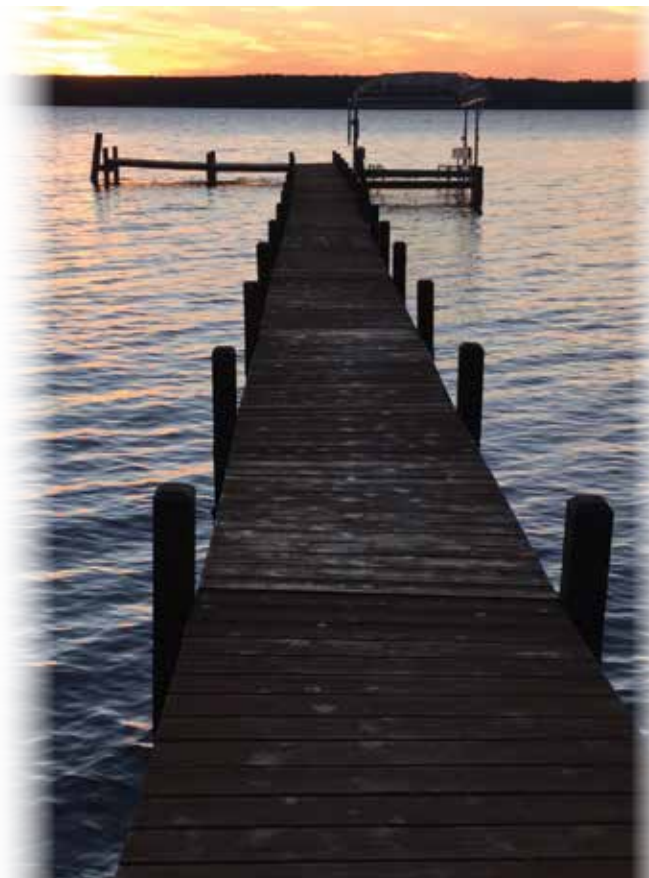


LAKE METONGA NEWS



Loons in Farmers Bay earlier this year. Photo courtesy Kayla Reed



Association Update

Gary Mueller

Winter is coming...

- Boats in? check
- Piers in? check
- Leaves raked? done (several times...)
- WEEDS"n"WALLEYES? over (more on that later)
- Hoses drained?
Check! check! check!

OK, now we can all get ready for hunting, ice fishing, snowmobiling and all the winter fun on the lake.

Wait a minute, one more order of business this year...

The Lake Metonga 10 Year Lake Management Plan

What do we need to do for this? Simple: we need to get it going before the end of this year. What do we need to get started? We need six to eight people to spend six to eight hours to update and modify our previous Lake Survey so that it can be sent to all lake area residents later this winter.

Please, if you can help, let me know, ASAP. We need some volunteers. Thanks!

Continued on page 2...

Lake Metonga News

Mueller continued...

Chris and I returned from September travels just in time to spend an awesome evening with 300 of our friends and neighbors at the “almost annual” WEEDS”n”WALLEYES banquet. The Mole Lake Convention Center did a fantastic job this year, and the sound system loaned from the Crandon Water Show was a great addition to the event.

The event was capped off by lively live auction bidding war for a Sarah’s Tiki Bar 3-hour food and beverage party at Charlie’s Lake Metonga Resort. When the three bidders left standing hit the \$1,200.00 benchmark, Charlie doubled down, or actually tripled down and expanded his donation so that each of the bidders could win the prize and triple the fund-raising haul for the association. Thanks, Charlie and Sarah for the exciting finale to a great evening! WEEDS”n”WALLEYES could not be a success without the generous support we receive from all of our Sponsors, friends and neighbors. Thank you ALL!

Regarding association membership, Mark Truymen and Julie Janquart are doing a great job contacting all of our potential members in order to reach our goal of 100% membership. If your neighbor needs a little encouragement to join the Association, please call Mark or Julie and let them close the deal. *(A membership form can be downloaded from the Association Info — Membership page of our website.)*

The Clean Boats-Clean Waters program will need a manager for 2019. This position involves getting the program organized in the spring and follow it through to fall. Call us if you can help with this important lake association program. This year’s Lake Metonga watercraft inspectors – Emma, Carter, and Julie worked hundreds of hours over the summer months inspecting almost 1200 boats. They would like to thank everyone for their cooperation at the landings, knowing that many of you answered their questions multiple times and were patient and willing to repeat the process. Also, the inspectors want to let the lake owners know that the majority of boaters do care about the quality of our lakes and keeping them free of invasive species.

