

LOBSTER LAKE NEWS

Winter 2006

Officers & Directors

President: John Stone 320-834-2972

Vice President: Bruce Strandsko
320-886-9450

Secretary: Bonnie Huettl 320-834-3287

Treasurer: Bev Paulin 320-834-2332

Tall Timbers: Jerry Ellis 320-834-6084

Foslien's Bay, Norlana Lane

& Eternity Point: Leo Spychalla
320-834-3282

Happy's Landing: Harold Howard
507-872-6649

Krafthofer's, Beauty Point

& South Side: Bruce Strandsko
320-886-9450

Wildridge, Rueben's Landing

& West End: Leroy Foslien
320-524-2642

Rowland's Cove, Wrolson's

Estate, Rockwood Shores &

Hunter's Bay: Elizabeth Berens
320-834-2142

Paulin's Paradise, Augdahl's

& Cherry Point: Jim Barrett
320-834-3441

DCLA Representative:

John Stone 320-834-2972

Lake Captain:

Harvey Strom, 320-834-2893

Committee Chairs:

Membership: Harriett Freding

Water Quality: Pete Onstad

Member at Large/Aquascaping:

Tom Fisher

Newsletter: Bev Paulin

Members at Large:

Merrill Pederson 320-834-3188

Myron Lofquist 320-834-3217

WEBSITE <http://www.lobsterlake.org>

Our new website is now up and running thanks to **Rob Graber** with assistance from **Bonnie Huettl**. The aerial picture on the Home page was taken by Rob. More information will be added in the future and updated on a regular basis. The Board of Directors have reviewed as to how the web site should be used. Sometime in the near future, plans are to eliminate the mailing of the newsletter unless requested. The only mailing to all property owners will be the notice of the annual meeting. Your questions and comments are appreciated. Please direct them to **Rob Graber or Bonnie Huettl**.



WATER MONITORING PLAN

Each year The Minnesota Lakes Association and Rivers Council of Minnesota select approximately six lakes to participate in the Citizen Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Plan Training. **Lobster Lake Association submitted an application and was selected.** Training will be September 22 and 23, 2006. Research shows that many citizen monitoring programs collect data-but stumble when it comes to using data. This program helps the association focus on goals and create a plan that makes a monitoring program more efficient and effective. A stipend is available to us if the monitoring plan is implemented. The funds can be used for training, equipment, lab analysis, etc. For more information, contact **John Stone** or **Pete Onstad**.

2005 WALLEYE STOCKING

by Bruce Strandsko

Stocking was done again in 2005 by the DNR. A total of 1300 pounds of walleye fingerlings or 2600 walleyes were stocked in Lobster Lake last fall. **Bruce Strandsko** and **Brad Meichsner** will be meeting in February 2006 with Dean Beck of the DNR to discuss further stocking in 2006 and the possibility of other programs for our lake.



LOBSTER LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2004 The Lobster Lake Association participated in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers partnership sponsored by the Central Minnesota Initiative Foundation. A visioning and planning workshop was held. Information from this meeting was used to develop realistic goals and action plans for the lake plan. The entire plan was discussed at our annual meeting last May. **LLA received a \$5,000.00 grant to be used to carry out the objectives in the plan.** Last summer we had a very good sign-up of volunteers to work on the various projects, but we need a lot more.

On the following page you will find a list of those volunteers we have on record. Please review the list. If your name is not listed and you are interested in a project or need more information, contact President Stone. Detailed information is available for all projects. No experience is needed as training will be provided. Please note that chair people are needed for some areas.

Very seldom does it occur that an organization has excess money but the LLA does. All we need is projects and people to work on them. If projects are not completed, the funds will need to be returned.

WILDRIDGE

The area formerly known as Wildridge Resort and Campground has been developed as a common interest development known as Wildridge Association. We welcome 19 new residents as members of Lobster Lake Association. Wildridge will now be a separate area of the lake and eventually will have their own director. In the past they have been part of the west end group. If any questions, contact **John Stutz** at 320-274-6579

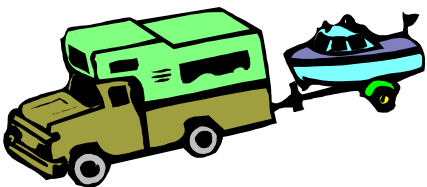


DOUGLAS COUNTY LAKES ASSOCIATION (DCLA)

DCLA is an organization of lake associations in Douglas County and meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Your representative is John Stone. Last July the organization sponsored a very successful DAY OF THE LAKES. Many local and governmental organizations had displays to provide information and answer questions concerning lake issues. Another Day of the Lakes is planned for April 2006. Watch the newspaper for more information or contact your president. The organization also spends a considerable amount of time addressing planning and zoning issues as well as sponsoring a number of educational programs.



MILFOIL UPDATE



June, 2004, a small piece of Eurasian Milfoil was found near the public access. This past summer our milfoil volunteers searched most of the shoreline along with checks from the DNR. No new plants were found. This coming summer more volunteers will be given instructions and equipment to do additional searches. The goal is to cover all 13 miles of shoreline at least twice a year in May and September.

