

NAMAKAGON

NOVEMBER 2008



Breeze

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Message from the President...

Hope you had as great a summer as our family did. Fall is upon us and the colors are beautiful this year. I want to start by welcoming our 2 new board members, Tim Browne and Lisa Holt. I also want to welcome back Phil Rasmussen for another term. We have a lot of work ahead of us over the next year and I know they are going to be a great asset to the Lake Association. With new board members coming in I reluctantly say goodbye to a couple of board members that will be hard to replace. Rick Yerhot our treasurer and Bill Porter our secretary worked very hard for the board over the last three years and their efforts had a big impact on the Lake Association. A big thank you to both of them for all of their hard work. The board positions for this year will be myself staying as President; Steve Riley, Vice President; Denise Dupras, Secretary; Tim Browne, Treasurer; and Tom Nelson, Phil Rasmussen and Lisa Holt, Directors. The highlight of the summers activities is always the Fun on the Water day at the National Forest Campground and this summer was not an exception. We had the best attendance ever and with a beautiful day it was a great success. A special thanks to Al Stawicki for all of his hard work in organizing this event and obtaining all the prizes. Also want to thank all of the members that volunteered their time to help out at this event. An event this big cannot happen without Al's leadership and our members help. Thanks again! The Annual Meeting in August was well attended. Many topics were covered and discussed. After much discussion the membership voted to raise the dues to \$20 per person per year. Due to rising expenses from our landing cameras that can not be funded by state grants our reserves were dwindling and we had to turn to the dues. \$20 is a big expense for some of our members but the cost is cheap compared to the cost of trying to clean up a lake infested with unwanted species. It is the first time we have had to raise dues since the association's inception I hope all of you can understand our reasoning and if you

ever have questions or concerns please feel free to call me. As the infestation of unwanted species continues to spread in lakes around us, Lake Namakagon was again given a clean bill of health. That does not mean we can sit back and relax, this fight is continuous and again I call out for all of our members to get involved and help. Our volunteer landing monitors were less in number again this year and there was way to much time this summer when the landings went unsupervised. We cannot expect 6 or 7 monitors to continually give up half days every weekend all summer. We need a group of 30 to 40 people to be doing this job. Please think about this during the winter months and try to volunteer some time next summer. Four hours volunteered now is better spent that the 100's of hours we would be spending to try cleaning up the lake should it become infested in the future. I know you have heard these words from me before but I cannot stress how important and cost efficient it is to be proactive on this subject.

Well by the time you read this we will have the holidays coming up and the winter activities will be starting. Have a great holiday season and hope to see you out on the ice, on the ski trails or on the snowmobile trails.

*Best Wishes,
Jim Krueger, President*



WDNR GRANT UPDATE

NLA's new environmental consultant is Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Our WDNR grants have been extended through next year as they are extensive in scope and will require another year to complete. The grants involved are: the Lake Namakagon Aquatic Plant Management Plan and Sanitary Survey, the Lake Namakagon Baseline Aquatic Plant Survey and Boat Landing Survey and the Lake Namakagon Aquatic Invasive Species Education, Prevention and Investigation grant.

Phase one of the Boat Landing Survey was completed in late September with no invasive aquatic vegetation or species found in our lake. That survey only covers the areas adjacent to our nine boat landing but next year's Baseline Aquatic Plant Survey will involve a comprehensive inspection of Lake Namakagon, Garden Lake and Jackson Lake at 1,400 GPS locations as determined by WDNR. This will take three weeks to accomplish. If anyone is available to assist our engineers as boat operators during this survey or provide lodging for the survey team, NLA will receive in kind credit from WDNR. I will be providing the boat for the survey team as I did in September which earned a \$150/day credit from WDNR for NLA.

The Sanitary Survey will be accomplished using a water sampling device in suspect areas and involve interfacing with Bayfield County personnel utilizing the County's and Foth's data bases. Fortunately for us, Foth is very familiar with septic issues and waste water treatment in our area since they have consulted with several of our local resorts and townships.

