

# RALALA LAKES ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE FROM BOB EDDY, RALALA ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

VISIT OUR NEW  
**RALALA WEBSITE**  
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TO BE MORE INFORMED



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I would like to say thank you for all the renewal and new memberships along with the fantastic donations this season. It has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. For you folks that have not returned your memberships yet, there still is time to get those renewals submitted.

We have included an article in this newsletter called "Own Your Wake" a new awareness program by the DNR. This is a very timely program considering we have had a number of requests from members to help manage shore-line impacts, loon nesting sites impacts and the general high volume of boat traffic on the lakes, especially on the busy weekends. I would ask that you all review the article and implement the suggestions into day-to-day boating practices.

As you are aware, the Enbridge Line 93 pipeline is operational, since late 2021, and pumping about 800,000+ barrels of oil per day. The pipeline is located about 600 feet from Roosevelt Lake. While RALALA is not anti-pipeline or anti-petroleum, we are concerned about the potential of a leak and the downstream impacts on the Lakes, Watershed, Business Community and Residents. We are meeting with Enbridge trying to ensure that we have the proper early warning systems in place if a leak does occur. We will continue to provide updates to our members and the community as these meetings move forward.

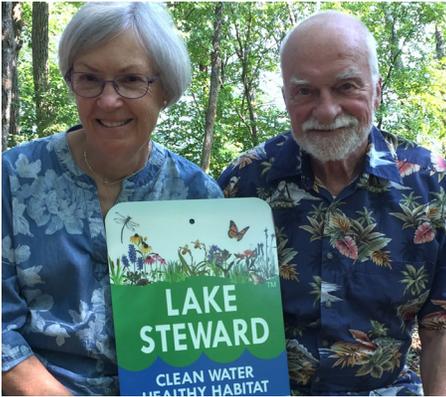
**2022 UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**CHANGE OF DATE**  
**AUGUST 6: RALALA ANNUAL MEETING**  
**CROOKED LAKE TOWNSHIP TOWN HALL**  
**August 20: Lions Corn Feed at the Pickled Loon Saloon**  
**RALALA Adopt a Highway FALL pick up TBD**



## Youth Boater Operator Training

*Kids completed the course on the water in Sheriff Department boats to receive their certification.*

# BUILDING AWARENESS • ENCOURAGING ACTION



## ROOSEVELT LAKE STATE AQUATIC MANAGEMENT AREA (AMA)

### Judy and Charlie Eggers Tract

The Roosevelt Lake State Aquatic Management Area — Judy and Charlie Eggers Tract — includes 105 acres and over 5,000 feet of pristine, sensitive shoreland in Woods Bay. The property was originally owned by visionary environmentalists Judy and Charlie Eggers. Following their wishes and in partnership with many groups it is now an AMA managed by the DNR.

## TAKE THE LAKE STEWARD QUIZ

Go to [mnlakesandrivers.org](http://mnlakesandrivers.org) under the Lake Associations tab, click Member Benefits.

Take the short, 13 question "Are You a Lake Steward Quiz" to see how well you are protecting our lakes from your own backyard, and steps you can take to improve your impact on the environment. Many lakeshore homeowners are unaware of the devastating effects an unnatural shoreline can have on lake health and water quality.

Many have made conscientious decisions to manage their shorelines and upland property to enhance water quality and are recognized as Lake Stewards and awarded a sign to post for their efforts.

**Become one of them!**



## YOUTH BOATER OPERATOR TRAINING

Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department and RALALA sponsored Youth Boater Operator Training on June 23 at the Channel Bar and Grill in Outing. The kids completed 3 hours of classroom instruction and were tested on their knowledge. Following lunch, provided by RALALA, they completed the course on the water in Sheriff Department boats to receive their certification.

# BUILDING AWARENESS

## RALALA RECEIVES LAND AND WATERS PRESERVATION TRUST GRANT

RALALA was very fortunate to receive a generous \$5,500 grant from the Land and Waters Preservation Trust for our Protecting Our Lakes (POL) Shoreline Initiative. We worked extensively to highlight the significance of natural shoreline restoration and to support property owners in their endeavors. Close collaboration and support was provided by both Cass and Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Two property owners on Roosevelt Lake moved forward to proceed with major projects. Consultation and oversight was provided by Crow Wing SWCD, and designs provided by Prairie Restorations, Inc. (PRI) and Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL) who will also assist the property owners with the installations.

