



Spring 2017

Upcoming Events

**July 1st at 3 PM
Pontoon Parade**

**July 8th at 3PM
Annual Meeting**

**Aug. 5th 11AM to
4PM Love Our Wa-
ters Event**

**Aug. 26th at 6PM
Volunteer/Donor
Party**

**Sept. 2nd at 5PM
Raffle Party and
Drawing**

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RALALA Lake Association

Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association Newsletter

President's Letter—by Bob Lee

2016 was an eventful year for RALALA. Discovery of milfoil on Roosevelt added a new urgency to our efforts to protect the lakes and to raise funds to meet all of our needs. Fortunately, we continued to receive very strong financial support from all of you; we obtained two major grants to help control milfoil—one from the City of Emily and another from Cass County; and we continued our high level of raffle ticket sales, putting us in very good financial condition in 2017.

Our contractor, PLM, is doing a milfoil survey in June, so we should know by the time of our Annual Meeting on July 8th what we will need to spend on milfoil management in 2017.

We have continued to use your donated funds to do good things for the future of our lakes. Over the winter John Rowell updated his list of expenditures that we have made on the lakes' behalf. I think the report is pretty impressive. We have raised and spent \$92,000 during the last 8 years 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 very proud of this!

Not everything RALALA has been doing in recent years has revolved around raising and spending money either. Thanks to the hard work of Rog Brekken and funding by the Cass County Sheriff's department, we have made some progress in dealing with our aging fleet of water safety buoys on the lakes.

Cont'd on p. 8

GoNorthMn—What is it? By Jan Mosman

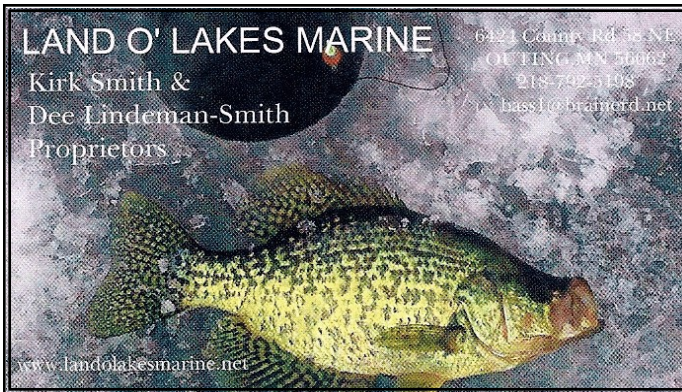
GoNorthMn was created two years ago to promote healthy, sustainable and profitable living for residents and visitors of the five community area (Fifty Lakes, Fairfield, Emily, Outing/CLT, and Little Pine). The Thriving Communities Initiative with research, workshops and goal-setting was facilitated by The Initiative Foundation. Once we completed the entire program, GoNorthMn (all local volunteers) was awarded \$10,000 to spur tangible projects. The GoNorthMn Steering Committee split that into three task forces:

and Economic Development, which has developed a local vendor marketplace, welcome center and class/event spaces—The Landing Welcome Center & Marketplace. The Landing



Quality of Life with a new event "Love our Waters" August 5th, Area Marketing with a fold-up map & destination guide to the area,

is located on Hwy #6 in beautiful downtown Emily, it is also the GoNorthMn headquarters. Please stop in and see what we have to offer!



Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP)

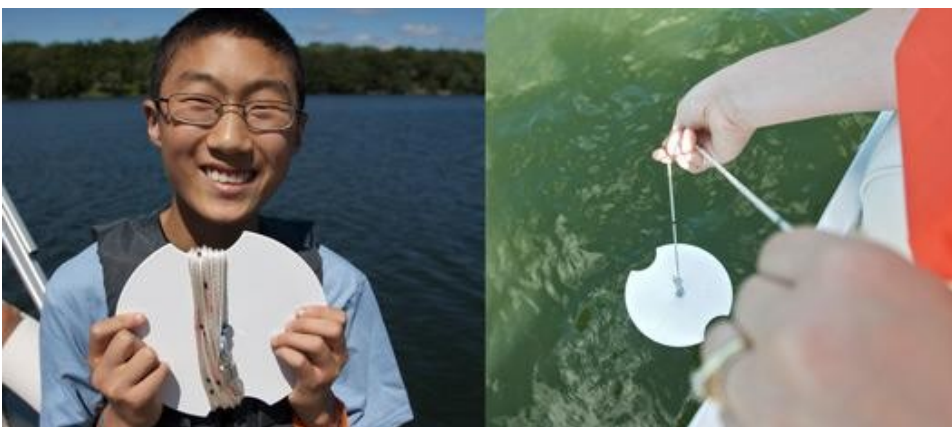
The Secchi disk, as created in 1865 by Angelo Secchi, is a plain white, circular disk 30 cm (12 in) in diameter used to measure water transparency or turbidity in bodies of water. The disc is mounted on a pole or line, and lowered slowly down in the water. The depth at which the disk is no longer visible is taken as a measure of the transparency of the water. This measure is known as the Secchi depth and is related to water turbidity. Since its invention, the disk has also been used in a modified, smaller 20 cm (8 in) diameter, black and white design to measure freshwater transparency.

Agency, the MPCA. Some of those wonderful volunteers have since left this area for various reasons and need to be replaced.

The data collected by these volunteers is crucial to monitoring our lakes over a long period of time so that we and our water quality experts can look for trends and better understand what is happening to our lakes. Water clarity is an important indicator of lake health. It indicates the amount of suspended matter in the water (algae, soil, sediment, sewage, plankton, etc.), which can affect plant, insect, fish and wildlife communities. Long-term monitoring by

ured rope into the lake at a specific spot until the disk disappears and then raising it until you can see it again, and then recording the depth on the marked rope. You do this at least twice a month and send the data to the MPCA at the end of the season.

Anyone can be a CLMP volunteer. No prior experience or training is needed. Just a love of our lakes and access to a boat, canoe or kayak! Volunteers will receive data sheets, instructions for assembling and using the disk, a copy of the annual report on water quality of lakes in their region, and current CLMP newsletters. If you are interested in becoming a CLMP volunteer, use the CLMP Volunteer Sign Up page at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/sign-become-clmp-volunteer> or contact the MPCA at 651-296-6300 (Twin Cities metro) or 800-657-3864 (Greater MN only). If you want more information about the program, contact Shannon Martin at the MPCA. Her number is 651-757-2874 or e-mail her at clmp.pca@state.mn.us.



For more than twenty years, RALALA member volunteers have taken and reported Secchi readings from our lakes, and reported those readings to the Minnesota Pollution Control

CLMP volunteers can help detect degradation of a lake

Do you think you and your family could help with this? All it is requires is lowering a white disk on a meas-

Please be sure to let us know if you volunteer so we can keep track of who is doing what.

Recent RALALA Expenditures to Maintain Lake Quality—by John Rowell, RALALA Treasurer


2009	A W Research Labs – Roosevelt Lake Water Testing	\$2,134.56
2010	A W Research Labs – Roosevelt 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 Inspections	\$395.00
2013	Watercraft Inspections	\$3,958.78
2014	Watercraft Inspections	\$5,472.56
	Purchase I-LID systems for both Roosevelt launch sites	\$6,820.00
	Annual Maintenance for I-LIDS	\$3,000.00
	Fund Raising Expenses for Woods Bay Aquatic Management Area	\$1,935.29
	RALALA Donation for Woods Bay Aquatic Management Area	\$15,000.00
2015	Contribution to treatment of Ruth Lake for zebra mussels	\$2,000.00
	Watercraft Inspections	\$1,076.00
	I-LID Operation and Maintenance	\$2,309.77
2016	Milfoil Surveys and Treatment	\$25,697.41
	I-LID Operation and Maintenance	\$6,153.14
	Watercraft Inspections	\$768.00
	Total	\$92,003.72


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Rog's Ramblings—by Roger Brekken

Freeze-up: On 11/18/16 the first snow arrived with a vengeance. 16-18 inches of heavy wet snow broke many evergreen tops and branches and led to lengthy power outages. Ten days later, rain and 46 F melted virtually all of the snow. Lake Emily, Little Emily and Lawrence lakes were all iced over the morning of 12/9 when the temperature got down to 10 F. North Roosevelt was frozen over the morning of 12/11, but the first real cold snap arrived on the morning of 12/13. Sunrise temps were -9 to -12 F with vapor rising off the open water areas. 12/15 sunrise temperature ranged from -14

to -19 F. South Roosevelt was iced over the morning of 12/16 as the sunrise air temperature hovered around zero. December 18th was a nippy -31 F. A second cold snap arrived on 1/4/17 with a temp of -34 F followed by -17 and -22 F on the next two days. Friday the 13th was a frigid -29 F.

Ice-Out: As Edie and I returned from our sojourn in Florida on 4/5, we noticed that the ice was already off most lakes in the southern half of MN. However Mille Lacs Lake was still about 90% ice covered. Further north, however, Bay Lake and Serpent Lake were already ice

free as were Emily, Little Emily, Lawrence and North Roosevelt. The first loons were heard on South Roosevelt on 4/6 in the open water around the islands. Most of South Roosevelt was still covered with dark steel gray honeycombed ice. The next day the wind shifted to the south and freshened and the temperature rose to 56 F. On Saturday, a strong southerly breeze and temps in the mid 60's made for a late afternoon ice-out date of April 8, 2017.

The average period of ice cover (not safe ice!!!) for the last ten years has been 125 days (see details below).

Year	Freeze Up	Ice Out	Iced Over Days
2007	12/6/07	5/4/08	150
2008	12/8/08	4/24/09	139
2009	12/16/09	4/3/10	109
2010	12/14/10	4/26/11	134
2011	12/17/11	3/25/12	99
2012	12/12/12	5/14/13	155
2013	12/7/13	5/1/14	146
2014	1/2/15	4/13/15	102
2015	12/29/15	4/9/16	102
2016	12/16/16	4/8/17	115

Crooked Lake Township Emergency Planning Team Seeking "Road Ambassadors" – by Dave Schaumburg

The Crooked Lake Township Emergency Planning Team is seeking volunteers to act as "road ambassadors." These people would act as contacts to collect and

relay information regarding storm related emergencies including power outages, downed trees, and any other road damage or damage to cabins and

homes in the area. If you are willing and able to help with this project, please contact Keith Ahlquist at 612-799-5787.

RALALA Events Schedule for 2017



Mark your calendars with the following dates and invite family and friends to join us for these RALALA events in 2017!

- July 1st—3PM—Annual RALALA Pontoon Parade, boats meet near entrance to Woods Bay
- Sheriff’s Water Patrol Water Safety Class at CLT Town Hall—date and time to be determined
- July 8th—3PM—RALALA Annual Meeting at CLT Town Hall followed by dinner provided by RALALA
- August 5th—11AM to 4PM (rain or shine) Love Our Waters! Water Resource Education and Arts Event, Luscher’s Park in Outing (see article on p. 9)
- August 26th—6PM—Annual Volunteer and Donor Appreciation Party at the Lee’s home
- September 2nd—RALALA raffle party will be held at the Village Inn starting at 5PM with the drawing at 6PM

Corporate Sponsorships - are you eligible? by Darril Wegscheid

Every year for several years now RALALA has received several hundred dollars in grants from a major corporation (and from the generosity of its employees and retirees who have designated us as their “cause” of choice. Some of you may work for companies that have similar programs - can you qualify?

For example, 3M makes grants to

support the causes of their employees and retirees. If the employee or retiree volunteers a relatively small number of hours to a charitable organization like RALALA, the 3M Foundation donates \$250 that same year to that same charitable organization, provided the employee files for the benefit.

If you or a family member or friend works for a company that has such a program

and you select RALALA as your chosen charity, it would be great for the lakes!

Please check with your benefits department to see if your company offers such a program! If you work for 3M and have questions about their program, check with Darril at djwagschedi@earthlink.net

Thanks for your support of RALALA!

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Protecting Lake Roosevelt Through a New Aquatic Management Area by Lindsey Ketchel

The newest Aquatic Management Area (AMA) in Crow Wing County will be dedicated in 2017. The Roosevelt Lake State Aquatic Management Area - Judy and Charlie Eggers Tract is 105 acres and over 5,000 feet of pristine, forested shoreland in Woods Bay.

Following the death of their parents, Judy and Charlie Eggers, the three Eggers siblings wanted to implement their parents' wishes to preserve this special place as protected public land to be managed for fish and wildlife and public recreational opportunities. Through the vision and generosity of Jo Ann Todd, Linda Van Straaten, and Allan Eggers, the natural features of this "sensitive shoreline" will be permanently protected and contribute to the long-term health of Lake Roosevelt.

The property had been owned, enjoyed and treasured by the Eggers Family for more than 65 years. Jo Ann, Linda and Allan consider their father to have been an early environmentalist. "Our Dad always loved the out of doors and it was his goal to nurture wildlife habitats on the lake property and his tree farm. His business life reflected his personal interests, as he was a manufacturer's representative for hunting and fishing equipment. In 1951 our parents bought land on Lake Roosevelt that has been enjoyed by four generations of our

family. Over time he purchased all available land around Wood's Bay to prevent it from being developed. This is the land that will become the AMA Tract and we are pleased to have made our parents' wishes a reality."

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 Lake Association (RALALA) has been promoting for years, it is also important for landowners to minimize their household impact on lakes by keeping shorelines natural; eliminate sources of phosphorus and nitrates such as fertilizers, runoff, and erosion; maintain septic systems on a regular basis; and motor at slow speeds in shallow water and near shorelines.

Tullibee are an important forage fish for walleye, northern pike, muskellunge, and lake trout. Tullibee require cold, well oxygenated waters – a condition most common in lakes with deep water and healthy surrounding watersheds. This cold-water fish is a "canary in the coal mine" signaling three major threats to Minnesota's sport

fishery and clean water – degraded watershed health, shoreline development, and climate warming. Deep, cold-water tullibee lakes with high quality, well oxygenated waters and natural, undisturbed land cover and shorelines will offer the best chance for tullibee and other fish populations to survive these threats.

There are 68 cold water lakes that are considered "refuge lakes" for tullibee in Minnesota and 38 of these are found in the Aitkin, Cass, Crow-Wing and Hubbard counties. These north central Minnesota lakes attract people nationwide for their natural states, beauty, fishing, and other outdoor recreational opportunities.

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 wildlife features that would be severely impacted by shoreland development. The natural features of the new AMA are also highly vulnerable to the impacts of development or land conversion. The property is listed on the Minnesota County Biological Survey because of its high biological significance and intact old growth forest canopy.

Cont'd on p. 7



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New Aquatic Management Area cont'd from p.6

The journey culminating in the Roosevelt Lake AMA has been a long one marked by patience and perseverance by the Eggers Family and wide support of several key partners who advocated and received the funding to purchase the property for an AMA. The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation worked with the Eggers Family for eight years and received a grant from the Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund in 2014 to acquire the property for an AMA. The Roosevelt And Lawrence Area Lake Association (RALALA) partnered with the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation to appeal to landowners in the watershed to provide both financial and community support for the protection of this property. The Twin Cities Chapter of Muskie Inc., Hugh C. Becker Foundation, also provided a grant in

2014 for the acquisition of this property which includes muskie spawning areas. Although the acquisition was delayed when ownership of adjacent state and federal tracts on the Crow Wing/Cass County borders required additional review, the purchase was completed in late 2016. "It is thrilling to add this property, of such high ecological value, to the Aquatic Management Program where the public, treading lightly, will be able to enjoy it in perpetuity" said Marc Bacigalupi, DNR Brainerd Fisheries Supervisor, who will be the local DNR land manager.

The Outdoor Heritage Fund was created in 2008 when Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to the Minnesota Constitution. These funds

"may be spent only to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forest and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife." Lindsey Ketchel, Executive Director of the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, notes that "The protection of this property is a significant contribution to efforts to protect our northern waters for clean water, healthy habitat, and resilient communities and economies. We are so very grateful to the vision of the Eggers Family, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, our many partners and the State of Minnesota for recognizing the importance of healthy natural resources and local communities."

Contact Lindsey Ketchel, Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation (218-675-5773) or Marc Bacigalupi, MN DNR (218-203-4303).

New Water Testing Program—by Darril Wegscheid

The Lake Roosevelt watershed flows via Crooked Creek and a series of small lakes to the Whitefish Chain of lakes, and then via the Pine River into the Mississippi. Thus we are a part of the Pine River Watershed. For 10 years or more RALALA volunteers have periodically taken water samples from each of our lakes and delivered them to a lab in Brainerd for testing as part of a program sponsored and funded by the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) to analyze water quality throughout the Pine River Watershed.

The samples (taken 5 times per summer) are analyzed for clarity, chlorophyll, and phosphorous.

This year, WAPOA is expanding the analysis to check for additional components – including salt and upgrading the recording and analytical systems to better determine what is causing changes in lake water quality and what we can do to improve it. RALALA will support this extended effort by contributing to the total cost incurred by WAPOA..

In addition, RALALA has done an in-depth data-gathering from top to bottom of the water column at several key locations, including not only the clarity, chlorophyll and phosphorus levels, but also oxygen concentrations. That data will be included as part of the WAPOA database.

This fall, after collecting and collating all of the data in a database, experts will do an in-depth assessment, and we will develop strategies and tactics to address water quality issues.

President's Letter Cont'd from p. 1

Thanks to several RALALA member volunteer, we have sampled the waters of all of our lakes for quality testing and for the presence of zebra mussels. We are expanding our water testing program this year and paying for additional laboratory testing to help us to figure out what we can do to improve the health of the lakes.

On August 5th we are sponsoring an event that I am very excited about—the Love Our Waters event. It should be fun for your whole family and very educational too. Check out Therese

Kunz's article about this event on p.9.

Later in August we are having a party to show our appreciation for all of the people who volunteer to help RALALA as well for those of you who have made large financial contributions to help us do what we do. 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. All you need to do to get an invitation is to either volunteer or make a donation to RALALA of at least \$300. Volunteer or donate and I will make sure you get an invitation!



Stay tuned for information on how to obtain and use a ZMEWS on your dock like this one being inspected by three generations of the Langer family on their dock.

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Love Our Waters! Water Resource Education and Arts Event, 2017
Saturday, August 5th ~ 11-4pm (rain or shine)
Luscher's Park in Outing

This day-long event will feature interactive, educational presentations on all aspects of our water resources. This will be a fun opportunity for area community members, residents and visitors alike to learn more about the important role of area watersheds, management of aquatic invasive species, shoreline restoration and maintenance, water quality testing and results, aquatic fish critical habitat and so much more. Interspersed with these scheduled program events will be a music showcase featuring local singer songwriter, Faith Boblett and a performance by Lake Washburn Association Historians: "The Lore of Lake Washburn: 100 Year History" along with few other surprise performances.


There will be workshops/resources on

AIS watercraft inspection, conservation easements, water gardens, area history of lakes, loons, well-water testing, water & boat safety AND kayak and paddle board demonstrations by Land O' Lakes Marine for all ages. Also planned is a special dedication of the new MNDNR Roosevelt Lake Aquatic Management Area, formerly the Judy and Charlie Eggers property that surrounds the southern portion of Woods Bay.

We are very pleased to offer a supervised "Kids Tent" with fun activities and take-home projects to help educate and empower kids, our most important resource for a healthy future. AND there will be food and drink available all day too! We want to encourage people to come and spend the whole day.

GoNorthMn and Screen Porch Productions are teaming up to bring this exciting event to our area communities. We have reached out to the following partners in order to make this project a success! Helping to lead the way is Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association (RALALA), Lake Washburn Association, Pine River Watershed Alliance, Cass & Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Leach Lake Area Watershed Foundation, DNR Fisheries, and more to come.

Please help spread the word! We are looking for input and help with this project. Please call Therese Kunz, 218 792-5779 if you would like to help with this event or come to the next planning meeting at .CLT Town Hall on June 13th at 6PM. Everyone is welcome!



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