

2021 JANUARY

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A special thanks to contributing writers: Anne Bonnerup, Bob Lee, and Kim David

RALALA LAKES ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE FROM LINDA VAN STRAATEN RALALA ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Uff da! Oy vey! It's 2021 and we can now look forward. Our thoughts are with all of you as a New Year gives us New Hopes for health and normalcy in our lives. Won't it be good to work on building new memories at our northern homes? ... with carefree times "at the lake" to take over our focus?



Your RALALA board has not stopped working ... meeting twice a month on Webex to make plans and dreams for our upcoming years. (see p.6) We've restructured the board and have lots of new ideas, projects and hopes to protect these waters. We wish for you to join in, volunteer with us, learn with us, as we present information to protect your piece of paradise. Send us your ideas; what would you like us to work on?

We thank all of those that are members and donors who support our programs. You will see a listing of your generous neighbors later in this newsletter. Take care of yourselves ... join us in taking care of the lakes.

BUILDING AWARENESS ENCOURAGING ACTION 2020 Rating: 0 stars

Comments: Very Bad! Would not visit again!!!

Most likely everyone shares that sentiment! One positive development from isolation and social distancing seems to be many postponed home projects are getting done.

As we persevere through the forecasted "long, dark" winter RALALA has a proposed project to add to your list. RALALA exists to PROTECT, PRESERVE, and IMPROVE the environmental condition of Roosevelt, Lawrence, Leavitt and Smokey Hollow Lakes and their watersheds today and for future generations. Its mission is to advocate a healthy balance between recreational use and protection of the lakes as a natural resource. In keeping with those guiding principles RALALA introduces:

PROTECTING OUR LAKES (POL) SHORELINE INITIATIVE

BUILDING AWARENESS • ENCOURAGING ACTION

OUR GOAL: BUILDING AWARENESS & ENCOURAGING ACTION

RALALA will sponsor educational programs and share information to encourage the expansion of knowledge how shoreline health impacts our lakes and water quality.

We plan to identify and support volunteer shoreline owners willing to put that knowledge into action on their own property.

Following the lead of the Crooked Lake Township Aquatic Invasive Species Committee (CLT/AIS) and their establishment of the Pollinator Garden of native Minnesota plants along the shoreline at Luscher Park in Outing, we are planning a shoreline demonstration project in 2021.

A first step toward action is self awareness, so please take a few minutes to complete the following quick SCORE YOUR SHORE quiz.

PLEASE NOTE: You are NOT enrolled in a distance learning class

You do NOT have to report your score

You do NOT receive a grade

Hopefully you will join RALALA on this journey to learn more about healthy

shorelines, find ways you can make improvements small or large, because every effort will improve the quality of our lakes that we all love and enjoy.



Introducing POLLY

Our new newsletter feature gives quick answers to common questions asked about our lakes.

Dear POLLY,

I heard we can't do anything to our lakeshore without getting a permit. Is this true? If so, what permits do we need? Where do we get them? How much do they cost?

> Sincerely, Don't Want a Fine

To help you get a better understanding of what the rules are and when you will need a permit, we are working on an in depth article for the website. "A Deeper Dive Into Permits for Shoreland Alteration" should be available on the RALALA website later this winter.

This column will be paired with the RALALA website link: A DEEPER DIVE into these important topics.

Sincerely, Polly (Protecting Our Lakes Local Yokel)

BUILDING AWARENESS O ENCOURAGING ACTION

SUSSIE FE

(Protecting Our Lakes Local Yokel)

Dear Don't Want A Fine,

Well, you won't need a permit to stop mowing to the water's edge and letting nature do it's thing. This step is really good for our lakes and streams. But if you want to modify your shoreline by recontouring, planting or removing trees, bushes or vegetation or by building structures on or near the shore, you will need to review the relevant rules and get one or more permits. What rules apply depends on whether you are in Crooked Lake Township or the City of Emily. If you are in CLT, the governing rules are those of Cass County (not CLT). Cass publishes their rules on line, but you should check with the Environmental Services Department who can help steer you through the process.