RALALA appealed to the Land and Waters Preservation Trust to grant us a generous sum to reimburse the property owners a portion of their cost. We are very grateful to receive this funding.

The Land & Waters Preservation Trust is an endowment fund of the Initiative Foundation created in partnership with the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) and the Pine River Watershed Alliance (PRWA). Their vision is to provide a consistent stream of resources to protect and preserve the Whitefish Chain of Lakes and Pine River Watershed, so that future generations can enjoy the rivers, lakes, and woods experience. This endowment is a permanent, professionally invested, self sustaining fund that provides support in perpetuity. A portion of the annual earnings is used to fund critical projects.



LEFT: Tom Watson, chair of the Land and Waters Preservation Trust and former President of WAPOA attended RALALA's Lake Season Launch June 11 for the announcement.

**CHANGE OF DATE  
AUGUST 6:  
RALALA ANNUAL MEETING  
CLT TOWN HALL**

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## TAKE THE PLEDGE TO PREVENT AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES SPREAD

Heading into the summer recreation season, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is rolling out a new online pledge to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Anyone 18 or older can go to the [new Pledge to Protect Minnesota Waters page of the DNR website \(\[mndnr.gov/AISPledge\]\(http://mndnr.gov/AISPledge\)\)](#) to take the pledge and upload a photo, if desired. The pledge affirms that participants will follow Minnesota's "Clean, Drain, Dispose" laws and will encourage others to do so.



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## HELP RALALA SUPPORT THE LIONS CORN FEED

**Lakers Lions Corn Feed**  
**Saturday, August 20, 2022**  
**Pickled Loon Saloon Highway 6, Emily**  
**Lions Food and Beverage Service Noon to 4 PM**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**  
**to help husk the corn from 7 to 8 AM.**

There are dozens of ears of delicious corn to be readied for the Lions to cook for all of us to enjoy.

**JOIN US TO CLEAN THE CORN**  
**for this wonderful community event!**

Everyone is invited to enjoy the day, visit the booths by vendors and community groups such as RALALA, the Over-The-Hills-Gang ATV Club, the Crooked Lake Township Lakes and Shores Committee, Lake Washburn Association and many others.

## DRINKING WATER TESTING

Safe drinking water is essential to our health and well-being, yet it is something that we often take for granted. There are several contaminants that can affect the safety of drinking water. Some such as bacteria or parasites can make us sick right away while others such as arsenic cause more chronic health problems over a long period of time. Contaminants in water can be especially harmful to young children and infants. The Minnesota Department of Health recommends having your water checked for safety at least once every year.

Other common issues with well water such as iron, hardness, and tannins, do not pose a safety concern, but can be a nuisance. Quality labs can test for these parameters. You can take your results to any water treatment professional who can help you decide what kind of softener or filtration system you need to fix your water issues.

### Should I test my Water?

If you have a well you should test your water annually to make sure that it is safe to drink. Cities and municipalities check their water for safety on a regular basis; however, if you have your own well it's up to you to make sure your water is safe for drinking.

### Sampling Your Water

In most instances, homeowners are able to collect their own water sample. If you have a quality lab in mind, contact them. Likely the closest lab for our area is:

### **A.W. Research Laboratories, Inc.**

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Brainerd, MN 56401

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Fax: (218) 829-1316

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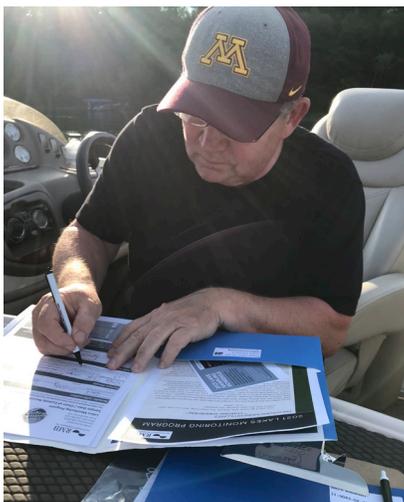
## WATER QUALITY MONITORING



The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) manages the sampling and monitoring of Minnesota's surface waters. The MPCA collects water quality data from state, local and federal agencies, as well as citizens. Through these efforts, the MPCA works to protect and improve Minnesota's rivers, lakes, wetlands and ground water so that they support healthy aquatic communities and public uses such as fishing, swimming and drinking water.

