

The Namakagon Lake  
Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 536  
Cable, WI 54821



# NAMAKAGON

NOVEMBER 2006

## Breeze

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### Message from the President...

I had always heard how nice fall is up here, but being a "weekend warrior" for 27 years I never had a chance to experience the beautiful peacefulness that occurs during the week. When you can only be here on the weekend, it is usually rush to do this and take out that, which never leaves time to sit down and enjoy the north. Now, I have had a chance to be a part of this time of the year and gives me all the more incentive to protect the great thing we have here.

I grew up on lakes in central Wisconsin and have seen these lakes deteriorate over the years, I have gone back to these lakes on weekends and you just about have to take a number to get on the lake, let alone feel safe once you are on the water. Yes we have a couple days each summer when this lake gets busy, but overall for the popularity of this area, we are pretty lucky to have plenty of room to fish, ski, or just boat and enjoy the beauty. I have seen changes over the years but the reason we moved up here hasn't changed in all these years. This is a fantastic 4 seasons recreational area that can be enjoyed yet still kept in its natural environment.

Now as we move from fall to winter, I look forward to the

holidays when my kids come back to the "cottage" to enjoy some cross country skiing, snow shoeing, snowmobiling, downhill skiing and just being back together as a family. There are not too many places where you can do as many year around activities as you can here.

What I am trying to say is that we have a special thing here in the Namakagon area and we need to protect it as best as we can. We are making progress with boat landing supervision, water quality, monitoring of the weeds, and protection of our shoreline. We cannot do it alone, we need volunteers to help do the jobs that must be done to keep the "jewel" as great as it is. Even if you can only spare a few hours, if every person on the lake did that think of the number of jobs we could cover.

Here is wishing you and all of your families a happy and safe holiday season. Hope to see you on the ski and snowmobile trails, or just out for a nice walk in the woods.

Best Wishes,  
Jim Krueger, President

### 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

NAME OF EACH VOTING MEMBER

- Individual Membership Per Person... # \_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Wildlife Watcher ..... # \_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Loon Lover ..... # \_\_\_\_ X \$50.00 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Lake Steward ..... # \_\_\_\_ X \$100.00 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Keeper of the Lake. .... # \_\_\_\_ X \$200.00 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: ..... # \_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
Namakagon Lake Association, Inc.  
PO Box 536 • Cable, WI 54821

TOTAL ENCLOSED.....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### FROM YOUR NLA SECRETARY:

My name is Bill Porter and I am your NLA Secretary for the upcoming year. My responsibilities include putting together, with input from membership and Board members, "The Namakagon Breeze" newsletter.

This November newsletter is the last of 2006. Our membership is set up on a calendar year basis: January 1 through December 31st. Please note the "New Member" / "Renewal Membership" form attached to this newsletter.

Also note the attached "Annual Meeting" minutes that describe some of the accomplishments during 2006 by the NLA. We are an active organization and hope to make a difference on our lake.

If you have agenda ideas, please e-mail or call one of the board members or e-mail board@nlaonline.org Your input is very important.

I will send the minutes of the NLA meetings that occur during the year if I have your current e-mail address. (I am getting mail delivery rejections on occasion because of an outdated address). I will also send quarterly newsletters to paid members if I have your mailing address. Send e-mail addresses and mail addresses if there is a change, to board@nlaonline.org.

We would like this newsletter to be a more "sharing" experience for our members. We all believe "human interest" certainly is more interesting to read than "reproduced" articles from other sources. Please consider "sharing" some of your experiences, hobbies, passions and dreams from living in the North Woods. Let's get to know our neighbors better.

We are going to start a new column in our newsletter entitled

"AROUND THE LAKE". This column will give us an opportunity to share with our neighbors.

