

The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2011

Editor Ann Parker

Note: If you are getting this newsletter on paper and would like to get it by email, send your current email address to lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com. It's in color by email and on the web. Our web site is www.nebagamonlakeassociation.com.

A Few Words from your new president, Ed Noltner

As I stared out at our beautiful lake the other night, I couldn't help but think about my beautiful wife of over 48 years—Beverly—who many of you know died this past May. Gosh, how she loved this lake and its people who so enriched and encircled our lives. Like so many others, we chose this as our retirement spot some 18 years ago when we moved out here from Superior. . . wanting to spend every minute we could along its woodlands, wildlife, waters, and popular shores. It was for both of us love at first sight. Right up to the very end as my life partner clutched my hand tightly, we still marveled over its magic and moments, locked forever in our minds and hearts by those large picture windows of ours.

The summer of 2011 will be remembered as a blur—numbing at times, more humbling and inspiring at others—as family and friends gathered to rekindle many a special fire and memory. It was capped, of course, by getting out and back into the mainstream of life with you and together at our annual social at Bottens', where the food was as grand as the company. Our outgoing President Pat Sherman received many a kudo, as did those who gathered prizes for the event and headed projects with purpose throughout the past year. We talked in small groups and as a whole of the importance of what's geographically central to our lives: our lake, its preservation and health and the need to embrace whatever it takes to keep it special for generations to come.

This fall walleye are being restocked, bringing the total to well over 3 million since the stockings began in 1934. Habitat improvements

continue to enhance walleye reproduction. We are still below management objectives of over 3 walleyes/acre, but by working with the DNR and with the statewide length and bag restrictions, we hope things will improve.

Our 914 acre drainage lake is important to each of us in different ways, and that's why, in each newsletter, I'll cast out some trivia, reel in your input, and hook you up with ways you may be able to help our association. Much of our 41 square mile watershed is forested and privately owned. The maximum and mean depths are 56 and 20 feet respectively. Its major inlets are the Minnesuing Creek and an unknown tributary.

Thank you for your support these past few months. And remember what Henry David Thoreau said: "A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is Earth's eye, looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."



Fall color on "Lake" Norwood—by Ann Parker

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Membership Report

By Jack Sellwood

We currently have 188 members for the July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012, year, and dues are still coming in. Many members have paid ahead a total of 70 years (\$1400), which continues to help us get off the ground in the spring. Our \$20 dues allow us to retain and expand our programs, especially boat monitoring.

Dues reminder: Thanks to everyone who has renewed or joined the Association this year! As of press date, there are a number of members who have not yet renewed for 2012. If you are unsure if you have paid for the year, please contact **Erik Takkunen** (email and phone # listed above). Membership forms are available on our web site. Please continue to encourage your neighbors to join if they haven't already!

Advice from a Lake

Be clear—Make positive ripples—
Look beneath the surface—Stay calm—Shore
up friendships—Take time to reflect—
Be full of life!
(from Your True Nature)

4th of July Boat Parade

By Jack Sellwood

The 4th of July boat parade was another huge success. Starting at Honeymoon Point at 7:00 p.m., we reached the Village at about 7:30. In the process we were applauded, judged, (always a 10), and water ballooned from shore (poor aim!). Over forty-five brightly decorated boats (mostly pontoons) participated. Thanks to all that joined us, and thanks to Ole's Country Market for contributing some of the prizes.





Photos by Erik Takkunen

Emerald Ash Borer

By Willard Kiefer

Those purple boxes you see tied up in trees along our roads are Emerald Ash Borer traps. The Emerald Ash Borer (EMB) is an invasive species and is extremely destructive and has the potential to kill almost 100% of our ash trees. The EMB larval stage bores under the bark and disrupts the conduction of water and nutrients between the roots and the leaves, killing the tree. First found near Detroit a few years ago, it is believed it came into our county in shipping crates. It has spread to those states south of the Detroit area. Currently it has been found in SE Wisconsin, La Crosse and Green Bay areas. It is felt that it is being moved in wood products from ash, primarily fuel wood. Twelve

Wisconsin counties currently have quarantine restrictions in place on all hardwood products. State and Federal laws forbid hardwood firewood movement out of the emerald ash borer quarantined areas. Special compliance agreements are required for hardwood lumber movement. For more information, go to: www.datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/cab or to www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry.

