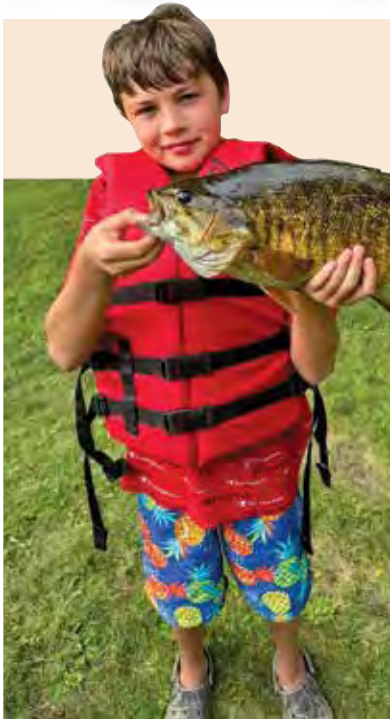


LAKE METONGA NEWS

Volume 2024: No. 2



Association Update

Mark Truymen

Didn't we just put our docks and lifts in? Sure seems like it. With that being said, as much as I hate to see summer pass by, fall may be the best season of all. Your LMA board and committees were again busy this year with ongoing projects and activities. We had a change of date for our annual meeting which was held the Saturday prior to the 4th of July weekend. The change was made as we had numerous requests to do so due to family activities and the city parade on the 4th weekend. The meeting turnout was a little less than in the past, but we felt it went well for the first year. We already have planned for next year, so mark you calendars for Saturday June 28, 2025.

If you attended the meeting, you know we left without a Vice President and Secretary positions as they both had termed out and no one was willing to step up. I'm happy to report that since that meeting, Gary Goeman agreed to take the Vice President position and Candy Dailey has accepted Secretary. A *HUGE* thank you to those individuals who recognized the importance of keeping those positions filled.

The following weekend we held our boat parade/picnic at Charlie's Resort. With rain being forecast, we hoped for the best and got it. The

weatherman blew that forecast as we had a very nice day with maybe a record turn out.

In mid July, our lake consultant, Onterra LLC, was out on the lake doing the aquatic plant intercept survey. This survey was last done in 2018 and will show all of the submerged native plants in the lake and how they have changed over time. Those results will not be available until later this fall and we'll release that information at that time.

Our Bullhead Reduction Program was again in full swing late July and August and that update is included in this newsletter.

Our largest fundraiser, Weeds 'n' Walleye Banquet is scheduled for October 19th this year. I know we'll have another full house and a good time as usual.

Lastly, I want to update you on the eagle camera on our website. As you probably know, it's been inoperable most of this year. We finally had a technician diagnose it and it's just worn out over the years in the Wisconsin weather. We hope to replace it and possibly make some other camera updates as we get many compliments on them.

Till next time, enjoy the fall weather.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Truymen".

