

LAKE METONGA eNEWS



Winter 2019



OK. Enough Already!

And these pictures were taken BEFORE the city got dumped on again during the last weekend of February big blizzard!



Photos courtesy Lynn Smith, LMA Director

Association Update

Gary Mueller, LMA President

For almost 50 years, the Lake Metonga Association has been the Lake Management link between lake “stakeholders” and the Wisconsin DNR. The relationship has been a work in progress and a learning experience for both.

Since both organizations have ever-changing management teams, it is important that we prepare a comprehensive planning document that current and future teams can reference and draw from in their decision-making processes.

The LMA 10 Year Lake Management Plan is in the works. Your chance to be heard is now!

A Stakeholder Survey, that you will be asked to complete (see article page 3 in this newsletter), is not just another “one-lake-size-fits-all boiler plate” survey. The Lake Metonga planning committee team that prepared this survey, drew on our lake management history, and fashioned questions that will help reflect the concerns of all the lake stakeholders. The DNR needs to hear how ALL stakeholders feel about management of this special resource.

Over the last twenty years your Association, Tribal Neighbors and the DNR have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars and thousands

Continued on page 2...

Mueller continued...

of man hours doing hands-on lake management and comprehensive lake studies for Lake Metonga.

Our upcoming 10 Year Management Plan will attempt to acknowledge the results of these efforts and apply the positive results for future projects.

Please show your appreciation for all the work the Stakeholder Survey team has done by taking the survey seriously, and completing it promptly. And, by all means, plan on attending the Stakeholder meeting that will take place this spring. More on that in the next newsletter issue.

A special thanks to Mark Truymen for heading up this project and Julie Janquart for all the document coordination. The Survey team, which reflected a good cross-section of Lake Stakeholders, should be applauded for their effort in preparing a survey which will stand the test of the foreseeable future. Thanks ALL!

See you soon, in the Spring, preferably when some of this snow is gone!

Gary



Wanted: Boat Launch Inspectors

Emma Eisenschink, LMA CB-CW Administrator

We are looking for motivated individuals to help us educate visitors of the lake on the invasive species in Lake Metonga to prevent spreading them to other lakes. Very little training is required for the job and hours are flexible.

If you or someone you know is interested in being a paid boat launch inspector for part time summer season hours, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Emma Eisenschink

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Why a 10 Year Lake Management Plan

Gary Mueller, LMA President

Our objective for the 10 year Lake Management Plan is to be a helpful tool in cutting through *Analysis Paralysis* (AP) that many decision-making bodies suffer from.

We all hope to be 100% correct every time, but that is impossible. People suffering from AP oftentimes find themselves unable to make a decision, and settle for endless study and analysis of an issue instead of acknowledging past best-practices to make meaningful course of action decision. Today's decisions should reflect yesterday's positive actions. Your input on the upcoming Stakeholder Survey will play an important part in determining what works and what doesn't.

Lake Metonga has been studied and documented for many years. Our forthcoming 10 year plan is our opportunity to share documented facts, with the powers that be, and embrace and act on the issues that face this valuable resource.

In the past, the DNR has used several point systems to determine grant eligibility, such as a clean boats program, a lake management plan, a lake district or lake association, and others to arrive at a grant score. Lake Metonga has enjoyed a good score for the most part, and with your support, this will continue.





Be On the Lookout for Lake Metonga Stakeholder Survey

Julie Janquart, LMA Secretary

Do you:

- Have opinions about the current condition of Lake Metonga in terms of weed growth, chemical treatments of invasive weeds, fishing success or lack thereof, recreational activities on the water, etc.?
- Have great ideas to enhance the quality of our lake for future generations, and want to share these in a manner that the DNR will be receptive to consider?
- Feel like your input for lake improvements hasn't been heard and want someone (including the DNR) to listen?

If any of your answers are "Yes", then here's your opportunity to help drive the future of Lake Metonga and be heard via the upcoming Lake Metonga Stakeholder Survey.

Please take the opportunity when your survey arrives to be involved, complete the survey, and share your input with other property owners, the Lake Metonga Association and the Wisconsin DNR.

All riparian and condominium property owners along with those owning property with deeded-access to Lake Metonga (a list of 311 individuals in total), will be receiving notification in early April on how to complete a brief **third-party** Stakeholder Survey regarding environmental status and recreational usage of Lake Metonga.

The survey results, which will be attained and tabulated by the third-party company to assure anonymity for all, will be used along with other water quality data to compile a thorough needs assessment and a ten-year plan to guide optimum water quality decision-making in the future.

