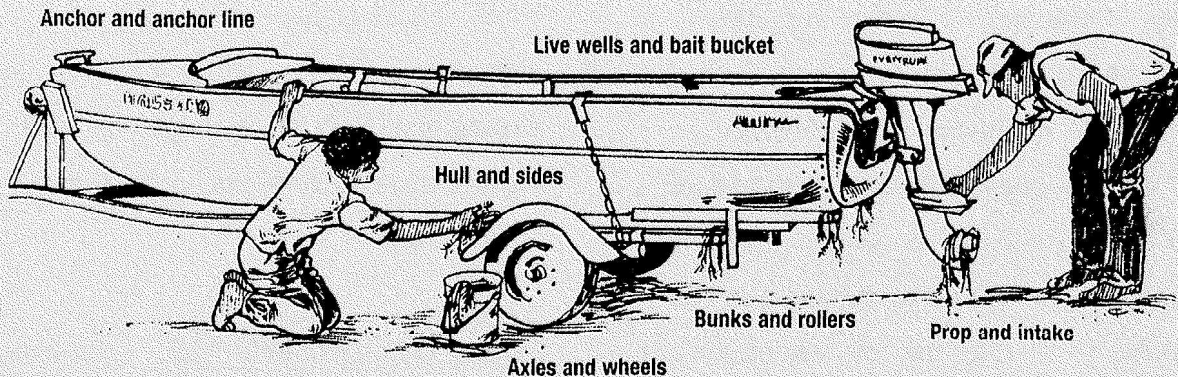


Lake Metonga Association Newsletter

Spring 2009



**Clean your boat and equipment to prevent
the spread of invasive species....**



Before you leave a body of water:

- **Inspect** and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat, trailer and equipment before leaving the landing. *This will reduce the threat of moving invasive species to another waterbody.*
- **Drain** all water from boat, motor, bilge, live wells and bait buckets and other containers before leaving the water access. *Many types of invasive species are small and easily overlooked. Zebra mussel larva are invisible to the naked eye. Seeds or small fragments of invasive plants, spiny waterfleas, eggs of fish or fish diseases (VHS) can be carried in the water. Draining all water reduces the chance of this occurring.*
- **Ice** your catch; don't leave the landing with live fish, bait, or fish eggs.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash, not in the water or on land.
- **Rinse** your boat and equipment with hot or high pressure water OR dry your boat for 5 days before entering another lake or river.

It's the law. . . Protect our water resources from invasive species!

State of Wisconsin: Section 30.715 WI Act 16 prohibits launching a boat or placing a boat or trailer in navigable waters if it has aquatic plants or aquatic animals attached.

Ice-Out – April 25, 2009

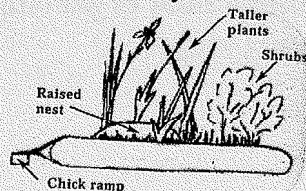
This was a fairly uneventful ice-out spring. It did take a couple of weeks in April before the ice started to turn dark gray. Fortunately, there was very little wind and the ice wasn't moved around so that it piled up in great quantities on the shoreline. The last couple of days before ice-out the wind switched to the south and moved the remaining large sheet of ice to the north end and it melted away. After a very long and cold winter, ice-out is a welcome event that lets us know spring is here.

Loons Return



The loons must have a particular sense that tells them just when to return to the Lake. The day the ice went out, April 25th, a loon appeared in Strawberry Bluff Bay and one could hear that mesmerizing yodel call echo across the open water.

On April 28th, Dave Patzlaff checked the two loon nesting platforms he had previously built. Two loons were already in the area of one platform. Dave tidied up the nesting foliage and wanted to add a new rope that spans 3 corners and is a deterrent that keeps the eagles from swooping down to get a young loon from the nest. When he returned with the rope, the Mama Loon was already on the nest.



Although the other platform hasn't been productive, Dave again set that nesting platform hoping that another pair will use it as it's nesting home. Thanks Dave, we all appreciate your dedication and effort with this project. The nesting platforms are inviting these beautiful birds to make Lake Metonga their warm weather season home.

What's In Your Tackle Box

Lead fishing tackle kills loons, eagles, ducks and other aquatic wildlife. All it takes is one lead sinker to kill a loon. For a penny more, this could be prevented with a non-toxic equivalent.



1. Replace lead jigs and sinkers with non-toxic equivalents made of steel, bismuth, tin, tungsten or ceramic.
2. Ask your sports dealer to carry non-lead products.

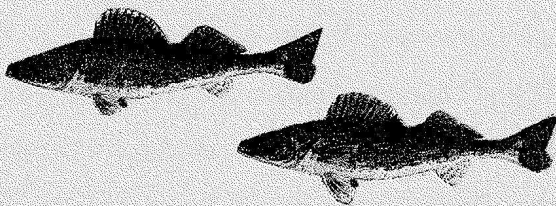
Enjoy fishing without poisoning the wildlife.

