

LAKE METONGA NEWS



Spring 2019



Ice melt leaving the lake in late April.

Annual Meeting Set for **Friday, July 5 (NOTE NEW DATE!)**

Please mark your calendar for Friday July 5th to attend the annual meeting. The meeting will be held at Crandon High School and will begin at 9:00 am sharp. The meeting will last about 2 hours and topics to be discussed will include:

- Finances
- Health of the Lake
- Bullhead harvest
- Weeds and Walleye Banquet
- Picnic & Boat Parade

We will also be sharing updates on:

- Membership
- EWM
- Stakeholders survey
- Fishery

We realize everyone is busy this time of the year, but if you haven't attended in the past, we feel the information will be well worth your time. At the conclusion of the meeting, there will be a drawing for gift certificates for Charlie's Lake Metonga Resort. See you there!

Association Update

Gary Mueller

Spring has finally sprung...

Spring arrived with a record amount of snow and cold weather that limited ice fishing access and had many spending more time moving snow than skiing or snowmobiling. (A reminder to please be careful what you wish for next year.)

Ice fishing started off with good catches of Northern and out-of-slot Walleye. Many 6" to 8" walleye were caught while perch fishing which — a good sign for the future.

The Eagle Camera was a major hit this winter until April 30th when the nest unexpectedly emptied. Lots of action, in the nest the week before, with the new chick hatching and regular feedings on schedule.

Ice Out was complete by 2 PM on opening weekend, May 4th. A few of us launched earlier in the morning through about 100 feet of loose ice. Thank you Crandon for getting the Dock in early.

This spring greeted us with the sights and sounds of ducks, geese, swans, loons, a few muskrats and a pair of otters. The rafts of last year's bull rushes floated around the lake like musical chairs *and where they stop nobody knows.*

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*Swans along the west shore during the melt.
Photo courtesy Austin Smith*

Mueller continued...

By now, many of us have received the 10 Year Lake Management Survey postcard. The card asks you to sign in to the Survey Monkey website and complete the survey on-line with your individual I.D. code.

Note: The link on the postcard provided must be entered exactly as shown, including the https://www prefix. If you are having any problem, please call Business Connections at (715) 542-2881 to get a hard copy of the 4-page survey which takes about 5-10 minutes to complete.

Your candid, confidential completion of the survey is very important and much appreciated. The team that put the survey together should be applauded as their efforts will help direct our lake planning for the next ten years. Follow the LMA website for date and time of informational meetings to come.

The LMA board has put together this year's calendar of meetings and events. Your participation in any or all of this year's activities is what makes all our efforts worthwhile.



Ice heave along west shoreline. Photo courtesy Julie Janquart.

Updating the LMA membership and potential membership list is complete. Your response to the early membership billing was phenomenal with 39 new members already on board. If you haven't sent in your 2019 dues, we will continue to accept them throughout the year.

The Annual Meeting will be held on **July 5th (NEW DATE)** at the High School. Your attendance is appreciated and we promise to get you back on the lake before noon.

The 4th of July Boat Parade (starts at 2 PM) and the Lake Metonga Association Picnic (following at 3 PM) take place at Charlie's Lake Metonga Resort on Saturday, July 6th. The general public is invited to both events. We are looking for more contestants for this year's parade, so we've increased the number and value of the prizes to stimulate for your creative genius.

Plans for this year's Weeds'n'Walleyes "FUN RAISER" are underway and will take place on October 12th at Mole Lake. Get your table groups ready because seating is limited.

So far, it looks like this year's EWM treatment plan will be a wait and see how things develop. Mark Truymen and I met with Scott VanEgren of the WI DNR last fall, and we look forward to continued dialogue as any lake related concerns evolve.

A big thank you to Ed Smith and Vern Dvorak for dragging an abandoned ice shack off the lake just days before it was expected to sink. They bagged the beer cans left in the shack and turned them in to the animal shelter recycle bin. They had enough to feed the dogs for a week!

See you all on the water! Don't forget the Survey!

Gary

Eagle Nest Update

Mark Truymen

In late February and early March, we saw a pair of eagles gathering construction materials to increase the size of the nest. They settled in about mid March and shortly after we saw two eggs.

With a 35 day incubation period, the camera captured a chick just after Easter Sunday, 4/21/19. For about 2 weeks we caught glimpses of the parents feeding the chick, still waiting for the 2nd egg to hatch, unfortunately then the nest became empty.

No one seems to know if the chick didn't survive due to physical reasons or if a predator got into the nest. We can't control Mother Nature, but will look forward to hopefully having an active nest next spring.

Please continue to visit the website to view the eagles that are still visiting the nest and for real time lake condition views at Charlie's and North Beach.



Toward the end of the March, two eggs are spotted in the nest during a quick incubation break time..



"What are you looking at?" Mom setting up nest mid-March.



Mom with the one hatchling third week of April.



Life goes on. Empty nest parents console themselves with a perch.

Lake Metonga News

Stakeholders' Survey

Mark Truymen

By now, we hope you all have received the post card inviting you to participate in the Lake Metonga survey.

The survey is a critical tool to help develop our lake's ten year lake management plan for the future.

[If you have not completed the survey yet, please do so ASAP as it will close on June 3rd.](#)

The survey can be completed on-line by entering the exact address as shown on the post card, or you can call Business Connection (715) 542-2881 to request a paper copy.

This survey is very important to the future of our lake, so please complete the survey as the association needs everyone's opinion. All submission are anonymous.

What's the Plan?

