

LAKE METONGA NEWS

Volume 2024: No. 1



Photo courtesy of Mike and Linda Duff

Association Update

Mark Truymen

Another winter has come and gone and the lake is buzzing with activity. With the mild winter and lack of snow, the lake level was lower than normal at “ice out”, but the early May rains helped to bring that up.

As in the past, LMA, has been busy planning summer events and are making a few changes. We want to kick off summer with a “Shoreline Shindig” on Saturday June 8th, for friends and neighbors to get together on the south shore. More on that later in this newsletter. Another change is an earlier date for the annual meeting. We have often been asked to move the date as our members are always busy on the 4th of July weekend with company and the city parade. This year we are going to have the meeting on the Saturday prior to the 4th, June 29th and we’ll see if we have an increase in attendance compared to the past dates. Please mark your calendar for that date and come early as we’ll have many of our clothing items on “clearance” to get your wardrobe up to date and get some early Christmas gifts out of the way. We will have you out by 10:30.

It’s never too early to plan to decorate your boat for the boat parade on Friday, July 5th. Then come back to Charlie’s Resort for the annual picnic.

Have a great summer and we’ll see you at our summer events. 🐦

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

Lake Metonga News

Termed Out! Help Needed!

2024 LMA BOARD ELECTIONS

Have you been pondering the idea of doing more for your lake association? Do you feel like you are at a point in life where you have some spare time to give and a desire to make a difference in some way on a local level? Then we have something for you to consider! We are looking for you to step up and run for a board position with elections held at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 29, 2024 at 9:00am in the auditorium at Crandon High School.



Positions up for election this year include Vice-President, Secretary, and Board Director at Large #1 currently held by Gary Goeman, Julie Janquart and Winnie May respectively. While Winnie May is interested in running again to retain her board director position, Gary Goeman and Julie Janquart, according to LMA By-Laws (“...directors shall serve no more than three consecutive terms...”), must vacate

their respective positions this year.

Admirably Gary Goeman is already serving a fourth consecutive term having been willing to serve when no volunteers stepped forward to run two years ago so it is important to find his replacement this year although he is willing to continue helping the board through committee work. Julie Janquart is intending on vacating the secretary position at the completion of her term this summer but is willing to help transition the work over to a new board member.

If you are giving some consideration to stepping up to run but have questions pertaining to any of these positions feel free to contact Julie Janquart, Secretary at lmasecretary21@gmail.com. We have a great board who have accomplished much over the years, and we welcome your interest and participation! 🏹

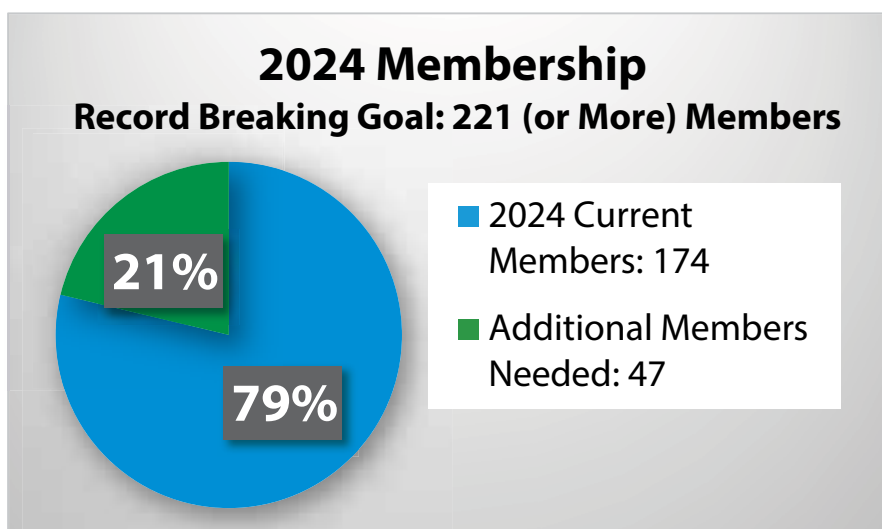
Record-Breaking Membership Two Years In A Row

Julie Janquart

Well, I do think we can break our record of 220 members set in 2023 once again with your help! Reminders were sent out in January, and we received many forms back shortly thereafter with some being completely new members and many being renewals from last year! We are so grateful for your unending support and generous donations!

