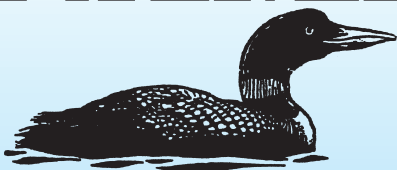


NAMAKAGON

SPRING 2023



Breeze

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Greetings, NLA members and supporters:

It's another beautiful day on Lake Namakagon. I am dreaming of golf, pickleball, biking and boats but, as I look out my window, I get a dose of reality: ice shacks, snowmobiles and four-foot drifts. If you love snow, our area was the place to be this winter. The Birkebeiner 2023 seems to have gone smoothly. Jim DeRoma and family were the Warriors and represented the area exceptionally well. You can check out all the action on the CBS Morning Show clip - <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/the-american-birkebeiner-cross-country-ski-race/#x>.

Our snowmobile trails are second to none, thanks to the hard work of Namakagon Trail Groomers. And again, the World's Longest Weenie Roast didn't disappoint with some of the fastest snowmobiles in the country going head-to-head.

On Thursday, March 23rd, the Aurora Borealis made a spectacular showing on a crystal-clear night. It started out low on the northern horizon with some hues of green. Then exploded a couple hours later covering the entire sky above the lake with waves of greens, purple and red clouds. It was a magnificent sight to see.

Summer will get here eventually. And it will bring all the sun and fun the lake has to offer.

For the fishermen, we are planning another walleye restocking this year. Hopefully we can add 35000 fish to the lake. Mike D'Andrea and Ted Peichel have done a great job leading the walleye and fish stick projects. Get more information in their fish report.

Keeping the lake healthy and free from invasive species has been a continuous task. Larry Pribyl's report will get you updated on recent successes we've had treating Invasive Hybrid Milfoil and the

plans going forward. Camera monitoring will also continue at three of our landings Co. Road D, Lakewoods, and Funny's Bay.

We are looking for interested people to help update the official Namakagon Lake Plan. The plan is essential when applying for grants. Contact Larry if you have any interest.

Furthermore, if looking for something to do this summer, Jim Krueger has listed about a dozen opportunities for those so inclined. We can really use your help.

You recently received an emailed reminder to pay your dues for 2023 and to donate additional funds if you can. Your money goes towards keeping the lake free from invasive species, stocking the lake with walleye, fish sticks and a multitude of other smaller projects. Thanks to all of you who have donated time and money to the lake.

Of course, a big thank you goes to Jim DeRoma for his 6 years of service on the Lake Board; 5 as president. He did an outstanding job managing the Lake's needs these last six years. It was greatly appreciated.

Thanks also to the Board for their countless hours of work: Larry Pribyl - VP, Jeff Johnson - Treasurer, Kevin Wiersma - Secretary, John Schneider and Jim Krueger.

Terry Cramer
President

NLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Terry Cramer	(715) 794-2627
Vice President:	Larry Pribyl	(715) 798-5835
Treasurer:	Jeff Johnson	(715) 580-0710
Secretary:	Kevin Wiersma	(715) 798-4678
Member at Large:	Cheryl Johnson	(715) 798-2452
Member at Large:	John Schneider	(763) 229-2123
Member at Large:	Jim Krueger	(715) 798-2365

Email board members: terrencemcramer@outlook.com

Visit our website: www.namakagonlakeassociation.org

2023 MEETING DATES

ALL MEETINGS EXCEPT ANNUAL MEETING
ARE AT 9:00AM AT NAMAKAGON TOWN HALL.

- APRIL 22 NLA MEETING
- MAY 20 NLA MEETING
- JUNE 17 NLA MEETING
- JULY 15 NLA MEETING
- AUGUST 19 ANNUAL MEETING
@ 11am - location to be determined
- SEPTEMBER 9 NLA MEETING



REMINDER - YOU CAN PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE!

visit us at

WWW.NAMAKAGONLAKEASSOCIATION.ORG

NAMAKAGON GRANT FUNDING

In 2022 the Namakagon Lake Association funded its largest effort yet to treat and control the Invasive Hybrid Milfoil weed. After two years of poor to no results, in 2022 31 beds of hybrid milfoil in 11 areas of the lake were treated in June. After testing different DNR approved chemicals in 2021, 2, 4-D and ProcettaCor were used to treat approximately 32 acres of hybrid milfoil. The cost to treat these areas including, monitoring, testing, permits and consultants came to nearly \$100,000. \$75,000 of this was covered by a 3 year State of Wisconsin Surface Water grant which covered 75% of the cost. The remainder of the cost was covered by volunteer inspections worth approximately \$8,000 and Lake Association funds of \$17,000. Recently we received the reports from the August post treatment monitoring. **The report showed a 100% hybrid milfoil elimination in the beds treated!** Our hydrologist Matt Berg said these results were exceptional.

