

# NORTH AND SOUTH TWIN LAKES RIPARIAN ASSOCIATION

NSTLRA

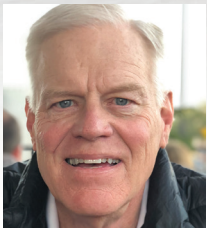
## NSTLRA Newsletter Spring 2026

PO Box 163  
Phelps, WI 54554  
NSTLRA.com

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I'll be brief because there is a lot of important information included in this Spring issue of the NSTLRA Newsletter. Great coordination and event planning have been accomplished by an amazing team of active, committed Board members. I can't thank them enough!

The NSTLRA has now been a significant part of lake living for 31 years. And that's thanks to not only our current Board members but also to those who have come before us including a special tribute to Ron Ottoson who recently passed away. It is just so obvious when you see North and South Twin folks get together just how much this Association can foster long-term friendships.

*Highlights for Summer 2026:* the Annual Meeting (full of information); our new Community Support Program (replacing our grant program); the return of the Pontoon Lake History Tour (back by popular demand); the infamous Golf Outing (bragging rights, perhaps?); CPR/First Aid training and Plant and Pollinators educational events (all valuable things to know); the Summer Party and Ski Show (a crowd favorite with an exciting new band); Sailing with Tom (you should give this a try); and of course, The Poker Run (no one wants to miss this).

*Membership is important.* It sends the message that we are a lake community. We care for our lakes and the people who enjoy them. Even if you don't participate in all the activities or are not able to spend as much time here as you would like, that NSTLRA Membership sign on your driveway signifies that this lake is important to you. It shows pride. Join us.

*Peter Gloede, President*

### ANNUAL MEETING AND BRUNCH

*Saturday, June 27, 2026, 10:30 AM, Wavering Park, Phelps*

You won't want to miss this opportunity to enjoy a yummy protein-packed egg dish and some tasty home-baked treats made with love by your friends and neighbors. And, it's strategically scheduled to get you back on the lake by noon! If you haven't attended an Annual Meeting before, it's a good investment of your time. Meet and greet with your lake neighbors, learn more about summer events, and get the latest local updates. The North and South Lake District will talk about their activities related to lake quality issues, and the Town of Phelps will update attendees on the latest news regarding the "old hospital" as well as the future community center.

This is also the best opportunity to purchase NSTLRA merchandise, pick up your membership sign 2026 stickers, and confirm your contact information is current and accurate. All in all, we hope to see you there! Oh, did we mention Bloody Marys and Screwdrivers?



## THE POKER RUN RETURNS FOR ITS 16TH YEAR: A SUMMER FAVORITE

You may as well keep the July 4th America's 250 Year Celebration going by adding the Poker Run to your "DO NOT MISS" summer calendar. No activity brings out more laughter and outright excitement than the Poker Run. This is a rain or shine event, with an hour and a half start time window to fit your schedule. Tour both North and South Twin, stop at Host Docks (watch for the red flag at the end of the docks), pick your lucky cards, maybe get a



little treat, and keep moving on. But, it all starts at the Gangster Island dock, thanks to the generosity of the Ritter family. As 5:00 rolls around, you'll want to be sure your playing card has been turned in at Dublin's Mimosas. Then make a few lake merchandise purchases, participate in the 50/50 raffle, order some food, and then maybe, just maybe, pick up your big winnings! Family and friends always have so much fun. And, so will you!

*Saturday,  
July 11, 2026*

*Start Time at  
Gangster Island  
1:00 - 2:30 PM*

*Awards at  
Dublin's Mimosas  
5:00 PM*



**WE WANT YOU!**

*If you are interested in being a  
Host Dock please contact  
Sue at: [jvasko@gmail.com](mailto:jvasko@gmail.com) or  
Elisabeth Sutton at:  
[esutton@wi.rr.com](mailto:esutton@wi.rr.com).  
You'll probably have as much fun  
as the players who  
arrive at your dock!*

## LAKE HISTORY PONTOON CRUISE: MEMBERS ONLY EVENT

*Friday, August 7, 2026, at North Twin Lakeside Pine Park  
Tours: 3:00-5:00 PM, Followed by Catered Social Hour*

Back by popular demand, learn the history of North and South Twin as you cruise the lakes with volunteer provided pontoons. Our area has transformed from supporting the lumber and logging industries into one of the best recreational areas in the state. As you slowly cruise both lakes, a volunteer tour guide will point out historic sites and share stories that will enrich your appreciation and gratitude of those who have come

before. Do any of these names ring a bell: Smitty's Tavern, Fink's Resort, Twin Lakes Hunting Club, Big Twin Lodge, Trumble's Resort? And, did you know there was once on golf course on South Twin? But, perhaps the best part of the tour are the stories your boat compatriots share of their own memories, history and folklore. The tour concludes with a beautiful lakeside catered social gathering.

