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SPRING 2022

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RALALA LAKES ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE FROM BOB EDDY, RALALA ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



As we kick off this year's lake season I'd like to encourage you to join RALALA and our efforts to **protect and preserve our lakes and the watershed.**

2021 was an interesting year, to say the least! Dealing with Covid prevented us from our normal raffle fundraising but many of our members made generous donations in addition to their membership fees to help offset that income. The following is a recap of what RALALA accomplished in 2021 and what we have planned for 2022, all made possible by your memberships and donations.

We launched our **Protecting Our Lakes Shoreline Initiative (POL)** which included:

- Planting a lake protecting **shoreline buffer zone** of native plants adjacent to the Outing public dock which includes informational signage.
- Creating a **No Mow, Let It Grow area**, demonstrating how easy it is to quickly make a positive contribution protecting lake quality.
- Participating in the state wide **Lake Steward Program** in partnership with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates and awarding 9 qualifying designees with a colorful sign to display, including the first honoree in the state.
- Awarding a **\$100 Bennie** for a completed lake enhancing shoreline restoration.
- Hosting a **Parade of Shores** where participants toured properties with exemplary water enhancing shoreline and upland management.

RALALA continued our aggressive approach to **Managing Milfoil** with annual lake surveys and chemical treatment of all infestations allowed by DNR permitting. We have not eliminated Milfoil completely but are currently able to manage it.

We participated in the loon protection program **Get the Lead Out**. We **Adopted 2 miles of Highway 6**, cleaning the adjacent ditches.

We will continue these efforts in 2022.

The job of protecting and preserving our lakes and watershed has become more complex and demanding. It was just a few years ago we found Eurasian watermilfoil in the south end of Roosevelt Lake. Now other lakes in close proximity are infested with additional aquatic invasive species (AIS); zebra mussels and starry stonewort just to name a couple. Their proximity puts our lakes at additional risk.

The Enbridge Line 3 replacement pipeline began pumping in the Fall of 2021. This pipeline is about 500 feet from the north end of Roosevelt Lake and it travels across areas that directly feed Leavitt Lake. Needless to say, if there is a leak, our lakes and watershed are threatened.

There is also a significant amount of new construction around our lakes bringing additional lake lovers and revenue to our

Continued on back page

BUILDING AWARENESS • ENCOURAGING ACTION

PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

RALALA and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) Lake Steward Program

RALALA will continue its participation in the statewide MLR Lake Steward Program designed to improve water quality with individual property owners as the agents of change. The program promotes shoreline restoration projects and naturalized upland management practices for lake health improvement.

According to Jeff Forester, MLR Executive Director, "Five years ago, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) listed 40% of our lakes and rivers as impaired. In 2020 the MPCA listed 56% of the lakes and rivers in Minnesota as impaired. The degradation of our lakes, mostly by phosphorous is accelerating. Increasing phosphorous causes excessive plant and algae growth and decreasing oxygen levels which adversely affects fish and other aquatic life. A poorly developed shoreline can deliver 7 to 9 times more phosphorus into a lake than a natural shoreline. One pound of phosphorus can create 500 pounds of algae in the lake."

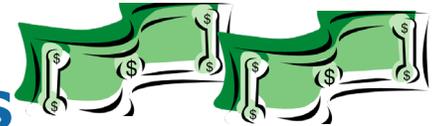
"The sources and reasons for water degradation are both plentiful and complex, but degraded shoreline is one significant contributor. According to the MN DNR, Minnesota has lost approximately half of its natural shorelines and the rate of shoreline development is accelerating. The good news is we can reverse this trend. We can protect water quality, create habitat for shoreline nesting birds, like loons, pollinators and song birds. Each one of us can become a Lake Steward."

Start the process by going to mnlakesandrivers.org. Take the "Are You a Lake Steward Quiz." Record RALALA as your lake association.

A member of the RALALA Lake Steward Support Squad will contact you to coordinate a site visit. Property owners that meet the Lake Steward criteria will receive the attractive sign to post on their property. The Support Squad will work with property owners who do not meet criteria to better understand their goals and share information of simple actions that can be taken to improve their shorelines. A Lake Steward Shore-

line Owners Guide describing best practices, the impacts of runoff on lake health, and information about local resources, such as grants and cost sharing programs, will be provided.

