

The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2008

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS--By Ann Parker

Spring has finally arrived—I think—and we are gearing up for our summer activities. It's an exciting time of the year—as much for the return of green grass and leaves and the songs of birds as for the return of friends we haven't seen in a while. The lake board is already busy with several of our projects—boater safety classes, annual meeting, purple loosestrife eradication, village-wide garage sale, summer social, and the Clean Boats, Clean Waters boat monitoring. (See related articles further on.) In addition, we have an exciting development to announce: We now have our very own web site (check out www.nebagamonlakeassociation.com.) We think that this will allow us to communicate with you more effectively and will ultimately save us money on printing and postage for our newsletters. From now on, we will post the newsletters on the site and only mail them to those who haven't given us email addresses. We also hope that the site will attract new members and help to educate nonmembers. Our site has links to the Lake Nebagamon village site and to the Wisconsin Association of Lakes site—a very good, informative site. Thanks to Wendy Corry for setting this up for us.

On another note, the Nebagamon Community Association newsletter has been encouraging people to nominate others as “good neighbors.” I think we can agree that good neighbors are kind, thoughtful, honest, trustworthy, and helpful. I also think they put the common good before their own personal wants and that they encourage the best in others. As people who have the privilege of living on or near beautiful Lake Nebagamon, we can also be good neighbors by being good stewards of the land and water. I saw a statement recently that said we shouldn't think we are preserving what we have for our grandchildren, but we are borrowing it from them. Makes you think, doesn't it?!? Let's be good neighbors to the loons and other water birds by not getting too close or scaring them. Let's protect the water from harmful run-off by limiting impervious (hard) surfaces and letting 10 more feet of our frontage on the lake return to native plant species. Let's be considerate of others when we're on the water. Let's enjoy good times with family and friends, but limit noise between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. Let's ALL be good neighbors—wouldn't that make this a fantastic place to be?

QUOTABLE: Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself. (Chief Seattle)

SUMMER SCHEDULE—Mark your calendars!

May 3-Labor Day—Clean Boats, Clean Waters boat Inspection at LN public boat launch.

June 16-17—Boater safety classes for 12-16 yr. olds at Auditorium, 1-5 p.m.

June 21—Village-wide Garage Sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

June 28—Annual Meeting—9:30 a.m. social, 10 a.m. program and business meeting at Auditorium

July 4—Boat Parade!

August 16—Summer Social at 5 p.m. at Botten's Golf Course. Come early for golf.

Boater Safety Classes--Boater safety classes for youths ages 12-16 will be from 1-5 p.m. June 16 and 17 at the Auditorium. When successfully completed, young people can solo a powerboat or PWC. To register, call 374-3101. The Wisconsin Legislature recently passed a law requiring anyone born on or after 1-1-1989 and at least 16 years old to have a boating safety education certificate to operate a motorboat. This is a great opportunity—encourage your children/grandchildren to attend. It is \$5 well spent! Class size is limited to 50. (Instructors are Tom Blundell and a DNR warden.)

Village-wide Garage Sale--Start cleaning out your closets and garage—the village-wide garage sale is coming up on June 21, 2008, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Get together with a friend or neighbor and share the \$10 registration fee. (This fee covers our advertising costs, maps for the buyers, and something to identify your site.) To get on the map, call **Carol at 374-2529** or **Carolyn at 374-2895** before June 18. Maps will be available to buyers at Ole's on the day of the sale.

Purple loosestrife eradication--Although there's considerably less purple loosestrife now than there was 6 years ago, there are still some areas with large populations. We are again raising the Galerucella beetles to deal with this problem. The beetles are most effective where there are lots of plants. If you have only a few, cut off and bag the flowering heads before the seeds are released. If you have questions or need help identifying the plants, call 374-2138.

