

LAKE METONGA NEWS

Volume 2025: No. 2

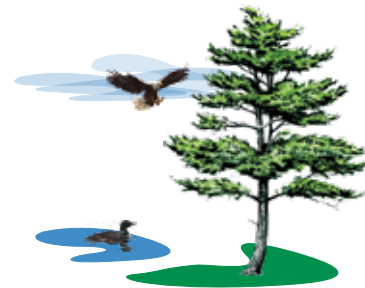


Photo courtesy of Kent Locke

Association Update

As I have for many years, I look forward to our annual meeting to hear about the condition of this beautiful lake – a Diamond in the Rough.

My wife Ann Marie has been on the lake for 55 years and I have been coming since we met 38 years ago.

This year, there was an open position, and I felt the need to engage and contribute to the association and the people around our lake.

I accepted the President position and look forward to the two-year term. I take over for Mark Truymen, who has been a fixture for this association for 9 years and appreciate his commitment and dedication.

Gary Goeman also is stepping down as Vice President and I thank him for his many years of service. Kayla Reed has been appointed to this position.

We live on Strawberry Bluff Lane and started a great friendship with the late Jeff and Michelle Bauer. Unfortunately, this was cut short by their tragic accident. We will miss that friendship and their commitment to LMA.

I'm lucky to have a great group of individuals around me to work with to continue the lake mission with Kayla Reed as Vice President, Lynn Smith as Treasurer, Candy Dailey as Secretary, and Matt Ruhland and Winnie May as Director.

I look forward to LMA's largest outing, Weeds and Walleyes as well as events throughout the year. Hope to see you there. 🐦

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent Locke".

Kent Locke

Lake Metonga News

2025 Lake Metonga Clean Boats Clean Waters

Kim Reed

The Clean Boats Clean Waters program is important to help keep invasives from entering into Lake Metonga. Our inspectors are tasked to inspect for any type of plant life, zebra mussels, or other potential invasives on boats, boat trailers, boat motors, and other recreational equipment, including towables. If any plants or other items are present, our inspectors make sure they are removed before entering the lake and after leaving the lake. The inspectors educate the boaters about draining all water from boats and equipment, drain live wells and containers holding any catch, and using live bait.

Please do your part and make sure to follow these tips, as well.

The CBCW program is funded in part by a cost sharing grant between the Association and the DNR, in addition to funding from the Mole Lake Band of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community. Inspection reports are completed with each shift, and this information is entered into the Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) with Wisconsin UW Extension and the Wisconsin DNR. Additional data is prepared for the grant application and year end report, to obtain reimbursement funding.

To date, we have 3 inspectors that have inspected over 600 boats and spoke with over 1000 boaters, and will work over 400 hours between the North and South landings between Memorial Day weekend and into September.

Thank you to Aryanna, Konnor and Grace for a great year! Aryanna and Konnor are planning to return next year, and we will be looking to hire 2-3 part-time summer inspectors for the 2026 season. This is a great opportunity for high school students and adults of all ages to help with the Clean Boats-Clean Water program, enjoy being outside, in sunshine and chatting with boaters and anglers. If you or someone you know might be interested in one of these positions, please contact Kim Reed @ kmsreed@gmail.com for more information or to apply. Please note applicants must be respectful, reliable, responsible, cooperative, flexible, comfortable verbal communicator and take good notes/ records. 🐾



Photo of the South Landing taken on 8/21/2025



Photo by Julie Janquart

Weeds And Walleyes Dinner Auction

Lori Ruhland

Join us for our annual fundraiser on **October 11th** at **Mole Lake Casino** — an evening dedicated to protecting and preserving beautiful Lake Metonga.

All proceeds directly support vital lake initiatives, including ecosystem preservation, fish habitat improvements, and the removal of invasive weeds and species.

This year we are honoring **Michelle and Jeff Baurer** for their commitment and contributions to our lake community by continuing the dedication to this important event.

Event Details:

- **Doors Open:** 5:00 PM
- **Dinner & Program Begin:** 6:45 PM
- **Exciting Auction & Raffles:** Featuring incredible items, including multiple firearms!

Tables are filling fast and this event will sell out!

Reserve your spot today at: lakemetongawi.org/activities/weeds-n-walleyes-banquet

We're also seeking raffle and auction donations.

If you or your business would like to contribute, please contact: **Lori at ruhlandlori@gmail.com**

Help us protect the lake we all love. We can't wait to see you there! 🐾



Our new Weeds and Walleyes graphic!

Bullhead 2025, Good Signs...

