

LOBSTER LAKE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2007

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- > President: John Stone 320-834-2972
- > Vice President: Bruce Strandskov 320-886-9450
- > Secretary: Bonnie Huettl 320-834-3287
- > Treasurer: Bev Paulin 320-834-2332
- > **DIRECTORS**
- > Tall Timbers: Jerry Ellis 320-834-6084
- > Fosiliens Bay, Norlana Lane & Eternity Point: Needs Volunteer 000-000-0000
- > Happys Landing: Harold Howard 507-872-6649
- > Krafthofers, Beauty Point & South Side: Bruce Strandskov 320-886-9450
- > Wildridge,,: John Stutz 507-274-6579
- > Ruebens Landing & West End: LeRoy Foslien 320-524-2642 & Rob Graber 651-340-1700
- > Rowlands Cove, Wrolsons Estate, Rockwood Shores & Hunters Bay: Liz Berens 320-834-2142
- > Paulins Paradise, Augdahls & Cherry point: Jim Barrett 320-834-3441
- > **Lake Captains:** Harvey Strom 320-834-2893 & Merrill Peterson 320-834-3188
- > **DIRECTORS AT LARGE:**
- > Myron Lofquist 320-834-3217 & Arnie Vick 320-524-2370
- > **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**
- > DCLA Representative: Bonnie Huettl 320-834-3287
- > Membership: Bonnie Huettl
- > Water Quality: Pete Onstad
- > News Letter: Jerry Ellis
- > Lakescaping & Raingardens: John Stone

NOTICE: People who have not paid their 2007 dues, please remit to Bonnie Huettl at:
Lobster lake Association
PO Box 32
Alexandria, MN 56308
The Association works each year to protect your lake & its natural beauty, thanks for



New Access Signage

During October of 2007, in an effort to control the spread of Eurasian Milfoil, new signs were installed to remind boaters to check their boats and trailers before & after launching. The signs were installed at the main access as well as at Happy's Landing & Wildridge campground. LLA volunteers Bonnie Huettl, Hardy Huettl, Leroy Foslien & Wally Thielmann were involved in the design, purchase & installation. Grant funding for the signs came from Central Minnesota Initiative Foundation Healthy Lakes & Rivers Partnership program. Signs were provided by American Laser -Cut Graphics of Alexandria. Additional "Burma Shave" style signs will be installed next Spring. If you're younger than 60, ask your Grandparents what they are.

Website <http://www.lobster.org>

Visits to our website continue to increase with over 1500 hits in the past six months. We have increased the information on the site and will continue to do so. Present information includes a summary of each months CLRSD meeting, upcoming events, many valuable links, contact us, etc. The site is maintained by Bonnie Huettl and Rob Graber. If you have questions, comments, suggestions, please let them know.

Welcome New LLA Officers Arnie Vick & Rob Graber

I am Arnie Vick, a new Director At Large for the lake association. My wife Jackie and I reside in Sunrise Woods. Our house is not on the lake but we have a lot in Tall Timbers. Just look for the Blue Dock. Lobster lake has been part of our lives for the last 20 plus years. Our son Jack learned to water ski and knee board on Lobster and snowmobile back when we had winters. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me and I will do what I can to get the answers. We have had many good times on Lobster Lake & hope for many

(Continued on page 2)

Welcome New LLA Officers Arnie Vick & Rob Graber (Continued from page 1)

My name is Rob Graber, I will be serving as co-captain of the Reuben's Landing/Sunrise Woods area. For the last several years I have also been running the Lobster Lake Association website.

My wife Wendy and our two boys, Andy (12) and Joe (10), have a lot in Sunrise Woods just to the north of the public access. Our full time residence is in Woodbury, Minnesota.

