



RALALA Lake Association

Spring 2014

Special points of interest:

- Event Schedule
- New I-LIDs
- Volunteers Needed
- Roger's Report
- 2014 Budget

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Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association Newsletter

President's Letter—by Bob Lee

The ice is out and the long cold winter of 2013-14 is finally over. It is time for us to get out and enjoy warmer weather at the lakes here in RALALA land!

With your help and support we have embarked on a number of initiatives aimed at protecting the lakes. We will continue those same efforts this year and add some exciting new projects.

As I think you all agree, it is critically important to protect our lakes from the rapidly spreading aquatic invasive species that are doing so much damage to Minnesota's lakes and rivers, including many in our immediate area. Last year we obtained a State grant to help fund the cost of placing in-

spectors at the landings. The CLT AIS Committee and the City of Emily both obtained similar grants usable at various boat launches in our area. So we combined forces with Emily and CLT to get inspectors working on all our boat launches for as many hours as possible. In total, we raised and spent \$6,361.28 on boat inspections in 2013. I think we leveraged the MN State grants to the maximum.

Unfortunately, funding from the State did not increase in 2014 despite many additional grant applications. Thus, Emily and CLT have been awarded grants in 2014, but we have not. Nonetheless, we have agreed to continue to provide funding through our

neighboring municipalities in order to get ample coverage by inspectors.

In addition, we took a hard look at the data being collected by some of our nearby lake associations with regard to use of the boat ramps. We were somewhat surprised to learn that there is a rather heavy use of the launches outside the hours for which we can reasonably provide inspector coverage (nights and mid-week). So we went looking for a solution. The result is that we have invested in two I-LIDs, one for the Roosevelt Highway 6 launch site and the other for the Lawrence ramp in Luscher Park in Outing. There is an article in this newsletter detailing what they do and how they

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"I-LIDS" Technology in Fight Against AIS—by Darril Wegscheid

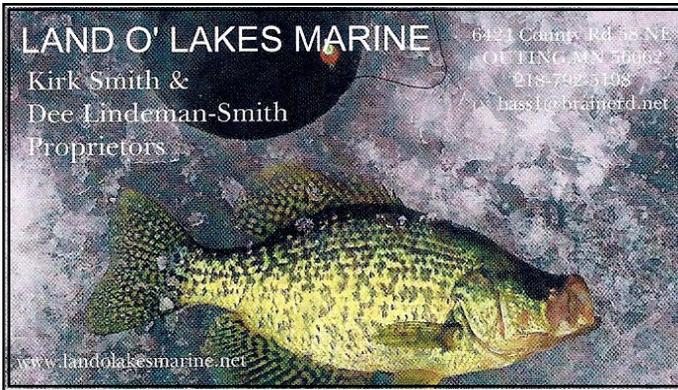


I-LIDs from Environmental Sentry Protection are being installed by RALALA this spring in coordination with Crooked Lake Township (at the Luscher Park ramp) and the DNR (at the Highway 6 ramp on Roosevelt). The system is activated by a boat or vehicle approaching the boat ramp – whether launching or recovering a watercraft. If interested, please see the website at www.environmentalsentry.com/preventative-intro.htm

for more details and images from other installed sites.

At left is a picture of the I-LID. It stands about 30" tall, is anchored in the ground, and is made of hardened metal. The device provides (24x7) a recorded message (audible within 20 feet) to the vehicle operator as the ramp is approached. It reminds him of AIS prevention efforts, and captures video of the trailer and boat to help observe prac-

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Roger's Report—by Roger Brekken

Freeze-up: Little Emily Lake skinned over on 11/22. Lawrence was frozen over by 11/26. There was open water about 1/2 mile north of the bridge on North Roosevelt on 11/26 but it appeared to be all frozen over on the 27th. The first measurable snow was 1-2 inches on 11/25. South Roosevelt totally skinned over on the night of 11/29 but opened up again during the day due to wind and sun. There were large open water areas, some occupied by large migrating tundra swans on 12/1. On 12/5, even after about 1 1/2 feet of snow over the previous 4-5 days, there were still large open areas on the south end of South Roosevelt, despite nighttime lows as low as +3F. The nights of 12/5 and 12/6 brought the first below zero temperatures ranging from minus 14 to minus 20 F. There was still open water in South Roosevelt. On the morning of 12/7, the temps got as low as -29 to -36F depending on which hollow you were in, and South Roosevelt finally froze over for the season. The high that day was minus 7F. A very long, cold and snowy winter had begun.

Ice-Out: On April 5th, with still a foot and a half of snow on the flat in the woods, there was little to no snow on the lake. A laborious hand auger drilling showed the ice to still be dense, hard and 24 inches thick in a small bay on the south end of South

Roosevelt. Ice color indicated the ice might be even thicker farther out. All RALALA lakes were ice free by May 1st.

Water Safety Buoys: Mid-summer 2013, Bob Lee received a complaint about missing buoys in Lawrence Lake. We found some buoys in the weeds on shore, but not all and replacement buoys were obtained from the Cass County Sheriff's department through Chief Deputy Erick Hoglund. Four buoys were then installed in Lawrence on either side of the narrows between the east and west bays, on the shallow shoal and at the entrance to the channel to North Roosevelt. It also seemed important to have a buoy on each side of the entrance to the Outing bridge channel on Roosevelt on both the north and south entrances. However, the sheriff's department says this area is not a no-wake zone. We agreed it should be a "slow" zone. Special tape approved by the Coast Guard for buoys has been ordered and will be used to customize two "slow" buoys to go with the two old "no wake" buoys that are still in service.

Loons: There has been some speculation about whether the 2010 BP gulf oil spill has affected the loon population. The DNR notes that the sub-adult loons in the gulf during the spill are just reaching breeding age so it is still too early to tell. The DNR is collecting loon eggs, blood and feather samples to look for signs of birth defects and can-

cers. They are also tracking loons to further document their migratory patterns.

Fall DNR Meeting: On September 23rd, 2013, a five member RALALA delegation met with Marc Bacigalupi, Area Fisheries Supervisor and Mike Knapp, Assistant Supervisor at the Brainerd DNR office. A wide range of topics were discussed, as follows:

Walleye Stocking: The DNR plans to continue to stock walleye in the fall of odd numbered years with 1 lb per littoral acre. A littoral acre is an acre that is less than 15 feet deep. For Roosevelt that means 390 pounds of walleye fingerlings every other year in September or October. Fingerlings are 5 to 7 inches long and range from 15 to 30 fish per pound. Pike and bass eat little walleye, and walleye eat perch. According to the 2012 fish survey, there is an abundance of small pike and bluegills. This might account for the low number of walleye in that survey. The next DNR survey is planned for 2018.

Muskie Stocking: Because of the increase in muskie anglers, the DNR plans to add eight new muskie lakes by 2020. Lakes larger than 1000 acres are candidates. Muskies were first stocked in Roosevelt in 2011 with 345 adults ranging from 18 to 30 inches and forty five 10 to 12 inch fingerlings. In 2012, 336 fish in the 10 -12

President's Message cont'd from p. 1

work. In addition to the I-LIDs, we have also purchased some car counters to allow us to measure traffic at the other ramps so that we can determine what to do at those locations.

We have also been working with the Leech Lake Watershed Foundation towards funding a new Aquatic Management Area comprising about one mile of pristine lakeshore now owned by the Eggers family on Woods Bay of Roosevelt. We will have someone from the foundation speak at our annual meeting about additional funding needed in addition to that provided by the Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation approved by the Legislature. I am hopeful that RALALA will be able to make a significant contribution towards this golden opportunity to permanently preserve some of our finest undeveloped lakeshore.

We have also been actively engaged in many other important functions. You may have noticed the burn off of vegetation along the highway in Outing near the public landing. RALALA arranged for the permit and cooperated with the fire department to get this done this spring. See the article in this issue discussing the goals. In addition, we are in the midst of a pro-

New I-LIDs- cont'd from p.1

ject to renovate our fleet of navigational buoys. Some need to be completely replaced and others just need some new parts. This project should be done very soon. We are also exploring dredging of the channel between Roosevelt and Lawrence which has gradually been silting in. We have researched the approval process, but need to estimate costs before we commit.

Obviously we will continue to need to raise money to pay for these and many other projects. We need to recruit more members to help us defray these costs. Therefore, over the winter we acquired a new database system that will allow us to track not only existing members, but all property owners on the lakes. We intend to use this to divide the lakeshore up into segments and recruit "block captains" to help us recruit their neighbors.

tices at the launch. In addition, there is signage to also spread the word about preventing the spread of invasive species. The video is transmitted to a server for review by volunteers.

As the firm's website states: "While in-person monitoring is ideal, challenges such as costs, availability, scheduling, training, still exist. To reduce the risk of (contamination by) a visitor launching at an odd hour, it's important to be on duty all the time."

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to a local resident's questions about noise by stating: "I am confident we can adjust the sound level so that it will not be intrusive. We do want it to operate at night, because we believe there is significant numbers of night launches based on data collected by other I-LIDs in operation." CLT Board chairman Lloyd Thyen also stated to local residents that "When the CLT Board approved the installation of the device by RALALA, I assure you it was assumed that the sound would not "disturb the peace," day or night . . . but the very bottom line in this

I urge you all to be actively involved in RALALA. I know that your time at the lake is precious. But If each of us gives just a small bit of time and talent, we can fulfill our stewardship duty too. I look forward to continuing to work with you to that end. See you at the **Annual Meeting on Sunday May 25th** at 3:00 PM at the Crooked Lake Town Hall.



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case, is that if the sound from the device is considered unreasonable . . . the sound will be turned off, or the authorization for the installation rescinded by the Board." These devices have been used at numerous locations, the nearest at Ruth Lake in Emily. The devices appear to be effective in increasing boater compliance. They have also assisted the DNR and county sheriffs in following-up with boaters who had been less careful than required while entering or leaving the lakes.

RALALA Summer Events—2013

This summer's events are as follows:

- The Annual Member Meeting will take place on Sunday May 25th at 3:00 P.M. at the CLT Town Hall followed by a pot luck dinner
- The second annual Pontoon Parade will be held on July 4th at 1:00 P.M. Decorate your pontoon for the 4th and join us outside the cove containing the entrance to Woods Bay for a tour of Lake Roosevelt! If you live on one of the other lakes or don't have a pontoon, but you would like to ride along, e-mail Diana Lee at keycept@emily.net, and she will try to find you seats on one of the pontoons participating in the pa-

rade. For those of you planning on participating with your pontoon, please let Diana know in advance along with the number of available seats you may have for those in need of a ride.

- The RALALA fund raisers, silent auction and BBQ will be held on August 9th, at the Village Inn.
 - The RALALA Raffle will be on Saturday August 30th from 5:00 to 6:00 P.M. at the Village Inn. The raffle will include prizes of a Browning X-Bolt Medallion rifle, \$1000, and a Target gift certificate for \$250.
- Please mark your calendars and invite

family and friends to join in these RALALA events.

The silent auction committee is seeking donations from our members that would be of interest for bidders at this summer's event. Please consider if you have art, hand-made objects, gift certificates, sporting tickets, cultural event tickets, etc., that would be good auction items. The committee can arrange for pick-up of your items as needed. Any donation would be tax deductible. Our Silent Auction proceeds are an important part of our fundraising efforts. Questions? contact Linda at jvs41@aol.com

Sheriff's Water Patrol—by Wendy and Greg Koch

The Lakes Water Patrol meeting was held on May 3, 2014 at 10:00 A.M. at Pestello's on Roosevelt. The Water Patrol is made up of volunteers who enjoy being on the lake, watching people and talking to boaters. Two person teams

check boaters for life jacket usage and general adherence to boating safety rules. All you need to do is pick the times that fit your schedule and then head out in the Sheriff Water Patrol boat for a couple of hours. If you were

unable to make the meeting, but want to help us out by volunteering this year, please contact Greg at 612.803.3954.

Practice Makes Perfect—the Outing Burn Off—by Darril Wegscheid

The award-winning natural planting in Outing (between the bridge and the docks across from the Outing Gas Station) recently got 'toasted' for good reason. The effort was completed by very some fine talent. And for its own best interests, it was needed and timely.

The Crooked Lake Township Fire Department (CLT VFD) regularly trains to be ready when real fires arise. Brush and grass fires are all too common in the area each summer. This planting area looked like a perfect training opportunity so the CLT VFD supported a RALALA request to burn-off the planting. Naturalist say that – to be healthy and natural – such an area should be (carefully) burned-off every 3–5 years,



in the spring if possible before any nesting occurs.

This spring's new re-growth should again show the wide variety of wild plants that help prevent erosion, provide attractive areas for butterflies and similar species, and is an attractive area along the highway.

Some of RALALA 'pioneers', including Denny Neil, Rollie Maki, Dave Moe, Denny Borgia, Roger Rowen, Merle Reiswig, and Roger Brekken, planted the area more than 15 years ago. The planting was recognized by the DNR as an excellent example of a worthwhile shore land protection area. THANK YOU to our CLT VFD friends and neighbors, as well as to the original planters!

inch size were stocked. A 35" muskie was caught in Wood's Bay in the fall of 2013 by Cheryl Hull of Brainerd. It is likely one of the adults from the original stocking. Moving forward, muskies will be stocked in even numbered years at a level of 0.5 fish per littoral acre. There will be five stockings over the next 9 years. The end game target is a self-sustaining naturally reproducing muskie population. Muskies typically grow 2-3 inches per year and are 6-8 years old before natural reproduction can occur. Their life span can be up to 25 years. The fish stocked are Leech Lake strain muskies and all are tagged to track growth and detect natural reproduction (fish without tags). During the 2012 DNR fish survey, all muskies trapped were all over 14 inches and had an average length of 21.5 inches. It is expected that muskie angling interest will pickup in Lake Roosevelt in 2016 when the stocked fish reach a length of around 40 inches. The Leech Lake Watershed Foundation is working to acquire 5000 feet of environmentally sensitive shoreline in Woods Bay. This area appears to be ideal for muskie spawning. At this time partial funding has been obtained from the Lessard-Sams Legacy Fund. If the purchase is successful, the property would be

Roger's Report—cont'd from p.2



Photo courtesy of Carl Mills DNR and Dan Steffen Photographer.

dedded to the DNR to be turned into an Aquatic Management Area.

Subsequent to the meeting, I came across the DNR Long Range Plan for Muskellunge and Large Northern Pike through 2020. The report is 88 pages and can be found on-line and is an interesting read. The report indicates that there are roughly 20 lakes that are stocked and managed with Tiger muskies. Tiger muskies are a hybrid of a true muskie and a northern pike and are

usually sterile. The tiger muskie lakes range in size from 59 acres to 429 acres and are in southern MN. There are about 40 lakes where purebred muskies have been introduced, ranging from 122 acre Harris Lake up in Lake County to 128,224 acre Mille Lacs Lake. Natural native muskie lakes number around 44 and range from 74 acre Ida Lake in Hubbard County to 102,948 acre Leech Lake. Most of these natural muskie lakes center around Leech

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Roger's Report—cont'd from p. 5

Lake. (Report pages 18,19,20,74,75).

Leavitt-Lawrence Bridge Spillway: Several years ago it was determined that the water speed in the spillway was too fast to allow walleye to move upstream into Leavitt Lake to spawn. Tim Brastrup, DNR supervisor at the time,

worked with Cass County and used DNR and Cass County Road funds to install a new bridge and spillway designed to reduce the water speed. Marc reported that the water velocity is now slow enough for walleye movement.

Invasive Species: Marc reported that an "Aquatic Invasive Species Institute" has just been started at the University of MN. Other than that there is really no new news and the DNR effort is now focused on prevention.

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CLT AIS Committee—by Ed Evans



The Crooked Lake Township (CLT) Board of Supervisors and the Crooked Lake AIS Committee have been working with RALALA and the Lake Washburn Lake Association (LWA) since the first of the year on developing a Watercraft Inspection Plan for 2014 to protect lakes in the Township against contamination by AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) – especially Zebra Mussels.

Crooked Lake Township (and the AIS Committee) applied for a DNR Watercraft Inspection Grant with DNR Interns as the Inspectors. We were awarded a grant from the DNR for 388 hours of Inspection at the Roosevelt Hwy 6 landing. RALALA will be responsible for the non-DNR share of

the cost of the interns. We submitted a "preferred" Inspection schedule to the DNR comprised of Fridays and Weekends – we have not gotten a "proposed" schedule back from the DNR. We are planning to augment the Inspection hours provided by the Intern grant with Inspector hours from another CLT grant during hours when the DNR Interns are not available.

Cass County created an AIS Management Plan in 2013 to help focus and expand the AIS effort to control Zebra Mussels in the lakes in Cass County. Cass County then allocated funds to match donations to the Plan from cities, townships, and lake associations up to \$4000. The CLT AIS Committee and Town Board voted to approve a \$750 donation to the Cass County Plan. This was enhanced by \$250 donations from RALALA and LWA for a total donation from Crooked Lake Township of \$1250. Matched by Cass County, this \$2500 donation will be returned to CLT in the form of 173 hours of Watercraft Inspection by Cass County Inspectors at the

Washburn and Luschers Park landings.

CLT also applied for and received a DNR Watercraft Inspection Grant for Inspectors hired by and directed by the LGU (Local Government Unit)–In this case CLT. We plan to hire Inspectors through ERC (Employment Resource Center) in Brainerd – just as we did last year. Lloyd Thyen has requested to have 5 Inspectors assigned to CLT so we can staff better hours and allow vacation rotation of Inspectors. We are currently working with RALALA and the Lake Washburn Association to develop Inspection schedules at the Washburn, Luschers Park, and Roosevelt Hwy 6 landings.

We also applied for a DNR "Public Awareness" Matching Funds Grant which would match funds spent by the Township and Lake Associations for Banner Signs, AIS Literature, Radio or Newspaper ads, etc. We just heard back from the DNR that we will be awarded a grant of \$1200 under this program.

Roger's Report—cont'd from p. 6

Zebra Mussels: While copper sulfate can eradicate the very small zebra mussel veligers, past DNR research in Ossawinnamakee (2005) and Rose and Irene (2011) showed it is not a permanent solution. A big issue is collateral damage to desirable species. For example, a 112 acre lake on Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska was treated with copper sulfate in 2008-2009. While it killed the zebra mussels, it also killed over 40,000 pounds of fish and the zebras came back in 2010. An interesting note is that sheephead fish and some ducks eat zebra mussels, just not nearly enough! Zequanox, a natural bacterium needs a high concentration and has very limited applicability in open systems such as a lake. The DNR is continuing research with Zequanox.

Asian Carp: While no breeding popu-

lation has been detected in MN waters, individual fish have been caught in the Mississippi and the St Croix Rivers. The DNR is conducting assessments of aquatic barriers to prevent migration.

Eurasian Milfoil: I contacted Dan Swanson of the Brainerd DNR for an update. Dan indicates that there is nothing new and dramatic. Current efforts involve management and control, not eradication. Studies are underway involving combinations of aquatic herbicides, treatment timing, frequency and concentration. A major problem is the migration of the herbicide outside the treatment zone. The severity of the milfoil infestation varies from year to year depending on growing conditions. Late ice-out shortens the growing season. Dan said that Washburn Lake Association has done a great job in treating and using divers to pull weeds. This

seems to have eradicated the milfoil. Ossawannamakee Lake Association hired a contractor to monitor, treat with herbicides and pull with divers. Dan says milfoil is now hard to find in Ossawannmakee. Ruth Lake has applied for permits and will initiate treatments this year for milfoil.

Lawrence-Roosevelt Channel: The channel between the two lakes is getting shallow due to silt and sand infiltration and probably needs dredging soon. The DNR is the controlling body but would not pay for the work. Action would start with a permit application to the DNR hydrologist, Darin Hoverson in the Park Rapids office. Other approvals would be required from the Army Corps of Engineers, Cass County and adjacent property owners. Of course, funding would be an issue.

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LIBRARY NOTES by Carol Pierce



In order to make the library more accessible, we are now open part of every day except Tuesday and Sunday.

We are looking for a volunteer for Tuesdays so that we can be open on that day as well. The Outing Chamber of Commerce generously gave us the money to buy two laptop

computers which are available to the public during open library hours. Since we now have Wi-Fi, library patrons can access the internet through the computers.

I especially want to thank the volunteers who have filled in for me over the last few months. We could not have done it without you.

Will be starting summer story times the

Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend at 10:00 am.

The new hours for the Outing Volunteer Library will be:

- Monday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Tuesday Currently closed
- Wednesday 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Thursday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

2014 RALALA BUDGET

	2013 Budget	2013 Actual	2014 Budget
Income			
Interest (est.)	\$10.00	\$7.46	\$10.00
Donation		\$0.00	
Membership	\$5,500.00	\$5,582.50	\$5,500.00
Advertising			\$500.00
RALALA Apparel sales			
Donations EQI Other	\$4,000.00	\$4,277.00	\$4,000.00
Raffle	\$6,000.00	\$8,962.00	\$7,500.00
Silent Auction	\$2,500.00	\$3,032.00	\$2,500.00
Brat Sale	\$800.00	\$488.00	\$600.00
Corporate Support	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Initiative Fund Interest	\$1018.00	\$1897.00	\$1,500.00
Total Income	\$20,328.00	\$24,745.96	\$22,610.00
Expenses			
Newsletter Printing	\$1,100.00	\$808.00	\$1,000.00
Newsletter Postage	\$800.00	\$387.02	\$500.00
Outing Donations			
Summer Fireworks	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Winter Fireworks	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
1st Responder	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Crooked Lake Fire	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Emily Donations			
1st Responder	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Emily Fire Dept	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Memberships			
Pine River Watershed	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
MSRPO	\$200.00	0	\$200.00
LARA	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$100.00
ACCL	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Outing C of C	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Aquascape			
Water Patrol	\$100.00	0	\$100.00
Annual Meeting	\$75.00	0	\$75.00
Misc. and Administrative			
P.O. Box	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$48.00
Misc Supplies	\$100.00	0	\$100.00
Brd Mtg Conf Call	\$65.00	\$63.07	\$65.00
Promotional	\$100.00	\$168.40	\$500.00
Volunteer Appreciation	\$200.00	0	\$300.00
Website Maintenance	\$160.00	\$167.94	0
Administrative Expenses	\$500.00	\$106.97	0
Advertising	0	0	\$350.00
New Woods Bay Signage	\$250.00	\$187.03	0
Buoy Maintenance	0	\$86.84	\$50.00
Mbrshp Mgmt Software	0	0	\$1670.00
EQI Administrative			
Checks & Bank Svc	\$40.00	\$88.31	\$45.00
EQI Mailing	\$600.00	\$16.56	\$100.00
EQI Programs			
Watercraft Inspections	\$6,750.00	\$3,958.78	\$11,000.00
Shoreland Planting	0	0	0
AIS Prevention	\$1,000.00	0	0
Initiative Foundation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
I-LIDs maintenance			\$3,000.00
Water Quality/Assmnt			

	2013 Budget	2013 Actual	2014 Budget
Raffle expenses	\$2,000.00	\$2,624.05	\$2,200.00
Silent Auction expenses	\$50.00	\$242.50	\$100.00
Brat Sale expenses	\$400.00	\$295.63	\$300.00
Total Expenses	\$17,484.00	\$12,070.10	\$23,553.00

- Note 1/ 2014 fee for hosting website paid in 2013
- Note 2/ Software will actually be \$749 plus a one-time set up fee of \$325 plus tax. Thereafter the annual cost should be about \$150 plus tax. [Poor explanation from Bob Lee to John!]
- Note 3/ Funds to support EQI mailing & fund solicitation
- Note 4/ The total for 2014 includes a \$3000 expense carryover from 2013 (awaiting billing from DNR), and only \$8,000 is actually a 2014 expense
- Note 5/ Whether and how much money to transfer to the Initiative Foundation will be addressed by the Finance Committee



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Don't Move a Mussel!

The zebra mussel (shown here attached to a MN-native mussel) has become the scourge of many fine lakes, rivers and reservoirs – all across the USA. Spawned as microscopic ‘veligers’, they mature within one season. As an adult, a female can produce more than 500,000 veligers each year of their more than ten-year life span.

While zebra mussels live in shallower waters and reproduce in warmer zones (summer time in MN), their relative – the quagga mussel – can produce and thrive in cold water and virtually any depth.

Stopping their spread is an enormous challenge, and currently there is nothing that eliminates them in the wild. Work has been underway in the USA since their discovery in about 1986, and at this time the “BEST OFFENSE IS A SOLID DEFENSE”. That is – KEEP THEM OUT!

The DNR had a consultant compile



a comprehensive report in Feb 14, 2012, and available at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic_programs.html

Option 4 on page 25 offers the best hope to stop the spread. It would mean using a radio frequency identification reader at each access and a central dataset monitored system similar to a ramp freeway system. This approach includes an automated or remote operated gate blocking the access ramp. The gate restricts access unless proof of inspection is demonstrated. Inspections and decontamination would be at centralized

locations.

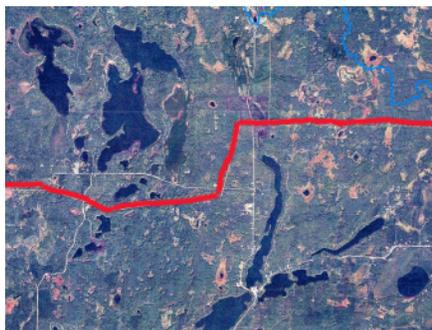
Some of us believe the DNR dramatically overstates the expected costs by assuming the decontamination stations would be staffed by full time DNR employees on a 24x7 basis during the boating season.

Over the past 5–6 years, RALALA has worked hard to prevent invasion by AIS generally and zebra mussels specifically. We will continue to collaborate, innovate, and cooperate with the DNR, our friends & neighbors, other lake associations and governmental entities (see “RALALA 2014 AIS” article on p. 11. The present “Inspection” strategy has severe limits, but it is the only current option and we must work hard to implement it effectively. But RALALA will seek ways to implement “Option 4” by helping research the technology required, proposing demonstration projects, and testing possible solutions that minimize the inconvenience to lake users.

Proposed Sandpiper Pipeline Sparks DNR Concern for Spire Valley and Lake Roosevelt—by Mary Kowalski

Many property owners in the area have been following the proposed Sandpiper pipeline and its proposed route called the Southern Corridor. That route runs through Spire Valley, a DNR aquatic management area and Trout hatchery, as well as close to other critical aquatic management areas and lakes in the vicinity of Crooked Lake Township.

While the public comment period was held from Oct 2013 through April 2014 and is now closed, the Public Utilities Commission has extended the comment period on some key issues regarding the proposed route



and the environmental impacts.

The DNR submitted comments expressing concerns on many levels. The concerns for our waters involve the harm that could be done to the Spire

Valley aquifer. This unique geological formation has attributes making it ideal for the hatching of trout (used to stock MN streams and the Great Lakes). Disrupting the aquifer during construction, which is highly possible because of its shallow depth, could destroy that hatchery resource.

The DNR comments regarding Spire Valley, Lake Roosevelt and other area resources can be found at:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities//resource.html?id=33833>

“Helping Hands” – How can you assist us?

As with any community organization we could get a lot more done if we could get just a few hours from more members. If you fear that once you volunteer you will be collared and forced to work forever, have no fear—that is NOT going to happen. RALALA is VERY appreciative of ALL Volunteers, and we will gratefully take what time you can give! Here are some of the opportunities:

- Sell advertising in the newsletter or on the website to businesses Anyone with a background in advertising or marketing could help by providing counsel and direction.
- Help the Sheriff’s Water Patrol monitor the lakes for safety and awareness. It is also a great opportunity to meet our neighbors, be helpful with minor issues and provide information and insights.
- Take lake water samples—on five specific Sundays (usually the 3rd one of each month – May through September). A water sample is drawn on each lake at a specific site. This is a simple process, with equipment and training provided. Samples are organized and then transported on Monday morning to the Army Corps of Engineers building in Cross Lake. For 2014, we do have returning volunteers for Leavitt and Smokey Hollow, but we need volunteers for Lawrence, N. Roosevelt and /or S. Roosevelt. Normally, these three samples can be done by one ‘team’ or person, and would take less than 90 minutes to do so on the given Sunday. You could combine it with a ‘lake tour’ on Sunday afternoon! Also, we can use a ‘driver’ volunteer who can pick-up the organized samples at a single location, and then on Monday between 8:30AM and 9:30AM, drive them to Cross Lake and submit the samples and in exchange get new bottles to bring back here.
- Sell raffle tickets on weekends (one or several) at various community events or in Outing or Emily. This is one of our best methods of raising funds for the many AIS prevention efforts we undertake.
- Help at the Silent Auction and Barbeque. The event is August 9th at the Village Inn.
- Help review videos from the I-LIDs to help us identify AIS violations by boaters. Training provided.

Send us an e-mail (rsl@dewittross.com) or give us a call (612-710-2756 to let us know your time parameters and specific interests!



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RALALA 2014 AIS Control Efforts—by Darril Wegscheid

This summer, RALALA will be working hard to prevent AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) spreading into our waters. We will do our best to limit their ability to hitchhike on boats, motors, trailers, docks, lifts and other things we put in the water.

We know there already are zebra mussels in the Whitefish Chain, Lake Mille Lacs, Lake Winnibigoshish, and many lakes in the Twin City area such as Prior Lake, Lake Minnetonka etc. The scary part of zebra mussels is we do NOT KNOW which waters may already be contaminated. That was the case in Lake Winnie a couple years ago—the discovery was made in February from lab samples taken last summer.

RALALA is partnering with the MN DNR, the City of Emily, the Ruth Lake Improvement District, Crooked Lake Township, Lake Washburn Association and Cass County to provide DNR-trained Inspectors on the boat ramps at peak usage times. We can also use “Lake Ambassadors” to enhance and extend that presence – if you want to help, please call me at 651-503-8414.

RALALA is also working towards local

availability and access to DNR “decontamination sites”. These hot water spray facilities will enable folks to ‘go that next step’ anytime they want to launch a boat that has been in ANY other waters in the previous 6 days.

In addition, RALALA is installing “ILIDS” as described elsewhere in this newsletter. With the I-LIDS, and ‘counters’ at the remaining boat ramps, we will be able to better know and understand the usage patterns at our landings.

Education is the most basic step, and EVERYONE can (and must) help with that. Whenever friends and family bring water equipment to the lake, be sure they are aware of the “Clean, Drain, and Dry” protocol and graciously coax and convince them to practice sound and safe enjoyment. Of the lakes

If you take your

boat to ANY other lake, PLEASE have it cleaned before re-launching here. And do the same BEFORE you launch there. That is key for all of us – being good neighbors!

And the big question is often “WHY”? As reported, THOUSANDS of loons died at Lake Michigan a year ago, due to ‘bottom feeding’ in an area of zebra mussel feces that had generated type-E botulism. See the story at: <http://www.theoaklandpress.com/general-news/20130106/thousands-of-dead-loons-on-northern-michigan-shorelines-might-be-linked-to-invasive-species-with-video>



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