

To preserve and protect Long Lake, its watershed and ecosystems



Long Lake

Preservation Association
Issue 71 • Fall 2022



— Photo by Joe Thrasher

President's Message

It is an honor to serve as the President of the LLPA and write my first message as President for our Fall Newsletter. In 2020 the LLPA Board adopted 4 goals as central to the organization: monitoring (AIS, water quality, wildlife, etc.), management (develop and implement best management practices), education and communication (educate lake users and shoreline property owners on the ecology of the lake, management strategies, etc.), and capacity building (build the organizational structure of the LLPA to have capacity to address the needs of Long Lake). Following the advice of Dr. Jeremy Solin, a lakes specialist, we have embarked on activities to accomplish these goals.

Since the June 4th Annual Meeting we have been proceeding with a process to develop a formal Comprehensive Lake Management Plan. This is necessary to be eligible for funding from the WI DNR to address the needs of the lake. We have contracted with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission for services to provide

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President's Message continued

organizational support and water science expertise to accomplish this. As a result of this contract, Megan Mader is our consultant to help us with these activities. You can learn more about her in this Newsletter as she introduces herself to you. Having worked with her now for several months, I can attest that we are indeed fortunate to have her assisting us.

We have restructured our committee organization aligning our committees with our four goals. In addition to an Executive Committee and an Operations Committee, we now have an Education and Communications Committee, a Monitoring Committee and a Shoreline and Watershed Restoration Committee and a Sustainability and Capacity Building Committee (SCBC). It is the goal to be more effective with fewer committees and to be more targeted with our efforts.

One of the first actions we are making is to update the LLPA website. It will have an exciting new look that will provide access to information about the lake as before but will allow for more timely updates and access to much more information about the lake. This should assist with our overall communications with the members of the LLPA. In addition, it will allow for members to pay dues or make donations on-line. Thank you to Jim Schlesinger for leading this effort and Megan Mader and Brian Halloran for their assistance. This new site is scheduled to be reviewed by the Board at our next meeting and then shortly after that, will go live for your use.

September 13th, we submitted the preliminary application to the WI DNR for a grant to develop the Long Lake Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (LLCLMP). This was the first step in this process and will ultimately provide us the opportunity to access funding to assist with the interventions to preserve, protect and enhance Long Lake and its watershed. This past summer, we piloted an activity to improve the boat landings on the lake. Brent Blaeser writes about our response to requests for a 'Jiffy Biffy' and garbage service at the boat landing on Blackhawk Road (the Narrows boat landing). The Board will be looking at needs and opportunities to improve the other landings on the lake. Thank you to Brent for coordinating this. DJ Ehrike and Sandy Campbell have been leading the SCBC efforts and conducted several neighborhood meetings talking about the needs and opportunities to improve Long Lake. I want to thank them and those of you that have attended one of these meetings as this is providing us helpful information about the perceived needs on the lake.

As we move ahead, I see many dynamic and exciting activities taking place on Long Lake. We will continue the social activities as well as our water quality monitoring and loon population monitoring. But there will be new opportunities for your participation in caring for Long Lake. We will be sharing these opportunities through our email messages (Constant Contact), the new web site and our Newsletters. Let me know if you have any questions or are interested in engaging with these activities as they are announced. What can you do now? – care for the lake by picking up wastepaper, cans, or bottles; don't blow leaves in the lake as it adds to the phosphorus in the lake and increases algae growth; protect your shoreline with a buffer of native plants to help prevent soil erosion which also increases phosphorus levels, and when taking out your docks and boats check for any sign of invasive weeds or other invasive species like Zebra Mussels.

