



Summer 2018

Events

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

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RALALA Lake Association

Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association Newsletter

President’s Letter—by Linda Van Straaten

Greetings from Linda Van Straaten, your new RALALA president. July 14th was our annual RALALA meeting where after 12 years on the board, it became my turn to be president.

We members of RALALA owe so much to outgoing president Bob Lee who contributed so many hours to bringing his knowledge of law and technology to the world of RALALA. He created a web site, developed a huge database for our membership analysis, is the news-

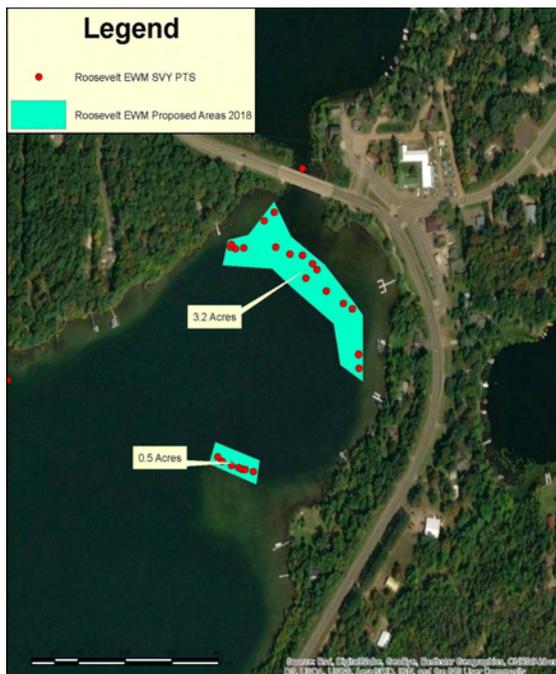
letter editor, our grant writer, updated our by-laws and articles, and found time to become an expert on milfoil and all of the AIS issues before us. Thank you Bob for retiring to your Lake Roosevelt home and sharing your talents with us. Thankfully, Bob will stay on as past-president for a year and I will be so grateful for his guidance.

I have been coming to this piece of property on Lake Roosevelt since 1951. I spent every summer here from the day school got out until Labor Day... and now am enjoying it in retirement

Cont'd on p. 9

Roosevelt Lake Milfoil Update—by Bob Lee

I am happy to report that we had very good news from the spring Eurasian Water Milfoil survey that we had PLM do in June on Roosevelt Lake. The surveyors found a significantly smaller number of plants this year than in either 2016 or 2017. Most of those plants they did find were located in the north end of South Roosevelt south of the bridge and west of the town dockage in Outing. We applied for and received a permit from the DNR to treat two areas (shown in light blue on the adjacent map) that totaled 3.7 acres. As in past years we used the herbicide called triclopyr. The application was performed by PLM employees on July 14th in ideal conditions. A few single plants were



found outside these treatment areas, but the DNR will not allow us to treat them with herbicide. *Cont'd on p.2*



Clearwater Lodge

The area's newest bar, grill and resort and RALALA's newest newsletter advertiser. Located in Outing on the narrows between North and South Roosevelt Lake. Telephone number is 218-792-5373.

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Meat Raffle every Sunday night; tickets sold at 5PM and drawing at 6PM

Milfoil Update Cont'd from p.1

We have, however, obtained GPS coordinates for each of these and will attempt to remove them by hand.

The reason you did not see a notice in the newspaper and get served with a notice of the treatment like you have in the last couple of years is that only 3 homes and cabins were within 150 feet of the proposed treatment areas. Thus, instead of publishing, I just contacted those affected landowners individually and obtained their written consent to the proposed herbicide treatment. This consent procedure sped up the issuance of the DNR permit and allowed us to treat earlier in the year, something that I think is important to

our success in controlling the spread of these plants. The longer they live, the more likely they are to fragment and spread to other areas. This was especially worrisome to me this year given the amount of boat traffic in the proposed treatment areas.

