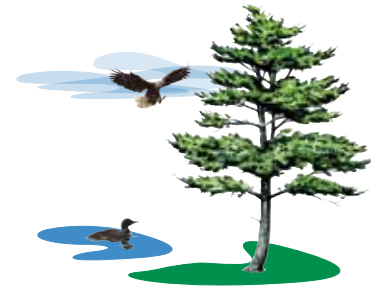


LAKE METONGA NEWS

Volume 2021: No. 1



Association Update

Gary Mueller

For the last few years it's been really easy to crank out a quick article for the spring newsletter. This year just past, though, was not a normal year by any stretch, and this article you are reading is my thirty-seventh attempt at putting something on paper.

Last year, for the most part, Lake Metonga's steady flow of boaters, sun bathers, fishermen and hunters tried to adapt to "social distancing" versions of their activities.

Tired of quarantining in isolation, the July Fourth holiday brought hundreds of people to our shores for some semblance of normalcy. But, as summer turned to fall and then to winter, we had all adjusted, albeit some begrudgingly, to a "new normal" of masks, outside seating at restaurants and limited visits from kids and grandkids.

The hope of a vaccine is turning into a reality for the elderly, caregivers and others as we move from winter to spring. The "light at the end of the tunnel" is no longer from an oncoming train.

Continued on page 2...

Spring 2021: A New Beginning

Clockwise Above: Eagle cam view of mom and dad revealing their nest egg(s): one as of March 12th; two by the 16th, and three as of March 26th.

Below: Lake Metonga "Eagles Club" — ten members present (two camera shy) — congregating on the ice this spring perhaps to discuss current fishing strategies.

Photos courtesy Lynn Smith and Mark Truymen.



Lake Metonga News

Mueller continued...

As we move toward summer and increased immunity, the LMA board is charged with the challenge of scheduling a business and social calendar for 2021–2022.

First and foremost, we must hold the 10-Year Lake Management Plan meeting. The Plan got off to a stellar start from an awesome committee, only to stall last spring when the DNR all but shut down from Covid. The Plan is now a year overdue, and the DNR has finally begun to work through their backlog and just provided approval of the final document in mid-March.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The required public meeting to present the plan is scheduled for **Saturday, May 8th at 10 a.m. at the Mole Lake Convention Center** (same room that we hold Weeds'n'Walleyes Banquet). Covid protocol will be followed.

Please consider volunteering to serve on one of the newly created lake management committees that service our 10-Year Lake Management Plan (see article below). We need to fill these positions in order to implement the plan!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The LMA annual meeting will then be our next priority. The meeting will include the usual information sharing, the induction of the volunteer members serving on the 10-Year Plan committees, and the election of officers for the association. Again, we are tentatively scheduled to use the **Mole Lake Convention Center on Saturday, July 3rd at 9 a.m.**

Note that two important LMA board positions are open in this year's election. Both the President and Treasurer positions must be filled with new candidates as the current officers have hit their term limits. Please consider yourself or help recruit someone else to fill these positions.

OTHER DATES: The 4th of July Picnic & Boat Parade will take place on Sunday the 4th at Charlie's and the Weeds'n'Walleyes Banquet at Mole Lake on either October 2nd or 9th.

As your outgoing president, I cannot thank everyone enough who has participated as a team of smart, hard working, unselfish individuals, willing to listen to each other, and formulate strategies that best serve all the stakeholders of this most precious resource.

Gary

Lake Management Volunteers Needed. And Required!



**Last call...
We Need YOU!**

As part of our association's 10-Year Lake Management Plan, three committees have been established to evaluate specific lake issues and prescribe recommendations to the board as necessary. These committees must be filled in order to comply with our management plan; no plan...no DNR approval or funding for milfoil treatment or anything else.

Each committee will be comprised of at least one representative from the association board and 6 to 8 from the membership at large. The chair of each committee will be selected from within each committee, but the chair is to be one of the general members and not a sitting board member.

Please consider donating a small amount of your time and talent on one of these committees. Please call Gary Mueller 715.478.2049 or email Julie Janquart at juliejanquart@gmail.com

Aquatic Plant & Invasive Species Management	Fisheries & Habitat	Outreach (Communication & Membership)
Gary Mueller*	Dick Klemick	Steve Parks*
Grant Reed	Kayla Reed	Mark Truymen*
Kayla Reed	Grant Reed	Deb Gauerke
?	Ed Smith	Michelle Bauer
?	Julie Janquart*	?
?	?	?
?	?	?
?	?	?

