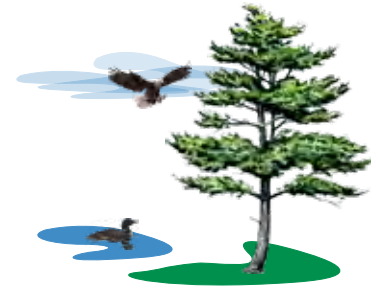


LAKE METONGA NEWS

Volume 2023: No. 3



Association Update *Mark Truymen*

Fall may be my favorite time of the year, but it comes way too soon and you know what's next. The lake gets very quiet after all the docks and lifts are taken in for the season. For those of you that weren't able to be up in the northwoods this fall, the foliage was very vibrant but also came earlier than normal, may be due to the dryer summer or just a cycle.

Our largest fund raiser, the Weeds n Walleye banquet, held on October 7th, was a huge success with a sold out capacity. A big thank you goes out to Michelle Bauer and Chris Ebben and their crew who did a great job putting it all together.

We again want to thank Chris and Gary Mueller for all the years that they coordinated the event.

The Fisheries and Habitat committee had another very successful year with the bullhead removal program. We also want to thank them for their hard work.

If you attended the annual meeting this year, thank you for taking the time to see and hear what LMA is doing and planning for the future. We had a brief discussion on the possibility for changing the date of the July 4th weekend as we have had members suggest that due to a very busy weekend with guests and the city parade. We took a straw poll and the majority of attendees seemed not to want to change the date, but rather have an earlier starting time. The LMA board will be discussing this issue and will have a decision well in advance of next summer.

Lastly, I'd like to remind everyone that the annual dues notices will be going out in mid January. As you know the dues are on a calendar year and we ask that you take care of this promptly as it really helps our volunteers, as we don't have the resources to send out reminders. We also send an invitation to all non members who own lake property, to join and help support the lake and their properties.

Till next time, have a great winter and see you next spring.



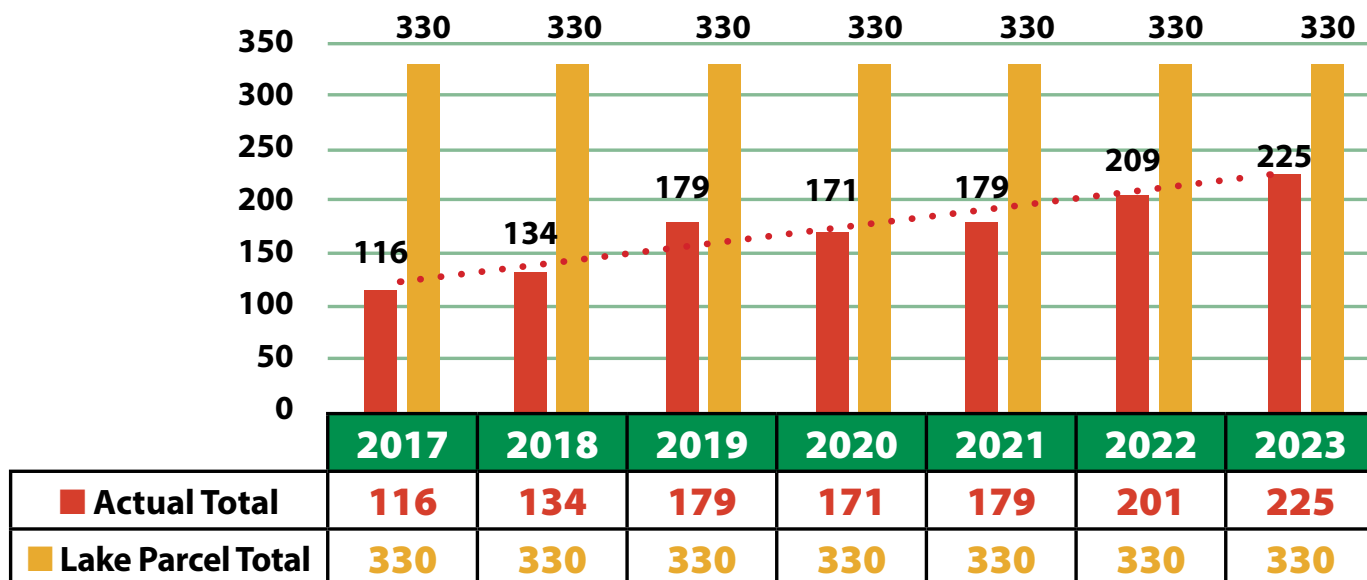
A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark Truymen".



Photo courtesy
of Lynn Smith

Lake Metonga News

Annual Membership Record *Julie Janquart*



Wow!

