

# The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

## Spring 2020



### President's Message

With all that has happened in 2020 thus far, the work of the Nebagamon Lake Association is probably far from your mind. While it certainly will be a different year – we are canceling most public events – the NLA will continue our important programs to benefit the lake. I have seen first-hand that Lake Nebagamon has been a sanctuary during these difficult times. Boat traffic in April and May was as high as I can remember. At times like this we all realize how lucky we are to call Lake Nebagamon home, and it is critical that we do not lose any momentum in the programs of our organization.



Harper and Brooks Takkunen escape quarantine to do a little swimming on the day of ice out.

### Multiple Events Cancelled for 2020

Due to the risks associated with COVID-19, we will be cancelling the June garage sales, the June annual meeting, and the August member social event. We will proceed with the boat parade on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

An annual tradition for the last Saturday in June, the annual meeting has been cancelled for 2020. Initially, we hoped to cover some of the agenda items at our August "Summer Social," but we have since decided it is in the best interests of all for us to cancel that event as well. As a result, our channels for communicating as members are limited to newsletters, email, and Facebook. Now more than ever, we ask our members to send questions and comments to us. Board member contact information is listed at the end of this newsletter and in more detail on our website. Specifically, to best comply with our bylaws in these unpredictable times, this newsletter will serve as our annual meeting. The only item on the agenda that would call for formal voting would be the addition of new board members. Anyone interested in being part of the board is asked to please contact [lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com](mailto:lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com). The board may also actively recruit new board members to meet our needs. In lieu of formal voting, for this year new board members will be approved by majority vote of the board of directors.

## Membership Report

For the year ending June 30, 2020, at this time we have 187 paid members, with many paying in advance. This is 15 less than we had in the previous year at this time. There are still 82 members who are not current with their dues. We will indicate along with this newsletter if you are one of these members. The total current and non-current members comprise over 75% of lakeshore property owners. If you have sold or transferred your property, please let us know who is currently enjoying Lake Nebagamon.

Attached to the end of this newsletter is a dues form. Or you can take advantage of our online payment option for dues with your credit card. Go to <http://nebagamonlakeassociation.com/pay-online/>



Photos by Kathy Stoffregen



## AIS Boat Launch Monitoring

This year's boat monitoring for invasive species was delayed by the coronavirus. We normally start with the fishing opener which is the first Saturday in May. We received guidance from the state of Wisconsin CBCW Department that we could begin monitoring as long as we met social distancing guidelines and wore a mask. Therefore, our monitoring started Saturday 5/23 on Memorial Day weekend. We will continue to monitor 11 hours a day on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays and also 6 hours a day Monday-Thursday. This is 7 days a week and 57 total hours per week. This will continue until Labor Day.

Our main monitor again is Jeff Giansanti who is starting his seventh season. He will cover the 11 hour shifts on Friday-Sunday. Max Polkoski, a new hire, will cover the 6 hour shifts for us Monday- Thursday each week. Max will be a sophomore at Northwestern High School in the fall and was a monitor last year on next door Lake Minnesuing on weekends. As in past years William Cain will be a back up to our two monitors. So far in 20 days of monitoring we have screened 308 boats.

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\*Calling all photographers\* – we need more pictures around Lake Nebagamon to be featured in this newsletter and on our Facebook page. Please share pictures on our Facebook page or send to [lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com](mailto:lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com).

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**The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly... Nebagamon's  
Healthy Lakes Initiative**

**By Jason Willett**

**The Good:**

This spring the Nebagamon Lake Association received a new grant award – our 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row. \$25,000 (actually only 24,999.99, darn) was made available in support of 11 property owners for water quality protection and shoreline habitat improvements. Both numbers are records for the NLA and the \$'s are actually the maximum annual HLI award allowed by the DNR.

Each of these 11 neighbors helped us all by expressing strong intent to participate (which we included in the grant application). Most of these owners are intending to do multiple projects. If these all get done in the next two years, we will see built around our lake: 13 new rock infiltration practices, 10 new or rebuilt fish stick sites, 3 new rain gardens, 2 new native planting sites near our shoreline, and 1 new runoff diversion practice!

