

Round

North Long



*"In all things of nature  
there is something of  
the marvelous." - Aristotle*



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# What's Inside

North Long Lake President's Message.....	3
Round Lake President's Message .....	3
Curly Leaf Pondweed Situation .....	4
Zebra Mussels.....	5
Path to the Lake.....	6
Status of the Round Lake Fishery .....	8
Water Quality (Round Lake) .....	9
Key Changes in Crow Wing County Land Use Ordinance .....	10
Minnesota Waters.....	12
News and Notes from Round Lake .....	14
Sale-Around-Round .....	14
Picnic & Annual Meeting .....	14
Financial Statements.....	15
Clothing .....	15
Membership Report .....	16
Pine Tree Project .....	18
Round Lake Board Vacancies.....	18
News and Notes from North Long Lake .....	19
Board Elections & Other Business.....	19
Picnic & Annual Meeting .....	19
Membership Report .....	20
Dues Statement.....	20
Financial Report .....	21
Clothing .....	22
North Long Lake History Books.....	22

## Where's Wally?

Wally, our traveling gnome, spent the last year with Debra Frazer (who adopted him at the picnic last June) and had many fun times traveling with her. Here Wally is making "snow angels" at her house and watching a "Gnome" movie. You may be able to adopt Wally at our annual picnic June 25! Watch for more photos of Wally and Debra on the Round Lake website!



# Presidential Messages

## Round Lake Improvement Association

| Chuck Jorgensen | President |

Well here we are with another winter behind us (a dandy) and the promise of a great summer ahead. We certainly are a lucky lot to be able to call Round Lake home!

As everybody probably knows by now, Gull Lake is infested with zebra mussels. What some may not realize is that the whole reservoir is infested (see article in this issue). Alan Cibuzar has a gadget that he puts in the lake to monitor zebra mussels, and so far he has not seen any sign of them in Round Lake. On the other hand, I have had a couple of reports from lake residents saying that when they brought their outboard motors in for service the mechanic found zebra mussels in the water pump. These could have been picked up over on Gull Lake, at least we hope so.

Again this spring, like all other springs past, the buoys and channel markers will mysteriously appear on the lake. This is the result of work by a sturdy group of volunteers who take it upon themselves to see to it that the buoys and markers are in good repair and properly placed (see Membership Article). John Just and his son Will have been responsible for maintaining and placing the markers that guide boaters through Bishop's Creek. Bob Rusnacko, Dave Ubl, and Jim Langham have been maintaining and placing the buoys on the rock hazards in the lake and also position the markers at the boat landing. This is difficult and time consuming, so the next time you see these guys, thank them for a job well done!

Thanks to the tenacity and persistence of our Treasurer, Linda Esser, the RLIA has successfully applied for and received a 501(c)3 federal exemption making the RLIA a charitable organization. This means that any and all contributions made to the RLIA are tax deductible. It is hoped that this new tool will help provide the funding necessary to combat the new attacks on our lake by invasive species and the continuing problem with chloride accumulation.

Recently, I have received some complaints regarding the availability and/or access to information pertaining to board business. All members of the board take these complaints seriously, but feel that they have taken every reasonable measure to keep residents up to date about board business

*Continued on Page 10*

## North Long Lake Association

| Kristil McDonald | President |

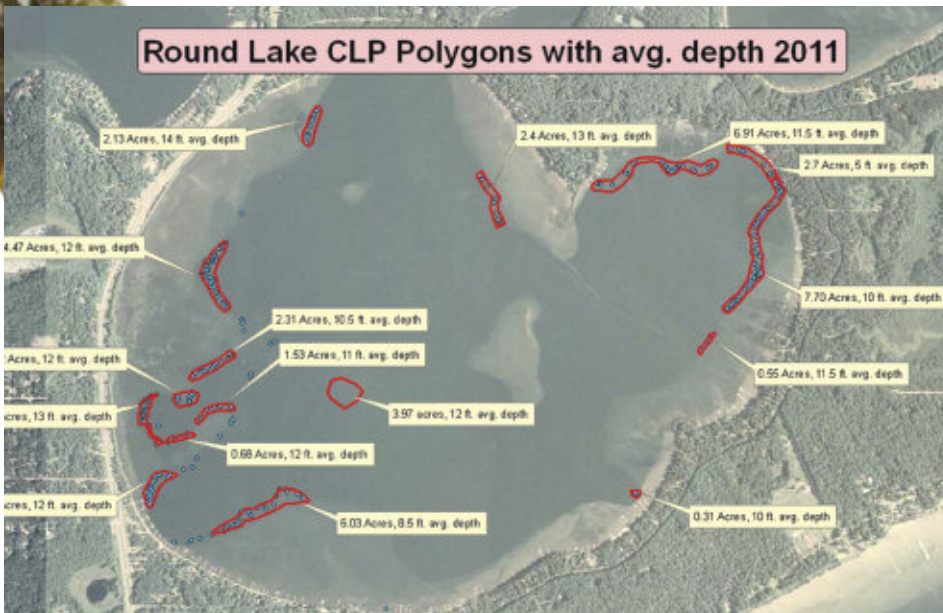
The greatest asset provided by North Long Lake is its water quality. In this regard, we must attend to its chemical properties, for example, we must monitor phosphorous levels in the lake. Algae blooms caused by an increase in phosphorous, along with decreases in water clarity, reduce enjoyment of our lake. Moderate to heavy rains this last season increased lake water levels but also brought an increase in contamination potential by phosphorous washed into the lake with run-off from lawns and gardens. Thankfully, community effort resulted in no increase in phosphorous levels in North Long Lake, according to testing reported in the Fall Newsletter.

Another area of concern for most lake owners is the presence of invasive species. North Long Lake Association has taken a proactive approach to prevent foreign matter from entering our waters. In an effort to maintain our water quality and help to protect the lake from invasive species, the Association has supported water quality monitoring along with boat inspection and public landing monitoring efforts through the installation of a closed-circuit camera at the Merrifield Bay landing. In spite of these efforts, we must now eradicate a curly leaf pondweed infestation in Merrifield Bay.

