

The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

Spring 2021



President's Message

We are excited to get back to a more normal meeting and event schedule for 2021. Last year we carried on the critical activities to further our organization's mission – to protect, preserve, and improve Lake Nebagamon. However, we were not able to have our members get together for the annual meeting or the summer social. This year we will be back to business as usual. We hope to see you at the annual meeting on June 26 and the summer social on August 14.

This past year was a productive one. The pandemic saw a dramatic increase in boat ownership and use, and we were able to continue our boat launch monitoring program to reduce the risk of aquatic invasive species. Our Healthy Lakes program had another big year of new property restoration and improvement practices during the summer months, and a bunch of "fish sticks" installations happening over the winter. This program has grown tremendously over the years and we are at the point of considering who haven't we reached. Over the next few years while grant money is still available, we may be reaching out to you to see if you have any interest in the program. Please know there is never any obligation.

Lastly, we are looking for another board member. If you are interested, please reach out to me or mention your interest at the annual meeting.

-Erik Takkunen

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Reminder—Important Dates in 2021

June 26	Annual meeting, 9:30 a.m., Auditorium
July 4	Boat Parade, 8 p.m.
August 14	Summer Social, 6 p.m.

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

Emeritus Directors: Tom Maas, Willard Kiefer





4th of July Boat Parade

Join your neighbors for the annual July 4th Boat Parade again this year. The parade starts at 8 p.m for the second year. Our hope is to make the mad dash between the town street parade at 4, dinner, and decorating your boat a little more manageable than the traditional 7 p.m. start. The parade will be led by an NLA board member's boat, so hop in line to the south of Honeymoon Point 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. We encourage unified displays of American pride, and encourage personal political displays to stay at home. 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!

2021 AIS Boat Launch Monitoring

This year's boat monitoring for Invasive Species started with the fishing opener on May 1st, unlike last year when it was delayed until May 23rd due to the pandemic. This year we monitored on Saturdays and Sundays for 11 hours a day throughout May. We began monitoring daily with Memorial weekend. This will be 7 am - 6 pm, 11 hours a day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through Labor Day. On Monday-Thursday we will monitor 12 noon to 6 pm, 6 hours a day. This is a total of 57 hours a week until Labor Day, September 6th, when we stop monitoring.

Our main monitor again this year is Jeff Giansanti, who is starting his eighth year with us. He will cover the 11 hour shifts on Friday through Sunday. Max Polkoski is in his second year monitoring for us. He will cover the 6 hour shifts Monday through Thursday each week. The only exceptions are the two Monday holidays of Memorial Day and Labor Day which are 11 hour shifts. As in past years, William Cain will be a back-up to our two monitors.

The boat launch was redone last year and we also have a new dock as well as the start of a storm water diversion project. Comments from users of our boat launch this May have been favorable. We monitored 248 boats in our first 11 days of monitoring which is an increase from last year (compared to 164 boats in the first 11 days).

-Dave Sprowls



Zebra mussels on a boat lift leg – this image was not taken from our lake!!



Healthy Lakes Initiative

I've heard, "Just the facts, Jack", so here we go:

- Nebagamon water sampling last year showed an average of 20.7 milligrams per liter of phosphorus. This is trending up and is bad, as lakes that have more than 20 "may experience noticeable algae blooms"...
- Here's some related science:
 - o Chemical and Engineering News
 - <https://cen.acs.org/articles/94/i12/Scientists-debate-best-way-tame.html>
 - o North American Lakes Management Society
 - <https://www.nalms.org/secchidipin/monitoring-methods/phosphorus/>
- You can see which of your neighbors are doing projects on their property to help protect Nebagamon's water quality on our NLA website's Healthy Lakes Initiative tab.
 - <https://nebagamonlakeassociation.com/healthy-lakes-initiative/>
- With 5 grant cycles from the DNR we have completed or have underway projects to reduce runoff on 45 properties (of about 350 total around the lake)
 - o Grant 4 was amended last year to extend the deadline for the work to the end of 2021 and also the DNR allowed the adding of new projects - we actually reached the maximum of \$25,000 (from the DNR)!
 - o Grant 5 also was also amended and work on these projects will continue this year.
 - o Both Grants 4 and 5 included participants in the huge 18 installation fish stick implementation done this

winter (see separate article and photos).