The Village has received a grant and is expected to move ahead with the public boat launch improvements this year, and that includes a sophisticated stormwater management system. NLA helped pay for the design, and strongly encouraged the Village board to support it.

And related to fish sticks, the Board is looking at contracting this work directly (instead of each homeowner arranging their own work projects) to gain an economy of scale and provide better value for us.

**The Bad:**

However, not to be a Debby Downer, but this isn't going to be enough to protect our water quality and protect the legacy of activities we enjoy. Our lake is

degrading. We all need to do more. The Board will be considering several new steps, perhaps including better incentives, more education and requesting a new scientific water quality study.

Please consider what you can do personally, including, but not limited to:

- Get a free, no obligation, HLI site review and sign a memo of your intent to proceed (if funding is received)
- Let the Board know you want us to apply for another grant next year (must be submitted in November)
- Check that your septic system and drain field is working well
- Eliminate (or put a holding tank under) any remaining grand-parented outhouses
- Allow native plants to grow along the shoreline, and if you must mow, make sure the clippings do not go into the lake
- Talk to your neighbors about HLI opportunities
- Resist filling in nearby wetland with leaves or other debris - as these wetlands often clean the waters going into the lake
- Consider a Deed restriction on your land to assure that your shoreline is protected indefinitely (County staff have example)

**The UGLY:**

Algae such as the below submitted photo has been spotted in Lake Nebagamon in 2020.



Please consider or reconsider what you can do to help maintain our lake and the legacies of multi-generational fun that comes with it.

## Boat Ramp Updates

In the past, we have reported on a project at the boat launch in conjunction with the Village and the DNR. This project was designed to improve the boat launch pad and provide rain diversion, which supports the goals of the Healthy Lakes program. Due to the high cost, the completion of the project was dependent on a grant from the DNR. In April, the Village was successful in receiving a grant for the boat launch project, which would provide 50% cost share on the budget of \$168,000. This budget includes a 16 ft wide boat ramp, 2 ft wider than the current ramp, and twice as long into the water. There will also be a brand new ADA approved 5 ft wide dock along with an ADA approved sidewalk. Unfortunately, the add-on grant request for a full stormwater runoff project was declined. A lesser \$20,000 was made available, which will be used to create a rain garden and trench draining.

Bids have been very recently posted, and the work is expected to be completed in the fall. Please note that the preliminary plan is for a full closure of the boat launch between September 15 and October 14. We will provide further details as available.

Side note – Jim Jonasen deserves a lot of credit for his work on this project!

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Photos by Kathy Stoffregen



## Boat Parade July 4th

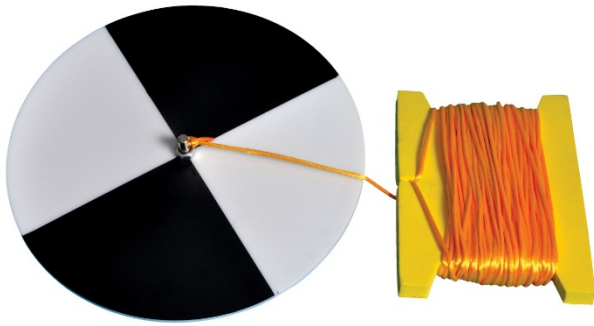
Join your neighbors for the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade again this year. The parade starts at **8 p.m** (note time change from previous years), and begins at the lighthouse on Honeymoon Point. The parade will be led by an NLA board member – TBD, so hop in line when you arrive. All types of boats are welcome to take part. We will again be taking pictures of the festivities and determining which boats have the best combination of decorations, spirit, and creativity. The top two winners will receive a Dilly Bar for every person on board. Pictures will be shared on the NLA Facebook page as well as in the fall newsletter, as space allows.

Don't forget to stop by the leading pontoon at the end of the parade (near Camp Nebagamon) to get a Dairy Queen gift certificate!

Please thank Shawn and Judy Thayer, owners of the Dairy Queen, for their generosity in providing product and coupons for this event!

