



NEWS

Spring 2008

Volume 1 Edition 6

www.nelsonlakeassociation.org

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

Annual Meeting

June 14, 2008

9:00 AM – Noon

Hayward Veterans Center

You will not want to miss this annual meeting. We are planning some special things to celebrate the Lake Association's 25th anniversary along with an update on two important topics of interest to all Association members; fisheries management and aquatic invasives. The various committees will also have valuable information to share.

Agenda

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 9:00 AM | Coffee, Continental Breakfast |
| 9:30 AM | Nelson Lake Association – 25 Years |
| 10:00 AM | Fisheries Management Plan Status – Frank Pratt |
| 10:30 AM | Invasives: A Real Threat – Kristy Maki |
| 11:00 AM | Annual Meeting Business |
| | Approval of June 9, 2007 minutes |
| | Financial Report |
| | Membership Status |
| | Nominations and Elections |
| | Committee Reports |

NLA 3rd Annual Garage & Bake Sale

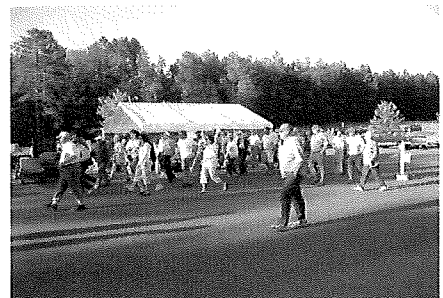
Donations are needed for the 3rd annual NLA Garage & Bake Sale that will be held on Saturday, July 12th. This has been a very successful fund raising event the past two years and we anticipate it will be again this year.

Goods such as tools, books, DVDs, toys, dishes, furniture, and all other usable household items can be dropped off on Friday July 11th at the Len-root Town Hall parking lot from 10:00am to 7:00pm. If you have items to donate but cannot drop them off on Friday, contact Bill Wilcox at 715-634-7128 and arrangements will be made to store them until the sale.

Bakery items must be dropped off Saturday morning by 7:00am.

The Garage & Bake Sale funds will be used for many of the valuable projects that keep Nelson Lake a premier lake in Sawyer County.

Please be generous. While spring cleaning, save those unwanted or unused items and donate them to the garage sale. Your donations are tax deductible.



May 2008

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634-7128

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Harold Burton
634-2909

Secretary
Hank Koch
634-2594

Treasurer
Char Weissmuller
634-3590

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at Large

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634-4722

Gordy Christians
634-3156

Diane Cooper
634-2800

Mike Dorenski
634-4567

Dave Stinson
634-2979

Bob Terry
634-5727

John Welter
634-4175

Dan Vertanen
634-6780

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Bill Wilcox

Mark the June 14th Nelson Lake Association Annual Meeting as a "***must attend***" event on your calendar. The three main topics are important to the lake and I think you will find them interesting, stimulating, and educational. The three topics are:

Nelson Lake Association – 25 years

Twenty-five years is a long time for an organization that is totally dependent on volunteer leadership and workers. We plan to recognize some of the people involved and highlight some of the key events and accomplishments during the past twenty-five years.

Fisheries Management Plan Status

We have completed three years of a five year plan to restore the walleye fishery in Nelson Lake. Significant labor and money have gone into this effort and there is a question in the minds of some of us whether it is working or not. The Wisconsin DNR should have the preliminary results of their spring netting activity and hopefully it will help to provide some insight.

Invasives: A Real Threat

The introduction of an aquatic invasive species into Nelson Lake is the most significant (but not the only) threat to the lake and the threat get bigger and closer every year. We all need to understand what they are, where they are, and what we must do to protect Nelson Lake.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD POSITIONS

by Bill Wilcox

The office of Treasure 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 14th. 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:

Duane Arndt 715-634-4722

Diane Cooper 715-634-2800


Bob Terry 715-634-5727

Bill Wilcox 715-634-7128

Visit our website at www.nelsonlakeassociation.org

ANNUAL PICNIC CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY By Hank Koch

Come... Join the Celebration



Annual Summer Picnic

As we are continuing to celebrate the 25th year of our Associations existence, the Annual Picnic will be an extension of this proud accomplishment. We will celebrate this event by having our annual picnic on August 9, 2008 at Nelson Lake Landing. The festivities begin at 4:00 pm, with games and prizes for the kids, a silent auction, and information on how to protect the lake. A BBQ with burgers, brats and beverages will be accompanied by all the side dishes and desserts from all who attend, so don't forget to bring your favorite dish to share with others. To celebrate the 25th Anniversary with a bang, a fireworks display will start at 10:00 PM. All this, PLUS we will be selling the 25th Anniversary NLA Cookbook!!! Don't forget to get a copy.



