

# ***Nelson Lake Association***

## **SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER**



### **Upcoming Events**

#### **ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, June 14, 2025

9:00 A.M. — Noon

at Hayward Veterans Center

#### **ANNUAL PICNIC**

Saturday, August 16, 2025

4:00 P.M. — 6:00 P.M.

at Nelson Lake Park

#### **KAYAKING EVENT**

Saturday, August 16, 2025

10:00 A.M. — Noon

Depart from Gerlach's landing @ 10 A.M.



Mark Your  
Calendar

#### **WINTER RAMA**

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Noon—4:00 P.M.



# From the President

## Dale McPherson



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### From the President

Those of you who recall my message last fall will note that my subtle prediction that we would be likely to see a normal Northern Wisconsin winter in 2024-25 with snow and good fishing ice; *unlike the "winter" of 2023-24 when snow and good fishing ice was nearly non-existent.* Well, I was wrong, but like most weather predictors I still have a job. Folks who participated in Winterama had a good time, some great chili and dessert. However, since it seems winter is reluctant to visit us here in northwest Wisconsin, the 'Ski Around the Island' event became a Hike on Tagalder trail since there was no snow and insufficient ice to accommodate the skiing venture.

As you also recall we told you the lake level would be drawn down to facilitate repair of the launch ramp at the Dam. That all went well, and the ramp is now repaired. The boards were put back in the dam in early March, earlier than anticipated in fact, to attempt to catch all the water possible. The water level is rising, but it's taking longer than anticipated due to the lack of snow over the winter and rain this spring. Unfortunately, some things just can't be predicted.

As you receive this, we will be about a month away from the Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Vet Center. We hope you can attend. Four Board member positions are up for reelection at the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Picnic is for August 16<sup>th</sup>, so make plans to join in for great food, events for the kids and some great raffle prizes.

You will note on your Membership Form that there is opportunity to voluntarily contribute to a FIREWORKS fund, to help support the great 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks displays provided by two of the Resorts on the lake.

In closing, and as always, thank you for being Members and for your continued support of the Nelson Lake Association. Together we can continue to make Nelson Lake a wonderful place to live, visit and recreate. Be Safe and have fun!

Sincerely,

*Dale McPherson, President*





# From the Treasurer

## Glenn Rolloff



### Financials as of March 31, 2025

General Fund	\$29,130.04
Fish & Wildlife	\$ 140.00
Lake Project	\$ 1,124.28
Invasive Species	\$ 8,705.33
Nelson Lake Park	\$ 3,609.62
Tom Whalen Mem. Fund	\$ 2,400.90
Scholarship Fund	<u>\$ (393.00)</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$44,717.14</b>

**NLA Membership**  
**Stands at 254**  
**Households**



# NLA Board Members



Dale McPherson	President	612-210-4449
Rick Lindner	Vice President	715-410-0411
Steve Bilitz	Secretary	651-770-9755
Glenn Rolloff	Treasurer	715-497-6193
Gordy Christians	Director at Large	715-634-3156
Tom LeMay	Director at Large	715-634-2594
John Welter	Director at Large	715-634-4175
Mike Hallum	Director at Large	715-797-0903
Jeff Hanson	Director at Large	612-719-9072
Casey Stangl	Director at Large	715-699-1213
Mark Schaenzer	Director at Large	612-860-9064
Scott Wied	Director at Large	608-792-9505



*for supporting our  
Association*



## **43rd ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saturday, June 14, 2024**

**9:00 A.M. — Noon**

**At Hayward Veterans Center**

Join Us

For NLA

## **AGENDA**

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9:00 am	Coffee, cookies & donuts
9:30 am	Lenroot Town Report (Gordy Christians) Roadwork Plans Park Landing Improvement Update
10:00 am	Walleye Stocking Update
10:15 am	Kayak Event Plan
10:25 am	Scholarship Award
10:30 am	Annual Meeting Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of 2024 Meeting Minutes</li><li>• Financial &amp; Membership Report</li><li>• Fireworks Fund (New)</li><li>• Board Nominations and Elections</li><li>• Other Business</li></ul> Door Prize Presentations
12:00 Noon	Adjourn to June 2026

# SPRING 2025 TOWN OF LENROOT REPORT

*Gordy Christians*

A state mandated reevaluation for all properties in the Town of Lenroot is nearly complete and will result in increased property values this fall. However, the total amount of money that the town can collect (levy) has been frozen for the last ten years except for a minor allowance for new construction. Over that period, our township's total levy increased under 1% per year. The inflation rate over the same period was 3% per year on average. This means that the tax you pay for township expenses will remain essentially the same as past years. We have maintained and improved town roads and infrastructure

thanks to applying for and receiving grants, cost sharing programs, partnering with township-based non-profits, wise use of loans, increased state aids and a conservative long-term approach to budgeting.

