

The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

Spring 2016



President's Message

Welcome back to another summer at Lake Nebagamon! Thanks to a mild winter, we set a record for latest ice-in (December 26), at least in the recorded record that dates back to 1943. The Nebagamon Lake Association Board of Directors has remained hard at work in our numerous projects, most recently securing a grant from the State of Wisconsin for their new "Healthy Lakes" program. We are well ahead of the curve on this program, and have 6 properties currently in progress constructing property features such as rain gardens to control potentially harmful runoff into the lake. As these projects near completion this summer, we are excited to share the results with all members as we hope to make continued progress in improving our lake. A recently completed DNR study of the fishery in Lake Nebagamon revealed that we are not where we would like to be regarding our walleye population, and bringing our lake back to a more "natural" state should continue to be a main goal for our organization.

Outside of the new Healthy Lakes initiative, we continue to press-on with our other ongoing projects. Boat launch monitoring, water quality testing, invasive species monitoring, loon watch, village-wide garage sales, membership drives, and social events are among them.

If you haven't paid your membership dues from last year, please take a moment to do so (see the last page of this newsletter). While we do our best to send multiple reminders, we find ourselves in the position of

having 208 current-paid members even though we have had 257 members at some point in the last 4 years.

In this newsletter, we have updates on a number of projects and issues that we are currently thinking about as an organization. We welcome your input anytime. I hope to see you at the annual meeting on June 25th, or feel free to contact me at lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your membership in the NLA and your continued stewardship of Lake Nebagamon.

-Erik Takkunen

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Reminder—Important Dates in 2016

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|-----------|---|
| June 18 | Rummage sale, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. |
| June 25 | Annual meeting, 9:30 a.m., Auditorium |
| July 4 | Boat Parade, 7 p.m. |
| August 13 | Summer Social, 6 p.m. at Bridge's
(Catering by Sharon's) |

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Annual Meeting

This year’s annual meeting on June 25 will begin with coffee and goodies at 9:30 a.m. in the Auditorium. The business meeting will start at 10 a.m., and we will have special guests Scott and Pam Toschner from the Wisconsin DNR, who will present on their studies of Lake Nebagamon and programs that are planned to improve the lake. There is a comprehensive study (30 pages!) of the fishery of Lake Nebagamon that is in the final stages of completion and is expected to be ready by the time of the meeting. Hard copies will be distributed at the meeting.

-Erik Takkunen

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Shining Reflections

It is Summer and wonderful to be here in the Northwoods enjoying the fresh air, wildlife, and natural beauty of our land, water, and sky---a vacation paradise to preserve. So, a reminder about night light etiquette: Try to keep your outdoor lights from shining onto neighboring property or reflecting across the water or glaring upward, fading the stars and beauty of the night sky. Install light fixtures that shine downward or put shields on existing lights. Lower wattage lights focused down or horizontally illuminate immediate surroundings and effectively provide security and safety, AND cost less to use. Your stargazing or sleeping neighbors and nocturnal creatures and migrating birds will be grateful for your consideration

-Luanne Hunter

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Join Us at the Summer Social!

Please join us for the Lake Nebagamon Annual Summer Social on Saturday August 13, 2016 at 6pm! It will be held at Bridge’s in downtown Lake Nebagamon. Sharon from Sharon’s Lakeview Café will be catering this event for us. On the menu will be chicken, potatoes, rolls, and fruit. We will be charging \$9.00 per adult, \$4.50 per child. Ice cream sundaes with an assortment of toppings will again be served for dessert at no charge to attendees. For this year’s fundraiser, 50/50 raffle tickets will be on sale during the event! We will also have a drawing for free prizes. Come support our beautiful lake and meet your lake neighbors! Also, if you would like to pay your Association dues that day, you can as well.

-Adam and Sharla Riutta



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From the Nest of the Loon Ranger

The summer of 2015 was an awesome year for loons on our lake. We had not one, but two families of loons, each with one surviving chick. We also had a "floater," or loner, possibly looking for a mate. We have not seen this much loon activity on Lake Nebagamon for many years. So, what is happening? One reason may be that loons like Lake Nebagamon because they are not overwhelmed by boats and watercraft (short of July 4th weekend). We also have several ideal wild areas for nesting. And, people have been very aware of swimming loons, and have given them a wide berth

with their boats. Thank you for respecting our loon population!

