

NAMAKAGON

FEBRUARY 2010



Breeze

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2009 NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION

1. Successful Annual "Fun on the Water/Youth Safety" Event – Special Thanks to Al Stawicki, Jerry Jurries and Charlie Best
2. Awarded DNR Grants to install 2 additional ILIDs – Special Kudos to Steve Riley
3. Lake remains free of AIS based on most recent surveys
4. NLA meeting held at Grandview Town Hall in June
5. Clean Boat Clean Water workshop at Namakagon Town Hall
6. Informational presentation at the Annual Meeting by Patrick Goggin, Lake Specialist from UW Steven's Point
7. Election of 2 new Board members – Linda Fischer and Julia Campbell
8. NLA receives Certificate of Appreciation from the Bayfield County AIS Committee for efforts to keep the lake clean.
9. Financial Support from the towns of Grandview and Namakagon
10. NLA purchases insurance policy for liability
11. Many thanks to the members of the NLA who continue to provide assistance with buoy installation/removal, monitoring landings, and other activities

*Submitted by Denise Dupras for
Phil Rasmussen, President NLA*

2009 ELECTION RESULTS

We are very pleased to announce that Linda Fischer and Julia Campbell were elected to the NLA at the August Annual meeting.



THANK YOU TO OUT-GOING BOARD MEMBERS

The Board and membership of the NLA recognize the numerous contributions of out-going members Mr. Jim Krueger and Mr. Steve Riley.

2010 WISCONSIN LAKES CONVENTION

Wisconsin Lake Convention • March 30-April 1, 2010
KI Convention Center • Green Bay, WI

Looking for deals and incentives these days? The 2010 Wisconsin Lakes Convention will be the perfect educational venue to find the answers to all your lake related questions, participate in hands on workshops, and network with experts in the field all in one place for one low price. Speaking of low price, the cost for this event has not gone up in three years! That's right, register before the Early Bird Deadline of March 8, 2010 for only \$165. Get three days packed full of:

- Waterfront History, Policy and Regulation
- Updates to NR 115
- Water Quality and Ecological Health
- Research on Shorelands & Shallows
- Economics of Shoreland Management
- The Land & Water Interface
- Human Dimensions of Shorelands & Shallows
- Lake Organization Capacity Building

Other important issues and topics, including shoreland restoration, basic limnology, and trainings for lake district commissioners, Clean Boats Clean Waters and Citizen Lake Monitoring Network volunteers will also be offered.

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

Internationally recognized restoration ecologist, Steven I. Apfelbaum will be joining us in Green Bay to discuss his new book, *Nature's Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm* (referred to as the 21st century sequel to the best-selling classic *A Sand County Almanac*). Steven is founder, president and senior ecologist of Applied Ecological Services, and is among the best-known world leaders in ecological system restoration, conservation development and the restoration of hydrology.

Fred Rozumalski, an ecologist and landscape architect in the water resources division of Barr Engineering, will join us to discuss techniques to incorporate the aesthetic of neatness into our lakeshore restorations, while preserving the native landscape.

Special guest Tim Bedore, comedian and radio commentary of *Vague but True* www.vaguebuttrue.com will be an added value. Please join us at the end of March to learn how each one of us can help protect the shorelands and shallows of our natural beauties, Wisconsin's lakes.

Get more information at:
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/conventions

GRANT UPDATE

By Steve Riley

NLA was formally notified on November 16, 2009 by WDNR in Madison that our grant request for "Lake Namakagon AIS Prevention-Inspection" had been approved in the amount of \$28,433.00 for the October 1, 2009 to December 31, 2012 fiscal period. That grant includes matching grant funding on a 75%-25% basis (State/local) for two additional ILIDS monitoring systems which will be placed at the landing on County Road "D" and Lakewood's Resort. In considering where the two additional ILIDS would be placed, the NLA Board (minus President Phil Rasmussen who recused himself) decided unanimously to adopt my recommendation to place the monitoring systems at the highest risk landings that we had access to. The USFS Campground landing was not an option per USFS personnel.

NLA was the only lake association in 2009 in Wisconsin requesting grant funding for the ILIDS system that had its grant approved. We previously had our grant rejected last spring but at the suggestion of Pamela Toshner and Jane Malischke of Spooner WDNR, your NLA Board voted to modify the grant request per Pam Toshner & Kris Larsen's (also WDNR Spooner) suggestions and resubmit the grant for consideration in the August grant cycle. We listened and we were successful.

