

Spring



Newsletter

Nelson Lake Association - 2020

Important Dates:

 Annual Meeting has been **CANCELED** due to COVID-19 guidelines.

ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday
June 13, 2020

CANCELED!

ANNUAL PICNIC
Saturday
August 8, 2020
4:00—7:00 PM
at Nelson Lake Landing Resort

Lake Drawdown Starts
September 15, 2020



WINTER RAMA
Saturday
January 9, 2021
Noon - 4:00 PM
at Nelson Lake Landing Resort

IMPACT OF COVID-19

NLA ANNUAL MEETING

The COVID-9 outbreak and related Stay-at-Home orders have caused many unexpected changes for us all. The NLA Board of Directors has decided that due to the requirement for social distancing this summer, and the predominantly senior population of our membership, **we will NOT be conducting a normal Annual Meeting for the Nelson Lake Association.** But there is business that must be conducted annually. There are four positions on the Board that are up for election every year. Normally the members of the Board are elected by members of the NLA present at the Annual meeting.

To conduct the necessary election, a Proxy Vote of the membership and a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors to record the vote has been proposed and approved. The Proxy Vote will be conducted during the month of June. All current members of the NLA will be sent a letter with a Proxy ballot card by US Mail around the first of June. **The ballot must be filled out, signed, and mailed to the NLA by June 23, 2020** so it can be received and counted at the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors on June 30,2020

The current candidates for election are:

Treasurer

Cara Goldman (up for re-election)

Directors At Large

Casey Stangl (up for re-election)

John Welter (up for re-election)

Dale McPherson (new candidate)

Anyone wishing to be added to the ballot this year must contact Rick Lindner no later than May 25, 2020

IMPACT OF COVID-19

NLA ANNUAL PICNIC



PICNIC STATUS

Many of you may be wondering if there will be a picnic for NLA members this year. With the current guidelines for social distancing, due to COVID-19, it looks like the picnic cannot take place until Wisconsin reaches Phase Three of the Federal guidelines, allowing more than 50 people to gather. Even then, extra precautions must be observed especially for vulnerable individuals. We don't know when Wisconsin will be in Phase Three. The date we have been planning for the picnic is August 8th. A lot can happen before then.

Therefore, the decision on whether to have the picnic will be made in June. The decision will be communicated to all members by email or US mail.



GETTING OUTDOORS and helping to keep Nelson Lake roads litter free. We appreciate NLA members that gather their families together to pick up litter along our lake roads.

Thank you for keeping our roads beautiful

A New NLA FUN Event

Join
us



Kayak the Big Island

August 8, 2020

2:00 P.M. at Gerlach Landing

This is an informal, just-for-fun event for NLA members and their family.

If you're interested, have your kayak ready to launch at Gerlach Landing at 2:00 pm on August 8. We'll paddle for two hours around the Big Island and meet back at Gerlach Landing.

Questions? Call or text Paula Bilitz @ 651-329-1815





From the President

Rick Lindner



There are two important topics I want to share with you in this newsletter.

First, the DNR completed their bi-annual stocking of extended growth (6-8 inch) walleye last fall. In October, 2019, the Spooner Fish Hatchery team stocked 27,159 walleye in Nelson Lake. That brought the total number of extended growth walleye stocked in Nelson Lake to 183,070 since the stocking efforts began in 2003. In past years the stocking occurred in one or two locations, but in 2019 five locations were used for the stocking effort. The locations used were Gerlach Landing, Tag Alder Access, Four Seasons Resort, Reiskes Resort, and Nelson Lake Lodge. The reason five locations were used was due to the results of the fall Electro-Fishing Survey which showed a plentiful distribution of forage fish throughout the lake. A broader distribution of stocked fish may increase the survival rate of stocked walleye, which has only been about 10% in recent years.

Second (and probably the most important topic) is our progress on the plans to draw down the lake level during the winter of 2020-21. You may recall from the articles in the spring newsletter that the drawdown is a strategy to restore the gravel spawning beds by exposing the weed growth that covers them to a winter freeze which should reduce the weed growth. The lake level will be lowered 4 feet from the normal gauge water level, **starting September 15th, 2020, and dropping about 14 inches per week until the desired level is achieved.** While the water is low, the Township will repair the boat ramps and the County will inspect the Dam and Stop Logs. The County Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee approved the plan at their meeting on February 12th, 2020, and it was published in the Sawyer County Record the following week.