The post treatment inspection did show some new individual plants were found near Governor's Island and Jackson Lake and some very small beds in Bluegill Bay. At this time we do not plan to treat the invasive weeds in 2023. The approved lake plan requires the invasive weed beds must be larger than a quarter acre in order to treat. We will monitor the lake to see if these new beds expand and other treated areas show a return of the invasive milfoil weeds. This also means about half of the 3 year grant can be saved if needed in 2024.

Lastly, the official Namakagon Lake Plan must be updated and the Board is looking for additional people to provide input for the Lake Plan. The Lake Plan is a must in order to apply for grants. (We also have a grant that cover 67% of updating the Lake Plan.) The input needed will be gathered in 3, no more than 2 hour meetings at the Namakagon Town Hall. The meetings will be in April, June and July with times and dates TBD. Please contact Larry Pribyl or any Board member if you are willing to give input.

Larry Pribyl,
Vice President

LETTER FROM OUR TREASURER

Just recently you should have received your invitation to rejoin, or join, the Namakagon Lake Association. Membership is \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family. Beyond becoming a member, this is your opportunity to make a real difference in the future of Lake Namakagon. In addition to your membership, we ask that you donate to one of the following three efforts.

- 1) A General Fund: to support all the various efforts, including Walleye and Habitat restoration and Invasive Weed Control.
- 2) A Walleye and Habitat Fund: specific to those efforts.
- 3) An Invasive Weed Control Fund: specific to those efforts.

Every year we seek grants to cover the expenses incurred for stocking fish and weed control. We have been fortunate to offset some of our expenses with these grants, but we need to pay for these efforts first and then, hopefully, get reimbursed by receiving the grant money. If this grant money goes away, we won't be able to fund the necessary programs to maintain and improve the quality of our lake.

Your donation is tax deductible and will go a long way to offsetting the costs to stock the lake with walleyes, keep invasive weeds in check, and for the general expenses necessary to keep Lake Namakagon one of the top spots to vacation and/or own your home. If we don't invest in the quality of our lake, it will impact tourism, which impacts the livelihood of the restaurants and bars on the lake and more importantly, it could negatively impact the value of your home.

So, please give what you can so we can continue to invest in the future of Lake Namakagon.

Jeff Johnson,
Treasurer

WAKE BOATS, BUOYS, AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hi all,

Well we still have 40" of snow on the ground at this writing. All of the Winter sports had great participation and lots of happy visitors and residents. I am told the water content in this snow is very high which could make for high water levels on the lake for long time this Spring. Lets hope the snow melts slow.

A couple things I want to address this Spring are a wake boat update, new buoys on the lake, landing supervision, and other volunteer opportunities.

The Wisconsin DNR has started working on rules for wake boats. Things they are taking into consideration are size of lake, depth of water, and distances from shore that are least destructive to the shoreline. Nothing has been decided and when it is there will be a series of public hearings around the state where all can have their say. I will keep you posted. Until there are set rules as a guideline from the state, we as a lake association will continue to advise everyone using the lake that we do not want to see wake surfing in the narrows by Garmisch and between Junek's Point and Anderson Island. All other areas of the lake please respect our request to stay at least 700 feet away from shore when wake surfing. Thank you.

You will most likely notice some extra buoys out and around the lake this summer. Northland College is doing a study at specific spots on the

lake, the students are doing some lake analysis. Please do not move or tamper with these buoys. The results from these tests will be very helpful for the NLA in the future.

We are always looking for landing supervisors. They mostly work on Friday, Saturdays and some Sundays from May to October. We will train you. The pay is \$18 per hour. If interested contact our Town Clerk Laura at 715-794-2651

As usual we as a lake association are putting out a request for volunteers. We will need 1 new board member to join this year, if interested contact any board member and we will get your name on the ballot. New board members start their term at the end of the Annual Meeting in August and have a 3 year term. Below are listed some of the projects where we also need volunteers and the person whom to contact.

PROJECTS TAKEN ON BY THE NLA IN 2023

- Helping with fish stocking, fin clipping, egg harvest, etc. lots of hours throughout the Summer and Fall. Contact Mike D'Andrea at 715-794-2949
- Fish Sticks placement and tree harvesting. 150 hours over the Winter months weather and ice depth permitting. Contact Ted Peichel at 651-338-5684
- Buoy repair: 4 volunteers needed, 2 town employees also help, total of 6-8 volunteer hours over a couple of days. Contact Jim Krueger
- Buoy placement; If you wish to help contact Amanda at the Four Seasons Resort. 715-798-2346

continued on next page...

