



Fall 2017

RALALA Lake Association

Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association Newsletter

President's Letter—by Bob Lee

Like last year I am getting the Fall newsletter out pretty late. I just returned from a vacation with Diana to the Carolinas and Georgia and discovered a rather winter-like landscape when I returned to the lake. It is hard to believe that in a couple of weeks yet another year will have disappeared into the past.

2017 again illustrated to me just how generous and committed our membership is to fulfilling RALALA's mission. We continued to get great financial support from all

of you (see John Rowell's summary on page 3), and our membership grew to 235 families and is now at the highest level it has been since I became president 5 years ago. Moreover, we were the recipient of two significant grants to help us fight the milfoil infestation on Roosevelt—one from Cass County and the other from the City of Emily. Combined, these grants paid for about 40% of the cost of milfoil management this year.

All of our dedicated volunteers also deserve our gratitude. I cannot imagine

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2017 RALALA RAFFLE—by Darril Wegscheid

RALALA held its annual "Choice Rifle Raffle" on September 2nd at the Village Inn in Outing. For a number of years now this event has been RALALA's largest fundraiser and consumes quite a bit of our volunteer hours in order to sell the tickets. Each year we have to apply for and obtain a permit from the Minnesota Gambling Control Board (which regulates charitable gambling in Minnesota) in order to obtain permission to conduct the raffle.

2017 was another very successful year for the raffle. The raffle grossed \$7,813.68 and after expenses we were left with a net of \$5,702.18, all of which went into the Environmental Quality Initiative for use in protecting

and preserving our lakes. Proceeds raised help the community protect the lakes and the surrounding lands, and to support the local economy by seeking to maintain a quality resource for tourism, fishing, and other activities.



Drawing the tickets this year was Kaylee Nugent, pictured here making a random selection.

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Fun Facts about Loons—by Bob Lee

Maybe everyone except me knows all there is to know about our friends, the common loons, that we are so used to seeing here on Minnesota lakes—but I have been doing some reading up on our Minnesota state bird and thought I would share what I learned—just in case some of you were as ignorant as I was about these unique creatures.

1. Loons are not closely related to ducks and geese. Recent research on their genomes has revealed that they are more closely related to penguins and albatrosses!

2 Ducks and geese have hollow bones to make it easy for them to take off and fly while loons have solid heavy bones that allow them to dive and swim more



efficiently under water.

3. The drawback to those heavy skeletons is that common loons cannot take off from land. Instead, they must run over the surface of some lake, ocean, or waterway, flapping their wings all the while. Only after zipping along in this fashion for 100 feet to a quarter-mile (depending on the wind) can the loon achieve liftoff. As a result loons have been known to become stranded when they land

on a lake without a long enough straightaway for them to take off again. Loons even occasionally become stranded when they land on wet highways or parking lots, mistaking them for rivers and lakes.


4. It's not just heavy bones that enable loons to be such great divers and swimmers. They also can quickly blow air out of their lungs and flatten their feathers to expel air within their plumage, so they can dive quickly and swim fast underwater. In addition, once below the surface, the loon's heart automatically slows down to conserve oxygen use and allows it to extend its dive time.

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76 & Cindy

RALALA FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF 11/03/17—by John Rowell

To the right is an abbreviated financial summary of where RALALA stands this fall. Thanks to the generous contributions of so many of our members and the assistance we have received from the City of Emily and Cass County, we have not only been able to meet the high level of expenses incurred in the past two years (due to the addition of milfoil management to our list of activities), we have also been able to retain enough funds on hand to prepare for the immediate future. I am confident that we are in a good position financially and will be able to continue to meet our organizational objectives.

If anyone wants more detailed information or any of you have additional questions about RALALA's finances, please feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail.

Unrestricted Cash on hand

Checking	\$	122.28
Savings	\$	28,723.28
Designated funds	\$	(2,000.00)
Total Cash Available	\$	26,845.56

Outstanding Budgeted Expenses to be Paid

Community Donations	\$	1,400.00
Member Fireworks Donations	\$	1,268.63
Member 1st Responder Donations	\$	2,523.50
Fall Newsletter	\$	200.00
Watercraft Inspections	\$	1,232.00
Total Expenses to be Paid	\$	6,624.13

Milfoil Account Balance \$ 5,352.74

Total Available in all Accounts \$ 25,574.17

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Recognition of 2017 EQI and Milfoil Fund Donors—by John Rowell

We want to give a big thank you to all of our friends and members who made voluntary donations to RALALA this year. These donations came in two flavors—first were unrestricted gifts that go into the RALALA Environmental Quality Initiative Fund (EQI) and are used to pay for all of those lake protection and improvement activities that are not covered by our very modest annual dues (most of them!), and second are gifts that are earmarked by the donor for the management of Eurasian water milfoil. The latter donations are accounted for separately and can be and are only used for the annual surveys and treatment of milfoil.

We would, at this time, like to recognize those members who supported our organization through cash donations beyond their membership renewal and those non-members who made donations to help us fight milfoil in Roosevelt Lake.

Thank you to the following mem-

bers who made EQI donations:

Tim & Penny Allen, Connie Anderson, Mark Anderson & Denise Wicktor, Wally & Audra Bokovitz, David & Anne Bonnerup, Roger & Edie Brekken, Donald Cameron, Sam & Barbara Carlson, Willis Cline, Dennis & Nancy Crowe, Patricia Cunnif, Tom & Joyce Daniel, Christopher Dankler, Nicolas & Kim David, Don & Mary Jo Dee, Timothy & Sandra Dircks, Shirley Doten, Bob & Karen Duncan, Bob & Sandi Eddy, Grant & Ilene Evanson, John & Betty Figi, Jim & Gail Foss, Gerald Frane, Betty Frei, William & Jo Ellen George, Peter & Suzanne Gill, Dolores Gragert, Marlene Helgesen, Harvey Helmin & Barb Castaneda, Dennis & Jeanne Heppleman, Robert Holmes, Larry & Karen Hook, Lawrence & Joan Johnson, James & Anita Kratochvil, Marlin & Joyce Krohnberg, Lowell & Sharon Kutches, Ted & Donna Larson, Bob & Diana Lee, Gerald & Judith LeMire, Scott & Debbie LeMire, Jennifer Leslie, Constance Lieder, Cyrus Malbari &

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Thank you also to the following members, friends and organizations who also responded to our request for donations to help with the payment for our 2017 milfoil treatment in Lake Roosevelt:

Tim Allen, Connie Anderson, Mark Anderson & Denise Wicktor,

Cont'd on p.5

Recognition cont'd from p.4

Manny & Sue Azevedo, Nick & Mary Barton, William & Margaret Blenkush, Wally & Audra Bokovitz, Robert & Pamela Bolls, Roger & Edie Brekken, David Cameron, Carrie-Ann Canney, Lowell & Jeanette Capps, Barbara Carlson, Samuel Carlson, Cass County Soil And Water District, City of Emily, Willis Cline, Dennis & Nancy Crowe, Patricia Cunniff, Bob & Linda Dahlsgaard, Nicolas & Kim David, Timothy & Sandra Dircks, Shirley Doten, Bob & Karen Duncan, Tom & Linda Durand, Ed & Jackie Evans, Emily & Outing Snowbirds Club, Grant & Ilene Evanson, Thomas & Mary Jo Exley, John

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The first raffle ticket drawn this year was held by Jeff Reinke, a property owner on Leavitt Lake. Having the first-drawn ticket, he

ended up choosing the cash.

Shown at left is John Rowell, RALALA Treasurer, presenting the \$1,000 check to Mr. Reinke.



had the choice of either \$1,000 or a Browning X-Bolt 30-06 rifle. After some deliberation, he

The second ticket drawn was held by Ray Andersohn, a property owner on North Roosevelt who automatically won the rifle after Mr. Reinke chose the cash payout.

Shown at right is Mr. Andersohn being presented with the Browning X-Bolt 30-06, case and scope, by Darril



Wegscheid, our raffle coordinator this year.

Tammi Mujwid, property owner on Lawrence Lake who won the \$250 Target gift certificate.

The third ticket drawn was held by



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Loon Facts cont'd from p. 2

5. Loons move pretty fast in the air, too. Migrating loons have been clocked flying at speeds more than 70 mph!

6. A hungry loon family eats a lot of fish. Biologists estimate that loon parents with two chicks eat about 1000 pounds of fish over a 15-week period!

7. Juvenile loons are left on their own at about 12 weeks. Then the parents head off together on their migration to the gulf coast, leaving the juveniles to gather into flocks and make their own journey south a few weeks later. Once the juveniles reach coastal waters on the ocean, they stay there for the next two years. In the third year, young loons return

north, although they may not start breeding for several more years.

8. A loon's eye color changes with the seasons. In the colder months, the birds' eyes are a dull gray. But in the spring and summer, they turn a vibrant shade of crimson. Scientists are not sure why this happens, although it may have something to do with attracting mates or perhaps helping with underwater vision.

9. Like all birds, loons lack teeth. This forces them to either swallow their meals whole or in sizable chunks. To ease this digestion process, loons will seek out and swallow small pebbles.

Once inside their stomachs, the tiny stones mash up newly-eaten food, which can then be processed more efficiently by the loon's digestive system.

10. Tagging of loons and the study of tagged breeding pairs has shown that loons do not mate for life as once thought. Birds from both sexes often get evicted from their territories. After eviction a loon begins to look for a new territory and a new mate. A loon whose mate is evicted or dies readily pairs with a replacement bird. Since they are long-lived and constantly threatened with eviction, a typical loon will have multiple mates during its lifetime! That doesn't sound like monogamy!

Recognition cont'd from p. 5

Chris Sandusky, Bill & Sue Schaefer, Charles & Linda Schleit, Gary & Alvina Schmidt, Jay & Karen Schwartz, Susan Sergeant, Karen Slepka, Rhonda Smude, Todd & Lori Stafford, Mary Steiner, Bill & Lois Stevens, Kirk & Kari Stoa, Randy & Michelle Strobel, Robert & Patsy Sumpter, Gerold

& Malanie Swedell, James & Kathleen Thomes, Dick & Yvonne Thunstrom, Tony & Joyce Tillemans, Ken & Jo ann Todd, Uncle Tom's Cabin (C K Walker), Russ & Mary Van Dell, Jack & Linda Van Straaten, Lou & Pat Vietti, Robert & Laura Vogel, C.Keith Walker, Tom & Mikie Walker, Rod & Jessica Wegner, Darril Wegscheid &

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President's Letter cont'd from p. 1

what we would do without all the many hours put in by those who sit on the board of directors, sell raffle tickets, install and remove the I-LIDs, review the videos from the I-LIDs, replace damaged navigational buoys, take secchi disk readings and water samples, coordinate with the DNR, keep Crooked Creek clear of downed timber and beaver dams, do surveys for milfoil, keep our books and records, take minutes of meetings, apply for grants and permits, organize and staff events, sit on the boards or committees of other organizations impacting our lakes and our mission, and dozens of other tasks that arise every year. It is quite amazing just how much gets accomplished by our membership!

I know that I previously reported that the Woods Bay Aquatic Management Area has become a reality...but just in the last week or so a sign appeared that I thought you all should see. It prominently rec-

ognizes the important contribution that RALALA and its members made to the effort to make this AMA a reality.

See you in the spring of 2018!



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