If you are in the City of Emily, it is city ordinances, not Crow Wing County rules that apply. The City Code is on line as is some information on Planning and Zoning permits and applications, but again, it is advisable to contact the Planning and Zoning Administrator for help. If your project involves impacting your shoreline beyond the "ordinary high water mark" you will also fall into the jurisdiction of the Minnesota DNR and will need to follow their rules and may need an additional permit.

SCORE YOUR SHORE

Start by completing the following questionnaire. Save your score and document your progress each year.

10 Points for each NO

 Do you use fertilizer and lawn chemicals and/ or broadcast spray insecticides and pesticides?

YES NO POINTS_

- **2.** Do you have clean rip rap or rip rap that is sprayed or weeded?
 - YES NO POINTS_____
- 3. Do you mow right to the water's edge? YES NO

ES NO POINTS_____

4. Do you remove overhanging or downed trees and limbs from the water?

YES NO POINTS_____

5. Do you have a receding shoreline or a bank that is undermined and collapsing?

YES NO POINTS_____

10 Points for each YES

1. Is your septic system regularly tested and working properly?

YES NO POINTS____

 Does 75% of your shoreline have at least a 10 foot buffer that is unmowed and/or includes native grasses, plants trees or shrubs?

YES NO POINTS_____

3. Does 75% of your property from the shoreline buffer to the access road include trees, shrubs and natural ground cover?

YES NO POINTS_

4. Are emergent and/or floating leaved plants (example: rushes, lily pads) present along more than 50% of your lot?

YES NO POINTS

 Do moderately to dense submerged plant beds cover more than 50% of the lake bottom along your lot?
YES NO POINTS

S NO POINTS_

TOTAL POINTS_

SCORING AND INTERPRETATION: 100 possible points

80-100 points: Come share your knowledge and help us spread the word!

0-80 points: Join us as we learn how our practices and our shorelines impact our lakes and join the challenge to put into practice what we've learned.

Go to the DNR **Score Your Shore** for more in-depth information. *www.dnr.state.mn.us/rys*

al seaward fills

BUILDING AWARENESS ENCOURAGING ACTION WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Protect the health of the vegetation growing on your property.
- Invasive species tend to spread rapidly. Learn to identify the most common invasive species.

Invasives should be removed, but replanting native species, may be needed to protect shorelines from erosion.

- Use herbicides that are labeled for an aquatic site or use a more precise method of application, like a wick applicator or a cotton glove over the top of a chemical resistant glove to apply the product only to those plants you want to control.
- Leave vegetation in place to screen structures, vehicles or other facilities as viewed from the water.
- Consider leaving dead or diseased vegetation in place as they may be important for songbirds and other wildlife.
- Most importantly, leave an area of native plants between the house and the shoreline area. Limit the removal of trees and shrubs.
- If you have been mowing near the shoreline, simply discontinue that practice to allow growth of native plants or restore and replant with native flowers, shrubs or trees.

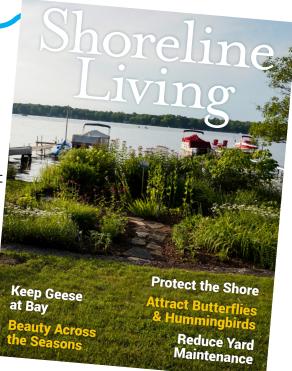


SHORELINE LIVING BOOKLET

The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership is proud to share this Shoreline Living booklet, which provides examples of everyday shoreline property owners that dipped their toes into a natural shoreline.

The pictures and booklet were produced by a collaborative group of managers and outreach professionals across the Upper Midwest for property owners and lake professionals to print and use freely.

There's something magical about spending time at a lake, whether you're swimming, boating, fishing, or just sitting and listening to the lapping waves. There are simple steps property owners can take to keep their lakes clean and healthy for generations to come. Shoreline Living shares the examples of five ordinary property owners who have done something extraordinary. Each is taking steps in their own way to do their part to care for the lake. From small steps on a relatively manicured property to an almost fully forested and natural landscape, the articles within feature the efforts of people



structure setback

shore

impact

zone

just like you. MINNESOTA Program: Restore your Shore. Website: www.dnr.state.mn.us/rys

CROW WING COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL TREE AND PLANT SALE

Orders are taken January-March 2021 with pick up May 6th or 7th at Crow Wing County Fairgrounds (Brainerd) at the Curling Building. *www.cwswcd.org/shop*

SHORELINE INITIATIVE ON CROOKED CREEK: SUMMER 2020

Join Ralala to be stewards of the environment and protect Crooked Creek so it remains clean and healthy.

