

# The Nebagamon Lake Association Newsletter

## Spring 2017



### President's Message

It is starting to sound like a broken record, but it was another sub-par winter for snow lovers in Lake Nebagamon. While that led to an earlier than normal ice-out, the weather in April and May was colder than normal, leading to some cold dock installations this spring! It is not common for the water temperature to not have reached 60 degrees by Memorial Day.

The NLA was hard at work during the off-season applying for and securing unprecedented grant money made available by the State of Wisconsin. We again have a \$4,000 grant (matched with an additional \$1,500 from the Village) to continue our boat launch monitoring, aimed at preventing invasive species in our lake. After a successful inaugural year of the "Healthy Lakes" program in which we completed 7 of 9 projects, we received a grant for 21 additional projects in the amount of \$19,900, for which we have two years to complete. We will continue to provide updates on these projects, and anticipate grant funding to continue to be available (although it could become more competitive state-wide). If you would consider improving your property with a rain garden, native plantings, diversion, rock infiltration pit, or fish sticks at little or no cost to you, please have us out for a no-obligation property tour to discuss possible options available to you.

The Village boat launch was also the recipient of a large-scale (\$24,200) grant under the Healthy Lakes program for a stormwater runoff treatment system.

In this newsletter, we have updates on a number of projects and issues that we are currently executing as an organization, including more detail on the above discussed projects. We welcome your input anytime. I

hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>, or feel free to contact me at [lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com](mailto:lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com) with any questions or concerns.

I would like to thank the board of directors for their outstanding commitment to the many large projects we are taking on, the state of Wisconsin for their financial support, and most importantly the members of the NLA for making this all possible. Thank you for your membership in the NLA and your continued stewardship of Lake Nebagamon.

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### Reminder—Important Dates in 2017

- |           |                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| June 17   | Garage sales, 8:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.      |
| June 24   | Annual meeting, 9:30 a.m., Auditorium |
| July 4    | Boat Parade, 7 p.m.                   |
| August 12 | Summer Social, 6 p.m. at Norwood      |

## Membership Report

For the year ending June 30, 2017, at this time we have 225 paid members, with many paying in advance. This is 17 more than we had in the previous year at this time. There are still 41 members who we haven't heard from. We will indicate along with this newsletter if you are one of these members. Please note that the majority of dues collection occurs at the beginning of the fiscal year (this Summer), so we apologize in advance if you catch up on last year's dues and are then asked about current year dues within a few months. Attached to the end of this newsletter is a dues form.

The total current and non-current members comprise over 75% of lakeshore property owners. If you have sold or transferred your property, please let us know who is currently enjoying Lake Nebagamon. We will be happy to contact them, and stop bugging you if you wish!

Finally, you can take advantage of our online payment option for dues with your credit card. Go to <http://nebagamonlakeassociation.com/pay-online/>

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## Community Garage Sales June 17

The annual community garage sales will take place on Saturday, June 17. Contact George Lehman at 218-390-7346 or [geolehman@juno.com](mailto:geolehman@juno.com) to have your house included on the map. \$10 per house goes to the Nebagamon Lake Association for projects that will benefit the lake and community. Happy shopping!



## Walleye and Healthy Lakes Initiatives

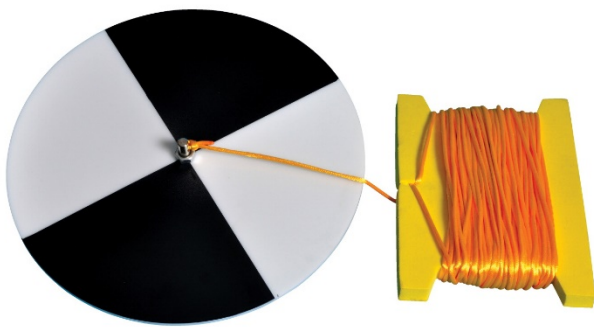
The Healthy Lakes initiative in the State of Wisconsin has a stated goal of controlling the detrimental effects of surface water runoff into lakes. There are several types of relatively easy and inexpensive projects that a lakeshore owner can implement such as a diversion that redirects and slows down runoff, rock infiltration pits that are strategically placed to capture runoff to be soaked into the ground, rain gardens designed to soak up rainwater often through native plantings, and "fish sticks" which are trees securely placed in shallow waters to create fish habitat. The NLA is one of the leaders in the state in terms of early implementation. In 2015, Phil Takkunen was invited to the DNR kickoff of the Healthy Lakes program and we were soon accepted to be a first round "test" lake. Will Kiefer and Alan Yoshimoto have since been invited to speak about our success story at a DNR conference in June! Our initial grant of \$9,500 last year covered 6 properties with a total of 9 project types on those properties. We then followed that up by applying for and receiving a grant for \$19,900 this April for another 9 properties and 21 projects on those properties.

