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Presidential Message | Round Lake



Round Lake Association

| Mark Parrish | President

Once again, as another cold spring is upon us, we begin to wonder just why we live in northern Minnesota!

But, soon the weather will change and we'll begin to forget the miserable winter that was. I've outlined below some of the current work of the association.

Lakes Restoration was the low bidder to treat curly leaf pond weed this year. The aerial survey of the lake that was conducted in November revealed growth on 102 acres. The area will be reevaluated to determine if anything has changed over the course of the winter. Thick ice, snow, and late ice out are not conducive to the growth of curly leaf pond weed. The necessary permits from the DNR are in hand and treatment will be conducted once the water temperature reaches between 50 and 60 degrees, no later than May 25th. If the maximum area is in need

of treatment the total cost will be \$44,000. A grant from the DNR has been obtained which will cover \$100 per acre up to a max of \$10,300.

The board has discussed if there is a necessity to dredge Bishop's Creek. It was decided to wait and see how navigation is this year before making a decision to move forward. The last time this big project was undertaken it cost the association around

uled for review by the county board this year for approval of another five year term. It's imperative that the LID be continued so the necessary funds to fight curly leaf pond weed as well as other invasive species can continue uninterrupted. The water quality of Round Lake is at stake.

The established Round Lake Improvement District is sched-

A hot topic of discussion is the scoping project being conducted by Crow Wing County for the possible future reconstruction of CR115 (see Dick Sobiech's article in this Newsletter). Please take it upon yourself to understand the various designs being proposed and their possible impact. There is a website with information that can be found at http://crowwing.us/index.aspx?nid=696

Several homeowners along Ojibwa Road have discovered high levels of arsenic in their drinking water. Six wells have arsenic levels over the legal limit of 10 parts per billion. AW Research Laboratories is providing arsenic tests for residents at a reduced rate of \$20. You can contact them at (218)829-7974 for more information.



sad news of Alan Cibuzar's passing at the time of this writing. Not only was Al a great person, he devoted countless hours of his time to the preservation of Round Lake. His company AW Research Laboratories was contracted with by the association for projects that ranged from water quality studies to curly leaf growth surveys. Al contributed hundreds of hours of his per-

Lastly, I received the

\$25,000. There is currently a dredging fund with an available balance of \$29,000 waiting for the next time dredging is necessary.

sonal time on a voluntary basis to the association. He will be deeply missed.

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Presidential Message | North Long Lake



North Long Lake Association

| Kay Hondo | President |

Is it Spring yet? Most of us are anxious to ramp up for our summer activities. Right now, your North Long Lake Association (NLLA) Board of

Directors has projects that are heating up as well. Most prominent are the following:

Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) Treatment in the Merrifield Bay

The Board was not satisfied with the results of last spring's CLP treatment and felt it was necessary to review our treatment plan and interview new vendors. The Board decided to hire a local company, PLM, which has a big presence in our area and a different application process that seems more appropriate for our infestation. PLM's commitment and guarantee makes us confident that the treatment plan should be more effective. The Board will oversee the treatment process that will take place after the water reaches at least 50 degrees.

Grants

Over the winter, the Board again focused on applying for available DNR grants to help pay for Boat Inspectors and the CLP treatment. We are happy to report that we were accepted. These two grants have been available in the past but unfortunately the value of grants are lower this year. For example, last year we got \$1500 for CLP treatment, this year we will receive only \$1000. Our cost for CLP treatment has not yet been determined as the infestation has to be surveyed, but we probably will have additional costs of \$2,000 more than last year.

For 2012, we received 948 hours of Boat Inspector coverage with the DNR paying 50% of the cost. This year, the DNR is limiting their 50% to only 500 hours. This means we have to pick up the balance of the cost by using more of the Crow Wing County Boat Inspector program. Educating our boaters and inspecting boats seems to be the best approach to keeping out further Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). However, the bottom line is that boat inspectors will cost us around \$4000 more than last year. This means we will need about \$6000 more in 2012 to cover the higher costs of these projects.

Soon, we will begin to plan our annual meeting and picnic which will be held on July 19th. Please mark your calendar for this fun event!

Besides our newsletter, we have several ways to keep you better informed on what your Board is doing. First of all, at our web site: www.northlong.com you can review Board minutes, get Board member info or a membership form and check out how to order North Long clothing items. You can also "contact us" from this web site. Secondly, we send out an occasional update via email. Please include your email address when you complete your membership form. Another less used communication avenue is for you to "befriend" us on our facebook account: "Our North Long Lake" where you can share information. Of course, you can email me at: kayhondon-lla@yahoo.com at any time.

Thank you for your continued support. Please review my "Membership Report" in this newsletter to see how our membership is doing!

Alert: There is evidence that there are high levels of arsenic in some of the wells around Round Lake and North Long Lake, particularly near Ojibwa Road and/or the Merrifield area. AW Research Labs has offered discounted water testing. You may wish to take advantage of this offer to make sure your water is safe for drinking. There are ways to combat this problem, for example a Reverse Osmosis Filtration System.



