



# LOBSTER LAKE NEWSLETTER

June 2009

## 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**
- > Milfoil: Hardy Huettl
- > DCLA Representative: Bonnie Huettl
- > Membership: Bonnie Huettl
- > Water Quality: Pete Onstad
- > News Letter: Jerry Ellis
- > Lakescaping & Raingardens: John Stone

## LLA ANNUAL MEETING

The annual LLA meeting was held on May 3, 2009 at the La-Grande Township Hall. There were approximately 75 people in attendance. Leslie George from the DNR gave a very entertaining & informative talk on lakeshore vegetation and what can & cannot be removed with or without a permit. Any questions about vegetation she can be reached at 320-634-4573. She can also be reached at e-mail [leslie.george@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:leslie.george@dnr.state.mn.us). She covers many counties so may be hard to reach. John Stone was elected President, Bruce Strandskov, elected vice president, Bonnie Huettl elected secretary & Bev Paulin elected treasurer. Reports on Lake committee projects & studies were given by Pete Onstad, Jim Barrett, Hardy Huettl, Arnie Vick, Harvey Strom, John Stone and others. Next years meeting will be the 1st Saturday in May 2010. Please try to attend

## LLA MEMBERSHIP

LLA membership is a great deal for only \$20.00 per year. Members receive a 2009 lake directory, LLA Newsletters twice a year, e-mail updates on lake concerns & contribute towards keeping Lobster Lake healthy for many generations. A website [www.lobsterlake.org](http://www.lobsterlake.org) is also maintained by Rob Graber & Bonnie Huettl.

New Association members as of 6/2/2009 include:

### NAMES

David Roxberg  
Roland & Clarajayne Walsh-  
Robert Bright  
Eric & Kelly Johnson  
Peggy & Gerald Benson  
Leslie & Scott Whitley  
Steve & Joleen Kogler

### AREA

Wildridge  
South Side  
Happy's Landing  
Wildridge  
Twin Point Rd  
Beauty Point  
Rowland's Cove

Don't forget dues are still only \$20 and run from May to May .

## WATER QUALITY MONITORING 2009

Those of you who attended the annual meeting this year heard me say we are always looking for volunteers for our water quality team. **Specifically, I am looking for a volunteer to do the dissolved oxygen measurements.** You will also have an opportunity to use your computer skills if you want to. 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** takes readings in the **West Bay** and **Pat Hanson** takes readings in the **East Bay**.

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>. 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. Let us hear from you.**

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 **22 years of data on Lobster** and you can see it on the web site. 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 this summer so we can resume sampling.

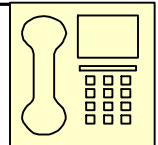
We continue to recruit volunteers for our Water Quality Committee to help with lake monitoring. **LET US HEAR FROM YOU.**

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.

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

### **NEW LAKE PHONE DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE**

The 2009 Lobster lake directory is available from your area director to all paid up association members. It replaces the one printed in 2005 & has a red cover with current resident information, as well as contact numbers for township, local & county officials. Our thanks go out to Bonnie Huettl who took on this project. Please let Bonnie or an area director know of any new changes in your neighborhood so changes can be made in the next issue. Please visit our web site @ [www.lobsterlake.org](http://www.lobsterlake.org) for updates on additional projects to help maintain our beautiful lake. Thanks for your help.



## **CORMORANT FISHING??**

Cormorants are plentiful on Lobster Lake during the year & consume many fish. This article was found on the internet. Humans have historically exploited cormorants' fishing skills, in [China](#), [Japan](#), and [Macedonia](#), where they have been trained by fishermen. A snare is tied near the base of the bird's throat, which allows the bird only to swallow small fish. When the bird captures and tries to swallow a large fish, the fish is caught in the bird's throat.

When the bird returns to the fisherman's raft, the fisherman helps the bird to remove the fish from its throat. The method is not as common today, since more efficient methods of catching fish have been developed. A better method of fishing is found in the following article.



## **LOBSTER LAKE MONSTER**

*Article by Jerry Ellis*

Last July 4th a family from Fairfax MN was visiting us on lobster Lake. We had been out for a pontoon ride & came back for lunch. After lunch Doug & his son Adam asked if they could use the fishing boat to try trolling for some Northerns. I said sure & off they went. About 30 minutes later my cell phone rings & it was Doug asking if we had a net because he had a big one on. We had left the net on the pontoon so quickly headed out to bring them the net. Getting to the area where they were fishing, I saw the fish roll in the water & knew right away my small net was not going to work. Another boat was fishing Muskies & I asked if Doug could use their net. They said sure & headed over to the boat. After about an hour they landed the fish. Measured & weighed, it was released back to the water. The fish measured 50 inches in length & weighed 27 lbs. It was caught on 8 lb test line & a plastic worm. A family stopped to see the fish & a little girl asked Doug if was going to keep the fish & he said no he was going to put it back in the lake. The little girl looked at her mother & said very seriously "I'm not going to swim in here anymore" Who can blame her. It was an experience that will last a lifetime.



