



NEWS

FALL 2010

Volume 2 Edition 9

www.nelsonlakeassociation.org

Nelson Lake Association a 501(c)3 Non-profit Organization

NELSON LAKE LANDING HOSTS EVENTS



The Annual Meeting on June 12, 2010 was held at the Nelson Lake Landing hosted by John and Linda Welter. We had 42 members brave the threatening weather to join our meeting.

Special guest speakers included Kristi Maki, Aquatic Invasive Coordinator for Sawyer County with an update on the invasive species in our area lakes.



Scott Toshner DNR Barnes area Eau Claire Chain of Lakes presentation was on "Fishsticks" projects, including discussion of what can be done to restore submerged habitat to lakes and the success he has currently experienced in the Eau Claire Chain.



Eric Wellauer, County Sanitarian & Joel Murry, intern from the UW Stevens Point gave current progress on the septic surveys on Nelson Lake.

We had sharing of valuable information plus question and answer time for all members to have an opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns.

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 11, 2011



The Nelson Lake Association Picnic on August 14, 2010 at the Nelson Lake Landing was hosted by John and Linda Welter. 104 Nelson Lake Association members and friends participated.

Fun was had by all, food was plentiful and the Minnow Races for the kids were a huge hit, I think we can expect that to be an annual tradition.



The two winners were Ashlyn Zalesky 6 and Brett Durovy-Meeker 7 winning a fishing tackle gift pack.



A special thank you to all who donated to our silent auction—we raised \$468.00 for our association. Rain was in the air but held off until after the picnic had ended.

Don't miss our picnic next year August 13, 2011



NEW BOARD MEMBER
Mary Walker, Secretary



President
Bill Wilcox
634-7128

Vice President
Harold Burton
634-2909

Secretary
Mary Walker
634-3134

Treasurer
Casey Stangl
699-1213

Board Members

Duane Arndt
634-4722

Gordy Christians
634-3156

Diane Cooper
634-2800

Art Saxum
634-5073

Bob Terry
634-5727

Dan Vertanen
634-6780

Bob Walker
634-3134

John Welter
634-4175

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Bill Wilcox



This past summer the Sawyer County Zoning and Conservation department completed the septic survey around Nelson Lake. This was a significant action that will go a long way in protecting Nelson Lake for current users of the lake and for future generations of lake users. I want to personally thank all of you who had your systems inspected.

There are a total of 453 septic systems around Nelson Lake. 417 of these systems were inspected of which 336 passed, 44 failed, 31 were inconclusive, and 6 received an order for correction. There were 36 systems that were not inspected because the homeowners would not allow inspection.

The report is currently in draft form but I found one paragraph very interesting. *Many homeowners were surprised to learn that their septic systems were failing because they had "never had a problem with them." Unfortunately, though superficially functioning, these failing systems are/were not treating the sewage before reaching groundwater.* When the report gets finalized, we will make it available to anyone who would like to review it or it may be possible to post it on the web site.

For those who chose not to have their systems inspected, I ask you to reconsider. Just because the water goes down when you flush the toilet, it does not mean that it is being treated properly before entering the ground water and eventually the lake. The only way to make sure is to have the system inspected. All you have to do is contact the Sawyer County Sanitarian and he will arrange an inspection.

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 8, 2011 WINTERAMA

JUNE 11, 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

AUGUST 13, 2011 LAKE ASSOCIATION PICNIC

FROM YOUR TREASURER

Casey Stangl

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of September 30, 2010, the end of our second quarter we have:

Checking account \$3,020.88 .

The Capitol One MMC
\$16,840.18.

Our total at this time is \$
19,861.06.

The individual funds are:

General fund \$ 11,840.85

Walleye fund \$2,795.67

Lake Projects fund (\$702.41)

Invasive Species fund \$ 5,926.95

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have
248 members paid.

People have been very
good about paying their dues
and adding donations for
invasive species monitoring
and fisheries

Thank you



Visit our website at www.nelsonlakeassociation.org

FISHERIES UPDATE by Dan Vertanen

Nelson Lake Fisheries Management Plan has at its focal point stocking of the lake with 12,500 extended growth walleyes (EGW) for 5 consecutive years. This stocking effort was accomplished last year. Fish purchased directly by NLA from private fish hatcheries has cost from \$1.25 to \$2.25 per fish.

Over these 5 years the DNR has also stocked the lake with thousands of EGW from their Spooner hatchery. The regular stocking of EGW has as its goal, jump starting the natural reproduction of walleyes in Nelson Lake.

The DNR now promotes continued stocking of EGW beyond the initial 5 year period. But, this year the DNR is unable to provide EGW for Nelson Lake. The Spooner hatchery has no extra fish this year.

