



Namakagon Lake Association

www.namakagonlakeassociation.org

Fall 2024 Update

Dear Member,

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

We are truly blessed to be able to enjoy such a wonderful place.



Fisher, photo courtesy of Wayne Spitzer



Bobcat, photo courtesy of Wayne Spitzer

For the last two years, we have really focused on getting more people on the lake to join the NLA and to get more involved. In two years, membership has gone from 425 to 532. The number of families has gone from 198 to 283.

Your money goes towards protecting the lake from invasive species, stocking the lake with walleye, and creating critical fish and wildlife habitat. Thank you to all who have donated time and money to the lake. Any year-end contribution you can make would be greatly appreciated (and is tax-deductible, as are the dues themselves!)

Your money goes towards protecting the lake from invasive species, stocking the lake with walleye, and creating critical fish and wildlife habitat. Thank you to all who have donated time and money to the lake. Any year-end contribution you can make would be greatly appreciated (and is tax-deductible, as are the dues themselves!)

Letter from the President

Per usual, it was another busy summer on the lake. Along with treating the invasive milfoil and stocking the lake with walleye, the NLA sponsored four additional events.

We hosted two “happy hours” at Four Seasons and Loon Saloon; we appreciate the support both of these great local establishments have given the NLA. The response was so good that we will be hosting more of these events around the lake in the future. Also, a big ‘thank you’ goes to Pla-Mor for donating the proceeds from two of their P.A.L.S. Bingo Nights to the Lake Association.

Continued on next page



Clam Lake Elk Herd, photo courtesy of Cheryl Johnson

Now that part of the Clam Lake elk herd has migrated into our area, (including a group that hangs out between the Namakagon Town Hall and Forest Ridges golf course), we brought in the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Josh Spiegel, the head elk biologist of the DNR, to educate members about them; a big thanks to Greg Henderson, who was instrumental in planning for the presentation. Almost 100 members attended this outstanding event.

To round out the year, we held our annual meeting at Forest Lodge to showcase the facilities to our members. We had a wonderful lunch catered by Lakewoods Resort and afterwards the Forest Lodge caretaker was on hand to give us a tour of this impressive site and answer questions.

I'd like to thank Jeff Johnson for his time as Treasurer on the board. His wisdom and calm demeanor were an invaluable asset for the last three years. And I'd also like to give the board a big thank you. They all work many long hours and are dedicated to the welfare of the lake.

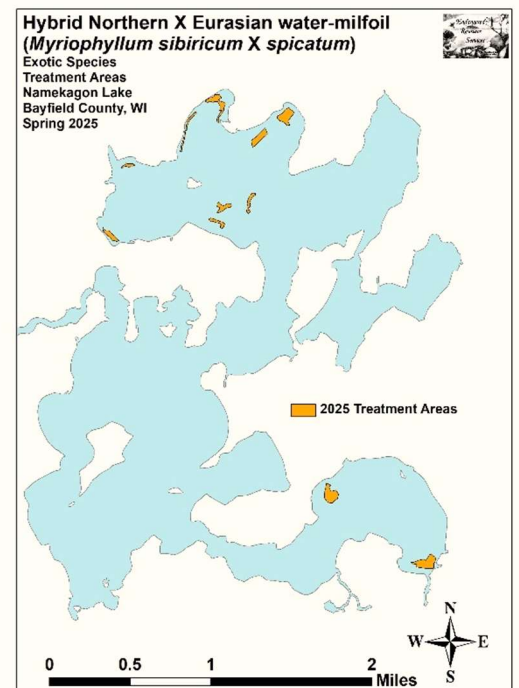
-Terry Cramer, President

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, the NLA treated 5 areas for HWM. Our biologist performed a survey of the lake in fall, which showed that the spring treatment was largely successful. Unfortunately, it also showed that we had multiple beds of HWM growing in Upper Lake and two beds in Lower Lake.

We are applying for a permit to treat 9 beds in the western portion of Upper Lake next spring, including Mogasheen Bay and Funny's Bay. We are also applying to treat two beds in Lower Lake, for a total treatment area of 27 acres. Our biologist also noted numerous small, isolated beds around the lake. The DNR doesn't allow treatment of beds of less than a half-acre, so we will be monitoring those beds for potential future intervention.

Continued on next page



Invasive Species continued from the previous page

NLA has money available from a grant we received in 2022 (and that we were able to extend to 2025) 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 offset NLA's share of the cost and have saved us a lot of money in the past. Please keep up your on-line inspection reports next year and watch out for volunteer opportunities in spring.

Grants from the Wisconsin DNR have been essential in helping us pay for treating the lake to control the spread of HWM. The 2025 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.

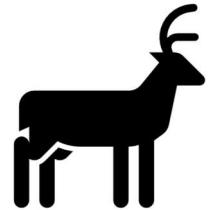
The Landing Inspection Program is also a vital part of our battle against HWM and other invasive species. The best way to reduce the spread of HWM and introduction of other invasive species is to clean your boat before launching. It is particularly important to clean live-wells and wake boat bladders since they can be difficult to completely empty and dry. Our landing supervisors are essential in helping boaters detect unwanted hitchhikers before they land in our lake. We need more landing supervisors to cover our staffing needs. They work primarily on Fridays, Saturdays, and some Sundays, from May to October. The pay is \$18 per hour.