QUOTABLE—“Prejudices, it is well known, are most difficult to eradicate from the heart whose soil has never been loosened or fertilized by education; they grow there, firm as weeds among rocks.” (Charlotte Bronte)

Annual Meeting—Our annual meeting will be Saturday, June 28, at the Village Auditorium with social hour with coffee, juice, and goodies at 9:30 a.m., and the program and business meeting at 10 a.m. Scott Toschner (the DNR fisheries guy who did the boat tours last summer) will be our speaker—you'll want to hear him. Our business meeting will approve the budget for the next year, discuss issues of importance to us, and elect board members. This is also a good time to bring up your concerns and suggestions. We will need at least 2 new board members this year. If you believe in what we do, please consider running. Call Ann at 374-2138 if you are interested.

Update on zoning to protect the lake from overdevelopment—Many of you, especially you snowbirds, were very interested and concerned last summer when a developer wanted to put 32 lots on one parcel of land on South Lake Blvd. and allow all of the owners to have access to the lake through one lot. I know you are still interested in what has happened since then. Last summer and fall the Zoning Commission researched how Douglas and Bayfield counties are dealing with multi-unit development on waterfront property. They then put together a proposed ordinance for Lake Nebagamon. After much study, discussion, and revision, they approved this proposal and passed it along to the Village Board. The Board decided to have it checked for legality before voting on it. They have not yet received a reply. Those of us who are concerned about lake protection issues need to continue to be vigilant!

Summer Social—Come one, come all, and have a ball! This year's social event will be August 16th at 5 p.m. at Botten's Golf Course. We'll have the same wonderful menu we had last year: brats, hamburgers, baked beans, potato salad, and brownies, plus cash bar. Of course, there will be oodles of door prizes! Hope to see you all there!

Clean Boats, Clean Waters—We got a DNR grant again this year to monitor our public boat launch area to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Every year, the threat to our lake becomes more imminent as the harmful invasives get closer and closer. In fact, Tomahawk Lake near Barnes will be applying 2-4D to their lake this summer to try to control Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). We really want to keep EWM out of Lake Nebagamon because it can form mats so dense that you can't swim or boat through them—people have even drowned in it! We are also concerned about prevent the spread of VHS—the fatal fish virus. The project will run from May 3-Labor Day. The Village Board is helping fund 20 more days than the grant will fund, so we appreciate that! We have Barb Resheshke back again as part-time supervisor and have hired 5 very responsible young adults to help us. We have to match the state moneys with our volunteer time, so we need volunteers willing to take a 2-hour training class and then put in at least one 2-3 hour stint at the boat launch area some time this summer. (If you were trained in '06 or '07, you don't need to be trained again.) If you can help in this way, please call 374-2138. Also, please treat our workers respectfully and thank them for their efforts.

Convention Report—George and I went to Green Bay for the Wisconsin Association of Lakes convention April 17-19. This was the 30th year of the state-wide convention, and it was outstanding—as usual. There were great speakers on a variety of topics, including water law, lake science, invasive species, citizen involvement, flora and fauna, and the value of lakes. At the opening session Chad Pregracke told of his crusade to clean up the Mississippi River—he seems to have unlimited energy and has done more than you'd expect 100 people to do. So far, he and a few helpers have removed over 4 million pounds of garbage!!! He is now working on the Ohio River. One person can make a difference! I attended an update on invasive species in the Great Lakes (there are 180 invasives in the Great Lakes now) a session on social marketing to encourage change to protect WI lakes, the WAL annual meeting, a session on getting the public involved in lake management, an update on NR115 (the state zoning regulations re water), and a session on a conservation effort on Bony Lake, which is near Barnes. We also enjoyed the appetizers, socializing, and Jeopardy competition Friday night. I always learn a lot, but come away wishing I knew more!!! (Ann Parker)

Do You Know How to Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers?

1. Inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment and remove visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud before leaving the water access.
2. Drain water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells, and bait containers before leaving the water access.
3. Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
4. Spray/rinse boats and recreational equipment with high pressure and/or hot tap water, especially if moored for more than a day OR
5. Dry boat and equipment for at least 5 days.

God's Thoughts on Lawns—from a recent email I received. ☺

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles, and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees, and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds, and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it—sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bail it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: "Dumb and Dumber," Lord. It's a story about. . . .

GOD: Never mind. I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.