



Fall 2018

RALALA Lake Association

Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association Newsletter

President's Letter—by Linda Van Straaten

Happy fall (or winter?) to all of our RALALA family!

The lake region had a very good summer, hopefully enjoyed by all of you. An unseasonably wet and cool September drove the Van Straatens to leave for Arizona where we reside in the winter. The world of technology allows me to keep up with everything going on in Minnesota and especially our lakes.

I want to thank the board members

who continue to work so tirelessly for all the goals of RALALA. Many hours are put in by our volunteers and we appreciate all that you do to help everyone enjoy our quality of life. The Board sponsored a Volunteer Appreciation dinner on Sept. 8 at Clearwater Lodge....we had a great evening of Tacos and Talk with our members and also invited civic leaders who had championed our projects...our partnerships are important for maintaining our commitments to the lakes.

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Milfoil Update-Lawrence/Leavitt/Smokey Hollow—by Bob

I am happy to report that we received good news from the Eurasian Water Milfoil survey that our contractor, PLM, did on Lawrence, Leavitt and Smokey Hollow Lakes. The surveyors completed this project on August 28th when any milfoil plants would still have been growing and easily spotted. All three surveys came back with "no Eurasian Water Milfoil present"!

The lead surveyor made the following observations:

1. Lawrence Lake has a lot of Northern Milfoil, Coontail and floating leaf vegetation. Considering the channel between Lawrence and Roosevelt, I would continue to survey and have landowners report anything suspicious. Much like Roosevelt, there is a relatively steep

drop off but the lake could still support an EWM infestation.

2. Leavitt appeared similar to Lawrence. Considering the proximity to other infested lakes, I would continue to survey annually and have landowners report anything suspicious.

3. Smokey Hollow is very tea stained and has little submersed vegetation. Watershield and Water Lilies appear to thrive. An EWM infestation is possible, but would not do well considering the low light. Surveys are optional.

On the basis of these observations, the Board authorized our President to negotiate an arrangement for surveying these lakes on a regular basis.

Please contact us if you have questions and be sure to call us if you spot anything suspicious on these lakes. .

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Watersheds and the Community —by Darril Wegscheid

A "raindrop" view of our continent might be that "wherever rain falls", it is into a basin on the planet. That rain drop might soak into the ground, but with enough drops, the water will flow. If there were so much water, any pond or lake would in theory "overflow" and continue to move towards the ocean. The edges or perimeters of the area that would flow to the same outlet comprise a "watershed".

On our RALALA waters, as well as Morrison Lake and other smaller waters, we are in the minor watershed known as the "Crooked Creek Watershed". That in turn is part of the larger "Daggett Brook Watershed", which in turn is part of the Pine River Watershed, and

that is part of the Upper Mississippi Watershed, etc. Lake Washburn is in a separate minor watershed, which joins us to form the Daggett Brook Watershed. The Emily area (Ruth Mary, Emily Lakes) are in the "Little Pine River Watershed" which also joins into the "Pine River Watershed" south of Cross Lake.

Watersheds are critical to water management. What happens to water on the land affects its condition and whether it reaches a wetland, creek, river or lake – and eventually the ocean. Forests, cultivated fields and gardens, roads and roadsides, lawns, playgrounds, trails, parking lots and the other varied

surface areas of the watershed can all affect the water quality. Underground water reservoirs can be "recharged" by the surface waters, and they can also release water into the flowages.

Thus, a watershed view of our wonderful area is a very useful tool to help manage our waters – by managing the activities and condition that affect water. For example, trees shelter the ground, and keep it cooler. Thus, we would normally like trees as helpful to water quality. Grasses help control soils and provide some isolation from heat. Soils eroding into streams and lakes are normally a detriment.

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RALALA's Sister Organizations—by Linda Van Straaten

As a member of RALALA, did you know that you are also connected to eight other organizations? Through the years, as RALALA has grown, and other regional organizations developed, we have seen the benefits of networking.

We have become members of several organizations as we expand our environmental responsibilities and knowledge, share what we know with others and learn about opportunities to educate ourselves and our lake neighbors. We thank those who give

a lot of their time to keep us connected; please let us know if you'd like to attend any of these meetings.

Here is a list of our sister organizations and the RALALA members who represent us:

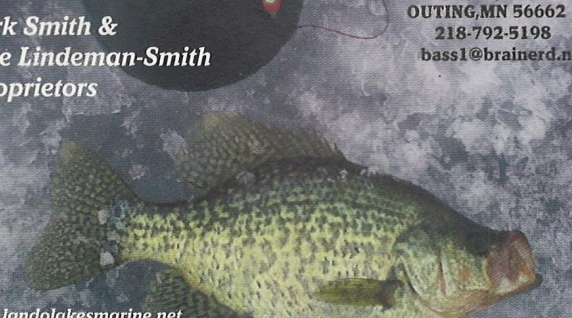
- LARA (Lakes and River Alliance) Darril Wegscheid
- ACCL (Association of Cass County Lake Associations) Mary Kowalski
- CLT/AIS (Crooked Lake Town-

ship/Alien Invasive Species Committee) Gary Langer, Rollie Maki, Milt Spieler, Peggy Parks

- Emily Waters Bob Lee
- WAPOA ... Whitefish Area Property Owners Assoc. Darril Wegscheid
- PRW...Pine River Watershed Association Darril Wegscheid
- MN Rivers & Lakes Alliance
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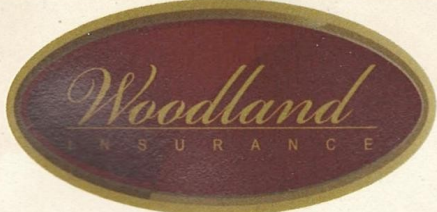


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2018 RALALA Donors—by John Rowell

A big thank you to all of our friends and members who made voluntary donations to RALALA this year above and beyond the payment of dues.

