

The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

Fall/winter 2014

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

What a great year it has been for the Nebagamon Lake Association! Turnout was outstanding at our annual meeting as well as our summer social. The boat parade on the Fourth of July saw boats decorated better than ever before despite unfavorable weather conditions. We logged a record number of hours at the boat launch to protect the lake from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Our Walleye Enhancement Initiative is set to have "fish sticks" set up by the DNR this winter on many Lake Nebagamon properties and continues to have the lake stocked with walleye through multiple sources. We conducted a membership drive this spring as well. We sent a directed mailing to every lakeshore property owner on record with Douglas County who is not currently a member. As a result, we appear to be on track for a record number of members by the time the fiscal year is concluded. Thank you to all of the new members who have joined us! With all of the threats facing lakes these days, having a united and active group is invaluable.

The activities of the NLA are conducted by a fairly small group of individuals, and they don't often get the credit they deserve. I want to take an opportunity to thank them for their contributions:

- *Dave Sprowls – Boat launch monitoring leadership
- *Adam & Sharla Riutta – Planning and execution of summer social
- *Dave Conley – Invasive species vegetation control leadership
- *Phil Takkunen & Willard Kiefer – Walleye Enhancement Initiative leadership
- *Mark Laskowski – Water quality testing
- *Wendy Corry – Website design
- *Ann Parker & Luanne Hunter-- Newsletter editing & printing
- *Dan Takkunen – Loon Ranger
- *Gail Levo & Carol Arthur – Village wide garage sales organization
- *All board members (see listing in this newsletter), including officers Jack Sellwood (Treasurer), Alan Yoshimoto (Secretary), and Adam Riutta (Vice President)



"Summer Sunset" by Erik Takkunen

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank our three board members who have completed their terms: Gail Levo, Ed Noltner, and Jane Dolter. All three board members made great contributions over the years, including Gail as Secretary and Ed as Vice President and later President. Three board members have joined the board for three year terms in their place: Alan Yoshimoto, Dave Conley, and Ed Anderson. Additionally, I would like to thank Jack Arthur for many, many years of water quality testing.

I look forward to another great year. As I pick up the newspaper and read about the bad news concerning many lakes in Wisconsin and Minnesota, I am reminded of what a special thing we have going here at Lake Nebagamon. The NLA does not take this for granted and I encourage every member and lakeshore owner to think about simple ways they can ensure the long term health of the lake.

Have a great winter – wherever you spend it!

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Reminder—Important Dates in 2015

- June 20 (tentative)—Rummage sale
- June 27—Annual meeting
9:30 Social, 10:00 Business meeting
- July 4—Boat Parade, 7 p.m.
- August 8—Summer Social, 5 p.m.

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Food for Thought

Nature never deceives us;
it is always we who deceive ourselves.
(Jean-Jacques Rousseau)

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Carlson family



Laabs family

4th of July Boat Parade a Success Despite Poor Weather

By Erik Takkunen

The Fourth of July 2014 saw a major thunderstorm rumble through Lake Nebagamon around 6:30pm that threatened the annual boat parade as well as the fireworks show. Just prior to the 7:00 start, we looked out of our window to see one boat full of people waiting near Honeymoon Point during the peak of the storm. While I thought the boat parade would likely be cancelled, the rain did lighten up just after the scheduled start, and the boats started to arrive. The total number of boats was down slightly from prior years, but spirits were high despite the continued light rain. That spirit paid off for the Laabs and Carlson families, who were the winners of our Best Decorated/Most Spirit Contest. Every occupant of both boats received a Dilly Bar for their efforts. The Laabs family (Diane & Jeff) waited out the big storm in the middle of the lake with umbrellas. This effort alone, along with a nicely decorated boat, cemented them as a winner! The Carlson family (Mark & MaryDell) packed their boat with 14 people after having 9 of their 13 grandchildren help decorate. The Statue of Liberty was very creative and along with the other decorations – they could not be ignored. The Carlson's have already been discussing next year's design plans, as they hope to defend their title! Pictures of all of the boats can be seen on the Facebook page of the Nebagamon Lake

Association. While you are looking, be sure to "Like" the NLA on Facebook to keep up with our activities throughout the year.

See you at the boat parade in 2015. Who will win the Dilly Bars next year?

