



# Namakagon Lake Association

[www.namakagonlakeassociation.org](http://www.namakagonlakeassociation.org)

## Fall 2023 Update

Dear Neighbor,

The Namakagon Lake Association (NLA) wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year!

Thank you to all who have donated time and money to the lake. If you are already a member of the NLA, please take this time to renew your membership for 2024. If you are not already a member, please consider joining us-\$25 for a joint membership is a bargain! Any additional contributions you can make would be greatly appreciated (and are tax deductible as are the dues themselves!)

We'd like to take this opportunity to share updates on a couple of our current projects, as well as news around the lake.

### Walleye Initiative

At ice-out 2023, the NLA Walleye Team and the Red Cliff Hatchery staff shocked and set fyke nets to collect Namakagon walleye eggs.

The eggs were hatched at Red Cliff and raised at the NADF facility outside of Bayfield. The goal, of course, is to raise and stock extended length fingerling at about 6-8' in the fall. A cold spring in Bayfield hampered our production.



We have been evaluating 2 methods of raising our walleyes. One is to grow them in outdoor ponds, feeding minnows for growth (expensive). The second method is to raise them indoors on re-circulating feeding pellets (less cost) until all are extended length Walleyes and then stocked. To judge the long term effectiveness of each method we clip the left ventral fin of the outdoor fish

and the right ventral of the indoor raised fish. In the fall GLIFWC shocks our shoreline to count our natural and stocked fish, noting no fin clips (natural), and stocked young of the year by recording which fin is clipped.

This October we released over 6,200 fish into Lake Namakagon. Since 2018 we have stocked the lake with over 40,000 6-8" walleye. Fishermen are now seeing results in their nets. Clipped fish caught this year would be from fish stocked in '20 and '21 and are about 12-13 inches long.



***The NLA would like to thank the Crew at NADF and Red Cliff Hatchery, as well as Mike D'Andrea, Ted Peichel, Joanne Schultz, Wayne Spitzer, Dick Rowe, Bob Rasmussen, Craig Jameson, Mary D'Andrea, Jean Hansen, Joe Zirn, Jeff Johnson, Dave Gebhard, Drew Moessener, and Garry Larsen.***



## Invasive Species

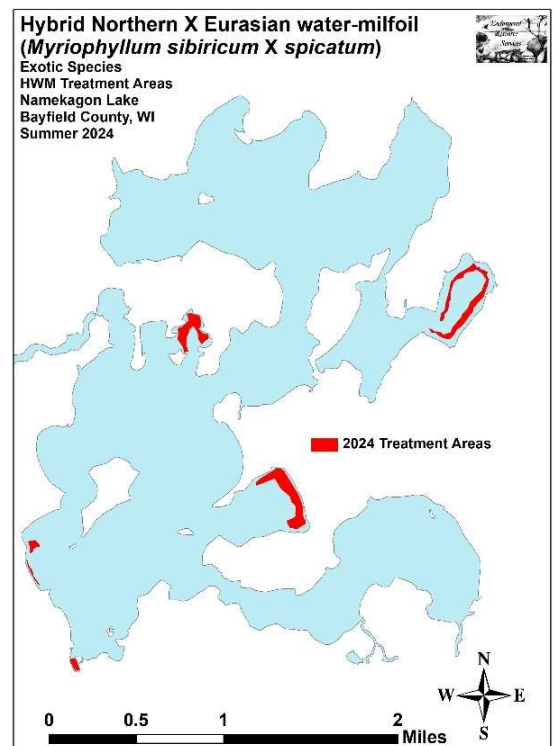


Unchecked, Hybrid Watermilfoil (HWM) growth in lakes can make the lake unusable for recreational water activities, forming dense mats of vegetation that choke out beneficial native water plants, and reduce property values around the lake. In spring of 2022, the NLA funded its largest effort yet to treat and control the invasive Hybrid Watermilfoil.

This August, the NLA had an extensive follow-up survey performed. Except for two small areas, the 2022 treatment has held up very well. The other 29 treatment beds and surrounding areas continue to be almost completely free of HWM. The 2022 treatment areas also do not show material adverse effects on fish populations or most native plant populations.

Unfortunately, the survey also showed expansion of HWM in some areas that weren't treated in 2022. NLA is applying for a permit from the DNR to treat 5 beds of HWM in 2024. The beds are in Mumm's Bay, Sugar Bay (the back bay behind Anderson Island), behind Governor's Island, along the shore to the south-west of Payne's Island, and a small bed in Lakewoods' Bay. NLA has money available from a grant we received in 2022 that will pay 75% of the costs of the treatment. The remaining 25% will be covered by NLA funds. The value of volunteer lake inspections will be used to offset NLA's share of the cost. Please keep an eye out in spring for volunteer opportunities.