I should note that not only was the acreage to be treated reduced to about 1/3 of what we needed to treat in each of the preceding two years, the density of the plants in the treatment areas was also significantly reduced from prior years. I believe this indicates that our aggressive strategy for controlling milfoil on Roosevelt Lake is working as planned. Nonetheless, I know that the experts would tell us that we need to ex-

pect to have to treat annually for the foreseeable future.

The significant reduction in treatment areas as well as the generous aid we have received from both Crooked Lake Township and the City of Emily has meant that we have had a much smaller cash drain on RALALA than we had in 2016 and 2017. Instead of spending approximately \$25,000 like we spent in those years, we have only spent about \$8865 this year, all of which has been covered by grants from CLT and Emily. This gives us some breathing room and a chance to build a war chest to combat any future AIS problems. It also

Cont'd on p. 8

This is a rectangular advertisement for "the Boat Doctor up North". On the left side, there is a large, stylized anchor logo. To the right of the anchor, the text "the Boat Doctor up North" is written in a blue, sans-serif font. Below this, it says "Mobile Shrink Wrap and Buffing * Waxing * Detailing" in a smaller, black font. At the bottom, the phone number "218-792-5816 cell 218-820-1107" is listed, along with the email "bdun@brainerd.net" and the address "768 State 6 NE Outing MN 56662". A small "since 1983" is written in the bottom left corner.

This is a rectangular advertisement for "OUTING HARDWARE & BUILDING SUPPLY". The top half has a dark green background with the words "OUTING HARDWARE" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, a red horizontal band contains the words "& BUILDING SUPPLY" in white, sans-serif capital letters. The bottom half of the ad has a white background with the text "1 Mile South of Outing, MN" and "Tel: 218.792.5124" in a black font. Below that, it says "on State Hwy 6". At the very bottom, a quote reads "'For Your Lake Country Convenience'" in a smaller, italicized font.

Muskies are growing bigger and spreading out in Roosevelt and Lawrence

This is a picture of a muskie caught in Lawrence Lake last fall by Christopher Dankler. The fish measured 40" which means it was one of the small number of adult fish that were stocked in the first year of stocking by the DNR. This one obviously migrated through the channel to Lawrence. 390 Muskies are now being stocked as fingerlings every other year (even years). The DNR's goal is to get a stable population of one muskie for every three to ten surface acres of water. That means a total population of between 175 and 575 fish in Roosevelt and Lawrence. Natural reproduction is expected to be very low, based on the DNR experience on other similar lakes.



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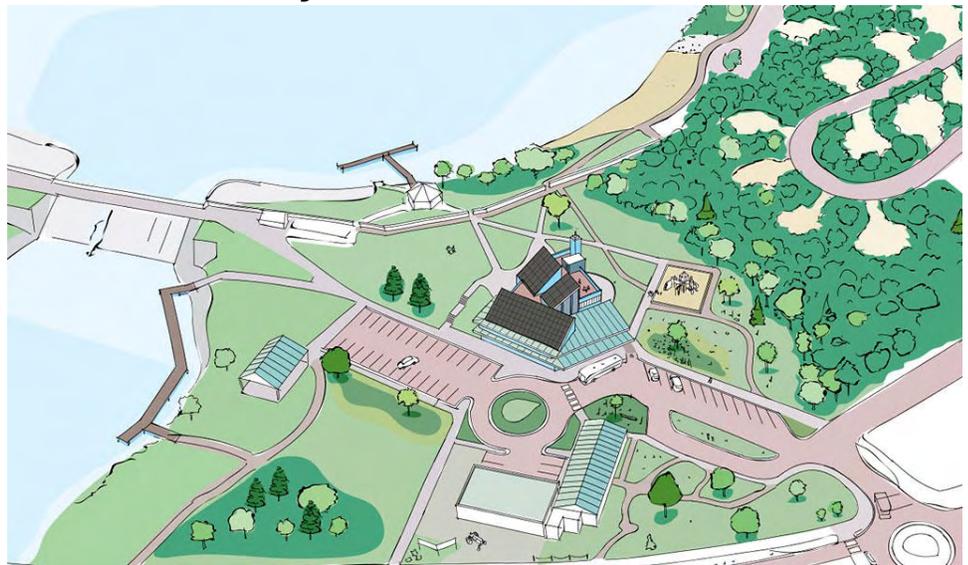

