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SEPTEMBER 2021

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RALALA LAKES ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE FROM BOB EDDY, RALALA ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

It's amazing how quickly the summer has passed, leaves are turning, boats and docks are disappearing from the lake shores and we are sending out our Fall Newsletter.

What an exciting and productive year it has been. We accomplished a lot of positive projects this season and we will be preparing for another round of projects for 2022.

- Protecting our Lakes (POL) was very successful with plantings at the Outing dock, adopting the Lake Steward Program and providing educational opportunities for many.
- The Water Quality and Testing program expanded this year, we started sampling in Woods Bay and the stream coming into the north end of Roosevelt. We are looking at expanding this program this coming year, paying close attention to the pipeline areas.
- We updated our website in early 2021 and hope that all members have a chance to look at the incredible information housed there.
- We continued our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) monitoring and treatment with support from many different sources.
- We volunteered to clean up a 2-mile segment of Highway 6 as part of the "Adopt a Highway Program".

These and many more activities would not be accomplished if it weren't for a dedicated group of board members and volunteers that serve the Lake Association and the surrounding communities. Thanks to each and every one of them.



EURASIAN MILFOIL UPDATE
 The 2021 survey map shows the areas on Roosevelt Lake where Invasive Eurasian Milfoil was observed in significant density to receive DNR approval for treatment.

Continued on p.3



PROTECTING OUR LAKES (POL) SHORELINE INITIATIVE

Continued on p.2

BUILDING AWARENESS ◦ ENCOURAGING ACTION



NATIVE PLANT SHORELINE BUFFER ZONE AT OUTING PUBLIC DOCK INSTALLED

The July 9 planting of the buffer zone along the shoreline at the Outing Public Dock was the culmination of months of planning and collaboration fulfilling the mission Building Awareness and Encouraging Action of lake protecting behaviors.

- Fall 2020 RALALA board members met with Crooked Lake Township Lakes and Shores Committee members and Kelly Condiff, Cass Soil and Water Conservation District, discussing the potential of an educational demonstration project including a planting similar to the pollinator garden at Luscher Park
- Prairie Restorations, who installed that shoreline buffer, proposed a plan
- CLT Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to accept the proposal as well as \$3500 in funding the Lakes and Shores Committee provided from their budget
- MNDOT and DNR granted necessary permits
- Sheila Boldt, Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (CWSWCD) technician, made a site visit, reviewed planting proposal and shepherded project through requirements to offer generous cost sharing
- RALALA submitted a grant application to the Land and Waters Preservation Trust, an endowment fund of the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) and the Pine River Watershed Alliance and were generously awarded \$5000
- 3 informational signs designed by RALALA will be installed Fall 2021



VISIT, STUDY, LEARN AND TRANSFORM THAT KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION ON YOUR OWN PROPERTY TO BENEFIT THE LAKES WE ALL CHERISH AND ENJOY!

BUILDING AWARENESS ◦ ENCOURAGING ACTION

EURASIAN MILFOIL UPDATE FOR 2021 continued

RALALA continues to monitor our lakes for Invasive Eurasian Milfoil. This year the survey of Roosevelt Lake was completed on July 8, by Freshwater Scientific Services, LLC.

They found 4.6 acres that needed treating. In comparison 8.1 acres were treated in 2020.

All areas within 150 feet of chemical dispersal were posted with signs on docks or buoys in the water prior to treatment on August 5 by PLM Lake and Land Management, Corp. This year ProcellaCOR and Diquat were used rather than Triclopyr which had been used prior to 2020, and ProcellaCOR alone which was applied in 2020. This combination has been found to be more effective in challenging treatment conditions, where there is a current (like the Narrows between north and south Roosevelt) or where there is wind driven wave action. It is quickly absorbed by submerged plants rather than requiring extended surface contact time. It is EPA approved with no restrictions for swimming or fishing after application.

Surveys of Lawrence and Leavitt Lakes were conducted the week of September 13 when plants were mature allowing easier identification ensuring they were not missed. Smokey Hollow will be surveyed every two years.

