



# LOBSTER LAKE NEWSLETTER

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

> President: Bonnie Huettl 834-2332

> Vice President: Bruce Strandskov  
886-9450

> Secretary: Diane Krantz 320-886-  
5421

> 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-  
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> 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 Pedersen 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



## LOBSTER RECEIVES "STAR LAKE" DESIGNATION

In 2008 the legislature passed a bill that created the Minnesota Star Lakes & Rivers program to promote stewardship of lakes and rivers. To apply for this designation part of the criteria is that the lake must have in place a Lake Management Plan, which Lobster does and have a membership of over 50% of the landowners, which happily we do. The importance of this designation is that we are identified as a citizen based group that is protecting and enhancing our resources. It was a competitive process and our application was submitted in September 2010. In December we were selected. There are currently only 11 lakes with this designation. On Tuesday Feb 1 2011, we received our plaque to be displayed at our landing from Dale Gustafson, President of Minnesota Star Lakes & Rivers Board. The designation is valid for 5 years as long as we continue to follow our management plan. A check in the amount of \$2,400 was included with the award. Congratulations to us!!!!

Sincerely, Bonnie Huettl, President

## **The Prez sez**

It was a long winter and because of all the snow, we'll have the highest water levels we have ever had! We are all anxious to get out on the water and have summer!!! As we enjoy the beautiful lake and all it offers, it concerns me that not all lake users are good stewards. Just a few reminders that might help... don't use too much fertilizer. The more you use, the more you mow & the less time you can be on the water!!! Don't blow leaves and grass clippings into the water. They are full of phosphorous and nutrients and that will degrade our clarity and give weeds more food. Be vigilant about not disturbing shallow areas. If your watercraft motor (yes this included jet skis) re-suspends nutrients into the water column we have more work to do trying to remove it if it can be removed.

As we go forward with our Lake Management Plan renewal, I am sure water quality will be one of the highest areas of concern membership brings forward. Now you know what you as a riparian owner can do to be a part of the solution!!

It also amazes me that not all Lobster Lake shore owners would want to be a part of the Lake association!! We are all for the same goal of protecting and preserving our lake. We have over half of the residents as members and I am proud & appreciate your support, but can't help wondering why others don't see a benefit to the \$20 fee.

Hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting/25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration May 7, 2011 at In the Pines!

Your President  
Bonnie Huettl

## **DLCA UPDATE**

2010 was a very busy year. The DNR Prevention Grant was the main component of the activity hopefully resulting in an educated population who use the Douglas County lakes regarding aquatic invasive species. Over 5000 placemats & 2500 tent cards were distributed to local restaurants with Protect You Water messages. Over 790 volunteer hours were spent in the endeavor. Hope you all have noticed the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers signs attached to lakes where there were name signs on county roads. They have caught the attention of many. Radio ads, billboards and banners at Mike's car wash were also part of the DCLA effort. You should have received the inaugural newsletter from the group and we hope to produce this for all lakeshore owners twice per year. The web site [www.dclamn.org](http://www.dclamn.org) has information on the latest effort to contain and eventually eradicate the zebra mussels which is an uphill battle. Many hours of meeting with legislators, county officials and the DNR have been spent to get something in place without wasting more valuable time.

While spending much time on this project we also continued our other efforts including the poster contest for the grade school and the essay contest for the senior high students, sponsor for the Eco Fair, held seminars for lake service providers regarding and took part in the County's septic education program.

We stay busy and I am honored to serve as your representative.

Bonnie Huettl

## **LOBSTER LAKE WEB SITE**

Next time you're surfing the web, visit our site at [www.lobsterlake.org](http://www.lobsterlake.org). The site is maintained by Rob Graber & is updated on a regular basis. It includes a photo section, monthly meeting agenda & minutes from previous Moe & La-Grand Townships, a copy of the Lake Management Plan, lake apparel with logo, apparel prices & many other features. The site also includes links to a **great Loon article on the Gulf oil spill** & Douglas County web sites. Take time to visit the site, it's a great way to keep up with lake happenings.



