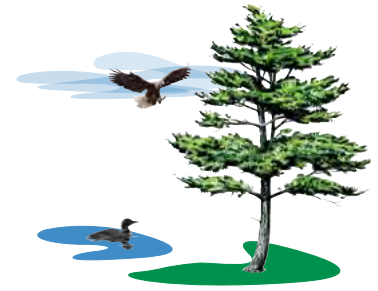


LAKE METONGA NEWS

Volume 2023: No. 1



Anybody home? Hello! Cable repair man ...



Sam and Ben Kalata of SJK Tree Service volunteered his expertise to scale the Eagle Cam tree on the Truymen property recently to check cable connections and adjust the camera to better focus on the nest. A pair of eagles have had some activity at the nest already this winter. Visit the eagle cam on the home page of our website to keep an eye on their activity this season.

Association Update

Mark Truymen

As I'm writing this, we are expecting to receive 9"-14" of snow today, which is much needed to keep local businesses open and busy. Lake Metonga Assn (LMA) has much going on this year starting with a broader membership drive.

We finally got the eagle cam up and running as it seems to have a mind of its own and works when it wants to, which seems to be acceptable today.

Our three committees have been busy and you'll read their reports later in this edition. Mark your calendars now for our annual meeting on Saturday, July 1st, Picnic/Boat Parade on Sunday, July 2nd and the Weeds'n'Walleye banquet Saturday October 7th. Much more on these events as we get closer to those dates.

Our LMA clothing has been moving well and don't forget to check it out at Tamarack Outfitters in Crandon and Charlies Lake Metonga Resort.

We also have a new webmaster and are in the process of updating our website to make it easier for us

Continued page 2...

Lake Metonga News

Truyma continued...

to update and keep information more current.



A big THANK YOU to the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa Community and to Mike Preul at Mole Lake Fisheries for their generous donation of \$5,000 to help support our Clean Boats Clean Water program and bullhead removal efforts for 2023.

Please check out our Facebook page as it's a public site so you don't need to be a Facebook member to view, search Lake Metonga Facebook.

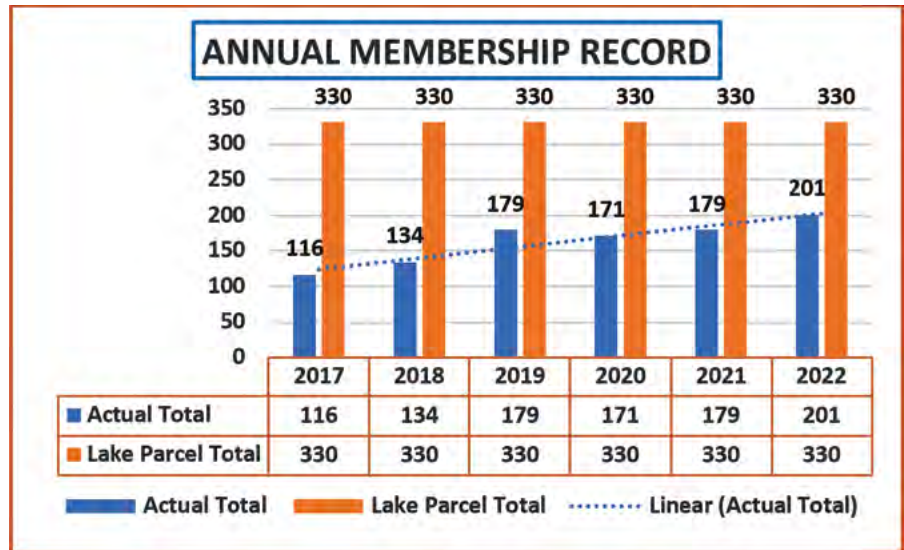


If you haven't already, please remember to send your dues in as it's so much easier on our volunteers.

See you in Spring! 🏡

Thank you, Lake Metonga Property Owners!

Julie Janquart



Although reaching our monumental goal of 100% property owner membership is still off in the distant future, we need to pause and celebrate the significant accomplishment of increased membership over the last six years! Our membership has increased from 116 individuals in 2017, which represents approximately 35% of the total properties on the lake, to 61% of properties represented in 2022 with 201 members in total.

“...We need to pause and celebrate the significant accomplishment of increased membership over the last six years!”

