

Lake Metonga Association Newsletter

Spring 2013



April 17, 2013

An Early Morning Walk - On 20 Inches of Ice on Lake Metonga

UNPREDICTABLE SEASON

We never know what Mother Nature has in store for us in the Northwoods. First, the good news for all of the lakes. The snowfall total for 2013 was 83.6 inches compared to 76.8 inches in 2012. The extra snow will add water to lake levels that have continually declined because of the drought in previous years.

January 2013 began with pleasingly warmer temperatures, however, it kept snowmobilers off the trails until a total accumulation of 8.83 inches allowed the trails to be perfectly groomed for this sport. Temperatures dropped in the last

half of January assuring that the snow was going to stay.

Ice fishermen had their shanties and pop-up tents hopefully located at the right spot to catch that treasured walleye and those 10 to 12 inch perch. Global warming failed to penetrate Wisconsin's Northwoods this winter. February was 1.5 degrees below normal, March was 5 degrees below normal, and the cold persisted into April at 7 degrees below normal.

The above picture taken on April 17th is an indication of the solid blanket of snow-covered ice still on the Lake..

It's rather puzzling to know what this doe was planning to do as she walked on the ice in front of our house, stopped for at least 5 minutes waiting for another deer that was about 75 feet behind. Then she turned, trotted off the ice and into the woods with its partner. Living with the wonders of nature in the Northwoods is an exciting and rewarding experience.

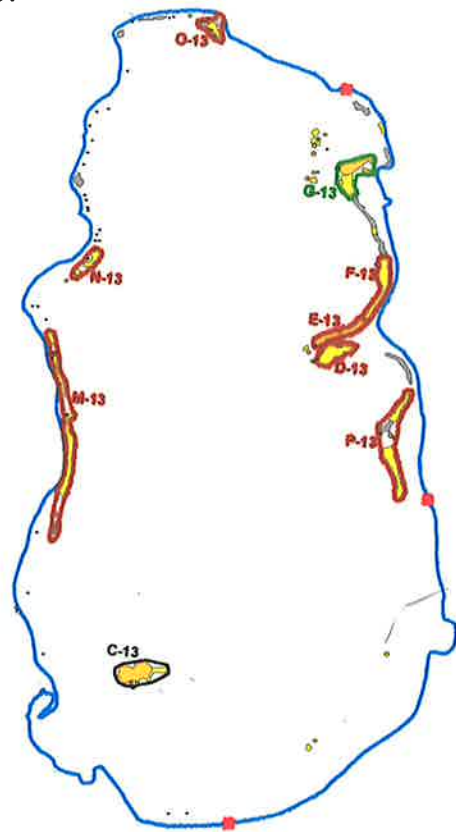
EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL ("EWM") TREATMENT

Lake Metonga was surveyed in the fall of 2012 by the Association's Aquatic Ecologist Consultant, Onterra, LLC to determine the effectiveness of the May 30, 2012 herbicide treatment of 58.3 acres.

The application did not achieve the results we were hoping to receive. The residual monitoring samples collected by Harry Resch and Gary Mueller were sent to the U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center in Florida for evaluation.

The conclusion was that the herbicide did not reside in the EWM bed for a sufficient time to destroy the EWM plants. It was concluded that the wind and wave action caused rapid dissipation of the herbicide and must be considered as an important factor in the 2013 treatment application. Treatment should only be conducted if wind speeds are less than 10 to 12 miles per hour. Also, each treatment area will include a 40 foot buffer around the EWM bed to assist in keeping sufficient herbicide concentrations within the treatment area for a longer period of time.

Based on the follow-up treatment survey, the following map identifies the areas for treatment in 2013.



The initial plan was to prioritize and select only certain EWM beds to be treated. Onterra suggested that Beds C-13, D-13, E-13, F-13 and G-13 totalling 28.9 acres be considered. This would cost \$28,067.88. However, based on the remaining grant funds which are \$27,934.16 and available Association funds, it was decided to switch the treatment for Beds D-13, E-13 and F-13 with granular herbicide to DMA-4, 2,4-D liquid herbicide and include M-13, N-13, O-13, and P-13 in the 2013 treatment. This increased the cost to \$44,381.46 of which \$27,934.16 would be State funded and the Association will fund \$16,447.30.

