

The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

Fall 2015



President's Message

As I drove home from a Board of Directors meeting in September, I couldn't help but smile as I reflected upon all of the positive momentum that has been generated within the organization. We finished the 2015 fiscal year in June with a record number of member families, **230!** We continue to see more use of our online payment option, available at nebagamonlakeassociation.com, which we hope provides an increased level of convenience for those that prefer making payments online through a credit card. Each and every new membership and membership renewal contributes to our primary mission of conservation and improvement of our beautiful lake. Keep reading if you want to know how your membership makes a difference!

In addition to (and as a result of) having as strong of a membership base as we can remember, we also have very strong momentum within our primary projects. NLA members and board members have been enormously generous of their time to make these projects successful. Our boat launch monitoring program ("Clean Boats/Clean Waters") conducted compliance checks and educational outreach for more boats and more people than any other year. Boat launches are frequently singled out as the largest risk to lakes for contracting invasive species. Our Walleye Enhancement Initiative entered its fifth year with outstanding response from the community over the years, which has led to many extended growth walleye being stocked. This Fall we will be the recipient of 15,000 more walleye from the Wisconsin DNR. Fish Sticks, a project that the NLA was an early adopter of, now has properties located all over the lake who have benefitted from the no-cost labor of the DNR to deposit and secure fallen trees near shorelines to help re-create the natural habitat that once existed on our lake. In

2015, we brought back a bio-control project to attack Purple Loosestrife, a non-native invasive plant that has continued to grow on the shores of Lake Nebagamon. We hope to continue these efforts as well as join our neighbors to the West (Lake Minnesuing) in the fight against Yellow Flag Iris in the future. The NLA also continues to have high quality lake testing conducted to provide useful data, and this year saw the conclusion of a large, multi-year study by Northland College. Finally, we will be early participants of the new Wisconsin "Healthy Lakes" Initiative, which aims to bring back a portion of shorelines to a more natural state, promoting wildlife and reducing problematic runoff into our waters. We are currently seeking willing property owners to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

I'm only scratching the surface of the good being done within our organization. I mentioned positive momentum. Most of these projects were initially formed through the efforts of our members and leaders, and support of our membership dues and generous donations of our members and community, which keeps them moving forward today. Additionally, most of the projects above have also received significant funding and support from outside of the NLA. Having a strong, consistent boat launch monitoring program has led to our organization receiving an annual grant from the WI DNR. Having a comprehensive plan in place for an improved fishery has led to our organization receiving walleye from both the WI DNR as well as the Red Cliff Reservation. That same plan made us the beneficiary of no-cost Fish Sticks to as many owners who have requested (and been a viable candidate) and will likely make us the beneficiary of significant funds from the Healthy Lakes initiative. Finally, having willing participants and leadership in a bio-control project led the DNR to hold a no-cost training and distribution of necessary supplies at the Auditorium.

We are committed to continuing the momentum and working to increase the reach of all of our initiatives. However, we can't do it without our members. If you have not paid your annual dues, please make a point to do so. Please also consider making an extra donation to the project of your choice or to a general use fund, which will be used for the project most in need of funding. Thanks to great leadership within our Board of Directors, I promise your contribution to our organization will lead to great results and a lake you will be proud to call your home now, in the future, or both.

-Erik Takkunen

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Reminder—Important Dates in 2016

- June 13 or 20 Rummage sale
- 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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4th of July Boat Parade Draws Record Turnout

Coming off of a year of bad weather, and with the Fourth of July falling on a weekend, Lake Nebagamon families turned out in great numbers for the 2015 boat parade. Our count had 50 boats, as many as we could remember having. With Dilly Bars on the line, boat decorations and occupant costumes were as good as ever! Our winners included a pirate themed boat, a pontoon decorated as a fire engine (in appearance AND function), and a boat with a line of dancers doing the Macarena. The fire engine and another boat even presented a little payback to our water balloon launching friends on Bumble Bay. Check out the Nebagamon Lake Association on Facebook to see video footage of these water battles.

We look forward to a great turnout again next year. Bring your best decorations, costumes, and spirit and you may win the Dilly Bars! As a reminder, don't forget each and every year to end the boat parade by stopping at the lead pontoon boat to pick up your Dairy Queen gift certificate.

-Erik Takkunen

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Wildlife Harassment

We received a troubling report of waterfowl harassment with watercraft in June. As a reminder, there are severe penalties for waterfowl harassment. Call 1-800-TIP-WDNR if you witness an illegal act. Information on where, when, and a description of the vehicle and/or people is encouraged.

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 starting July 1, 2015, at this time we have 154 paid members, with many paying in advance. Unfortunately this is 49 fewer than we had in the previous year at this time. Reminders have been recently been sent to these members. We continue to brainstorm ideas on how to receive dues from all 256 families that have been members as recently as 2013!

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!

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The next generation - why conservation matters!

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2015 Summer Social Pictures—fun time at Bottens!



Purple Loosestrife Project

Enthusiastic participants from Lake Nebagamon, Lake Minnesuing, and Maple took part in the loosestrife beetle project this summer. The biocontrol project was very successful on the lake in the past. Andy Mack from Camp Nebagamon remembers the huge area of loosestrife by the camp that the beetles completely eliminated.

There were some glitches this time. Most of the plants delivered to us by the DNR did not sprout and had to be replaced. Because the new plants were behind in their growth they were not at the place that they needed to be at when the bugs were delivered to us. Also, the beetles arrived on a Friday afternoon and had to be put on the plants within a day. Some people were not available to pick the bugs up within the allotted time frame. Still we had many reports of success.

