

The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

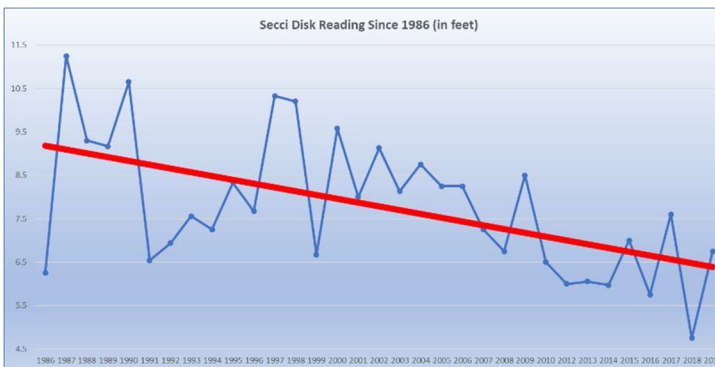
Fall 2019



President's Message

Winter has come early this year to the northland! After another great summer, your lake association has been working hard to wrap up the current year projects and set up for next year. You may notice a theme in this newsletter – water quality. Water quality, while still great comparatively to other Wisconsin lakes, has been decreasing in Lake Nebagamon.

Pictured below is a graph of the secchi disk readings back to 1986, which is when they were first regularly taken in the same locations. You can see the water clarity in Lake Nebagamon is decreasing steadily over the last 33 years based on the red trend line.

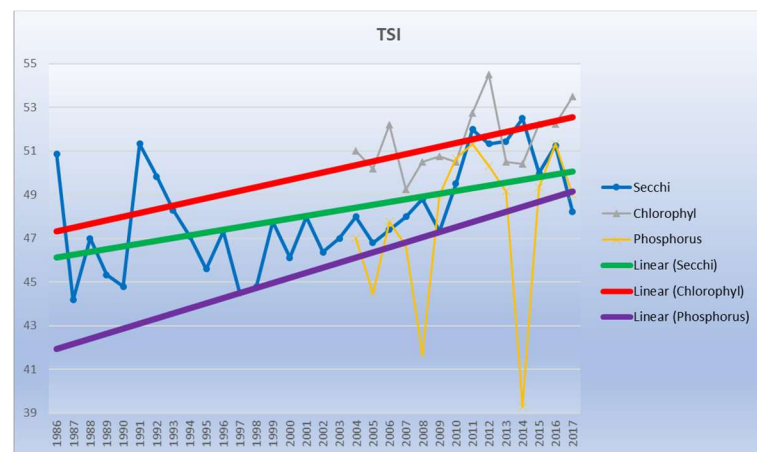


Detailed water chemistry has been studied since 2004 on Lake Nebagamon with the assistance of the NLA. A widely held measure of water quality is Trophic State Index (TSI). The TSI of a water body is rated on a scale from 0 to 100. Under the TSI scale, water bodies may be defined as:

- **oligotrophic** (TSI 0–40, having the least amount of biological productivity, "good" water quality);
- **mesoeutrophic** (TSI 40–60, having a moderate level of biological activity, "fair" water quality);

- **eutrophic to hypereutrophic** (TSI 60–100, having the highest amount of biological activity, Blue-green algae become dominant and algae scums are prevalent, extensive plant overgrowth problems, "poor" water quality)

The WDNR uses three measures of TSI: secchi disk readings, phosphorus levels, and chlorophyll levels. We have charted out all three in the below graph. Generally speaking, we are around 50 on the TSI scale currently. This places us in the middle of the mesoeutrophic range. However, TSI is steadily increasing and trending towards eutrophic based on the red, green, and purple trend lines of any of the three measures.



All of the trend lines in the two charts are troubling. Where do they stop? What can we do to slow down or stop the trend? Read on for numerous ways we are working to address the issue, and how your help is critical.

-Erik Takkunen



4th of July Boat Parade

We had another fun year at the 4th of July boat parade. Check out the Nebagamon Lake Association on Facebook to see all of the pictures.

We look forward to a great turnout again 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



Lake Nebagamon?

Nope it's blue green algae in the Chetek Chain in Barron County (TSI levels between 60 and 70). It could be coming our way. With more development, more storms and warmer weather it might even be likely. See the associated article on our declining lake clarity and quality (note the alarming Phosphorus level!).