It is hard to imagine a biological threat that would severely damage the lake that modern science couldn't fix. But that is the situation we face with some of the Invasive Species. The reason they are termed "invasive" is that they have no native enemies and grow rapidly. We saw evidence of this on our lake this past season as we were invaded by curly leaf pondweed that quickly spread into a thick mat in the northeast section of Merrifield Bay. There are many of these species but the most threatening to our lake is currently the pondweed (see article in this issue) and the potential for zebra mussels (see article). We are optimistic that treatment for curly leaf pondweed will be successful due to the targeted location of the infestation, the aggressive approach we are taking, and the timely use of chemicals in the area. We will be very fortunate if this is successful. Treatment can be costly and improvement may take time. But left untreated, this infestation will grow, potentially choking the bay, hindering boating, fishing, and swimming.

*Continued on Page 6*

# ATTACKING Curly Leaf Pondweed



## Round Lake

| by Chad Hadler |

On June 24, 2010, Dan Swanson and Matt Pierce from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) inspected Round Lake for curly leaf pondweed (clp). The inspection revealed an abundance of clp on the western side of the lake as well as two areas of fairly dense infestation in the eastern bay (see Photo No. 1). Most of the clp was growing in water 10 to 14 feet deep with some appearing as deep as 16 feet. The clp was reaching maturity and readily visible from a boat; a vegetation grapple brought in copious amounts (see Photo No. 2). The weed was reaching maturity and some had formed turions (winter buds) (see Photo No. 3).

Again this year, Lake Restoration, Inc. will be treating the lake for clp using a product called Aquathol K. Typically, the treatment occurs in late April or early May, when the water temperature is between 50 and 60 degrees. The application has no effect on water quality or fish, and there are no restrictions to fishing or swimming in the treated area. The only restriction is not to use water directly from the treatment sites for drinking, watering, or animal consumption for 14 days.

All treatment sites will be marked using orange Minnesota DNR notice signs attached to plastic buoys to identify treated areas. All of these areas will be at least 150 feet or more away from the shoreline except for an area in the northeast corner of the lake. The total proposed area to be treated is about 50 acres at a cost of approximately \$34,100.

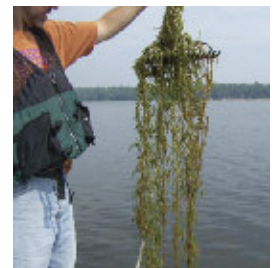
## North Long Lake

| by Sandy Loney and Kay Hondo |

After the DNR confirmed the outbreak of clp in North Long Lake last summer, the

*Photo 1* Board of Directors moved ahead to plan for

chemical treatment this spring. Homeowners along the infested shore in the northeast section of Merrifield Bay individually supported the application to treat the infestation because the clp growth was within 150 of the shore in most instances. Mike Bertsch, the owner of the Train Bell Resort, also gave his permission. Lake Restoration, Inc. will treat this outbreak according to the protocol described above for Round Lake. Judi and Duane Saari are monitoring water temperature and the treatment should be completed shortly before readers receive this Newsletter. Then we wait. Re-treatment is planned for 2012.



The Board is relying on the Invasive Species Fund that has been accumulated through donations from homeowners to pay for this project. Please consider this need when paying your 2011 dues. Our cash reserves are relatively small and this project will cost about \$4,000.







# ZEBRA MUSSELS

## Threat Grave | by Willard Hartup |

As reported in this Newsletter last fall, zebra mussels have been found in Gull Lake. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) subsequently identified both Gull and Round Lakes as infested with this species, discouraging many readers of this Newsletter. These organisms have not been reported in North Long Lake as recently as April 13, according to Dan Swanson of the DNR, but its proximity to infested waters makes it extremely vulnerable. As many readers know, there is no scientifically sanctioned method available to control the growth of this species once it enters a body of water.

Zebra mussels are small, fingernail-sized animals that attach to solid surfaces in water. Adults are  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and have D-shaped shells with alternating yellow and brownish stripes. Females produce 100,000 to 500,000 eggs per year that develop into microscopic larvae that begin to form shells and, after two or three weeks, settle and attach to any firm surface. It is the only freshwater mussel that can attach to objects and may attach to native mussels as well as other solid objects. Originating in Eastern Europe and Western Russia, the species was transported to North America via the St. Lawrence Seaway in the ballast water of freighters. First found in the Duluth/Superior Harbor in the late 1980s, the mussels are now established in New England, New York, the Great Lakes states, the Mississippi River, Lake Mille Lacs, and are swiftly infesting other waters in the Brainerd Lakes Area.

Zebra mussels cause many problems for lakeshore residents. Homeowners that take lake water for irrigation can have their intakes clogged (these systems supply the mussels with ever-fresh supplies of food). Mussels may attach to motors and possibly clog cooling water areas. Shells can cause cuts and scrapes if they grow large enough on rocks, swimming rafts, and lad-

ders. Shells may cut fishing lines and attach themselves to plants as well as solid objects. Since the mussels feed on plankton, more and more of these nutrients are filtered from surrounding water as the infestation grows. This filtering can increase water clarity which, at first blush, seems like a positive outcome. But clear water invites increased growth of aquatic plants and, if the infestation is sufficiently dense, can impact the food chain by reducing the plankton that larval fish feed on.



Since zebra mussels can attach themselves to boats, docks, lifts, and swim docks they can travel with these objects from lake to lake. Larvae are present in lake water throughout the summer. These conditions have led to state regulations (beginning July 1, 2010) that forbid transporting any water (including bait buckets and live wells) from one lake to another. Inspection of boats by their owners is required before entering and leaving waters

whether or not they are known to be infested. Drain plugs must be left open while transporting watercraft over roads and highways. These regulations apply to jet skis and other personal watercraft as well as boats with unusual design features. Having a watercraft with a drainage system that is difficult to access is no excuse for failing to obey these regulations (according to the regulations themselves). These rules, which we published in the November 2010 Newsletter, should be carefully followed by both residents of Round and North Long Lakes. Preventing the spread of the species is still the only game in town when it comes to infestation control.

The condition that most concerns homeowners, of course, is the dim outlook for control of the infestation in our lakes, once it has occurred. Unfortunately, no one has recommendations to make on that score. Glum news, indeed.