The NLA Board this spring passed a motion to authorize applying for a 6th Healthy Lakes Initiative grant this fall (for work to be done in 2022 and 2023). If we are awarded a new grant, we again expect homeowners to get 75% reimbursement (out of pocket expenses) up to \$1,000 per "practice" (most homes are approved for multiple practices). The NLA will contribute 15% of total project costs (up to \$150/practice). The remaining 10% can often be eliminated through some time spent by the homeowner.

As of right now, we do need homeowners willing to let us take a look at your lakefront and give you a *no-cost, no obligation* estimate and simple design, as an NLA member benefit, as to how your property can reduce runoff and help with lake quality! If you're ready, please call Alan Yoshimoto at 715-817-0439.

We also have a new Healthy Lakes outreach volunteer on our team, Greg Neve (a long-time resident and retired chemical engineer) who will be visiting member households to leave literature and hopefully sign up many members for a design review. Please welcome Greg if you see him coming down your driveway!

Healthy Lakes work will also be a feature at the Annual membership meeting on June 26th. We are working on a "video tour" of some of the HLI work done, and the featured landowners will also be offering physical tours in their yards after the meeting! If you might be interested, please attend the annual meeting, and put time on your calendar too for a short tour right after the meeting.

-Jason Willett

Membership Report

For the 2021 fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, we have 214 paid members, with many paying in advance. Paid memberships over the last 4 years are a good indicator of total membership, and that sits at 268. 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). With this newsletter we will be kicking off our collection of fiscal 2022 dues, which we try to get as complete as possible during the summer months.

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.

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2021 Lake Nebagamon Water Quality Data

The average secchi disk reading (water clarity) for 2020 was 6.79 feet. Here are the readings for the last five years for comparison.

2016 - 5.75
2017 - 7.6
2018 - 4.75
2019 - 6.71
2020 - 6.79

Chemistry data was collected on Lake Nebagamon in what we call the "Big Bay/Deep Hole." The average summer Chlorophyll was 6.8 µg/l (compared to a Northwest Georegion summer average of 15.5 µg/l). The summer Total Phosphorus average was 20.7 µg/l. Lakes that have more than 20 µg/l and impoundments that have more than 30 µg/l of total phosphorus may experience noticable algae blooms.

The overall Trophic State Index (based on chlorophyll) for Lake Nebagamon - Big Bay - Deep Hole was 49. The TSI suggests that Lake Nebagamon - Big Bay - Deep Hole was **mesotrophic**. Mesotrophic lakes are characterized by moderately clear water, but have an increasing chance of low dissolved oxygen in deep water during the summer.

We will be conducting regular samples as always, in 2021.

-Mark Laskowski

Lake Nebagamon Open Water Fishing Report – from local fishing guide Jarrid Houston

Welcome to another open water season on Lake Nebagamon. Fishing on opening morning was successful, but we certainly had to try a few different recipes before we found the key ingredient. More on that in a moment, but first let's quickly chat about the awesome new boat launch and a few tips we should all practice. First off, the new boat ramp is excellent and thanks to all that were involved in the efforts to make this happen.



It's no secret, that as the pandemic waves on, we can again expect to see a tremendous amount of outdoor recreational traffic. Our good friend Jeff (boat Launch worker) always does a good job visiting with boaters, but we can all make his job a little easier by being more efficient at the ramp. The one thing we all need to do before launching and loading is "prepping". On some big popular waterways, there are actually "prep" areas with signage, etc. Of course, that is not the case for our launch, so we all need do our part. On a busy weekend, when someone backs onto the ramp and starts getting the boat ready, things get held up. Please, before launching your rig, get everything prepared. Same goes for when loading, do not stop on the ramp and finish cleaning up, strapping down, etc. In other words, let's all do our best to get out of the way. If we all practice good boat launch etiquette, everybody wins. With that

said, if we see someone who is not abiding by the “unwritten rules”, let us not get our panties in a bunch. A little courtesy to our fellow lake lovers goes a long way.