But blue green algae is something we can stop if we keep up our progress and accelerate the Nebagamon Lake Association and DNR Healthy Lakes Initiative. And we must also pay attention to septic issues and any kind of unnatural biomass getting into the lake (grass cuttings, woodchips, and runoff). We need to step up our efforts to protect our lake, our fishing, swimming, pets and our legacy!

Overall our initiative's progress is slow (compared to the problem) but steady. We do need many more projects to make a significant water quality difference.

24 (25 awarded property owner grants, but 1 dropped out) for our lakeshore properties - most with multiple projects gaining thousands of dollars in reimbursed expenses) have or are participating in the runoff mitigation in our first four grants rounds (and that doesn't include the many fish sticks projects now folded into the HLI).

Please check out the HLI tab added to our Association's website for:

- 1) a list of your neighbors doing this water quality work, by grant;
- 2) the DNR fact sheets on project types;
- 3) a contractor resource list, and
- 4) a link to the DNR website with the technical and environmental info.

The property owner work to date was overwhelmingly funded by the 4 grant awards we *received* from the DNR. We are considered a model program by the DNR!

We are and will work over the winter on a 5th grant application. Our odds are good as DNR reports that they have more money than usual for this round and that we usually rank highly. We have 5 sites committed and would love to include more projects. In addition we have 3 projects from expiring grants that were delayed and we will re-submit for them. Also we have several sites for new and improved fish sticks (enhancing habitat for fish and birds and protecting shoreline), which we hope to include.

One last thing, next summer we will again be searching for additional property owners to have their sites reviewed for potential improvements for a 6th grant application in 2021. We think it's time to begin a more systematic approach to our membership and hope to recruit a volunteer or two to walk/canvass, a portion of our members' lakeshore properties each year until we get them all. Hopefully we will be speaking with the homeowners but at a minimum leaving brochures on doors. This should be easy work as we're offering an Association membership perk – i.e. *a free site review of improvement potential by our volunteer **engineer**, Alan, with no cost and no obligation whatsoever at that point.* If you want to help please call me, Jason Willett, at 651.303.1850.

-Jason Willett



2019 Annual Membership Picnic

2019 AIS Boat Launch Monitoring

This year our monitoring on the lake started with Saturday, May 4, the fishing opener. The weather was generally good and the ice was out so we had plenty of boats. We monitored only weekends until Memorial Day on May 27, then we began monitoring 7 days per week (53 hours). This was the same as previous years.

Our two primary monitors were Jeff Giansanti, starting his 6th year and Andrew Nelson, who was starting his 2nd year. William Cain also helped us by pulling a 5 hour shift in May and another one in June. As in previous years we were primarily monitoring for Eurasian Milfoil and Zebra Mussels. Everyone was thorough in their screening and knew the most important question involved boats that had been in another lake/river in the last 5 days and especially those bodies of water than had a problem with either Eurasian Milfoil or Zebra Mussels. We also checked to make sure peoples drain plugs were out, and checked fishermen's live wells.

We monitored 1925 boats. There were 1234 boats entering the lake and 691 boats leaving the lake. There were 131 boats that had been in another lake within the last 5 days of which 53 had been in a lake/river identified as having zebra mussels or Eurasian milfoil problems by the Wisconsin or Minnesota DNR. These 53 boats were screened very carefully. We had 43 volunteer hours and the number of people contacted in the boats was 3,996.

We did a special study for 5 weeks in July to see if weekday boat traffic from Mon-Thurs was heavier in the pm or the am. It turned out we had 111 boats in the pm (59%) and 78 boats in the am (41%).

We also tallied the fish caught by species for the first time ever. There were 400 walleyes caught, of which 47 were keepers (18" or over) or 11.7%. There were 271 small mouth bass caught and an estimated 178 kept. There were 102 northern caught and an estimated 77 kept. There were 254 crappies caught and an estimated 180 kept. There were 362 bluegills/sunfish caught and an estimated 244 kept. Except for walleyes the fish kept were estimates because we did not ask how many were kept, but we will next season.

