

Lake Metonga Association Newsletter

Spring 2010



**What is this? Can you guess?
Look for the answer in the Newsletter.**

ICE OUT – APRIL 5, 2010

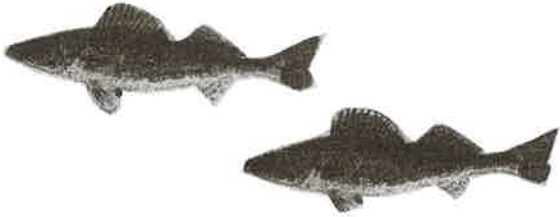
The ice out dates from 2001 through 2010 occurred in April except in 2008 when the ice went out on May 2nd. This year it was the earliest of that ten year period. With very little snow cover on the ice together with the mild weather and sunshine in March, the 2-1/2 foot ice cover on the Lake turned from its solid state to liquid very early. Some might say it is a result of global warming. Don't tell that to all the snow-birds who went south or west this winter and returned complaining about the cold weather. However, those who stayed in the north were enjoying all the warm days which gave the feeling that spring was coming.



No matter what date ice out occurs, the loons built-in GPS immediately directs them to Metonga's open water. On April 9th that mesmerizing yodel call could be heard across the Lake only four days after ice out. We hope that mating pairs will return to our loon nesting platforms. These nests invite these beautiful birds to make Lake Metonga their warm weather season home. Our thanks to Gary Mueller for checking and refurbishing the nesting platforms.

WALLEYE SIZE REGULATION

The 2010 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (“WDNR”) Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearing was held at the Crandon High School auditorium on April 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Those who attended were able to vote for Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates, vote on various questions and on proposed rule changes.



Specifically, there was a proposed rule change for Lake Metonga. For anglers, the minimum size walleye that can be harvested will be increased from 15 inches to 18 inches. The daily bag limit will ultimately be determined as mutually agreed upon by the WDNR and the Mole Lake Chippewa Tribe. In the past several years, the bag limit has been two.

Reason for the Regulation Change – Increasing the size limit to 18” will allow walleye growth to acceptable and beneficial spawning size. Without this regulation, it is apparent that walleye population in Lake Metonga will continue to be at low levels. The voting results on the Lake Metonga walleye regulation change (from 15” to 18”) were 37 votes supporting and 22 votes against; 62.7% were in favor of the 18” size limit regulation. This regulation will become effective in November of 2010.

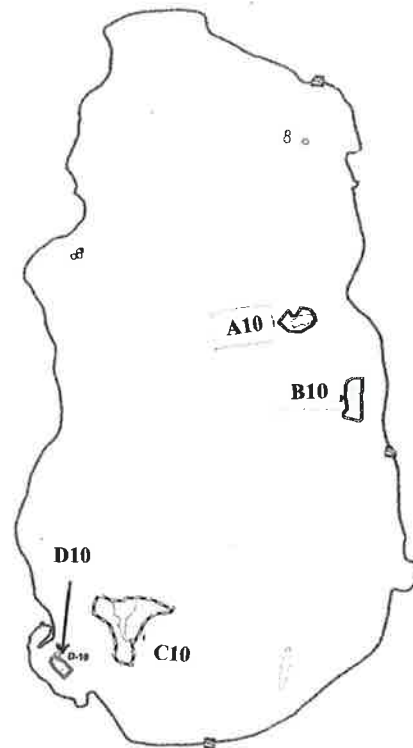
The increase in minimum size limit has the potential to increase the walleye population on Lake Metonga substantially. The combination of this regulation change with stocking (5,000 – 6 to 9 inch fingerlings stocked in 2007 and in 2008 by the Lake Association and the Mole Lake Tribe, 79,000 juveniles stocked by the WDNR in 2008 and 2.5 million fry stocked by the Tribe in 2009) plus the harvest and removal of bullheads in 2008 and 2009 which totaled 19,000 pounds (approximately 17,000 bullheads) will result in higher walleye levels in 2 to 3 years.