# PHILANTHROPY OUTREACH PROGRAM: *NSTLRA COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS*

This past year, your Board of Directors revised NSTLRA's philanthropic program, transitioning from a traditional grant application process to a new Community Support Program. Rather than requiring organizations to submit formal grant applications, NSTLRA will now accept recommendations from NSTLRA members and Board members for eligible nonprofit organizations (501(c)(3) or equivalent tax-exempt entities) that benefit our lake community.

The Board will review recommendations, verify eligibility, and make donations on behalf of the Association. Each year, the Board will establish the total amount available for funding, and recipients will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

This will be the first year we are implementing the Community Support Program, and we welcome suggestions from NSTLRA members about

organizations, initiatives, or projects that enhance the quality of life around our lakes. *Recommendations should be submitted by June 8, 2026 to NSTLRA board member Sarah Sewall at [sasewall@yahoo.com](mailto:sasewall@yahoo.com).*

Please include the following information:

- Name of the nonprofit organization, a brief description of its mission, and website or contact information
- Description of the program, project, or initiative being supported and how it benefits the North and South Twin Lakes community

The Board will review submissions and determine how best to allocate available funds. We look forward to using this new process to strengthen our connection with the broader community and support activities our members value most.

## SUMMER PARTY: DON'T MISS THE CHAIN SKIMMERS AND THE NOW BAND

*Saturday, July 24, 2026 Lakefront Pines Park, Phelps  
Chain Skimmers Ski Show, 5:30 PM; Music, 6:30 PM*

This will be a night to remember! Start your evening off with our talented local waterski team, the Chain Skimmers, performing right on the lakefront of North Twin. Bring a blanket or a chair, set yourself down, and enjoy a ski show as the summer sun descends into another beautiful sunset. Feed your appetite from the food trucks and check out the concessions stands. Then, get ready to rock and roll! Introducing a new band from Milwaukee that performs throughout the state: The Now ([www.thenowband.com](http://www.thenowband.com)). It's the highlight of the Music on the Lake program. Don't leave your guests behind!



## PLANTINGS AND POLLINATORS

*Quita Sheehan, Conservation Specialist with  
Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Dept.  
Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 6:00 PM*

Join us to learn more about how native plants and pollinators can not only add to the beauty of your lake property, but also help maintain the quality of our beautiful lake waters.

Weather permitting, we will gather at the shoreline of Lakefront Pines Park in



Phelps to see first-hand the beautiful native garden in bloom! Other garden options such as Rain Gardens and Pollinator Gardens will be discussed, including best practices in shore land management. Learn about

the importance of pollinators (bees, birds, butterflies, etc.) in our beautiful Northwoods. Recommended native plant lists for both beginners and experienced gardeners will be distributed along with locations to purchase these plants.

## A SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE: RON OTTOSON, 1936-2026

Sadly, former NSTLRA Board Member Ron Ottoson passed away peacefully on March 6. Ron and his wife Kay cherished their cottage on South Twin, purchased in 1970, and home to many memorable summers with their children, grandchildren, friends and extended family. An avid fisherman, Ron was a great champion of our lakes, both during his time on the NSTLRA board and afterwards. He and his family were also great supporters of the Chain Skimmers. Kay and their children Eric (Megan Welch) and Christine (John Mahoney), and grandchildren Molly, Josie, Ty and Audrey share years of precious memories of life on South Twin with Ron. He will always be remembered as a great friend and mentor, always gifting you his wonderful smile.



