From the Prez…

Our annual meeting was held on Sat. May 4th at the Garfield Community Room. About 65 people attended. During that meeting, we held the bi-annual election of officers and I am pleased to announce we elected a new Secretary - Linda Dolan and Treasurer Diane Soderstrom. A HUGE thank you to Florence Wieneke for her 5 years as Secretary and to Joleen Kogler for 5 years as Treasurer. Brian Van Nevel agreed to another term as Vice President and I agreed to 2 more years as President. A warm welcome to Don Auel as the new Director for Paulins Paradise, Augdahl’s, and Cherry Point.

Dave Rush, Director of Land & Resources at the County, gave a presentation of his department as it pertains to lakes.

Once again, the subject of being courteous on the water was discussed. All present, urged everyone to use the lake, but don’t create the need for Law Enforcement to visit you. We also discussed the placing of “NO WAKE” buoy’s at the entrance to sensitive areas on the lake. Bonnie will be pursuing this item. Draft minutes are on the website, “www.lobster-lake.org” for details.

Enjoy a safe summer on the water and let’s BE RESPECTFUL to all of the people who use Lobster Lake!

Bonnie Huettl

An unwanted distinction: Alexandria-Glenwood Area one of the top regions in the state for AIS It began in 1995 when the Area’s first aquatic invasive species (AIS), Eurasian water-milfoil, was discovered in Douglas County’s Lake Oscar. Then came another Eurasian water-milfoil sighting in southern Pope County’s Lake Gidchrist. Since then, other invasive species have followed, including zebra mussels – first seen in Lake Le Homme Dieu in 2009, and now Starry stonewort confirmed in 2017 in Lake Minnewaska. All told, the Glenwood Office Management Area contains 51 waterbodies infested with AIS – one of the highest areas in the state. Much concern at this time must be focused on Lake Minnewaska where a patch of Starry stonewort was discovered in the Starbuck Marina last year. Starry stonewort is an invasive green alga that was first found in North America in 1978 in the St. Lawrence River and has spread inland since. It’s now found in much of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula and many locations in New York State. It’s also been found in Indiana and was discovered in southeastern Wisconsin in 2014. It was first recorded in Minnesota in 2016 in Lake Koronis, Stearns County. Starry stonewort spreads rapidly and can grow tall and dense, forming mats on the surface that interfere with recreation and potentially displace native plant species.

The Vikingland Chapter of Muskies Inc. Alexandria, MN. will be providing a rest room at the Lobster Lake access for the 2019 fishing season.
OUR LAKES OUR FUTURE

The deteriorating water quality in many Douglas County lakes is obvious. This is caused by multiple factors; increased pollution from a variety of sources, aquatic invasive species, overdevelopment and others. This sounds overwhelming but we can make significant improvement.

An Ad Hoc committee representing Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District, Douglas County Land and Resources, Douglas County Commissioners, Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Douglas County Lakes Association began meeting in October 2017. In November 2018 the Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund (WQLF) was finalized. This is a 501c3 organization, able to accept public and private donations. It will be administered by the West Central Initiative in Fergus Falls and will be led by the Douglas County Lakes Association. You can donate online at www.wcif.org/dcw.html

The fund will be used primarily to provide the 25% match required by water quality grants received from the State. Some of these projects can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars making the 25% match significant.

The WQLF advisory board includes County Commissioner Jerry Rapp, Alexandria Mayor Sara Carlson, DC Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor Mike Cleary, Dean Beck from the Glenwood Fisheries, Leah Hall of the Nature Conservancy, President of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Greg Bowen, John Ledermann representing Douglas County Corn and Soybean Growers and two members of the Douglas County Lakes Association Boards; Gene Rose and Steve Henry.

We look forward to meeting with all Lake Associations and other public groups to further explain our goals with the fund. We are also soliciting monies for the fund and ideas for water quality projects. Working together we hope to improve water quality in Douglas County.

Steve Henry, President, Douglas County Lakes Association

2019
4th of July Parade

Notice to all on Lobster Lake ------
Every 4th of July there is a boat parade of decorated watercraft to celebrate this holiday. It starts at noon across the bay from the public access. Please come join the festivities.
Let’s see how many watercraft we can have in the parade!!!!!!! HAVE SOME FUN on the 4th!!
From 1997 thru 2018 Lobster Lake total phosphorus and chlorophyll improved with a 99% confidence and Secchi depth is improving with 80% confidence. This trend data from the RMB Labs, supports what our charts have been showing for a number of years.

