



# RALALA Lake Association

Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association Newsletter

Spring 2018

## Events

**7/7/2018 Annual Pontoon Parade starting at the opening to Woods Bay at 3PM**

**7/14/2018 Annual Meeting starting at 9:30AM at Crooked Lake Town Hall**

**9/1/2018 Raffle Party and Drawing at Village Inn; 5:00PM start for party and 6:00PM drawing**

## Inside this issue:

**Wright Co. Mandatory AIS Program 3**

**Emergency Procedures in CLT 7**

**Line 3 Update 8**

## President's Letter—by Bob Lee

This will be my last letter as president of RALALA. Linda Van Straaten, our current vice president, will be succeeding me as president at the annual meeting in July, so the next president's letter in the summer edition will be penned by her.

It has been a very busy five plus years since I became president, but I have found the experience quite rewarding and I am hopeful you share my belief that we have had some successes. I am very confident that the association will continue to flourish under Linda's leadership. I do think we accomplished quite a bit together in the last

few years, and I believe that we have met all of the many challenges along the way with determination and creativity.

I am very grateful for all the help and support I have been given by so many of you during my term. I cannot adequately express my gratitude for all the time spent by so many volunteers and all the money contributed by so many members. Collectively we have done some great things for the health of the lakes—both immediate and in years to come.

When I reflect back on it, quite a number of those initiatives have made significant changes in how the association operates.

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## Roger's Ramblings—by Roger Brekken

**Freeze-Up/ Ice Out:** On the morning of Thursday, 11/9/2017,, Emily, Little Emily and Lawrence Lake were frozen over. North Roosevelt still had open water in the bay adjacent to the channel from Lawrence Lake on 11/28. After some warm days in the 40's, but cool nights in the 20's, North Roosevelt was frozen over the morning of 12/3. However, warmer temperatures, wind and rain again opened up a large area near the Lawrence connector creek. The area finally froze over permanently the morning of December 12th when the nighttime temperature got down to one above zero. A dusting of snow during the day verified that South Roosevelt had also frozen over on December 12th.

On April 11, all the lakes still had and inch or two of snow cover with no thawing around the edges. The ice on South

Roosevelt was solid as a rock at 24 inches thick. The 6–8 inches of snow that arrived on April 14-15 didn't help. (Although we missed the 15–22 inches of snow the Twin Cities got from the same storm!). After a couple of warm ( 50's-60's) sunny days and a very windy April 29th with an early morning shower caused ice out on Lake Emily and Little Emily. The ice on Lawrence Lake was honeycombed on the 29th. A light shower during the night lead to ice-out on Lawrence on May 1. At that time the south end of North Roosevelt was clear of ice but the north half was still covered with dark honeycomb ice. North Roosevelt was clear of ice on May 2. On May 4th, after a couple of warm sunny days, the wind blew the remaining ice on South Roosevelt to form a 30 yard band of ice along the southeast shore and filled the small bays like the one near Granny's. By midday Saturday May

*Cont'd on p.2*



## Clearwater Lodge

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## Roger's Ramblings Cont'd from p.1

5th, all the ice was gone.

**Weed Removal:** Some RALALA members have inquired about the regulations governing weed removal. The DNR has a pamphlet "Aquatic Plant Management". It points out the beneficial aspects of aquatic plants in preventing erosion, food and shelter for fish, and improving water quality. Having said that, lakeshore owners do not need a permit to pull or cut submerged vegetation in a small area for swimming or boat docking. The area may not extend along more than 50 feet of the owner's shoreline or 1/2 the length of the owner's total shoreline, whichever is less. The cleared area may not exceed 2500 square feet. A boat channel not exceeding 15 feet in width extended to open water may be maintained. The boat channel area is included in the 2500 square feet maximum.

An Aquatic Plant Management Permit is required for:

- exceeding the 2500 sq ft maximum,
- applying herbicides or algaeicides,
- removing water lilies or other floating leaf vegetation in any area exceeding the 15 foot channel width
- transplanting aquatic plants
- installation or operation of an automatic plant control device

**Swimmer's Itch Control:** Swimmer's itch is an annoying skin infection caused by a tiny parasite of waterfowl. Non chemical preventative measures are: brisk toweling after leaving the water; avoiding swimming in shallow areas near shore; not feeding waterfowl. A permit is required before applying copper sulfate in the swimming area.