The north end of Roosevelt, Lawrence, Leavitt and Smokey Hollow Lakes have not shown any Invasive Eurasian Milfoil to date.

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PLAN YOUR 2022 SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECTS NOW

Fall is a great time to begin planning your 2022 lake friendly plantings, allowing adequate time to:

- Decide your budget
- Decide project scope and design
- Obtain necessary permits
- Select plants and seed mixtures
- Control nuisance species
- Order all your supplies
- Prepare the site

Many native plant varieties sell out quickly in the spring.

A great resource is the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District plant and tree sale which usually begins the first part of the new year with pick up at the Brainerd Fair grounds early May cwsacd.org

The best time for sowing native seeds is the window between the ground becoming frost free in the spring through July 10. Fall seeding should occur later in the season when the seeds will not germinate. Seeds remain dormant through the winter and sprout in the spring.


Shoreline restoration is an on-going process, not a one-time event. PATIENCE is the key. It took a long time for the shoreline to develop naturally. It will also take some time for the shoreline to naturally recover.



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DEAR POLLY *(Protecting Our Lakes Local Yokel)*

Dear Polly,

I realize there are many important things we must do to care for and protect our lakes. I'm concerned we are becoming lax in our vigilance about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). I heard rumors there's a new infestation in a large lake near us.

Keep Our Eyes on the Ball

Dear Keep Our Eyes on the Ball,

You are absolutely correct. In fact we must become expert jugglers keeping our eyes on many balls in order to protect our lakes. Monitoring water quality through testing, supporting land management—including shoreline naturalization and restoration—that enhances water quality, and vigilance monitoring and treating AIS are ALL essential. Be assured RALALA is committed to all these efforts. Our lakes continue to be surveyed and successfully treated for Eurasian milfoil, funded by DNR grants, and Crooked Lake Township, and RALALA members and donors. Inspectors at boat launch sites and decontamination station operators help battle infestations.

The DNR reminds boaters and anglers to follow Minnesota laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

- Clean aquatic plants and animals from watercraft.
- Drain all water by removing drain plugs and keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- Report anything concerning or suspicious to the DNR

Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the water access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving infested waters:

- Spray with high-pressure water.
- Rinse with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).
- Dry for at least five days.

Unfortunately, you are also correct about a recent newly confirmed infestation. Starry Stonewort, was confirmed in Leech Lake. It is a bushy, bright green macro-algae with star-shaped small bulb-like structures that grows in thick mats.

To learn more read *A Deeper Dive into Starry Stonewort* on page 5.

A DEEPER DIVE INTO STARRY STONEWORT

July 19, 2021

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the invasive algae starry stonewort in Leech Lake in Cass County.

A company removing aquatic plants contacted the DNR when its staff suspected finding starry stonewort near Anderson's Cove Resort in Steamboat Bay.



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STEVE HUSS • OWNER

A DNR invasive species specialist confirmed starry stonewort throughout the marina, around and under docks and boats in Steamboat Bay on Leech Lake.

Leech Lake is largely within Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe reservation boundaries. The DNR Invasive Species Program is working with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, the Leech Lake Association, property owners and local governments to discuss management options. State funds are available for an immediate response that could include hand pulling, herbicide applications and other methods as appropriate.

Starry stonewort has never been eradicated from any U.S. lake, but treatment or careful removal can help reduce the risk of spread and lessen the impact on water-related recreational activities. Early detection is key to effective management.

With the addition of Leech Lake, starry stonewort has now been confirmed in 18 of Minnesota's 11,842 lakes, including nearby Cass Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish. It was first confirmed in Minnesota in 2015.

As summer progresses, starry stonewort's small white star-shaped bulbils become more visible, making it easier to distinguish from other aquatic plants. Information on how to identify starry stonewort can be found on the DNR's website. If people think they've found starry stonewort in another part of Leech Lake, or any invasive species new to a lake, they should report it to the DNR by contacting their area invasive species specialist.