Water quality parameters are measured in the field and samples are collected to be analyzed in the laboratory. The results of each measurement are compared to standards or guidelines to determine if the water source is attaining water quality standards.

The federal Clean Water Act requires each state to adopt water quality standards to protect waters from pollution. These standards define how much of a pollutant can be in the water and still allow it to meet designated uses, such as drinking water, fishing and swimming. A water body is designated "impaired" if it fails to meet one or more water quality standards.



RALALA conducted water quality monitoring has several dimensions, including the above MPCA sampling. In each summer month, May through September, all five basins (north and south Roosevelt Lake including Woods Bay, Lawrence Lake, Leavitt Lake, and Smokey Hollow Lake) are sampled in a program coordinated and paid for by the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA).

Volunteers from RALALA collect lake water samples and forward them to AWLabs in Brainerd. There they are analyzed, and the results are reported to the state as well as available locally. Historical data on our lakes varies, but some data goes back more than 30 years. A volunteer committee is working on evaluation of the data, interpretation of the status and direction of our water quality efforts, and proposing a long range plan. Volunteers interested in participating should send an email to [ralala.lakes@gmail.com](mailto:ralala.lakes@gmail.com), and use the subject line Water Quality Monitoring Interest.

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## STARRY STONEWORT THREAT

“Starry stonewort is Minnesota’s newest aquatic invasive horror story—a spidery, grass-like algae that likes high-quality water, destroys prime fish spawning habitat and forms dense mats that choke out native vegetation and tangle up boat propellers,” according to the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Starry stonewort is believed to have hitchhiked to Minnesota in the ballasts of ships on Lake Superior and has spread to at least 17 Minnesota lakes and the Mississippi River since it was first discovered on Lake Koronis in 2015. The algae forms thick, dense mats and is recognizable by its tiny, pearly, star shaped bulbil, which is the reproductive organ that grows new plants. In North America, all starry stonewort is male and reproduces on its own.

Dana Gutzmann, Cass County AIS Lake Technician, explained the challenge to control infestations. In contrast to vascular plants, such as Eurasian water-milfoil, which absorb herbicides, its vessels transporting the toxin throughout the entire plant effectively killing it, starry stonewort is an algae. Each strand is a single celled organism. Each individual cell must be killed. Imagine the structure similar to a dense head of long hair, each strand must be individually eradicated. Heidi Wolf, Invasive Species Program supervisor for the Minnesota DNR reports, “The algae can be treated with herbicides, but it’s not very effective and gives it only a haircut.”

One of the most successful efforts to control starry stonewort has been using diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH). Scuba divers pull out clumps of algae by hand which are vacuumed onto boats above for disposal. Early detection is imperative to make that a manageable strategy and “No one knows right now if we can get to eradication”, according to Wolf. This technique is scheduled to be used on Leech Lake in July, the project organized by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

Starry stonewort has been found in wild rice stands which could be devastating since wild rice is a sacred plant for the Ojibwe people, part of their

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### STARRY STONEWORT RESEARCH & DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting)

Cass County AIS Technician, Dana Gutzmann is seeking volunteers for the starry stonewort research and DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) and removal project scheduled at:

**Leech Lake**

**July 25-30, 2022**

**8 AM to 4 PM in 3 to 4 hour shifts**

(Dates and times may be subject to change)

Volunteers are needed to bring their own kayaks to surround the harvesting area and use provided pool skimmers to capture any algae fragments that may get loose. A couple volunteers may be used on the harvesting pontoon to remove the starry stonewort from the screens and bag it to be taken to shore.

If you are interested and available please contact:

Dana Gutzmann

dana.gutzmann@co.cass.

218-547-7324

migration story and one of their main food sources. It is not clear how the rice has been affected. The invasive algae can change the water’s acidity, something wild rice is sensitive to, and the dense mats of starry stonewort choke out other plants. There is concern it may affect the ability of wild rice to germinate. Tribal scientists and University of Minnesota researchers are collaborating to study the problem.

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates secured a grant to install solar powered cleaning stations (which are manufactured in Princeton, MN) that are free to use at the boat ramps on infested lakes. The waterless kiosks are equipped with lights and use high-pressure air hoses to blow out boat lines. Vacuums and scraper tools are available to help clean the average fishing boat on a 10-minute timed schedule.