The fireworks display is wonderful when viewed from the water by boat or pontoon. There will be parking available for those who wish to view from Nelson Lake Landing.

Nelson Lake Landing
Saturday, August 9th
4:00 PM



Board of Directors meetings are held the second Wednesday of the months of
January, March, May, July, September and November at
The Lenroot Town Hall, 6:30 PM.
NLA Members are welcome to attend.

Celebrating 25 years....

The History of the Nelson lake Association

By Bill Wilcox

On August 16, 1983 Jeanne Nelson held an organizational meeting of the Nelson Lake Property Owners Association at the Ranch Supper Club in Hayward "to ascertain if there is interest in forming such an organization in the first place". Listed benefits on the invite included: town roads, shoreline, boating controls, fish management, zoning, pollution control, and "last but not least, taxes". 106 signed in at the door, about 40 couldn't get in, and she received an additional 29 letters of interest. 14 people volunteered to draw up a set of bylaws.

There was an organization named Nelson Lake Association, Inc. at the time but membership was limited to businesses and to be a full member you had to be a resort owner. Somewhere along the way that organization changed its name to Nelson Lake Resort Owners Association, Inc. and in 2001 the Nelson Lake Property Owners Association changed its name to the Nelson Lake Association, Inc.

The steering committee met on August 24, 1983 to work on proposed by-laws. Those present were Lloyd Nelson, Gene Highley, Graham Thoresen, Chancey Smith, Bob Eytcheson, Jeanne Nelson, Hazel Hoff, Ron Redmond, Isla Hams, and Ralph Johannessen. The first annual meeting was held on September 23, 1983 and called to order by "acting chairman" Ralph Johannessen who then outlined a brief history and development of the organization to date. He then proceeded to read the proposed by-laws and entertained questions from the floor. With a few minor changes the by-laws were accepted and election of officers followed and Ralph Johannessen became the first President of the new Nelson Lake Property Owners Association.

The by-laws stated: "The purpose shall be to protect and preserve the environment, of Nelson Lake, to maintain the natural beauty of Nelson Lake, to keep Nelson Lake clean and safe for all people and to provide a forum for the collection and exchange of ideas and to pursue any other lawful objectives". The purpose of the organization has remained much the same over the past 25 years with some additions necessary to qualify for DNR grants and qualify for IRS 501(c)(3) tax exemptions.

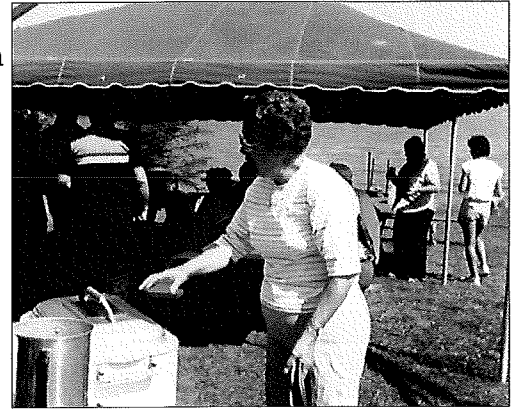
During the early and mid years of the organization there was a major effort placing fish cribs in the lake to provide fish habitat. There were log cribs (I mean large log cribs), Christmas tree cribs, PVC cribs, and plastic cribs purchased through a joint effort with the DNR. In more recent years the cribs were wood pallets banded together with concrete blocks. Today cribs are viewed by the DNR as an aid to the fisherman but not much aid to the fish.

PRESIDENTS

*Ralph Johannessen, Frank Benes, Chuck Hilt, Archie Hutchinson,
Mel Kelly, Dale Anderson and Bill Wilcox.*

The other topics that have received consistent attention over the years have been water safety (water skiing, jet skis, and no-wake zones), maintaining a natural, wild shoreline, the control and condition of the dam, and maintaining a healthy, diversified fishery.

