

# Lake Metonga Association Newsletter

## Fall 2009



### Clean Boats- Clean Waters Inspections

**WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS** Invasive species have invaded Lake Metonga. Eurasian Water Milfoil (“EWM”) was discovered in 1997. Zebra Mussels were found in 2001. Watercraft inspections are being performed in an effort to control the introduction of other invasives into Lake Metonga and to prevent the spread of EWM and zebra mussels from Metonga to other water bodies. The **Clean Boats-Clean Waters** volunteer program was created in 2003. The mission of this program is to promote water resource stewardship by actively involving individuals in preventing the spread of harmful invasive species into Wisconsin waters.

In 2008 and again in 2009, the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa Community provided \$5,000 to the City of Crandon to fund the hiring young adults to be **Clean Boats-Clean Waters** boat and trailer inspectors at the City boat launch. In the above photograph, Jaryn Labine is the **Clean Boats-Clean Waters**

Inspector who is checking the boat as it leaves Lake Metonga. He observes the following:

1. All visible plants, mud, and aquatic animals are removed from the boat, motor, anchor, rope and trailer.
2. Water is drained from the boat motor, bilge, live wells and bait buckets.
3. Unused bait is emptied into the trash barrel.
4. He also recommends high pressure washing of boat, motor and trailer if planning to enter another water body or dry the recreational equipment for at least 5 days. This will kill all invasive species.

Our Association and all who use the Lake appreciate the Mole Lake Community’s concern and help in protecting against the

spread of invasive species and their \$5,000 contribution to provide salaries for the boat launch inspectors. Lake Metonga Association is hopeful that the Mole Lake Community will participate again in 2010.

It is important and critical that people living on the Lake and others in the community give some time to this important **Clean Boats-Clean Waters** mission. Training will be provided for all volunteers. We need inspectors at the County Park boat launch also. Plan to be a volunteer in 2010. Call Les Schramm at 715-478-5197 to offer volunteer time.

**MEMBERSHIP** – Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership and to all who have given generous donations. We will continue to use these funds to chemically treat the Eurasian Water Milfoil and prevent it from spreading throughout the Lake and to other lakes in our area.

**OOP'S, I FORGOT** With all of the events going on in our lives; family picnics, trips, fishing, boating, water-skiing, inviting our families and friends to the Lake; maybe you have forgotten to renew your membership. We urge you to continue to support our Association. Help to preserve this beautiful natural resource for this and future generations. For those who forgot during the busy summer season, we've included a membership application. Thank You, for showing your concern in helping to environmentally protect Lake Metonga as a member of the Association.

**BULLHEAD HARVEST – 2009**



Mike Preul, Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa Fishery Biologist, again used the Tribes' electro-shocking boat to harvest bullheads in early June. A total of 7,000 pounds (approximately 6,000 fish) were harvested. Five hundred (500) bullheads were given to the **Wildlife Center** in

Minocqua and approximately 1,500 fish were provided to the **Raptors Educational Group, Inc.** in Antigo.

The remaining bullheads harvested were distributed to local area residents. The Association advertised in the **Forest Republican** that bullheads would be given away at the County Park boat launch between 12 Noon and 3:00 p.m. People began to line up at 11:30 a.m. The remaining 4,000 fish were all distributed in approximately 20 minutes. The bullheads from clear, cold Lake Metonga waters are good eating. Many people planned to smoke them.

Fishermen have indicated that they caught very few bullheads this season. Apparently, the 12,000 pounds removed in 2008 plus the 7,000 pounds harvested in 2009 has greatly reduced the over population of bullheads seen in 2007. We thank Mike for all his effort and time dedicated to this project.

**BOAT PARADE AND COOKOUT** - Six enthusiastic boat parade participants circled Lake Metonga at 4 p.m. on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Entries were judged on theme, originality, creativity, decoration and presentation. The photographs illustrate the energy expended and the fun had by all.



**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Free Swine Flu Shots  
Gary Mueller Team**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Hooked on Metonga  
Home of the Whopper  
Jim Sommers Team**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place –  
Change-Wez Bac to Hillbillie Livin  
Ron Wolf Team**

Following the parade a cook-out sponsored by the Association was held at Metonga Lakeside Resort. Raffles for adults and children were sponsored by Tim Leonardelli, highlighting this festive outing.