-Dave Sprowls

Membership Report

For the 2020 fiscal year starting July 1, 2019, at this time we have 140 paid members, with many paying in advance. This is 40 less than we had in the previous year at this time, but reminders have not yet been sent. Paid memberships over the last 4 years are a good indicator of total membership, and that sits at 272. A reminder has been attached to this newsletter for those who have not yet paid for fiscal 2020 (either in an email message or along with your paper copy in the mail).

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. We have about 75% of lake shore owners as members, as well as numerous other members who have an interest in the lake.

-Erik Takkunen

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2019 Lake Nebagamon Water Quality Data

The beginning of this year was a repeat of last year with the first secchi disk reading of the year being a dismal 5.5 feet. The readings through May and June remained the same with July 7 when we had a reading of 6.5 feet. The remainder of the summer and early fall the readings ranged between 6.5 feet and 7.5 feet. The last reading on September 23 was 7 feet. The average reading for the summer was 6.71 feet. Last year it was 4.75 feet.

Lake chemistry collected was cholophyll at 6.9 micrograms per litre vs. 8.7 micrograms per liter last year. Phosphorus for the year was 19.6 micrograms per liter, last year was 19.4. A widely held understanding is that lakes with phosphorus readings over 20 micrograms per liter may experience noticeable algae blooms.

-Mark Laskowski

New Village Shoreline Ordinance - FYI

Hello Nebagamon Lake Association! My name is Amy Huber, and I am the Village Administrator as well as a Nebagamon Lake Association member. On behalf of the Village, I requested to write an article to communicate a recent Village ordinance change affecting shoreland property owners that we want to communicate. Chapter 9 §4.4 titled "Setbacks from the Water & Lake Access" has been amended, and §4.5 titled "Removal of Shore Cover" and §4.6 titled "Filling, Grading, Lagooning, Dredging, Ditching & Excavating" have been created. These changes are mirrored in §18.5, §18.6 and §18.7 in order to provide continuity to shoreland regulations.

The purpose of the revision is to incorporate the changes Act 55 made to state statute and to create a dialogue between homeowners and the Zoning Commission before any work is done that could negatively impact the lake. Similar revisions have been done in many other Wisconsin counties as well. A land use permit will now be required for removal of shore cover from the high water mark to 35' inland, and for landscaping, filling, excavating, ditching, etc. in the area from the high water mark to 300' inland. There is no fee for this permit, but a stiff penalty and restoration may be required if the ordinance is violated.

To provide more clarity, here are some examples of actions on your property in the protected zone that may or may not require a permit.

- Removal of live or dead trees, shrubs & vegetation at the shoreline to 35' inland
 - Permit required? **YES**
- Filling, excavating, grading, major landscaping, ditching from shoreline to 300' inland
 - Permit required? **YES**
- Mowing grass, trimming trees or shrubs, picking flowers, pulling weeds
 - Permit required? **NO**

Again, these changes are not meant to be punitive. The aim is to create plans that adhere to state statute, Village ordinance and DNR recommendations that can be executed with proper mitigation measures for the protection of Lake Nebagamon. I would ask your help in getting the word out to shoreland property owners. Please talk to your neighbors, discuss the changes and bring any questions or suggestions to the Village office. You can also visit <https://villagelakenebagamon.com> for more information. Thank you!

-Amy Huber, Village Administrator



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
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 Spowls	239-676-4064
Phil Takkunen	949-412-8690



Boat Ramp Developments

Your Association, under the leadership of Phil Takkunen and Dave Sprowls, has been involved in developing an improved boat landing which also contains and minimizes lake contaminants and toxins carried by rain water flowing from our village streets down to the boat ramp. This is a major issue for the health of our lake and the current ramp develops sharp drop-offs through erosion which make boat launching difficult.

We have been active in recognizing these problems and in gaining support from the village board and, in particular, Jim Jonassen, over the past three years. For example, we contributed \$1,000 towards the new boat landing design, which is now completed. We identified possible grants available to villages for these purposes.

As we understand, the village board is now committed to complete this project in 2020, assuming DNR grants are awarded this winter which will cover 50-75% of the costs. We believe there is an excellent chance of these awards based on our DNR contacts and a past grant awarded for a similar, but less comprehensive ramp project. We will keep you posted on future developments.