**DNR Fisheries:** A three man RALALA contingent met with Michael Knapp, Assistant Fisheries Supervisor on December 8, 2017 and discussed many topics, including:

**Stocking:** There is no change in the stocking plan for Roosevelt. Muskies are stocked in even number years (390 tagged fingerlings). Walleyes are stocked in odd numbered years. On 10/2/2017, 390 pounds or 6370 walleye fingerlings were stocked. The muskie stocking goal is to get to a population of 1 fish for every 3-10 surface area acres and then maintain that level. The DNR will be testing the muskie population via trap netting annually for several years followed by flexible stocking. Mike said that northern pike


*Cont'd on p. 4*

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### DNR Approves Wright County AIS Inspection and Decontamination Pilot Program

At the end of April the Minnesota DNR signed the permits necessary for Wright County to pilot their Wright Regional Enhanced Watercraft Inspection Program for 2018. This approval was a long time coming. Last year, due to delays in the DNR permitting process, Wright County was able to pilot the program for less than three weeks in late October. Now, with a full open water season, they will be able to fully pilot the program and gather enough data to improve AIS pro-

grams in Minnesota.


After being designated as starry stonewort infested, the Greater Lake Sylvia Association stepped up to not only manage the infestation, but to develop a regional inspection program to reduce the chance of spreading starry stonewort to other lakes. They set out to require 100% inspection and if necessary, cleaning of boats that enter lakes in the program. In the process they have created a pilot program that could greatly increase AIS prevention ef-

forts in Minnesota while dramatically lowering the costs of trying to cover all of Minnesota's more than 3,000 public accesses and thousands of private and commercial access sites. Team members told the audience at MLR's Aquatic Invaders Summit that they are striving to prove that mandatory, regionalized AIS inspections are affordable and logistically feasible every day of the boating season, from dawn until dusk. This is the type of program that is in use

*Cont'd on p. 6*

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## Roger's Ramblings Continued from p.2

have an ecological advantage over muskies in that muskies spawn about a month later than northern. All stocked muskies are tagged so any untagged muskie is a result of natural reproduction (expected to be very low). Muskies grow about 4 inches per year and live about 25 years.

### New Regulations for Northern

**Pike:** New regulations for northern begin in the spring of 2018. There is an overpopulation of small pike in our area. The new limit will be 10 fish, but not more than two may be longer than 26 inches. All northern pike in the 22-26 inch range must be released. When spearing northern, it is hard to size the fish before spearing. Therefore one "oops" fish is allowed!!

**Lake Fish Surveys:** Smokey Hollow Lake was surveyed in 2017. The report is not yet finalized as of this writing. We hope to include the results in the next newsletter. Leavitt and Lawrence were surveyed in 2012 and will be surveyed again in 10 years. At that time, northern pike was the primary species in Leavitt and the lake had good dissolved oxygen con-

tent. Lawrence had low dissolved oxygen below 8 feet, with northern, crappies and walleyes as primary with decreasing populations in that order. I have the complete 2012 reports if anyone is interested. Roosevelt Lake will have a complete survey during the summer of 2018. The survey will include gill netting, trap netting and electro fishing and include all fish species. Historical fish survey results for Roosevelt Lake are available. E-mail me if you want a copy. I believe there has been a decrease in the tullibee population based on anecdotal evidence of fewer surface feeding frenzies in the evening on Roosevelt Lake. Mike indicated the DNR will be monitoring the tullibee population via hydro acoustic methods. He indicated that water temperatures are critical for tullibee.