I have enjoyed coming up to Lobster Lake for almost 20 years now, while my wife is a lifelong seasonal resident. She has a *large* extended family on and around the lake and we enjoy spending time with them. We also enjoy swimming, fishing, sailing (that's our small HobieCat with the teal, purple and white sails) and just hanging out at the beach. I look forward to serving on the board and helping to preserve and protect Lobster Lake for future generations.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are very important to your Lake Association. During this past year over 35 people participated in organizing and conducting various activities. If you are not involved and want to help out, please contact a director or John Stone. The amount and scope of projects is limited by lack of volunteers. We need your assistance.

HELP! DIRECTOR NEEDED

The association is in need of a director for the Foslien's Bay, Norlana Lane and Eternity Point area. This is the only area of the lake not represented by a director. A director needs to commit to attend short meetings 3-4 times a year and to communicate with residents in their area. The use of the internet makes it possible to distribute information in a very timely fashion. If interested contact John Stone at 834-2972. We do not want to leave your area of the lake out of any LLA activities.

TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

Each year every township has an annual meeting. They are always held in March with the next one scheduled for March 11, 2008. These meetings provide the opportunity for residents to give their input on township issues. In conjunction with the meeting, is the annual election for township officers. If you are registered to vote in your township, you are encouraged to vote. If you will be absent for the election, call Wayne Becker for an absentee ballot. Make it your civic responsibility to participate.

LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Each year the Lobster Lake Association holds an annual meeting on the first Saturday in May. Our 2008 meeting will be on May 3rd at the LaGrand Township hall. All lake association members are encouraged to attend. This is your opportunity to learn about the associations activities and to share your thoughts and concerns about Lobster Lake. If you have comments or suggestions for this meeting, contact a director

LAKESCAPING AND RAINGARDEN WORKSHOP

A workshop was held June 9, 2007 with Emily Siira, Water Planner, Douglas SWCD as presenter. Over 35 lakeshore owners attended this event. Emily provided information on both rain gardens and lakescaping. This included benefits, design, suitable plants, maintenance and costs. If anyone has questions regarding these projects, they may contact Emily at Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District. Her phone is 320-763-3191.

There has been a considerable amount of interest in these topics and the lake association intends to provide more information in the future by providing written information, contact sources and workshops. We will be setting up a special link on our website with this information. Thanks to Pat Glisky for volunteering to be the chair of this group. If you would like to help out, let us know. Check web for updates.

LANDSCAPING/RAIN GARDEN GRANT PROGRAM

As part of the Lobster Lake Association Lake Management Plan to return some of the un-vegetated shoreline to its native state in order to decrease erosion into the lake and improve water quality and habitat, a grant program was established. The LLA may award up to seven \$100.00 grants. Eligibility guidelines were in the May newsletter and are on the website. THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION IS DECEMBER 31, 2007. Refer any questions to John Stone, 320-834-2972.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

The following is a list of the Representatives & Senators making decisions on lake quality & other area projects. Your input is important to them in making these decisions. Please e-mail or phone their offices with your views. A good website to get more information covering all state & federal representative's country wide is www.congress.org/congressorg/home/

State Representative Mary Ellen Otremba

E-mail: rep.maryellen.otremba@house.mn

45 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298
Phone: (651) 296-3201
Fax: (651) 296-8605

|

Main District Office:
21616 Ginseng Road
Long Prairie, MN 56347
Phone: (320) 732-6201

State Representative Torrey Westrom

E-mail: rep.torrey.westrom@house.mn

273 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298
Phone: (651) 296-4929
Fax: (651) 296-3869

|

Main District Office:
PO Box 210
Elbow Lake, MN 56531
Phone: (218) 685-6266

State Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen

E-mail: sen.bill.ingebrigtsen@senate.mn

132D State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206
Phone: (651) 297-8063
Fax: (651) 296-6511

|

Main District Office:
6968 Sunset Strip NW
Alexandria, MN 56308
Phone: (320) 846-1893

Senator Amy Klobuchar

Web Site: klobuchar.senate.gov

E-mail: [Contact Via 'Web Form.'](#)