# The Path To The Lake

| by Judy DuBois, Crow Wing County Master Gardener |

*"For see, winter is past,  
The rains are over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth.  
The season of glad songs has come,  
The cooing of the turtledove is heard  
in our land...  
...the blossoming vines give  
out their fragrance."*

(Song of Songs 2: v. 11 - 13)

The winter season in the sugar bush has also come to a close and, with 60 degrees today, summer seems to finally be on the horizon. Our focus is turning to family get-togethers at the lake with great food and good fun -- after some spruce-up outside. Plantings will need to be refreshed, flowers put in, and seeds planted to bring the freshest produce to our tables. To accomplish each of these tasks we will want to enrich the soil in all the different areas around our homes. A great way to do this is with some "black gold" from a home composting bin. Don't have one? We do, but it isn't working as hard for us as I wanted it to so I took a refresher class and did some research. Here are a few things I learned.



Composting is a process that allows naturally occurring microbes to convert yard waste, such as leaves or grass clippings, and kitchen scraps, such as fruit and vegetable peelings, into a useful organic soil amendment or mulch. You can't see these little buggers but to work efficiently they (just like us) need oxygen and water -- and also some nitrogen. Green materials such as vegetable scraps and fruit waste, lake plants or plant cuttings, and

grass clippings (just a little at a time) will add the needed nitrogen to your pile. Alternate green material with brown material such as mulched leaves, coffee grounds (excellent) and their filters, used teabags, eggshells, leftover soil from containers, a little sawdust, or wood ashes. The smaller the particles you add to the pile, the more rapidly the microbes will be able to break them down. An active compost pile can heat to a temperature of 130 to 160 degrees Fahrenheit in the center. (Think of a cup of freshly poured hot coffee or -- a hot tub.) Fifteen days or longer at this internal temperature and you have the makings of "black gold" or humus.

An active compost pile generating this kind of heat should never smell bad. In order to minimize objectionable odors and keep those microbes working, the pile needs to be turned once or twice a month from outside into the middle. This is also a good time to add water just to keep the pile moist but not soggy. If the pile seems too wet add some fresh material. It's a little like making a good stew, soup or sauce -- there's really no exact recipe -- you just have to watch it.

Find a level place with sun early in the morning and later in the day that is open to some rain for moisture but not a lot of wind. Look at [www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu) for more information on backyard composting and structures. The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District has some nice bins available through a grant from the MPCA for only \$22 -- a great price. Contact Melissa Barrick at 218-828-6197 for information, or to purchase one.

A well-managed compost will be ready in two to four months in the warm season, whereas an untended pile will take a year or more to decompose. When completed, your compost pile will be about half its original height and will have a pleasant earthy smell. "Happy Cooking"!

*Presidential Messages Continued from Page 3*

## North Long Lake Association

As I reflect on the many memories I have of life at the lake I think of the days of enjoyment partaking in swimming, fishing, boating, and just sitting out on the dock listening to the loons, watching the beautiful sunset as it displays its colors across the waters. We didn't think much about water clarity or invasive species back then. We lived in the "land of sky blue waters" where life was good and our lake was uncontaminated and clean. Those were indeed the "good old days" and I find myself often yearning for this way of life again. However, we now find ourselves in a time when as much as we would like to just enjoy, we must actively protect what we now have in order to preserve a lake environment that everyone can cherish and enjoy. This action of protection takes many forms: frequent checks of water clarity, lake depth, and checks on the status of invasive species, along with environmental and societal effects on the lake. We have changed from mere users to stewards of our lake. Together, working with the North Long Lake Association, we all can make a difference in preserving our wonderful resource for years to come. Have a wonderful and happy lake season!



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# Status of the Round Lake Fishery (2010)

| By Willard Hartup and Marc Bacigalupi |

The number of fish species inhabiting our two lakes varies somewhat from each other and from other lakes in the Upper Mississippi Watershed. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has sampled the density of major species in these lakes by means of gill netting since 1942, more regularly over the last 30 years than previously. Sampling is now done every three years: The most recent report for North Long Lake (2009) was summarized in the spring 2010 Newsletter while the latest results for Round Lake (2010) are reported here. Please note that these data are derived from a DNR draft report that has not been finally approved.

For sampling purposes, the DNR places large gill nets at standard locations in the lake – set one day, fished over night, and lifted the next day. In 2010, this happened between June 28th and July 2<sup>nd</sup> on Round Lake, with a total of 15 lifts recorded during the period. Of special interest is tracking for walleye, northern pike, largemouth bass, crappies, and other species, mainly forage ones (e.g., tullibees). In addition, the DNR used night electrofishing on September 21<sup>st</sup> to study the abundance of “young-of-the-year” walleye (less than 1 year of age) to gauge stocking success in this species.

**Walleye.** Stocking the lake with fingerlings began in the 1950s and was changed to annual stocking with fries in 2002. Currently, more than 600,000 fry are introduced into the lake each year. The 2010 data reveal that walleye densities, weight, and length have all increased somewhat from 2007 in Round Lake. Density was 6.3 per gill net (GN) in 2010, 3.7/GN in 2007; average weight was 1.6 pounds in 2010, 1.3 in 2007; average length 15.4” in 2010, 14.8 in 2007. The 2010 catch included walleyes ranging from 1 to 11 years of age, with two-thirds aged 1 to 3 years. The number of walleyes in the lake is now between the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles for lakes of Round Lake’s class (lake class is based on a group of parameters including size, depth, shoreline development, water clarity, and water productivity). Although the DNR would like to see density rates approach 10.0/GN, the improvement over the last three years in the walleye population is a step in the right direction.

Night electrofishing (done in September) has shown YOY (age <1) catch rates in Round Lake ranging from 0 to 86.7 in the years since 1999. Should the YOY catch rates fall below 15 fish/hour, stocking of fingerlings will occur in addition to the annual fry stocking, but no more frequently than every other year. The 2010 YOY catch rate was 15.3 fish/hour, not quite reaching the criterion for additional stocking. Also, the catch rate for fish aged 1 and 2 showed them to be at least as abundant as YOY fish, a good sign for the future.

**Northern pike.** The status of Northerns in the lake has also improved somewhat: Density was 5.0/GN in 2010, 3.7 in 2007; av-

erage weight was 4.2 pounds in 2010, 3.7 pounds in 2007; average length 26.3” in 2010, 25.4” in 2007. The number of Northerns is now at about the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for lakes of Round Lake’s class. The age range of the Northern population covers at least 11 years but only 25% range from 1 to 3 years. Thus, the Northern population in the lake is somewhat older than the walleye population.