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**Water Quality Report**

Lake Nebagamon had ice up occur on Dec 2, 2019, which was 12 days later than last year. The ice fully went off the lake on April 20, 2020, five days earlier than last year.

The average secchi disk readings (water clarity) for 2019 were 5.5 feet. Looking at historical data, 5.5 is on the lower end of the scale, meaning the water clarity is lower than historical norms. Water samples have been taken already a couple times in 2020 and sent to the lab in Madison for further analysis. We will report back results in the Fall newsletter.

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**From the Nest of the “Loon Ranger” Dan Takkunen**

Last January, as I traveled around Florida, I observed a lot of wildlife, including many birds. Knowing that our beloved Lake Nebagamon loons migrate every year to Florida, specifically to the Gulf of Mexico and around the Panhandle, I hoped to observe some loons while there. No luck. The loons on our Wisconsin lakes fly the long journey to Florida each fall, the adults first, followed by the chicks. Lake Nebagamon’s 2 loon pairs, the floater, and the chick were part of this migration. They make stops at Lake Michigan and other bodies of water until they reach the Gulf, as their habitat is open saltwater or open freshwater. Their flight and endurance is phenomenal. The loons fly at speeds up to 80 mph, and they can travel as many as 600 miles a day. So it doesn’t take them long to migrate, depending on how many stops they make.

In Florida, loons spend much of their time alone. Families break up, and even pairs do not stay together. Their winter foods usually consist of fish and crabs, found in water less than 30 ft. deep. The loons will often congregate on the edges of other flocks of waterfowl, such as grebes, eiders, and scoters.

Sometime in March or April, loons fly back up north. Some loons flock together and fly in groups, but in a very unorganized fashion, unlike the impressive “V” formation the Canadian geese display. Many fly solo. If you observe the lake on the day the ice goes off, or the day after, don’t be surprised to see that our resident loons have returned.

A side note. The Wisconsin Loon Population Survey (WLPS), which is done every 5 years, will take place on July 18th, between 5am and 10am. Volunteers will take a 2020 census on 258 pre-selected lakes throughout 27 northern Wisconsin counties.



**Photo taken of loon chick on Lake Nebagamon, 2016, Dan Takkunen**

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**Did You Know?**

Oliver Williamson, long time property owner on East Lake Blvd, passed away at age 87 on May 21, 2020. Mr. Williamson taught economics at the University of California, MIT, Stanford, Carnegie-Mellon, Yale, and Pennsylvania. He was awarded the 2009 Nobel Memorial Prize for his work in Economic Sciences! He used a portion of the winnings to fund the refurbishment of the tennis courts in Lake Nebagamon, which carry his namesake. Mr. Williamson’s detailed obituary graced the pages of the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and others.

## Fishery Enhancement Initiative



The 2020 season was set to get underway this spring with a DNR sponsored fishery survey. This survey was delayed due to COVID and has been rescheduled to next year. Based on the results of the survey, the NLA will work with the DNR to develop a 5 year plan for the fishery in Lake Nebagamon. This could include discussion of slotting limits and future stocking efforts, among other ideas. The last several years' plan included DNR stocking every other year, which last occurred in fall 2019.

Due to the change of plans, the NLA will focus efforts in 2020 on fish habitat. The primary form this will take is a reinvigoration of our fish sticks program. An article found on the DNR website: "A Second Life for Trees in Lakes: As Useful in Water as they Were on Land" noted that undeveloped lakes had 893 logs per mile of shoreline, while shorelines with houses have just 92 logs per mile on average. These downed trees provide spawning areas for new fish as well as cover for fish to escape predators.

Lake Nebagamon has been the very fortunate recipient of much attention from the DNR in our efforts to improve the fishery. However, all of these efforts rest on the notion that the fishery will be self-sustaining over time.

Presently, there are 7 homeowners signed up for a fish sticks install this coming winter. We need more! This program comes at no cost to the homeowner thanks to the financial cooperation between the DNR and the NLA. Contact Phil Takkunen at 949-412-8690 with any questions, comments, or interest in adding fish habitat on your shoreline.