Grants from the Wisconsin DNR have been essential in helping us pay for treating the lake to control the spread of HWM. The 2024 treatment will exhaust our current grant. To continue our monitoring of the lake (and treating when necessary), the NLA will be applying to renew our grant for 2025 and beyond.



In addition to monitoring and treating, the NLA promotes prevention to keep our waters free from invasive species. **The best way to reduce the spread of HWM and introduction of other invasive species is to clean your boat before launching.** It is particularly important to clean live-wells and wake boat bladders since they can be difficult to completely empty and dry.



We also support the landing inspection program. **We are always looking for landing supervisors. They primarily work on Fridays, Saturdays, and some Sundays, from May to October. We will train you. The pay is \$18 per hour. If interested, please contact our Town Clerk, Laura Bjork, at 715-794-2651 or [namakagon@cheqnet.net](mailto:namakagon@cheqnet.net).**

## Forest Lodge

### Research Buoys Deployed

The Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation, located at Forest Lodge, focuses on scientific research, communications, and thought leadership on water issues in the Great Lakes region and beyond. In July, the Burke Center deployed research buoys equipped with high-tech sensors on Lake Namakagon, Garden Lake, and Jackson Lake. The buoys are still in the lake and continue to transmit data. The information gathered by these research buoys will help paint a comprehensive picture of the lakes' health and potentially inform new research questions. By monitoring shifts and changes



over time, researchers can gain valuable insights into the lake's ecosystem dynamics and potential stressors. A website to share the data collected is in the works, and Peter Levi, associate director of the center, will be coming to an NLA meeting in spring to discuss the data generated to date.

### Cow Palace Renovation

The Cow Palace was a working dairy at Forest Lodge until the early 1960's. After production ceased, the Cow Palace was used for storage and housed maintenance equipment for the Forest Lodge estate. Proposed renovation will maintain the historic exterior and unique artifacts from the dairy while adding the following enhancements: living quarters for an on-site caretaker; a wet lab to support water-oriented research projects; a kitchen; a multi-purpose space for dining and/or meetings; restrooms accessible from the outside; and a patio for outside dining.



Renovation of the Cow Palace will significantly increase capacity to support educational programs and opportunities for the public to experience Forest Lodge. Having a caretaker living on the property will allow for increased access and the opportunity for self-guided tours. A kitchen, classroom/dining facility and additional restrooms will enable more events and programs to be hosted at Forest Lodge.

The wet lab, managed by Northland College's Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation, will provide research, monitoring, and educational opportunities for students, visitors, and water ecologists. Unique in the region, the wet lab will help ensure the integrity of the freshwater resources that contribute to the economic, recreational, and environmental vitality of the north woods. For further information about the Cow Palace renovation or to receive information on how to donate to the project, please contact Ruth Goetz at 715-292-2731.

## Wisconsin State Wake Boat Proposed Legislation

A bill has been introduced by Sens. Felzkowski and Swearingen that would prohibit operation of wake boats on lakes of less than 50 acres, and less than 200 feet from shore or structures like docks or swim rafts. Additionally, the legislation would prohibit local governments from enacting stricter wake boat ordinances. A competing proposal from Sen. Jacque has recently been made that would restrict wake boats from operating in lakes of less than 1,500 acres and less than 700 feet from shore. It would not preclude stricter local regulation. The Sawyer County Board of Supervisors has passed a resolution recommending local government control, and state minimums of 700 feet from shore and 30 feet in lake depth. See [www.wisconsinlakes.org](http://www.wisconsinlakes.org) and [www.lakesatstake.org](http://www.lakesatstake.org) for more information about the proposed legislation.



P.O. Box 536  
Cable, WI 54821

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## NLA Membership Renewal is Due January 1

***NLA Membership runs with the calendar year \*\*January 1-December 31\*\****

### **Namakagon Lake Association Membership Form**

**Membership is also available online at: [www.namakagonlakeassociation.org](http://www.namakagonlakeassociation.org)**

Individual Membership - \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership - \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

#### **Donations**

General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Walleye and Habitat Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Invasive Weed Control Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Mailing Address:*

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

*NLA is a 501(c)(3) Organization - Members may deduct dues and donations*

*The Namakagon Lake Association (NLA) is a not-for-profit organization that relies on the contributions and membership fees of landowners 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.*