Judi VanZuiden, former long-time association board member and secretary, is stepping down as the coordinator for the Lake Metonga apparel program. Judi has handled this important project for a very long time and is capping off her “career” this year with a total sell-out of all our merchandise! Thank you, Judi for all the time and talent you’ve brought to this program!

Early ice fisherman: stay safe! Test the ice with a heavy ice bar while venturing out on early ice. Ice picks, flotation and a rope should be on your list.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and safe Holidays for all!

Gary



Lake Association apparel sales at this year’s 4th of July Picnic at Charlie’s Lake Metonga Resort: Deb Gauerke (left), and Judi Van Zuiden (center) with husband, Kevin (trying to hide behind the tree).

A Good Time for a Great Cause: WEEDS"n"WALLEYES Banquet 2018



In addition to everyone who attended and partially or completely emptied their wallets and purses for fund-raising auction items and raffles, the association would like to give a special thanks to this year's event sponsors:

2018 Gold Sponsors (\$2000)

Mole Lake Chippewa Community
Forest County Potawatomi Community
Leroy & Pat Fischer
Wolf/Dallas Families

2018 Sustaining Sponsors (\$1000)

Andy & Jane Basten
Russel & Jodi Brownell
Charlie's Beachside Resort, Charlie & Sarah
Final Touch Construction, Bucky & Candie
Jake & Janice Flannery
Gary & Cissie Goeman
Brent & Sherry Gagnon
Lloyd Kanzenbach
Mosquito Squad
Mueller Families
Option Counseling, Bruce & Kari
Joe & Kimi Pavlichek
Smith Sport & Hobby, Mike & Lynn
Mark & Deb Truymen
Walentowski Builders, Rodger & Gloria

2018 Love the Lake Sponsors (\$500)

Adams Mobile Marine, Adam & Becky
Conway Tru-Value, Jamie & Nancy
Dan's Dock
Tom & Meg Galow
Tom & Joan Klein
Jason & Erica Neilitz
Schaefer Foods, Jay & Angie
Tricia's Treasurers, John & Tricia
Northwoods Insurance, Ed & Lee Smith
Harry & Jan Resch

2019 Potluck Picnics Anyone?

In case you missed the fun late this summer for the Les and Donna Schramm Kitchen dedication at the Lions Club picnic pavilion, the association is looking forward to hosting more picnic events next year.

This summer's event was in honor of the Schramm's years and years of service to the lake association and the greater community. From donations to the Donna Schramm Memorial Fund, the LMA purchased stainless steel serving tables and counters for the pavilion's new prep kitchen.



Crandon Mayor, Dennis Rosa, presents Les with the dedication plaque to be displayed in the pavilion.

Lake Metonga News

LoonWatch Report

Kayla Reed

Hopefully, everyone had an enjoyable, eventful summer on Lake Metonga. Unfortunately, for the loons this year, it was quite eventful, but in a bad way.

To start the warm season off, the Farmer's Bay loon nest was put in May 5th, with the first loon sighting only a week before. This same day, the loons followed my Dad, Grant Reed, and myself into the lagoon when we were putting the nest in. But shortly thereafter, a small territorial fight broke out between the regular nesting pair and a floater loon. After some chasing, calling and diving, the floater loon left defeated, leaving our annual nesting pair alone.

Moving to the east side of the lake, the Peterson's Bay nesting pair had a successful year. Around May 25th, the pair started nesting and a month later welcomed two chicks into the Lake Metonga environment. Staying to their side of the lake, with the occasional wandering to the south and north, this pair raised both chicks to the fledgling stage (where the feathers are developed to fly).