Each "project" (which can be multiple per property) can be up to \$1,333 in total cost. For an example project costing \$1,000, the state will pay \$750, the Nebagamon Lake Association will pay \$150, and the homeowner will pay \$100. However, the state will compensate for contributed labor and materials. Through our first 9 projects, the NLA and homeowners have not had any net expense because of contributed labor. To simplify, this means that the NLA is then able to use these reserved funds towards additional future

projects, and that those future projects can very realistically be free to the property owner!

We are currently looking for property owners interested in having their properties considered for a future project. Those that have had projects completed will be happy to walk you through their yard. Call Phil Takkunen at 715-374-3047 if you would like a no-obligation consultation. The Healthy Lakes program is a great chance to beautify your property and increase the health of Lake Nebagamon.

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### Water Quality Report

Lake Nebagamon’s water clarity was down last year. The average secchi disk reading for Lake Nebagamon in 2016 was 5.75 feet. Note: A Secchi disk is a plain white, circular disk 12 in in diameter used to measure water transparency. The disc is mounted on a pole or line, and lowered slowly down in the water. The depth at which the disk is no longer visible is taken as a measure of the transparency of the water. In 2015 the average was 7 feet and in 2014 it was 5.97 feet. The first secchi disk reading for this year was on May 31 and that came in at 7 feet. By comparison Lake Minnesuing average came in at 5.2 last year. Water chemistry for Lake Nebagamon has shown a slight increase in both phosphorus and chlorophyll. Overall Lake Nebagamon has noticed a decrease in water clarity with slightly warmer water. The lake became ice bound on Dec. 10, 2016. The previous record was Dec. 21, 1998. Ice out was on April 4 which is about two weeks ahead of average.

### AIS Boat Launch Monitoring

This year we have the same three boat launch monitors as last year. All of them have monitored for three years or more on Lake Nebagamon. They are Jeff Giansanti, Judy Dalbec and William Cain. They are all enthusiastic, experienced and know what items to focus on. We have monitored the lake from Fishing Opener on May 6th through Memorial weekend only on Saturdays and Sundays. From May 30th onward we will monitor 53 hours a week (5 hours per day Monday through Thursday and 11 hours a day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays). This schedule will continue until we stop monitoring after Labor Day, September 4. Through May 29 we have had 182 boats enter the lake for an average of 18 per monitored day. On Saturday May 27, a beautiful 75 degree day, we had 49 boats enter the lake. No violations were noted during this period.

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*Joe Kott captures a great February day with his drone.*

**\*Calling all photographers\*** – we need more pictures around Lake Nebagamon to be featured in this newsletter and on our Facebook page. Please share pictures on our Facebook page or send to lakenebagamonwisconsin@yahoo.com.



*Photo Credit: Jarrid Houston*

## **Lake Nebagamom Area Fishing – A Professional Fishing Guides Perspective**

Living in an area that has a plethora of different and unique opportunities can often make me undecided on a target species. It happens often, and I'm sure I'm not the only one. Where should I go today? What should I chase? The Arrowhead region of Lake Superior is home to waters like: The St. Louis River, Lake Superior, and countless inland lakes, reservoirs and streams. We are also a short drive to waters like: the mighty Chippewa Flowage, Minong Flowage, Pike Chain, Eau Claire Chain, and several other waters. This, no doubt, adds frustration to my indecisive thought process on the "where should I go". I guess you could argue that it is a good problem to have. I mean, what if we lived somewhere else that doesn't present the golden opportunities we have right here in the confines of this Lake Nebagamom Community.

A positive and great factor about being in the Guide Business is we usually have our finger on the pulse of a good bite. Most often it's walleyes (our specialty), but there are times it's just fish! You see, most of our waters are like any other fisheries where the simple live bait trick can provide a wide range of species caught. When we go fishing with people that strictly want to catch walleyes, I assure them that is not the only action we will encounter during the course of our trip, and vice-versa. Any avid fishermen should understand what I am talking about. The live bait factor for us, equals multi-species days.