About 200 Minnesota lakes are searched annually for starry stonewort during the "Starry Trek" event coordinated by University of Minnesota Extension, scheduled on Aug. 21 this year. In each of the past three years, one Minnesota lake has been newly confirmed with starry stonewort as a result of the annual "Starry Trek" searches.

Starry stonewort is an algae that looks similar to native aquatic plants and can form dense mats, which can interfere with use of a lake and compete with native plants. It is most likely spread when fragments have not been properly cleaned from trailered boats, personal watercraft, docks, boat lifts, anchors or other water-related equipment.

6 PARADE OF SHORES

Twenty five "Paraders" visited 5 different properties which showcased lake enhancing land management techniques to see, ask questions and learn on July 24. They began the self guided tour registering at Crooked Lake Township (CLT) Town Hall and received instructions, history and descriptions of the properties, and additional informative materials.

" Thank you so much for all the work on this project and the great writeups. "

" We enjoyed meeting the people on the tour. "

" Thanks so much for organizing the shore tour. I met so many interesting people. "

" I hope it will inspire others to do something similar. "



▲ Rain gardens to slow the flow of runoff



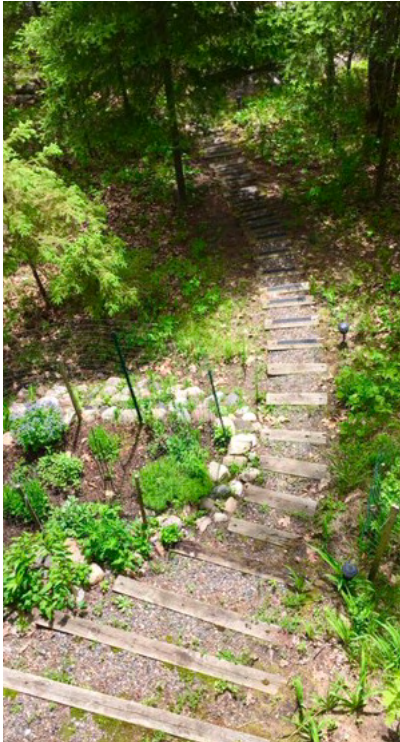
Planned and planted buffer zones where the deep rooted native wildflowers and grasses prevent shoreline erosion



"Don't mow, let it grow" shoreline buffer zones that are natural filters keeping phosphorus from entering the lake which can cause algae blooms.



Shoreline stabilization and repair using coir logs after ice ridge damage caused erosion of the shoreline.



Infiltration steps on steep slopes to reduce runoff into the lake



Kids Corner

LOOK OUT FOR LOONS!

There are two important meanings to that command: **learn about, watch and enjoy our beautiful state birds AND respect, preserve and nurture but DO NOT DISTURB!**

We are very lucky our lakes are the summer home of these special birds. Minnesota has more loons than any other state, except Alaska, because we have clear, clean lakes with plenty of fish, undisturbed shoreline for nesting, and quiet bays for raising chicks. We help loons by protecting our shorelines and our clean water.

READ ABOUT LOONS

The Common Loon - Spirit of the Northern Lakes, Judith W. McIntyre, Univ. of MN Press

Loon Landscapes, David C. Evers and Kate M. Taylor, Willow Creek Press

Journey with the Loon, David C. Evers and Kate M. Taylor, Willow Creek Press

Loon Lessons, James D. Paruk, Univ. of MN Press.

Visit nationallooncenter.org scroll to the "Ask The Scientist" for questions and answers regarding loons!

Loons can live up to 30 years returning to the same lakes every summer. Let's work hard together to respect and care for our loons by watching them from a distance, not using lead fishing weights and reducing boat waves near nesting sites so we hear the music of their calls forever.

