

The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

Fall 2018



President's Message

What an interesting season it has been! We started the season off with a very late ice-out, which threatened, but ultimately did not break any records. Unfortunately, just over a month later, we saw nature test us with multiple days of torrential rain which led to very high lake water levels. According to NLA member Tom Chambers, the water came within 12 inches of the marking he had saved from the April 2001 floods. This was still very impactful however, as most properties had their docks, boats, and toys in or near the water by mid-June. We learned that there is no legal ordinance by which the Village can call for boats to use no-wake to limit additional damage, so instead we publicized our recommendation. The Village is working on writing an ordinance and process for any future occurrences. Lastly the fall season seems to have passed us by in favor of early winter weather. Despite all of this, I think many would agree that the summer had more warm, beautiful days than usual. We have accomplished a lot as an organization this year, and we are excited to share it with you in this newsletter.

-Erik Takkunen



Credit: Thomas Beetcher

Reminder—Important Dates in 2019

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| June 22 | Rummage sale |
| June 29 | Annual meeting, 9:30 a.m., Auditorium |
| July 4 | Boat Parade, 7 p.m. |
| August 10 | Summer Social, 6 p.m. at Botten's |



Three-year-old Brooks Takkunen catches his first fish on grandpa's dock

4th of July Boat Parade

The boat parade saw a decreased turnout this year, likely due to the mid-week holiday. A great time was still had by all. We would like to greatly thank the Lake Nebagamon Dairy Queen for their donation of Dilly Bars, to make this event more fun! Check out the Nebagamon Lake Association on Facebook to see all of the pictures. There were some very creative boats as always.

We look forward to next year. Bring your best decorations, costumes, and spirit and you may win the grand prize of Dilly Bars for everybody on board! 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 free Dairy Queen gift certificate.

-Erik Takkunen





Healthy Lakes Initiative

The Healthy Lakes Initiative program, initiated by the Wisconsin DNR, is committed to reducing and eliminating harmful chemicals and biomass runoff into our lakes. Storm water runoff from driveways, roofs, and lawns all may contribute to lake contamination. Solutions to minimize such runoff include storm water diversion ditches, rock pits or trenches to capture and infiltrate water into the ground, rain gardens and shoreline vegetation. The “Fish Sticks” projects also provide feeding, breeding and nesting areas for all sorts of native critters – including walleye and song birds – and they help prevent bank erosion, protecting your lakeshore and enhancing water quality.

Locally, 21 of our lakeshore properties have and are participating in the runoff mitigation in the first three years of the program. These are our neighbors and many have participated in multiple projects on their sites and have been eligible for thousands of grant dollars. The DNR typically grants 75% up to \$1000 for an individual project’s cost and in addition the NLA provides an additional 15% up to \$150 for each project. Participants provide 10% but that can be made up for quickly from partial donated labor on the project.

We are working on a new grant application for another round of funding. We have 5 sites committed and would love to include more projects. Call Jason Willett for a free design evaluation to consider possibilities. Installation is easy too. Tom Maas, our volunteer contractor, has compiled a local resource list of help which we can get to you and soon will be on our website also.

Not only do the projects enhance our lake but they can beautify your property too. This project has been so successful that a couple of months ago the DNR brought some higher ups on a tour to see some of the work and interview some participants; they came to us because the NLA administration of the program is a very successful model that they would like to replicate elsewhere.

-Jason Willett



An infiltration trench with blueberry plantings at Jane Dolter’s house.



One year in – Phil and Gretchen Takkunen’s rain garden is thriving.

Invasive Yellow Iris Update

On August 18 two NLA members spent 6 hours removing invasive yellow iris along with purple loosestrife from the Minnesuing Creek and Lake Nebagamom. We were successful in removing all of the yellow iris we came across but there is still a large amount of loosestrife near the northwest corner of Lake Nebagamom that needs to be removed. A pontoon would not be useful but canoes, kayaks or rowboats would be useful. Don't forget to remove loosestrife (or yellow iris- you need gloves for this) from your lakeshore and property. Remember to carefully bag the flowers and dispose of them in the garbage.

-Dave Conley



Dave Conley and Jason Willett kayaked Minnesuing Creek between Lake Minnesuing and Lake Nebagamom to assess the spread of Yellow Iris.

Volunteers sought to raise invasive plant-fighting beetles

Throughout the summer, lake shorelines across the region are filled with vibrant color. Your eyes are drawn to the striking greenery and the multi-colored blooms of wildflowers, but sadly not all are meant to be there. In fact, one bloom, Purple Loosestrife, is an unwelcome visitor in Wisconsin wetlands. Next spring, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will need assistance from volunteers to help with critical biocontrol efforts through the raising of plant-eating beetles.