These are in addition to the 50 cleaning stations in the state and the army of watercraft inspectors at boat launch sites. Even with that extensive effort, there are gaps. Adam Doll, the DNR’s Watercraft Inspection Program coordinator, reported more than 500,000 statewide watercraft inspections were conducted last year, finding 95% of incoming watercraft were in compliance with state laws.

**We need 100% compliance to control AIS!**

**CLEAN DRAIN DRY DECONTAMINATE**

**DISPOSE OF UNWANTED BAIT IN THE TRASH**

## DNR RECOMMENDS WAKE AWARENESS

Almost every motorboat can create a wake, which is why boaters must be aware of the danger wakes present and the damage they can do. While common courtesy dictates boaters should control their wakes, there are consequences beyond how wakes may affect people. So, what do boaters really need to know when it comes to owning their wake?

Under Minnesota law, the damage your wake causes is treated the same as damage caused by an actual collision. Personal watercraft (PWC) must stay at least 150 feet from shore. There is no required distance for boats, but by staying at least 200 feet from shore or other structures boaters can reduce the likelihood their wakes will cause damage. Boats that create an artificial wake may require more distance to lower the impact.

**Be aware of your environment** and what's going on around you – this applies to everyone on and around the water.

- Have a designated lookout to keep an eye out for other boats, objects, and swimmers.

- If crossing a wake, cross at low speeds and keep a close lookout for skiers and towables.

- Comply with all signs and respect barriers. This includes speed limits, no-wake zones, and underwater obstructions.

### **Stay away from shorelines, docks, or other structures.**

Backing a boat up to a riverbank or lakeshore can damage the area and lead to erosion. Travel slowly in shallow waters.

- Travel slowly in shallow waters and avoid boating in water less than 2½ feet deep. High speeds near shorelines lead to large wakes that cause shoreline erosion.

- Check local ordinances, restrictions, closures, and permit requirements for the body of water you are on.

- Ask permission from the landowner(s) before crossing private property.

### **Minimize repetitive passes.**

Once you've run a line, move on to another area. Comply with all signs and respect barriers.

Respect the rights of others so everyone can enjoy their time on the water – keep the noise down, be courteous to other boaters, and show consideration to all recreationists on and around the water.



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF WAKES

Large wakes produced by watercraft can result in a variety of negative environmental consequences, including:

- Shoreline erosion;
- Impaired water quality resulting from increased sediment in the water;
- Loss of shoreline vegetation, which helps stabilize the shore and provides important habitat for fish and wildlife.

These impacts are greater when water levels are high and shorelines are saturated.

Boaters must be aware that their actions directly impact the environment. They should take steps to reduce their wake when operating near shore or when water levels are high.



Photo by Sheila Langer

These **American White Pelicans** were spotted on Lake Roosevelt in June. They are one of Minnesota's largest birds, with a length of 3.9-5.9 feet and a wing span of 8-9.5 feet.

During the breeding season, both males and females develop a pronounced bump on the top of their beaks. The conspicuous growth is shed by the end of the breeding season. Minnesota is home to 15 known nesting colonies.

**FIVESTAR LAKE SERVICE PROVIDERS** are DNR certified, have signed a contract agreeing to apply additional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) best practices and safeguards when moving from one lake or river to another, and agree to help identify and disseminate AIS best practices and safeguards throughout Cass County.

Find list of FiveStar Lake Service Providers at [http://www.co.cass.mn.us/government/county\\_directory/environmental\\_services/aquatic\\_invasive\\_species\\_\(ais\)/index.php](http://www.co.cass.mn.us/government/county_directory/environmental_services/aquatic_invasive_species_(ais)/index.php)

# LOON CHICK DEVELOPMENT

*By Sheila Langer*

Loon chicks typically start hatching around day 28 of incubation—generally the last week of June. For the nesting period, the loon pair has shared time on the nest equally.

Young chicks are born with black downy feathers. By the second day, they are looking into the water. During the first seven days of life, chicks ride safely on the backs of their parents. Predators such as Northern Pike, Muskie and Snapping Turtles are a constant threat to tiny loons. Resting on the back of a parent greatly reduces exposure to these dangers.

The young ask to ride by nudging a parent along its side. The parent responds by raising a wing slightly, allowing the chick to maneuver underneath and rest on the adult's back. A parent's wings can either completely cover and shield the young, or the young can rest openly on the parent's back.