## **Controlling Carp**

*Article by Chris Chizinski, Hangkyo Lim, Justin Silbernagel, Jake Osborne and Peter Sorensen, University of Minnesota*

The common carp was introduced to North America a century ago and now dominates many shallow lakes where it wrecks great ecological damage. Control methods currently rely on poisoning and draw-downs, and are damaging and difficult to sustain. Recent studies (Bajer & Sorensen 2010) suggest that carp recruitment (survival of young) is sporadic and may be triggered by winter hypoxia (low oxygen) that kills native fishes which otherwise might eat young carp. This study examined the fate of carp eggs in lakes that experienced hypoxia and normoxic (normal oxygen) lakes that did not. Carp spawning activity was monitored daily in the spring of 2009, and spawning areas were sampled using electro-fishing to ascertain if carp eggs were being consumed. While carp eggs disappeared within three days in the normoxic lake (which had many native fishes), they survived five days in a hypoxic lake. Sampling demonstrated that bluegill sunfish were the primary consumers of carp eggs in the normoxic lake (94% of 49 fish found feeding on eggs were sunfish). Autumnal sampling found young carp in the hypoxic lake but none in the normoxic lake.

This pattern of recruitment was observed again in the summer of 2010, and laboratory studies have since shown that bluegill sunfish actively consume both carp eggs and larvae. We conclude that if populations of bluegill sunfish can be maintained in lakes, they might control carp.

Control presently focuses on nonspecific poisons and water-drawdowns and has not had sustainable success. Recently, we discovered that carp population abundance in the Midwest has little density

dependence because recruitment is driven by seasonal environmental fluctuations that control native fish predation on young carp

This insight has permitted us to initiate an experimental integrated pest management (IPM) scheme which focuses on targeted adult removal using radio tagged Judas fish and pheromones while suppressing recruitment by limiting access to unstable nurseries and balancing native fish populations. describes and Using this targeted approach we have been able to suppress carp populations to about 10% of their initial levels in three local lakes for several years. The students implanted a female fish to give off hormones the others were attracted to her position where they then trapped the carp and removed them. They did this in winter under the ice where the fish were easier to confine.

During this time improvements in water quality have been noted. We believe that the lessons we have learned with common carp will be applicable to other invasive fishes.

## **We Need your e-mail addresses**

Communicating via the internet would increase the information flow enabling the LLA Board to keep you informed immediately about critical issues

When e-mail notifications are sent we will use the Bcc (Blind Copy) line of the e-mail format thus your e-mail address won't be public knowledge & we certainly won't share it with anyone.

To facilitate getting your e-mail to address to me, just send your e-mail to [jim\\_jan@rea-alp.com](mailto:jim_jan@rea-alp.com).

Keep in mind; it's important to advise me when you change your e-mail address so we can keep our list up to date.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Jim Barrett

## **Plant for Change**

*Article from Shore to Shore publication by Mary Blickenderfer, U of MN Extension, 218-244-7996, blick002@umn.edu*

Many know the benefits of maintaining native plants in the water and in adjacent wetland and upland areas. Many are also aware of our changing climate and the resulting pattern of high intensity rain events alternating with longer periods of drought that are predicted by climate research models. But none of us knew how such a changing climate might affect the valuable plant populations that ring our shorelines... until now.

At the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory researchers tested the responses of eight wetland and aquatic plant species (all native to Minnesota and commonly used for shoreland restoration) under four different water regimes, resulting from historic high, low and normal precipitation and a precipitation pattern predicted by climate change models. Preliminary results indicate that plants growing in the climate change precipitation regime produced more total plants (by sprouting from the mother plant) of high vigor (measured by above-ground dry weight) than those growing in the three basins with water regimes based on historic precipitation records. Compared to the climate



*Photo by Mary Presnail*



*Photo by Mary Presnail*

change regime, plants growing in “normal” conditions produced slightly fewer plants of greater vigor. These preliminary results suggest that shoreland vegetation, in general, will survive and likely thrive under predicted changing climate conditions. While this is good news, it is also important to know which plants are likely to thrive, particularly for people restoring native plants to Minnesota shorelines. Of the aquatic plants tested, giant bur-reed and river bulrush were the most vigorous with plants sprouting from rhizomes (underground stems extending outward from the mother plant) reaching well into the wetland area. Softstem bulrush and lake sedge also fared well. Of the wetland plants tested, bottlebrush sedge and common reed were the most vigorous, followed by the prairie cordgrass and fox sedge. These preliminary results suggest that plants with vigorous rhizomes may adjust better to a changing climate than non-rhizomatous plants due to their greater ability to “move” according to changing water levels. To view a short video about this research project, go to : [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rt0pyjr7XTU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rt0pyjr7XTU).