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The Proposed National Loon Center in Crosslake—by Bob Lee

As some of you may recall, I wrote an article about loons in a previous edition of the newsletter, so when I heard about a proposal to build a "national loon center," a loon research and educational facility to be located in Crosslake, MN, I decided to investigate further. I soon learned that a lot of work had already been done to make this idea a reality.

In 2016 a group of local citizens and business leaders in the Crosslake area created the National Loon Center Foundation for the purpose of "improving the coexistence of loons and humans in a shared natural habitat; to create a year around attraction that will promote water resource and wildlife protection and serve as a significant economic driver in the area by being a hotspot for educational tourism; and to become a community hub for both residents and visitors." In June 2017, in order to determine if this project would be feasible, the Founda-



tion partnered with the University of Minnesota Regional Development Partnership to obtain community input on the proposed project and then later to do a feasibility study.

Not only was community support for the project very high, the feasibility study came to the conclusion that the project was indeed feasible and could be self sustaining.

The proposed site for the Center would be the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property at the Pine River Dam and campground (see

sketch map from feasibility study above). Plans call for a 15,000-square-foot facility housing the Freshwater Institute, Crosslake Chamber of Commerce offices, interactive exhibits, and multipurpose rooms for the community. Piers will expand beyond the building into the bay, offering viewing and education opportunities. In addition, visitors will be able to take bike rides and collect water samples for testing back at the center.

Last month the Foundation announced that the proposed Center had received a

Cont'd on p.6

Pine River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan

As you may know, all of the RALALA lakes are within the Pine River watershed. A watershed is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet. The Local Government Water Roundtable (an association of Minnesota counties, the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, and the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts) recommended that all local governments with water management responsibilities should begin planning on a watershed scale. The idea is to align local water planning with state strategies with pri-

oritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans – the next logical step in the evolution of water planning in Minnesota.

Cass and Crow Wing Counties and the Cass and Crow Wing Soils and Water Conservation Districts, are therefore, developing the Pine River watershed “One Watershed, One Plan”.



The Pine River Watershed is 800 square miles and extends through

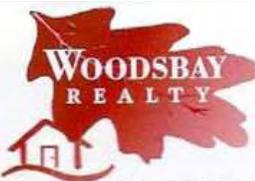
central Cass and northern Crow Wing Counties. (see map inlay) The plan development timeline projects plan approval by December, 2019.

A Pine River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee has been established. The role of this committee is to decide on the content of the Plan and serve as a liaison to their respective boards (i.e., County Board or Soil and Water Conservation District Board). If you are interested in following the activity of this planning process, you can read the minutes of this committee which are published at <https://www.crowwing.us/1476/Pine-River-1W1P>

Cont'd on p.8



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National Loon Center—con'td from p. 4

\$4 million grant from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. Rep. Dale Lueck, R-Aitkin, said in the release that "This will be a destination for thousands of Minnesotans each year, and help drive additional tourism dollars to our district." Lauding it as a visually

pleasing, tangible attraction balancing environmental tourism and education, state Rep. Josh Heintzeman, R-Nisswa, co-chair of the LCCMR board, said the National Loon Center is estimated to bring in 40,000 to 70,000 people or more a year, based on similar facilities in the state.

Anyone who wants to learn more about the National Loon Center or is interested in donating to the cause can visit their website at www.nationallooncenter.org, call 218-822-4889 or follow the National Loon Center Facebook page.

