

# Lake Metonga Association Newsletter

November 2002



Foot Bridge and Dam – Lake Metonga – Crandon, WI  
(See Lake Management Planning Grant Section for details.)

## **WHAT HAPPENED?** Spring,

Summer, Winter. Mother Nature forgot to give us one season this year – Fall – The weather pattern moved from summer into cool, early winter temperatures, missing Indian Summer. However, this didn't prevent the change of colors that occur at this time of the year. The reflection of the yellows and reds in the shoreline waters assured us the Mother Nature was still very much alive and well.

**THANK YOU** to every one who continued to support our Lake Association by

renewing your 2002 membership and with your generous donations. Also, thanks to those new members who have joined our Association. Your funds are being used to help control the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil in our lake and to prevent its spread to other lakes in the area. We all need to strive to be good stewards of this valuable resource. Your financial support has allowed the Association to, both chemically and biologically treat this exotic weed. If left uncontrolled, this weed could completely ring the lake.

## **ANNUAL MEETING** - Our annual

meeting, on July 6<sup>th</sup>, was well attended. Reports covering water quality, Eurasian Water Milfoil treatment, zebra mussel status and the Lake Management Planning Grant were presented. Plans were outlined for the Kentuck Days and Art in the Square fund raisers and the Boat Parade. Boater safety flags were given to the attendees.

Betty Sosnovske provided the delicious muffins; Wayne and Shirley Coleman made the coffee and helped with the cleanup. Deward Ison arranged for the facility. Sylvia and Dave Patzlaff took charge of a tee shirt and sweatshirt close-out sale. Karen Vruwink and her committee distributed packets of information on Private Waste Disposal Systems which they prepared as a part of the Lake Management Planning Grant. We also had a visit from Gary Mueller representing the Crandon Lions Club to promote their Boat Sinking Contest. Hazel Bryant and Elsie Bacon took attendance and membership applications at the door. Special thanks to all of these people who generously gave of their time and talents to help with the meeting.

### **The following officers were elected for the 2002-2003 term:**

President – Les Schramm

Vice President & Marketing Director –  
Tim Leonardelli

Treasurer – Thom Klein

Secretary – Karen Vruwink

Director – Dan Sosnovske

Director – Deward Ison

**We appreciate the willingness, time and effort of those who have volunteered as officers and directors.** Thanks to Wayne and Shirley Coleman, who have assisted with the newsletter mailings and computerized the membership lists. A committee was formed, chaired by Judy VanZuiden, to recommend actions to be taken by the Lake Association concerning education on boating rules on the lake and placement of buoys to mark the 200 foot slow-no-wake distance from shore.

**BOAT PARADE** – In the afternoon, following our annual meeting, 24 boats decorated with balloons, flags, ornaments and creative design themes, participated in a boat parade around the lake. Music from the boats resounded across the water. **People on shore were enjoying the spectacle by cheering for their favorite decorated craft.** First prize - \$50 was awarded to the Gary Mueller team (Hawaiiin Theme); Second prize - \$30 to Jim Sommers team (Proud to be an American); and Third prize - \$20 to Jake Flannery team (Gilligan's Island). **Following the parade a cookout was held at Veteran's Memorial Park and was attended by nearly 200 people.** It was a beautiful day, lots of fun, friendly

conversation and good food. We are already planning for next year. A special thanks to Harry Resch, Roger Mushall and Tim Leonardelli who organized the event. Special thanks to Tim Leonardelli who organized the cookout and to all those who assisted in judging the entries. It was a challenge for the judges. All entries were fantastic!

### KENTUCK DAYS – ART IN THE SQUARE

– Our Lake Association had booths at both of these local events. In addition to selling 400 raffle tickets for our \$6,000 gun and merchandise raffle, mini-raffles were also held on these two days. A majority of the tickets for our \$6,000 raffle were sold separately by our members and the balance were sold at our booths. Again, Dale Huss was the leader of raffle tickets sales. TERRIFIC JOB, DALE! We appreciate all of your efforts and willingness to help raise funds for the Association. Thanks also, to all who helped with booth set-up and take-down, as well as, raffle sales activities. The net results of these fund raising activities are as follows:

