

# Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

## Fall 2023



### President's Message

We hope everyone had a fun and safe summer. We certainly did, with the highlight being the annual weeklong Takkunen reunion, not to mention our improved fishery. Your Nebagamon Lake Association (NLA) also had a great summer accomplishing numerous objectives including strengthening our board and team structures. A summary of key accomplishments is below; we are grateful for the hard work of the many volunteer board and team members who made this possible:

- Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP): This invasive species is perhaps the largest threat to our lake. It can choke out native plants, block navigable water, and require high cost to control. So far, it has taken hold in both Minnesuing Lake and Creek, which flows into our lake. Dave Sprowls and his team have hand-picked CLP out of the creek several times and are also investigating chemical treatment.
- Fishery: This team, led by Ken Lundberg and John Woodbury, is working with the DNR to develop a lake fishery plan based on multiple fish surveys. Walleyes were stocked into our lake this fall. This team also expects to install 11 more Shoreline Habitats (formerly called Fish Sticks) this winter when ice conditions permit.
- Hazard Buoys: This activity is run as part of the Fishery team with the responsibility to take buoys in and out each summer from precise GPS locations and to keep them maintained. We are pleased to have Nate & Hannah Peterson take over.
- Healthy Lakes: Diane Bick and Eileen Mershart lead this team and are focusing on finding new projects to reduce lake contamination from water runoff into the lake. This team has secured grants to cover 90-100% cost of approved projects. The team

is available to help owners design and install their projects.

- Clean Water: This team, under the direction of Sarah Norman, is responsible for measuring lake water turbidity and chemistry several times each summer. The team will also consider new ways to reduce contamination to keep our water as clean as possible.



Regarding our financial situation, I'd like to give special mention and thanks to the Tim McGillis family, who donated the funeral proceeds in honor of Tim, a beloved husband, father, and son. Your Board has decided to create the Tim McGillis AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) reserve fund with this generous gift of over \$10,000. This is a critical reserve as the cost of combating AIS is very expensive. Thus, we encourage

and need more donations to this fund. We also have a fishery reserve available for donations.

I want to report on our NLA organizational development as we progress from a small group to a much larger and diverse one handling numerous issues, needs, and grant funding. I'm excited about the quality and capability of our new board members this year: Diane Bick, Eileen Mershart, Sarah Norman and John Woodbury. Our board now consists of 45% women and and/or younger people (age 59 or less), close to our goal of 50%, or more.

We continue to build teams as needed in each area with the team leader also belonging to the board. We are grateful that over 20 individuals have volunteered to serve and encourage other NLA members to volunteer as well. We need all the good ideas we can get!

Finally, I want to thank all NLA members and volunteers for your strong support of our efforts to MAKE OUR LAKE BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT.

*-Phil Takkunen*

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**Reminder—Important Dates in 2024**

- June 29 Annual meeting, Auditorium
- July 4 Boat Parade
- August 10 Summer Social



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**Share Your Story With Us!**

We would like to talk to long-time Lake Nebagamon residents and visitors for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. When we have our annual meetings and get introductions, we are always struck with the amount of LN "tenure" in the room. Do you have a particular story to tell or perhaps perspective of what Lake Nebagamon was like many years back? Maybe you even have some pictures! Reply to [lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com](mailto:lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com) if you are interested!

**Financial and Membership Update**

I have to start this update with a massive THANK YOU! to Jack Sellwood, our long-time Treasurer who retired from this volunteer position as of June 30, 2023. I'm not sure we even know the exact year he began in this position, but it has been somewhere north of 30 years! These are impossible shoes to fill, but I will do my best – and Jack has been very generous to continue to provide guidance.

As of November 2023, our bank balance was approximately \$35,000. This amount fluctuates up and down throughout the year. Our annual expenses are budgeted to equal our income – and we are generally pretty close to accomplishing this goal. We will show a budget in our Spring newsletter for fiscal year 2025, which will begin July 1, 2024.

For the 2024 fiscal year starting July 1, 2023, at press time we have 152 paid members, with many paying in advance. We will be using this newsletter communication to let members know if they have a payment due. Paid memberships over the last 4 years are a good indicator of total membership, and that sits at 273 (up from 264 last year, and 257 the year before that). We have 10-15 first-time members this year, and we will continue to reach out on an annual basis to non-members who live on the lake. A reminder has been attached to this newsletter for those who have not yet paid for fiscal 2024 (either in an email message or along with your paper copy in the mail). As always, if you have a neighbor who is new to the lake, please let them know about the NLA!

We do everything we can to provide reminders about dues owed, and try to make it as convenient as possible, by including copies of the forms with the newsletter or providing an online payment portal at [www.nebagamonlakeassociation.com](http://www.nebagamonlakeassociation.com). We have about 75% of lake shore owners as members, along with other members who are interested in the lake.

