

The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

Fall 2020



President's Message

What an interesting year it has been. As the world shut down around us, we found ourselves counting our blessings to be able to enjoy Lake Nebagamon for recreation. Without concerts, sporting events, restaurants or vacation travel, enjoying a beautiful and clean body of water in Northern Wisconsin never felt so sweet. I suspect many of the readers of this newsletter feel similar. Reflecting on the beautiful (and warm!) summer, it really makes me think how important the work of our association is. Lake Nebagamon is more than just another lake to most of us, and we all have a role to play in preserving it. That starts with membership in the NLA. It could continue with volunteerism on a specific project (possibly benefitting your property directly!.) You could join the board of directors, which is a commitment of two meetings per year, plus involvement on one of our core projects. For some it may mean making a financial contribution to help the NLA advance our projects.

While our Association social activities had to be paused for the most part this year, our core activities supporting lake protection, preservation, and beautification continued as usual. Our water chemistry levels continue to be at concerning levels as reported in last fall's newsletter, and continue to be so after testing conducted in 2020.

Thank you for your continued membership and we look forward to seeing you when it is safe to gather again.

-Erik Takkunen

Reminder—Important Dates in 2021

June 18	Village wide garage sales
June 26	Annual meeting, 9:30 a.m., Auditorium
July 4	Boat Parade, 7 p.m.
August 7 or 14	Summer Social, 6 p.m.





4th of July Boat Parade

There was one event that was held despite the pandemic – the annual boat parade! Families gathered on their decorated boats, and as we have become accustomed to, they brought great energy to celebrate the USA. Winning boats won Dilly Bars for every passenger on board, thanks to generous donations from the Lake Nebagamon Dairy Queen. All boats also received a Dairy Queen gift certificate at the end of the parade.





Healthy Lakes Initiative

Despite Covid-19, your HLI volunteers and most participating homeowners are still advancing our important work to try to protect our good (but declining) lake quality! The most exciting news related to HLI has to do with the “Fish Sticks” (FSs) that are planned for installation **this winter**. For more detail please refer to the article later in the newsletter.

Here’s other HLI info and data:

- We did receive a 5th Healthy Lakes grant this spring from the DNR - and it was maxed out for the full \$25k allowed by the DNR;
- We also, just this fall, received approval on an amendment to our earlier 4th grant, that now maxes it out also and gives us another year to perform the funded work. This amendment had new funds awarded for these practices (new funding): 7 Fish Sticks sites, 3 diversions, 1 new infiltration and 1 new rain garden - all funded for work in 2021.

Of course, we still need to do much more, and are already seeking and lining up HLI projects to put into a grant application next fall for work to be done in 2022-2023. If you or your neighbors *might* be interested please give us a call – the initial assessment is no cost and no obligation. And even if you don’t want to go ahead under our program, that review has given some homeowners ideas of good work they did entirely on their own.

If you decide to go ahead under the Healthy Lakes program, we can usually cover 90% - 100% of your out of pocket expenses and provide implementation resources too.

Here’s your volunteer Nebagamon Healthy Lakes team:

- Alan Yoshimoto at 715-817-0439 - Initial investigating/design for diversion and infiltration projects, rain gardens and native plantings
- Mark Laskowski at 715-817-4483 - Initial investigation for fish sticks
- Rocky Nelson at 608-438-8628 - Implementation help (including finding contractors)
- Jack Sellwood at 715-374-3254 - Reimbursement for work done
- Jason Willett at 651-303-1850 - Administration, general questions and anything else!

Water quality degradation and algae are things **we can stop** if we keep up our progress and accelerate the Healthy Lakes Initiative. As always please pay attention to septic maintenance and prevent unnecessary biomass getting into the lake (grass cuttings, woodchips, and dirt runoff). We need to step up our efforts to protect our lake; and our fishing, swimming, property values and legacy!

Check out the [HLI tab](#) on our Association’s website for:

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

One last thing, we are again searching for additional property owners to have their sites reviewed for potential improvements for a 6th grant application in 2021. We are looking for an outreach volunteer to walk/canvass (Covid permitting) a portion of our members’ lakeshore properties each year until we get them all. Hopefully speaking with the homeowners but at a minimum leaving brochures on doors. This should be easy work as we’re simply 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*. If you are willing to help (and in the process hopefully meet more of your neighbors) please call me at 651.303.1850.

-Jason Willett

2020 AIS Boat Launch Monitoring

This year our monitoring on the lake started on Saturday, May 23. It was delayed until that date by the state due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We usually start with the fishing opener which was Saturday, May 2 this year. After Memorial Day, we began monitoring 7 days per week for a total of 57 hours each week. This was an increase of 4 hours per week over the previous years, as we went from 5 hours per day to 6 hours per day between Monday and Thursday.