In 2021, nine property owners were recognized as Lake Stewards on RALALA lakes. Our goal is to increase that number in 2022. You can become a Lake Steward, too!



BENNIES Providing Financial Support for Shoreland Restoration Projects

RALALA will award up to ten \$100 **BENNIES**, "Benjamins" that "Benefit" our lakes as part of our **Protecting Our Lakes (POL) Initiative**.

These awards are \$100 REIMBURSEMENT checks for Soil and Water Conservation District site visits to plan shoreline restoration projects OR for completed, eligible restoration projects.

Shoreland restoration work must meet the same criteria used by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Eligible activities are:

- Constructing rain gardens and storm infiltration systems
- Establishing buffer "No Mow Areas" with native plants along shorelines
- Adding bank, slope, and drainage swale, slowing and diverting runoff
- Completing shoreline stabilization projects
- Repairing and stabilizing shoreland erosion problem areas
- Other pre-approved improvements reducing storm water runoff into the lakes

Biodegradable materials must be used such as coir, logs, native plants, willow wattles, or shore socks, for example.

Types of activities that are NOT eligible:

- Septic systems
- Garbage cleanups
- Aquatic in-lake treatments
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control
- Boulder rip-rap
- Older ice ridge repair (DNR rules apply)
- Impervious surface areas
- Beach blankets
- Rock mulch

For more information email bonnerupanne@gmail.com Subject: **RALALA BENNIES**

BUILDING AWARENESS

Substitute SOLARIZATION for Herbicide Use



Using the power of the sun is an environmentally friendly substitute for herbicides, which carried in runoff, disrupts lake ecology. Solarization kills unwanted plants, weed seeds and soil pathogens, leaving behind a bed ready for re-planting. This is an excellent way to eliminate grass or other vegetation before establishing a buffer zone, or an upland patch of more desirable native vegetation. RALALA will be using this technique to create a boundary between the buffer zone and the sidewalk at the Outing Dock planting.

Summer is the best time to solarize:

1. Cut lawn VERY short and smooth ground surface
2. Saturate the soil 1 to 2 feet deep
3. Cover with 2-4mm CLEAR plastic, leaving no air space
4. Create a small air gap (using planks of wood or bricks) and add a second plastic layer to raise soil temperature more quickly, if desired
5. The center of the covering heats more effectively, so extend plastic 6-8 inches beyond the desired edge of your planned new planting
6. If using multiple sheets of plastic, overlap seams
7. Anchor edges with rocks, bricks, wood, soil or landscape clips
8. Wait at least 8 weeks until covered plants turn straw brown in color
9. Remove plastic carefully, if it does not have UV inhibitor, it will fall apart
10. Clear away the dead debris where you need a smooth surface, such as walkways, OR leave the dead debris as compost
11. Add soil, if needed, or plant directly into the solarized plant remains DO NOT rototill (turning the soil deeply brings seeds and pathogens to the surface where they will proliferate).

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EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend to learn about our programs and plans for 2022.

Connect with fellow lake lovers sharing the goal to protect and preserve the lakes and our watershed. Come to listen, to learn, ask questions and collect important information and materials.

- Protecting Our Lakes (POL) Shoreline Initiative
- Outing Dock Buffer Zone: information and techniques to utilize on your own property
- Lake Steward Program in partnership with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates
- Soil and Water Conservation District's support for shoreland restoration including site visits and cost sharing opportunities
- Cass County Aquatic Invasive Species Updates
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) *Get the Lead Out (GTLO)* efforts
- Woods Bay Aquatic Management Area
- DNR Loon Restoration Program's Loon Liaison
- Enbridge dialogue concerning first responder training, community reporting of leaking or spill, water quality testing and monitoring

SEE YOU JUNE 11!