Some anglers take to the water with a small fortune worth of equipment. I would be a hypocrite to say that's not the case for us. But in all reality, one does not need a lot of equipment for a multi-species fish

outing. Most of our open water season consists of setting up our medium light JTX Custom rods with 5lb bionic monofilament and simple Northland Fishing Tackle jigs in smaller sizes (I like 1/16oz). Our "milk runs" usually involve pitching jigs tipped with a live minnow or 1/3 of a crawler toward steep breaks off of weed lines, shorelines or other structure. One tip I like to speak about in the boat is "when getting caught up in weeds, don't get discouraged and immediately retrieve your bait. Rather work that snag to your advantage and shake the vegetation". This often can trigger fish reactions. We use the term "shaking weeds" and it is a tactic that can be very successful.

In my opinion, fishing these area waters is not really like fishing the big waters of Northern Minnesota's famed walleye factories. Although there are a lot of similarities, these waters produce fishing areas that can and often will hold all the species in a single location. So when we set out and work our areas, we can expect to catch sunfish, crappies, perch, pike, small mouth, large mouth and of course walleyes too! Sometimes we even tangle with a bonus musky (not in Lake Nebagamom, but other area waters), although this can be quite challenging using gear catered for smaller fish, but rewarding, no doubt. We seldom get out on a control drift with lindy rigs and/or other presentations. During the course of my guide career, I have found a jig and live bait to be the best for successful days, not to mention the easiest. This seems like the obvious way to catch fish, but there is a lot that can go into the "jig fishing" concept. Different sizes with various colors, and sometimes added soft plastics, etc. There are a lot of variables that can be included in our jig style tactics.

We make sure the worms, leeches and minnows are plentiful on all our trips. We absolutely keep our local bait shops in business. But sometimes, the bite is good enough where we can switch to simple plastics, but for the most part, live bait is what we are confident in. Worms and leeches prove the most success on most outings. This is mostly because all fish that swim like worms and leeches. So it comes to no surprise for us to see our anglers catch lots of sun fish and crappies mixed in with other predatory fish. If an angler is only interested in walleyes, then the best bet is to usually rig him up with a simple jig and minnow combination. Another tactic for a great multi-species day (especially when the bite is on the slow side), is to use slow drop baits. Like a small jig and plastic tipped with live bait. I personally like the Lindy Watsit jig, but there are other similar mimicked options as well.

Another key ingredient to our successful trips is TIME. Any avid angler knows that timing can be everything when it comes to catching fish. So what do we do? We put in the time. I like mornings and nights (cliché I know; but the truth). Mostly the reason is on an inland water body you get a lot of summer boat traffic during the mid-day. This can sometimes be annoying when trying to fish. So we like to meet our clients usually early in the morning, or later in the afternoon. Fishing on average 150 days a year (a huge percentage of that on Lake Nebagamon), this is a routine that I have become accustomed to.

It is no secret, the waters of this region do have a nice reputation for having some of the nation's best multi-species opportunities. Lake Nebagamon, in particular, has a plethora of various year class fish. Especially the small mouth bass which are quickly becoming very abundant. These "bronze backs" aka small mouth have become a very popular catch and have made the lake a Class A small mouth fishery. Lake Nebagamon's (as well as other area waters) various other species are a delicacy and it is important we take care of that concept for future angling. Catch, photo, release is a great practice! Nothing wrong with a fish meal, time to time, but we all need to do our part and harvest selectively. Tight lines and see you on the water!

-Jarrid Houston, Houston's Guide Service & NLA Member

[www.houstonguideservice.com](http://www.houstonguideservice.com)

(218)-393-4962 or [houstonbsu@hotmail.com](mailto:houstonbsu@hotmail.com)

is led by Jack Sellwood (look for the teal-colored Bennington). The parade usually lasts about 45 minutes. All types of boats are welcome to take part. My family will again be taking pictures of the festivities and determining which boats have the best combination of decorations, spirit, and creativity. The top two winners will receive a Dilly Bar for every person on board. Pictures will be shared on the NLA Facebook page as well as in the fall newsletter, as space allows.

Don't forget to stop by Jack's pontoon at the end of the parade (near the Boy's Camp) to get a free \$5 Dairy Queen gift certificate!

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**Join Us at the Summer Social!**

Please join us for the Lake Nebagamon Annual Summer Social on Saturday August 12, 2017 at 6pm! It will be held at Norwood Golf Course. On the menu will be hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, beans, and chips. We will be charging \$8.00 per adult, \$4.00 per child. Ice cream sundaes with an assortment of toppings will again be served for dessert at no charge to attendees. We will also have a drawing for free prizes. Come support our beautiful lake and meet your lake neighbors! Also, if you would like to pay your Association dues that day, you can as well.