* Association board member

Membership Trends

Julie Janquart

Over the last four years from 2017 to 2020 there has been a 66% increase with individual LMA memberships which is likely a direct result of the membership drive that began in the spring of 2018.

In addition to the drive effort, the proactive change of adding an annual January mailing, alerting current members of the need to renew their membership, and inviting non-member property owners to join, has also had significant impact on the increase. The 2020 total of 179 members are folks representing approximately 53% of riparian properties on the lake. The current 2021 membership is at 148 with there being plenty of time for the rest of you to join LMA.

We especially thank the many folks who included generous donations with their membership this year, monies which greatly help make up for our lost revenues from all our canceled fund-raising activities last year.



LMA is Now on Facebook!



Thanks to the efforts of Michelle Bauer, LMA now has a Facebook page as of March 1st. Michelle, and her husband Jeff, are recent members of LMA as they have come into the Metonga neighborhood on Strawberry Bay in 2020.

The new Facebook page is public, so you don't need to be a member to view the content, but you do need to be one in order to post comments.

With this FB page, LMA hopes to better communicate with it's membership. We'll be able to post dates of events, keep you aware of activities, such as bullhead removal, AIS treatment, eagle and loon activities, and more, such as posting lost and found info. And, we're specifically hoping for lake historical contributions, see article page 7.

The rules are simple and listed at the top of the page. If you have any questions, members of LMA will be monitoring them and hopefully can answer those within a day or so.

To view the page, just go to Facebook Lake Metonga Association: www.facebook.com/Lake-Metonga-Association-Crandon-WI-105597618169494

High Speed Internet Can't Come Fast Enough for Some

The high speed internet infrastructure being installed around the lake by Northwoods Connect is still in progress. They are planning to have a few customers connected, up and running later this spring as a test run. Pricing and final installation scheduling is not yet resolved. If you are interested in this service, please contact Northwoods Connect by phone or through their website: 715.544.8025 or www.northwoodsconnect.com/contact



Lake Metonga News

It's Official! The 10-Year Lake Management Plan is Here!

After a lengthy delay due to Covid shutdowns, the 10-Year Lake Management Plan is finally and officially approved by the DNR!

The only remaining procedural event needed to comply with our obligations to receive the DNR funding for this project is to hold a public meeting to explain the plan to all interested parties. We sincerely hope that most Lake Metonga Association members, riparian owners, and interested shareholders who participated in the survey a few years back which provided much of the community input for this plan, will be *eager* to attend.

In support of that "eager" attendance to this meeting, its like deciding to watch the movie instead of reading the book. In this case, the plan document is 120 pages long, possibly requiring a few naps along the way. The meeting consists of a brief 45 minute, easy to follow presentation followed by fifteen minutes of Q&A from Onterra's Eddie Heath.

Onterra was contracted by the lake association to produce the plan with our inputs and in conjunction with DNR oversight. Eddie spent many hours with LMA members who served on the Planning Committee to develop the plan, and provided a very much appreciated layman's approach to go over sometimes fairly technical data, incorporate our input, address our concerns and develop a plan framework that was right for our lake and meet with DNR approval.

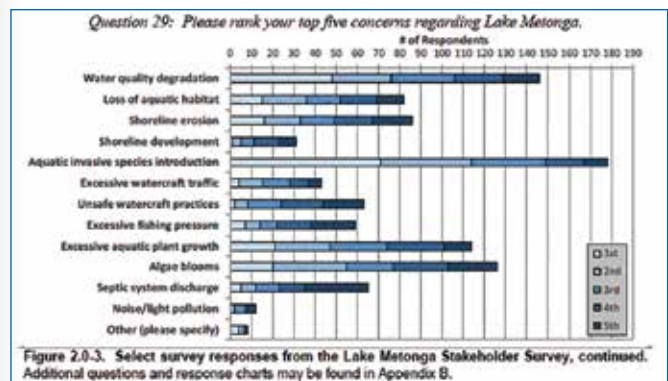
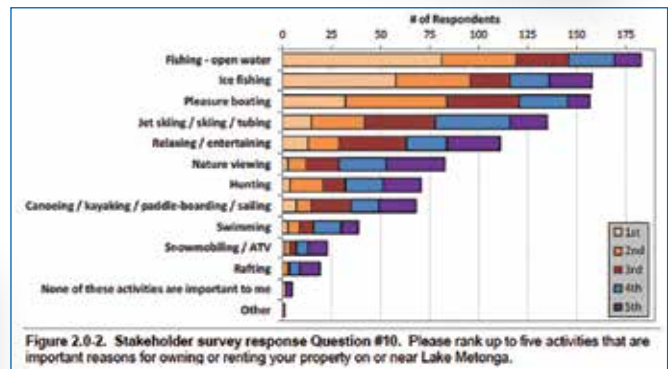


