

LAKE METONGA NEWS

Fall 2019



Autumn bounty catch
of the day, courtesy
Lynn Smith

Association Update

Gary Mueller

Fallinter: That is the season where your leaf rake turns into a snow shovel, your spinning rod turns into a jig pole or tip-up and your short pants morph into long johns.

The calendar may show 30 more days of Fall but my wood pile says it's already winter. Peterson Bay had a group of ice fisherman set up on November 11. They were actually drilling holes with an auger not kicking holes with their boot heels! Please be careful on "Early Ice". Check every step with a heavy ice bar. A rope, ice picks and a friend are cheap insurance during these changing times.

Fall boat fishing was very popular this fall, with the launch parking lot busy on many days. We are looking forward to the Creel Census that took place on the lake this year.

Continued on page 2...



Cornucopia photo credit: <https://www.makeitgrateful.com/make/diy-decor/make-thanksgiving-cornucopia/Alyssum/Getty Images>

Lake Metonga News

Mueller continued...

Duck hunting on the lake sounded about average. The rust colored water from the steel shot should clear up by summer. The introduction of the Early Teal Season which opened on Labor Day weekend, caught many of us by surprise. A little more publicity of this opening would help minimize the confusion caused by a lot of shooting on a warm Holiday weekend.

There are quite a few eagles around and some nest remodeling seems to have taken place in Truymans Eagle Tree. We hope the nesting pair will return next spring and provide their on-line entertainment from the Web-Cam.

Charlie's Web-Cam should be up and running by now. Thanks, Troy and Chris from Northern Lake Service for doing their IT magic.

WEEDS"n"WALLEYES 2019, the primary LMA fundraiser, came through in a big way. Although it was a slightly smaller crowd (270+-), the evening was still packed full with lots of fun, food and fund raising in record time. This years event generated enough cash to cover all LMA expenses for 2019, including our Clean Boats – Clean Waters program, our Ten Year Management plan and all expenses for the Lake Survey. Thanks to ALL who participated in this years event.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES! Without their support, WEEDS"n"WALLEYES would not be possible.

Plans for the 2020 event are in full swing. The tentative date is October 3rd, 2020. We are working on a few "EARLY BIRD" promotions that will be too good to pass up. Stay tuned for information.

Apparel sales are going in a new direction with all sales running through Smith Sport and Hobby. You may not be able to have a specific item by Christmas but a Smith gift card will insure the gift is available by next season.

Mark Truymans has included an update of the Ten Year Lake Management Planning Committees progress. A few areas where you might be able to help implement the various aspects of the plan would be: fisheries, shoreline and woody habitat, invasive species control, and fundraising. These committees are mentioned in the plan and will need members.

A large percentage of our lake property owners are *weekend warriors* who have enough to do just to keep up with their property and enjoy the up north experience. For those folks, LMA membership and monetary support is all we can expect and is much appreciated.

As we get beyond some of life's hectic challenges, however, please think of how you might be able to expand your LMA volunteerism and get involved in any way you can.

Thanks for listening and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Gary