– Long Lake is not something we have inherited from our parents or grandparents, it is something we are borrowing from our grandchildren

Byron J. Crouse
President – Long Lake Preservation Association

LOONS ON LONG LAKE

Article and photographs by Byron Crouse

2022 was a more challenging year than 2021 for the Loons on Long Lake. After arriving on the lake the last week in April, loon pairs began their nesting behavior and laying of eggs. We had seven nesting pairs on the lake this year using either natural nests or nesting platforms. The pair nesting across from Dave's Outboard in previous years



nested on a platform, but this year initially tried nesting on a naturally made nest in the bay seen here in the picture. Unfortunately, the water level was low and still being raised

at the time of nesting and the nest washed out near the end of May. It was found that the platform in the bay used previously had been damaged during the winter. When the nest washed out, Randy Poznansky and I were able to remove the destroyed platform and replace it within five days with an unused platform from the Holy Island area. Four days later, the loon pair were renesting on the new platform. In recent years, the loon pair in this area usually had two chicks but with the renesting this year they only had one egg which is not uncommon when renesting. The picture here shows the chick that was successfully hatched on the 4th of July. Along with the chick near Holy Island, they were the last chicks to hatch this year.

We lost two chicks that hatched this year. The chick that hatched on the north end around the middle of June was lost within the first

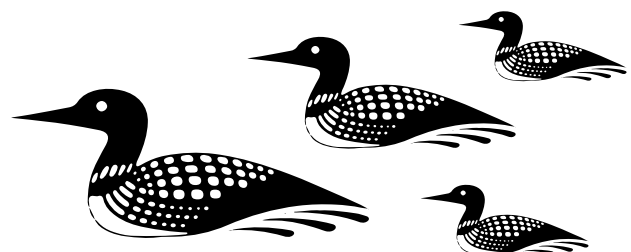


day or two after hatching likely due to predation or the inability to thermoregulate. The nesting pair in the region of the Crow's Nest successfully hatched two chicks which we followed for six weeks, but then one chick was lost to either predation or possibly hit by a watercraft as the chicks at this age were becoming more independent and spending time at greater distances from the adults.

At the time of this writing, we have seven chicks that have survived to be juveniles at 11 to 12+ weeks of age. At this age, the juveniles, as seen in this picture, are now felt able to care for themselves and expected to migrate south in another six to eight weeks. The loons that were with us this summer and did not have a partner or a pair that were not raising a chick have likely already begun their migration south. Those adults raising a now juvenile will be migrating in the next month and the last loons to migrate will be the juveniles. Do not be alarmed if a family of loons you have been watching have parents that seem to abandon their chick. This is normal, and amazingly the juveniles are genetically programmed to migrate independently from their parents. Studies indicate that the adult loon pair also migrate and winter independently from each other.



The final Long Lake tally for this year is seven nesting pairs, hatching nine chicks, with seven chicks reaching 12+ weeks of age who will be migrating south later this fall. These seven will then spend the next several years maturing and return to this region in 2 to 3 years.



Meet Megan Mader

As noted in the President's Message, LLPA has contracted with Northwest Regional Planning Commission to provide certain technical services. Since LLPA is an entirely volunteer organization without staff, this is essential to further advance the LLPA mission. The Commission has assigned its employee Megan Mader to be the lead servicer of that contract. This, in her words, is her story.

I grew up in Fifield, Wisconsin – a small town east of Hayward – and I fell in love with our woods and waters as a kid from catching bluegills off the dock and picking blackberries with Grandpa Bob to everything else in-between. I spent summers at our family cabin on Newman Lake, and I have a deep appreciation for what it means to be part of a lake.

I went to Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin where I worked for the Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation as a research technician studying local inland lakes (Lake Owen, Lake Namekagon, and the Penokee Lakes in Mellen), Lake Superior, and Great Lakes coastal wetlands. I gained substantial experience in water quality, aquatic vegetation, and fisheries, which inspired me to double major in Water Science and Ecological Restoration and minor in Writing.

I graduated from Northland in 2019 with honors and went on to obtain a master's degree in Aquatic Biology from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan where I worked for the Annis Water Resources Institute. For my thesis, I studied the effects of shoreline and watershed development on fisheries and water quality in drowned river mouth systems and was awarded the Grand Valley Presidential Grant and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Michigan Space Grant to fund my research. I finished school in 2021 and am now in the process of publishing two articles from my research thesis in the peer-reviewed Journal of Great Lakes Research.