Did you notice this year the water level in our lakes grew higher and higher? What happened at the dam influenced the flow and water quality and level well back into Lake Roosevelt and to the other lakes.

Ralala proposes to volunteer to monitor the creek and work with the DNR and adjacent owners to keep the creek flowing and manage the beaver. Ralala members, Nicolas and Kim David have volunteered to observe and monitor the Crooked Creek. They would notify adjacent owners and the DNR of any issues with the dam and the creek flow.

This summer, the beavers had completely clogged the dam on Crooked Creek (flowing out of Lake Roosevelt into Pug). It was to the point there was very little water flowing and the lakes were almost at dock level. This would be an issue in the spring melting with the water having no where to go. Some lower yards would flood and the ice ridges would be higher and more damaging to the shore line than usual. (Although ice ridges can be beneficial to the shoreline preventing runoff, when water is too high they will demolish the shore)

With the permission of the DNR, owners along the creek, and some very concerned and helpful people, Ralala worked on opening the dam. The creek flowed again and it's natural progression restored protecting the shoreline for the habitat of the turtles, water fowl and other wild life.

Support our effort to keep our creek flowing to a water level back to normal and manageable. Trees, flowers and natural plants will grow and will slow erosion, decrease ice damage, increase rain infiltration if the water is back to a natural level.

If you have questions about Beaver or lake level issue contact the DNR at **www.dnr.state**. **mn.us/livingwith_wildlife/beaver**. Kim and Nicolas can offer suggestions on how to protect your trees along the shoreline.

Crooked Creek is a natural joy. We are lucky to be able to watch the birds, water fowl, cranes, blue herons, muskrats, otters, beaver, turtles, butterflies, dragon flies and fish in the pond area.



The dam totally block by beaver activity. Crooked Creek not flowing down stream from the dam

YOUR RALALA BOARD HAS BEEN WORKING ALL FALL...MEETING TWICE A MONTH ON WEBEX



Screen shot of some of the RALALA board members meeting every two weeks continuing the work while social distancing during COVID19.

PRESERVING LAND TO PROTECT WATER!

On December 22nd at 8:40 am, **Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT)** started a monthly series on KAXE/KBXE radio (radio (91.7 Grand Rapids, 90.5 Bemidji, Streaming at www.kaxe.org).

The monthly series will cover topics about the important conservation work NWLT is doing in their service area (Hubbard, Cass, Crow Wing, and Aitkin County), funding programs, specific projects, and opportunities for partner collaboration.

Tune in every Tuesday of the month 8:40 - 9 a.m.

6

The Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) is a non-profit conservation organization working to protect water quality and preserve environmentally sensitive lands and water resources. Formerly the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, they represent 2,235 lakes, 3,400 miles of rivers and streams, and nearly 4.2 million acres. January 19th February 16th March 16th April 20th May 18th June 15th

Northern Waters

LAND TRUST

CONTINUED REPORTS OF THE OTHER RALALA LAKES:

by Dave Hillstrom, Regional manager, PLM, edited by Linda Van Straaten

PLM completed the AIS surveys (checking for EWM/milfoil) for the RALALA group on Leavitt and Smokey Hollow and Lawrence lakes. Similar to years past, Leavitt seems to have a very healthy and mostly diverse native population and should continued to be searched annually. As for Smokey Hollow, we observed very little for submerged vegetation but floating leaf species and a handful of favorable pondweeds were observed. As discussed in years past, I don't believe Smokey Hollow is a lake that will have a milfoil problem and could be searched every other year.

PLM completed a general AIS survey on Lawrence, with emphasis searching for milfoil. PLM navigated the shoreline of Lawrence Lake and the Crooked Creek. While navigating, two separate locations were observed to have (suspected) milfoil within the Crooked Creek. One location West of the bridge near Roosevelt Lake and another East of the bridge, close to the opening to Lawrence Lake.