**Boat Parade July 4th**

Join your neighbors for the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> boat parade again this year. The parade starts at 7 p.m., and



Photo taken of loon chick on Lake Nebagamon, 2016, Dan Takkunen

### From the Nest of the “Loon Ranger,” Dan Takkunen

According to experts, loons have been around for about 50 million years. There is so much to learn about this spectacular bird. We already have some loon experts around Lake Nebagamon, as well as others who are learning more each year about the common loon that inhabits our lake. So where do you fall on the spectrum of loon knowledge? Here is a short quiz to test your loon IQ.

1. According to DNR rules, boats are to stay at least \_\_\_\_\_ feet away from loons you see.
  - a. 200 ft.
  - b. 50 ft.
  - c. 400 ft.
  - d. 1000 ft.
2. In which of the following states would you find the common loon?
  - a. Wisconsin
  - b. Minnesota
  - c. Iowa
  - d. Indiana
  - e. Michigan
3. When spring-born loon chicks migrate south at the end of the summer, when do they usually return to their nesting lake?
  - a. The next summer
  - b. 2 years
  - c. 3-4 years

d. They stay south

4. Loons that do not have a mate are technically called \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Loners
- b. Floaters
- c. Unsociable

5. The major predators of loon eggs and loon chicks on Lake Nebagamon are:

- a. Eagles
- b. Raccoons
- c. Opossums
- d. All of the above

6. What is the most important thing fishermen can do to help loons out?

7. Where do the Lake Nebagamon loons generally migrate to in the fall?

8. Loon chicks are less vulnerable when they learn how to dive. Approximately when do they learn this skill?

- a. 5-8 weeks
- b. 3-4 weeks
- c. About 3 months

9. Most birds have hollow bones for flight. The common loon has solid bones. Why the difference?

10. Loons have four basic calls for communication. Can you name two of them?

#### Answers:

1. a
2. WI, MN, MI
3. c
4. b
5. d
6. Use non-lead sinkers and jigs
7. Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic side of Florida
8. a
9. It helps them to dive for food, because they have neutral buoyancy
10. Yodel, wail, tremolo, hoot

#### Here is where you fall:

- 9-10 Loon Ranger  
7-8 Assistant Loon Ranger  
5-6 Loon Ranger Intern  
3-4 Loon Ranger Wannabe  
1-2 Time for a Google search on loons

## New Member Spotlight

We are excited to welcome Patti's Dockside as a new member! Patti has purchased the former Waterfront Bar & Grill and has been working tirelessly since December to remodel the kitchen and overhaul the menu. She looks forward to improving outdoor hospitality and considering potential Healthy Lakes projects to manage run-off into the lake. Go check it out!



## Did you know?

In addition to the significant Healthy Lakes grants we have received as an organization over the last two years, the NLA worked with the Village of Lake Nebagamon to address what is probably the single biggest source of runoff around the lake. Recently, the State of Wisconsin approved a grant to pay for 75% of a \$24,200 project at the public boat launch. The Village will cover the remaining \$6,050. The project will feature a diversion ditch at the top of the ramp designed to capture run-off from the hills directly in front of the boat launch and up towards the auditorium. The diversion will send the water to infiltration chambers (near where the portable toilets currently sit) and the water will settle into the ground. The system is designed to capture the first two inches of any rain event.

Also of note, the NLA worked with the DNR in the fall to discuss options for improving the boat launch ramp itself, especially to extend the concrete pad further into the lake. Unfortunately, DNR assistance does not seem promising. We will continue to seek other options and keep you informed.

## Proposed NLA Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

THE NEBAGAMON LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC  
BUDGET 7-1-2017 TO 6-30-2018

INCOME:	
DUES	4,000
RUMMAGE SALE	400
SOCIAL	600
DONATIONS	2,000
HEALTHY LAKES PROJECT	21,000
BOAT MONITORING	5,500
INTEREST	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	<u>33,505</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:	
PROJECTS:	
BOAT MONITORING	8,000
HEALTHY LAKES PROJECT	22,000
BOAT PARADE	100
FIREWORKS	400
L N SWIMMING CLASS	200
HAZARD MARKERS	300
SOCIAL	600
KIDS IN NEBAGAMON - CHRISTMAS	100
ANNUAL MEETING	75
EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS	100
NEW PROJECT	1,000
RUMMAGE SALE EXP	50
WEB SITE	200
NEWS LETTERS, POSTAGE, MTGS, OFFICE EXP.	<u>500</u>
TOTAL	<u>33,625</u>