Clearly the years of 2020 and 2021 hampered our steady increase over the past six years but the 2022 total membership of 201 individuals more than made up for it. The foundation for this increase was the work of the Outreach committee volunteers and dedicated board members to which we thank each and every one of you for your time and talents! We also want to thank our ever-loyal property owners who have retained their membership annually for so many years along with new members from recent years

and the 34 completely new members who joined our ranks in 2022. While we will continue our efforts to increase individual and business memberships, our 2023 membership total of 135 is on track to exceed 2022 for which we are so grateful! Keep the completed membership forms coming in!! 🏡

As A Heads Up

This is the last edition for 2022 members who have not renewed in 2023.



Photo by iStockphotos.com/Piter1977

2022 Fall Walleye Survey Results

Greg Matzke, Fisheries Biologist – WDNR Bureau of Fisheries Management

We have been surveying Lake Metonga in the fall annually for quite some time now, this survey is designed to assess the recruitment (natural reproduction) of walleye for the year, and also get a look at survival of the previous year class to age-1.5. The entire shoreline is electro fished and all walleye < 12 inches are collected. We then age the fish to determine the relative abundance (#/mile) of the age-0 and age-1 fish. Figure 1 is the chart that I have shown your group many times before, it is annual recruitment data of walleye during these surveys over the years.

As you can easily see from the figure ... natural recruitment (the black bars) was very low prior to Mole Lake’s initial bullhead removals, which started in 2008. Prior to 2008 the stocking of walleye was marginally successful with one good year class in 2002. I consider 2008 a “pre-removal” year because there was still a high abundance of

bullhead in the system, as it took a couple years to remove the majority of the bullhead population. Then during the removal years (2009-2018), we saw natural reproduction really appear at high levels. During 2019-2020 natural

Continued page 4...

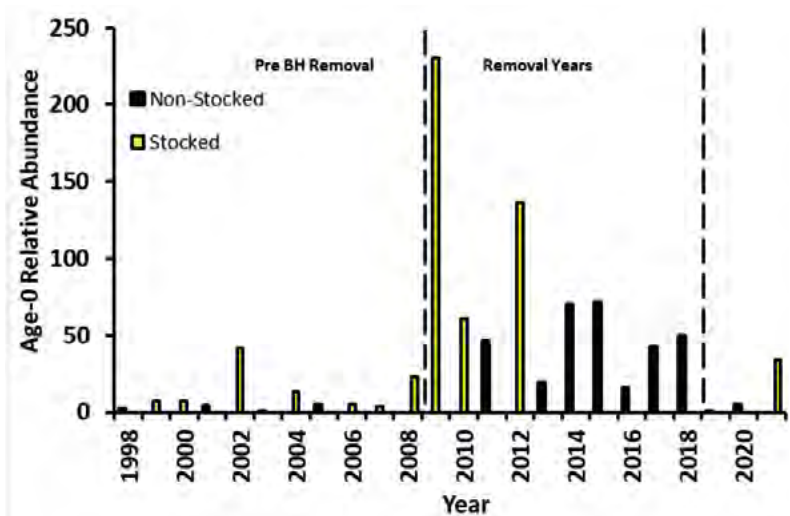


Figure 1. Walleye recruitment, indexed using relative abundance of age-0 walleye during fall electrofishing surveys, in Lake Metonga, Forest County, 1998-2021.

Lake Metonga News

reproduction of walleye dropped back down to the levels we saw prior to the original bullhead removal, and during those years we noticed that the bullhead population had become abundant again, which triggered more bullhead removals in 2021 and again this year.

Last year, a year I would consider to be a “pre-removal” year, for the same reasons I considered 2008 a “pre-removal” year, we did see a good year class of walleye naturally reproduced (34 age-0/mile). Bullhead removals continued this year and we really had high hopes that we would see a very large year class of walleye produced in 2022 because of the bullhead removal efforts. Unfortunately that was not the case, it looks like the 2022 year class will be around 6.5 age-0 walleye/mile (I only have the raw data and the fish have not been aged so I don’t know what the final number will be). Obviously this was a disappointment, but there are many different factors at play that influence walleye reproduction,

and for whatever reason 2022 was not a strong year for walleye reproduction in Lake Metonga. However, this fall’s survey was not all bad news ... it did show that the 2021 year class of walleye has survived quite well with a relative abundance of around 7.7 age-1 walleye/mile (again the fish are not aged yet so this is a rough estimate). At 7+ age-1 walleye/mile we anticipate this year class making it to adulthood in strong numbers.

“...This Fall’s survey ... did show that the 2021 year class of walleye has survived quite well with a relative abundance of around 7.7 age-1 walleye/mile.”

