

Hello All,

How beautiful and serene the landscape of the Northwoods looks these days. Snow covers everything including the frozen waterways and lakes that make this place unique. Some have said there is no other place like this in the world! It's a statement easily validated when you consider the abundance of natural resource opportunities. It is the reason you live here in this ecological phenomenon, the reason visitors are drawn here, and most importantly the reason we have come to realize the responsibility of sustaining this gift we call home.

Many of you gathered in Mercer late last year to hear 4 speakers talk of their experiences as it relates to the lakes and rivers of the Northwoods. The goal of the organizers was to use that event as a springboard or a "call to action" to the people who live in the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

The responsibility of protecting our waters falls on all of us and takes many forms. At the top of the list are the invasive species you hear so much about. Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed and Yellow Iris, just to name a few. Efforts by various Lake Associations in Iron and Vilas county have been ongoing to control their spread. Unfortunately, the problems are more widespread than they are able to deal with.

That's where you come in.

We hope we can engage volunteers from your ranks. People who have a passion for the environment and are willing to convert that passion into action.

In the weeks and months ahead you will hear of plans to marshal an "army" of volunteers to deal with some of these issues. Although we have no formal leadership team in place we would welcome those who feel the call to organize these efforts. Will you consider how you can be involved? Whether it is giving of your time to contact and organize volunteers, providing equipment and tools for weed pull events, volunteering as a team member for those events or donating financial support. All of these areas are crucial to the efforts to save our waters for the next generation and beyond.

Our thanks go out to those who have been involved in the past couple of years. We hope your involvement will motivate others to join you in this worthy cause.

We leave you with the inspiring words of an Ojibwe woman who said, "We have a sacred duty to protect Mother Earth because Mother Earth sustained us. Mother Earth gave us our beauty and our sustenance!"

If these words ring true with you then please consider how you can be involved as our outreach continues into the spring of 2023.

Sincerely,
Bob Kary of Rice Lake Association