



LOBSTER LAKE NEWSLETTER

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> Happys Landing: John Herkenhoff
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> Ruebens Landing & West End:
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> Lake Captains: Harvey Strom 320-
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> COMMITTEE CHAIRS

> Milfoil: Hardy Huettl

> DCLA Representative: Bonnie Huettl

> Membership: Bonnie Huettl

> Water Quality: Pete Onstad

> News Letter: Jerry Ellis

> Lakescaping & Raingardens: John
Stone

2011 Annual LLA Meeting & Fish Fry

The annual Meeting was held on May 7th, 2011. This year because we celebrated LLA 25th anniversary we had a fish fry for everyone on the lake. We had a good feed of fish, potato salad, rolls and of course cake. We celebrated with about 100 people who came to enjoy the food and meet new people and catch up with the ones we know. A great BIG thank you to Kevin Weisel for coordinating with Viking Sportsmen to get the fish fry in place and to everyone who helped make this day a success from the set up to the cleanup, servers, hosts and table monitors. If I tried to name them all I would miss someone so I won't try. It was a big undertaking which the Board hopes you all enjoyed. The agenda of the meeting was to gather information to update our Lake Management Plan which is now 6 years old. Marilyn Bayerl was invited to help us update our Lake Management Plan. We sent out 375 surveys to find out what your concerns and interests are. With these surveys she conducted focus groups to discover what goals for improving the lake are.. John Stone and I will be meeting with Marilyn over the winter to have the final plan to present to the members next spring for adoption.

We will return to our normal format of having a guest speaker for next year so if there is a topic you would like explored please contact me @ huettlsonlobster@gctel.net. Mark your calendars now for the next **Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 5, 2012.**

Thanks for your support by attending the Annual Meeting!

Bonnie Huettl



LLA Annual Meeting Fish Fry Volun-
teers (left to right) Tim Berens, Harvey
Strom, Kevin Weisel, Merrill Pederson
& Gene Sullivan, (Add'l pictures pg 4)



Pete Onstad, Water Quality Chair
Bonnie Huettl, LLA President & John
Stone LLA Past President with the
25th anniversary cake

DCLA

Zequanox, zebra mussels and new laws held the attention of DCLA this summer. Dr. Molloy from New York who discovered the bacteria that is effective in killing zebra mussels and their larvae but does not have effects on non-targets. Dr. Molloy came to Douglas County to tell us all about it how he discovered it and that it is the only green solution to the problem. If you want to see his presentations go to www.dclamn.org the DCLA website. The DCLA attempted to get some funding from LCCRM and Legacy funds to further the development of this now commercial product called Zequanox to be used in inland lakes. The company Marrone Bio Innovations is currently only able to focus on the power plants for use of the product. They will in time maybe 5-6 years be able to start testing for inland lakes. We hoped to speed up that process by getting the money needed to start this year. That attempt was unsuccessful but I learned way too much about the legislature and these groups and how they work...or not. Fortunately the USGS has some funding so they will conduct some testing on Lake Carlos to research the effects of Z on native mussels and as a possible deterrent for silver carp.

Along with all that we still managed to work with the DNR on the AIS Prevention Grant and Watercraft Inspection Grant this summer. As President of DCLA I was invited to speak at several area lake association meetings plus attend many meeting where zebra mussels were being discussed. Minnesota Waters held a week-long event featuring Dr. Molloy diving into several lakes and meeting with groups like the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Freshwater Society to gather information about where Minnesota is in this fight to keep Aquatic Invasive Species controlled or out of our waters and destroy the zebra mussel problem. The fight is multi leveled for zebra mussel, with the first line being boaters draining all the water from their boats and minnow buckets. It is a state law now in effect as of July 1. The second is service provider training. Anyone who for hire, installs lake equipment, removes equipment, including boats, docks & lifts, must be licensed by the DNR and ALL of the employees must go through the training. As you may already know two lakes have been infested, that we know of, by one of these businesses who did not properly clean the equipment when moving it from and infested lake to a non-infested lake. The threat is there and the education has been ongoing for many years yet we still have careless people the seller, mover and buyer not being diligent about The DNR will hire 22 more Conservation Officers to help with this battle but we need alert lake shore owners to not allow this carelessness to happen again. Until next time...