Submit your article to: Bill Porter wpjp@cheqnet.net or board@nlaonline.org

Bill Porter, Secretary

#### NLA MEETINGS:

**ALL MEETINGS AT NAMAKAGON TOWN HALL AT 9 A.M.**

November 4 (Work Meeting)	February 3
April 7	June 2
August 18 (Annual Meeting)	September 15

#### NEWSLETTER PUBLICATIONS:

April, June, July & November

#### ACTIVITIES DATES:

Lake Shore Clean-Up.....	Month of May
NLA Fun On The Water Youth Event .....	TBA
Wisconsin Lakes Convention @ Green Bay.....	April 26-28
NW Lake Conference .....	TBA

# Around The Lake



It was near midnight when I heard the unmistakable call of the loon. My fate was sealed listening to the loons and I soon found myself the owner of a lakeside cabin. This year I explored Lake Namakagon by kayak and discovered a world of wonderful photographic opportunities. Waking before the sun comes up in the middle of June, is a challenge, but well worth the effort. Before the dawn, the oranges and pink foretell of the sunrise, the water is calm, and the only sounds are those of wildness. The loons return when the ice moves out and by mid June, the eggs are ready to hatch. The herons look their best in their breeding plumage. The ducklings fall in line behind the mother duck hiding in the grasses to avoid the soaring eagles overhead. Nature photography is my passion, though not my day job. As a photographer, I make my "luck" by being prepared when opportunity knocks.

Reading about loons and herons, observing them from far or near, learning to anticipate behaviors, getting up early, and making sure my batteries are charged combined with my kayak equal great nature photography opportunities. The west end of the lake, near the waterway to Jackson Lake is generally quiet. Here I have photographed the Great Blue Herons, otters, ducks and common loons. Through the summer I observed and photographed a family of loons, who were very trusting and often swam close by my kayak. Now that winter approaches, the kayak will be stored and I'll dust off the cross country skis to continue my adventures on Lake Namakagon

Submitted by Denise M. Dupras  
Namakagon Lake Association Member



## NLA FUN ON THE WATER YOUTH SAFETY AND SKILLS DAY OVERVIEW

Al Stawicki

Our lake association's third annual "Youth Safety and Skills Day" was the most successful by far, as 34 families (125 people) attended despite threatening morning showers. The event was held on Sunday afternoon at our lake's National Forest Campground. Area youth and their families were invited through school notices, newspaper ads, and flyers at all area businesses. Lake association members and their families set up a variety of water skill activities that involved educational teaching techniques as well opportunities for our youth to win prizes. Some of these activities were spin casting, kayak racing, and diving for treasure.

Along with the excellent water sports were soccer, balloon toss, sand sculptures, Frisbee golf, and fishing with magnets. A wonderful lunch was provided as well as a raffle drawing for all youth and their families. All participants received a free "loon" t-shirt and everyone won a prize. The highlight of the afternoon was a lake safety and rules presentation by DNR



game warden Mark DiSalvo. All in attendance really enjoyed this educational presentation and many were very thankful for the updates and rules clarifications that Mark provided. This was truly an excellent and educational afternoon allowing our community to get together informally and share ideas on how to safely involve our youth as we all work together to preserve and protect our lake!

This was truly an excellent event and the lake association hopes more members and their youth would participate. Once you attend "Fun on the Water" you will certainly be back each year to enjoy the games, food, and hospitality of our wonderful association. See you next year! Thanks to all helped make this a very special, safe, and fun day!



## BUOY REMOVAL

Mid October was the day pre-decided to remove the No-Wake and Rock Buoys from our lake. Five brave souls volunteered to do this "cool" water job. Rick Yerhot, Clyde Wishart, Mike Cibulka, Jim McMillan and Jon Hoffert did a great job.



Pictured are "Barefoot Mike", Jim & Rick

## NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Jim Krueger	(715) 798-2365
1st Vice President:	Steve Riley	(715) 794-2069
2nd Vice President:	Jim Fogarty	
Secretary:	Bill Porter	(715) 794-2601
Treasurer:	Rick Yerhot	(507) 287-6900
Director:	Jared Jackman	(715) 794-2434
Director:	Phil Rasmussen	(715) 794-2561

Email board members:  
board@nlaonline.org

Visit our website:  
www.nlaonline.org

## 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.

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES: DISRUPTOR OF STABLE HABITATS

By: Stefania Strzalkowska, AIS Project Coordinator

After learning about the impacts of Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) and witnessing infestations on a few Bayfield County lakes, I see we have our work cut out for us! EWM is the aquatic invasive species (AIS) of highest concern in many local lakes, but all aquatic invasives can wreck havoc in our water bodies.