## **ALGAE AND LAKE SCUMS**

Lakes contain various algae and scums throughout the year, so how do you know which are natural and which can cause harm to humans or to the lake? Today, I'll describe some of the most common substances that lake users will come across.

(Continued on Page 6)

## MINNESOTA FISH, GOOD FOR YOU IN MODERATION

There's nothing quite like a sunny day on the lake when the fish are biting. When you add in an evening fish fry of the catch of the day, it's a perfect Minnesota summer night.

Fish are an excellent source of low fat protein and the omega-3 fatty acids that we hear so much about these days. The



MN Food & Drug Administration says that omega-3 fatty acids may reduce the risk of coronary heart disease. Omega-3 fatty acids are essential for human health, but are not manufactured by our bodies so we need to get them from food.

Although there are many healthy benefits to eating fish, there are also contaminants found in the fish in Minnesota lakes. Mercury can be harmful to our health, especially the health of children and developing fetuses. It is a neurotoxin that causes learning and developmental disabilities in children.

Most Mercury comes from the air. Mercury gets into the air through emissions from coal-burning plants and taconite processing and moves long distances in the wind currents. From there, it settles into our lakes and streams and bacteria convert it to a toxic form, methylmercury. The problem is that 90% of the mercury in our waters comes from other states and countries, which is why it is so hard to regulate. In turn, 90% of the mercury emitted in Minnesota goes to other states and countries.

The mercury that settles into our lakes and streams gets filtered by zooplankton, the tiny animals that get eaten by small fish. The larger the small fish gets, the more mercury builds up in it's tissue from all the zooplankton eaten. Mercury bioaccumulates, which means that at each step in the food chain the mercury builds to higher levels, especially in large predatory fish such as walleye, northern pike and muskies (bioaccumulation).

The Minnesota Department of Health and the Pollution Control Agency have done studies on the amount of mercury in our lakes and have set safe eating guidelines for our fish. In general, men and non-pregnant women can eat an unlimited amount of sunfish, crappie, perch and bullheads. When eating walleyes, northern pike, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass, it's safe to limit yourself to one meal a week. Pregnant women and children under 15 should limit themselves to 1 meal a week of sunfish crappies, perch and bullheads and one meal a month of walleyes shorter than 20 inches, northern pike shorter than 30 inches, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass. Pregnant women and children should not eat walleyes larger than 20 inches and northern pike longer than 30 inches.

*(Continued page 5)*

## **MINNESOTA FISH,** *(Continued from Page 4)*

Each lake that has been evaluated by the MPCA has its own specific guidelines for fish caught within its waters. To find the guidelines for your lake, you can visit the DNR Lakefinder at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html>. If your lake does not have specific guidelines that may just mean that it has not been individually evaluated. Those lakes should follow the general guidelines listed above. The following lakes in Becker County are on the 2006 Impaired Waters list for high mercury: Straight, Two Inlets, Boot, Bad Medicine, Toad, Many Point, Elbow, Cotton, Strawberry, White Earth, Sallie, Muskrat, Detroit, Little Floyd, Floyd, Big Cormorant, and Ida.

This article is not meant to scare you into not eating Minnesota fish anymore! Just make sure you follow the guidelines created by the MDH and PCA. Also, remember that small fish have generally less mercury than large fish. Large fish, such as walleyes over 20 inches, don't actually taste as good as the small fish anyway. It is better for our health and for the health of our lakes to follow slot limits and practice catch and release.

*Article provided by Moriya Rufer Lakes Monitoring Coordinator RMB Environmental Laboratories*

## **WALLEYE FUND**

Last Fall LLA spent \$6000.00 for Walleye fingerlings. Of this amount \$2000 came from Viking Sportsman Organization & the balance from dues & special donations to the Walleye fund. Bruce Strandskov chairs the stocking committee for Lobster Lake. This Fall (2009) the MN DNR will be stocking again as we alternate years with them. LLA plans on stocking again in 2010. In order to reach our stocking goals we need funds for just this purpose. In some cases, matching funds are available so it's important to have money available when that comes up. Donations can be sent to LLA at Lobster Lake Association, PO Box 32, Alexandria, MN 56308

### **HISTORY OF WALLEYE STOCKING, LOBSTER LAKE**

2008---LLA--- 22,000- 4-6 inch fingerlings weighing 600 lbs  
2007---DNR---2,211 yearlings weighing 1,064.0 lbs  
166 fingerlings weighing 29.0 lbs  
274 adults weighing 329.0 lbs  
2006---LLA--- 10,000-5-6 inch fingerlings weighing 400 lbs  
2005---DNR---20,480 fingerlings weighing 1,334.0 lbs  
2004---DNR--- 1,308,179 fry weighing 12.2 lbs  
2003---LLA--- 670 fingerlings 8-12 inch  
2392 fingerlings 4-5 inch  
2002--- DNR--- 2,085 fingerlings weighing 43.0 lbs  
11,876 yearlings weighing 914.0 lbs  
210 adults weighing 170.3 lbs  
2001---LLA---3,051 fingerlings  
2000---DNR---1,308,000 fry weighing 12.0 lbs  
1999---none  
1998---DNR---1,308,000 fry weighing 11.9 lbs  
1997---none  
1996---DNR---14,505 fingerlings