Chick production was up 7% statewide in 2015, compared to the previous 37 years of loon studies. There was a 78% survival rate of the chicks born last year, meaning they survived to 8 weeks, roughly the period where chicks can dive and feed themselves. If they can make it to this point, they have a very good chance of surviving until the fall and then migrate to the Gulf of Mexico, or to the Atlantic shores of Florida. If you are interested in learning more about loon migration, there is a fascinating website put out by the U.S. Geological Survey that tracks some banded loons on their journeys. Check it out: usemc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/migratory_birds/loons/migrations.html.

If the loons have a successful reproduction this summer, there most likely will be two eggs hatched in each nest. Both adults will sit on the eggs, each one putting in about 4 hours until it calls its mate to take over. After hatching, the chicks and adults will leave the nest within 24 hours to live on the water. The chicks may not touch land again until they nest as adults 3-4 years in the future.

As a reminder, please consider changing over your tackle box to all non-lead tackle. In closing, ponder this thoughtful quote from Alan Hutchinson's book Just Loons: "The presence of loons somehow brands a place as pristine and labels a lake as tranquil, a spot to treasure when we seek relief from the pressures of technological society. And because loons prefer places where few people go, and require lakes that have less motorboats, jet skis, and other trappings, the presence of loons signifies a chance for a simpler, quieter life for those who seek the experiences our forefathers enjoyed when they went to the northwoods, to the wilderness, to the wild." And may I add, "to Lake Nebagamon."

Any loon concerns? Feel free to contact either Dan Takkunen (dbtakk@gmail.com) or Jan Conley (jconley003@centurytel.net).

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Membership Report

We finished our June 30, 2015 year with 230 member families. This was 32 members more than the previous year! Over the last four years, we have 256 members.

For the year ending June 30, 2016, at this time we have 208 paid members, with many paying in advance. Unfortunately this is 22 fewer than we had in the previous year at this time. We believe this is not a matter of the ability to pay, but rather our ability to get in contact with our members in the right places. In many cases, we use email as a primary contact, but people may not be great at checking email. In other cases, we might miss the timing of sending to Lake Nebagamon addresses vs. addresses our members may live at during other times of the year. We will continue to attempt to get in contact with our members in the most effective ways but for those who have difficulty keeping up with annual dues payments, please consider paying in advance for a few years.

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, and stop bugging you if you wish!

Finally, you can take advantage of our online payment option for dues! Go to <http://nebagamonlakeassociation.com/pay-online/>

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Our eagles are back on Honeymoon Point as always!

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Your Help is Needed to Protect Ducks and Loons

For several years, and again this spring, we have had reports of motorized water vehicles killing and or harassing loons and other waterfowl on Lake Nebagamon. These birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and violations are subject to federal statute. Penalties include fines up to \$15,000 and or jail time up to 6 months. Thanks to fast thinking by lake residents this spring one violator was reported, and the game warden was able to follow up and issued a warning.

IF YOU SEE A VIOLATION: Get as much information as you can including time, location, description of vehicle, person or persons/clothing and watercraft ID number if at all possible. (You also may submit one photo if you are texting) When you call in the report make sure to mention if the suspected violation is in progress.

This number is also used for injured wildlife. Do not report violations or injuries to the DNR office, to Loon Rangers or to local law enforcement. According to the DNR the TIP number is what you should use.

Report a Wildlife Harassment Violation or Injured Wildlife to the DNR by calling or texting 1-800-TIP-WDNR (800-847-9367)

-David Conley

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“Fish Sticks” – brought to us the old fashioned way this winter....



Fish Sticks can be brought in by the DNR as well!

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Walleye and Clean Lakes Initiatives

Walleye stocking results are starting to show up. Fishermen are reporting that they are seeing increased activity catching walleyes. The current walleye fishing regulations are intended to build a good spawning population. Stocking extended growth walleye fingerlings 7-9 inches started in 2011 with funds contributed locally by individuals, Lake Nebagamon Village Board, Douglas County Fish and Game League and the Red Cliff Conservation Unit. DNR stocked extended growth walleyes in 2012, 2013 & 2015. A total of 45,000 extended growth walleyes have now been stocked in Lake Nebagamon.

Fish sticks placement projects have now been completed by the DNR Fisheries in 2012, 2013, and 2015 for a total of 37 properties on 6575 frontage feet. A Feb 2016 project was postponed due to poor ice conditions.

The DNR has approved cost sharing in 2016 for the establishment of 6 healthy lakes projects on private lake shore properties. The main thrust of these type of projects is to control detrimental water runoff into the lake. Watch for the announcement this summer for a tour of these projects which the lake association will hold.