Please consider becoming a landing supervisor. Even a day a month will help us staff our landings and protect our lake.

If interested, please contact our Town Clerk, Laura Bjork, at 715-794-2651 or namakagon@cheqnet.net.

In honor of hunting season, we have a recipe!

Brenda Cramer's Pulled Venison



Ingredients

5 tablespoons dark brown sugar, divided
3/4 teaspoon black pepper
1 pound venison steaks
1 cup chopped onion
1 cup tomato paste
3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
3 tablespoons cider vinegar
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon dry mustard
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon salt

Instructions

1. Combine 1 Tablespoon brown sugar and pepper; rub over both side of meat
2. Combine 1/4 cup brown sugar, onion, and the next 9 ingredients (onion through salt) in crock pot. Add meat: turn to coat.
3. Cover with lid: cook on high for 1 hour.
4. Reduce heat to low: cook for 7 hours.
5. Remove meat: reserve sauce.
6. Shred meat with forks.
7. Return meat to crock pot and stir into sauce.

Serve on sub roll with red onion and dill pickle slices

2025 Namakagon Lake Association Board of Directors

President Terry Cramer
Vice President Cheryl Johnson
Treasurer Kevin Wiersma

Member-at- Large Tomi Backlund
Member-at- Large Doug Cleary
Member-at-Large Larry Pribyl
Member-at-Large John Schneider

In Memorium

Sadly, we lost some of our neighbors this summer.

Barb Best (1941-2024)

Spending time on the lake with friends and family was her favorite summer pastime, while snowmobiling was her passion in the winter. She was known to ride 5,000 miles of trail in a single season, and she was on the board of the Namakagon Trail Groomers for over 25 years. Barb's life was a masterpiece filled with love, laughter, family, friends, and fun.



Michael R. Mayer (1945-2024)



Michael was thoroughly a Wisconsin boy. He loved the Green Bay Packers, cheese curds, playing Sheepshead, deer hunting, and especially spending time at his beloved cottage on Lake Namakagon. He was an avid boater enjoying his yellow motorboat, jet skis, pontoon boats, kayaks, and row boats. Above all else, Michael loved his family and friends and was deeply loved in return.

Greg Savor (1956-2024)

Greg and his wife Kim shared a philosophy of life, love of adventure, and cherished the extraordinary life they created together. His family meant the world to him. He also had an affinity for Wisconsin sports, fast cars and fishing trips to Canada. When he wasn't hard at work, he preferred to spend time at the lake with loved ones; boating, snowmobiling and maintaining his famous green lawn.



It's hard to measure the impact these three had on Lake Namakagon over the last 50 years. They all loved the lake and cared for its well-being and future. The NLA has received over 70 cards and donations honoring these amazing people and their legacy. They are truly Legends of the Lake and will be remembered for years to come.

Walleye Initiative



Photo Courtesy of Terry Cramer

We were able to harvest a bumper crop of walleye eggs this spring. All summer our baby walleye have been eating and growing, some in tanks eating pellets, and some in ponds eating minnows. On October 2nd, 14 volunteers gathered to clip fins prior to releasing the fish into the lake. The fins are clipped to identify which fish are stocked, and whether they are fed minnows (which are expensive) or pellets, which are much cheaper. In the spring of 2026, GLIFWC, Red Cliff Hatchery, NADF, and the WDNR will conduct a population survey of walleye to find out if our pellet fed fish are surviving as well as our minnow fed fish and determine the economic advantage of either method.

Once the fins were clipped, nearly 6,630 fingerling walleye were released into the lake.

Thanks to Mike D'Andrea and crew (R. Lorenz, N. Broesch, T. Cramer, Mary D.Andrea, C. Bjork, W. Spitzer, R. Ebert, R Michel, G. Larrson, R. Rowe, J. Zirn, and P. Rasmussen), who work tirelessly to keep the lake full of healthy walleye for the fishermen. We have released over 40,000 walleye since 2018! Our thanks to all the walleye contributors and volunteers!



Photo Courtesy of Terry Cramer

GLIFWC and the WDNR jointly surveyed the lake in September to assess walleye recruitment. Walleye recruitment for 2024 looked pretty good according to Nate Thomas, our Fisheries Biologist. (You may have seen them as they shocked the shoreline and recorded this spring's hatchlings/fry on a per mile basis). Nate believes we have a good per mile count! We will publish more details in spring.

Adding fish-stick structures to the lake has been a priority for us for several years;



Photo Courtesy of Terry Cramer

however, we have had difficulties getting heavy equipment on the lake to install fish-sticks because of ice conditions. The DNR automatically extended our grant through 2025, and we are moving from fish-sticks to tree-drops to increase the structure in the lake. Mike D'Andrea has been working with the DNR for "best practices" and with grant administrators to amend the grant from fish-sticks to tree-drops. Ted Peichel and Nate Thomas are working with county zoning and permitting authorities. Things are looking good for work this winter!



P.O. Box 536
Cable, WI 54821

www.namakagonlakeassociation.org

Namakagon Lake Association Donation Form
Membership and Donation is also available online at:
www.namakagonlakeassociation.org

Donations

General Fund	\$ _____	Name: _____
Walleye and Habitat Fund	\$ _____	Email: _____
Invasive Weed Control Fund	\$ _____	Address: _____
Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____	City/State/Zip: _____

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.