If you have forgotten to renew your membership there is plenty of time for you to do so. If you already are a member but know other neighbors or friends who just need a little encouragement or helpful information to convince them that membership benefits us all as lake friends, please do so! Membership forms can be downloaded from our website, www.lakemetongawi.org. There is also a wealth of

information out there depicting the important work that may help people know the importance of joining. Forty-seven more members to go to break our record again! Thanks for all your help and support! 🏹





Eurasian Watermilfoil

Aquatic and Invasive Species News

Kimberly Vele

Lake Metonga Association contracted with Onterra LLC for continued mapping survey of aquatic species in the lake. Two crews conducted late-season EWM mapping surveys of Lake Metonga on August 31, September 5, and September 8, 2023. The crews noted sunny skies with modest wind and reported good visibility. Overall, the survey results suggest that the EWM population remains the same when compared to the 2022 Late-Season survey. The southwest region of the lake was further examined with the use of submersible cameras, which exhibited no surface matting but the area continues to have highly dominant and dominant areas of EWM. Other areas with a few EWM plants are Peterson Bay and a patch in the southeastern portion of the lake.

Onterra further noted that the 2022 herbicide treatment areas continue to show good results in 2023, but the areas treated will

“... 2022 herbicide treatment areas continue to show good results in 2023, ...”

continue to be closely monitored in the 2024 Late-Season survey EWM mapping survey. Because of the current survey results, the Association did not plan on any additional treatment at this time.

The Lake Metonga Association is appreciative of Grant Reed’s continued work on applying for grants to help support the costs of the surveys as the Association was successful in receiving a grant of \$9,544.15 to cover the costs of the survey, leaving the Association’s share of only \$4,400. In addition to the Aquatic Plant Surveys grant, the Association received a \$6,000 grant for the Clean Boats/ Clean Water program, leaving the Association’s share in the amount of \$2,000.

Annual Meeting and Picnic and Parade Dates and Times

Kimberly Vele

At the Annual Meeting in July 2023, members suggested holding the Annual Meeting the Saturday before the Fourth of July, which is June 29, 2024. The Annual Meeting will be held on that date at the Crandon High School Auditorium at 9:00 a.m. The doors will be open at 8:00 a.m. and



all are welcome to come and enjoy a cup of coffee prior to the meeting. The Association will also have some of the it’s apparel for sale at that time as well.

The Association’s Picnic and Boat Parade will be held on July 5, 2024. The Boat Parade starts at 1:00 p.m., with the Picnic following at Charlie’s Lake Metonga Resort Bar and Grill at 2:00 p.m. Charlie’s will have music later that day. Lunch plates will be \$5.00 per plate. Hope to see you all there. It is always an enjoyable afternoon spent with friends and family.



SAVE the DATE

WEEDS AND WALLEYES

MOLE LAKE CASINO

OCTOBER 19, 2024

Lake Metonga News

2023 DNR Fall Fish Survey Results

An Email Summary by Gregory Matzke, DNR (12-1-23)

So here is what I have to report to you, and it is good news....

So, my crew joined the treaty crew for the fall survey this year, we used 2 boats and sampled the entire shoreline of Lake Metonga on 10/10/23. Each boat collected all walleye, all bullhead, and juvenile bass and pike. We age the walleye to separate them into 3 age groups (age-0, age-1, and > age 2). We then use the relative abundance (number caught per mile electro fished) of age-0 walleye to assess the reproduction of the walleye population in 2023. We also look at the relative abundance of age-1 fish to see how well the last year class survived. The walleye > age-2 really doesn't mean anything scientifically....this survey is not designed to assess those fish, and really doesn't get a good look at the older fish.

one that will survive to adulthood and contribute to the adult stock.

