



Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2016

President's Letter—by Bob Lee

I will bet you all assumed that I forgot to do the 3rd 2016 newsletter. Well I almost did, so this is more of a year-end edition! The picture below is taken from my back door on the morning of

am very grateful for the wonderful support we received from you and very proud of our prompt and effective response to the Eurasian Water Milfoil infestation.

Lawrence. The DNR also did some surveying on both North and South Roosevelt. South Roosevelt was found to have 12.1 acres where a treatable amount of milfoil was pre-



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November 19th. The lake was still completely ice free, but there was white stuff piled 16 inches deep (according to measurements taken by both Roger Brekken and Tony Marchiafava). Our beautiful fall had come to a rather abrupt end!

This was a very challenging year for RALALA, and one I will not soon forget, But I

Immediately after learning from the DNR that milfoil was present, we commissioned a comprehensive survey of both North and South Roosevelt by PLM, a contractor out of Brainerd that specializes in treating invasive species. Later, Roger Brekken and I (after some training) also did a complete survey of

sent. A few isolated plants were also found in North Roosevelt, but nothing was found in Lawrence. The main milfoil bed was in an area that is typically directly downwind of the boat launch, i.e., on the north shore of South Roosevelt, west of the bridge.

We applied to the DNR for

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...e & Cindy

President's Letter from p.1 (cont'd)

a permit to treat all of the milfoil found in the PLM survey with a herbicide called triclopyr. Triclopyr is very effective at killing Eurasian Water Milfoil (having a kill rate in the 95%-100% range), but is relatively easy on other related native species like Northern Milfoil. Triclopyr has been approved for this use by the EPA, and was highly recommended by both PLM and the DNR. Our permit allowing us to treat the milfoil found was granted by the DNR on September 16th and PLM applied the triclopyr to all 12.1 acres on September 20th. The weather was perfect for the application with low light levels, virtually no wind, and mild temperatures. PLM is confident that this will be a very successful application, but has warned us that we will have milfoil in the lake for the foreseeable future and should be prepared to continue to

manage it with further herbicide applications in the years ahead.

I am confident that we will be able to manage the infestation so that our use of the lake will not be impacted and your property values will not be impaired, but this will be expensive. In this year alone we spent \$3200 on surveying and \$22,497.41 on the herbicide treatment for a total of approximately \$25,700. Nearly all of this came from money we have raised in the past through our EQI campaign, the raffle and other fundraisers, and additional funds that were donated by you and a few non-members as special milfoil treatment donations.

More money will be required down the road, because it is not realistic to think we will ever be able to eradicate the milfoil, at least not with existing technology. It is like dandelions

in a lawn. You can kill enough of them to make your lawn look really good, but you can never wipe them out once and for all.

Thus, I think we need to plan on raising and spending a lot more money than we have in the past. We applied for a grant from Cass County and have recently been informed that we are getting \$5000 early this year. We also will apply for a DNR grant as soon as they announce availability of funds. Historically, their grants have amounted to only about \$1200 or so and are always oversubscribed. We will also apply for grants from both Crooked Lake Township and the City of Emily. The Board is also looking into new fundraising activities for

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DNR LIAISON REPORT by Rog Brekken

On Friday December 2nd five RALALA members met with Marc Bacigalupi, DNR Fisheries Supervisor for the Brainerd region, at the Brainerd DNR office. The topics discussed were:

Fish Stocking:

Walleye stocking has stayed on schedule with 390 pounds of 3-8 inch fingerlings (roughly 6000-8000 fish) added to Roosevelt in the fall of each odd numbered year. Walleye will be stocked again in the fall of 2017.