## ALGAE AND LAKE SCUMS (Continued from page 3)

First of all, have you ever seen a stream, wetland, pond or ditch with a rust-colored substance all over the bottom and sides? Commonly, if you see this substance you may also see an oily film on the surface of the water. Although this looks like pollution, it is actually not. In areas that have iron-rich water, ground water seepage, and low flow, naturally occurring bacteria called Iron Bacteria oxidize iron for energy. The by-product is ferric iron, which becomes iron oxide when it is exposed to air and water. Iron Bacteria are not known to pose any environmental or human health risk.

What causes the foam that forms along the shoreline on a wavy day? Most foam, if it is fishy smelling, is natural and is made up of natural organic compounds. As aquatic organisms decompose (fish and algae), they release these organic compounds, which mix with the air during wave action and form foam along the shoreline. If you see foam that smells perfumed or soapy, it could be from detergent or soap. Bathing in the lake is fun, but it is better for the lake if you avoid it. If you do bathe, make sure you use a product



that is phosphorus-free, breaks down naturally, and doesn't leave a film or foam on the top of the water. This kind of soap can usually be found in camping or outdoor supply stores. Soap film on the surface of the water hurts the aquatic insects (water striders) and spiders that walk on top of the water by breaking the surface tension. The insects and spiders then fall in the water and drown.

What causes algal blooms and why are there different looking algae

throughout the summer? First of all, algae are a natural part of a lake's ecosystem. They are food for many aquatic organisms and they produce oxygen in the water. Algae become a nuisance when they form dense mats and smell as they decompose. The decomposition process also uses up oxygen, which other aquatic organisms such as fish need for survival. Different types of algae grow best in different conditions, and lakes usually go through a cycle of algae blooms throughout the season. In late spring, diatoms are the most plentiful. They are tiny algae and turn the water brownish, but usually don't form smelly mats on the lake surface. Later on in the dog days of summer, blue-green algae (Cyanobacteria) dominate and can become a nuisance. When blue-green algae cause the water to look like blue paint, there can be a chance that toxins are present. These toxins can be harmful to pets and children if ingested, so it is best to avoid swimming in these conditions. Blue-green algae are not always toxic, and so far we are unable to predict when they will occur. For more information on toxic blue-green algae, visit: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp-toxicalgae.html> Phosphorus is food for algae, so usually the more phosphorus is in the lake, the more algae there will be. You can decrease the amount of phosphorus being added to the lake by making sure your septic system is properly maintained, not fertilizing your lawn, and constructing a buffer of native plants along the shoreline to filter and absorb runoff.

## **JULY 4TH BOAT/PONTOON PARADE**

Tall Timbers area has had a boat/pontoon parade for the past 5 plus years. Area residents decorate their watercraft with Red/White/ Blue decorations & meet in the west arm of Lobster Lake across from the public access. The parade route follows the North shoreline East for a couple of miles. Residents that don't decorate sit on their docks & "Score" the boats as they come by. Low scores are rewarded with water balloons tossed at the docks. A vigorous water balloon fight commences at the end of the route. It's a fun day and a chance to spend time with family & friends on the water. People meet at 11:45 & the parade starts at 12:00 PM. All lake residents are welcome.



## **LLA LOON NEST HAS RESIDENT**

One of the Loon nests built by LLA members & maintained by Eric Highum & Kevin Weisel has a family of Loons nesting on it this spring. This is one of the nesting platforms written about in previous newsletters. Lake residents purchase the platforms for \$1 & then place them in quiet lake locations in the spring & remove them in the fall. These platforms float and provide ideal nesting for the Loons through varying lake levels. The efforts of these volunteers helps to insure we'll have Loon musical sounds over the lake for many years. The picture was taken by Jim Barrett using a 12X lens from a far distance so as not to disturb the bird.. If you see the nests please view from a far distance using binoculars.



## **NEW LAKE ACCESS SIGNAGE**

The new signage is complete at the public access area. Volunteers included Hardy Huettl committee chair, Wally Thielmann & Leroy Foslien, The limerick signs were put up on May 8th one week prior to the Walleye opener. Hardy said "Between the 4'x8' & 4'x4' "Stop Milfoil" signs and now the limerick ones, if boaters don't get our message & understand we are serious about keeping the exotics out of Lobster Lake I'm not sure how we can reach 'em. " Many thanks to the volunteers who worked on this project.





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 was held the first Saturday in May.** Your Dues would be very much appreciated to continue our ongoing lake projects & matching funds for Walleye stocking. Look for the new “NO MILFOIL” signs at the public access & teams of lake volunteers searching the lake for milfoil & other exotic weeds hoping to find none. Thank you for your continued support.

**Enclosed is \$20.00 for my 2009 Membership Payment**  
**Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Walleye fund.**

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

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

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

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