For property owners on Nelson Lake it will be very important to plan boat removals early next fall. Boats should be removed from boat lifts by September 15th because the water level will go down very quickly, making it very difficult to get boats off their lifts. Also, if you hire a pontoon with fork lift to remove your lift or dock, that work will have to be completed by September 15th.

Don't be tempted to leave your dock in over winter. Refill will begin in March, 2021, while there will still be significant ice on the water. The ice could damage docks as it moves around in the spring winds. Be safe. Take your docks and lifts out of the lake as you normally would.

There will be significant communication this summer in an attempt to ensure everyone is well aware. Posters will be created and posted at the landings and at resorts. Handout cards will be made and distributed at the boat landings by the boat inspectors. Alerts will be sent to all members of the association as key dates approach. And we encourage everyone to pass the word to property owners and neighbors who may not be association members. Your help in communicating this information will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your support.

Rick Lindner

More on the Drawdown

Hopefully this article will answer your questions about the planned Drawdown.

- **Drawdown will start September 15, 2020.**

The Drawdown needs to start early enough to obtain the target level in time for the Township to perform the needed repairs at the landings before the lake freezes. It may take about a week for the water to drop after each stop log is removed, so 4ft drawdown may take up to 4 weeks. That only leaves a couple weeks for the Township to complete needed work before freeze-up.

- **The lake will lower about 14 inches per week.**

Each stop log is about 14 inches and one will be removed each week until the target level is obtained. The first day after the log is removed will see the fastest water drop. As the water lowers the flow will slow down until the next log is removed.

- **The drawdown target is 4ft below normal water gauge level by October 15th.**

At 4ft below normal water level enough of the concrete slabs at the landings will be exposed so the hooks can be reached and the slabs can be moved. Also 4ft will expose most of the weed growth covering the shallow spawning beds. As the ice freezes to a normal thickness of 30-36 inches any weed growth not exposed to the air will also be frozen so the freeze should go beyond 5ft, which is the depth that most weed growth stops due to the dark water in Nelson Lake.

- **Refill target is April 15, 2021, before spawning season at Ice-Out.**

The average date of ice-off is around April 20th, and spawning begins the first week of open water. To refill by April 15th the raising of the water will begin about mid March. This will create some open water along the shorelines so access to the ice will end earlier than most years.

- **Property owners must have all boats off their lifts by September 15, 2020.**

This date is important because the water level will drop quickly when the first stop log is removed, making it very difficult to get a boat off a lift. Please plan to remove your boats early. Don't even wait until the next day because that could be too late.

- **Lifts and docks requiring pontoon forklift should also be removed by September 15, 2020.**

Some property owners hire a service that uses a pontoon boat with a forklift to move their lift or dock from the water to the shore for the winter. After September 15th the water will become too low for that service to operate. Please schedule that service early so they can do the work you need accomplished.

(continued on next page)

More on the Drawdown (continued)

- **Do not leave docks or lifts in the lake over winter, ice damage could occur during refill.**

This means that ice will still be on the water as the lake is refilled, so some movement of the ice is possible due to wind currents. If the ice comes into your shoreline it could cause significant damage to any dock or lift not removed in the fall. Please remove your docks and lifts in the fall as you normally would on years with normal water levels. Don't be tempted to leave them in with the water low.

- **County will inspect the dam structure and stop logs.**

The dam and stop logs have never been inspected since they were initially installed. It's fair to say that a good inspection is due. We don't want to see either fail and cause the lake to dry up until repairs can be made.

- **Boat landing repairs are planned while water is low before freeze up.**

You may have noticed that some of the concrete slabs have shifted out, especially at the Park landing. This is due to people unloading or loading their boats by powering them off or on the trailer with the boat motor (power loading). It washes out the soil structure under the slabs causing them to slide. It's much better to use the wench when loading a boat and manually push the boat off the trailer when unloading. When the water is at normal level it's very difficult to attach the hooks and move the slabs back into position. The slabs at the Park landing may have to be removed so the structure can be repaired before placing them back into position. This can only be done when the water is low.

- **Jolly Fisherman Road may be closed for about one day when water gets low enough to remove and replace a culvert. Signs will be posted to inform residents. This depends on State approval of the work schedule.**

This work by the township is dependent on obtaining court approval to complete it later than required by the DNR directive. The court hearing has yet to be scheduled. At normal level the lake water is high enough that a dam would be required to keep lake water out of the excavation area. But with low water during the drawdown a dam is not needed for lake water so the work can be completed faster.