Nearly a 12% increase in membership for 2023 at 225 members breaks the record set in 2022 with 201 members. If you are reading this newsletter for the first time after receiving it electronically or via USPS, we want to extend our appreciation for your willingness to join this outstanding

*New
Membership
Record of
225 Members
in 2023*

organization as a new member! For the rest of our regular members, we are ever so grateful for your dedicated support through membership, volunteerism, and encouragement to your neighbors to join with you! You can expect your membership renewal reminder for 2024 will be mailed in January. Thanks for your support! 🐦

Aquatic Plant and AIS Committee Report

Grant Reed

Our consultant, Onterra LLC, was on the lake August 31st and September 8th to do our annual EWM Peak Biomass survey. The results of the survey are not yet available and will be in the next newsletter. Next summer Onterra will be completing a Whole Lake Aquatic Plant Point Intercept survey on the lake. Per our 10 Year Comprehensive Management Plan, we were going to complete this survey once

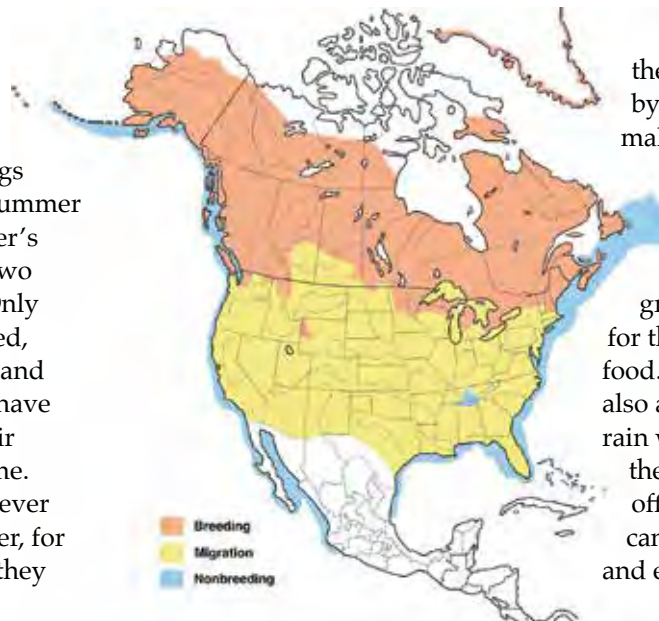
every 3-5 years. The last survey was done in 2018 for the 10 Year Plan that was completed in 2021. It was decided to wait until 2024 in order to be able to couple the 2024 EWM survey with the Whole Lake Aquatic Plant PI survey and apply for a grant from the DNR this fall. The grant pre-application was submitted Sept. 15th and the final will be submitted by November 15th. 🐦

Loon Report Fall 2023

Kim Reed

This year the loon nests were put into the water in early May, with loon sightings soon after. While the summer started off good for the Farmer's Bay loon pair (they hatched two chicks), it did not end well. Only a week after the chicks hatched, the two of them disappeared and it is thought that eagles may have gotten to them with all of their activity around that time frame. The Farmer's Bay loon pair never hatched other chicks. However, for the Peterson's Bay loon pair, they left the man-made nest to find a different spot (and left their unhatched egg behind). We believe they did this because the egg was not going to hatch and they wished to re-nest and try again. Good thing they did because they were able to successfully hatch and raise one chick!

While in recent weeks it has been warm compared to normal, the cold weather is coming and around the end of September to mid-October, the loons on Lake Metonga began to migrate down to the Gulf of Mexico, leaving most of us to experience the frigid temperatures yet to come. The adult loons are the first to migrate with the fledged chicks (those that survived to 8 weeks old and are able to fly) leaving a little bit later. Once down at the Gulf of Mexico, the chicks actually do not return in the spring like the adults do. For two to three years, they hang out in the warm gulf waters. But, when they are ready, they make the long flight back, and when arriving back to



MIGRATION

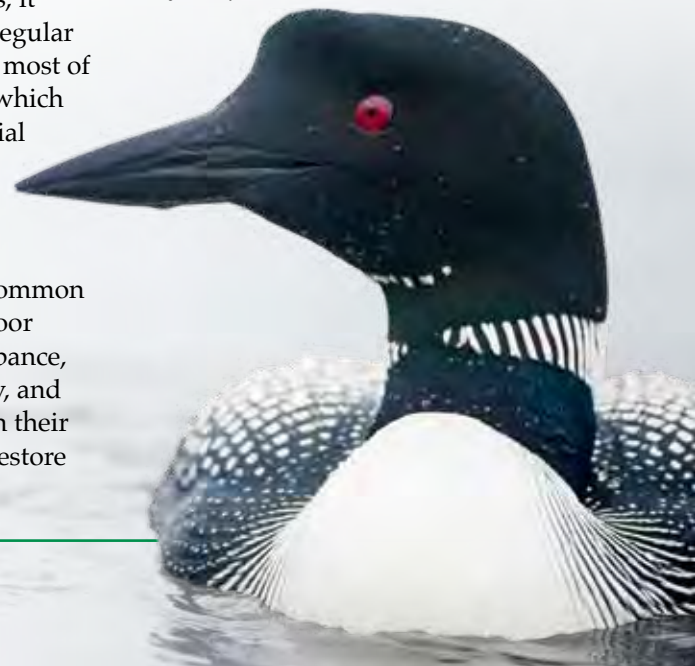
Medium-distance migrant. Common Loons migrate from northern lakes to coastal ocean waters. Loons in western Canada and Alaska migrate to the Pacific Coast, from Alaska's Aleutian Islands down past Mexico's Baja Peninsula. Loons from the Great Lakes region migrate to the Gulf of Mexico or Florida coasts. Loons from eastern Canada migrate to the Atlantic Coast.