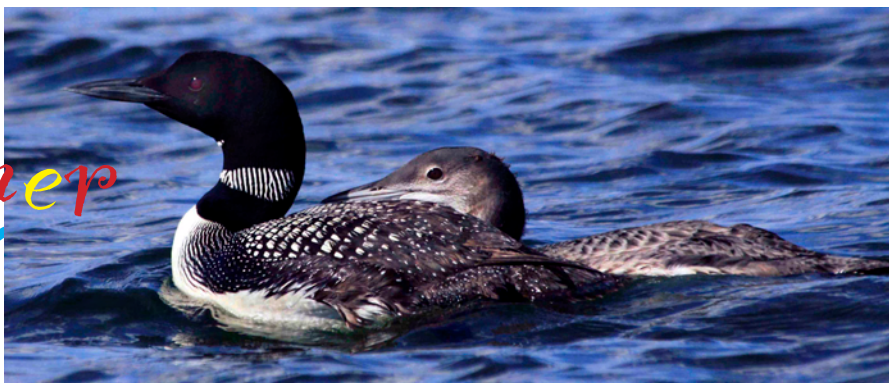


Photo by Sheila Langer

FUN FACTS ABOUT LOONS:

- More closely related to penguins than ducks
- Have solid bones to help them dive; most birds have hollow bones
- Push air from their lungs and flatten feathers to ride low in the water or dive
- Like a submarine can dive 250 feet underwater
- Can stay underwater 5 minutes
- Fly 75 miles per hour
- Babies can fly when 3 months old
- Like an airplane need a 100 to 600 foot "runway" to take off
- Klutzy on land because their legs and feet are far to the rear of their bodies
- Plumage, or feathers, change in the fall from black and white checkered to gray backs and white undersides
- Parents leave first to spend the winter in the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico
- Babies often gather on larger lakes and migrate later
- Different calls communicate different messages:
 - Wail: signals whereabouts to faraway mates or rivals
 - Yodel: "Stay out of my territory" males only make this call (Each male has his own signature yodel. If a male moves to a different territory, he will change his yodel)
 - Tremolo: let loose when they feel threatened
 - Hoot: to keep in touch with their family

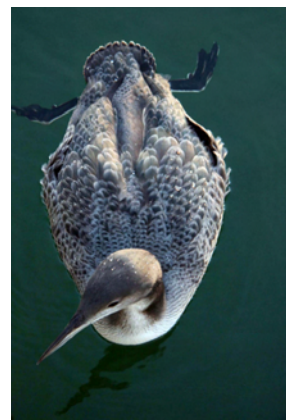


Photo by Sheila Langer



Listen to the calls of our Common Loon

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Loon/sounds

"PROTECT OUR LOONS-GET THE LEAD OUT" EVENT



Crooked Lake Township (CLT) Lakes and Shores Committee Booth at the Lakers Lion's Corn Feed

The Lion's Corn Feed held August 21, 2021 was a family-friendly event with a variety of activities, music, booths, and great food. This year, the CLT Lakes and Shores Committee once again had a very engaging booth and display. Their focus was three-fold: raising awareness and understanding about aquatic invasive species (AIS), water safety, and the dangers of lead in tackle boxes and lakes.

Lead is dangerous to loons, swans and any water birds that pick up small stones on the lake bottom to aid in their digestion. Just one split-shot sinker ingested can kill a loon. **Lead poisoning is the most significant cause of mortality in adult loons.**

The committee worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to organize the collection and disposal of angler's lead tackle because of the harm it does to waterfowl. Fishermen of all ages were encouraged to safely wrap and drop off their lead tackle at **Get The Lead Out (GTLO)** booth. There it was weighed and set aside for disposal at a local hazardous waste site.



The MPCA provided hundreds of sample packets of lead-free tackle that committee members distributed to visitors at the booth. In exchange for the lead tackle, tickets were given out for several drawings throughout the afternoon. Prizes included fishing rods and reels, and gift certificates to purchase lead-free tackle at My Store (*previously Outing Station*).



Dana Gutzmann (left) and Melissa Phelps (right)

A total of 27 pounds, 12 ounces of lead was collected on Saturday ranking #1 in the state for a one-day lead collection event - a fantastic result!

Dana Gutzmann, Cass County, AIS Technician, was available to answer questions about AIS and shared hands-on samples. Dana oversees the boat landing inspectors for Cass County, as well as the decontamination station at the Crooked Lake Town Hall.

