

The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

Fall/winter 2013

Editor, Ann Parker

Note: If you would like to get this newsletter by email, send your email address to lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com. It's in color by email and on the web. Our web site is www.nebagamonlakeassociation.com. On Facebook search for Nebagamon Lake Association.



President's Message

By Erik Takkunen

Recently, the duties of NLA President were transitioned from Ed Noltner to me. Ed did a fantastic job for his years of service, and on behalf of the entire membership and board of directors, I would like to thank him for all of his efforts! Ed has a real passion for Lake Nebagamon and it showed in all of his work.

I am a third generation Lake Nebagamon resident. I grew up visiting my grandparent's place (Arne & Ruth Takkunen) that has been in the family since 1955. Now we are lucky enough to have our own place and have other immediate and extended family in the area as well. You can find my family and I out on the water all summer long both cruising and waterskiing. How lucky we all are to call Lake Nebagamon our home or our vacation destination! It is truly one of the best lakes around; however, there have never been so many forces threatening its health and livelihood.

In recent years, we have had some great leadership within our organization pushing forward initiatives to both improve the walleye fishery and prevent the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species in our lake. As you will read in this newsletter, we have also received many generous donations from our membership that will aid us in continuing these initiatives. In both of these programs, we are leaders amongst other lakes in Northwest Wisconsin! Despite all of the generosity of both time and money, there are

still risks and opportunities that we look forward to focusing on.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) continue to make headlines in Wisconsin and Minnesota as they spread to additional lakes. Asian carp, zebra mussels, and Eurasian Milfoil would all be devastating should they be discovered in Lake Nebagamon. In addition to the efforts already in progress, one way we can be more prepared for the challenges that lie ahead is to have a stronger membership base. We have around 215 member families as part of the Association at this time, which means there are well over 100 properties on the Lake not represented (as well as additional properties within the Village that have a special interest in the health of the Lake). Next year, we will be conducting a membership drive targeting these properties. I believe the work and value of the NLA speaks for itself, and it is difficult to imagine how somebody who spends significant time in Lake Nebagamon does not have an interest in our mission. We can really use the help of every member – please ask your neighbors if they are members and if not – tell them how to join!

I'm really looking forward to the changing colors of the Lake as well as the serene winter. I'll continue to post photos on the Nebagamon Lake Association Facebook page for anybody who is interested. Please take a look at planned event dates for 2014 within this newsletter and I look forward to meeting new friends.



"Last day at the lake" by Ruth Denzler

NLA Board of Directors

- Erik Takkunen, President—612-867-7951
- Adam Riutta—Vice Pres.—317-407-5395
- Gail Levo, Sect.—715-374-2185
- Jack Sellwood, Treas.—715-374-3254
- Jane Dolter—715-374-2328; 218-391-4516
- Willard Kiefer—715-374-3544
- Luanne Hunter—715-374-3508
- Al Lisdahl—715-374-3370
- Tom Maas—715-374-2147
- Ed Noltner—715-374-3707
- David Sprowls—239-676-4064
- Phil Takkunen—949-412-8690

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Quotable

“For observing nature,
The best pace is a snail’s pace.”
Edwin Way Teale

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**SUMMARY OF LAKE NEBAGAMON BOAT
LAUNCH MONITORING FOR 2013
SEASON**

This year our monitoring of the lake did not start until May 18th due to the late ice out. The first weekend we monitored Saturday and Sunday only and beginning May 25th we began monitoring 7 days per week; or 53 hours per week until Labor Day on September 2nd.

We had two new primary monitors with back-up by two of our veteran monitors from the past two years. Tyler Maki and Myles Wright were the primary monitors and William Cain and Lindsey Splinter helped us out as capable back-ups. The monitors were very thorough in all aspects and focused on live wells, drain plugs and vegetation. After a few bumps in the road with staffing, monitors did an effective job.

There were 146 shifts completed by the four monitors that involved 787 hours (\$5,962 in wages paid). There were 52 donated hours by the monitoring supervisor. Additional costs for workers’ compensation, FICA withholding and 4 monitor T-shirts totaled \$1,084.

We monitored 1,144 total boats, of which 783 were entering the lake and 361 were leaving the lake. 69 boats had been in another lake within the previous 5 days and of these 37 had been in a lake or river identified as having zebra mussels or Eurasian Milfoil problems or both by the Wisconsin DNR. These were screened extra carefully and the boat owners advised that the lakes they had been in contained invasive species. We had no violations again this year and the

number of people contacted and surveyed was 2,635 (which is 2.3 people per boat).

