



LOBSTER LAKE NEWSLETTER

May 2007

> OFFICERS

- > 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



WALLEYE STOCKING

On Saturday December 9, 2006, Bosek Fisheries put 400 pounds of walleye fingerlings into Lobster Lake. The fingerlings were in the 5-6 inch range which equals about 25 fingerlings to the pound. This calculates to 10,000 fingerlings. They appeared to be of excellent quality. Boseks cut a hole in the ice approximately 4 foot square and the fingerlings were put carefully into the hole. This is the first time that fingerlings have been stocked after the ice is on the lake. Statistics show that the survival rate is much higher at this time of the year & the predator fish activity is much less. These fingerlings were purchased by the Lobster Lake Association from money received from Muskies Inc, special walleye donations & from members dues. In addition to this stocking the DNR stocked a total of 20,400 walleye fingerlings totaling 1,336 pounds in the fall of 2005. These efforts should make some excellent walleye fishing in the near future. In attendance at the December 9th stocking were (left to right), Bruce Strandskov, Jerry Ellis, Myron Loftquist, ,Richard Knutson, Jim Barret & John Stone (not shown).

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

Our website is becoming more popular as there have been over 2000 inquires to date. The site contains information regarding your association including meeting summaries, upcoming events, a number of valuable links, etc. The site is maintained by Bonnie Huettl and Rob Graber. If you have any questions or comments, please let them know.

Land & Resource Updates by Bonnie Huettl

Great News!! The County has hired a new Land and Resource Department Director. David Rush came here from Grafton ND.. He is a great asset to Douglas County. His knowledge of the environment is an asset and he has excellent communication skills. His previous job was the Environmental Project Coordinator for the Red River Regional Council. Welcome to Dave!!

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Last year, Lobster Lake Association was one of six groups in the state invited to participate in a three day Water Quality Monitoring Conference held near Hackensack, MN. As a result of attending this conference, we now have a document entitled "The Lobster Lake Water Quality Monitoring Plan." John Stone, Bonnie Huettl and Pete Onstad jointly worked on the manual and the Lake Association also received a \$1500 grant for doing the project. The grant money will help to defray the costs of water testing and help buy an instrument that will measure dissolved oxygen and temperature vs. depth in the lake.

The projects we have lined up for this summer will be:

- Continue to take Secchi disk measurements on a weekly basis at four locations.
- Collect water samples to test for Phosphorous and Chlorophyll-a monthly from May to September.
- Sample the stream from Mill Lake into Lobster for Phosphorous and total suspended solids. Measure dissolved oxygen and temperature vs. depth in both east and west bays.

We have 20 years of Secchi disk data for the lake in our database. Over that time the water clarity trend in the west bay has improved, the east bay has remained about the same.

We continue to recruit volunteers for our Water Quality Committee to help with lake monitoring. LET US HEAR FROM YOU. For questions or to volunteer Contact Pete Onstad



AREA MEETINGS

The Lobster Lake Association holds an annual meeting the first Saturday in May. Each area has a meeting sometime during the summer months. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss concerns of your area, reports from your director on lake activities and a time for socializing. As of this date, the following meetings have been scheduled:

Tall Timbers Area	June 2, 2007	10:00 AM	Jerry Ellis Residence 11776 Tall Timbers Road SW
Paulin's Paradise, Augdahls, Cherry Point, Rowlands Cove,	June 9, 2007	12:00 noon	Paul Newhouse shed located@ intersection of 90 th ST SW & NE Lobster Dr SW
Krafthofer's, Beauty Point and South Side	Sept. 8, 2007	10:00AM	Bruce Strandskov Residence 9614 Twin Point Lane SW

If you have any questions about an area meeting, contact your area director or lake association President, John Stone

County Update.....by Bonnie Huettl

The discussion continues regarding the Comprehensive Plan and the County Ordinances. State law says the Ordinances must enforce the Comp Plan but ours doesn't because some ordinances were passed after 1998 when the Plan was adopted. The Director will be addressing the Comp Plan and expects to write a new one for 2008.

