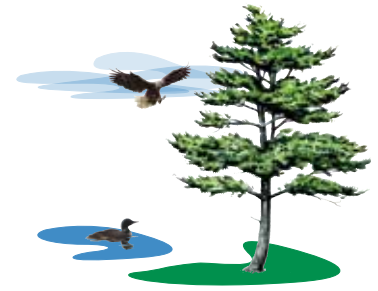


LAKE METONGA NEWS

Volume 2020: No. 1



I Got One!

A young member in the Smith ice fishing party showing how it's done...



Association Update

Gary Mueller

Welcome to Lake Metonga Association 2020!

Although Chris and I are still in Texas for these first few months of the year, we were lucky enough to have enjoyed some wintertime ice fishing, snowmobiling and XC skiing before we left.

With today's technology, keeping in touch is really remarkable when you think about it. Where we used to rely on the occasional letter, postcard or telephone call, we can now follow firsthand, whenever we want to, on how things are going up north with the LMA Friends on Facebook. Or, we can watch the eagles work on their nest on the "Eagle Tree Cam" in the Truymen's yard just south of Peterson Bay (see pics inside). Or, see how the current ice conditions are on the lake and how the fisherman are negotiating the north landing from the "City Beach Cam"...

And, email keeps us connected and up-to-speed with the 10-Year Lake Management Plan, year-end LMA financial reports, the recent \$5,000 grant from the Mole Lake Chippewa Tribe for our "Clean Boats" program...

That's the good news that our modern technology provides us.

Continued on page 2...

Are Your Dues Past Due?

If you haven't renewed your 2020 membership yet, please do so soon, or this may become your last issue of the LMA newsletter!



The LMA board and membership team have been working diligently over the past few years to keep our roster up-to-date and grow the association membership. The most important outcome of this is expanding the simple and easy opportunities for our membership to become actively involved with the Association and its priorities that directly benefit Lake Metonga, the riparian owners surrounding it, and the greater lake community. More on this inside.

Lake Metonga News

Mueller continued...

Unfortunately, it has its bad days, too — like when the router doesn't cooperate, and mysteriously for an unknown reason(s), our access to the internet is denied until further notice by the gremlins that power the whole thing, and who equally without rhyme or reason, decide when we've suffered enough and grant us on-line access again. Or, when the power goes out for more than a split second during a storm or something, and every clock on the stove, coffee pot, telephone, microwave, etc. has to get reprogrammed. Or, when the cell phone only works if you stand on one foot with the left arm stretched overhead while facing north by northeast and only if you're on the bottom step of the side porch and hopefully while it's not raining...

More seriously, our modern technology also brings daily late-breaking news of the growing spread and seriousness of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in the USA and throughout the world. As of this writing, let's hope that all members, friends and family of the lake association stay safe, and that the scope of this pandemic diminishes and is short-lived with the warmer seasons soon approaching and with more vigilant and stringent preventative measures practiced by everyone.

Back to LMA topics: Mark Truymen, Julie Janquart and the 10-Year Lake Management Plan committee have assembled a very comprehensive plan that best reflects the views of our membership. They will continue to work with our consultants at Onterra and the DNR in order to present the plan to the membership at the annual meeting. (By now, Julie has typed this document so many times she probably has it memorized!) Fortunately, again modern technology, aka her laptop, has made this myriad of revisions and the editing process between

the committee, Onterra and the DNR incredibly more efficient. Thanks Julie for your persistence and thoroughness to seeing this through, and thanks to all those association members who have helped with the shareholders survey and planning development process.

Mark and Julie are also handling LMA roster updates, membership billing and LMA member recruitment. You can thank them for their efforts by making sure your dues are paid! You can help even more when you recruit your lake neighbors to join. Not many things these days cost just \$25 a year, and there's no reason we shouldn't strive for 100% of all riparian owners being members of the association. And don't forget, membership extends to anyone within a one mile radius of the lake, so the association is not just for riparian owners.

Taking a quick look at what's coming up: Emma Eisenschink, the Association's Clean Boats-Clean Waters Director, along with Julie Janquart, have been busy submitting all the necessary paperwork to close out the 2019 CB-CW DNR grant, and applying for and receiving a new grant for 2020. These DNR grant monies, alongside the grant from the Mole Lake Tribe, fund the vast bulk if not all of the expenses for this vital program.

We'll have another edition of the newsletter later this spring with complete details on the annual meeting and other Lake Association events. See you on the lake, that is when it's liquid again!

Gary

P.S. Mark your calendar! The 2020 **WEEDS"n"WALLEYES Banquet** is set for October 6th at the Mole Lake Casino Banquet Hall.



Mole Lake Contributes Another \$5,000 Grant to LMA CB-CW

Emma Eisenschink, LMA Clean Boats-Clean Water Director (far right) and Julie Janquart, LMA Secretary/Board Member (center right) represented the Lake Metonga Association at the Mole Lake Annual Awards Ceremony on February 17, 2020. The Mole Lake Chippewa Tribe has donated this money to the lake association in support of our CB-CW initiatives for many, many years running. Presenting the \$5,000 grant from the Tribe are Garland McGeshik, Chairman (far left), and Vickie Ackley, Treasurer.

A Great Sign that Spring is on the Way

Mark Truymen

In early January, a pair of eagles started bringing construction materials into the nest. That activity in the past was a good indication that they would be nesting again this year.

On March 3rd, we noticed an egg in the nest and on March 6th a second, as shown in the photo. An eagle incubation period is 35 days, so we are hoping to see chicks in early April.

As of this writing, I received a few emails that only one egg was seen. We are not sure if one was lost or possibly the camera angle is not picking it up. Time will tell.



Last year the nest produced 2 chicks, which disappeared shortly after they hatched. We have no idea what happened, but can only assume that a predator got into the nest.

You can watch the activity on LMA's web site, www.lakemetongawi.org and scroll down to the eagle cam link. There are numerous eagle cams around the country, but just seems to be more interesting when you know they are Lake Metonga neighbors.

Get Ready for Spring with Lake Metonga Sportswear

All Lake Metonga Association apparel is available at: **Smith Sport and Hobby**
209 E. Pioneer St. Crandon

Monday thru Thursday & Saturday: 6:30 am - 6:00 pm • Friday: 6:30 am - 7:00 pm • Sunday: 6:30 am - 5:00 pm



Lake Metonga News

It's Official! First Draft of 10-Year Management Plan Signed, Sealed, Delivered

Julie Janquart & Mark Truymen



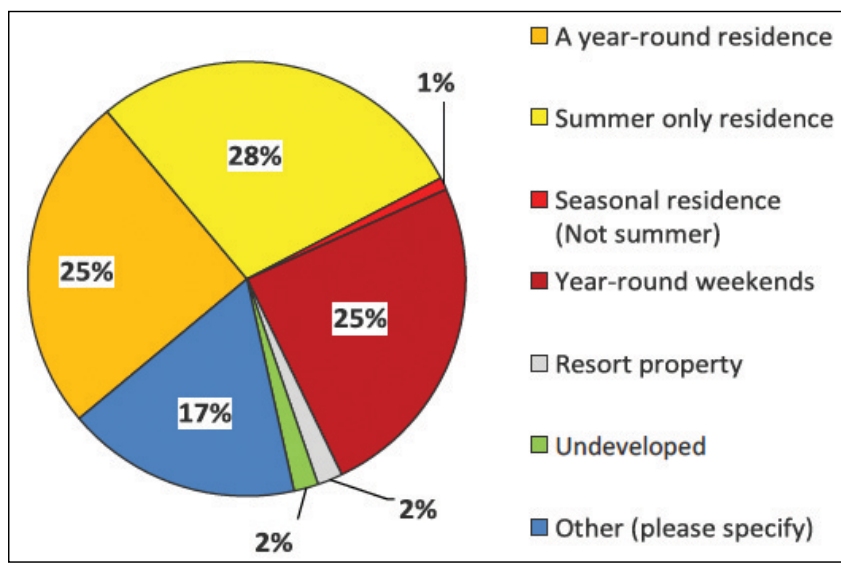
We are looking forward to sharing with you the completed 10-Year Lake Metonga Management Plan by early summer. The official first draft of LMA's Comprehensive Management Plan for Lake Metonga has been completed and is being forwarded on to several stakeholder organizations including the WDNR (lakes and fisheries programs), Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa Community, and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), for their review and related commentary. The resulting final document will likely include some input from other local organizations as well. All commentary received from these entities along with last year's survey comments will be included in the WDNR-approved final document as a matter of permanent, public record.

There is an abundant wealth of information included in this 120-page document which will likely be of interest to each and every one of you, even if it's only to learn how your friends and neighbors view lake-related topics included in our Stakeholder Survey sent out in 2019 as part of data gathering for the plan.

It's important to note that the Stakeholder Survey results in the 10-Year Management plan have been determined to be statistically valid due to the exceptionally high response rate of 69%, which is extremely rare for surveys of this type.

People generally don't share their opinions through this type of format, believing no one will listen, or it won't make a difference anyway. But, guaranteed, you made a huge difference! Way to go Lake Metonga Stakeholders!

You can look forward to seeing easy-reading graphic tidbits of stakeholder survey results (see sample below) in upcoming newsletters and posted to the website. After final approval is received from the WDNR, LMA will receive a select number of hard copies of this important document which we will make available to interested members to read on loan. We will also post the plan on the LMA website, making it convenient for all interested individuals to read and learn there as well.



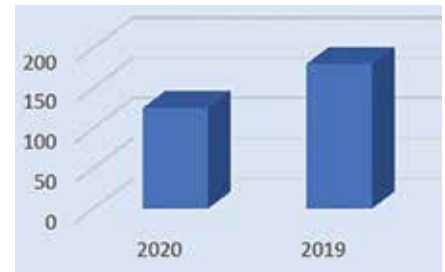
Membership Corner

Julie Janquart

On January 11th, seven (7) volunteers met at Charlies Metonga Resort to stuff envelopes for the membership mailing of 2020. Last year, 2019, we started mailing invoices to current members and an invitation letter with a brochure to nonmembers. When the task was completed, we ended up mailing 181 invoices and 146 invitations. The invitations were sent to residents with or without direct access to the lake. As you may recall, our by-laws state that any resident within one (1) mile from our lake can become a voting member. Also note that anyone beyond the mile limit can be a member to help support the lake.

As of the beginning of March, we have received a total of 125 individual and 6 business membership forms with the expectation of more to come in the weeks ahead. Our

hope is to top what is believed to be the all-time high membership total from 2019 which was 180 members.



If you haven't yet mailed in your membership renewal for 2020, please do so now. If you haven't received a renewal or invitation, you can go to the website, lakemetongawi.org and click on Association Info - Membership - Application Membership form.

Calling all Members...

As an integral part of the 10-Year Plan, three committees will be formulated to oversee and direct the association's activities. Please give thought to your talents and interests and consider volunteering to serve on one of these committees:

Aquatic Plant and AIS Management Committee

Historically, the LMA has had a core group of volunteers, often board members, that focused on the EWM management needs of the lake. The creation of a dedicated committee will ensure that division of labor occurs within the LMA. The committee will be charged with AIS and EWM management, Clean Boats-Clean Waters watercraft inspections, future AIS aquatic plant and animal (e.g. rusty crayfish, zebra mussel) monitoring activities. The committee will also deal with funding, cost analysis, risk assessment, treatment strategy and data review. The preference is to have four committee members, with one also being on the LMA Board of Directors.

Outreach Committee

This committee will focus specifically on increasing membership, education/communication with the membership and greater lake community, and increasing volunteerism, fundraising and capacity of the organization. The LMA has set and met internal goals for membership enrollment and aims to continue that momentum. By continuing to demonstrate a clear mission that is not limited to being a social organization,

Uncle Gary says: "I WANT YOU"

the LMA will increase its capacity and influence on Lake Metonga community. The committee will be comprised of 4-6 individuals, with at least one member being on the LMA Board of Directors, and with the formation of sub-committees to be considered to meet specific outreach objectives.



Fisheries and Habitat Committee

This committee will serve as the point of contact for WDNR and working with local Tribal fisheries managers on programs such as bullhead removal, walleye stocking plans, and potential panfish enhancement. This committee will also be responsible for fish and wildlife habitat enhancement activities such as shoreland protection & restoration, and coarse woody habitat improvements. The committee will coordinate with the Outreach Committee on pertinent wildlife related initiatives such as protecting loons and eagles, controlling undesirable Canadian geese and cormorants, etc. The committee will be comprised of 4-6 individuals, with at least one member being on the LMA Board of Directors.

Lake Metonga News

Lake Metonga Management

Excerpted and reprinted with permission from research provided to the Lake Metonga Management Committee by Onterra, LLC* in preparation for the upcoming 10-Year Management Plan

Shoreland Zone and its Importance

One of the most vulnerable areas of a lake's watershed is the immediate shoreland zone (approximately from the water's edge to at least 35 feet shoreland). When a lake's shoreland is developed, the increased impervious surface, removal of natural vegetation, and other human practices can severely increase pollutant loads to the lake while degrading important habitat.

The intrinsic value of natural shorelands is found in numerous forms. Vegetated shorelands prevent polluted runoff from entering lakes by filtering this water or allowing it to slow to the point where particulates settle. The roots of shoreland plants stabilize the soil, thereby preventing shoreland erosion. Shorelands also provide habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial animal species. Many species rely on natural shorelands for all or part of their life cycle as a source of food, cover from predators, and as a place to raise their young. Shorelands and the nearby shallow waters serve as spawning grounds for fish and nesting sites for birds. Thus, both the removal of vegetation and the inclusion of development reduces many forms of habitat for wildlife.

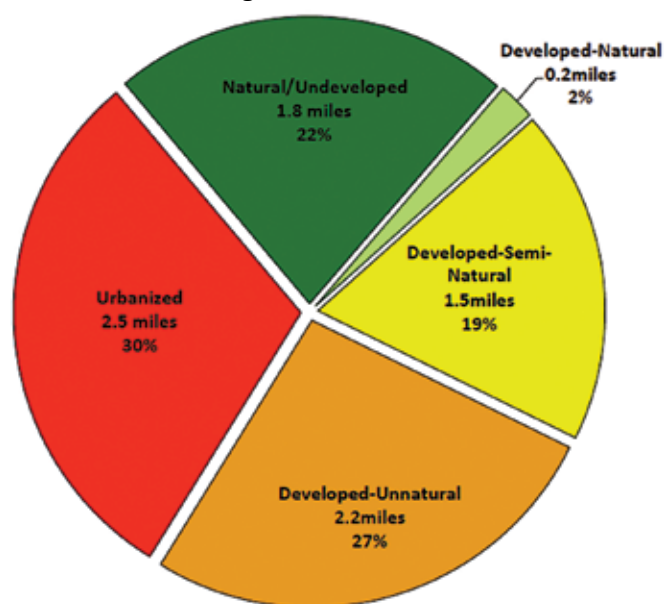
Some forms of development may provide habitat for less than desirable species. Disturbed areas are often overtaken by invasive species, which are sometimes termed "pioneer species" for this reason. Some waterfowl, such as geese, prefer to linger upon open lawns near waterbodies because of the lack of cover for potential predators. The presence of geese on a lake resident's beach may not be an issue; however, the feces the geese leave are unsightly and pose a health risk. Geese feces may become a source of fecal coliforms as well as flatworms that can lead to swimmers' itch. Development such as rip rap or masonry, steel or wooden seawalls completely remove natural habitat for most animals, but may also create some habitat for snails; this is not desirable for lakes that experience problems with swimmers' itch, as the flatworms that cause this skin reaction utilize snails as a secondary host after waterfowl.

Shoreland Development

Lake Metonga's shoreland zone can be classified in terms of its degree of development. In general, more developed shorelands are more stressful on a lake ecosystem, while definite benefits occur from shorelands that are left in their natural state.

On Lake Metonga, the development stage of the entire shoreland was surveyed during October 2018, using a GPS unit to map the shoreland. Onterra staff only considered the area of shoreland 35 feet inland from the water's edge, and did not assess the shoreland on a property-by-property basis. During the survey, Onterra staff examined the shoreland for signs of development and assigned areas of the shoreland into one of five categories as shown in the graph below:

Lake Metonga Shoreline: 8.2 Miles Total



Lake Metonga Fish Habitat: Substrate Composition

Just as forest wildlife require proper trees and understory growth to flourish, fish require certain substrates and habitat types to nest, spawn, escape predators, and search for prey. Lakes with primarily a silty/soft substrate, many aquatic plants, and coarse woody debris may produce a completely different fishery than lakes that are largely sandy/rocky, and contain few aquatic plant species or coarse woody habitat.

Substrate and habitat are critical to fish species that do not provide parental care to their eggs. Northern pike

*All material copyright Onterra, LLC, and reprinted with their explicit permission.

is one species that does not provide parental care to its eggs (Becker 1983). Northern pike broadcast their eggs over woody debris and detritus, which can be found above sand or muck. This organic material suspends the eggs above the substrate, so the eggs are not buried in sediment and suffocate as a result.

