakes in 2024 to participate in Purple Loosestrife Control. See the article on “Raising Beetles...” to get an idea what you can do to help. Also, volunteers come and go so now it’s probably a good time to expand our group of trained volunteers and relieve those who have been participating in the program for several years.

So, What Can I do to Help?

Well glad you asked! If we can recruit some help, we can expand the Big and Little Trade Lake management project up to 3 years and do a much better job managing the invasive weeds. If you have been out on Big Trade, near the rock piles (beds 32 and 33 in the diagram below, bed 32 is shown in the picture), you will notice a literal “rat’s nest” of weeds... this is all Eurasian Water Milfoil, about an acre around each buoy. We physically accompanied our contracted lake biologist Matt Berg on a five-hour survey of the entire shoreline of both Big and Little Trade lakes in early spring to evaluate Curley Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). We also accompanied our contracted lake scientist, Dave Blumer who repeated the survey in late summer. So, we (the board) know exactly what’s going on out there. We have invited Lake Scientist Extraordinaire Dave Blumer to present a summary of our 2023 work on Big and Little Trade at the September 16th Fall meeting and provide invasive species management options for 2024.

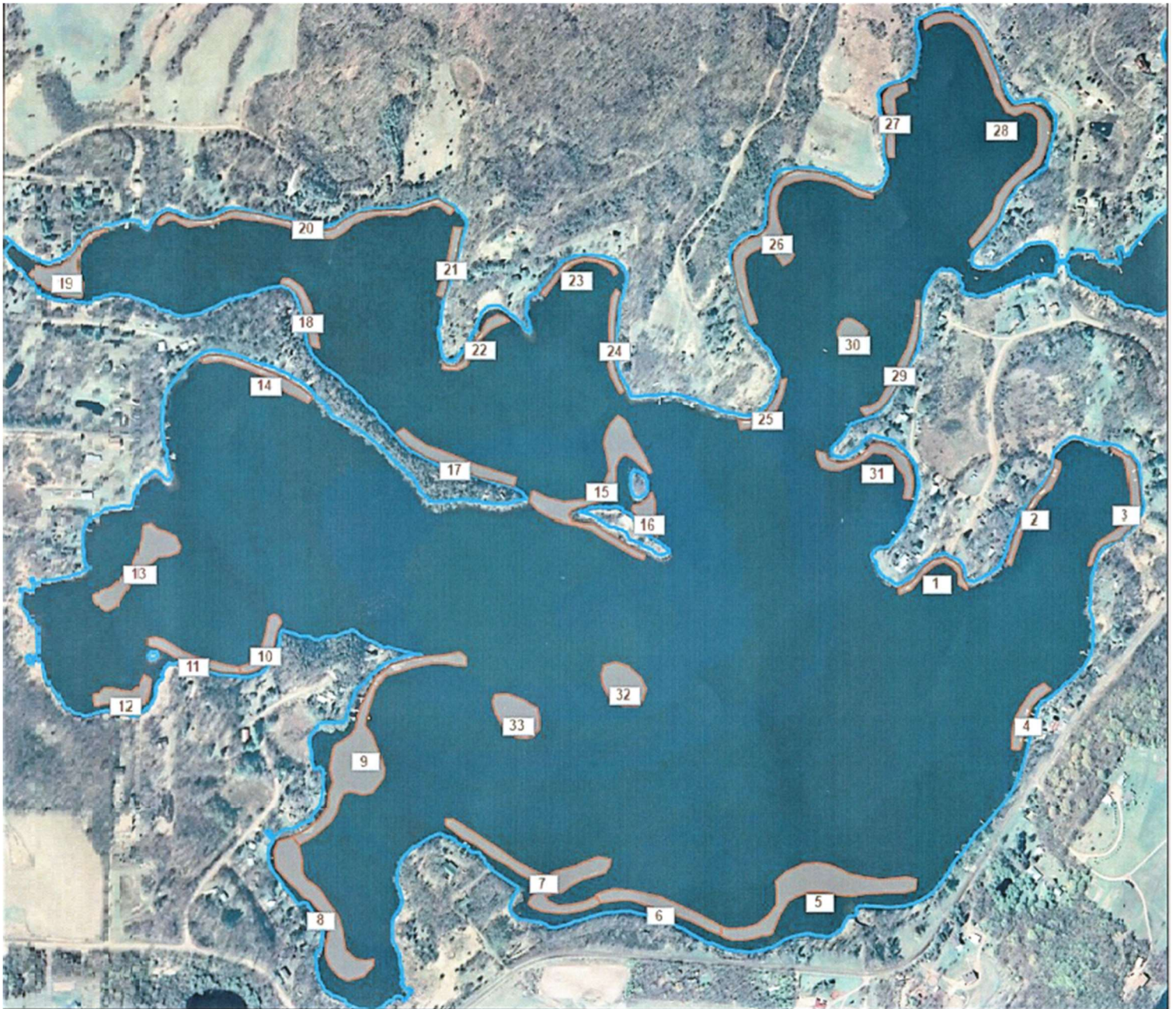
If the RTLIA can fill our open positions and get some interested volunteers to support the work, we can take on a larger project. Volunteers would be expected to assist with concentration testing following application of herbicide, pre and post bed surveys and help contribute to a report documenting the effectiveness of the treatment. Two purple loosestrife stations would



