

# Muskellunge Lake Association, Inc.

**Newsletter**

November 2021



**Volume**

105

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## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE – Mark Fouts, [mark@markfouts.com](mailto:mark@markfouts.com) 715-828-2127**

As I write this, the barge from Waterworks is already on the lake removing lifts and piers, a gentle reminder that “hard water” season is approaching.

I would first like to thank Mike Newmeister for his 7 years of service to the lake as President. I hope that I can live up to his legacy in everything, but time served :-)

Under Mike’s leadership, through DNR grants, we have spent about \$90,000 on the pleasurable asset that we all call “ours”. Almost \$30,000 of that came from our contributions of time, talent, and treasure. Thanks to all of us, Muskellunge Lake continues on as the Gem each of us saw when we first purchased here.

Ongoing attention is a necessity to assure the vitality of our lake. Although the treatment of EWM was successful this year, the battle continues in this and other areas. Please continue to be generous when called upon to help, with your time and money going forward.

As discussed in our annual meeting, our ability to secure ongoing grants to support our improvement goals defined in the Lake Management Plan will be limited. In line with a motion by the membership at our annual meeting and our follow up board meeting you will notice a change in the dues invoice this year. There is an added line item for the lake improvement fund. The additional funds needed will be calculated annually to cover the cost of ongoing maintenance of our lake as described throughout this newsletter. Your annual invoice will be mailed separately in the next several weeks. Please be generous and timely with your payment.

## **TREASURER’S REPORT – Lori Hubers, [Wilderness3hb@aol.com](mailto:Wilderness3hb@aol.com) 920-738-7049**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
48-month CD	\$3,067.29
Current checking balance	\$1,593.45
Allocated to Lake Improvement	\$ -
Current savings balance	\$3,087.70
Lake Owners Payinh Dues	101



**WELCOME COMMITTEE – Gayla Newmeister, [gayla.newmeister@gmail.com](mailto:gayla.newmeister@gmail.com) 414-737-8346**

We welcomed new property owners to our Muskellunge Lake family this summer.

- Bastiaan and Jenny Vanacker along with David and Carolyn Norenberg bought 2261 Balsam Lane (June, 2021)
- Rene and David Grever purchased 2033 Musky Road (June, 2021)
- Steven McMorrow purchased 2099 Musky Road (September, 2021)
- Justin Johnson bought 1916 Eagle Trail (September, 2021)

We have had 12 new owners over the past two years. Should anyone be aware of other properties changing hands, please let me know.

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – Bonnie Duffee [larrbonn@gmail.com](mailto:larrbonn@gmail.com) 715-477-0792**

I only sent out one card since the last Newsletter and that was a sympathy card to the family of Robert Gritzmacher who passed away in July. 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](mailto:larrbonn@gmail.com) 715-477-0792 with Cheryl Breitenfeldt and Peggy Dosemagen.**

We talked to the VFW about having our Winter Social there this year, but they could not definitely confirm that they would be serving food this winter. Therefore, we have contacted Chef Rene's in Eagle River about serving a dinner buffet. The date would be February 5, 2022.

We will be sending out a questionnaire asking for your feedback as to whether you would be interested in attending considering the recent increase in Covid cases. After we have your feedback, we will proceed from there. More information will follow.

**WEBMASTER – Mike Wallner, [mikewallner@hotmail.com](mailto:mikewallner@hotmail.com) 715-423-1673**

Web: We continue to update our document repository <http://www.muskellungelake.org/> with the latest documents, reports, and artifacts from the Association. Please visit this site for the latest meeting minutes, lake management plans, along with helpful links to the various resources that we have available to us.

Email: Our Association email is [musky.board@gmail.com](mailto:musky.board@gmail.com) and can be used to send and share information for the Muskellunge Lake Association Board of Directors.

**FACEBOOK - Cheryl Breitenfeldt, [breitenfeldts@gmail.com](mailto:breitenfeldts@gmail.com)**

Muskellunge Lake Association-Vilas County is our private Facebook page. This is YOUR page, please feel free to post lake related pics and information. This is a great way to keep your neighbors informed on what is happening around our lake. Please follow guidelines for our page and if you are not a member you may request to become one.



**BOAT LANDING – John Kurhajec, [jwk42247@gmail.com](mailto:jwk42247@gmail.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. We have been given instructions from Catherine Higley regarding adding a pavement message at the boat landing regarding invasive species, ie “Stop Invasive Species, Clean, Drain, Dry.”

**FISHERIES – Wayne Breitenfeldt, [breitenfeldtw@gmail.com](mailto:breitenfeldtw@gmail.com) 920-684-5459**

As you may have seen on the MLA Facebook page, on September 28 the DNR planted 67 large muskellunge fingerlings in our lake. These fish are about 12 inches in length. The stocking rate is one fish per 4 acres, which is the same rate received by most of our neighboring lakes. If you should happen to catch one of these fish please handle and release them with great care. We need to have as many as possible survive.

**AERATOR – Joe Hubers, [jozo49@aol.com](mailto:jozo49@aol.com) 920-850-8733**

The aerator is run once a month to keep it lubricated. There are 2 new signs being made for the aerator fence. Thank you to Maureen Kurhajec for lettering the new signs. A Thank You also goes out to the Breitenfeldt’s for cleaning up the debris by the aerator after our last big storm. Bob “Huddy” Hodkiewicz and Joe Hubers rewired the pump. Right now, the date to install the aerator fence is January 8, 2022. 10AM at the aerator barn. Afterwards there will be beverages, chili and desserts at Joe and Lori Hubers.