The development of shallow lakes (lakes that average less than 10' deep regardless of acreage) is a big issue as is the development of poor or fragile shoreline. There are several plats in the Environmental Assessment Worksheet stage in Douglas County now, Two on Lake Mary and one on Brophy. While these are not shallow lakes the proposed developments are on shallow bays on the lake. As the desirable lakeshore is used up the lesser quality shore become more valuable. We will be seeing more pressure in these areas. The value of the Shallow lake is that they act as a filter for the watersheds. If they are not disturbed they handle the runoff properly but once development starts on these shallow lakes the larger bodies of water will be affected. The shallow lakes i.e. (sloughs, ponds) can not handle having the bottom disrupted as there is less water to absorb the sediments. I attended a very good Shallow Lakes Forum in April 4 and you can access the information at www.shallowlakes.info.

LAKE MAPPING by Eric Highum – Chair

The Lake Mapping project is one of the projects that was a result of our visioning session several years ago. The purpose of the project was to take pictures of the entire shoreline of the lake from the water to show what the water and shoreline looked like in 2006. All of the digital photos have been taken and are being put on a CD. The disk will be part of our library to be used in the future as needed. As an example, as funds become more available for lakescaping and a group of people want to apply for funds and need pictures for the project, these pictures will be available. Also, the pictures will serve as a point in time for future shoreline restoration.

NEW TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Bruce Strandkov, Vice president of Lobster Lake Association was elected a Supervisor of Moe Township at the Townships Annual meeting held this past March. The Township meets monthly on the first Monday of the month at 8:00 PM at the township hall. Feel free to contact Bruce regarding any township issues. **CONGRATULATIONS BRUCE**

DIRECTORS

The association is in need of a director for the Foslien's Bay, Norlana Lane and Eternity Point area. If interested contact, John Stone at 834-2972

We want to thank Tom Fisher for his many years of service as a director of the association and for serving as chairman of the Aquascaping committee. Thanks, Tom.

NEW DIRECTORS

We welcome Arnie Vick as a director at large, Rob Graber as co-area director of Ruebens Landing and West End & John Stutz From Wildridge area.

Lobster Lake Association Financial Statement

For details of Financial statement for 5-1-06 to 4-30-07 refer to website or contact an officer listed on page 1 of Newsletter

CENTRAL LAKES REGION SANITARY DISTRICT (CLRSD)

During the past year the district went back to the original three phases rather than being just one large unit. This was done for the purpose of obtaining financing and using various treatment systems. The phases are as follows:

Phase I

CLRSD and Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary District (ALASD) are finalizing agreements whereby ALASD would provide treatment and maintain the collector system for this area. When agreements are completed, this phase will then be able to move forward with obtaining financing and proceed with engineering. Funding from Rural Development is being considered which may require an income survey of lake residents to determine what rate of interest may be available. The rate of interest is determined by income level.

Phase II

When Brandon Township reduced the area to be served from over 400 units to approximately 150 units, it was not economically feasible to proceed with the original plan. A system of cluster systems has been considered, but this does not appear to meet the goals of the district. As a result, a new subcommittee has been formed to determine what may be best for Brandon Township and several small cities in the area.

Phase III

Engineering and design is over 90% completed. Plans have been submitted to MPCA and are waiting permit approval. The new treatment plant will be operated by agreement with ALASD. Discussion continues with the cities of Miliona and Carlos. The cost of the project has increased by about 4 million. Projected payments will remain approximately the same due to lower rate of interest on financing. There also has been several new developments in the area which are being added to the project to increase the total number of units to be served.

All Areas

The district continues to seek the best financing possible. Contacts continue with Senator Coleman and our State Senators and Representatives.

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 along with any other items of interest.

DCLA

The Douglas County Lakes Association meets monthly the 2nd Wed at the Public Works Bldg at 4:30 p.m.