SPEARING

In further support of the effort to increase the walleye population, the Mole Lake Tribe did not spear in Lake Metonga in 2009 and again in 2010. We appreciate their concern, involvement and financial support of \$9,625.00 (\$4,750.00 in 2007 and \$4,875.00 in 2008) to help with the cost of stocking fingerlings for this walleye fishery project.

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL (“EWM”) TREATMENT

Lake Metonga was surveyed by the Association’s Aquatic Ecologist Consultant, Onterra, LLC in the fall of 2009 to determine the effectiveness of the May 2009 chemical treatment of 81.1 acres of EWM. The overall treatment was very effective. The 2009 fall survey map identifies 36.5 acres of EWM that will be treated in May or early June of 2010 as illustrated below.



Beds B10 (6.4 acres) and D10 (2.1 acres) will be treated with 150 lbs/acre of 2,4-D granular herbicide. Bed A10 (5.3 acres) will be treated with 200 lbs/acre.

Bed C10 (22.7 acres) had been treated with 200 lbs/acre of granular 2,4-D in 2008 and 2009 and

failed to destroy the plants. Therefore, the consultant (Onterra, LLC), the applicator (Bonestroo) and the WDNR have recommended that a liquid 2,4-D herbicide (DMA4) mixed with Polyan, an anti-drift sinking agent, be used on this bed.



Eurasian Water Milfoil

It is believed that the density of this bed plus the filamentous algae collected on the plants has prevented the granular 2,4-D from reaching the root structure of the plant.

The weighted 2,4-D would be applied at 1.5 ppm or 14 gallons/acre and 48 hours later a duplicate application would be applied to assure that the concentration level remains in the bed a sufficient length of time to attack the plant.

The cost to treat the 36.5 acres will be \$26,232.10 plus the charges from Onterra for pretreatment survey and GPS mapping of all the bed locations the week of May 17, 2010. If the survey identifies other EWM areas that should be treated that will increase the total cost.

RESIDUAL MONITORING

Once the chemical is applied to the EWM beds, volunteers will take water samples at GPS locations on the Lake at specified times to determine the movement and dissipation time of the chemical. The plan is to chemically treat the first week of June, depending upon weed growth and water temperature.

* * * * *

The picture on the front page of this newsletter is not a photograph of a baseball catcher's mitt. It is not a thin slab from a tree trunk, but it is a scale from a walleye. It, like the tree trunk, has rings which indicate the age of the fish. Most of the growth of fish occurs during the warm part of

the year. Fish lay down an annual mark during a period of slow growth which occurs during the winter. The darker, more dense ring in the middle of the scale represents the first year growth. So the scale from this walleye indicates the age of this fish is one year plus.

LAKE DISTRICT PROPOSED FOR LAKE METONGA

Lake Metonga is a pristine natural water resource that is of vital economic importance to the community. The surrounding businesses, County Park and rental properties benefit from visitors and tourists who come to the area. Residents of the area enjoy the fishing, boating, jet skiing, water skiing, swimming and other recreational activities on Metonga's waters.

Lake Metonga Association, with the aid of grant funding, has been attempting to control the invasive species (Eurasian Water Milfoil and Zebra Mussels) that have invaded the Lake. However, it is apparent that government fiscal restraints are limiting grant funding; therefore, the formation of a lake district would provide the financial means to address those issues threatening the Lake's ecosystem.

Lake Metonga Association Lake District Committee, with direction from Attorney William O'Connor (Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson, S.C.) has established the boundary of roads encompassing the properties to be included in the lake district. The attached map illustrates the proposed lake district.

Funds are generated by a tax levy as determined by law and approved by property owners within the district at the annual meeting. The Lake District Committee is currently working to prepare a proposed budget with sufficient funds to manage the environmental issues that could challenge the health and preservation of the Lake. The tax levy required to support the budget is based on the value of all properties within the district. Each property owner would be assessed the same mill rate. The levy will be determined and published in the local newspapers within the next two weeks and

also presented at the public informational meeting on May 29, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Crandon School Auditorium. All interested property owners are urged to attend.

