

# Lake Metonga Association Newsletter

## April 2005



### An Ice Fishing Village On Lake Metonga

**Ice Fishing** Although spring is here, it is great to recall the challenge of catching a perch or walleye through the ice. The ice is thick, the auger barely reaches through as it works its way down. Then the decision, "Should we set up a tip-up or use a jug pole, or both and probably drill more holes?" It's cold, but it doesn't matter; the excitement of catching the first one gets the blood pumping. Up goes a flag and we're off and running to that tip-up. Probably best of all, is the conversation that takes place among the fisherman. Story after story fills the air. It's great fun. If you've never tried ice fishing, plan to do so next winter. You'll be hooked, I can assure you. Don't forget to take the kids. It's fun for them too.



### Kids Like to Ice Fish, Too!

**Loons Here! – Ice Out!** This happened again and in that order this spring. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, as large sheets of ice were moving about, two loons landed in Strawberry Bluff Bay and on the north end of the Lake in isolated patches of open water. Their sense of timing is amazing. They somehow know that Lake Metonga is ready to fish and they're here diving and performing. They are beautiful birds and exiting to watch. Their call is fascinating.

April 18<sup>th</sup> was officially ICE OUT! We were spared the ice damage that has occurred some years to the shorelines and also the roadway on the east side of the Lake. A strong wind pushing a large slab of ice into the shore will uproot boulders, trees and whatever is in its

path. Thankfully, this spring, we didn't have the wind that causes this type of problem.

**Fish Creel Survey** The Fall 2004 Newsletter included the results of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ("WDNR") Fyke Netting Survey. The WDNR also conducted a creel survey from May 1, 2004 that continued throughout the summer, fall, winter, and ended on March 1, 2005. The time period from November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> is typically not surveyed due to low-fishing effort and unsafe ice. Maybe you were checked while in your boat or at one of the boat landings or out on the ice.

One key factor influencing the fish population in Lake Metonga is the harvest of fish by sports anglers. The creel survey is a management tool used to measure the fishing activities. The WDNR cannot interview every angler who fishes Lake Metonga; therefore, a random sampling is conducted and a computer program is then used to project angler activity (effort, catch and harvest) throughout the fishing season. The goal is to have the projections represent the actual values as closely as possible. The WDNR appreciates the cooperation given to the creel clerk during the interviews that were conducted. Angler information will be summarized in a final report which should be available to our Association by June 2005. However, I was able to receive preliminary data from the WDNR which I will share with you.

The following chart shows the projections of harvest (actual legal size fish caught and kept) and the projection of the of the total fish caught including legal size kept and those undersize that were released. (Example, John Doe caught 10 walleyes, but could only keep one.)

### PROJECTIONS

Fish Specie	Harvest	Total Caught
Walleye	369	2,794
Northern	160	1,319
Sm. Mouth Bass	407	5,007
Perch	8,657	23,481

Walleye survey data indicated that the number of the fish caught were in the 10 – 14 inch size range, which accounts for the 2,794 projected catch. But only 369 were keepers.

For perch, the total projected number caught is 23,481. This projection is not unreasonable, since there are a number of small perch caught that are returned to the Lake.

Small Northern, 16 to 22 inches, are probably returned to the Lake which would account for the low 160 harvested.

The final report will also show a projection of fishing effort (number of fishing hours it takes to catch a keeper) and the length distribution of each specie.

**Aquatic Invasive Specie Grant** Aquatic Invasive Species can threaten the diversity and abundance of native plants, alter ecosystems, including fishery and affect our economy and recreational activities. We are aware that this

invasion has happened in Lake Metonga. Since 1997, when the Eurasian Water Milfoil was discovered in Lake Metonga, the Association has continually battled to control its spread in the Lake and to other lakes and waterways in the area. Since 1997, the Association has expended \$24,085 to control this invasive specie chemically and biologically (seeding two milfoil beds with 8,000 weevils).

In 2005, the State of Wisconsin, decided to increase its financial support to local governments to prevent the spread of introduced aquatic invasives by creating an Aquatic Invasive Specie Prevention and Control Grant ("AIS" Grant). The AIS Grant provides a 50% cost-share to local governments which can be matched with donated labor, materials or cash. Lake associations are not eligible to file; only government bodies qualify. The Association prepared the grant application and proposed budget requesting grant funds. The Town of Lincoln Board of Supervisors agreed to file the grant on January 7, 2005, and if awarded, would funnel the grant award dollars to Lake Metonga Association.