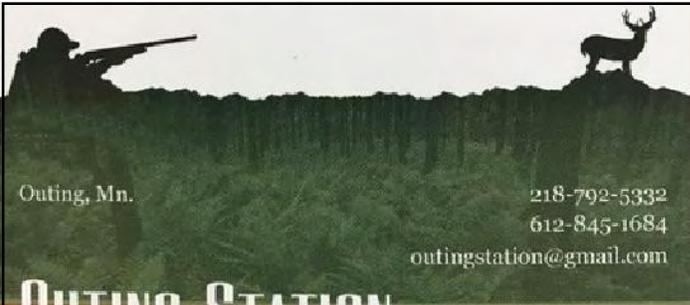
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Smokey Hollow DNR Fish Survey—Rog Brekken

During our 2017 meeting with Mike Knapp of the DNR, he mentioned that a fish survey of Smokey Hollow had been completed. That report is now available and can be accessed on the DNR web site using the "lake finder" application. Here is a summary of the report:

Smokey Hollow is described as a quiet 114 acre lake with a littoral area (<15 ft deep) of 52 acres, a maximum depth of 25 feet, and an average water clarity of 5.0 feet. Although there are invasive species in the surrounding area, Smokey Hollow has none.

The spring electrofishing survey indicated a high largemouth bass population with 63% at least 12"

in length and several up to 20" in length.

The northern pike gill net survey indicated that the lake was below average population compared to similar lakes, but the average size was good at 27 inches and 4.4 lbs. Northerns up to 33.8 inches were sampled and 71% were at least 24 inches in length. The new northern pike regulations for 2018 allow for a possession limit of 10 fish with an exclusion slot of 22-26 inches and only one fish over 26 inches.

Both gillnets and trap nets were used to study black crappies. The population was average compared to similar lakes and had an average size around 7.5

inches in length and 50% were at least 8 inches in length. The bluegill trap net study indicated the lake was also average compared to other lakes in population, although the bluegills were on the small side with an average length of 5.4 inches. Only 13 % were over 7 inches in length.

The interval between surveys of Smokey Hollow Prior has been an incredible 32 years with the last previous one in 1985. At that time the northern pike population was very low and the size was "modest". Bluegills were two times more abundant than the local average with a slow growth rate and small size. Black crappies were very abundant at that time.

Milfoil Update—cont'd from p. 2.

gives us a chance to do something we have wanted to do for some time, professionally survey Lawrence, Leavitt and Smokey Hollow Lakes to make sure they have not been affected by the infestation in Roosevelt Lake.

We obtained estimates from our milfoil control contractor, PLM Lake and Land Management

Corp., for proposed surveys of Lawrence, Leavitt and Smokey Hollow Lakes and determined that we can contract to have all of these lakes professionally surveyed this year for about \$2000. This proposed expenditure was approved by the RALALA board of directors on August 17th and PLM will begin these surveys immediately in order to get them com-

pleted before the milfoil plants begin to die back as water temperatures drop in the fall. All of the surveys are expected to be completed by PLM before September 1st. We will update you on the results of all of these surveys in the fall edition of the newsletter. I am hopeful that we will have nothing to report!

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President's Letter cont'd from p. 1

for the 5 months that we are here. Yes, full disclosure is that I am an AZ snowbird but with the world of technology at our finger tips, there won't be much that I will miss being away in the winter. Our RALALA network of associations and members who are environmental activists, keep us all informed of our current state of affairs.

For years, we as an association have been dreading the AIS invasion of our lakes. With loyalty and concern, you members gave with your pocketbooks and we have had a successful milfoil

treatment program for the past three years. This will be an ongoing issue but your generosity has allowed us to have the funding necessary to tackle this problem and show vast success.

I hope to see more involvement of our members in the future. We had a great group of 33 members at the annual meeting. That is good and bad news...the good news is that there is no crisis afoot to draw you in, the bad news is that we are not getting to know each other and what future leadership talents are out there on the lakes.

Please let us know your willingness to be involved...my favorite word is sub-committees and I hope to engage many of you in giving your time, talents and opinions.

We hope to be introducing you to your RALALA board in the next newsletters.....please contact any of us with your questions or concerns.

Linda Van Straaten
jvs41@aol.com 507-254-9241
(507 because we lived in Rochester for 35 years!)

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