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MAY 2021

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RALALA LAKES ASSOCIATION

MESSAGES FROM BOB EDDY, RALALA ASSOCIATION NEW
 PRESIDENT AND OUTGOING PRESIDENT LINDA VAN STRAATEN



We are all experiencing transition time! The winter is giving way to spring and we can't wait for summer. Our lifestyles and mindsets are transitioning away from Covid

concerns and restrictions to a more open view of our world. We are able to envision hugging as a normal consequence of friendship and family!

And, the presidency of RALALA is transitioning to Bob Eddy as my term has expired. Bob has served as VP and has helped structure the board through his expertise in management.

Thank you to the RALALA board who has worked so hard and long working on re-organization

I'm Bob Eddy, the new President of the Lake Association. I am very excited about this opportunity to participate in such an important mission; to preserve and protect our lakes and this watershed for ourselves and for future generations.

The board and I would like to thank Linda for her many years of service along with her tireless leadership as president for the last 3 years. Linda will continue to participate in many RALALA related activities so her insights and vision will still be close at hand.

I have been a member of the RALALA board for 2 years and my wife Sandi and I have been



Continued on p.10



**If you want to protect our beautiful lakes,
 we must manage our land.**

BECOME A RALALA LAKE STEWARD

As our busy lake season arrives, **RALALA**, in partnership with **Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR)**, is excited to launch our **Lake Steward Program**. Its purpose is helping everyone living along our lakeshores understand the value of managing land for lake health and providing support for your endeavors. Protecting water quality requires reducing the amount of pollution that enters the lake from our upland and shoreline spaces. Birds, fish and pollinators all rely upon these vibrant environments to thrive. How do we know if our shoreline is healthy? The first step in the process is completing the simple 10 question **Score Your Shore Quiz**. Go to www.mnlakesandrivers.org. Find the adjacent sign, click **"Take the Quiz and find out"**. Make sure to enter **RALALA** as your lake association.

Continued on p.2

Take the Quiz and find out.

Are you a
LAKE STEWARD?

Does your
SHORELINE PROTECT WATER QUALITY?

Take the Quiz and find out.

BUILDING AWARENESS • ENCOURAGING ACTION

BECOME A RALALA LAKE STEWARD

The quiz will help you compare the management of your shoreland to best practices for water quality and enjoyment.

After completion, RALALA's **Support Squad** will contact you to schedule a site visit. It is an opportunity to discuss your goals and concerns (how you use your shoreline, the values you want to protect—your view of the water, pan fishing off the dock, songbird habitat, for example) and to receive guidance and information about resources to help you achieve them.

Those who want to take the steps to become a **Lake Steward** will be awarded a beautiful sign that can be displayed on your property or on the end of the dock.

Participants completing the survey fall into **A**, **B** or **C** categories:

Already a Lake Steward, deserving special recognition

Want to **B**e a Lake Steward, seeking support and guidance

Just **C**urious about the Lake Steward Program, wanting to learn more No matter which category best describes you, your efforts are important and valuable. Every improvement we conscientiously make managing shoreline and upland spaces is beneficial to our lakes. No one loves our lakes more than those of us who live and recreate here—become a Lake Steward and promote healthy shorelines with vibrant habitats and clean water.



Start by taking the **Score Your Shore Quiz** now! Go to www.mn-lakesanddrivers.org. Find the "Are you a Lakes steward?", click "**Take the Quiz and find out**". Make sure to enter RALALA as your lake association.

Kids Corner

Join the **TADPOLE TEAM** Thoughtful, Active & Dedicated Protecting Our Lake Environmentalists

Explore ways you can have fun with family centered activities while learning about caring for our lakes.

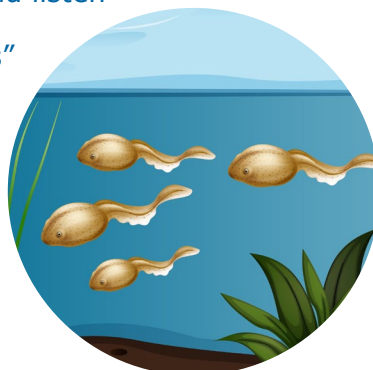
Spring is an exciting time up north as April rains fill up our wetlands. Frogs became active after a winter as "frogsicles". We can hear the chorus of frogs from ponds and along lakeshores. Soon we'll find tadpoles developing.

