



NEWS

Spring 2012

Volume 2 Edition 10

www.nelsonlakeassociation.org

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

2012 Annual Meeting

June 2, 2012
9:00 A.M. – Noon
Hayward Vet's Center



Agenda

- 9:00 AM Coffee, Continental Breakfast
9:30 AM Invasives
County Update – Kristy Maki
Boat Launch Inspections – Art Saxum
Shoreline Monitoring – Diane Cooper
- 10:30 AM Fish Sticks Report – Bob Terry
- 11:00 AM Annual Meeting Business
Approval of June 11, 2011 minutes
Financial Report
Membership Status
Nominations and Elections
Committee Reports
- 12:00 Noon Adjourn to June 8, 2013

Important Dates

On the Lake

Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 2
9:00 AM - Noon
Hayward Vet's Center



Annual Picnic

Saturday, August 11th
4:00 PM
Nelson Lake Landing



Winter Rama

Saturday, January 5, 2013
12:00 Noon
Nelson Lake Landing

Hayward Vet's Center

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Bill Wilcox

My, what a strange winter and spring we have had in Hayward this year. The winter was pretty mild with only one really bad storm and spring came at least 3 weeks early. Looking back, we had a fun WinterRama with good participation and the Fish Sticks project kept many of us busy but threw some surprises at us that made us grow old at a rapid rate.

Now some random thoughts:

We signed up for a new email service that will allow us to communicate on a timelier basis and so far it has been well received. Since it will be an important form of communication, we need everyone to make sure we have your email addresses and please try to keep us up to date with any changes. We will be very careful to protect your email address.

Our invasives species program last year was successful in the sense that we have no known new invaders. Our boat launch inspection program worked well inspecting 365 boats that included 797 people but we were not able inspect every boat that came to the lake so it is important that our shoreline monitor program works well also to provide an early warning when something happens. We only had about 50% of the monitors check their section of the shoreline so we need to do something to improve the participation.

In December we completed an Aquatic Invasives Species grant that covered 2010 and 2011 and have applied for a grant to cover 2012 which has been approved. The funding for the boat launch inspections and a few other expenses come from that grant.

The DNR has included Nelson Lake in the list of lakes to potentially get extended growth walleyes this fall. We will not know until later if we will get some or how many, it depends on the hatchery yield and where we are on the priority list.

We moved our annual meeting this year to the first Saturday in June (June 2) instead of the second Saturday. This was a onetime thing and next year we will return to the second Saturday.

See you all on the lake and at the annual meeting.

NLA NOMINATIONS

The office of President and three Directors at Large will expire in June and an election to fill these positions will be held at the annual meeting on June 2nd. The Nominating Committee will recommend candidates for each position. If you are interested in running for one of the positions please contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

- Harold Burton 715-634-2909
- Mary Walker 715-634-3134
- Gordy Christians 715-634-3156
- Dan Vertanen 715-634-6780



President
Bill Wilcox
715-634-7128

Vice President
Harold Burton
715-634-2909

Secretary
Mary Walker
715-634-3134

Treasurer
Casey Stangl
715-699-1213

Duane Arndt
715-634-4722

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715-634-3156

Diane Cooper
715-634-2800

Kathy Preuss
715-634-7572

Art Saxum
715-634-5073

Bob Terry
218-341-6019

Dan Vertanen
715-634-6780

John Welter
715-634-4175



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Photograph by Blair Harrington, No-Box Graphics



FROM THE TREASURER By Casey Stangl

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of March 31, 2012, we have \$5,527.45 in our checking account. The Capital One Money Market has \$14,383.30. We have a total of \$19,910.75.

General Fund	\$ 7855.65
Fish & Wildlife Fund	\$ 473.84
Invasive Species Fund	\$ 11758.79
Lake Projects	\$ (177.53)

MEMBERSHIP

We ended the year with 239 members. We have had a very good response from our members sending in their 2012-13 membership, keep the memberships coming. Thank you.