**Invasive Species:** Mike indicated that future inquiries on invasive species should be directed to Nicole Kovar, DNR Invasive Species Specialist (218-732-8960) who is the AIS specialist assigned to our lakes. Mike confirmed that Eurasian Milfoil treatments with an aquatic herbicide such as RALALA has used the past two years is the most effective

treatment available. Mike also indicated that a hybrid milfoil of northern and eurasian milfoil has appeared in the Twin Cities area. The hybrid is resistant to the typical aquatic herbicide treatment. The hybrid was treated with a low dose fluridone treatment with results to be reviewed in 2018. He indicated that the Army Corp of Engineers now has a laboratory dedicated to the development of treatments for milfoil. Starry Stonewort was first discovered in Grand Lake in Stearns County. Treatment there has consisted of pulling plants by DNR divers. Results will be monitored in 2018. The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Center (MAISC) at the University of MN found that mechanical and algaecide treatment greatly reduced starry stonewort biomass, but that the bul-bills, small, star-shaped structures, remained after treatment and may regenerate into new plants. Zebra Mussel treatments are being studied by many with limited success: Several lakes including Lake Ossawinnamakee have been treated several times with copper sulfate yet still have zebra mussels. Potash trials are underway by Dr Mike McCartney at the U of MN. A DNR study on Lake Minnewashta in

*Cont'd on p.5*



**Roger's Ramblings cont'd from p.4**

Carver County with a copper compound called EarthTec QZ resulted in a 100% zebra mussel mortality. However, side effects were a 100% mortality among native mussels and a severe decrease in dissolved oxygen which in turn caused a fish kill of small bullheads and yellow perch. Lakes in our area where zebras were found in 2017 include Serpent and several of the Crosby Mine Pits. Big Head Carp are being fought in southern Minnesota. Different barriers to big head and silver carp migration are being explored: electric, bubble and acoustic. But Mike indicated that the habitat for invasive carp species in northern Minnesota lakes and rivers is not as good as farther south.

**Pipeline #3 Replacement:** DNR concerns about the pipeline are many: protection of groundwater supply for the Spire Valley Fish Hatchery, geomorphic stability and biological connectivity at stream crossings, and risk to significant downstream fisheries from spills, mainly Pine River and Whitefish Chain of lakes, Roosevelt Lake and the Mississippi River. DNR Fisheries made additional direct comments through the DNR Environmental Review staff in mid-November. Final public comment on the EIS ended on Nov 22.

**Spire Valley Fish Hatchery:** Because of problems with disease and flooding, the French River hatchery has been closed and brook trout stocking has ceased as a result. Spire Valley is now raising rainbow trout for the whole state of MN.

**Fishing Tournaments:** Fishing tournaments and the spread of invasive species is an issue. Some tournaments do not meet the requirements for a DNR permit. And others simply do not apply for a permit. Tournament notification and boat decontamination appears to be a need for coordination. Kerry Hull at the DNR is a point of contact on this issue.

**Aquatic Management Area:** Mike indicated that Judy and Charlie Eggers Aquatic Management Area is now owned by the State of MN. A sign is up and the public can use the area. Boundary posting will take place in the future. No camping or camp fires are allowed in addition to no motorized vehicles (e.g. ATV's).

*Cont'd on p.8*

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**Wright County Mandatory Inspections—from p. 3**

in the western States that has proved to be more effective than Minnesota's current inspection system.

Boats/trailers that pass inspection are marked with a red zip-tie. The boater also gets a receipt to place on their dashboard. At the public landing of their choice, they break the zip-tie and leave it in a dropbox.

A rover from the inspection team patrols the parking lots to collect zip-ties and check dashboards for receipts. Noncompliance is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000.

There has been intense opposition to the program with articles in hunting and fishing magazines, on social media, and at the DNR Roundtable in January. This opposition continues. In

addition, support from the DNR for the program has been minimal. At a Wright County Board meeting in September, assistant DNR commissioner Bob Meier said the agency is "not enamored with the project." He informed the county commissioners that they are "taking on all the risks and requirements of the plan."

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### Emergency Procedures in Crooked Lake Township—by CLT Board of Supervisors

Thanks to the efforts of the Crooked Lake Township **Emergency Planning Team**, several things have been implemented to help area residents and visitors deal with an emergency.