So, what really does all of this mean? Well, the positive is that 2021 was a good year, and the negative is that 2022 was a bad year for walleye reproduction in Lake Metonga. While I am disappointed to not have another big year class of walleye from 2022, it does not mean that walleye reproduction is going to stay low or that the recent bullhead removals are not working as intended. As I mentioned earlier, there are many factors that need to line up to

get a good year class of walleye. In fact, our best walleye waters often times miss year classes, and I would say that our best walleye waters have solid reproduction about 50% of the time, and good waters can get away with solid reproduction about 20-35% of the time. We know that 2021 was a good year, so there is no reason to overreact to the poor reproduction in 2022. I highly recommend your Lake Association continue the removals of juvenile bullhead ... you have been doing an amazing job!! These removals will ensure that bullhead abundance stays low for the long term, and as long as bullhead numbers stay low, I am confident that there will be more big year classes of walleye in Lake Metonga’s future.

I totaled up the BH removals from your Lake Association. Nothing short of amazing!!! You have a dedicated group there, and I am very impressed by your group’s efforts. Please, please, please keep it up! 🐾



Photo by iStockphotos.com/stammphoto

2023 Clean Boats, Clean Waters – What is it and why is it important for Lake Metonga?

Kim Reed

Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) is generally a watercraft inspection program aimed to take a front-line defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The goal is to prevent the introduction of additional AIS from coming into Lake Metonga, and preventing AIS from Lake Metonga being transported into Wisconsin's surface waters.

The Lake Metonga CBCW team conducts boat & trailer inspections and educates boaters on how to prevent the spread of AIS at our North and South-end boat landings. On the state level, CBCW grants, in partnership with the Wisconsin DNR, provide funding to the Association, to help offset the cost of running a CBCW program. This includes funding to help pay our inspectors. As we partner with the Wisconsin DNR, several program requirements are in place to receive grant funding. To be eligible, the Association supports a minimum of 200 inspection hours at each landing on weekends, holidays and high traffic times between May 1st and October 30th. Additionally, inspectors do attend training and complete small reports/logs for information to be shared with the DNR.

As a user of Lake Metonga, and other bodies of water, it is important to be proactive in checking your boat trailer, bilge, live well and equipment and follow these tips before transporting your boat:

- INSPECT your boat, trailer and equipment
- REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals before launching, after loading and before transporting on a public highway (*Rusty Crayfish, Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Water Milfoil, etc*)
- DRAIN all water from boats, motors and all equipment
- NEVER MOVE live fish away from a water body
- DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash
- BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer. Use leftover minnows only under certain conditions*



*You may take leftover minnows away from any state water and use them again on that same water. You may use leftover minnows on other waters only if no lake or river water, or other fish were added to their container.



Even without being a boater, everyone can take steps to prevent the spread and protect our waters by following these tips:

- Do not purchase invasive plants or animals that are restricted or prohibited in Wisconsin
- Never transplant aquarium plants into lakes, streams, wetlands or storm water ponds
- Properly dispose of unwanted plants and animals
- Never transplant water garden plants into lakes, streams, wetlands or storm water ponds
- Never release crayfish, fish or other animals into lakes or streams
- Check your plant orders for unwanted and potentially invasive hitchhikers (seeds, plant fragments, snails, insects or fish)
- Be aware of the regulations regarding possession, transport and sale of invasive plants and animals
- Properly dispose of unwanted plants and animals

For additional information on boat transportation and bait laws, follow: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/boat.html>

For additional information on invasive species in Wisconsin, follow: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/species.asp>

For additional information on the CBCW program, follow: <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/Watercraft.aspx>

If you are interested in being a paid boat launch inspector for part time summer season hours, or if you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Lake Metonga CB-CW Administrator, Kim Reed at kmsreed@gmail.com or call (920)639-4332. 🐦