Leech Lake strain muskies are stocked in the fall of even numbered years. This fall 390 fingerlings about 11 inches long were stocked in Lake Roosevelt. The life expectancy of a muskie is in the range of 12-13 years but can live as long as 20 years. Natural predators of young muskies are great blue herons and eagles. The long term DNR goal for muskies in Roosevelt is 700 fish in the whole lake. This will be monitored by fish surveys. A few of the muskies stocked initially in 2011-2012 were

adults. The photo below is a muskie caught by Gary Fernholz of Centerville, MN in September. It is likely one of those.



Photo courtesy of Ellen Thomas

Fish Surveys: Fish surveys on Roosevelt are done every six years with the next scheduled for 2018. The survey uses different techniques for different fish spe-

cies and locations, including shallow and deep gill nets, trap nets and electro fishing. The most recent survey in 2012 indicated that the walleye population was in the middle of the range of the last 20 years while blue gills were declining and northerns were increasing. Muskies will be surveyed for the first time in 2018. All the muskies stocked in Roosevelt are tagged with a tiny microchip transmitter. Any muskies found without the microchip would indicate natural reproduction is occurring.

Tullibees: Tullibees (aka cisco) are an important forage fish for our game fish. I questioned Marc as to whether there has been a decrease in the Lake Roosevelt population as some have been saying. Marc indicated that the DNR does not know, because tullibee are not well sampled in fish surveys. They can be monitored by very expensive hydroacoustic techniques. Their population cycles in response to changes in habitat and environment. They are good reproducers, They do require cold

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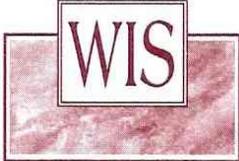
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DNR LIAISON REPORT cont'd from p. 3

water and good oxygen. They are more tolerant than lake trout but less than walleye and bass. Marc indicated that they do well in Roosevelt.

Invasive Species Status

Plants:

Marc was aware that Roosevelt is infested with Eurasian Water Milfoil and that RALALA is addressing the situation with a chemical herbicide treatment followed by monitoring and management. There is nothing new in the way of treatment for milfoil. It was once thought that a milfoil weevil/beetle would be the solution, however sunfish love to eat the beetles, negating the treatment.

Starry Stonewort is one of the most recent invasives to be reported in the state. It is a grass-like algae "on steroids". It produces dense mats on the surface, displaces native plants and interferes with recreational water use. It is resistant to herbicides. At this point there is none close, but it has been confirmed in several Beltrami County lakes including Cass, Moose, Turtle and Upper Red as well as in Lake Winnibigoshish in Cass/Itasca Counties..

Animals:

Zebra Mussels: Marc indicated that the DNR believes there is no clear evidence that zebra mussels impact the walleye

fishery. However the crystal clear water created by the mussels is not the best environment for walleye because it negates the eyesight advantage walleye have. He said that some populations of smallmouth bass have actually increased after zebra mussel infestations. But the food chain can be damaged because they filter algae and plankton that small fish eat causing their population to crash. Zebras are very efficient breeders. Zebras can produce 30,000 to 1,000,000 eggs a year. And while some species eat them (ducks, crayfish, muskrats) they reproduce too fast for predators to control them. Zebra mussels have been treated in open water systems with Zequanox, a biological pesticide and copper sulfate.

Rusty Crayfish: Earlier this summer there was a rumor that Lake Roosevelt had rusty crayfish. It is still unconfirmed. Dan Swanson, the former invasive species specialist in Brainerd, told us that it takes a real expert to tell the difference between rusty and native crayfish. He also indicated rusty crayfish are only a "regulated invasive species" so it is not illegal to possess them or use them as bait. However it is illegal to release them into the wild or sell them. It seems these are low on the DNR's invasive species priority list.

Spiny Waterfleas: Like rusty crayfish, these are a "regulated invasive species". They came to the US in ship bal-

last water and were noticed in Lake Superior in 1987. Adult spiny waterfleas range in size from 1/4 to 5/8 inch long. They have a long tail with multiple barbs which helps them avoid predation. They can mature and reproduce in about one week!! They can reproduce both asexually and sexually. Females can produce up to 10 young



every two weeks without mating. They consume native plankton and can take over the bottom of the food chain and decimate the food source for small fish. They are confirmed in Lake Mille Lacs, Lake of the Woods and Lake Vermillion.

Spire Valley Fish Hatchery:

Gary Mattson, the DNR supervisor at the Spire Valley Hatchery, sent information to Marc to share with RALALA. The French River hatchery has been closed (very energy inefficient), and that will put more pressure on Spire Valley production in the future. A disease in brook trout has forced Spire

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DNR LIAISON REPORT cont'd from p. 4

Valley to instead raise rainbows. Spire Valley also hatches Lake Superior Steelheads.

Line #3 pipeline replacement:

Line # 3 is planned to cross Spring Brook between Scout camp pond and the north end of Roosevelt. The DNR found about ten springs on the property, and thus believes flowing water will be an issue. Surface water will flow in the direction of Roosevelt, but the underground water flow direction is unknown. The biggest issues for the DNR are the ground water supply for the Spire Valley Hatchery, geomorphic stability and biological connectivity, as well as the risk to downstream fisheries including the Pine River, Whitefish Chain, Roosevelt Lake and the Mississippi River.

Local Designated Trout Lakes:

Brook trout are currently unavailable because of disease and all stocking is now with rainbow trout.

The table below gives the lake, date, number of fish and pounds of fish stocked in 2016:

Because of the warm and wet summer, oxygen levels in the cool water were fairly low in all these trout lakes. Marion had a major algae bloom. Little Andrus (Snowshoe) had the best conditions this past summer. Margaret and Marion will be open to winter fishing under winter stream trout lake regulations.

Other DNR Comments:

Dan Swanson, the Brainerd office AIS

Allen	10/25/16	3336 fish	618 lbs
Little Andrus	3 stock-ings	4669 fish	1046 lbs
Margaret	4/19/16	605 fish	242 lbs
Marion	5/26/16	317 fish	27 lbs

specialist recently retired. Marc indicated that the position will be filled after the first of the year. The DNR invasive species specialist for our lakes is now Nicole Kovar who is located at the Park

Rapids DNR office.

The University of Minnesota Extension has two programs in concert with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) that may be of interest to RALALA. One is the AIS Detectors Program which will train citizens to make credible AIS reports, allowing DNR AIS staff to focus on verifying new infestations. Training will be regionally tailored and focused on the greatest AIS risks for the area.

The second is the AIS Tracker Program which creates a monitoring system to collect and share AIS treatment response data that can inform both management and researchers. This program trains citizens, such as lake association members. After training, they will input data into an interactive AIS database accessible to MAISRC researchers and AIS managers at the DNR, allowing them to extend the reach for surveillance, monitoring, response and management.

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2016 RALALA Raffle

Despite cutting back significantly on the places and times we asked our volunteers to sell tickets, the 2016 raffle was a huge financial success for RALALA. We had budgeted for gross sales of \$6000, but we actually sold \$7,707 worth of tickets (someone apparently made a \$2 contribution, because that number does not divide by 5!).

In addition, our net is way

above budget too, because our first place winner, Rodger Brekken, a RALALA board member, chose the \$1000 check (see picture below), but then gave it back to us as a contribution towards the milfoil treatments we were about to do on Roosevelt Lake. Thanks so much for this and all you do for us Roger!

The winning tickets were drawn at 6:00PM on Saturday, September 3, 2016 at the raffle party

which was held at the Village Inn in Outing, MN. The winning tickets were picked from the tumbler of stubs by Nelson, a bright young 5 year-old from Blaine, MN.

In addition to Roger's first place win, Michael Caudill of Magnolia, TX, was drawn second and received the Browning X-Bolt 7mm rifle, scope and case. The third ticket drawn belonged to John Andresen of Maple Grove, MN, who won the \$250 Target gift certificate.

