

# LAKE METONGA NEWS

Volume 2022: No. 1



## We're Back!



Photo courtesy Mark Truyma

The loons have returned to the lake and have established nests on the platforms in Farmers Bay and Peterson Bay (above). Loons along with bald eagles, ducks, and other water fowl on Lake Metonga are facing increased dangers this season (see page 7).



## Time to Tackle Your Tackle Box

**Get the Lead Out!** If you haven't already, please get rid of all your lead sinkers, jig heads, etc. Tamarack Outfitters in Crandon (formerly Smith Sport and Hobby) can take your old lead for recycling and set you up with new equipment. Why is this important? See page 7...

## Lake Metonga Association Annual Meeting

July 2nd 9:00 a.m.  
Crandon High School Auditorium

Doors open at 8:00. Come and visit with your lake neighbors over coffee & cookies. New 2022 apparel will be on sale. Renew your membership if you haven't already. Bring a neighbor to join!

## Association Update

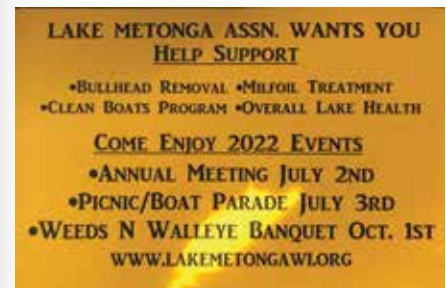
Mark Truyma

Spring has finally sprung and the lake is busy with docks and lifts being installed for another season, and cabins and cottages getting ready for the summer. Your lake association has been busy planning numerous programs and events that we will endeavor to complete this year.

The bullhead removal program, which was very successful last year, will again be a large part of the Fisheries Committee's duties this year.

We have been approved by the WDNR to treat about 12 acres of Eurasian milfoil in Strawberry Bay to hopefully control that area before it gets out of control (see page 2). We're planning on that treatment being done in June. The Invasives Committee is notifying riparian owners in the area.

The Outreach Committee has made a membership application drop off package for all the non-members on the lake.



Continued page 2...

# Lake Metonga News

## Truyma continued...

We hope this effort will persuade some of these owners to join the association and help with the finances to keep our lake great.

The Outreach Committee is also planning the annual picnic and boat parade to be held on Sunday July 3rd. More details on these events as we get closer to the 4th of July holiday weekend.

Also that weekend will be the annual meeting on Saturday July 2nd to be held at Crandon High School, starting at 9:00 a.m. sharp. Please mark your calendar to attend the meeting so we can keep you abreast of what's going on with the association.

Lastly, also mark your calendar for our Weeds'n'Walleyes Banquet scheduled for Saturday October 1st at the Mole Lake Casino facility. Due to Covid, we have not been able to hold this event for the past two years. This event is our major fundraiser, so I'm sure you're anxious to get back with your lake neighbors for a good time.

Have a great summer!



## EagleCam Update

Mark Truyma

As you probably have noticed, the eagle camera has been very temperamental over the past season. We



hope to have it running by the fall. Although eagles have checked out the nest on occasion this spring, there was no nesting activity, so this nest will not be producing any chicks for Lake Metonga this year.

## Lake Metonga Apparel Available Soon!

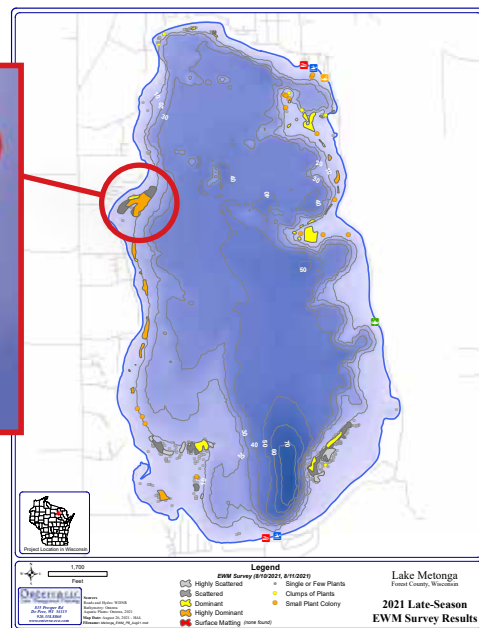
New 2022 apparel designs will be launched at the annual meeting on July 2nd and at the picnic on July 3rd. Watch for plaids, polos, full zips, sweatshirts, T shirts - long sleeve and short sleeve, hats!