Purple Loosestrife has overrun many of our wetland ecosystems, competing with native species for resources such as sunlight, water, and space. Multiple studies have shown that the *Galerucella*, or Cella, beetle is one of the only predators capable of scaling back the invasive loosestrife population. The beetles feed only on Purple Loosestrife, stunting the plant's growth and reducing its ability to flower or produce seeds.

Rearing these beetles doesn't require much time and it can be a fun project for families and lake associations to take part in during the summer. The process of rearing beetles for release is relatively easy. Equipment needed includes a small swimming pool, netting, pots, plants and beetles. The DNR helps people who want to raise beetles for release, which includes helping make the set-up expense either free or very low-cost.

The process begins by gathering Purple Loosestrife roots. The roots are then set up in pots with netting. Once the plants begin to grow, beetles are added to the plant enclosures. Within six to eight weeks, the number of beetles can multiply by up to 100 times. Releasing the beetles generally occurs from late June to mid-July. From there, volunteers can watch the beetles as they eat through the local loosestrife population and allow native plants to re-establish along shorelines.

Those interested in volunteering for this important task should contact DNR Lake Superior Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach and Education Specialist Dara Fillmore at dara.fillmore@wisconsin.gov or call 715-392-7825. For more information on Purple Loosestrife, visit <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/PurpleLoosestrife.html/>. For more on rearing Cella beetles, visit <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/loosestrife.html>.

-Dara Fillmore, WDNR



2018 Lake Nebagamon Water Quality Data

The average secchi disk reading for the lake was 4.5 feet in 2018, down from 7.6 in 2017. This was the lowest clarity on recorded record, which dates back to 1986. We suspect the heavy rains and flooding in June played a role in reduced clarity in 2018. We will continue to monitor clarity and encourage you to take steps as a property owner to reducing water run-off into the lake.

-Mark Laskowski



Dave Sprowls and boat launch monitor Jeff Giansanti prepare a "slow no-wake" sign in June

2018 AIS Boat Launch Monitoring

This year our monitoring on the lake began on May 12th. This was a week after the fishing opener on May 5 due to the illness of our primary monitor. There was still spotty ice on the lake May 5th, so very few boats entered. Once again we monitored only weekends until Memorial Day on May 28th. At that time, we began monitoring 7 days (53 hours) per week.

We used 3 monitors this year. They were; Jeff Giansanti (5th year), Andrew Nelson, a new hire and William Cain who helped us when we were short-staffed in May and June. They were all thorough in their approach and gave special emphasis to boats that had been in another lake within the last 5 days. They also made sure that drain plugs were opened and live wells emptied.

There were 116 work shifts completed by our monitors. Our wages paid were \$8,333 plus an additional \$637 for FICA tax and approximately \$500 more for workers' compensation. Also, \$900 of this total was for the extra 4 Saturdays and Sundays in September we monitored on a trial basis to see how much activity there is after Labor Day. We paid \$1 more per hour for our monitors in 2018 vs 2017. We also had 47.5 volunteer hours.

We monitored 1,725 boats this season. There were 1,068 boats entering the lake and 657 boats leaving the lake. There were 82 boats that were reported as having been in another lake within the last 5 days of which 35 had been in a lake or river identified as having zebra mussel or Eurasian Milfoil issues by the Wisconsin or Minnesota DNR. These 35 boats were screened very carefully. Of these boats, in total we had contact with 3,577 people in watercraft entering or leaving the lake, which is very important in educating on the potential spread of invasive species.