THE CROW WING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT HOSTED ANNUAL LANDOWNER EVENT



The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Supervisors hosted their annual Landowner Event on March 4, 2022. According to Melissa Barrick, District Manager, "Individuals are doing great things for clean water and habitat in this area. We want to make sure these stories get told." Anne Bonnerup, representing RALALA, was one of the presenters at the event.

RALALA was recognized for their **Protecting Our Lakes, Shoreline Initiative** efforts including the establishment of the buffer zone at the Outing Public Dock. Adam Maleski, CWSWCD District Technician, presented Bonnerup with a framed print.



PROTECTING OUR LAKES

LAKE SEASON LAUNCH

**JUNE 11, 9 AM-NOON
CROOKED LAKE
TOWNSHIP TOWN HALL**

Building Awareness / Encouraging Action



EFFORTS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF STARRY STONEWORT

In 2020, the MN DNR listed 17 lakes (with a total of 28 water accesses) as infested with starry stonewort, a destructive fresh water algae that forms dense, vertically thick mats which can completely cover lake bottoms. It can reduce the diversity of aquatic plants in a lake and impede the movement of fish and other wildlife. It may also impact the spawning activity of fish. Starry stonewort was first discovered in Minnesota in 2015 in Lake Koronis, near Paynesville. According to Jeff Forester, Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, "Despite aggressive initial treatment, costing more than \$800,000, and ongoing management, the infestation spread and now covers approximately 70% of that lake's littoral zone" (the area of the lake that is less than 15 feet deep where sunlight penetrates, allowing plant growth). **Starry stonewort was confirmed in Leech Lake last summer.**

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) found that aquatic invasive species infestations follow a similar pattern. Once the species has entered a lake from out of state, it spreads quickly within a 50 mile radius of the infestation, making RALALA lakes an area of heightened concern.

RALALA is a member of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) who submitted a grant proposal to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). This agency makes recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature how to disperse funds from the MN Lottery and through the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The proposal requested funds for installation of solar powered cleaning stations at each of the access points on starry stonewort infested lakes and an accompanying rigorous public awareness campaign.

In July 2021 the Stop Starry effort was awarded \$1 million to install this equipment. Unfortunately, 3 additional lakes had confirmed cases after that date so additional funds will be needed. **Providing boat cleaning equipment where people need it and encouraging its use is a powerful shielding strategy to slow or perhaps stop the spread of starry stonewort in Minnesota.**

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Discover our community "GEM" in the Northwoods, the Outing Volunteer Library

By Carol Pierce

It started 3 weeks after I retired from Hennepin County Libraries in 2006 when a friend said to me, "Why don't you start a library in Outing?" The bookmobile doesn't even stop here anymore!" I asked the town board if they knew of a place we could use for that purpose and they said I could use the meeting room in the "Old" fire hall.

I wrote a letter for the Northland Press and placed a sign with balloons directing people to Woods Bay Drive and soon we started to get donated books and three volunteers. In no time we outgrew that meeting room and my husband asked the town board if we could turn one of the garages into more space. Many, many people in the community donated labor, materials, and time to remodel it into the best space possible.

As we continued to grow, we started to look into a free-standing building when the Crooked Lake Township Board proposed an addition to the townhall and leasing that space to us for the library. We moved to that new space in 2013 and now 9 years later, we have a beautiful, brightly lit full-fledged library of 16,500 books ranging from board books for babies and toddlers, to chapter books and easy readers to all genres of fiction, non-fiction, DVD's, board games, and jigsaw puzzles that can be checked out. We have no due dates, no library cards, 3 computers with free Wi-Fi and it's all staffed by volunteers.

We are totally self-supporting and pay all of our utilities and expenses, including upkeep, cleaning, & insurance through donations and an annual used book sale on Labor Day week-end.

The City of Emily Public Library is located in the Emily City Hall & Community Center and welcomes visitors year round. The library (and city) open hours are 8 to 4:30 M-W, and 8 to Noon Thurs & Fri. Wi Fi is free at the library. For more info, log on to CityofEmily.com and select Library from the drop down menu under Residents.