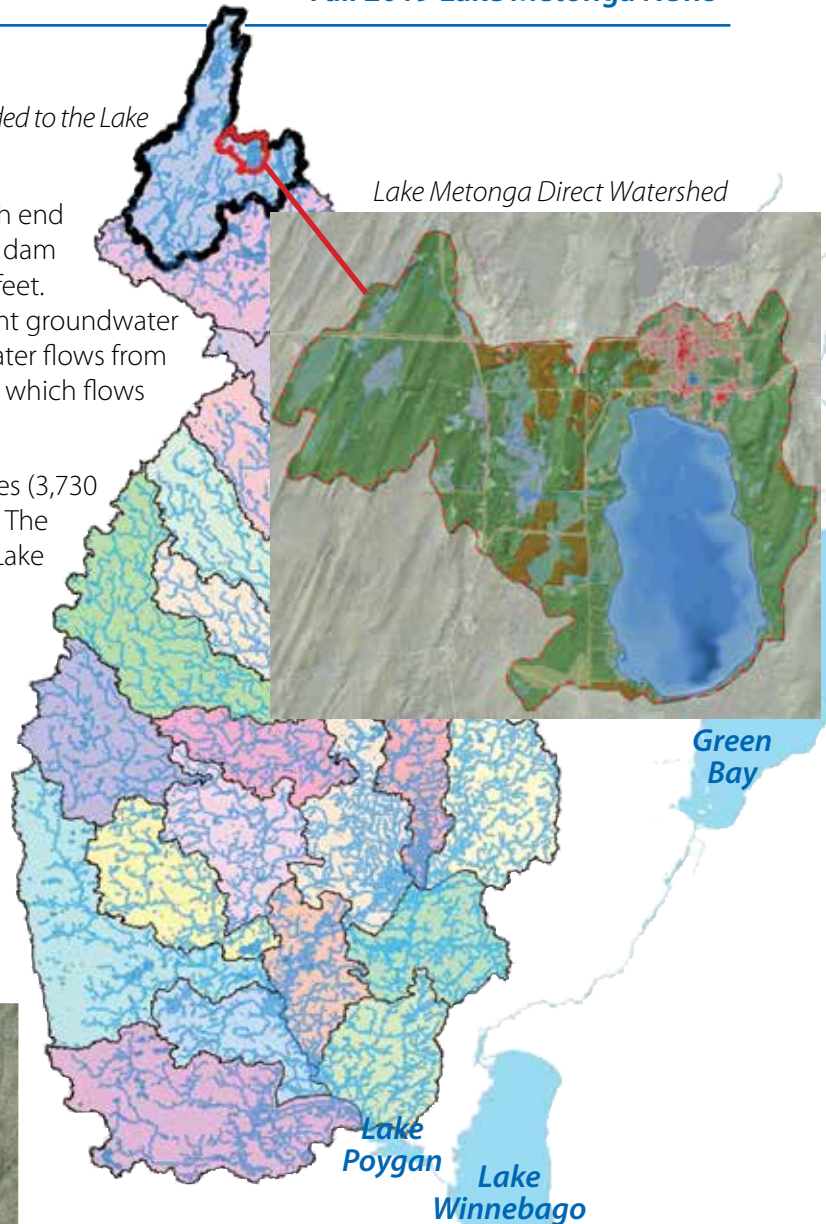
Lake Metonga Management

*Excerpted and reprinted with permission from research provided to the Lake Metonga Management Committee by Onterra, LLC**

Lake Metonga has a concrete dam located on the south end of the lake. Rebuilt in 1969 at a level (weir of 99.42), the dam can artificially increase the lake’s water level up to four feet. During drought years, such as the late-2000s, insufficient groundwater was present to hold the lake at this level. Otherwise, water flows from Outlet Creek, Lake Metonga’s outlet, into Swamp Creek which flows through Rice Lake on its way to the Wolf River.

The Wolf River watershed is approximately 2,388,00 acres (3,730 square miles) and includes portions of eleven counties. The watershed originates in Pine Lake and discharges into Lake Poygan of the Lake Winnebago System. The Wolf River watershed is subdivided into twenty sub-watersheds, with Lake Metonga and its direct watershed being located in the headwater sub-watershed, as shown on the maps at right.

Also, as shown in the aerial map below, the City of Crandon straddles the Wolf River watershed divide, with part of the City draining into Lake Metonga, and part draining away from Lake Metonga into the Upper Peshtigo River sub-watershed of the Upper Green Bay watershed basin.



The City of Crandon, like most urban areas, has a storm sewer system designed to drain surface water away from the city. In some instances, the storm water network of ditches and underground pipes is able to extend a lake’s watershed because it has the ability to carry water into it, that would normally fall outside of a lake’s watershed.

Working with the City of Crandon (Mike Smith), it was determined that the majority of the storm water system is within the City’s center. This part of the City drains into wetland “soak-in areas” within Lake Metonga’s watershed. Most of the City of Crandon that is outside of Lake Metonga’s watershed is minimally developed and is allowed to naturally drain away from the lake.