*-Erik Takkunen*



## A Tribute to Tim McGillis – and a Lasting Legacy Gift for Lake Nebagamon



*Tim McGillis unexpectedly passed away in June of this year. While dealing with this sudden and tragic news, the McGillis family sought a way to leave a lasting legacy for the place that he loved most – Lake Nebagamon. We met with the family over the summer, and they presented us with over \$10,000 that was raised through memorial gifts from Tim's family and friends. After discussion, we have decided to start the Tim McGillis Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Reserve Fund, which will be restricted for use in the fight against invasive species that are creeping ever closer towards Lake Nebagamon. Tim's family hopes to continue to make this fund grow into the future, and any NLA member or contributor is welcome to give towards the fund in the future.*

*The following tribute was written by Tim's family.*

Tim McGillis' parents, Gene and Jean McGillis have had their summer lake home on Lake Nebagamon for 54 years. From the time Tim was eight years old, he and his siblings, Katie, Patti, TJ and Mark began spending their summers at the cottage enjoying boating, canoeing, fishing, swimming, horseback riding and the simple adventures of exploring. Along with everything else that came with living at the cottage for the summer, hard work was a staple as it took a team effort to manage a home on the lake. Over the years, Tim's parents, along with their children, hosted many a gathering at the cottage including aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends.

As time went on, and the McGillis children married and had children of their own, the tradition continued with spending many wonderful holiday weekends where priceless memories were made with his whole family. Lake Nebagamon was truly Tim's happy place. Nothing made him happier than time at the lake with his wife, Judy; his four daughters, Kaitlyn, Elyse, Molly and Brynne; his parents, his siblings and their spouses and all of his nieces and nephews. What fun we had!

During the winters, you could also find Tim snowmobiling on the trails with his brother and enjoying the occasional beverage at Patti's Dockside. In addition, Tim enjoyed deer hunting in November with the cottage being home-base. He looked forward to that age-old Wisconsin tradition every year.

To say Tim loved Lake Nebagamon is an understatement! It was a place he considered his second home and one he enjoyed not only for the relaxation it brought him, but also the hard work he relished in doing.

Tim would be very proud and touched to see the money that was raised from his memorial and in his honor. His family feels exactly the same!



Tim's wife Judy, his four daughters Kaitlyn, Elyse, Molly, and Brynne present President Phil Takkunen with the memorial gifts

## Curly Leaf Pondweed in Minnesuing Creek

Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) was discovered in Minnesuing Creek in the Fall of 2022 by the DNR. As a result of this, a plan was devised by the NLA, Alex Selle of the DNR, and Zach Stewart, Invasive Species Coordinator of Douglas County to hand pull it as early as possible after ice out in the Spring of 2023. The outcrop found consists of about 150 yards of the creek around Homestead Road. (50 yards from Homestead toward Lake Minnesuing and 100 yards from Homestead toward Lake Nebagamon). Ice went out on Nebagamon on 5/4/23, later than usual, and the water on Minnesuing Creek at Homestead Road was way too high at that time to get in the creek and hand pull CLP as planned. Finally, on Saturday, May 27, Zach, Alex, and 2 other DNR employees pulled CLP on either side of Homestead Rd. for about 4 hours. Despite these efforts, they assessed that further hand pulling would be needed.

On June 1, a crew of six headed up by Zach Stewart, included five NLA volunteers: Paul Takkunen, Alan Yoshimoto, Ken Lundberg, Roger Drolsum, and Dave Sprowls. They hand-pulled for another 3.5 hours. Zach also explored the rest of the creek with his kayak as he had also done on 5/27 and found no further outcrop of CLP.

Zach was very happy with the results of these 2 hand-pullings and estimated we had removed 85% of the outcrop. However, in early July, Dave Conley visited this area again and still found a lot of CLP. He and Dave Sprowls pulled for about 3 hours and decided that further pulling would again be needed. Unfortunately, they felt there was more CLP present than there was on June 1. About 2 weeks later Dave Conley, Paul Takkunen, Alan Yoshimoto, and Dave Sprowls pulled CLP for another 3 hours. Later visits found no CLP above the water surface and hand pulling was determined to not be needed until after ice out in the Spring of 2024 (noting that CLP is known to proliferate in the spring and early summer).



For perspective, Minnesuing Creek covers approximately 2 miles between Lake Minnesuing and Lake Nebagamon. Homestead Road is about 1/2 mile from Lake Minnesuing and 1 1/2 miles from Lake Nebagamon. There is also a large beaver dam across the entire creek about halfway between the two lakes. Minnesuing Creek is the largest and primary tributary of Lake Nebagamon.

We have had conversations with Jacob Meganek, who is the Wisconsin Representative for the chemical treatments of Endothall and is based out of Lansing, Michigan. Endothall is the treatment that Lake

Minnesuing used twice (in the Spring of 2022 and again in Spring of 2023) to treat CLP in Minnesuing Lake with apparent success. Jacob will be coming to Lake Nebagamon in November this year to meet with us and also view the outcrop area in the creek, measure the water flow, and take some pictures. The Wisconsin DNR generally does not favor treatment of CLP in creeks, but Jacob feels this would be a worthwhile discussion that he would lead. He has worked with the DNR in several states to treat creeks that have had invasive plants.



