



RALALA Lake Association

Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association Newsletter

Spring 2015

**Reminder 1:
Annual Meeting is on June 20th at 3:30 PM at the CLT Town Hall!**

**Reminder 2:
Order Pork Shoulder for the Fourth online or by phone**

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President's Letter—by Bob Lee

I hope you all are ready for a great spring and summer here in the Emily-Outing area!

First, let me remind everyone that the Annual Meeting will not occur on Memorial Day weekend this year. Based on perennial complaints about how this meeting interferes with entertaining guests on a major holiday weekend, the Board decided to move the annual meeting to June 20th at 3:30 pm. It will still be at the CLT Town Hall in Outing. Pizza and soft drinks will be served after the meeting. (You are welcome to bring your own preferred beverages.) We are hoping for a big turnout on the new date!

I also want to alert people to the fact that we are not doing either a picnic or a BBQ this year, but we will be selling pork shoulders in advance of the July 4th weekend. Those of you who bought these at the BBQ last year know that our guest barbeque chef, Mike Van Straaten, can turn out some really great pork! Your 4th of July holiday guests would just love some! Mike is coming up and will be smoking up a storm on the 2nd and 3rd. We will set up a link on the website to order online and also provide a telephone number to place orders. Check the website for details and pricing (coming soon!).

The only other RALALA fundraiser this year will be the annual rifle or cash raffle that we have done for several years. Tickets will be sold at various events and at Outing Station throughout the summer for a drawing to be held on Saturday of Labor Day weekend at 6pm. Please be sure to buy plenty of tickets! We could always use more volunteers to help sell these raffle tickets (if interested, contact Gary Langer using the contact information on p.9).

As you can tell, the Board has decided to streamline our fundraising efforts to only those activities that have garnered the most dollars per hour of volunteer time. We are hoping that this can

New Hope Blooms in the Fight Against AIS

Following a multi-agency response to the discovery of zebra mussels in Christmas Lake (near Excelsior, MN) last August, results of initial diver searches indicate experimental treatments were effective. On April 13th, divers from Blue Water Science and Waterfront Restorations conducted a thorough survey inside and directly outside the treatment area around the public boat access in the City of Shorewood and found no evidence of zebra mussels. Subsequent monitoring of the lake will be necessary

to confirm whether or not zebra mussels are present in other areas of the lake.

“We are encouraged by these early results,” said Keegan Lund, DNR AIS Specialist. “We used every available tool to treat the isolated zebra mussel infestation and learned valuable information in terms of responding to new zebra mussel infestations”.

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD) aggressive early detection

Cont'd on p.3

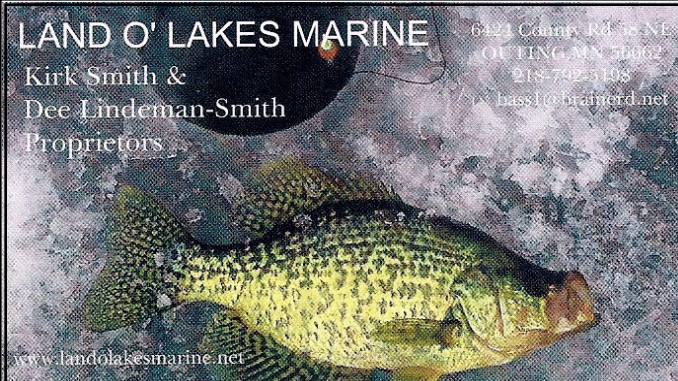
monitoring effort led to the discovery of zebra mussels near the Christmas Lake public boat launch in Shorewood on August 16, 2014. In coordination with the DNR and the City of Shorewood, the affected area was cordoned off and treated with Zequanox®, followed by a copper-based product and then potash.

Zequanox®, a natural substance made up of a dead bacterium, was first applied to the treatment area in September. That application was fol-

Cont'd on p. 9

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Gary Rittgers
Owner

Roger's Report—by Roger Brekken

FALL 2014 FREEZE-UP SAGA

Emily and Little Emily froze over on 11/14. Lawrence froze over around 11/20. But the first significant sub zero weather was not until Thanksgiving when temperatures dropped to -7 to -10° F. At that time there were still large areas of open water on the south end of Roosevelt. Migrating swans were seen taking advantage of the open water.

The last 10-15 acres of open water on the south end of Roosevelt skinned over on 12/4. However, it opened up again on the 6th with high wind, temperatures in the low 30's and a light rain which turned to snow in the afternoon.

