



Fall NLA Newsletter

October 2015

Raffle Winner

Tom Beaudin
was the winner!
Bill Wilcox
presented Tom
with the Lenovo
Yoga touch screen
laptop. Tom is
from Hayward and
is a Vietnam vet.
His son was
leaving for college
one week after this
presentation.
Perfect timing!

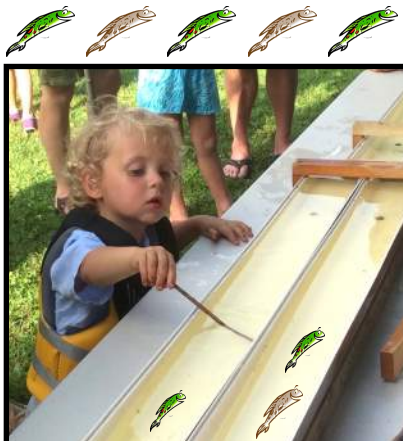
**PRIZE
WINNERS**



2016

- **Winter Rama 2016**
Saturday, January 2, 2016
Nelson Lake Landing
- **Annual Meeting 2016**
Saturday, June 11, 2016
Hayward Vet's Center
- **Annual Picnic 2016**
Saturday, August 13, 2016
Park Island Resort

Mark your calendar!



Minnow Race Winners!

Henry Moze
and
Ashlyn Zalesky

were the minnow
race winners!
They each received
a new fishing rod!
Congratulations!



From the President, *Bill Wilcox*

NLA Board Members

Another summer has come and gone....my, where did it go! Maybe it was because we were busy. Shortly after ice out the buoys were placed, then the annual meeting, spring shoreline inspections, garage sale, picnic, fall shoreline inspections, marking trees for the fish sticks project, swapping the buoys for winter, and stocking walleyes and white suckers. Throw in a few water clarity and water chemical tests, supporting *Fishing Has No Boundaries*, and managing two boat launch inspection programs and it is no wonder the summer went fast. It's possible I have missed a few things.

A special thanks to the people who signed up as shoreline monitors and did their spring and fall inspections of 31 miles of shoreline. We are fortunate that we have once again made it through the summer without the introduction of any new invasive species. Everyone needs to know how to identify curly leaf pondweed (grows early and then dies) and Eurasian water milfoil (grows late in the summer). If you suspect you have discovered some, mark the place, collect a sample, and contact any of the Board members. Early detection is critical.



Bill Wilcox
President



Harold Burton
Vice President



Casey Stangl
Treasurer



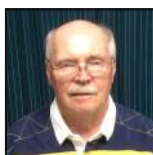
Steve Bilitz
Secretary



Rick Lindner



Gordy Christians



Dan Vertanen



John Welter



Angie Havel



Marna Lundgren



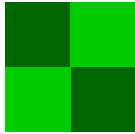
Art Saxum



Ruth Lindner

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- ◆ **Vice President**
Harold Burton
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- ◆ **Secretary**
Steve Bilitz
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- ◆ John Welter
715-634-4175
- ◆ Angie Havel
715-699-1484
- ◆ Marna Lundgren
715-634-7748
- ◆ Art Saxum
715-634-5073
- ◆ Ruth Lindner
715-634-4290



From the Treasurer, *Casey Stangl*

Membership



Our membership as of now is 280 members.

Welcome to the new members that have joined us this year and thanks to everyone for their continued support.

Our Financial Report is as follows:



Finance Update

Peoples Bank account.....	\$ 8,346.11
Capital One MMC.....	\$29,753.00
General Funds.....	\$27,974.45
Fish & Wildlife Funds.....	\$ 4,215.08
Invasive Species Funds.....	\$ 5,835.73
Lake Project Funds.....	\$ 78.84

2014/2015 NLA Scholarship Winner

Thayne Marlow was the recipient of the NLA \$500 scholarship. The scholarship was available to a graduating Hayward High School student who will be attending an accredited college or vocational school, enrolled in preferably Natural Resources or environmental studies. It will be awarded at the beginning of the second semester of school after a grade report is sent to the Nelson Lake Association showing a successful first semester enrollment. Thayne was an outstanding student and will do well.

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Your Hosts:
 John, Linda, Jessica, Julie

DNR Land Sale — Bill Wilcox



As part of this year's State budget, the law required the Natural Resources board to offer 10,000 acres of DNR land for sale by June 30, 2017. The department owns over 1.5 million acres, so the potential sale represents less than 1% of the departments total land.

There are three parcels on the Big Island in Nelson Lake that are under review by DNR field managers for possible sale. The Nelson Lake Association sent a letter to DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp and the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board strongly opposing the sale of any of these parcels to any private parties since that would betray the trust that the sellers had in the DNR to protect these parcels...forever.