Lake Metonga News

2022 Milfoil Treatment in Strawberry Bay with New Herbicide Shows Promising Results

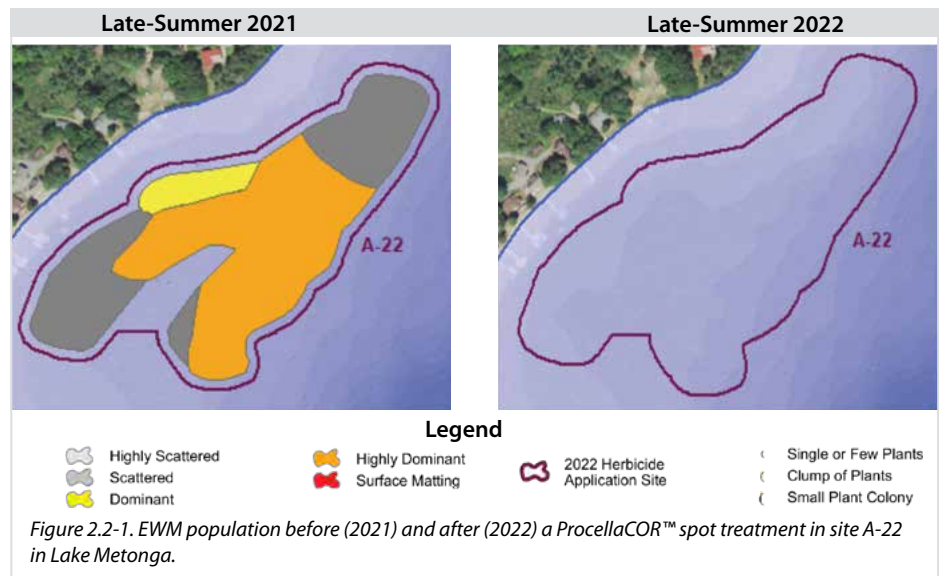
Eddie Heath

Onterra LLC
Lake Management Planning

During the early March of 2022, members of the LMA approached Onterra to understand the potential for conducting a trial herbicide treatment in Strawberry Bay, a location with a high riparian footprint and where EWM was impacting navigation and recreation. This site met the criteria outlined within the Comprehensive Management Plan for considering a nuisance management action of herbicide treatment. The LMA understood they would need to fund the treatment and monitoring strategy without the assistance of grant funding, as all competitive grant opportunities required application the late-summer of the year prior (i.e. September 2021).

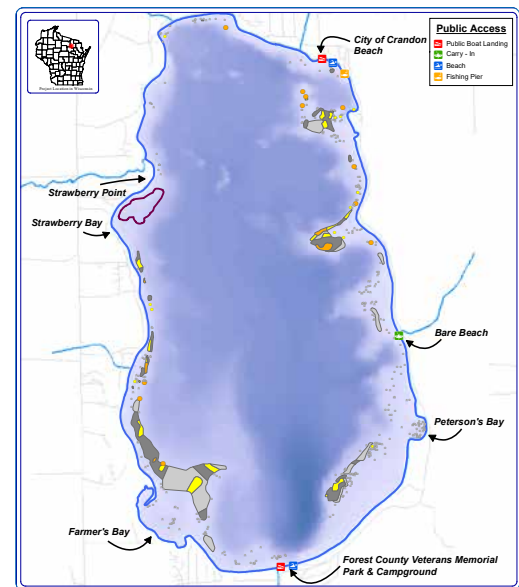
On March 17, Onterra hosted a virtual meeting between the WDNR and several members of the LMA. A preliminary strategy of targeting a 12.2 acre site consisting of a large core of highly dominant EWM was discussed (Map 1). Onterra stressed the difficulty of targeting narrow and off-shore EWM occurrences with herbicide spot treatments, but acknowledged that targeting a larger site with a slightly elevated dose of ProcellaCOR™ would likely produce an effective outcome. The WDNR was amenable to the proposed trial treatment, encouraging the LMA to build in monitoring components that would aid in understanding treatment efficacy and native plant impacts.

The herbicide application was completed during the morning of June 20, 2022 by Schmidt's Aquatic,



LLC. The applicator noted light southwest winds (4-6 mph) within the application area at the time of treatment. The surface water temperature reading was 65°F.

Qualitative monitoring compares the late-summer EWM mapping survey population mapped during 2021 (pre-treatment) and 2022 (post-treatment). Onterra ecologists conducted the Late-Summer EWM Mapping Survey on Lake Metonga on September 28, 2022. The purpose of the survey was to search for and map all occurrences of EWM in the lake, with particular attention to the 2022 trial treatment site. The crews had excellent survey conditions, with 100% sunny skies and winds less than 5 mph. Following a tight meander of site A-22, the crews deployed a submersible camera and conducted numerous transects through the site. No EWM was detected in or around A-22 during this survey (Figure 2.2-1). Crews noted the appearance of healthy pondweed populations in pockets of this application area.