Treatment of CLP can be very expensive. A few years back, Lake Minnesuing Association did receive a grant in the amount of \$90,000 to fight it. 25% of this amount was required to be covered by the association. They were able to raise \$22,000 from member donations. They have now been treated with Endothall and hand pulled with skin divers on multiple occasions. Onterra, a company that evaluates your success in attacking CLP, came out this June and advised their efforts were very successful as very little CLP was found.

We are committed to the fight against CLP and we anticipate we will be conducting additional hand-pulling in 2024. We could really use help – this is a critical fight that everybody should be concerned about.

*-Dave Sprowls*

## NLA Board of Directors

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Diane Bick dianebick@gmail.com	952-250-9559
Eileen Mershart edmershart@gmail.com	608-526-8591
John Woodbury jnwoodbury@charter.net	715-575-5925

### Focused Teams:

Fisheries –	Ken Lundberg (Co-Lead) John Woodbury (Co-Lead) Denny Raas Mark Laskowski Dave Sprowls Phil Takkunen
AIS -	Dave Sprowls (Lead) Gwen Theien Dave Conley Kathie Culhane-Pera
Water Quality -	Sarah Norman (Lead) Tim Pera
Healthy Lakes -	Diane Bick (Co-Lead) Eileen Mershart (Co-Lead) Alan Yoshimoto Greg Neve Jason Willett
Social -	Adam Riutta
Communications -	Erik Takkunen
Membership -	Erik Takkunen (Lead) Dan Takkunen
Hazard Buoy Mgmt -	Nathan & Hannah Peterson

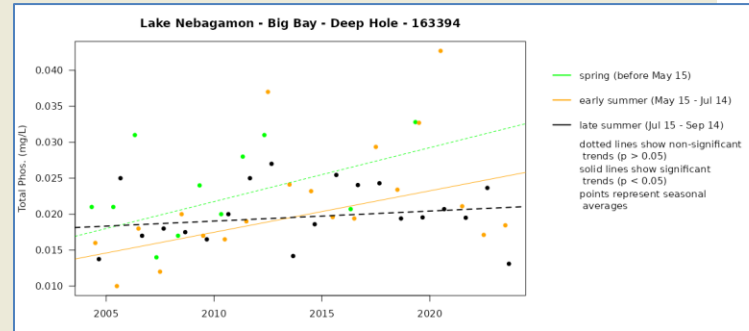
## 2023 Lake Nebagamon Clean Water Update



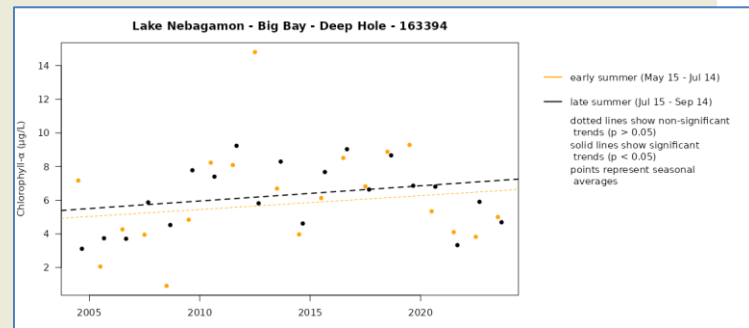
In our commitment to safeguard the health of our beloved lake, we bring you an update on our ongoing efforts to monitor the water quality. We continue to participate in Citizen Lake Monitoring Network which is partnership between 1000+ citizen volunteers and the DNR to collect data, educate and share knowledge. Detailed water chemistry has been studied since 2004. Measurements continue to be taken for water clarity (Secchi disk), temperature, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll (a measure of algae) during the months of May through October. In addition to the secchi data, there are satellite images used to retrieve water clarity data for 8,000+ Wisconsin lakes. This effort began in 1999 and the DNR continues to analyze data in this way today in its “remote sensing program.”

Our sampling efforts have provided us with important insights into the current state of the lake’s water quality. While not all the 2023 water quality results have been received from the DNR lab in Madison, we can share some trends and observations. The long-term is the best way to evaluate trends due to the tremendous variances during the sampling season. The long-term trends for the secchi disc show downward movement in water clarity. The downward trend is most noticeable in the Spring, but all open-water seasons indicate this trend. The positive spin here is the data has been trending up over the last three years, but probably too early to say that the trend is reversing.

The phosphorus levels indicate upward trends in the spring and early summer, and to a much lesser extent in the fall. Phosphorus in lakes primarily originates from both natural and human-made sources such as decaying organic matter, animal waste, soil erosion, unmaintained septic systems or run-off. Phosphorus is essential for plant and algae growth, but excessive amounts can lead to water quality issues such as harmful algal blooms and eutrophication.

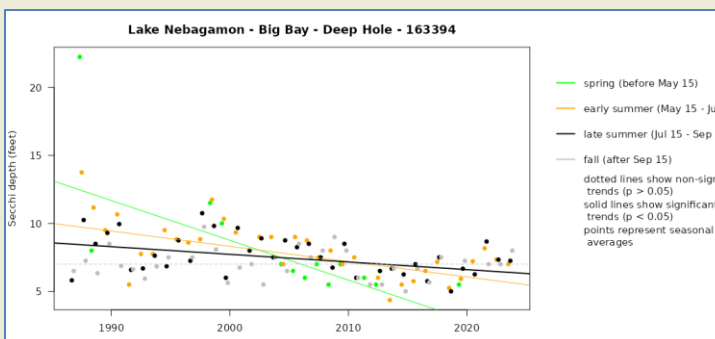


The chlorophyll levels show a slight upward trajectory but not enough to be considered a significant trend.