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NLA Board of Directors

Erik Takkunen, President—612-867-7951

Adam Riutta, Vice Pres.—317-407-5395

Alan Yoshimoto, Sect.—715-374-2467

Jack Sellwood, Treas.—715-374-3254

Ed Anderson—218-391-2242

David Conley—715-375-2088

Willard Kiefer—715-374-3544

Luanne Hunter—715-374-3508

Al Lisdahl—715-374-3370

Tom Maas—715-374-2147

David Sprowls—239-676-4064

Phil Takkunen—949-412-8690

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Jack Sellwood

We finished our June 30, 2014 year with 198 members. For the year starting July 1, 2014, at this time we have 203 paid members, with many paying in advance. Reminders have been recently been sent to our forgetful friends. Contributions have been coming in for your favorite project: Aquatic Invasive Species, 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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Spectacular fall color near the end of September!

Village-Wide Garage Sale

By Gail Levo

The village-wide garage sale in June was coordinated by Carol Arthur & Gail Levo, and was once again a huge success with approximately 40 participants. The monies collected each year go to support the boat monitoring program. Thanks once again to all who participated by either selling or buying.

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Summer Social Pictures—a good time was had by all!



HELP FIGHT THE PURPLE INVADERS!

by David Conley

We are organizing to fight purple loosestrife on Lake Nebagamon and we need your help! We need people to sign up now for a program that will begin with a training next spring. Farrah Wirtz UW Extension will provide a free training in May/June 2015 on how to grow purple loosestrife, raise beetles, and release them. Volunteers would need space for a kiddie pool and would be required to attend the training. They would then raise the beetles for a month or so before releasing them. All equipment is free and will be provided. The beetles will be released in August. If you are interested please contact Farrah Wirtz at (715) 394-8334.

Though Purple Loosestrife is almost certainly here to stay in Wisconsin, we should be able to efficiently protect our wetland ecosystems from domination by Purple Loosestrife by simply restoring some of the natural checks and balances that can result in diverse, healthy environments.

Purple Loosestrife is an invasive wetland plant that can produce millions of seeds every year. It can take over wetlands and force out native plants and animals. If you have Purple Loosestrife on your property, biocontrol may be the most viable long-term control method, promising to greatly reduce the need for other more costly and disruptive control methods such as yearly herbicide application. Biocontrol uses purple loosestrife's natural predator, the Galerucella beetle, to control it. Careful research has shown that these insects are dependent on Purple Loosestrife, are not a threat to other plants, and they effectively decrease purple loosestrife's size and seed output-allowing native species to flourish.

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So True

"Nature is the truest democracy, and not the richest man in the world is served a grander sunset than the beggar."

(Michael Furtman)

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Walleye Initiative Report Fall 2014

by Phil Takkunen and Willard Kiefer

1. Stocking: There are no plans to stock Lake Nebagamon this fall. Last year's stocking amounted to 16,000 extended growth walleyes (EGW 6-7 inch range) at 16/acre. The DNR plan for 2015 is stocking 15,000 EGW. Scott Toshner, DNR Fisheries Biologist, indicates

there is evidence through continuous stocking, one age class can have an impact on the other age class, thus an every other year stocking plan. Since this community contributed funds towards stocking in 2011 and 2012, we support this every other year schedule.

2. DNR Spring 2014 Survey: Results indicate the stocking has contributed significantly to the walleye year classes, especially in the young year classes and that natural reproduction is still evident. The adult walleye population is up somewhat from previous surveys. Adult smallmouth and largemouth bass population has decreased from past surveys- which has been confirmed by several fishermen's reports.

3. Fishsticks: A project is planned for this coming winter. The Feb 2014 project had to be postponed due to bad snow and ice conditions on the lake and is rescheduled for Feb 2015. Scott Toshner is contacting all those lakeshore property owners in the project, confirming the project is on go and that the sites are adequately marked for the placement of the fishsticks (trees).

4. WISCONSIN'S HEALTHY LAKES INITIATIVE. This is a new project initiated as part of our Walleye Improvement Initiative supported and approved by the Nebagamom Lake Association Board. This Statewide Healthy Lakes Implementation is sponsored by the Wisconsin DNR Fisheries. Planning and funding may be available for these projects. It is directed at lakeshore/shoreline restoration. This was introduced at our summer Lake Association Annual Meeting. Thus far 9 lakeshore property owners have signed up to participate. Attached is a brief description of this lakeshore/shoreline restoration initiative.

WISCONSIN'S HEALTHY LAKES IMPLEMENTATION PLAN*

A new project in the Lake Nebagamom Walleye Improvement Initiative – Lakeshore Restoration This statewide Healthy Lakes Implementation Plan, as proposed by the Wisconsin DNR includes relatively simple and inexpensive best lakeshore practices that lakefront property owners can implement themselves to help make healthy lakes for current and future generations.