Yes, it is more money funded by the Association, however, inaction will result in additional bed

growth during this summer season. Fragmentation of the EWM by boats and jet skis will cause spreading to other areas. The Association needs to be proactive by making every effort to prevent, contain and control the spread of this aquatic invasive plant. The following chart lists each of the sites targeted for treatment, the acreage, herbicide product and the dosage rate.

2013 Preliminary EWM Treatment Strategy					
Primary					
Site	Acre	Ave Depth	Volume (acre-feet)	Herbicide Product	Dose
C-13	8.1	10	81.0	Diquat	0.145 PPM cation*
D-13	4.4	7	30.8	Liquid 2,4-D	4.00 PPM ae
E-13	4.0	10	40.0	Liquid 2,4-D	4.00 PPM ae
F-13	5.1	7	35.7	Liquid 2,4-D	4.00 PPM ae
G-13	7.3	6	43.8	Granular Triclopyr+2,4-D	5.00 PPM ae
Sub-Total	28.9		231.3		
Secondary					
Site	Acre	Ave Depth	Volume (acre-feet)	Herbicide Product	Dose
M-13	13.8	7	96.6	Liquid 2,4-D	4.00 PPM ae
N-13	3.2	7	22.4	Liquid 2,4-D	4.00 PPM ae
O-13	3.1	6.5	20.2	Liquid 2,4-D	4.00 PPM ae
P-13	10.8	5	54.0	Liquid 2,4-D	4.00 PPM ae
Sub-Total	30.9		193.2		
Grand Total 59.8					

* Diquat applied at 2 gallons/acre

CREEL CLERK FOR LAKE METONGA

The WDNR has selected David Gunderson to be the Fishery Creel Clerk at Lake Metonga. David will begin his duties on May 4, 2013, the opening day of fishing season. David is a local Crandon resident. He is in his junior year at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point studying to be a Conservation Warden. David has worked for Mike Preul, Fishery Biologist for the Sokoagon Chippewa Tribe at Mole Lake, assisting in fyke netting, water clarity and chemistry, seining and fish hatchery duties. In 2012 he was hired as a boat launch inspector for

Lake Metonga Association's Clean Boats-Clean Waters Program.

David will be at the boat launch or in his boat circling the Lake to record the number and species of the fishermen's catch. Please cooperate with David. The record he generates will provide valuable population estimates and is one statistic used in future stocking plans.

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

I hope everyone made it through winter well and you are ready for another great year on Lake Metonga!

Fundraising – in 2012 we started a Fundraising Committee to take care of the Gun Raffle, Kentuck Days and Art in the Square events. I want to thank members Deb Gauerke, Betty Sosnovske, Dennis Klemick, Dick Nowak, Gary Mueller, John Behrendt and Ken Hermus for their energy and enthusiasm in raising funds for our Association. I also want to thank Les and Donna Schramm for all of the years of hard work they put into these events to make them a success.

Grants – I again want to thank Les Schramm for getting an extension on our 2011 two-year AIS Grant to use the leftover funds in 2013. This will give us \$27,934.16 to use for treatment this year. Les also secured another grant for Clean Boats-Clean Waters funding in 2013. He acted quickly on the DNR's Clean Boats-Clean Waters initiative to make the process more efficient by reducing waste in both paperwork and administrative costs when applying and vouchering for these grants. Hopefully this will

lead to more “lean government” steps for other grants as well. Lake Metonga Association (“LMA”) has been working toward making sure grants will always be available to qualifying applicants such as our Association to enable us to continue the fight against AIS.

