

Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2008

NOTE: If you are getting this newsletter on paper and would like to get it by email, be sure I have your current email address (annparker@centurytel.net) . Thanks!

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS—By Ann Parker

Another hectic summer has flown by, and I'm looking forward to some lazy fall days. Your lake association has accomplished a lot this year—see articles about our projects further on in this newsletter.

I got to thinking recently on my way home from visiting my sister at her MN cabin (the one my folks built 56 years ago) about what makes a place special. For most of us on a lake, it's the beauty of the lake itself—the rippling of the waves, the reflection of the clouds, and sunrises/sunsets over the water. We also enjoy seeing the plants and animals Mother Nature has provided and seeing the stars on a dark night. And we enjoy the sounds we don't hear in a city—geese, ducks, loons, and other bird calls (some at 4:30 a.m.!), the waves gently lapping or wildly crashing on the shore, the wind in the pines, and people playing in/on the water. And sometimes it's the sound of silence that we love. We enjoy the unique smells of the country—the clean air and the wood smoke and the sweet smells of some plant or other in bloom. (A friend of mine can actually sniff out where the ripe blueberries are!) But to me the most important ingredient in making a place special is the people.

At the lake where I spent my growing-up summers, there was a path that connected all the cabins on our side of the lake—we knew it so well we could almost run it barefoot in the dark! (As kids, we liked to think it was an "Indian" trail.) We kids had chores to do in the morning before we were allowed to go see our friends and later head over to the swimming raft. Most nights each age group of kids met in a different cabin for games and Kool-Aid and cookies or popcorn. One of my special memories was going camping with three friends and an older girl on undeveloped land across the lake. No summer was complete without at least one trip up the channel to two other smaller lakes. Our parents also got together regularly, and the sound of them laughing and having a good time made us feel that all was right with the world. This was and still is a community of people who care about each other and who have a shared history.



What is it that makes a place special for you? Please write up your thoughts and send them to me (annparker@centurytel.net) for inclusion in the newsletter at a later date. Also see "Seasons of Life" in this edition. I hope you made great memories with family/friends this summer that you'll savor through the winter!

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Membership Report—Our membership is a bit down from the same date last year. Please do remind your friends and neighbors that they are needed, especially if we are going to have an impact on protecting the lake. Contact Luanne Hunter to let her know of new owners in your neighborhood. Don't make her do all the work! **Please remember to renew yourselves!**

NLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pres.—Ann Parker—374-2138
Vice-Pres.—Ed Noltner—374-3707
Sect.—Luanne Hunter—374-3508
Treas.—Jack Sellwood—374-3254
Jack Arthur—374-2529
Willard Kiefer—374-3544
Gail Levo—374-2185
Al Lisdahl—374-3370
Tom Maas—374-2147
Dennis Raas—374-3229
Pat Sherman—374-2920
Phil Takkunen—374-3047

Gems from Mark Twain

Happiness is a Swedish sunset—it is there for all, but most of us look the other way and lose it.

Architects cannot teach nature anything.

THANKS TO

- Joe Crain—Hazard Markers
- Carol Arthur & Carolyn Chada—Garage Sale
- Ed Noltner & Dennis Raas—Summer Social
- Jack Arthur—Water Quality Monitoring
- Willard Kiefer—boat ride with DNR rep.
- Capt. Jack & 1st Mate Sandy Sellwood—Boat Parade
- Ed Noltner, George & Ann Parker—purple loosestrife eradication efforts
- Barb Resheshke & Ann Parker—boat monitoring grant

We appreciate everyone’s hard work!

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Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant

By Ann Parker

We had a VERY busy program this year, in spite of some bad weather days. We put in 70 5-hour sessions at the boat launch—a total of 350 hours—plus several shorter sessions due to bad weather. Our student workers were fantastic, and Barb Resheshke was there every day to supervise. The great majority of the boaters were courteous and appreciative of our efforts—but there were a few who weren’t. We did have some trouble getting enough volunteers to help, and may have to write the grant a bit differently for next year. A Huge THANK YOU to all who helped with this worth-while program. We really do hope we can protect our lake from all the bad “stuff” out there!