An invasive species, whether aquatic or terrestrial, is a species that has moved outside of its native range and is out-competing the native species for the available resources. Non-natives have natural controls –but in their own native habitat. In a new land, they are home free to set up shop and take over. Over 85% of them are NOT a problem, but those that are invasive can spread out of control with a ferocity that can change a habitat in a few years.

The history behind the introduction of EWM varies. One account claims it arrived in the early 1900's with the aquarium trade, and another documented in 1942 it was intentionally put into ponds around the Washington D.C. area. Aside from its history, it is here to stay. Professionals have realized that once this plant is firmly established in a lake, it can only be controlled, never eradicated. EWM has been recorded in water bodies in all of the lower 48 states except Montana and Wyoming, and is present in more than 50 of Wisconsin's 72 counties.

How did it get so widely distributed? Small fragments of this feathery-leaved plant move to new lakes by hitching a ride on boat propellers, trailers, and the legs of water birds. A fragment can live up to five days out of water or longer. A fragment as small as two-inches can root, grow, establish a new colony, and eventually take over a water body.

The plant is a submersed (under the water surface) perennial that stores carbohydrates in its root structure, over-winters just fine, and then gets a jump start on the natives in the spring. It aggressively exploits the sunlight and forms dense canopies under the surface of the water. If conditions are optimal, it can grow up to two inches a day. In a relatively short time, these vast canopy mats can block sunlight and "starve" out native plants, create an impenetrable habitat for large fish, and make recreational swimming and boating nearly impossible.

Other AIS also hitched rides to get where they are today or were discarded from bait buckets, live wells, ballast water, bilges, and gardening and aquarium retailers. AIS recorded in the four-county region (as of June 2006) are the rusty crayfish, which can sterilize a lake habitat; purple loosestrife, an "escaped" ornamental plant that can take over a wetland and leave little to no native habitat to sustain local wildlife; spiny water flea, a voracious predator of zooplankton leaving little for small fish and cannot easily be eaten themselves; and zebra mussels (see below) which out-compete the native clams and encrust water intake pipes or any other hard surface in the water. Neighboring counties also have curly-leaf pondweed, which like EWM, creates much biomass and when it typically dies back in mid summer, releases huge nutrient loads that can cause significant and long-lasting algae blooms.

Is it hopeless? Definitely not! As you noted above, the common denominator behind all the species dispersal methods is human activity. It is there where aquatic invasive species prevention and control needs to go. There are numerous federal and state laws,

statutes, and administrative codes. In Wisconsin it is actually illegal to launch any watercraft or trailer with plants attached to it. The WI Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has many programs and grants available to educate, train and encourage local lake users to be proactive, or reactive if an AIS is already established. Some of these include Clean Boats Clean Waters, AIS Citizen Lake Monitoring, Adopt-a-Landing, and Shoreline Watch Aquatic Team.

In the sites I have visited in Bayfield County, what most impressed me were the dedicated and hard-working lake members. Their passion, concern and love for the lakes are evident in all that they say, and all that they do.

It would be an unfathomable loss for us to lose our waters to invasives. Being vigilant and proactive are the keys to abating AIS. A factor to success is to educate every group– from the county/town government, lake shore property owners, and the lake users about AIS and the magnitude of devastation that can occur if we do not make AIS control a regular habit like the simple baiting of a hook for fishing.

Resources: "Aquatic Invasive Species, A handbook for education efforts," by Mandy Beall, DNR/UWEX, "Aquatic Invasive Species, A Guide for Proactive and Reactive Management," by Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County LCD, and "What are the Chances," Lake Tides Vol.31, No. 2, Spring 2006. Many websites were also reviewed.