Our two primary monitors were Jeff Giansanti, in his 7th year, and Max Polkoskie, his first year. William Cain also helped us by pulling 4 shifts in July and August. As in previous years we were primarily monitoring for Eurasian Milfoil and Zebra Mussels. They were all very thorough and knew the most important question of whether a boat had been in another body of water in the last 5 days. If it had, we zeroed in on those water bodies we knew had a problem with invasive species. We also checked drain plugs to make sure people traveled with them out, and checked fishermen's live wells.



Monitor Jeff Giansanti

We monitored 2,055 boats and 3,333 passengers in those boats. This was comprised of 1,277 boats entering the lake and 778 boats leaving the lake. These figures represented the highest number of boats contacted since we began tracking these numbers in detail in 2013. There were 159 boats that had been in another lake within the last 5 days of which 63 had been in a lake/river identified as having invasive species of concern. These 63 boats were screened very carefully.

We also tallied the fish caught by species for the second time (we did this last year too). There were 178 walleyes caught of which 8 were keepers (18" or over)

or 4.5%. There were 111 small mouth bass caught and 6 kept or 5.4%. There were 62 northern caught and 7 kept, or 11.3%. There were 97 crappies caught and 86 kept, or 88.6%. There were 173 blue gills/sunfish caught and 149 kept, or 86.1%. Of course these are unofficial numbers, and just representative of what information fisherman were willing to share.

-Dave Sprowls

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Membership Report

For the 2021 fiscal year starting July 1, 2020, at this time we have 186 paid members, with many paying in advance. This is 46 more than we had in the previous year at this time, which was improved through reminder mailings going out sooner. Paid memberships over the last 4 years are a good indicator of total membership, and that sits at 258. A reminder has been attached to this newsletter for those who have not yet paid for fiscal 2021 (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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NLA Board of Directors

Erik Takkunen, President	612-867-7951
Adam Riutta, Vice President	317-407-5395
Dan Takkunen, Secretary	608-770-6439
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
David Sprowls	239-676-4064
Phil Takkunen	949-412-8690
Rocky Nelson	608-438-8628

Emeritus Directors:

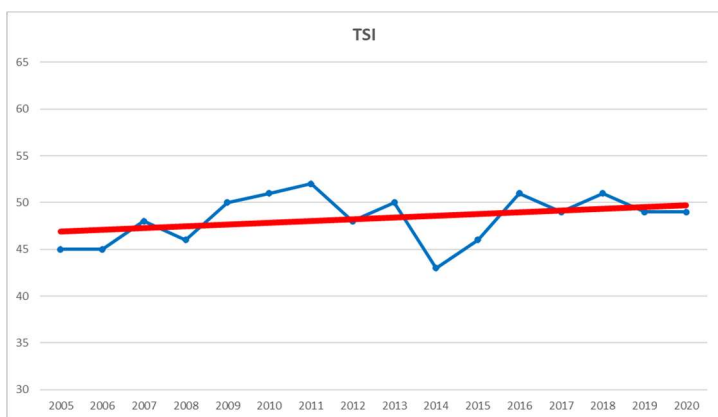
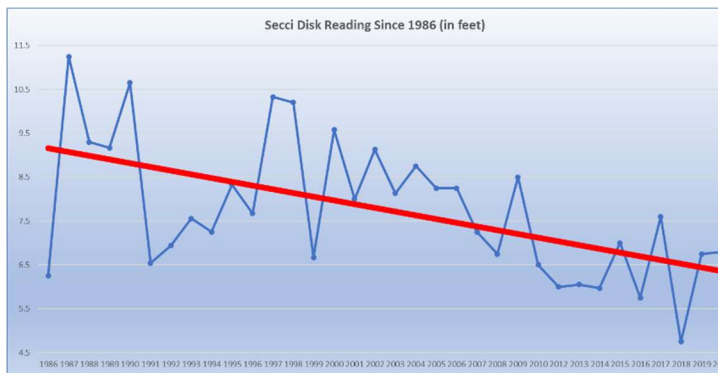
Tom Maas
Willard Kiefer

2020 Lake Nebagamon Water Quality Data

The average summer (July-August) secchi disk reading for Lake Nebagamon was 6.79 feet. This followed a 2019 average of 6.71 feet. The average for the Northwest "Georegion" as defined by the Wisconsin DNR was 9.1 feet.

Lake chemistry collected was chlorophyll at 6.8 micrograms per litre vs. 8.9 micrograms per liter last year. Phosphorus for the year was 20.7 micrograms per liter, last year was 19.6. A widely held understanding is that lakes with phosphorus readings over 20 micrograms per liter may experience noticeable algae blooms.

The charts below show the secchi disk trend since 1986, and the Trophic State Index (TSI) since 2005, respectively. We would like to see both trend lines reverse direction!