Memberships – in 2012 we had 154 total members. Of those 5 were business memberships, and only 109 of the approximately 232 riparian owners joined our Association. This year let’s work together to get more riparian owners to take a stake in making sure their property values don’t decline by helping keep Lake Metonga beautiful by joining LMA. If you have not sent in your dues for 2013, please help support our efforts and do so now. Donations are always appreciated. All contributions are tax deductible as we are 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Organization. Membership forms are available on our website www.LakeMetongaWI.org or simply mail your dues with a note to **Kim Reed – Treasurer, 6670 Wintergreen Trail, Sobieski, WI 54171.** As always, any questions, concerns, or thoughts, please mail LakeMetongaWI@gmail.com or call 920-822-2757. Thanks.

Grant Reed

2013 BULLHEAD HARVEST



The aggressive harvest in previous years has significantly reduced an over abundant bullhead

population in Lake Metonga. Examination of their stomach contents indicated that the bullheads were eating a considerable quantity of juvenile perch. We are now seeing the perch population increase as a result of this harvesting effort; and therefore, we need to continue a maintenance type harvest plan.

Mike Preul again plans to use the Tribe’s shocking boat to harvest bullheads during this 2013 spring season. We have observed considerably fewer large (3/4 to 1 pound) fat fish. So in this harvest we would expect netting smaller fish (those that are not filled out and fat), 5 to 8 inch size. The bullheads that are harvested will be given to the Raptors Wildlife Rehab Center in Antigo. Since the DNR is doing the fyke netting walleye survey in 2013, we will request that they sort out any bullheads that they may collect in their nets so that they can also be given to the Raptors.

**CLEAN BOATS-CLEAN WATERS
BOAT INSPECTIONS**

Lake Metonga Association is planning to monitor and inspect boats, trailers and other recreational equipment that enter and leave the boat launches at the North and South end of the Lake.

If Lake users fail to clean their boats and equipment invasive species can easily enter Metonga. Since Lake Metonga has Eurasian Water Milfoil and Zebra Mussels, it is equally important to inspect and clean boats and equipment leaving the Lake to prevent their spread to other water bodies.

Inspectors will be paid \$9.00 per hour and will be scheduled for work on weekends and selected weekdays when heavy boat traffic occurs. Half-day work schedules will be programmed for each of two inspectors working at the launches. The inspectors will begin on May 25th and will continue throughout the spring and summer season until September 8, 2013.

If you or someone you know might be interested in being an inspector, please call Les Schramm at 715-478-5197. The investment in Clean Boats-Clean Waters inspections is essential to the protection and prevention of spreading AIS in Lake Metonga and to other water bodies.

The Association has received \$5,000.00 from the Sokoagon Chippewa Mole Lake Tribe and also a DNR grant of \$5,314.50 to fully support this program.

An Inspector Training Session is will be held at the Crandon Public Library on May 24, 2013 from 5 to 7 PM

**UNDERWATER SPEAR FISHING
REGULATION WILL BE ENFORCED**

This is a reminder that WDNR Regulation NR20.20 prohibits underwater spear fishing in all Forest County waters including Lake Metonga.

Since 2012 was the first year of enforcement, even though the Regulation was adopted on June 1, 1999, the wardens were only giving warnings and/or taking the speared fish from the violators instead of issuing a citation and fine. However, in 2013 citations and fines will be issued for unlawful possession and use of a spear gun. The

fine for this violation is \$423.90 plus \$8.75 for each fish illegally speared.

Signs are posted at both boat launches and at the County Park to inform Lake users of the regulation. This article will also be published in the local newspapers.

**LAKE METONGA ASSOCIATION
HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT**

**WDNR REGULATION NR20.20
PROHIBITS
UNDERWATER SPEAR FISHING
IN FOREST COUNTY WATERS
WHICH INCLUDES LAKE METONGA**

**IT IS ILLEGAL TO TAKE FISH
USING SPEARS AND SPEAR GUNS
BY SKIN OR SCUBA DIVING**

**MARK YOUR 2013 CALENDER
FOR COMING EVENTS**

- May 25 - Board of Directors Meeting 10 a.m.
- Boat Inspections Begin
- June 29 - Annual Membership Meeting
Crandon School Auditorium 9 a.m.
to 10:30 a.m. – Gun/Sports
Equipment Raffle Kick Off
- July 6 - Boat Parade & Cookout
Beachside Bar & Grill. Parade starts
at 2 p.m. – Food, Raffles, Games
Fun! Fun! Fun!
- July 27 - Kentuck Day – Crandon
Association Raffle
- Sept. 2 - Board of Directors' Meeting 10 a.m.
- Sept. 21 - Art in the Square
Association Raffle & Drawings
At 3:00 p.m.
- Oct. 5 - Walleye Banquet