A tadpole is a special critter that spends its life in the water then develops into a frog which also lives on land. Tadpoles make the perfect mascot as we learn how our actions on the shorelands surrounding our lakes affect the water where they live.

Frogs and other amphibians are very sensitive. Seeing fewer of them can be a warning sign of pollution or the destruction of their habitat. Natural buffer zones along our lakeshores provide an excellent environment for frogs and filter pollution before it enters the lake.

We can become **TADPOLES**: Thoughtful, Active, Dedicated Protecting Our Lakes Environmentalists when we establish and maintain natural shorelines.

We are lucky to have several different frogs around our lakes: mink frogs, green frogs, spring peepers and bullfrogs. Scientists identify these frogs by listening to the sounds they make defending their territories. Check out this website to learn more and listen to the "croaks" of our frogs.



<https://musicofnature.com/calls-of-frogs-and-toads-of-the-northeast/>

Watch the video of Larry the All-American Bullfrog at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Utib-AIiGkM>. He will teach you about important buffer zones and you'll hear amazing croaks.

ACTIVITY

Help us design our **TADPOLE** mascot.

Think of characters that you know and love: Sesame Street's Big Bird, Peppa the Pig, or Paw Patrol. They are not actual birds or pigs or dogs. They talk and act like people.

BUILDING AWARENESS • ENCOURAGING ACTION

A DEEPER DIVE Into Understanding Runoff and Its Effects On Our Lakes

One of the important aspects of becoming a lake steward is developing an understanding of how our actions impact the health and water quality of our lakes. Conscientiously managing our landscapes to control runoff can have a significant positive impact. Simply stated: **SLOW THE FLOW**, the slower and less directly stormwater runoff travels to the lake, the better.

Our goal should be to reduce the volume of nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, from directly entering the lake by managing runoff.

- Reduce impervious surfaces such as paved driveways, sidewalks and patios, using gravel, bricks or wood instead.
 - Use rain barrels to capture roof runoff.
 - Create rain gardens and swales to slow the flow of runoff.
 - Maintain or replace natural, native vegetation on upland spaces leading to the lake; limit clearing and grading, chose selective pruning instead.
 - On steep banks create paths that follow the zig zagging natural contours of the bank to the lake rather than straight, steep descents; or build stairways that preserve vegetation surrounding them.
 - As the slope of the land increases wider filtration buffer zones are needed.
 - Establish and maintain extensive shoreline buffer zones of native vegetation to slow and filter runoff; a 50 foot buffer can remove 70% of phosphorus runoff.
 - Clean up pet waste in the yard.
 - Locate recreational fires at least 50 feet from the shoreline or remove and haul ashes further from the shoreline.
 - Eliminate the use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides with chemicals easily transported in runoff.
 - Inspect, maintain and pump septic systems regularly.
 - Use low phosphate soaps, shampoos, cleaning and laundry products.
- Every individual action makes a difference.

Continued from p.2

Keep that in mind and draw a picture of your tadpole cartoon character.

1. Scan your picture and send a PDF to ralala.lakes@gmail.com with the subject

TADPOLE TEAM

2. Include your name and age

3. Include your parent, grandparent or guardian's name

4. Include their contact information: address, email and phone number

A committee will choose one to become the official logo.

GOOD LUCK!

TOGETHER we are Protecting Our Lakes!

DEAR POLLY (Protecting Our Lakes Local Yokel)

Dear Polly,

I'm very interested in becoming a Lake Steward! I took the Score Your Shore. (The link is found in this newsletter.) Points were deducted because I have a fire ring down by the lake. I don't understand why this is a problem?

Sincerely,

I Like My S'mores
Down By My Shore

Dear I Like My S'mores Down By My Shore,

Thank you for striving to become a Lake Steward! I certainly understand wanting to be close to the lake relaxing and having a good time. The answer to your question involves the broader concept of runoff into the lake and its negative consequences.

Wood contains nitrogen and phosphorus which remains in the ashes after a fire. Rain water absorbs these nutrients and carries them directly into the lake, making them one of the most concentrated pollutant sources. This causes nutrient imbalances that can harm water quality, such as contributing to algae blooms.

If you have a location for a fire pit at least 50 feet from the lakeshore, that is ideal. If that is not possible, an alternative is removing the cooled ashes from the fire pit and disposing of them well away from the shore. They can be a helpful component in compost.

Sincerely,
POLLY

For more information read the accompanying article A Deeper Dive Into Understanding Runoff and Its Effects on Our Lakes.