Declining Lake Levels

We have all witnessed the decrease in precipitation over the last four years. Rhinelander's Channel 12 TV Meteorologist, Matt Benz, indicated that the decrease in level of rainfall from 2005 to March 2009 is 20.45 inches below average for this area. New water quality and aquatic plant issues can emerge when lakes become shallower. Four inches of water is going over the dam at the south end of Lake Metonga, so currently its water level

currently its' water level is about average. Our neighbor, Lake Lucerne is experiencing extremely low levels. Their members report a 4.5 foot drop in lake level, although, this may be attributed to some other watershed problem and not just precipitation. Hopefully Mother Nature will be kind to us and provide adequate rainfall this season.

Walleye Population Increase Efforts



Lake Metonga Association has partnered with the Mole Lake Chippewa Tribe to enhance the walleye population in Lake Metonga. Five thousand (5,000) six to nine inch walleye fingerlings were stocked in 2007 and also in 2008. The Tribe shared the cost by contributing one-half of the total cost each year.

On April 27, 2009 Mike Preul, Fishery Biologist and two members of the Tribe set out fyke nets to capture walleyes. A total of 900 walleyes were harvested and marked from April 28th through May 2nd. Eggs from 100 females and sperm from 200 males were collected. The females averaged about 20 inches and the males were 16 inches in length.



The fertilized eggs were taken to the Mole Lake Tribe's hatchery. After about three weeks incubation, small fry develop. Mike estimates that 3 to 4 million fry will survive the incubation period. This entire quantity will then be distributed in Lake Metonga. The fry will be OTC (Oxytetro Cycline) marked which will produce color in their bones. When surveys are conducted in the following years, the survival percentage of these fry can be determined by this marking.

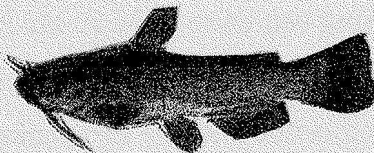
Electro-shocking was done by Mike and his staff at night on May 6, 2009. Data from this survey, in conjunction with the fish marked during fyke netting determines the fish per acre population. Mike will provide the results after the data is analyzed.

Walleye Spearing In order to further support the effort to increase the walleye population, the Tribe did not spear on Lake Metonga in 2009. Also, to help build the spawning base, the Wisconsin Department of Resources ("WDNR") and the Tribe are considering increasing the

inches in 2010. A number of other lakes in Forest County have already established this same length limit of 18 inches. Increasing the length to this size would give the 10,000 stocked fingerlings the opportunity to grow to an acceptable and beneficial spawning size.

Rusty Crayfish During the 2009 fyke-netting and electro-shocking surveys, and also analyzing data from previous years, it was observed that there is an increase in the rusty crayfish population. Since the small mouth bass are major predators and are instrumental in keeping the rusty population at a manageable level, there is consideration to increasing the minimum length limit from 15 to 18 inches for small mouth bass in 2010. An increase in larger size bass would provide additional predation.

Bullhead Harvest



The 2008 bullhead harvest was extremely successful. Therefore, Mike Preul, Fishery Biologist, has agreed to use the Tribe's electro-shocking boat to harvest bullheads when the water temperature reaches the high 50's to low 60's and the bullheads move into the shallower water in late May to early June. The Association will advertise in the local newspapers as to when the bullheads will be available to area residents

Water Craft Inspections The Mole Lake Chippewa Community again donated \$5,000.00 to the City of Crandon to cover the cost of hiring Clean Boats-Clean Waters inspectors for the City Beach Boat Launch. Lake Metonga has three invasive species: Eurasian Water Milfoil, Zebra Mussels and Rusty Crayfish. It is vital that we prevent their spread in Lake Metonga and to other lakes in the area. Also, it is essential that other invasives such as: Spiny Waterflea, Round Goby, Ruffe and Quagga Mussels are prevented from entering the Lake. ***We need volunteers for the County Park Boat Launch. Please volunteer your time. Training will be provided. Call Les at (715) 478-5197.***

Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Citizen's Award

On March 19, 2009 at the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) Convention in Green Bay, I was selected from 23 nominees throughout the State to receive the Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Citizen's Award. I was honored for being instrumental in making Lake Metonga Association one of the more active and progressive lake groups in the region. A special thanks to Ken Hermus for nominating me to WAL's Stewardship Award Program.

Have a great summer!

Les Schramm

PLAN AHEAD – PLAN TO ATTEND

Since the 4th of July falls on a Saturday, the holiday for most businesses is observed on Friday, July 3rd. Therefore the following schedule was established for Lake Metonga activities on the weekend.

1. **ANNUAL MEETING** - July 4th - 9:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.

The parade in the City of Crandon starts at 12:00 Noon, so there is sufficient time to view the parade after the meeting.

2. **BOAT PARADE** - July 4th at 4:00 P.M.

Cook-out and fun raffles following the parade.

3. **FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITIES**

To be discussed at the Board of Directors Meeting on May 24th.

MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE ABOVE EVENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER.

Cook-out and fun raffle activities following the Boat Parade on July 4th.

Tim Leonardelli has agreed to organize the cook-out that is planned after the boat parade. Tim needs at least 6 people to assist with cooking and serving the brats and hot dogs and helping to run the raffles. Tim has some fun raffle activities for the entire family – kids and adults.

You can call Tim at (715) 478-3493 or at (262) 679-0587. Tim does a great job!

Let's give him some help!