-Dave Sprowls

Membership Report

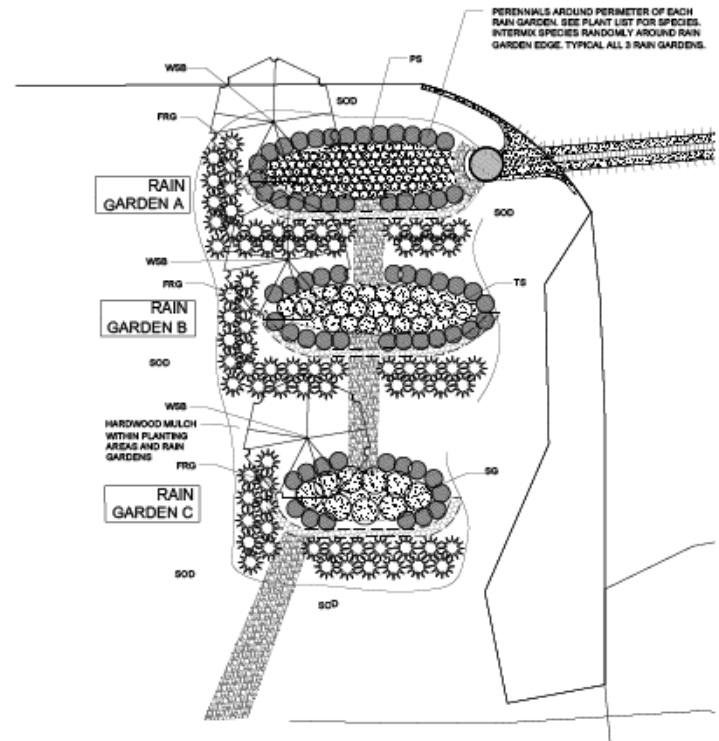
We finished our 2018 fiscal year with 230 member families. For the 2019 fiscal year starting July 1, 2017, we have 184 current paid members, with many paying in advance. This is 4 more than we had in the previous year at this time. Reminders have been recently been sent to remaining members, as well as a reminder that would have come with this newsletter (either in an email message or along with your paper copy in the mail). We hope and expect to exceed the overall 230 membership count achieved last year. We do everything we can to provide reminders, and try to make it as convenient as possible whether including copies of the forms with the newsletter or providing an online payment portal at www.nebagamonlakeassociation.com.

Please note that after 8 years, we plan to increase annual dues from \$20 to \$25 for next year (fiscal 2019). Project costs have steadily increased during these years, as has our participation levels in various projects.



Walleye Stocking

Over 60,000 walleye have been stocked in Lake Nebagamon over the last 7 years, at an average of more than \$2 per fish. We recently met with the Wisconsin DNR representatives that have been a driving force in promoting and providing walleye stocking in our lake. They have studied survival rates of the fish that they provided to numerous lakes in Northern Wisconsin and were happy to report that of the lakes they have stocked and studied, Lake Nebagamon was the definitive leader in terms of survival rate (about 44%). Additionally, they studied natural walleye reproduction in the same lakes. Lake Nebagamon was also the leader in this category! We don't have a scheduled future stocking at this time, but continue to explore various avenues to obtain more fish. We also continue to look for more shoreline habitat in the form of "fish sticks" and encourage everyone to consider this. Projects are zero out of pocket cost to property owners. Call Phil Takkunen at 949-412-8690 for more information.



Upcoming Boat Launch Projects

There are two major projects in the planning phases at the Lake Nebagamon public boat launch. Both are being managed by Jim Jonassen, NLA member and Village Board member. First is a storm water runoff project, partially funded by a Healthy Lakes grant from the WDNR. This project will divert rain water, which tends to run from the auditorium all the way to the boat launch. Water will divert into specially designed tiered rain garden near the boat launch (see plan drawings). Work completion is expected by the end of November. The NLA has provided \$1,000 in funding for this project which will make a significant impact to lake quality.

The second project is a much needed improvement to the boat ramp itself. The Village will be filing for a grant application (due 11/1), and if successful, they hope to have the work done before the fishing opener in 2019. We will keep you informed of this project and will provide input as necessary.

NLA Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
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| Adam Riutta, Vice President | 317-407-5395 |
| Alan Yoshimoto, Secretary | 715-374-2467 |
| Jack Sellwood, Treasurer | 715-374-3254 |
| Mark Laskowski | 715-374-3747 |
| David Conley | 715-375-2088 |
| Jason Willett | 651-303-1850 |
| George Lehman | 218-390-7341 |
| Ed Noltner | 715-374-3707 |
| Tom Maas | 715-374-2147 |
| David Sprowls | 239-676-4064 |
| Phil Takkunen | 949-412-8690 |



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 2018/19 fiscal year. These contributions were directed towards either aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention, walleye stocking, Healthy Lakes, or other projects.

- Phil Hagen
- Camp Nebagamom
- Luanne & Gordon Hunter
- Mary Grandmaison
- Teresa Longa
- Evonne Zosel
- David Neusteter
- Robert & Karen Stroud
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- Julie & Dudley Baker
- Audrey Missinne
- Robert & Katherine Falstad
- Bob & Lois Heller

- David & Barbara Gaddie
- David & Patricia Saker
- Scott & Rebecca Radtke
- Michael & Debra Johnson



Credit: Thomas Beetcher

July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019
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 2018, if needed (July 2017 - June 2018)

Payment for fiscal year 2019 (July 2018 - June 2019)

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**