**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](http://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!**  
brought to you by:

**Namakagon Lake Association**  
P.O. Box 536, Cable, WI 54821

## WINTER FIRE PREVENTION

Henry Rieckhoff, Chief  
Town Of Namakagon Fire Department

With the winter season fast approaching, now is the time to get your home ready for the winter heating season. If you heat with wood your chimney should be inspected and cleaned. Creosote builds up on the walls of the chimney over time and with a hot fire can cause that build up to burn causing a chimney fire. The fire can burn so hot that it can damage the lining of the chimney. Once the chimney has been cracked the fire inside the chimney can get to the wood structures of the house and start the house on fire. That is why a good cleaning and inspection before you start heating for the season is important.

Use only seasoned wood (wood that has had time to dry) in your fireplace or wood burner. Using green wood has more moisture in it, which can lead to more creosote build up inside your chimney. Use only hardwood, not pine, for burning because pine has pitch in it, which can build excessive creosote also.

If you do have a chimney fire, the first thing that you should do is to call 911 for the fire department. Then try to shut down the air supplies to the stove or fireplace by closing the damper or shutting fireplace doors.

You can purchase chimney fire extinguisher which look like a road flair and lights the same way. This would be a good item to have on hand at your home. You would light it and put it into the firebox. The chemicals from the smoke of the flare choke off the oxygen to the fire in the chimney and slow the fire down. Your local fire department probably has these for sale. They cost around \$12 each.

After a chimney fire, it is very important to have your chimney inspected by a professional to make sure there is no damage to the flue before you start another fire to avoid a possible house fire from a damaged chimney. If you look in the yellow pages of the phone book you will find numbers of people that inspect, clean and repair chimneys. Give them a call; they are trained and have the right equipment to do the job properly.

Smoke detectors are your family's first line of defense. There should be a working smoke detector on every level of your home and by your bedrooms. Batteries must be changed once a year. The smoke detector should be vacuumed twice a year and if your detector is over five years old should be replaced. Check your smoke detector once a month. If it doesn't work, check the battery; if it still doesn't work, replace it. Smoke detectors are not expensive; you can replace your detector but you cannot replace a life. There should be an escape plan to evacuate your house in case of a fire that everyone knows about and should be practiced so that you know that everyone gets out of the house at the same time. Have a designated meeting spot outside of the home.

Just a reminder about the 911 service, when 911 is dialed you will hear nothing on the line for maybe up to 12 seconds, sometimes it is

less some times it could be up to 15 seconds. That is because the call has to be routed through the phone lines to a central station that is miles away, it takes that amount of time for the signal to travel that distance to get to the 911 operator. So don't hang up and dial again, if you do that it will tie up another line going to the 911 center, a line that someone else might need. Just stay on the line till the dispatcher answers the call and give them all the information that they ask for before you hang up.

I hope these tips help you have a safe and warm winter. Happy holidays!!!

## OUR LAKE ASSOCIATIONS ONGOING VIGILANCE AGAINST AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Jon Hoffert

This year the Namakagon Lake Association, in cooperation with the Town of Namakagon, received a grant from the DNR to conduct an aquatic vegetation survey on Lake Namakagon. Liesch Environmental Services was hired to sample and document weed growth in areas near the nine boat launch ramps and in nine northern bays. Locations of the individual samples were recorded through GPS coordinates so the sampling can be duplicated in future years to determine if any changes are taking place in Namakagon's aquatic vegetation. The good news is that no aquatic invasive species (like Eurasian Water Milfoil) were discovered. But, not to become complacent! Another facet of the grant was support for a Clean Boats, Clean Water boat launch inspection and education effort. After a good start in the CBCW program on Namakagon in 2005, the volunteering encountered a "second year slump" and we struggled to get the program going this past summer. We experimented by hiring two monitors to conduct CBCW inspections and interactions at one of the nine ramps during high traffic times. Even though the time spent was minimal during the month of July, we did gain some good information. Our monitors found that at this launch ramp during these times, over half of the boats launched were from out of state. Our monitors also reported that about one third of all boats they observed being introduced into Namakagon were last used in a lake infested with Eurasian Water Milfoil. The way this destructive weed typically passed from lake to lake is via the boat launching process.

The Namakagon Lake Association is planning to apply for a similar grant next year. The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is a great tool for the prevention of the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil, but it is most effective with a volunteer force. When the call comes next spring for CBCW volunteers, please step forward to help. We all have a stake in keeping this weed out of Lake Namakagon.

