

Muskellunge Lake Association, Inc.

Newsletter

May 2021



Volume

104

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE – Mike Newmeister, michael.newmeister@gmail.com 414-326-6130

After what seems to have been a lost year, we all are looking forward to the upcoming summer on Muskellunge Lake. While many social activities were curtailed last season, the Muskellunge Lake Association Board has been burning through Zoom meetings to keep abreast of our public enemy number 1, Eurasian Water Mil-foil (EWM).

The big news is that with the assistance of Joe Pallardy of Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc., in March our lake was one of only 4 in Vilas County to receive a sizable grant to address our infestation of EWM. This grant in the round sum of \$50,000 and follows our 2 previous grants.

In 2017, upon discovery of EWM, the Muskellunge Lake Association secured a Rapid Response Grant in the sum of \$14,997. These funds were allocated to a 'point intercept' survey our lake and remediation efforts of hand pulling and DASH application. Unfortunately, these expenditures were wholly unsuccessful in mitigating our EWM problem. To the contrary, our infestation continued to spread to nearly every shoreline and shallow areas in all bays.

To get in line for additional state assistance in assaulting our EWM, it was a necessity to prepare yet another Lake Management Plan. To that end, the Muskellunge Lake Association applied for and then received a 'Lake Planning Grant' in March of 2019. That grant, in the sum of \$25,000 was used entirely to pay our consultant, Emmons and Olivier, for services rendered in preparing the plan. This was an extensive undertaking and required a great deal of volunteer time and equipment to document the status of our lake. Despite the grant, the lake association paid an additional \$8,000 for this work. It was a hard choice for our board, but the bottom line was clear, without a plan, we could never secure additional grant funding.

We pressed ahead, uncertain of our position in line for another grant. In fact, as the EWM invasion accelerated, so too did our work on the plan development. What we initially thought would be a two-year project was compressed into one year. We were able to accomplish that task, putting us in a position to apply for our current grant.

We also owe a deep gratitude to Joe Pallardy for his loyalty to these projects. Joe has 'volunteered' numerous hours to the effort. This not only includes hours on the lake, but extensive discussions with the DNR to gain approval of our Lake Management Plan.



While we can only surmise why we made the cut, I do believe the DNR was duly impressed with the overwhelming support among the community to protect and preserve Muskellunge Lake. Our voluntary association represent close to 90% of lake properties. Our robust volunteer efforts demonstrated that we would do all within our disposal to come to the lakes' aid.

So here comes the new reality. We will expend \$50,000 to address EWM issues. We will apply ProcellaCOR to about 18 acres this Spring. There will be substantial out of pocket cost for MLA. There is very little to offset with volunteer hours and equipment. Going forward, it is incumbent that our lake community respond with a financial commitment as well.

Lake dues in the amount of \$40 will not suffice. Neighboring Lake District assess property owners a tax around the \$200 per year. We are not a lake district, we cannot tax. The board has no interest in becoming a Lake District.

Going forward, we cannot expect any additional grants from the state. They have a \$90,000 investment in us, and now it is our turn to carry the mission forward. We will have a good idea of where we are at by the time of the annual meeting. It behooves all of us to understand the process as it plays out, and ultimately do our part to protect the investment each of us has in our homes, cabins, and properties.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Lori Hubers, Wilderness3hb@aol.com 920-738-7049

Description	Amount
48-month CD	\$2,950.76
48-month CD	\$3,048.28
Current checking balance	\$18,976.94
Allocated to Lake Improvement	\$11,714.00
Current savings balance	\$2,937.66
Lake Owners Payinh Dues	97

WELCOME COMMITTEE – Gayla Newmeister, gayla.newmeister@gmail.com 414-737-8346

In 2020, we welcomed 9 new property owners to the Lake Community. They are John and Christine Kappelmann on Wilderness Trail, Paul Fleming on Wilderness Trail, Timothy Finch and Kimberly Lear-Finch and Timothy Schmidt and Julie Schmidt on Balsam Lane, Mark and Kathy Dane on Balsam Lane, Dan and Rachel Gatz on Balsam Lane, Todd and Patty Linse on Lofty Pines, and Rob and Amy Labs on Eagle Trail, Jonathan Ognibene on Balsam Lane. They were all given or sent welcome packets.

Please let Gayla if you are aware of newcomers to the lake so a Welcome Packet can be sent to them.



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – Bonnie Duffee larrbonn@gmail.com 715-477-0792

This sure has been a strange spring so far. I am sure we are all looking forward to warmer weather.

