



RALALA Lake Association

Fall 2019

2020 Events

July 4th 1PM
Boat Parade Starts
at Woods Bay En-
trance

July 25th 9AM
Annual Meeting
CLT Town Hall

Sept 5th 5PM
Raffle Party at
Village Inn with
Drawing at 6PM

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Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association

President's Letter—by Linda Van Straaten

The fall is upon us too quickly...it's a sad commentary when we were waiting for Indian summer before the end of August!

Our summer was shaken by the sudden death of our RALALA vice-president Mary Weihrauch. Mary's energy and enthusiasm meant so much to the community, as she also served as the president of the Outing Chamber of Commerce. We will all miss her. Our lake family lost many close friends this summer.

We also saw many projects accomplished this summer. Our milfoil contractor surveyed all 4 RALALA lakes and we only needed to treat small areas on South Roosevelt. Keeping our AIS focus at the fore-

front is the aim of our efforts in education and fundraising. Our raffle was very successful this year..adding \$4000+ to our treasury. Successful efforts to obtain grants also helped us offset high milfoil survey and treatment costs.

Points of interest:

- The DNR will be focusing a new awareness campaign on wake boats and their effect on shorelines....OWN YOUR WAKE is the theme of the campaign.
- Crow Wing and Cass counties have both made grant money available to help with septic system upgrades or replacements.

Cont'd on p. 9

Pulling Weeds—by Sheila Langer

This summer Bob Lee asked my husband Gary and I for some help removing individual milfoil plants that were spotted in this year's PLM survey, but were not included in the areas that the DNR approved for herbicide treatment. Bob had obtained the GPS coordinates for 13 such plants. After first loading this data into his fishfinder (but finding it too inaccurate to locate individual plants) he loaded the coordinates into Google Earth on his iPad. This gave us a good zoomable map showing where to look for the plants.



A sample of the milfoil we found and pulled

Our plan was for Bob to navigate his pontoon boat to each location; for all of us to visually try to spot the single plant; and for Gary to dive down, re-

Cont'd on p. 2

Pulling Weeds cont'd from p. 1

move it, and hand it to me for bagging. Sounds pretty simple right? As you can probably guess it was a lot tougher than we thought it would be.

First, unless the wind is very light, the ripples and waves on the lake make finding single plants very difficult. This delayed our trip several times. Second, neither Gary nor I were able at first to tell the



Eurasian with the pinkish sinuous stem

difference between Northern and Eurasian Water Milfoil. Bob had

to coach us on what to look for, and, as the day went on, we learned how to tell the difference. Northern is more rigid and upright while Eurasian is more floppy and sinuous. Plus the stems on Northern are quite greenish and those on Eurasian are almost pink.

Despite getting much better at identification, we never did find every plant on Bob's list. This may have been because the Google Earth satellite photos were inconsistent with what was actually present in late summer, i.e., docks and lifts had been moved, replaced, or were not in the water, plants had grown, etc.

Once located, we also had some trouble getting the plants out. The idea was for Bob to hold the pontoon on station while Gary would get in the water, dive down



Clump of milfoil removed

and try to pull the plant out at the roots, then hand me the entire plant so I could put it in a mesh laundry bag.

None of this worked well. Bob had trouble keeping the boat on station in breezy spots and had

Con't on p.4

Aquatic Invasive Species and MN – AIS FACT or FICTION (See answers on page 4)

1. MN only has three aquatic species that are considered "Invasive".
2. The Great Lakes currently are known to have at least 180 aquatic species that are "non-native".
3. At least 25 invasive species of fish have entered the Great Lakes since the 1800s.
4. Wastewater treatment plants in this region spend ~\$350,000 annually to deal with zebra mussels.
5. Each female zebra mussel produces about five million eggs during her lifetime.



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RALALA Announces Raffle Winners for 2019

After its annual raffle drawing on Saturday evening, August 31, 2019 at the Village Inn in Outing, RALALA announced the winners of the 2019 raffle which helps fund efforts to protect the area waters.

The winners were as follows: 1st prize, a REEDS Outdoor gift certificate worth \$1,375 went to Kim David; 2nd prize, \$1,000 in cash, went to Wally Oltz; 3rd prize, a \$250 "in-store merchandise" gift certificate from Outing

Station went to Maryde Hansen; 4th prize, a \$200 bundle of gift

certificates from a combination of Pickled Loon Bar & Grill, Outing Lake Country Foods, and Out-



Kim David picking up 1st prize!



Wally Oltz getting his \$1000 2nd prize

Cont'd on p.5

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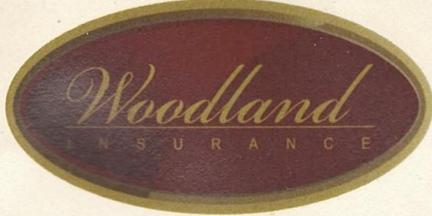
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Pulling Weeds—cont'd from p.2

to anchor several times. Gary had trouble finding plants once he was in the water and needed help from Bob and me to zero in. Once located, Gary also had problems getting the plant out. It was late in the year when milfoil gets quite fragile. In sand the stem would break before the roots came free. Additionally, in areas where the bottom was mucky, the visibility rapidly deteriorated as Gary swam or waded, so that he soon could not see whether he had removed everything. Often we had to repeat the process after the water cleared, and we saw more plant or remnants that had broken off. We all agreed that the probability that we had removed 100% of what we found was negligible. Maybe professionals could do better,

but Bob told us that PLM employees had told him that manual removal is not nearly as effective as the application of a good herbicide, for the reasons I have mentioned here.