These donations either go into the RALALA Environmental Quality Initiative Fund or the Milfoil Treatment Fund as specified by the donor. The Environmental Quality Initiative provides RALALA the opportunity to further pursue the Association's objectives beyond what our modest annual dues would allow. The Milfoil Treatment Fund is used exclusively to survey for and treat Eurasian Water Milfoil.

We would like to acknowledge the following members who made EQI contributions:

Connie Anderson, Wally & Audra Bokovitz, Robert & Pamela Bolls, David & Anne Bonnerup, Donald Cameron, Lowell & Claudia Campbell, Jane Clausen, Willis Cline, Dennis & Nancy Crowe, Patricia Cunnif, Nicolas & Kim David, Don & Mary Jo Dee, Erin & Suzanne Doherty,

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A special thank you also to the following members, friends and organizations who also responded to our request for donations to the Milfoil Treatment Fund:

Tim Allen, Connie Anderson, Jerome & Shirley Anderson, Mark Anderson & Denise Wicktor, Manny & Sue Azevedo, Berquam-McKenzie Family, William & Mar-

Cont'd on p.6

Watersheds-cont'd from p.2

Barren land, especially inclined surfaces, can more easily be eroded and washed into creeks, rivers, and lakes. Thus, buffers along the edges that “control” any run-off into wetlands and prevent direct discharge to lakes or streams are desirable. Plantings in these buffers that have strong roots and resilient structures, along with good coverage can assist the effectiveness of soil protection.

The Pine River Watershed Alliance (PRWA - www.prwa.us) is proceeding, with the collaboration of Cass and Crow Wing Counties and the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), to prepare a

“One Watershed One Plan” (1W1P) framework. Once adopted, this would assist local activities in addressing elements in the watershed that we can protect, enhance and preserve. The plan is being developed “upward from the local level” so that activities are based on the real world, not from some “think tank” somewhere removed from the sites. It is expected to be a major factor in distributing public funds to local needs.

Our area is participating, with a horizon for completion of the draft plan during 2019, and adoption of a final plan by the Counties before the end of 2019. Your ideas are solicited and will be valued.

Please consider aspects of our

watershed that you believe are most valuable for the success of our community and the surroundings.

At present, for RALALA and the Crooked Creek Watershed, please contact Darril at djwegscheid@earthlink.net. For the Washburn Lake area, contact Bob Holman at outing-bob@gmail.com. Overall, for Crooked Lake Township, contact Lloyd Thyen at crookedlaketownship@brainerd.com. More options will be identified as the process proceeds.

Cont'd on p.8

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News from ACCL (Association of Cass County Lakes)-Mary Kowalski

The Association of Cass County Lakes is a countywide group of lake associations in Cass County, working with Cass County, to partner on projects and issues of concern to lake property owners. Currently, the focus of those efforts is to help lake associations develop AIS management plans.

RALALA is updating and assuring we have early detection and rapid response tools in place. As a member of ACCL we have access to other lake plans including a new infestation response template.

As an ACCL member RALALA members are encouraged to attend monthly ACCL meetings which host

a variety of speakers on relevant topics and lively discussions about how our waters are affected by the environment around us.


For more information about ACCL projects and monthly meetings and topics check the website: www.acclakes.org.

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2018 Raffle Results

This year's raffle was another great success as a fundraiser. We sold \$6790 worth of tickets and spent \$2425.93 on prizes and other expenses resulting in a net contribution to the EQI fund of \$4364.07. This is our largest source of funds other than contributions from members and sometimes grants from governmental bodies.

The first place winner, Bob Lackman of Eagan, MN, shown here with Greg Koch, chose the \$1000 in cash, so the second place winner, Derik Zoch from Pine City, MN, received the gun.

The third ticket drawn was purchased by Tim Allen of Maple Grove, MN and he received a \$250 Target gift card.



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President's Letter cont'd from p. 1



The board has our 2019 calendar in place and our spring newsletter will alert you of those date and activities.

As I meet people around the RA-

LALA lakes, I am amazed by the history that so many families have with this region. My family has been on Roosevelt for 67 years, but that is nothing compared to the wonderful efforts made by many families who drove up to Emily and Outing on gravel roads in the later 1920's and 30's. Being a history buff, I'd like to entertain the thought of a

history roundtable for us to learn some of the stories hidden behind the knotty pine walls. Every time I see an "old school" cabin, I think of what tales of huge fish, bear and critters, what memories generations of folks have created in our area. If you have a story to tell, please send me an email....our lakes deserve to have these stories preserved for future generations.

Thank you for your continued support of RALALA!

RALALA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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