- **Extra caution will be needed when driving or snowmobiling on the ice due to exposed stumps in some areas.**

Snow cover will make it very difficult to see stumps protruding above the ice. Any travel on the ice is at your own risk. The Snowmobile trails on the lake will be marked as usual and any hazards on the trail will be identified. Trails should be carefully followed. Water level will be stable before ice forms on the lake.

- **Fishing regulations will not change.**

Fishing regulations will not be changed during the winter drawdown. Ice fishing will still be allowed during the drawdown. While fish may concentrate more in deep holes, angling regulations are believed to be sufficiently restrictive to prevent over-harvest.

March 13, 2020

TOWN OF LENROOT ACTIVITY UPDATE

Township road construction for 2020 will include graveling Thannum and Phipps Fire lanes, raising a short segment of Company Lake Road adjacent to Company Lake, pulverizing and repaving a segment of Mosquito Brook Road adjacent to the Phipps Springs crossing, and pulverizing and repaving part or all of Hard Rock Circle and Clem's Road. The actual amounts will depend on the bids that are submitted and timing will depend on the successful contractor's timetable.

The Nelson Lake Park is complete as planned with the installation of the new black top (see pictures below). Documentation to receive the reimbursement from DNR has been submitted and the contributions from cooperators such as NLA and the Nelson Lake Resort Association have been received. There are still a number of possible development elements beyond those included in the grant such as electricity in the shelter, picnic tables for the shelter, playground equipment, a handicapped fishing pier, and landscaping that will be addressed as funding is found.

During the anticipated drawdown in September and October the town will address any issues with the pads at the Nelson Lake Park and Gerlach Landing. The practice of power loading and unloading has washed out bottom material that was under the deepest sections causing them to slide deeper into the lake and separate, forming openings between them. Also, during the low water level we plan to lower one of the Jolly Fisherman Road culverts to conform to DNR demands.

Gordon Christians





From the Treasurer *Cara Goldman*

Financials as of March 31, 2020

General Fund	\$16,217.57
Fish & Wildlife	\$ 6,938.11
Lake Project	\$ 396.18
Invasive Species	\$ 9,964.51
Nelson Lake Park	<u>\$ 6,224.31</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$39,740.68</u>



Nelson Lake Association
currently has
250 members



thank you

Many thanks to everyone that joined our association this year and to all NLA members for supporting our efforts to improve Nelson Lake

Board Member Change:

During 2019 Art Saxum stepped down from the board. We want to thank Art for 13 years of service as Director. Jeff Hanson agreed to join the board for the duration of Art's term and at the December 2019 board meeting his appointment was confirmed. Jeff has been an active member of the association assisting with many NLA projects throughout the year. Welcome Jeff, we look forward to working with you!

NLA Board Members



Rick Lindner
President



Harold Burton
Vice President



Cara Goldman
Treasurer



Steve Bilitz
Secretary



Gordy Christians



Tom LeMay



John Welter



Angie Wuethrich-Dorenski



Kelly Plote



Jeff Hanson



Casey Stangl



Mark Schaezner

Board Elections

This year the Treasurer position and three Director positions are up for election. Cara Goldman will be running for re-election as Treasurer. Casey Stangl, and John Welter will be running for re-election as Directors At Large. Kelly Plote will be moving, so she is resigning her position on the Board. We thank Kelly for serving on the Board since 2015. Dale McPherson is a candidate for the open position. There can be more than one candidate for each position, so if anyone would like to be a candidate for the NLA Board of Directors please contact Rick prior to the Annual Meeting so your name can be added to the candidate list for the election.

Rick Lindner	President	715-634-4290
Harold Burton	Vice President	715-634-2909
Steve Bilitz	Secretary	715-634-2553
Cara Goldman	Treasurer	715-634-3750
Gordy Christians	Director at Large	715-634-3156
Tom LeMay	Director at Large	715-634-2594
John Welter	Director at Large	715-634-4175
Angie Wuethrich-Dorinski	Director at Large	715-699-1484
Kelly Plote	Director at Large	715-864-0015
Jeff Hanson	Director at Large	715-719-9072
Casey Stangl	Director at Large	715-699-1213
Mark Schaezner	Director at Large	612-860-9064