1. Register for NIXLE if you have not done so. NIXLE sends out weather and emergency alerts. To receive these notices, go to <http://www.co.cass.mn.us/index.php> and click on the NIXLE Alerts. Or, go directly to the NIXLE website <http://www.nixle.com/>. Those who wish to sign up via a TEXT method, simply text your zip code to 888777.
2. The Road Ambassador program is a network of approximately 35 volunteers who will coordinate communication with CLT especially in the

event of an emergency. Road Ambassadors will do their best to keep everyone up to date regarding what's happening as storm damage recovery work is going on. Ambassadors are identified by neon yellow CLT Road Ambassador caps. Find your Road Ambassador either on the CLT website at: <http://crookedlake.govoffice2.com> or you can see the Township/Ambassador map posted at the canister station or in the Town Hall. Please cooperate with your neighborhood volunteer! To volunteer to be a Road Ambassador call Keith Ahlquist @ 612-799-5787. During non-emergency situations Town road conditions can be reported to the Town phone 218-792-5918 (leave message).

4. A Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Fifty Lakes (one with the City of Emily is also pending) has been established providing additional resources such as temporary use of heavy equipment and operating personnel. Also, a list of private local heavy equipment contractors has been created. These companies have agreed to contract their services to help existing town staff provide recovery in the case of a major damage event.

5. The Township has agreed to pursue the purchase of an emergency backup generator system to provide power to the Fire Hall/Emergency Services building which could be open in the event of an emergency.

6. The Emergency Planning Team's efforts have been recognized by Cass County officials and our Crooked Lake Town Board of Supervisors supports and augments these efforts.

REMEMBER: Dial 911 for all fire, medical, officer needed, emergencies. The Cass County Sheriff's office dispatches these calls to appropriate agencies.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable 2018 summer season!

The CLT Board of Supervisors

3. If possible, area businesses will post information either on their electronic billboards or via a posted paper notice to keep you informed and up to date and information will also be available on the Town website.



### Line 3 Pipeline Replacement Update —by Mary Kowalski

On Monday April 23 Administrative Judge Ann O Reilly released her 367 page report detailing her ruling on the need for and route of a Line 3 replacement. O'Reilly found that Enbridge has established a "reasonable need" to replace Line 3 due to its age, the need for repairs and significant integrity issues. However, Line 3 should not be built on the company's preferred new route, but instead

should be constructed parallel to the existing pipeline.

Judge O'Reilly submitted her report to the state's Public Utilities Commission, which is expected to rule on the matter in June.

Building along the existing corridor would require getting tribal approval first. Leech Lake Band has been adamantly against any new pipeline on its reservation, including along-

side the current Line 3. Fond du Lac Band has opposed a new Line 3 in general.

O'Reilly ruled that Enbridge failed to establish that the benefits outweigh the possible consequences to society of its proposed new route for Line 3. Thus she recommended that the line should be built along the current line 3 route.

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## President's Letter cont'd from p. 1

One of them, the creation of our website, has made a very significant change in our visibility, not just locally, but much more broadly. I was just reminded today of just how far the reach of that vehicle has extended when I received an e-mail from an elementary teacher in Louisville, KY telling me how her students were using our site and our links page to learn about conservation efforts and activities. How cool is that! Another indication of the success of this website is the fact that we have had more than 28,000 visits to the site, a number that I think is pretty impressive. It may explain all those calls I get inquiring about whether the ice is out, the fishing is good, or where to stay when they come to the area for a visit!

Another major change, this one forced upon us by circumstances, was that we moved from raising a

few thousand dollars a year to support our various programs to raising tens of thousands of dollars every year, much of which has been devoted to combating the milfoil in Roosevelt and preventing the introduction of other AIS into our lakes. This has required a massive effort on our part and compelled us to begin seeking assistance from local and county government sources and also from non-members of the association. We still have to learn to do this better, but we have made enormous progress in the last few years.

Yet another technological change has been the implementation of a database of homeowners in our area and integrated data about each of our members. This database allows us to contact you when necessary, send you newsletters and e-mail alerts, and keep track of those we need to talk to about becoming members of the association. Although we have

made some progress in tackling the problem of too many non-member homeowners on the lakes, we have a very long way to go in this area. I am hopeful that Linda and the Board will come up with effective new initiatives that will move us forward in this area. Higher participation rates would mean lower costs per family! That is one of the reasons we have considered forming a Lake Improvement District, something that is of interest to some of you. The work involved in getting one created, however, has simply been too much for me to handle in the time available.

Again, let me thank all of you for helping me and the association in the last few years either as a volunteer or as a contributor. You are the ones who have made and will continue to make this a successful organization! Bob Lee

### RALALA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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