There are a number of other people who deserve honorable mention for helping NLA pull this off. They include the Grand View and Namakagon Town Boards and staff, Stefania Strzalkowska of Bayfield County, Glen and Diane Grage who graciously allowed us to route the ILIDS feed through their DSL network as well as power to the ILIDS, Bill & Janet Porter who also allow the ILIDS to transmit data through their DSL system, The Landing Bar which does likewise and Lakewood's Resort for facilitating the instillation of the fourth ILIDS system. Lastly there is Eric Lindberg, President of Environmental Sentry Systems, who has shown a great deal of both expertise & patience in working with us.

Going forward NLA will still need landing monitor volunteers which the grant stipulates and will have to supply WDNR GIS data in a format fully compatible with WDNR's ARC/INFO and ArcView systems. Additionally, yearly summations in electronic format are required for posting to various WDNR data bases. NLA will obviously need to designate someone to administer this grant and any others NLA applies for and locate or hire landing monitors to meet grant requirements.

You will also be receiving a comprehensive questionnaire on lake usage and other concerns as part of the completion of the three grants we completed in 2009. Please fill it out as best you can and return it to our environmental consultants for compilation. These will be used to identify your concerns & priorities for future lake management and activities.

If any of you have any questions you would care to ask, feel free to call me at 715-794-2069 or send an email to sriley@triplecrownfeed.com; I'd be glad to hear from you.

BUOY REMOVAL

A special thanks to Rick Yerhot, Tim Nelson, Tom Browne and Dave Baum for removing the buoys in October. Rick is also thanked for donating the use of his boat for this.

AL STAWICKI'S TOP TEN LIST

(WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND "FUN ON THE WATER"?)

10. You just might win a great door prize, maybe even a door?
9. Save yourself a future lake violation. (Get the latest safety information from Deputy Sheriff Larry Loch.)
8. Where else can you take out the entire family for lunch for only \$5.00? (Lunch with Gerry Jurries should not be missed!)
7. Get the latest "Fun on the Water" t-shirts for the very low price of free. (That is a price that is really hard to beat!)
6. Meet face to face with new lake neighbors. (It's easier to report a violation if you know their name!) SMILE!
5. Meet your NLA Board Members. ("Fun on the Water" is the perfect time to build friendships and share stories!)
4. Invite your neighbors and friends to come along!
3. Your kids and grand kids will thank you for the great time and great prizes!
2. Everyone wins! Prizes, lunch, t-shirts, and new friends!
1. And the number one reason you should attend "Fun On The Water" is to help preserve and keep clean our beautiful lake!



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

If your mailing label shows "Last" rather than a year, it means that our records indicate that your last dues were paid in 2008. You will receive a separate mailing to ask for your continued membership and support of the NLA. If you chose not to reply, you will be removed from our mailing list. Thank you for your support of the NLA.

Denise Dupras, NLA Secretary

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

(September 12, 2009)

The meeting was called to order at by President Phil Rasmussen.

Board Members Present: Tom Nelson, Tim Browne, Lisa Holt, Julia Campbell, Linda Fischer

Board Members Absent: Denise Dupras

NLA Member Attendees: 1

Minutes of Annual meeting of 2008 were read. Motion to approve made and seconded, Annual Meeting 2008 minutes approved. Minutes from Board meeting held 8/16/2008 were read and approved.

Treasures Report

Submitted by Tim Browne. Balance as of 8/31/2009 was 23,733.47. Total income \$1870. Expenses \$12,016.04. General Accounting balance as of 9/12/2009 was 25,460.64. Read, seconded and approved.

There was discussion regarding the FOTH bill and process of review and identification of errors. Tim expressed appreciation of the assistance of Steve Riley in the review of the bill. Breakdown of expenses was discussed from recent FOTH visits for accounting and billing processes.

Discussion ensued regarding "common reed" identified by FOTH during the survey and the consideration for removal/treatment. The Board recommended contacting Pam Toshner at the DNR and/or Stephania for further information, Julia Campbell will make contact.

Grant Update

Lisa led the discussion. The Board discussed identifying the costs associated with grants for the upcoming year. An email from Steve Riley was read listing the anticipated expenses of \$40,000 for upcoming grants. He recommended we go to the Towns and request \$6800 each for the 2010 year. The sanitary survey will also be conducted. FOTH prepared two grants which have not been approved by the NLA and were not submitted for the August date, so will need to be submitted for the February cycle.