Starting 12/10 we had three days of light hoar frost followed by dense fog on the 13th and 14th with temperatures between 39° and 44°F. The open area expanded to 20-25 acres.

It skinned over again on 12/18, but a small patch (maybe 5 acres) opened up again on 12/23 after three days of mist and light rain and temps up to 37°F. On Christmas morning two bald eagles were seen standing on the edge of the ice looking into that patch of open water (maybe dreaming of summers days?).

As a testament to the late freeze-up and thin ice, Mikie Walker snapped this picture on December 27th of

some ice fishermen who broke through with their four wheeler while taking a shortcut in front of the Walker's home on South Roosevelt.



On 12/28 there was still open water just south of the islands on South Roosevelt with vapor rising from the open water. On the 29th, despite a temperature of -8F, there was still open water. The lake finally froze over completely either during the night of January 1st or early in the morning of January 2, 2015!

SPRING 2015 ICE--OUT

Lake Emily, Little Emily and Lawrence Lake were ice free on or before April 11th. On April 12th, a strong and warm (65-70° F) wind pushed the ice on South Roosevelt to the Outing bridge area. Late that evening there was still a

patch of ice on the very north end of North Roosevelt. That ice was gone the next morning, April 13th. By the end of the day, the remaining ice by the bridge

was also totally gone for a same day ice-out on both North and South Roosevelt of 4/13/2015. This was, however, followed by two inches of snow on 4/21 and another inch or more on 4/24!

DNR LIAISON

Due to my hectic schedule, the 2014 annual meeting with the DNR in Brainerd did not take place until December 4th. A three man delegation (Denny Neill, Bob Lee and I) made the trip to Brainerd and met with Marc Bacigalupi, DNR fisheries manager, and Mike Knepp of the DNR fisheries department. Here is what we learned:

Cont'd on p.5

President's Message cont'd from p. 1

result in nearly as high amount of revenue without being so burdensome for our volunteers. I hope you will prove that this technique can work by contributing generously.

Our contractor, Environmental Sentry Protection has worked diligently over the winter to improve and enhance our two I-LIDs located at the Roosevelt and Lawrence Lake boat launches. They now not only have bigger and better solar collectors but also improved hardware and software. Both units are now working very well and uploading launch videos via cell phone modem. Although we are looking at some video, we could definitely use a couple of volunteers to review the rest for possible violations. You can do this at your convenience from any PC with a reasonably high speed internet connection. Instruction will be provided. If you have an interest in helping us with this, please give me a call or send



me an e-mail.

In addition, we could use some help with taking water samples from all of the lakes we monitor. If you have an interest in helping with our data collection efforts, please contact Darril

Wegscheid (see p. 9 for contact information).

I also wanted to mention that you should consult with the City of Emily or Crooked Lake Township before doing any grading or tree removal on your lakeshore. It was brought to my attention that some of our neighbors have paid very large fines for violating permit ordinances related to lakeshore protection. If you notice activity along the lake you would probably be doing your neighbor a favor by suggesting they check with the city or township too.

Jan Mosman asked me to tell you all that on June 1st at 5:00, you should attend a meeting at the Emily City Hall to talk about a regional comprehensive plan for Emily, Outing, Fifty Lakes, Little Pine and Fairfield Townships. They would welcome your input and ideas.

As always, if you have questions or suggestions about what we should be doing, or want to volunteer to help, please give me a call or send me an e-mail. See you on June 20!

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New Decontamination Unit at Land O' Lakes Marine—by Kirk Smith

Land O' Lakes Marine in downtown Outing, has recently completed it's Minnesota state training update for AIS.

In addition, we have just added a new piece of equipment to our service department. It is called a Marine Dynamometer. This machine will allow us to test run outboard, inboard/outboard & inboard powered boats under load (simulating loaded, in the water operating conditions) without the necessity of a lake test for diagnosis and testing of engine running problems.

Until now, if a boat came to us from an AIS contaminated lake, we have had a



policy of returning the boat to it's home lake for testing, to assure that we were NOT contaminating our nearby lakes.

This new device will save hours and

dollars, previously spent on excessive time & travel.

Please join the friends, staff and customers of Land O' Lakes Marine in downtown Outing, MN on Saturday July 4, 2015 from 8-midnite to help celebrate Land O' Lakes Marines' 30th Anniversary! Free Street Dance with music by North Dakotas' hottest cover band: TRIPWIRE. Crooked Lake VFD, serving pop, beer & snacks. Fireworks by the Outing Chamber of Commerce. Bring your lawn chair and your dancing shoes! Music starts at 8pm. Everyone is welcome. Be there!