This summer, a mandated biannual inspection of the Phipps Road bridge over the Namakagon River was performed. The engineers determined that a 30-ton weight limit was required to maintain the bridge until it could be replaced. (Previous inspections showed that no limits were required.) Later, a more thorough follow-up inspection showed even more damage requiring a further weight limit reduction to 15-tons. The replacement process which will be similar to that required for the Tagalder Bridge, has started.

The lake drawdown was carried out last September and October. This enabled the installation of an additional cement pad to be added to the Nelson Lake Park boat landing to repair the washout caused by power loading at that landing. This pad was connected to the existing pads with stainless steel chain. Even if more washing occurs, there will be no impact on the landing's usefulness because of the increased water depth at the foot. Stop logs were reinstalled on March 4<sup>th</sup>, two weeks earlier than planned because of the lack of precipitation over the winter.





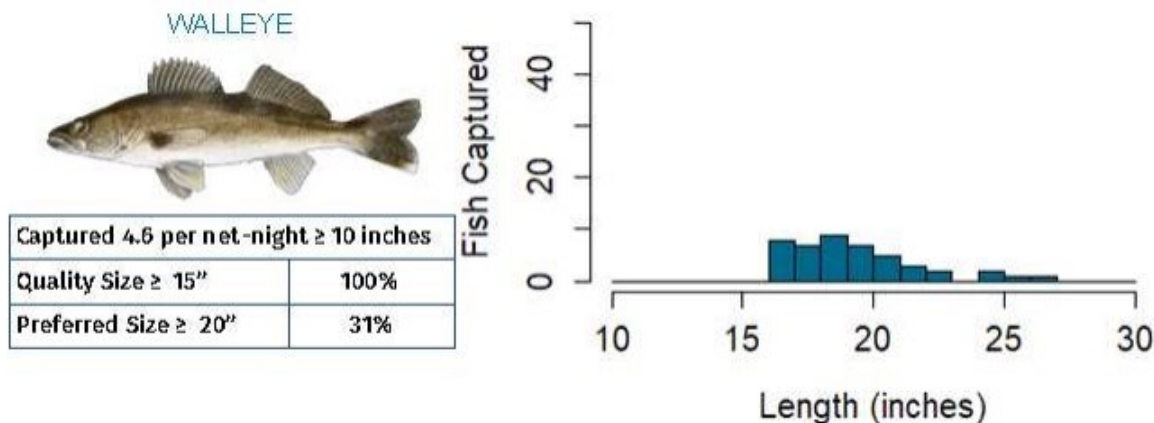


# 2023 SPRING FISHERIES SURVEY SUMMARY

## NELSON LAKE, SAWYER COUNTY

Report by Evan Sirianni

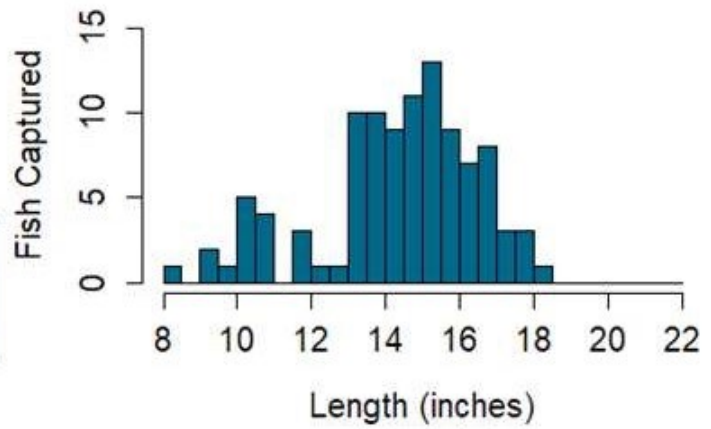
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Hayward Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke netting survey on Nelson Lake from April 28 to April 29, 2023. The primary target was walleye, but useful data was also gathered on northern pike, yellow perch and black crappie. Ten nets were set overnight for one night, which resulted in 10 total net-nights of effort. An electrofishing survey was conducted on May 22, 2023 to target largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and bluegill and included five miles of shoreline. 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.



