

Lake Metonga Association Newsletter

Spring 2006



A Time to Treasure

Ice Out April 18, 2006 - Mother Nature was very kind to Lake Metonga this year. The ice slowly melted, with very little wind, so the ice did not pile up on the shoreline causing erosion damage.

You may recall a few years ago when ice was pushed up on East Lakeview (along the east shore.) A front-end loader was used to clear the road of huge ice chunks before traffic could again travel the road.

This year the ice remained on the east and south shore. As it melted, open water appeared on the west side of the Lake. Then the wind switched directions and this huge ice mass

moved to the west side and remained until all the ice melted on April 18th. It's always a mystery as to how and when ice out is going to happen. That's what makes living on the Lake so exciting.

First Moose – Now Wolves - Last year two moose roamed into our area and decided to take a walk in Lake Metonga. Apparently they decided that this is an okay area as the latest reports had them wintering in the Summit Lake region north of Antigo.

If you were outside at night this winter and heard some howling, it probably was wolves. Dick and Mary Holtz (East Lakeview) had five wolves walk down their driveway; 3 adults and 2

pups. Doug Micke also reported a sighting. Mary and Dick often see deer in their backyard, but the presence of wolves caused the deer to go into hiding. It's easy to guess why. Who will be our next surprise visitors?

Metonga Lakeside Resort - In January 2006, Holly Kulinski and her two sons, Kain and Kody, became the new managers of the resort. Kain is the chef and Kody has responsibility for the bar area. It's an excellent facility where you can relax with a drink, enjoy conversation with your neighbors and friends and select a snack or a meal from the menu. Appetizers, sandwiches and entrees, plus daily specials are there to tempt your taste buds. Also featured is the traditional Friday night fish fry. We welcome Holly, Kain and Kody to Lake Metonga and wish them success in their new venture. They are enthusiastic about serving property owners, tourists and those in the Crandon community.

Loon Sighting - The instinct of these beautiful birds is absolutely amazing. Just one day after ice out, Wayne and Shirley Coleman spotted two loons on the south end of the Lake. A few days later, they were spotted in Strawberry Bay and Bud and Hazel Bryant called to report a loon swimming on the north end of the Lake.

We are again planning to place the loon nesting platforms built by Dave Patzlaff in an area that hopefully will entice last year's pair back to take up residency or welcome any other pair looking for a spot to nest.

Ice Out – Trash In



Photo by: Myrna Flannery

Ice fishing is a fun sport enjoyed by many on Lake Metonga. When March 15th arrives, all ice shanties must be removed from the Lake. This includes any and all trash that may have accumulated during the fishing season.

Unfortunately, this didn't happen and ice out brought boards, planks, bottles, cans, paper and plastic floating onto the shorelines of property owners. Please police your ice fishing area and pick up all trash before you leave and encourage others to do the same. This is a beautiful Lake for all to enjoy. Doing our part will preserve this pristine body of water and protect the shoreline environment.

Aquatic Invasive Specie Grant - In May of 2005, funds from this grant and Association monies were used to treat 14.92 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil ("EWM") in 12 separate beds around the Lake at a cost of \$7,100.00.

Unfortunately, the 2, 4-D chemical treatment was ineffective. After several negotiations with Aquatic Biologists (applicator) and Applied Biologists (2,4-D Chemical

Supplier), it was mutually agreed that they would re-treat the entire 14.92 acres at no cost to the Association. Also, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (“WDNR”), our grant consultant (Onterra, LLC) and the Applied Biologists have test procedures planned in order to determine the cause of the ineffectiveness of the prior treatment. An aquatic plant survey will be performed the week of May 8th and the re-treatment will occur during the week of May 15th, weather permitting.

Zebra Mussel Status - Michael Preul, Fishery Biologist for the Chippewa Community of Mole Lake, reported the following changes have occurred in 2005.

1. The average Secchi Disk reading (water clarity) increased from 20.5 feet to 27.0 feet. This is direct result of the increase in mussel density and an increase in filtering levels.
2. Chlorophyl values have decreased from 5 to 1.4 Mg./L. This is a result of algae being filtered by the zebra mussels.
3. Mussel densities have increased from 632 per square meter in 2002 to 1,430 per square meter in 2005. It does appear that the juveniles are growing at a slower rate which may indicate a possible leveling off in numbers.

Zebra mussel samplers will again be placed on ten property owners’ docks. Thank you for assisting us with this survey. Mike will continue to monitor water clarity and chemistry and zooplankton levels.