## NLA Board of Directors

Erik Takkunen, President	612-867-7951
Adam Riutta, Vice President	317-407-5395
Alan Yoshimoto, Secretary	715-374-2467
Jack Sellwood, Treasurer	715-374-3254
David Conley	715-375-2088
Willard Kiefer	715-374-3544
Mark Laskowski	715-374-3747
George Lehman	218-390-7346
Ed Noltner	715-374-3707
Tom Maas	715-374-2147
David Sprowls	239-676-4064
Phil Takkunen	949-412-8690

## Board Member Project Committees:

- Healthy Lakes/Walleye Initiative – Phil Takkunen, Willard Kiefer, Alan Yoshimoto, Tom Maas
- Invasive Plants – David Conley, Ed Noltner
- Summer Social – Adam Riutta, Ed Noltner
- Membership/Outreach – Erik Takkunen
- Water quality – Mark Laskowski
- Boat Launch Monitoring – Dave Sprowls
- Garage Sales – George Lehman
- Finance/Treasury – Jack Sellwood

**Lake Nebagamon Ice In & Ice Out Dates**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Ice-Out Date</u>	<u>Ice-Free Days</u>	<u>Ice-In Date</u>
1943	No Data	-	11/13
1944	5/1	214	12/1
1945	3/31	233	11/19
1946	3/31	237	11/23
1947	5/2	205	11/27
1948	4/12	240	12/8
1949	4/18	251	11/25
1950	5/14	194	11/24
1951	4/18	215	11/19
1952	4/21	221	11/28
1953	4/22	207	11/15
1954	4/20	224	11/30
1955	4/16	217	11/19
1956	4/28	215	11/29
1957	4/24	215	11/25
1958	4/14	227	11/27
1959	4/19	209	11/14
1960	4/20	225	12/1
1961	4/22	221	11/28
1962	4/25	228	12/8
1963	4/14	231	12/1
1964	4/22	212	11/20
1965	4/30	216	12/2
1966	4/22	223	12/1
1967	4/14	221	11/21
1968	4/11	239	12/6
1969	4/20	228	12/4
1970	4/24	217	11/27
1971	4/20	226	12/2
1972	5/1	182	11/30
1973	4/14	231	12/1
1974	4/26	218	11/30
1975	5/1	207	11/24
1976	4/14	215	11/15
1977	4/13	226	11/25
1978	4/19	215	11/20
1979	4/27	221	12/4
1980	4/22	215	11/23
1981	4/13	242	12/11
1982	4/24	214	11/26

<u>Year</u>	<u>Ice-Out Date</u>	<u>Ice-Free Days</u>	<u>Ice-In Date</u>
1983	4/30	216	12/2
1984	4/20	243	12/19
1985	4/18	218	11/22
1986	4/12	219	11/17
1987	4/7	240	12/3
1988	4/19	226	12/1
1989	4/26	212	11/24
1990	4/21	224	12/1
1991	4/12	213	11/7
1992	4/26	218	11/30
1993	4/24	217	11/27
1994	4/18	232	12/6
1995	4/18	209	11/13
1996	5/5	198	11/19
1997	4/24	210	11/20
1998	4/7	258	12/21
1999	4/13	248	12/17
2000	4/26	224	12/6
2001	4/25	239	12/20
2002	4/18	222	11/26
2003	4/24	223	12/3
2004	4/18	240	12/14
2005	4/11	229	11/26
2006	4/11	234	12/1
2007	4/19	226	12/1
2008	3/29	241	11/25
2009	4/16	234	12/6
2010	3/31	248	12/4
2011	4/13	233	12/2
2012	3/21	261	12/7
2013	5/12	198	11/26
2014	5/6	199	11/21
2015	4/12	255	12/26
2016	4/14	241	12/10
2017	4/4		
<b>Averages</b>			
Last 5	4/18	230	12/4
Last 10	4/14	234	12/2
Last 20	4/15	233	12/4
Overall	4/19	224	11/28

**Credits:**

Jack Arthur, Gail DeBrunye, Willard Kiefer, Andy Mack, Mark Laskowski, and Joe Snyder.



# Appendices for Email Recipients

Healthy Lakes “Best Practices” Fact Sheets