To reduce algal blooms in our lake requires a collective effort from the community. We must manage nutrient inputs into the lake through responsible lawn care, erosion control and management of our septic systems. A best management practice we can all consider is creating and maintaining buffer zones which act as natural filters to reduce nutrient runoff into the water. If interested in learning how to reduce runoff from your property, contact the Healthy Lake volunteers (see information in separate article) for a free inspection. It is free as a member of our lake association.

Once we receive all the 2023 monitoring results, we are planning to meet with the Douglas County Lake Biologist to review the lake results, better understand the causes of noticeable algal blooms over the last few years and determine if additional monitoring is needed next year. In 2024, we will compile another 10-year summary which will go into detail over the last 20 years



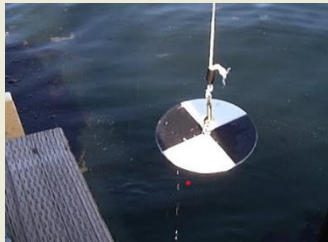
of water quality and provide best management practices to maintain a healthy watershed.



Finally, we want to thank Mark Laskowski for his extraordinary dedication and commitment over the past ten years as a CLMN volunteer, monitoring the quality of our cherished lake. He joins the legacy with other dedicated volunteers who have gathered data that is instrumental in shaping initiatives to preserve the

lake for generations to come. We appreciate his invaluable contributions!

For more information on our overall water quality monitoring program or to volunteer to assist with the Clean Water Team, please contact Sarah Norman or Tim Pera. Together, we can continue to protect and enhance the water quality of Lake Nebagamon.



*-Sarah Norman*

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### **Blue/Green Algae on Lake Nebagamon?**

In October, we received photos from two lakeshore owners, Jim Copeland and Shannon Jensen of algae blooms. The type of algae is not necessarily identifiable based upon a picture alone, but it can't be ruled out this this may be blue-green algae, which can be toxic for humans and dogs. Gina LaLiberte of the DNR noted that this is likely due to a phenomenon called turnover. In the fall, as the lake surface water cools, a windy day can mix the lake all the way to the bottom, mixing the nutrients normally at the bottom into water throughout the lake in a process called turnover. It is common to see blue-green algae blooms following these fall mixing events. While this is concerning, but explainable, we have received numerous reports of small blooms of algae in Lake Nebagamon for the last couple of years in later summer (August) – so collectively there is a concern and we all must take lake water quality very seriously.

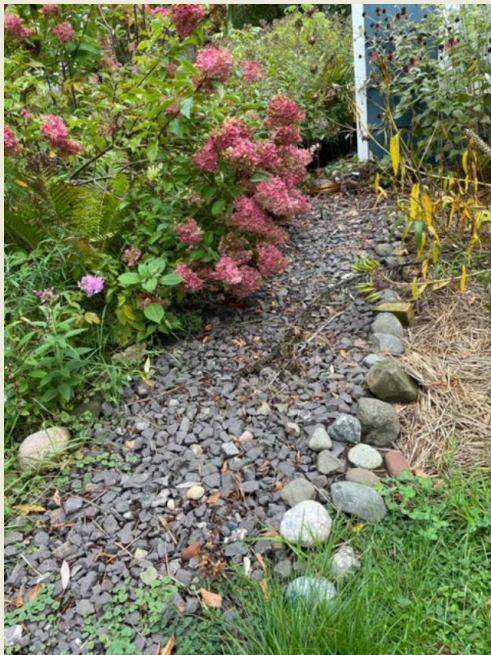
*-Erik Takkunen*





### Healthy Lakes Initiative Small steps...Big rewards

What's up with our Healthy Lakes Program? You might have heard of it but don't really know what's involved. You are not alone. Even though the NLA has been the recipient of Healthy Lakes grants from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for quite a few years and have now completed 106 separate projects on 50 properties, there are many of our neighbors who might not have heard of it or thought maybe it was just not for them.



The goal of the Healthy Lakes program is the protection of the water quality of our beautiful lake so that it's great for generations to come. A small project on your property can contribute to the health of Lake Nebagamon. The Healthy Lakes committee is here to answer your questions and assist you in deciding what project might best work for you and your property. You might be interested in controlling water run-off on your property. If you have a gutter that allows water to make its way to the lake a small infiltration project can help. That's the project we did a few years ago on our

property as seen in this photo. The grant covered the hiring of a digger to prepare the area and install the rock. The process was easy. We started small and perhaps you can too.

How would the funding work for you? Briefly, The Healthy Lakes Initiative is funded through a combination of funds from the DNR and our Lake Association. For each project, if you want to apply for funding, the DNR will reimburse up to 75% of the eligible costs (but limited to your out-of-pocket expenses and a max of \$1000/project) and the Association will also reimburse you for 15%! So, you may be responsible for as little as 10% of the costs, and even that may be covered by your labor if you choose.