## Milfoil Treatment in Strawberry Bay

Invasives Committee

The association has been approved by the DNR to conduct a milfoil treatment of 12-13 acres in the Strawberry Bay area. This area warranted treatment as it is a high traffic route for boaters. If allowed to go unchecked, its size would most likely continue to grow substantially, which in turn increases the cost for treatment considerably.

This year's treatment will be the association's first time using a new herbicide, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl, which has shown very favorable results in several applications thus far on other lakes. Although more expensive than previous chemicals, this relatively new herbicide is non-toxic to fish and other water born species, and poses no restriction to swimmers immediately following treatment. It is also much more effective than previous herbicides, thus requiring a far lower dosage.



The Lake Association is financing this treatment without any grant monies from the DNR in order to expedite the treatment. It is hoped that if this treatment is successful, DNR grant funds will be available to assist with future treatments as they become necessary.



## Area Lake Associations Recognize Mole Lake Fisheries' Support for Our Lakes

Lake Metonga Association President, Mark Truymen (far right) and Vice President Gary Goeman are joined by Pam Schroeder (center), President of FCAL (Forest County Association of Lakes), and Jack Kloss, Lake Lucerne Advancement Association (2nd from left), to present donations to Mike Preul, Mole Lake Fisheries (far left), for the many years of volunteer service in support of area lakes.



## A Look Inside the Walleye Hatchery at Mole Lake Fisheries

Mike Preul and his Mole Lake Fisheries operation raises hundreds of thousands of walleye each year to stock lakes and rivers throughout Wisconsin, Michigan and elsewhere. The annual process begins each spring when Mike's team gathers Lake Michigan walleye root stock eggs from the Menominee River in Marinette County, WI.

Mole Lake Fisheries restocked walleye into Lake Metonga over several years between 2008-2012. Since then, Lake Metonga no longer needs stocking, as the walleye population is now totally maintained through natural reproduction. This is in large part due to Mike's crew (also beginning in 2008), helping control the bullhead over-population in Metonga by harvesting adult bullheads. Bullheads have been shown to be more detrimental to native walleye reproduction and proliferation than anything else.

*When the newly hatched fry move from the hatchery to several large multi-acre outdoor ponds, they are raised on natural plankton until they reach the 2" size. Once they reach that size, their diet is switched to a highly specialized minnow forage.*



*Mike demonstrates how a series of incubator tubes holding upwards of 300,000 eggs each provide an optimized nurturing environment for successful egg development and hatching.*



*Newly hatched fry are temporarily held in tubs until they are moved to the outdoor ponds. The cloud of fry in this tub is approximately 700,000 infant walleye.*



*At the 2" size, some stock is moved from the outdoor ponds to large indoor tanks equipped with state-of-the-art water recirculation and purification systems. Here they are raised on pelleted artificial food. This process offers the potential to raise larger size walleye stock year-round. It is currently in the experimental stage. To date, most walleye stock from Mole Lake Fisheries are raised in the outdoor ponds on natural forage.*

# Lake Metonga News

## 2022 Bullhead Reduction Program

Julie Janquart

In 2021, we learned that the bullhead population had exploded on Lake Metonga and had begun to threaten other native fish populations. With that awareness and data to back up the concern, the Fisheries & Habitat Committee began tackling the problem by setting up and implementing the very successful Bullhead Reduction Project jointly with Mike Preul, Fisheries Biologist for Mole Lake Hatchery and Greg Matzke, DNR Fisheries Biologist. For a summary of 2021 program details feel free to read previous newsletters and postings on our website at [www.lakemetongawi.org](http://www.lakemetongawi.org).

With last year's success in mind and the intent to have a positive, long-term impact on fisheries of Lake Metonga, we will be implementing the same program



Photo courtesy Gary and Chris Mueller

### If you catch any bullheads, don't throw them back!



- Please remove all bullheads you catch from Lake Metonga
- If you catch an adult bullhead, please take it home to eat or dispose of properly on land — don't throw it back into the lake!
- Bullheads compete for food with game fish, and eat the young of our prized walleye and perch — when bullhead populations go up; walleye and perch populations go down significantly
- Thank you for your cooperation and support!