-You only need 1–2-year classes > 20 age-0/mile every 5-7 years to maintain a quality fishery.

-Generally, the more the better, meaning it would have been even better if we saw 50/mile. However, at a certain point (I generally say > 75/mile or so) they become abundant enough that they start impacting each other and the survival of that year class. Typically, at these higher abundances the recruits are a lot smaller and in worse body condition, and it does open that year class up to possible high mortality rates.

The figure below is the updated graphic for walleye reproduction in Lake Metonga for the past 25 years. I am sure you all have seen this before. The hollow bars are stocked years, the dark bars are non-stocked years. The dashed vertical lines are what separates removal years

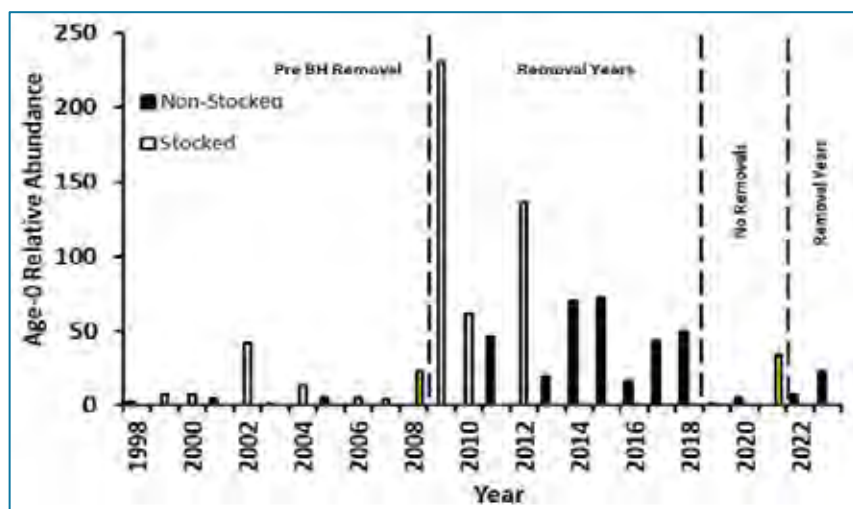


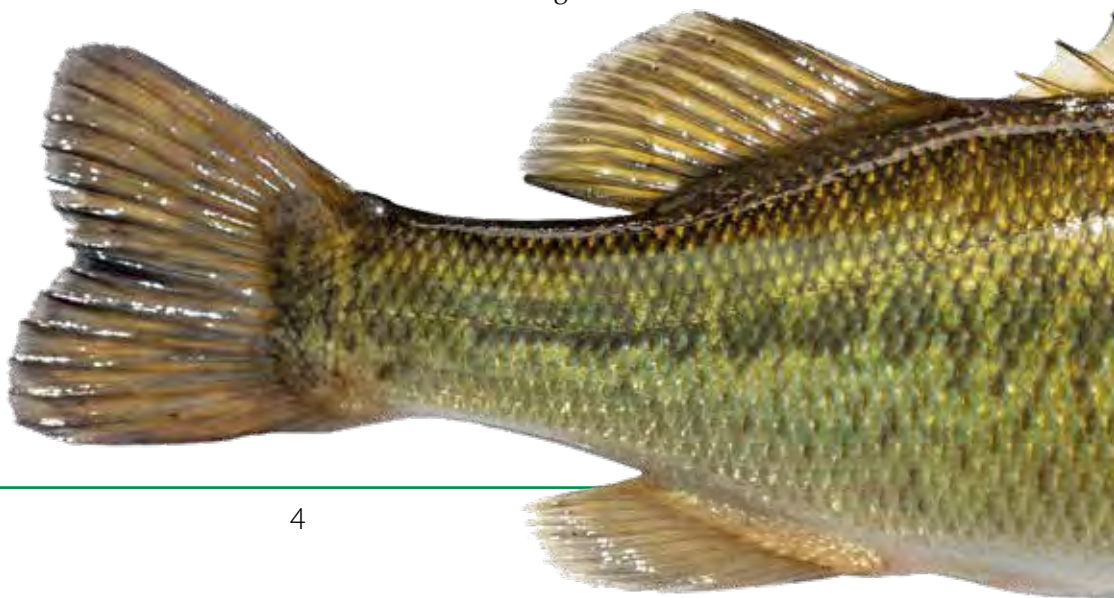
Figure 1. Recruitment of walleye indexed using relative abundance of age-0 walleye during FE1 surveys, in Lake Metonga, Forest County, 1998-present.