Finally, I wanted to point out that in two locations where PLM had spotted one plant in late spring, we found dozens in late summer. Both areas were in shallow water (~3 ft deep) around docks and lifts. Bob is reporting this observation to PLM not only to ensure that they carefully check these specific areas next year, but also to alert them to plants occurring in shallower water than we had experienced previously.

This was a challenging day, but a great learning experience for both of us. If you are able, I would en-



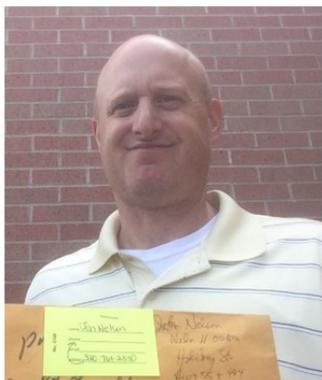
courage any of you to volunteer to pull Eurasian milfoil next year. I guarantee you will get a better appreciation for how difficult this stuff is to eradicate, and how much work is involved in keeping it under control on our lakes.

Answers to AIS FACT or FICTION from page 2

1. False – there are at least 23 known invasive fish in MN, and at least 14 known invasive aquatic plants as well as 6 invasive Invertebrates
2. True – while some might not survive in northernmost areas, many can and do.
3. True – and 23 invasive fish have made it into MN waters.
4. True – Zebra Mussels attach to almost any hard surface and can eventually close-off the facility's function and must be removed at great cost.
5. True – while many will not survive, the ones that do reach maturity in about a year thus resulting in an explosive growth rate.

Raffle Winners cont'd from p.3

ing Hardware went to John Nelson; and 5th prize, a \$150 valued "1/2 hog meat bundle" from Emily Meats went to Tony Olson.



John Nelson with his 4th prize



Tony Olson getting his 5th prize with Ms. Kaylee Nugent who made all the drawings for the event

Raffle Chairman Darril Wegscheid stated, "We are delighted to have met so many wonderful people as we

sold tickets. Furthermore, we are so appreciative of all the support from our area businesses, citizens, and volunteers in planning, arranging and completing this successful effort. This community believes in the value of these waters, and the need to be

thoughtful and successful stewards in order to protect them and our community's future for generations to come."

After paying for prizes and other expenses, all proceeds from the raffle are added to the RALALA Environmental Quality Initiative Fund. This fund is then used to fund projects to preserve and protect the lakes in this area. The raffle has been and continues to be one of the major sources of funding for the projects and activities of this organization.

Thanks everyone!

Kirk Myers
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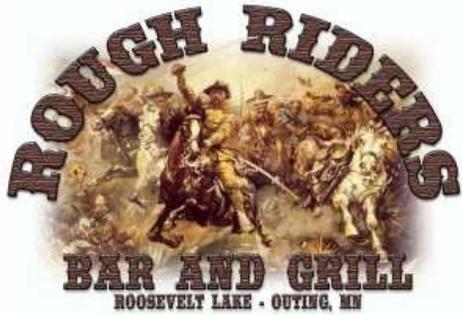
A big thank you to all of our friends and members who made donations to RALALA in excess of dues.

Unless specifically designated as milfoil donations, these donations go into the RALALA Environmental Quality Initiative Fund (EQI). The EQI provides RALALA

with the means to further pursue the Association's goals and objectives beyond what RALALA's modest annual dues income would allow.

We would, at this time, like to acknowledge the following members who supported our organization through cash donations to the EQI fund:

Tim & Michelle Allen, Connie Anderson, John & Laurie Anderson, Nik & Mary Barton, Bill & Margaret Blenkush, Wally & Audra Bokovitz, David & Anne Bonnerup, The Sam & Barbara Carlson Family Charitable Fund, Willis Cline, Dennis & Nancy Crowe, Patricia Cunnif, Erin &



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Special thanks are also due to the following people and organizations who made donations specifically earmarked to help with payment of our milfoil survey and treatment costs:

Tim & Michelle Allen, Connie Anderson, Manny & Suzanne Azevedo, William & Margaret Blenkush, Wally & Audra Bokovitz, Robert & Pamela Bolls, Roger & Edie Brekken, Patrick & Silvinia Brown, City of Emily, Crooked Lake Township, Dennis & Nancy Crowe, Patricia Cunniff, Tim & Sandy Dirks, Shirley Doten, Charles & Karen Duncan, Tom & Linda Durand, Bob & Sandy Eddy, Jackie Evans, Grant & Ilene Evanson, Thomas & Mary Jo Exley, Carol & Terrence Farrington, Greg & Sandy Floyd, Gerold Frane, Elizabeth Frei, Alan Geiwitz, David &

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President's Letter cont'd from p. 1

- Protect our loon and vegetation habitat by respecting signs prohibiting boat traffic in these fragile areas.
- Portable fire pits are recommended for shoreline use to prevent ashes from getting into the lake.
- Amazon shoppers: register with Smile.Amazon.com to get a % of your purchases directed to RALALA.

As tempting as it is to hire Mosquito Squad, please be aware

the DNR has cautioned that they use a broad spectrum pesticide that will kill all pollinators on contact. The MN Dept of Agriculture doesn't allow it to be used within 10 feet of water, and, to prevent runoff, it should not be applied when rain is expected. It is highly toxic to aquatic life, humans and pets. This info has been verified by Sheila Boldt, Crow Wing Soil & Water and Chris Pence, Board Conservationist (BWSR).

In June we entered into an exchange with the Lake Washburn

Association to learn and share with our neighbor lake. The "fun fact" is that we realized that Washburn has 32 people doing 32 jobs and we have 8 board members doing 32 jobs. Revamping our organization is the only way to survive. We want you to serve a few hours on a sub-committee, sell raffle tickets, serve on the board, etc. I am going to focus on YOU for our 2020 year. Volunteerism is hopefully strong in our membership.

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