Clean Up Weekend - Let’s plan to take some time during the Memorial Day weekend to clean up the trash from our roadways and ditches around the Lake. It won’t take very long, if everyone takes an hour or two. Brian Wellman, Doug Micke, and Gary Mueller, just to name a few, have already been active with their pick-up bags. Let’s have our roadways also reflect the beauty of our Lake. Anytime you are out walking, take a trash bag along. You find it’s contagious and soon others will do the same.

Condo Development - A developer has proposed building 15 – four unit condos on the 12 acre Glen Park property at the north end of the Lake. A public hearing was held on April 13, 2006. Les Schramm represented the Lake Association and expressed the following concerns:

1. Potential for excessive run-off water from impervious surfaces, i.e. roof tops, driveways and roads, and groomed lawns. Any excess of nutrients in run-off will fuel weed growth in the Lake.
2. The need for a minimum of 35 feet of shoreline buffers consisting of native vegetation, bushes and plants to filter chemicals and sediment before run-off enters Lake waters.
3. The number of docks and slips limited to WDNR regulations: 10 allowable in 450 feet of shoreline frontage.
4. Concern for sensible shoreline lighting to preserve the beauty of the night. Dusk to

dawn lights would be annoying to neighbors.

The permit to develop was granted by the City Planning Commission. A landscape rendering was not provided by the developer at this time but must accompany the special use permit. The WDNR has not given a decision on the number of docks and slips.

County Park Fee – Since our Association has absorbed the cost of treating the EWM in front of the boat launch and swimming area at the County Park at the South end of the Lake, I approached the Forest County Park Committee requesting funding to support our Association effort. It was approved that one dollar of every park fee would be given to the Association to support this work. We sincerely thank the Committee for adopting this proposal.

Venus – Metonga Powerline – The Public Service Commission has granted approval to American Transmission Company to build a 13 mile, 115 KV power line from Monico to Crandon. Currently, the Crandon area is served by a 25 KV distribution system. Increased power demand has caused voltage problems and further growth will cause additional power needs. The new substation will be located west of Highway 55 on the north end of the County asphalt plant property.

Did You Know? –

- The wake from your boat or jet ski can destroy spawning beds?
- Boating near shore can erode precious shoreline and harm aquatic plants?

- Your prop can stir up sediments resulting in rapid algae blooms?
- Loons and other nesting birds will often abandon their nests when stressed by near-shore boaters?
- Fast boating and jet skiing close to the shore increases noise pollution?

You Can Help Save Your Lake -

- Travel at Slow-No-Wake speed when you leave the dock!
- Make sure you are at least 200 feet from shore when your throttle is open! This is the law!
- Try to avoid weed beds and other shallow areas when boating fast!
- Always waterski far away from shore!
- Throttle way down before returning to the dock!
- Tell your friends to help by going slowly when near shore!

It's all true! Aggressive boating behavior can badly damage Lake Metonga. Our Lake can be permanently changed by fast boating near shore. Fewer fish, birds, frogs, helpful insects and other important animal friends result from fast boating near shore. We all want to have fun when we're at the lake. Some of our activities can hurt our Lake but we can enjoy ourselves without damaging our Lake and our wildlife.

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 accompanied by an adult.

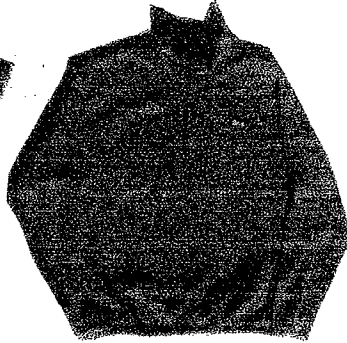
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Lake Metonga Tee Shirts, Fleece Jackets & Vests, and Sweatshirts **Still Available**



Kids \$14
Adults \$15



Adults
\$35



Adults
\$35



Adults
\$30

FLEECE VESTS AND JACKETS ARE FOREST GREEN.
TEE SHIRTS ARE PINE GREEN, AND SWEATSHIRTS ARE GRAY.
Each item has an embroidered LAKE METONGA WALLEYE logo.

To Order: Call Les Schramm at 715-478-5197.

WATCH FOR THESE COMING EVENTS

The June Newsletter mailing will include:

1. 2006 Membership Application
2. Annual Meeting – July 1, 2006 – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
In the Crandon School Auditorium
3. Boat Parade and Association Cookout
July 1st – 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Metonga Lakeside Resort
4. Raffles

Have a great summer season!

Les Schramm