Lake Metonga Association News

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SOUNDS OF SPRING

Finally, after a cold and snowy end of February, March and April, the sounds of spring filled the air. The " Spring Peepers," who make their home in the wet lands and pools in the thickets and woodlands, sing out loudly at night or on cloudy, rainy days. The males, by inflating their vocal sack, make a clear and melodious "peep-peep-peep" calling for a mate. The background drumming of the Pileated Woodpecker, working it's way into the heart of a carpenter ant infested tree, adds to the rhythmic tones. Then, intertwined were a variety of vocalizations from the mallards, mergansers, buffleheads, northern shovelers, and the beautiful wood duck crying "wooeep, wooeep, wooeep."

As the ice began to break up, we received a call from Hazel Bryant, who told us that she and Bud had spotted a loon and heard its call, which is among the most extraordinary sounds in nature. Then there were the two immature and one adult bald eagle circling the lake, searching the ice flows for food; maybe some minnows or a fish left on the ice by some ice fisherman. Ice out occurred on April 24th, which is fifteen days later than in 2001 (April 9th).

Then, all the sounds of spring and the wildlife activity came to a halt when 12 inches of heavy, wet snow fell on April 27th and 28th. The sounds of spring turned to the sound of snowblowers and plows. But, in the following days, warm weather and rain soon caused the snow to disappear. The lake was a beehive of activity on May 4th, opening day of fishing season. All the anglers were seeking their first walleye catch of the season. Docks and boat lifts were being moved from land back into the water. Spring, with its sounds and activity, make this a beautiful time to be in the Northwoods and enjoying the waters of Lake Metonga.

ICE FISHING CLEAN UP - A special thank you to Roger Mushall and Pat Kapla, who drove a four wheeler with a trailer and went around the lake to pick up trash left on the ice after the ice fishermen removed their ice shanties at March 15th deadline. It is unfortunate that this kind of pick up is necessary to keep the trash from sinking into the lake, resulting in pollution. We all enjoy the lake, the fishery, the recreation and the beauty. Let's all be good stewards of this beautiful natural resource.

WAL CONVENTION - Les and Donna Schramm attended the WAL ("Wisconsin Association of Lakes") Convention held in Green Bay on March 7, 8, & 9, 2002. More than 500 people from all areas of Wisconsin gathered to show their concern for the future of our nation's lakes. The convention is one of the largest of its kind in the United States, and has attained great popularity due to the enthusiasm of people willing to share their experiences and time. Les gave a presentation regarding Lake Metonga Association's experience with the invasion of Eurasian Water Milfoil; how to control its spread; and the financial cost of that effort; as well as, providing preventative recommendations.

The theme of the convention was 'HOW'S THE WATER- Water recreation in Wisconsin and across the Nation." Following are some of the

topics that were addressed.

1. **Boating Trends and Law** - Wisconsin ranks #6 in the number of registered boats (502,000 in 1991 and 576,000 in 2001). Boat sizes 16' - 26' increased by 47% and boats under 16' decreased by 2.5% over the last 10 years. Personal water craft ("PWC") registration has increased from 5,000 in 1991 to 30,000 in 2001.

2. **Noise Pollution** - Noise is rapidly becoming a most pervasive pollutant. People are coming to the lakes in search of peace and quiet. But, lakes now share many of the noise characteristics of society in general. We are all aware of how sound travels over water. Boats, personal water craft, lawn mowers, boom boxes, etc., generate noise. We all need to be aware of our recreational activity: Respect the law adopted in 1998, **"Watercraft shall be operated at slow-no-wake within 100 feet of any other boat or within 200 feet of the shoreline."** Use the center of the lake for activities, this helps to lessen the noise level for those who want to enjoy the peace and quiet along the shoreline.

SPORT AND BAIT SHOPS - Wally and Mary Wied, owners of **Crandon Sports and Gift Shop**, decided it was time to retire from their business at the end of January. This marked 55 years that the community has been served by Wally and Mary and previous owners at this location. Since their retirement, their motor home has taken them to Florida, and they have plans for going to Alaska. Most recently, they went to Sweden and a trip to Spain is planned for this summer. Our lake owners, tourists and the community will miss the excellent service you've provided. A special thanks to Wally and Mary. Enjoy your retirement, have fun traveling. We all wish you well.

Larry and Angie's NORTHERN SPORT SHOP has also been serving the community for 9 years. Fishing licenses, bait, guns, ammunition, archery equipment, professional repairs and service are available at NORTHERN SPORT SHOP. They are **open seven days a week** to provide bait, equipment and service for your sporting needs. Thanks, Larry and Angie for your continued dedication and service to the community.