Overall, the EWM population of Lake Metonga in 2022 was pretty average. EWM could be observed within the footprint it historically occupies, but at relatively low or modest densities. EWM populations have been observed to fluctuate greatly from year to year on Lake Metonga. The LMA believes that consistent monitoring is important to understanding the overall health of Lake Metonga. 🐦

Outreach Article

Michelle Bauer

The LMA Outreach Committee worked to create and mail out the 2023 annual membership forms. If you didn't get one please email us at michellebauer5587@gmail.com. As we work to update systems we hope to create an online form for future years for those who prefer to renew electronically. More to come on that ...

A big thanks to Chris and Gary Mueller for another successful Weeds'n'Walleye Fundraiser in October. It was time to give them a break from service with Chris Ebben and Michelle Bauer stepping up to continue on. How can you help?

- 1. Donate/solicit auction and raffle items** - have a vacation home, know someone who can get you golf clubs or course passes, sporting items?
- 2. Volunteer for the event night** - we could use people willing to do registration, set up or check out.

2023 LAKE METONGA ASSOCIATION
 Membership Period January 1 – December 31, 2023
 Please Support the Lake Metonga Association!

Individual Membership (\$25)

- For people that own property or who reside on or within one mile of the lake for at least one month each year.
- Covers two people from the same property (spouses, co-owners, family members, etc.)
- Contact information must include both names and one postal address.
- Includes voting privilege at Annual Meeting.

Business Sponsor (\$50)

- For any business that wishes to support the Association's efforts.
- Includes a photo and 50 word write-up of your business on the LMA website sponsors page.

Friend of Lake Metonga (\$25)

- For supporters of the association that live beyond the one mile radius of the lake and cannot be voting members.

All supporters:

- Receive a subscription to the association newsletter (by mail or email, your choice)
- Receive eblast notifications and updates on important, late-breaking lake events and association issues (optional)
- All contact information lakemetonga.org or www.facebook.com/lakemetonga to any other organization or business!
- Lake Metonga Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Fill in and return bottom portion with payment and www.lakemetonga.org

Payment Method

Cash
 Check (Payable to Lake Metonga Association, Inc.)

Please mail completed form to:
 Lake Metonga Association
 PO Box 32
 Crandon, WI 54820

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION
 Names of individual Members or Friends of the Lake:

 Business Name: (Send in business sponsor page form and photos)

 Mailing Address:

 Lake Address (if different than mailing address):
 _____ Crandon, WI
 Email Address: _____

LMA has my permission to send all newsletters by email instead of postal mail: Yes No
 Phone: _____ Mobile Home Cottage

Visit us at: www.lakemetonga.org or on Facebook

Date Paid: _____
 Check #: _____

3. Save the date - Saturday, 10/7/23

Outreach Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with merchandise sales (shirts!), volunteer at events such as Art in the Square and Kentuck Day as well as the 4th of July celebration at Charlie's. We are also looking for someone to step up into the Outreach Chair role to allow Chris and Michelle to focus on Weeds'n'Walleye.

If any of the above is an area of interest or spot you can help please email michellebauer5587@gmail.com. 🐟

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, July 1

Annual Meeting Crandon H.S. Auditorium Doors open at 8:00 am; meeting starts promptly at **8:30 am** earlier than previous years

Sunday, July 2

Boat Parade 1:00 and Picnic 2:00 at Charlie's Lake Metonga Resort

Early July through Mid-August

Volunteer Bullhead Harvest Collection Center Public fishing pier Saturdays — Details to come

Saturday, July 29

Kentuck Festival Day Courthouse Square 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Saturday, September 23

Art in the Square Courthouse Square 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Saturday, October 7

Weeds 'n' Walleyes Banquet Mole Lake Convention Center Doors open at 5:00; Dinner at 6:00

SAVE the DATE



MOLE LAKE CASINO

10 . 07 . 23



Lake Association Contacts:

4th of July Boat Parade & Picnic

Gary Goeman 414-940-8873

garygoeman@hotmail.com

Apparel

Chris Ebben

lakemetongaclothing@gmail.com

CB-CW

Kim Reed 920-639-4332

kmsreed@gmail.com

Facebook Admin & Outreach Chair

Michelle Bauer 608-235-3857

michellebauer5587@gmail.com

Membership

Julie Janquart 920-676-5764

lmasecretary21@gmail.com

Newsletter/Website

Winnie May 715-889-4923

wintrav@newnorth.net

Weeds'n'Walleyes Banquet

Michelle Bauer 608-235-3857

michellebauer5587@gmail.com

Lake Metonga Association

P.O. Box 32

Crandon, WI 54520