Mark



Kade caught this 20" smallmouth bass on Lake Metonga. Photo courtesy of Kim Vele

Aquatic Plant/AIS Committee

Grant Reed

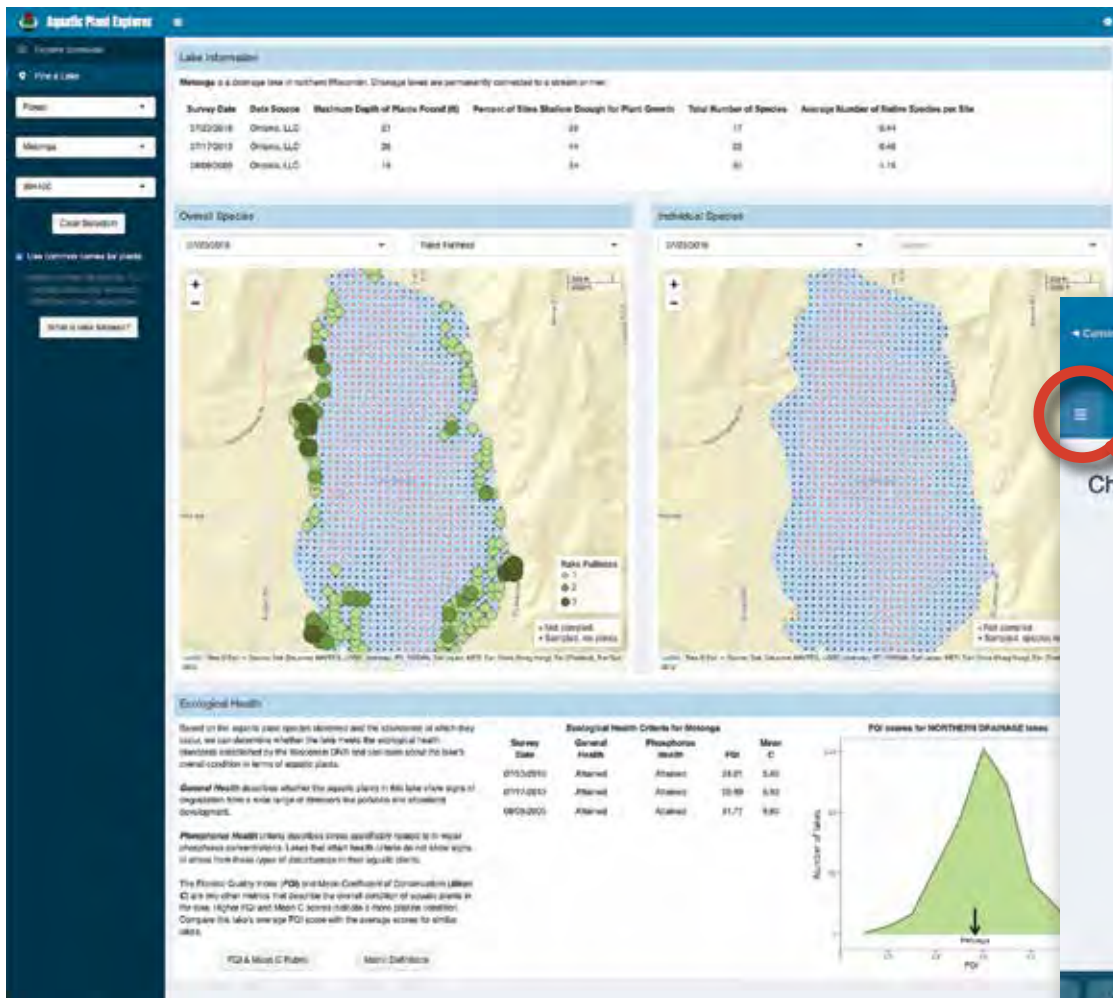


FIGURE 1

Our consultant, Onterra LLC., was on the lake July 17th, 18th and 22nd doing the aquatic plant point intercept survey. This survey is a point based (grid) survey that shows the population of all of the submerged native plants in the lake and how they've changed over time. Previously it was done in 2005, 2013 and 2018. To see results of past surveys use the link below. This is an interactive site so you can enter parameters to see different lakes, years, sort by plant types etc. and see the points/grid pattern used. Data from this survey will be available early next year and will be shared at the annual meeting. The annual EWM survey will be done in late September/early October and that map will be on the website when available. dnr-wisconsin.shinyapps.io/AquaticPlantExplorer/

To access the website with your cell phone, go to the website, click on "Explore;" then click on the three lines in the upper left hand corner (Figure 1). Type in "Forest" in the county box and "Metonga" in the lake box (Figure 2).



Scan code with your cell phone camera to go to the website.