Bonnie Huettl your DCLA representative.

NEW AREA CONSERVATION OFFICER

Mike Sheldon area DNR Conservation officer for many years has moved into the Administrative end of DNR. The new area CO is Jon Paurus. Jon is from southern MN & attended college in Alexandria. He has been with the DNR for 3 years & prior to that was with the MN State Patrol for 8 years. He enjoys hunting, fishing & trapping. Welcome Jon.

Fergus Falls Rain Garden Filters Filth Out of Storm Water

*Karen Terry, University of Minnesota Extension, 218-998-5787, kterry@umn.edu
From Shore To Shore Publication Issue #105*

Many Minnesota towns and cities are blessed to have had thoughtful planners along the way who preserved areas as "open space" within the urban boundaries – chunks of land that have not been built on, paved over, divided into small lots, farmed, or otherwise developed. These open spaces are often publicly owned, such as parks. In addition to these, there are large areas that are mowed as road right-of-ways, ditches, and unused lawn areas adjacent to businesses.



Is there a better way to manage these lands? One option is to convert suitable areas to rain gardens. When it rains in urban areas, water runs off of hard surfaces like roads and rooftops, and as it does, it picks up litter and pollutants. Rain gardens act as filters, removing litter such as cigarette butts, plastic bottles, and fast food trash as well as pollutants such as motor oil, phosphorus, and road salt. To be effective, rain gardens should be carefully planned and designed so that they intercept stormwater runoff and allow it to soak into the ground in less than a day or two. In 2009, the Fergus Falls Chapter of Wild Ones, the City of Fergus Falls, and University of Minnesota Extension collaborated on a large rain garden project with funding from East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District. Situated in Grotto Park, the 2500 ft² basin was designed to capture storm water from a culvert that drains the rooftop of a large commercial building and its parking lot plus a few residential lots and adjacent roadways. Before the rain garden was built, the storm water ran directly to the Otter Tail River, carrying the litter and pollutants with it. Currently, only a portion of the culvert's water is running through the rain garden – the rest still goes to the river – but once the plants in the garden get well established, it is likely that the garden will allow all of the water to infiltrate the soil. Native plants - about 2500 individuals in all - were planted on the bottom and sloped sides of the rain garden, including flowers, grasses, and sedges. Most were about 4- inches tall when planted. While some plant species did not survive due to excessive rain in the first two years, many thrived. This year, about 250 additional plants were added to replace those that died. The result of this project is a beautiful garden that cleans up the water. As a bonus, it's an area that the park's staff no longer needs to mow! Consider looking around your own community to see if there are areas that might be right for a rain garden. Check with your local Master Gardeners, watershed district, and Soil and Water Conservation District staff to see if there is technical, physical, or financial help available. For more information on creating rain gardens, see the publication Rain Gardens: A How to Manual for Homeowners at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/documents/rgmanual.pdf or read [The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens](#)



May 7th 2011 LLA Annual Meeting Photo Gallery (photos by Linda Strom)

Water and Land Use Impact Education to Local Elected and Appointed Leaders – One Community at a Time

John Bilotta, Extension Educator, Water Resource Management, 651-480-7708, bilot002@umn.edu

- Observing, studying, and discussing the application of vegetation management ordinances to support clean water in their local cities
- Better understanding the status of water quality of lakes, rivers, and streams in their community
- Increasing knowledge about what stormwater practices could be implemented to prevent or minimize water Pollution
- Identifying funding and collaborative partnerships that are available and possible ...

These are real outcomes local leaders have reported after participating in NEMO education programs. The Minnesota Northland NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) Program provides education and training to local elected and appointed officials that support informed decision making on water resource protection and restoration in

communities. NEMO focuses its efforts to the unique niche of local leaders who make decisions and recommendations

in their community on land use and land management that ultimately impact lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater. On the water NEMO workshops on water have proven to be an effective method to enhance the educational experience for local leaders. In waterborne workshops, participants get first-hand observation, study, and knowledge of the science of water quality measurement and the status of water in their community. Participants typically discuss how shoreline and adjacent land use practices can support a healthy water resource or harm it.