Lake Metonga’s watershed is 8,386 acres in size. Compared to Lake Metonga’s size of 2,052 acres, this makes for a very small watershed to lake area ratio of 3:1. Wisconsin Lakes Modeling Suite (WiLMS) modeling indicates that Lake Metonga’s residence time is about 7 years. In other words, the water within the lake is completely replaced 0.14 times each year.

Lake Metonga News

And the Survey Says...

Here are some interesting highlights from the Lake Metonga Stakeholders survey that many of you participated in earlier this year. Will include a few such tidbits in each newsletter edition:

- * 25% are year round residents
- * 9% have NOT fished in the past 3 years
- * 75% only use their water crafts on Lake Metonga
- * 73% describe the water quality good to excellent

10 Year Management Plan Update

To refresh your memory, Lake Metonga Association is in the process of developing a 10 year management plan which is required by WDNR if we wish to apply for future grants and other assistance.

A committee has been set up which consists of 8 volunteers and 2 liaisons from the LMA board. That committee met a number of times to develop the lake survey, which we hope you completed, and now is meeting to review those results and set a plan of action.

Once the committee makes its recommendations, it needs to go through Onterra LLC, our lake consultants, then to the WDNR for final approval. We hope to have the process completed by spring of 2020 and then will be presented to the membership.

The plan will consist of the development of 3-4 subcommittees to help implement the plan over the next years. Once those specific committees are set up, we'll be listing them with details of their purpose and we'll need your help as volunteers to sit on those committees to help guide us through the process.

Please consider serving at that time as your opinions are very important to the overall well being of Lake Metonga.

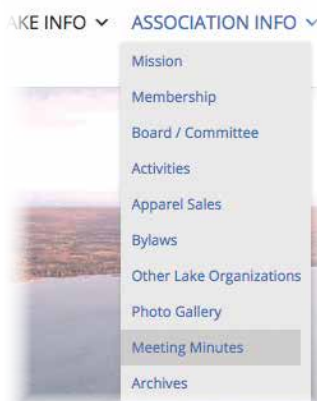
Website Updates

Please frequent our website:

www.lakemetongawi.org

to view our real time cameras and also to keep up on other issues as the 2019 Annual Meeting and several Board Meeting minutes have just been posted under

Association Info > Meeting Minutes.



Membership Drive Update

Mark Truyman & Julie Janquart

As you may know, LMA had started a membership drive in the Spring of 2018. To date, we have been able to increase membership by 35% to 185 members. By contacting non-members directly and also mailing a new membership brochure designed to give them basic information and the mission statement of our association, we are making progress toward our ideal goal of having all riparian owners become involved with the association.

In January, we will be mailing renewal invoices to all our current members, as our fiscal year is based on a calendar year. We will also be sending out more invitations to non-members.

It's important to note that our by-laws state that a voting member can be anyone who owns or resides on property within one (1) mile from Lake Metonga, so you do not need to be a riparian owner.

How can you help?

You may have a friend or neighbor that is new to the lake and may not be aware of the association. If you would contact us by either the contact link on the website or email mrtruyman@gmail.com and use subject line, "new member", with their name and either mailing or property address, we will contact them.

Newsletter News

This Fall issue is the first edition in our new 8-page printed format. As it turns out, printing 8 pages is actually cheaper than our previous 6-page format and the postage is the same. We hope many of you will help fill in the extra space by providing editorial content and photos. You can submit these via our website or send your materials via email to: sparks@longrenparks.com

The other big change is that all issues will now be printed, so that all members that do not get the newsletter via email receive all four issues. Previously, two issues each year were only available via email, so folks without email or who only wanted a mailed hard copy only received half the issues and could only view the other two by going to the website and viewing on-line. We truly appreciate all members who opt to receive the newsletter via email as this dramatically cuts cost, but at the same time, we recognize that its unfair to paying members who only receive mail, not email.

Lake Metonga History for the Holidays

Michelle Gobert

As our seasons change here in the Crandon area and some of our lake residents close up their cottages and head south for the winter, it is important to give thanks for the blessings Lake Metonga bestowed upon us this past summer. While I don't live on the lake, I am grateful from afar. My four-mile morning commute includes a glimpse of Lake Metonga which never fails to impress. I've tried to capture its beauty from atop Greatview road but never seem to be up high enough to get the impact shot the fog, or the sunlight deserve.