RALALA SHORELINE RESTORATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AT THE PUBLIC DOCK LANDING IN OUTING

RALALA is excited to announce the beginning of the **Shoreline Restoration Demonstration Project** at the public dock landing in Outing. It is an effort to fulfill our goals **Building Awareness & Encouraging Action** for shoreline and land management that enhances water quality and lake health. It is a major component of our **Protecting Our Lakes (POL) Shoreline Initiative**.

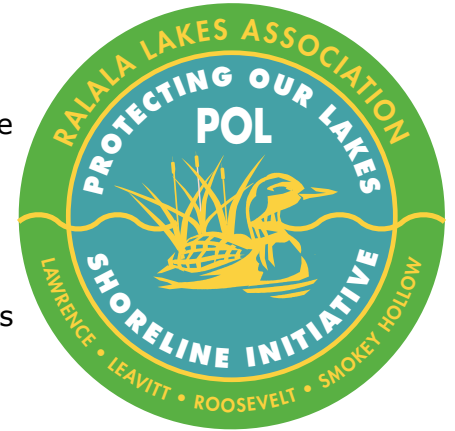
Many different individuals and organizations participated to ensure this project moved forward and became a reality. Following the lead of the Crooked Lake Township (CLT) Lakes and Shores Committee that envisioned and implemented the planting of the pollinator garden at Luscher Park in Outing, RALALA developed a vision to establish a buffer zone of

native vegetation with informational, interpretative signs near the Outing public dock. We benefited from the input and guidance of Soil and Water Conservation District personnel, Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) staff and the CLT Lakes and Shores Committee. On April 8, 2021 the CLT Board of Supervisors unanimously voted approval for this project, contingent upon the consent of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT). **The request from the Lakes and Shores Committee to generously provide RALALA \$3500 in funding for this project was also granted by the CLT Board.**

These buffer zones are extremely important, slowing and filtering runoff before it transports nutrients and pollutants directly into the water, harming the lake. Adjacent to the sidewalk, you will eventually find a mulched bed of native plants showing an attractive interface between the wilder natural appearance of the buffer and mowed lawn. South of the dock there will be a designated area that will no longer be mowed, rather left to revert back to become a natural buffer, at no cost. Three permanent interpretative signs will be installed to share information about the importance of natural shorelines, native land and aquatic plants and how human actions impact our entire Pine River Watershed.

Prairie Restorations, Inc. will be doing site preparation work in the next few weeks, prior to planting in June, weather permitting.

Please take time to watch the transformation (which will take a few seasons) to become a beautiful, vibrant assortment of grasses, sedges and wildflowers, attracting pollinators, birds and other wildlife. Study the signs and consider ways you can use this important information to improve your own shoreline and upland spaces.



RALALA has many other components of our **Protecting Our Lakes (POL) Shoreline Initiative** that will be launched this summer to support your efforts to protect the water by caring for the land.

- LAKE STEWARD PROGRAM: Start by completing the Score Your Shore Quiz
- ON THE ROAD TO BECOMING LAKE STEWARDS PARADE OF SHORES: Featuring water quality enhancing projects
- BENNIES: Financial reimbursement for designated projects benefiting the lakes
- Educational COMMUNITY EVENTS

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BE AWARE OF REGULATIONS

BEFORE BEGINNING SHORELINE OR UPLAND PROJECTS **make sure all regulations and permitting requirements are followed.** These may vary considerably depending upon where your property is located. It is best to speak directly to the appropriate authorities to make sure you are following the rules, regulations and securing permits, if needed.

For any actions in the water or on the land below the ordinary high water level (OHWL) of a public water (lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands) check with the appropriate **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** office for permits that may be required. Contact the DNR hydrologist in your area for guidance.

Park Rapids: Darrin Hoverson

CASS COUNTY/Hubbard/Wadena

104 Park Ave N, Suite 203 Park Rapids, MN 56470

(218) 616-8105 darrin.Hoverson@state.mn.us

Brainerd West: Danielle McNeil

CROW WING COUNTY

1601 Minnesota Drive
Brainerd, MN 56401

(218) 203-4367 danielle.mcneil@state.mn.us

Cass County

The shoreland zone in Cass County is defined as the land within 1,320 feet of a lake or river plus the near shore waters. For any actions on the land above the OHWL (the upland areas of your property) and within the shoreland zone contact the Environmental Services Department at 218-547-7241 for guidance.