**Largemouth bass.** This species was caught at 1.2 fish/GN in the recent survey and averaged 10.5” in length and .64 pounds. The density of large mouth bass is near the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of lakes in Round’s class.

**Black crappie.** Black crappie densities have fallen off somewhat (.9/GN in 2010 versus 2.9/GN in 2007). Average length was 8.9” and weight was .4 pounds. Fish ranged in age from 1 to 5 years with 58% three years old or less.

**Tullibees.** Numbers of these fish typically vary widely in multi-year cycles. Historically, tullibees in Round Lake have ranged from 0/GN (2004) to 9.1/GN (1981). Densities were .1/GN in 2007; 2.3 in 2010. This species, a forage fish, is thus showing a slight increase and its density is now above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of lake classes like Round Lake.

**Yellow perch.** The density of this fish species, also an important forage fish, has been declining in Round Lake, from 22.5/GN in 2007 to 18.7 in 2010. It is now at its lowest level since 1942 but still above the median for the lake’s class. Average length was 7.1” and 38% were four years old.

All in all, the status of the Round Lake fishery is good and relatively stable, with conditions for certain species (including walleye) showing some improvement over the last three years. For further information, please contact the DNR Website where this material will be posted in the near future.



Photo courtesy of Emily Amundson



# Water Quality

## Round Lake

| By Chuck Jorgensen |

The Round Lake Improvement District will continue to monitor the water quality of Round Lake through a regular water sampling schedule May through September. Samples are taken from the deepest part of the lake just off the rock bar. Dick Sobiech and Mark Ulm obtain the samples; analysis is done by AW Research Laboratories, Brainerd.

The table shows there was a significant difference in the Phosphorous and Chlorophyll-a levels for the year 2009 compared to the years 2008 and 2010. The reason for this difference may be due to the change in volume of the lake caused by the drought or an anomalies in the data. The TSI is Mesotrophic which means that the water is clear with some algae blooms late in the summer, typical of lakes in this ecoregion. The 2010 results are more in line with the historical data and while the values are higher than they were in 2009 the overall trend in these compounds is not significant.

Chloride levels in Round Lake are extremely high, in some instances 60 times higher than the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) reference values of 0.6-1.2 mg/L. While we are still a long way from the MPCA's toxic level of 860 mg/L, without a solution to remove chloride from the lake, if we don't find the source and correct the problem the chloride will continue to accumulate.

Chloride is not a common element found in open lake systems in the region so it has to be entering the lake from an outside source, such as water softeners, road salt, and septic systems. In 2010 the county did a septic tank evaluation and interviewed property owners regarding water softener ownership and use. Salt usage for those properties with softeners was on average 233#/year. If we assume that half of the residents on the lake use softeners, about 130 properties, than the total salt usage is around 30,290#/year, most of which ends up in the lake. Add to this the salt used by state and county highway departments on the roads during the winter and you can see that we have huge amounts of salt being introduced to our lake.

Last fall the phase 2 evaluation of septic systems for chloride was completed by AW Research Laboratories. Their results and recommendations have been posted on our website [www.roundlakebrainerd.com](http://www.roundlakebrainerd.com).

In conclusion, the water quality of Round Lake is good. In addition to standard water sampling, because the dam at the mouth of Sugar Bush Creek on North Long Lake has been removed, the RLID will be adding Mass Flow evaluations this year at Sugar Bush and Bishop's Creek to monitor nutrient loading of Round Lake.

### WATER QUALITY INDICATORS FOR ROUND LAKE

Indicators	Historical Average (1985-2010)*	2008	2009	2010
Mean Total Phosphorous (u/l)	23.1	27	14	31
Mean total Chlorophyll-a (u/l)	6.6	5.6	4.4	8.4
Mean total Chloride (mg/l)		9.8	10.3	
Mean Secchi feet (transparency)	10.3	10.3	11.1	9.8
Mean Trophic Status Index	44.2	47.4	42.2	46.7

Note.—Data courtesy of AW Research Laboratories.

\*The historic data consist of averages over more than 25 years, with more frequent and consistent sampling over the past 10 years.



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# Key Changes in Crow Wing County Land Use Ordinance

| From the Brainerd Dispatch |

When proposed changes to state shoreline regulations were submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources last summer, they were not approved by Governor Pawlenty. At the same time, he encouraged counties to come up with their own solutions to fit their own communities and land use needs, rather than to use a one-size-fits-all approach. Crow Wing County has used a revision of the county zoning ordinance to do just that. The result is one of the first ordinances of its kind in the state. The following article summarizes major changes; it is reprinted from the Brainerd Dispatch, March 23, 2011.

“Hot-button issues on the ordinance revisions revolved around impervious surface, vegetation buffers, an increase in lot sizes on general development lake lots (this includes North Long Lake and Round Lake), phasing out of a one-time expansion for non-conforming structures, and septic system setbacks. The Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners approved revisions on March 22, as follows:

- Begin a four-year phase out of the one-time 50 percent expansion option for nonconforming structures built before 1970.
- Limit impervious surface on new developments (paving, rooftops, decks, etc.) to 15% of the site without a storm water plan, 15-20% with a storm water plan, and 20-25% with a storm water plan and a vegetative buffer zone – applying to the first 500 feet from the water in the Shoreline Protective Zone. Impervious surface limits will be 25% in the second 500 feet. Before the revisions, the county's limits ranged from 15% to 25% depending on the zoning. The commissioners

pointed to studies showing a degradation of water quality with impervious surface greater than 15%.

- Increase the lake lot size on newly created lots on general development lakes from 20,000 square feet to 30,000 square feet.
- Require a 25 foot shore land vegetation buffer or no-mow zone on natural environment lakes with room for a 15 foot path to access the shoreline. In the original ordinance revision, the county suggested a requirement of a 10 foot shoreline buffer on all riparian or lake property permits, but scaled that back. No buffer would be required on general development (our two lakes) or recreational development lakes, except in cases where the impervious surface is greater than 20%. The buffer would be required for variances and conditional use permits.
- Put septic system setbacks to match building setbacks of 75 feet on a general development lake, 100 feet on a recreational development lake, and 250 feet on a natural environment lake.
- Other revisions are considered to be expansions of property rights, for example, building on nonconforming lots if setback requirements are met; building a shed up to 160 square feet without a permit; building a guest cabin; establishing a home-based business in multiple zoning districts; constructing a small storage shed 20 feet from the lake with a permit; using onsite advertising signs for home business with a permit; allowing resorts outside shore land area instead of allowing them only in shore land.”