A unique opportunity has presented itself. Gollon Fish Hatchery is ending their year with approximately 10,000 extra EGW. The fish can be purchased at 1/2 price (normally \$1.55). The Lake Association is purchasing up to 8,000 EGW. Funding for the purchase includes \$2,700 from NLA walleye fund, \$2,500 from the Nelson Lake Resort Owners Association, and \$1,000 from Walleyes for Northwest Wisconsin.

Thank you to the Resort Association and WFNW. Another important matter under review by the DNR concerning walleyes is the proposal to increase the minimum size restriction for angler harvest of walleyes to 18 inches

and to reduce the daily bag limit for walleyes from 5 fish to 3 fish (Note: walleye bag limit on Nelson is already at 2 fish). It is expected that this rule change will take effect in 2011.



From left, John Welter Resort Owners Association, Bill Wilcox Nelson Lake Association and Steve Hawthorn of Walleyes for North West Wisconsin.

Fish Sticks in 2011
Bob Terry

The Nelson Lake Association is planning on 2011 being the year the "Fish Sticks" program gets off the ground. The wood-in-the water project was discussed at the annual meeting at Nelson Lake Landing and seems to make good sense, improving the lake's fish habitat.

The program includes taking standing trees near (but not within 75 feet) of the lake and building a network of connected trees on the ice so they can fall into the water in the spring to build fish habitat in the near shore littoral zone. Many fisheries research sources indicate that wood in the water is crucial to fish reproduction, growth rates and sport fish survival.

A recent fish sticks project was completed in Bayfield County that stirred some controversy with people wondering why anyone would put logs into the water vs. having a sandy shoreline. Like the shoreline buffer, it takes time to educate lakeshore owners of the benefits of diversity in habitats. Bayfield County has had significant success with the program in several Barnes area lakes, and is planning on expanding it.

Nelson Lake used to be an underwater forest, but with 75 years of Mother Nature's effects, we feel it's time to enhance its habitat.

On Beautiful Nelson Lake
Open Year Round

JAR & LORI WELTER
715-634-2783

15925 W FOUR SEASONS RD • HAYWARD, WI 54843
5 miles north of Hayward - Hwy. 77 W to Cty. Rd. 'T' to Four Season rd.
www.4seasons-resort.com •

Have a question about Real Estate?

Always happy to help you, your family or friends!

Char Weissmuller
Broker Associate, ABR, GRI
Office 715-634-7979 x228
Toll Free 888-634-8479 x228
Home Office 715-634-3590
charweiss@cheqnet.net

Over 30 years Experience
Nelson Lake Resident

REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS of Hayward, Inc.
Hwy 27 South PO Box 987 Hayward, WI 54843



Swan Round-up!

That was the activity of the day on Nelson Lake, August 26. Every year Patricia Manthey (affectionately known as "The Swan Lady"), Avian Ecologist for the Wisconsin DNR, brings along a DNR crew to round up the young resident trumpeter swans, known as cygnets. The goal is to capture the cygnets, band them, measure them and take samples for lab testing. The fun part is that we average citizens get to help!



Many Nelson Lake residents (and friends of residents) paddled kayaks, motored over in boats, or rode along on pontoons to participate in this annual event. The meeting point was the boat landing off Tagalder Road, since that is near where the swans



live. While the ground crew assembled dog kennels and got their nets ready, a DNR plane circled overhead and radioed the swans' location to the ground crew. All the watercraft then circled around the swans and the

DNR boat started after one cygnet. It was a tricky job; even though the cygnets cannot really fly, they can dive and surface quite a distance away. The DNR crew had no luck for a while. The first cygnet "captured" was actually gently grabbed by the neck by Shirley Redmond, Nelson Lake resident, who was in a kayak. Surprisingly, cygnets, once captured, show little resistance to their captivity, and remain calm. Shirley kept hanging on to its neck until the pontoon boat containing the dog kennels was next to her. After some maneuvering, the cygnet was carefully brought on board and placed in a kennel. In turn, all six cygnets were captured, several more by kayakers. It was quite a sight to see a swan happily riding in the lap of a kayaker!



Once all were captured, they were taken to shore, where Patricia directed the crew in processing of the swans. In addition to getting banded, each swan was weighed, blood samples drawn, and mouth and anal swabs were taken. Lead content is determined from the blood samples. After the lead results were obtained later in the month, Patricia reported that none of the Nelson Lake cygnets had elevated levels. Hurray! The anal and mouth swabs are used to detect avian influenza, and again, none came back with any evidence of avian influenza.

As for the bands, Patricia provided the following information: The collaring and banding of the swans allows the DNR to determine several things about the birds. Each bird gets a "primary marker", that aluminum band you've seen us put on the cygnets. These bands are issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service Bird Banding Lab (BBL) in Maryland <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/default.htm> to persons with federal bird banding permits. Each band has a unique number on it plus information on where to report observations of that band. The collars and matching leg bands put on the swans are called "auxiliary markers". We had to apply to the BBL for special authorization for these additional markers. BBL designates the codes and colors under the Swan Marking Protocol. Trumpeter swans can have white on green, white on red, or black on yellow collars and leg bands. We request black on yellow for Wisconsin because they remain readable when stained by our dark waters. The colored markers are very visible. They are easy for us to read in the field, and other observers who see them often send in reports to us and the BBL. From the reports we can determine longevity of the birds, age at first breeding, plus locations of stopover, wintering, and breeding sites.