The **City of Emily** has several regulations and restrictions. To discuss your plans and receive guidance please contact:

Justin Burslie

(281) 895-4151

zoning@emily.net

Permits may be required dependent upon the extent of the work to be done.

RALALA BENNIES

Providing Financial Support for Shoreland Restoration Projects

One of the components of RALALA's Protecting Our Lakes (POL) Shoreland Initiative is to encourage shoreland owners to implement lake friendly improvements on their property by awarding annually up to **ten \$100 BENNIES**, "Benjamin's" that "Benefit" our lakes.

Continued on p.6

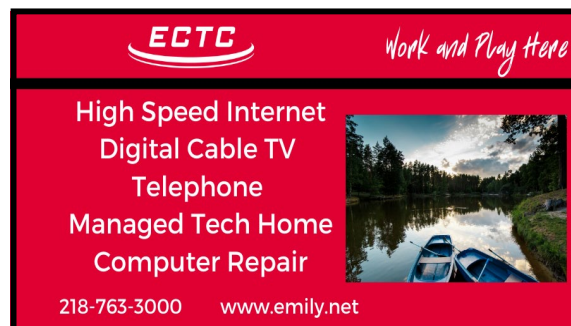


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RALALA BENNIES

These awards are \$100 REIMBURSEMENT checks for completed, eligible projects only.

Shoreland restoration work must meet the same criteria used by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Eligible activities are:

- Constructing rain gardens and storm infiltration systems
- Establishing buffer "No Mow Areas" with native plants along shorelines
- Adding bank, slope, and drainage swale, slowing and diverting runoff
- Completing shoreline stabilization projects
- Repairing and stabilizing shoreland erosion problem areas
- Other pre-approved improvements reducing storm water runoff into the lakes

Biodegradable materials must be used such as coir, logs, native plants, willow wattles,

or shore socks, for example.

Types of activities that are NOT eligible:

- Septic systems
- Garbage cleanups
- Aquatic in-lake treatments
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control
- Boulder rip-rap
- Older ice ridge repair (DNR rules apply)
- Impervious surface areas
- Beach blankets
- Rock mulch

Get started by completing the Lake Steward **Score Your Shore Quiz**.

Go to www.mnlakesandrivers.org. Find the Are you a Lakes steward?, click "Take the Quiz and find out". Make sure to enter RALALA as your lake association.

A member of the Lake Steward Support Squad will be in touch with application instructions.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

RALALA has been successful receiving grant money to further our mission of environmental protection and education. Recently, the MN DNR granted **\$1500 to RALALA** for the AIS treatment costs.

Land and Waters Preservation Trust, a partnership of the Pine River Watershed Alliance and WAPOA, granted **\$5000 to RALALA's** new program, **Protecting Our Lakes (POL)**. As already noted, CLT awarded **\$3500** to this effort.

We await word from the Emily City council AIS program called Emily Waters on helping us with the AIS treatment costs.

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES OR PHOTOS FOR THE RALALA NEWSLETTER

President: Bob Eddy 612-961-8513 bob.eddy@hotmail.com
Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association
RALALA P.O. Box 139, Outing MN 56662-0139

For membership information contact: Darril Wegscheid
651-503-8414 djwewscheid@earthlink.net

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INDEPENDENCE DAY BOAT PARADE ON EACH RALALA LAKE

Saturday, July 3, 2021 Assemble at 12:45, Depart at 1 pm

LEAVITT: East end, widest part of the lake

LAWRENCE: West end, near Luscher Park boat launch

SMOKEY HOLLOW: Middle of the lake

NORTH ROOSEVELT: North of the bridge, near The Channel Bar and Grill

SOUTH ROOSEVELT: Middle of the lake, near the entrance to Woods Bay

Get out the RED, WHITE and BLUE!

Decorate your boats or decorate your docks and wave as the boats cruise by.

If you can help with the festivities, perhaps distributing flyers near your lake home, send an email to: ralala.lakes@gmail.com
Subject: BOAT PARADE, Your Lake's Name



NEW CASS COUNTY AIS LAKE TECHNICIAN

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and say hello. I am the new AIS Lake Technician for Cass County. As an environmental enthusiast and avid user of our Minnesota lakes, I am excited for the opportunity to be working with all of you on AIS prevention, education and management.

email: dana.gutzmann@co.cass.mn.us

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you have and feel free to share my information with others in your Lakes Associations.