More about the land use ordinance is available online at [www.co.crow-wing.mn.us](http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us)

*Presidential Messages Continued from Page 3*

## Round Lake Improvement Association

and events specifically related to Round Lake. We accomplish this goal by: First, publishing this newsletter that goes out semi-annually to all residents of the lake and contains a summary of the events, past and future that have/or will affect Round Lake. Second, the RLIA maintains a website [www.roundlakebrainerd.com](http://www.roundlakebrainerd.com) on which is posted the minutes to all board meetings, and the results of any testing, surveys, or studies that have been authorized by the board. The website also carries several links to

other organizations whose actions may have an effect on Round Lake including the state, county, and MN DNR sites. Finally, board members' phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed on the inside cover of the newsletter. Please do not hesitate to call any of us.

I want to remind everyone that we will be having a membership drive this Memorial Day weekend (see Membership Article). Someone will be stopping by to chat with you, convince you to become a member, and update our directory – all at the same time. Finally, make sure to mark your calendar for the Annual Picnic/Meeting June 25, 2011. Hope to see you all there!



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# K

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# Minnesota **WATERS**

| Marty Peisch |



Minnesota Waters is a state-wide non-governmental organization whose purpose is to em-

power citizens and property owners and to support them in becoming better stewards of Minnesota's great water resources. Its mission has been to provide training and support for lake and river associations as well as individuals so that policies and plans to protect and restore the state's water resources can be better-implemented. The organization also serves as an important liaison to state government.

Both individuals and organizations hold membership in Minnesota Waters. Currently, there are at least 1,000 individual members and about 100 Lake Associations affiliated with Minnesota Waters. Together with a handful of corporate and benevolent sponsors, the organization has funded training sessions, published informative books and pamphlets, and offered grants for eligible programs. Minnesota Waters publishes a quarterly newsletter and a monthly publication entitled "Confluence" to keep members up to date about matters related to the state's water resources. Minnesota Waters also serves as a resource for connecting citizens' groups and assisting them in building support networks for achieving common water quality goals.

Minnesota Waters realizes the importance of citizen volunteers. They provide workshops in Water Quality Sampling, Monitoring Plan Design, Data Interpretation, and even training in Benthic Macro invertebrates (determining water quality by the presence or absence of bugs, snails, and leeches). They have also held legislative forums to bring community leaders into direct contact with state legislators.

Among the many benefits of membership are advice from their staff, agency assistance, and information about funding sources.

The biannual Minnesota Waters Conference was held in St. Cloud on April 28th and 29th this year. Concurrent sessions (tracks) were scheduled dealing with Aquatic Invasive Species,

Influencing Water Policy, Best Practices and Projects for Clean Water, Water Quality Challenges and Citizen Success Stories. With a schedule of workshops like that, it's a shame that every lake association can't send five members so that at least one representative can attend each of the five tracks!

Marian Bender has been the Executive Director of Minnesota Waters for the past three years. She has directed the programming, staff, finances, fund raising, and partnership-building under the direction of a Board of ten Directors. She intends to retire some time in May. She is leaving to become a consultant and it is not known whether applications for the directorship position are currently being taken.

At the conference, I learned that changes in State leadership (the Governor and the Legislature) may result in minor changes with respect to expenditure of "Legacy Amendment" funds (funds established with the .00375% increase in the Minnesota Sales Tax that was approved by the voters in a referendum held in 2008). So far, these monies have been divided as follows: 33% to the Outdoor Heritage Fund, 10.25% for Parks and Trails, 33% for Clean Water, 5% for Drinking Water, and 19.75% for Arts and Culture. Amounts accumulated under this act vary from year to year, but in 2010 approximated \$85,000,000.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oversees the Outdoor Heritage Funds, which are dedicated to the improvement of habitat on permanently protected lands such as City, County, or State Property, and including private property with permanent conservation easements. During the last biennium, the Board of Soil and Water Resources was given almost \$50 million in Clean Water Funds for projects that would improve water quality. These funds are available to Lake Associations if they make application through a local unit of government such as the Board of Soil and Water Conservation District or a Watershed District.

The Crow Wing County Board of Soil and Water Conservation has announced such a program. The intent of grant monies available at this time is to reduce sediment loading and improve



water quality through restoring native shoreline vegetation and replacing both woody terrestrial and aquatic habitat. If you have an idea for a project that would improve the quality of North Long Lake or Round Lake, and that is fundable under current allocations, please contact your Board of Directors. Such proposals may well succeed!

A grant of \$750,000 from Clean Water funds under the Legacy Amendment was made in 2009 to the University of Minnesota for the purpose of drawing up guidelines for future expenditure of clean water funds. Based on consultation with many water resources experts and stakeholders around the state, the University's Center for Water Resources issued a 150-page report, "Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework," in January 2011. Ten overarching issues are identified in the report: 1) needs for a sustainable and clean water supply; 2) excess nutrients and other pollutants; 3) contaminants of emerging concern; 4) land, air, and water connections; 5) ecological and hydrological integrity (including invasive species); 6) the water-energy nexus; 7) water pricing and valuation; 8) public water infrastructure; 9) citizen engagement and education; 10) governance and institutions. Priorities among these areas of concern identified in the report include 1 through 4 above as well as 10. Many of the issues identified among these priorities pertain to lakes. Some issues (e.g., invasive species), however, are not included among those given highest priority even though stakeholders, as contrasted with the water resources experts, were loud and clear on the subject. See [wrc.umn.edu/watersustainabilityframework/](http://wrc.umn.edu/watersustainabilityframework/) for more information.

With budget cuts throughout the state budget in the offing, it is unclear what allocations will be made to work on these issues in the near future. Indeed, it is unclear whether Legacy Amendment funds will be used exclusively to supplement traditional state funding on water resources (as intended by the voters) or whether these funds will end up supplanting previous funding by the state. Will such programs as fish stocking be funded with Legacy funds when the DNR can no longer provide this service within its regular budget? Let your legislators know what you think.



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## NEWS & NOTES

# Round Lake

## SALE AROUND ROUND

**Saturday, June 4, 2011**

Everyone living on County Road 115 is invited to participate!

