



# LOBSTER LAKE NEWSLETTER

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

> President: Bonnie Huettl 834-2332

> Vice President: Bruce Strandskov  
886-9450

> Secretary: Bonnie Huettl 834-3287

> Treasurer: Bev Paulin 834-2332

> Past President: John Stone 834-  
2972

### > DIRECTORS

> Tall Timbers: Jerry Ellis 320-834-  
6084

> Fosiliens Bay, Norlana Lane & Eter-  
nity Point: Needs Volunteer 000-  
000-0000

> Happys Landing: John Herkenhoff  
763-972-2234

> 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: Kevin Weisel 320-  
762-5114

> **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 Jim Bar-  
rett 320-834-3441

### > COMMITTEE CHAIRS

> Milfoil: Hardy Huettl

> DCLA Representative: Bonnie Huettl

> Membership: Bonnie Huettl

> Water Quality: Pete Onstad

> News Letter: Jerry Ellis

> Lakescaping & Raingardens: John  
Stone

>

*Merry Christmas & Seasons Greetings*

**December 2009**

## THANK YOU TO JOHN

It is with a sad heart that the LLA Board of Directors accepted John Stone's resignation at our December meeting. He has served nine years as our president and was instrumental in leading the association to prepare a **Lake Management Plan**. With this plan in place, we have been eligible for various grant monies. John urged us to participate in a Water Monitoring Seminar which brought us the dollars to purchase our own flow and dissolved oxygen meter for our monitoring team to use. Many of our LMP goals have been completed to protect our lake, i.e., signage at the accesses, water quality (milfoil monitoring), loon nests, fish stocking, fish measuring tubes, lakeshore mapping and lake restoration projects. Since his first year John has been dedicated to our lake and has been a fabulous leader. His shoes are large to fill; thankfully he will still be around as our Past President. Bonnie Huettl will act as interim President until an election can be held at our annual meeting the first Saturday in May.

**FOR ALL HIS HARD WORK AND DEDICATION  
...WE THANK HIM!!!!**

## *An Opportunity To Volunteer*

Have you ever wondered who lives in what house around the lake? Well I have the answer. Become the new LLA Membership Chair and you too can know the latest information. The position is key to the Association. The most time commitment is after the annual meeting, processing collected dues, then maybe 1 hour a week for 5-6 weeks. The program is all set up on the computer just fill in the blanks. It even comes with a private tutor if you wish .....the former chair. The pay is great too...appreciation. For more details on this great opportunity call Bonnie at 320-834-3287.

## **LLA SECRETARY NEEDED**

The secretary position is open due to Bonnie being "promoted" to President. This position requires minutes to be taken at 2-4 Directors meetings throughout the year and at the Annual meeting in May. The letters to new residents and new members are other duties periodically. Find out what really goes on at these meetings and give back to the Association with your time. **Call anyone on the Board or Bonnie 834-3287**

## **ZEBRA MUSSELS**

The newest Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) has been found in our county. This summer this nasty invader was found on the chain of lakes. What we know about them is that once they are in the lake you can NEVER remove them. SO the biggest and most important thing we as lake shore owners can do is to educate everyone we know about this threat. You can find specific information on the web site [www.dclamn.org](http://www.dclamn.org). In spite of what you may hear over 'cocktail talk' they do threaten our fisheries and will eventually have impacts on our lakes as well. The message is clear...WASH & DRY!! Dry boat including live wells and motor, after being in infested waters. You cannot see the veligers (zebra muscle larva) that are in the water and if you find a mussel...well that is too late. I have posted on our web site a very good video regarding them that was on channel 9 this summer.  
Bonnie Huettl



## **DCLA UPDATE**

The DCLA has been busy getting the new web site up and running. The new address is [www.dclamn.org](http://www.dclamn.org). The other hot issue is zebra mussels as you may have heard. The difficult task of getting a consensus on a position paper has been daunting. I have inherited the job of writing drafts and am now on no.5. At the Dec meeting we will work on it again and also plan our events for 2010. The grants available to us because of our involvement with DCLA are worthy and we can take advantage of what other lakes are doing to help their lakes. You are all welcome at the meetings; however Lobster Lake gets only one vote on an issue. We meet the 2nd Wed of the month at the Public Works building 4:30 p.m. most meeting last 1 hour.

