

LAKE METONGA NEWS

Volume 2024: No. 3



Photo courtesy of Winnie May

As winter starts to settle in, many of us are waiting to get out on the ice, snowmobile trails or any other of the activities around our county. It may seem that things slow down during the winter months, but the Lake Metonga Association has a number of projects going.

Shortly you'll be receiving your annual membership renewal notice, the membership is for the 2025 calendar year, so please return those promptly so it is not forgotten.

We are in the process of updating the cameras around the lake, more on that further in this newsletter.

I'm sure by now you've heard that we lost Jeff & Michelle Bauer in a tragic auto accident in early November.

Michelle ran our Weeds 'n' Walleyes banquet the last few years and they will be dearly missed. The family is considering having a local celebration of life for them. We will post on our Facebook page when that information is available.

Pray for snow and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Truyma".

Mark Truyma



Lake Cameras Are Coming

Mark Truymen

As many of you know, we have been having problems with our lake cameras. At our annual meeting this year, we took a straw poll and found that about 90% of the attendees viewed those and wanted us to update.

Great News! With the help of our \$6,000 in donations, the LMA board decided to do a complete update of those cameras. The new cameras are at the North landing, Charlie's Resort and Eagle Cams are on Lakeview St. and another on Teschner Rd. These have been installed and will be added to our website for your viewing shortly. We know we have had many viewers not only from our area, but all over the country.

We ask when you view these that you exit after watching, not to leave the browser open as these residential routers are not meant for heavy traffic. We will post on our Facebook page when they are linked to our website, lakemetongawi.org. 🏹

Fisheries and Habitat Committee for 2025

Phil Resch

As in the past few years, we will continue the excellent volunteer bullhead reduction efforts starting in July (starting date to be determined).

In conjunction with this effort, we will continue to work with Fish Biologist, Mike Preul and his team in continuing the very effective bullhead Spring and Fall shocking efforts.

In addition, we will continue education efforts in shoreline restoration as well as working with Greg Matzke of the Wisconsin DNR and the Lake Metonga Fall Walleye surveys. 🏹

Lake Metonga Association Donor Policy

Kim Vele



It is the intent of the Lake Metonga Association to acknowledge, recognize, and thank donors for their voluntary contributions to the Association and to communicate to donors the impacts made through their support. It is also recognized that donors make their donations by cash, property and in-kind contributions, which may be received in memory of a loved one or gifted outright, with or without restrictions. In recognition of this distinction, the Board establishes and adopts the following policy with respect to e-donations made to the Association:

- **Unrestricted.** Any voluntary contributions of money without restrictions, shall be segregated from the general fund of the Association and may be used for any purposes, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, subject to any limitations imposed by the Association's By-Laws.
- **Restricted.** Any donations of cash or other property given for a specific purpose consistent with the Association's By-Laws, shall be segregated from the Association's general fund and may only be used for the specific purpose intended by the donor.
- **In Memoriam.** In Memoriam gifts of cash or property given in memory of someone, shall be segregated from the general fund and designated as restricted or unrestricted as designated by the Board based upon the donor's communicated intent. If the donor's communicated intent cannot be reasonably ascertained, the donation shall be treated as unrestricted.

Upon receipt of all donations of cash, property or in-kind services, the Board shall make a reasonable effort to acknowledge and thank the donor in writing via email, newsletters, social media or direct mail. 🏹

Aquatic Plant and AIS Committee EWM Report Nov 2024

Grant Reed

The annual EWM peak biomass survey was done on the lake on September 11th by our consultant Onterra LLC. The following report is from Eddie Heath of Onterra:

“During early- to mid-September, we had crews conducting the late-season EWM mapping survey on Lake Metonga. The conditions were fantastic for the survey, with sunny skies and low winds. The crews did note greener water than remembered in the past, especially along the north shore. During this survey, we systematically meandered the entire littoral zone tracking our meanders to ensure full coverage of the lake. We had all the previous EWM locations from prior years loaded in our onboard computer system.