During their first week, chicks are chasing insects skittering on the water's surface and by week two, chicks are better at swimming and chasing fish underwater, but probably not yet able to catch them. At around ten to fourteen days, the black feathers are pushed out and replaced by brownish gray down feathers (see photo). About the end of week two, chicks rapidly become more adept at swimming and chasing fish underwater. To feed their young, one adult stays on the surface of the water while the other dives for food. Soon the adults feeding chicks at this stage will drop fish in front of them, letting them capture the injured minnows. Normally, once chicks get to six weeks of age, they have a 90-95 percent chance of flying off the lake in the fall. It is thought that once chicks leave the nest, they may not touch land again until they start to nest four-six years later.

Here are some things we can all do to help assure that chicks reach maturity:

*Photo by Sheila Langer*

- Watch loons from at least 200 feet away. Get binoculars or a powerful camera lens or a spotting scope, and never explore a loon nest site. Close encounters can be deadly for swimming and nesting loons.

- Loons prefer islands for nesting. Disturbance can cause a loon to abandon its nest.

- Never fish or cast near loon nests or swimming loons, properly dispose of extra bait in the trash and pick up monofilament line. Use lead-free tackle.

- Keep dogs and cats away from loons and loon nests. Pets disturb nesting loons and can destroy eggs.



- Be a responsible boater. Never chase loons or run motorboats or personal watercraft over areas where loons have been seen. Loons and loon chicks have died from being hit by boats and propellers. Boat wakes and waves may also wash eggs off the nests.

Always practice and teach wildlife stewardship. Loons need good water quality and healthy lake habitats and ecosystems to survive and thrive. We are very fortunate to have nesting loons on our lakes. Fourth of July weekend and the preceding and following weeks are very dangerous times for loons. The lake is overcrowded with boats and boating etiquette seems to be at its worst. Please remind others to slow down and keep their distance from loons.

With a good food base, lower levels of human disturbance, naturalized shorelines, and good water quality we can continue to enjoy these beautiful birds for years to come.

**Listen to the calls of our Common Loon** [www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common\\_Loon/sounds](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Loon/sounds)



**JOIN US to hear  
JEFF FORESTER,  
featured  
speaker at  
the RALALA  
Annual Meeting  
August 6, 2022  
at 9 AM**

**JEFF FORESTER** has been the **Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR)** for over a decade. MLR seeks to protect Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links between lakes, lake advocates and policy makers. Jeff was a Hubert Humphrey Public Policy Fellow and a Shannon Leadership Fellow. His book, *Forest for the Trees, How Humans Shaped the Northwoods* (Minnesota Historical Society Press) examines fire and forestry in northern Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. He was associate producer of *TRANSPLANT, A GIFT FOR LIFE*, which won a midwestern Emmy. MLR believes that much work can be done at the local level to protect water, and that there is a significant role for citizens to play. Our agencies and public resource managers cannot protect and improve water in isolation. To that end MLR works to build civic infrastructure around water in local communities, and to build the capacity of partnerships to protect Minnesota's most valuable resource, our lakes and rivers.

Jeff lives with his wife, two daughters, two dogs and five chickens in Uptown Minneapolis, but spends as much time as he can on family land adjacent to the Boundary Waters.

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**DON'T LET IT LOOSE**

 **TOSS IT**  
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 **...OR KEEP IT**  
Drain water from bait container on shore, away from water. Refill container with bottle or tap water.

Releasing live bait threatens our environment. Bait and bait water can harbor fish diseases and aquatic invasive species.

**Do your part to protect our lakes and rivers.**

# RALALA LAKE SEASON LAUNCH

RALALA hosted its 2022 Lake Season Launch on Saturday, June 11 at the Crooked Lake Township Town Hall. Participants gathered to learn important information and ask questions on topics impacting Roosevelt, Lawrence, Leavitt and Smokey Hollow Lakes and our Pine River Watershed.

Featured guests gave presentations and were available to discuss and answer questions at their extensive display tables. Highlights included:

- RALALA's **Protecting Our Lakes Initiative's** important role **building awareness and encouraging action** to maintain and improve water quality highlighting its demonstration Buffer Zone Planting and recently installed signage, and the No Mow, Let it Grow site at the Outing Public Dock, its Lake Steward Program, and Bennies, the reimbursement program for shoreline restoration.



- RALALA's **Woods Bay Initiative's** collaboration with the MN DNR to install lakeside signage for the Roosevelt Lake Aquatic Management Area—Judy and Charlie Egger's tract—highlighting the importance of the sensitive shoreline and biological significance of Woods Bay. It is an effort to encourage respectful, careful use of that beautiful, but fragile, environment that belongs to all of us thanks to the visionary environmentalists, Judy and Charlie Eggers, and the collaborative efforts of many.