Lake Metonga 10 Year Management Plan

About every ten years, the WDNR requires lakes requesting grants to complete a comprehensive planning document that current and future teams can reference and draw from in their decision making process.

For Lake Metonga, that year is 2019. The first step in the process is to develop a survey sent to all stakeholders owning property on or deeded access to the lake. A diverse group of eight volunteers answered the call to serve on the Survey Planning Committee. That committee met a number of times in January to build the survey which was sent to WDNR for approval. After a few adjustments between the committee and WDNR, the survey is now in the hands of all stakeholders for completion.

The survey is not a cookie cutter list of questions. It is tailored to address the specific issues of Lake Metonga. The goal of the committee is to have a 100% return, which will give them the best vision of stakeholder concerns and needs. Please take the few minutes necessary to complete the survey.

The survey will be returned to a third party for analysis, which assures that the responses remain anonymous. Please watch your mail for the survey and complete ASAP. Your opinion is very important for the future of Lake Metonga.

Clean Boats Equals Clean Waters

Emma Eisenschink, Lake Metonga CB-CW Coordinator

"Have you been contacted by a watercraft inspector this season?"

This is one of the questions on the DNR Clean Boats Clean Water survey that is asked when boats are going in or coming out of the lake.

Hopefully, many of you were contacted by Lake Metonga's watercraft inspectors last summer. As of the end of August, the inspectors have put in 247 hours at the North Landing and 228 hours at the South Landing this summer.

The Clean Boats Clean Water watercraft inspection program is an opportunity to take a front-line defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species. 1192 boats (as of 8/28/18) have been inspected and been informed of the Eurasian milfoil, zebra mussels, and rusty crayfish issues that Lake Metonga has.

To prevent the spread of invasive species, remember to:

INSPECT boats, trailers, and equipment

REMOVE all attached aquatic plants and animals

DRAIN all water from boat, vehicle, and equipment

NEVER MOVE plants or live fish away from a water body

The inspectors would like to thank everyone for their cooperation at the landings. They know 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 care about the quality of our lakes and keeping them free of invasive species.

For more information, please contact Emma at (920) 905-2699 emmaeisenschink@gmail.com

Bigger and Better Boat Parade Set for 4th of July LMA Picnic Weekend

Keep an eye on the LMA website for details on this year's 4th of July Boat Parade scheduled for 2 PM on Saturday, July 6.. We've expanded the contest from three to five winners, and the prizes will be much more valuable. But, ***you have to be in to win!*** So, let's see a lot of over-the-top pontoons and boats in this year's contest!



My dad and I place the nest in Farmer's Bay while the loons watch closely in anticipation.

LoonWatch Report

Kayla Reed, Lake Metonga Loon Ranger

Spring and summer are once again upon us, and with the new seasons come the loons! Flying back from the Gulf of Mexico, the loons arrived back on Lake Metonga around mid-April when there was still some ice on the lake.

After patiently waiting for the ice to thaw, the loon's nest in Farmer's Bay was put in the weekend of May 4. When putting the nest in, it is essential to think of the placement of the nest in the lagoon. It can't be too close to the shoreline as terrestrial animals can pose a threat to chicks, but it also can't be too far out in the middle of the lagoon as that can give the eagles more room to dive in and retrieve a chick.

In Farmers Bay, while rowing out with the nest dragging behind, the loons came within 10 feet of our row boat, eagerly awaiting the placement of their nest. (The nest in Peterson's Bay stays in its place throughout the winter months, so the mating pair on that side of the lake did not even need to wait that long— just needed the ice to get out of the way!)

It is essential for everyone to practice safe boating in loon territory. Please be respectful of the loon nesting areas in Farmer's Bay and Peterson's Bay. Please do not encroach on their personal space. Let's not have 2019 end like it did last year for our loon inhabitants.

If you have any questions, concerns or reports, please feel free to email me at:

jomaemae.reed@gmail.com

Membership Drive

Julie Janquart

After reviewing our member list on 2018, the LMA Board determined that some changes in the membership process were warranted to provide clarity for individuals interested in being part of our organization through an annual membership.

The board clarified that annual membership follows a calendar year, and to help avoid confusion in the future, we would send out membership notices annually in January of each new year. As a board, we also felt that an effort to increase membership of riparian owners was warranted. So, the board agreed to completing a membership drive facilitated by board members Mark Truymen and Julie Janquart.

Subsequently, we mailed out our first annual membership invoices to 136 active 2018 members as well as memberships invitations to 179 non-member contacts. The list of individuals receiving this mailing included riparian, deeded access and condo property owners.

As of the end of April, we have 116 individual and 4 business members for 2019. Of this number, 35% are new members for 2019! We are still only at 37% of our total membership potential. We anticipate this number will increase at the LMA Annual Meeting and other events. Please talk to your neighbors and help get everyone to become a member and vested partner in the Lake Metonga Association.

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



*Peterson Bay sunset reflecting on open water as spring ice recedes.
Photo courtesy Chris Mueller.*

Lake Association Contacts:

4th of July Boat Parade & Picnic

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

Kentuck Days & Art in the Square

Deb Gauerke 715-574-9100
d_gauerke@yahoo.com

WEEDSnWALLEYES

Gary and Chris Mueller 715-478-2049
mueller@newnorth.net

Membership Contacts:

Julie Janquart 920-676-5764
juliejanquart@gmail.com

CB-CW

Emma Eisenschink 920-905-2699
emmaeisenschink@gmail.com

Membership Dues/Website

Steve Parks 715-793-4103
sparks@longrenparks.com