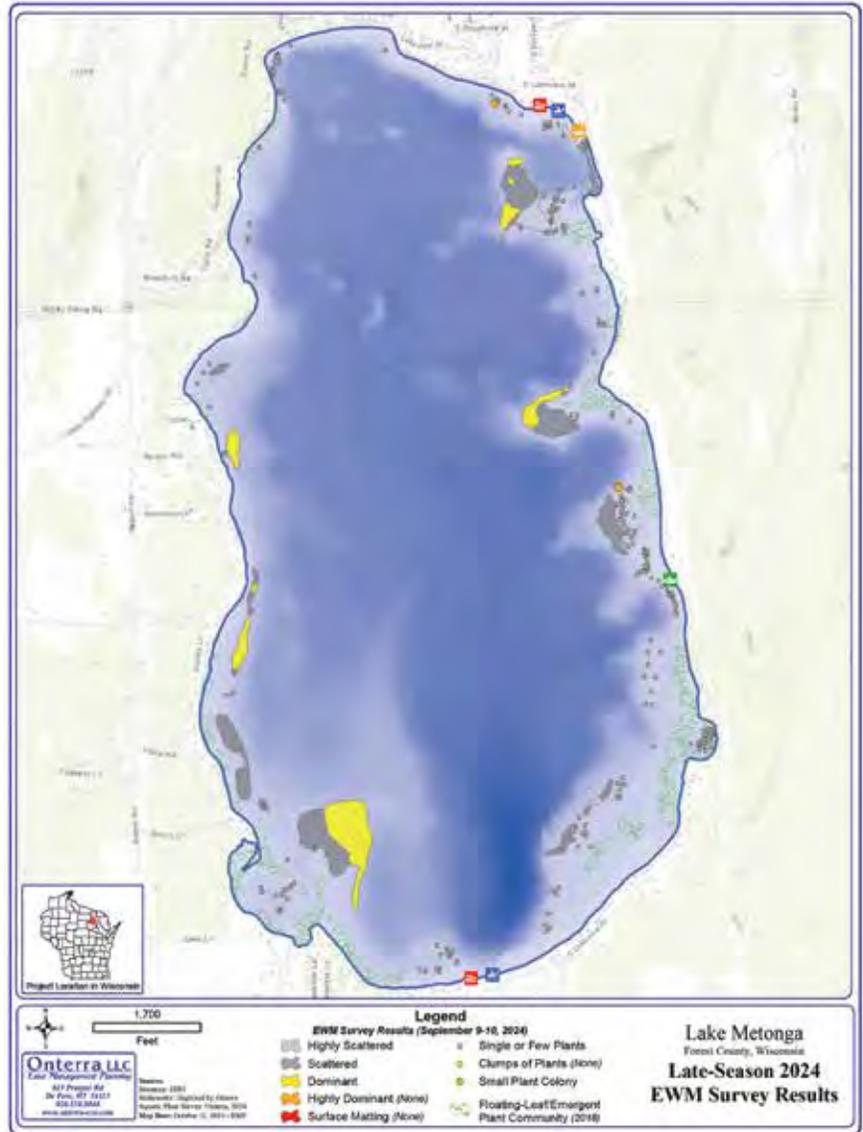
We conduct this survey towards the end of the growing season because EWM is typically at its peak growth stage (i.e. peak biomass) and highest population level for the year. However, on some lakes complicated dynamics over the summer may result in EWM population declines compared to the beginning of the season. This survey documents the EWM population that the system has going into winter and will be emerging with in spring of next year.

The survey results are fairly self-explanatory. Attached is a stand-alone map of our survey results, as well as a comparative map series showing the EWM population from the past three years. The EWM population continues to ebb and flow in Lake Metonga. The footprint of EWM was on the larger side in 2024 compared to previous years, but the density was lower. No areas met the criteria for being high dominant in 2024. The crews noted that the EWM in deeper waters was low growing and may be unnoticed by most lake users.

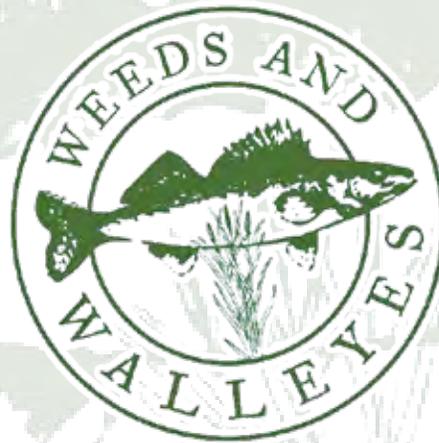
It is also interesting to see the longevity of the spring 2022 herbicide spot treatment. Some EWM rebound is being observed, but this treatment continues to trend as one of the most effective treatments conducted on the lake to date.” (end of Eddie’s report)

We are currently in a period that has seen a lot of plant growth in most lakes that started early in 2023 with higher temperatures and drought conditions (low water levels) and continued through last winter with very little ice and snow cover. The fact that the EWM in Lake Metonga had a larger footprint was not unexpected, and the density levels being down is a good sign.