**IT'S HERE—LAKE METONGA'S WEBSITE**

Our newly elected Treasurer, Kim Reed, has used her computer skills to prepare a website for Lake Metonga Association. The website address is:

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

Log on, you'll be captivated by the pictures and the information links – Click on each one. Check the “Upcoming Dates and Events”.

Please feel free to share your thoughts, comments, photos and website suggestions. The e-mail contact is: [lkmetonga@netnet.net](mailto:lkmetonga@netnet.net)

In addition, you will be able to receive newsletters three different ways starting in Spring 2010. The Newsletter will be available by e-mail, viewed on the website link, or as a direct mailing. We encourage you to subscribe to the Lake Metonga e-newsletter, as this will help reduce the Association mailing costs, as well as keeping you informed. To subscribe, please click on the “About the Association” link, scroll down to “Newsletters” and fill out the informational form and submit.

Our thanks to Kim for her willingness and skills in developing the website. Excellent job, Kim!!!

**LAKE DISTRICT** - The Lake Metonga Association Board of Directors has examined the goals and financial resources of the Lake Association to determine if it is the most effective organization to address and establish action goals to preserve and protect the ecological integrity of Lake Metonga.

This includes monitoring water quality and chemistry, fishery, the aquatic plant community, the safety of boaters and recreational users, and the education of land owners, public officials and the general public on matters affecting the quality and use of its waters.

The Board recommendation was to investigate forming a “Lake District” and present this proposal at the annual meeting on July 4, 2009. A ballot containing the following two (2) choices was distributed to all attending members.

- Proceed with forming a Lake District
- Do not form a Lake District.

The results were:

57 in support - 77%  
17 not in favor - 23%

Based on the overwhelming support, a seven member committee was formed and is chaired by Harry Resch. Their first task is to establish the boundary of the district.

In our area, Pine Lake, Post Lake, Pickerel-Crane Lake and Kentuck Lake currently have operating Lake Districts.

**ADVANTAGES OF FORMING  
A LAKE DISTRICT**

- **Address lake and watershed issues that threaten the lake's ecosystem.**
- **Financial direction of the district is determined by the district residents and property owners by a budget that is submitted and approved at the annual meeting.**

- Ability to levy taxes, as determined by law and approval of the property owners, to manage the environmental issues that could challenge the health and preservation of the lake.
- All riparian owners would, through the tax levy, participate in financially supporting the district. In 2008 only 77% of the riparian owners joined the Association or financially supported it, but non-members also benefit from stocking walleye, chemically treating the EWM to manage its spread and monitoring zebra mussel infestation.
- Exempt from Federal and State income taxes. Receives Wisconsin State Sales Tax exempt status.
- Eligible for State and Federal grants. A lake district with an active management program and financial stability receives a higher evaluation rating and an advantage when applying for grants.
- Doubtful whether the State will continue to adequately fund the grant programs; therefore, a lake district can financially support the effort required to address lake environmental issues.
- It has been proven that property within a lake district is found to have a greater market appeal and is, therefore, more saleable.
- The lake district can support CLEAN BOATS-CLEAN WATERS boat inspections to prevent invasion of other invasive species; such as, spiny water flea, curly-leaf pond weed, VHS, etc.
- Still maintain a lake association working side by side with lake district. There would be no membership fee.
- The association would conduct social events; boat parade, cookout, raffles, walleye banquet, etc. The funds from the tax levy should not financially

**support these activities unless directed by the property owners.**

The City of Crandon and surrounding businesses benefit from tourist trade that come to Lake Metonga's clear, clean waters during all seasons of the year, including winter activities, such as, ice fishing and snowmobiling.

A healthy lake will bring tourists and encourage new business to locate in Crandon.

When the committee submits the petition to every owner, we recommend that you support forming the lake district.

<p><b>Lake Metonga Officers and Board of Directors</b></p>
--

President – Dick Czarniecki – 2 Years

Vice President–Tim Leonardelli–1 Year

Secretary – Adam & Julie Leisten – 1 Year

Treasurer – Kim Reed – 2 Years

Director – Dennis Klemick – 1 Year

Director – Dave Patzlaff – 1 Year

Ex-Officio Director – Les Schramm

We appreciate their dedication and service.

*Enjoy the fall season with the beautiful colors.*

*Les Schramm*