



Namakagon Lake Association

www.namakagonlakeassociation.org

Spring 2024 Newsletter

Letter from the President

It's another beautiful day on Lake Namakagon.

Summer seems to be coming early this year. It will bring all the sun and fun the lake has to offer.

For the fishermen, it was another year to restock the lake. Per usual, 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.

Read all about our other major focus, invasive species, in the article below. Yes, we are treating the lake this year, hopefully, with the same success as two years ago. We are asking for your help. There will be a volunteer inspection form online at our web page, www.namakagonlakeassociation.org. Anytime you are out on the lake having a wonderful time, please look around for invasives. When you get back ashore, go to the web page, and fill out the form. It only takes a couple minutes. This is very important, as your time on the lake gets credited toward our grant and will save us a fair amount of money.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Forest Lodge on Saturday, August 24th. Tomi Backlund is in charge and still working on finalizing details. We will keep all advised, but it should be a wonderful setting for this year's event.

We are also trying to line up a couple educational speaking events for members. Peter Levi, who runs the buoy project, certainly will attend a meeting soon. I know he is getting very close to launching the webpage with a wealth of information collected from their buoys. As for another idea, we may try to get a DNR representative here to speak about our elk herd that seems to enjoy the M corridor between Town Hall and Lakewood's Golf Course. This may occur on a weeknight in conjunction with a monthly board meeting.



Now that warm weather seems to have arrived, we will plan a night at one of our amazing establishments (bars) to have an NLA happy hour. It's always nice to put names to faces.

We have had a nice jump in membership due to the hard work of board members John Schneider and Cheryl Johnson and with assistance from Laura Bjork at Town hall. Your dues and donations (both tax deductible) go towards keeping the lake healthy and clean. We stock the lake with walleye, monitor the boat landings, repair buoys, sponsor speakers and have a great lunch at our Annual Meeting. A little more than half the households on the lake are members of the Lake Association. If you live on this beautiful lake and care about it, you should be a member of the NLA. Please spread the word to your neighbors. And, thank you for your support.

A big thanks goes to Amanda and Brandon Pessina for setting the marker buoys around the lake. Also, thanks to Jim Krueger and his crew for buoy repairs. Most of the Facebook information is now posted by Pam Krueger and it is greatly appreciated.

Thanks also goes to our Board for their countless hours of work: Larry Pribyl – VP, Jeff Johnson – Treasurer, Kevin Wiersma – Secretary, John Schneider, Cheryl Johnson, and Tomi Backlund.

Terry Cramer-President

Walleye Initiative Spring Update

If you thought the winter of '23-'24 was weird enough, we were happy to find that spring came in about the same. A few on the lake reminded me that ice out has happened early before, but this was close to the earliest! GLIFWC warned us that the water was too cold for any egg collection, but our wise



friends at the Red Cliff Hatchery started their quest for eggs in another Bayfield Co. lake that they will stock when we stock Namakagon. Our eggs would be collected later, and I was sure we would miss it but luckily we lost our El Nino, got a La Nina, and we iced back up! When our team made it to Lakewoods Marina the surface water was just 50 degrees, and for Lake



Namakagon, (classified dark and cool) that's a perfect time for running spawners. I went out with Lance Bresette and the team, and after 4 nets we were done! Lance and I agreed this was the single best year for female walleyes, with sizes 17"-18", numerous 20"s, and even 2, 24"s. In the photos you'll see the team. Rob Lawrence is spawning the females, and Lance is adding clay to separate eggs. Oh, yes, we did find a few big Muskies too!



In summary, at the hatchery we may have as many as 5 liters of eggs in the bubblers. So we have had a great start. No promises, but we are way ahead on eggs at least!

For habitat, the DNR sent a letter out automatically extending all Healthy Lake Grants for 12 months statewide for fish habitat projects across the state, because the super warm winter made work on the ice impossible. Ted Peichel and I are considering converting all our habitat projects to "tree drops", rather than "fish stick complexes". Less equipment/less expense!



Have a great spring!