I only sent out one card since the last Newsletter and that was a sympathy card to Cameron and Dawn Giese on the passing of Dawn's Father.

Please remember to give me a call or send an email if you feel I should send a card to someone.
Thank You

SOCIAL COMMITTEE – Bonnie Duffee larrbonn@gmail.com 715-477-0792 with Cheryl Breitenfeldt and Peggy Dosemagen.

We are going to be having a Rummage Sale to raise money for our lake improvement fund. This will take place on June 4-5, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. It will be held at Bob and Susan Hodkiewicz's pole barn at 2149 Lofty Pines Lane. Items can be dropped off Memorial weekend, Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30. Please contact Susan Hodkiewicz or Lori Hubers to make donations, to help with the sale or if you have questions. Check our private Facebook group for more information.

We are planning to have an annual meeting this summer at the St. Germain park under the shelter. This is set for August 14th at 9 a.m. Mark your calendars.

Also, we are considering having our annual Winter Social in January 2022. More information to follow on this.

WEBMASTER – Jeff Rappold, musky.board@gmail.com 920-585-9133

Web: As you know keeping up with the WEB technology is always a challenge. Recall that we intend our website will be the repository of historical information. It should not be your primary source of current information. Updates are slow and there are now better ways to keep you current.

Email: This has become our primary means to keep you informed. Please remember to let us know of any of your contact information changes. We want to stay in touch. If you are getting this newsletter in the US Mail, we do not have a current email address for you. Consider sharing your email address with us or perhaps one of a family member that can keep you informed. It is faster and saves us all time and money. An email to musky.board@gmail.com will be routed to the appropriate person and will be responded to generally quickly.

Facebook: A big thanks to Cheryl Breitenfeldt for redeveloping our Facebook site to now be a private site. Only members can now post there. This should be a good tool for sharing photos and information with your lakeside neighbors. Search on Facebook for Muskellunge Lake Association – Vilas County. Join and begin sharing your experiences about the lake. Thanks Cheryl.



BOAT LANDING – John Kurhajec, john.kurhajec.b1h7@statefarm.com 715-479-1703

10 lake residents took the virtual EWM inspection training on April 19, 2021 and are certified to inspect at our boat landing. Remember that each hour spent at the landing for inspections, including the training itself, goes toward paying for our DNR grants. There are still opportunities for training available at 2021 Vilas County CBCW Training Schedule. For those of you who may have taken the training in the past, the certification is good for two years after which you will have to be retrained and recertified.

Also note that the AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) sign at the landing has been updated.

For further information on how you as a valued property owner on Muskellunge lake can help, please contact me (John Kurhajec) jwk42247@gmail.com.

FISHERIES – Wayne Breitenfeldt, breitenfeldtw@gmail.com 920-684-5459

This past fall, our lake was stocked with 1360 walleye fingerlings. These averaged about 7 inches in length. Our previous walleye stocking was in the fall of 2018, with a similar number of fish. Eric Wegleitner, our area DNR fish biologist, has assured me that we will be getting a batch of muskellunge fingerlings this coming fall. Musky stocking in our lake has been sporadic with only 3 stockings in the past 20 years. This contrasts with the decade of the 1990's which had musky stocking on 6 occasions. I will be lobbying the DNR to get on every other year schedule for both species.

AERATOR – Joe Hubers, jozo49@aol.com 920-850-8733

Fence was put in January 9, 2021. We had a lot of help putting it in. Went very smoothly. There was an electrical problem this winter. We thought we may need a new pump, but was a bad fuse. Replaced fuse and the aerator ran great all winter. We do need to replace some wiring!!!

Fence was taken down on April 2, 2021. Again it went well.

There is some maintenance that needs to be done this summer. Painting, new signs and new wiring in the shed.

Thanks everyone for all your help.

WATER QUALITY – Jeff Rappold, musky.board@gmail.com 920-585-9133

Monitoring our water quality is a key part of measuring the health of the lake over the long term. While we may look one day it is clear another day may be green with algae or brown with sediment. It is impossible to characterize the health of the lake by a single observation. We have long been a part of the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN). The gives us the ability to view the long-term trends of key attributes of water quality. As a part of our Lake Management Plan, we will be expanding the number of sampling events throughout the year. The key parts of this data include:

- Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen at various depths.
- Water clarity
- Phosphorous – The primary nutrient



- Chlorophyll – The amount algae

You can always review the health and history of Muskellunge Lake by going to:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/waterquality/Station.aspx?id=643137>

If you have any questions regarding water quality contact Jeff.

