

NAMAKAGON

SPRING 2022

Breeze



LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Greetings, NLA members and supporters:

Once again, it has been a very busy year for your NLA Board. I will try to give you an update as to what has been going on for our lake.

First, we've been working very hard with our consultant from Harmony Environmental, trying to control our milfoil spread. 2021 we were advised to use three different chemicals in different areas so we could see which had the best results. Two of the chemicals this year showed some effectiveness and a third had no effect (you do not have to worry, the chemicals used do not have any effect on the fish).

Unfortunately, the milfoil is continuing to spread throughout the lake. We will be doing a spring spray to help control the spread. Moving forward, we know we will never be able to eradicate the milfoil, but we want to keep it under control and from spreading. With the help of our consultant, we were able to obtain a grant to help us with the cost of our weed control. And like everything else, prices have gone through the roof for chemicals.

In the spring of 21, with the help of the DNR, Red Cliff Tribe, and northern Aquaculture demonstration facility, and Mike DeAndre, walleye eggs and milt were gathered and brought to the aquatic rearing facility north of Bayfield. Last fall, we were able to put over 21,000 extended length walleyes back into the lake. the Walleyes were 6 to 8 inches long. We will also be collecting walleye eggs and milt again this spring. So next fall we will put a call out for help, because every single fish needs a fin clipped for further research. So, volunteers will be needed.

16 fish complexes (fish sticks) were to go into the lake this spring, but because of the slushy ice conditions we were not able to put them in. We are looking at different ways to put these fish sticks into the lake. We received an extension on our healthy Lakes grant for this project.

Camera monitoring will also continue at three of our landings Co. Road D, Lakewoods, and Funnys Bay, so there will again be paid monitors at these landings, holidays and weekends. If you are interested, we are looking for two more people so contact Laura Bjork at the Townhall, 715-794-2651.

One of our newest board members, John Schneider, has been working hard on our webpage. You will notice that you can join the NLA membership through PayPal now on the website. www.namakagonlakeassociation.org

This year, the board would like to grow our membership. In 2020 we had 314 members and in 2021 we had 404 members. That is close to half of the number of people that live or own land on Lake Namakagon. So, if you know your neighbors are not members, please let them know about it and that they can sign up through the website. Have a wonderful spring and summer and hope to see you at our monthly membership meetings beginning in May. The dates of our membership meetings are posted on our website as well as this newsletter.

Jim DeRoma
President, NLA

NLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Jim DeRoma	(715) 794-2403
Vice President:	Larry Pribyl	(715) 798-5835
Treasurer:	Jeff Johnson	(715) 580-0710
Secretary:	Jerome Malmquist	(715) 794-2707
Communications:	Terry Cramer	(715) 794-2627
Members at Large:	John Schneider	(763) 229-2123
Members at Large:	Jim Krueger	(715) 798-2365

Email board members: terrencemcramer@outlook.com
Visit our website: www.namakagonlakeassociation.org

2022 MEETING DATES

All meetings except Annual Meeting are at 8:00AM at Namakagon Town Hall.

- June 18 NLA Meeting
- July 16 NLA Meeting
- August 20 NLA Annual Meeting
@ Staudemeyer's Four Seasons Resort
- September 17 NLA Meeting



REMINDER - YOU CAN PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE!

visit us at

WWW.NAMAKAGONLAKEASSOCIATION.ORG

LAKE NAMAKAGON WALLEYE INITIATIVE UPDATE

Despite the on-going CoVid restrictions and Mother Nature's crazy weather, great progress was made on our Walleye Initiative objective: **Increase the adult walleye population in Lake Namakagon to 6 plus per acre.** Much of our success is due to the fantastic partnerships created between NLA, WI DNR, Red Cliff Tribe, Northern Aquatic Demonstration Facility (NADF) and, of course, the numerous volunteers associated with our lake. The majority of our work has been focused on 3 key projects:

- Raising and stocking fingerling walleye - With the help of the DNR and Red Cliff Tribe members, we were able to collect walleye eggs and mill to rear fish at NADF ponds outside of Bayfield. A big thanks to Phil Rasmussen and Lakewoods Lodge for the use of their marina during the cold spring weather! As a result, we were able to raise and stock 21,000 walleye fingerlings last fall and a total of 32,000 since 2018. A huge thanks to the 20 plus volunteers who clipped fish fins over three days...that's 270 volunteer hours!
- Shoreline Restoration and Habitat Improvement – Mike D'Andrea has done a fantastic job of writing and securing Healthy Lakes grants to fund shoreline restoration projects. In fact, he has already secured an additional \$25,000 grant for 2022/23. However, the weather did not cooperate again this year and we were not able to get heavy equipment of the lake last winter due to slush/deep snow. We now have a backlog of 16 "fish stick" projects. The team is looking into alternative methods to complete this work. We will be reaching out to landowners with pending projects once we understand our best path forward. Also, if you are interested in future shoreline restoration/fish stick projects, please reach out to Ted Peichel via email at peichel@baldwin-telecom.net.
- Continue surveys to quantify walleye population – The DNR conducted a comprehensive survey to understand populations of walleye, muskellunge, bass and panfish. This major project included spring fyke net surveys, electrofishing surveys and creel surveys (including Dec. ice fishing) to get a complete picture of current population metrics to help guide future management goals. The survey should be completed and ready to share with residents and our fishing community by mid-summer.