Melissa Phelps, with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in Crosslake, was also on hand to educate children about water safety as they colored transfers to make free t-shirts or tote bags to take home. Melissa had a very busy and enjoyable day interacting with the children and their parents as they stopped by.

The CLT Lakes and Shores Committee and the MPCA are grateful to all anglers who participated in the tackle exchange, and to everyone who stopped by the booth to learn about AIS, create a Water Safety t-shirt - or just to chat.

The Crooked Lake Township Lakes and Shores Committee consists of area residents and lake association members focused on continued efforts to raise awareness of AIS, shoreline restoration, water safety and water quality.

GET THE LEAD OUT

The Crooked Lake Township Lakes and Shores Committee

THANK YOU!!

For Supporting
Get The Lead Out at the Lion's Corn Feed

Top Lead Contributors
27 lbs 12oz collected

Kim David	2 lbs 5 oz
Jack Schuler	1 lbs 7.4 oz
Chase Knutson	1 lbs 5 oz

What you can do
Drop Off Lead Tackle
Please contact the following persons to drop off any lead tackle:
Gary Langer: 612-254-4329
Susan Tyra: 630-379-6952

You can help... ..save our loons!

Volunteers
Bob Holman
Gary & Sheila Langer
Ross Lindmeyer
Rollie Maki
Peggy Parks
Tom Pierce
Les Raisch
Mark Skjolsvik
Milt Spieler
Lloyd Thyen
Susan Tyra

Lead poisoning is the most significant cause of mortality in adult loons.

Contact Information
Crooked Lake Township Lakes and Shores Committee
Gary Langer: 612-254-4329
gflanger92@gmail.com

Help rid our lakes of this poisonous material that kills loons and other wildlife.

If you were unable to bring your lead tackle to this event and would like help in disposing of it, contact **Gary Langer at 612-254-4329**.

Gary can also be contacted for information about the Crooked Lake Township Lakes and Shores Committee.

For more information about the MPCA visit: www.pca.state.mn.us/

For more information about the **Get The Lead Out** campaign, AIS or Water Safety, visit the Minnesota DNR website at: dnr.state.mn.us and use key words: listed above

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Downtown Emily

RALALA Adopts a Highway

RALALA has officially adopted a 2 mile stretch of Hwy 6, starting just north of Emily and running to a point just south of Blue Lake Road. Signs have been installed and clean-up will take place this fall. We are excited to support such an important program.

Adopt a Highway enables residents who are environmentally conscious to make a personal contribution to a cleaner environment.

These volunteers helped MnDOT realize an estimated \$7 million benefit in 2018.



Go to the RALALA WEBSITE ralalalakes.org to volunteer



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THANK YOU TO LOCAL BUSINESSES



Our community is fortunate to have many dedicated, supportive local businesses whose actions benefit us all. RALALA wishes to thank a few:

Lake Country Grocery and Liquor in Outing refrigerates overnight several coolers containing water samples collected monthly, May through September, from Woods Bay, north and south Roosevelt, Lawrence, Leavitt and Smokey Hollow Lakes before they are transported to the lab for analysis. This ensures accurate monitoring of the water quality of our lakes.

Olds Lift and Dock Services places and retrieves the lake safety buoys every spring and fall. We all benefit from safer boating with shallows, channels and hazards clearly marked. Nearby property owners are appreciated for their buoy monitoring, as well.

Outing Station (now called My Store) allowed its entry to be frequently used for the sale of RALALA raffle tickets. This major fundraiser allowed us to be able to finance the fight against Aquatic Invasive Species including the treatment of Eurasian Milfoil and other efforts to monitor and protect our lakes. My Store is now selling non-leaded sinkers to protect our loons.

Meri Lysne often printed our raffle tickets free of charge.

The Village Inn hosted the annual raffle drawing.

Thanks to them and to all who share in the community efforts to successfully protect our land and waters ensuring continued enjoyment of our beautiful lakes.