This plan includes funding for the promotion, planning, establishment, accountability and evaluation of such practices for implementing lakeshore habitat restoration and erosion and runoff control.

The target audience for this plan and implementation of the associated practices is the individual lakefront property owners, including: permanent and seasonal homeowners, municipalities, and businesses.

A grouping of applicants can/may be required on a particular lake plan.

*This is the main criteria proposed for this program. This Lakeshore Restoration Project has the support and approval of the Nebagamom Lake Association.

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT: Phil Takkunen at 949-412-8690 or Will Kiefer at 715-374-3544, for further details.

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Have you seen these local "Whimsies"?



LAKE NEBAGAMON BOAT LAUNCH SUMMARY 2014

By Dave Sprowls

This year our monitoring of the lake did not start until May 10th due to late ice-out for the second straight year. Once again monitoring continued through Labor Day on September 1st. We monitored only weekends until May 26th, when we began monitoring 7 days (53 hours) per week.

We used 4 primary monitors. They were Jeff Giansanti, Judy Dalbec, Olivia Amber and Victoria Schmidt. They were once again backed up by William Cain. Our monitors were very thorough in their approach with emphasis on live wells, drain plugs and any vegetation on boats or trailers. We also tried to

focus on any boats that had been in other water bodies during the past 5 days.

There were 166 work shifts completed by our monitors. This was 20 more shifts than ever before because we expanded coverage on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from mid-July onward. Wages paid were \$6,730. Additional costs for workers' compensation, FICA withholding and monitor T-shirts came to \$1,168.

We monitored 1,789 boats (334 more boats than any prior year). There were 1,162 boats entering the lake and 627 boats leaving the lake. There were 164 boats that had been in another lake within the previous 5 days, of which 56 had been in a lake or river identified as having zebra mussel or Eurasian Milfoil problems or both issues as identified by the Wisconsin or Minnesota DNR. These 56 boats were screened very carefully and their occupants were advised why we were conducting more vigorous scrutiny. Again, we had no violations and the number of people contacted was 3,268 (approximately 1.8 people per boat).



One of the reasons we love this area—the wildlife! A wild turkey along South Lake Blvd. recently.

2014 Lake Nebagamon Water Quality

By Mark Laskowski

This year started with a late spring followed by a cool summer. We also had high water at the beginning of the summer and at the end. With the cool summer temperatures the overall water temperatures were also down this year. According to Seicchi disk readings water clarity is still in decline this year. Lake Nebagamon is

classified as a Mesotrophic lake that has moderately clear water with increasing chance of low dissolved oxygen in the deep water during the summer. The Trophic State Index Graph on the Wis.DNR web site show that the phosphorus levels are higher than they were in 2013 but were below 2012 and 2011 levels. The graph also showed that chlorophyll levels are on the decline with levels that were last seen in 2008.



A foggy day at Pattison State Park.

More Invasives—by David Conley

Two other invasive exotic plants have established themselves in the Lake Nebagamon area. These plants, the Common or Glossy Buckthorn and Japanese Knotweed, are already abundant and spreading rapidly. This is the best time of year to go after the buckhorn as the leaves are still dark green and some of the trees/bushes have glossy black berries. Cutting down the plants/trees is not a final answer but will set the trees back and prevent the berries from being spread next year.

Please visit the DNR sites to learn more.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/index.html> or

www.invasiveplants.net/InvasivePlants/Knotweed/Knotweed.asp

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 2014/15 fiscal year. These contributions were directed towards either walleye stocking, aquatic invasive species prevention, or other general projects.

Todd & Barbara Baker	Mike & Nancy Young
Nancy & Buzz Neusteter	Eileen Mershart
Mark & Renita Laskowski	Ken & Mary Lundberg
Terry & Barb Hendrick	George & Teresa Boyer
Phil Hagen	Jim & Sandy Jonasen
Robert & Katherine Falstad	Diane Lueder & Keith Thomsen
John & Marilyn McGill	Sheldon & Kathleen Beavers
Fred & Ginger Strom	Marge Ahrens
Dick & Judy Piche	John & Sherri Carlson
Robert & Karen Stroud	Ed Santori
Richard Larson	Walt & Kay Gower
Pat & Glenda Sherman	Cecil Kuehlthau
James & Dessa Foote	Chuck & Julie Bushnell
Erik & Emily Takkunen	Adam & Sharla Riutta