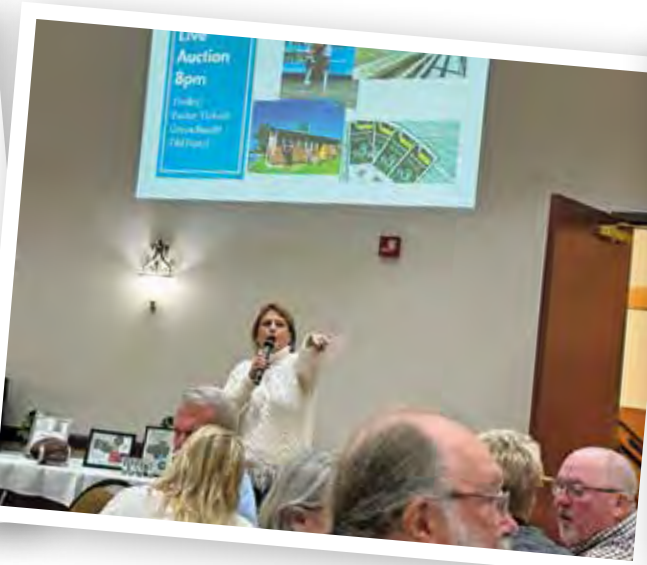
Wisconsin, these chicks will look for a lake within 10- 20 miles of the one they were raised on, checking that the lake is the same type (i.e. spring fed, dammed, etc.). When the adult loons arrive back in mid-April, they look for irregular shaped shorelines, little islands, and vegetation. While Lake Metonga has no islands, it does have vegetation and irregular shaped shorelines; however, most of this shoreline is developed, which is the reason why two artificial loon nests are placed on the lake: one in Farmer's Bay, the other in Peterson's Bay.

The greatest threats to the Common Loon is the loss of habitat, poor water quality, human disturbance, and toxins like lead, mercury, and Avian Botulism. To help with their habitat, you can attempt to restore

the shoreline of Lake Metonga by harboring native plants. To make sure the water quality can be the best it can be, don't use fertilizers with phosphorus, as this can run off into the lake, cause excessive algae growth and reduce the visibility for the loons when searching for food. Rain gardens and rain barrels also are helpful because they utilize rain water so it slowly seeps into the ground rather than running off directly into the lake, which can pollute the lake in some ways and erode the shoreline.

To ensure that the loons are as safe as possible in the Lake Metonga environment, use non-lead fishing tackle. Swallowing one piece of lead will kill a loon. When boating, jet skiing, kayaking, canoeing, etc., make sure to be watchful for the loons as they are all over the lake, but primarily by Farmer's and Peterson's Bays. Never attempt to chase the loons or harm them either, as harassing a protected species like the Common Loon carries a fine of \$1,000 and 90 days in jail. 🦶





Weeds 'N' Walleyes

Winnie May

The Weeds 'n' Walleye banquet was a success! How, you might say. Well, it was a group effort, and I would like to give credit where credit is due. Many hours went into planning this event so let's give Michelle Bauer & Chris Ebben a round of applause on this sold-out event. They worked hard to keep this event moving smoothly as the Mueller's did in the past. Other volunteers throughout the evening included Mike & Lynn Smith, Lisa Hagen, Lori Ruhland, Jody Strasser, Jeff Bauer, Ronda Schauer and Grace Wolf.