## CHECK YOUR ENVELOPE ADDRESS LABEL

If the number following your name (in parentheses) is (2006) or a lower number, for example (2004), your Annual Membership Fee/Newsletter Renewal is due now. If the number following your name is (2007) or higher, you are paid up. Keep in touch and keep the Newsletters coming for the next calendar year. If you have not been getting the Newsletter four times a year, you can start right now by sending in your membership dues. (It is not necessary to pay for unpaid years to reinstate the Newsletter.)

**PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW NOW!!!!!!**

## SUMMARY OF 8-26-06 NLA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

(To be presented for approval at 2007 Annual Meeting)

- Remembrance of Ruth Sykes
- Minutes of 2005 approved
- Treasurers Report: \$21,510.36 as of July 31, 2006

### 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Lake Shore Clean up (18 volunteers)
- Clean Boats Clean Waters inspections (limited to Lakewood's)
- Board & member attendance at Telemark (9 members)
- "Fun on the Water-Youth Safety & Skills Day" attendance: 137 up from 85 last year
- Four Newsletters to members
- E-mail communications with membership
- Water testing: Glen Grage, Clyde Wishart and Ralph Nystrom
- Aquatic Invasive Species monitoring grant WDNR funded
- Eurasian Water-Milfoil inspection of 9 boat ramps & 9 specific bays
- Ads to Visitor Magazines
- Trapping of Beaver in Castle Creek (Dept of Agriculture)
- Septic Tank Issues Committee
- Marketing Committee
- Membership of 385 up from 302 last year

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- Brief bio given by nominees

### SUBSEQUENT ELECTION:

- Jim Fogarty, Jim Krueger, Steve Riley.

### PROGRAM:

- Jane Swenson (Devastation of Aquatic Invasive Species to our lakes) Slide presentation.
- Steve Riley introduced the "Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor" a monitoring device to control boat launch activity.

### DISCUSSION OR OLD AND NEW BUSINESS:

- Fun on the Water Youth Safety Skills Day
- Aquatic Invasion Species Monitoring
- Cable Days
- Fireworks on Lake Namakagon
- Fish habitat on our lake
- Fostering Fish populations through co-op with tribes

Adjourn

## SUMMARY OF 9-30-06 NLA MEETING MINUTES

(To be presented for approval at 11-04-06 Annual Meeting)

### TREASURERS REPORT:

\$20,365.94 as of August 31, 2006

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Jon Hoffert spoke of Liesch Engineering under contract with NLA sampling 9 boat ramps & 9 strategic bays for invasive species.
- Jon Hoffert reported that Lakewood's was the only ramp inspected under CBCW program this season.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Bill Porter made motion to restructure NLA Board as follows:

- President: Preside at meetings
- 1st Vice President: Plant/Lake Management Coordinator
- 2nd Vice President: Grant Writing
- Secretary: Minutes, Membership, Newsletter coordinator
- Treasurer: Finances

### THE FOLLOWING ASSIGNMENTS APPROVED BY MOTION:

- Jim Krueger – President
- Steve Riley – 1st Vice President
- Jim Fogarty – 2nd Vice President
- Bill Porter – Secretary
- Rick Yerhot – Treasurer
- Phil Rasmussen – Lake & Habitat Improvement Project Coordinator

Discussion of need for budget. – No action taken  
Update on "Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor"  
Meeting dates set

Adjourn



## ABOUT LAKE NAMAKAGON

Lake Namakagon is a large drainage lake with both inlet and outlet stream flows. The lake features 3,227 surface acres of open water (including Jackson, Cranberry and Garden Lakes – basins with natural surface waters). It has a maximum depth of 50 feet and a mean depth of 16 feet. Its habitats are very diverse supporting abundant walleyes, northern pike, small mouth bass, blue gill and crappie populations as well as largemouth bass, musky, yellow perch, rock bass and other pinfish. Its shore land areas provide optimum habitat for many species of wildlife. The aquatic plant diversity is both well balanced and above average for Northern Wisconsin.