Lisa Holt led the discussion of the plan for new signs, including options for sign size. Businesses will be asked to consider contributing 25% of the cost. The goal would be to get signs at all of the public and private landings (9) on the lake. Denise Dupras will work with the Duluth manufacturer to develop mock-ups for some of the signs and have them available for the upcoming town meetings. The Board agreed on the wording to be included on the signs and size 4x4ft. We will need letters from Towns to support grant application. Motioned and approved unanimously to submit grant application for signs (4x4) and request letters of support.

Lake District Discussion

Board and members discussed Lake Districts and the options including all of the lakes in the town of Namakagon or simply the Lake Namekagon chain. The information will be included in the next newsletter for the membership of the NLA. Information from Patrick Goggins or from the Board will be included. Board motioned and approved plan to pursue additional information on Lake Districts. Will be shared with the Town Board meetings.

Musky Inc. Tournament Letter

Board discussed letter and Phil will send on to the organizers.

Walleye Count

Held Sept 21 and 22nd for newly hatched fish. There is an opportunity to ride along with them during the count. Phil has asked for the count to be done at the north end of the lake to see if there are differences between areas of the lake.

Removal of Lake Buoys

Rick Yerhot volunteered to help Tim Brown and Tom Nelson, will plan to wait until after the last tournament before removal. Plan to remove on October 18th. There will be an inventory of the buoys this year as there have been more problems with the buoys this year after the change from chains to ropes. Will need to request an additional buoy for next year.

Website

Need to update meeting times on the website, this will be done by Denise.

Meeting Minutes

Will be sent by Denise to Town Boards after review by the Board members and include the up coming meeting date.

Meeting Dates

Discussed by the Board, November 7th, February 6th, April 3rd, May 8th, June 5th, July 10th, Fun on the Water July 25th tentative, Annual Meeting 21st. Discussed the requirement for an open meeting in Grandview and will plan to have the April 3rd meeting there.

Other Business

Lori at Cable Namekagon History Museum contacted someone to request they be able to send their newsletter to the NLA membership. The Board discussed and felt that we should not share our mailing list with other organizations.

Insurance for the NLA

Lisa Holt described the liability policy the NLA has to cover injuries, current coverage is \$1,000,000.

The meeting was adjourned by motion, seconded and approval by the Board.

*Respectfully submitted,
Denise Dupras*

FUN ON THE WATER/ YOUTH WATER SAFETY

A special thanks to Al Stawicki (coordinator), Jerry Jurries (food), and Charlie Best (cook) for making "Fun on the Water Day" a resounding success. Also thanks to the NLA members including the Board and the "Best kids" for helping with the activities. The event was well attended and everyone had a great time. The tentative date is July 25th for 2010, so mark you calendars and save the date.



WHAT IS A LAKE DISTRICT?

The details of the laws governing lake districts can be found in Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and are encapsulated in the guide: The People of the Lakes – Wisconsin Lake Organizations Series, Lake Districts. The following are abbreviated highlights:

WHAT IS A LAKE DISTRICT?

A lake district is a special purpose unit of government. The first districts came into existence in 1974 with the passing of Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. There are over 200 lake districts in Wisconsin today.

WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

The purpose of a district is to maintain, protect, and improve the quality of a lake and its watershed for the mutual good of the members and the lake environment.

HOW IS IT FORMED?

A lake district can be formed in one of three ways:

- by petitioning the county (or town) board
 - 51% of the landowners in the proposed district
 - 51% of the land in the proposed district
- by resolution of a village board or city council
- by conversion of a town sanitary district

WHO IS INCLUDED?

The boundaries usually include the property of all riparian owners and can include off-lake property that benefits from the lake or affects the lake's watershed. The district may include all or part of a lake or more than one lake. A city or village must give its approval to be included in a district.

HOW IS IT RUN?

Within a lake district, all property owners share in the cost of management activities undertaken by the district. A lake district is a true example of participatory democracy. Residents who live in the district and are eligible voters and all property owners have a vote in the affairs of the district. This is accomplished at an annual meeting which must be held between May 22 and September 8 each year (unless changed at a previous annual meeting).

Major decisions of annual meetings can include:

- election of commissioners;
- approval of budgets; and
- approval of contracts or projects costing over \$10,000.