## **Our Shoreline Buffer**

*March - April 2011 From Shore to Shore, Issue 102*  
3 Diana Dodge, Shady Hollow Resort, vacation@shadyhollowresort.com

As an owner of Shady Hollow Resort, on Hardy Lake (Cass County), I am constantly looking for ways to improve our landscape and make life easier. Planting a shoreline buffer seemed like it would contribute to the continued health of our precious lake. We started our lakeshore restoration project in 2003. With grant money, we picked out plants that are native to our area of Minnesota from a list provided by the Department of Natural Resources. This took some time, but it was fun and educational. We were especially excited to see how our restoration project would turn out. Thankfully, the University of Minnesota Extension, Shoreland Education Program, selected our project as a demonstration site so volunteers helped us do the planting. Planting day was the weekend before a busy 4th of July.

After our initial planting, we encountered some struggles because rain was very scarce during the rest of the summer. We watered the new plants for the first couple of weeks, but we didn't water after that unless we transplanted plants and no rain fell. The resulting shoreland garden is low maintenance and beautiful in all four seasons. We maintain a portion of the garden with paths and clumps of like plants with markers so our resort guests can wander through, enjoy and learn. Other areas are more "wildly natural" with a mixture of different plants. One area helps to protect a cabin, by preventing erosion that would ruin its foundation. We installed two rain gardens to collect water runoff from our paved driveway and boat launch. Controlling runoff is always going to be a challenge because of our terrain. It is fun to watch the first plants pop up in the spring, my favorite is prairie smoke,



and the summer is beautiful with butterfly weed, monarda, prairie onion, roses and so many other species; fall asters and dogwoods are stunning and in winter their seeds feed the birds. Our garden is a wonderful place to sit, watch and hear wildlife. The monarda attracts honey bees (honey bee populations in North America are experiencing "colony collapse disorder" so we are glad to be a part of their prolificacy). The kids love to watch turtles lay eggs and the frogs are so loud it feels like we need earplugs. Birds are diverse and plentiful, including hummingbirds and some birds that we have never seen before. We have a garden of abundance as the native plants are well established and full. We give plants away to guests who show an interest and we have donated some for a fundraiser for Relay for Life.

We also have moved plants to other areas of the resort to create different gardens. We have been able to experiment with cutting back and moving plants to areas on the edge of their tolerance limits .

We have done this with reasonable success; getting something to grow

in extreme environments, such as under the pine trees without altering the soil, and on a hill with sand and all-day sun, has been challenging. Whenever I hear someone say they can't keep the geese off their lakeshore, my thoughts are "shoreline buffer restoration project." If you want to do something else besides mow the lawn all summer, I say, "shoreline buffer restoration project." If you have erosion problems or a steep hill with water running into the lake creating a shoreline that is unusable... "shoreline buffer restoration project." We would like to make an open invitation: come visit our site. We would love to answer any questions you have and share our excitement for our shoreline buffer restoration project. Please visit our Web site at [www.shadyhollowresort.com](http://www.shadyhollowresort.com) or contact us by email: vacation@shadyhollowresort.com

## **LLA Lake Wear**

Casual wearing apparel with Lobster lake logo is available through Liz Berens at 320-834-2142. Many items are in stock & can be shipped. Items include caps, visors, sweat shirts both regular & hooded, golf shirts, tote bags, vests, t-shirts adult, youth & toddlers, and other items. They make great gifts for family & friends. Prices range from \$9 for youth & toddler t-shirts to \$28 for XL hooded sweatshirts. Call Liz for actual pricing. or check our web site at [www.lobsterlake.org](http://www.lobsterlake.org)



## **LLA ANNUAL MEETING & FISH FRY**

The annual LLA meeting will be held on May 7, 2011 at “In The Pines” restaurant. All Lake property owners (both LLA members & non-members ) are urged to attend because we will be reviewing our Lake Management Plan. A fish fry/ lunch will be provided . Please keep this date open so you can attend



## **Moe & La Grand Township Election Results**

### **LaGrand Township Election**

Jim Jensen was re-elected as Township Supervisor.