Sincerely, Dana Gutzmann:
AIS Lake Technician
PO Box 3000/303
Minnesota Avenue W.
Walker, MN 56484

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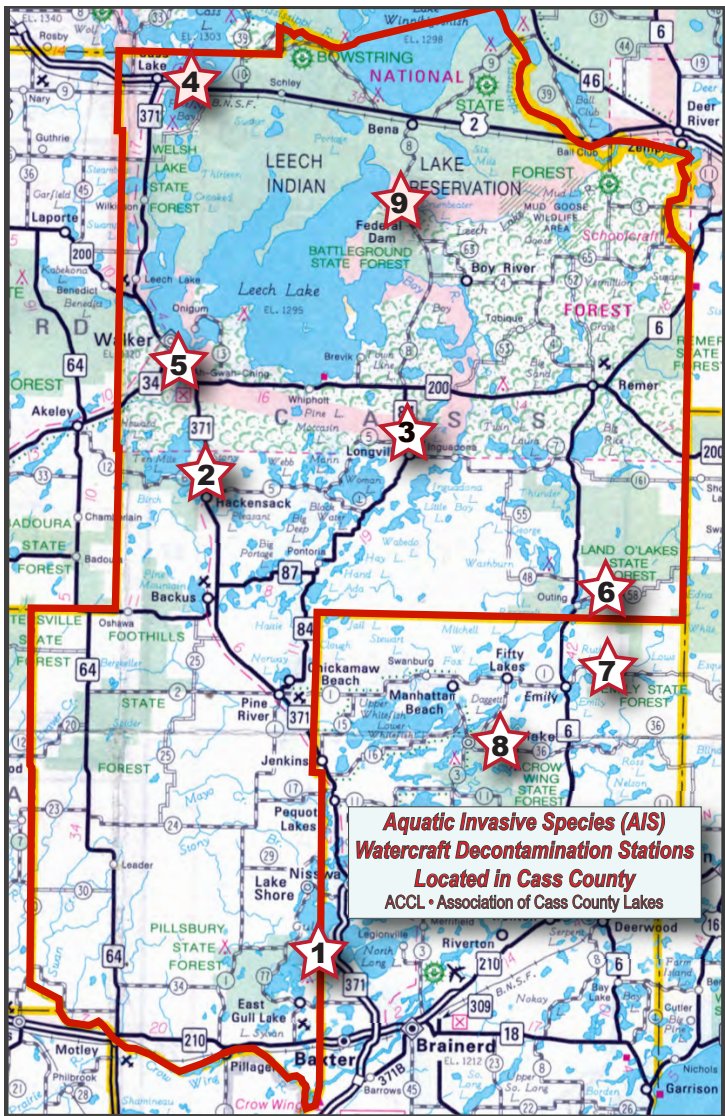
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AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) WATERCRAFT DECONTAMINATION STATIONS LOCATION IN CASS COUNTY

- 1 SOUTHERN CASS CO./SYLVAN/GULL LAKE**
10916 E Gull Lake Dr, East Gull Lake, MN 56401
(Fri.-Sun. from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
- 2 HACKENSACK/WALKER** Northwood's Docks
4044 MN-371, Hackensack, MN 56452
Please Call Ahead 218-675-5175
- 3 LONGVILLE** Musky House
5646 County Rd 126 NE, Longville, MN 56655
Please Call Ahead • 218-363-2044
- 4 CASS LAKE/NORTHERN LEECH LAKE/WINNIE**
Cass Lake - east on 2 to rest area. Maintained by MN DNR
- 5 WALKER** Walker Marine
8099 State Hwy 371 in Walker. • Call 218-547-1727
Please Call Ahead
- 6 OUTING**
Crooked Lake Town Hall 509 MN-6,
Outing, MN 56662 Fri.-Sun. from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- 7 CROW WING COUNTY - RUTH LAKE / EMILY**
21244 Mill Road, Emily, MN 56447 Mon. Fri. Sat. Sun- 9 am to 5 pm
On-Call - Tues., Wednesday, Thursday - 218-851-2147 (Art Patterson)
- 8 CROW WING COUNTY - CROSS LAKE**
Joint Highway Maintenance Facility, 13870 Whipple Drive, Crosslake, MN
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- 9 FEDERAL DAM RECREATION AREA**
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NO Charge For Decontamination

Collaborated effort by Cass Co. SWCD
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Call • Hotline 218-682-ACCL [2225]

GET THE LEAD OUT

A loon with lead poisoning behaves strangely. It may fly poorly, have crash landings or stagger onto the ground. The loon begins to gasp, tremble, and its wings droop as lead is carried through its blood stream. As the poisoning worsens, it eats very little and hides among aquatic vegetation, staying behind when other birds migrate. It becomes emaciated and often dies within two or three weeks after swallowing the lead jig or sinker. **It takes only one lead sinker or jig to poison a loon.**



Want to get rid of your lead tackle?