from non-removal years, and the yellow bars are year classes that I do not assign to either a removal or non-removal year (because it was the year that the removal took place, and it isn't until the year after that the "treatment" has taken place. As you can see prior to the start of Mike's work in 2008, Metonga had an extremely low level of natural walleye reproduction....generally speaking this was only a walleye fishery because of the stocking that was taking place, and the stocking wasn't very successful, so the walleye population was in general poor.

Since the start of Mike's work, you can see that the stocked walleye began to

This fall we captured 213 age-0 walleyes over 9.5 miles surveyed which is a relative abundance of 22.5 age-0 walleye/mile. This was great news! Mike and I have been at this for quite a while performing a lot of these surveys, and while his benchmarks may differ slightly from mine, this is my take on walleye recruitment:

-A catch rate of > 20 age-0 walleye per mile is a solid year class,



survive much better, and then significant natural reproduction of walleye began to occur on an annual basis (basically fixing a poor walleye population and turning it into a high-quality walleye population). Then there was a period of no removals, and during that time we saw the bullhead population grow, and walleye reproduction was lower than it was during the removal years. Mike started his removals again in 2021, and a solid year class was produced that year, we all had high hopes that 2022 would be a banner year class of walleye, but it turns out that did not happen, and now in 2023 we have a very solid year class of walleye produced.

We captured a total of 49 age-1 walleye in the 9.5 miles sampled, this is a relative abundance of 5.2 age-1 walleye/mile. Which I thought was quite impressive considering the same fish in 2022 when they were age-0 only had a relative abundance of 6.8/mile. Suggesting great survival of that small year class. So that 2022-year class might not be a “bust” after all. My general thoughts on age-1 walleye during fall surveys is this:

- A catch rate of > 3 age-1 walleye/mile is what I consider a normal year class (one that will survive to adulthood and have impacts on the adult population)