Note: The funding of \$7000 came from \$4000 from the state grant, \$1500 from the Village of Lake Nebagamon, and \$1500 from the Lake Association.

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4th of July Boat Parade

It appears that a good time was had by all as evidenced by these pictures!!! A total of 42 boats participated this year.





Food for Thought

“Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully, he can learn more than what is in books, for they speak with the voice of God.”

George Washington Carver

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Village-Wide Garage Sale

By Gail Levo

The village-wide garage sale, coordinated by Carol Arthur and Gail Levo, was once again a huge success with a total of 42 participants. It seems to grow each year, and the monies collected to have your name on the map go to support the boat monitoring program. Thanks to all who participated by either selling or buying!

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Reminder of important dates for 2014

- May 18--Board of Director's Meeting, Aud., 4 PM
- June 21 --Community Rummage Sale 8:30 - 3 PM
- June 28 --Annual Meeting – Auditorium, 9:30 a.m.
- July 4th--Pontoon Parade-- Honeymoon Point, 7 p.m.
- August 9--Summer Picnic, Norwood Golf Course, 5 PM
- Sept 7 --Board of Director's Meeting, Aud., 4 PM

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Fish Sticks project planned for 2014.

By Willard Kiefer

Scott Toshner, DNR Fisheries Biologist Brule has funds available for another project this coming winter. These are whole trees that are put in the water to create fish and other aquatic species habitat. Lakeshore property owners are needed for this project. If you are interested and have not been contacted about this, you can call Will Kiefer at 374-3544 or Phil Takkunen later in October at 374-3047 to find out more information and how to get involved.

Lake Study

By Tom Maas

The Lake Nebagamon Sewer Commission held an informational meeting at the Village Auditorium on August 20. A presentation was made by Randy Lehr from Northland College in Ashland. They are midway through a two-year study of the lake. Analysis includes water chemistry from the lake as well as its sources. Preliminary results indicated that they did not encounter any invasive species in the lake. Water chemistry indicated a slight increase in phosphates from previous available records. The increase in phosphate level was slight and statistically insignificant. The analysis of the lake will continue next year with a final report in the fall of 2014.

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Picture from annual meeting

2013 Lake Nebagamon Water Quality

By Jack Arthur

This summer was characterized by relative normal water levels and water temperatures. Not all of the 2013 chemical water quality results have been received from the DNR lab in Madison. Measurements continue to be taken for water clarity (Seicchi disk), temperature, total phosphorus and chlorophyll during the months of May through October. Our lake was stratified at about 18 to 24 feet during July-August. Present classification of Nebagamon’s trophic state or nutrient enrichment is mesotrophic. Early next year a 10-year summary will be prepared on the water quality found from this extended sampling effort.



Annual meeting speaker

Budget adopted at annual meeting

Income: Dues	4000
Rummage sale	300
Social	600
Donations	500
Boat monitoring	5500
Insurance rebate	
Interest	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	<u>10905</u>

Disbursements:

Projects:

Boat monitoring—2012	
Boat monitoring—2013	7000
Boat Parade	75
Fireworks	400
LN Swimming class	200
Purple Loosestrife	
Hazard Markers	300
Social	600
KIN—Christmas	200
Annual Meeting	75
Educational Materials	100
Walleye stocking	1000
WI Association of Lakes dues	350
Douglas Co. Lake Assoc.	50
Lakes convention/conferences	250
Rummage sale expense	50
WEB site	200
Newsletters, postage, meetings, office expense	<u>500</u>
Total:	<u>11350</u>

Summer Social

By Adam Riutta

This year's summer social was a huge success! It was held on August 10th at Botten's Green Acres. We had over 80 attendees, many of whom were newcomers. We all enjoyed an excellently prepared chicken dinner accompanied by beautiful weather and great company. New at the social this year was a fundraiser raffle. We raffled off a birch wood carving of Lake Nebagamon done in topographic detail. Raffle proceeds of \$511 were added to the aquatic invasive species monitoring/prevention budget. Thank you to all who participated in the raffle, to all who joined us for the dinner, and to the Botten's staff for a delightful evening out in beautiful Lake Nebagamon. We look forward to seeing you again at next year's summer social!

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Membership

By Jack Sellwood

We finished our June 30, 2013, year with 219 members. For the year starting July 1, 2013, at this time we have 174 paid members, with many paying in advance. Reminders have been recently sent to our forgetful friends. This year we added an area for contributions to your favorite project: AIS, Walleye Stocking, or General Funds. A large percentage of the renewals included an additional amount.