The milfoil (suspected) observed West of the bridge was hand pulled for positive identification, however, the root was not pulled as the plant was quite brittle. The plants observed were properly disposed of on land. PLM did not attempt to pull the single or two (suspected) plant East of the bridge to allow for MN DNR identification if they elect.

I believe it could be appropriate for MN DNR staff to hand pull the single plant after identification. I also believe that MN DNR staff could search the general area closely for any additional EWM that could be covered by dense and abundant native milfoil.

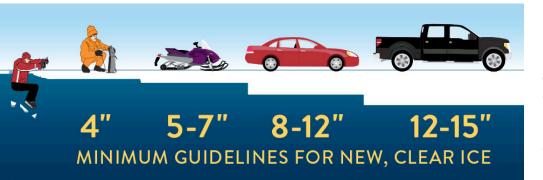
RALALA FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF 11/30/20

2020 INCOME

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Bank Interest	\$ 30.00	\$ 39.12
Membership Dues	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,488.68
Membership Donations	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 8,253.82
Corporate Donations	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Initiative Foundation Interest	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 0
Milfoil Donations/Income	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,908.96
Amazon Smile	\$ 100.00	<u>\$ 71.11</u>
Total	\$ 25,350.00	\$ 25,261.69
2020 Expenses as of 11/30)	
Post Office Box	\$ 5	56.00
Special Newsletter	\$ 1,56	7.55
Postage	\$ 11	.2.76
I-LIDS Maintenance	\$ 432	21.84
Milfoil Treatment alert	\$ 10	5.00
Milfoil Treatment (Note 1)	\$ 8,09	0.98
Raffle Permit	\$ 10	0.00
Community Donations	\$ 2,50	0.00
Memberships	\$ 87	'5.00
Buoy Maintenance	\$ 4	15.00
Membership mapping program		0.00
Leavitt/Smokey Hollow Survey	/ \$ 62	26.42
Website		01.16
Liability Insurance	\$ 79	
Membership Mgmt. Software r		0.84
Total Expenses to date	\$ 20,0	61.55

Note 1: Additional Milfoil treatment expenses of \$4700 were covered directly by the City of Emily and \$5000 directly by Crooked Lake Township. CLT also covered the expense for Milfoil surveys (approximately \$2000) on Lawrence, Leavitt and Smokey Hollow Lakes.

Anticipated additional expenses for 2020 total around \$1500 (1400 for budgeted donations to Chamber of Commerce for fireworks, Emily and Outing Fire Departments and First Responders and approximately \$100 for the final newsletter).



FOR NEW, CLEAR ICE ONLY UNDER 4" - STAY OFF 4" - Ice fishing or other activities on foot 5"-7" - Snowmobile or ATV 8"-12" - Car or small pickup 12"-15" - Medium truck

ICE IS NEVER 100% SAFE Check ice thickness at least every 150 feet

How thick does ice have to be to drive a truck? Skate on? Go ice fishing? Before you go out, check ice thickness chart to determine if it's safe!

Use common sense on the ice. If you're going skating or ice fishing with a group, stay off ice that's less than four inches thick.

As a general rule, avoid ice that has cracks or ice near inlets

or moving water. If you're not familiar with an area, be sure to talk to the locals because ice is rarely the same thickness all the way across a body of water and can change. If you're going ice fishing, it may also be a good idea to check with a local expert about ice safety. Bait shops or lake side businesses may know about the ice conditions. Always be safe and don't put yourself or others at risk. Double the above thickness guidelines when traveling on white ice. White ice or "snow ice" is only about half as strong as new clear ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.

Solid, clear, blue/black pond and lake ice. Slush ice has only half the strength of blue ice. The strength value of river ice is 15 percent less.

PROTECT YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM FROM FREEZING

Common causes of septic system freezing during the winter can be lack of snow cover, extreme cold, compacted snow, irregular use of the system, leaking plumbing fixtures, pipes not draining properly, or a water-logged system.

To prevent freezing, follow these general guidelines:

- Fix any leaking plumbing or appliances prior to winter.
- In the fall, leave the grass longer over the tank and drainfield for better insulation.
- Add a layer of hay or straw mulch (8-12 inches) over the pipes, tank, and soil treatment area.
- Keep ATVs and snowmobiles off the drainfield.