Lake Metonga Association

[www.lakemetongawi.org](http://www.lakemetongawi.org) see us on facebook



*New Lake Metonga Association signs posted at North and South boat launches.*

and going bigger and better this year! Mike Preul and his crew began the walleye data collection process by placing and removing fyke nets immediately after the ice-out, with electroshocking for adult bullhead removal to begin when the water warms up a little, hoping to exceed last year's adult bullhead removal total.

Once again LMA is recruiting volunteers for the follow-up work of netting and disposing schools of minnows. Volunteers need to complete and submit the DNR Volunteer Agreement following directions in the Volunteer Letter both of which have been sent recently to all property owners by mail or email. Copies of these documents are also included in this newsletter if you didn't receive them earlier and would like to participate.

In addition to last year's plans carried over, the committee has received permission from the city and county to post signs identifying black bullheads as a "nuisance fish", asking fisherman to keep any caught and dispose or eat them. Watch for upcoming information about the incentive plan and pier collection site details on our website, [www.lakemetongawi.org](http://www.lakemetongawi.org). Please join us in making this another banner year of harvesting and helping the Walleye thrive in Lake Metonga!

*Left: Mole Lake Fisheries electroshocking and harvesting adult bullheads in Peterson Bay, 2021. In total, Mole Lake Fisheries harvested just under 13,000 adult bullheads. They are harvesting again this year, and it will be interesting to see the impact from last year's bullhead minnow harvest. Mike Preul is hoping that if the lake association continues a successful bullhead minnow collection program, the much more labor intense and costly harvesting of adults will become unnecessary. Results of this year's adult bullhead harvest will be announced at the annual meeting.*

Lake Metonga Friends and Property Owners,

In the past, it has been proven on Lake Metonga that when there is an overabundance of bullheads, it negatively impacts the walleye and perch populations. In 2021, the Lake Metonga Fisheries Committee along with Mole Lake Fisheries and the DNR implemented a bullhead removal program.

2021 was a successful year for bullhead removal. Mole Lake Fisheries spent approximately 25 back breaking hours collecting over 12,500 adult bullheads and volunteers collected approximately 750,000 to 1 million bullhead minnows last summer. Due to these efforts, when the DNR did there 2021 Fall Survey, there was an average of 34.1 age-0 walleye per mile. In comparison, 2019 and 2020 only averaged 3 age-0 walleye per mile.

However, 2022 needs to be another banner year! Mole Lake Fisheries plan on spending more hours this year than last electroshocking. We, the Lake Metonga Fisheries Committee, hope that additional volunteers will come on board to collect the bullhead minnows this summer.

Like last year, the DNR requires using the Volunteer Agreement Form and Bullhead Removal Project Volunteer Letter. Like a fishing license, paperwork needs to be done annually. Unlike a fishing license, this process is free of charge.

**Attached/Enclosed** you will find the volunteer agreement form. Below are the directions depending on whether you [email the form](#) OR [mail the form](#).

Watch for upcoming information early this summer on our 2022 incentive and pier collection program. Thank you for participating! Let's make 2022 a banner year!

*Lake Metonga Fisheries Committee*

**DIRECTIONS:**

**If sending form by MAIL (United States Postal Service):**

1. Complete all applicable spaces in top 4 lines of the Volunteer Agreement Form
2. Sign and date at bottom of form
3. Mail completed form to: Grant Reed 6670 Wintergreen Trail Sobieski WI 54171
4. When we receive your form, the Bullhead Removal Project Volunteer Letter (from the DNR), the Bullhead Removal Log Sheet, and a copy of your Volunteer Agreement Form will be mailed back to you. **SAVE THESE FORMS!**
5. If questioned by a conservation officer, game warden, etc. you must show the Volunteer Agreement Form AND the Bullhead Removal Volunteer Letter.
6. Submit bullhead removal data to Grant. Directions are on the bottom of the log sheet.