We offer a summer story-time, special displays for public education such as Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), and seasonal displays. We accept used book donations all year as long as they are not water-damaged or mildewed. Recently we received a beautiful collection of art history books and catalogs of many famous art museums, and another collection of books about home construction, furniture building, woodworking, etc. We have knitting, crocheting, and quilting books and magazines, plus a back-file of "The Lake Country Journal" along with many local history items, including a special Minnesota Collection.

Recently we had a bachelorette party of 15 ladies who were hosted by a cabin owner on Lake Washburn who had attended one of our summer story-times. She was so impressed and raved about our facility that the whole group wanted to see it.

Please come, visit and enjoy our terrific Outing Library located at 6300 Woods Bay Dr. NE.

For hours of operation call 218-792-5167.

Volunteers and donations of all kinds are always welcome and appreciated.



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.

WOODS BAY & LAKE ROOSEVELT

Lake Roosevelt is a deep cold-water 1,585 acre lake in which cisco, also known as tullibee, are able to survive. The lake is important to protect because it is predicted to be a refuge for these highly temperature sensitive cold-water fish if 75% of the land draining into the lake can be protected from land conversion. However, land protection isn't the only approach for preserving these unique lakes. As the Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association (RALALA) has been promoting for years, it is also important for landowners to minimize their household impact on lakes by keeping shorelines natural; eliminating sources of phosphorus and nitrates such as fertilizers, runoff and erosion; maintaining septic systems on a regular basis and motoring at slow speeds in shallow water near shorelines.

The history of Woods Bay preservation begins with the environmental vision of Charlie Eggers. He bought his 30 acres on south Roosevelt in 1951 for the family cabin. Realizing the importance of the Bay, Charlie and Judy Eggers bought the 80 acres that adjoined their 30 acres in 1953. In 1986 he bought 24 more adjoining acres. Protecting the land was the family mission and because of the lack of development, the DNR agreed to manage it as a biological wonder when the state purchased it.

All of the shoreline in Woods Bay has been designated by the MN Department of Natural Resources as "sensitive shoreland" using a scientific field-based model and survey in 2009. "Sensitive shoreland" has critical aquatic and wild-life features that would be severely impacted by shoreland development and the natural features are highly vulnerable. But, it's more than just the shoreline; the terrain that surrounds the bay creates the perfect drainage system with tiers of land that hold kettle holes, left over from the glaciers' retreat. The land surrounding the bay, acts as a purification system for the entire lake.

The property is listed on the MN County Biological Survey because of its high biological significance and intact old growth forest canopy.

In August, 2017 after an 8-year effort by the family of Judy & Charles Eggers, the creation of the Roosevelt Lake State Aquatic Management Area (AMA) in Woods Bay was established, consisting of almost 100 acres. Many organizations and the public contributed to the project.

It is fair to say that whether we are boating, swimming or just enjoying a quiet cruise, Lake Roosevelt and Woods Bay are a wonderful treasure for all of us to enjoy, and preserve for future generations.

This is the sign that the DNR will place at the entrance of Woods Bay to remind everyone of its importance.

WELCOME TO

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Spring 2022 RALALA Adopt a Highway date is JUNE 11, at 2 PM.

Adopt a Highway enables residents who are environmentally conscious to make a personal contribution to a cleaner environment. We are excited to support such an important program.

Go to the RALALA WEBSITE www.ralalalakes.org to volunteer for the spring clean-up



TIPS FOR BOATING SAFELY NEAR LOONS

Shared from an article written by Sheila Johnston

Loons are returning and their haunting and wild calls are echoing across our lakes. Loons on our area lakes face many threats. Raccoons, gulls, ravens, crows, large fish and snapping turtles eat eggs and many also eat chicks. While people can be a friend to loons, we are also capable of being their worst enemy. Shoreline development disturbs traditional nesting and chick rearing areas. Recreational activities can be a threat if they occur too close to active nests, chick rearing sites, and loons on open water. Each summer juvenile loons and adults are struck and killed by careless boaters.