EWM – Jeff Rappold, musky.board@gmail.com 920-585-9133

What we know. You have read earlier of our specific efforts to control and harvest the invasive plant Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). While our efforts of prevention at the landing helped delay the invasion, we are now faced with dealing with it. Why should you care? Unchecked in some lakes, EWM can grow into huge matted masses that makes recreational use of the water nearly impossible. The EWM grows early and fast and can crowd out and shade the native plants until they die off. To be clear, we don't know if that will happen here. It is known that even with manual harvesting or herbicide treatments we will never eliminate EWM in Muskellunge lake completely.

Identification. EWM is sometimes difficult to identify. In our lake, most often it has been found in areas that are 3-5 feet deep. It is now located in most bays and many shorelines. It tends to grow in clumps and grow to the surface where it canopies and spreads across the surface. A quick internet search will bring you many photos and identification hints.

What can you do? You can manually remove all the EWM that you'd like. You need to be bit careful as the root ball needs to be removed or it just grows back. Just cutting it without removing the stems from the water just sends adrift many fragments. Now your neighbors will have to deal with it as well. Chopping it up with your boat prop will just spread a plume of fragments to take root elsewhere. Fishermen can help as well. If you think you have some EWM that has been retrieved on your lure, throw the weeds in a small bucket that you can keep in your boat and deposit them on shore later. Boaters can help as well. Running your boat in shallow waters destroys good plants and creates a bare spot for new EWM to take root. Running your boat through patches of EWM spreads even more fragments. Keep a close eye on the shoreline areas near your place and harvest the EWM yourself. No permits are necessary for manual control.

Our plan. As a part of building our lake management plan we recently completed a Point Intercept Study. There are 384 specific GPS location points identified on a grid overlaid on the lake. You may have observed us on the lake July 6 - 7, 2020. With special rakes, we sampled the aquatic plants at each of those specific locations and logged them into a database. In many cases several different plants were on each pull of the rake. The purpose of this study is to compare the current aquatic plant diversity and thickness to prior studies at those same locations. This was last done by DNR staff in 2017. Data from this study will be used in our lake



management plan. 12 of your neighbors invested 80 hours of volunteer time in just this effort. Help us by avoiding the EWM areas to minimize the chance of spreading fragments.

Annual Meeting:

You will notice we have a new location for the annual meeting this year and it is a bit later than in the past. We felt it was important that we find an outdoor space and an area that might hold a few more people. Bring the family as there is lots of space in the park. Mark your calendar now - Sat. Aug 14 @ 9:00. Plan to attend for a couple hours of discussion about our lake, the progress of our efforts and where we may be going in the years ahead. This meeting will be a good opportunity to understand more of the detail and science behind our Lake Management Plan and the progress in controlling Eurasian Water Milfoil. This is our annual opportunity to get feedback from our members and for you to vote on key issues, we will publish more details on the agenda as we get closer.



CALENDAR and SPECIAL EVENTS

1. Annual meeting details: August 14, 2021 (Saturday) at 9:00 am at the St. Germain Pavilion. (Where they have the flea market).
2. MLA Rummage Sale will be held June 4, 2021 (Friday) and June 5, 2021 (Saturday) 9am-4pm. We previously said No clothes, shoes or boots. We have now updated that we will accept hunting clothes and boots, snowmobile gear and any kind of fishing supplies. Drop off dates are May 29 and 30 at Hodkiewicz's shed on Lofty Pines Lane. Contact them to let them know when you are dropping off. Telephone 715-617-7194 or 715-617-2750.

We have not had a great response on volunteers to help work the sale. Please contact Joe or Lori Hubers with when you can be available. Telephone 920-738-7049 or 920-850-8733.

Muskellunge Lake Association, Inc. Board Members			
Name	Position	Phone	Email
Mike Newmeister	President	414-326-6130	michael.newmeister@gmail.com
John Kurhajec	Vice President	262-930-0368	jwk42247@gmail.com
Lori Hubers	Treasurer	920-738-7049	Wilderness3hb@aol.com
Cheryl Breitenfeldt	Secretary	920-973-5489	breitenfeldts@gmail.com
Jeff Rappold	Webmaster	920-585-9133	snowmonut@aol.com
Wayne Breitenfeldt	Director	920-973-5489	breitenfeldts@gmail.com
Mark Fouts	Director	715-828-2127	mark@markfouts.com
Larry Duffee	Director	715-477-0792	larrnbonn@gmail.com
Mike Wallner	Director	715-213-5519	mikewallner@hotmail.com