The Aquatic Plant and AIS Committee met on November 15th to go over these results and is not recommending any areas for treatment at this time. 🐦



“The EWM population continues to ebb and flow in Lake Metonga. The footprint of EWM was on the larger side in 2024 compared to previous years, but the density was lower. No areas met the criteria for being high dominant in 2024.”



Weeds 'n' Walleyes Banquet

Winnie May

I am proud to say we had another successful Weeds 'n' Walleyes banquet. The outpouring support and generosity from everyone that attended, donated, organized and helped throughout the event was beyond grateful. Without all of you, this event wouldn't be possible.

This year we honored Gary Goeman at the banquet with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to Lake Metonga. He pledged a \$1000 donation which resulted in additional \$1000 pledges from Final Touch Construction, Rick & Barb Schramm, Teddy G Auto Body, Gary & Cisse Goeman, the late Jeff and Michelle Bauer, Steve and Lynn Livas, Jake and Janice Flannery, HomeLand Realty WI, LLC, Lloyd Kanzenback and Jamey Flannery Trucking. Additional sponsors





we'd like to recognize include Don LeMaster and Laurie & Chris Hesch for contributing towards our Eagle Cam, Crandon Docks and Mark Truymen for the Gun Raffles, CoVantage Credit Union and Dan Gruber for our Friends of Lake Metonga donation. In addition to all of these we had several donations for our Silent Auctions, Table Raffles and lastly our Super Silent Auction for the Eagle Cam's generated a substantial amount.

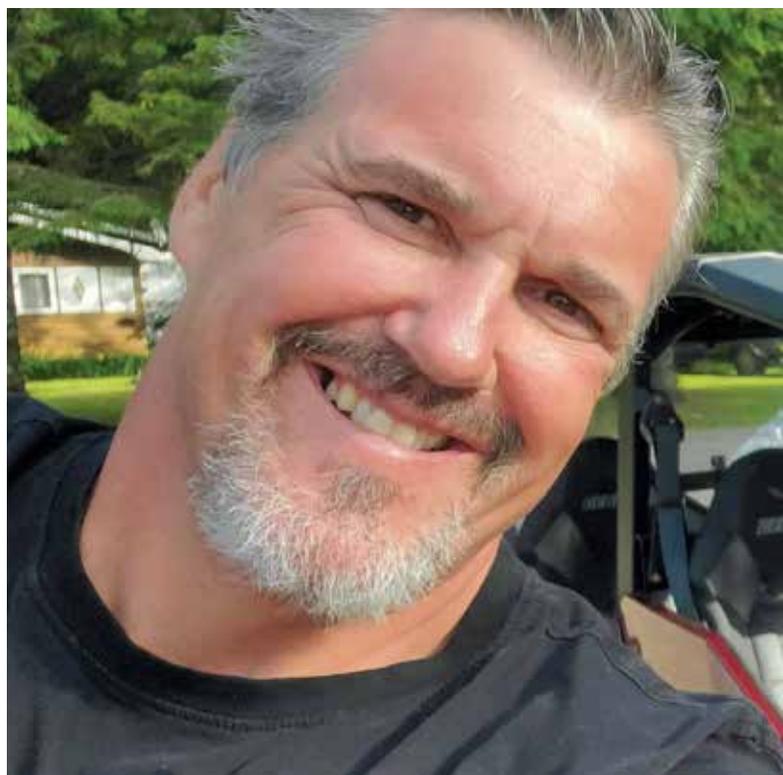
***For a list of all donors, please visit our website.*

The LMA is seeking help planning and organizing the 2025 Weeds 'n' Walleyes banquet. If you or someone you know would be interested, please let us know. 🐾