Finally, NLA will be conducting at least one more public hearing at a time and place to be determined by our President, Jim Krueger. This is a WDNR requirement in developing our Management Plan without which the WDNR will not approve our plan. The first public hearing was held last summer at the Namakagon Town Hall with comments recorded by NLA's Secretary Bill Porter. Those comments along with any comments received in the future will be submitted to WDNR at the conclusion of our public hearings. The NLA Board does not have a pre-determined agenda on this; we are simply going to solicit comments from our members and local residents and report same to WDNR in support of whatever management plan our consultants and the Board approves.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact any Board member of your choosing. We are here to listen.

*Respectfully submitted,
Steve Riley, VP*

CRITTER COLUMN

So where did the loons go?

Each year when the ice goes out, the Namakagon Lake area is home to nesting common loons. We are treated to their eerie mournful wails and laughing tremolo calls as they fly overhead from May until early September. By August, the adult loons who did not successful mate begin to gather on the lakes. It was a great privilege for me to kayak with 10 loons this past summer. The summer season is short in our Northwoods and soon the loons begin to leave the summer nesting grounds. By September few loons remain on the lake. At this time the young have reached the size of the adults and the adults begin to lose their characteristic markings. If you look closely, by fall the black face of the loon begins to turn white-grey, first around the base of the bill. Soon other than the dark bill of the adult loon, it is difficult to distinguish between adults and the young loons. But where do they go? Most loons from the Midwest migrate to the south and east. They winter off the Carolina coasts or in the Gulf of Mexico. But did you know that while the loons are gone, their feathers are gray and they don't vocalize the characteristic calls we know from the Northwoods? The biggest change however, is their unique ability to go from a fresh water life on the lakes to living on the ocean in salt water.

More to come with future columns on loons and other critters of the north.



CHECK YOUR ENVELOPE ADDRESS LABEL

If the number following your name (in parentheses) is (2008) or a lower number, for example (2004), your Annual Membership Fee/Newsletter Renewal is due now. If the number following your name is (2009) 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 three 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!!!!!!

Membership in NLA is for the calendar year. Membership is down from 464 to 395. This will be the last newsletter for those not paid through 2008.

"FUN ON THE WATER"

YOUTH SAFETY AND SKILLS DAY OVERVIEW

Our lake association's fifth annual "Youth Safety and Skills Day" was the most successful by far as beautiful weather helped us break last year's record attendance. The event was held on Sunday afternoon at our lake's National Forest Campground. Area youth and their families were invited through school memos, NLA newsletter articles (thanks Bill Porter), and posters 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, putting for prizes and ladder golf. A wonderful lunch was provided thanks to Jerry Jurries (thank you Jerry for organizing, setting up, and cooking such a great lunch),

as well as a raffle drawing for all families who signed up early! All participants received a free "loon" t-shirt and every child won a prize. 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 would participate. All lake association members are encouraged to attend and please bring the kids and grand-kids. Take a chance you will have a great time! 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. Thanks to all helped make this a very special, safe, and fun day! (A very special thank you to Bethany, Ben, Brian, Denise, Rick, Jerry, Steve, Jon, Larry, Bill and Janet, Bunk, Jim, Mike, Tom, Tim, Paula, Darrell, Linda and Larry, for making my job easier and so wonderful! See you next year!

Al Stawicki



NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

(September 28, 2009)

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM by President Jim Krueger.

Board Members Present: Krueger, Riley, Dupras, Nelson, Browne, Holt

Board Member Absent: Rasmussen

NLA Member Attendees: 1

Minutes of July 12, 2008 read/approved & seconded by Riley & Dupras

Board Officer Nominations were opened and elections held. The following are the results and officers for 2009: President Jim Krueger, Vice-president Steve Riley, Secretary Denise Dupras, and Treasurer Tim Browne.

2008-2009 Meeting Dates: November 8, 2008, January 17, 2009, April 4 2009, May 9 2009, June 6, 2009*, July 11, 2009, & September 19, 2009.

The Annual Meeting will be held on August 15, 2009.

The June 6th meeting tentatively will be held at the Grandview Town Hall and include a public forum prior to the meeting.

Newsletter Articles: The upcoming newsletter will include a report from "Fun Days", list of new board members and contact information, Letter from the President, Updated dues information, and information on the surveys conducted and Grants. Members will be encouraged to submit materials as well. All information should be turned in by November 1, 2008 so that the mailing can go out by November 15th.