Don't throw it in your trash! Drop them off at your local county or

regional household hazardous waste (HHW) site. GTLO is partnering with a few HHW sites on a pilot program to collect lead tackle.

If you drop off lead tackle at one of these participating HHW partners (Chisago, Dakota, Ramsey, Washington, WLSSD), they will give you a GTLO sample packet of lead-free tackle in return.

For more information on how to "Get the Lead Out" www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/nontoxic-tackle-get-lead-out

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"I-LIDS" AT OUR LAKE ACCESSSES

I-LIDs from a company called Environmental Sentry Protection were installed by RALALA at the Lawrence Lake Luscher Park ramp and at the Highway 6 ramp on Roosevelt Lake. Approval of Crooked Lake Township was received for the Luscher installation and of the Minnesota DNR for the Roosevelt installation. The I-LID system is activated by a boat or vehicle approaching the boat ramp – whether launching or recovering a watercraft.



Above is a picture of an I-LID. It stands about 30" tall, is anchored in the ground, and is made of hardened metal.

As you approach the boat ramp, sensors in the device recognize that this is a moving vehicle and delivers a recorded message (audible within 20 feet) to the vehicle operator reminding him or her of the state mandated AIS prevention steps that need to be performed. A camera mounted inside the I-LID then captures video of the vehicle, trailer and boat to observe whether these AIS preventative steps are actually taken. This video is immediately transmitted wirelessly via a cell phone modem to a remote server where it is stored and can later be viewed by RALALA volunteers who look for potential violations. In addition to these I-LID audio and video features, there is also signage mounted on the I-LID which relates to the prevention of the spread of invasive species.

While in-person inspections of every launch and retrieve would be ideal, this is simply not achievable. The cost and availability of trained inspectors makes 24/7 monitoring of the ramps impossible. I-LIDs allow us to reduce the risk of contamination of the lakes by visitors launching or retrieving at times when no inspector is present.

These devices are in use at numerous locations. Field testing has shown a clear behavioral difference in the compliance of boaters when this system is present at the launch. The effect appears to be similar to the effect that the presence of a highway patrol car has on the speed of nearby vehicles on the highway.

RALALA is currently reassessing its I-LID program with the intent of maximizing the value of these devices. We will update the membership on any changes that we end up implementing.





**Roosevelt and Lawrence Area
Lake Association
P.O. Box 139
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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Outgoing President's message

and direction while I've been president. We have found a way to share with other groups and lake associations, we have learned how to get grant money to further our mission and we have learned how important constant vigilance is to our mission of protecting our lakes and shores. With the help of the RALALA membership and your involvement, great things are always ahead!

—Linda Van Straaten



New President's message

Lake home owners on Roosevelt for over 30 years. I have been coming up to this area since I was a boy, visiting my Grandparents' cabin on Roosevelt, which they purchased in the 1940's.

The board has had a busy and eventful winter season, meeting every two weeks. We spent time looking at and developing critical initiatives and refocusing on a number of our ongoing tasks.

We have adopted the "One Watershed One Plan" for the Pine River watershed as guiding principles that we shall follow. Please see our website for more information about this important document.

The board is kicking off a number of new initiatives: "Protecting our Lakes (POL)", "Lake Steward Program" and a new "Water Quality Initiative". Please follow the newsletters as these initiatives are rolled out during 2021.

We are continuing to aggressively pursue our AIS efforts. This year we will survey North and South Roosevelt, Lawrence and Levitt. Once the surveys are finished, we will have a better understanding of which areas we will need to treat during the 2021 season. As part of our AIS program we are also refocusing our ILID program. See the ILIDs' article on pg.9.

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We are always on the lookout for new members, volunteers and potential future board members. If any of the topics in the newsletter interests you and you would like to more fully participate, then please reach out to any of the board members to discuss opportunities.

—Bob Eddy



VISIT OUR NEW RALALA WEBSITE ralalalakes.org TO BE MORE INFORMED