

Link to
Volunteer
Hours:



The Round Trade Lake Improvement Association Spring 2024 Newsletter

Spring Membership Meeting, Picnic and AIS Workshop

Saturday June 1, 10AM at the Big Trade Lake Pickerel Point Boat Launch

Link to
Facebook
Group:



Round Lake Management District - The Round Trade Lake Improvement Association (RTLIA) would like to congratulate Round Lake property owners on their success establishing the Round Lake Management District. In the future, the RTLIA will allocate all funding and lake management efforts to support **Big and Little Trade Lakes** only. No funds collected by the Association will be applied to Round Lake in the future. The Round Lake Management District supports this decision.

RTLIA 2023 Review – In 2023, the Association delivered three newsletters, held two Invasive Species workshops and organized a Spring picnic on Big Trade Lake. In September we held our annual meeting at T-Dawgs in Grantsburg, Attendees approved a plan to pursue a \$120,000 grant from the Wisconsin DNR for a large-scale herbicide treatment project for Big and Little Trade Lakes.

In early February we were notified by the Wisconsin DNR that this project failed to meet the minimum requirements established for invasive species control and will not receive DNR funding. This was quite a setback for the Association. Without financial support from the Wisconsin DNR, this project would cost the Association about \$30,000 per year. With 180 property owners on Big and Little Trade Lakes, it would require about \$150 from each lakeshore property to support a project of this size. With only 35% of Big and Little Trade Lake property owners contributing a total of about \$4000 per year to the Association, it's unlikely we would ever get enough support to fund the project without help from the Wisconsin DNR.

Historically the majority of work done by our lake consultant has been funded with Wisconsin DNR grant money. As of 2024, all of our contracts with our lake consultant have expired so future consulting work would require cash payments. There is an option to re-apply for another herbicide based invasive species control grant in the fall of 2024 however, current DNR leadership feels that when it comes to herbicide treatments, the ***"solution is worse than the problem"***, so we would expect a similar outcome.

The Association is currently considering mechanical weed harvesting as another option for controlling the growth of invasive species in the future. Ten years ago, harvesting was not recommended on our lakes, at that time the weeds had limited distribution. Since then, invasive weeds have spread and can be located just about everywhere they can grow. Current recommendations for the Trade Lakes include mechanical harvesting as a preferred method of population control.



Mechanical Weed Harvesting –

Mechanical weed harvesters cut the weeds below the surface and use a conveyor to load the weeds into a collection bin which can then be dumped on the shore. They are expensive and require a volunteer crew to operate. The Wisconsin DNR encourages weed harvesting and allocates grant money but we would likely need to hire a consultant to assist in the grant application process.

One advantage of mechanical harvesting is nuisance native plants, like water lilies that impede navigation, can be removed. The

Wisconsin DNR allows a 30-foot navigation channel from any lakeshore property to open water (Wisc NR 109.06). A second advantage is that plants are removed from the lake and composted on land which would reduce the nutrient levels in the lake. Herbicide treatments basically convert the plants to muck which promotes the growth of more plants.

Spring Membership Meeting - Loss of the DNR grant, after more than three years in the making, leaves us with few options at this point. Purchase of a harvester will be discussed at the Spring Meeting. The WaterGator retails at \$42,000. Purchase would require some form of financing. Once our active DNR grants are closed out (June of 2024) the association will have about \$20,000 in the bank. Expect to pay \$30,000 per year to chemically control the weeds (assuming a permit is approved) or consider a \$40,000 one-time expense for a piece of equipment could be used for many years.

If you support the pursuit of harvesting operations, or if you have another option, reach out via email or Facebook and please attend the spring meeting. The goal of this meeting is to choose the path that the Association will follow in the future. We will also have a special guest at the Spring Meeting. Burnett County invasive species specialist Emily Moore will return to present information related to invasive species control and shoreline restoration. If want to learn more about what you can do to improve water quality and preserve your shoreline, the workshop is a great way to learn about the issues we are dealing with on the lakes.

Spring Membership Meeting, Picnic and AIS Workshop

Saturday June 1, 10AM at the Big Trade Lake Pickerel Point Boat Launch

Fall Annual Meeting

Saturday September 21th, T-Dawgs Sports Bar and Grill, Grantsburg Wisconsin

-----Cut Here-----

Round Trade Lake Improvement Association – 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: _____

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 to P.O. Box 64, Frederic, WI 54837

-----Cut Here-----



Round Trade Lake
Improvement Association
PO Box 64
Frederic WI, 54837

«Owner_Name»
«Owner_Address»
«Owner_City», «Owner_State» «Owner_Zip»