The first documented reference to "milfoil" was in 1992 and the first presentation at an annual meeting on the topic of "invasive species" was in 1998 and only Eurasian Water Milfoil and Purple Loosestrife were mentioned. Today, aquatic invasive species are considered the most significant threat to the health and well being of Nelson Lake and the prevention of and/or early detection of aquatic invasive species are the Association's number one priority. Only time will tell if we are successful.



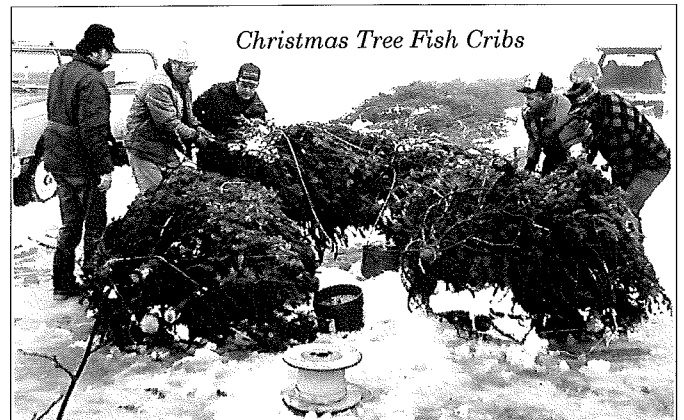
Jeannie Nelson attends one of the Annual NLA Summer Picnics.



20th crib for Nelson

The Nelson Lake Association completed its 20th fish crib recently to be placed on the bottom of the lake to help keep the fishery at the high standard it is now for both tourists and local residents. The association purchased materials from its fish management program fund, and the labor was donated by association members.

The other key focus areas of today's Association are water quality, fisheries management, and shoreline preservation....not all that different from when the Association was started 25 years ago.



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Over 25 years
experience

Nelson Lake

Resident



Beth & Barnaby Morgan

Cheryl Haupt

THE RANCH

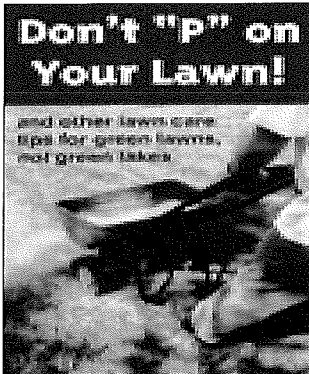
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DON'T "P" ON YOUR LAWN By Char Weissmuller



Minnesota has a Law to reduce it! Many counties in Michigan have banned its use. Wisconsin has a proposed Senate Bill 197 to ban it, patterned after the Dane County WI county wide Ordinance passed in 2004. The town of Clear Lake and the Steuben County Commissioners in Indiana have passed ordinances banning the use of it. And many more communities have acted. But until it is formally banned here—

Please do not use fertilizer that contains phosphates!

You will be helping to reduce the algae bloom in our lake. Remember “green lawns = green lakes” if phosphorus is present in your fertilizer.

A healthy lawn does require some phosphorus (20 ppm) however, in Wisconsin most soils have more than enough. If in doubt you can have your soil tested—talk to your local landscape company. Here are some tips for a beautiful green lawn, *not* a green lake:

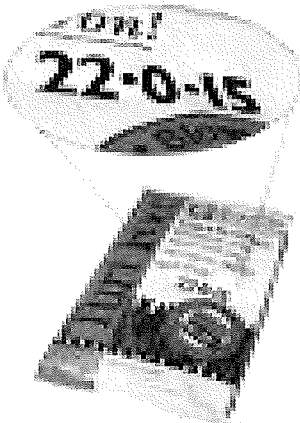
- Fertilize—only with **phosphorus-free** fertilizers. Look for the middle number to be zero! Apply fertilizer once a year, the best time is usually in the early fall. Sweep up fertilizer from walks and driveways. Do not fertilize right before a heavy rainfall.
- Water, if desired, in early morning when there is less than 1 inch of rain per week. Grass will survive droughts without watering by going dormant.
- Plant grass seed on existing lawns in the fall and in the spring to out-compete weeds.
- Leave legumes, such as white clover, among the grass to add nitrogen, which will naturally fertilize your lawn.
- Mow to maintain a height of 3 to 4 inches and cut off no more than 1/3 of grass blades. Leave clippings on lawn to add nutrients and organic matter, but do sweep them off of any paved surface.

