



March 2024

Greetings, Round Lakes property owners,

The Round Lake Property Owners Association (RLPOA) board is sending you this letter to update everyone on the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) funding for 2024. In the past, AIS treatment activities have been funded primarily with WI Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) grant funds, and generous donations by members. For the 2024 treatment year, the RLPOA again applied for a WI DNR grant. We have been notified by WI DNR that our grant application was not selected to receive funding.

For the past 25 years we have actively and successfully managed the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in Round and Little Round lakes. Controlling EWM takes significant funding and numerous hours by volunteers to implement a multifaceted strategy that combines education, monitoring, grant writing and treatments to control the plant. This is all done to protect the native ecosystems and the value of your property.

The board is exploring strategies to raise additional funds for treatments in 2024 and into the future. Yes, this does mean reaching out to everyone for donations—hence this letter.

Our yearly treatment and control costs are approximately \$50,000 per year. We have only received \$6,150 in AIS donations for 2024. The board has decided to pay a portion of treatment with association reserves. We are asking for additional donations to the AIS fund, to pay for the 2024 AIS treatment program. Should we fall short of funds with this years' fundraising effort, we may need to reduce the number of areas treated for EWM, which will likely result in plant beds growing larger.

If you are not currently a member, please join RLPOA for only \$45 per year and we ask for an additional contribution to the AIS fund. For current members, we are asking for an additional donation to the AIS fund. Note, the mailing label shows your membership expiration date.

Memberships and donations can be securely paid online with a credit/debit card on our website: [RoundLakes.org](http://RoundLakes.org). Payments by check can be mailed to Round Lake Property Owners Association, PO Box 1070, Hayward, WI 54843.

Thank you.

RLPOA Board of Directors

## FAQs on Round Lake Property Owners Association – March 2024



**Q: How does RLPOA use membership dues and AIS contributions?**

A: The Association uses dues and AIS contributions primarily to treat Eurasian water milfoil and promote boat safety. There are 20 navigation/hazard buoys in Round Lake. The Association pays for installation and removal of buoys each year and has ongoing expenses to repair or replace damaged buoys.

**Q: Why does RLPOA ask for an additional donation for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?**

A: The membership fee of \$45/calendar year does not generate enough income to cover all AIS expenses to manage milfoil. We ask members that have the financial means to donate additional money to the AIS program to cover treatment expenses. The average amount from a member donating to the program is around 80-\$100/year.

**Q: Will the State of Wisconsin continue to provide funding to support AIS management activities?**

A: Statewide funding is not expected to increase and competition for limited funds is increasing. Since a grant was not awarded, the full cost of AIS treatment activities is borne by the Association. By the way, the more property owners we have donating to our AIS efforts, the higher we may score when being considered for a state grant.

**Q: I understand Eurasian water milfoil is an invasive species. Will it ever go away?**

A: No. The plant has been present in Round and Little Round Lakes for over 30 years and is well established. Milfoil is impossible to fully eradicate. The Association treatment activities can only minimize the problem.

**Q: What's in it for me? I hardly use the lake, so why should I contribute?**

A: It's a matter of fairness to all property owners on the lake. When you purchased property on the lake, you inherently made a commitment to the larger community. You have a social responsibility to support maintaining the lakes for the enjoyment of all for years to come.

**Q: What happens to my property's value when the water quality declines and the milfoil chokes the shoreline?**

A: Economic studies have shown that when the water quality of a body of water declines, property values are negatively impacted. It makes sense to protect your investment.

**Q: How do you communicate with your members?**

A: We communicate in several ways:

- Website: the URL is [www.RoundLakes.org](http://www.RoundLakes.org). Most RLPOA info can be found on our website.
- Annual Newsletter: Mailed to homes in the May timeframe; Electronic version also available on our website.
- Email: Occasional emails sent to members and/or owners with an Email address on file. This is the most cost and administratively effective way for us to communicate important messages, so please provide your email!
- Annual Meeting: In 2023, the annual meeting was held in August. The presentation and recording of this meeting is on RoundLakes.org – Home page; Must be a member/login to view.
- Facebook: If you are on Facebook, search for Round Lakes and look for RLPOA's blue logo. We use this site to post public information about Round Lakes.

**Q: Where do I send my 2024 membership dues of \$45 and an AIS donation?**

A: 1) **Mail** your membership fee and AIS donation to RLPOA PO Box 1070 Hayward, WI 54843. Include lake address on the check. 2) **Pay online** by emailing [Membership@RoundLakes.org](mailto:Membership@RoundLakes.org) with the amount you'd like to contribute. An email will be sent with login information, so you can pay online with a credit card or PayPal.