Projects that help protect lake quality include native plantings, water diversion practices, rock infiltration practices, rain gardens, or creating shoreline habitat to attract fish, birds, and mammals and to help protect against shoreline erosion.



Native plantings create beautiful gardens that are abuzz with bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. The Healthy Lakes Native Planting Guide offers a wealth of information on how to include plantings that are both beautiful and suited to your property and interests. If you would like to see beautiful flowers near your shore as you look out on the lake, low-growing plantings will maintain that clear view. (And you won't have to mow it). Bird and butterfly gardens attract pollinators and migratory birds. And rain gardens do double duty: they improve our habitat and filter runoff too. We are designing a small rain garden for our lakeside and are excited about having more beautiful native plants.





If you have questions regarding financing, the landowner’s agreement, or the program in general you can reach out to Diane or Eileen. We can also show you examples of projects on other properties as well. Once you feel like you might want to move forward on a project, we will arrange a visit with you and talk over design and costs.

*-Eileen Mershart*

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**Improving Habitat on Lake Nebagamon works!  
Mystery Animal Sighted**

For a long time, we have been protecting and improving the lake we live around. Inspecting boats, monitoring septic systems, eradicating invasive species like Purple Loosestrife, acting on Curly Leaf Pondweed, as well as slowing down and filtering property water runoff have been a few of the many things that lakeside property owners have done. Because of this, we are starting to see new natural sights, such as something I saw in 2023 on my beach! You might have seen a pair of creatures with round dark heads swimming around the lake. This summer, after more than 30 years of observation on the lake, I saw one snarking its way across my beach. Its movement was strange, with the

central part of its body lifting as it moved. It had a really long tail, and it was pretty big.

I went closer and found it swimming around in circles near some of the habitat created along my shoreline, the same place I saw fish spawning this spring. As my dog and I got closer, the creature got bigger, and started looking at us as it swam around. However, it was not frightened by us at all. It spent about five minutes swimming around, snacking on small fish and moved to the other side of the dock. While I thought the animal might be sizing up my 21-pound dog, I discovered that it is very near-sighted, and probably was just coming closer for a look. Its eyes are designed to see under the water, where much of its food is located.



It wasn’t a beaver, or a muskrat. It was big, and frequently can weigh up to 25 pounds. After an online photo app identified the animal, I found out more. It only lives on the North American continent. It is very sensitive to water pollution. The animal is a predator, and it feeds on aquatic and semi-aquatic animals, usually what is most available. It prefers slow-moving fish, but mainly eats what is most available, which might also include crayfish, frogs or various invertebrates like dragonfly nymphs. It is finding food in Lake Nebagamon.

This animal is a North American River Otter.

Maybe you have seen something new as well. Let us know, and send in a picture, so we can share with others.

*-Diane Bick*



### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade

Another great year in the books for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July boat parade! 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.



## 2023 AIS Boat Launch Monitoring



This year our monitoring on the lake started on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, the fishing opener. We monitored only weekends (Sat & Sun) until Memorial Day on May 29. Then we began monitoring 7 days a week, for a total of 57 hours a week. Like previous years, we monitored 11 hours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and then 6 hours on Monday through Thursday.

Our three monitors were Jeff Giansanti, starting his 10<sup>th</sup> year, Jackson Rabold, and Cavin Thompson. Jackson and Cavin are both students at Northwestern High School. This was the first year of monitoring for both boys. This year we monitored for Eurasian Milfoil, Zebra Mussels and Curly Leaf Pondweed. They all knew the most important question we ask was whether a boat had been in another body of water in the last five days. If it had, we zeroed in on those water bodies we knew had a problem with any one of the three invasive species mentioned above. We also made sure to check drain plugs to make sure people traveled with them out. We also checked fishermen's live wells to make sure they didn't travel with them full of water from another lake.

We monitored 1,714 boats this year. The following table summarizes our data for the last 10 years.

Year	Total Boats	Incoming	In Another Lake in Last 5 Days	In Invasive Lake last 5 Days
2014	1789	1162	164	56
2015	2006	1269	147	47
2016	1905	1230	87	26
2017	1940	1225	119	37
2018	1591	1042	82	35
2019	1925	1234	131	53
2020	2055	1277	159	63
2021	1887	1203	78	31
2022	1633	1102	41	19
2023	1714	1177	34	21

We also tallied the fish caught by species. Of course, this is only for boats coming and going from our lake,

and only the information boaters are willing to share. But, we still think this information is valuable.