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Local Spotlight—Did You Know?

By Erik Takkunen

While many Lake Nebagamon property owners close up their cottages for the winter, those who remain have easy access to one of the best snowmobiling trail systems in North America. From the frozen lake, Douglas County trail #6 runs east and west on Railroad Street (behind Ole's). It is a quick and fun trail ride to Brule, Poplar, Hawthorne, or beyond. Some of the best snow can be had to the northeast where significant lake effect snow is common. The trails are open from December 1 through March 31, weather permitting. The past 5 years have seen sizable early December snowfalls with good trail riding often available in the first or second week of March. Snowtracks.com (<http://www.snowtracks.com/wisconsin/>) is an excellent resource for snowmobilers interested in Douglas and Bayfield Counties. Trail maps, weather forecasts, and snow conditions are available on this site. A local snowmobiling club called the Brule River Riders (<http://brulerriveriders.com/?110000>) is responsible for maintaining and grooming 120 trail miles in the Lake Nebagamon and greater Douglas County area. They, along with clubs all over the State, do an outstanding job of keeping the trails in their best possible condition during the winter season. If you haven't ever given snowmobiling a try, consider making a visit to Lake Nebagamon in the wintertime and see a whole new world in the woods that you didn't know existed! Be safe!

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Eagle's nest on Lake Nebagamon (Erik Takkunen)

Fishin', Fun, No Foolin'

By Kay Coletta & Willard Kiefer

We residents and visitors to Lake Nebagamon have been given a wonderful gift of our beautiful lake. Those who have gone before us treasured that gift, and it is now our obligation to preserve this gift for those who will come after us. An exciting project is being carried on by a group of Lake Nebagamon organizations, business people, and individuals who know that the lake and its fishery are in need of some support from all who enjoy it and want to continue to enjoy it. This group will be restocking the lake with 5400 extended growth walleye (6-9") on Tuesday, October 25. This \$10,000 stocking cost came entirely out of donations. The effort came out of the Nebagamon Lake Association with the assistance and cooperation of Scott Toshner, Brule DNR Fisheries Biologist, providing the technical expertise. It is called the Walleye Enhancement Initiative for Lake Nebagamon. The Nebagamon Lake Association Board of Directors and the Lake Nebagamon Village Board have approved this initiative. It includes a "fishsticks" portion where trees are cut and placed/anchored in the shoreline to provide fish habitat for the young walleye and other fish species. To date 12 property owners have agreed to allow placement of these fishsticks, which will encompass 2,025 feet of shoreline scattered around the lake. This portion of the program is funded by the DNR

and will be completed this winter when ice conditions permit. The stocking and fishsticks are scheduled to continue for the next 4 years. Co-chairs for this initiative, Phil Takkunen (374-3047) and Willard Kiefer (374-3544), will welcome questions and comments.

We would like to thank the following for their support and donation to the Walleye Stocking project:

Organizations: Nebagamon Lake Association, Lake Nebagamon Village Board, Nebagamon Community Association, Douglas County Fish and Game League, Lake Nebagamon Lions Club, and KIN.

Businesses: Chippewa Valley Bank, Ole's Country Market, and Rowe's Northern Waters Electric, Inc.

Individuals: Alan Lisdahl, Robert Muehlhausen, Eugene & Jean McGillis, Charles & Terry Finckler, Marjorie & Andrew Fenny, James & Sandy Jonasen, Jack & Sandy Sellwood, Phil & Gretchen Takkunen, Nancy & Buzz Neusteter, and Mary Beth & Willard Kieffer.

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AIS Workshop

By Gail Levo

I had the opportunity this summer to attend a session put on by UW-Extension, the DNR, and Wisconsin Lakes Association on how to identify various invasive species. During this session we saw first hand what invasive plant life looks like and also saw zebra mussels and rusty crayfish. In addition, each lake association representative was presented with a set of manuals and life-sized pictures of the invasive plants and an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Monitoring Procedures Manual. These very detailed and extremely helpful tools have been shared with our boat monitors and will continue to be used to assist them in hopefully identifying any of the AIS before they come to live in Lake Nebagamon.

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Hmmmm. . . .