## CONDENSED SUMMARY OF 11-4-06 NLA MEETING MINUTES

(Minutes of September 30, 2006 read and approved)

### TREASURERS REPORT:

Read and approved. \$20,505.94 balance as of Sept 30, 2006

### INVASIVE PLANT SURVEY:

Liesch Environmental Svc has completed the 2006 survey. Lake Namakagon has been found by the Svc to be free of invasives. A detailed report is forthcoming.

### INTERNET LANDING INSTALLED DEVICE SENSOR UPDATE:

Steve Riley is contacting Law Enforcement and prosecutors as to their stand on enforcement by monitoring. Steve Riley and Bill Porter met with the District Ranger and line officer for Great Lakes Divide District on October 16th to explain the workings of the Sensor system. The Board is meeting with agencies responsible for launch locations: DNR, Townships, Private owners, etc. for their input on use of Sensors at their locations.

### ELECTION RESULTS:

A motion was made & approved to henceforth announce NLA election count results and report in minutes of meeting.

### BUFFER ZONE COMMITTEE FORMATION:

A request through Steve Riley was made to formalize a committee to talk with members about lake buffer zones. Request tabled. Bob Parsonage will be invited to come to the next meeting to further explain the purpose of the committee.

### NORTHWOOD'S COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:

October 30th meeting was attended by Steve Riley and Bill Porter.

### NLA PROJECTS:

The following NLA activities will be undertaken during 2006-2007.

- Fun on the Water
- Lake Clean Up
- Newsletters
- Water Testing
- AIS Monitoring
- Trapping of Beaver in Castle Creek
- Literature and Flyers to new persons to our lake explaining our association
- Fishery Improvement

Motion to Adjourn

## INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT

Steve Riley

Your NLA Board of Directors is dedicated to doing everything we possibly can to keep invasive species out of Lake Namakagon. To this end, we are working with DNR, USDA, the Bayfield County Attorney, State Senator Robert Jauch and Environmental Sentry Protection, LLC. to reduce this threat to our lake. Specifically, in addition to our ongoing public education efforts in this area, we are exploring the possibility of installing several of Environmental Sentry Protection's sensor devices at key boat launching ramps. The sensor's are solar powered and require no human intervention to capture, transmit, process and alert authorities when boats are launched with aquatic vegetation on them. A geographic information system browser interface enables any authorized internet user to access historical or active information on landing activities as well as respond to alerts requiring prompt action. The data base archiving of video images allows authorities to issue citations containing date, time, location, vehicle & boat identification and infracting conduct.

Among the challenges that must be dealt with are obtaining permission of land owners to place the devices and secure the cooperation of local authorities to issue citations when necessary. The Bayfield County Attorney has agreed to prosecute violators of Wisconsin State statutes provided citations are issued by DNR or local law enforcement authorities. The DNR has pointedly advised us that in addition to their local wardens, sheriff's deputies are also empowered to issue citations.

It is our hope that citations will prove to be unnecessary given ongoing educational efforts, the obvious presence of the sensors and highly visible signs at the landing that clearly and concisely advise boaters of their obligations prior to launching watercraft on our lake. There is an expressed concern on the part of the USDA officials who control the campground landing that the general boating public will see this as an intrusion on their activities. Consequently several of your Board members will meet with these officials on October 16th to determine what course of action would be acceptable to all parties. We also need to address the same concern on the part of the resort owners who may be reluctant to impede their customer's activities.

The bottom line is that there are obstacles to be overcome. Funding is an issue. At present, we have funding to install two of the sensor systems, thanks to Mike Cibulka & Larry Stroup among others. Then there is shore land owner apathy. If you don't think the threat is real, be advised that in Bayfield County Eagle Lake, Hart Lake, Sand Bar Lake, Tomahawk Lake, Twin Bear Lake & Washburn Harbor all are infested; in Sawyer County Round Lake (Big Round), Little Round Lake, Chippewa Flowage, Clear Lake, Callahan Lake, Connors Lake, Mud Lake, Osprey Lake & Radisson Lake are likewise infested. The threat is real. We need your support!