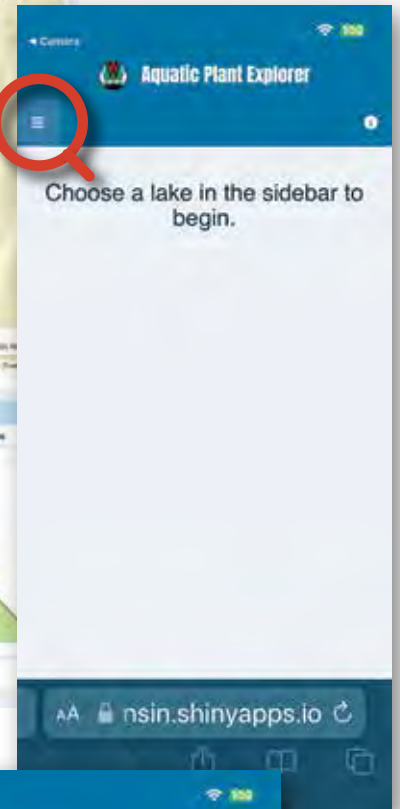
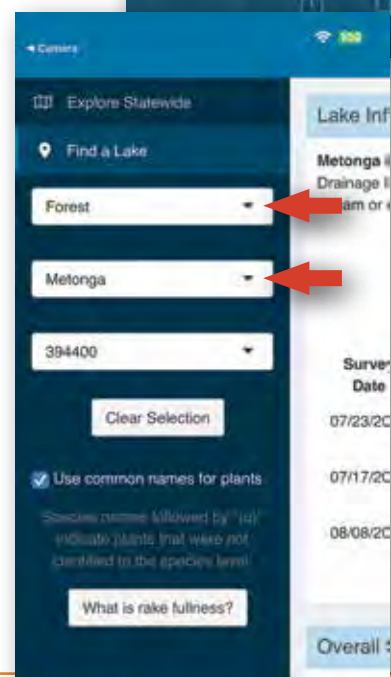


FIGURE 2





Loon Article

Kayla Reed, Loon Ranger 2015-2024

The summer started off good for the loons on Lake Metonga. The Farmer's Bay and Peterson's Bay loon nests were put in place after ice out, and not long after they were occupied. Both territorial loon pairs hatched two chicks June 8th. However, the Farmer's Bay pair did not have two chicks for long as 1 chick disappeared around the 12th. It is unknown what happened to one of the chicks, but the other chick has been able to prosper and grow quickly due to full attention from the loon parents. The Peterson's Bay chicks hatched about a week after the Farmer's Bay pair and were doing exceedingly well until recently. In my scouting efforts around the lake the past couple of weeks, I have been unable to locate the Peterson's Bay loon family. It is possible they are just occupying a different location of the lake, but I have not been able to find them on the times I have gone looking. If you have seen the Peterson's Bay chicks, please reach out to me so I can record their survival (kaylamreed2020@gmail.com).

Throughout the summer we have averaged five to seven floater loons at a time. These loons do not have territory on the

lake, so they may come and go throughout the summer and form groupings. With the summer coming to a close, we will see more loons briefly stopping on the lake to rest before continuing their southward push to the Gulf of Mexico. Our loon pairs with chicks (if the Peterson's Bay family can be located) will disband in September, with the parents leaving before the chicks. The chicks will need slightly more time to grow before they finally leave around the beginning of October, at which time they will be considered "fledged" and have successfully survived the summer season.

In November, our annual reporting logs and data will be shared with the Loon Watch program at the Northland College. Loon Watch, a program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, protects common loons and their aquatic habitats through education, monitoring, and research not only in Wisconsin but extends to the Upper Great Lakes Region. After this season, I will be stepping down from the Loon Ranger position with both the Institute and the Lake Association. Kim and McKenzie Reed will be taking over as I will be headed to South Dakota to pursue my graduate degree. 🐦

“With the summer coming to a close, we will see more loons briefly stopping on the lake to rest before continuing their southward push to the Gulf of Mexico.”



Bullhead - Fish Committee Article

Kayla Reed

the 26 hours of effort conducted by 14 parties, we were able to collect a total of 42 adults, 100,000-120,000 eggs, and 1,000 fry. These numbers are far lower than our collection efforts of last year. Many people have stated that they have observed less bullhead spawning nests, eggs, and fry overall, which is a very good direction to be heading. However, we cannot ease up on our efforts! The lakes are behind in spawning and hatching this year due to the relatively cool weather in late spring and summer, meaning that bullhead fry did not appear until late July (normally occurs early July). Due to this, please keep up the great effort in catching and removing fry balls and other bullheads you see, and if you do, make sure you have filled out the proper forms on the website to do so. Also, if you have collected bullheads but were unable to bring your harvest to a collection day, please send your logs to Grant Reed (gmreedi@gmail.com) as we need official totals to send to the DNR.