This year the Day at the Lakes will be joining the Chamber of Commerce for Awake the Lakes. This is held on Memorial Day weekend and starts Friday night with music and Rib fest. On Saturday the DCLA will have an information booth along with a fish tank from the DNR. See the types of fish that survive in different types of water. We are also sponsoring a Kid's Fishing Fest from 10-2. We will have 4 pontoons to take youngsters out for about 45 minutes and hopefully get them involved in fishing. There will be a casting contest as well. From 2-4 we will have pontoon tours of Lake Agnes with the Douglas County Historical Society on board as narrators. We hope to see more and more people at these events by combining the effort. Emily Siira and Jerry Haggemiller, Soil and Water Conservation District will still be very involved. Should be a fun time for everyone!!

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



Local Fishing Guide

Article by Diane Kranz

Lobster Lake is fortunate to have a professional fishing guide living on its shores. Wayne Ek began the Agape Fishing Guide services when he moved to Lobster Lake 7 years ago. He uses the catch and release philosophy for all but panfish and walleyes and is able to offer a great fishing experience for not only Lobster Lake but other area lakes as well. He provides the expertise, fishing gear, life vests, boats and bait for those who want a half or full day fishing experience. He has been fishing for over 40 years and has been active in fishing tournaments for over 6 years. Lobster Lake is fortunate to have such a knowledgeable fisherman living in our midst. Wayne has also been a good steward of our lake. Loons are splendid birds to watch and listen to while living on a lake, but they need our help sometimes to be able to live and nest successfully. Fluctuating water levels as well as man-made structures which change the shoreline and water and boating activities can make nesting difficult. Wayne Ek has done his part to solve this problem by building a loon's nest near his home. He has made this nest out of PVC piping in a 4 X4 foot design. The bed was made with ¼ inch mesh and covered with landscape cloth so the baby chicks do not fall out. Mud and cat tails are added each year to make the nest have a more natural feel. This is anchored in a quiet part of the bay to keep from disturbing the mother. If boaters get too close it can cause her to move quickly and knock her eggs into the water so boaters need to maintain at least 150 distance from any nesting area. We all need to do our part to keep loons on our lake. For more directions on how to make and maintain a loon nest, go to this website: <http://www.rideau-info.com/local/loon-nest.html>

The following is an article from the May 11, 2007 edition of the Alexandria Echo Press

NEW SEWER DISTRICT GETS BOOST

A new sanitary sewer district in Douglas County is likely getting some help from the federal government. The Central Lakes Region Sanitary District (CLRSD) has secured \$2 million from the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), although the U.S. Senate will consider the act further this week. The funds are earmarked for the survey and design of the system around Lobster Lake. That system has not been designed yet, so actual costs of that portion are unknown, said Jerry Haggemiller, CLRSD board chair. He added, though, that survey and design costs on CLRSD's system around lakes Irene and Miltona were about \$2.4 million. "Across Minnesota, rural communities are unable to shoulder the financial burden of reinvigorating or building new community infrastructure, including new sewer systems," said Senator Norm Coleman, who worked to secure the funding. "A well-functioning sewer system is not only essential to meeting Minnesota's pollution standards, but it is also a vital component for the growth of rural communities." Coleman is pleased the funding was secured. "By upgrading Minnesota's rural sewer systems we are helping to maintain the health of our lakes and rivers," he said. Douglas County Commissioner Paul Anderson agreed. "I appreciate his leadership in securing this funding, as it will help to ensure the protection of the environment and natural resources in our county," he said. Anderson traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Coleman and convinced him of the need for funding. Construction on CLRSD's system around lakes Miltona and Irene – the first of three phases – could begin late this summer. Its new treatment facility will be built on 35 acres along the Long Prairie River. The property, located between county roads 65 and 3, was purchased earlier this spring. Although the Long Prairie River is listed on Minnesota's impaired waters list – sanitary sewer treatment facilities are prohibited by state law from discharging into a polluted water – a water quality study done several years ago determined the pollution on the portion running through Douglas County was from a natural impairment of low oxygen, not a point source. Because of that, CLRSD can discharge into the river, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The system around lakes Miltona and Irene is estimated to cost about \$24 million, which is up from the previous \$19.7 million because of rising construction costs, Haggemiller said. The district received low and zero-interest loans from the state for its construction. Home and landowners who benefit from the project will be assessed both \$10,000 and a tax levy, and will pay a monthly user fee as well. The final survey and design of that system was submitted to the MPCA in February for approval. If approved, permits will be issued. The exact construction start date, however, hinges on a Minnesota Supreme Court decision on the Annandale/Maple Lake wastewater treatment facility, south of St. Cloud. After the MPCA approved the facility's permit, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy appealed it because the facility ultimately discharged into impaired Lake Pepin by way of the Mississippi River. The Minnesota Court of Appeals then ruled that any increase of pollution into impaired water was prohibited. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the case last August. CLRSD will provide sanitary sewer service around lakes Chippewa and Lobster as well; both will be completed in separate phases. The cost to provide service around Chippewa is estimated at around \$6 million. That's higher than initial estimates because the project was changed – at the request of residents – to eliminate services around Whiskey and Devils lakes and the back lots on Chippewa. "Less users brings the price up," Haggemiller said in a previous story on CLRSD in the Echo Press.