*Enjoy the Spring
and Summer Season*

Les Schramm



SWIMMER'S ITCH CAN BE AVOIDED

Lake Metonga with its City and County Park beaches and sandy shorelines is a natural attraction for swimming and other water activities on a hot summer day. But an occasional side effect can come from Metonga's water fun. Swimmer's itch can occur.

Swimmer's itch is an allergic reaction to a parasite that is present in the excreted feces of waterfowl such as ducks or geese. This flatworm type parasite sheds its eggs which hatch into a free swimming stage in search of a proper second host animal such as a snail. Further development occurs in the snail tissue and after 3 or 4 weeks development period the parasite emerges from the snail in search of the proper primary bird or waterfowl host, thus completing the cycle. It is during this period that the parasite can contact humans.

Symptoms of swimmer's itch include a red pimple type of rash, intense itchiness, and sometimes burning, tingling or small blisters. "The parasite cannot survive in humans," said Dr. Jain of Marshfield Clinic. "It will die within 24 hours. Symptoms usually appear within 24 hours of exposure to the parasite and will last only a few days." It is not contagious. The allergic reaction cannot be passed from person to person.

There is no prescribed treatment for swimmer's itch. "To relieve the itching, I suggest soaking the affected area with a cool compress or applying an anti-itch or hydrocortisone cream," Dr. Jain said. "Try to avoid lake water swimming, wading or other water activities until the rash has cleared.

Keep swimmer's itch from spoiling your water fun. Towel dry or take a shower immediately after swimming in lake water. Avoid feeding and thereby attracting birds to beach areas. Steer clear of areas in the lake known to have high incidence of swimmer's itch.

Swimmer's itch begins to appear in May and June and becomes more common during the height of summer. When it does occur in Metonga, it is more likely to be present in shallow water or near the beach.



2013 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 in a timely manner, we would like to enroll you for e-info. Please check here to receive info by email rather than mail and provide your Email Address (for Association use only) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY _____.
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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Art in the Square/ Kentuck Days	<input type="checkbox"/> Art in the Square/ Kentuck Days
<input type="checkbox"/> Walleye Banquet/ Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Walleye Banquet/ Fundraising
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Picnic/ Boat Parade	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Picnic/ Boat Parade
<input type="checkbox"/> Website Commentary	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Quality/ Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

WE NEED HELP DURING THE YEAR TO ASSIST IN OUR EFFORTS IN PROTECTING LAKE METONGA

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 supporters' page and encourage members to do business with you, as a Lake Metonga Supporter.

Annual Membership Fee for 2013- Business -----\$ 25.00

Advertising Opportunity for 2013 (optional)- Business -----\$ 25.00

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

Total Payment Enclosed, checks payable to Lake Metonga Association Inc -----\$ _____

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO OFFER A SPECIAL PROMOTION TO OUR MEMBERSHIP WHEN THEY PRESENT THEIR MEMBERSHIP CARD TO YOUR BUSINESS, PLEASE CHECK HERE AND KIM WILL CONTACT YOU. WE WANT TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY WHILE ADDING BENEFIT TO BEING A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION IN SUPPORTING LAKE METONGA.

Annual Membership Fee for 2013 -----\$ 25.00

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

Total Payment Enclosed, checks payable to Lake Metonga Association Inc. -----\$ _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!!!!

Donations are tax deductible 501(c)(3)

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

To Pay with MasterCard or Visa, complete the following (please print clearly):

Name on Card: _____

Account Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVC Code (3 Digit code on back): _____