NLA Website: Denise Dupras has been trying to contact Larry Stroup who is the contact for our Web Master, Steve Schlitz. Denise indicated that one of the NLA members had expressed an interest in taking care of the web site. Steve offered the opportunity to contact the web master that he uses for his business as well. The website is in need of updating.

Cable Days/Fall Fest: There was little interest from NLA members in putting up a booth this year, so no booth was at Fall Fest. The timing of the meeting next Fall and a plan to have NLA participate in Fall Fest 2009 was discussed. Based on comments made at the Annual Meeting, we would plan to bring both information but also allow individuals to sign up for NLA at the tent.

Grant Updates: Steve Riley updated the status of the grants and surveys. The survey has begun and is about 50% completed. So far there have been no problems. The DNR has approved the roll over of the monies from this year to complete the work in 2009.

Brian of Foth Incorporated is now the contact for the lake project. There is an unplanned fee of \$3500, that is a grant application or implementation fee. Steve indicated that Brian would be happy to meet with the Board to discuss this fee at an upcoming meeting. The Board discussed having him come to the January meeting if there are questions.

Muskie Tournament: At the last meeting Steven Riley presented a proposal for an ordinance to limit access Lake Namakagon and use of a single monitored landing with tournament supplied monitors. Due to a number of factors, this ordinance was not adopted. The current plan is to ask fishermen to limit their launching to 3 landings (Lakewoods, National Forest Campground, and County D public ramp) that will be monitored. Phil Rasmussen will be contacted to determine if monitors are arranged for Lakewoods. The Board remains concerned not only about this tournament but the potential for other fishing tournaments to spread AIS or VHS to our lake. Steve indicated that there are current DNR regulations that will be helpful in the development of a plan during the winter to provide for better lake protection. A letter from Bill Porter was read at his request to the Board and meeting attendees.

Correspondence sent by NLA: Jim Krueger reminded Board members that any correspondence sent that may be interpreted as representing the opinion/policies of the Board should be reviewed by the Board prior to sending. This includes written, verbal -and e-mail communications. Denise indicated that she has been very cautious to not express opinions that may be contrary to the feelings of some NLA members, in case it may be interpreted as representing the opinion of the NLA Board.

Corporate/Business Sponsorship: Jim Krueger, Rick Yerhot and Phil Rasmussen had been working on this previously. There will be an effort to restart this initiative.

Buoy Removal: Jim Krueger indicated that the removal of buoys will be either October 25th or 26th. Lakewoods may be having a fishing tournament on the Saturday so the buoy would be removed the following day if it is held on the 25th. Volunteers for this activity are: Rick Yerhot, Steve Riley, Tim Browne, Tom Nelson, and Angelo Bollero.

NLA Projects for 2008-2009: Jim Krueger discussed the upcoming activities and individuals willing to take responsibility for each project were identified.

- Fun on the Water – Al Stawicki will be asked again, usually the 3rd Sunday in July; additional discussion surrounded cooking the meat to ensure safety.
- Cable Days/Fall Fest – Will begin to identify volunteers early and plan for 2009
- Lake Clean Up – spring activity, Tom Nelson will organize

- Newsletters – Denise Dupras
- AIS Monitoring – ILIDs, currently sound is NOT working on either, Denise will contact Eric and indicate this will need to be fixed over the winter
- Water Testing – Clyde Wishart and Glen Grage will be contacted regarding this
- Beaver control in Castle Creek – while beavers have been active in this area of Garden Lake, there is water flowing in the creek, nothing needs to be done

Membership & Dues: Jim Krueger indicated that the membership has not been notified of the increase in dues to \$20. In his letter from the President he will include the reasons behind the increase. The dues form will need to be updated. Dues are for the Jan to Dec year and the newsletter label shows the date paid through.

Correspondence: A letter from Bill Porter was read at the meeting. There was no other correspondence.

Other issues: A question arose regarding requirements to maintain non-profit status. Denise volunteered to contact Bill Porter and Rick Yerhot for further information about requirements.

Next Meeting will be held tentatively November 8, 2008.

