



LOBSTER LAKE NEWSLETTER

December 2008

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- > **Lake Captains:** Harvey Strom 320-834-2893 & Merrill Pedersen 320-834-3188
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- > Membership: Bonnie Huettl
- > Water Quality: Pete Onstad
- > News Letter: Jerry Ellis
- > Lakescaping & Raingardens: John Stone

LLA Walleye Stocking

Walleyes have arrived with great support from LLA and the Viking Sportsman along with new matching funds from the Alexandria Hospitality Association. This organization provided \$2,000.00 in matching funds for the purchase of walleye fingerlings. On Saturday December 13, LLA stocked Lobster Lake with 600# of walleyes, 400# which was paid for from the LLA walleye stocking fund, member dues and 200# from the Alexandria Hospitality Funds for a total of 22,200 four to six inch walleyes. Some people might wonder what the Alexandria Hospitality Association is. When people stay in Alexandria motels, they pay a motel tax that must be spent promoting the area's tourist industries. What a great way to promote Alexandria; to have people come to Alexandria and fish walleyes. In 2007 the DNR stocked 1300# of walleyes, that's the good news. The bad news is this was only about 900 fish because the size of each fish was one pound to one and one half pounds. Early reports have been good with fisherman often getting their limit. We look forward to seeing you on the ice this year, and as always we will be looking for more walleye fund donations for 2010. Thanks for all your past support.



Winter Safety

Being on the lake in the winter is always fun whether you're snowmobiling, fishing, cross-country skiing or just going for a walk. There are also hazards waiting under the snow cover if you're not careful. Last winter a pickup truck went through the ice off of Cherry Point and fortunately both men were able to get out of the truck and onto good ice. The truck fell into 18 feet of water and the ice was 2-3 inches thick. Twenty feet away the ice was 24 inches thick, plenty of ice to hold the truck. Lake ice will vary in thickness because of moving water & springs located in the lake. DNR recommends 2-4 inches of ice for walking, 5-8 inches for ATV's and 12 inches or more for small cars. They also say that ice is **NEVER SAFE**. Be aware of where you're going when on the ice and stick to traveled areas. Be safe.



Merry Christmas & Seasons Greetings

The LLA president, lake directors, committee chairpersons and all our volunteers want to wish everyone a happy and safe holidays, many thanks for your support of your LLA.

DCLA Article by Bonnie Huettl DCLA representative

The Douglas County Lakes Association meets at 4:30 PM, the 2nd Weds of each month at the Public Works Bldg. 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 adjusting the current ordinances to better protect our water! The Zoning Committee has been involved in the new development on Lakes Brophy & Union by attending many meetings trying to resolve public issues. This is a new concept for Douglas County in that it involves over 1000' of shoreline disturbing very little shoreline. There is no overnight docking at the 2 docks in the PUD. This is a huge difference from what our current ordinance would allow. This is a step in the right direction for marginal lakeshore now in demand. If you have any Lakeshore issues you would like the DCLA to look into, please contact me. I attend every Planning Commission meeting and attend site visits where variances and conditional use permits (CUP) are reviewed. If you have question about this process or when it is needed, contact me, Bonnie Huettl @ secretary@lobsterlake.org

MINNESOTA INVASIVE SPECIES WORKSHOP

INVASIVE TIDBIT: Did you know earthworms are not native to the MN?? And it is illegal to discard bait at accesses or into the lake...just knew you wanted to know these things!!! What else is new in the invasive species world??? Our lake association wanted to find out, so on October 26th Bonnie & Hardy Huettl attended an Invasive Species Workshop in Duluth. The session was conducted jointly by the University of Minnesota Sea Grant, MN DNR, and the MN Dept of Ag. The day filled with more information than will be written about here, but we will try to hit the high points. We all know about Eurasian Watermilfoil and how it spreads. But there seems to be a disconnect between knowing how to prevent it and changing human habits to get that done. The MN Sea Grant will again this year be spending a great deal of money and time on educating water users that they can make a difference by cleaning off their watercraft and trailers after exiting a lake. We all need to become vigilant about this and truly become stewards of our waters. As of May 2008 there are 9 additional enforcement officers working to better control invasive species of all types. So if you see someone not protecting our lake please say something! In addition to "milfoil" invasive specie is Curlyleaf Pondweed. This pest has been found in 750 lakes state wide. In Douglas County there are only a few lakes (Ida& Smith for sure) that have been identified to have it. This weed can be eradicated, but because it has different growing habits, starts to grow in early spring and goes dormant about July, it is harder to spot. Lobster Lake will be adding this to the Weed Watch Committee's list for monitoring. It looks like what is commonly called "cabbage weed" but the leaves have serrated edges rather than smooth as "cabbage" has. More info? go to ... www.files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural/resources/invasives