The Farmer's Bay loons also started sitting on their nest with one chick around May 25th. Not long after the chick hatched, a boating accident happened to the family. The outcome of the accident is not 100% known; however, it is thought that the family moved to the northeast side of the lake to flee the traumatic spot. After the Farmer's Bay loon family moved, another pair may have tried to nest, but was unsuccessful. I say "another pair may have tried" because I am not positive this was a new nesting pair.

Throughout the summer, Lake Metonga averaged about five floater, non-territorial loons. These loons were seen all over the lake, but many times out in the middle from Strawberry Bluff Bay.

As migration season (mid-August to late-October) came around, there were over sixteen loons seen on the lake. During this time, the loons begin their 1,200 mile flight down to the Gulf of Mexico. By late September, there were



Five loons mid-lake, late August.
Photo courtesy Rebecca Maki

about 6 fledgling stage chicks residing on the lake before taking their leave. Les Schramm emailed that there were still two chicks, possibly this year's young, still on the lake as of October 30th.

Many association members know about the boating incident that occurred this summer, but there is another tragedy that needs to be brought up. Around the end of September there was a loon found injured along the northern shore of the lake. REGI (Raptor Education Group, Inc.) from Antigo was called. The loon died at REGI from internal

bleeding caused by a close range shotgun blast of lead shot (illegal).

The deceased loon was banded and was being tracked by someone. That "someone" was Walter Piper with the Loon Project out of Chapman University in California. Piper posted an article about the incident on the Loon Project organization's website (excerpted):

Senseless Loon Killing on Metonga Lake

A week ago, the folks at REGI learned of an event that pushed even my cynical viewpoint to the limit. Following a report from a lake resident, they found an injured loon on Metonga Lake, which is just south of Crandon, Wisconsin. After Linda and Kevin Grenzer captured the loon (pictured next page) and the REGI team examined and x-rayed it, they learned that it had been shot at close range with a shotgun and had lead shot throughout its body. Despite efforts to save the unfortunate shooting victim, it died in their care. The story might have ended there, except that the loon was banded.

Since Metonga is outside of our study area — some 20 miles east of our southeastern-most lake — we do not know the lake at all. Sleuthing by Linda and me revealed that this oval 2000-acre water body supported two breeding pairs in 2018. According to the loon ranger, both pairs hatched chicks this year, although only one of the pairs fledged their two hatchlings. Most important, neither pair contained a banded individual. Thus, the shooting victim was not a member of either resident pair.



Some of the circumstances surrounding the tragic shooting make sense. As many of you know, breeding loon pairs become restless in September and October, often leaving their territorial lakes. Moreover, large, clear lakes like Metonga are favorite spots for wandering adults to visit, as they forage intensively and lay down fat stores to fuel their southward migration. So it is not at all surprising that a breeding adult from a neighboring lake — as we presume the victim was — would be found on Metonga. Finally, virtually all of the loons that we band that show up that far from our study area are females, because females are the more dispersive sex. (On average, females settle 24 miles from their natal lake, while males settle 7 miles from their birthplace.)

The identity of the shooting victim allows us to speculate about its tragic end. When I looked up the band colors and partially-obscured USGS band number that Linda provided, I learned that we had banded this female nine years ago as a chick on Bear Lake in Oneida County. We have not seen her since. The father and mother of this female were among the most approachable loons in the study area. (The male still holds the territory there, as he has since 2001 or earlier.) As Chapman student Mina Ibrahim showed a year ago, tameness (the minimum distance that a resting loon will permit a canoe to approach before diving) is similar between parents and offspring. So it is almost certain that the dead female was a tame individual, like both of her parents.

If our simple inference is correct, then this incident has exposed one hazard of extreme tameness in loons.

<https://loonproject.org/2018/10/08/senseless-loon-killing-on-metonga-lake/>

Not all of the facts have been uncovered yet on this shooting incident, and no valid conclusion can be made about what happened to this loon — of whether this was “intentional” or an “accident”. The DNR is investigating, but in the opinion of many involved, it’s unlikely anything will come of it.

As I said at the beginning, the loons of Lake Metonga had quite the eventful experience this year. Perhaps next year can be a better one. Let’s hope so.