Special Notice – A public hearing will be held on June 2, 2010 at the City of Crandon Community Building for all City of Crandon property owners in the proposed district – the meeting time will be published in the local newspapers

The district is exempt from Federal and State income taxes. It receives Wisconsin State Sales Tax exempt status.

It is eligible for State and Federal grants. A lake district with an active management program and financial stability receives a higher evaluation rating and an advantage when applying for grants.

The lake district can support CLEAN BOATS-CLEAN WATERS boat inspections to prevent invasion by other invasive species; such as, spiny water flea, curly-leaf pond weed, VHS, etc.

We can still maintain a lake association working side by side with the lake district. Funds from the tax levy would not fund the association activities unless directed by a vote at the annual meeting.

Every property owner in the proposed lake district must be contacted and given the opportunity to sign the petition. Forms will be available at the May 29th public informational meeting. Property owners not in attendance will receive a personal visit to provide the opportunity to sign the petition. Volunteers will be needed to go door-to-door so that every property owner is contacted. Please call Harry Resch at 715-478-2454 to volunteer.

More information is available on the Lake Metonga website. The address is www.lakemetongawi.org. Please feel free to share your thoughts, comments, and photos on the website.

COMING EVENTS

Lake District Committee to meet with the Crandon City Council on May 5, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the Lincoln Town Board Meeting on May 10, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Lake District Committee meeting at Harry and Jan Resch's on May 15, 2010 at 10 a.m.

Lake District Public Informational Meeting on May 29, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Crandon High School Auditorium.

Lake Metonga Association, Inc., Annual Meeting will be held on July 3, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Crandon High School Auditorium. Plans for the boat parade and cookout will be forthcoming.

Kentuck Day is on July 31, 2010 and Art in the Square is on September 18, 2010.

The Walleye Banquet will be held on October 2, 2010 at Mole Lake Casino – Raffles at 6:00 p.m. – Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

THANKS FROM TIM LEONARDELLI

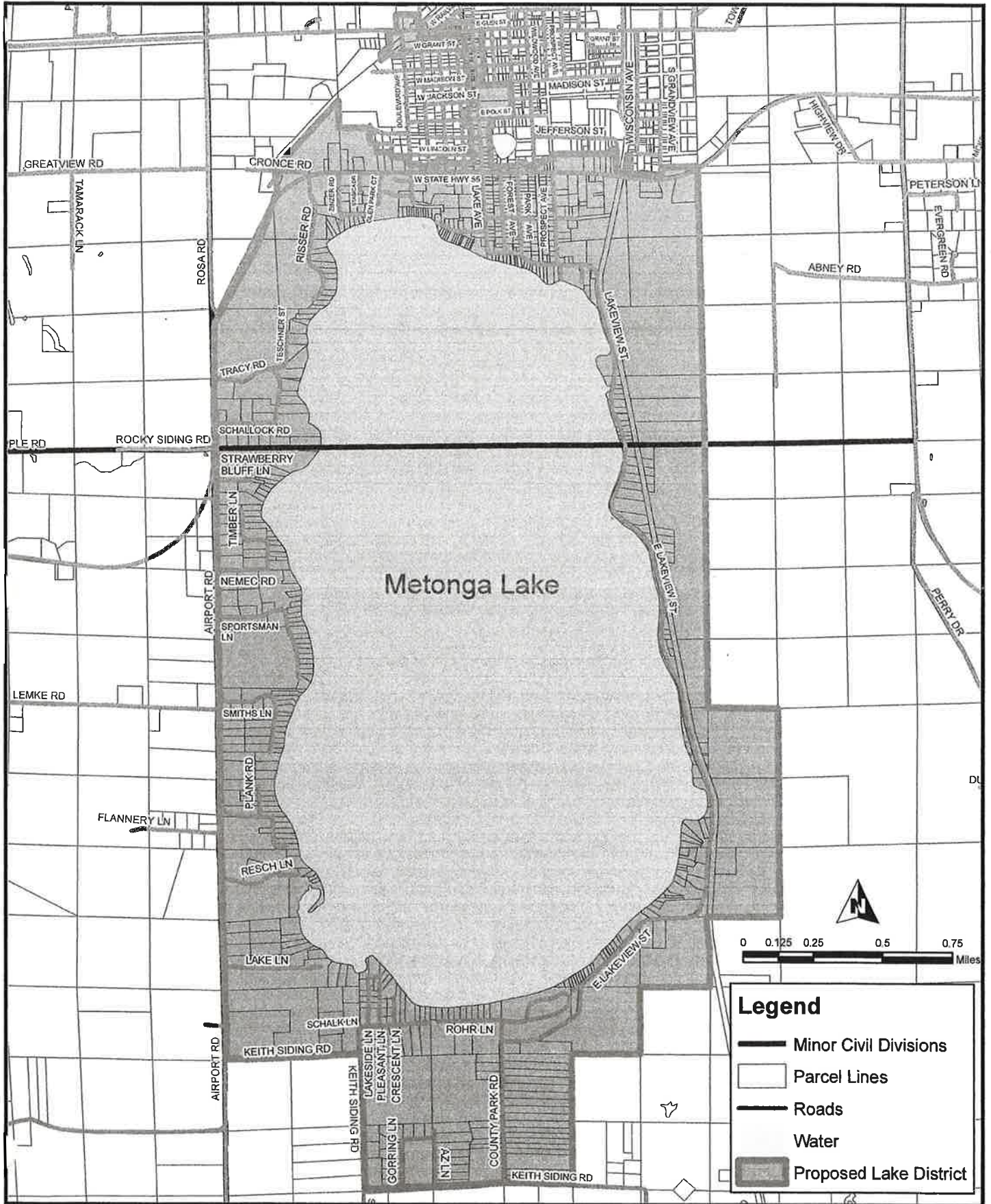
Special thanks to the people who worked at the 2009 Walleye Banquet. They are Kay and Randy Ponschock, Dan Ponschock and friend-Julie Bauer, Andy and Kelly Hermus and friend-Mike South, Nora and Ken Hermus. Also thanks to Ron Wolf, John Behrendt, Kim and Grant Reed, Dick Czarniecki and Donna Schramm. The banquet and raffles were a great success.