We still need help ascertaining possible new members. If you have sold or transferred your property, please let us know who is currently enjoying Lake Nebagamon. We will be happy to contact them.

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Amnicon Falls State Park—
beautiful any time of the year! (AP)
**THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS
A GREAT YEAR!**

Walleye Improvement Initiative – What we have accomplished and where we are today.

This initiative, planned by Scott Toshner, DNR Fisheries Biologist, is a joint effort by the DNR and the Nebagamom Lake Association with the approval and support of the Lake Nebagamom Village Board. The project period of 2011-2015 is an effort to improve the walleye population in Lake Nebagamom. Currently, we are in the middle of the 2013 project year.

October 2011 Stocked 5,400 extended growth walleyes(EGW 7-9 inch) purchased by the Nebagamom Lake Association with \$10,000 contributed locally from many individuals, business, community groups, organizations and the Village of Lake Nebagamom.

February 2012 Placed fish sticks (whole trees) at 9 lakeshore properties to provide habitat for fish and other aquatic species completing a total of 1875 frontage feet. The fish sticks projects are funded entirely by DNR Fisheries.

Sept/Oct 2012 Stocked 8,750 Walleyes (EGW): 1000 from the Red Cliff_Conservation Unit, 3000 from the DNR and 4,750 purchased by the NLA from funds contributed locally.

February 2013 Placed fish sticks at 13 lakeshore properties for a total of 2000 frontage feet for fish habitat improvement.

Sept/Oct 2013 The DNR is scheduled to stock about 5000 (EGW) walleyes This is good news for the Nebagamom Lake Association since we do not have to collect funds to do the stocking.

February 2014 A fish sticks project is being planned. At the present time we have 26 lakeshore property owners interested in fish sticks placement.

May 2014 A new regulation will go into effect for the 2014 fishing season for walleyes. The legal minimum length will increase from 15 inches to *18 inches*. The purpose of this increase is to give the 15 to 18 inch walleyes at least one chance to spawn. A sign at the boat landing promoted by the NLA is recommending voluntary compliance by all fisherman to: **RELEASE WALLEYES OVER 20"**, **KEEP A MAXIMUM OF 2 WALLEYE**, and **TAKE A LEGAL LIMIT OF BASS** to help restore walleyes during this walleye restoration project.

Fall 2014 We are anticipating the DNR will schedule 5000 EGW Walleyes for Lake Nebagamom.

2015 Depending on DNR project finances, a fish sticks project may be initiated. No stocking is planned. This year's plan is for an intensive spring survey and analysis of the walleye population to determine the success of our 5 year *Walleye Improvement Initiative*.

The Nebagamom Lake Association extends thanks to those property owners that have agreed to have fish sticks placed at their lakeshore for habitat improvement. And a THANKS to all those individuals, businesses, organizations and the Lake Nebagamom Village Board for their support and contributions to this project.

Project Coordinators: Phil Takkunen and Will Kiefer

Thanks For All of Your Extra Contributions This Year!

We would like to extend a big thank you to the following members who generously made additional contributions in the 2013/14 fiscal year. These contributions were directed towards either walleye stocking, aquatic invasive species prevention, or other general projects.

- Adam & Sharla Riutta
- Al & Carol Lisdahl
- Andy & Kim Borg
- Bob & Lois Heller
- Brian Bernhardt
- Buzz & Nancy Newsteter
- Cecil Kuelthau
- Clyde & Diane Ekar
- Dan & Barb Takkunen
- Dave Veerman
- David & Deena Marshall
- David Gaddie
- Dennis & Nancy Raas
- Dianne Lueder & Keith Thomsen
- Dick & Linda Sonntag
- Ed Noltner
- Ed Santori
- Fred & Ginger Strom
- Greg & Deb Neve
- Jeff & Diane Laabs
- Jim & Sandy Jonasen
- John & Marilyn McGill
- Joseph Meidt
- LouAnn Petersen
- Mark & Renita Laskowski
- Mary Grandmaison
- Mel & Gloria Dowell
- Oliver Williamson
- Randall & Marcia Johnson
- Richard & Peg Boudreau
- Roger & Deb Scheldroup
- Sheldon & Kathleen Beavers
- Steve & Jane Sherner
- Virginia Culhane
- Walt & Kay Gower
- David & Michelle Berg
- Jason & Candice Vee
- Tom & Nicole Wolfe
- Al & Mary Yoshimoto
- Judy Arnold
- Jack & Dorothy Lundberg