Garage sale shoppers look forward to this BIG sale! Clean out that basement, garage and closet and sell your treasures to someone else. If you would like to participate, please fill out the form below and return it along with your check for \$10.00 payable to the Round Lake Association. A garage sale sign will be delivered to you which will identify you as a paid participant in this event. The money we collect is used to pay for advertising and signs. This is meant to be a break even event for us. If you have any questions, call Linda Esser, 963-2752.

Please mail your check for \$10.00 with this form by Friday, May 27, 2011 to:  
RLIA, PO Box 378, Nisswa, MN 56468

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## ROUND LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND ASSOCIATION

# Annual Summer Meeting, Picnic and Pig Roast

Bring the family – Bring your grandchildren. Meet your Neighbors. Great Bar-B-Que. Please bring a dish to pass around! Bring your lawn chair.

Saturday, June 25 • Starting at 12:00 noon

At the home of Nan Morain & Jo Bonestroo  
5726 Ojibwa Rd.  
(co-hosted by)  
Marilyn & Dick Sobiech

Sweatshirts and Jackets will be for sale!



# NEWS & NOTES

## Round Lake

### Round Lake Improvement District BALANCE

1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010

1/1/2010 Balance .....\$8,844.63

Revenues .....\$36,892.83

Expenditures .....\$8,359.91

7/31/2010 Balance .....\$37,377.55

Less escrow Acct Bal .....\$250.00

Spendable Cash Balance ..\$37,127.55

### Round Lake Improvement Association NET WORTH

Account .....4/15/2011 Balance

#### Assets

Cash and Bank Accounts

CD Designated Funds Dredging .....28,547.81

Checking .....1,941.55

Savings .....5,269.01

Savings Dredging Funds .....50.52

Total Cash and Bank Accounts .....35,808.89

Total Assets .....35,808.89

Liabilities .....0.00

Overall Total .....35,808.89

All the interest that has been earned on the money set aside for dredging is in the CD Dredging or Savings Dredging Funds. These are separate accounts set up at the bank. None of this interest has been spent.

## Round Lake Sportswear! Sweatshirts & Windbreakers | by Janell Kramer |

Round Lake sportswear is now available in a variety of styles and sizes. We have hooded sweatshirts, both pullover and zip up, and windbreakers for both men and woman. Colors include pink, chocolate, blue, and green to name a few. The windbreaker and sweatshirts are priced at \$35.00 each.

Show your Round Lake pride by getting your sweatshirt or windbreaker today! They will be available at the Annual Round Lake Picnic - or if you can't make the picnic you can get your sportswear at D.H. Docks in Nisswa. Please have your cash or check ready. Checks should be made out to Round Lake Improvement Assn. (RLIA).

Please remember D.H. Docks is doing this as a courtesy to us and receives no compensation, so please don't tie up a salesperson any longer than necessary.

If we are out of your size or color please leave your information with the salesperson or contact one of the board members and we will contact you when the next shipment arrives. The sportswear is a great value and at these prices makes a great gift. Also, it's nice to have some extra sportswear around the house for guests on those cool evenings.



## Round Lake Annual Membership Donation

| by Donald Gunderson |

It's hard to believe that another year has passed and it's time to consider membership in the Round Lake Association again. The members of the Board wish to thank all of you for your participation in the various projects throughout the last year.

Historically, we have asked for "dues" from the members to support our work. This year, because of the hard work of board members Chuck Jorgensen and Linda Esser, the Round Lake Association was recently approved as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. What does this mean? For all of us, it means that whatever sum we choose to contribute to the work of the association becomes a tax deductible charitable contribution. Therefore, in order to make sure that any amount you contribute to the association is deductible, this year we will not be asking for "dues" to renew or become a member but rather a "donation." The following are some suggested levels of participation that have been developed realizing that some members may want to contribute at a level higher than the minimum. All contributors will be acknowledged in the fall newsletter. The membership categories are as follows:

- |           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 1) Owl    | \$25.00-\$50.00   |
| 2) Hawk   | \$51.00-\$75.00   |
| 3) Osprey | \$76.00-\$100.00  |
| 5) Eagle  | \$101.00 or more. |

So, what does the Association do and why does it need your support? Here are a few examples:

- 1) A few years ago, because of the drought, Bishop's Creek became un-navigable. The Association was able to implement a program to dredge Bishop's Creek because of the generous donations of the property owners around the lake. This is a project that requires on-going maintenance, what with the rocks, brush, and debris that accumulates throughout the year. There is also a breakwater at the mouth of the creek on the Gull Lake side that must be constantly maintained to prevent the sand from blocking the mouth of the creek. Of course, everyone on the lake realizes the importance of maintaining our access to Gull Lake.
- 2) The Association works on a continuing basis with Crow Wing County and its agencies to improve County Road 115, encourage more aggressive Sheriff's patrols in our area, and work with the Land Management Office to keep abreast of the rule changes and new requirements regarding lake improvement districts.
- 3) The Association works on a continuing basis with the Department of Natural Resources to improve Round Lakes fisheries, obtain permits to control the goose population, survey the infestation of curly-leaf pondweed, and obtain the appropriate permits to treat the same. This year the DNR is under pressure to reduce spending so they are looking at eliminating the stocking program. If this happens, this may become another responsibility of the Association.
- 4) The Association, along with its volunteers, has purchased and maintains four loon nesting platforms around the lake.
- 5) As you may be aware, Round Lake has been found to have very high level of chloride respective to other lakes in the area. Recently, the Association has been working on a program to test selected septic systems around the lake. The goal is to find the causes for this, and a possible solution. This is a very im-



# NEWS & NOTES

## Round Lake

portant endeavor, as I suspect none of us wants Round Lake to evolve into a salt water lake!

6) To keep members informed and up to date on programs and events that affect them, the Association publishes a semi-annual newsletter and maintains a website. The web site contains all minutes of board meetings, water quality reports, and results of latest studies, and links to several other organizations that are active in the lakes area.

7) Each spring the Association sponsors a tree planting project when property owners are encouraged to plant white pines on their property. The Association and its volunteers also planted red pines along Highway 371 on the west side of the lake. As you know, this is also a good way to maintain the water purity of the lake.

8) The buoys and markers that you see identifying the rock hazards, the channel at Bishop's Creek, and the landing have been purchased and are maintained by the Association. Here again, each spring and fall volunteers place and remove the buoys as necessary, storing them for the winter and getting them ready for the next summer. If we do not have volunteers this would have to be "contracted out" at the Association's expense.