Enjoy the spring and summer seasons.

Hope to see you at the Lake District Informational Meeting on May 29th or the special City of Crandon Public Hearing on June 2nd.

Les Schramm

Metonga Lake District- Exhibit 1 (May 2010)





2010 LAKE METONGA ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Permanent Mailing Address:

If Seasonal, Lake Address (Fire Number & Street):

Permanent Phone:

Seasonal Phone:

To assist in reducing mailing costs with the newsletters and to keep you updated with information about Lake Metonga and the Association, we would like to enroll you for e-info. Please provide your Email Address (for Association use only) _____ . We will then email you the full newsletter and email you with any important interim updates.

I am interested in assisting the association with:

I would like more information about:

Please check all that may apply:

Please check all that may apply:

Art in the Square/ Kentuck Days	Art in the Square/ Kentuck Days
Walleye Banquet/ Fundraising	Walleye Banquet/ Fundraising
Summer Picnic/ Boat Parade	Summer Picnic/ Boat Parade
Website Commentary	Lake Quality/ Management
Other: _____	Other: _____

Annual Membership Fee for 2010 -----\$ 15.00

Donation for protection and preservation of our lake -----\$ _____

Total Payment Enclosed -----\$ _____

**** NEW FOR 2010 ** Business Members-** Would you like to advertise your business on the Lake Metonga Association Website? For \$25, we will list your business card or logo on our NEW Supporters' page and encourage members to do business with you, as a Lake Metonga Supporter.

Annual Membership Fee for 2010- Business ----- \$ 15.00

Advertising Opportunity for 2010 (optional)- Business ----- \$ 25.00

Donation for protection and preservation of our lake ----- \$ _____

Total Payment Enclosed ----- \$ _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!!!!

Donations are tax deductible 501(c)(3)

Make checks payable to: Lake Metonga Association, Inc

Mail to: Treasurer, Kim Reed, 6670 Wintergreen Trail, Sobieski, WI 54171

Visit our website at www.LakeMetongaWI.org during the year for updates and announcements