Following graduate school, I worked at Lake Education and Planning Services (LEAPS) where I worked with lake groups across the area to



better their lakes through planning, management, implementation, and education. I successfully obtained several planning and Healthy Lakes grants through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Grant Program and completed multiple aquatic plant management plans, comprehensive plans, and strategic plans for various lake groups.

Currently, I am with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission out of Spooner, Wisconsin. I am a Community Development Specialist, and I work with communities in our region to plan for their future. I also have been working with the Long Lake Preservation Association. Our current

Meet Megan Mader continued

primary project is applying for a \$25,000 Comprehensive Lake Planning grant to support the development of a Long Lake Comprehensive Lake Management Plan that would address watershed, shoreline, and in-lake issues and opportunities for improvement. The development of this plan will allow the LLPA to be eligible for further grant funding upwards of \$200,000 for the implementation of various projects such as aquatic plant management, nutrient and sediment reduction strategies, land acquisitions to maintain or restore natural habitat, or to do further studies relative to various management strategies. We will find out if the grant has been awarded in March 2023, so keep your eyes open for future newsletters and notifications from the LLPA!

Beyond water resources, I am an avid outdoorswoman and enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, and foraging. I am passionate about educating children and other women about outdoor activities. I am a Hunter's Safety Instructor and a mentor to several young women learning to hunt and fish. I also coach the Hayward High School Softball team and volunteer with the Hayward Girls Youth Softball program. Additionally, I am a Chequamegon ClassACT Charter School board member and advise the school on natural resource programs.

I wanted to study and work in natural resources because I love this area and am passionate about improving and maintaining our water quality, fisheries, habitat for the good of the generations that follow us. I grew up seeing how my grandparents and parents were stewards of the land and our lake property, and I want to continue that tradition. I am looking forward to working more with beautiful Long Lake and all the amazing people around it!

Fish Sticks Update

& FISH CENSUS

Article by Randy Krautkramer

In February 2022 the LLPA worked with the Long Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Scout Camp to place another fish sticks project. This was the eighth location completed by the LLPA since 2015. The LLPA website contains a map showing the location of all eight fish sticks placements. We are very fortunate in that the Boy Scout Camp provides the trees and locations for these projects along their shoreline. Weather permitting, another placement is planned for February of 2023.

This past spring you may have seen shoreline nets and some DNR boats with bright lights and a boom in front trolling the shorelines after dark. The LLPA contacted Craig Roberts, our local DNR fisheries biologist. Following are his comments.

The Wisconsin DNR performed a walleye population estimate in spring 2022 after ice-out using netting and night electrofishing. They estimated 1.9 adult walleye/acre in Long Lake. These fish averaged 18.4 inches with at least one fish recorded at 30 inches. They also collected data this spring on bass, pike, and panfish. They will plan to write a report this winter with more detail on all species collected.

The LLPA will share this information with our membership when the full report becomes available.

Ice Cream Social Returns!

Article by Sandra Campbell and DJ Ehrike



— Photo by Steve May

If you paid attention last summer to the signs nature provides to guide us for successful fishing, safe boating or watching northern lights, you may also have noted the return of the elusive LLPA Ice Cream Social. This popular event was on a Covid hiatus and so it was with much anticipation that LLPA members placed the “Free Ice Cream” signs around the lake. This year we partnered with Steve Wurzer at Sunset Resort, who generously donated over 250 servings of soft serve ice cream cones. The LLPA would like to thank Sunset Resort and our neighbors and friends for their support and membership and we look forward to sharing a cone with you again next summer.