Phosphorus appears also in our dishwasher detergent, and we who live along the waters should also try to limit the use of them, although they do not have nearly as much impact on a lake as do fertilizers. The province of Manitoba is acting to ban dishwasher detergents that contain phosphates by 2010. They are the first, but Quebec has indicated it will follow suit.

Manitoba’s Stewardship Minister said;

“Excess phosphorus contributes to the growth of algae blooms in lakes, rivers and streams. Manitoba is committed to taking bold action to protect the health of our precious water resources for future generations.”

I would like to think that we, here on Nelson Lake, are also that committed.



FISH AND WILDLIFE NEWS By Dan Vertanen**MINNOWS AS BAIT -REVISED**

Preventing the spread of VHS Fish Virus
Revised rules effective April 04, 2008
Information for anglers and boaters in general

Fishermen and boaters, you may not leave the bank or shore of any water with any live fish or live fish eggs, except for minnows purchased from a Wisconsin bait dealer, including fish farms. Anglers may keep purchased minnows leftover after a fishing trip and use them on the same water; or they may take these leftover purchased minnows home and use them on another lake or river if the fish minnows were not exposed to any other fish or water from previously fished lakes or rivers.

You must drain all water from boats and equipment when leaving any state waters or before entering the state over land. Anglers are allowed to take live purchased minnows home under other provisions of the rule and may transport the minnows in up to 2 gallons of water acquired from the bait dealer with purchased bait. No other fish may be kept in the same container with the minnows. Containers of drinking water do not need to be drained.

You may use dead fish, fish eggs, or fish parts for bait, if the fish, eggs and parts are preserved by a method that does not require refrigeration or freezing.

You may not use or possess live fish or live fish eggs for use as bait if obtained outside Wisconsin, except imported bait may be used if it was imported in compliance with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection rules.

You may not use fish as bait for trapping crayfish or turtles unless the fish was harvested from the same water on which the trapping occurs or was purchased from a Wisconsin bait dealer.

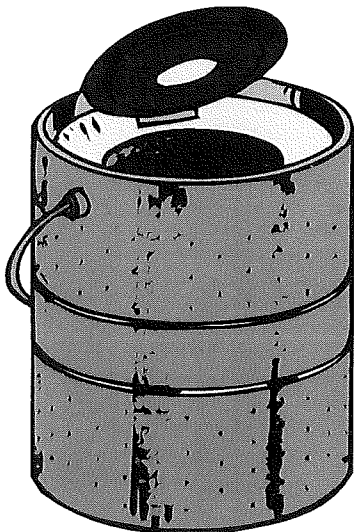
Anglers who harvest wild bait for personal use may not harvest minnows or fish for minnows for any purpose or use in any water body where the department has determined that the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus is present. A list of VHS waters can be found on the DNR's web site at dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs.

Anglers who harvest wild bait for personal use on waters where minnow harvesting is not prohibited, anglers can harvest minnows for their personal use only if they harvest the minnows from the water they will be fishing in.

Live minnows harvested cannot be transported away from the water, bank or shore where harvested.

People who live on a lake or are vacationing at a resort may keep live bait in floating or submerged containers tethered to a dock or boat. However, any unattended containers holding minnows or fish must be labeled with the owner's name and address.

For specific regulations and additional information on the VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) stop by the DNR office for literature, or visit the DNR website at fishingwisconsin.org.



NLA 25th ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

THANKS

On behalf of the Nelson Lake Association Board, we would like to say thanks to all of you who sent in recipes for our Twenty-fifth Anniversary Cookbook. The cookbooks will be offered for sale at the annual picnic in August. For all of you who requested copies, we will have them set aside for you to pickup at the picnic.

Thanks again for contributing and enjoy all the wonderful recipes coming your way.