This past summer, these glimpses of Lake Metonga took on additional meaning after researching the history of the lake and some of its stories. In the non-stop business of today, it is immensely satisfying to know that for the past 100+ years Crandon residents felt the same sense of gratitude and awe for the blessing of Lake Metonga.

The following picture, taken from atop East Hill, is undated but one can guess that it captures a November day in Crandon. There's ice on the lake, the trees are bare and there is little snow covering the ground. The intention of the photographer is unknown, but I'd like to assume they were interested in capturing the same



sense of gratitude for the changing seasons on the lake that we ourselves do. This same sense of gratitude, as well as the changing seasons on the lake, is also well documented in the archives of the Forest Republican.

Most years, the news of the day included lake conditions, especially the dates of freeze over and ice out. In November of 1894, the Editor Sam Shaw made sure to include not only the meteorological news of the lake, but also a reminder of just how lucky Crandonites are to be "comfortably clothed, housed and fed, we have no reason to complain; in fact, we are much better off than many places much larger than ours."

Grateful indeed. Happy Holidays!

Lake Metonga's Loon Ranger Recognized as National FFA Winner

Excerpted from National FFA Organization News Release

The FFA has selected Kayla Reed as the winner for the National FFA Proficiency Award in Wildlife Production and Management. Reed was one of only four people chosen to compete for this award at the national finals which were held at the 92nd National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis.

Reed, a member of the Pulaski FFA Chapter, became eligible for the national award after being named the state winner in June and then selected as one of four national finalists during the 2019 National FFA National Finalist Selection Process earlier this summer.

From everyone in the Lake Metonga Community, congratulations Kayla, and, best wishes in all your future endeavors.

To view the entirety of the FFA news release, visit our "What's New" section on the association website home page.



Above: Kayla at November 2 award ceremony at Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the NFL Indianapolis Colts

Inset: Displaying her awards during post-session interviews

Lake Metonga News

Clean Boats – Clean Waters 2019 Program Recap

Emma Eisenschink, Lake Metonga CB-CW Coordinator



Whether you are someone who keeps the boat on the water all summer long or puts it in every weekend, chances are you've probably run into one of Lake Metonga's Clean Boats — Clean Waters watercraft inspectors this summer.

It was very pleasant meeting everyone at the landings this summer and discussing the health of our lake with many of you. Our watercraft inspectors would like to thank Lake Metonga's regulars and visitors for their cooperation at the landings. We know many of you have heard the invasive species speech multiple times and we appreciate your patience!

This summer — between the north and south boat landings — our watercraft inspectors were able to contact 3,834 people (up from 2,838 people last year), and inspect 1,563 boats (up from 1,288 boats last year), over the course of 567 hours (up from 499 hours last year).

If you have any further questions about the program or how to get involved, please feel free to contact me at 920-905-2699 or emmaeisenschink@gmail.com. Have a safe and wonderful winter, and we can't wait to see you next summer! Hopefully only 5 months until the ice goes out!

More on the subject

To help with our invasive species education, the LMA has released Lake Metonga CB-CW pocket guide that provides helpful tips to combat invasives in Wisconsin. Included in the pamphlet is a topographical map of the lake that also identifies various key areas around the lake.



Fishing Regulations

Panfish
(Yellow perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed, sunfish, crappie)
Open all year. No minimum length, daily bag limit is 25.

Smallmouth bass
May 5, 2019 to June 15, 2019
Fish may not be harvested (catch and release only)

Largemouth bass
June 16, 2018 to March 3, 2020
Minimum length: 14", daily bag limit is 5