RALALA Golf Shirts!


We now have RALALA logo golf shirts available. You can order them on the website, www.ralalalakes.org.

Just select the merchandise tab. You will see the order form that looks like the page at right. Just click on the image, fill out the online form, and pay via PayPal.


If you do not have a PayPal account or don't have internet access, and want one or more of these shirts, call 612-710-2756. We will take your order and give you an address to which you can send your check.

We need a minimum order of 24 shirts and only have about 6 on order so far.

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We cannot place the order with the manufacturer until we get enough orders from you folks. These are really a

bargain, We are not marking them up, so you are paying our wholesale price for the shirts. What a deal that is!

Your shirts will have to be picked up here in the Emily-Outing area, because we do not have the ability to ship. We will alert you when they are here and ready for pickup.

Don't be left out. Show your RALALA colors this summer.

Roger's Report—cont'd from p. 2

Woods Bay Project—Marc was very enthused about the proposed aquatic management area on Woods Bay. He thinks it is a super use of state and private donor funds. He hopes that the deal will be closed in 2015.

Sandpiper Pipeline—DNR has concerns about groundwater at the Spire Valley State Fish Hatchery. The hatchery started producing rainbow trout 5 years ago and currently produces about 1/3 of the state's supply of rainbows.

Spire Valley has some unique geology. The shallow aquifer that supplies the hatchery is vulnerable to pressure loss by downstream construction. Tests indicate that it may be difficult to get below the aquifer with horizontal drilling. The DNR also is concerned about the water crossings. They have requested an alternate route and/or additional shutoff valves. (There have been

subsequent reports of Enbridge purchasing property further south of the hatchery to avoid these issues but this puts the line even closer to North Roosevelt).

Stocking—Roosevelt is Brainerd DNR's number one muskie priority. The stocking level is 380 fish in the 9-12 inch (4 fish/lb) size. The larger fish are less prone to predation by herons, etc. The fish are expected to grow about 6 inches per year. They reach sexual maturity around 40 inches and then grow about 2 inches per year. Marc expects that it will be another 3-5 years before there is much muskie fishing on Roosevelt. Wall-eyes are stocked in odd numbered years. If fingerlings, they are stocked in the fall; if fry, they are stocked in the spring. There is a better survival rate for fingerlings. The rate is 390 lbs with about 20 fingerlings to the pound (i.e. 7500 to 8000 fingerlings per stocking).

FISH SURVEY—The next fish survey is scheduled for 2018.

LOCAL TROUT LAKES—

Allen—has good habitat for both brook and rainbow trout. It is stocked annually with a mix of 3300 brook and rainbow. The 2014 fall survey showed brook trout mainly in the 6 to 9 inch range but with fish up to 12.7 inches. The rainbows were mostly in the 10 to 12 inch range with the largest at 13.7 inches.

Snowshoe(Little Andrus)—The fall survey showed a low catch of brook trout, but they were large. The lake has been stocked with surplus brood stock (100 to 300/year) for last three years. If you want the big ones, Snowshoe is the place. In addition, Snowshoe is stocked in the fall with 3300 fingerling brook trout. This will be changed to spring yearling brook trout in 2016.

Margaret—The lake has good habitat for rainbow. A lake survey is planned for 2015. The lake sometimes winter kills.

Cont'd on p. 7

Kirk Myers
Owner/Broker

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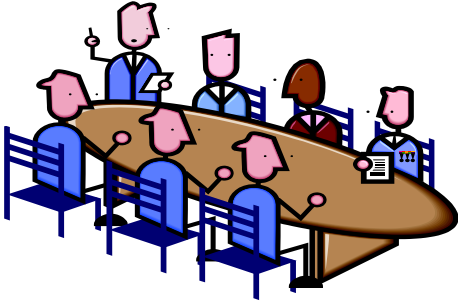
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A Brief History of the CLT AIS Committee—by Ed Evans



The residents of Crooked Lake Township take the threat of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) contamination in the lakes of the Township very seriously. In 2012, the residents voted at the Annual Town Meeting to create a Crooked Lake Township AIS Committee to serve as a focal point for AIS programs in the Township. The CLT Town Board and both of the Local Lake Associations – RALALA (Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association) and LWA (Lake Washburn Association) became and remain active members. The Committee serves as a sounding board to help organize AIS Programs involving everyone.