Julie Janquart

All the efforts to bring down the bullhead population in Lake Metonga are working!

From ice out to the end of May there were a number of different fish surveys that took place on Lake Metonga. The walleye survey estimated 3.19 adult walleye per acre (good and consistent number from past years). The smallmouth bass survey estimated 19.27 adults per mile with 62.8% measuring >14 inches, 41.7% measuring >17 inches and 3.1% measuring >20 inches.

Thirteen largemouth bass were caught during this survey of which 8 were under 16 inches, 2 at 17 inches, and 3 at 18 inches. During these surveys, bullheads were also removed, and the numbers of young bullheads are definitely down. Only 4 smaller adult bullheads were caught with 1 being 6 inches and 3 were around 9 inches. This is good evidence that the Lake Metonga Association is doing its part with removing baby bullheads.

This spring through July 4, Mike Preul and his crew from Mole Lake Fisheries had to work



Loons Fall 2025

Kim Reed

The summer started off good for the loons on Lake Metonga. The Farmer's Bay and Peterson's Bay loon nests were put in place after ice out, and not long after they were occupied by territorial loon pairs. The loons in Farmer's Bay hatched two chicks June 5th. However, the Peterson's Bay pair did not hatch any chicks but did return to the nest to try again. Unfortunately, this hatching was not successful. This is likely due to the pair being older.

The Farmer's Bay chicks have been doing exceedingly well and almost fully "fledged," as they have been diving since the end of July.

Throughout the summer we have averaged five to seven floater loons at a time. These loons do not have territory on the lake, so they may come and go throughout the summer and form groupings. With the summer coming to a close, we will see more loons briefly stopping on the lake to rest before continuing their southward push to the Gulf of Mexico. Our loon pairs with chicks will disband in September, with the parents leaving before the chicks. The chicks will need slightly more time to grow before they finally leave around the beginning of October, at which time they will be considered "fledged" and have successfully survived the summer season.

In November, our annual reporting logs and data will be shared with the Loon Watch program that is being restructured by volunteers with the former Northland College Loon Watch

hard to remove adult bullheads. They spent approximately 25 hours shocking and are catching the bigger adults averaging 12.1 inches and average 1.2 pounds. Total number of adult bullheads this spring was 2,242 with total pounds of 2,629 removed. This is also a good sign that our efforts of collecting bullhead eggs and fry are eliminating the younger adults.

Our collection site numbers are: 57 adults, 24,000 eggs and 47,874 fry collected. We know that many of you are collecting the eggs, fry, and adults and disposing of them, deciding not to bring them to the collection site. AND that is OK.

The numbers above and seeing less and less schools of the bullhead are GOOD SIGNS that our efforts are working!

But we cannot stop! All of us have invested a lot of time and resources the past 5 years in getting the bullhead numbers down and we cannot let the lake go back to the way it was!

Special SHOUT OUT to **Palubicki's Eat and Treats** and to **Yeti's** in their donations to the bullhead collection site. 🐾

The LMA Fisheries Committee

Even the eagles were out this summer collecting bullheads! Thanks for your help!

Program. The goal of the Loon Watch Program is to help protect common loons and their aquatic habitats through education, monitoring, and research not only in Wisconsin but extends to the Upper Great Lakes Region.

We look forward to ice out in 2026 for the loons to return to Lake Metonga! 🐾



Annual Boat Parade/Picnic

Mark Truymen

The boat parade and picnic was held this year on Friday, July 4th at Charlie's Lake Metonga Resort. The parade started from Charlie's dock at 1:00 with 8 entries. All entries were well decorated with some great themes as the judges had a difficult time determining the top 3 for prizes.

1st place - Basten Family - Tiki Bar party for 10, donated by Charlie's Lake Metonga Resort.

2nd place - Grace Delveaux won a \$50 gift card from Schaefer's IGA.

3rd place - Randy Herberer Family who won Lake Metonga Association clothing.

We want to thank all participants for their efforts who also received a Lake Metonga Association boat towel.

The picnic was again a big hit with Lake Lucerne's Jack Kloss's crew who provided the paddle wheel raffles which included booze, meat and LMA clothing for the lucky winners.

We served well over 100 meals consisting of brats, hot dogs, beans, chips and a beverage to wash it all down.

Again, we want to thank Jack Kloss & his crew and all attendees and volunteers for their support as it's a great time to get out and gather to meet our Lake Metonga neighbors. 🐾



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Weeds and Walleyes Banquet

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Photo courtesy of Winnie May