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Washington Office:
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2305
Phone: (202) 224-3244
Fax: (202) 228-2186

|

Main District Office:
1 Federal Drive, Suite 298
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111
Phone: (612) 727-5220

Senator Norm Coleman

Web Site: coleman.senate.gov

E-mail: [Contact Via 'Web Form.'](#)

|

Washington Office:
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2303
Phone: (202) 224-5641
Fax: (202) 224-1152

|

Main District Office:
2550 University Ave., West, Ste. 100N
St. Paul, MN 55114
Phone: (651) 645-0323
Fax: (651) 645-3110

Representative Collin Peterson

Web Site: collinpeterson.house.gov

E-mail: [Contact Via 'Web Form.'](#)

|

Washington Office:
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2307
Phone: (202) 225-2165
Fax: (202) 225-1593

|

Main District Office:
714 Lake Ave., #107
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Phone: (218) 847-5056
Fax: (218) 847-5109

WATER QUALITY MONITORING 2007

We were busy again this past summer sampling **YOUR LAKE** for water quality. Some of the activities we were doing last summer were:

Taking Secchi disk readings weekly at four sites on the lake from June to mid September. **Hardy Huettl**, who has taken Secchi disk readings for the last five years, was again taking readings in the **West Bay** and **Pat Hanson** was taking readings in the **East Bay**.

Collecting water samples for chlorophyll-A and phosphorus at one location and taking Secchi disk readings at all four locations. This is done monthly from May through September. The samples are sent to a lab in Detroit Lakes for processing. **Richard Knutson**, **Ron Hofstedt** and **Pete Onstad** using Richard's pontoon usually took these samples. You can see the test results by visiting the lab's web site: <http://www.rmbel.info>. They have improved their web site and you can click your way through to get to Lobster. It is not totally friendly, so if you run into a dead end – just start over. There are also links to MPCA, DNR etc.

Measuring dissolved oxygen (LDO) and temperature vs. depth in both east and west bays. We were late getting started because of equipment issues, but did manage to get readings in August and September. We measure this using some new equipment. It is a handheld instrument with a long cable to reach the appropriate depth.

All of the water quality data mentioned above should be available for everyone to view on our web site: <http://www.lobsterlake.org/> We now have **21 years of data on Lobster** and you can see it on the web site.

This summer we had plans to sample the inlet from Mill Lake, however, the flow was minimal. We continue to recruit volunteers for our Water Quality Committee to help with lake monitoring. **LET US HEAR FROM YOU.**

We must all be stewards of our lake. With new development, we often see some of the shoreline trees being removed and replaced with new plantings. You must contact Douglas County Land and Resource Management **before** removing any large trees. Consider adding some native trees so there is a good mix of ages to provide a woody vegetative buffer. Native grasses, flowers and shrubs are also important. Try to keep at least a 15 foot buffer zone on the shoreline. **Your lake will like it and so will anyone who views your property from the lake.**

Pete Onstad

TRAGEDY ON LOBSTER LAKE

During the Fourth of July week, a Lobster Lake resident observed a male person on a jet ski hitting a loon. The rider immediately took off but came right back, picked the loon up out of the water, examined it, and then tossed it back. A resident found the loon on shore, still alive. Unfortunately it died right away. Some information on the rider and Jet Ski were obtained, but not enough for the arrest. Investigation continues by Conservation Officer Mike Sheldon who stated that the penalty for killing a loon is \$650.00.



LOBSTER LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

On May 1, 2004, as part of the Lake Associations annual meeting, a visioning session was held which provided the basis for the Lobster Lake Management Plan 2005-2010. This plan was part of the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership of the Central Minnesota Initiative Foundation. The plan was divided into four different objectives. The complete plan is on our website. Upon completion of certain phases of the plan, the Lobster Lake Association would receive a \$5,000.00 grant. The original deadline for completion of certain phases of the plan was 12-31-06. Since certain parts of the plan were not completed as of that date, the deadline was extended to 12-31-07. The committee chairs are preparing the summaries of their various projects. This will be submitted for review and we should have our check for \$5,000.00 in early 2008. As a result of this grant, we were able to do many projects that would not have been attainable without it. In order to do these projects, many volunteers were needed and a special thanks to all of these people. A detail summary of the plan results will be presented at next year's annual meeting and a future Lobster Lake Newsletter.