### LARGEMOUTH BASS



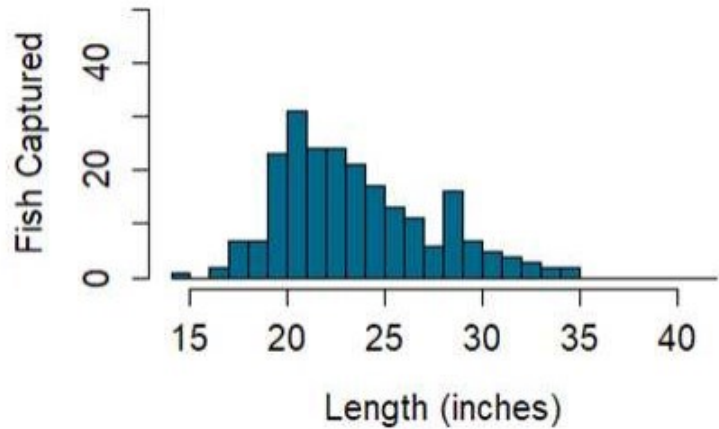
Captured 21 per mile $\geq$ 8 inches	
Quality Size $\geq$ 12"	84%
Preferred Size $\geq$ 15"	43%



### NORTHERN PIKE



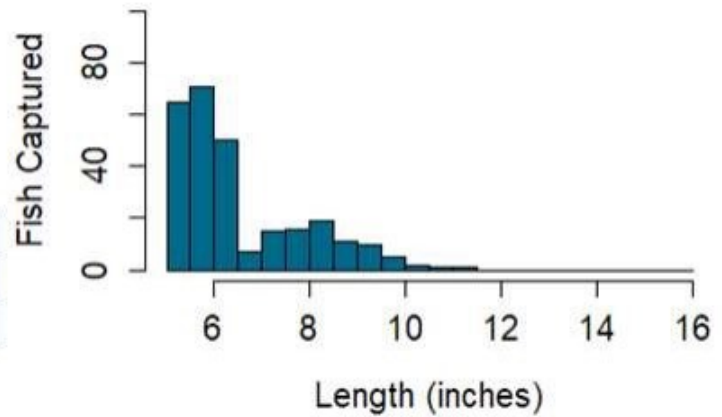
Captured 23 per net-night $\geq$ 14 inches	
Quality Size $\geq$ 21"	69%
Preferred Size $\geq$ 28"	17%



### BLACK CRAPPIE



Captured 218 per net-night $\geq$ 5 inches	
Quality Size $\geq$ 8"	18%
Preferred Size $\geq$ 10"	1%

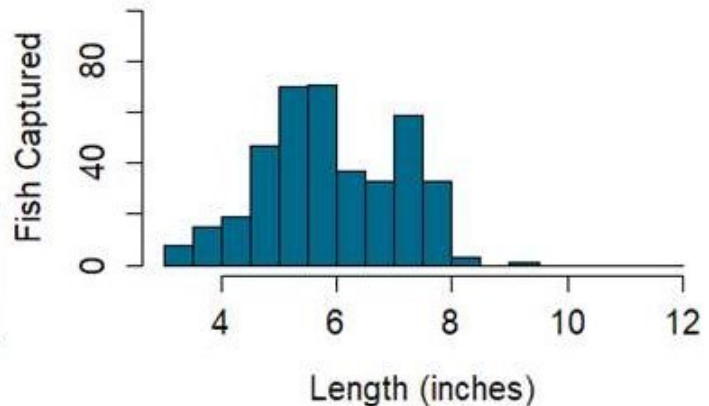




#### BLUEGILL



Captured 269 per mile $\geq$ 3 inches	
Quality Size $\geq$ 6"	42%
Preferred Size $\geq$ 8"	1%



## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The netting survey was timed to target northern pike as they moved up into the shallows shortly after ice-out to spawn and was also very effective at surveying black crappies. The electrofishing survey was timed to assess largemouth bass and bluegills as the waters warmed and as these species moved up into shallower waters. Smallmouth bass are present within Nelson Lake; however, none were captured during the spring surveys. Nelson Lake is classified as a Complex-Cool-Dark lake according to the DNR fisheries lake classification system. The “Complex” classification refers to the number of gamefish present within the lake system. “Cool” and “Dark” terms refer to the lake’s temperature and water clarity relative to other lakes. This report compares catch rates of lakes of the same classification as Nelson Lake.