- Ryan Sullivan from Prairie Restorations, Inc. (PRI) emphasized how essential it is for water quality to maintain deep rooted native plant buffer zones to stabilize shorelines and filter contaminating runoff before it enters our lakes. He discussed the important role of naturalized upland cover to control runoff, **"Edit, don't Delete"** trees and shrubs to maintain a lake view. He also demonstrated maintenance of a No Mow, Let It Grow area with selective control of undesirable plants and cost saving, gradual introduction of native plants. Approximately 50-4 inch potted native plants were installed at the Outing Public Dock site costing under \$300.



- Spencer Rettler, Grand Rapids DNR Loon Specialist, shared valuable information about Minnesota loons and the Loon Restoration Program funded by money from the British Petroleum (BP) Deep Horizon Disaster settlement. The DNR's loon liaison program gathers important data about loon numbers and assists lake associations with loon-centric lake management plans. Monies are also available for DNR acquisition of critical loon nesting habitat. He shared information about the threat to loons from lead tackle and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's program **Get the Lead Out (GTLO)**.



- Dana Gutzmann, Cass County AIS Lake Technician, presented an extensive update on Aquatic Invasive Species in our area. Of **significant importance** to us, because of the proximity and popularity as a fishing destination, creating increased boat travel between lakes, **Thunder Lake** and **Woman Lake** have confirmed infestations of **zebra mussels** and **Leech Lake** has a confirmed infestation of **starry stone-wort** algae. Our best defense is fastidious attention to **CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY** and **DECONTAMINATION** of boats and trailers and **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash NOT the lakes.

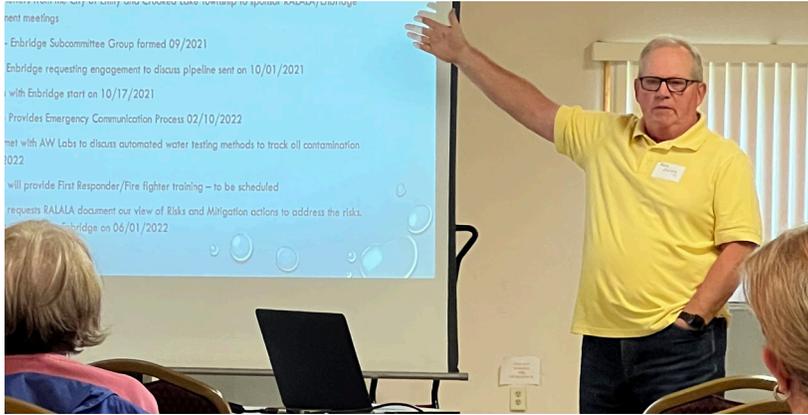
*Continued on page 11*



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.**

**RALALA LAKES SEASON LAUNCH** continued from page 10



• Bob Eddy, RALALA President and member of RALALA/Enbridge Working Group, spoke about communications with Enbridge Pipeline Company regarding Line 93 (formerly called Line 3) which runs approximately 600 feet from the north end of Roosevelt Lake. Reporting procedures of leakage or spills, emergency responder training, water monitoring and mitigation strategies are topics that continue to be under discussion with the company. The group prepared a document expressing its questions and concerns and are expecting an Enbridge response.

## INSTALLATION OF SIGNS FOR THE BUFFER ZONE PLANTING

Take time to explore the **Outing Public Dock** site. Read and learn from the newly installed signs, observe the buffer zone's native plants and pollinators, and watch the progression of the **No Mow Let It Grow** area.



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Website: wigwamlodge.com

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**Larson Haynes**  
Owner

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## PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES OR PHOTOS FOR THE RALALA NEWSLETTER

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[www.ralalalakes.org](http://www.ralalalakes.org)



**RALALA volunteers worked at Adopt a Highway JUNE 11**

Go to the RALALA WEBSITE [www.ralalalakes.org](http://www.ralalalakes.org) to volunteer for the Fall clean-up



*Prairie Smoke, an earlier bloomer at the Outing Public Dock Buffer Zone.*



*2021 Designated Lake Stewards share the benefits of maintaining naturalized properties discovering Yellow Ladieslippers blooming in June.*