The building occupied by sports businesses for 55 years is now the home for **"1 PROSPECT", a computer business,** specializing in the assembly, sale and service of computers, networking, web page design, web hosting, upgrades and repairs. We welcome this computer expertise and its President, Jason Neilitz, into this location in our community.

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING GRANT - All of the Action Teams have been accumulating data, preparing narratives on the history of Lake Metonga, selecting educational material for septic systems, taking photographs, assessing the history of the fishery, stocking and surveys by the DNR and the Sokoagon Chippewa Community. The Lake Use Surveys returned last fall will be summarized and reported. Our consultant, R. T. Krueger of Northern Lake Service, will be using all of the data to prepare a final grant report. Northern Lake Service is also doing the aquatic vegetation survey and the shoreline and watershed management portion of the grant, including recommendations so that the Association can respond to current and/or future changes that may occur in the lake's ecosystem. The final report will be completed by the end of July and will be bound in notebook form and given to all property owners on the lake.

PARTNERSHIP - The **ZEBRA MUSSEL PROBLEM** we are now facing leaves some unanswered questions: (1) Will the water chemistry of the lake support zebra mussel growth? (2) What affect will increased zebra mussel density have on the fishery? (3) What affect could zebra mussels have on the overall ecosystem of the lake?

The Sokoagon Chippewa Community has received a grant to **"establish a long-term monitoring program to assess the effects of zebra mussels on the Lake Metonga ecosystem."** The tribe will **partner** with Lake Metonga Association, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS - Ashland) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Samplers will be placed around the lake to collect zebra mussel veligers. Adult zebra mussel collection bricks will be placed in rock bed areas around the lake. So, if you see a boat and someone scuba diving, it is probably the Fishery Biologist, Mike Pruel, doing the collections.

PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVE: In addition to zebra mussel sampling, the following surveys will be performed which will help to predict the impact of zebra mussels.

1. Water Chemistry
2. Phytoplankton;
3. Zooplankton;
4. Benthic Macroinvertebrates
5. Rusty Crayfish
6. Fish - Walleye Juvenile
7. Fish - Adult Condition
8. Walleye & Yellow Perch Larval Diet

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL - The total expenditure to treat the milfoil beds with 2,4-D in 2001 was $4,731.89. Lake surveys will be conducted to monitor the milfoil growth as the spring and summer season progresses. Also, the goal is to add 8,000 weevils in June, which will cost approximately $9,000. However, a portion of this amount ($5,000) will be allocated from the Lake Management Planning Grant. The Association will continue to work with the WDNR, Aquatic Biologists, Inc. (2,4-D application firm), and EnviroScience, Inc. (weevil supplier), to determine the treatment and control for 2002.

Thank you for your membership and donations that help to financially support the treatment of this exotic weed.

WATCH FOR THE JUNE MAILING which will include: **1.** Membership Application; **2.** Boat Parade Schedule; **3.** Planned raffle; **4.** Annual Meeting Agenda.

ANNUAL MEETING - JULY 6, 2002; 9 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M. at the Crandon School Auditorium. **PLAN TO ATTEND!**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

WATER TOYS: Firms are beginning to market inflatable water toys; such as, trampolines, slides, climbing walls and ramp skiing devices. These bright multicolored devices are being reviewed by the WDNR and may require permits for certain sizes and heights, as well as, restrictions related to removing them from the water at sundown. We all enjoy the fun of using water recreational equipment. However, it is important for each of us to consider and weigh the use of these devices in contrast to enjoying the natural scenic beauty of our public waters and shorelines.

DUMP GUIDELINES: Lake Owners who take the garbage and recyclable items to the Town of Lincoln Dump should be aware of the NEW RECYCLING GUIDELINES.

MIXED RECYCLABLES:
Plastic, cans and glass can be combined.
Plastic:
Numbers 1 through 7
Rinse Containers

No motor oil, cooking oil containers, toys, plastic banding, or plastic bags.

Tin Cans - Aluminum Cans:
Rinse thoroughly.
No Aerosol cans.
Glass:
All colors
No light bulbs, dishes, or window glass

MIXED PAPER AND CARDBOARD:

Paper: No need to separate.
Newspaper
Junk Mail
Magazines
Paper grocery bags
No contaminated paper, Plastic wrap, paper plates, papertowels, Kleenex, etc.

Cardboard:
Break down boxes to size less than 2' by 2'.

No wax coated cardboard, only clean Cardboard. No egg cartons.

No lead acid batteries, waste oil, yard waste, paint, liquid petroleum products (roofing, varnish, etc.) microwaves.

HOURS OPEN:
WEDNESDAY - MAY 29 TO AUGUST 28, 2002 - 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
SATURDAY - ALL YEAR - 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
SUNDAY - ALL YEAR - 1 P.M. TO 4 P.M.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER AT THE LAKE!

Les Schramm