*Respectfully,
Denise Dupras, Secretary*



REMINDER THAT WE DO HAVE A WEB SITE

Anyone wishing to see past NLA meeting minutes, meeting dates, newsletters, Board member contacts, interesting photographs of our lake or other neat information is encouraged to use our web site. Just visit our website at:

WWW.NLAONLINE.ORG

BUOY REMOVAL

A big thanks from the NLA to members Jim Krueger, Rick Yerhot, Tim Browne, Bill Porter and Tom Nelson for the removal of the buoys on October 19th. The weather was a bit windy and definitely cool in the 40's, but the ice hadn't formed... yet.

NLA PROJECT COORDINATORS

Fun on the Water – Al Stawicki

Newsletter – Denise Dupras

Grants – Steve Riley

Lake Clean-Up – Tom Nelson

ILIDS/AIS Cameras – Denise Dupras

Water Testing – Clyde Wishart & Glen Grage

Cable Days/Fall Fest – TBD



SHORELAND RESTORATION

WHY AND HOW TO RESTORE YOUR SHORELAND

*Excerpt from the Bayfield County Lake Forum with
Permission of Jim Brakken*

"Although we are approaching the winter, it is never too early to think about Shoreland Restoration."

WHAT IS SHORELAND RESTORATION?

Simply put, shoreland restoration means replacing a developed waterfront, such as a lawn, with native plants. Done correctly, this creates a buffer zone to protect the surface water from polluting runoff. It also beautifies the property as seen both from shore and from the lake. Shoreland restoration can be very low in cost yet have many benefits including the potential to greatly increase property values and your enjoyment of your waterfront.

RESTORE YOUR WATERFRONT? 6 REASONS WHY:

First and foremost, shoreland restoration protects our lakes and streams from nutrients carried in runoff. This reduces the chance of growth of aquatic plants such as Eurasian Water Milfoil and algae. It can also increase water clarity. Shoreland restoration is good for our surface waters. That's good for you and for the youngsters who may one day be the new caretakers of your property and the lake!

Second, shoreland restoration can increase property value as much as 7% per foot of increase in resulting water clarity.* That could be tens of thousands of dollars in value. This makes restoration projects very attractive from a financial standpoint. (*Based on studies done in New Hampshire, Minnesota and northern Wisconsin. See WisconsinLakes.org)

Third, it's easy. In fact, it is easier to maintain a natural appearing waterfront than the traditional lawn that has been 'manicured' right down to the lake. You will have more time to enjoy the beauty of your property as you spend less time with lawn chores.

Number four, you can earn 'mitigation points' for your restoration project. Some county zoning departments will often reward land owners who restore their waterfront by allowing near-shore building projects that would otherwise be illegal.

Five . . . up to 70% of the funding for your shoreland restoration project is now available. This is a great opportunity to improve your waterfront and protect your lake. There's no better time than now to begin your project. (E-mail BayfieldCountyLakes@Yahoo.com for details.)

Finally, six, by restoring your waterfront you are setting a good example. Soon others will join in with their own restoration projects, thus beautifying the lake, decreasing the chance of invasion by exotic aquatic species, increasing water clarity and further increasing your property values. Everybody wins, including your family, your neighbors, the birds, fish, mammals and your lake or stream. Think of this as part of your lake legacy!

Jim Brakken, Shoreland Restoration Consultant



NLA MEETINGS:

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

January 17, 2009 • April 4, 2009 • May 9, 2009
June 6, 2009 • July 11, 2009
August 15, 2009 (Annual Meeting)

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATIONS:

April, June & November

ACTIVITIES DATES:

Lake Shore Clean-Up Month of May
NLA Fun On The Water Youth Event July 19
Fall Fest/Cable Days September 26

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| President: | Jim Krueger | (715) 798-2365 |
| 1st Vice President: | Steve Riley | (715) 794-2069 |
| Secretary: | Denise Dupras | (715) 798-5087 |
| Treasurer: | Tim Browne | (715) 794-2405 |
| Director: | Lisa Holt | (715) 794-2384 |
| Director: | Tom Nelson | (715) 794-2405 |
| Director: | Phil Rasmussen | (715) 794-2561 |

Email board members:

board@nlaonline.org

Visit our website:

www.nlaonline.org



These are pictures of
EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.)

Photography by Richard Old - www.xidservices.com

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!

brought to you by:

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

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 pro-active 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

NAME OF EACH VOTING MEMBER

- 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 _____ = _____

MAILING ADDRESS:

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED..... _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail address: _____