**If sending form ELECTRONICALLY (email):**

1. Complete all applicable spaces in top 4 lines of the Volunteer Agreement Form
2. Sign and date at bottom of form
3. Take a picture or scan completed form to [gmreedi@gmail.com](mailto:gmreedi@gmail.com)
4. KEEP original form
5. When we receive your form, the Bullhead Removal Project Volunteer Letter (from the DNR), and the Bullhead Removal Log Sheet will be emailed to you. **SAVE THESE FORMS!**
6. If questioned by a conservation officer, game warden, etc. you must show the Volunteer Agreement Form AND the Bullhead Removal Volunteer Letter.
7. Submit bullhead removal data to Grant. Directions are on the bottom of the log sheet.





### Volunteer Agreement

Volunteer Name		Position Title Volunteer		
Address		City	State	ZIP + 4
Daytime Phone No.	Cell Phone No.	Email Address		
Emergency Contact		Emergency Contact Daytime Phone Number		
Dates of Agreement (mm/dd/ccyy) From 5/1/2022 To 11/30/2022		Scheduled Hours/Week N/A	Schedule (e.g., every Friday, Wednesday through Saturday, varies, etc.) N/A	
<b>Volunteer Location</b>				
Name of State Agency Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources		Site/Program/Activity Lake Metonga/Fisheries Management/Bullhead Removal		
Address 5631 Forestry Drive		City Florence	State WI	ZIP + 4 54121
Volunteer Supervisor Name Gregory Matzke		Title Fisheries Biologist	Phone Number 715-528-4400 5	

This agreement for volunteer services is entered into by and between the volunteer and the State agency named above. The volunteer and the State agency mutually agree to the following responsibilities:

Volunteer

1. Will be under the supervision, direction and control of the supervisor named above.
2. Shall be available for scheduled service time(s) listed above.
3. Understands that s/he is a volunteer and NOT an employee of the State of Wisconsin or the State agency named above and is not eligible for any benefits, including Worker's Compensation.
4. Understands all duties expected to be performed that appear on the Position Description and that additional duties may be added as needed.
5. Understands all work rules that are to be followed.
6. Understands that the State agency named above will provide no compensation.
7. If volunteer will be driving a State vehicle as part of his/her assigned duties, s/he will only do so after completing a Volunteer Driver Vehicle Use Agreement (DOA-3685), receiving and understanding the statewide Fleet Driver and Management Policies and Procedures, meeting the minimum driving standards, receiving proper authorization to drive a State vehicle, and, when driving a vehicle, will strictly follow the route designated by the agency.

State Agency Named Above

1. Will provide the volunteer with a Position Description describing duties to be performed.
2. Will provide training required to perform the agreed upon duties.
3. Will educate volunteers on safety awareness in the workplace.
4. Will provide necessary volunteer safety and equipment related items.
5. Will subsequently and periodically review work performance with the volunteer.
6. Will regard the volunteer as an agent of the State as provided in s. 895.46, Wis. Stats. As an agent of the State, the volunteer will be entitled to all the protections provided by s. 895.46, Wis. Stats.
7. Will review and update this Volunteer Agreement on at least an annual basis.

**Either the volunteer or the State agency named above may cancel this agreement at any time.**

Volunteer's Signature	Date (mm/dd/ccyy)
Authorized State Agency Representative Signature <i>Gregory F. Matzke</i>	Date (mm/dd/ccyy) 04/04/2022

This document can be made available in alternate formats to individuals with disabilities upon request.

**LMA Volunteer: Be sure to take a picture or scan of completed form, keep original and send copy to: Grant Reed at 6670 Wintergreen Trail Sobieski, WI 54171 or email (preferred) to gmreedi@gmail.com**

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Flu (HPAI)

Wild Instincts wildlife rehabilitation center provided the following content from their website homepage.

[www.wildinstinctsrehab.com](http://www.wildinstinctsrehab.com)

HPAI, sometimes referred to as bird flu, is spreading across the US, including Wisconsin. It poses little danger to people, however it poses great risk of death to certain species of birds. Deaths confirmed this spring include bald eagles, other raptor species, shorebirds, ducks, geese, swans as well as domestic poultry. This virus is spread through the air and on items like feces, shoes, tires, and other objects.

Birds most susceptible to HPAI are bald eagles and other raptor species, waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans), waterbirds (loons, grebes, coots, pelicans, shorebirds, or wading birds such as egrets, herons, or cranes) and avian scavengers (crows, vultures, gulls).