**WATER QUALITY – Jeff Rappold, [musky.board@gmail.com](mailto: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. We regularly measure clarity, temperature and oxygen profile, chlorophyll (the algae) and phosphorous (the nutrient). Together over time these measures provide us key indicators of the health of the lake. It is normal to have low dissolved oxygen late in the winter, but it is also common in the heat of summer when the lake stratifies. This last summer we had good mixing from enough windy days to keep good oxygen for our fish in 12’ or less all summer.

Our annual concern has always been the natural Phosphorous the primary nutrient in the lake. You can help by not using fertilizers on your property, keep your septic in good order, keep your shoreline more natural and be careful when boating in shallow waters. Our boats keep getting bigger and we all enjoy our cruises around the lake. Be mindful of your propwash. If you are stirring up the bottom muck, you are stirring up the fertilizer that puts that phosphorous back into the water column. This dark streak in this photo is where a boat had recently passed mixing up the bottom muck.





**INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL – Jeff Rappold, [musky.board@gmail.com](mailto:musky.board@gmail.com) 920-585-9133**

I hope you noticed; the Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is gone!!! ... for now. These photos are the before and after of the center bar area.



All our efforts over 5 years to manually control the expansion of EWM proved ineffective. We spent 2020 building a comprehensive Lake Management Plan a DNR prerequisite to applying for a grant and the permits to apply herbicides to control the invasive species. Our plan was approved this spring and our request for a grant was a one of only four authorized in Vilas County. Check out the plan on our web site <http://www.muskellungelake.org/2020-muskellunge-lake-management-plan-3-23-2021-2n> .

After hundreds of hours of mapping, sampling, and measuring, our permit was authorized in early June. On June 23<sup>rd</sup> a very special boat applied the herbicide ProcettaCOR to three distinct areas totaling 19.8 acres. We took multiple water samples every several hours over the next



week to monitor the decay of the herbicide. The good news is by the time you were out enjoying the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, the EWM had died off and sunk away. Yea! Success!

Well, we weren't done. We were required to monitor and measure the effectiveness of the herbicide not by how much EWM was killed but by how healthy the native plants were in the treatment areas and the entire lake. A team in three boats, took samples and recorded the various plants at 135 distinct locations in the treatment zones and 384 separate locations in the whole lake. The good news is the native plants survived with minimal impact. This is important as we hope that these native plants reestablish themselves in the areas where the EWM was.

So, what is next? We will continue to watch and monitor for remaining and new EWM this fall and next spring. We will then build plans to control it each year before it gets out of control. To be clear, we will never eliminate all the EWM but we need to be more proactive as this or any other invasive species tries to make its home in Muskellunge Lake. These controls are not cheap. Diver based or herbicide controls could easily cost us \$25,000 per year in addition to the hundreds of hours of volunteer help. We have been fortunate in the past few years to have some of our costs supported by partial DNR grants. Our access to ongoing control grants will be unlikely and thus we will need your financial help and your help on the water as we go forward. We ask that you be on the lookout for EWM or other invasive plants that may find their way here from other nearby lakes. Remind your visitors about CBCW at the landing. Remember EWM spreads from fragments so learn what it looks like and avoid it please.



**Annual Meeting:**

Held August 14, 2021 in St. Germain. Minutes can be retrieved from [http://www.muskellungelake.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/ANNUAL-MEETING-8\\_14\\_2021.pdf](http://www.muskellungelake.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/ANNUAL-MEETING-8_14_2021.pdf)

**CALENDAR and SPECIAL EVENTS**

1. February 5, 2022 - Winter Social
2. January 8, 2022. 10AM - Aerator Installation

Muskellunge Lake Association, Inc. Board Members			
Name	Position	Phone	Email
Mark Fouts	President	715-828-2127	<a href="mailto:mark@markfouts.com">mark@markfouts.com</a>
John Kurhajec	Vice President	262-930-0368	<a href="mailto:jwk42247@gmail.com">jwk42247@gmail.com</a>
Lori Hubers	Treasurer	920-738-7049	<a href="mailto:Wilderness3hb@aol.com">Wilderness3hb@aol.com</a>
Cheryl Breitenfeldt	Secretary	920-973-5489	<a href="mailto:breitenfeldts@gmail.com">breitenfeldts@gmail.com</a>
Mike Wallner	Webmaster	715-213-5519	<a href="mailto:mikewallner@hotmail.com">mikewallner@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:musky.board@gmail.com">musky.board@gmail.com</a>
Mark Adam	Director	715 479-7372	<a href="mailto:maba72@yahoo.com">maba72@yahoo.com</a>
Wayne Breitenfeldt	Director	920-973-5489	<a href="mailto:breitenfeldts@gmail.com">breitenfeldts@gmail.com</a>
Larry Duffee	Director	715-477-0792	<a href="mailto:larnbonn@gmail.com">larnbonn@gmail.com</a>
Mike Newmeister	Director	414-326-6130	<a href="mailto:michael.newmeister@gmail.com">michael.newmeister@gmail.com</a>
Jeff Rappold	Director	920-585-9133	<a href="mailto:snowmonut@aol.com">snowmonut@aol.com</a>

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