CENTRAL LAKES REGION SANITARY DISTRICT (CLRSD)

CLRSD continues to meet monthly working on the project in three phases.

Phase I (Lobster Lake Area)

An income salary survey was conducted of all permanent lake residents. The result of the survey indicates that this phase qualifies for a loan from Rural Development at a low interest rate and a possible 40 year term. Also, looking at grants funds in the area of 30% of the project cost. Senator Norm Coleman was instrumental in including two million dollars in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) for this phase of the project. This bill was vetoed by President Bush but this veto was overridden. Before funds become available they must be included in the Federal Budget which is waiting for passage. The funds will be administered by the Army Corps of Engineers. Most likely these funds will not be available until fiscal year 2009. An agreement has been signed with WSN to provide engineering services from design through construction. An aerial survey has been done.

Agreements with ALSAD for collection and treatment of wastes are being reviewed by legal. A special meeting will be held shortly with Springsted to review updated project cost scenarios. The Zavadil project on NE Lobster has been included in the CLRSD project. The funding from Rural Development is very complicated and requires a lot of details which are currently being worked on. The goal for this phase is to start construction some time in 2008.

Phase II (Chippewa Lake Area and cities of Brandon and Garfield)

The Chippewa area did not qualify for a low interest rate from Rural Development. Meetings are being held with the cities of Brandon and Garfield along with the Chippewa Lake area to discuss an arrangement that may be beneficial to everyone. In order to qualify for funding in the near future, some decisions must be made shortly.

Phase III (Miltona and Irene Area)

Engineering and design is almost completed. Funding has been arranged. Wait continues for permit from MPCA. As soon as permit is received, will call for construction bids.

General

Wayne Becker has resigned as Sec/Treas effective 12-31-2007. He will remain on the board representing Moe Township. At the December meeting, Pat Conway was hired on a part-time basis as General Manager. Mr. Conway has been providing consultation services for CLRSD; as a result he is very familiar with the organization.

The CLRSD board meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Leaf Valley Township Hall. Everyone is invited.

Check the Lobster Lake web site for up to date information. A brief summary is posted each month following the regular meeting.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have currently 242 LLA members. There are about 372 contacts including Happy's and Wildridge. Our goal for 2007 is 250.

Thank you to those who joined in 2007 .

Patricia Peterson	Eisland view
Phil and Lee Ann Schweitzer	South Island
Robert Pappenfus	Beauty Point
John Helgerson & Dana Halvorson	Tall Timbers
Maxine Sheren	Rowlands Cove
Ron Shogren	Brandt's Beach
Lon Rylander	Brandt's Beach
Cory Simonson	Rowland Cove
Luke & Julie Stemmer	Brandt's Beach
Mike & Cindy Allen	Reuben's Landing
Carrie & Craig Wolke	Tall Timbers
Dale & Pam Manzke	Tall Timbers
Michael Marfiz	Norlana Ln
Janet Olson & family	Cherry Point
Greg & Robin Schwaegerl	Happy's Landing

If you know of someone new to the lake, please send me an e mail. I try to keep up but don't get all the new residents! I send out Welcome letters to all new residents!

We appreciate all of our members for without them we could not continue to keep our beautiful Lobster Lake a great place to live and play!

