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HISTORY OF EAGLE LAKE AIS NAVY

BY

Don Anderson - AIS Coordinator

In the winter of 2007, Tom and Marion Kircher wanted to start an Eagle Lake Association to inform land owners on Eagle Lake about AIS. With the help of many others Tom and Marion formed the Eagle Lake Preservation Association in March of 2007.

The first project was to start the Eagle Lake AIS Navy to try to stop the growth of EWM in Eagle Lake. We then decided to join the ULERCLC (Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission), who consists of:

the City of Eagle River, the Town of Cloverland, the Town of Lincoln, the Town of Washington, Catfish Lake Association, Cloverland Lakes Committee, Cranberry Lake Association, Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association, Scattering Rice Lake Association, Yellow Birch Conservation Union, Watersmeet / Eagle River Lake Association and now Eagle Lake Preservation Association, to fight EWM on the lower chain.

In April 2007, the Town of Washington got us a grant for treating EWM and to get supplies for fighting AIS. Tom Kircher with the help of Don Anderson started the Eagle Lake AIS Navy, which: hosted a plant / animal identification day on June 28th, 2007, built a portable lake map displayed at the Eagle Waters Resort to inform people where EWM was being chemically treated on Eagle Lake, got volunteers for CB/CW program at Eagle Lake boat landing – then entered inspection forms 3200-120 onto DNR website, and to find and monitor EWM with GPS. Our monitor ratings of density and GPS mapping of EWM beds in 2007 and 2008 helped Onterria in their Peak Biomass Study for mapping Eagle Lake for D-3 treatment for EWM.

Throughout all of this, Tom Kircher, who had been diagnosed with cancer, lost his courageous battle in May of 2008. We asked for more volunteers but came up with a shortage. Therefore, I had to apply for an extension for our Eagle Lake AIS Navy Grant.