Our efforts are not in vain! We are awaiting the results of this year's walleye young of year survey from Forest/Florence County Fisheries Biologist Greg Matzke once he completes that survey. We are hopeful to see increased numbers of young walleye due to our continued bullhead removal efforts. 🐟

“The Mole Lake Fisheries Biologist Mike Preul and his crew went and electroshocked Metonga to remove adult bullheads before the spawn. They were successful and took out a total of 4,402 individual adults, which averaged 11.7” and 1.03 lbs per adult.”

Our annual bullhead harvesting season is wrapping up, but not totally done! At the beginning of the summer, the Mole Lake Fisheries Biologist Mike Preul and his crew went and electroshocked Metonga to remove adult bullheads before the spawn. They were successful and took out a total of 4,402 individual adults, which averaged 11.7” and 1.03 lbs per adult. Mike Preul stated that “the bullheads are all big with no small ones so keep up the good work with the little ones. Needless to say, we’ve done well but our work must continue annually or we’ll go backwards.” The goal behind the bullhead removals is to decrease their population within the lake. Bullheads are opportunistic fish, meaning they will eat anything from decaying fish to eggs of walleye and yellow perch. We hope to accomplish this decreased population with removals of adults, fry, and eggs through your help as Lake Association members.

This summer we hosted our Saturday collection times July 6 through August 10. Members who brought bullheads to the north shore pier received Yeti’s and Palubicki’s gift certificates in thanks of their efforts. If you have brought bullheads into the collection site, please keep an eye out in the mail after Labor Day as we will be conducting a drawing for the remaining gift certificates we have available. From



2024 Lake Metonga Clean Boats Clean Waters

Kim Reed



The Clean Boats Clean Waters program is important to help keep invasives from entering into Lake Metonga. Our inspectors are tasked to inspect for any type of plant life, zebra mussels, or other potential invasives on boats, boat trailers, boat motors, and make sure they are removed before entering the lake 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.

Please do your part and make sure to follow these tips, as well.

The CBCW program is funded in part by a cost sharing grant between the Association and the DNR, in addition to funding from the Mole Lake Band of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community. Inspection reports are completed with each shift, and this information is entered into the Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) with Wisconsin UW Extension and the Wisconsin DNR. Additional data is prepared for the grant application and year-end report, to obtain reimbursement funding.

In 2024, we had 4 inspectors working well over 400 hours between the North

and South landings between Memorial Day weekend and the weekend after Labor Day. During this time, over 750 boats have been inspected. Unfortunately, our 4 inspectors braved a lot of rain this year and the contacts are lower than the last 2 years.

Thank you to Rachel, Adessa, Aryanna and Emma for a great year! Adessa won't be returning next year as she will be graduating in 2025 and pursuing a CAN degree, and Rachel accepted a new full-time employment position and will be moving away from Crandon, and Aryanna and Emma are planning to return next year.

With this, we will be looking to hire 2-3 part-time summer inspectors for the 2025 season. This is a great opportunity for high school students and adults of all ages to help with the Clean Boats-Clean Water program, enjoy being outside, in sunshine and chatting with boaters and anglers. If you or someone you know might be interested in one of these positions, please contact Kim Reed @ kmsreed@gmail.com for more information or to apply. Please note applicants must be respectful, reliable, responsible, cooperative, flexible, comfortable verbal communicator, possess willingness to learn & accept coordinator feedback. 🐾

“The CBCW program is funded in part by a cost sharing grant between the Association and the DNR, in addition to funding from the Mole Lake Band of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community.”

In Memoriam of Past Board Member, Timothy J. Leonardelli

Researched by Judy Van Zuiden and written by Kim Vele

It is with sadness we learned of the news that one of our past Board Members, Tim Leonardelli, passed this past year. He and his wife joined the Lake Metonga Association in 1998 (and possibly earlier) and served on the Board until 2015. He was known for being fun-loving and hard working.