This year we honored Les Schramm at the banquet with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to Lake





Metonga. He pledged a \$1000 donation which resulted in seven additional \$1000 donations from Barb & Rick Schramm, Gary & Cisse Goeman, Jeff & Michelle Bauer, Steve & Lynn Livas, Jake & Janice Flannery, Rod & Amber Hansen and Lloyd Kanzenbach. Additional sponsors we'd like to recognize is Don LeMaster and Ed & Lee Smith for their contribution towards our Bullhead Removal, Crandon Docks for the Gun Raffles and CoVantage Credit Union for the Friends of LMA donation. Lastly, we had several donations for our Live and Silent Auctions and Raffle tables. 🐾

**For a list of all donors, please visit our website.*



Lake Metonga News

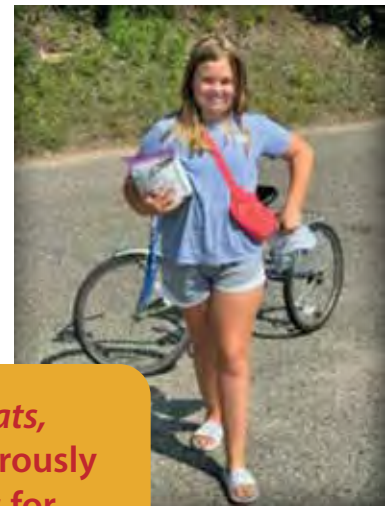
2023 Bullhead Reduction Project

Julie Janquart

After preparations were completed in the spring by the Fisheries & Habitat Committee the real work began in May with the electroshocking effort by Mike Preul and his crew who harvested 8,702 adult bullheads.

The collection site was opened Saturday July 8th continuing for six consecutive weeks to collect then dispose of individual's harvested catch as well as record essential data. Volunteers of every age group participated and through our collective efforts, we had a total of 64 hours of collection time recorded with 125 adult bullheads and 2,176,050 fry/eggs turned in to the collection site for disposal this year. The "word on the street or should I say the lake" so to speak is that finding those little black schools of fry were harder to find this year!

We are hoping this is a good indicator that we are making some headway toward the goal of significantly reducing the bullhead population thereby enabling more natural reproduction of the Perch and Walleyes. We now anxiously await the results of the 2023 Walleye survey conducted in the fall by Mike Preul's Mole Lake Hatchery crew and the Treaty Fish Team to learn data that may confirm our hopefulness for success of our efforts. 🐟



We also want to publicly thank *Palubicki's Eats & Treats*, *Schaefer's IGA*, and *Tamarack Outfitters* who so generously donated purchase-matching coupons and gift cards for the collection site and incentive drawing. Thanks for being part of our successful team!



2023 Clean Boats Clean Water Season *Kim Reed*



With the end of summer, another successful Clean Boat Clean Water (CBCW) season also comes to an end. Lake Metonga Association applies for and receives a grant from the DNR to help fund this program. If the DNR gives a \$6000.00 grant, then the lake association would put \$2000.00 towards the program. There are several steps to completing and receiving the funding.

The Clean Boats Clean Water program attempts to reduce/eliminate the spread of invasives to our beautiful lakes. Our inspectors are tasked to inspect for any type of plant life, zebra mussels, draining live wells and visually viewing boats, boat trailers, boat motors to make sure all invasives are removed before entering and after leaving the lake. The inspectors educate the boaters about draining all water from boats and equipment, drain live wells and containers holding any catch, and using live bait.

One of the requirements to receive the grant is to have 200 inspected hours at both the North and South

Landings. This summer, our four inspectors did a great job and staffed both landings focusing on the days and times with the busiest traffic times.

Another mandate to receive the DNR grant is to acquire data. There is a set of questions that the inspectors ask and record the information on a watercraft inspection report. This summer, 1345 boats were inspected (up from 579 in 2022) with 2590 people interacted with (up from 1380 in 2022) in the 654 hours of inspections this year. The north end had the most boating traffic of 1116 boats (up from 720 in 2022) compared to the south end of 229 boats (up from 105 in 2022.) Responses indicated that only 5% of boaters had their boats on another water body in the last 5 days prior to coming to Metonga.

Some of you may have been annoyed at being asked these same questions every time you put your boat in or took it out. Please remember that the questions are mandated to receive the grant money and are important to protect our lake and we appreciate your assistance! 🐦

Outreach Committee

Michelle Bauer

Well the docks are mostly out, the patio furniture is put away and winter hours are in place at most of the restaurants.

We're ready to recap the year at our next Outreach Committee meeting. That's where you come in!

We are always looking for association members to step up and serve on a committee. It's not time consuming if we all work together. Are you brilliant with social media? Websites? Do you like to organize and sell apparel? Do you like to help organize booths at area events and plan content?

There are a lot of fresh faces in the northwoods and we'd love to have your help. No need to live here full time, if you know how to join a zoom call ... we can use you!

Please email michellebauer5587@gmail.com if interested! 🐦

If you have been past the city park by the north landing

If you have been past the city park by the north landing, you probably noticed construction being done on the pavilion. The construction started mid October to remove the old cracked floor and replace with concrete and connect it to the Lions refreshment stand.

The costs of the project are being covered, in addition to the City of Crandon, by the Crandon Lions Club, the Potawatomi Community, Lake Metonga Association and the Crandon Community Coalition.

This renovation will ensure that this facility will give the community many additional years of service. 🐦



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Photo courtesy of Lynn Smith