- Spread hot water use (laundry, showers, dishwasher) out over the day and week. If you'll be gone for extended periods, consider having someone stop by to run hot water regularly.
- High efficiency furnaces, water softeners, and iron filters have the potential to cause problems in the winter because of slow and/or periodic discharges of water.
- Talk with a professional before installing heat tapes or tank heaters.

What to do if the system freezes? Unplug your pump and call a septic system professional. Do not add antifreeze, additives, or continuously run water to try to unthaw the system.

DONATE TO RALALA WITH EVERY PURCHASE AT amazon

In case you didn't know, every purchase you make at Amazon can provide a donation to support the activities of Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association RALALA). The Amazon Smile program donates a portion of each purchase to the charity of your choice. Just go to smile.amazon.com to register for the program, and enter Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association as your choice of charity to support. Then continue with your order as usual. Just be sure that every time you use Amazon you sign on to www.smile.amazon. com. Amazon sends our treasurer a check...your purchases do add up!

Thank you 2020 Ralala Eqi and ais donors

A big thank you to all of our friends and members who made free will donations to RALALA.

These donations go into the RALALA Environmental Quality Initiative Fund. The Environmental Quality Initiative provides RALALA the opportunity to further pursue the Association's objectives beyond what the modest annual dues would allow.

We would, at this time, like to acknowledge those members who supported our organization through cash donations beyond their membership renewal.

Tim & Michelle Allen, Connie Anderson, Jerome & Shirley Anderson John & Laurie Anderson, Wally & Audra Bokovitz, David & Anne Bonnerup, Robert & Pamela Bolls, Roger & Edie Brekken, Dennis & Nancy Crowe, Patricia Cunnif, Nicolas & Kim David, Steve & Pat Dinsmore, Shirley Doten, Bob & Karen Duncan, Tom & Linda Durand, Bob & Sandi Eddy, Jackie Evans, Grant & Ilene Evanson, Tom & Mary Jo Exley, Bill & Jo Ellen George, Peter & Suzanne Gill, Steven Gilmore, Dolores Gragert, Eric & Mary Hanson Buzz & Joyce Heinecke,, Marlene Helgesen, Harvey Helmin & Barbara Castaneda, Dennis & Jeanne Heppelmann, Bob Holmes, Dave Johnson, Jeffrey & Kristen Johnson, Janet Jurek, Jenny Kigin & Lynette Fitzsimonds, John & Rhonda Kosiak, Marlin & Joyce Krohnberg, Lowell & Sharon Kutches, David & Michelle Langefels, Marty & Janie Langemo, Gary & Sheila Langer, Ted & Donna Larson, Thomas Lauman, Bob & Diana Lee, Scott & Debbie LeMire, Randy & Carolyn Leopold, Dennis & Jennifer Leslie, Constance Lieder, Jason Ligday, Dick Lindman, Cyrus Malbari & Barton Olson, Paul & Karmen Mattsen, Bill & Denise McCormick, The McKenzie Family, Jack & Terri McKeon, Gail Moravec, Francis & Mary Murphy, Kirk Meyers & Theresa Kunz, Jim & Deb Nicholson, The Olseth Family Foundation, David & Trudi Olson, Joshua & Angela O'Neill, Chuck & Mary Kay Osowski, Outing Properties, Michael & Gretchen Peppin, Howard & Susan Piper, David & Petra Powers, Matthew Rand, Mike & Renae Renstrom, Mike Renolds, John & Bonnie Rowell, Eric & Kellie St. Martin, Michael & Christine Sandusky, Susan Sergeant, Karen Slepicka, Rhonda & Don Smude, Lynn Snyder, Todd & Laurie Stafford, Mary Steiner, Norton Stillman, Randy & Michelle Strobel, Dale & Barb Tessmer, Gordon & Marlys Thomas, Lloyd & Ingrid Thyen, Tony & Joyce Tillemans, Craig J. Alexander Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation by Sara Parke, Dick & Yvonne Thunstrom, Dr. Frank Tycast, Uncle Tom's Cabin (Keith Walker), Jack & Linda Van Straaten, Russell & Mary Vandell, Keith Walker, Tom & Mikie Walker, Darril Wegscheid & Mary Kowalski, John & Lynnae Weiand, Alicia Welch, Paulette White, Jim & Mary Wick, William & Karen Zigan

