



# Madeline Island

## Wilderness Preserve News

Summer 2018

### **“WHAT ARE WE DOING? HOW YOU CAN HELP!”**

*By Fred Koerschner, President*

As the snow and ice melt away after a long winter in the Apostle Islands, my thoughts shift from winter skiing and snowshoeing to warm weather activities on Madeline Island. What do you look forward to as summer on the Island approaches? I enjoy hiking and kayaking on and around this beautiful Island we all enjoy for so many reasons.

No matter the season, the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve (MIWP) is busy preserving and protecting the natural areas on the island for the enjoyment of all. I'd like to update you on what we've been doing since late last year in the four key areas where we spend most of our time:

- 1) **Invasive Species Management** The invasive species on the Island of highest concern are European buckthorn, Japanese barberry, and Eurasian honeysuckle. Building on our many-year (over a decade) commitment to contain invasive species, MIWP has begun working with a local contractor skilled in invasive species management. Step one, May through November 2018, will be to survey targeted areas of the island in order to more precisely map the occurrence, density, and age structure of invasives. With these data in hand, an updated management plan will be developed for treatment of invasive species on the Island.
- 2) **Trails on Wilderness Preserve Land** The Preserve has hiking, skiing and snowshoeing trails in two areas on the island:

**North Trails** – Improvements on selected trail sections are planned for later this year to navigate around wet areas in the summer and add more space next to groomed ski tracks for snowshoeing in the winter.

**South Trails** – Early planning is underway in cooperation with the Town of La Pointe to expand the south trail system beyond the current Capser and Nucy Meech trails. Initial ideas are focused on creating a loop east from the Capser Trail.

- 3) **Land Acquisition** The Island's End Forest was added to Preserve land through a generous donation by Mark Allsup. See the article on Island's End Forest in this newsletter for more information.
- 4) **Education** Mark your calendar for the 2018 MIWP Summer Program Series on the Island. This year's program features six fantastic speakers and four guided hikes. See more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

*(President's letter, continued on page 2)*



*MIWP President, Fred Koerschner, snowshoeing the Preserve's North End Trails*

*(President's letter: Continued from page 1)*

Membership is the lifeblood of the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve. Here is what you can do to help preserve the natural areas of Madeline Island and support the work described above:

**Visit** the preserved areas on the Island and appreciate their beauty. MIWP lands and hiking trails are open to everyone. Maps are available on our website.

**Donate** If you are not yet a member, please join the MIWP. If you have already donated this year, consider an additional gift. Also, please consider estate and land gifts (see other articles in this newsletter for examples). Because the MIWP is a not-for-profit organization, all member donations are 100% tax deductible.

**Volunteer** your ideas and energy. MIWP is a 100% volunteer organization. We welcome and need volunteer time to support the work we do. We also greatly value your opinions and comments.

Please visit our website for more details: [miwp.org](http://miwp.org)

**THANK YOU** for all you do to support the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve. Our work can not happen without the help of members like you.

### ***ISLAND'S END FOREST***

Thirty-one years ago a group of residents from the north end of Madeline Island gathered at the home of Bob and Norma Schaub. The group discussed concerns that development pressure would move to the interior of the Island as lakeshore property was bought up. Lovers of the Island could lose the very essence of what they had come to enjoy the most; the undisturbed wilderness of Madeline Island.

This gathering began formation of what is now the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve, and Norma and Bob Schaub became founding members.

In 2017, Mark Allsup, son of Norma Schaub, donated the Island's End Forest to the Preserve. Island's End Forest is a 27+ acre parcel of interior forest land at the northeast tip of Madeline Island and adjacent to existing Preserve land.

The Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve is deeply grateful for this generous gift. Mark has furthered the Preserve's goal to protect and preserve natural areas on Madeline Island for the enjoyment of all. Thank you, Mark!

