



# RALALA Lake Association

## Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association Newsletter

Spring 2016

### Upcoming Events

**July 9th at 8:30AM  
Water Safety Class**

**July 9th at 3PM  
Annual Meeting**

**Aug. 20th at 6PM  
Volunteer Party**

**Sept. 3rd at 5PM  
Raffle Party and  
Drawing**

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### President's Letter—by Bob Lee

2015 was another solid year for RALALA. We continued to garner strong financial support from all of you and set a new all-time record for raffle ticket sales, putting us in very good financial condition in 2016.

We have continued to use these funds to do good things for the future of our lakes. Over the winter John Rowell prepared a list of expenditures that we have made on lake quality since 2009. I think it is pretty impressive. We have raised and spent nearly \$60,000 during that period to preserve and protect our lakes. You can see how we spent

that money by reviewing John's list that appears on p. 3. We should all be proud of this record!

Not everything RALALA has been doing has revolved around raising and spending money. Thanks to the hard work of Rog Brekken and the funding of the Cass County Sheriff's department, we have started to make some real progress in dealing with our aging fleet of water safety buoys. (See Roger's Ramblings)

Thanks to Darril Wegscheid and several other members who volunteer their time, we have continued to do sam-

pling for tests of our water quality and collected samples to test for the presence of zebra mussels.

Speaking of volunteers, I desperately need help with the newsletter. Let me know if you think you can help.

We added one new event to our calendar last year and it is being repeated this year. In August we are having a party to show our appreciation for all of the people who volunteer to help RALALA. More than 40 people attended a BBQ at my home last August and I am hoping I will be inviting even more of you this year.

*Cont'd on p. 8*

### Rog's Ramblings—by Roger Brekken

**Freeze Up:** Lawrence Lake froze over around Thanksgiving (Nov 26). The first plowable snow came on December 1st with several inches of heavy wet snow. The first 10 days of December were quite mild with high temperatures in the mid to upper 30's. December 10th brought 40 degrees and rain most of the day. North Roosevelt skinned over the night of December 19. On Christmas day, we had 8 swans a swimming on South Roosevelt. South Roosevelt was finally skinned over the morning of December 29th.

The winter was fairly mild

until Jan 17 then the temp dropped to minus 26 F and the following day pockets reached -31 F. While that might seem late for freeze-up on South Roosevelt, it was actually 5 days earlier than last year.

**Ice Out:** Most of the ice was off North Roosevelt by March 30. Denny Neill reported that a stubborn sheet of ice on the very north end of North Roosevelt finally melted on April 1st. This reporter/observer missed witnessing the ice out on South Roosevelt. Deputy observer Bob Lee reported that the last of

the ice finally melted on April 9th. This was corroborated by two other independent observers who said that a big sheet of ice was moved north and south by the changing wind a couple of times before finally melting that day. The ice out of April 9th this year was 4 days earlier than last year. The ice cover time for 2015-2016 was 103 days compared to 101 days for the 2014-2015 ice season.

**Safety Buoys:** Last fall, two buoys had broken loose from their moorings and went missing. They were found floating a long way away from their

*Cont'd on p. 4*



### PULLED PORK BBQ – Ralala Fundraiser for 2016

Last year we sold whole pork shoulders smoked in advance of the 4th of July weekend. This was a very big success and the feedback we got from buyers was extremely positive, so we talked "Minnesota Mike" into smoking for us again this year. This year all of the shoulders will be sold as frozen shoulders, with detailed instructions how to be finished by you in the oven. This process delivers a BBQ experience of the highest quality



and flavor. They will be perfect if used at any time over the next five months! You can buy one to serve to your weekend guests over the 4th weekend or serve it anytime you have a houseful of guests this summer or fall!

The shoulders will be prepared and smoked by Minnesota Mike (Van Straaten) BBQ which specializes in Memphis Style BBQ, emphasizing injections and dry rubs instead of coating the meat in BBQ sauce. Minnesota Mike has agreed to volunteer his

time to RALALA as grillmaster for this event. In his years of competition and small scale catering, he has held fast to the adage—quality over quantity.



Just like last year RALALA will deliver a delicious product. Fill up your freezer for easy entertaining anytime this cabin season!

One day of smoking by Minnesota Mike will produce a maximum of about 50 pork shoulders, so this offer is limited to the first 50 customers (or fewer if they order more than one and the majority of buyers last year ordered two). Each shoulder will be priced at only \$40.00, (they should average about 6 pounds each). This is a real bargain! Compare this with Famous Dave's pulled pork at \$13.00 per pound. Depending on the size you make your sandwich servings, one shoulder should provide enough pulled pork to provide sandwiches to feed between 12 and 24 people. Order now to pick up an easy meal for your summer company!

The deadline for orders is June 15<sup>th</sup>. Orders can be made one of two ways: on the RALALA website at any time (go to [www.ralalalakes.org](http://www.ralalalakes.org) and click on the merchandise tab and select the pork

shoulders); or call 218-763-3845 (cell 507-254-9241) and place your order with Linda Van Straaten by phone.

Minnesota Mike BBQ will have the pork shoulders ready for pick up starting June 20th. You have two choices: you can pick them up at the Van Straaten's home at 44796 Roosevelt Lane in Emily starting June 20th. Please call first at 218-763-3845 for specific directions and to confirm that someone will be home when you arrive. OR, you can pick them up on Saturday, June 25th between 9 and 11 in the morning at Outing Station. We will have them there in coolers in an SUV; you need to tell us where you will be picking them up at the time of ordering.

You can either pay by cash or check when you pick up your order or pay in advance when you order on the website using your PayPal account. If these sell out before the deadline, we will take down the ordering option on the website.

Don't miss your chance on this amazing opportunity! Best of all, you can count on all profit going to Environmental Quality Initiative projects undertaken by RALALA!

**Recent RALALA Expenditures to Maintain Lake Quality—by John Rowell**

|      |  |                    |
|------|--|--------------------|
| 2009 | A W Research Labs – Roosevelt<br>Lake Water Testing            | \$2,134.56         |
| 2010 | A W Research Labs – Roosevelt<br>Lake Water Testing            | \$2,091.73         |
|      | DNR Intern   | \$744.00           |
|      | AIS Prevention   | \$1,266.00         |
|      | Septic Inspections   | \$2,985.00         |
|      | U of M Roosevelt Lake Quality Test                             | \$960.00           |
| 2011 | Septic Inspections   | \$3,876.48         |
|      | Watercraft Inspections   | \$3,360.00         |
| 2012 | AIS Prevention and Watercraft<br>Inspections                   | \$395.00           |
| 2013 | Watercraft Inspections   | \$3,958.78         |
| 2014 | Watercraft Inspections   | \$5,472.56         |
|      | Purchase I-LID systems for both<br>Roosevelt launch sites      | \$6,820.00         |
|      | Annual Maintenance for I-LIDS                                  | \$3,000.00         |
|      | Fund Raising Expenses for Woods<br>Bay Aquatic Management Area | \$1,935.29         |
|      | RALALA Donation for Woods Bay<br>Aquatic Management Area       | \$15,000.00        |
| 2015 | Contribution to treatment of Ruth<br>Lake for zebra mussels    | \$2,000.00         |
|      | Watercraft Inspections   | \$1,076.00         |
|      | I-LID Operation and Maintenance                                | \$2,309.77         |
|      | <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$59,385.17</b> |

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**Sheriff's Water Patrol—by Wendy and Greg Koch**

Please be advised that the first meeting of the Sheriff's Water Patrol will be June 8th at 10:00AM at the public landing on Washburn Lake. Anyone interested in joining the Water Patrol is welcome to attend.

We are also excited to announce that the Sheriff's Office will be holding a water safety class for children and adults on July 9th from 8:30AM to 2:30PM,

including the administration of the test at the end of the class for children 12 or older to get a license to operate a watercraft. A free lunch will be provided to participants. So far we have seven children signed up and several others who have expressed an interest. If your children or grandchildren are going to be on the lakes this summer and want to learn to drive, this is the class for them!



**Rog's Ramblings—cont'd from p. 1**

locations. Those buoys have been equipped with new chains and anchor moorings and redeployed. Another buoy was found this spring floating near it's location but with the top shattered.



Two replacement buoys were requested and received from the Cass County sheriff's office to replace the shattered buoy and replace one other "water logged" unit that is floating very low in the water. With the exception of the shattered buoy, all other buoys in North and South Roosevelt and Lawrence are in place.

**DNR Liaison:**

There is a rumor to the effect that Roosevelt Lake is infested with rusty crayfish. I contacted Dan Swanson, Invasive species specialist at the Brainerd DNR Fisheries office. Dan did not confirm one way or another. He said that rusty crayfish are difficult to identify because they are so similar to native crayfish. It takes a trained biologist's eye to tell the difference. Rusty crayfish are a "regulated" species as opposed to a "prohibitive" species like milfoil or zebra

mussels. The main factor as a "regulated" species is that it is illegal to "introduce" them into any body of water. They are legal to possess and there is a possession limit for them.

The rusty crayfish displaces the somewhat smaller native crayfish. They consume more resources. The most serious effect is the destruction of aquatic plant beds which provide shelter, cover, and nesting areas for native fish and thereby impact the fishery. While rusty crayfish have been confirmed in Leech and Woman lakes, Dan said there is very limited infestation by rusty crayfish in the Brainerd lakes area.

At this point, there is no environmentally sound way to eradicate rusty crayfish. And there is likely none on the near future horizon. If they are in Roosevelt we are not going to get rid of them any time soon.

**RALALA Events Schedule for 2016**



Mark your calendars with the following dates and invite family and friends to join us for these RALALA events in 2016!

- June 15th—Deadline for ordering smoked pork shoulders
- June 20st—Pork shoulders ready for pickup
- June 25th—9AM-11AM—Pork shoulders at Outing Station for pickup
- July 2nd—1PM—Annual RALALA Pontoon Parade, boats meet near entrance to Woods Bay
- July 9th—8:30AM to 2:30PM—Sheriff’s Water Patrol Water Safety Class at CLT Town Hall
- July 9th—3PM—RALALA Annual Meeting at CLT Town Hall followed by dinner provided by RALALA
- August 20th—6PM—Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party at the Lee’s
- September 3rd—RALALA raffle party will be held at the Village Inn starting at 5PM with the drawing at 6PM

**Muskie Stocking Will Proceed Despite Opposition**

On June 7th it was reported by the Star & Tribune that the Department of Natural Resources has reactivated its plan to introduce muskies in five more lakes. This summer the DNR staff will decide which of six candidate lakes are best for muskellunge stocking, according to Don Pereira, fisheries chief.

The DNR muskie plan was put on

hold when opponents went to the Legislature. The Senate added language to its Game and Fish bill to kill muskie expansion while the House sought to exclude from consideration the six lakes that are now candidates for introductory stocking.

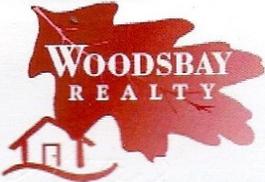
When the Legislature adjourned, the entire Game and Fish bill was unfinished and did not pass so the DNR plan is now being reactivated.

The six lakes proposed for stocking are: Loon, Lizzie and Franklin Lakes, all in Otter Tail County; along with Gull Lake in Crow Wing County, Big Marine in Washington County and the Fairmont Chain of lakes in southern Minnesota.

Under this same DNR plan, stocking of muskies in Roosevelt began in the fall of 2011.



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## Rusty Crayfish—A Nasty Invader (excerpted from the Minnesota SeaGrant website)



Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) have invaded much of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Ontario, and portions of 17 other states. Although native to the Ohio River basin and the states of Ohio and Kentucky, rusty crayfish continue to spread into many lakes and streams where they cause a variety of ecological problems.

Rusty crayfish are probably spread by non-resident anglers who bring them along to use as fishing bait. As rusty crayfish populations increase in many areas, they are harvested for the regional bait market, biological supply companies, and food. Such activities probably help spread the species farther. Invading rusty crayfish frequently:

- displace native crayfish,
- reduce the amount and kinds of aquatic plants,

- decrease the density and variety of invertebrates (animals lacking a backbone), and
- reduce some fish populations.

Environmentally sound ways to eradicate introduced populations of rusty crayfish have not been developed, and none are likely in the near future. Preventing or slowing the spread of rusty crayfish into new waters is the best way to prevent the ecological problems they cause.

There are over 350 species of crayfish in North America. Sixty-five of these species, including rusty crayfish, belong to the genus *Orconectes*.

The first observation of rusty crayfish in Minnesota was in 1967 at Otter Creek in southern Minnesota. Since then, their range has expanded to approximately 50 different lakes and streams spanning 13 counties.

Although there is no direct evidence, presumably people can spread crayfish in several ways. Anglers using crayfish as bait are thought to be the primary means of spread. While crayfish never were a significant component of Minnesota live bait sales, they are popular in other states and may have been brought to Minnesota by non-resident anglers.

Rusty crayfish are also sold to schools by biological supply houses. Even though a

warning not to release rusty crayfish into the wild accompanies these crayfish, such warnings may be forgotten, or live crayfish may be given away to students. Crayfish from schools or collected from the wild and placed in home aquariums may eventually be released.

Developing a viable commercial harvest of rusty crayfish from natural lakes could be incentive for unscrupulous trappers to plant them into other waters. In fact, this may have contributed to the spread of rusty crayfish in Wisconsin, according to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Manager, Harland Carlson (personal communication 1994).

The harvest of rusty crayfish for food and bait may provide the only beneficial use for this exotic. Harvest for bait has been going on for over 40 years in Wisconsin. Commercial harvest for food is more recent and varies from year to year in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Regulations in both states make it illegal to introduce rusty crayfish into any waters. In Minnesota, it is illegal to sell live crayfish as bait or as aquarium pets. A DNR permit is required to commercially harvest or culture crayfish.

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### What Happened at the Legislature this year—by Jeff Forester

This Legislative Session was short, just 11 weeks and it is an election year, which further complicated the process. We began the year with low expectations and we were not disappointed. Minnesota's 2016 Legislative Session ended in chaos. A number of important pieces of legislation simply died because the clock ran out.

But perhaps the best outcome of the 2016 Legislative Session was the change in tone at the legislature with regard to lake associations and lake shore residents. In the 1990s and early 2000s there was a narrative at the legislature that lake home and cabin owners were wealthy complainers, that, "If you can afford a lake home or cabin, then you can afford to pay the taxes," or that lake shore property owners felt they owned the lakes and just wanted to keep the public off of them.

Some still promote this false narrative. But this session new voices spoke up. Legislators from both parties told a different story. Legislators from both parties and in both bodies recognized the huge commitment and service lake associations provide to the state. They endorsed the intelligence, the hard work, the generous financial support and the remarkable experience that lake associations are bringing to lake protection work and local communities, whether it be AIS, sport fishing, shoreline protection, agricultural issues or

footing the bill for July 4th Celebrations.

Governor Dayton signed the **Supplemental Budget Bill** which: (i) Creates a two year Lake Minnetonka Pilot Study, allowing the commissioner to issue an additional permit to service providers to remove and then return to Lake Minnetonka water-related equipment with zebra mussels attached after the equipment has been seasonally stored, serviced, or repaired. This should create efficiencies for marina owners, and savings for boat owners without increasing the risk of AIS spread; (ii) Clarifies that boats transported on a conveyance between adjacent water bodies must meet the same "Clean, drain, and dispose" standards that apply to watercraft transported on a trailer; (iii) Establishes civil penalties for those who refuse to comply with a decontamination order; (iv) Adds "micro alga," to the list of designated aquatic invasive species - an important change given the discovery of the state's first infestation of starry stonewort in Lake Koronis in the summer of 2015; and (v) Creates a \$200,000 grant for Lake Koronis to help fund their Starry Stonewort management program.

**What did NOT happen:** General Tax relief for cabins was not included in the tax bill, changes to how vacation home rentals are licensed did not materialize, and there was no sales tax relief for lake associations doing management

for invasive aquatic plants. The Governor pocket vetoed the Tax Bill which gave \$600,000 to the MN DNR. And would have freed up funds for the MN DNR grants for lake associations to do AIS inspection, education/communication and invasive aquatic plant management.

**Muskies** Bills were introduced that would have either blocked muskie stocking into the DNR proposed lakes, or would have ended the expansion of muskies into any additional lakes. The House included muskie language in its Game and Fish bill, and an amendment that would have stripped out the language failed by a 62/63 bipartisan vote. In the Senate the vote was also close, but the muskie language survived. But time expired before a conference committee could reconcile the House and Senate bills. So current law will prevail. The controversy about muskie stocking will continue. It is clear that a large segment of the population, including Legislators, has lost confidence in both MN DNR science and the public input process. There is a need to do conclusive science on the impacts of muskie stocking. Without conclusive unbiased science, there can be no resolution. Additionally, without a civic governance process that builds trust between all stakeholders, the legislative push and pull surrounding muskies will continue.

**President's Letter Cont'd from p. 1**

Everyone who attended last year had a good time and we all relished the opportunity to socialize with others who think RALALA activities are worth their time and energy. I am working on hunting down some great wine and food for this year's party. Volunteer and I will make sure you get an invitation!

I wanted to pass on to all of you that I was recently advised by Bill and Denise McCormick who are on Roosevelt Drive that they had been burglarized

sometime over the winter. When they opened up their cabin in early May they found that someone had broken the lock on their tool shed and taken their lawn mower, weed whacker, chain saw, circular saw and fishing poles. I guess we all need to be aware and worry about crime even in this part of the world.

I was just told that those wonderful smoked pork shoulders that we have been selling are almost sold out. We apparently have room in the smoker for only a few more. If you didn't try one of

these last year, make sure you put in an order right away. All of our guests last summer thought this was the best pulled pork they had ever had, and we have had similar reports from many other buyers of these pork shoulders.

Just so you know, the Roosevelt boat launch is being totally rebuilt this week by the DNR. I temporarily removed our LID so it did not get damaged. It will be reinstalled as soon as they are done.

Send me an e-mail or give me a call if you have any ideas for us to implement.

### ACCL to Continue Focus on AIS - May 2016 —by Mary Kowalski

The Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL) jump-started the 2016 water season with a Board of Directors meeting May 2. The main topic and action focused on prevention of AIS in Cass County.

The overall goal was stated as: “reach all the people who access the lakes with the “clean, drain, dry” message and afford the lake associations the support they need to accomplish this goal.

Some of the strategies suggested:

- Work with resort owners. This will be accomplished with Dr Welle completing his resort interviewing and data gathering as well as hav-

ing Linda Blake of the ACCL Board serve as Lake Ambassador to help support and partner with resort owners in promoting, understanding and appreciating the need to protect our lakes. Dr Welle will continue this year with his interviewing resort owners who had not been contacted last year. The focus of his work will be sharing best practices. His report for the 2015 work completed will be available on the Cass County web site in about a month.

- Obtaining a grant for more decontamination units in critical spots not being served will move forward.

- Building a community of the committed around the idea of everyone having a good time at the lake for a long time was sighted.

ACCL is a key organization in communicating and connecting the lakes throughout Cass County. If you see ways we can work together to preserve our lakes and conserve our water resource, let us know. With more folks accessing the lakes from other states, lake safety is a growing concern and will require our vigilance.

Contact us at the RALALA website noting your suggestion relates to ACCL, or send suggestions directly to [mjkowalski@earthlink.net](mailto:mjkowalski@earthlink.net).



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