### WALLEYE

The catch of walleyes (4.6 per net-night) was just above the median (50%) for lakes of similar classification. The overall size was impressive, with 100% of the walleyes captured being above a quality size of 15 inches and 31% being above a preferred size of 20 inches. However, the catch rate was average to low. Nelson Lake has been stocked with walleye at an every-other-year basis in odd-numbered years. The walleye regulation on Nelson Lake is an 18-inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of three.

### LARGEMOUTH BASS

Nelson Lake holds an impressive population of largemouth bass. The largemouth bass catch rate was 21 per mile, which was between the 75<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for lakes of the same classification as Nelson Lake. A quality size of 12 inches or more was attained by 84% of the largemouth captured, and 43% of them were at or above

a preferred size of 15 inches. Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass of any length may be kept in Nelson Lake with a daily bag limit of five fish (both species combined).

## NORTHERN PIKE

Nelson Lake offers a high-density population of northern pike, with quality fish making up a large portion of the population. The catch rate of northern pike within the netting survey (23 per net-night) was right below the 100<sup>th</sup> percentile (24.17 per net-night) for lakes of the same classification. Northern pike caught over 21 inches in length made up 69% of the total sampled, and 17% were at or above a preferred size of 28 inches. The northern pike regulations for Nelson Lake are a daily bag limit of one that must be greater than 32 inches.

## BLACK CRAPPIE

The black crappie catch rate within the netting survey was extremely high (218 per net-night), effectively at the 100<sup>th</sup> percentile when compared to other lakes of a similar classification. The proportion of quality-size fish (equal to or greater than 8 inches) was 18%, and fish greater than or equal to 10 inches only made up 1%. The panfish regulation for Nelson Lake is a combined species daily bag limit of 10.

## BLUEGILL

The bluegill catch rate during the electrofishing survey (269 fish captured per mile) was between the 75<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles compared to similar lakes. Less than half (42%) of bluegills captured were equal to or above a quality size of 6 inches, and only 1% of fish caught were above a preferred size of greater than or equal to 8 inches. The panfish regulation for Nelson Lake is a combined species daily bag limit of 10.

Survey Crew: Max Wolter, Scott Braden and Evan Sirianni, with volunteers Kevin Lynch and Dale McPherson

*Reviewed and approved by Aaron Cole*





# Nelson Lake Fireworks— A Tradition Worth Supporting

For many families and lake-goers, the fireworks displays at Nelson Lake Landing and Revelle's are an essential part of the 4th of July celebrations. The two resorts have earned a reputation for putting on exceptional shows that illuminate the lake, drawing crowds and creating memories. But behind these spectacular displays is a lot of planning, coordination, and of course, significant costs. That's why the Nelson Lake Association has decided to create a way for its members to easily contribute.

## How It Works: Donating Alongside Your Membership

The process for donating is simple and seamless. This year when completing your Nelson Lake Association annual membership, you will have the option to contribute to the new **Fireworks Fund**. Whether it's a small contribution or a more significant donation, every dollar helps to ensure the fireworks shows at Nelson Lake Landing and Revelle's remain a staple of the summer celebrations for years to come.

## 2025 Winterama

The Nelson Lake 2025 Winter Rama started with a Tag Alder ski trail hike. The hike began at 9:30 AM with a sunny sky and the temperatures at 5 below zero. 10 hikers braved the cold weather and completed the 2.9-mile hike in just over an hour. The initial conversations were mostly about

the weather, rain early in the week followed by sub-zero temperatures. This was a great social event, with people getting to know each other. The hikers included: Leroy, Deb, Mirian, Bob, Jessica, Meg, Rita, Lisa, Susan, and Mark.

