

Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2009

NOTE: If you are getting this newsletter on paper and would like to get it by email, send your current email address to annparker@centurytel.net. When the newsletter is posted on our web site, you will be notified!

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS—By Ann Parker

It has been my privilege to serve the Nebagamon Lake Association as president these last eight years—how can eight years go by so quickly?!? I'd like to think that we have made great strides in raising awareness of what a unique resource we have in our lake and also of the practices that are important for its protection, while having some fun along the way. We have definitely become more active and involved. As strongly as I feel about the lake, however, it is time for me to step down and for someone else to carry on. I've learned a lot during these years and will gladly share my resource list with my successor. I want to thank all of you for your support and for your encouraging words, which have meant a lot to me. And a great big "Thank you" to the rest of the board for all of their work, also!

Last fall I encouraged you to share your thoughts on what makes a place special for you. Please read Jan Conley's thoughts on this topic, as well as Sam Cook's article on lake life. Also note the summer schedule of activities—I hope you can participate in many of them and that you will have a wonderful time "at the lake" this year!



SUMMER SCHEDULE—Mark your calendars!

Weekends all summer—Clean Boats, Clean Waters boat inspection at LN public boat launch.

June 18-19—Boater Safety classes for 12-16 yr. olds at Auditorium, 1-5 p.m.

June 20—Village-wide Garage Sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

June 27—Annual Meeting: 9:30 a.m. social hour, 10 a.m. program and business meeting at Auditorium.

July 4—Boat Parade!

August 8—Summer Social at Norwood Golf Course.

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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

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Gail Levo—374-2185

Al Lisdahl—374-3370

Tom Maas—374-2147

Dennis Raas—374-3228

Pat Sherman—374-2920

Phil Takkunen—374-3047

While Teens Set Out to Fish, A Parent Lets Go

By Sam Cook (reprinted with permission from the Duluth News Tribune, May 3, 2009)

This is how it begins. Three boys. A 14-foot boat. A watchful mom. At midday Saturday, Wisconsin's fishing opener, the three of them were gearing up on the town dock at Lake Nebagamon.

Oh, they had the gear. A couple of multi-tiered tackle boxes. A rod apiece. Plenty of new walleye floater rigs to tie on. A small cooler full of fatheads and golden shiners. The gear was strewn on the dock as they got organized. I walked over it, promising not to step on a rod. "Oh, that's already happened, said Andy Pribula, 14, of Superior. He had laid out his gear Friday night at home, then heard something snap underfoot in the dark. "I didn't know what it was until this morning," he said.

No problem. These three Superior boys had planned to go fishing, and they were going. Besides Andy, there was Zach Sather, 15. The third boy will go unnamed at his parents' request. One of their mothers, LeAnn Nowicki of Superior, had dropped them off. A dad would come by in a few hours to pick them up. The boys were after walleyes, they said. "Does Lake Nebagamon have any walleyes?" one of the boys asked.

Nobody knew. It seemed a trifling matter. There was only one way to find out.

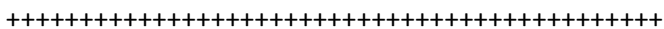
LeAnn stood a short distance away on the dock, observing the proceedings, reminding the boys to put on their life jackets. As a mother—or a dad—you might worry about these boys venturing out on cold water by themselves for the opener. But they were good kids, Nowicki said. Straight-A students. “They won’t do anything dumb,” she said.

I watched them untie the boat from the dock. The little motor sputtered and whined to life. The boys were off. They do not know how lucky they are. They do not know about the line all parents walk, the line between wanting everything to be all right and knowing that you must sometimes let go. The boys just knew this: It was the fishing opener. They were going fishing. This is how it begins.



Food for Thought

“Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day;
Teach him how to fish, and you can get rid of him the
entire weekend.”
(Zenna Schaffer)

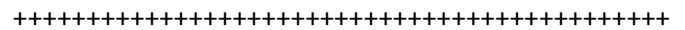


Memories of Summers in Lake Nebagamon

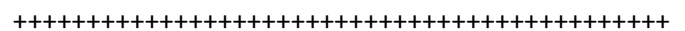
By Jan Idziorek Conley

I was lucky enough to spend my childhood summers right here on Lake Nebagamon. We, too, had a trail that ran between our cabins, and we called it the “bunny trail.” We traversed it in our bare feet, running most of the time, between our cabin, my aunt and uncle’s place four doors down, the Willetts’, the Hofstads’ and sometimes the Smiths’. We gathered for daily swims, berry picking, boulevard walking, tree climbing, card playing, and comic book

reading. We rowed to town and bought bags of penny candy at Lange Drug and Dilly Bars at the Dairy Queen. At night we met under the starry sky to play Kick the Can.



Boater Safety Classes—Boater safety classes for youths ages 12-16 will be from 1-5 p.m. June 18 & 19 at the Auditorium. When successfully completed, young people can solo a powerboat or PWC. To register, call 374-3101. Wisconsin law requires 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 20, 2009, 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 17th. Maps will be available to buyers at Ole’s on the day of the sale.



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. I promise that it will not last as long as last year’s meeting! 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 one new board member this year. If you believe in what we do, please consider running. Call Ann at 374-2138 if you are interested.