**Bonnie Huettl your DCLA Representative**

## **LAKE BENIGN IN 2009**

After conclusion of this past summer's Eurasian Watermilfoil inspection activities by the Invasive Species Watch Committee, we are very pleased to announce that once again our lake was found have no EWM present. Inspections were performed between July 6th and October 2nd. Those areas checked earlier, such as in early July, were rechecked between late August & early October. Thus some areas underwent two (2) inspections. A BIG THANK YOU goes out to the inspectors on my team who donated their time, watercraft and fuel to the cause. The inspectors this summer were: Leroy Foslien, Harriett & Jerry Freding, Pat Hanson, John Herkenhoff, Ron Hofstedt, Mike McShane, Merrill Pedersen, Debbie & Greg Pouliot, Don Swanson, Wally Thielmann and Arnie Vick. It is planned that the committee's efforts will be revived next summer. It is hoped those assisting with the inspections this year will sign on again for 2010. I'll be making calls soliciting assistance during April.

HARDY HUETTTL, Chairman  
Invasive Species Watch Committee

## **NEW AREA LAKE DIRECTORS**

LLA welcomes John Herkenhoff as new area director for Happys Landing. John & his wife Tracy have 3 boys, Joe, Chris & Jeremy. They enjoy hunting, fishing & time at the lake. John replaces Harold Howard previous director. LLA also welcomes Kevin Weisel as the new area director for Paulins Paradise, Augdahls & Cherry Point. Kevin is a life long resident of Douglas County and the owner/operator of Weisel Well Co. for 35 years until selling the business in October of 2009. Kevin & his wife Pauline, have 3 grown children and 1 grandchild. He enjoys hunting, fishing, doing landscaping projects, and spending time with their granddaughter and friends. He grew up winter fishing on Lobster and has had a special interest in the lake ever since. They have lake property in the Mosquito Lane area and are looking forward to building their retirement home there and being active in the area and the LLA.

## WATER QUALITY MONITORING YEAR END 2009

I am happy to report that repeated requests for volunteers to help in monitoring have resulted in a new member of our Water Quality Team. **Gene Van Nevel** has answered the call and will be monitoring dissolved oxygen and temperature vs. depth. **Thanks Gene.**

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

Taking Secchi disk readings weekly at four sites on the lake from June to mid September. **Hardy Huettl** takes readings in the **West Bay** and **Pat Hanson** takes readings in the **East Bay**.

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>. There are also links to MPCA, DNR etc.

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.

All of the water quality data mentioned above is available for everyone to view on our web site: <http://www.lobsterlake.org/>. We now have **23 years of data on Lobster** and you can see it on our web site. The titles of the graphs have been modified to make it easier for everyone to understand where we do our monitoring. We now have a map of Lobster Lake on the web site showing our monitoring locations.

We continue to recruit volunteers for our Water Quality Committee to help with lake monitoring. **LET US HEAR FROM YOU.**

Protecting our lake requires an ongoing commitment by the homeowners on Lobster. Making our properties on the lake look like city homes in downtown Alexandria or Fargo will have a deteriorating effect on the health of our lake. There is a fairly direct relationship between development intensity (both lake wide and on each individual property) to the phosphorus export levels to the lake. Returning areas to shrubs and trees instead of lawn, installing vegetated shoreline buffers, maintaining septic systems, reducing lawn fertilization, etc can all help to reduce impacts to the lake. Another issue is the placement of yard wastes (leaves, grass clippings, garden refuse, brush, etc.) into the lake or wetlands near the lake. This practice is very detrimental to lake water quality over time.

**REMEMBER -- WE MUST ALL BE STEWARDS OF OUR LAKE.**

Pete Onstad

### OPENING WEEKEND LUNKER MUSKIE CAUGHT

Opening weekend for Muskies this year produced the pictured monster for the son of Vernon Sheryl Eystad of Fosliens North Bay. The fish was caught in Fosliens North bay by Tony Eystad of Cottage Grove. The fish weighed 45# and was 50 inches long.