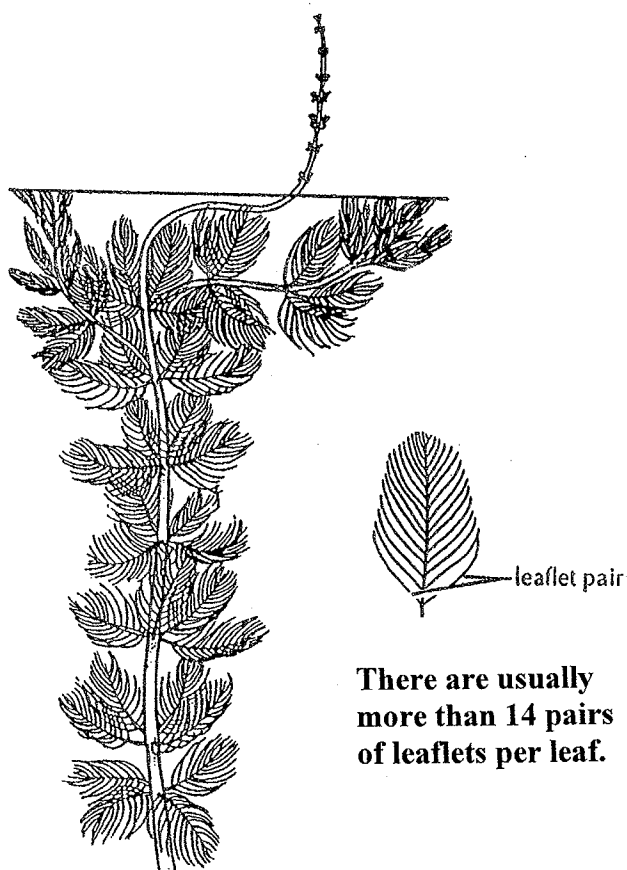
The Association was informed on April 12, 2005 that the grant was awarded to the Town of Lincoln. The 50% cost share grant awarded the amount of \$14, 752.00 over a two year period (2005 and 2006). The Association will be responsible for the 50% cost share -  $\$14,752/2 = \$7,376.00$ .

A consulting firm (Onterra, LLC, De Pere, Wisconsin – a Lake Management Planning

Firm) is contracted to conduct the aquatic plant survey. Aquatic Biologists will be hired to provide the chemical treatment as required. A follow up survey in 2006 will assess the effectiveness of the treatment. An Aquatic Plant Management Plan will be provided by Onterra in 2006.

### **Recognizing Eurasian Water Milfoil**

Eurasian Water milfoil is a submersed aquatic plant with feather-like leaves arranged in whorls (circles) on the stem.



**There are usually more than 14 pairs of leaflets per leaf.**

### **Do You Allow Hitchhikers?**

Aquatic Invasive Specie plants spread in many ways such as on other aquatic plants on recreational equipment and in water.

**1. INSPECT your boat, trailer, and equipment, including anchor ropes and anchors, and REMOVE visible aquatic plants, animals and mud before leaving the water access.**

It is important to carefully remove all plant fragments before you leave the access area to ensure you are not transporting an invasive plant species. This will also reduce the threat of moving zebra mussels that hitchhike by attaching to aquatic plants.

**2. DRAIN water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells, and bait containers before leaving the water access.**

Many types of invasive species are very small and easily overlooked for example, zebra mussel larvae are invisible to the naked eye. Seeds or small fragments of invasive plants, spiny waterfleas, eggs of fish and small aquatic animals, and fish diseases can be carried in water. Draining water before you leave the access area will effectively reduce the chance that any remaining plants and animals survive.

**3. DISPOSE of unwanted bait and other animals or aquatic plants in the trash.**

Waste containers are provided at each boat launch. Releasing live animals and plants in a lake along the shore often causes invasive species to become established.

**4. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT – JET SKIS.** Avoid running engine through aquatic

plants. Run engine for 5-10 seconds on the trailer to blow out excess water and vegetation from internal drive. Remove aquatic plants and animals from the water intake grate, steering nozzle, watercraft hull, and trailer.

**Keep Your e-mail Contacts** If you want to keep in touch with your e-mail friends while here in the Northwoods on weekends or while vacationing, the Crandon Public Library has 5 computers available for accessing your e-mail. The Library is located at 110 W. Polk St. The hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Thursday – 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**WANTED – VOLUNTEERS!!!**

**(ADULTS & YOUTH) – WILL**

**TRAIN!** Volunteers are needed at both boat launches to inspect boats, trailers, recreational equipment and to alert and help lake users to remove visible aquatic plants when entering or leaving the Lake.

Plan to donate an hour or two of your time. We will train you on the procedure and inspection steps. Handouts will be available to support this effort.

Please call Les Schramm at (715) 478-5197. It is not necessary to be a lake front property owner to volunteer. All volunteers are welcome. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

### **Lake Metonga Vests and Jackets**

The Association is selling forest green fleece vests and jackets with an embroidered Lake Metonga Walleye logo on the front for \$35.00 each.

Sizes are medium, large and extra large and are available by calling Les Schramm at (715) 478-5197 to place an order or they can be purchased at the Annual Meeting.



### **Watch For These Coming Events**

Watch for the June Newsletter mailing which will include:

1. 2005 Membership Application
2. Annual Meeting July 2, 2005  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
in the Crandon School Auditorium
3. Boat Parade
4. Raffles

***Have a great summer season!***

*Les Schramm*