Mike D'Andrea, Walleye Committee

2024 Namakagon Lake Association Meetings Members always welcome, Mark your Calendar!

Saturday, 4/20/24, 9:00 AM at the Namakagon Town Hall

Saturday, 5/18/24, 9:00 AM at the Namakagon Town Hall

Saturday, 6/15/24, 9:00 AM at the Namakagon Town Hall

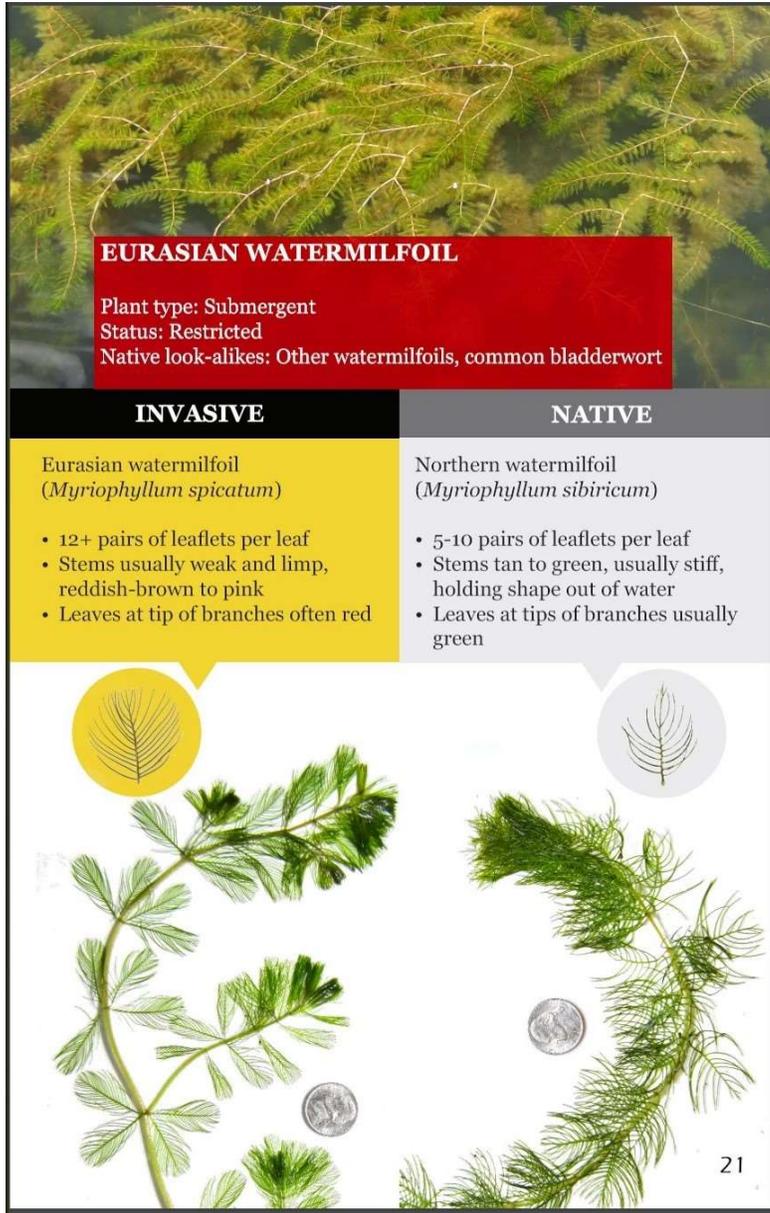
Saturday, 7/20/24, 9:00 AM at the Namakagon Town Hall

Saturday, 8/24/24, 11:00 AM Annual Meeting at Forest Lodge

Saturday, 9/21/24, 9:00 AM at the Namakagon Town Hall

Invasive Species

Based on an extensive survey last August, the NLA applied for a permit from the DNR to treat 5 beds of Hybrid Watermilfoil (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.



From the *WISCONSIN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES EARLY DETECTOR HANDBOOK* on the DNR website

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 donations to the NLA invasive species fund. Any Lake Inspection Reports we (you!) file contribute to our share of the costs. Lake inspections involve going out in your boat, surveying the lake, and filling out a Lake Inspection Report listing any possible HWM beds you find. (The easiest way to distinguish HWM from native milfoil is that the tips of the HWM are red). The Lake Inspection Report is on our website (namakagonlakeassociation.org) or use the QR code to go directly to the form on the website. It can be filled out online or printed and mailed in. A Lake Inspection Report gives us credit for \$12/hour per person and up to \$40/hour for your boat. **In 2022 Lake Inspection Reports saved the NLA about \$8,000!** Please help us keep our costs down by submitting reports!



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

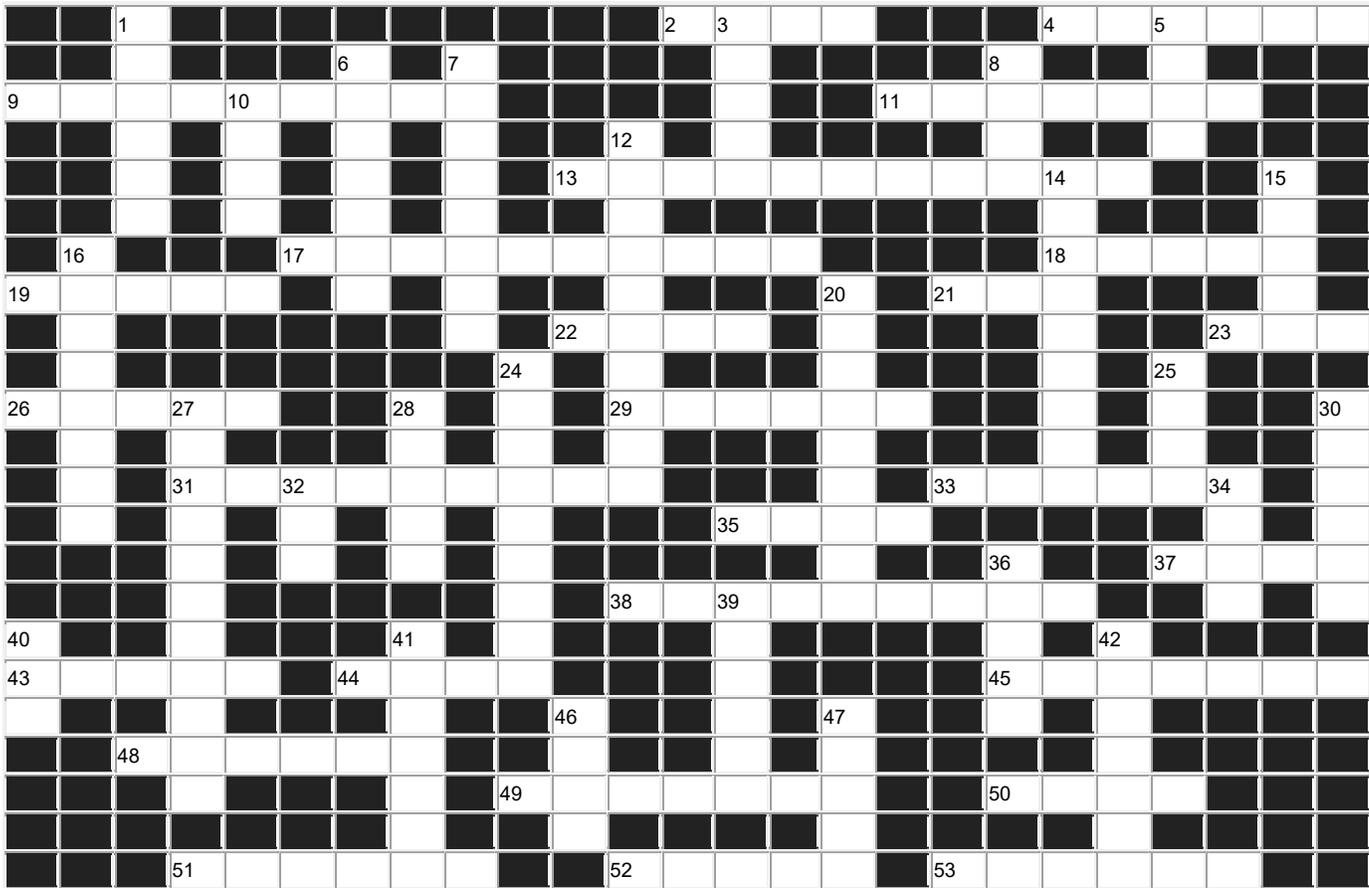
live-wells and wake boat bladders since they can be difficult to completely empty and dry.

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.**

Cheryl Johnson, NLA Board Member

Namakagon Fauna, Flora, and Fun

by Terry Cramer and Bill Thomas



Across

2. Lobo
4. Thanksgiving centerpiece
9. Hypochondriac's wine?
11. \$20 bill
13. Year-round
17. Evangelist alternative
18. Freshwater shark, funky
19. Tom, who saved Ryan
21. The best association on the lake!
22. Bill Wyman's instrument
23. Snow or water runner
26. Canoe skin
29. Sky-diving bird
31. Not deciduous
33. Comics?
35. Stones' Ron
37. Diving position
38. Resort named after the Ojibwe word for "little moccasin"
43. Main, primary
44. Wailing bird or nut
45. Papermouth
48. The "Kleenex" or "Xerox" of skidsteers
49. Early settler
50. Cervid flowermuncher
51. Ride on a Gladiator
52. Syrup source
53. Buffalo-shaped point

Down

1. Opposite of workmor
3. Animal House character
5. If Kanga had twins, they'd be ...
6. Invasive hybrid_____
7. If Hans Christian had been Swedish
8. Sonar bing
10. Dock
12. Bar frequented by *gavia immer*?
14. 10th largest lake in Wisconsin
15. Expedia alternative
16. Bavarian ski resort
20. Resort founded by Anna Nemec
24. "River at the place abundant with sturgeon"
25. Buck-up, as spirits
27. "Place of shallow water"
28. 2 under par
30. Deer smorgasbord
32. Wapiti
34. Don't tread water or sink
36. Canary seat
39. Complain
40. Diamonds
41. Bridge or boat type
42. Largest of perch family
46. Family of Yellow Flags
47. Eagle Nest

Answers posted on our website, namakagonlakeassociation.org

Namakagon Township Update

Hi all, hope the Winter and Spring has you all healthy and busy.

I wanted to send out this message on behalf of the Town Board.

Ice out was either March 13th or March 15th depending on who lives where on the lake. That is the earliest it has ever gone off from what I heard from all the people that have lived on this lake most of their lives. The water is exceptionally clear as there was not a lot of runoff due to the lack of moisture during Winter and so far this Spring. You could easily see down into 10 feet of water.

We were busy in late March cleaning, repairing, and in some cases replacing the buoys. Thanks to Dave Gebhard, Jerome Malmquist, and Larry Pribyl for all the work that needed to be done. Special thanks to Clay Burditt and Brian Pierce, our town roadmen, for all the work they do in moving, cleaning, and placing the buoys at the different landings and thanks to Amanda and Brandon for placing the buoys out on the lake.



The town now has a pontoon work boat so the guys can get out on the lake when needed. We will be going out in May and getting GPS coordinates of all the 20-plus buoys and we will also be replacing the SLOW-NO-WAKE signs at the Birch Lane bridge.

This brings up a gentle reminder that the whole river area from 100 feet before the Birch Lane bridge to the dam is SLOW-NO-WAKE. Please respect your neighbors that live along this area, plus the wildlife and the environment and follow this ordinance.

There is progress being made on a statewide Wake Boat set of rules and regulations, but nothing that has been enacted into law as yet. Please follow the request of the Town Board on behalf of the landowners around Lake Namakagon and stay 700 feet from shore when Wake Surfing. This then prohibits Wake Surfing in the narrows between Junek's Point and Anderson Island and also along the narrows between Champaign Island and Garmisch. Again, please follow this request out of respect for the property owners that live in these areas and for the environment.

The town is in the very early planning stages of developing a walking, hiking, biking trail along Hwy. M, Dam Road and Crystal Lake Road and possibly Namakagon Sunset Road, with the ultimate plan to have a trail around Namakagon, Jackson, and Garden lakes. This will hopefully bring safer travel off some well-traveled roads for all that enjoy this area. This will take a few years to develop and to obtain funding.

One more bit of good news is that Verizon may soon be on our cell tower. Verizon has requested that the tower be raised to 300 feet from what is now a 190 foot tower. That can be done because the Town Board had the base built to hold up to a 400 foot tower. There will be some permits that have to be obtained, but this may be a reality in the future.

Have a great Summer and hope to see you out on the lake.

Jim Krueger, Namakagon Town Board and NLA Member

NLA BOARD MEMBERS

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| Terry Cramer – President | Larry Pribyl - Vice President |
| Jeff Johnson – Treasurer | Kevin Wiersma - Secretary |
| Tomi Backlund – Board Member at Large | Cheryl Johnson – Board Member at Large |
| John Schneider – Board Member at Large | |



P.O. Box 536
Cable, WI 54821

www.namakagonlakeassociation.org

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

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

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

Address: _____

Donations

City/State/Zip: _____

General Fund \$ _____

Walleye and Habitat Fund \$ _____

Mailing Address:

Invasive Weed Control Fund \$ _____

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

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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.