It was caught on a lindy rig in 10 feet of water. In the photo with Tony is 5 year old Christian Kadolph of Baxter MN. Photo was provided by Sheryl Eystad



## 2009 Summary Report of Watercraft Inspection Results at Lobster Lake

Author: Heidi Wolf  
Watercraft Inspection Coordinator  
Invasive Species Unit, Ecological Resources, MN DNR  
11-19-09

### **Introduction:**

The watercraft inspection program's goal is to reduce the spread of invasive species into and around the state. To accomplish this we complete at least 10,000 hours of watercraft inspections each year, work with citizen groups and educate the public at events such as the state fair.

The Lobster Lake Association cooperatively hired with the MN DNR in the 2009 watercraft inspection season for forty hours of additional inspection time at their lake. Twelve watercraft inspectors were hired in the west central area and some of them were assigned to work at Lobster Lake to accomplish the forty hours. The inspection process consists of a six-question survey that ensures that boaters are aware of the issues surrounding invasive species and incorporates the inspector walking the boater around the watercraft to show them where they should be looking for invasive species. Survey questions focus on boater knowledge and behavior with information given on the impacts of invasive species and what can be done to prevent their spread.

The data in this report will be based on all hours and inspections done at Lobster Lake in the 2009 season.

### **Inspection Results**

Watercraft Inspectors worked 67.75 hours (57.5 hours of access time and 10.25 hours of drive time) at the Lobster Lake access. During this time 51 inspections were completed (table 1).

**Table 1. Lobster Lake summary of inspections in 2009.**

Access Name	Number of Boaters/ Inspections	Enter/Exit/ Unknown	Hours	Insp. per Hour
Lobster Lake	51	31/20/0	57.5	0.88

Out of the 51 watercraft inspected at Lobster Lake four were found to have attached vegetation. One watercraft was inspected prior to entering the water and three were inspected after exiting the water. The watercraft that came to the access with attached vegetation was inspected prior to entering the water and the owner was asked to remove any vegetation prior to putting their watercraft into Lobster Lake. No other plants or animals were found on any watercraft. The following information has been provided as a summary of the inspections done at Lobster Lake in the 2009 season. Information we gather helps us understand risks involved, for example boaters coming from waters infested with zebra mussels are more likely to transport zebra mussels than those coming from non infested waterbodies.

The surveys done during the inspection process found that 2 boaters out of 51 inspections (or 3.9%), completed had come to Lobster Lake from a waterbody in Minnesota known to be infested with zebra mussels (table 2).

**Table 2. Watercraft entering or exiting Lobster Lake that last used zebra mussel infested waters.**

Last Water-body	Enter/Exit	Number of Watercraft
Le Homme Dieu	Enter	1
St. Croix	Enter	1

The surveys found that none of the boaters who were inspected either entering or exiting Lobster Lake had come from another state. These boats would have represented another high-risk group.

We use a decal with the current year on it to track if a boater has been inspected in the current year. Boaters who have been inspected in the current year are more likely to be educated about invasive species and how to prevent their spread. Below is the number of inspections broken down by whether they had a current year decal and would be a repeat, had a previous year's decal and had talked to us in past years, or had never spoken to us before (table 4.)

**Table 4. Decal summary at Lobster Lake for 2009**

Year	Inspections	Incoming	Outgoing	Current Yr decal	Prev. Yr decal	no decal
2009	51	31	20	7	6	38

We have data for 51 boaters who were asked if they are familiar with invasive species, 1 (or 1.9%) of them were not familiar with invasive species. When asked if they were familiar with Eurasian watermilfoil 1 out of 51 (or 1.9%) said they were not familiar. We also asked boaters if they were familiar with zebra mussels and the problems they cause and 1 out of 51 (or 1.9%) of boaters said they were not familiar with zebra mussels. These numbers illustrate that boaters using Lobster Lake have a high level of awareness about invasive species and how to avoid transporting them.