TOILET FACILITIES AT NARROWS LANDING



by Brent Blaeser

Of the four major public landings on Long Lake, only one, at the Long Lake Town Hall, has had toilet facilities, and in recent times none have had garbage disposal. This past summer, as a pilot project, LLPA funded both at the Narrows landing at the end of Blackhawk Road. Toilet facilities were obtained from Jiffy Biffy of Bruce, Wisconsin, and garbage containers and pick up from Walczak Sanitation of Sarona.

According to the Clean Boats Clean Waters inspectors, this service was a “huge hit” with the public. They observed that garbage pickup was prompt, with no overflow. It is our goal to eventually provide such facilities at all public landings for the convenience of boaters and to keep the waters and landings neat and clean.

BUSY BEAVERS

Article by Randy Poznansky

If you live on a lake, especially near a bay, its likely you've been negatively impacted by a beaver. As ecosystem engineers, beavers build dams to stop moving water by cutting off nearby branches and downing trees, many times which are decades old.

Beavers are the largest rodent found in North America, second only to the capybara, which is the largest rodent of the world. Most adult beavers weigh between 35 and 65 pounds, but can occasionally weigh up to 70-85 pounds. These stinky rodents live in aquatic environments. They have webbed hind feet, 4 large incisor teeth, coarse fur and a large flattened tail that is used as a rudder for swimming. They can be found living in streams, rivers, ponds, creeks, wetlands, almost anywhere there is a water source.

The history of beaver populations in Wisconsin followed a pattern similar to many states in the Great Lakes Region. The European demand for beaver fur and the wealth generated by the fur trade led to the exploration and early settlement of the area. By the late 1800's intense fur trapping pressure, coupled with habitat disruption, led to lower beaver populations in Wisconsin so at the turn of the century beaver could be found only in northern regions.

In the early 1980's, a sharp decline in the demand for beaver fur led to greatly reduced trapping efforts, along with very high beaver populations. Since that time problems associated with beavers increased, including damage to roads, timber, railroads, fish habitat, and property. One of the primary concerns in Wisconsin was the approximately 10,000 miles of high quality trout streams which were negatively impacted by beaver dams. Beaver dams block trout migration, create unsuitable water temperatures, and increase siltation which converts a cold water fishery to a warm water fishery.

The other issue with beavers is a potential source of Giardia which evolves from a microscopic parasite from beaver droppings that can contaminate lakes, reservoirs, and streams. We could go into the detailed effects of Giardiasis, but let's just say it's not pretty, potentially causing many weeks of an intestinal (bowel) illness.

Rich Alvin - (715) 645-2619

Rich Alvin is a very experienced, local licensed beaver trapper who is keenly familiar with the Long Lake area. Rich is willing to trap beavers only in the Fall and Winter, charging each individual homeowner \$15.00 for every beaver caught.

The LLPA is providing this information only as a service to its members and assumes no other responsibility for beaver control.



— Photo compliments of WDNR

Beavers of Wisconsin can cause serious damage in a single night and many of us have awoken in the morning to find one or more of our favorite trees have been taken down. So the next time you hear someone being described “Busy as a Beaver” it comes from this very hardworking industrious rodent which has the ability to take down or severely damage many trees in just a few hours, as seen in the photo above.

According to the WDNR, in some cases, beaver dams can drown stands of trees or block culverts. If a beaver dam is causing damage or is considered a nuisance, the dam can be removed without a permit, but only if no streambed or lakebed material is removed. Note that beavers are likely to rebuild the removed dam. For further details please contact the WDNR and review the booklet *Beaver Damage Control: Guidelines for People with Beaver Damage Problems* for solutions that will work best for you.

There are several ways a beaver problem can be addressed, like installing chicken wire about 3 ft. high around the base of each shoreline tree, but many times a trapping program is necessary to control a problematic beaver. Through the years many local beaver trappers have retired but there are a few of them that still remain. Being the LLPA has received complaints about beaver damage control we have reached out to a couple of them and one experienced beaver trapper has allowed us to share his contact information with you.



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— Photo by Eugene Romsos