All the citizen helpers were amazed by the swans' demeanor; they are the most docile and gentle creatures. There was no snapping or biting; the DNR folks said Canadian geese are another story! The cygnets quietly laid still while having bands placed on them, and put up with needle pokes and swabbing of various orifices. Truly they are one of the most magnificent creatures and it was a privilege to be able to see them up close and personal.

After each cygnet was processed, it was placed back in a dog kennel, and when all were done, they were taken to the lake where they were released all at the same time. What a glorious sight that was! From here, the swans will migrate to a site

As for the bands, Patricia provided the following information: The collaring and banding of the swans allows the DNR to determine several things about the birds. Each bird gets a "primary marker", that aluminum band you've seen us put on the cygnets. These bands are issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service Bird Banding Lab (BBL) in Maryland <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/default.htm> to persons with federal bird banding permits. Each band has a unique number on it plus information on where to report observations of that band. The collars and matching leg bands put on the swans are called "auxiliary markers". We had to apply to the BBL for special authorization for these additional markers. BBL designates the codes and colors under the Swan Marking Protocol. Trumpeter swans can have white on green, white on red, or black on yellow collars and leg bands. We request black on yellow for Wisconsin because they remain readable when stained by our dark waters. The colored markers are very visible. They are easy for us to read in the field, and other observers who see them often send in reports to us and the BBL. From the reports we can determine longevity of the birds, age at first breeding, plus locations of stopover, wintering, and breeding sites.



HAYWARD MARINE

SALES, SERVICE, PARTS, ACCESSORIES,
STORAGE & DETAILING

15721 W State Road 77
Hayward, WI 54843

Phone: (715) 634-4373
Fax: (715) 634-5807

haywardmarine@centurytel.net

SWAN ROUNDUP CONT:

called Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area by West Alton, Missouri. This site has been developed and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. <http://www.greatriverroad.com/Cities/wAlton/Riverlands.htm>

If you see a swan sometime in the future, you can report the collar sighting to Patricia, at the following:

Patricia Manthey
Avian Ecologist, Bureau of Endangered Resources
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
3550 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601
Phone: 608-789-5651 FAX: 608-785-9990
email: patricia.manthey@wisconsin.gov
Story by Sue Swenson and Carol Whirley;
Photos by Carol Whirley



WINTER RAMA

Mark Your Calendar
Winter Rama is coming
Saturday January 8, 2011
12:00PM (Noon)

Nelson Lake Landing.

Once again we will have the chili and desert contest and as usual, there will be other fun activities for everyone.



Early Morning Journey around the
Big Island of Nelson Lake
Followed by Fiddles, Food, Fun
& Dinker Drag Races at Noon

Saturday, June 4, 2011

Gerlach Landing Nelson Lake ~ Hayward, WI

Why???

Fun, Natural Beauty, Inner Peace,
& Three Great Charitable Causes!

*Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Hayward Wesleyan Church
NorthWoods Strings*

Please visit www.banderdinker.com or
www.companytwentythree.com for
event updates and notifications.

You may also contact Pam Ruetten at
715-558-3040 or pamelaruetten@gmail.com

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS by Art Saxum

Nelson Lake Association organized six individuals to monitor the two public boat landings on the weekends this past summer. This was funded by the WI DNR. There were 140 boats surveyed. We found a few minor violations that were taken care of at the boat landing. The boats were checked both entering and leaving the lake.

We plan to do this again next year and our objective is to cover the two landings every Saturday and Sunday for the months of June, July and August. We will be looking for people to do the inspections so if you are interested and would like to earn a little extra spending money, contact Art Saxum at 715-634-5073



STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!

- ✓ INSPECT
- ✓ REMOVE
- ✓ DRAIN

SCOTT'S SEPTIC PUMPING

OWNER: SCOTT POPPE
P.O. Box 13265 • Hayward, WI 54843
715-634-1450 or 715-699-7279
scottsseptic@cheqnet.net

Commercial and Residential
Septic Tanks • Holding Tanks
Dry Wells • Grease Traps
Car Wash Basins • Risers • Steaming
Tank Inspections • Portable Toilet Rentals
Handicap Units & Sinks Available



"I TAKE CRAP FROM EVERYONE"

Nelson Lake Landing



Nelson Lake
Hayward, WI

OPEN YEAR ROUND !
7 miles north of
Hayward on Hwy 27

13045 N. Dam Road
Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: 715-634-4175



PO Box 13084
Hayward, WI 54843

FALL NEWS