Walleye egg collection, fin clipping and stocking



WAKE BOATS

Over the last 5 years, wake boats have become increasingly popular on Lake Namakagon due to the increased interest in wake surfing. With this popularity has been an increase in concerns voiced to the Town of Namakagon about the waves that they create, and the damage these waves do to shorelines. Studies done by the State of Wisconsin DNR and the University of Minnesota have shown that these higher-than-normal waves created by wake surfing do increased damage to shorelines over normal boat waves. When a boat is carrying water ballast coupled with the weight of the boat, higher waves will be created.

Towns around Wisconsin have enacted laws and ordinances to control when and where wake surfing will be allowed. The Town of Namakagon at this time has not enacted any laws or ordinances about wake surfing but it is a possibility. We as a town, would instead like to recommend the following guidelines that other areas of the state are using in an effort to control the problems of shoreline damage.

1. When wake surfing stay, at least 700 feet away from the shoreline, docks, and other structures. This gives time for waves to dissipate or get broken up by other boat waves. This would mean that wake surfing should not occur in the narrow area between Juneks Point and Anderson Island/ Chicago Avenue and between Juneks Point and Eagle Point. The other area that should not be used is the narrows from Champaign Island to Garmisch.

2. Minimize repetitive passes on any portion of the lake. Once you have run the same area for a while, move on to another area.

By following these guidelines, we as a town hope that we can continue to enjoy this beautiful lake without more laws or ordinances that other areas close to us have had to enact.

My family and myself are wake boarders and water skiers ourselves and treasure the freedom we have on this lake to ski and wakeboard without special laws and restrictions. We do not want to see this ruined and hope that everyone can abide by these guidelines.

Have a good summer,
Jim Krueger

Safe BURNING

Burn responsibly...or don't burn at all!

Debris burning is the number one cause of wildfires in Wisconsin. Using fire as a method to dispose of vegetative yard waste isn't the only option. While debris burning is legal in most places, let's face it...**it's unsafe, unhealthy and a nuisance.** If you choose to burn, follow these simple guidelines to ensure you are burning SAFELY:

BEFORE BURNING

- Find alternatives to burning debris *before* deciding to burn
- Obtain proper burn permits and follow any restrictions
- Comply with local ordinances that may be more restrictive than state law
- Make certain you are only burning legal materials (*turn over for a complete list*)
- Keep an eye on the weather and avoid burning under windy conditions
- Make certain the area adjacent to the fire is free of all flammables

DURING BURNING

- Have a water source and firefighting tools handy
- Keep the size of the fire small and manageable
- Maintain a mineral soil firebreak around the burn area
- Never leave your fire unattended
- If weather conditions change for the worst, put the fire out
- If your fire escapes, dial 911 immediately!

AFTER BURNING

- Make sure the burn is completely out before leaving
- Use lots of water, drown, stir and repeat until cold
- Go back and check again later for any remaining smoke or embers
- Fun fact: use cold ashes from your burn as a bed for your garden. It makes a great fertilizer!

For a DNR burn permit or to check today's burning restrictions
dnr.wi.gov (keyword "fire")
1-888-wis-burn (947-2876)

Responsible BURNING

WHAT CAN I BURN WITH MY DNR BURN PERMIT?



Allowed

- Brush
- Leaves
- Pine needles
- Grass
- Clean wood
- Unrecyclable paper*
- Unrecyclable cardboard*

NOT Allowed

- Garbage
- Plastics
- Shingles
- Foam
- Structures
- Furniture
- Wire
- Metal
- Electronics
- Vinyl products
- Rubber products
- Oil-based products
- Painted, stained or treated wood



*Recycling of clean paper and cardboard is required by law!

ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING

REUSE - Find someone else who can use it, have a yard sale or donate. Bring reusable shopping bags to the grocery store. Leave grass clippings on the lawn; they contain nutrients.

RECYCLE - Separate newspaper, magazines, cardboard, paper, glass, plastic and aluminum, steel or tin cans.

DISPOSE - Discard non-recyclable waste materials at a licensed landfill.

COMPOST - Mulch or collect leaves and plant clippings for composting or move brush piles in the woods for wildlife habitat.

CHIP - Collect brush and clean wood to make mulch or decorative chips, or use as heating fuel in fireplaces.

WAIT - Avoid burning in the spring. The safest time to burn is when the ground is completely snow-covered. Throw a tarp over legal materials and wait until it snows.

For a DNR burn permit or to check today's burning restrictions:

dnr.wi.gov (keyword "fire")

1-888-wis-burn (947-2876)

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer. Alternative format is available upon request. Please call (608) 267-7494 for more information.



PUB FR-551-2015

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



REMINDER

YOU CAN PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE!

visit us at

WWW.NAMAKAGONLAKEASSOCIATION.ORG

NLA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS DUE AT THIS TIME.

NLA DUES RUN WITH THE CALENDAR YEAR ***JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31***

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBER REQUEST FORM

Membership Due Annually on Calendar Year Basis (January 1 to December 31)

Individual Membership (Per Person) # _____ X \$20 = _____

Family Membership (Max 2 votes) \$25 = _____

Name of voting member _____

Name of voting member _____

ONLINE
MEMBERSHIP
REGISTRATION
AND PAYMENT
AVAILABLE ON
WEBSITE



TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail address: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: Namakagon Lake Association, Inc., PO Box 536, Cable, Wisconsin 54821