SUMMARY FISHING RECORD
Form 3600-63

Department of Natural Resources

County Forest		Waters Lake Metonga MWBC: 394400			
Sampling Objective Gamefish Recruitment		Number and Locations of Stations (Habitat)			
Period Fished (Dates) 10/10/2023		Miles Actually Shocked = 9.47 Acres = 1,991 Total Miles of Shoreline = 7.9 Total Miles of Shockable Shoreline = 9.5			
Game All Source		GPS LM LM GPS			
GEAR					
Boomsucker (Hours) 4.32		Time √ Night Day			
Visual Hours	Time of Day	Haul Seine (Length)	Mesh Size	Area Covered	
Angling (Hours)	Time of Day	Trap Net (No. of Net Lifts)	Mesh Size	Depth	
Minnow Seine (No. of Hauls)	Area Covered	Gill Net (No. of Feet x No. of Lifts)	Mesh Size	Depth	
Other (Hours or Lifts) Boomsucker(s): 2 Dip Netter(s): 4		Mini-boomsucker(s): Dip Netter(s):		Characteristics Walleye Recruitment Code: NR	
FISHING RESULTS		*ENTIRE SHORELINE*		Distance: 9.47 miles Time: 4.32 hrs.	
Walleye (Age 0+)	213	5.6	4.1 - 7.7	49.31 / hour	22.49 / mile
Walleye (Age 1+)	49	9.1	8.0 - 11.1	11.34 / hour	5.17 / mile
Walleye (Other)	57	13.5-13.9	13.1 - 25.4	13.19 / hour	6.02 / mile
Smallmouth Bass (age 0+)	17	3.4	≤2.9 - 4.0	3.94 / hour	1.80 / mile
Smallmouth Bass (age 1+)	28	5.9	5.3 - 6.7	6.48 / hour	2.96 / mile
Smallmouth Bass (Other)	7	N/A	7.0 - 8.9	1.62 / hour	0.74 / mile
Largemouth Bass (age 0+)	0		-	0.00 / hour	0.00 / mile
Largemouth Bass (age 1+)	0		-	0.00 / hour	0.00 / mile
Largemouth Bass (Other)	0		-	0.00 / hour	0.00 / mile
Northern Pike (age 0+)	0		-	0.00 / hour	0.00 / mile
Northern Pike (age 1+)	1		13.5 - 13.9	0.23 / hour	0.11 / mile
Northern Pike (Other)	1		14.0 - 14.4	0.23 / hour	0.11 / mile
ALL FISH STATION	0 mi.		0.00 hrs.		
Bluegill	0		-	/ hour	/ mile
Yellow Perch	0		-	/ hour	/ mile
Black Crappie	0		-	/ hour	/ mile
Rock Bass	0		-	/ hour	/ mile
Common Shiner	0		-	/ hour	/ mile
Golden Shiner	0		-	/ hour	/ mile
White Sucker	0		-	/ hour	/ mile
Mottled Sculpin	0		-	/ hour	/ mile
Bullhead	0		-	/ hour	/ mile
OBSERVATIONS					
Other Species	Abundance	Size Range	Other Species	Abundance	Size Range
Bullhead	0.63/mile	Large			
1) Tank Mortality: None 2) Weather: 45°F, PCL, NW Winds 0-5mph 3) H ₂ O Temp: 54-57°F 3) Reliability: High					
4) Stocking: None					
5) Comments: Mole Lake has removed the majority of the adult bullheads the last few years (abundance was down to 0.63/mile during this survey). Lake Metonga Association has removed millions of juvenile bullheads the last 2 years. The combined effort between Mole Lake and the Lake Association seems to have worked as intended with a solid year class of walleye produced this year. Age was estimated for walleye to define age breaks (bass and pike were separated using length frequency). No Juvenile BH observed, suggested the Lake Association did a good job on removals this year. All bullheads captured were removed.					
6) What was Collected: All WE, all BH, Bass ≤ 10", and NP ≤ 15.0" were collected the entire time. We did not complete an "All Fish" station this year.					
Rev. 10-70	Signed (Compiler) Gregory R. Matzke		Date 10/11/23		

- A catch rate of > 5 age-1 walleye/mile is what I consider a solid year class, one that will survive in good numbers and maintain or grow an adult population when they become sexually mature.
- A catch rate of > 10 age-1 walleye/mile is a very good year class, and you can bank on that year class showing up and providing great fishing opportunities.

So, as you can see the year class in 2022 that we have categorized as a “busted year class” is actually quite solid, so that was very impressive to see. 🐟

Lake Metonga News

Bullhead Reduction Project Success

Fisheries & Habitat Committee

Julie Janquart



Two phases each year include the removal of adult bullheads through electroshocking in the spring followed by harvesting bullhead minnows and eggs during the summer. The number of bullheads removed during the electroshocking portion of this project by Mike Preul, Mole Lake Fisheries Biologist, and his crew for 2023 was 8,702 individual bullheads removed averaging 11.4

inches and 0.91 lbs. each. The total number of bullheads harvested over three years since restarting removals in 2021 is 28,235.

Phase two of this project, documenting the harvest of eggs and minnows, began with the opening of the Collection Site at the city pier Saturday, July 8, 2023, operating for six consecutive Saturdays. Through a total of 64 volunteer participant hours, 2,176,050 fry / eggs and 125 adult bullheads were collected and turned in for proper disposal, which was a magnificent accomplishment. The total for a three-year period is more than 5,400,000.