The response we got back stated "The Nelson Lake parcels are part of the 2,575 acres under review for possible sale to a county." "If the county is not interested in acquiring the parcel(s), they will remain in DNR ownership."

We will continue to follow this activity to make sure the Big Island is protected.

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"I TAKE CRAP FROM EVERYONE"

Fish Sticks Plan - 2016

by Rick Lindner

This winter the Fish Sticks project will continue the work started last winter along the south shoreline of the Big Island. We will once again drop single trees along the shoreline, at about 50 ft intervals, and attach each one to the shore. This approach simplifies the logistics and expense associated with the project by eliminating the plowing, dragging, and placement activities. It was used last winter with very successful results.



The permit granted by the state offices last year included the target area and is still valid for this winter's work. During the summer NLA members together with DNR Fisheries and Forestry employees assessed water depth and identified about 80 trees that could be dropped on the target shoreline.



When the ice achieves a thickness of 10-12 inches, a group of NLA members and DNR employees will complete the project. The trees will be cut by certified DNR chain saw operators. NLA members will cabled the cut trees to the tree stumps on shore to prevent hazardous floating trees during the summer, keeping them where intended. This area is more exposed to wind and ice movement so the results will once again be monitored during ice-out and next summer.



This program may be starting to pay off. In the 2016 fall shocking survey on DNR Fisheries noted a substantial quantity of first year walleye in Nelson Lake which they stated were natural reproduction because there were no walleye stocked in 2015.

Swapping the Buoys Out!



Many thanks to the “boys” for swapping out the buoys!



It was a great fall day to complete the project. Helping with the task were:

- Rick Lindner
- Al Miner
- Steve Bilitz
- Art Saxum
- Bill Wilcox (not in picture — he was the photographer)



Boat Inspectors Needed



The Nelson Lake Association is looking for about 3 people to share the boat inspection duties next summer with Chuck Vind at the landing near the dam. The pay is \$12 per hour. The work is on weekends and holidays, so if we can get a total of four people sharing the work we can spread it out so all are able to be with family and friends when needed.

We will set up a schedule with each person working only about 50 hours during the summer months so the impact on family life would be minimized. Training will be provided.

At the end of the year a 1099 form will be provided for anyone earning over \$600 during the season. If you are interested in helping protect our lake from invasive species contact Rick Lindner at:

715-634-4290 (Home)
715-410-0411 (Cell) or
online at ricklindner@yahoo.com.

2015 Walleye Stocking Report — Rick Lindner

Recent changes in the Wisconsin DNR Fisheries stocking program resulted in 27,159 extended growth walleye stocked in Nelson Lake. On October 9th the staff from the Spooner fish hatchery transported 8 truckloads of walleye averaging 8 inches in length to 3 locations on Nelson Lake. The fish were stocked at the West Basin landing (8319), Gerlach Landing (9540), and at the former Tag Alder Landing(9300). With an expected growth rate of about 2 inches per year the walleye should reach the 18 inch minimum size limit in about 5 years. It's also worth noting that the fall electrofishing survey concluded that there is a significant

quantity of natural reproduction walleye in the lake from the 2014 and 2015 spawning periods. It is likely that the Fish Sticks project is contributing to the natural reproduction success by providing forage fish and for the walleye fry.



But with the current DNR Fisheries strategy of stocking 27,159 walleye every other year, questions have been raised about the the adequacy of forage fish in the food chain.

Many residents have observed that the sucker population has greatly diminished from the levels of 10-15 years ago, when the walleye population was abundant. Sucker fry provide a valuable food source for juvenile walleye. Therefore the Nelson Lake Association has been working with the DNR for the last 2-3 years to determine the viability of stocking suckers in addition to the walleye. As a result, the DNR issued a permit to the Nelson Lake Association for the stocking of 1000 White Suckers, 12-14 inches long, and on October 29, 2015 the stocking was completed. The suckers were purchased from Gollon Hatchery at a cost of \$3000. The cost was shared by Walleyes for Northwest Wisconsin and the Nelson Lake Association.



2015 NLA Activity *On Nelson Lake*



Annual Meeting



Saying Good-bye to Two Outgoing Board Members!



Mary Walker



NLA President Bill Wilcox presented certificates of appreciation & framed maps of Nelson Lake to outgoing NLA Board members Diane Cooper and Mary Walker for their years of service on the board. Both Diane and Mary will be dearly missed.

Diane Cooper



Thank you for your service!

2015 NLA Activity *On Nelson Lake*



A N N U A L P I C N I C



More Snapshots...



Annual Picnic

THANK YOU...

- Nelson Lake Landing — John & Linda
- Lynn's Custom Meats & Catering (baked chicken)
- Chester's Fried Chicken
- NLA members for all the great food!





Thanks everyone for making this such a fun summer!



FAMILY AND FRIENDS!





HAYWARD WISCONSIN

PO Box 13084

Hayward, WI 54843

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