We are fortunate to have many loon nesting areas. Many of these nesting areas are near islands or a quiet bay. Your actions can help protect our precious loons. Here's how you can help:

- Be aware that loons may be nesting in these areas. If you see a nest, please keep your distance. Loons may abandon their nests if people come too close. Memorial Day weekend is particularly dangerous for loons with too many boats and too many people near nesting areas. Please remind friends and family members to keep their distance, especially around the holidays.
- Respect the wake zone and keep your boat wake low. Boat wakes can wash the eggs off the nest.
- Chicks hatch about the fourth week of June, or possibly sooner with early ice out in April. After hatching, the parents escort the chicks to the nursery, a calm secluded area. Peace and quiet is essential, so resist the temptation to get close.
- PLEASE SLOW DOWN! As the chicks mature, the parents move out of the secluded areas to chick rearing areas. Unfortunately, this often puts the chicks in the pathways of boats. The chick rearing areas are close to islands and quiet bays as well as in open water before or after the no wake zones. Many people drive through these chick rearing areas at high speed. Please slow down before you reach the no wake zones and keep your speed low as you exit no wake zones. Be alert for loons and juveniles and give them space. The juveniles are often left alone for short periods while their parents fish and socialize. Loon chicks cannot dive when very young to get out of the way of boats. They also tire easily. Even adult loons have difficulty staying out of harm's way as boats approach and exit the area at high speed. When in open water, continue to watch for loons and keep your distance.
- 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.
- Report harassment of loons, contact the DNR at 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367. Be sure to get boat identification information, if possible.
- Please share this information with others and keep our loons safe!

Photos by Sheila Langer

LOON LIAISON FOR RALALA LAKE ASSOCIATION

By Sheila Langer

Early this spring I was designated as Loon Liaison for RALALA Lake Association. I have monitored loons on Lake Roosevelt every summer for the past several years for the MN DNR and protecting our loon population is something I have long been passionate about.

After the British Petroleum Deepwater Oil Spill (April 2010) state and federal agencies came together to form the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustee Council. Subsequently, the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group was formed and initiated the Restoration of Common Loons in Minnesota Project. Lakes in our area have been historically important loon nesting sites, have been previously categorized as biologically significant and often contain populations of cisco (an important forage fish for loons prior to fall migration.)



My responsibilities and duties as Lake Liaison are as follows:

- 1) Integrating loon conservation information into lake association management plans, newsletters, websites & agenda items in association meetings.
- 2) Training lake association members as volunteers to assist with loon monitoring.
- 3) Working with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff to integrate Get the Lead Out Program (GTLO) elements into lake association activities.

Because this is a new program, information is still forthcoming. I will be communicating more as information becomes available.

Listen to the calls of our Common Loon

www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Loon/sounds

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2022 UPCOMING EVENTS

June 11: RALALA "Lake Season Launch" Event at CLT Town Hall 9 to Noon

June 11: Adopt a Highway Clean-up 2:00 Meet at Emily Ace Hardware Parking Lot

June: Youth Boat Safety Training TBD

July 2: Lawrence Lake Fireworks at Dusk

July 3: Independence Day Boat Parades

Watch for email blast reminders. Mark your calendars and check for starting locations on your lakes. Encourage neighbors to join with their boats or to watch from their docks and cheer for the floating parade.

July 16: Emily Day & Fireworks

August 20: Lions Corn Feed at the Pickled Loon Saloon

August 13: RALALA Annual Meeting

LOON WATCH NEWSLETTER

Kris Kristufek lives in Breezy Point and for 30 years has sent out weekly emails on Sundays about the observations from his National Loon Center Cam. He is getting very sophisticated equipment this year to offer different views and sounds from the nest 75 ft from his home office window on Pelican Lake. Website: Mousseaubay-looncam.from-mn.com

He is adding a microphone, buried in the nest to be able to hear all the intimate sounds loons make while nesting. Kris says "I am near certain that the 4 voices we all know loons make are only part of their vocabulary. There are more voices we don't hear, unless one is paying extremely close attention with listening devices. We are going to learn together about these voices this year!"

The website chat board will be up and running the day the nest is launched and anchored to the lake bottom. I will send out a note so you can begin watching and "listening" to the loons and the sounds on the bay.

Kris spoke at a RALALA meeting last year as a volunteer spokesman for the National Loon Center in Crosslake.