2023	Caught	Kept	Kept %
Walleye	353	32	9%
Smallmouth	223	0	0%
Northern	105	4	4%
Crappie	32	24	75%
Bluegill/sunfish	154	68	40%
2022	Caught	Kept	Kept %
Walleye	566	64	11%
Smallmouth	396	3	1%
Northern	137	4	3%
Crappie	141	65	46%
Bluegill/sunfish	192	29	15%
2021	Caught	Kept	Kept %
Walleye	241	4	2%
Smallmouth	300	6	2%
Northern	160	7	4%
Crappie	213	114	54%
Bluegill/sunfish	230	59	26%
2020	Caught	Kept	Kept %
Walleye	178	8	5%
Smallmouth	111	6	5%
Northern	62	7	11%
Crappie	97	86	89%
Bluegill/sunfish	173	149	86%

-Dave Sprowls

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### Boat Ramp Developments

The boat ramp repair design to prevent damage from ice has been completed and a contractor has been selected. Construction was expected in late fall of this year, but with some vendor coordination issues lingering into the middle part of November, the project will likely have to occur next year, according to the Village office. With the uncertainty of ice-out dates in the spring, the fall appears to be the most likely (again).

As initially reported last fall, a final design for diverting and capturing rain runoff flowing down the ramp area is being developed with the U.S. Corp of Engineers, the DNR and a local committee consisting of Jim Jonasen, Howard Levo, Alan Yoshimoto, Jason Willett and Phil Takkunen. We have also done preliminary chemical tests of ramp rainwater and found the phosphorus contamination level to be over 5 times that of lake water. Federal and state funding grants have been submitted and awarded for the entire project. The current plan is to complete the design phase next spring and the construction next fall.

-Phil Takkunen

## Long Term Fisheries Plan

Nate Thomas, DNR Fisheries Biologist conducted a comprehensive study of the fishery of Lake Nebagamon in 2022 and into 2023. This study will be documented in great detail over the winter, and we will provide an update on the availability of this document. Scott Toschner, DNR North Region Program Manager, attended our annual meeting and provided preliminary summarized results and discussion of the study. This 20-minute presentation was video recorded and is available to view on the Nebagamon Lake Association Facebook page.

Lake Nebagamon was stocked with 14,780 walleyes averaging 7.1 inches in length on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2023. A recent study published in 2020 found large fingerling walleye traveled on average of just under a mile in the first couple of weeks. That's almost to the lighthouse from the boat landing on Lake Nebagamon. To avoid stress on walleyes we have discontinued the transporting of walleye by boat around the lake this year.

The Fisheries committee voted to support a 15-pan fish limit with no more than five fish of any one species (crappie, bluegills, and perch). This is one option that is in the DNR fisheries management toolbox that can be acted on more quickly. After a discussion on proposing a new size limit and numbers of walleye, there were many unanswered questions on a clear direction to follow. No change was recommended in the current three fish limit of 18 inches or longer. We will work with Nate this winter to get more information on options and develop a plan that protects an ample number of spawners for reproduction.

Regarding walleye spawning in Minnesuing Creek, there are many unanswered questions as to the amount of spawning that takes place there. Nate has floated the creek recently and has found several good spawning sites. The issue of beaver control and beaver dam removal will be discussed with the board at the September meeting. Alex Selle, DNR AIS specialist feels that dams will not slow the spread of Curly Leaf Pondweed. The slow lower half of the creek with natural vegetation will act as a barrier. He feels there is a greater chance of it being spread by boats and users of the lake.

Nate Thomas provided the committee with tribal harvest records for Lake Nebagamon over the past 11 years. The average harvest was 73 walleye per year with 76% being males with an average size of 15.5 inches. They are allowed two walleyes over 20 inches. Catches are monitored by a tribal clerk at the boat landing and recorded. The total allowed catch is

determined by estimated populations in Lake Nebagamon.

Year	# Harvested	Year	# Harvested
2013	0	2019	159
2014	0	2020	65
2015	134	2021	0
2016	83	2022	108
2017	163	2023	0
2018	85		

Lastly, there are 11 sites slated for Shoreline Habitat (Fish Sticks) structure installations this fall. There are two possible sites pending for addition. John Woodbury is preparing the bids for installation of structures this winter. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact Ken or John.

*-Ken Lundberg*

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### Hazard Buoy Management

The Village of LN holds a permit from the DNR that dictates the number of, and position of the hazard buoys that you see on the lake. You may not be aware that the NLA has been managing the hazard buoys on behalf of the village for many, many years. The management of the hazard buoys is twofold:

1. Purchase new buoys as-needed to replace worn-out buoys, as well as parts needed for installation. The combination of one buoy + one set of labels costs about \$300. We have been replacing about two buoys every year for the last number of years, and we just recently completed a full cycle of replacement, so we hope to be good for a few years.
2. Get the buoys in and out each year. This can be a tedious and dirty job! We have been very fortunate to have a long-time volunteer, Joe Crain, doing this work. Joe is moving away from the area, and we thank him for many years of his work! We are fortunate to have new residents Nathan and Hannah Peterson who have stepped up to volunteer to help into the future.



## Invasive Plant Spotlight - Buckthorn

*Common Buckthorn* is foreign, from Europe and Asia and can grow up to 23 feet. It is an invasive shrub that is overtaking our forests, and we are seeing plenty of it in Lake Nebagamon.