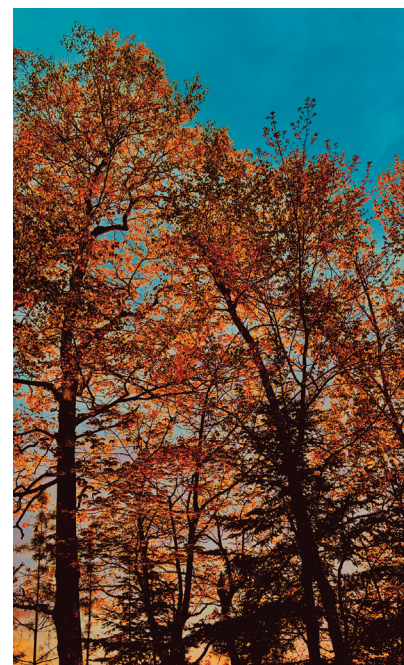
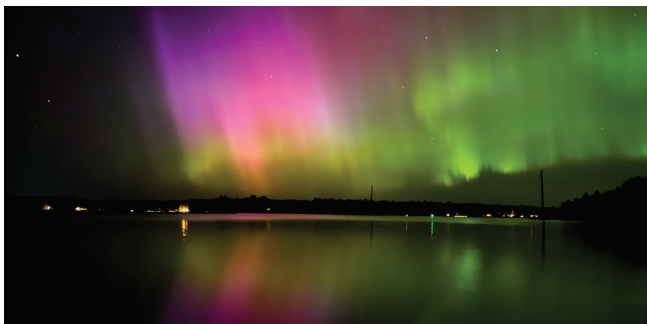
## GOLF OUTING IS BACK!

*Thursday, August 13, Big Sand Lake Golf Course*

Long-time members will remember (well, who could forget?) the fun NSTLRA Golf Outing. While we haven't had a NSTLRA tee off since 2022, get ready for a comeback! This is a 9-hole golf outing intended to bring lots of laughter and open to accomplished and beginner golfers alike. You can form a foursome in advance or you can enter as a single or couple. We'll pair you up to make a foursome. But, if you're putting four superstars together with the goal winning a blazer and a pile of cash, perhaps you should expect a hand-clap or a tip of the hat instead. A friendly round of golf followed by awards and a social gathering... sounds like a hole in one to me!



## TREASURED MOMENTS AWAIT



## TOM HICKSON OFFERS A SAILING AWAY OPPORTUNITY



North Twin resident Tom Hickson loves to sail. But, it's no fun going alone! So, Tom is looking for some NSTLRA folks to join him on a quick sail out and about on North Twin. This summer you will be arranging this experience directly with Tom, so he will need your email and your best "up north" phone number. Please watch for an NSTLRA email for further scheduling information. Obviously, sailing is weather dependent, so you will need to be flexible with your planning. Our lakes are ideal for sailing, with plenty of open water and just the right kind of winds.

## CPR/AED/NARCAN TRAINING

*Dilya St. Louis, President and Founder of Healthy Hearts, Healthy Minds  
Monday, June 29, 2026 at the Conover Community Center  
Space will be Limited, Advanced Sign Up Required*

With residents participating in so many lake and woodland activities (swimming, skiing, ATVing, snowmobiling, cycling, etc.), the risk of an incident requiring an emergency response is elevated. So, be well prepared with lifesaving knowledge and skills. Learn safety techniques for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automated external defibrillators (AED), choking, and NARCAN for drug overdoses. Please note that this is not a certification class. This is basic

instruction of what to do if an emergency arises. Given the hands-on nature of the training, there is space for only 15 attendees. So, be diligent and watch your email for “how to sign-up.”



## NSTLRA PROUD

Fifteen members of the Turcsany family, ages 16 to 88, took their lake spirit on the road and sea during their January Caribbean cruise. Sporting their red NSTLRA shirts far from shore, the Turcsany crew proved that lake pride travels well—whether you’re on the dock or on a deck somewhere in the Caribbean! The Turcsany’s (Thorsen) family history on our lakes dates back to the early 1900’s! That’s something to be proud of, too!



## STEP UP TO KEEP OUR LAKE ROADS LOOKING GREAT: K WALKERS “TALK THEIR WALK”

John and Rosie Passer continue to lead the charge of keeping our lake roads free of litter both in spring and fall. As soon as conditions permit, they’ll be out and about picking up trash and litter along Highway K. Additional help is always needed along Twin Lake Road. A team of committed NSTLRA members stepped up this past fall by combining their exercise routine with a clean-up routine by collecting litter along Highway K.

Spring is an especially challenging time for clean-up. So, join in supporting John and Rosie and take advantage of getting some exercise by becoming a K Walker! Let’s keep our roads clean!



*Left to right: Heidi Parker, Elisabeth Sutton,  
Pam Schmidt, Sue Vasko, Jen Schmidt*



### STAY CONNECTED

Be sure northandsouthtwinlakeswi@gmail.com is in your address book so that you are ready to receive important email announcements. Follow North and South Twin Lakes on Facebook and Instagram, northandsouthtwinlakes, and at our website at [www.nstlra.com](http://www.nstlra.com)

# LAKE DISTRICT UPDATES



*Submitted by North and South Twin Lakes District Commission*

The North and South Twin Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (The District) continues to focus on its mission of controlling Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), monitoring emerging invasive species, communicating with and educating District Riparians.