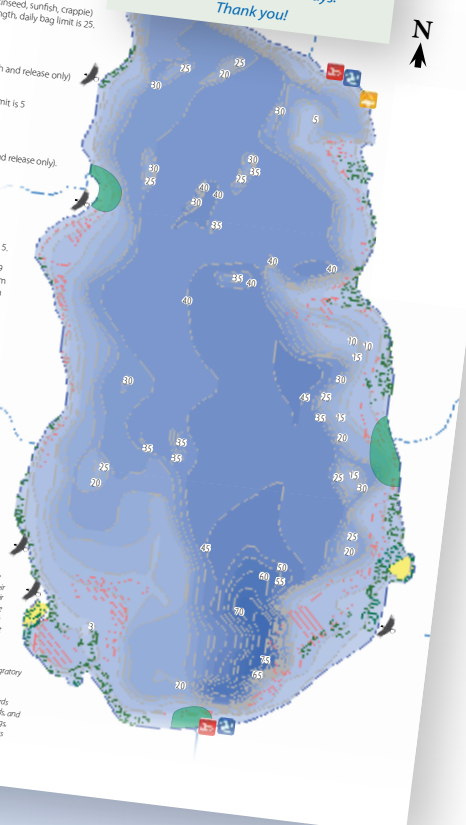
Northern pike
May 5, 2019 to March 1, 2020
No minimum length, daily bag limit is 5.

Walleye May 5, 2019 to March 3, 2019
Minimum length is 15", but walleye from 20" to 24" may not be kept and only 1 fish over 24" is allowed. The daily bag limit is 3.

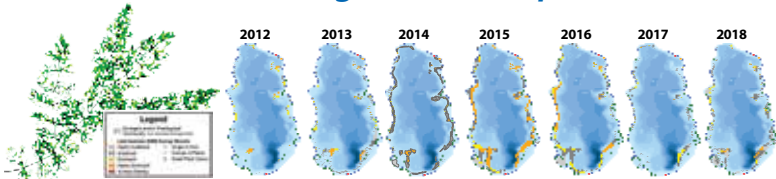
Bullheads
Open all year. No size limit, no daily limit. Do not return to lake - bring to land, dispose or bury.

Legend

- EWM (Eurasian water milfoil)
- Bullheads
- Rafting Areas
- Loon Nesting Areas
- Eagle Nest
- Public Boat Launch
- Public Beach
- Public Fishing Pier



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW Lake Metonga Invasive Species



Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)

- Once popular as an aquarium plant and carelessly dumped into the wild, Milfoil has been spreading rapidly ever since
- EWM has now spread to over 800 lakes, ponds, rivers and wetlands in Wisconsin! *EWM was brought into Lake Metonga by a visiting boater to the north boat launch in 1998*
- Fragments are churned up by boats, jet skis and swimmers
- A single fragment of the plant can infest an entire lake within a few years which is why cleaning equipment is so critical
- It spreads from lake to lake on the underside of boats & trailers, in bilge water & live wells, fishing equipment, diving gear, water skis... *anything that has contact with the water*
- Watermilfoil establishes early in the season, shading out native species, which causes a decline in aquatic plant and animal diversity
- EWM is unsightly, harms lake recreational & fishing value, spoils beaches, and can be dangerous for swimmers

Source: "Warrior Among Us" website, DNR

Rusty Crayfish

Rusty crayfish destroy weed beds important to fish and invertebrates. They invade and eat fish eggs in spawning nests. Crayfish trapping on Lake Metonga is welcomed to keep the population under control. See our website or the DNR website for trapping regulations.



Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels upset the fishery ecosystem by reducing the food source for fish larvae and juveniles. Zebra mussel larvae are invisible to the naked eye. To prevent the transport of these aquatic hitchhikers, it is important to drain all water from the boat, motor, bilge, live wells, bait containers and all equipment before you leave the launch area.



**Please! Enjoy the lake today. Help protect it for tomorrow.
Please obey the rules to help prevent the spread of these invasives!**

Lake Metonga Association

Left: The association also replaced the large invasive species signs located at both north and south boat launches.

LoonWatch Report

Kayla Reed, Lake Metonga Loon Ranger

Hopefully everyone is ready to embrace the cold season ahead of us, because the loons already have, and they've left town! Around the end of September to mid-October, the loons on Lake Metonga began to migrate down to the Gulf of Mexico, leaving most of us to experience the frigid temperatures yet to come.

The adult loons are the first to migrate with the fledged chicks (those that survived to 8 weeks old and are able to fly), leaving a little bit later.