Characteristics of common buckthorn:

- Twigs have sharp spines.
- Leaves are dark green, glossy, containing oval leaves with 3-4 pairs of curved veins.
- Berries are purple black in color, containing 4 seeds. Berries are toxic, causing diarrhea in humans and birds. When birds eat the seeds, they have diarrhea and dispel the seeds. The seeds can live in the soil for years.
- Inner bark is orange in color.
- It out-competes native plants for nutrients, light, and moisture.
- It releases a poison emodin that impairs other plants.
- It degrades wildlife habitat.
- It contributes to erosion by shading out plants that grow on the forest floor.
- It hosts pests, such as crown rust fungus and soybean aphid.
- It lacks "natural controls" like insects that would curb growth.
- It has female and male plants—both have flowers, but only female plants have seeds.



*Alderleaf Buckthorn* (below) is native. It is not invasive. It does not take over forests, and generally grows to only 1-3 feet. Twigs have no spines, and oval leaves have 5-8 pairs of curved veins.

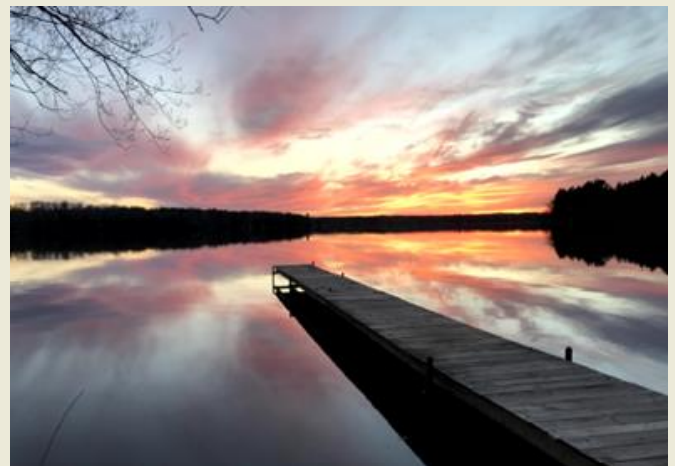


We Lake Nebagamon landowners can remove Common Buckthorn. Pull up small plants by the roots. Use a weed wrench for larger plants. Cut down limbs with berries before berries are ripe. In the fall, when other plants have lost their leaves, saw down large shrubs and trees, a few inches above the ground. Within 1 hour, paint a small amount of the aquatic version of glyphosate (Round-Up) or triclopyramine (Garlon) onto the newly cut stump. The stump will absorb the chemical into its roots and kill it. Alternatively, cut down and cover with a can or black plastic (Buckthorn Baggie) for 2 years. Burn or haul to waste site. You can leave in a brush pile to rot or woodchip plants without berries. If removing a large area in the woods, leave shrubs in a brush pile to rot. Removing will allow sunlight to germinate seeds in the soil. Consider removing female plants first.

As a replacement, consider planting native shrubs, such as: chokecherry, serviceberry, winterberry, dogwood, or viburnum.

For more information or physical assistance to remove invasive buckthorn, contact Kathie Culhane-Pera, [kathiecp@yahoo.com](mailto:kathiecp@yahoo.com). For more information, visit [www.douglascountywi.org](http://www.douglascountywi.org), search for Buckthorn or invasive species.

*-Kathie Culhane-Pera*



## Lake Nebagamon – Home Away From Home

Guest Author Susan Giffin

When my dear brother George Searle Giffin passed away in March 2023, memories of our summers at Lake Nebagamon flooded my memory bank. Our home away from home was a white two-story frame house at 6861 Fitch Avenue overlooking the lake. Subsequent owners remodeled the house, winterized it, and gave it a completely new exterior look. Our paternal grandfather, Bert Bennett Giffin, a dentist in Superior, bought the frame structure in the early 1900s from the Lake Nebagamon Lumber Camp, which had had its start with lumberman Frederick Weyerhaeuser to harvest pine trees in the area. Grandpa moved the building to its present site, fixed it up, and added an indoor stone fireplace.

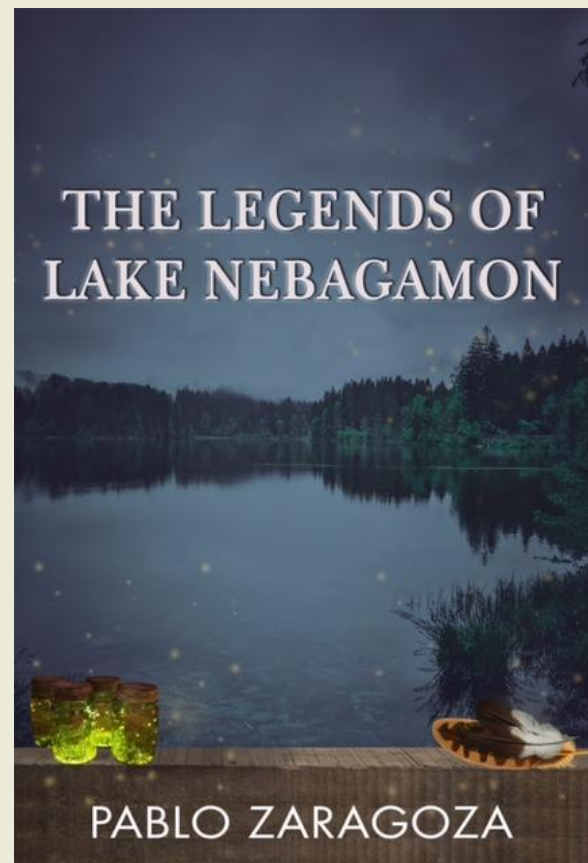


When the Spanish Flu hit Wisconsin in 1918, Grandpa figured his two sons –six and eight years old – were safer at Lake Nebagamon than in the “big city” of Superior. There, without “modern” conveniences, Grandma Rachel Maude Giffin RN, gave them plenty of TLC, although it was touch and go for a time. Uncle Jack almost didn’t make it but lived to become a physician.