HOW IS A LAKE DISTRICT FINANCED?

Property owners living within the boundaries of a lake district are required by law to pay the fees. The amount of those fees is voted on by the members at the annual meeting. This fee is part of your property tax bill and may come in the form of a mill levy (it can be no more than 2.5 mill and is often much less—some districts have no fees of any sort), a special assessment, or user charge. Borrowing or grant programs can also be used to raise money if approved at the annual meeting.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please email your address to dupermd1@aol.com, NLA secretary, if you would like to receive information via email about NLA issues and events.

WHAT CAN A DISTRICT DO?

- Make contracts, purchase or sell land, disburse money, take out loans, accept grants, sue and be sued.
- Develop and carry out surveys or studies, manage aquatic plants, aeration, control erosion, dredge, control dams, and monitor water quality.
- A town, village or city may delegate to the district the authority to adopt lake use regulations. These may include regulations of boating equipment, use or operation; aircraft; and travel on ice-bound lakes.



Permits are needed from the DNR for some of these operations. The district has no authority to control land use.

WHO RUNS IT?

Normally, a lake district's day-to-day activities are carried out by a board of from 5 to 7 commissioners. One is appointed by the county and one by the town. The remaining commissioners are elected by the membership. One elected commissioner must be a resident unless no resident is willing to serve, and the others must be either residents or property owners in the district. An exception to this convention could be if the district was formed by the resolution village board or city council or a town receiving a petition from landowners. Then the governing body itself serves as the board of commissioners unless a petition is submitted to convert to the above form of governance. At all times, the powers of the commissioners are subject to the decisions of the membership at the annual meeting. The commissioners must meet quarterly, and open meeting laws apply.

Commissioners can:

- manage fiscal matters;
- maintain working relations and cooperation with government and agency officials;
- develop plans, goals, research and surveys for the protection and rehabilitation of the lake.

CAN THE DISTRICT BE DISSOLVED?

An existing district may be dissolved by a 2/3 vote of the members at an annual meeting.

For more information, contact the UWEX-Lakes Partnership, College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point, WI 54481 [715-346-2116], your county Cooperative Extension Office or DNR District Lake Coordinator

FUTURE MEETINGS

All meetings begin at 9 AM and will be held at the Namakagon Town Hall with the exception of April 17th, which will tentatively be held at the Grandview Town Hall.

- February 6, 2010
- April 17, 2010
- May 8, 2010
- June 5, 2010
- July 10, 2010
- August 21, 2010 - Annual Meeting

WISCONSIN LAKE FAMILY DECLARES VICTORY OVER SWIMMER'S ITCH

By Bud Mixon

Our story begins in the summer of 1973 when our contractor completed construction of our cabin on Webb Lake in northwestern Wisconsin. It was that summer when our family of Bud, Karen, Tucker 9, Tim 4, Katie 4 months, and Pepper our black lab, began to enjoy and appreciate cabin and lake life every weekend from June to September. Karen and I loved it and our kids and their friends loved it. And so, they grew up going to the cabin most every weekend – at least during the summer. Today, 37 summers later, we are still going to the cabin on Webb Lake. Our family has changed from 5 and 1 lab to 16 and 2 labs! Now the 8 grandchildren love it too. We have always been an active family, enjoying water sports such as swimming, tubing, water skiing etc. and so we spend a lot of time in the lake and at our sandy beach. Several years ago, we began to notice more ducks and geese on the lake. Next, we began to notice more snails in the lake. And finally, we began to see red bumps appearing on our skin and especially on the younger grandkids. Those red bumps are itchy! What was going on? We had never experienced this in all the years. Well, you probably know the answer. Those itchy red bumps are called Swimmer's Itch. Overnight, our water fun was threatened. What could we do to prevent Swimmer's Itch? We read and studied most of the information available, talked with DNR officials, and tried many things but nothing really prevented it. Our grandkids were scratching and itching to the point of not sleeping well and neither were their parents or grandparents! Then, this summer, we decided to mix our own "swimmer's itch block" with a 30SPF sunscreen. It worked! No swimmer's itch! Well, let me qualify that. It worked as long as mom or dad applied the lotion to the child. Yes, we had a few red bumps but that was a result of the little ones getting into the water before they had their "lotion" on. Yes, it did work and we gave it a good test. We had a total of approximately 240 grandkid days at the cabin this summer (same as 8 grandkids for 30 days) and they were in the water at least 90% of the days. When applied and applied properly, there was no swimmer's itch! It worked on children from 4 to 12 and on adults from 18 to 66. We were thrilled with our success. It was another great summer at the cabin. One last word, during the summer, my grandson, TC, after spending 10 days with us at the cabin, said to me, "Ba, since the 'lotion' works, why don't you sell it?" I said "TC, I think that is a good idea. I'll think about it." Well, I am still thinking about it and if you are interested in a 'lotion' that prevents swimmer's itch, please go to noswimmersitch.com.