- Lake cleanup and inspection of weed beds 35 volunteers: 500 volunteer hours contact Larry Pribyl or Jim Krueger
- Board member meetings and prep time 7 volunteers, 6 meetings per year. 124 volunteer hours, interested, contact any board member
- Summer buoy maintenance: 5-50 volunteer hours depending on water levels and severe weather. Contact Amanda at Four Seasons Resort. 715-798-2346
- Newsletter planning, prep, and distribution. 12 hours per issue 1-2 issues: 12-24 volunteer hours. Editor needed. Contact Jim Krueger
- Planning Grant meetings, planning, prep, and administration 35-50 volunteer hours. Contact Larry Pribyl

- Landing supervision hours and boater information downloaded on Wisconsin DNR (SWIMS) database. 2-3 hours monthly May – October. Contact Larry Pribyl
- Landing supervision grant writing, planning and administration Coordinator Laura Bjork, Namakagon Town Clerk
- Annual Meeting/ luncheon Planning and Prep: 15-20 volunteer hours. Contact Terry Cramer
- Landing camera reviewing: 50-100 volunteer hours. Coordinator needed

See you out and around the lake,

Jim Krueger, Member At Large

NAMAKAGON FISHERIES UPDATE

Data from our comprehensive lake survey is in. We want to thank the many people involved with this project, especially our fisheries biologist, Nate Thomas, for the countless hours associated with analytics and final report. Some of the highlights are as follows:

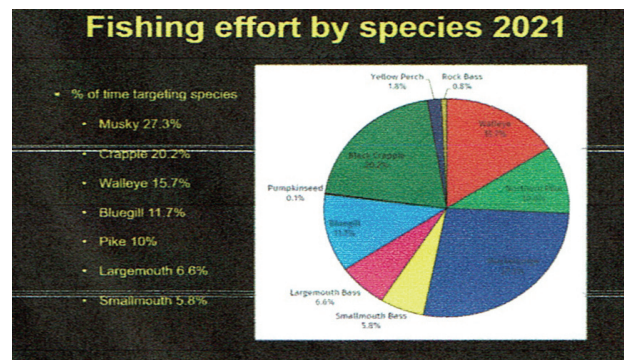
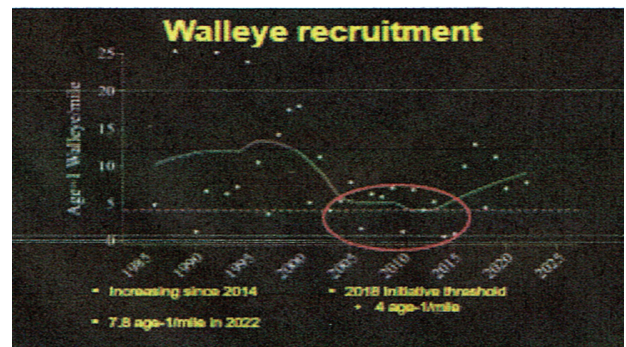
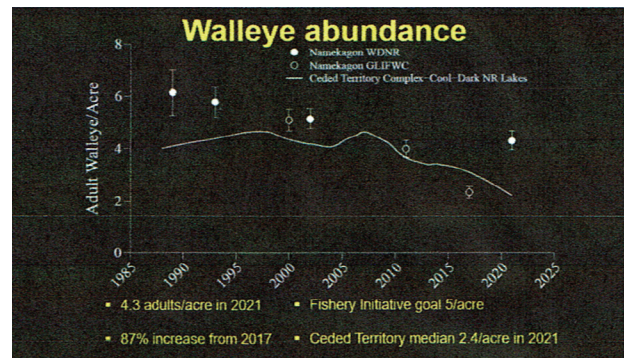
- Lake Namakagon is classified as a "ceded territory, cool, dark, multi-species lake with natural reproduction. Similar lakes for comparison include Chippewa, Minong, Turtle Flambeau and Butternut.
- Adult Walleye abundance is trending upward and has increased by 87% since 2017 (see chart attached).
- In large part, walleye abundance is highly correlated to recruitment (age 1) which has seen steady increases since 2015 (see chart attached).
- Walleye stocking and habitat improvement also contributes to good recruitment.
- While walleye are the #1 targeted fish across Wisconsin, musky and panfish were the most targeted species on Lake Namakagon based on our 2021 creel survey (see chart attached). Size structure is also greater than the median of comparison lakes.

The DNR/NLA fisheries team is looking to update the Lake Namakagon Management plan based on our recent fisheries survey and user input. A social survey was recently sent out to all NLA members and the community at large. If you have not done so already, please complete the attached survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NamekagonSurvey2023>

The final plan is scheduled to be completed by mid-summer.

See you on the water!



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.



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 MEMBERSHIP FORM

www.namakagonlakeassociation.org

(Calendar Year is January 1 to December 31)

Individual Membership - \$20 \$ _____

Family Membership - \$25 \$ _____

DONATIONS

General Fund \$ _____

Walleye & Habitat Fund \$ _____

Invasive Weed Control Fund \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Mailing Address:

NAMAKAGON LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 536, Cable, WI 54821

NLA is a 501c3 Org - Members may deduct dues and donations