-Mark Laskowski

Boat Ramp Developments

As many of you know, our old boat ramp was torn down and a new one installed in October. Your Lake Association was instrumental in encouraging this project and gave a presentation to the Village Board over 2 years ago on the need. We also helped discover DNR funds to help finance the project and contributed \$1000 towards its design. This design includes not only a new ramp, but a rain runoff diversion system to prevent street contaminants and toxins from flowing into our lake.

The new ramp has been completed and cost about \$168,000 of which the DNR paid 50% and our Village the balance. The new ramp extends further into the lake so the 'ditch' created at the end of the old ramp by power loading should no longer be a problem. In addition, a new 60' long by 6' wide dock (ADA compliant) will be installed next spring.

We also helped find DNR funding to enable the new ramp to catch water runoff from nearby streets; in this case the DNR covers 75% of the cost with the Village picking up the balance. The diversion system consists of a grate over a channel crossing the top of the ramp and then diverting water into a catch basin, thus preventing direct runoff from the streets into the lake. So far, the grated channel and a rudimentary catch basin have been constructed at a cost of \$27,000 of which the DNR covered \$20,000. As most of the rain water still flows into the lake, we still need to build a 3-tier rain garden to filter this runoff. This will cost about \$70,000 so another DNR grant application will be needed to cover 75% of the cost.

We all owe the Village Board a big thank you for funding this project and, in particular, Jim Jonason, for leading the project.

-Phil Takkunen

Fish Habitat Project

Because the DNR was unable to conduct a complete fish survey (done every 7-10 years), our fishery team could not develop a long-term fishery plan which would include input from the public and a review of regulations suitable for our lake. This effort is now planned for 2021.

Instead we focused on developing more fish habitat. This habitat, known as 'Fish Sticks' (FS), consists of about 5 trees which are fresh cut placed and placed along the lake shoreline in a fan-like array to simulate trees which naturally fall into the water to provide habitat to help protect small fish from predators. This is a critical component to obtain maximum survival of the thousands of extended growth walleyes stocked into our lake in the past, present, and future. In addition, the FS attract many species of birds such as cranes and herons. The trees are fastened to the shore with cables to prevent any floating tree hazards.

This year, we developed an agreement which was implemented with property owners for 17 FS installations around the lake. Some of these installations are for refurbishment of existing FS and others for new installations.

We have also secured the services of a contractor to install these trees during the upcoming winter when ice thickness permits. This allows heavy equipment to travel on ice and not cross or damage involved properties. The contractor will cut, haul, place and cable the trees at locations approved by the owner and the DNR. The cost of these installations is borne entirely by the DNR (75%) and our Lake Association (25%), which make it a very attractive option for shoreline owners.

If you are interested in exploring this opportunity further, please contact Phil Takkunen (949-412-8690) or Mark Laskowski (715-374-3747).

-Phil Takkunen & 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 last year totaling over \$3,500! These contributions were directed towards either aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention, fisheries, or other general projects.

- Gary Lynn & Linda Burich
- Michael Coletta & Julie Ng
- David & Deena Marshall
- Shawn & Pamela Skramstad
- Bill & Leann Dexter
- Jeff & Annette Beck
- William Stern
- Eileen Mershart
- Donna Leonard
- John Davidson
- Tim & Kathie Pera
- Robert & Karen Stroud
- Greg & Deb Neve
- Don Warmington
- Jim Bong
- Warren & Judi Nelson
- Ken & Mary Lundberg
- Richard Larson
- Ron & Robin Anderson
- Brad Orn
- James Bong
- Jack & Dorothy Lundberg
- Paul & Kiett Takkunen
- Rick & Debi Gilbertson
- Andy & Kim Borg
- Bob & Lois Heller
- Katie Sekelsky
- Thomas McGillis
- Walt & Kay Gower
- Camp Nebagamom
- Todd & Barbara Baker
- Chris & Patti Baraks
- George & Lynn Lehman
- Jerry & Kay DeVinck
- Chuck & Julie Bushnell
- Ed & Louann Noltner
- John & Marilyn McGill
- Alan & Mary Yoshimoto
- Mark & Amy Callaway
- Bob & Ginger Vennerstrom
- Julie & Dudley Baker
- Myron Neusteter

- Cynthia Grothe
 - Mary Grandmaison
 - John Hall & Kristina Sampson
 - John & Kay Mattson
 - David & Patricia Saker
 - Brian Bernhardt
- Last but not least, Shawn & Judy Thayer for again providing DQ treats for our 4th of July boat parade!

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Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

THE NEBAGAMON LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC

BUDGET 7-1-2021 TO 6-30-2022

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
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
TOTAL	30,965

July 1, 2020-June 30, 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/pay-online/>. 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
- 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