In 2012, Volunteers from the Lake Associations were stationed at the public landings on Washburn, Lawrence, and Roosevelt Lakes, handing out AIS literature to the boat owners and discussing the threat that these non-native species posed to our lakes. These volunteers were not actually allowed to inspect watercraft.

In 2013 and 2014, a real Watercraft Inspection Program was initiated at the public landings on the CLT lakes using DNR trained Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors that were employees of ERC (a Brainerd based Employment Agency). The Inspection program was administered by Crooked Lake Township (Lloyd Thyen) with help from the Lake Associations and the AIS Committee.

The Lake Associations paid for the Inspectors in 2013 and several DNR Inspection Grants awarded to the Township and the Cass County AIS Program paid the bill in 2014. AIS banner signs were purchased and posted in several locations in Outing to help educate the public and an AIS postcard was sent to property owners to remind them of the AIS risks.

The Watercraft Inspection Program is changing again in 2015, with the Cass County AIS Program now managing and paying for the Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors at the landings. Cass County receives its AIS funding from their share of the 10 million dollars the Minnesota State Legislature appropriated for distribution to Minnesota counties for AIS Programs in 2015.

Cass County also purchased a Decontamination Station (High Pressure – High Temperature Power Washer) to install in Crooked Lake Township to serve the local area and boat owners coming north on Highway 6 to help protect all the lakes in

Cass County and northern Minnesota. The Decon Unit will be installed and operated in the Town Hall/Fire Hall/Cannister Station area of Outing and stored here permanently. Cass is also hiring and managing the DNR Trained Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors needed to operate the Decontamination unit. It will be open and operational all summer, the current plan is on weekends and holidays.

In addition to these changes, RALALA has funded the installation of the I-LIDS Video monitoring system at the Roosevelt Highway 6 landing and the Lawrence Lake landing. All watercraft launches and retrievals from the lake are recorded and the images reviewed by experts. If weeds are shown in the images, tickets can be issued to the boat owner.

The AIS message is very clear in Crooked Lake Township. We are serious about protecting our lakes from AIS contamination.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL BOAT OWNERS WHO HAVE BEEN TO CONTAMINATED LAKES TO COME IN AND GET THEIR BOAT DECONTAMINATED, WHETHER YOU ARE LAUNCHING HERE IN CLT OR ELSEWHERE IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA.

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Roger's Report—cont'd from p. 5

It is stocked every spring with 600 yearling rainbows. It will likely be open to winter fishing in 2015.

Marion— The lake is good habitat for brook trout. A survey is planned for 2015. It also occasionally winter kills. It is stocked every spring with 660 yearling brook trout. It too will likely be opened to winter fishing this year.

INVASIVE SPECIES—(according to Marc and Dan Swanson, the Brainerd DNR specialist on invasive species).

Asian Carp—The closing of lock and dam # 1 in Minneapolis should thwart the migration of asian carp up the Mississippi and its tributaries. But baits and minnow transport will be an issue because asian carp minnows look a lot like fatheads. The DNR will also be experimenting with an electric barrier and a sonic barrier in SW Minnesota to thwart the migration of asian carp.

Zebra Mussels— Christmas and Independence lakes are experimenting with Zequanox and potash (KCl) to control zebras. An experiment in a confined area showed Zequanox is quite effective, but needs warm water and is quite expensive. Potash works in cold water but needs prior EPA approval for use. A potash slurry was injected through the ice in early winter. (See positive report on page 1, but note that this infestation of Zebra mussels was

detected quite early, and it will take five years with no sign of mussels before the lake is taken off the DNR infested lake list.). The zebra level in Mille Lacs has plateaued, albeit at a high level: Here are the actual counts showing just how explosive the growth rate for zebra mussels really is:

Year	Zebra Mussels/sq ft
2007	0.002
2008	n/a
2009	4.4
2010	13.0
2011	921.0
2012	1269.0
2013	1072.0
2014	1050.0

Emily Lake—For the past several years the DNR has been treating purple loosestrife in Emily using a special beetle. While monitoring the beetle damage to the loosestrife, the DNR also found Eurasian Milfoil that had likely been in the lake for 3-5 years. Treatment with aquatic herbicide is not possible because of the proximity of the milfoil to water lilies (a protected species). The lake association is using a mechanical harvester and hand pulling to get the roots. Because of low water quality in Emily Lake, Dan indicated that the milfoil will not grow too fast which should help with control.

