

# Lake Metonga Association Newsletter

## Spring 2007



### ***FEEDING TIME!***

**BALD EAGLE** Isn't this an awesome picture?

The white head and tail are distinctive characteristics of this beautiful bird and present a striking contrast with its dark brown body. Its large bill, feet and eyes are yellow. The length of the female ranges from 34 to 43 inches and the male from 30 to 35 inches. The birds weigh from 8 to 14 pounds with 7 foot wingspans. Bald eagles feed primarily on fish and will scavenge dead fish left on the ice by ice fishermen or along shorelines. They also capture live fish with their sharp, strong talons. The young eagles patiently wait for either

parent to return to the nest with a minnow or scavenged piece of food.

Enjoy the beauty of our Lake Metonga eagles. Please respect their nesting areas.

**ICE OUT – APRIL 20, 2007** The middle of April seems to be the magic date for Ice Out. For the last 3 years Ice Out has occurred between April 18<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>. It is interesting to watch the shifting that occurs as the wind changes direction and moves the massive ice floe from the East side to West and/or South to North or vice-versa. Then the

surface color turns to gray and almost black as the final melting process takes place. It gives one the feeling that, "Yes, Spring is finally here". It doesn't take long before docks start appearing in the water and anglers eagerly look forward to the start of the fishing season.

Mergansers came by the dozens swimming and feeding in open water before Ice-Out. They are fish-eating, diving ducks with long thin bills that are serrated on the side which prevents their catch from escaping. They seem to disappear after Ice-Out, probably heading for Canadian waters.

**MALLARDS ON METONGA** In January 2007, Gary and Mary Jo Cyrus and daughter, Marci Vargo, became the new managers of this restaurant. (Mallards was formerly known as Metonga Lakeside Resort.) It is an excellent facility, which is completely smoke free, where you can relax with a drink, enjoy conversation with your neighbors and friends and choose from a list of delicious entrees, i.e. ribs, steaks, seafood or an irresistible juicy burger. Also featured is the traditional Friday Night Fish Fry. We welcome Mary Jo, Gary and Marci back to Lake Metonga and wish them success in their new venture. They are enthusiastic about serving people around the Lake, visitors and all those in the Crandon community.

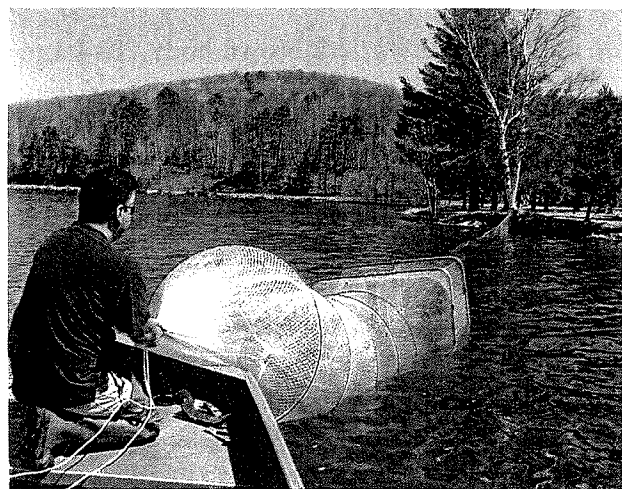
**METONGA CREEL SURVEY** Beginning on the opening day of fishing season May 5, 2007, and continuing through October 31, 2007, a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ("WDNR") Creel Survey Technician will interview anglers

throughout the fishing season. The technician will work 5 days each week, which includes all weekends, on the water or at the boat launch from early morning to 1:30 p.m. on some days and from 1:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on other days.

Creel surveys provide information on catch and harvest rates, the total number of anglers fishing and total angling exploitation. Exploitation is the percent of spring adult population that ends up being harvested during the fishing season. This data is used to help manage the walleye population over the long-term and help determine whether the angling and tribal spearing regulations are working. After the Lake freezes in December and continuing through the first week in March, the technician will randomly work 4 ten-hour days each week.

Scott is the WDNR Technician and his cocker spaniel will be in his boat or by his side on the ice. Please welcome him if he visits your boat or ice shanty. The data he collects is of great benefit in determining how the fishery of Lake Metonga is managed.

#### **FYKE NETTING**



Mike Pruel, Fishery Biologist from the Mole Lake Chippewa Tribe, agreed to perform the fyke netting survey for the WDNR. The survey targets walleyes because of the importance to sport anglers and to tribal spearing, but information is also collected on other game fish, pan fish, and other non-game fish species. In addition, data from electro-shocking and creel surveys is important in determining the status of the fishery in the Lake.

The nets were set out immediately after Ice Out on April 20<sup>th</sup> and remained through the peak of the walleye spawning period. The nets were pulled each day. This is the first step in a year-long multi-step process to assess the fish population in the Lake.

