

The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2009

NOTE: If you are getting this newsletter on paper and would like to get it by email, send your current email address to tw.maas@yahoo.com. Our web site is www.nebagamonlakeassociation.com.

Editor’s note—by Ann Parker

It seems that you haven’t quite gotten rid of me yet! Your lake association had another busy and productive summer. (See articles further on.) Now we’re all looking forward to some lazy fall days (once we get the raking done and the docks in, etc.) and some cozy winter days with a good book in front of the wood stove. As I discovered last weekend, it’s a wonderful time to hike the North Country Trail, and there are many access points close by. If you haven’t tried it yet, do—you won’t regret it. Richard Loew in his book Last Child in the Woods says that being out in nature is good for the spirit—and it even helps people to heal better.

Sam Cook (one of my favorite outdoor writers) had an article in the Duluth News Tribune last January that really resonated with me. He was bemoaning the loss of all the summer smells and the lack of those great smells in the winter. He mentioned the smell of a campfire and the memories that it brought back. He missed the smells of pine needles and of water (yes, water does have a smell out in nature!) and of his dock and of lilacs and of a mown hay field and even of boat motor exhaust! He planned to get at least the smell of cedars from the sauna in the winter, and stated that it would help to bring back summer memories. May you, too, have great memories wrapped up in the smells of summer!

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Quotable

“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find resources of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.” (Rachel Carson)

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Dues Reminder: If you have not yet paid your 2009-2010 dues, please do so soon! There is an application with the paper version and also on our website. Thanks!!!

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NLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Pres.—Pat Sherman—374-2920
- Vice-Pres.—Ed Noltner—3743707
- Sect.—Gail Levo—374-2185
- Treas.—Jack Sellwood—374-2529
- Jack Arthur—374-2529
- Luanne Hunter—374-3508
- Willard Kiefer—374-3544
- Al Lisdahl—374-3370
- Tom Maas—374-2147
- Dennis Raas—374-3228
- Eric Takkunen--612-867-7951
- Phil Takkunen—374-3047



Association Activities Report—by Jack Sellwood

Our largest project last year was without doubt the shore monitoring at the boat launch. The State this year did not continue the grant program that had funded us for the last four years. The \$2,400.00 we received last year, evaporated in 2009 with the State budget. Fortunately, the Village continued their contribution of \$1,500.00, and gifts from our members of \$1,509.00 allowed us to continue hiring young people to monitor launches for 265 hours, usually on weekends. We view this as a

success in educating the public about invasive species and trying to protect Lake Nebagamon. If we are funded by the Village next year, we will again ask for membership help to continue the program.

The purple loosestrife eradication work of prior years was not continued because of lack of beetles. Most of our prior problem areas appear to be gone. We will continue watching.

Our annual rummage sale June 20 had the largest number of locations ever. The map, distributed through Ole's, had 39 paid participants. Carol Arthur again did great in being our contact person.

The association annual meeting was well attended June 27. It was a great chance to chat with our neighbors and to give the board of directors input on important issues.

The July 4th boat parade was a huge success with over 40 decorated boats participating. Everyone won a Dairy Queen gift. Thanks to Bonnie for helping with the expense.

The summer social August 8 was enjoyed by 78 people at Norwood golf course. Thanks to Ed Noltner and Denny Raas for their work. Ed gathered over 50 door prizes from local merchants. Many thanks again to all these generous folks. Our hope is they're paid back with our patronage.

We continued to upgrade the lake buoys with the purchase of two new ones last year. Thanks to Joe Crain for the installation, removal, and replacing of errant ones affected by the winds.

We continue to help the Kids In Nebagamon organization with their swim lessons program and Christmas party. Also a contribution was made to the Lions Club for the Fourth of July fireworks.



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Out of the Mouths of Babes

Are God and Mother Nature married, or just good friends?" (four-year-old Matthew Loew)

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Bony Lake Tour –By Willard Kiefer

Eleven members of the Nebagamon Lake Association toured Bony Lake in Barnes August 10th. Scott Toschner, Fisheries Biologist, Brule, organized the tour to have us view fish habitat improvement projects on Bony Lake. We visited the "Fish Sticks Project" being carried out through a grant awarded to Bayfield County Land Conservation Department. Whole trees are cut in the winter and transported to the lake where they are put on the ice (for in the water). The trees are anchored to the shore lake bottom with the tops, branches, and limbs extending out into the lake. Many of the tops are criss-crossed to help hold them in place. Over 395 trees have been placed in Bony Lake. These "fish sticks" almost immediately become "fish habitat." Another benefit is these trees help to slow up the wave action on the lakeshore and decrease bank erosion.

The other project we viewed was the lake shore riparian (shoreline) area improvement. Native vegetation including grasses, shrubs, woody brush and trees were planted to re-establish the appropriate vegetative cover on previously open areas and highly used riparian areas. One area was planted with trees to re-establish a riparian tree cover yet leaving a 30-foot lake view strip for the residents. This type of riparian improvement establishes a buffer strip to help slow runoff, filters out undesirable nutrients from runoff, and prevents bank erosion.

If anyone is interested in pursuing these types of projects, we will have pamphlets available at next year's annual meeting in June.

(Editor's Note—This produces a different type of look to the shoreline—one that may take getting used to—but the benefits are great!)

2009 Water Quality Summary for Lake Nebagamon By Jack Arthur

This past summer was cool with the relatively low water temperatures. Highest water temperatures in the lake were found in August. Usual peak summer water temperatures are found during July. Chemical water quality results that we receive from the WI DNR have now become available within 1-2 months after water sampling. Measurements continue to be taken for water clarity (Seicchi disk), temperature, total phosphorus and chlorophyll during the months of May through October. The DNR no longer wants dissolved oxygen measurements in Lake Nebagamon. Average water clarity (seicchi disk) was 7.7 feet. Average chlorophyll was 6.8 ug/l and total phosphorus was 18.5 ug/l. Our lake was stratified at about 20 to 24 feet during July-August; and temperature readings of 53-56 degrees F. Lake Nebagamon was again classified as **Mesotrophic** (moderate enriched). The DNR uses the term “trophic state” as a classification for nutrient enrichment. The trophic state for Lake Nebagamon during 2009 was 48.1. Our longer-term running average (begun in 2004) is 48.0. Trophic states between 40 to 50 are mesotrophic according to the WI DNR.

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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—Bony Lake tour
- Capt. Jack & 1st Mate Sandy Sellwood—Boat Parade
- Johanna Conrad & Ann Parker—Boat Monitoring Program

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Did You Know?

- That there are now 1,000 pairs of nesting eagles in Wisconsin—up from 100 pairs in 1972.
- About 1.2 quadrillion gallons of water lie underground in WI, enough water to cover the state to a depth of 80-100 feet.
- Sailboats over 12 ft. must be registered.
- The average temperature of the water in Lake Superior is 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
(from the WILCO News, fall '08)

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Everywhere Is Somewhere

From a grade school textbook,
With thanks to Jan Conley

When you rinse garbage down the drain of a sink, or flush trash down the toilet, it does not go away; it goes SOMEWHERE. Sewage and waste go into big pipes. The pipes go into the river; the river runs into a bigger river. The big river flows to the sea.

Far, far away in the middle of the ocean, garbage and trash float on the sea water. Pollution does not float away; it floats SOMEWHERE. And it will stay there, floating and sinking under the sun, for years and years.

When you rinse something down the drain, it does not go away—it goes SOMEWHERE. In the water, EVERYWHERE IS SOMEWHERE!