-Phil Takkunen & Willard Kiefer

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AIS Boat Launch Monitoring

This year's boat monitoring for Invasive Species got started as usual with the Fishing Opener on Saturday, May 7. We will monitor the lake 11 hours a day on Saturdays and Sundays until Memorial weekend. This year, we averaged 29 boats per day through Memorial Day.

We had a total of 289 boats during the month of May. 15 of these boats had been in another body of water within 5 days of putting in on Nebagamon. Only 7 of these were in lakes or rivers with identified issues with zebra mussels or Eurasian Milfoil (2 from Lake Superior, 2 from St. Louis River, 2 from the Pike Lake chain and 1 from the Minong Flowage). Boats coming from another body of water is a concern only if it was within the past 5 days. After that, studies show that any zebra mussel or milfoil on the boat trailer dies.

Beginning Tuesday, May 31 we will monitor 46 hours per week. Friday, Saturday and Sunday we will monitor 10 hours a day and Monday through Thursday we will monitor 4 hours per day.

Our 3 monitors this year are Jeff Giansanti, Judy Dalbec and William Cain. All three have experience from prior years and are enthusiastic about the AIS program. We will continue daily monitoring through Labor Day on September 5.

-Dave Sprowls

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Water Quality Report

Lake Nebagamon was sampled 12 different days during the 2015 season. The average summer (July-Aug) secchi disk reading for Lake Nebagamon was 7 feet. The average for the Northwest Georegion was 8.5 feet. The secchi depth may have been mostly impacted by tannins, which give the water that tea color. The average summer chlorophyll was 4.7 ug/l. The average summer chlorophyll for Northwest Georegion lakes was 19.1 ug/l. The summer total phosphorus average was 24.2 ug/l. Lakes that have more than 20 ug/l and impoundments that have more than 30 ug/l of total phosphorus may experience noticeable algae bloom.

Lake Nebagamon broke a record last year for ice up. The lake became ice bound on Dec. 26, 2015. The previous record was Dec. 21, 1998. Ice out was on April 14 which is about normal.

-Mark Laskowski

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Janet Bloomquist captures the scene in mid-December with no ice on the lake

Calling all photographers – we need more pictures around Lake Nebagamon to be featured in this newsletter and on our Facebook page. Please share pictures on our Facebook page or send to lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com.

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Boat Parade July 4th

Join your neighbors for the annual July 4th boat parade again this year. The parade starts at 7 p.m., and is led by Jack Sellwood (look for the teal-colored Bennington). The parade usually lasts about 45 minutes. All types of boats are welcome to take part. My family will again be taking pictures of the festivities and determining which boats have the best combination of decorations, spirit, and creativity. The top two winners will receive a Dilly Bar for every person on board.

Pictures will be shared on the NLA Facebook page as well as in the fall newsletter, as space allows.

Don't forget to stop by Jack's pontoon at the end of the parade (near the Boy's Camp) to get a free \$5 Dairy Queen gift certificate!



Did you know?

Buckthorn (see picture above), an invasive plant, continues to be a problem in our area. Buckthorn is an understory shrub or small tree 10–25' tall. Both species grow in shrub or tree form and possess prominent leaf scars in the winter. A cut branch exposes yellow sapwood and orange heartwood.

Common buckthorn has brown to silver bark that is shiny when young and dark grey to black and scaly when mature. Buds are found in pairs at the end of branches, are covered in dark scales, and resemble a hoof. Twigs often end in stout thorns. Glossy buckthorn has gray to brown lenticels and lacks thorns. Buds lack scales, are hairy, and are found at the end of branches.

People should check their property, pull the tree if possible or cut it down and revisit it annually until the plant is gone. It is especially important to get those trees with berries. -David Conley



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Proposed NLA Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

**THE NEBAGAMON LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC
BUDGET 7-1-2016 TO 6-30-2017**

INCOME:

DUES	4,000
RUMMAGE SALE	400
SOCIAL	600
DONATIONS	2,000
DEDICATED DONATIONS	3,500
BOAT MONITORING	1,500
INTEREST	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	<u>12,005</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

PROJECTS:	
BOAT MONITORING	8,000
BOAT PARADE	100
FIREWORKS	400
L N SWIMMING CLASS	200
HAZARD MARKERS	300
SOCIAL	600
KIDS IN NEBAGAMON - CHRISTMAS	200
ANNUAL MEETING	75
EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS	100
NEW PROJECT	1,000
RUMMAGE SALE EXP	50
WEB SITE	200
NEWS LETTERS, POSTAGE. MTGS. OFFICE EXP.	<u>500</u>
TOTAL	<u>11,725</u>