If there are any questions, loon sightings, or anything else related, feel free to email me at:

jomaemae.reed@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: It should go without saying, but for those not knowing, harassment of loons is a federal offense under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 which protects over 1000 species of birds throughout the US and Canada. The statute makes it unlawful, without a waiver, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, or sell any birds listed. The statute does not discriminate between live or dead birds, and also grants full protection to any bird parts including feathers, eggs, and nests. Offenders can be fined up to \$5,000 and up to 6 months incarceration, plus state fines and penalties.

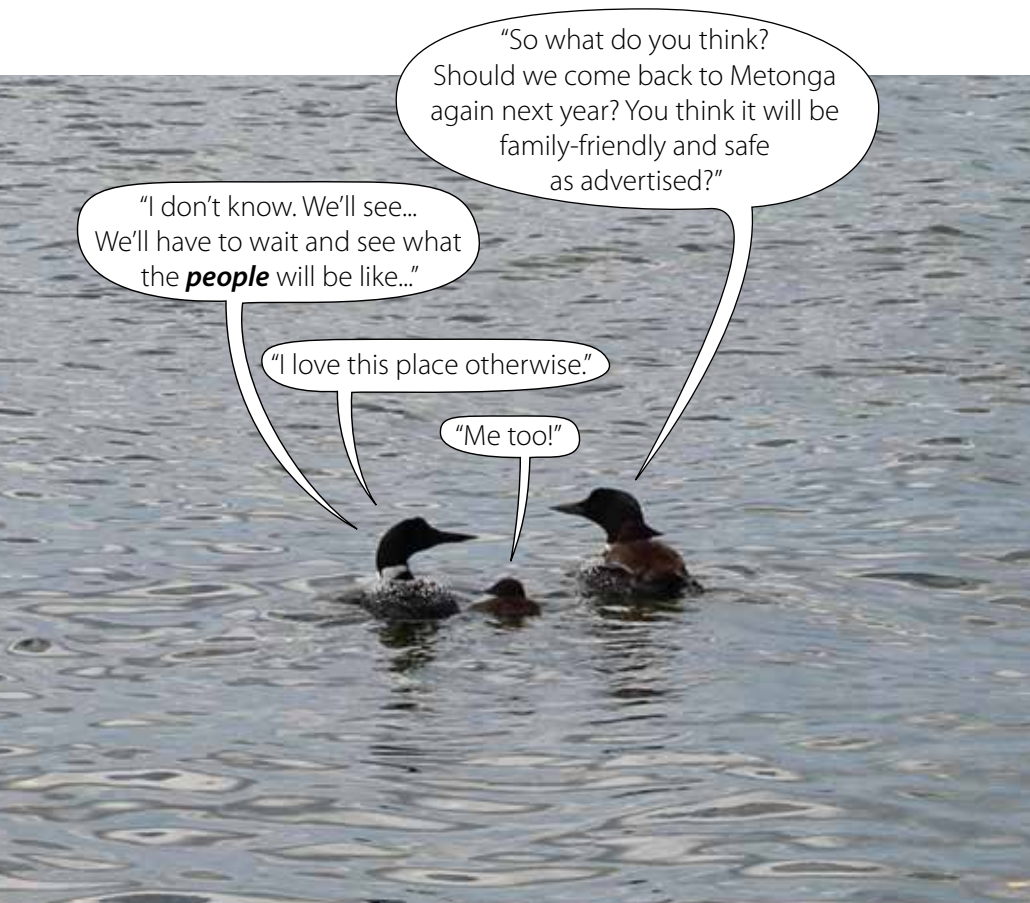
Above: REGL volunteer, Kevin Grenzer, holding the wounded loon as it is rescued at the city beach/north shore boat launch.

Below: “Loon being treated at REGL. The loon was shot through the body and suffered a broken wing as well. Critically injured with internal bleeding and organ damage. X-rays showed large amount of lead in the body. Shot at close range.”

Notes from Marge Gibson, REGL Executive Director



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Peterson Bay loon family, summer 2018. Photo courtesy Amber Eisenschink

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WEEDS"n"WALLEYES

Gary and Chris Mueller 715-478-2049
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CB-CW

Open
[Please volunteer](#)

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