During the course of the year, there are many other on-going projects as well. All of these projects require volunteer help and many require funding to maintain them.

There are also issues in the future about which we are concerned. Perhaps the most recent is the finding of zebra mussels in the lake. There is no question that if this problem is to be contained it will require much effort---and funding. It will, no doubt, be a long-term effort. Our lake is under attack and although zebra mussels are the most recent invader, there are

concerns about other invasive species, such as Eurasian water milfoil, spiny water fleas, yellow floating heart flowers, brittle naiad, Brazilian waterweed, hydrilla and Asian carp. With these threats all around us it behooves us to start building our war chest now!

So, this Memorial Day weekend volunteers of the board will be visiting homes around the lake. We ask you to be generous in your contributions so that we may continue to do the work of protecting and maintaining our Round Lake.

Please make checks payable to:  
Round Lake Improvement Association,  
P.O. Box 378, Nisswa, MN 56468

Name

Lake Address

City, State, Zip

Other Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone

Lake Phone

Cell

Email address

## NEWS & NOTES

# Round Lake

## White Pines for Round Lake

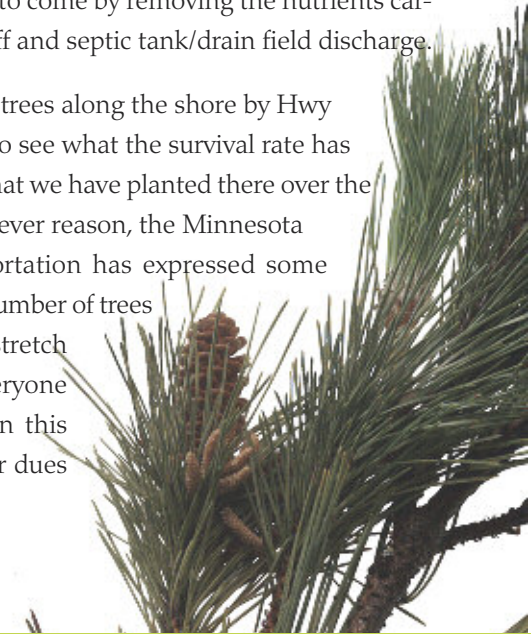
| by Mark Ulm |

Once again we have White Pines ordered that will be coming from Crow Wing Soil and Water and we will be picking them up on or about May 5th. Once again, Scott and Sue Fisher will be distributing them from Northeast Liquors where they will be kept fresh in the beer cooler. Make sure to thank them when you pick yours up. They are free to anyone who will plant them on their Round Lake Property. First come --first served, until they are gone.

Thousands of white and red pines have been planted around the lake since we started this program. As they grow and mature they will continue to improve the health and water quality of

our lake for many years to come by removing the nutrients carried to the lake by runoff and septic tank/drain field discharge.

We will not be planting trees along the shore by Hwy 371 this year. We want to see what the survival rate has been on the 550 pines that we have planted there over the last two years. For whatever reason, the Minnesota Department of Transportation has expressed some concern regarding the number of trees we planted along this stretch of road. Thanks to everyone who has participated in this program. These are your dues put into action for lake improvement.



## Round Lake Board Vacancies

This year the Round Lake Improvement Association/District has three board openings. Bruce Clark and Linda Esser's terms are up, and there is also one vacant position that has to be filled. Linda Esser has graciously agreed to stand for reelection to another term.

It should be pointed out that the Annual Picnic/Meeting on June 25, 2011 is for both the RLIA and the RLID. In accordance with Minnesota statutes, Lake Improvement Districts must open their board elections and annual meetings to all property owners. In addition, provisions must be made for the casting of ballots for those not able to attend the annual meeting. Candidates who have agreed to accept nominations are listed on the ballot, and we will accept write-in candidates. The current board members thank those on the ballot for offering their services to our association/district.

MAIL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 17TH. Please remember, it is one vote per property, not one vote per person. Be sure to include your address so we can validate your ballot. Additional nominations for board positions will be accepted from Round Lake property owners at the annual meeting. However, please obtain prior approval from the nominee if they will not be in attendance.

### ROUND LAKE BOARD MEMBER BALLOT [Vote for 3]

☐ Linda Esser • ☐ Nancy Gervais • ☐ Michael Niebur

\_\_\_\_\_  
Voter's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lake Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

#### Mail to:

Round Lake Ballot  
P.O. Box 378  
Nisswa, MN 56468



# North Long Lake

## NORTH LONG LAKE BOARD ACTIVITY AND ELECTIONS

The Board of Directors of the North Long Lake Association meets nine times each year in order to conduct business. It maintains contact with members through the Annual Meeting (July 16th this year), this Newsletter, a website ([www.northlong](http://www.northlong)), an e-mail list, and other activities. The Board's meetings are open to the public, and visitors are welcome. With challenges to the lake's habitat increasing, it is imperative that the membership grows (currently about 50% of eligible homeowners are members) and that the Board and an enlarged membership work together as an active, cohesive unit.

Traditionally, the Board has been more concerned with the health of the lake than any other issue. But more than being concerned with measuring water quality or the status of the fishery, the board also maintains close watch on zoning regulations, land use, preservation of loons, wetlands issues, and the history of the lake.

The topic that has taken the most time over the last four years, of course, has been invasive species. The intractability of dealing with these invasions and the potential costs of invasive species control greatly concern the current Board. Results of the Board's efforts to date are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter; here,

the purpose is to convey the extent of the Board's continuing concern about invasives, the necessity for the Board to have as large a membership base as possible, and for everyone to be engaged with these issues. The Board is especially concerned with the high costs of funding both present and future encounters with invasive species, the small size of the Association's reserves (approximately \$22,000), and the very limited availability of outside funds—especially considering forthcoming cutbacks in state and local budgets that will endanger the services we already receive.

Increasingly, the Association is being forced to go it alone with respect to invasives, and this means calling for support from as many homeowners as possible – more than currently belong to the Association. For these reasons, the Board invites you to come to the Annual Meeting, to participate in the discussions to be held there, and to maintain your membership. We also hope that you will be inspired to canvass your neighborhood (we are a big lake), persuading others to join in this effort.

Board elections will be held at the Annual Meeting: Three directors (Gary Villwock, Conrad Molin, and Marty Peisch) complete their current terms and would like, with your support, to continue serving. New officers will be elected at the first board meeting following the annual meeting/picnic.