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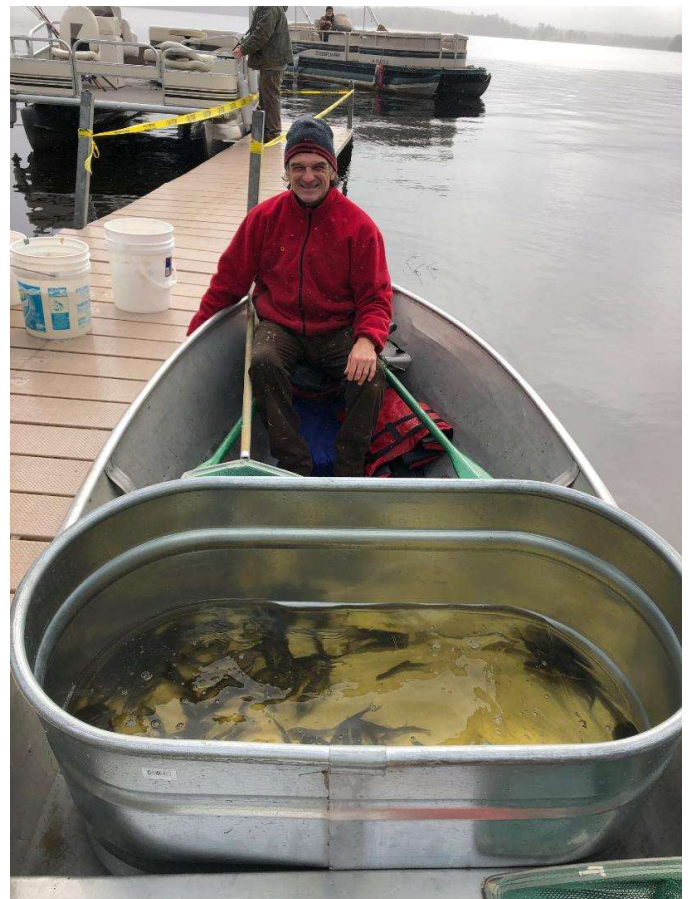
Fisheries Update

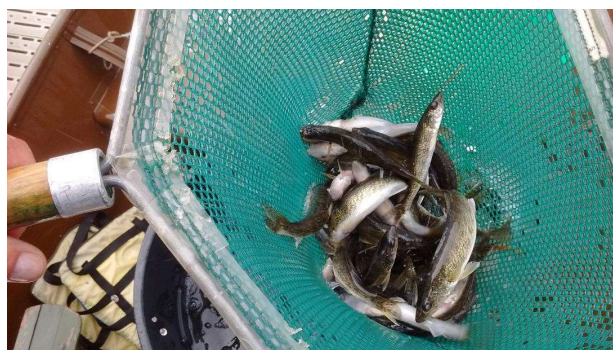
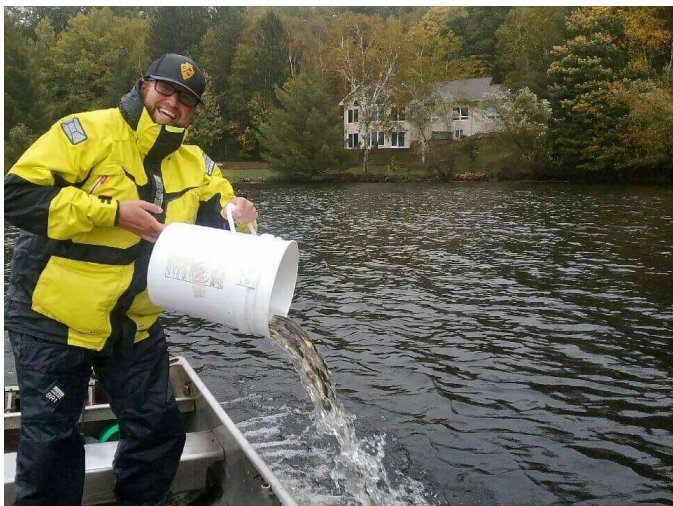
A fishery plan for this year and next has been developed by Scott Toshner, DNR Biologist, together with Phil Takkunen and Willard Kiefer representing the NLA. Our walleye program to date has been quite successful with fishing reports of increased quantity and size. Another 14,500 walleye fingerlings were stocked in the lake in October, courtesy of the DNR, which carry a cost of roughly \$30,000. They were distributed throughout the lake by half a dozen volunteers. Thanks to all the volunteers who were able to make it out despite a last minute change of arrival time. Next year the DNR will conduct a complete survey of all major fish species in our lake. Based on this information and on input from all concerned fishermen, we will develop a long range plan. This will include consideration of a "slot" size for keeper walleyes and future stocking numbers. All major species such as pan fish will be considered in this plan. We solicit input from all concerned fishermen and women; direct comments or concerns to Phil Takkunen at pdtakkunen@yahoo.com.