Now let us dive into what’s what on the Lake Nebagamon opening season bite. Given the nature of this spring’s early ice out, it was important to move past typical fishing opener successful spots. However, water temperatures are still on the cool side. We found the best bite to be in deeper water, similar to where we might look toward in the late summer/fall season. Although live bait took a few fish, best bite came from rattling traps and slow rolled boot-tailed plastics. Fish were not exactly crushing, so it was important to slow down. It was also important to use a good sensitive rod strung up with braid to a fluorocarbon leader. Fish were more in the mood of short-biting, or nipping, so being able to feel the bite was very important, as was the hookset. For the slow lethargic type fish we have encountered in this early season, it’s been important to not rush the hookset. As water temperatures start to climb, look for the bite to change into new patterns. Further meaning, look for new techniques to unfold.

I have said it before, but I will say it again. The waters of this region have a second to none reputation for having some of the best multi-species opportunities. Lake Nebagamon, in particular, has a great diversity of fish and various year classes. Some species like our large sized Small Mouth bass are always catchable. These “bronze backs” continue to make this lake a Class A

Small Mouth fishery. Lake Nebagamon’s various other species are precious, and it is important we take care of that concept for future angling. From opening day until now, I have elected to not keep any fish at all. Especially given the nature of more anglers and more angling pressure these days, I think we should all practice a little more catch and release. Catch, photo, release is a great practice! After all it is the fishing part that is the best. Good luck anglers and be kind to each other. Tight lines and see ya on the water.

GoOd FiShN,

Houston’s Guide Service
(218)-393-4962 or houstonbsu@hotmail.com
www.houstonguideservice.com



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Boat Ramp Developments

The boat ramp was completed with the Village contract last fall. However, during the winter, some of the concrete slabs were moved by ice in an unacceptable way. Their positions are now corrected but a more permanent solution is needed. The part of the ramp subject to ice movement will be replaced by poured concrete next fall before winter onset and the ramp will be closed at a date still to be determined.

A grate was installed near the top of the ramp to capture rain runoff water. Because the DNR grant to capture runoff in a rain garden was not approved, the contaminated water still enters our lake via the rocks along side the ramp. Jim Jonasen, the current Village President, has assured us the grant application will be submitted again this winter for 2022 rain garden (or similar) installation. In addition, the Village plans to continue the street curb up to the auditorium to direct more water to the boat ramp capture area. This will make runoff water capture installation even more important to protect our lake quality.

-Phil Takkunen

Fisheries Update

Eighteen Fish Stick installations were completed last winter by Bill Harvey. Hats off to Bill and Mark Laskowski, who specified the locations, for a great job. Meetings have been held with our new DNR fish biologist, Zach Lawson. The planned total fish survey planned for this year has been postponed until next year due to Covid induced personnel issues. However, we have been promised top priority for a complete survey in 2022. Mark and I have also organized a Fishery Advisory Committee for our lake. Members are Randy Levine, Ken Lundberg, Denny Raas and Dave Sprowls, in addition to us. We are very fortunate to have the diverse views of several caring and experienced fishermen to help make our lake the BEST SELF-SUSTAINING FISHERY POSSIBLE! Our first job was to review DNR questions and add a few of our own for an Angler Need Survey scheduled for this August as part of the 2022 electrofish counting surveys. This survey will be emailed to our association members and available online. We will also be organizing lake owner help to distribute 14-15,000 DNR provided extended growth walleyes around the lake this October. Finally, we will be supporting the DNR in their surveys and holding public meetings necessary to implement any necessary regulation modifications.

-Phil Takkunen & Mark Laskowski



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Fiscal Year 2022 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



5 Tips for Good Boat Ramp Etiquette

Based on an article on discoverboating.com

Lake Nebagamom has only one small boat launch that can get crowded at popular times. Over the last year boat and trailer traffic has increased – so it is a good time to review boat ramp etiquette.



1. Always complete all prep work first in a staging area—out of the way of ramp where other boaters are launching.
2. Launch quickly and efficiently; have others in your crew assist you to make the process easier, if possible.
3. As soon as the boat is off the trailer, clear the ramp and park in a designated spot. If others are waiting to launch, move your boat to the other side of the dock.
4. When retrieving your boat at the end of the day, if others are waiting, tie up on the other side of the dock or have a companion float nearby the dock until it is your turn and your trailer is ready.
5. Load the boat onto the trailer, then proceed to a staging area to finish unloading and securing your trailer.
6. The order of crowds at a boat launch is determined by vehicles in line ready to back into the water. In other words, if a vehicle is ready to back down the ramp, and a boat is on the dock without a vehicle ready, the vehicle has the priority (and the boat should not be blocking the 'lane').