Meetings to Note

ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar as our annual meeting will be held on **Saturday May 6, 2006**. Any suggestions for the agenda, please contact John Stone. This is your meeting and the Board wants the meeting to be informative and beneficial for you.

TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

Each year every township has an annual meeting to provide the opportunity for residents to discuss items of concerns along with reviewing the finances for the past year and establishing a budget for the next fiscal year. This year the meetings will be held on **March 14 at 8:00 p.m.** Everyone is encouraged to attend.

AREA MEETINGS

The Lobster Lake Association is organized to have an annual meeting the first Saturday in May with each area to have an area meeting sometime during the summer months. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss concerns of your area, a report from your director on lake activities and a time for socializing. This past summer Jim Barrett and Jerry Ellis hosted very successful meetings for there areas. If you have questions about your area meeting, contact your area director or lake association President John Stone.



Land & Resource Updates

by Bonnie Huettl

As an effort to better understand the County and the decisions they make regarding lake shore issues, Bonnie Huettl has been and will continue to attend the weekly Commissioners meetings and the Planning Commission meetings. It is important to keep abreast of the changes happening in the County and the pressures placed upon our beloved lakes as development occurs. This does NOT mean no development but rather responsible development. Currently underway are changes being made to the Minor Subdivision rules affecting riparian lots. Any lot touching any water MUST come before the Planning Commission for review. Currently there are ways around it and that must change. The Development Review Team (DRT) meets to review new plats but minor subdivisions are exempt. This is where the public (i.e. associations) has input.

At this time Bonnie is writing a Surface Water Restriction Ordinance for Eiesland Slough.(see related article) The 20 acres of land on Beauty Pt Rd is being developed into a 4 lot subdivision. They are all riparian lots. This water flows directly into Lobster Lake and according to Dean Beck at the DNR motor propellers will substantially degrade the water quality by redistributing sediment in this shallow water. Any boats will cause a problem.

The County is still searching for a L& R Director so Community Growth Institute is helping out by attending all of the variance and conditional use permits sites, and all new plats presented. They will also continue to review and rewrite ordinances as needed. Ben Oleson from CGI is our contact. Any questions call

Bonnie Huettl 834-3287

NEWS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT by John Stone

This newsletter contains many short articles which I believe you will find informative. As you read these articles, you will come to the conclusion that your association is busy, but we can do more. We just need more projects and volunteers, we have the money. Please pay particular attention to the articles on the **Website and Lake Management Plan**.



Remember this is your association and the goal of the association is to preserve and protect our great natural resource, Lobster Lake. As always, if you have questions or comments, let me know.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

by Pete Onstad

We had a lot of water quality monitoring activities going on this past summer, and fortunately many new volunteers to participate. 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 three years was again taking readings in the **West Bay** and **Mike and Melody O'Leary** were taking readings in the **East Bay**.
- Collecting water samples for chlorophyll-A and phosphorus at one location and take 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. You can see the results by visiting the lab's web site: <http://www.rmbel.info>
- Collecting water samples and taking Secchi disk readings in both the East and West bays. Partially processing the samples in **Richard Knutson's** white glove clean room (his shop) and delivered to Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District. We did this six times last summer; the samples and data got delivered directly to MPCA. We also measured water temperature vs. depth at the two locations. Richard Knutson's pontoon boat provided the transportation. **Ron Hofstedt**, **Pete Onstad** and Hardy Huettl along with Richard usually made the trip.

This summer we may also be monitoring the stream inlets and outlets to/from our lake. **We are always looking for volunteers to help with our monitoring activities.**

Within a few months we hope to have a lot of the water quality data available for everyone to see on our new web site www.lobsterlake.org

CENTRAL LAKES REGION SANITARY DISTRICT (CLRSD)

On July 31st a public hearing was held to explain the details of the sewer project with more than 300 people in attendance. Following the public meeting all six townships in the CLRSD sewer district (Moe, LaGrande, Miltona, Leaf Valley, Carlos and Brandon) needed to review the effect of the sewer district on their respective township based on the information presented at the public hearing.

The Boards of all six townships approved the project proposal. Carlos, Leaf Valley, Miltona and approved the project with no changes. Brandon Township approved the project as proposed for the property owners on Chippewa Lake, but excluded Whiskey and Devils Lakes and the connecting areas which were part of the original proposal. Moe Township added the back lots to the sewer district. The project engineers are assessing what impact the changes will have on the cost of the project. At the CLRSD monthly meeting on December 1, the Board voted to proceed with the project.