Please Attend the Public Presentation of the Lake Metonga 10-Year Management Plan

**Mole Lake Convention Center
Saturday, May 8 10:00 a.m.**

Topics covered in the presentation include:

- Data highlights from stakeholders survey results
- Review of lake conditions including water quality, watershed impacts, shoreland habitat, native and invasive species, fisheries
- Overview of plan implementation goals and description of newly formed committee and outline of responsibilities
- Q & A



A few charted examples of stakeholders survey results, of which highlights will be presented at the public presentation at the Mole Lake Convention Center on May 8th.

Bullhead Harvest 2021 is a Go!

by Julie Janquart

I recently had a conversation with Mike Preul, Director of Mole Lake Hatchery, regarding the bullhead problem on Lake Metonga. We agreed, that to successfully reduce the bullhead population on Lake Metonga, the management “team” would need to develop and follow a comprehensive and long-term improvement plan. Such a plan would incorporate several activities essential for its success.



In addition to a late spring electro-fishing harvest of adult bullhead as has been completed by Mike and his staff in the past (and will again this year), the plan must also include other labor-intensive work such as larger-scale netting of bullhead minnows in the summer of each year.

Setting up this plan will be the first major project of our newly formed Fisheries & Habitat committee. Essential to this getting off the ground, I am in the process of submitting the application paperwork for the necessary DNR permits. Hopefully, our minnow netting project will be approved by the DNR expeditiously, enabling us to harvest minnows yet this year. I am also gathering all the appropriate background information to submit to all the new committee members for their reference.

Going forward, this mutually beneficial partnership between the Mole Lake Hatchery and LMA volunteers will have a positive long-term impact for fishing on Lake Metonga.

We are still looking for a few volunteers to serve on the Fisheries and Habitat Committee, and lots of volunteers to sign up and participate with the minnow harvest. Watch for details in the next newsletter, on the website, and our new facebook page.

What the !&?@%&# is Happening at Veteran’s Memorial County Park?



Rumor might have it, but as you might suspect, the park was not, repeat, was not bombed by aliens.

The huge mounds of soil are part of the county’s plan for improving the park. Most obviously notable in the project, the entire site will be raised several feet thus allowing proper drainage to the benefit of campers tired of camping in puddles. Finally! The renovations will also include electrical service upgrades and other improvements.

All permits are in place, and contractors are lined up and ready to go after weight limits are removed. The engineering firm working with the Forest County Forestry and Recreation Department is expected to have finalized drawings available to the public later this Spring or early Summer. Due to the extent of this renovation, the park is required to be closed for the entire season. This will ensure that it is in great shape and that campers can fully enjoy it when it reopens next year.

For more information on the park’s development plans, progress, scheduled reopening updates and other information, please visit the Forest County website at: www.forestcountywi.com



A typical day on the Spring ice. Photo courtesy Lynn Smith.

Lake Metonga News

Injured Eagle Update

At REGI (Raptor Education Group, Inc.), the non-profit rehabilitation center in Antigo — where the severely burned eagle from last year's 4th of July was taken in hopes for rehabilitation — they don't give the birds under their care names, considering them creatures of the wild that should not be thought of as domestic animals, like pets.

For the purposes of this article, we'll call the injured eagle "Lucky" in keeping with our elders' warnings about playing with fireworks as children: "You're lucky you didn't blow your head off." Well, this eagle was lucky. He only got part of his head blown off. And now, nine months later, let's assume he's in better spirits, but with no possibility of ever returning to his home in the wild.

Without a functioning beak, "Lucky" is incapable of feeding himself, requiring hand feeding by the staff. A prosthetic support is being fabricated that is hoped to help the eagle become more self-sufficient, but the likelihood for a permanent prosthetic is still to be seen. And even with a miracle prosthetic, if returned to the wild, any failure in the field would guarantee his quick starvation.

Starvation is how the eagle came to the Gummer Family on Smith Lane last fall. Pam Gummer sent in the photos below and recounts their encounter with "Lucky" from last Labor Day weekend:

"He knew we were helping him. He saw me catch the fish and he would come at me to get it. He had to swallow it whole as he tried to break it apart and couldn't. When we went in the house, he just stared at the house waiting for us to come out and get him more to eat! Poor thing couldn't hunt on his own. It was the Labor Day weekend so when we called the first day we found him they didn't have anyone to come and get him. We called the second day and told them we had him in the dog cage and they had a couple come pick him up in an hour. We knew he was in bad shape but didn't realize he only had a day or two left. So glad we got him help in time."