It is also critical for more property owners to place "fish sticks" along part of their shoreline to provide fish habitat for a self sustaining fishery. This includes new

projects and replenishments/additions to past projects. All projects are installed with owner permission and at no cost to the owner. Simply email Phil Takkunen if you are interested.

-Phil Takkunen





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 2020 fiscal year totaling nearly \$3,000! These contributions were directed towards either aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention, fisheries, or other general projects.

- Michael Coletta & Julie Ng
 - David & Deena Marshall
 - Judy Nugent
 - Chrisanne Gates
 - William Stern
 - Brian Bernhardt
 - George & Lori Fryklund
 - James Bong
 - Rolf & Eunice Grimsrud
 - Richard & Alyssa Reder
 - Gene McGillis
 - Richard & Peg Boudreau
 - David Neusteter
 - Donna Leonard
 - Chuck & Julie Bushnell
 - Fred & Ginger Strom
 - Robert & Katherine Falstad
 - John Davidson
 - Rick & Debi Gilbertson
 - Jack & Dorothy Lundberg
 - Mike & Julie Kemp
 - Ron & Robin Anderson
 - Nardie & Sally Stein
 - Tim & Kathie Pera
 - Paul & Kiett Takkunen
 - Stephanie Hanson & Adam Kaplan (Camp Nebagamon)
 - John & Marilyn McGill
 - Ken & Mary Lundberg
 - David & Barb Gaddie
 - Greg & Deb Neve
 - Bill & Leann Dexter
 - Warren & Judi Nelson
 - Walt & Kay Gower
- Last but not least, Shawn & Judy Thayer for providing DQ treats for our 4th of July boat parade!

Invasive Plant Species

One important focus of our Lake Association is the identification, and elimination of exotic, invasive shoreline plants. 2019 was a busy year with yellow iris and purple loosestrife being our main targets.

I assisted DNR personnel in distributing loosestrife beetles in Minnesuing Creek which flows into Lake Nebagamon. We cut the flowering loosestrife tops and bagged them for disposal.

We have no biological controls like the beetles for another up and coming invasive plant, yellow iris. They should be pulled when possible, bagged and discarded. The roots are tough so if it is impossible to remove the entire plant the seed pods should be cut. This is a very invasive plant and can clog our outflow waterways.

Everyone needs to be responsible for the plants on your property. I will be willing to help identify and remove the plants if you cannot do this. Identification of these plants can also be found online.

-Dave Conley

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

THE NEBAGAMON LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC

BUDGET 7-1-2020 TO 6-30-2021

INCOME:

DUES	4,500
RUMMAGE SALE	300
SOCIAL	600
DONATIONS	3,000
HEALTHY LAKES PROJECT	17,000
BOAT MONITORING	6,500
RAFFLE	100
INTEREST	10
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TOTAL	32,010

DISBURSEMENTS:

PROJECTS:	
BOAT MONITORING	9,000
HEALTHY LAKES PROJECT	18,000
BOAT PARADE	100
FIREWORKS	400
L N SWIMMING CLASS	200
HAZARD MARKERS	500
SOCIAL	600
KIDS IN NEBAGAMON - CHRISTMAS	100
ANNUAL MEETING	75
EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS	100
NEW PROJECT	1,000
RUMMAGE SALE EXP	50
WEB SITE	200
NEWS LETTERS, POSTAGE. MTGS. OFFICE EXP.	640
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TOTAL	30,965

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Reminder—Important Dates in 2020

June 20	Village wide garage sales
June 27	Annual meeting, 9:30 a.m., Auditorium
July 4	Boat Parade, 7 p.m.
August 8	Summer Social, 6 p.m.

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July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020
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 \$25 per year—a small amount that has a big impact!

Payment for fiscal year 2019, if needed (July 2018 - June 2019)

Payment for fiscal year 2020 (July 2019 - June 2020)

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
- Fishery 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