LOCAL ATV CLUB PROPOSES TRAIL CHANGES TO PROTECT LITTLE EMILY LAKE

The Over the Hills Gang (OTHG) ATV Club of Emily and Outing is pursuing a limited trail change to protect Little Emily Lake from water pollution due to storm-water run-off. The OTHG's objective is to close a 2-mile section of the right-of-way ditch area to the use of any All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) & Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHM's) and to facilitate effective restoration of damaged areas. The ATV traffic in this narrow ditch along Little Emily Lake is the primary cause of local top-soil erosion and run-off into Little Emily Lake. (See picture)



Little Emily Lake impacted by ATV trail runoff. Picture by Perry May

This proposed closure would include the re-routing of ATV traffic to existing Grant-In-Aid ATV trail routes slightly to the East of Hwy 6.

The OTHG has actively solicited endorsements and community support to have the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT) proceed to then close the right of way and erect approved signage at various points along the trails. MN DOT is reviewing the proposal, language, and costs to assure compliance with all laws and regulations.

The RALALA Board, Pine River Watershed Board, Emily City Council, Crooked Lake Town Board, local legislators and others are on record endorsing this ATV Trail proposal. This action is a modest yet important step to eliminate erosion-creating ATV traffic within and through this tightly constrained shoreline area. Also, it is consistent with RALALA's commitment to preserve and protect our lakes and this watershed for ourselves and future generations.

This change of ATV routing is also expected to enhance safe travel for the ATV riders between Outing and Emily and to provide other broader community values as well.

YOUTH MINNESOTA WATERS OPERATOR'S TRAINING

RALALA, in partnership with the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department, plans to host a **Youth Minnesota Waters Operator's Training.** A certificate will be awarded after successful completion of the course. There is no cost to participate in the training. This is a great opportunity for your kids, grandkids, and friends to learn about safe boat operation and have a great lake experience.

The training is available to 12 to 17 year olds, or those turning 12 this summer. Adults are also welcome to attend.

Email the following information to dpjohn53@gmail.com as soon a possible.

Name of youth attending: _____ Age: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Contact Information: Phone and email: _____

We must have 20 enrolled to hold the class.

We will email specific details to you. Thank you for your interest, if you have questions please email or call: Dave Johnson dpjohn53@gmail.com 320-894-5903

The class will be held on a Saturday in late June or early July at the Channel Bar in Outing, beginning at 9 a.m. with approximately 3 hours of classroom instruction, followed by another hour of training in the boats on the water, and ending with lunch provided by RALALA.

Our lingering winter and anticipated delayed ice free lakes are causing scheduling challenges.

Please express your interest in attending the training NOW!



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

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RALALA P.O. Box 139, Outing MN 56662-0139

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www.ralalalakes.org

MESSAGE FROM BOB EDDY, RALALA ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

communities, but also added pressure on the ecosystem, including our water quality. RALALA will provide information, support and advocate for healthy environmental protection.

So, with that said, we need to make you aware of two specific things:

- We will no longer be asking for funds designated exclusively for milfoil treatment and we have expanded the donation category to what we call Environmental Quality Projects and Initiatives (to protect and preserve the lakes and watershed). This will include, but not limited to:
 - Milfoil monitoring and treatment
 - Zebra Mussel monitoring
 - Water Quality Improvements
 - Shoreline Restoration and Management
 - Enbridge Monitoring

This change gives us flexibility to quickly respond to currently unknown and unpredictable events as they arise: perhaps an additional AIS infestation or a pipeline emergency, for example.

- We need your help and support with these efforts. Membership dues amount to about \$6,500 per year. While this is critical to the operations of the lake association, we continue to see increases in costs for milfoil treatment chemicals, boat launch site management, and we anticipate significant costs to monitor the Enbridge pipeline. Without your donations, over and above the membership dues, we will not be able to address the critical issues now facing us all. I'm asking for your support and donation to the **Environment Quality Projects and Initiatives**.

Become a member and donate to RALALA at ralalalakes.org

I would like to thank you for your continued support. Please feel free to reach out to any of the members of the RALALA board if you have any questions