If you see a wild bird swimming or walking in circles, moving the head in a "jerky" motion, the head back across the neck and looking upward, or other unusual position, do not intervene or call a rehabilitation center. WDNR is requesting you contact your local wildlife biologist:

### For Forest & Florence Counties:

Tom Carlson

[Thomas.Carlson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Thomas.Carlson@wisconsin.gov)

(608) 267-0866

Mail Address: Department of Natural Resources  
404 North Lake Avenue  
Crandon, WI 54520-1286

## "Lucky" In Memoriam



Photo courtesy Pam Gummer

From REGI, the Antigo area raptor rehabilitation center, where this bald eagle, severely injured by Lake Metonga 2020 4th of July fireworks, spent the last years of his life:

Sadly, our fireworks boy developed pneumonia over the winter and passed. He was such a sweet eagle. Thanks for caring about our little one. I hope the story encourages more responsibility of the public at the lakes with fireworks and explosives.

Marge Gibson

Raptor Education Group, Inc.

[www.raptoreducationgroup.org](http://www.raptoreducationgroup.org)

## Lead = Dead

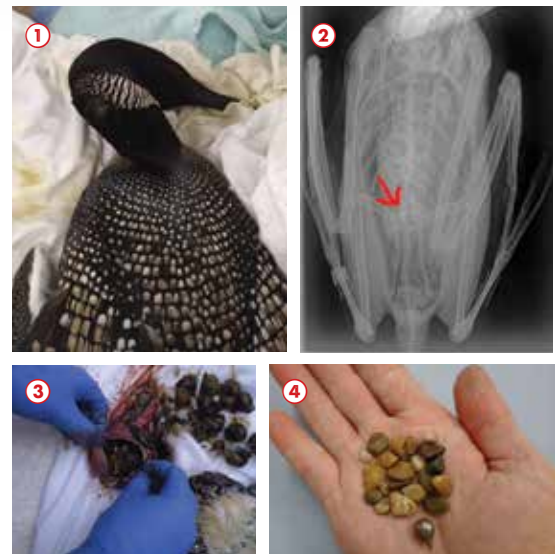
Excerpted from the Wild Instincts website

For water fowl and raptors that accidentally ingest lead fishing tackle or bird shot, the outcome is inevitable. Here's the account of a female loon on an area lake (not Metonga). Banded as a juvenile on July 10, 2009 on the connecting body of water where the poisoning occurred, she died on August 7, 2021.

- 1 Adult loon with green discharge, a sign of lead poisoning.
- 2 X-ray reveals what appears to be a jig head in the stomach.
- 3 Autopsy of the stomach contents reveals lots of snails, the usual cache of stones, and a lead jig head.
- 4 The fatal lead jig head with the stones from the loon's stomach.

View the whole story here:

<https://wildinstincts.wordpress.com/2021/08/25/home-to-die/>





## Lake Association Contacts:

### 4th of July Boat Parade & Picnic

Gary Goeman 414-940-8873  
[garygoeman@hotmail.com](mailto:garygoeman@hotmail.com)

### Apparel

Chris Ebben  
[lakemetongaclothing@gmail.com](mailto:lakemetongaclothing@gmail.com)

### CB-CW

Julie Janquart (Temporary) 920-676-5764  
[lmasecretary21@gmail.com](mailto:lmasecretary21@gmail.com)

### Facebook Admin & Outreach Chair

Michelle Bauer 608-235-3857  
[michellebauer5587@gmail.com](mailto:michellebauer5587@gmail.com)

### Kentuck Day & Art in the Square

Deb Gauerke 715-574-9100  
[d\\_gauerke@yahoo.com](mailto:d_gauerke@yahoo.com)

### Membership

Julie Janquart 920-676-5764  
[lmasecretary21@gmail.com](mailto:lmasecretary21@gmail.com)

### Newsletter/Website

Steve Parks 715-793-4103  
[steveparks1207@gmail.com](mailto:steveparks1207@gmail.com)

### Weeds"n"Walleyes Banquet

Gary and Chris Mueller 715-478-2049  
[mueller@newnorth.net](mailto:mueller@newnorth.net)

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



*Deer on the ice in April. Photo courtesy Lynn Smith*