**Discussion:**

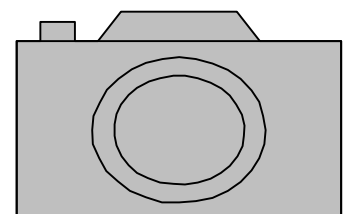
This was the first year that the watercraft inspection program had a spent time on Lobster Lake. Our goal during the 2009 season was to accomplish at least forty hours of inspection time at Lobster Lake; we completed 67.75 hours.

Out of the 51 inspections done at Lobster Lake 38 (or 74.5%) had not been inspected prior to 2009 and were an important audience for us to contact.

**\*\*2010 ANNUAL MEETING PHOTO CONTEST\*\***

(This was suggested by a person at 2009 annual meeting)

1. Pictures must be Lobster Lake related and taken during 2009 and later
2. Categories
  - A. scenery
  - B. animals, birds, fish, etc
  - C. people
3. No pictures larger than 8x10
4. No more than two photos in each category per family
6. Pictures will be returned
7. All pictures must be given to a director or at annual meeting ½ hour prior to meeting
8. The judges will be everyone that attends annual meeting. Each person in attendance will have one vote per category.
9. Winning prize in each category will draw for one of three prizes.
10. Any questions regarding Photo Contest, contact John Stone, Contest Chairman, 834- 2972



**FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Bonnie Huettl**

The 2009 membership in the Lobster Lake association is 230. This is down 6 from last year. Thanks to you who are so faithfully supporting our endeavors. Things we do with your money are important to the health and future good times on the lake. They may seem small but are necessary. Welcome to the following new members:

David Roxberg	Wildridge
Steve & Jolene Kolger-	Rowland's Cove
Roland & Clarajayne Walsh	South Side
James & Kathleen McIver	Eternity Point
Robert Bright	Happy's Landing
Christine Nass	Wildridge
Eric & Kelley Johnson	Wildridge
Carol Galchutt	Happy's
Peggy & Gerald Benson	Krafthefer's
Mike & Liz Beaumia	Paulins
Leslie & Scott Whitley	Beauty Point
Dave Schultz	Happy's
Kirk Ramin	South Side
Scott & Denise Elanson	Rockwoodshores

**ADDITIONS FOR YOUR PHONE DIRECTORYS:**

Kirk Ramin P.O. Box 215 Northfield MN 55057---2600 State Hwy 114  
 Steve & Jolene Kolger- 8520 Lobster Dr SW-Alexandria 56308 - 320-834-2244  
 Scott & Denise Erlanson—9168 163rd St W, Lakeville, MN 55044 / 2020 State Hwy 114- Alexandria- 612-310-4169  
 Christine Nass-12782 43<sup>rd</sup> St NE, St Michael, MN 55376—Wildridge -612-618-1387  
 Carol Galchutt 9101 Knox Ave S, Bloomington, MN – Happy's – no phone info  
 Remember if you know of someone new in your area just send me an e mail and I will welcome them, [secretary@lobsterlake.org](mailto:secretary@lobsterlake.org).

**Fall Electrofishing for Walleyes**

Article from Glenwood Area Fisheries Newsletter Fall/Winter 2009

Each year, the DNR conducts electrofishing surveys in the fall to estimate the abundance of young-of-year (YOY) walleyes. Several years ago, it was determined that the abundance of young-of-year walleyes (fish that hatched earlier that spring), was a fairly reliable indicator of what the future abundance of walleyes would be 2-3 years later when those fish would be of more interest to anglers. The DNR's Large Lake Program first used fall electrofishing as a future year-class strength predicting tool back in 1986. While the values are more lake-specific than gillnets and trapnets, the thinking was that if it worked on some of Minnesota's largest natural walleye lakes, perhaps it would be useful on the State's many more smaller walleye fisheries. It may come as a surprise to some people, but the vast majority of the State's excellent walleye fishing comes from natural reproduction, not artificial stocking. When estimating fish abundance using various gear types such as nets or electrofishing, the DNR uses a measurement called *relative abundance*, that is, number of fish *PER* hour, or fish *PER* net. It can be referenced as "catch-per-unit-of-effort" (CPE). For example, if 15 fish were collected in 20 minutes of electrofishing, the CPE or relative abundance would be 45 fish per hour. Over time, this method enables biologists to detect abundance trends in fish populations. Below is a quick summary of what's been sampled (YOY walleyes/hour) on some of the Area's more popular walleye lakes:

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Andrew	9	23	12	89	6
Big Chippewa	24	110	68	67	7
Big Pelican (Ashby)	45	17	33	0	157
Ida	11	28	24	53	17
Mary	21	98	44	158	5
Miltona	125	18	4	84	17
Minnewaska	7	4	6	27	8
Reno	53	28	0	3	97



## ANNUAL MEETING---2010

The Lobster Lake Association annual meeting will be held on May 1, 2010. All lake residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The tentative agenda includes:

- photo contest, refer to related article in this newsletter
- updates on walleye stocking, water testing and zebra mussels
- Mike Sheldon from the DNR (tentative)
- update on Lake Management Plan

At our annual meeting in 2004, we hosted a planning/visioning session to find out what were the citizens concerns. This resulted in the development of our current Lake Management Plan. Many of the goals and objectives have been obtained. It is time to have another planning session to establish goals and objectives for the next five years. In order to do this we will have another visioning session at our annual meeting. After the meeting, the ideas and suggestions will be developed into our new plan. As we go through the winter months, think of ideas that should be included in this process. If you will be unable to attend the meeting, pass your information on to a board member



## NEW LOBSTER LAKE PRESIDENT

Bonnie Huettl is the new Lobster Lake President. She was appointed to this position by the board of directors at a recent board meeting. Bonnie and her husband Hardy have been residents of Lobster Lake since 1997. She has been the association secretary since 2004 along with serving as membership chairperson. Besides being involved with Lobster Lake, Bonnie has been very active in the Douglas County Lakes Association. With DCLA she has served as Vice President, Regional Planning Representative, Zoning Co-Chair, and Strategic Planning Chair.

Bonnie's appointment as President follows the resignation by John Stone. After almost nine years as President, John felt it was time for some changes. He will remain on the board as past president. John is one of the charter members of LLA when it was formed in 1985. He and his wife Janet are one of about three residents that have been members every year since the organization was formed.

Other board changes include Pete Onstad, chair of water quality, Hardy Huettl, chair of AIS committee, John Herkenhoffin new area director for Happys landing, Kevin Wiesel, new director for Paulin'Paradise, Augdahl's Subdivision and Cherry Point. Kevin replaces Jim Barrett who will now be a director at large.

## Walleye stocking

For a number of years the DNR has been stocking walleye fingerlings every other year. On the off years, the LLA has been doing the stocking. In 2008 the stocking was done by LLA with \$4,000 from donations and dues and a matching \$2,000 from Viking Sportsman. This year (2009) it was DNRs turn which they did on about Oct. 16. The DNR stocked 1334 lbs of fingerlings. This works out to 23,188 fish. Since the Viking Sportsman were again offering matching funds it was agreed that LLA would also stock this year with about \$1,000 coming from special donations, \$1,000 from dues and \$2,000 from Viking Sportsman. Stocking date is tentatively set for the morning of Dec. 19th 2009. We will have more information on Web site and spring newsletter.

Special thanks to everyone that gave extra dollars to the LLA Walleye fund. We could not do this without your help. To those that catch the walleye, think about donating funds in the future.



Walleye stocking in Winter of 2008, watching are Hardy Huettl & Bruce Strandskov



Lobster Lake Association  
PO Box 32  
Alexandria, MN 56308

## **2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE**

**Dues for 2010 are due at the time of the annual meeting which will be held the first Saturday in May.** Your Dues will be used to continue our ongoing lake projects & matching funds for Walleye stocking. LLA has completed many projects in the past few years. If you have projects, suggestions or ideas on how we can improve or protect Lobster Lake, bring them to the annual meeting in May. We will continue to monitor for milfoil & other exotic weeds with our current volunteers but additional volunteers are always welcome. Thank you for your continued support.

**Enclosed is \$20.00 for my 2010 Membership Payment**

**Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Walleye fund.**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

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