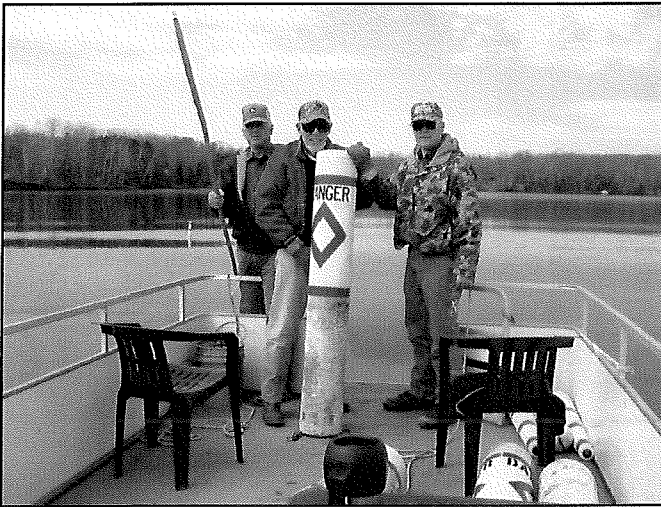
Rose Johnson, Hank Koch and Marlene Wilcox

NELSON LAKE ASSOCIATION COOKBOOK



Nelson Lake Association 25th Anniversary
1983-2008

The NLA 25th Anniversary Cookbook makes a great gift for loved ones and friends. Pick up several copies, it's the gift that will last a lifetime.



Is Boys or Buoys?

Dan Vertanen, Eric Verhoeven, and Skip Moger were busy putting out the hazard and no wake buoys shortly after the ice went out. The pontoon, SS Nelson Lake, was skippered by Bill Wilcox.



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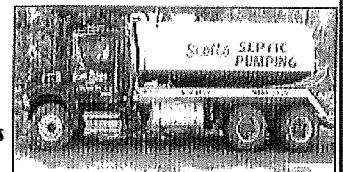
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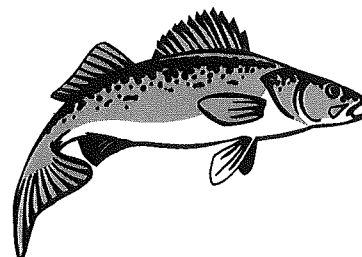
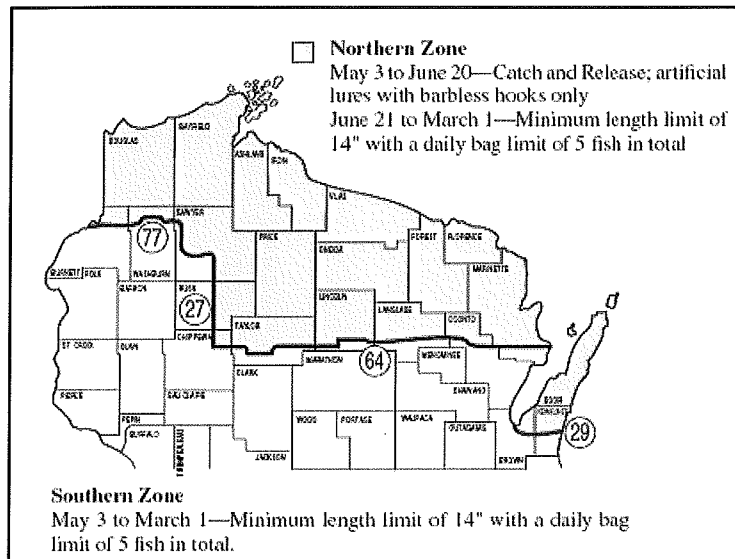
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"I TAKE CRAP FROM EVERYONE"

Quick Overview of Nelson Lake Specific Fishing Regulation

Bob Terry



The picture is out of the Wisconsin Fishing Regulations guide for 2008-2009. As shown, Nelson Lake is in the Northern Bass Zone. This year, during the catch and release season, May 3rd to June 20th, barbless hooks only may be used for largemouth and smallmouth bass, and artificial lures only. Does this mean you have to buy barbless lures? No. It does mean lures must be pinched, ground or sanded flat with no barb showing on the lure. **There is NO MINIMUM size limit for bass on Nelson, but there is a minimum 32 inch, one fish daily limit on Northern Pike on Nelson. The ten fish in aggregate daily limit continues for pan fish.**