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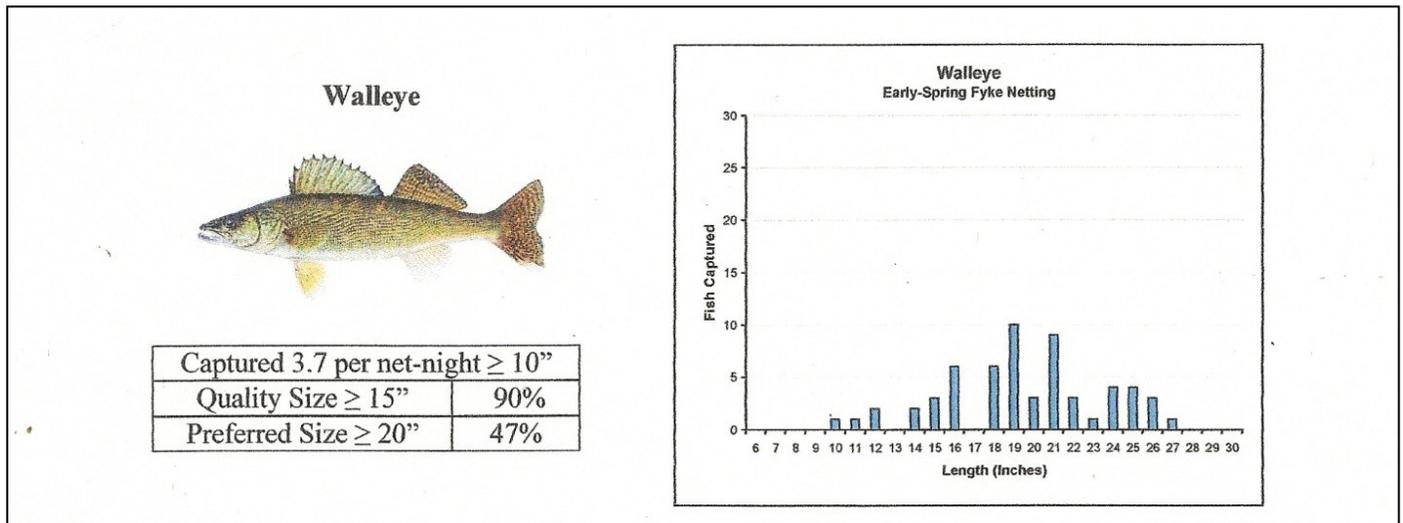
ginapilidesigns@gmail.com



Early-Spring Fyke Netting Survey Summary - Nelson Lake, Sawyer County 2011

The following is a portion of a report published by Joseph H. Krahn, LTE Fisheries Biologist, Hayward July 25, 2011. The complete report is available online at www.nelsonlakeassociation.org in the Fish and Wildlife section.

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke netting survey on Nelson Lake during April 23-25, 2011 as part of our baseline monitoring program. Eight nets were set overnight for two nights, resulting in 16 net-nights of effort. Primary target species were walleye, northern pike and yellow perch, but we also obtained useful data on the status of black crappie. An electrofishing survey conducted by our team in early June documented the status of largemouth bass, bluegill and other species. Those results are presented in a separate survey summary. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.



Our capture rate of walleye $\geq 10''$ in Nelson Lake was low in 2011 (3.7 per net-night) and was similar to the 2008 survey (4.9 per net-night) by DNR's Treaty Fisheries Assessment Team. The proportion of quality-size fish $\geq 15''$ was much too high in 2008 (97%) and was still too high in 2011 (90%) --well above the 2004 Nelson Lake Fishery Management Plan target range of 40-60%. This reflects insufficient recruitment of young walleyes in recent years. Preliminary analysis of the 2011 late-spring electrofishing survey suggests that Nelson Lake still holds high numbers of largemouth bass. Because largemouth bass are thought to be effective predators on young walleyes and competitors with adult walleyes for food, largemouth bass abundance is the likely cause of low walleye recruitment. Despite some survival of large stocked walleyes (6-8 inches) over the past few years, largemouth bass density remains much too high; and we strongly encourage anglers to harvest largemouth bass of all sizes. To help restore walleye as the dominant sport fish in Nelson Lake, the minimum length limit for walleye was increased to 18 inches, effective May 7, 2011. The daily bag limit is 3 unless otherwise posted.