### ***TOM VENNUM***

The Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve is deeply honored that Tom Vennum included a gift in his will to the Preserve. Tom had spent summers on Madeline Island since he was a teenager. He died last fall at age 82. Tom was a true Renaissance man: pianist, organist, teacher, ethnomusicologist, author, lacrosse historian, and nature lover. MIWP board member Dan Engstrom observed, "I think one of Tom's most enduring connections to the Preserve is his ethno-documentary, *Earl's Canoe*. This beautiful traditional Ojibwe canoe was fashioned by Earl Nyholm from the bark of a large, near-perfect paper birch that Earl and Tom found on the Wilderness Preserve's Reuel Harmon Forest (and used with MIWP permission). That canoe, the documentary, and Tom's long-term support of the Preserve are an important part of his Island legacy." If you would like to learn about providing for the future of the Preserve through your will, please contact MIWP President, Fred Koerschner.

## **SUMMER 2018 PROGRAMS**

### **Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. *Spring Bird Migration on Madeline***

Victoria Erhart, retired physician and longtime MIWP board member, and Peter Hudleston, Professor of Geology, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, will lead a hike for beginners and experts alike. Bring binoculars and wear good waterproof footwear. Note change of location: Madeline Island State Park. Meet in the parking lot beyond the main entrance; admission will be free.

### **Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. *MIWP's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Meeting & Reception: The Outsized Role of Large Lakes*** Speaker: Dr. Robert Sterner, Director, Large Lakes Observatory, University of Minnesota Duluth. At the Madeline Island Museum. *(see detailed announcement, page 4)*



**Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *How Lake Superior Affects Our Weather Patterns***

Speaker: Carol Christenson, Meteorologist, National Weather Service. Learn how lake Superior affects our climate and weather patterns and how NOAA forecasts waves on Lake Superior. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

**Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *In A Patch of Goldenrod***

Speaker: Larry Weber, Teacher of 40 years, naturalist, and author of numerous books on the North Woods. To many of us, goldenrods are seen only as the tall yellow-flowering plants that appear along the roadsides and in the fields of late summer. Here we will take a closer look at these varied and fascinating species and the visitors they host: insects, spiders, mites, snails, tree frogs, and more. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

**Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Underwater Marvels – The Fisheries of Lake Superior***

Speaker: Titus Seilheimer, Fisheries Specialist, Wisconsin Sea Grant. The depths of Lake Superior are home to a diverse and largely unseen aquatic ecosystem. Anglers and seafood fans are familiar with lake trout and whitefish, but the lake is home to many other species, from deepwater ciscos to burbot. Dr. Seilheimer will discuss the status of Lake Superior's fisheries and food web, as well as future threats from invasive species like Asian Carp. (See page 6 for a related story on Lake Superior's latest invader) At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

**Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Natural History and Identification of Conifer Species of the North Woods***

Speaker: Sarah Johnson, Associate Professor of Natural Resources and Biology at Northland College. Conifers are iconic members of the north woods and boreal forest. Why are conifers so successful up north? What are helpful tricks for identifying the 13 native species of conifers in the Great Lakes region? Where can you find them growing and how are they responding to ecological change? At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

**Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Lake Superior Water Levels – What's Going On?***

Speaker: Gene Clark, Coastal Engineering Specialist, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute. What are the causes of past, present, and near-term predicted water levels on Lake Superior? Learn about the many contributing factors: climate, navigation locks, water diversions, power plants, fish ladders, and more. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

***Guided Trail Hikes* 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**(possibly until noon, depending on route)**

Join us as we explore and hike the rustic trails of Madeline Island. MIWP members will guide all hikes, which will wander through ancient hemlock stands and hopefully encounter an abundance of wild mushrooms or migrating birds. Routes will vary depending on trail conditions. A hike may be out-and-back or shore-to-shore. Note, these trails are rustic; good hiking boots and an adventurous spirit are required.

**Locations** Meet at the Burrough's trail head, 2.5 miles north of Benjamin Boulevard on the North Shore Road

**Dates:**

**Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Fall Potluck Picnic** following the October 6<sup>th</sup> hike. All are welcome. Location to be determined. For updates and details see the MIWP Website:

<https://www.miwp.org>.