In a recent evaluation of NEMO participants, 89% indicated that being on the water greatly enhanced their learning experience and 89% also said that was a very important factor in participating. across the land. In explorations of the landscape using buses, local leaders walk and talk about specific practices and projects that have been implemented throughout the community to expand their understanding of the positive impacts they can have toward clean water goals. Workshops also provide an opportunity to visit problematic sites and build an increased knowledge base before exercising their role in decisions or recommendations towards mitigation. “I thought I knew a lot before today, this workshop really improved my knowledge. I will keep plugging away and look at my own impact. I will put more thought as various requests come before my commission,” said a recent leader in a NEMO land-based workshop. Supporting the 3-legged stool.

NEMO programs support a community’s vision to protect clean water resources and restore impaired lakes and rivers. In our striving for that goal, education is combined with assistance (technical and financial) and with regulation

(ordinances and standards) to complete the approach. NEMO programs play an important role in education. Partnerships make the difference NEMO efforts are primarily led by the U of MN Extension and the Minnesota Sea Grant Program with invaluable partnerships with state agencies including the Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed districts, and water management organizations are also critical program team members providing resources, content, example sites, and financial resources. See more about the partnership under the “Who We Are” tab of the website.

NEMO and MIDS

The new Minnesota Stormwater Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) Project is now underway. NEMO will provide a role in educating leaders about new stormwater management performance goals, the use and credits for best management practices in their community, and model ordinances to support clean water goals. NEMO programs and workshops are constantly added to the calendar. For more information about upcoming or past workshop themes and locations, visit www.northlandnemo.org. Water and Land Use Impact Education to Local Elected and Appointed Leaders – One Community at a Time

John Bilotta, Extension Educator, Water Resource Management, 651-480-7708, bilot002@umn.edu

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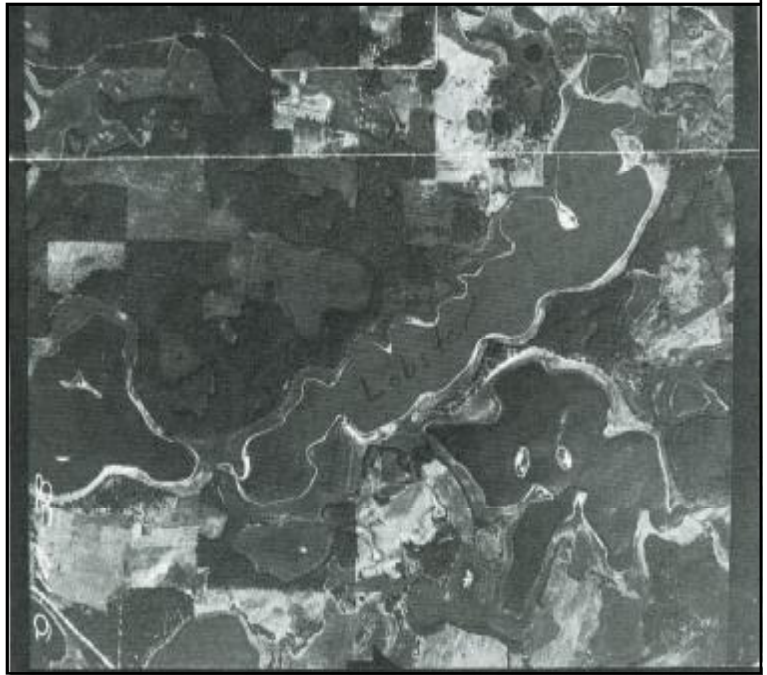
LOBSTER LAKE WEAR

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, tote bags, vests, t-shirts adult, youth & toddlers, and other items. They make great gifts for family & friends. Call Liz with questions, item pricing or check our web site at www.lobsterlake.org



TOO MUCH WATER THIS YEAR??

What a difference 73 years makes. This September 1938 aerial photograph of Lobster Lake shown here was submitted by Jim Barrett. The photo shows the East & West arms of Lobster Lake and then running to the main body.. The water was so low the lake was actually 3 lakes. The West arm was separate with land running from Wil-dridge RV park to the North shore. The East arm was separated from the main body by land from Cherry Point to Beauty Point. The sunken islands where the lake goes into the body and the island in the West arm are clearly visible in the photograph. For a picture e-mail Jim @ jim_jan@rea-alp.com
Thanks for sharing Jim.



WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES *Article by Jim Barrett*

We've had a good response with our past requests for e-mail addresses. Communicating via the internet speeds the information flow regarding critical issues. The LLA Board wants to keep you informed as to what is happening on and around Lobster Lake. Because of the very high water this year the DNR designated Lobster as a "NO WAKE" lake & many people who do not live here year round were not aware of the status. Many more people could have been advised if e-mail addresses were available

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.

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 you cooperation.

2011 IS BETTER REGARDING INVASIVE WEEDS

Results of this years AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Committee's weed watch are in and there is some good news. The Committee's twelve (12) inspectors, each having a specific area to cover, made two (2) inspections during this past summer. First, early in the summer, a check was made for CLP (Curly-leaf Pondweed). The plant was found to exist in three (3) of the inspectors' areas. These same areas contained the weed last year too. The good news on this front is that CLP was not found in any new areas, and even in the areas where it was noted this year, it was in a much lesser amount than was seen last year. It is thought that the large amount of snow on the 2010-2011 winter ice, a delayed 2011 spring and the much higher lake water level this year all played a part in the weed's reduced presence this year. Some locations within the problem areas that had CLP last year had no weeds at all this year. Pleasantly amazing!! Toward the end of summer the inspectors made their second check which was for EWM (Eurasian Water-milfoil). The good news here is that all the committee members once again reported, as they have in past years, that no EWM whatsoever was found in our lake. This truly is good news!!

On Saturday, July 16th the Fishers of Men, Heartland Chapter based in Alexandria, held a nine (9) boat bass tournament on our lake between the hours of 6:00 AM and noon. Two (2) members of the AIS Committee and myself were at our lake's public access on the west end as the participants arrived to check their watercraft for compliance with Minnesota's rules as relate to the non-transference of AIS. It was good to find that all boats were in compliance. Thanks to Rod Johnson and Leroy Foslein for their assistance in this early morning effort.

On a side note, during the latter summer inspections and after the water had warmed up, the native weeds such as Northern Milfoil, Claspingleaf Pondweed and Wild Celery (aka: water celery or eelgrass) were present in fairly substantial numbers in some places. They are native so no concern with these plants other than they can grow very thick and hinder trolling motor operation.

My thanks go out to each of the twelve (12) inspectors (nick named "the weed watchers") for their help with the project this past summer. THANKS TO YOU ALL!!!!

Hardy Huettl, Chairman AIS Committee

From Your President

Another summer season on Lobster Lake has come to a close. The beautiful fall leaves have left their branches and now we are raking instead of boating!! Remember not to rake those leaves into the lake. They have phosphorus in them and we don't need any more of that. With the high water this year and very heavy rains Lobster will experience an abundant crop of weeds in the years to come. Along with the draining of Hart lake, that was 10 times higher in ph. than Lobster, to save a township road and the County draining a pond that was lapping at the roadway by Happy's expect to see lots of weeds next year. Phosphorus is food for algae, so usually the more phosphorus 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. Do your part and don't fertilize next year. Then the grass won't [grow as fast and you won't mow as often then you can really enjoy the lake!!!](#)

Enjoy the winter and for you snow birds, well..... it is nice here in the winter too

Bonnie Huettl, President



Lobster Lake Association
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Alexandria, MN 56308

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

Membership in the Lobster Lake Association has declined this past year. We need the continued support from our members to protect our most valued resource, the Lake. What can you do to help? Please talk to your neighbors and remind them that for \$20.00 a year, they will receive:

- Two newsletters (Spring and Fall)
- A Lobster Lake directory (revised in 2012)
- A cadre of volunteers focused on preserving the lake for future generations
- Participation in a Lake stocking program coordinated with the DNR
- An Annual Meeting held in May
- A Lobster Lake Management Plan

Invite new residents to join the Association by having them contact Tom and Nancy Wavrin (Membership Committee) 320-834-3331. A special thank you to all members of Lobster Lake Association.