“If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed;
if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms
of 100 years, teach the people.”

(Confucius)

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Summer Social

By Jack Sellwood

Our Association for many years has sponsored a summer social as a means to meet and socialize with your neighbors. This year we had seventy-four participants at Botten's. A great dinner of hamburgers and brats with all the trimmings was served. Almost everyone received a prize. Much thanks to local merchants for their participation.



Photos by Erik Takkunen

Boat Launch Monitoring Report

By Dave Sprowls

We monitored the lake from May 27 until September 11, on Friday afternoons, all day Saturdays, and Sunday afternoons. Starting on July 17, we also monitored Sunday mornings. On the three holiday weekends (Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day) we also monitored all day on the following Mondays.

There were 72 work shifts by three paid monitors that involved 393.5 hours (for a total cost of \$2951.25 at \$7.50 per hour). There were also 12.5 volunteer/donated hours. The only other costs were from workers' compensation, FICA withholding, and 1 ½ hours of training. These costs totaled about \$600.

We monitored 831 total boats, of which 672 were entering the lake and 159 were leaving the lake. Eighty-six of the incoming boats had been in another lake within the last 5 days, and of these 31 had been in a lake or river identified as having zebra mussels and/or Eurasian Milfoil by the state of Wisconsin or state of Minnesota. We tried to monitor those 31 boats with extra care!

We had no violations, and we contacted a total of 2,057 people.

Food for Thought

"It is a fine thing to be out on the hills alone. A man can hardly be a beast or a fool alone on a great mountain." (Rev. Francis Kilvert) Note: Try substituting "lake" for "hills."

Get Connected with the NLA!

By Erik Takkunen

In addition to saving postage expense, being electronically connected to the NLA keeps you in the loop on a consistent basis of happenings within the Association and with news updates that concern lake management. Please consider joining the email list. You can join by contacting lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com or by calling 612-867-7951. Additionally, if you have a Facebook account, search for Nebagamom Lake Association." Use the "like" function on Facebook to receive notifications of updates to the page. Currently there are pictures of the July 4th boat parade as well as the August NLA social, along with many links to interesting news articles!

THANKS TO

Joe Crain & Tony Coletta—Hazard Markers
Carol Arthur & Nancy Smith—Garage Sale
Ed Noltner & Dennis Raas—Summer Social
Jack Arthur—Water Quality Monitoring
Capt. Jack & 1st Mate Sandy Sellwood—4th of
July Boat Parade
Pat Sherman & Dave Sprowls—Boat Monitoring
(I hope I haven't forgotten anyone! We
appreciate all that you do for our lake!)

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2011-2012 Budget Adopted at Annual Meeting

INCOME

Dues	\$3000
Rummage Sale	250
Social	600
Donations	500
Boat Monitoring	1500
Insurance Rebate	200
Interest	10

TOTAL	\$6060
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DISBURSEMENTS

Projects :	
Boat Monitoring—2011	\$3000
Boat Parade	100
Fireworks	400
LN Swimming Classes	200
Purple Loosestrife	0
Hazard Markers	300
Social	600
Kids in Nebagamom—Christmas	200
Annual Meeting	75
Educational Materials	100
New Project	200
WI Association of Lakes Dues	350
Douglas Co. Lake Assoc.	50
State Lakes Convention/Conferences	500
Rummage Sale Exp.	50
Web Site	200
Newsletters, Postage, Mtgs., Office	
Expense	600

TOTAL	\$6975
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Nebagamon Lake Association Receives State Grant

By Erik Takkunen

In August, the NLA applied for grant funding from the State of Wisconsin to educate, plan, and prevent aquatic invasive species in Lake Nebagamon. Aquatic invasive species (known as "AIS") are a hot topic for waterways throughout the United States. In Lake Nebagamon, the most devastating effects would likely occur from the introduction of zebra mussels and Eurasian Milfoil, but other AIS such as curly leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, and rusty crayfish are also of concern. We are proud to report that the State of Wisconsin approved our grant application in the amount of \$4,000! This \$4,000 will be combined with the generous annual donation of the Village of Lake Nebagamon of \$1,500 and annual contributions of \$1,500 from the Nebagamon Lake Association membership to pay staff to monitor the public boat launch. With the additional funding, we will be able to dramatically increase the number of hours spent monitoring the boat launch, and considerably reduce the risk of boats and trailers spreading aquatic invaders.