The District maintains its partnership with consulting firm Onterra to survey both native and invasive species, identify trends that help guide strategic lake management activities, including:

- Completing of lake-wide EWM mapping on both North and South Twin Lakes.
- Monitoring bulrush populations.
- Pre-treatment surveys completed to confirm target treatment area mapping and dosing strategies.
- Volunteer-led visual surveys of early-season EWM to support DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) planning.

Soon the 2025 Annual Lake Management Report will be completed and posted on The District website ([www.nstlakedistrict.com](http://www.nstlakedistrict.com)). It contains a lot of historical information about our lakes and the management actions. It's worth the read.

Lake management actions planned for 2026 include:

- Continuing DASH operations. Locations determined by early-season volunteer and Onterra surveys.
- Conduct surveys in the Fall to evaluate 2026 management efficacy, assess native plant communities, and guide 2027 integrated pest management planning.
- Maintaining CBCW (Clean Boats, Clean Waters), CLMN (Citizens Lake Monitoring Network), and Healthy Lakes participation.
- Continuing communication efforts through the new website and email outreach.
- Considering an application for a WDNR grant for 2027 should EWM densities meet the matrix standards as outlined in our lake management plan.

We look forward to a great season on our wonderful lakes.

## JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Our membership calendar goes from January 1 to December 31 so now it is the perfect time to join or renew. Membership is not limited to residents on North and South



Twin Lakes and is a great way to engage family and friends in support of this beautiful area.

Membership funds this newsletter, social and educational events, and

of course the Summer Party and Ski Show. Join or renew online by going to [nstlra.com](http://nstlra.com) using a credit card or by completing the form included at the end of this newsletter and mailing it along with your check to the address provided.

• **Renewing NSTLRA members:** Display your continued support with the reflective, self-adhesive 2026 stickers. They should be applied to both sides of your existing metal display sign. Stickers will be available for you to pick up at the June 27 Annual Meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, your new stickers will be hand-delivered to your lake address.

• **New members:** You will receive a metal sign that should be mounted on an easily visible post, such as the mailbox, resident sign, or below the property fire number sign. Contact us if your current sign has been damaged by an errant snow plow or falling branches. We'll get you a replacement.

## NSTLRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Your Board of Directors stay engaged year-round to enhance your lake life experiences. A huge thank you for their commitment, ingenuity, and dedication. Directors are elected for three-year terms.

**Peter Gloede**, President, (Current term ends 2027)

**Elisabeth Sutton**, Vice President, (Current term ends 2026)

**Sue Vasko**, Secretary, (Current term ends 2026)

**Jeff Kocken**, Treasurer, (Current term ends 2028)

**Carrie Mijal**, (Current term ends 2027)

**Debbie Rose**, (Current term ends 2028)

**Shelly Rudnick-Peterson**, (Current term ends 2026)

**Jeff Schmidt**, (Current term ends 2028)

**Sarah Sewall**, (Current term ends 2026)

**Joyce Wade**, (Current term ends 2028)

**Nick Zeimetz**, (Current term ends 2027)

# NORTH AND SOUTH TWIN LAKES RIPARIAN ASSOCIATION (NSTLRA)

## NEW MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM

### CALENDAR YEAR 2026

Membership dues help us keep you informed and involved in your lake community.  
 Dues and voluntary donations are tax deductible and very much appreciated.  
 Your personal information will not be shared with outside sources.

**NEW MEMBER**                     
  **RENEWING MEMBER** *(please update any changes to your information)*

**Please Print:**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Addtl. Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Add'l. Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK HERE IF HOME AND LAKE ADDRESSES ARE THE SAME

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Phone \_\_\_\_\_

<b>2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>VOLUNTARY DONATION</b>	<b>\$</b> _____	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b> _____	
<i>Please make check payable to: NSTLRA</i>		

Please mail form and  
 check to:  
 NSTLRA  
 PO Box 163  
 Phelps, WI 54554

**PLEASE CHECK:**

**Yes, I am interested in becoming more involved.**  
 If you have a specific activity in which you would like to help, please list here:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**North & South  
Twin Lakes  
Riparian Association**

PO Box 163  
Phelps, WI 54554

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