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NLA Board of Directors

Erik Takkunen, President	612-867-7951
Adam Riutta, Vice President	317-407-5395
Alan Yoshimoto, Secretary	715-374-2467
Jack Sellwood, Treasurer	715-374-3254
David Conley	715-375-2088
Willard Kiefer	715-374-3544
Mark Laskowski	715-374-3747
George Lehman	218-390-7346
Ed Noltner	715-374-3707
Tom Maas	715-374-2147
David Sprowls	239-676-4064
Phil Takkunen	949-412-8690

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Lake Nebagamon Ice In & Ice Out Dates

Year	Ice-Out Date	Ice-Free Days	Ice-In Date
1943	No Data	-	11/13
1944	5/1	214	12/1
1945	3/31	233	11/19
1946	3/31	237	11/23
1947	5/2	205	11/27
1948	4/12	240	12/8
1949	4/18	251	11/25
1950	5/14	194	11/24
1951	4/18	215	11/19
1952	4/21	221	11/28
1953	4/22	207	11/15
1954	4/20	224	11/30
1955	4/16	217	11/19
1956	4/28	215	11/29
1957	4/24	215	11/25
1958	4/14	227	11/27
1959	4/19	209	11/14
1960	4/20	225	12/1
1961	4/22	221	11/28
1962	4/25	228	12/8
1963	4/14	231	12/1
1964	4/22	212	11/20
1965	4/30	216	12/2
1966	4/22	223	12/1
1967	4/14	221	11/21
1968	4/11	239	12/6
1969	4/20	228	12/4
1970	4/24	217	11/27
1971	4/20	226	12/2
1972	5/1	182	11/30
1973	4/14	231	12/1
1974	4/26	218	11/30
1975	5/1	207	11/24
1976	4/14	215	11/15
1977	4/13	226	11/25
1978	4/19	215	11/20
1979	4/27	221	12/4
1980	4/22	215	11/23
1981	4/13	242	12/11
1982	4/24	214	11/26

Year	Ice-Out Date	Ice-Free Days	Ice-In Date
1983	4/30	216	12/2
1984	4/20	243	12/19
1985	4/18	218	11/22
1986	4/12	219	11/17
1987	4/7	240	12/3
1988	4/19	226	12/1
1989	4/26	212	11/24
1990	4/21	224	12/1
1991	4/12	213	11/7
1992	4/26	218	11/30
1993	4/24	217	11/27
1994	4/18	232	12/6
1995	4/18	209	11/13
1996	5/5	198	11/19
1997	4/24	210	11/20
1998	4/7	258	12/21
1999	4/13	248	12/17
2000	4/26	224	12/6
2001	4/25	239	12/20
2002	4/18	222	11/26
2003	4/24	223	12/3
2004	4/18	240	12/14
2005	4/11	229	11/26
2006	4/11	234	12/1
2007	4/19	226	12/1
2008	3/29	241	11/25
2009	4/16	234	12/6
2010	3/31	248	12/4
2011	4/13	233	12/2
2012	3/21	261	12/7
2013	5/12	198	11/26
2014	5/6	199	11/21
2015	4/12	255	12/26
2016	4/14		

Averages			
Last 5	4/18	231	12/4
Last 10	4/14	234	12/2
Last 20	4/15	231	12/4
Overall	4/19	224	11/28

Credits:

Jack Arthur, Gail DeBrunye, Willard Kiefer, Andy Mack, Mark Laskowski, and Joe Snyder.

July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL
NEBAGAMON LAKE ASSOCIATION
<http://nebagamonlakeassociation.com>



***Save time and postage! You now have the option of paying online with a credit card at <http://nebagamonlakeassociation.com/payonline.html>. When paying online you can also provide the below information.**

Name: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Phone number _____

Lake Nebagamon address (fire number & road only) _____

Mailing address (where you wish newsletters to be mailed) _____

Please send the Spring and Fall newsletters by email. I want to help save printing and postage expense.

Email address _____

Dues are \$20 per year—a small amount that has a big impact!

Payment for fiscal year 2017 (July 2016 - June 2017)

If you wish to pay dues in advance (more than one year), indicate amount here

We are involved in many projects and would gladly accept additional contributions, if you wish to contribute additionally, indicate amount here:

- Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention
- Walleye Enhancement Initiative
- General Fund (Projects Determined by Membership)

Total paid

Please make your check payable to NLA and send it along with this information sheet to:

**NLA
PO Box 216
Lake Nebagamon, WI 54849**