Looking toward the future, at this point there is no more state funding for this program. We hope that some of this year's beetles will survive the winter and successfully propagate next year. Remember you can always eradicate purple loosestrife by hand by cutting off the flowers and bagging them.

Thanks to all who put so much time and effort into this program.
-David Conley



Superior Telegram photo

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
Ed Anderson	218-391-2242
David Conley	715-375-2088
Willard Kiefer	715-374-3544
Luanne Hunter	715-374-3508
Ed Noltner	715-374-3707
Tom Maas	715-374-2147
David Sprowls	239-676-4064
Phil Takkunen	949-412-8690

Walleye and Clean Lakes Initiatives

2015 has been an exciting year for the walleye fishery program with more to come! Last Feb., the DNR installed fish sticks (shoreline fallen tree clumps for fish habitat) on 15 properties encompassing 2700 feet of dedicated shoreline. This makes 6575 feet of shoreline dedicated to date! We plan to place fish sticks on at least 3 more locations next winter but are looking for more interested shoreline owners, so if you are interested, contact us.

This October, the DNR plans to stock another 15,000 large fingerling walleyes at state expense. Over 45,000 fish will have been stocked in our lake with our program to date!

As a result of our DNR interaction, we have been selected as one of the first Wisconsin lakes to participate in the DNR Healthy Lakes initiative. This program allows state grants up to \$25,000 per lake association to reduce contaminant runoff into lakes. The most common projects are native flower gardens along shorelines and rain gardens to catch runoff from home roofs. We encourage ALL lakeshore owners to take advantage of this generous program to beautify our lawns and reduce lake runoff. The DNR will pay 75% and our Lake Association another 15% of the cost of each project up to a maximum of \$1200. The home owner pays 10% of the cost, but this can be reduced (potentially to zero) by providing labor for the project.

Please contact Will Kiefer at 715-374-3544 or Phil Takkunen at 949-412-8690 to get more information and to get involved in this program. It's a winner!

-Phil Takkunen & Willard Kiefer

There were 168 work shifts completed over the summer. Wages paid totaled \$7,096. This amount was higher than previous years because 75% of hours worked were by experienced monitors who are paid \$1.00 more per hour. Additional cost for workers' compensation, FICA withholding and t-shirts for the monitors came to \$1,225.

We monitored 2,006 boats (217 more boats than any prior year). 1,269 boats were examined entering the lake and 737 leaving the lake. There were 147 boats that had been in another lake within the previous 5 days of which 47 had been in a lake or river identified as having a zebra mussel and/or Eurasian Milfoil problem by the Wisconsin or Minnesota DNR. These 47 boats were screened very carefully and their occupants were advised why. We again had no violations. The number of people contacted through our efforts was 3,817 (about 1.9 per boat) which was 550 more people than any previous year.

With our experienced staff and current coverage schedule of the boat launch, please consider making an extra contribution to this important program.

-Dave Sprowls

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Who saw the northern lights this year in June?

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2015 AIS Boat Launch Monitoring

This year our AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) monitoring on the lake started with the fishing opener on May 2, 2015. Once again, the monitoring continued through Labor Day on September 7. We monitored only weekends until Memorial Day on May 25 when we began monitoring 7 days (53 hours) per week.

We employed 3 monitors: Jeff Giansanti, Judy Dalbec and Diane Michelizzi. Diane was the newest member of our team this year. Our monitors were thorough and enthusiastic in their approach. They particularly examined drain plugs, live wells and vegetation on boats and trailers. Special emphasis was given to boats that had been in other water bodies in the past 5 days (the time period of viability of zebra mussels and Eurasian Milfoil outside of water).

2015 Lake Nebagamon Water Quality Data

The overall water quality remains good. As a number of people noticed and have commented to me the water in Lake Nebagamon appears clearer this year. The average summer secchi disk reading for 2015 was 7 feet which was above the 2014 average of 5 feet. This is still below the average for the region of northwest Wisconsin which is 8.5 feet. Most of this can be attributed to the tannins, stain from decaying matter (leaves and wood) that give the water the brown tea like color. Tannins can also be important for decreasing light penetration into the water and decreasing algae growth.

-Mark Laskowski

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 2015/16 fiscal year. These contributions were directed towards either aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention, walleye stocking, or other general projects.

- Ryan Fraley
- Jim & Terry Urbaniak
- Paul & Kiett Takkunen
- Stephanie Hanson
- Dan & Barb Takkunen
- John & Marilyn McGill
- Greg & Deb Neve
- Bob & Lois Heller
- Brian Bernhardt
- Jim Bong
- Leonard & Michelle Marsden
- Don & Laura Warmington
- Dick & Linda Sonntag
- Mike & Nancy Young
- Justin Quinn & Jen Nistler
- Charles & Terri Finckler
- David & Michelle Berg
- David & Deena Marshall
- Cecil Keuhlthau
- Sheldon & Kathleen Beavers
- Hal & Carolyn Hudson
- Dave & Jan Conley
- Ed Santori
- Mike & Julie Kemp
- Erik & Emily Takkunen
- Adam & Sharla Riutta



Did you know?

Thanks to the generous permission of specific Lake Nebagamon land owners, the local snowmobile club, Brule River Riders, is building a new trail off of the west end of Lake Nebagamon (Jim Johnson Road) that will run from the lake to Norwood Golf Course and on to Lake Minnesuing. Although certain easements are still being finalized, the club is hoping the trail will be open for Winter.

-Erik Takkunen

July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016
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 2016 (July 2015 - June 2016)

\$20

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

THANK YOU! We do appreciate your support; it is necessary in order to continue the programs for which the association was founded.