***All Events are free (except the Spring Reception)  
and open to the public***



## 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL SPRING MEETING AND EVENING RECEPTION

The Wilderness Preserve will be hosting its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Meeting this coming Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Madeline Island Museum. The event will be an evening reception with an informal buffet of elegant and hearty hors d'oeuvres, choice wine service, and coffee/tea and assorted desserts. A social gathering and food service begins at 7:00 pm, with the program beginning at 8:00 pm.

This year's program features:

**DR. ROBERT STERNER**

DIRECTOR OF THE LARGE LAKES OBSERVATORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

### ***“THE OUTSIZED ROLE OF LARGE LAKES”***

A few “dimples” of the Earth’s surface hold a large fraction of the planet’s liquid fresh water. In this talk, Dr. Sterner will consider how human action has altered these environments, how we value the water they contain, and what responsibilities come with our region being “water rich.”



*The LLO Research Vessel Blue Heron entering the Duluth Harbor*



**The price of the Spring Reception is \$30 per person.**

Reservations can be made (through May 21<sup>st</sup>)  
by contacting:

MIWP Treasurer, Ned Hancock

4503 Arden Avenue, Edina MN 55424 ☞ (952-920-0908) ☞ Email at: ktwj@aol.com

***(maximum 100 guests)***


***Venue: Madeline Island Museum***



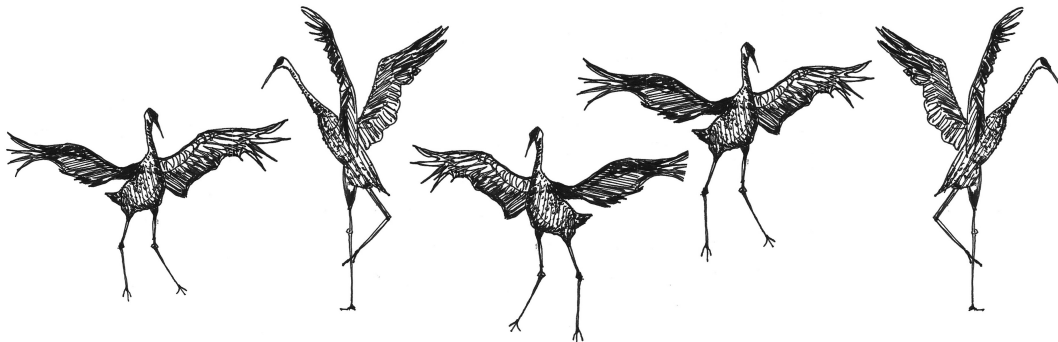

## “PRESERVE-ING FOR THIRTY YEARS” AT 4TH OF JULY PARADE

*By Victoria Erhart*

I have to admit that I wasn't there. But I've seen the pictures, and I've heard the stories, and I know that the 2017 MIWP Fourth of July float, “Preserve-ing for Thirty Years”, was a smashing, vibrant, colorful success, a fine tribute to another big MIWP anniversary. And on top of that, the Grand Prize winner! Giant grapes carry the day! A thousand thanks to Jennifer, Eric and Pixie, whose creativity and organizational skills made it all happen, and whose enthusiasm made it worthwhile. I owe you.



The theme for the 2018 parade remains elusive, although I am leaning towards something about **Madeline Island birds** (difficult costumes!). Sometimes this happens, inspiration flags. But inspiration responds very positively to deadlines, and whatever we choose to do, I guarantee we will have the same social commentary, environmental advocacy, and thigh-slapping good humor you have come to expect from a MIWP float. As always, we hope that you will join us. Dogs, children, and well-behaved adults are welcome. Meet at the Marina 30 minutes before parade time (the parade usually starts at 10:30 AM, but check with the Chamber of Commerce) under the MIWP banner. For questions, comments, compliments or concerns, call Victoria Erhart at 715-747-2277 in early July.