Once down at the Gulf of Mexico, the chicks actually do not return in the spring like the adults do. For two to three years, they hang out in the warm gulf waters. But, when they are ready, they make the long flight back, and when arriving back to Wisconsin, these chicks will look for a lake within 10- 20 miles of the one they were raised on, checking that the lake is the same type (i.e. spring fed, dammed, etc.).

When the adult loons arrive back in mid-April, they look for irregular shaped shorelines, little islands, and vegetation. While Lake Metonga has no islands, it does have vegetation and irregular shaped shorelines; however, most of this shoreline is developed, which is the reason why two artificial loon nests are placed on the lake: one in Farmer's Bay, the other in Peterson's Bay.

The greatest threats to the Common Loon is the loss of habitat, poor water quality, human disturbance, and toxins like lead, mercury, and Avian Botulism. To help with their habitat, you can attempt to restore the shoreline of



No lead in our lake!

Lake Metonga by harboring native plants. To make sure the water quality can be the best it can be, don't use fertilizers with phosphorus, as this can run off into the lake, cause excessive algae growth and reduce

the visibility to the loons when searching for food. A rain garden and rain barrels also are helpful because they utilize rain water so it slowly seeps into the ground rather than running off directly into the lake, which can pollute the lake in some ways and erode the shoreline.

To ensure that the loons are as safe as possible in the Lake Metonga environment, use non-lead fishing tackle. Swallowing one piece of lead will kill a loon. It may seem remote, but even reducing energy consumption of fossil fuels helps reduce mercury which harms them as well as human consumers of fish.

When boating, jet skiing, kayaking, canoeing, etc., make sure to be watchful for the loons as they are all over the lake, but primarily by Farmer's and Peterson's Bays. Never attempt to chase the loons or harm them either, as harassing a protected species like the Common Loon carries a fine of \$1,000 and 90 days in jail.

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

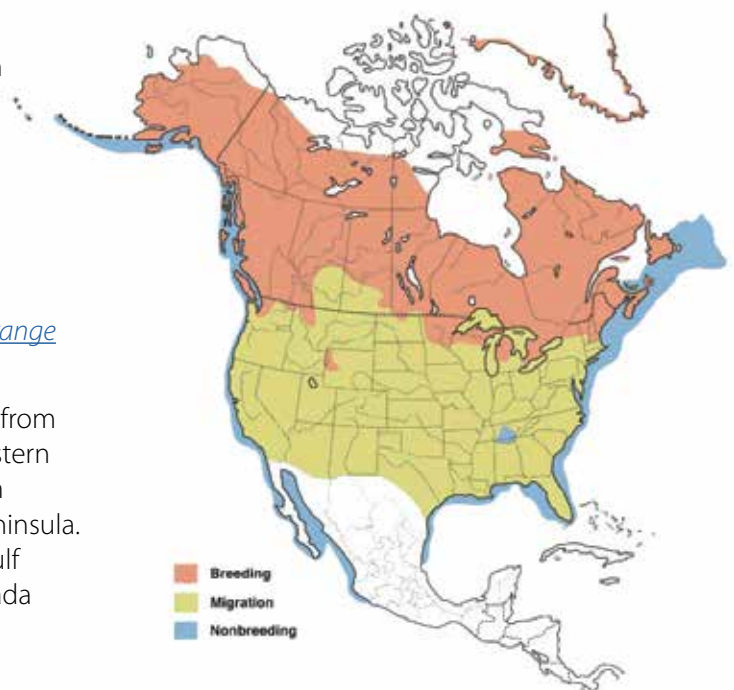
jomaemae.reed@gmail.com

For more on the subject

Excerpted from

www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Loon/maps-range

Medium-distance migrant. Common Loons migrate from northern lakes to coastal ocean waters. Loons in western Canada and Alaska migrate to the Pacific Coast, from Alaska's Aleutian Islands down past Mexico's Baja Peninsula. Loons from the Great Lakes region migrate to the Gulf of Mexico or Florida coasts. Loons from eastern Canada migrate to the Atlantic Coast.



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

WINTER IS COMING

Along with ice fishing...
snowmobiling...
cross-country skiing and shoeing...

Bring it on!