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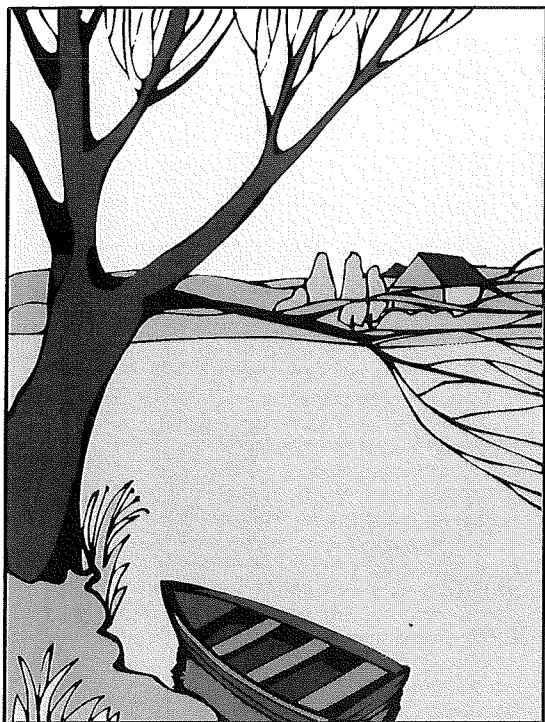
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CAN I CUT DOWN A DEAD TREE ? By Diane Cooper



"Removal of dead and diseased trees is allowed. Revegetation of the removal area is required". This is a zoning ordinance. What does "revegetation" mean? It depends. Each situation is different and can require a different action. You should contact the county before doing anything and then they can tell you what, if anything, is required.

If the tree falls in the water, you have the choice of removing it or leaving it in the water for habitat. If the tree is left in the water, then you must get a drop tree permit from the DNR and anchor the tree so it does not float away. If it floats away, you may be liable if it causes problems.

Sawyer County Zoning ordinances rule if the tree is past the high ordinary water mark (away from the water). If the tree is towards the lake before the high ordinary water mark, then the DNR rules apply.

"Removal of noxious vegetation (i.e., poison ivy, poison oak, ragweed) which poses a threat to health or safety is allowed. Revegetation of the removal area is required".

This is a confusing issue. I have talked with the DNR and Zoning and the Land and Water Conservation Departments and they all somewhat work together and have different jurisdictions.

If you have a dead tree and want to cut it down, the best thing to do is call the DNR and Zoning Departments before you do anything. It may be a good idea to take a picture of the dead tree before cutting it down.

Clean Boats Mean Clean Waters

- **Inspect your boat, trailer and equipment.** Remove visible plants, animals, and mud.
- **Drain all water** from your boat, motor, live wells, and bait containers.
- **Dispose of bait, if necessary, in the trash,** not in the water or on land.
- **Wash your boat and equipment.**

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TREASURER REPORT

Char Weissmuller, Treasurer (charweiss@cheqnet.net) 715.634.3590

As of March 31st, 2008, the end of our fiscal year, ending Balances were as follows: Checking account \$8,381.01 and Investments (Capital One Money Market account) \$14,316.76 Pre-paid dues (\$80) for a total of \$22,617.77. Funds in our major fund accounts were:

General Fund	4,537.03
Fishing & Wildlife Fund	13,921.64
Invasive Species Fund	<u>4,159.10</u>
Total	22,617.77

Many members have already sent their dues for our new year (which are not accounted for above). And we have received several generous donations from members. **Thank you!**

These donations will be reflected in the next statement. For those of you who have not renewed your dues for the April 2008 to March 2009 year, a membership blank is below. Please feel free to contact me with any comments or questions. Dues are still only \$20.

Nelson Lake Association Member Renewal & Update - Due by April 1, 2008

Last Name: _____ First Name(s) _____

Please check here if all information is the same as last year, E-mail addresses are needed !

Mailing Address:(street) _____

(city) _____ (state & Zip) _____

Lake area address: (if different from above) _____

Phone #(s): _____

E-Mail address: _____

Comments: _____

Mail to:

Nelson Lake Association

Attn: Char Weissmuller

P.O. Box 13084

Hayward, WI 54843

Membership Dues \$20.00

Additional Donation to:

Invasive Species Fund \$ _____

General Fund _____

F/W Walleye Fund _____

Total Enclosed: