



Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association Newsletter

Summer 2016

Upcoming Events

**Aug. 20th 5:30PM
Volunteer Party**

**Sept. 3rd at 5PM
Raffle Party and
Drawing at the
Village Inn in Out-
ing**

Inside this issue:

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President's Letter—by Bob Lee

Those of you who are on our e-mail list already know that Roosevelt has been found to be infested with both Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed. A single plant of each species was discovered back in early June and confirmed by an invasive species specialist working for the DNR. Unfortunately, due to problems with a new DNR computer system virtually no one learned about this discovery for more than 5 weeks, not even the folks in the DNR with responsibility for dealing with the ramifications of this infestation. When we did get

the word, we immediately went to work trying to figure out what we were dealing with and how to manage the problem.

The first thing we did was talk to the invasive species specialists at the DNR and to other lake associations with existing milfoil infestations about what first steps to take and who to hire to help us with this problem.

This eventually led us to PLM Lake and Land Management, Inc. with a local office in Brainerd,

PLM promptly came out and did a partial survey of the lake. Patrick Selter of

PLM discovered a 5.66 acre patch of Eurasian Water Milfoil in South Roosevelt. He mapped this area with GPS mapping software and gave us a bid for treating this area with triclopyr, a chemical that is the state of the art for dealing with milfoil. Patrick further recommended that we contract with PLM to do a complete survey of both North and South Roosevelt Lake, independent of a survey that the MDNR was proposing to do in response to a RALALA request for their assistance.

Based upon cost estimates we had obtained from PLM, *Cont'd on p. 2*

Recognizing Eurasian Water Milfoil vs. Native Plants—by Bob Lee

As I said in my president's letter, we are going to be managing our Eurasian Water Milfoil infestation indefinitely into the future. We can keep it under control, but to do that we will need help from all of you in spotting, identifying and reporting new milfoil growth in our lakes as it occurs.

But in order for you to be an effective part of the solution, you need to know what to look for. Given that few of us are botanists, we all need to learn a little something about the plants that grow along the shores of our lakes, enough so that we can at least tell the good stuff from the bad!

Therefore, starting in this edition of the newsletter, I am going to do my best to

offer everyone a basic education about what Eurasian Water Milfoil looks like and how you can distinguish this invader from a couple of similar looking native plants that we have had in our lakes for thousands of years. If you have questions, get them to me and we will do a follow-up article in the Fall newsletter to further clarify what to look for.

There are lots of different plants in our lakes, but most of them look nothing like milfoil. They have either broad leaves of various shapes or look more like grasses. Based upon what Roger Brekken and I experienced while doing our own survey on Lawrence Lake, I think there are really only two native plants in Roosevelt and Lawrence Lakes that look

Cont'd on p. 3

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...e & Cindy

President's Letter from p.1 (cont'd)

your board of directors authorized me at our July meeting to spend the money to (a) hire PLM to determine where the invasive species were located; (b) apply for whatever permits were required from the DNR to treat the infestation; and (c) contract with PLM to treat any area of infestation found.

I promptly executed a contract with PLM to do a survey of North and South Roosevelt while simultaneously requesting that the DNR also do a comprehensive survey of the lake. Both surveys have now been completed. The DNR survey found only the same milfoil patch found earlier by PLM. The PLM survey, however, found additional areas of milfoil in another part of South Roosevelt and a few individual plants in North Roosevelt. No curly leaf pondweed was found by either survey.

Using the GPS mapping data supplied by PLM we applied to the DNR for a permit to treat the milfoil using triclopyr. Triclopyr is very effective at killing Eurasian Water Milfoil. (a kill rate in the 95%-100% range), but is relatively easy on other native species like Northern Milfoil and Coontail. This chemical has been the subject of an EIS and has been approved by the EPA in the concentrations PLM will apply here.

Our permit was granted on August 16th. On the 17th I signed a contract with PLM to treat the areas covered by the permit. We are presently discussing with the DNR whether we need to amend this permit to allow us to treat the additional areas in South Roosevelt discovered by PLM in their survey.

I am not prepared to say exactly where these treatment areas are un-

til we have applied the chemical and killed the plants.

This is not because we are trying to be secretive, but because the milfoil is at a very fragile stage right now and we are afraid that curious boaters may accidentally hit it with boats or props causing it to fragment. Those fragments are very likely to start new plants elsewhere in the lake.

I am confident that we will be able to manage the Eurasian Water Milfoil in our lake so that our use of the lake will not be impacted and your property values will not be impaired, but this will be expensive. In this year alone are spending about \$14,000 we have raised through our EQI campaign. More money will be required down the road, because it is not realis-

Cont'd on p.9

Recognizing Eurasian Water Milfoil vs. Native Plants (cont'd from p. 1)

enough like Eurasian Water Milfoil that they can be confused with this invasive species. All three plants have feathery looking leaves with leaflets that are arranged in whorls (circles) around their stems. These three look enough alike that they can easily be confused by us amateurs. In addition to Eurasian Water Milfoil (the bad stuff), the native look-alikes are Northern Milfoil and Coontail.

Let's start with the easiest one to identify and distinguish. This plant is commonly called coontail (but its real name is Ceratophyllum demersum) and there is lots of it in both Roosevelt and Lawrence lakes. Like the milfoils, coontail has feathery leaves arranged in circles around the stem, but it is not a milfoil. In fact, it is not even a close relative.

I think that the easiest way to identify coontail is by the tip of the stem where the leaves are bunched up and pointed towards the end of the stem. The drawing doesn't show it very well but they taper down to a blunt point and it does look kind of like the tip of a furry animal's tail.

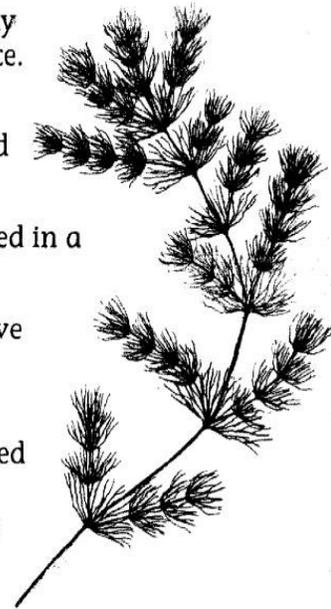
Here is what coontail looks like and what its major

features are:

Coontail

Coontail is a free-floating aquatic plant without roots. It may be completely submersed or partially floating on the surface.

- The leaves are stiff and arranged in whorls.
- Each leaf is divided in a forked pattern.
- Leaf divisions have teeth along one margin.
- Leaves are crowded toward the tip of the stem creating the "coontail" appearance.



Cont'd on p. 6

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Sheriff’s Water Patrol—Boat and Water Safety Class

On July 9th RALALA, in conjunction with the Cass County Sheriff’s Office, sponsored a boat and water safety class for both children and adults at the Crooked Lake Township Town Hall in Outing. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers Greg and Wendy Koch and Mary Weihrauch this event was a great success. Twelve children and three adults took this class, which is an excellent turnout compared to what we have had in recent years.

Bob Landreville, Cass County Deputy Sheriff, taught the course. The kids took a test after the class in order to be able to legally operate a boat or PWC (jet ski). In Minnesota if you are 12 to 17 years old, are unsupervised, and will be operating a boat over 25 hp or are 14 to 17 years old and will be operating a PWC, you need to take a course like this and pass a test in order to get an operator’s license.

After the classroom training, participants were taken to the Lawrence Lake landing at Luscher Park to



learn how to drive both a boat and a jet ski. Everyone seemed to really enjoy having this hands on opportunity. The class lasted from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm when lunch (sponsored by Lake Country Grocery & Liquor in Outing) was served to all attendees. Thanks Sarah!

The RALALA volunteers put up posters around Outing and Emily. We

want to thank the businesses who supported us and helped with the class sign up (Land O’Lakes Marine and Outing Station in Outing, and Redding’s Sports and Spirits in Emily).

Participant’s also received the new 2016 Minnesota Boating Guide that contains rules and regulations for operating boats in Minnesota in an easy-to-read format .

The Sheriff’s Water Patrol is struggling at the moment, because we just do not have enough people volunteering to make cruises on the lakes. Those who have tried it have found this an enjoy-

able and rewarding experience. If you are at all interested give Wendy or Greg Koch a call at 612-803-3954 or 952-270-9789. They would be glad to chat with you about what the water patrol does and how you could help.

Zebra Mussel Study Underway on Lake Minnetonka

A study began at the end of July on a potential new method to effectively manage zebra mussel populations. Researchers from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center are testing the use of a copper-based product to reduce the survival of zebra mussel veligers (larvae). By targeting the youngest zebra mussels, it's hoped the overall zebra mussel population can be decreased. The study, funded by a \$24,000 grant from Hennepin County, is the first known field test of its kind.



During three separate weeks, very low levels of a copper-based product, EarthTec QZ, are being applied in six enclosures near the shoreline of Lake Minnetonka's Robinson's Bay. Following each application, researchers will evaluate the impact of different concentrations of the product on the young zebra mussels. The product is species-

specific and poses no health risks to humans or other aquatic life. Recreation and enjoyment of the bay will not be impacted during the study. Since zebra mussels were discovered in Lake Minnetonka six years ago, they have spread throughout the lake. Some of the largest

concentrations are in the study area. Because zebra mussel adults live only three to five years, they rely on veliger production to maintain their populations. Reducing veliger survival could ultimately reduce the overall population of adult zebra mussels and may be an approach to management, particularly of newly infested lakes.

"Lake Minnetonka is a valuable laboratory for testing new potential zebra mussel control methods," said Dr. Michael McCartney, MAISRC Research Assistant Professor. "This study's findings will help inform future efforts to manage these populations, slow their spread, and lessen their impact on our lakes."

Zebra mussels have long-term water quality and recreational impacts. They alter the food chain that fish and other aquatic life depend on, they attach to docks, boats and other hard surfaces, and their sharp shells litter beaches and lake bottoms.

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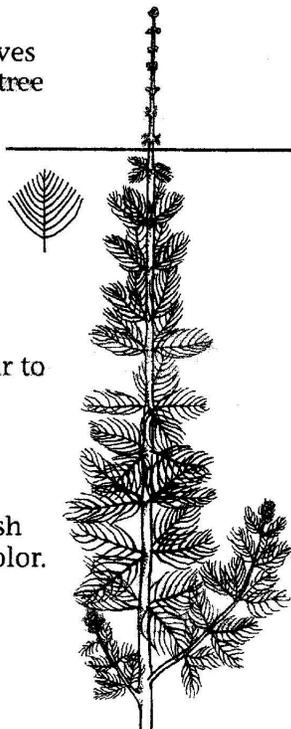
Recognizing Eurasian Water Milfoil vs. Native Plants (cont'd from p. 3)

The next contender in our trio of plants is Northern Milfoil which is a very close relative of the bad stuff but is native to our lakes and rivers in the northern half of the United States and in Canada. It does not spread as aggressively as Eurasian Water Milfoil and is generally considered beneficial to water quality. It also provides a valuable protective cover for fish and their young.

Here is what Northern Milfoil looks like:

Northern Milfoil (the good stuff)

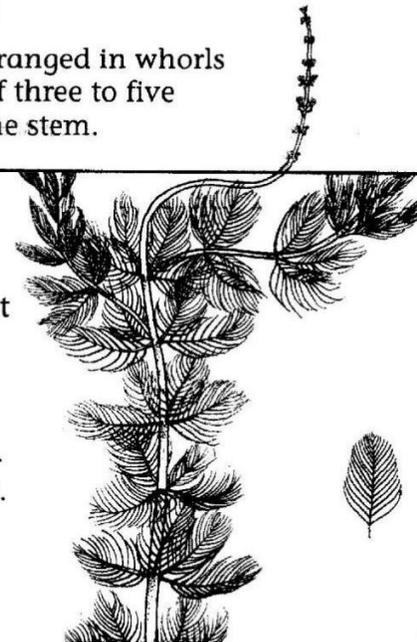
- Rigid feather-like leaves forming a christmas tree shape. The lower leaflets are usually quite long.
- Leaves usually stiff when out of water.
- Leaves arranged in whorls (circles) of four to six around stem.
- Usually seven to ten leaflet pairs per leaf.
- Stem is usually whitish or whitish green in color.



As you can see from the picture of Eurasian Water Milfoil below, these plants are really very similar. We found that if you look at a sample, it is easy to see the differences in the number of leaflets and the limpness of the invader vs, the stiffness of the native, but identification in the water from a boat it is a lot harder. The biggest difference is the shape of the plant with the Northern being more tree-like and Eurasian bushier. There are also more subtle differences in coloration.

Eurasian Water Milfoil (the bad stuff)

- Delicate feather-like leaves. Leaflets are mostly the same length.
- Leaves are usually limp when out of the water.
- Leaves arranged in whorls (circles) of three to five around the stem.
- Usually twelve to twenty-one leaflet pairs per leaf.
- Long spaghetti-like stems.



