

# Crescent Lake Reflections

## 2023

**Lake:** Ice out: south April 28, 2023, north April 29, 2023  
First Ice over: December 3, 2023

**Birds:** Just after the ice went out, a very large flock of migrating ducks arrived and stayed for a few days before continuing their journey north.



A female Common Merganser raised three babies on the lake this summer. It had been several years since anyone recalled seeing a Common Merganser family raised on the lake. Donna Stone took a picture of a Merganser family on the lake in 2019. Terry Goldbach reported finding evidence (down feathers and egg shell pieces) of a Merganser family in a nesting box at his property. It was likely from the Common Merganser but may have been from a Hooded Merganser, as it was spotted on the lake, too.



**Fish:** Native Americans harvested 158 walleyes.

Crappie fishing started strong after ice out and continued to be active during the summer.

6,500+ walleyes, 6 to 8 inches in length, were stocked by the DNR on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the boat landing. One stocked walleye quickly became a casualty as seen in the mouth of a northern by those observing the stocking activity.

The DNR did an electrofishing fish survey the night of September 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM):** No chemical treatment for EWM was allowed in 2023. The DNR initially approved the permit to do treatment but then withdrew their approval in early June. The Crescent Lake District was planning to treat the Hwy 8 area.

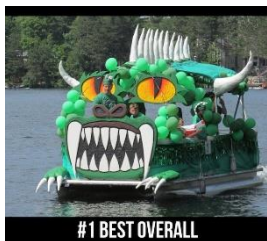
Four days of contracted Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH to pull and remove EWM was done prior to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday in the Hwy 8 area.

The Crescent Lake District's annual meeting in September was held at the Crescent Town Hall.

**Crescent Lake Association:** The lake association's May member meeting featured a talk by Ted Rulseh on doing "What it Takes" to protect our lakes. At the annual member meeting in July the featured speaker was Nathan Lederman, DNR Fisheries Biologist, who provided an update on the

fisheries survey conducted in 2022 – 2023 on the lake. Maria Rudesill talked about the Crescent Lake Bible Camp history and its current activities at the Fall member meeting.

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks and Boat Parade:** Larry McKitrick and his crew of volunteers put on another fine show. Many felt it was best ever.



Fourteen boats participated in the boat parade organized by Donna Stone. The Frasier Family's "Hodag" boat received top honors.



**Friend of the Lake Award:**

Larry McKitrick received the "Friend of the Lake" award for his years of service to the Crescent Lake Association and as the coordinator of the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks show.



**Lake Stewardship Award:** Jim Gehrke received a Lake Stewardship Award at the Oneida County Stewardship Awards banquet in recognition of extraordinary efforts to protect our lands and waterbodies in Oneida County.

**Volunteer Appreciation:** At the Crescent Lake Association Fall meeting, thirty-eight volunteers were recognized and thanked for the time given to help maintain our beautiful lake. Volunteers recorded a total of 333 hours at the boat landing greeting boaters and providing information on aquatic invasive species prevention. Crescent Lake volunteers were also active with shoreline monitoring for Eurasian Watermilfoil and July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend activities.

**Lake Hazards:** Three logs were removed from the lake in August. The Wausau Bay log was in shallow water floating at an angle about 2 feet below the surface. Three neighbors reported hitting the Wausau Bay log. Some had damage to their motors. Another log was found partially floating by the Lake Emma portage. Lastly, a log by the island was found vertical about 3 feet below the surface. All were removed to eliminate the safety hazards.

**Crayfish:** Are the crayfish returning? A number of neighbors reported seeing crayfish this summer. Approximately 20 were reported. One was an invasive species, rusty crayfish. Six were native crayfish. Others are unknown if native or rusty. There was also a report of small crayfish found in the stomach of a fish that were kept and cleaned.

**Windstorm:** In August, a strong, quick moving windstorm tipped over a boat lift and pushed down a large tree (no major house damage).

**Acknowledgement:** *The Crescent Lake Association Board of Directors would like to thank Terry Goldbach for his contributions to the Crescent Lake Reflections.*