REGULATIONS



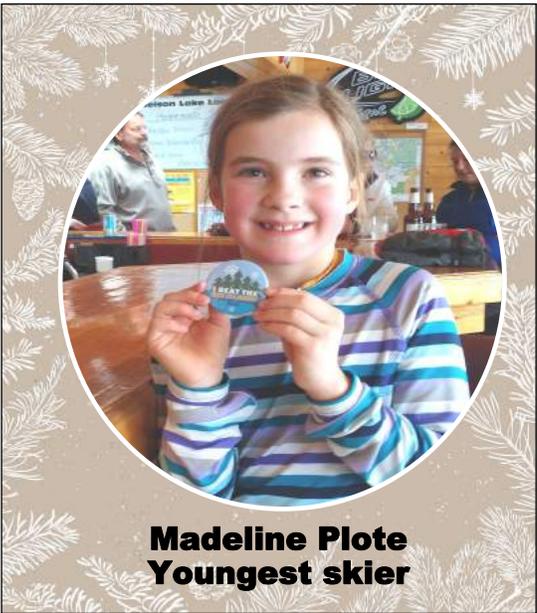
NELSON LAKE

Species	Season	Daily Bag Limit	Length Limit
Walleye	General gamefish*	3	18" minimum
Northern Pike	General gamefish*	1	32" minimum
Largemouth Bass	General gamefish*	5, both species combined	None
Smallmouth Bass	Catch and release only from first weekend in May to third weekend in June		None
Panfish (Crappie, Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Sunfish)	Open Year Round	10 combined	None

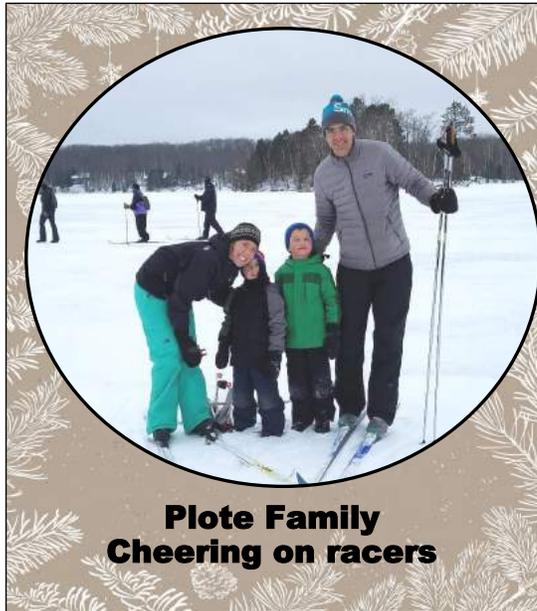
*General gamefish season runs from the first Saturday in May through the first Sunday in March

3-line fishing and motor trolling is allowed (3 hooks, baits, or lures per person)

WINTER RAMA 2020



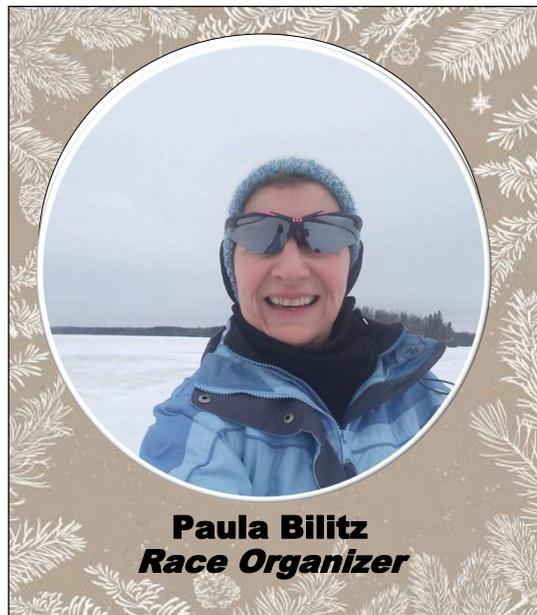
**Madeline Plote
Youngest skier**



**Plote Family
Cheering on racers**

Big Island Challenge Skiers

Fourteen skiers, snowshoers, and hikers found conditions ideal on Nelson Lake for the 2nd Annual “I Beat the Big Island Challenge” on January 4, 2020. Temps were mild and there was just enough snow cover and no wind. Perfect conditions for a fun day!



**Paula Billitz
Race Organizer**



Mark & Susan Schaezner

WINTER RAMA 2020

Chili and Dessert Contest Winners



1st Place Champion
Cathy Yohnk



2nd Place People's Choice
Lisa Clarner

DESSERT Champion
Kelly Plote



Keeping it in the Family!

Mother and Daughter Team!

For the first time, the 1st place winners of the Chili and Dessert contests were mother and daughter. Congrats Cathy and Kelly!

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Hayward, Wisconsin

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 scottsseptic@cheqnot.net

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