Cont'd on p. 7

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Recognizing Eurasian Water Milfoil vs. Native Plants (cont'd from p. 6)

By far the most reliable way to tell, however, is to pick off a sprig and closely examine the leaflets. The Eurasian has many more pairs of leaflets than the native plant and the shape of the leaf is quite different (see the little leaflet detail drawing insets in the drawings on page 6).

Be careful when you do take samples. If the plant is Eurasian Water

Milfoil, please don't drop fragments in the water. Fragmentation is how this plant starts new plants. It doesn't need our help!

If you find a Eurasian Water Milfoil plant, please contact me or any other board member. We will do a GPS plot of that area and provide that mapping data to PLM for action.

Thanks for your help on this. I am confident that we can keep this milfoil under control.

Remember to call or send me an e-mail with questions, and I will supplement this information in the Fall newsletter.

Other Happenings at the Lake



July 4th Boat Parade

If you missed the Fourth of July Boat Parade, you missed another fun outing on the lake. Check out the super patriotic outfits worn by my dog Tucker and his friend, Lola. They both had a great time. This year we were treated to a pre-parade water show in which scores or maybe hundreds of water balloons were launched from one pontoon at another. It was a perfect day for getting wet! As usual, the prize for best decorated boat went to Kirk and Teresa Myers who tell me that they are running out of costumes.

AIS Inspections

We have been getting great support from Cass County and the CLT AIS

Committee on both inspections at the landings on Roosevelt and Lawrence as well as at the decontamination station behind the CLT Town Hall. We are getting coverage on all weekends and frequently during the week as well. In an effort to move closer to our goal of every day coverage, we applied for and received a grant from the City of Emily to help us contract for additional inspector hours to supplement those being provided by Cass County inspectors and the MDNR interns. Make sure you say "thank you" to these folks the next time you are at the landing. They are our chief defense against AIS invasion of our lakes.

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I know that a bunch of you are Amazon Prime customers and spend a fair amount of money every year on Amazon. Did you know that you can have Amazon donate 0.5% of everything you spend at Amazon to charitable organizations—like RALALA? Yes, it's true and costs you nothing. The Amazon Foundation pays the 0.5%. I grant you that it is not a lot of money for RALALA (you all would have to spend a total of \$10,000 to give us an added \$50!), but it is essentially free money, so why not

spend the five minutes it will take you to set this up on AmazonPrime.

Here is how you set this up to give us this donation: (1) Go to <http://smile.amazon.com>. You will be prompted to select your charity from those who have registered with Amazon, (2) Choose Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lake Association. That's really all there is to it.

However, I suggest that you bookmark the AmazonSmile page so that you automatically go to that page rather

than the regular Amazon homepage. This ensures that you are buying through the Smile portal. I found that Amazon will prompt you to switch to Smile if you don't do this, but I don't know if that prompting is foolproof. AmazonSmile is very integrated. You still buy through your regular account using the credit card(s) you have on file, etc. So far, I have not found anything that is not eligible for AmazonSmile, but apparently a few items do exist out of the millions of items on Amazon. Happy shopping!



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President's letter—cont'd from p. 2

tic to think we will ever be able to eradicate the milfoil in our lakes, at least not with existing technology. It is like dandelions in your lawn. You can kill enough of them to make your lawn look good, but you cannot really wipe them out.

Therefore, I think we need to plan on raising and spending a lot more money than we have in the past. We are looking into new fundraising activities, but the quickest fix is getting a lot better participation in RALALA than we have had in recent years.

At the time I sat down to write this letter we had only received dues payments from about 125 members. I know others will send in a

check eventually, but there are at least 750 potential members of RALALA based on tax parcel ID information we have received from Cass and Crow Wing Counties. I believe that we need to convince several hundred additional lakeshore owners to join us. Now they have a material economic stake in doing so. If we don't join together to fight the milfoil invasion we are all going to lose.

We have started this process by giving each board member the responsibility to personally visit 10 or 12 neighbors to get them to join. The response has been very positive so far, but with a mere 11 board members we are not going to get this

done. We need a bunch of you to volunteer to help out with this project. We will give you brochures and other information and a list of people and addresses of non-members. You can pick where you want to canvas. If you can help us, call Darril Wegscheid at 651-503-8414. I did it last weekend and no one tried to bite me. In fact, they were all pretty nice people!

I am also going to write an article about how you can spot milfoil. We are going to need everyone to watch for new areas of growth!



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