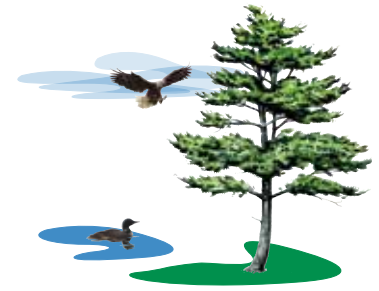


LAKE METONGA NEWS



Volume 2020: No. 2

“Blue days

All of them gone

Nothing but blue skies

From now on”

*Excerpted lyrics from “Blue Skies”
by Irving Berlin, 1926*

Association Update

Gary Mueller

“Who’d a thunk it?...”

The opening of fishing season requiring everyone to practice *social distancing* at the bait store.

They call this the “**New Normal**!”

The only thing for sure is we are all on a journey, on an uncharted course that will hopefully bring out the best in all of us — *with such a diverse lake community, it is important that we work hard to respect the views of our neighbors, especially those that differ from ours.*

Now let’s get down to business...

Continued on page 2...



Photo courtesy Todd Koehn

Lake Metonga News

Mueller continued...

Fishing season opened a few days after the ice went off, to "Blue Bird Day". Sunny, warm and windy. Didn't hear of many legal walleyes being caught, but we did see countless undersized fish that kept fisherman busy all week. Hopefully, the lake will warm up enough to turn on the bite of a few larger fish. Tribal spearing was about 20% below allowable harvest with 887 fish taken. Bullhead control is on hold for now. We hope some harvesting can take place in early summer.

The Eagle Camera is very popular as the eaglet is getting big and more active (see page 4). Grocery shopping is good for the Eagles with a menu of duck, squirrel, walleye, crappie and sucker appearing daily in the nest.

Several Loons were active and checking out the nest in Peterson Bay. They finally set up housekeeping on May 12th. Calling practice — daily, at 2:30 AM — is just getting started. Mark Truymen and I reworked the loon platform the day after ice out.



Photo courtesy Chris Mueller

Above: This is probably the last year for this loon platform in Peterson Bay. Several of the PVC rails are broken. Anyone interested in taking on a construction project let me know. Gary Mueller

Right: Social-distancing is easily accommodated in the LMA's new makeshift "corporate headquarters". Thanks to Gary and Cisse Goeman for volunteering the use of their garage workshop this winter, spring and summer for the board to conduct meetings. Left to right: Lynn Smith, Gary Mueller, Julie Janquart, Steve Parks, Mark Truymen, and Gary Goeman.

The association board of directors met in a Covid responsible way throughout the Spring in hopes of setting a 2020 calendar. Although each of us enjoyed getting out of "solitary confinement" for a couple hours, it's continued to prove difficult if not impossible to formulate a conclusive schedule for the year. (See the next page for where things stand as of right now.)

The board will continue to monitor options available for our Annual meeting based on site availability, but we think holding the meeting outdoors at the Lions Club picnic pavilion in the city park by the north shore boat launch will be a very suitable spot. Please keep in touch with the website and local newspaper if conditions change dramatically between now and August.

The other event we are pretty confident we can pull off, and that everyone can safely participate in and enjoy, is for everyone to join us in a **4th of July All Boat Armada Boat Parade** on Saturday, July 4. (See next page for complete details.)

We'll look forward to seeing you on the lake — where social distancing is inherently easy to maintain! Have a safe and enjoyable summer with your family, friends and neighbors on the lake!

Gary

CAUTION! LOON ALERT! The Peterson Bay loon nest has hatched two babies on June 8!

Please be super careful boating in and around the bay, and from Bare A-- Beach to the north and to the reed beds south of the bay. The babies will be riding on the backs of the parents for quite some time, which makes them unable to dive to avoid boats.



Photo courtesy Cisse Goeman

Agenda of Lake Metonga Association Activities for the Remainder of 2020

It's an understatement that this is a year unlike any other in any of our lifetimes.

With the seriousness of the Coronavirus Covid-19 health risk, particularly to elderly, Forest County, the City of Crandon and the Lake Association have canceled or curtailed many of the normal activities and events for this 4th of July.

We are pretty confident we have figured out a safe plan to conduct our annual meeting as required by our bylaws, and we hope to see you there. There are plenty of picnic tables to spread around at safe distance, or bring a lawn chair if you prefer. No refreshments will be available, so bring your own.

It is truly an issue of *better to be safe, than to be sorry*.

	Crandon City parade: canceled
	Crandon City fireworks: canceled
4th of July	LMA pPicnic: canceled
	LMA Boat Parade (see below)
Kentuck Day	Jul 25, 2020; 9 am – 3 pm (pending)
Annual Meeting	Saturday, August 8, 9:00 am rain or shine at Lions Club Picnic Pavilion by City Park Boat Launch
Art in the Square	September 19, 2020; 9 am – 3 pm (pending)
WEEDS "n" WALLEYES Banquet	October 3, 2020; doors open at 5 pm, dinner at 6 pm; Mole Lake Casino Banquet Hall (tentative)

"Stay Safe. Stay Smart. Stay Strong."

The LMA Board

"Honoring Frontline Workers" 4th of July ALL BOAT ARMADA on Lake Metonga

Come one, come all. We've got 2,100 acres of lake space to accommodate all the social distancing you need! Decorate your boat or pontoon for a chance to win big prizes. Or, just join the parade as you are, and you'll still have a chance to win prizes — all of which will help support our local Crandon-area businesses.

Parade Rules:

- The ALL Boat Armada on Lake Metonga will go in a **CLOCKWISE** direction (note: this is the opposite direction from previous years).
- The procession is for one lap beginning and ending from your dock or point of origin beginning at 1:00 pm on Saturday, July 4. Please maintain a slow speed, safe distance from others boats, and reasonably close distance to the shore, so spectators can get a good look.
- To be eligible for a prize (decorated or not), on your way around the lake, swing by the dock at Charlie's to pick up your registration ticket. These will go into the raffle drawings for prizes, and used by the judges to select decorated boat contest winners. **KEEP YOUR TICKET!** Winning numbers will be published in Forest Republican newspaper and on the LMA website. You must have your ticket to claim your prize. Pickup location for prizes will be published with winning numbers.
- If you have a decorated craft, pass through the judging station by Goeman's dock on the south-west side of the lake (don't worry, you won't be able to miss it!). Please go slow and allow plenty of space so the judges can get a good look.

Decorated Boat Theme

In support of all the front line men and women in Forest County, in Wisconsin, in the USA and around the world, this year's boat parade theme is "Honoring Frontline Workers."

If you'd like to decorate your craft to some other theme, that's OK, but you won't be eligible for the prizes awarded by the panel of judges.

Prizes

Non-Decorated Watercraft Raffle

- 10 – \$20 Chamber Buck Certificates
- Grand Prize: Reservation for 8 at Charlie's Tiki Bar

Decorated Watercraft

Judged Contest	Raffles
Chamber Bucks Certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reservation for 8 at Charlie's Tiki Bar • Mole Lake Casino Weekend Package
1st Prize \$250	• \$100 Chamber Bucks Certificate
2nd Prize \$150	• \$100 Gift Certificate for Smith Sport & Hobby
3rd Prize \$100	• \$100 Gift Certificate for Trisha's Treasurers
4th Prize \$50	• \$100 Gift Certificate for Schaefer's IGA
	• \$100 Gift Certificate for Conway True Value Hardware
	• \$100 Gift Certificate for Rustic Allure

Good luck to all decorated boat contestants. We look forward to seeing everyone on the lake — to share and celebrate the birthday of what many consider the greatest nation and democracy ever on earth. Let's live up to that reputation.

Lake Metonga News

A New Generation Will Soon Take to the Skies

Mark Truymen

We hope you've been watching the progress of the newest member of the Lake Metonga community, an eaglet that hatched on April 7, 2020. There were originally two eggs in the nest this spring, but only one survived.



The eaglet survived the mid-March snow storm that nearly covered the parent in snow while protecting the chick in the nest. If you were watching closely, you may also have seen numerous breakfast and dinner meals including walleye, bullhead, and an occasional squirrel, muskrat or duck.

While the chick continues to grow, it's expecting to fledge (take flight) between June 16-30th. At the time of fledging, it will be almost the same size as its parents.

You can catch all the action at our website homepage www.lakemetongawi.org, scroll down and click on "Truymans Eagle Tree Live Cam".



Above: A true example of real dedication, thick or thin.

Left: "Save some for me! I've been stuck here all day while you spent the day 'fishing.'"

Below: "OK, Junior, you can come out now. The storm is over. Ready for a snack?"



Special thanks for photos courtesy Jim VanGrinsven, Mark Truymen, Gary Mueller, and Rose Giordano.



Left: The hand-off taking turns feeding junior.

Below: Junior: "I'm sick of fish!"

Mom: "OK. How about some duck?"

Below Left: Talk about being quarantined, bored and nowhere to go! Leaving the nest too soon almost always results in serious injury or death. Our new Lake Metonga member is almost ready for flight as of June 8 when this pic was taken. About one more week to go.



And, Here's Another New Member to the Community

When its time, its definitely time.

Evidently, there was no time for Momma Jane Doe to find a more appropriate secluded and SOFT spot to deliver this fawn.

Born alongside Lakeview Street (between Andrews and Fischer's), on May 22 at 9:14 a.m., this little one was "up and running" (albeit on pretty wobbly legs) in short order.

Photo courtesy Chris Mueller



Lake Metonga News

Membership Corner

Julie Janquart

After the renewal and invitation notices went out in early January, we had a great response which lasted through March and we thank you for that. Shortly after, renewals dropped off substantially which may have been caused by Covid-19 or maybe the notice was misplaced or just forgotten. The membership committee is making every effort to maintain current members and contacting nonmembers to join.

In the past, LMA included membership when you signed up for an "Early Bird" for Weeds N Walleye banquet. We discontinued that in 2018 as it was difficult to document for the committee as well as those individuals. We also had many members renew at the annual meeting, which is very acceptable, but with the uncertainty of this year, we ask that you send your membership in now, so not to forget.

If you are uncertain if you have renewed your membership, you can go to our website and click on "contact" in the upper right. Send a request for status and we'll get back to you within a few days.

Membership forms are available on our website. Under the Association Info menu, select Membership and download the Membership application form shown at the bottom of the page.

Again, thank you for your continued support and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or if you'd like to be a volunteer on our membership committee.

Schramm Memorial Update

In April, 2015, the Lake Metonga Association lost one of its most important members, Donna Schramm.

For those new to LMA, Donna and Les Schramm were instrumental with the association's fight against invasives, and served as an integral part of our association's activities, including applying for grants, serving as board members and officers, and conducting lake testing, to name a few.

At her passing, the association received several significant donations in Donna's memory. These monies have been set aside from the association's general fund, as they are intended for special circumstances which promote the goodwill efforts of LMA consistent with Donna's dedication to the organization and the surrounding lake area community.

In 2018, the LMA made its first contribution from this fund to purchase new kitchen equipment for the Donna Schramm Memorial Kitchen in the Crandon Lions Club new picnic pavilion at the city park adjacent to the north shore boat launch.

Earlier this year, the LMA board approved another expenditure from the memorial fund to provide a



Kayla displaying her National FFA Proficiency Award in Wildlife Production and Management last fall.

scholarship donation to Kayla Reed as she commences her college education. The scholarship donation is in recognition of Kayla's outstanding academic achievement thus far in life, and her devout environmental studies and activities including those specific to Lake Metonga.

Even though she has been too young to be an active member in the LMA until very recently, Kayla has for many years been very active as Lake Metonga's Loon Ranger. She has also

performed the annual water testing and clarity checks with her father, Grant Reed. Many of you are probably familiar with the Reed family, as Grant is a past president of LMA, and wife Kim, a past treasurer. The scholarship was granted in the amount of \$2,000 with the blessing of Les Schramm.

Future proceeds from the memorial fund will be made available for nonprofits, students and other individuals that demonstrate exemplary effort and dedication to the Lake Metonga habitat and its surrounding community — activities in keeping with Donna's devotion to the same.

Lake Metonga History: Forest County Veteran's Memorial Park (South Beach)

Michell Gobert

Forest County's Forestry Department currently manages 14,876 acres of publicly owned County Forest Land for the purpose of sustainable forest management, wildlife conservation, and recreation. The Forestry Department also maintains Veterans Memorial Park, located on the south end of Lake Metonga, for both residents and visitors to the area.

Veteran's Memorial Park was authorized by action of the Forest County Board of Supervisors on August 7th, 1962. According to the minutes of the County Board of Supervisors, William Duff moved to adjourn the County Board meeting "until the County Board, as a whole, inspected the progress on the Park."

The Forest Republican followed up the visit to the County Park with an in-depth article on the management of the park and a photo of the County Board's impromptu visit.

According to the article, Mrs. Josphine Spencer was the caretaker at the park seven days a week and reported that an average of 53 people a day stayed at the park



Make Park Inspection—Members of the Forest county board of supervisors recently made an inspection trip to the Lake Metonga county park. Front row: From left: Ivan Howard, Nashville; Edward Penasa, Roes; John Klusa, Armstrong Creek; Len Staska, city Crandon; Dan Powers, Popple River; Chester Cox, Alvin; and John Tauer, Hiles. Second row: Everett Cole, town Crandon; Ken Conway, county clerk; Bernard Pichotta, Wabeno; William Duff, City Crandon; Eugene Wettstein, Freedom; Clyde Spencer, Lincoln; Edward Bowling, Laona; Gilbert Rogers, City Crandon; John Masel, Blackwell; Lyle Palmer, Argonne; Lester Fredeth, City Crandon; and Ronald Brooks, Caswell.

Forest Republican August 23, 1962.

in July of 1962 and that no one complained about the dollar per night camping charge made by the county.

To be continued next issue...

2020 Walleye Harvest Count

Here's email correspondence between Gary Mueller, LMA President, and Greg Matzke, DNR regarding this year's walleye spearing season.

Hi Greg
 People are asking if we have the 2020 Spring spearing report for Metonga. Any help??
 Struggling to plan for annual meeting and 10year management plan time and place.
 Thanks
 Gary Mueller

Hey Gary
 Spearing appears to be done for the year, with no spearing activity for the last 3 days, so these are likely the final numbers for Metonga. The safe harvest limit was 1,094 walleye on Metonga this year, the tribe declared 1,039 fish and harvested 887 fish.

Thanks for the report Greg
 The local "rumor mill" is going strong, (even Corona Virus can't stop some things). The word is Mole Lake Band stopped harvesting at 800+- But another Band finished off the quota and did it with several "out of slot" fish.
 Don't spend a lot of time on this but if you hear something factual let me know.
 We are getting reports of a big upswing in bullhead schools. I tried to reach Mike about bullhead harvest but haven't heard back. If you hear anything about this let me know.
 Thanks Gary

None of that is factual. Tribal harvest is very closely monitored, especially on the lakes with a large quota. All fish are measured, and for each 30 fish permit they can only have a maximum of 2 fish over 20".
 I know Mike is very busy with projects that we are working on, plus his hatchery operation. I am sure he will get back to you, just will take some time.

Thanks again Greg
 Would it be ok to quote these facts and guidelines in our next newsletter?
 Mueller

Yes that is not a problem. I appreciate you asking.
 We are committed to service excellence.
 Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customerurvey> to evaluate how I did.
 Gregory R. Matzke
 Phone: (715) 528-4400 ext 5
 Gregory.Matzke@Wisconsin.gov

"The facts, Ma'am. Just the facts."



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WEEDSnWALLEYES

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Until next time...



Photo courtesy Todd Koehn