In his emailed summary (12-1-23) regarding the 2023 Fall Fishing Survey on Metonga, Greg Matzke, DNR had this to say regarding the success of our joint project: *“The last thing I want to mention is bullhead abundance. So, we collected all bullheads during the fall survey, which was only 6 bullheads!! This suggests that Mike’s work on the adult population is having a significant impact on the adult bullhead population. Also ... during the*

survey I did not see a single juvenile BH, which means your Lake Group is doing an AMAZING job at stopping BH recruitment by removing juveniles!!! If this effort can be continued, I foresee the BH problems in Lake Metonga actually ... going away!”

And so, after three years of teamwork in tackling this significant problem and all data indicating a promising natural reproduction rebound in our precious walleye population, Phil Resch, Chairman of the Fisheries & Habitat Committee declares project continuation with the 2024 season open for battling the bullheads! The collection site at the city pier (northeast end of lake) will open July 6, 2024 and be staffed for six (6) consecutive Saturday’s from 2:00pm to 4:00pm to take, count and properly dispose of all bullhead minnows, eggs, and adults that volunteers drop off. Please join us in our effort to increase the walleye and perch populations!

With DNR-required volunteer applications and related documentation not yet received prior to the printing of this newsletter, interested volunteers should check our website, www.lakemetongawi.org for details related to the 2024 project and to download DNR-required paperwork. Past participants who submitted their application to LMA and included their email address will receive all pertinent information via email as we learn more. Applications will also be available at the collection site.

Thanks to Don LeMaster and Lee & Ed Smith for their financial sponsorship of this project at the 2023 Weeds ‘n’ Walleye Banquet! Your generosity and support make a difference! 🐟



With much gratitude, board members Winnie May and Julie Janquart accept a \$4,500 grant check on January 15, 2024 from Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe for our Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program.

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 Part of the Lake Superior State System



FCAL Fall Forum

Mark Truyman

Forest County Lakes Association (FCAL) is holding their annual Fall Forums on Friday August 16th at the Lake Lucerne Pavilion, 4301 County W, Crandon.

The forum starts at 9:30 and the public is more than welcome to attend. This year speakers are:

- Kayla Littleton, Forest Co. Land Conversation Technician
Topic: Shoreline restoration opportunities

- Jeanne Fannin, Forest Co. Planning and Zoning Administrator
Topic: County Shoreline Zoning

- John Richter, Plum Lake Association of Vilas Co.
Topic: Wake Boat Boating Issues

This forum has always been very informative and the speakers allow plenty of time for questions. ➡

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Mark Truyman

Recently a LMA member contacted us to suggest to make our membership aware of this giving opportunity. If you are a client of Thrivent Financial you can direct

grant dollars to Lake Metonga Association, which is a 501c3 organization. If you're a client, contact your representative for more information. ➡

Lake Metonga
SHORELINE SHINDIG!

**JUNE 8
12-2PM**

JOIN US
Come down, anchor your boats and if you don't have a boat, wade in and/or bring your floaties. Your coolers are welcome on our boats!

SOUTH SHORE SANDBAR; VETERAN'S PARK
ALL ARE INVITED!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 8

Shoreline Shindig 2:00 pm to ?

...

Saturday, June 29

Annual Meeting,
Crandon High School.
Doors open @8:00 am,
Meeting 9:00 am sharp

...

Friday, July 5

Boat Parade 1:00,
Picnic 2:00 @ Charlie's Resort

...

Friday, August 16

FCAL Fall Forum, 9:30,
Lake Lucerne Pavilion

...

Saturday, October 19

Weeds 'n' Walleye Banquet -
Mole Lake Conference Center

Get Your Lake Apparel



- Long Sleeve T-shirts
- Woven Shirts
- Varsity Sweatshirts
- Hooded Sweatshirts
- Jackets

Support the Lake Association with these choices of apparel. See the clothing choices at Charlie's Lake Metonga Resort, Tamarack Outfitters LLC, or visit our website www.lakemetongawi.org/apparel. For more information, contact us at: lakemetongaclothing@gmail.com.

Lake Association Contacts:

4th of July Boat Parade & Picnic

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Weeds'n'Walleyes Banquet

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Lake Metonga Association

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Photo courtesy of Mike and Linda Duff



Photo posted at the LMA Facebook page



Photo courtesy of Lynn Smith