

## *Town of Plum Lake Lakes Committee Report*

### *February 2024*

*First*, we would like to thank the Town Board for its continuing commitment, support and funding of the Lakes Committee without which the Lakes Committee could not carry out its many activities. The Lakes Committee was founded in 2005 and is an all-volunteer committee. Anyone interested in protecting the health of our lakes is welcome to join.

*2023 Committee Activities* – funded by grants from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Town of Plum Lake and Vilas County

- Lake Management Plan –
  - Approved Lake Management Plan for the Town of Plum Lake available on the Town website and a hard copy available for review in the Town Offices and Sayner Library.
  - The Plan contains both lake specific and general Town activities for future lake management.
  
- Camera Surveillance at Town Landings –
  - Seven cameras operated on six town lakes (Ballard, Irving, Laura, Plum, Razorback and Star)
  - 35,219 videos capturing 4,176 boat launches; ten violations of state law noted in 2023
  - Committee actively working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) on enforcement
  - Active in 2024
  
- Clean Boats/Clean Waters (CBCW) –
  - In-Person Monitoring of Lake Landings
    - Approximately 1300 hours of monitoring by interns from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (UW-Osh) plus local citizens employed by the program
    - Lakes monitored – Ballard/Irving, Lake Laura, Plum (Statehouse Point and Town), Razorback and Star Lakes
    - 816 boats were checked for invasive species at the landings by the CBCW program.
    - Active in 2024
  
- Small Lakes Program/North Lakeland Discovery Center
  - Point Intercept (PI) studies completed on Jean, Dorothy Dunn and Wharton Lakes

- In 2024 the Discovery Center will be conducting Early Detection Rapid Response Surveys, Spiny Water Flea Surveys and Fisheries Habitat Surveys on Star, Plum, Razorback, Laura, Ballard, Irving and White Birch Lakes.
- Little Star Remediation –
  - Hand removal and disposal of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) from Little Star performed in August 2023 by Aquatic Plant Management. Harvesting was based on mapping survey of plants conducted in June by Onterra.
  - Active 2024 - ongoing effort to control the spread of EWM in Little Star
- Fish Sticks (Healthy Lakes Grant) –
  - Intended to increase coarse woody habitat in lakes
  - Grants obtained for Plum, Laura and Star Lakes
  - Completed first of three sites on Plum Lake in February 2023
  - Active in 2024
- Boat Decontamination –
  - Working with Vilas County in 2024
- Certificate of Commendation – The Lakes Committee of the Town of Plum Lake was awarded a certificate of Commendation in 2023 by Governor Tony Evers for the activities it has accomplished since the Committee's inception in 2005.

*Committee Leadership in 2023*

Chair - Bob Jackson

Vice Chair - Joe Heitz

Treasurer - Doug Pinney

Secretary - Lynn Wiggins