My parents – Bob and Mary – first met when Mary was two years old, and Bob was a new baby. When her mother took her to meet the new Giffin baby, Mary stood on her tiptoes, looked into the bassinette, and said, “That’s for me!” They grew up together, attended the same schools in Superior, and spent a good deal of time at the Giffin cottage. For their three kids – Mary (Bunny), Susie, and George – the cottage was *home*, even without refrigeration and running water and with a trusty outhouse for doing their business. We protested when the iceman cometh no more, forcing us to modernize the cottage, thereby losing its rustic charm.

Early mornings, Dad and I would walk to Siegel’s Drugstore, where he would enjoy his first cup of coffee. He knew everyone – Ernie Larson at the hardware, Postmaster Bill Arnold, and Bill Borg at the corner service station, Windy Amundson, and our dear neighbors, Ernie and Doll Miller. Always time for another chat. Our amusement came in a variety of ways: swimming (I almost drowned in Lake Nebagamon!), watching the Tamburitzans practice in the Auditorium, picking blueberries, counting deer at dusk in the barrens, and observing black bears foraging through the town dump after dark. And, of course, taking canoe trips down the Brule, starting at Stone’s Landing, shooting the rapids, and ending at Winnebajou. Although tipping the canoe was not mandatory, it became even an intentional habit. George eventually became a counselor at Camp Nebagamon, under the direction of Nardie and Sally Stein. He loved being a counselor, but he insisted his charges call him Searle as he was not fond of George.

Pablo Zaragoza wrote a delightful fantasy tribute to George – *The Legends of Lake Nebagamon* – that captures the joys of being a kid there, including fireflies that become fairies and other creatures that talk to him in imaginary ways, all the while imparting realities of life at our home away from home. It is available at [pablozaragozabooks.com](http://pablozaragozabooks.com) if you are interested.



## 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 \$15,000! These contributions were directed towards either aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention, fisheries, or other general projects.



### Prominent Gifts (\$100 or more):

- Family and friends of Tim McGillis
- Lawn Beach Inn
- Camp Nebagamon
- Patti's Dockside
- Wendy Corry, owner of Computing Done Right, LLC, for providing website development
- Shawn & Judy Thayer, owners of the LN Dairy Queen, for again providing DQ treats for our 4<sup>th</sup> of July boat parade!
- Willy Stern
- Ken Lundberg
- Phil Hagan
- Bob & Lois Heller
- Fred & Ginger Strom
- Jane Kerr
- Ryan Fraley
- Andy & Kim Borg
- John Salmela
- Julie & Dudley Baker

### Other Generous Gifts

- George & Lynn Lehman
- Alan & Mary Yoshimoto
- John Hall & Kris Sampson
- Ron Anderson
- Ed Noltner
- Jeff & DeLee Johnson
- Richard & Peg Boudreau
- Cynthia Grothe
- Richard & Alyssa Reder
- John & Marilyn McGill
- Eileen Mershart
- Tim & Cheryl Jacobson
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- Mary Grandmaison
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- Darrel Kaldor
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- Paul & Kiett Takkunen
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- Scott & Rebecca Radtke
- George & Teresa Boyer
- Sharon & Robert Muttonen
- Blair & Anna Mahan
- Randy & Lorna Cunliffe
- Terry & Barb Hendrick
- David & Deborah Amys
- Mike & Julie Kemp
- Scott Sarembe

## Need Gift Ideas? Company Offers Custom Lake Nebagamon Apparel and Gives Back to the NLA

We recently partnered with Barefoot Bay ([barefootbay.net](http://barefootbay.net)) to create a customized line of apparel for Lake Nebagamon. What makes Barefoot Bay different is that they donate 15% of their sales to lake associations that they partner with. If you are looking to represent your favorite lake wherever you go or if you are looking for gifting ideas, take a look at what they have to offer. Multiple sizes are available, and they have men's, women's, and kid's specific items. Below are a few samples. When browsing their site, any item that says "w/ Your Favorite Lake" can be customized to have our lake outline and in the case of shirts, a Lake Nebagamon specific logo on the front, seen here >>>>>





July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024  
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 \$35 per year—a small amount that has a big impact!

Payment for fiscal year 2023, if needed (July 2022 - June 2023)

Payment for fiscal year 2024 (July 2023 - June 2024)

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:

- Tim McGillis Memorial Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Reserve Fund
- 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**