Fishing Regulations – 2012-2013

Nelson Lake: Motor trolling is permitted. The daily bag limit on panfish is 10 in total.

After June 15, there is no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass. The minimum length limit on northern pike is 32" with a daily bag limit of 1.

Unless otherwise posted, the minimum length limit on walleye is 18" with a daily bag limit of 3.

Winter Rama 2012



Chili Tasting...Cast your Vote!



Yumm...the desert table!



Chili Winner: Lynette Terry with Scott Flynn



Putting Winner: Jan Enfelt with Bill Wilcox



Winning Putt!!!



Desert Winner: Jan Enfelt with Scott Flynn

How's Our Water?

By Bob Walker

Lake water quality can be both a scientific and perceptual concept, although the science of water quality does affect one's perception of it. The Nelson Lake Association has been performing water quality testing on Nelson Lake for years. It is performed by Association volunteers that work under the direction of the DNR. The testing performed allows the DNR to evaluate the water quality, especially algal growth, of Nelson Lake. The testing includes secchi readings, chlorophyll content, and total phosphorous.

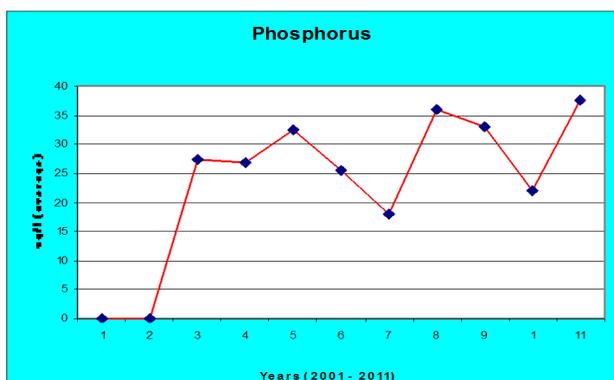
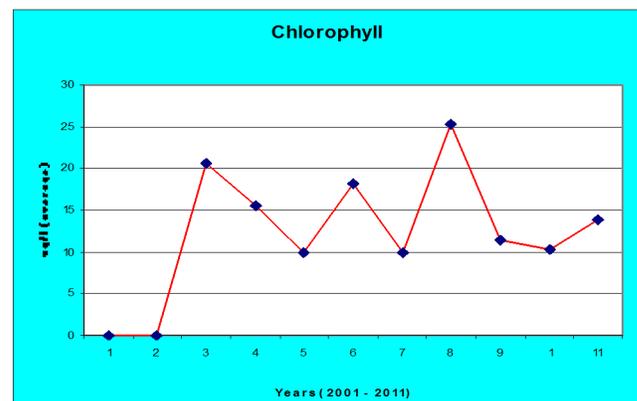
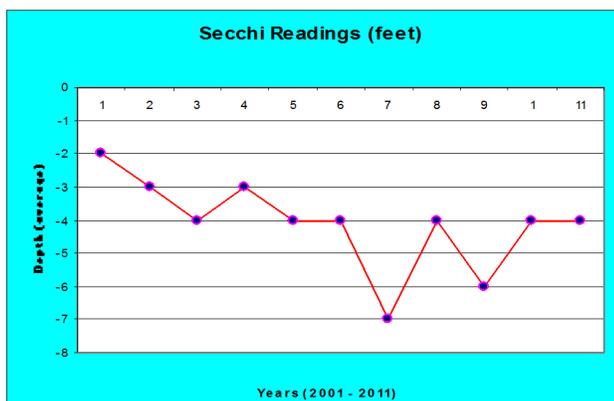
Only two of the five largest lakes in Sawyer County have been performing this testing since 1998. All test results, including specific data and DNR's Summary Report, can be viewed at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/Stations.aspx?Location=58&year=All>.