Photo courtesy of Charlie's



In Memoriam of Jeff & Michelle Bauer

Lori Ruhland

It was a cold and wintry day in the Northwoods in early 2021, my husband, Matt, and I were so excited as we were lucky enough to get a 2nd chance to buy a cabin on Lake Metonga, a lake that we had fallen in love with for the past 6 years or so. Our offer wasn't accepted the 1st time but the original deal fell through and without hesitation, we put our offer back in and it was accepted! As we got out of our truck which, yes, it has Illinois license plates on it, we were greeted by this little blonde lady walking across the yard, almost running across the yard. I figured it was our neighbor so I immediately stopped what I was doing to introduce myself. I told her my name, Lori, and this is my husband Matt, she said hi, my name is Michelle Bauer and my husband's name is Jeff. She asked all the initial questions, why Crandon, tell me about your family, where are you from, etc. Looking back, she was just being Michelle, you know, wanting to get to know you. It was one of those conversations we had so much to say to each other and our worlds were aligning and we were going to be friends no matter what, cause that's the way Michelle wanted it. The beginning of the conversation was about our Illinois license plates, Michelle made sure we understood that we shouldn't lead with the fact that we're from Illinois when up North. We laughed because our roots run deep in Wisconsin with Matt growing up just south of Green Bay. The final word on Illinois came with

Michelle saying "well you better just NOT fly a Bears flag!" Trevor, Colton and I are Bears fans but this didn't bother Matt and Delaney who are not Bears fans. In the end, it didn't matter because we never flew a sports flag. The only two flags that were raised in Strawberry Bay were the American Flag and a "Bars Open" flag on Jeff and Michelle's boat house.

Jeff and Michelle Bauer quickly became the best neighbors and friends for life, not only to us, but for the entire Crandon family. Their tragic passing has left us all in shock and deeply mourning the loss of two amazing friends and a void in the community.

Jeff, as my husband and sons put it, "he was a Dude." Matt and Jeff, along with any of the other guys in the Northwoods, could talk endlessly about their toys, construction projects, and how to fix things. One of the things we all loved most about Jeff was his eagerness and willingness to help out his fellow neighbors and friends. If it involved thinking of a better way to do something, building something or the use of a tool ... he was there. His anticipated excitement of running a trail groomer this winter was that of the excitement of a kid in a candy store. We all loved Jeff! We loved Jeff the "practical guy," we loved Jeff the "let's figure this out guy," we loved Jeff the "I got served too much at Charlie's again guy." We will all miss him dearly. He was the steady hand and foundation to Michelle.

Michelle was a firecracker! Quick to introduce herself and made sure when she was done, she knew about you and your family. With both Michelle and Jeff, it was always two way communication. They would listen as much as they talked. Michelle truly cared and went out of her way to get to know you

“Jeff and Michelle Bauer quickly became the best neighbors and friends for life, not only to us, but for the entire Crandon family.”



and damnit ... you were going to be friends whether you liked it or not! My family all thought Michelle would have become the new mayor of Crandon over the next few years. I really miss that woman as we all do. The endless conversations sometimes about absolutely nothing but more times than not, conversations about life and what is important. She lived it all. As we know, she was so involved in everything that she did. Her dedication to the things that she loved, we can all learn from that. Without question, Jeff and Michelle fell in love with Lake Metonga. Her dedication to the Lake Metonga Association and over the last two years as the Weeds 'n' Walleyes chair, she knocked it out of the park! It made her very proud and something for all us to aspire to. She would make anything possible!

Michelle and Jeff will be truly missed. I have procrastinated writing this because I still don't want it to be real. I can't imagine Crandon without them. It won't be the same. I reread the book Michelle wrote, *Jesse Was Here*, and the last paragraph was:

“Our lives will always have loss, some expected, chronological. Other losses will be untimely and shocking, literally taking our breath away. We can only continue to embrace those around us while we are together and eventually remember that they too were here.”

Please keep Jeff and Michelle in your lives. Find things throughout your days and years that remind you of how precious life is and think of them. Live as best as you can, take chances on people, love, cry and feel. I can't sum up this incredible couple in this one article, so let's all keep their memories alive. Speak and tell stories often, keep them in our hearts, and continue to live with passion.

We love you Jeff and Michelle! 🐦

Lake Association Contacts:

4th of July Boat Parade & Picnic

Gary Goeman 414-940-8873
garygoeman@hotmail.com

CB-CW

Kim Reed 920-639-4332
kmsreed@gmail.com

Facebook Admin & Outreach Chair

Membership/Newsletter/Website

Winnie May 715-889-4923
wintrav@newnorth.net

Weeds 'n' Walleyes Banquet

Mark Truyman 920-676-6545
mrtruyman@gmail.com

Lake Metonga Association
P.O. Box 32
Crandon, WI 54520



Photo courtesy of Lynn Smith