Summer Social—This year’s social event will be August 8th at 5 p.m. at Norwood Golf Course. The \$6.50 cost will include burgers, brats, beans, potato salad, dessert, and coffee—plus tax and tip! What a deal! The more than 60 people at last year’s social had a great time. As usual, there will be lots of door prizes! Hope to see **YOU** there! (If you prefer vegetarian, let Ann Parker know ahead of time.)



Invasive Species Prevention

Invasive species don't have natural predators. They can out-compete native species and take over the areas in which they're present. This change affects the rest of the lake ecosystem. Also, it is very expensive to control them!

1. Be sure that your boat, trailer, and equipment are cleaned of any weeds or animal life when you leave the boat launch and when you enter any body of water. It is illegal to launch with invasive species on a boat or trailer!
2. Drain all water from your boat and equipment before leaving the landing. This is to stop the spread of the fish disease VHS to any other waters.
3. Bait can be used on different bodies of water only if the bait was bought from a licensed bait dealer and no lake or river water was added to the container.

QUOTABLE: "Wilderness, to the people of America, is a spiritual necessity, an antidote to the high pressure of modern life, a means of regaining serenity and equilibrium. . . I have found that people go to the wilderness for many things, but the most important of these is perspective." (Sigurd Olson)

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Clean Boats, Clean Waters—As many of you already know from our email alert, we did **NOT** get a grant to inspect boats at the public boat launch this year. However, the Village has set aside \$1500 for this project, and we are hoping to match that to have a program again this year. Eurasian water milfoil has already infested 674 Wisconsin lakes—we need to be vigilant! Infested waters can depress shoreline property values! We have already recruited and trained 3 high school students and have put in three weekends at the boat launch. Johanna Conrad, one of last year's student workers, is our part-time supervisor/scheduler for the student workers this year. I have worked there two different days and am confident that we have great workers again this year. Of course, we need volunteers to provide moral support to our student workers. Please consider giving a few hours of your time this summer, too. (Call Ann Parker at 374-2138 to get on the schedule.) Should you wish to contribute to this very important project of educating boaters and, hopefully, keeping invasive species out of Lake Nebagamon, send a check to the Nebagamon Lake Association at Box 216, Lake Nebagamon, WI 54849. Thanks! (Ann Parker)

FYI re Phosphorus (Spring 2009 Lake Connection)

"Governor Jim Doyle signed the 'Clean Lakes' bill into law on April 14th. Wisconsin now has a statewide law which prohibits the display, sale, and use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus, with certain reasonable exceptions. This bill is the culmination of several years of advocacy work by the Wisconsin Association of Lakes." This law takes effect in 2010.

Note: This edition also had an excellent article on the health risks of and precautions for blue-green algae blooms.



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Piers: What You Need to Know for 2009

By Martye Griffin, DNR Water regulations
and zoning specialist

(from **The Lake Connection**, Spring 2009)

Historically and still today, most piers do not require a permit or a fee from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). New legislation passed last year expands the configuration options for piers to be exempt from permit requirements, provides greater flexibility in the number of boat slips allowed for commercial and multifamily lots, and creates a registration system to grandfather piers placed before 2004 that no longer meet today's standards.

Most piers do not trigger the need for any action, registration, or application for a permit. Depending on whether your lake has a special designation or not, all existing or new piers can be placed without a DNR permit, registration, or fee, if it meets the standard dimensions and a few other requirements. . . Please be aware that current law does not allow new piers to be placed in an Area of Special Natural Resource Interest (ASNRI) without a permit. However, the law does allow placement of a pier in an ASNRI without a permit if the DNR determines that the placement of the pier will not impact public rights.

If your pier does not meet the criteria listed in the table, BUT you have had your pier prior to 2004, go ahead and enjoy your pier again this summer! Keep doing what you've been doing—just don't expand or modify the pier you had before 2004. Most piers that do not meet the criteria listed in the table are eligible to be grandfathered through a one-time free registration process.

To be eligible for registration piers must: 1) Have been placed before Feb. 6th, 2004, 2) Be a maximum 8 feet wide, 3) Have a loading platform at the end that is a maximum of 200 square feet OR a maximum of 300 square feet if it's 10 feet wide or less, and 4) Not interfere with the rights of other riparian owners. (your neighbors)

All existing piers that meet these criteria must be registered with the DNR by April 1, 2011. For instructions on how to register your pier, please visit www.dnr.wi.gov. Keyword: piers.

If your existing pier does not meet any of the registration eligibility requirements (stated above), you can either: 1) Downsize your pier to meet the criteria listed in the table, 2) Downsize your pier to meet the registration eligibility requirements and register with the DNR, or 3) Apply for an individual permit to keep your pier as is. Please be aware that applying for a permit to keep your pier is not a guarantee that you will be able to keep it in its current configuration.

Here is the table of new requirements for piers on non ASNRI waters (Lake Nebagamon):

Width: Maximum 6 ft. wide

Length: Length needed to reach 3 ft. water depth or moor your boat

Location: Cannot interfere with the rights of other riparian owners

Number of boat slips: 2 for the first 50 ft. of shoreline frontage owned, 1 for each additional full 50 ft.

Loading Platform?: 8 feet wide by 8 ft. long loading platform or deck allowed on the end of the pier.