

RALALA Lake Association

Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association Newsletter

Summer 2014

Special points of interest:

- Silent Auction & BBQ
- Working to Stop Zebra Mussels
- Roger's Report

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President's Letter—by Bob Lee

I hope you all are having an enjoyable summer here in the Emily-Outing area! I am still working on clean up from the violent storms that took down so many trees at the end of June and again this past week, and I know that many of you are too. In addition, all of the traditional summer activities and events are in full swing, so it is a busy time for all of us.

I would ask, however, that you take out just a few minutes from all your other activities and think about helping preserve our lakes and the lakes experience for our children, grandchildren, and their descendents.

As those of you who were able to attend the RALALA annual meeting already know, we now have what I believe is a once in a lifetime opportunity to help take a big step in preserving

a major piece of that experience. The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation (LLAWF) is attempting to purchase from the heirs of Charlie Eggers approximately one mile of pristine undeveloped lakeshore on Woods Bay of Roosevelt Lake plus some 105 acres of heavily forested land behind it. The purchase would be for the purpose of turning this into an aquatic management area administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This is some of the most picturesque and undisturbed lakeshore in our area and, according to the DNR, some of the most critical terrain in our watershed for ensuring abundant fish spawning and high water quality. Of course, it also provides the gorgeous scenic backdrop for those of us who like to take guests to Woods Bay to

anchor for swimming and relaxation in the summer sun!

The picture below shows the location of the proposed aquatic management area,



(shown by the yellow box. The red lines denote DNR identified sensitive shoreline). This aquatic management area would be preserved in its natural state in perpetuity with the DNR acting as its owner and guardian.

Cont'd on p.3

Continued High Level Of AIS Violations—Stepped Up Enforcement

This summer, the Department of Natural Resources is finding too many boaters and other water users taking unacceptable and illegal risks by transporting aquatic invasive species (AIS).

So far this season, watercraft inspectors have found more than 1,300 boaters at public water accesses with

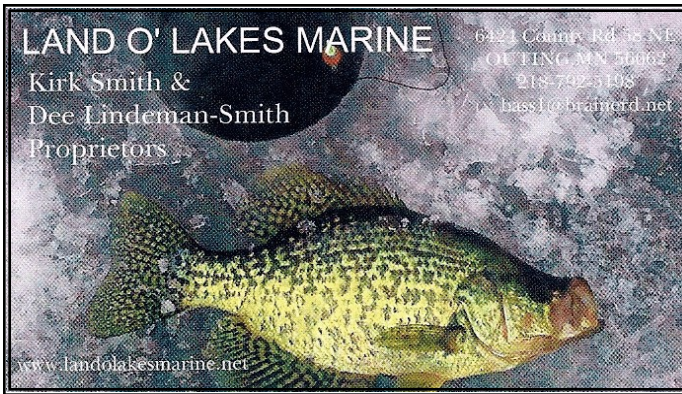
aquatic plants, invasive animals or water in or on their boats and equipment. If not stopped, these boaters could have infested other lakes.

In addition, DNR conservation officers have issued 169 citations and 375 warning tickets to boaters for AIS violations at enforce-

ment check stations and public accesses. Fines range from \$100 to \$500.

"Far too many people are still not following the law," said Greg Salo, DNR central region enforcement manager. "Some of these laws have been on the books for more than 15 years and yet we're still seeing

Cont'd on p. 3



Roger's Report—by Roger Brekken

Ice-Out Details:

The dates of freeze-up were included in the spring newsletter. Here's some info on ice-out. The ice was turning dark gray and receding from the shoreline on April 24th when the first loons were heard. The ice went out on Little Emily Lake on April 27th. There was still "snow cone" slush on the south end of North Roosevelt and the southwest bay of Lawrence the morning of April 29th. The slush was all gone in both places by the end of the day on the 29th. The DNR put the dock in on South Roosevelt on the 29th as a strong north wind pushed all the ice on South Roosevelt to the south 1/3 of the lake. The ice was totally gone on South Roosevelt on May 2, 2014.

DNR information:

The University of Minnesota has established a Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center under the direction of Peter Sorensen. They have determined that bighead and silver carp are sensitive to and annoyed – and hopefully deterred – by sounds not heard by other fish. They will be experimenting with underwater speakers to determine if these can effectively deter the spread of the species.

The July 4th edition of "Outdoor News" reports that the "State's first electric Asian carp barrier is on-line". It is designed to block Asian

carp from moving from the infected Little Sioux River watershed into the Des Moines River watershed which is presently free of Asian carp. The barrier is located in southwestern Minnesota and is on a small stream near Brewster. It cost less than \$500,000 according to the DNR. Time will tell!!!

New Slow Zone Buoys:

On June 11th, RALALA member, Roger Brekken, met with Cass County Sheriff Tom Burch and Chief Deputy Eric Hogland. The meeting finalized a format for the water safety buoys for a "slow zone". One side of one buoy was completed to verify the layout and get approval. Subsequently the remainder of the markings on the two new buoys was completed. They will be used to replace



broken or missing buoys in the "slow zone" under the highway 6 bridge in Outing.

Water Safety Marker Buoys:

As part of our ongoing campaign to renovate our fleet of buoys, four new safety marker buoys were deployed in early July to replace missing, water logged and bro-



ken buoys. Shown here are three examples of just how bad the condition of some of our existing buoys were. Where possible we are repairing and redeploying buoys, but ones like these simply need to be replaced with new ones.

We intend to keep on the buoy situation in the future and will do ongoing maintenance instead of wholesale replacement.

President's Message cont'd from p. 1



We have been working with the LLAWF on this preservation project for quite some time now. This spring the project took a major leap forward with the approval by the Minnesota Legislature of an allocation of a portion of the Lessard-Sams Legacy Funds sufficient to cover the preponderance of the acquisition cost.

The grant does stipulate, however, that a significant amount of funding must also come from private donations. LLAWF already has obtained commitments for donations from a number of non-profit organizations, and the Board of Directors of RALALA agreed at our June meeting to donate \$10,000 towards the acquisition out of funds previously raised through the Environmental Quality Initiative. In addition, we also voted in favor of a conditional donation under which RALALA will donate \$1 for each \$1 that is donated by residents and/or businesses in this area through RALALA, regardless of whether these donors are members of RALALA

AIS Violations- cont'd from p.1

a 26 percent violation rate at enforcement check stations. That's unacceptable. Violators should know better by now."

The DNR will make an extra push to enforce the law. Anglers and boaters can expect watercraft inspectors and stepped up patrols. DNR conservation officers will be checking boats and equipment to make sure everyone is following Minnesota's AIS laws.

Minnesota currently has 175 water bodies infested with zebra mussels.

"Every new infestation is extremely serious," said Ann Pierce, DNR section manager for Ecological and Water Resources. "This means that it's important for people to take responsibility, follow the laws, and protect the remaining more than 10,000 Minnesota waters. It's still well worth the effort to protect the uncontaminated water bodies."

In Minnesota it is illegal to:

- Transport watercraft without the drain plug removed.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug

in place.

- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species, whether dead or alive.
- Launch watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release live bait into the water.

All DNR-trained watercraft inspectors

Cont'd on p.10

or not. This match is for a maximum of \$5,000. We are about to launch a letter writing campaign to attempt to reach all property owners in the area in order to urge them to help us make the Woods Bay Aquatic Management Area a reality. As RALALA members I ask that you take the lead and donate what you can to this project. Your descendants will appreciate what you have helped accomplish!

Thanks! I will see you all at the August 9th Silent Auction and BBQ in Outing! See p.4 for details.

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Annual RALALA fundraiser: August 9, 2014

11:30 am- 2 pm Come for the **Silent Auction** at the Village Inn

As in past years, a wonderful array of items to spend your money on will be yours for the bidding! Handmade items, sports packages, Viking football tickets, autographed Lynx memorabilia, gift items, food gift certificates, etc. Items for the whole family!!

11:30 am-2 pm Come for **BBQ lunch**

This year we will have dueling pit masters as longtime RALALA member and grill chef Dave Johnson takes on Mike Van Straaten, who has been competing in BBQ contests in the Midwest. Mike is bringing his own recipes for the challenge! Come support these two guys who are willing to cook pork shoulders all night for your enjoyment!! The smoker will be at the Land 'O Lakes Marine yard and the food will be served there and also at the Village Inn.

Sheriff's Water Patrol—by Wendy and Greg Koch

The water safety class for children and adults was held on July 12th. Training was conducted by Deputy Sheriff Robert Laudreville of the Cass County Sheriff's department who impressed everyone with his knowledge and experience. Special thanks go to Chris and Sarah at

Lake Country Grocery & Liquor in Outing who provided hot dogs, buns, pop and chips for all of the attendees. Chris even brought the grill over from the fire-house! If your children or grandchildren are going to be on or near the lakes next year, please remember to sign

them up for this class next year. It really is a wonderful learning experience for children and adults alike. We will shoot for a late June or an early July date to get Bob Laudreville back for an encore presentation.



Eagle Family Dinner



This photo, captured by the MN Bound/Kare-11 TV/ Broadband camera shows a family dinner at the nest! The three eaglets (Arky, Dakota and Skye) hatched 4/13 through 4/19. The family resides in South-Central MN. Whether dining on fish, duck or any of a wide range of other available foods, the family is fun to watch. Although the parents have the strength to tear the game animals to shreds, they gently 'tickle' the meat into the mouths of the young hatchlings. The site is at <http://www.ustream.tv/mneaglecam>. Multiple eagle and osprey nests in this area went through similar rituals this spring.

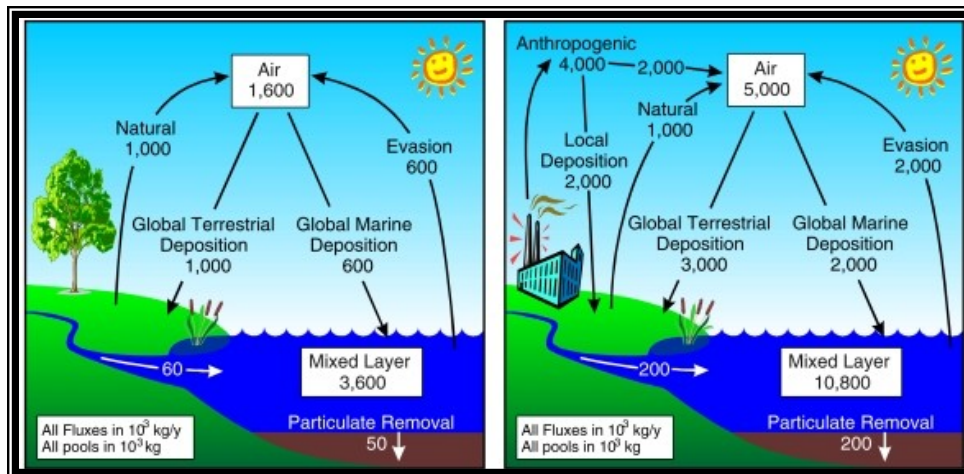
Mercury in Our Fish—by Bob Lee

I had someone ask me recently whether I knew that there was a fish advisory for Roosevelt and Lawrence lakes due to high mercury levels. I am sharing my answer with all of you.

All lakes in MN probably have too much mercury in them. The ones that don't have advisories posted either do not have big fish or have not yet been measured. The common wisdom seems to be that the excess is coming from nearby coal burning power plants in MN and especially in ND, but research indicates it may be coming from much farther away...maybe even China.

The main reason we are so unsure about all this is that the mercury cycle is one of the most complicated and least understood natural processes. There are big gaps in our understanding and lots of current research underway.

Scientists do know that there is much more mercury in the aquatic systems today than there was before industrialization (see graphic). Interestingly, however, roughly 2/3 of the mercury entering our aquatic systems is purely natural...maybe even more in periods of high volcanic activity. They think that about 1/3 of the mercury currently released to the atmosphere comes from human activities. Another 1/3



Preindustrial age on left

Current on right

comes from the oceans through photoreduction at the surface and volatilization. The final 1/3 comes from soil emissions, again, mostly through photoreduction.

The US is now working to reduce mercury emissions from coal-burning power plants, because it is believed that is the source of most of our emissions. What is emitted isn't methylmercury, but the theory is that the mercury in the stack emissions is being converted by bacteria into methylmercury—the bad stuff.

Recent research indicates that mercury deposition is as much a function of rainfall patterns as it is about proximity to the sources of emissions. The atmosphere today is never depleted of mercury from rainfall. The amount that can be stripped out from rainfall is essentially

infinite. Therefore, the wetter the climate, the more mercury in the water. The model suggests that mercury deposition rates differ by up to three orders of magnitude across the United States with the highest levels where there is both lots of rain and lots of coal burning. Outside the US the data is sparse.

it is presently not known for sure if “new,” recently deposited mercury is what drives mercury levels in fish or if vast pools of “old” mercury currently residing in soils and sediments is the culprit. Research is going to find out, especially in the Florida Everglades.

In sum, our lakes are not unique. The problem is global and is not susceptible to easy solutions. Stay tuned!

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Mending Fences—by Bob Lee

After burning off the vegetation on the restored lake-shore in Outing (see Spring 2014 Newsletter) we noticed that the fencing, that RALALA volunteers had originally installed around the native planting restoration area, was in a pretty sorry state. See below for a couple of photographs of the eyesore that this fencing had become.

To remedy this situation, Roger Brekken assessed the



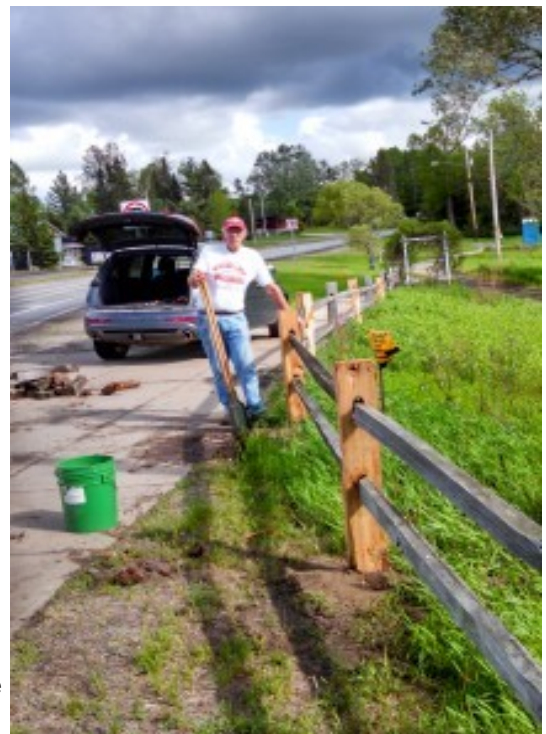
damage and gave me a list of new components needed for the repairs. I made a trip to Menards in Baxter and loaded up with a bunch of cedar fence posts that would match what had originally been installed.

After I had obtained the new posts, Rog and I headed up to Outing to start the work. I was a little intimidated. but i soon discovered that, farm raised as he is, Roger has

had lots of experience in digging holes and setting fence posts. I don't think it furthered his career at 3M, but you just never know when a skill like that might come in handy! It sure turned out to be useful that day.

As a result of Rog's expertise, we were able to quickly dig out the old rotten posts and enlarge the holes for setting the new ones. Using some tricks of the trade that Rog divulged (only after obtaining my signature on a confidentiality agreement he was carrying in his hip pocket), we soon had the new posts set and the fence rails repositioned. I was hoping to see Rog split some new rails for this project ala Abe Lincoln, but all of the old rails turned out to be in perfectly good shape. Oh well, maybe next time. RALALA could sell tickets to see that!

We soon had a fence that looked as good as new (except for the raw looking cedar that will need a little time to gray to match the rails and the remaining posts). Here is a picture of the end result and the master fence builder himself. Wasn't it Robert Frost who said "good neighbors do make good fences" or something like that?



RALALA Fireworks Donation

As we announced at the annual meeting, we have been allowing you to earmark supplementary RALALA donations for the Outing fireworks displays on the Fourth of July and New Years Eve (as well as donations to the first responders in Emily and Outing.

Since then substantial amounts have been donated for both purposes. We are waiting to make the first responder donations until later in the year, but made a partial donation toward the fireworks display in late June.



Seen here is Jack Van Straaten RALALA Finance Committee Member presenting a \$430 check to the Outing Chamber of Commerce to support their fireworks display. Accepting on behalf of the Chamber is Kirk Smith. The \$430 represents donations made to RALALA as of June 25th.

All fireworks donations received after the 25th will be presented to the Chamber of Commerce later in the year to support the Winter Fireworks Event. At approximately the same time we will make first responder donations as well.

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LIBRARY NOTES by Carol Pierce



Patrons seem to be enjoying having the library open at various times every day and lots of folks

have appreciated our having Wi-Fi for their use, as well as a free public computer. Be sure to stop by and see the display on loan to us from the Cass County Historical Society. It depicts the history of Cass County.

We are averaging 5 children per session in 8 story times so far this summer. We welcome volunteers to do a Sat. morning from 10-10:30; it is so precious. This week one of the story time grandmothers donated \$100.00 to thank us for providing these special times for her grandchildren. We

also received a nice lightweight vacuum cleaner which we really needed badly; someone was reading our minds! We also have received many large donations of books, especially wonderful young adult (grade school age children) books. We welcome any and all contributions because we have electric bills and phone bills to pay every month and need to buy library supplies like book mending tape and label protectors on a regular basis. We are still hearing fantastic raves and comments from first time library visitors. Everyone is so proud to have this wonderful place in our community. Our latest member of the Board is Donna Brown who is such a dedicated and enthusiastic supporter of our library. Look for some plantings around the west side of the building in the near future

and the Glenn Mechelke donation of a school desk from the original Outing School, which stood almost exactly where the town hall and library now are located. Look for that soon as well.

This community's generous support is greatly appreciated and it shows!! Thank you to all of you.

The hours for the Outing Volunteer Library are:

- 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

The 2014 RALALA Pontoon Parade

About a dozen boats formed up outside the entrance to Woods Bay on the Fourth of July in order to participate in a RALALA cruise around the lake to celebrate our nation's birthday and engage in a friendly contest of decorating our boats with a patriotic motif. Kirk Myers of Woods Bay Realty and Woodland Insurance Services won that competition handily. From these pictures I think you will all agree that this will be hard to top. Kirk reported on Facebook that he had a crew of four, one Ensign (Therese) and two swabs (neighbor and daughter), but that he doesn't photograph the



lower ranks much. He did report that he had a great time and I even won a bottle of wine from Bob Lee's wine cellar for the best decorated boat. We are hoping for better weather and a bigger turn out next year

FOR SALE

Two RALALA T-shirts (with the Lake Roosevelt logo) one is size youth large and one is adult small. \$10.00 each.

Four RALALA tote bags (with the Lake Roosevelt logo) \$10.00 each.

If interested in purchasing these items please contact John Rowell at rowellje@hotmail.com



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Working to Stop Zebra Mussels!



Pictured (left to right) are: John Rowell (Board Member – RALALA), Level 2 Inspectors Art Patterson – RLID President and Emily AIS Prevention Leader, Randy Rohwer – RLID Board Member, and Connor Doede - the DNR AIS Inspector Intern who was stationed at Lake Roosevelt on that Saturday. The high pressure washer in the background is the property of RLID, and is being used collaboratively in the Emily and Outing area to decontaminate watercraft that are or may be carrying zebra mussels or other AIS.

In Emily MN, the Ruth Lake Improvement District (RLID) is out and scouring! On Thursday, May 26th, their crew, along with a couple of trained folks from Crooked Lake Township, completed DNR Level 2 training for decontaminating watercraft. On the very next day (Friday) the RLID crew was set-up in downtown Emily, then on Saturday they were at Roosevelt Lake, and on Sunday they were back again in Emily. Their mission is to power wash boats and other watercraft with water that is hot enough to kill and remove zebra mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

The decontamination team will visit more sites in the days ahead, and more work is continuing with Level 1 inspections and the installation of remote-monitoring devices (ILIDS and car counters) that are or soon will be set-up at the area launches.

With zebra mussels now confirmed in

Cross Lake, Lake Winnie and Mille Lacs, as well as many popular MN recreation lakes, the challenge is ever more urgent.

Locally, there has been a strong collaborative effort this summer among the Minnesota DNR, the City of Emily, the Crooked Lake Township Board and AIS Committee, RLID (Ruth Lake Improvement District), RALALA (Roosevelt And Lawrence Area Lakes Association), Lake Washburn Association (LWA) as well as Cass and Crow Wing Counties. The joint effort, which is a strong credit to both Crooked Lake and Emily, relies upon DNR grants that the municipalities sought and received as well as upon funds raised by the lake associations. Clearly, the DNR is a lynch-pin organization in the overall efforts.

Water-users should know that they personally can greatly reduce the risk of infecting any lake or river with AIS, by the simple practices (and the slo-

gan) of “CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY”.

“CLEAN” means to remove ALL vegetation and debris (mud, snails, etc.); IF YOU FIND ANY ZEBRA MUSSELS, advise the DNR immediately and do NOT travel upon the highway until directed to do so – it is against the law to transport ANY AIS on any road in MN, without special arrangements.

“DRAIN” means to get ALL water out of bait wells, live wells, and the bilge. If the boat has ‘bladders’, then completely drain those OR insert a hose with HOT (140 degree) water for at least 10 -20 seconds, and then drain as much of the water as possible.

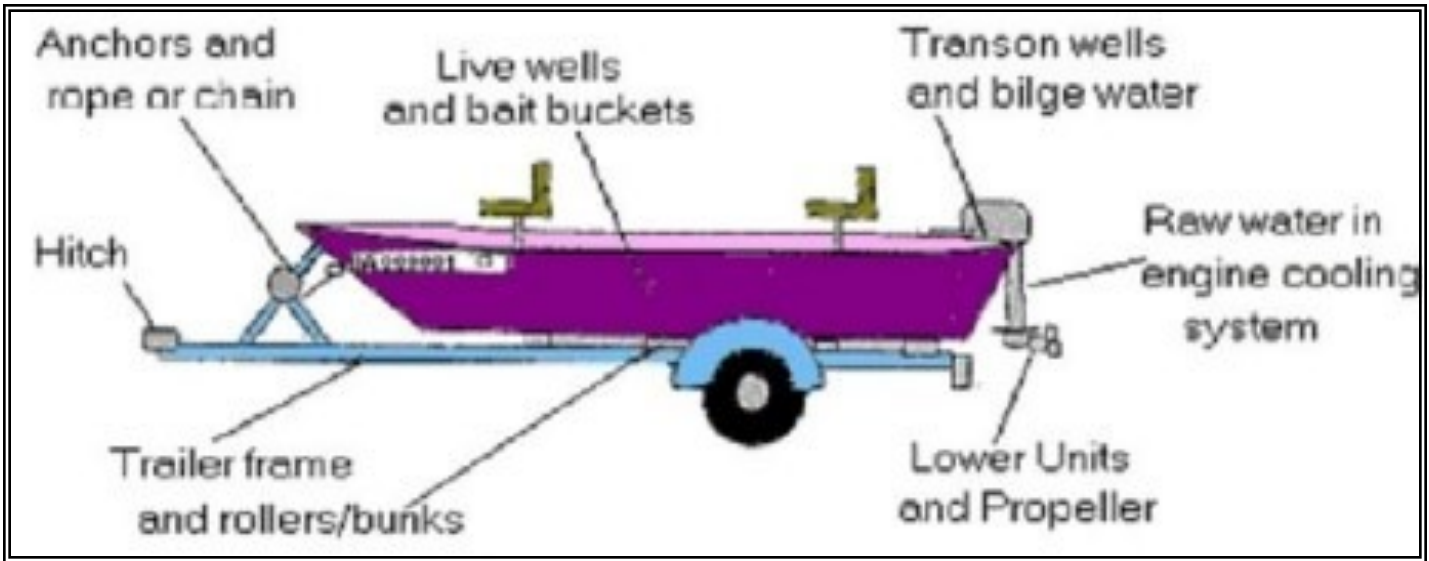
“DRY” means to have all compartments open to the air, and all ropes, anchors, fishing gear and any other gear that has been in the water laid out in the open to dry – after rinsing with that 140 degree water mentioned above.

One of the highest risk actions that moves AIS is the re-location of used boat lifts, docks and other lake equipment. The SAFEST is to let them sit out for a winter season before moving them, but in ANY case, be sure they are out of the water for at least 30-45 days when moving between lakes. With all of the tubes and crevices, such structures are virtually impossible to actually clean 100% - thus, the DRY aspect is crucial to their safe transport.

Other possible actions are being studied and evaluated to make the process even more effective, efficient, and reliable as well as less of a hassle and disruption to the fishermen and water users who need to take these measures.

The collaboration mentioned above wants to thank everyone for their attention and their support as these efforts continue.

AIS Violations- cont'd from p.3



stationed around the state are authorized to help ensure boats and trailers are clean and free of AIS before entering or leaving a lake, river or other body of water. Whether they work for the DNR, or for a county or

other local unit of government, inspectors are there to help make sure boaters are not in violation of AIS laws and to protect our lakes and rivers.

The DNR has 23 decontamination units at various bodies of water in Minnesota.

The agency concentrates inspectors and decontamination efforts at high-use bodies of water that are currently infested with AIS.

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Doing Your Part to Stop the Decline of Honey Bees—Dr. Marla Spivak at the University of Minnesota Bee Lab

Eating bee-pollinated fruits and vegetables keeps us healthy. Yet bees are not as healthy as they used to be. In fact, populations are in decline in Minnesota and nationally. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to help bee populations: plant bee-friendly plants and reduce pesticide use.

University of Minnesota Extension has maintained an internationally recognized honey bee program since 1918. Marla Spivak, professor and Extension entomologist, recommends two steps for better bee health this growing season:

Plant bee-friendly flowering plants.



Lupine

Bees need flowering plants for nutrition. Bee balm, anise hyssop, lupine, asters, Autumn Joy sedum, sunflower,



Calico Aster

Farmers contribute to bee nutrition with alfalfa, clover, and other flowering forages and cover crops.

Reduce pesticide use. Select healthy, natural plants and keep them free of pesticides. Avoid buying plants treated with neonicotinoid and other systemic insecticides, which remain present in the

ers, and herbs like thyme and oregano are a few good choices. Plant flowers in yards, in public spaces, and on farms as borders and hedgerows.

leaves, pollen and nectar of the plant. Many plant pests cause only temporary, aesthetic problems that can be managed or tolerated. If you do use pesticides, read the label and follow directions.



Bee Balm



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