Eurasian Water Milfoil on Big Trade Lake

need to be supported in each year of the project. Lake Reps would assist in managing the project and coordinating volunteer activities. We also need someone to volunteer to work with the Association Treasurer in a transitional role and take over this responsibility in late 2024. Currently the Treasurer does all the work to support the DNR grants. This work requires basic project management skills and the use of Microsoft Excel. If this transitional role cannot be filled it will be impossible to take on a multi-year project.

Yes, it’s a lot of work but it all greatly benefits the lake!



Big Trade Lake Eurasian Water Milfoil Weed Beds – 2023 Survey

Round Trade Lake Improvement Association (RTLIA) – Membership/Donation Form

The RTLIA is a 501c4 nonprofit organization of volunteers that work closely with the WI DNR to clean up aquatic invasive weeds in Big, Little, and Round Lakes. Without this group, the DNR would not maintain the weeds. Please consider becoming a member for \$40/year and please provide an email so we can reach you more efficiently with updates. PayPal and Credit Cards are accepted securely at <https://tradelakeassoc.org>

Name: _____

Please use a mailing label if you have one.

Mailing Address: _____

Lakeshore address: _____

Email: _____

Receipts will be sent via email.

If paying by check, please mail this form and check made out to RTLIA, P.O. Box 64, Frederic, WI 54837

Raising Beetles...

Purple loosestrife biocontrol on Big Trade Lake



In late April to early May, we collect Purple Loosestrife root stock... It's a dirty job but somebody has got to do it...

Root stock is planted in 12 buckets in a 5-foot diameter kiddie pool.

Pool is drilled to maintain about 4 inches of water. Buckets are drilled to allow water to enter.



In Late May or early June, we collect beetles and add protective mesh bags over plants. 12 to 15 beetles are added per bucket. The mesh keeps the beetles on the plants but more important, protects beetles and their larvae from predators. 12 to 15 beetles per bucket will produce enough larvae to devastate these plants.

“Are these bugs gonna bite us? We always get that question when we ask to release the beetles on private land.

Well, no worries, the beetles are very docile creatures... when spooked, they drop from the plant and bury themselves into the mud. That is their defense mechanism. They eat the plant, and lay eggs. That’s all they do.





Guaranteed, the pupae will hatch at the worst possible time... it was the 4th of July weekend this year... the hungry new beetles, hundreds in each bucket, will need to be released right away... the plants have been devastated by the larvae so there is no food.

When “nature calls” you drop what you are doing and release the beasts! These beetles, probably over 1000, were release in the Church Street Bay on the south-west corner of Big Trade Lake. Remember it takes only about 12 beetles to devastate a plant so a little work goes a long way!