-Erik Takkunen

Fish Sticks Installation

After going through weeks of thin ice and weeks of slushy ice, Bill Harvey finally deemed the ice safe enough for him and his crew to start installing the eighteen fish sticks sites. Bill was hoping for at least 16 inches of ice and after the two weeks of below zero weather in February there were between 19 and 24 inches of ice. The weather during the installation was unseasonably warm with a few days of high winds.

They started the fish sticks installation on February 26 and finished on March 2. The first day was spent plowing snow to create an ice road connecting all the fish sticks sites. The following day high winds drifted in parts of the ice roads but the 4-wheel drive trucks were able to drive through. The majority of the trees for the fish sticks sites were taken from around the storage units located at the edge of the village at the Hwy B and P intersection. On one site the trees came directly from the same property.

Bill used a large flatbed trailer to haul the trees out on the lake and a skid steer to unload the trailer and position the trees at the site. The last few days it was a race against time as the 40 to 50-degree temperatures were melting the ice rather quickly. Thanks to everyone that was involved with this project.

We would like to identify more sites to conduct fish sticks installations for a future winter. Please reach out if you are interested – there is no cost to you.

-Mark Lawkowski



From the Nest of the Loon Ranger – Dan Takkunen

We are all familiar with the loon's eerie call. We know that they consume lots of small fish, they have webbed feet for swimming, and they live their life on the water. All five types of loons in North America have these common characteristics, including the common loon found at Lake Nebagamon. Let's find out some things about the other four species of loons that inhabit Canada and Alaska.

The Pacific loon lives in the tundra and taiga of northern Canada and Alaska. It is very territorial as most loons are. Scientists have observed them perform "threat displays" at passing airplanes. The Pacific loon is quite abundant and is still hunted by native communities in the Arctic. They migrate to open ocean waters by Alaska and Russia.

Arctic loons are very similar in appearance to the Pacific loon and exhibit many of the same traits, so much so, that both were considered one species until recently. They share the same territory as the Pacific loon.

The Yellow-billed loon is larger than the common loon, but similar. It summers in the very high Arctic tundra, and winters in southern Alaska and coastal British Columbia. It is a very rare bird, especially when seen in the U.S.

The Red-throated loon is the most graceful of all loons. It is much smaller and more slender, with a small bill. As all loons do, it dives for fish, but it can also hunt from the air, dropping with almost falcon like precision. It doesn't carry its young on its back, and it is the only loon that can achieve flight from a sitting position. It migrates to the Bering Sea and even to the Great Lakes.

Lastly, there is our very own common loon, which so many of us are already knowledgeable about. Last July, LoonWatch, out of Northland College, and the DNR, conducted the Wisconsin Loon Population Survey and counted 4,115 adults and 893 chicks on the lakes that they surveyed. Some lakes gained in population, while some lost. What is apparent is there are some threats to our loons. There is a danger because of poor water quality and habitat loss. Also, 20% of loons die each year from eating lead tackle. They may eat fish who have consumed lead, or they may eat what they think is a pebble, but is actually lead. Loons eat pebbles to help them grind up food in their gizzard. Loons also can get tangled up in fishing line.

We look forward to welcoming our loons back to Lake Nebagamon this spring. Enjoy observing them, but give them their space (at least 200 ft.). Wouldn't it be great if Lake Nebagamon could have an increase in our common loon population?

Reflections by Dan Masterson

We lie awake in dark
so black we swear
we've gone blind waiting
for your screech,
but no sound comes
until sleep takes us
long enough to be thrown

awake by the split level
scream of the mad old lady
in your throat, lowered
there at birth, kept
for the nightly ritual
you tend to,
proclaiming this pond
as your own.



Lake Nebagamon Ice In & Ice Out Dates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Ice-Out</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Ice-Free</u> <u>Days</u>	<u>Ice-In</u> <u>Date</u>
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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Ice-Out</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Ice-Free</u> <u>Days</u>	<u>Ice-In</u> <u>Date</u>
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	225	12/1
2021	4/4		
Averages			
Last 5	4/17	226	12/2
Last 10	4/18	228	12/3
Last 20	4/15	231	12/3
Overall	4/19	224	11/28

Credits:

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

July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022
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 2021, if needed (July 2020 - June 2021)

Payment for fiscal year 2022 (July 2021 - June 2022)

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