A special thank you also to the following members, friends and organizations who also responded to our request for donations to help with the payment for our 2020 milfoil treatment in Lake Roosevelt:

Connie Anderson, Mark Anderson & Denise Wicktor, Nick & Mary Barten, Wally & Audra Bokovitz, Robert & Pamela Bolls, Roger & Edie Brekken, Patrick & Silvania Brown, David Burrows & Carrie Ann Canney, City of Emily, Crooked Lake Township, Dennis & Nancy Crowe, Patricia Cunniff, Nicolas & Kim David, Tim & Sandy Dirks, Shirley Doten, Bob & Karen Duncan, Tom & Linda Durand, Jackie Evans, Grant & Ilene Evanson, Thomas & Mary Jo Exley, Carol & Terrence Farrington, Greg & Sandy Floyd, Elizabeth Frei, Charles & Diane Gill, Peter & Suzanne Gill, John & Annie Graunke, Fred & Lynda Hall, Eric & Mary D Hanson, Marne Helgesen, Harvey Helmin & Barbara Castaneda, Dennis & Jeanne Heppelman, Bob Holmes, Jeffrey & Kristen Johnson, Glen & Tammy Kappel, Tom & Jenny Ketcham, Jenny Kigin & Lynette Fitzsimonds, Greg & Wendy Koch, James & Anita Kratochvil, Ed & Teddy Krueger, Michael & Diana Kucza, Lowell & Sharon Kutches, David & Michelle Langefels, Marty & Janie Langemo, Thomas Lauman, Ted & Donna Larson, David Lawson, Dennis & Jennifer Leslie, Constance Lieder, Gerald & Judith LeMire, Scott & Deborah LeMire, Richard Lindman, Rollie & Mary Ann Maki, Cyrus Malbari & Barton Olson, Tony & Judith Marchiafava, Paul & Karmen Mattson, Bill & Denise McCormick, The McKenzie Family, John & Terry McKeon, Michael & Virginia McLain, Mark Miklas, Ed & Pat Miller, Ron and Nancy Miller, Mark & Jan Mosman, Mike & Darci Nagorski, David & Trudi, Olson, Richard Omann & Kurt Hoffman, Joshua & Angela O'Neill, Chuck & Mary Kay Osowski, Joe Pankratz, Michael & Gretchen Peppin, Howard & Susan Piper, David & Petra Powers, Matt Rand, Michael & Renae Renstrom, Mike Reynolds, Michael & Bridget Rief, Robert & Debra Ringwelski, John & Barbara Rowe, John & Bonnie Rowell, Mike & Chris Sandusky, Annette Satre, Gary & Alvina Schmidt, Linda Schroeter, Sue Sergeant, Rhonda & Don Smude, Todd & Lori Stafford, Ron Stainer, Mary Steiner, Bill & Lois Stevens, Kirk & Kari Stoa, Randy & Michelle Strobel, Gerry & Melanie Swedell, Gordon & Marlys Thomas, Dick & Yvonne Thunstrom, Tony & Joyce Tillemans, Dave & Cathie Tilman, Dr Frank Tycast, Tom & Anna Underdahl, Russell & Mary Vandell, Lou & Pat Vietti, Rod & Jessica Wegner, Darril Wegscheid & Mary Kowalski, John & Lynnae Weiand, Paulette White, Jerome & Anita Williams, William & Karen Zigan

Thank you



Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lake Association P.O. Box 139 Outing, MN 56662-0139

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



IDENTIFY OUR BUILDINGS AND PLACES IN EMILY AND OUTING FROM YEARS PAST

SEND US YOUR HISTORIC PHOTOS OF OUR COMMUNITIES!

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES OR PHOTOS FOR THE RALALA NEWSLETTER

For RALALA newsletter contact: President Linda Van Straaten 507-254-9241 jvs41@aol.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 djwegscheid@earthlink.net

www.ralalalakes.org