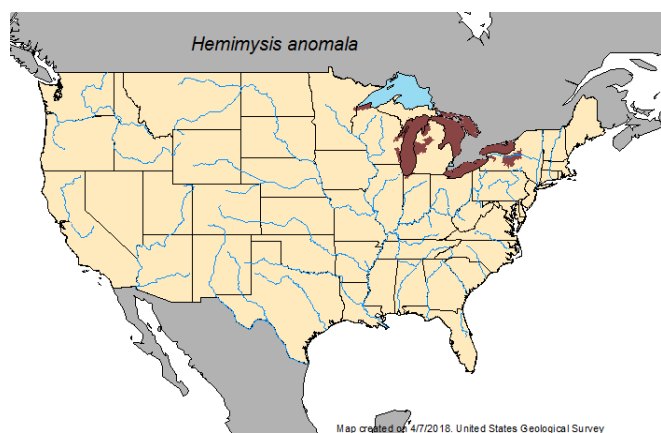
## LESSONS FROM THE ARRIVAL OF BLOODY RED SHRIMP IN LAKE SUPERIOR

*By Titus Seilheimer, Fisheries Specialist, Wisconsin Sea Grant*

The arrival of bloody red shrimp (*Hemimysis anomala*) in Lake Superior is a reminder that ballast water transport remains a major issue for the St. Lawrence Seaway and international shipping. Although only a single individual was captured in the Duluth-Superior harbor, the find highlights the connections between all the Great Lakes. This native of the Caspian Sea in Europe was first discovered in Lake Michigan, and since then has been found in all the lower Great Lakes.

Ballast water has been a major pathway of species introduction since the St. Lawrence Seaway opened in 1959. Ballast water treatment systems have the potential to reduce invasive species coming into the Great Lakes from international ports and from moving among Great Lakes ports. Ships entering the Great Lakes are required to first exchange their ballast water at sea to kill any potential Great Lakes invaders. This strategy seems to be working because only two new suspected ballast water introductions have been detected since 2006.

Lake Superior has fewer invasive species than the other Great Lakes and is largely dominated by native species. The arrival of bloody red shrimp in the Duluth-Superior area might not be all that surprising because of the high amount of ship traffic entering the harbor each year. The bloody red shrimp has been expanding its range in Lake Michigan where it is commonly found in harbors and rocky habitat. These harbors are often visited by freighters that are moving between Great Lakes ports.



Current distribution of bloody red shrimp in N. America

*Credit: United States Geological Survey*



Bloody red shrimp under a dissection scope

*Credit: NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab*

Researchers have begun to investigate the impacts that the bloody red shrimp may be having on Great Lakes ecosystems. Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee have found that species such as alewife and rainbow smelt have been feeding on bloody red shrimp, but impacts on other aquatic organisms through competition or predation are unknown. As a new prey species, bloody red shrimp might provide some predatory fish with a new food source, especially in Lake Michigan where quagga mussels have greatly altered the composition of the food web. Future changes to the Lake Superior food web from the bloody red shrimp are uncertain, so it will be important to carefully track their status going forward.

**Editor's Note:** On April 18<sup>th</sup> the US Senate narrowly blocked legislation that would have weakened ballast water regulations aimed at halting the spread of aquatic invasives such as the bloody red shrimp. The failed legislation included a revision of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) which would have exempted ballast water from Clean Water Act oversight by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and stopped most states' efforts to regulate ballast water. Minnesota Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith and Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin voted against the legislation; Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson voted for it.



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Madeline Island  
Wilderness Preserve  
PO Box 28  
La Pointe, WI 54850  
[www.miwpp.org](http://www.miwpp.org)

-----*Detach here and mail today*-----

***Yes, I'd like to support the preservation and protection  
of natural areas on Madeline Island!***

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$1000 Benefactor   ☐ \$500 Sustaining   ☐ \$100 Supporting   ☐ \$50 Contributor   ☐ Other

☐ Please make my gift anonymous.

☐ Gift in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thank you for your generous contribution!**

Your dues are tax deductible. Membership is through December 31, 2018

Please make checks payable to MIWP and send to:

**Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve  
P.O. Box 28 La Pointe WI 54850**