## NLA Fiscal Year 2020 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
	32,010
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
	30,965
TOTAL	
30,965	

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### 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
David Conley	715-375-2088
Mark Laskowski	715-374-3747
George Lehman	218-390-7346
Ed Noltner	715-374-3707
Tom Maas	715-374-2147
Dave Sprowls	239-676-4064
Phil Takkunen	949-412-8690
Jason Willett	615-303-1850

### Board Member Project Committees:

- Healthy Lakes Initiative –Yoshimoto, Maas, Willett, Conley
- Fisheries Enhancement – P. Takkunen
- Invasive Plants –Conley, Noltner
- Summer Social –Riutta, Noltner
- Membership/Outreach – E. Takkunen
- Water quality –Laskowski
- Boat Launch Monitoring – Sprowls
- Garage Sales –Lehman

### Lake Nebagamon Ice In & Ice Out Dates

Year	Ice-Out Date	Ice-Free Days	Ice-In Date
1943	No Data	-	11/13
1944	5/1	214	12/1
1945	3/31	233	11/19
1946	3/31	237	11/23
1947	5/2	205	11/27
1948	4/12	240	12/8
1949	4/18	251	11/25
1950	5/14	194	11/24
1951	4/18	215	11/19
1952	4/21	221	11/28
1953	4/22	207	11/15
1954	4/20	224	11/30
1955	4/16	217	11/19
1956	4/28	215	11/29
1957	4/24	215	11/25
1958	4/14	227	11/27
1959	4/19	209	11/14
1960	4/20	225	12/1
1961	4/22	221	11/28
1962	4/25	228	12/8
1963	4/14	231	12/1
1964	4/22	212	11/20
1965	4/30	216	12/2
1966	4/22	223	12/1
1967	4/14	221	11/21
1968	4/11	239	12/6
1969	4/20	228	12/4
1970	4/24	217	11/27
1971	4/20	226	12/2
1972	5/1	182	11/30
1973	4/14	231	12/1
1974	4/26	218	11/30
1975	5/1	207	11/24
1976	4/14	215	11/15
1977	4/13	226	11/25
1978	4/19	215	11/20
1979	4/27	221	12/4
1980	4/22	215	11/23
1981	4/13	242	12/11
1982	4/24	214	11/26
1983	4/30	216	12/2

Year	Ice-Out Date	Ice-Free Days	Ice-In Date
1984	4/20	243	12/19
1985	4/18	218	11/22
1986	4/12	219	11/17
1987	4/7	240	12/3
1988	4/19	226	12/1
1989	4/26	212	11/24
1990	4/21	224	12/1
1991	4/12	213	11/7
1992	4/26	218	11/30
1993	4/24	217	11/27
1994	4/18	232	12/6
1995	4/18	209	11/13
1996	5/5	198	11/19
1997	4/24	210	11/20
1998	4/7	258	12/21
1999	4/13	248	12/17
2000	4/26	224	12/6
2001	4/25	239	12/20
2002	4/18	222	11/26
2003	4/24	223	12/3
2004	4/18	240	12/14
2005	4/11	229	11/26
2006	4/11	234	12/1
2007	4/19	226	12/1
2008	3/29	241	11/25
2009	4/16	234	12/6
2010	3/31	248	12/4
2011	4/13	233	12/2
2012	3/21	261	12/7
2013	5/12	197	11/26
2014	5/6	198	11/21
2015	4/12	257	12/26
2016	4/14	239	12/10
2017	4/4	247	12/8
2018	5/5	198	11/20
2019	4/25	221	12/2
2020	4/20		
<b>Averages</b>			
Last 5	4/19	232	12/7
Last 10	4/19	228	12/3
Last 20	4/16	231	12/3
Overall	4/19	223	11/28

**Credits:**

Jack Arthur, Gail DeBrunye, Willard Kiefer, Andy Mack, Mark Laskowski, and Joe Snyder.

July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 (Fiscal 2021)  
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 2020, if needed (July 2019 - June 2020)

Payment for fiscal year 2021 (July 2020 - June 2021)

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
- Fisheries Enhancement
- 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**