Gun & Merchandise Raffle -	\$3,177
Kentuck Days and Art in the	
Square Mini-Raffles -	\$ 942

### EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL

With Lake Association funds and grant monies, the Association contracted with EnviroScience, Inc., at a cost of \$11,057 to plant 8,000 weevils in the Eurasian Water Milfoil (“EWM”) beds in the lake on July 26, 2002. The use of weevils is a biological control method used in the struggle to eradicate EWM. Beds around the lake were inspected and the biologists chose to plant the weevils in the bay directly south of Strawberry Point. The weevils and weevil eggs are brought to the lake on bunches of EWM. Biologists attach these plants to EWM in the lake. During the larval lifestage, it eats away at the delicate leaves and tissue where it is born. Increasing in size and stamina, the larva burrow into the stem of the EWM plant and eat the vascular tissues inside the stem, preventing the transport of important carbohydrates and nutrients throughout the plant. The damaged plant falls to the bottom of the lake and dies. When EWM has been destroyed in one area, the weevils move to other weed beds. Previous surveys have shown that Lake Metonga has native weevils that have caused damage to some of the plants. Weevils feed on the EWM plants and do not destroy the beneficial Northern Milfoil. In the fall, the weevils fly to the shore and winter in the foliage along the

shoreline, returning to the beds next spring.

During the lake inspection, two other EWM beds were identified. One 3 acre bed was located in front of Farmer's Bay and the other 1 acre bed on the southwest shore, just south of Nemec's Resort. The Association chose to chemically treat these two beds a total cost of \$2,135. The total cost to control the spread of EWM in 2002 was \$13,192 (Weevils - \$11,057; 2-4 D Treatment- \$2,135). This further points out the need for Association membership support.

**ZEBRA MUSSELS** – were identified in Lake Metonga in July of 2001. With grant funding, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, in the spring of 2002, initiated a long-term study in partnership with Lake Metonga Association, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Wisconsin DNR, to address the possible ecological impacts of zebra mussel infestation in Lake Metonga, and the potential spread downstream to the Wolf River.

Our Association is working with Michael Preul, Sokaogon Chippewa Community Fishery Biologist and Project Leader, to perform chemical, physical and biological surveys. Biological studies include adult and juvenile zebra mussel surveys and surveys of other biological communities

most likely to be impacted by zebra mussels, including plankton (microscopic plants and animals) and fish.

Samplers were set out this summer and other habitat (fish cribs, rocks, etc.) throughout the Lake were examined.

Lake owners probably found zebra mussels on the legs of docks and boat lifts when they were removing them this fall. The results of the survey indicate that adult zebra mussel densities are presently low throughout most of the Lake.

The Association, in partnership with the Fishery Biologist, will continue the study in 2003. Results from this study will be used to help manage the Lake Metonga ecosystem and may be used to help predict the impacts of zebra mussels on other inland lakes.

## **LAKE MANAGEMENT**

### **PLANNING GRANT –**

The collection of data, printing and binding is complete. Some of the completed grant packages have been delivered to year-around residents and others who were here for weekends in October. The Association will mail the balance to the remaining property owners. The Association contracted with R. T. Krueger of Northern Lake Service, to summarize the data and provide the aquatic plant and water chemistry

surveys. The grant package includes the following information:

Lake History

Water Quality

Lake Use

Shoreline and Watershed Management

Aquatic Vegetation

Fish & Game Management

Private Waste Disposal

A special thank you to all of the Action Team members who assisted in the collection of information for our grant which is integrated into an overall lake management plan. This information provides a baseline and data that will enable the Lake Association to respond to current and future changes in the Lake. Status reports will continue to be provided in newsletters and at the annual meetings.

The picture shown on the front page of this newsletter was taken from a 1946 post card given to our Association by Mrs. James Flannery. I believe that Steve Conway gave the best explanation. Steve remembers walking across the log foot bridge and indicated that the slanting arrangement of timbers represented a type of fish ladder that suckers used to swim up Outlet Creek into Lake Metonga. Does anyone else have memories they would like to share?

## **HOLIDAY GREETINGS!**

May all our members and newsletter readers have a Joyous Holiday Season and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Let justice and peace prevail throughout the world!

**Enjoy the Winter Season**

*Les Schramm*