Reading and listening to media outlets in the Great Lakes region, there has been a significant increase in discussion of AIS related topics. Some focus on the negative effects of infested water bodies, while others focus on the efforts of lake associations like ours to prevent the spread into their waterways. Certain things are becoming clear. State and local governments do not have the resources or availability to have AIS high on their agenda. Limited grant money is available, but planning and execution of an AIS prevention strategy is unquestionably a product of active concerned volunteers. Second, when AIS are discovered in waterways, local residents are often quoted saying "I wish we had done something sooner." Currently, there is no known remedy for zebra mussels or Eurasian Milfoil. Each female zebra mussel, in particular, can multiply up to one million times per season. Popular lakes such as Lake Minnetonka in the Twin Cities and Mille Lacs in Northern Minnesota have observed booming population growth of zebra mussels in the years following initial discovery.

Lake Nebagamon is at risk due to its size and popularity in Douglas County, combined with its proximity to infested waters such as Lake Superior and the St. Louis River. The most up-to-date research indicates that AIS spreads from the movement of trailers and boats between waterways. We are fortunate that on Lake Nebagamon, there is only one public boat launch. It is our responsibility to protect the lake!

I have heard the phrase "It's only a matter of time" before when discussing AIS. I'm only aware of two certainties in life, and AIS infestation on Lake Nebagamon is not one of them. Members of the NLA have one thing in common - we all love Lake Nebagamon. We owe it to ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren to be good stewards to this lake. In the 21st century, this means doing everything we can to prevent the spread of AIS.

Each resident of Lake Nebagamon should consider what they are doing to prevent the spread of AIS. Are you transporting boats, canoes, or kayaks to other waters and launching back on Lake Nebagamon within 5 days? Are your out-of-town guests bringing boats with them? Where was their boat prior to use on Lake Nebagamon? Have you considered assisting the NLA in their prevention efforts?

With the additional scope of our project comes a couple of needs. First, we need paid workers to help at the boat launch. Pay is \$7.50/hour, and \$8.00/hour for returning employees. In 2012, boat launch monitoring will be conducted during the week as well as weekends. Contact Dave Sprowls at dmsprows@hotmail.com. Second, **we need volunteers to assist in other necessary functions**. Please read the below roles and responsibilities and consider giving some of your time to this important initiative. Contact Erik Takkunen at lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com if you are able and willing to help.

Nebagamon Lake Association AIS Committee Roles and Responsibilities

1. Community and Organizational Support (Erik Takkunen)
 - Procurement of updated letters from existing parties
 - Potential procurement of letters from other parties
2. State of Wisconsin Outreach (Erik Takkunen)
 - Sit-down with decision makers to discuss opportunities to better our application and/or request additional funding
 - Write and submit annual grant requests
 - Write and submit final report
3. Boat Launch Staffing Management (Dave Sprowls)
 - Hiring staff
 - Training staff
 - Managing staff schedules
4. Data Analysis (**HELP NEEDED! One volunteer needed**)
 - Consolidation of boat launch data from 2010 (Microsoft Excel)
 - Consolidation of boat launch data from prior years into same format (Microsoft Excel)
 - Enter data into State of Wisconsin "SWIMS" system
 - *Need to have computer*
5. Public relations and marketing (**HELP NEEDED! One or multiple volunteers needed**)
 - Update signage in Lake Nebagamon (boat launch, auditorium, Ole's, etc)
 - Periodically submit articles for Community Association and NLA newsletters
 - Monitor popular media and link to AIS related articles for the email network, Facebook page, or NLA website
 - Create and purchase T-shirts for volunteers, possibly even for NLA members (creativity!)
 - Procure and prepare materials to hand out to boaters (provided by State of WI)
6. Lake Testing (**HELP NEEDED! Multiple volunteers needed**)
 - Organize and schedule volunteers for periodic AIS testing (One volunteer needed to lead)
 - Volunteers needed - testing to be done May through October (Multiple volunteers needed, minimal time commitment)
7. Finance (Jack Sellwood)
 - Pay boat launch employees
 - File necessary tax returns
 - Deposit state grant money