Submitted by Rod Johnson
2018 WATER CLARITY: AN INDICATOR OF WATER QUALITY

Water clarity is one indicator of a lake’s water quality. Based on improvements noted in Lobster Lake’s water clarity during years 2012-2018, water quality seems to be improving here. Between May 6th and September 30, 2018, Pat Hanson and I took a combined total of forty (40) Secchi Disk readings at our specific test sites. Pat collects readings at sites in each of the east and center bays. I collect readings at sites in the west and north bays.

The clearest reading was obtained on June 10th in the east bay where 21 feet of clarity was noted. The least clear readings were obtained on September 10th in both the west and north bays where 7.5 feet of clarity was found to be the case. The seasonal average for 2018 was 12.3 feet. By comparison, the seasonal average for years 2012-2016 was 9.0 feet and the average for 2017 was 10.6 feet. Thus the seasonal average clarity improved by 1.7 feet when comparing 2018 to 2017.

Changes in clarity occur with changes to a lake’s chemical make-up. In particular, increases or lessening in levels of phosphorus and chlorophyll-a create changes in algae levels, which in turn affects clarity. Simply put, the more algae, the less clarity. Changes in those chemicals result from variations in water temperature, amounts and timing of precipitation, ambient air temperature, amounts and types of runoff, types of plant growth, Zebra Mussels, etc.

Pat Hanson and I will again be checking our lake’s water clarity at various times during the open water season of 2019. ALSO, A BIG THANK YOU TO PAT WHO HAS HELPED OUT WITH THIS PROJECT FOR MANY YEARS.

Submitted by: Hardy Huettl
Co-chairman, Water Quality Committee

2019 Lobster Lake Association Meeting in Garfield, MN.
Annual meeting was held on May 4th 2019. Dave Rush, Director of Land and Resources for the County, was the speaker for the meeting. Many members were able to ask questions on the status of our lake. Items like Lobster wear and flags were on sale at the door. Come see us at next year’s meeting!
Minnesota Lakes provide homes for roughly 12,000 loons.

Brian Peterson * brian.peterson@startribune.com

The organizers of a new nonprofit loon foundation in Crosslake, MN, have echoed a tremola call for help - one that’s being answered by a flock of influential supporters intent on building the first ever National Loon Center.

The ecotourism project is a year in the making and its leaders are just starting to pursue the millions of dollars in public and private money needed to secure the shoreland site on Minnesota’s highly visited Whitefish Chain of Lakes. In November, Crosslake community volunteer Leah Heggerston, knocked on doors in Washington D.C. to promote the project behind the scenes and search for funding. Approximate estimate of funding is $5 million, but more will be needed to keep it going.

Already the idea has been embraced by the Crosslake office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a partner capable of making room for a new visitors center on 65 acres of federal land amid tall pines on the eastern banks of Crosslake. The location currently hosts a recreational campground operated by the Army Corps with access to 13 lakes, 13,660 acres of water and 119 miles of scenic shoreline. Heggerston said an early objective would be to repair environmental damage at the campground caused by users who have been pulling their boats ashore for years. Docks would be installed to end this practice. Protecting natural shorelines for the benefit of loons would be one of the environmental thrust of the center, Heggerston said. The center would also educate visitors about loon biology and inform lake lovers how they can safely recreate amid the magnificent birds.

Bill Gartner, a University of Minnesota professor, who helped in the formation of the Owl Center in Houston, MN., said the Army Corps would be a great partner and the Brainerd Lakes region could provide a crucial, built-in audience of seasonal visitors.

The list of early supporters is impressive. Heggerston said her father is behind the project, as other political leaders, including state Senator Carrie Ruud, R-Breezy Point, chairwoman of the Environmental and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee. Wealthy cabin owners on the Whitefish Chain have shown substantial interest in helping to pay for the project, and the loon center foundation is reportedly liked by the Initiative Foundation of Little Falls, a key nonprofit in central Minnesota.