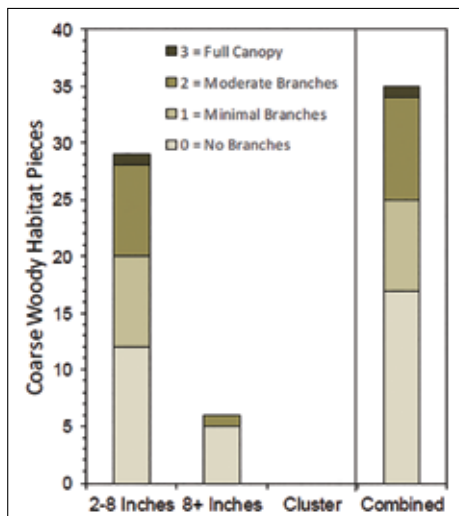
Walleye are another species that does not provide parental care to its eggs. Walleye preferentially spawn in areas with gravel or rock in places with moving water or wave action, which oxygenates the eggs and prevents them from getting buried in sediment. Fish that provide parental care are less selective of spawning substrates. Species such as bluegill tend to prefer a harder substrate such as rock, gravel or sandy areas if available, but have been found to spawn and care for their eggs in muck as well.

According to the point-intercept survey conducted by Onterra in 2018, 69% of the substrate sampled in the littoral zone of Lake Metonga were sand sediments, 28% was composed of rock and 3% were composed of soft sediments.

Course Woody Habitat

The presence of coarse woody habitat is important for many stages of a fish's life cycle, including nesting or spawning, escaping predation as a juvenile, and hunting insects or smaller fish as an adult. Unfortunately, as development has increased on Wisconsin lake shorelines in the past century, this beneficial habitat has often been the first to be removed from the natural shoreland zone. Leaving these shoreland zones barren of coarse woody habitat can lead to decreased abundances and slower growth rates in fish (Sass 2006).

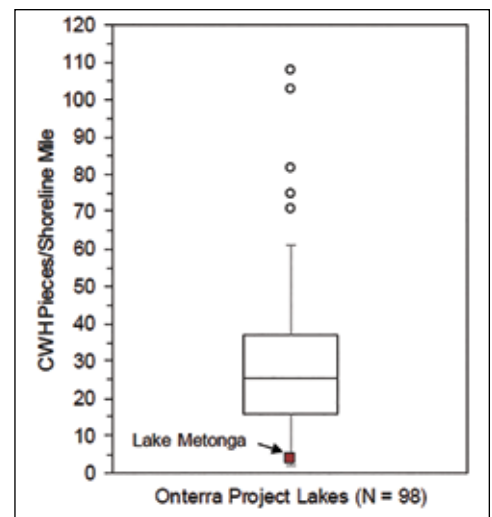
As part of the Fall 2018 shoreland condition assessment, Lake Metonga was also surveyed to determine the extent of its coarse woody habitat which was categorized by diameter size and by branching density from no branches to full canopy structure, as shown in the bar graph at right.



During the survey, 35 total pieces of coarse woody were observed along the 8.2 miles of Lake Metonga shoreline, resulting in a ratio of approximately 4 pieces per mile of shoreline.

To put this into perspective, Wisconsin researchers have found that in completely undeveloped lakes, an average of 345 coarse woody habitat structures may be found per mile (Christensen et al. 1996). Please note the methodologies between the survey done on Lake Metonga and those cited in this literature comparison are much different, but still provide a valuable insight into what undisturbed shoreline may have in terms of coarse woody habitat.

Onterra has completed coarse woody habitat surveys on 98 lakes throughout Wisconsin since 2012, with the majority occurring in the NLF (Northern Lakes and Forest) ecoregion on lakes with public access. The number of coarse woody habitat pieces per shoreline mile in Lake Metonga falls below the 75th percentile of these 98 lakes.



For more on the subject:



For information about 5 simple and inexpensive best practices that can improve habitat and water quality on your shoreland property, check out the Healthy Lakes website.



I own lakeshore property.

You can make a difference. Learn about Healthy Lakes best practices for your property and how to find help.

<https://healthylakeswi.com/>

Get Started

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

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


A Final Word on Technology...

For those visiting the association website: www.lakemetonga.org

- **Truymans Eagle Tree Live Cam**..... ✓
- **North Shore City Beach Boat Launch Live Cam** ✓
- **Charlie's Lake Metonga Resort Live Cam** X

The lakeview camera located at Charlie's Lake Metonga Resort has been off-line for quite some time ever since Charlie's changed internet service providers. We are all sorry for the inconvenience, and are hoping we can get the camera back on-line this spring.





This site can't be reached

charliesresort.viewnetcam.com refused to connect.

Try:

- Checking the connection
- [Checking the proxy and the firewall](#)

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