Tim was elected as Vice-President of the Association and served as the Marketing Director for the Association for many years. In 1999, Tim was responsible for introducing the following programs to raise money for the Association: The Annual Meeting Raffle, the Kentuck Days and Art Fair in the Square booths, the 4th of July picnic with raffles and prizes, the community donation cans, and the introduction of LMA apparel. Last, and certainly not least, he and Les Schramm were attributed with planning the first Annual Weeds and Walleye Banquet in 2007, which still remains the Association's most profitable fundraiser each year.

Tim was a trained Sous Chef and an acclaimed Wildlife Artist; he helped run the food stand at the 4th of July picnic and donated many of his original works of art for prizes over the years. He made one of the raffle paddle boards for the 4th of July Picnic. Tim was all about fun and in 2007 introduced goofy competitions during the cook-outs. One year he introduced the idea of a hot dog eating contest. Participants were surprised to find that the hot dogs were foot-long dogs! Other games included eating pancakes with no hands and donuts on a string, which made for a lot of laughs.

Not all of his endeavors on behalf of the Association were fun



July 2015, Tim painting the raffle paddle board.



Weeds 'n' Walleyes **BANQUET**

MOLE LAKE CASINO

OCTOBER 19, 2024



Hot Dog Eating Contest July 2012, and the July 2015 picture of Tim and his grandson, Connor at the 4th of July Picnic

and games. He also helped with organizing, building and placing 20 fish cribs in Lake Metonga to ensure future fishing opportunities for the rising generations.

Tim's love for Lake Metonga knew no bounds as proven by his dedication and generosity over many years. He was greatly appreciated and will be missed by many. He is survived by his wife, Janet and two children, Jaimie and Jennifer. 🐦

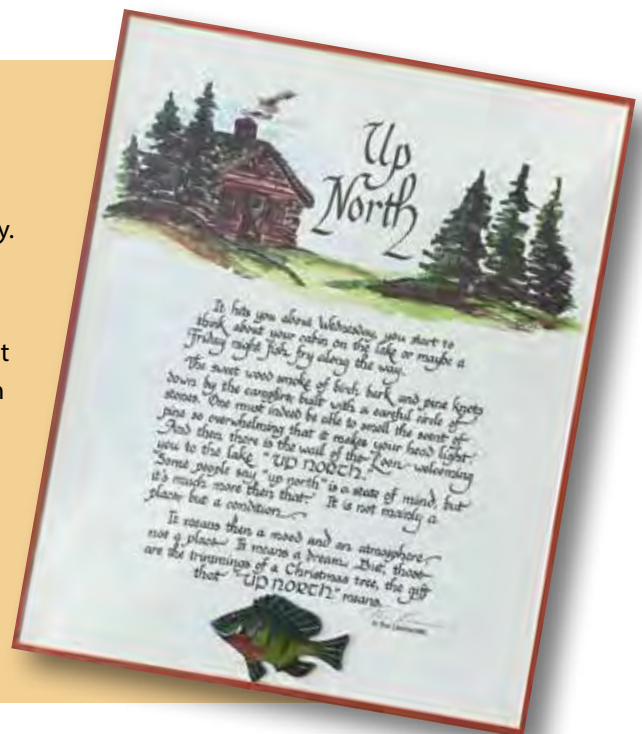
UP NORTH

It hits you about Wednesday, you start to think about your cabin on the lake or maybe a Friday night fish fry along the way.

The sweet wood smoke of birch bark and pine knots down by the campfire, built with a careful circle of stones. One must indeed be able to smell the scent of pine so overwhelming that it makes your head light. And then there is the wail of the Loon welcoming you to the lake "Up North."

Some people say "up north" is a state of mind, but it's much more than that. It is not mainly a place, but a condition.

It means then a mood and an atmosphere, not a place. It means a dream. But, those are the trimmings of a Christmas tree, the gift that "Up North" means.



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Weeds 'n' Walleyes Banquet

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Photo courtesy of Winnie May