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[WATER QUALITY MONITORING 2008](#) Article by Pete Onstead

Some of the monitoring activities we did last summer on YOUR LAKE were:

1. 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 seven years in the West Bay and Pat Hanson who has taken readings in the East Bay for three years did the monitoring.
2. Collecting water samples for chlorophyll-a and phosphorus at one location (the deep hole in the East Bay). 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 take 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. There are also links to MPCA, DNR etc.
3. Measuring dissolved oxygen (LDO) and temperature vs. depth in both East and West Bays. We measure this using some new equipment. It is a handheld instrument with a long cable to reach the appropriate depth. We need someone to volunteer to help with this project.

All of the water quality data mentioned above is available for everyone on our web site: <http://www.lobsterlake.org/>. We now have 22 years of data on Lobster. When you access the data you will notice some strange looking nomenclature in the title box of the graphs.

You may wonder what locations we are talking about. Those numbers are sampling locations as set up by the MPCA. Here is what they mean: the first number 21 means Douglas County, the second number 0144 means Lobster Lake, the third number 01 or 02 identifies the east bay or west bay respectively and lastly 201 or 202 identifies the sampling locations in each bay. Next year I will put the names on the charts. If you really want to know where the locations are, call me and I will give you the GPS coordinates!

Last summer, as in 2007, the lake level was down and there was little or no flow for us to take readings in the stream from Mill Lake to Lobster Lake. Hopefully, the lake level will be up next summer. We continue to recruit volunteers for our Water Quality Committee to help with lake monitoring.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU.

LAKE SIGNAGE UPDATE

Article by Hardy Huettl co-chair LLA signage committee

If you used the public landing at the west end of the lake you may or may not have noticed two (2) new signs were added in that area during the past few months. First a second, smaller 4'x4' "Stop Milfoil" sign, similar to our big 4'x8' sign, was added at the access itself. Now as boaters approach the ccess ramp to launch they directly face the big-sign. Then as they remove their boats they directly face the smaller sign that is erected to the left of the portable restroom. Hopefully the message from our association is clear & taken seriously.

Secondly the road between CR 27 and the access area itself now has a name which is "Lobster Landing SW". The township erected a name sign at the intersection to show the road really does have a name, it's not just a driveway. A problem with erecting the limerick signs as planned in the right of way along side Lobster Landing SW was encountered when it was learned that the residents using & living just off the road were not comfortable with such signage there. Respecting their concern it was decided the signs will be put up next spring within the access marking area along its perimeter. Hopefully the DNR (who owns the access) won't be too upset. We'll find out!

LLA Signage Committee

NO EWM FOUND IN LAKE IN 2008

Article by Hardy Huettl, Chairman EWM committee

After this summer's inspections LLA's Milfoil Watch Committees pleased to report that no Eurasian Water milfoil was found in our lake during the past summer. Inspections were completed during the July-September period. Thanks go out to the twelve (12) inspectors on my committee for their time & fuel. They were: Leroy Foslien, Jerry Freding, Pat Hanson, John Herkenhoff, Ron Hofstedt, Mike McShane, Herb Olson, Merrill Pedersen, Greg Pouliot, Don Swanson, Wally Thielmann and Arnie Vick. In several cases the inspectors were assisted by their spouses. So to the ladies involved . . . THANK YOU also.

Due to the lake's level being lower than normal this year much Northern Water milfoil was seen floating about from late July through the remainder of the summer. Sightings were particularly common in shallower water areas where the weeds were pulled up by fisherman & boat motor propellers. Although a lot of this weed was noted it is of no true concern as the weed is common & totally natural in our part of the US.

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A new weed threat gaining prominence is Curly Leaf Pondweed. More than 750 lakes in MN now have this invasive species. This weed will be added to EWM for my committees lookout in 2009.

It is likely that the committee will be renamed the Invasive Species Watch Committee next summer as we now have more species to watch for.

Hardy Huettl
Chairperson, EWM watch committee

DOUGLAS COUNTY UPDATE

Article by Bonnie Huettl Zoning Chair

The Planning Commission meets at 6:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at the Douglas County courthouse at 6 p.m... I attend all the meetings as well as the site visits to review variance and conditional use permit requests.

The number of requests has been down this year, attributed mostly to Dave Rush working with the landowners prior to needing a permit.

As a lakeshore owner you need to consult the county if you do any dirt work within the shore impact zone of the lake. No structures are allowed in this area either. The impact zone is 50 feet back from the high water mark. Please refer to your DCLA brochure "Owning Lakeshore in Douglas County". If you need a copy let me know.