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Summer Social & Boater Parade

By Jack Sellwood

The 4th of July boat parade had about 45 decorated watercraft in a line as far as one could see. Everyone had a great time, including the kids that participated in this family event. All entrants won a gift card to the Dairy Queen. Thanks to the Dairy Queen for their help with the cost.

The **summer social** at Botten’s was well attended (65 members and guests), and the participants had a

great night to enjoy good food, visiting, and lots of prizes.



Water Quality Summary

By Jack Arthur

This report summarizes the lake’s water quality results gathered last year. Water quality results are always 6-9 months late as it takes time for the DNR to perform the analyses and report the results to the lake associations. Measurements continue to be taken for water clarity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll during the months of May through October. Average water clarity (seicchi disk) was 7.5 feet. Average chlorophyll was 5.6 ug/l and total phosphorus was 15.5 ug/l. This compares to chlorophyll results of 14 ug/l and phosphorus of 34 ug/l found in many NW Wisconsin lakes. Lake Nebagamon was again classified as **Mesotrophic** (moderately enriched). We had chlorophyll and phosphorus values lower than Lake Minnesuing and Lake St. Croix during 2007 (which is good). These water quality results were stable and consistent when compared to past years.

Purple Loosestrife Report

By Ed Noltner & Ann Parker

Our beetles didn’t do very well this year, we think because they were delivered to us too early, before our plants were big enough to support them. Ed says we’ll have to try again next year—we are encouraged because several areas of loosestrife concentration have been greatly reduced. If you only have a few plants, please continue to cut off the flowering tops & put them in sealed plastic bags to keep the plants from spreading. Do report large areas of plants to Ed or Ann. Thanks!

Seasons of Life
By Mario Quintana

Everything changes when you have children. Your paradigm shifts, and you look at everything around you from a parent's reference point. The cycles of life clarify, and progressions you never associated with the passing of time take on a different meaning.

So it was when I started taking pictures of Patrick Marsh. I began to see the seasons there differently. I saw them as stages of life, because I was watching my children go through those same stages while my wife and I, plus my elderly father, completed the cycle.

Spring begins the rollick of early youth. It begins as a gently sprouting and flowering, with lively yellow-greens and pastel flower colors. It signals the beginning of life, and life renewed, with bird eggs and bird songs and gentle winds and warmth heralding a louder stage. The storms and rains bring more growth. Spring is the very personification of babyhood.

Summer is an explosion of growth and color. It blusters and blows. Greens become intense. Flowers pop up everywhere. Everything comes out and makes noise. Storms grow in intensity. The lake is full. The tall grass almost takes over the trails. It is toddlerhood into adolescence into the teenage years.

Fall brings color and maturity. The grass begins to wither. Temperatures moderate. There is still plenty of vitality, but the chaotic ebullience of summer has matured into fall's reserve. It is a time of procreation for plants—of the production of seed, and of the sending out of a new generation. It is middle age. It is where I am now.

Winter is not so much cold, as it is quiet and peaceful. Life sleeps under a blanket. The forest has aged, and is slow and wise, and seeks to rest. It keeps its secrets well hidden, and seldom complains. The marsh has a monochromatic beauty that is no less lovely than the open wildness of summer, or the

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My children will grow and change. My father will pass on. In the changing seasons of the Marsh, I see the stages of my life and theirs, and am reminded of the fond times in my life.

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(from a publication of the Gathering Waters Conservancy)

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Don't Feed the Lake
From Tom Maas

With yard work being done in the fall, many owners consider using fall/winter fertilizing to give their lawns a head start in the spring. **Please** use no phosphorus fertilizers. (The middle number of the three numbers on the fertilizer bag should be zero.) Several municipalities in Wisconsin have banned phosphorus fertilizers. A statewide ban of them is being considered at this time.

Lake-friendly alternatives include managing lot sizes and widths, conservancy developments, vegetation protection areas, watershed planning that protects wetlands, developing in compliance with local zoning codes.

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**This is an important election year--
Be sure to vote!**

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The Nebagamon Lake Association belongs to the Wisconsin Association of Lakes. They have many timely and important articles that are relevant to Wisconsin lakes. Their website is www.wisconsinlakes.org. Check them out.

(from a publication of the Gathering Waters Conservancy)