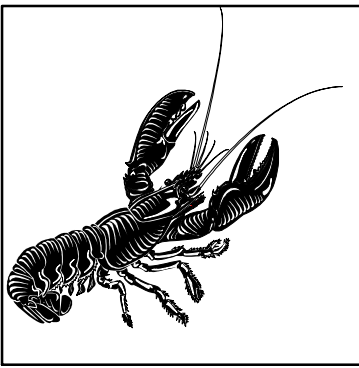
Quoting from an article in the December 14, 2005 edition of the *Echo Press*: "Construction on the project could begin in 2007- the 'best-case scenario,' Haggenmiller said – and be completed in 2010. Connections to the system could begin as early as 2008." (Jerry Haggenmiller is the chairperson of CLRSD.)

The new system will be funded using a three pronged approach: special assessments, user fees and property tax increases. The CLRSD has signed a letter of intent to connect with the Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary District (ALASD). A formal request is expected to be made late winter or early spring. At the present time the Board is reviewing project costs, meeting with other potential participants and looking at various means of obtaining grants, low interest loans etc. The board encourages all potential users to contact members of the State and Federal governments to encourage them to help provide funding for the project. In addition, the Board is working with Land and Resource Management to determine what can be done to assist property owners that are planning to build before hookup or those that may need a septic system updated. Anyone with questions should contact Land and Resource Management for details. Any questions regarding CLRSD should be directed to your township representatives: Moe Township Board Clerk, Wayne Becker—320-834-2693 or LaGrande Township Director, Gerald Thoennes-320-763-4811.

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

By Bev Paulin, Treasurer

For 2005 we set another record for the Lobster Lake Association with a total membership of 227. Your dues facilitate LLA involvement in numerous projects and activities. If you want more details, please contact any LLA director. Dues may be paid to any LLA director or use the form included with this newsletter and mail as soon as possible. Dues for membership remain at \$20.00 per year. Thank you for your continued participation. A new directory and fish measuring tube will be given to each paid member.



**Lobster Lake Association
P.O.Box 32
Alexandria, MN 56308**

2005 Dues Are DUE

Dues for 2006 are not due until the Annual Meeting which is scheduled the first Saturday in May. If you have not paid your dues for 2005, please submit your payment today. Dues have remained at the same fee of \$20.00 for many years. If you have any 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 and thanks you for your continued support.

Enclosed is my payment for 2005 dues.

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

send to: Lobster Lake Association, P.O. Box 32, Alexandria, MN 56308

Great effort has been put forth by local lake associations, water coalition groups and our own Douglas County “Protect Water Now” program to protect our beloved lakes, rivers and streams. It is prudent at this time for Douglas County Commissioners to enact a **Surface Water Use Ordinance No Motors** on *Eiesland Slough*.

Eiesland Slough is located entirely within the boundaries of Douglas County specifically S ½ of Section 26, Tract 128N, Range 39W of Moe Township. The Department of Natural Resources has classified this body of water as an NES Lake. This classification sets forth the greatest restriction on a lake. The definition of a NES Lake is; usually less than 150 acres total, less than 60 acres per mile of shoreline, and less than three dwellings per mile of shoreline. Such lakes may have some winter kill of fish; may have shallow, swampy shoreline and are less than 15 feet deep.” All of these are true regarding *Eiesland Slough*. It is 47-66 acres in size depending on yearly precipitation. The level of the water remains stable despite the temporary variations. The depth varies from 4 feet to 7 feet with 40% of it being 5 feet or less. There are two culverts for water flow one located at the inlet from Round Lake (id 21-197) also a NES Lake, and the other at the west side outlet to Lobster Lake (id 21-144 RDS lake). Due to the shallow nature of the lake, the entire bottom is muck and decayed organic matter. There is some sandy shore at the cattle crossing between Round and *Eiesland*. Care needs to be taken with this water as the degradation of this water affects Lobster Lake as it flows directly into it. The bay it flows into is already compromised with shallow, mucky bottom and algae blooms abundant in the summer. Any additional degraded water will greatly affect Lobster and deter the Lobster Lake Association’s, Lake Management Plan for maintaining clean water. The association has voluntarily initiated water quality testing to be monitored by the EPA to define how cleaner water can be accomplished. There is a need for a **No Motor** restriction on *Eiesland*. According to Dean Beck of the DNR “propeller wash of outboard motors has significant potential to physically degrade the water quality by re-suspending the accumulated sediment causing algae blooms. In my opinion, operation of motorized watercraft on *Eiesland Slough* can be reasonably projected to have undesirable environmental impacts regardless of boat speed or motor size”. This along with the current proposed development on 20 acres of the east shore makes this ordinance a timely decision to protect this virgin water.

On December 20, 2005, a preliminary plat was approved by DC Planning Commission for the 20 acres of the east most parcel number 45-0443-320 to be developed. “*Eiesland View*” will consist of 4 riparian lots. When developed, there will be a greater need to protect this sensitive water body by restricting motor use on this lake. It is important to pass this ordinance in a timely manner to ensure potential buyers of “*Eiesland View*”, prior to entering into an agreement to purchase, that there are restrictions in place.

The benefit of this ordinance will be to maintain *Eiesland Slough* in its natural, pristine, wildlife welcoming state today and for the future. Not all bodies of water can accommodate motorized watercraft and this is one of them.