LAKESCAPING AND RAINGARDEN WORKSHOP

A workshop will be held on Saturday Morning, June 9th at 9:30 a.m. at the John Stone residence located at 11220 Tall Timbers Road SW. Emily Siira, Water Planner, Douglas SWCD will be the presenter. She will define both projects, explain benefits, describe layout procedures, discuss suitable plants, and provide maintenance ideas along with potential sources of funding. Emily will be using pictures as well as doing some actual layout. Workshop will be approximately two hours in length and will be held inside in case of bad weather. Refer to the article on Lakescaping and Raingarden Grants for information on funds that are available from your association.

The association is looking for a chairperson for this committee to coordinate activities in the future. If any questions, contact John Stone 320-834-2972

LANDSCAPING/RAINGARDEN GRANT PROGRAM

Background

One of the goals in the Lobster Lake Association Lake Management Plan is to return some of the un-vegetated shoreline to its native state along with shore land habitat restoration to decrease erosion into the lake and improve water quality and habitat.

Some of the ways to accomplish this can be done with lakescaping projects and raingardens. In order to help participants with the cost, Lobster Lake Association will give out up to seven \$100.00 grants.

Eligibility Guidelines

- The grants will be awarded on a first come basis.
- Participants must spend a total of at least \$300.00 on their project.
- The cost is for materials only, no labor.
- Lake Association grant will be paid upon participant providing receipts for at least \$300.00.
- Projects completed in 2006-2007 are eligible.

Deadline for payment is **12-31-07**

Final determination will be made by the Lobster Lake Lakescaping and Raingarden committee. For more information and applications, contact **John Stone, 320-834-2972**

ANNUAL MEETING

The Lobster Lake Association annual meeting was held on May 5, 2007 at the LaGrand Township Hall. Over sixty lake association members were in attendance. The minutes of the last annual meeting and treasures report were given and approved.

Reports were given by the various committee chairs.

Old Business reports consisted of updates on regional sewer system, lobster lake management plan, fish habitat and website.

New Business consisted of lakescaping and raingarden workshop, area meetings, and election of officers as follows: John Stone Pres. Bruce Strandskov VP, Bonnie Huettl Secretary, Bev Paulin Treasurer. The educational program was provided by Troy Wolbersen, Douglas County Sherriff. He reviewed many of the rules and regulations of operating watercraft along with discussing the storm warning system in the county.

The next annual meeting will be May 3, 2008.

The complete copy of the minutes is on the lakes website.



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 payments 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