(The NLA Board does not endorse this product, but provides the article for interested members)

NLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| President: | Phil Rasmussen | (715) 794-2561 |
| 1st Vice President: | Lisa Holt | (715) 794-2384 |
| Secretary: | Denise Dupras | (715) 798-5087 |
| Treasurer: | Tim Browne | (715) 794-2405 |
| Director: | Tom Nelson | (715) 794-2405 |
| Director: | Linda Fischer | (715) 794-2166 |
| Director: | Julia Campbell | (715) 798-2446 |

Email board members: board@nlaonline.org

Visit our website: www.nlaonline.org

PROTECTING OUR LAKE

Those of you who launch your watercraft at Funny Bay or the Garden Lake Landing have probably noticed the cameras and wondered what they are all about. These are ILIDs installed by Environmental Sentry Protection which take short videos of launching and taking watercraft out of the water. The videos are reviewed to determine if weeds are on the trailers or watercraft entering or exiting our lake. They also serve as important reminder to boaters to clean off their boats and trailers to prevent the spread of AIS. To date, a review of the videos has NOT identified any introduction of weeds into the lake and our lake remains free of AIS based on the last survey. Due to the efforts of the Board and in particular member Steve Riley, we successfully competed for a Grant and will install 2 more ILIDs in 2010.

2010 DUES

A reminder to the membership: Dues for 2010 need to be paid by June 1, 2010 in order for a member to be eligible to vote in the August election. We greatly appreciate dues paid prior to this date.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

STOP Help Stop...
the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

- Non-native, exotic species, such as Eurasian Water Milfoil, Purple Loosestrife, and Zebra Mussels threaten to harm the quality of our Wisconsin lakes.
- Before you launch your boat, please inspect and clean it, including the motor and trailer, to prevent the spread of exotic species into our Wisconsin lakes.
- Never Empty Your Bait Bucket or Release Live Bait into the Lake
- Please *immediately* report any exotic species to your local lake association, The Wisconsin Wetlands Association, or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- Visit the Wisconsin DNR website, www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives or contact the DNR at 608.266.9270 for more information or to answer questions about aquatic exotic species.

BE AWARE of your ACTIONS and HELP PRESERVE the ENVIRONMENT!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Namakagon Lake Association, Inc. was formed in 1995 for the purpose of preserving and protecting Lake Namakagon and its environs. The Namakagon Lake Association, Inc. (NLA) is a not for profit organization that relies on the contributions and membership fees of land owners and other concerned citizens for its funding. It is our goal to preserve and protect Lake Namakagon as an environmentally healthy watershed, by sponsoring educational programs, adopting a proactive role in the formulation of water and shore land regulations, and responsible use of this unique and irreplaceable resource for all citizens.

The Namakagon Lake Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 536 Cable, WI 54821



ALERT: IT IS TIME TO PAY OUR ANNUAL DUES!!!

YOUR DUES ARE PAID THROUGH THE YEAR PRINTED NEXT TO YOUR NAME ON THE ADDRESS LABEL

To be eligible to vote, all members must be 18 years of age and a paid member 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBER REQUEST FORM

MEMBERSHIP DUE ANNUALLY ON CALENDAR YEAR BASIS

- Check here if NEW address or e-mail
Individual Membership Per Person... # X \$20.00 =
Wildlife Watcher # X \$25.00 =
Loon Lover # X \$50.00 =
Lake Steward # X \$100.00 =
Keeper of the Lake # X \$200.00 =
Other: # X =

NAME OF EACH VOTING MEMBER

Four horizontal lines for entering member names, each preceded by a checkbox.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Namakagon Lake Association, Inc. PO Box 536 • Cable, WI 54821

TOTAL ENCLOSED.....

Indicate preferred contact method: US Mail - Home US Mail - Lake E-mail

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail address: _____