The County will be rewriting some of its ordinances this winter as well as working on a new Comprehensive Plan. I would expect shoreland rules to tighten. I have also been on the Water Plan Task Force and that plan will be ready to go to the Board of Water and Soil in February. This is the plan that the Commissioners and Land & Resources use as a guide to help make their decisions on water issues.

FYI - THE COUNTY DOES NOT ALLOW OUT HOUSES EVER!!! You must have a "contained system". If you are currently not in compliance, expect a visit from the County. You must either use a portable toilet or have a holding tank. **No exceptions!!**

[CLRSD Project Update](#) Article by John Stone

The Central Lakes Region Sanitary District is a local unit of government created by the state legislature in 2003. Intended to preserve and protect water quality of six west central Minnesota lakes, its mission is to construct and manage wastewater treatment and collection systems in six townships of Douglas County, MN. Its projects are broken up into three 'phases' or geographic areas across the district. Two of the three are ready to begin construction. Details follow.

Phase I - Lobster Lake Area

CLRSD's Phase I project has \$15.1 million in funding; Phase IA is \$11.7 million loan at 3.625% over 40 years and Phase IB is \$3.4 million (\$1.4 million on the same terms from Rural Development, and \$2 million grant from WRDA). Permits are in place, and full engineering plans and specs are done, with RD approval of those documents pending. Bidding materials are ready, and advertising for bids can commence immediately upon RD approval.

Phase III - Miliona/Irene Lakes Area

This Phase has complete plans and specifications for both the collection system and for the planned wastewater treatment facility. Last month, the MPCA provided the necessary permit to construct the facility, and officially stated the EAW is satisfactory. Bidding documents are complete and ready to advertise. The expected funder for this phase is the Public Facilities Authority (\$25.8 million, 1.508% interest, 20 years). PFA is requiring an alternatives analysis, an as-bid budget, and a cash flow analysis before taking this project to its board for approval.

Funding for the Two Phases

While CLRSD's projects are ready to go, the cost of these projects remain substantial. The board feels that in light of political discussions about a potential public works economic stimulus package through the U. S. Congress, and the passage of a state constitutional amendment that might make funding available, they should explore these additional grant funding possibilities. Since the CLRSD projects are construction ready (permits in hand, legal work done and land acquired, environmental reviews complete, plans and specs ready, bidding documents set), and represent a good fit with the proposed new funding possibilities in terms of immediate job creation and economic stimulus, the CLRSD Board would like to urge political support for additional grants for these projects. Refer to Resolution 2008-Q, Stimulus to Douglas County Economic Environment from CLRSD Wastewater Project on CLRSD web site, <http://www.clrsd-mn.org/>.

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The newest invasive weed in the state is **Flowering Rush**. There have been 16 sightings in MN but fortunately none in Douglas County. It primarily exists in the Detroit Lakes area but still is still a concern to all. It blooms in July and although it's quite attractive it is none the less still invasive. Then on the horizon, there is a new weed for our state, **Hydrilla**. It is not yet here but it spreads like milfoil through just fragments. It grows in low light and forms dense stands mimicking Canada Waterweed. aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu is the web site to view these weeds. Now the good news. There is additional help via the DNR. Jay Wendland is the Invasive Species Prevention Coordinator with the DNR office in St. Paul. He was given additional funding to hire 6 Invasive Species Specialists. Howard Fullhart has come on board as the specialist for our area and his office is in Fergus Falls. He is ready to help identify problems and we will try to engage him as our 2009 annual meeting speaker.

The workshop encouraged all lake associations to start a **Lake Vegetation Management**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE Article by Bonnie Huettl, Membership Chair

The 2008 membership total is 237 members. Last year was 240. Opps!!

Your membership is valid from May to May so your \$20-dues can be sent anytime or collected at the annual meeting in May.

We welcome the following newest members of our association:

Lori & John Blomberg

Ed Hagel

Wes McCallum

Susan Folien & Keith Mc Coy

Jason & Stacey Peterson

Jim Lane/Jim Tjerland

We will be printing a new directory and want it to be as accurate as possible. The directory will be ready for the annual meeting May 2, 2009.

Please let me know if you have a new neighbor or any corrections!

NEWSLETTER MAILING

At a recent LLA Board of Directors meeting it was decided that the newsletter will be mailed out to members only. This will become effective with next spring's newsletter. As in the past, this newsletter is being sent to all property owners. The spring issue will be sent to paid 2009 members only. If you are not currently an LLA member please consider joining so you can continue to receive this newsletter. In order to make sure all property owners have the opportunity to participate in lake activities the notice of the annual LLA meetings will be mailed to everyone.



Lobster Lake Association
PO Box 32
Alexandria, MN 56308

2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Dues for 2009 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 2009 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