Membership Chair,

Bonnie Huettl

huettlsonlobster@gctel.net

NOTES FROM YOUR PREZ

I feel this has been a very profitable year for Lobster Lake as we continue to carry out our Lake Management Plan. A very special thank you to all of the volunteers for the time and effort that you have put in. As explained in the article regarding the Lobster Lake Plan, we should be receiving our check for \$5,000.00 from Central Minnesota Initiative Foundation very shortly. In the coming year, we will continue working on our goals but we also need to look at some new ideas that will be of benefit to the Lake. We are fortunate to have funds available for some new projects. The water quality team continues to take water tests and will expand this area in the coming year. We have a lot of data in this area, going back many years. If you are interested in this information, contact Pete Onstad. Walleye fishing should be excellent because of the survival rate on recent stockings. We plan on doing more stocking next fall, some funds from dues will be used, but special donations will help us to put in more fingerlings. If you enjoy the walleyes, send your donation to Bev Paulin, our treasurer. This is your organization, so we need your questions and comments. Feel free to contact a director or myself. Enjoy the winter.

COUNTY UPDATE.....

The County Planned Unit Development ordinance is currently being updated. It will have some of the aspects of the Alternative Shoreland Standards that the DNR has suggested. This will help protect the shoreland that is remaining in Douglas County. Land and Resource Director, Dave Rush has also hired CGI to evaluate the Comprehensive Plan so it more uniformly conforms to our current Ordinances. There were significantly fewer variances requests (involving lakes) this past year. This is attributed to Mr. Rush working with land owners to solve some of their issues before they start the process.



[Eurasion Milfoil Committee](#)

A committee was formed to monitor the growth of Eurasian Milfoil in Lobster lake. In 2005 a leaf of milfoil was found floating near the public access. The Lake Association came together and set up a program to check for milfoil twice a summer . Volunteers were asked to check the lake at their assigned areas for milfoil. Testing kits were assembled based on information from the DNR & classes were given to help identify the plant. The areas were surveyed this past summer & all reports were negative for Milfoil. Members of the committee shown above are Pat Hanson, Herb Olson, Jerry Glisky, Merrill Pedersen, Leroy Foslien, Wally Thielmann, Don Swanson, Harriett Freding, & Hardy Huettl. Also on the committee but not pictured were John Herkensoff, Ron Hofstedt, Greg Pouliot, & Arnie Vick. The lake association thanks them for their time & effort to help keep our lake free of Eurasian Millfoil

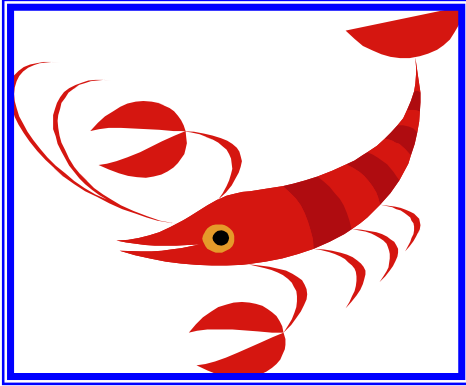
[DCLA](#)

The **D**ouglas **C**ounty **L**akes **A**ssociation meets monthly the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Public Works Bldg at 4:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

There has been lots of behind the scenes planning going on to continue making lake shore owners aware of this group. We are working on a better web site and working with the county on many issues regarding lakes and water quality. We always need more people to get involved in the group.

We are also continuing to try to get more publicity for the group by placing articles in the Echo press regarding healthy lakes. Look for them about once a month.

Bonnie Huettl



Lobster Lake Association
PO Box 32
Alexandria, MN 56308

2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Dues for 2008 are due at the time of the annual meeting which is held the first Saturday in May. If you have not paid your dues for 2008 please submit your payment today. Dues have remained at the \$20.00 amount for many years. If you have comments or suggestions for your Lake Association please feel free to contact any LLA board member or mail them to Lobster Lake Association, PO Box 32, Alexandria, MN 56308. The Association works each year to protect your lake and its natural beauty. Thank you for your continued support.

_____ **Enclosed is \$20.00 for my 2008 Membership Payment**

_____ Maybe I will join next year but here are some comments:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Send to: Lobster Lake Association, PO Box 32. Alexandria MN 56308