Much time and effort has gone into the survey's preparation to make it specific to Lake Metonga, based on past and current activities as well as DNR-approved best practices.

After receiving notification last year from the WDNR that our application for grant funding was approved, the LMA board extended invites to anyone interested in being part of the study process. A diverse group of eight people answered the call to serve on the Stakeholder Survey Planning Committee (Lynne Black, Stacy Karcz, Stephanie Mattson, Mark Pellegrini, Grant Reed, Sue Samz, Ed Smith, and Julie Van Lannen). The committee was headed by Mark Truymen, LMA Director with assistance from Julie Janquart, LMA Secretary.

Starting with a sample DNR stakeholder survey provided by Onterra (the lake research organization LMA contracted with to complete the 2018 Lake Management Study), the Planning Committee went to work reviewing content, editing, and adding questions pertinent specifically to Lake Metonga. A final proposed stakeholder survey has been submitted to Onterra and WDNR for review, and is currently in the revision/negotiation stage with the final WDNR approval pending.

Once approved, all survey participants will receive notification via postcard from the third-party survey company. Please be on the lookout for this postcard in the next month or so. The postcard will direct individuals on how to complete the survey, either: on-line through a website called Survey Monkey, or; arrange to receive a printed copy of the survey through the mail which must be returned by a specified deadline.

All survey data will be gathered and tallied by the third-party survey company, after which the results will be directed to Onterra for review by the LMA Planning Committee. At no time will LMA board or committee members have access to completed surveys. This is to ensure anonymity and enable all individuals completing the survey to be completely honest and open with their thoughts and opinions.

Our goal for survey completion is a 100% return.

We can only achieve this if you do your part and complete your survey. If you care about the future of Lake Metonga, want the lake to be a viable resource for generations to come, and want to see your own property values increase, please take a few minutes of your time to answer the survey honestly and completely. Thank you for your participation! All of your input is vitally important!

Julie Janquart
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Membership Update

Mark Truymen, LMA Director

As mentioned at the 2018 Annual Meeting, our paid membership at that time was only 35% of riparian (lake property) owners.

The LMA board felt that number could be substantially increased by contacting non-members to make them aware of LMA and inviting them to join.

In January of this year, we mailed out invoices to current members as well as invitations to non-members. As of this writing, we are having considerable success obtaining new members!

We again want to thank all of our members for their commitment to the LMA. We will have an updated membership report at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Please plan on attending that meeting as there is a lot of great information presented in a short period of time.

We'll have more information in the next newsletter and on our website shortly. www.lakemetongawi.org

If you have not received your membership invoice or invitation, please contact me with your current mailing address and we'll get one out.

Mark Truymen
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FOREST COUNTY
Chamber of Commerce

Dedicated to being a primary advocate, voice, resource and partner in the economic development and success of the county and its citizens .

A photograph of a person wearing a blue winter jacket, a pink hat, and pink pants, sitting in a red folding chair on a snowy surface. The person is holding a fishing rod, suggesting they are ice fishing. The background is a flat, snowy landscape.

Got Some Time On Your Hands?

Find Out What's Going On

Follow the link below to the Chamber of Commerce February Newsletter.

[Forest County Chambers February Newsletter](#)

A Great Day of Fishing on Metonga

Photos courtesy Lynn Smith and family



Nice catch, Matt!



Time to check the tip-ups



Picnic Lunch on the Lake for Ayda and Shayna



Live Perch TV!



"Here's hoping they're biting good today!" Hunter, Shayna, Ayda and Mike



Photo courtesy Lynn Smith

A Rare View

Lynn Smith was in the right spot at the right time to capture what's known as a sun halo caused by ice crystals in the atmosphere creating a prism effect similar to water droplets creating a rainbow.

"These ice crystals are contained in cirrostratus clouds that are located from 3 to 6 miles, in the upper troposphere. The shape and orientation of these crystals affect the appearance of the halo. Reflection and refraction control the shape of the sun halo, and dispersion of light waves affect the colors you see.

Sun halos are generally considered rare and are formed by hexagonal ice crystals refracting light in the sky — 22 degrees from the sun. This is also commonly called a 22 degree halo. The prism effect is such that the rainbow colors go from red on the inside to violet on the outside."

Excerpted from "What Causes A Sun Halo To Form?"

weather.thefuntimesguide.com

Lake Association Contacts:

4th of July Boat Parade & Picnic

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