Ruth Lake—There is also a 15-20 acre area of milfoil in Ruth. Dan indicated that the late spring was helpful in delaying the growth of the plant. Ruth Lake Association has a very active program headed up by Art Patterson. Dan indicated that about 10 acres have been treated with an aquatic herbicide. Art stated, however, that a significant area is not being addressed because the DNR has designated that area as a fish spawning area.

Washburn Lake—Dan said the Washburn Lake Association has been very proactive in attacking the milfoil that was found several years ago. The treatment involved aquatic herbicide and pulling remaining plants out by the roots using scuba divers. Now even lake association members have become accredited scuba divers in order to do some of the work. No plants were found for a couple of years after the initial treatments, however, last year the plant appeared again. A seven acre area was treated in August 2014 and is being monitored.

NOTE: Dan's opinion is that once a lake becomes infested with an invasive species, the modus operandi has to change from prevention to control because it is virtually impossible to totally eliminate the species once it has established a presence.

LIBRARY NOTES by Carol Pierce



The Outing Volunteer Library had a good winter. We were able to staff the library every day except Thursday and Sunday for several hours per day. People could use the computer, access the internet, and print documents, as well as return and check out materials. We now have a complete computer list of items available to be checked out. Would you believe there are 15,650 individual titles in our collection! Cass County has recognized

our role in this community by asking us to have applications for absentee ballots available for the school referendum.

We returned to the longer summer hours on May 4th, and the hours are posted weekly in the Northland Press and on the front door. Please notice our new signs on the building, which we hope will draw more people to the library.

The new garden next to the library is starting to come up. The lilies and iris are showing their heads, but there are

no sign of daffodils yet. There may not be much blooming this year as the plants are young, but this should improve every year.

We will be starting our Saturday morning story time on May 23rd at 10:00 A.M. and will continue this through Labor Day Saturday. Our annual Memorial Day plant and book sale will be from 9-3 on May 23rd and 24th. We welcome plants to sell and could use more volunteers to help an hour or two at the sale. Call Carol Pierce at 218.792.5438 if you can help.

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New Hope in Fight Against AIS from p.1

lowed by a copper treatment of EarthTec QZ® in October and November. In December, a contractor working with the DNR injected 1,000 pounds of potassium chloride (potash) under the ice near the public boat access. It was only the third time potash was used for zebra mussel control in the United States.

“We are very pleased with the effectiveness of this multi-agency response to this infestation,” said Craig Dawson, Director of Research and Monitoring for MCWD. “It underscores the importance of early detection, which greatly improves the chances of eradication,

and partnerships will help expedite action.” “We appreciate the rapid and thorough response to the discovery of zebra mussels in Christmas Lake,” said Scott Zerby, Mayor of the City of Shorewood. “We hope to continue working together to protect this natural treasure and ensure these early indications of success are permanent.”

Beginning in May, MCWD staff and the DNR will conduct searches along the shoreline and in the lake and will place zebra mussel samplers at the Christmas Lake public boat access and at docks on the property of participating

homeowners. Extensive in-lake monitoring will be required over a period of years to determine whether zebra mussels were completely removed from the waterbody.

Zebra mussels are an invasive species that can crowd out native mussels and compete for food sources with other aquatic animals such as larval fish. They attach to boat hulls and other water-related equipment and can create a hazard for swimmers due to their sharp shells. For additional updates on the mussel response effort at Christmas Lake, visit www.minnehahacreek.org/ais.

Water Patrol News—by Greg and Wendy Koch

Boating season has arrived and the Volunteer Water Patrol held their annual safety meeting on April 25th with Sheriff Tom Burch and a water patrol deputy. Attendance was light, but Tom went over the basic rules of water safety and answered questions from the volunteers.

The primary goals of the water patrol are to promote boating safety and show a presence on our lakes to encourage safe and courteous boating.

This year the Volunteer Water Patrol will receive new inflatable life jackets



from Cass County that are self-inflating, lighter, cooler and more comfortable. Sheriff Burch

also looked into having the boat re-

painted. After assessment he decided instead to work on getting a newer boat for next year. For the 2015 season, the Volunteer Water Patrol will continue using the familiar red Water Patrol boat. The boat will continue to be maintained, cleaned and stored at Land O’ Lakes marine.

More volunteers are needed, so if you are interested in joining the Volunteer Water Patrol, or just have questions about what the water patrol does, please contact Greg or Wendy Koch (612-803-3954, or 952-270-9789).

RALALA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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