The fyke netting crew measure the fish they collect. They determine the sex of the fish by the presence of eggs or milt, mark the fish by fin clipping and then remove a scale or dorsal fin spine sample for later analysis to determine the fish's age before releasing them back into the water.

Many people assume that the reduced bag limits are a response to some damage that has occurred in the fishery, when in actuality, they are only a preventative measure to assure that the total combined sport angler and tribal harvest for the year does not reach an unsafe level.

Preliminary results show that the fish are healthy; however, actual fish density/acre levels are still to be determined as data collection continues.

Thank you, Mike, for your interest, concern and willingness to conduct the fyke netting survey.

### **CLEAN BOATS – CLEAN WATERS**

This is a volunteer program that involves citizens in watercraft inspections at boat launches. Volunteers will serve to inform and educate the public about how people can help prevent the spread of invasives by inspecting their watercraft and removing aquatic plants and animals from their boats and equipment before entering and leaving launch sites.

The Mole Lake Sokaogon can direct a portion of its annual payment to the State to any local government entity. The Tribe, in partnership with the City of Crandon, has designated \$5,000 to employ two youth to assist boaters at the launches to check for aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other invasive species. We thank the Tribe for their involvement in this program.

Also, any person who launches their boat in Lake Metonga waters should do this inspection and observe the procedures listed on the signs at the boat launches. Let's prevent other invasives from entering the Lake.

### **LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING GRANT**

On February 1, 2007, our lake consultant, Onterra, LLC, filed a Lake Management Planning Grant for Lake Metonga Association ("LMA"). The purpose of the grant project is to address managing the Lake from a total ecosystem perspective which includes an assessment of the Lake aquatic plants, watershed, water quality and Lake fishery. The assessment of all these components and communication with the WDNR specialists would allow for the creation of a long-term plan which LMA can implement.

The total project cost is \$12,994.50. This is a 75/25% cost-share grant with the State funding \$9,745.88 and LMA furnishing \$3,248.62. The grant was received on 4/25/07.

LMA's participation is a very important element in this grant planning exercise. The Association needs to understand the value of a natural ecosystem and the means to protect and/or enhance it. At the start of the project, an informational meeting will be held with the consultant to inform LMA about the project, past efforts, and the goals and components of this proposal. The date will be arranged with consultant.

LMA needs eight members to step forward and serve on a planning committee to review the technical aspects of the project and prioritize goals for the Lake. Please call Les Schramm (715) 478-5197 to participate on this committee.

The tentative project schedule is as follows:

Task	2007									
	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Informational Meeting										
Disburse Survey										
Data Analysis										
Planning Comm. Meeting										
Report – First Draft										
Report – Final Draft										
Final Report Meeting										

This is a tremendous opportunity for our Association to gain a thorough understanding of the Lake's ecosystem and to establish a long-term plan for the protection of Lake Metonga. The progress of the project will be presented at the annual meeting and the June newsletter.

### MESSAGE FROM TIM LEONARDELLI

Tim has agreed to organize the cook-out that is planned after the boat parade. The time and date will be published in the June newsletter. Tim needs 6 people to assist with cooking and serving the brats and hot dogs and helping to run the raffles Tim has planned. You can call Tim at (715) 478-3493 or at (262) 679-0587. Tim does a great job. Let's give him some help.

### WATCH FOR THESE COMING EVENTS

The June Newsletter will include:

1. Annual Meeting – June 30, 2007  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Crandon School Auditorium
2. 2007 Membership Application
3. Boat Parade – June 30, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.  
Cook Out and Raffles after the Parade
4. Gun Raffle

***Have a great summer!***

*Les Schramm*

## Lake Metonga Association Golf Outing 2007

If you're looking to recover from a hectic Memorial Day week end, think about joining our Lake Association members in the first Lake Metonga Association Golf Outing and Dinner. The event is Tuesday, May 29, Golf at Nicolet Country Club, Dinner at Mallards on Metonga. You may choose Golf, Dinner or both Golf and Dinner. The enclosed application will get things started. Please respond by May 15, 2007.

When-----Tuesday May 29, 2007

Where-----Golf – Nicolet Country Club  
Dinner – Mallards on Metonga

Time-----Golf at 1:30 p.m.  
Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Bar open at 5:00 p.m.

Event-----9 hole mixed scramble

Cost-----Golf \$5.00 [Greens Fee not included]  
Dinner - \$15.00 per person

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number for golf \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00

Number for Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ @\$15.00

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Remit to Chris and Gary Mueller, 4419 East Lakeview, Crandon 54520 by May 15, 2007.  
Call (715) 478-2049, if you have any questions.