## North Long Lake Annual Pic-a-nic

SATURDAY, JULY 16th

Drinks, door prizes, fixin's, brats, hot dogs

Legionville on Merrifield Bay

Business Meeting and Board Elections: 10:30 a.m.

Eats: 12:00 noon



# North Long Lake

## North Long Lake Membership Report

| by Kay Hondo |

Since our fall newsletter was mailed, we have received only 56 dues payments for 2011. Dues of \$1445 were submitted with \$925 for Invasive Species for a total of \$2370.

Did our newsletter arrive too late in the year and at a time when members were focused on the holidays? Or, was the November mailing early enough so that members considered it yet another drive for 2010? Do we need to consider the additional cost of sending out a letter for an annual membership drive? In any case, we have a long way to go to match or exceed responses from 256 members for 2010.

## North Long Lake 2011 Membership Dues Statement

**URGENT!** Now is the time for property owners and friends of the lake to continue their memberships in the North Long Lake Association (NLLA) or become new members. We urgently need the support of all persons who own property around the lake in our efforts to monitor and improve the lake's quality. With everyone participating, we have the best chance to combat current threats from invasive species. **Please note that the mailing label on this Newsletter shows the latest year for which you have paid dues. Currently, dues received are being applied to 2011.**

**PLEASE USE THIS FORM:** Please provide the information requested below and send with your **2011** dues to the address indicated. We have also provided a space for any additional contributions that you would like to make to the Invasive Species Fund. Current needs are great. We heartily thank all of you who continue to maintain your NLLA memberships and we especially appreciate the extra contributions many members include! **Remember, these contributions are tax deductible!**

One of our "big ticket" costs coming up is our treatment of curly leaf pondweed early this spring. We have almost enough money in our Invasive Species Fund to cover the cost of this first treatment. However, treatment will have to be repeated for at least a couple more years. Invasive Species donations are thus needed now to cover 2012 treatment! ***Remember, donations are tax deductible given our IRS status as a 501(c)3 organization!!!***

To help preserve our wonderful lake, please complete and return the 2011 membership form provided in this newsletter today! If you have thoughts on how to increase and improve our membership, please contact me at: kayhondonlla@yahoo.com. Have a great spring! See you at our summer picnic?

*We have started a "members only" email data base for urgent notices between Newsletters. If you would like to be notified in this way, please provide your email address. Also, if any of your personal information has changed recently, please bring it to our attention by writing "NEW" next to the changed item. Thank you!!!*

Name		
Mailing address		
Lake address		
Home Phone	Lake Phone	Cell Phone
Email address		
2011 dues:	\$25.00	
+ Invasive Species Fund	_____	
= Total Contribution:	_____	
Please make checks payable to:		
North Long Lake Association, P.O. Box 54, Merrifield, MN 56465		



## NORTH LONG LAKE FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010

Opening balances	
Certificates of Deposit	\$15,934.86
Savings Account	3,662.57
Checking Account	5,820.98
Total	\$25,418.41

Revenues	
Dues	\$6,865.00
Invasive Species Donations	3,292.00
Clothing Sales	1,415.00
Inventory	344.00
Total	\$11,916.00

Expenses	
Annual Meeting/Picnic	\$1,324.81
Boat Inspections	10,533.55
Clothing	1,065.00
History Committee	20.00
Legionville School Patrol Scholars	400.00
Loon Nest Repair	82.50
Meeting expense	90.00
Newsletter	63.40
Office expense	136.80
Real estate tax	32.60
Sew Neat	1,363.00
Water testing	853.25
Web page	669.50
Total	\$16,634.41

Closing Balances	
Savings Account	\$19,713.00
Checking Account	987.00
Total	\$20,700.00

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## DONATE WITH CONFIDENCE

Donate your home, land, furniture, household goods, sporting goods, lawn mowers, cars, trucks, vans, boats, motors, trailers, snowmobiles, ATVs, campers or trailers to our **ANNUAL AUCTION** held in the fall of 2011.

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on highway 371.**

# North Long Lake

## North Long Lake Clothing Sale

| by Fran Cronin and Deb Johnson |

What a long hard winter this has been! We're ready for the warm sunny days at the cabin. North Long Lake Association sells many items to add to your summer wardrobe such as mesh caps, visors, and tee shirts for men and women. They come beautifully embroidered with any of our three logos: lake, loon, or trees. To see these summer items, come to our annual meeting/picnic on July 16th. You can try on our samples, buy them on the spot, or custom order your item, size, color, and logo for later delivery. Also, consider bringing a favorite item of clothing and we will send it off to have the logo of your choice sewn on it for only \$10.

All apparel is also available year round. You can check out our full line on our web site (<http://northlong/apparel>). If you wish, you can print and fill out the order form, and mail it to the address at the bottom of the form. Be sure to include your e-mail address or phone number since availability and prices are subject to change. If you do not have internet, or if you have any questions, please contact Deb or Fran at the phone numbers listed below.

Over the years, we have tried to keep our prices reasonable and all profit goes to the North Long Lake Association. To date, your

purchases have contributed more than \$1,000 to help support the work of the Association. Hope to see you at the picnic!

Deb Johnson:  
612-384-0895  
(dsj9956@gmail.com)

Fran Cronin:  
763-427-5636  
(pfc1964@gmail.com)

Sue Kumpula:  
218-828-3632  
(nlong49@q.com)



## North Long Lake History

The History Committee met in the Fall of 2010 and while we fully intend to publish a North Long Lake History book, we have decided not to rush this project. We have collected interesting information on old resorts on the lake, the bridge that once crossed the lake, and how visitors used to arrive in Merrifield by train. We have pictures of the train, details about Legionville and even some facts about gangsters that visited.

Many people have already submitted information, however, we feel we are missing a lot more "history" that is still out there. If you and your family have years of memories on North Long, we'd love to hear from you. You can send us your stories and/or pictures in any of the following ways: By email at [northlonghistory@hotmail.com](mailto:northlonghistory@hotmail.com) or by U.S. mail to Sue Kumpula, 21706 Paradise Drive, Nisswa, MN 56468 or you can include your information with your 2011 dues. We haven't determined when we'll go to print but we want this book to be as inclusive as possible. Don't miss your chance to share your personal story!



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