Information from the DNR's report for this past year:

The average summer (July-Aug) secchi disk reading for Nelson Lake - Site C West Basin (Sawyer County, WBIC: 2704200) was 3.75 feet. The average for the Central Georegion was 7.6 feet. Typically the summer (July-Aug) water was reported as **CLEAR** and **YELLOW**.

Chemistry data was collected on Nelson Lake - Site C West Basin. The average summer Chlorophyll was 18.2 $\mu\text{g/l}$ (compared to a Central Georegion summer average of 18.6 $\mu\text{g/l}$). The summer Total Phosphorus average was 38 $\mu\text{g/l}$. Lakes that have more than 20 $\mu\text{g/l}$ and impoundments that have more than 30 $\mu\text{g/l}$ of total phosphorus may experience noticeable algae blooms. The overall Trophic State Index (based on chlorophyll) for Nelson Lake - Site C West Basin was 57. This TSI usually suggests decreased clarity, fewer algal species, oxygen-depleted bottom waters during the summer, plant overgrowth evident, warm-water fisheries (pike, perch, bass, etc.) only.

Results of the water testing performed on Nelson Lake since 2001 (the last records available) are summarized below:



Note that Chlorophyll and Phosphorus testing were started in 2002. These graphs include testing conducted from May through October.

Continued: So...How is our Water? By Bob Walker

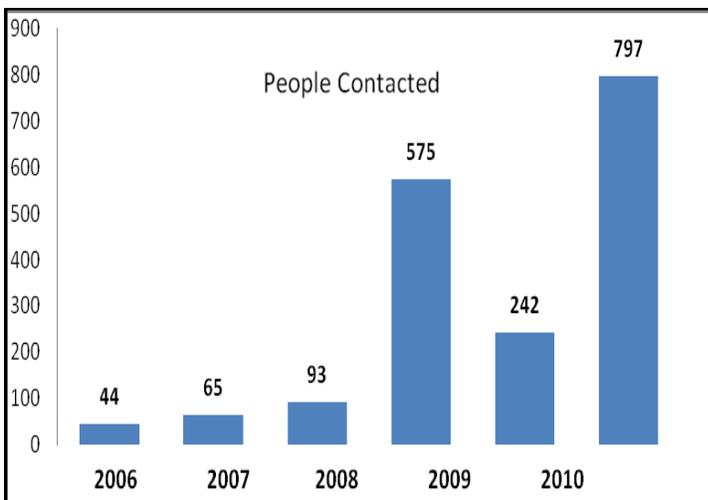
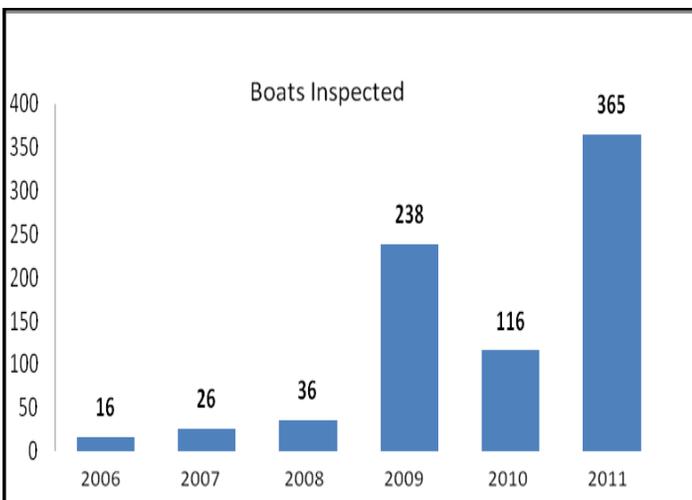
Water quality is a term used to describe the condition of a water body in relation to human needs or values. The terms “good” or “poor” water quality only have meaning relative to the use of the water and the attitude of the user. Confusion can arise when the term trophic state is used to infer quality.

What is meant by good water quality would be different for a person wanting to catch lake trout than a person wanting catfish. The relationship between fish production, fish community structure and trophic state do not change. What changes is the perception of what is good or bad water quality. The meaning of quality water heavily depends on the desires and expectations of the users of the lake.