### **Moe Township Election Results**

A total of 54 people voted. Lynn Bushard got 50 votes, replacing Hardy Huettl as Township Supervisor. Pat Botner was re-elected treasurer receiving 49 votes.

Newly elected Lynn Bushard & his wife Arlene moved to Moe Township in 1976 and began a successful farming operation. Their home and farm residence is at 10458 Moe Hall Road NW. Lynn and Arlene still live on the farmstead but retired from full time farming 3 years ago. Lynn’s farming knowledge and experience, along with his financial and problem solving skills would certainly be beneficial to the people of Moe Township. About 30 persons attended the Annual Meeting. The 2010 budget payable in 2011 was \$257,660. The 2011 budget payable in 2012 was voted on & adopted amount was \$278,305.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

A special thank you to all Lobster Lake residents that responded to our February Membership Invoice . We have approximately 150 paid members for 2011 and are hoping to reach a membership total of 250 or better. The Lake Association is in the process of updating the Lake Management Plan and we want input and membership support to make sure the plan represents the priorities of Lobster Lake Residents. Membership is \$20.00 per year . Your membership pays for the Lake Directory(updated every 3-5 years), two newsletters per year and supports the Lake Management initiatives . Dues can be mailed using the form on page 8 of the Newsletter. Thank you for being a part of the Lake Association. If you have questions about membership please contact Tom or Nancy Wavrin at 320-834-3331.



### **ON A SUNDAY IN DECEMBER 2010**

In December of 2010, Lobster Lake Association stocked 370 lbs of Walleye fingerlings, averaging about 10 fish per lb., or 3,700 fish at a cost of \$10.00 per pound, or \$3,400.00. Of this amount \$2,000. was paid by LLA and a 70% match of \$1,400 was received from the Viking Sportsmen who received funding from club fundraisers, as well as donations from the Alex Hospitality Assoc, Tastefully Simple, Douglas Machine, and others that were earmarked specifically for the fish stocking program in Douglas County. Please remember to thank these companies & organizations as they continue to support our efforts to make Lobster a quality Walleye fishing lake.

Kevin Weisel

### **WATER QUALITY MONITORING MARCH 2011**

This summer will be our 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of taking Secchi disk readings on our lake. We have added water sampling and other tests over the years and you can view all of the data, graphs etc on our website: <http://www.lobsterlake.org/>. **Check it out.**

You can also go to <http://www.rmbel.info>. Once there, look for Lobster Lake and you will find the results of our summer sampling for chlorophyll-a and phosphorus. We will be monitoring the same sites as last year:

- ▶ Taking Secchi disk readings weekly at four sites on the lake.
- ▶ Collecting water samples for chlorophyll-a and phosphorus at one location (the deep hole in the East Bay). We sample five times during the summer.
- ▶ Measuring dissolved oxygen (LDO) and temperature vs. depth in both **East and West Bays**.

We have added a map of the sites we monitor for water clarity (Secchi disk readings). The four sites are identified in **RED** on the map.

We continue to recruit volunteers for our Water Quality Committee to help with lake monitoring

**I need a volunteer to help with the Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring. This monitoring only needs to be done two or three times during the summer. Getting the data is simple and fast with our test equipment, but I need someone who has some expertise with MS Excel to process the data.**

**I will be looking for someone to volunteer at our annual meeting this year.**

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

Pete Onstad



Lobster Lake Association  
PO Box 32  
Alexandria, MN 56308

## **2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE**

**Dues for 2011 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 2011 Membership Payment**

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

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

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

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

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