THANK YOU

RALALA BOARD MEMBERS

Robert Eddy	President	Bob.Eddy@hotmail.com
Open	Vice President	
Sara Parke	Treasurer	skparke@gmail.com
Cyrus Malbari	CIO & Asst Treasurer	cyrus.malbari@gmail.com
Mikie Walker	Secretary	tommikie@gmail.com
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Dave Johnson	Board Member	dpjohn53@gmail.com
Kim David	Board Member	kim.mae.david@gmail.com
Jeff Caza	Board Member	jeffcaza@gmail.com
David Lawson	Board Member	woodsbaypoint@yahoo.com

LAKE STEWARDS RECOGNIZED

CONGRATULATIONS, new recipients of Lake Steward distinction from Lawrence and Roosevelt Lake



*Lloyd Thyen
Lawrence Lake*



*Mary Kowalski and
Darri Weigscheid / Roosevelt Lake*



*Bonnie and John Rowell
Roosevelt Lake*



*Edie and Roger Brekken
Roosevelt Lake*



*Bart Olson and Cyrus Malbari
Roosevelt Lake*



*Nicolas and Kim David
Roosevelt Lake*

Several property owners have been recognized as Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates and RALALA Lake Stewards. After completing the Lake Steward Quiz at mnlakesandrivers.org, participating in a Support Squad site visit, and review determining all criteria had been met, they were awarded the distinction and accompanying sign to display on their shores.

Lake Stewards are recognized for their contribution to improving the water quality of our lakes by:

- Reducing runoff
- Maintaining naturalized shoreline buffer zones
- Keeping upland spaces covered in native ground covers, shrubs and trees
- Eliminating use of pesticides, herbicides and insecticides

- Nurturing rather than eliminating aquatic plants
- Burning fires away from the lake
- Removing pet waste
- Maintaining and pumping septic systems
- Reducing their impervious footprints

Lloyd Thyen, Lawrence Lake, is the first designated MLR Lake Steward in Minnesota

BE SAFE Wear your life jacket
STOP HITCHHIKERS! Always Clean, Drain, Dry



Roosevelt and Lawrence
Area Lakes Association
P.O. Box 139
Outing, MN 56662-0139

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES OR PHOTOS FOR THE RALALA NEWSLETTER

President: Bob Eddy 612-961-8513 bob.eddy@hotmail.com
Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association
RALALA P.O. Box 139, Outing MN 56662-0139

For membership information contact: Darril Wegscheid 651-503-8414
djwepscheid@earthlink.net

www.ralalalakes.org

DNR NOTES

With the uncertainty of Covid, social distancing, and indoor meeting prohibitions we have been forced to curtail some of the popular DNR programs we have had in the past. This summer with vaccines readily available and infection rates dropping, the restrictions were relaxed. However, the Delta variant has created a great deal of uncertainty. This fall we hope to be able to resume the:

ANNUAL IN PERSON MEETING WITH THE DNR

NOVEMBER 16, 2021 5-7 PM

**BRAINERD DNR OFFICE at
1601 MINNESOTA DRIVE**

This meeting is typically held later in the fall because of the busy DNR schedule in the spring and summer.

We plan to meet with staff from the DNR fisheries department to discuss items important to our RALALA lakes. The meeting is restricted to 8 attendees so we request others who cannot attend to submit questions which will be given to the DNR staff in advance and discussed at the meeting. A summary of these questions and DNR responses will be found in the next RALALA newsletter.

As in the past, those attending can meet locally and carpool to Brainerd if they choose. If you would like more information, have questions for the DNR, or would like to attend please

Contact:

**Dave Johnson 320-894-5903 or
dpjohn53@gmail.com**

YOUTH WATERCRAFT OPERATOR TRAINING

JUNE 2020

This was a very popular program overseen by Denny Neil and Denny Borgia in concert with the Cass County Sheriff's Department. Sadly, we have lost both of these hard working members and the Cass County Sheriff's Department is no longer providing support for this program.

Happily, the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department has agreed to work with us and continue this valuable training. The watercraft operator training for 12-17 year olds is free of charge, lasting from 9 AM to approximately Noon. We are hoping to have 20 to 30 participants. Watch for details in future RALALA newsletters.

**This is a great opportunity for our children
and grandchildren to learn
safe boating skills!**