Combined with our Association’s Invasive Species and Rapid Response Plans, and Fish Stick’s Project, our Water Quality Monitoring Program is one more weapon in our battle to preserve our lake.

Boat Launch Inspection – 2011 By Bill Wilcox

2011 was a good year for the boat launch inspection activity. We were able to hire people to cover almost every weekend from May through September at Gerlach’s landing. The majority of boats that are coming to Nelson Lake from other lakes without having been out of the water for at least 5 days, launch at Gerlach’s. If a boat has been out of the water for 5 days or longer, the odds of spreading an invasive species are very low. There is a few that launch at Tagalder landing but it is hard to justify an inspector for so few boats. It is unfortunate that we can’t inspect them all, but we can’t.



Nelson Lake Information Stream

Are you interested in participating in the “Nelson Lake Information Stream”? We are working hard at keeping our members up on current information and happenings on Nelson Lake.

If you are not currently getting emails from Nelson Lake Association and would like to email Mary Walker at mwalker0626@yahoo.com or Casey Stangl at lstangl@charter.net we will add you to our private email list.



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Fish Habitat in Five Easy Steps...

By Bill Wilcox

Plowing



Cutting



Dragging



Placing



Cabling



Results - Fish Habitat



Total Project:

370 volunteer hours 350 trees 70 tree clusters 3 sections of shoreline

Guidelines For Common Activities Submitted by Diane Cooper

Shore lands are defined as "Lands within the following distances from the ordinary high-water mark of navigable waters: 1,000 feet from a lake, pond or flowage; and 300 feet from a river or stream or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater." Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance section numbers are provided if applicable.

Retaining walls: Retaining walls within 75 feet of navigable waters are prohibited. Contact the Zoning Office prior to the replacement or construction of retaining walls.

Riprap: Riprap is a layer of loose rock or other material placed to prevent erosion. A DNR permit is required for the placement of rip-rap.

Sand blanket: A sand blanket is a thin layer of sand placed on the bed of lakes for improving the condition of the beach. A DNR permit is required.

Shoreline clearing guidelines: (Section 4.410, Shoreline Vegetation Protection Area) The intent of shoreline clearing policies is to preserve a 35' shoreline buffer zone of natural shoreline vegetation; yet allow shoreline property owners access to the waters abutting their property. Shoreline property owners must recognize that they have a responsibility to all users of the water resource to maintain the shoreline and its buffer zone, in as near to a natural state as possible. The clearing of shoreline vegetation becomes a responsibility balanced between the rights of the property owner, the recreational user and the local wildlife.

For any 100' of shoreline, a property owner may create an area 30' wide and 35' inland (a 30' wide x 35' deep corridor) more or less perpendicular to the shore, by the mowing, pruning and the selective removal of trees, stumps and shrubbery. This corridor may be no closer than 10' to a lot line and no closer than 70' to any other access corridor on the same lot. This corridor is the property owner's access to the shoreline. The remaining 70' by 35' portion of this 100' strip of frontage is to remain in its natural state with the exception that dead and diseased trees and noxious vegetation (i.e., poison ivy, poison oak, ragweed etc.) may be removed at any time.

Stairways, walkways, powered lifts, decks and platforms: (Section 4.49(6), Setbacks from Navigable Water) Stairways and walkways within 75' of the ordinary high-water mark shall be constructed in accordance with the following guidelines.

- * Width shall not exceed four (4) feet. Powered lift widths shall not exceed six (6) feet.
- * Shall be constructed to avoid erosion (i.e., not constructed on erodible soils, steep slopes or a bluff face).
- * Shall be visually inconspicuous.
- * The cumulative square footage of all landings located within 75' of the ordinary high-water mark shall not exceed 40 square feet.
- * With the exception of a "GARD GAZEBO PERMIT" (Section 4.49(2) Setbacks from Navigable Water), decks and platforms are prohibited. Please contact the office for permit information.

Source: Sawyer County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2003-2008

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2012 Annual Meeting

Hayward Vet's Center

See details inside



They're back....