The board and, indeed, all members of RALALA wish to express their appreciation to Chris and the staff at the Village Inn, and to the many supporters who purchased raffle tickets, for making this such a successful event. The architect of that success and the person who made it all happen was Gary Langer. He has devoted huge amounts of time over the past few years organizing and supporting raffle tickets sales at various local events during the course of each summer. We all owe him a big debt of gratitude!



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2016 RALALA EQI Donors

A big thank you to all of our friends and members who made free will donations to RALALA.

These donations go into the RALALA Environmental Quality Initiative Fund. The Environmental Quality Initiative provides RALALA the opportunity to further pursue the Association's objectives beyond what the modest annual dues would allow.

EQI Donors

We would, at this time, like to acknowledge those members who supported our organization through cash donations beyond their membership renewal:

Tim & Penny Allen, Connie Anderson, Mark Anderson & Denise Wicktor, Nick & Mary Barten, William & Margaret Blenkush, Wally & Audra Bokovitz, David & Anne Bonnerup, Roger & Edie Brekken, Willis Cline, Dennis & Nancy Crowe, Patricia Cunnif, Teresa Datzman, Nicolas & Kim David, Don & Mary Jo Dee, Shirley Doten, Bob & Sandi Eddy, Ed &

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Milfoil Donors

A special thank you also to the following members, friends and

organizations who quickly responded to our request for donations to help with the payment for our recent milfoil treatment in Lake Roosevelt:

Eric & Molly Batiza, David & Anne Bonnerup, Roger & Edie Brekken, Barbara Carlson, Samuel Carlson, Crooked Lake Volunteer Fire Fighters Relief Association, Bob & Linda Dahlsgaard, Fifty Lakes Property

Owners Association, Greg & Sandy Floyd, Alan Geiwitz, John & Anne Graunke, Loran & Janet Hillesheim, Terrance & Colleen Johnson, Greg & Wendy Koch, James Kratochvil, John & Juliana LaBouliere, Land O' Lakes Marine, Jennifer Leslie, Cyrus Malbari & Barton Olson, John & Terry McKeon, Michael & Virginia McLain, Mike & Jane Oelrich, Outing Properties, L. E. Pertl, Tom &

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President's letter—cont'd from p. 2

2017.

I believe the quickest fix, however, is getting a lot better participation in RALALA than we have had in recent years. At year end we had only received dues payments from about 200 families. Based on tax parcel ID information we believe there are roughly 700 potential members of RALALA. Thus, we have something on the order of 500 families who should be helping pay for care of the lakes, but are not. We need to change that.

I was told by members of the CLT AIS Committee that there are many who want to contribute, but will not join RALALA. Therefore, we set up a mechanism to allow just that, by setting up a separate account at the bank and provided instructions

on how to make out their check to RALALA with a notation "For Milfoil Treatment Only". So far this has resulted in only a small handful of milfoil treatment contributions from non-members. We recently erected a sign near the Outing Station soliciting such contributions, and I also intend to write a letter to the editor for the local paper in the spring. I am not optimistic, however.

I am hopeful, however, about direct personal solicitation of our neighbors. We started this process by asking each board member to personally visit 10 or 12 neighbors asking them to join or contribute. The response has been very positive, but the board members alone are not going to get this done. We need lots of you to volunteer to help out with this project this spring. We

will give you brochures and other information and a list of people and addresses of non-members. You can pick where you want to canvas. If you can help us, call Darril at 651-503-8414 or e-mail him at djwagscheid@earthlink.net.

Finally, I want to share a bit of good news with you. On November 29th, the Leech Lake Watershed Foundation closed on the Eggers property on Woods Bay! Although it will take a few weeks to get this property legally titled in the State of Minnesota and established as an Aquatic Management Area, this is just administrative process. All of you who donated to this effort should be proud of your contribution towards preserving this wild and scenic lakeshore, as should the Eggers family!



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