The State Department of Natural Resources has offered guidance to the project. Heggerston said DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr asked to be his agency’s No. 1 contact for the project. Also, on board in different degrees are National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the City of Crosslake, and the Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, to name a few. The loon center idea checks a lot of boxes for our area. It could bring the region an economic boost, a new focus on natural resources, and a great tourism attraction all at the same time.

Minnesota’s loon population is stable, but nongame wildlife managers have been urging hunters and anglers to stop using lead ammo and lead fishing tackle to spare loons from the element’s toxicity.

If the National Loon Center takes wing, it would add to an ecotourism wildlife franchise in the state that already includes the International Owl Center, the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, both the International Wolf Center and North American Bear Center in Ely, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth, and the Raptor Center, part of the University of Minnesota’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

Submitted by Jim Barrett
Watercraft Inspections
There was a total of 10,339 inspections conducted on 20 lakes at 25 unique public water accesses by watercraft inspectors across Douglas County. The number of watercraft inspected has increased each year for the past 4 years, from 5,608 in 2015 to 9,562 in 2016 to 9,598 in 2017. Most of the 2018 watercraft inspections occurred on watercraft categorized as fishing boats (Figure 13) and 93.6% of the incoming inspections were conducted on watercraft transported by vehicles with Minnesota license plates. The other most common states where watercraft came from were Iowa, North Dakota,

Clean Station

THE NEWEST AIS FIGHTER!
Waterless tools are key for boaters to quickly clean their watercraft and trailers of debris and weeds. The station includes: wet/dry vacuum, blower and easy to use tethered cleaning tools. Equipped with lights illuminating the trailer and within the watercraft, users can operate under any condition and will be at a “high” use access this summer.
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE 2019

We have approximately 210 paid members in the Lake Association. If you have not paid your 2019 dues there is still time to send it in. Membership is from January through December. Complete the form in the newsletter and mail it to Lobster Lake Association, PO Box 32, Alexandria, MN 56308. All Lobster Lake residents receive an invitation to join the lake association in April. Membership in the lake association provides financial support for our two newsletters, the lake directory, water quality monitoring, loons nests and the Lake Management Plan. Dues for membership are $30.00 for this year. It is the first time, dues have been increased since the lake association began in 1985. Members received a new directory at the Annual meeting held on May 4, 2019. Directories will be given to each area director or can be picked up from Nancy Wavrin, membership chair, by calling 320-834-3331. We do not mail out the directories to residents.

Welcome new members and residents:
Andrew and Donna Kubat  Rowlands Cove
Marcie Wagner  Tall Timbers
Marie Weber  Sunrise Woods
Leslie Jr. and Kathryn Woody  South Side
Ted Harr (TBARA’s)  Paulins Paradise

2019 LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION DUES INVOICE

NAME \( \{\text{$}\)______________________________________________________________
LAKE ADDRESS__________________________________________________________
HOME ADDRESS_____________________________________________________________________
LAKE PHONE________________________ HOME PHONE_____________________
E-MAIL ADDRESS_____________________________________________________________________
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE........................................................................... $30.00
ADDITIONAL (OPTIONAL) CONTRIBUTION TO WALLEYE FUND___________
TOTAL ENCLOSED...........................................................................................................

MAIL TO:  Lobster Lake Association
PO BOX 32
Alexandria, MN 56308
LOBSTER WEAR PRICE LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult/Youth Sizing</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Zip Sweatshirts (S-XL)</td>
<td>$32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Sizes (2X-5X)</td>
<td>$34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crewneck Sweatshirts (S-XL)</td>
<td>$24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Sizes (2X-5X)</td>
<td>$26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooded Sweatshirts (S-XL)</td>
<td>$28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Sizes (2X-5X)</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polo Shirts (S-XL)</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Sizes (2X-5X)</td>
<td>$19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-Shirts (S-XL)</td>
<td>$18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Sizes (2X-5X)</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Sleeved Tees (S-XL)</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Sizes (2X-5X)</td>
<td>$22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball Caps</td>
<td>$16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach Bags</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobster Flags 3x5</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Add $3 for a full front logo**

Call Amanda @1-763-923-8140