Above: As of this March, the eagle's upper beak has lost the support bridging it to the nose, making it vulnerable to breaking off entirely under normal pressure such as biting down on a fish. The eagle's food must be cut into small strips that he can swallow without using his beak as a lever. REGI is hoping to stabilize that to some extent with a prosthetic support. The question will then become how stable and reliable will the prosthetic be. But, it is clear at this point in time that he will never be allowed to return to the wild.

Inset: Severe burns from embedded shrapnel to the eagle's beak are apparent when first brought into REGI last September.

Along with the photo above showing the eagle's current condition, Marge Gibson, the Director at REGI would like to urge people to understand that: "4th of July fireworks occur EXACTLY at the wrong time of year in that this is prime breeding time. On July 4th, eaglets are still in the nest, cannot fly, and are often frightened out of the nest by the noise and perish. People need to understand that the amusement for some is the terror for many."

To paraphrase: like oil and water, fireworks and lake environments do not mix!

If you can, please consider donating to REGI to help support the care for the eagle we'll call Lucky.



The Summer of 1940

As spring approaches and many of us are beginning to think about the summer of 2021 as an opportunity to spend time outdoors cleaning up the parks, our pickleball courts and planting in our community garden, the summer of 1940 looks to be a year we could learn a thing or two from. It is after all the summer Lake Metonga got its very own seaplane base.

According to articles recently uncovered in the Forest Republican archives, in July of 1940 work began on the construction of the seaplane base to be located at the north shore of Lake Metonga. The base consisted of a landing dock, board walk and a refueling station and could be used by "U.S. army aircraft, by places chartered by tourists or any others".

The project itself was part of the National Youth Administration movement created by President Roosevelt in 1935. Locally, the NYA was administered by director Desmond Rice, a local teacher of the Siding One school.

Work on the base was done near the NYA building located on the Courthouse Square. The base itself, built of heavy timbers and supported by 11 casks, was completed by August of 1940 when the youth involved in the project were waiting to find "some way of transporting the thing down to Lake Metonga".

Unfortunately, the newspaper archives don't tell us if the seaplane base ever made it to the lake. There is no mention of the base in the 1941 newspapers, nor of any seaplanes coming or going off Lake Metonga. However, its entirely possible that the seaplane base did make it to the lake and that pictures of it exist today.

If you have any knowledge of this project, or photos of seaplanes on Metonga during the 1940's, we'd love to see them and add them to our local history archives at the Crandon Area Historical Society. You may contact us at forestcityhistory@gmail.com or leave a message for Michelle at 715-478-7797.

Does this Scene Look Familiar?

This view of Klass Lodge was taken prior to 1942 from a location just north of the present day fishing pier on East Lakeview Street. *And we complain about road conditions today!*

If you have any information, photos, recollections on this or any other Lake Metonga historical places, its people and events, [please join our facebook page and share your stories and pictures and help build our historical archives.](#)

Photo courtesy Lynn Smith



A GLANCE BACKWARD A GLIMPSE AHEAD.

The coming weekend will doubtless see the end of the tourist season for Northern Wisconsin. Admittedly tourist business is becoming of increasing importance to Crandon and Forest county. Nature has richly endowed this section of the state with those attractions which city dwellers seek in planning their summer's recreation. Being wise and abreast of the times we residents of Forest county are going to seek: first, to cultivate our natural recreational advantages; second, to let the world know about them.

Let's take a glance backward through the past summer to see just what we've added to the credit side of our tourist ledger. Not bad, considering that the weather has been decidedly against us and the rest of Northern Wisconsin. We note that the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the city council and the Forest county board have done a number of things which improve the picture. We've kept Crandon street lights on during the tourist season. We've built a park on the courthouse grounds and placed therein deer, a bear and a pair of raccoons. We've sponsored a seaplane base on Lake Metonga and provided adequate bathing accommodations there. We've kept a tourist information booth open for the tourists' convenience. We've planted a large number of fish in nearby lakes and streams. We've built a couple of concrete tennis courts. We've talked waterworks until it looks now as though something was actually going to be done about it. Not bad, at all. We've come a long way this summer.

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

Weeds'n'Walleyes

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
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Membership Dues/Website

Steve Parks 715-793-4103
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Lake Metonga Association
P.O. Box 32
Crandon, WI 54520

Say good bye winter! Until the next time...



Photo courtesy Lynn Smith