Following the hike, the hikers and some thirty five other brave folks gathered at The Landing for libations and some great chili and desserts. There were ten entries in the chili and dessert contest. Thanks to all who participated!



Bernie Bell accepts the prize for "Best Chili" from Lake Association President Dale McPherson



Madeline Plote wearing the medal for Best Dessert presented by Dale McPherson



# WALLEYE STOCKING PLAN FOR NELSON LAKE 2024 – 2027

In the spring 2024 NLA newsletter, A walleye stocking plan for Nelson Lake was outlined. The goal is to increase the walleye numbers. On July 11, 2024, 9700 3" fingerlings were planted at a cost of \$7409. The fish were in good condition with no observed mortality.



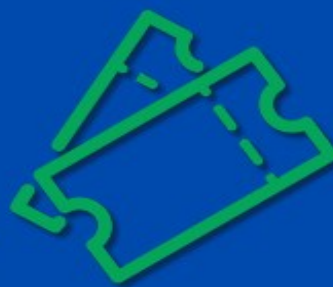
This is a new approach from the extended growth walleye stocking done in the past. The NLA board has agreed to continue this level and timing for an additional three years.

## Kayak Around the Big Island (August 17, 2024)

This year we had 13 participants and 3 dogs on the kayak around the big island. The weather cooperated with a light-winds, overcast skies and temperatures in the 70's. The main group started from the Gerlach boat landing at 10 AM, including paddlers from Tanning Point Road. Two additional paddlers joined in route at Norway Point. We made the turn at Eagle Pass and took a short break for water and snacks. We paddled together as a group the entire way. The Tanning Point people left as we rounded the island. The balance of the group paddled to Gerlach landing. The entire group finished the 4.5 miles in under 2 hours. The participants included: Cheri Arzola, Bob & Mariam Ubbelohde, Brent & Michelle Oja, Paula Bilitz, Scott & Jan Strandemo, Mark & Susan Schaezner, Ron & Sara Burton, Cathy Yonk. The dogs were GG, Would-he (Woody), and Pip.



# Nelson Lake Association 2025 Raffle



## Enter to Win

**Tickets are \$10 each,  
or 3 for \$25**

- 500 tickets sold; 3 prizes raffled
- Tickets available for purchase at the NLA Annual Meeting June 14 or at any Nelson Lake Resort



## 36" Blackstone Cooking Station

### FEATURES

- Cooking Surface: 35 3/4" W x 21 1/2" D
- Four (4) Adjustable Heat Controls
- Propane Fueled with Built-In Ignitor
- Rear Grease Management System

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## \$250 Lynn's Custom Meats Gift Certificate

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**2nd Prize  
Raffled**



## Yeti Soft Cooler

Hopper Flip 18

- Fits 30 cans (only)
- Fits 28 lbs of ice (only)

**3rd Prize  
Raffled**

Winners will be drawn at the NLA Annual Picnic on August 16. Need not be present to win.





**HAYWARD, WI**

*J-Ts*  
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Tami Majewski 715-607-0177  
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*A Cut Above The Rest*

Thanks to all the volunteers that make Nelson Lake a fun place to live and play. Your assistance with the many activities the association hosts during the year is much appreciated.

Our association depends on volunteers like YOU!

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*The purpose of the Association is  
to preserve and protect Nelson Lake  
and its surroundings,  
to enhance the water quality, fishery,  
boating safety, and aesthetic values of  
Nelson Lake as a public recreational facility  
for today and for future generations while  
respecting the interests of property owners  
and the public and to provide the  
opportunity for fellowship among  
Association members.*

[www.nelsonlakeassociation.org](http://www.nelsonlakeassociation.org)

Nelson Lake Association is a 501(c)3



## 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)**

## HELP WANTED



The Nelson Lake Association is looking for 1 person (age 16 or older) to share the boat inspection duties this summer at Gerlach landing. The pay is \$18 per hour. The work will be on Sundays. Normally it will be a 6 hour shift on Sunday, but holiday weekends may require extra hours. A work schedule will be established to accommodate any conflicts. Training will be provided. At the end of the year a 1099 form will be provided for anyone earning \$600 or more during the season. If you are interested in helping protect our lake from invasive species contact Rick Lindner at [ricklindner@yahoo.com](mailto:ricklindner@yahoo.com) or by phone or text at 715-410-0411.