Photo by Alyx Betland



The mission of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) is "To protect Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links between lakes, lake advocates, and policy makers." This is MLR's sole focus and daily effort. This organization is the only group in the state doing this work and we have been doing it for over twenty years.

In 2009, with the threat of zebra mussels, MLR committed to funding and implementing a comprehensive statewide strategy for stopping the spread of all aquatic invasive species (AIS). MLR organized lake home and cabin owners into a grassroots base, held legislative summits, developed our computerized Citizens Action Network (CAN, an email system generating tens of thousands of direct constituent correspondence between legislators and voters), informed the public about AIS issues through print, radio, and video media, and worked with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to improve AIS plant management through permitting and volunteer

programs. Among the results of this effort are several measures, introduced and approved in this session of the Minnesota Legislature that will fund local AIS work.

First, Senator Rod Skoe and Senator Ann Rest, along with Rep. Ann Lenczewski, introduced a bill that provides \$10 million in County Program Aid to, "prevent the introduction of or limit the spread of invasive species at all access sites..." The money will be apportioned to the counties based on the number of boat access sites situated in each of them, along with the number of watercraft trailer parking spots. Under this formula, Crow Wing County will receive approximately \$450,500 annually. The first payment (1/2 half of the total) would be dispersed on July 1, 2014, then payments would arrive with half of the annual payment on March 21 and the second half on July 1 each year. The language was amended so that the counties can make direct grants to lake associations, watershed districts, and other groups as partners in this work. The bill will fund decontamination sites that will serve clusters of lakes and other

measures. Significantly, the bill provides aid for AIS control directly to counties rather than going through the DNR, and provides a reasonable formula for determining the allocations.

Second, another bill was introduced that requires the Commissioner of the DNR and the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to have a conversation about using Wayside Rest Areas and Semi-Weigh Stations as locations for education, inspection, and (possibly) decontamination of watercraft for AIS. The State Patrol felt that weigh stations would be unsafe for this effort, so this language was stricken from the Senate bill but remains in the House Omnibus Transportation Bill. The measure survived conference committee and was approved by both houses of the Legislature.

Third, we worked with the counties on one major concern: The current DNR Delegation Agreement that local units of government must sign in order to do work at DNR boat ramps (including those on Round and North Long Lakes) is too re-

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Status of the Fisheries

| By Willard Hartup |

Between 125 and 250 species of fish inhabit the Mississippi River Watershed. The number of species varies from lake to lake and river to river and no one knows exactly how many species live in Round and North Long Lakes.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has sampled major species in these lakes since the early 1940s and new data were collected for North Long Lake in 2012 and for Round Lake in 2013 (these lakes are now both on a three-year survey schedule).

Old Fisherman's Tale

Behold the fisherman! He ariseth early and disturbs the whole household. He maketh mighty preparations and fares forth full of hope. He returneth late, smelling of strong drink... And the truth is not in him.

—Anonymous

Fish sampling is done in three ways, with all of them used in these lakes: gill netting, trap netting, and electrofishing. Gill netting employs nets 6'x 250' (five panels, each 50'long) which are lowered into the water and set for 24 hours; multiple sets are used. Trap netting involves lowering a meshlike trap into the water that fish can swim into but not out of. Electrofishing is a commonly used survey method that stuns fish without doing permanent harm to them. Electrodes "pull" the stunned fish toward them, and dip netting then permits the surveyor to measure the catch before re-

turning it to the water.

North Long Lake

Walleye pike. Gil net (GN) surveys of walleye in North Long Lake have varied from .36/GN to 9.27/GN over the 70 years that sampling has been conducted. Stocking with fingerlings was introduced to the lake in the 1950s and changed to stocking with fry (very small) in 2002. Annual stocking in North Long Lake in recent years has been 3,900,000 fry, a mass that totals 34 pounds. Increases in the walleye population over the last 20 years have therefore been substantial. But a sharp drop occurred over the past three years from 9.27/GN in 2009 to 4.53/GN in 2012, for reasons that are unclear. The lake still falls at about the 50th percentile of lakes this size in its walleye population, but that is a drop from the 75th percentile that was scored in 2009. Fish size has increased very slightly —from 15.3 inches on average to 15.6 inches and from 1.46 pounds to 1.65. The DNR report does not make

suggestions for increasing the number of walleyes in the lake.

Northern pike. In contrast to the results for the walleyes, the density of northern pike has increased over the last three years from 5.0/GN to 13.33/GN. Weight is slightly less over the three years – from 2.75 pounds on average to 2.08. Average length was 20.6," with 17% over 24 inches long.

Largemouth bass. This species is difficult to sample with gill net or trap net methods. Numbers of this bass species appear healthy, however, with an electrofishing catch rate of 99 per hour of run-time - a good rate. Gill net rate was 3.53/GN and size was decent as well: Average weight was nearly one pound, and two-thirds were 12" or longer.

Panfish. Panfish numbers looked good, but size was lacking. Black crappie den-

sity was high for this type of lake (6.36/GN) but average length was only between 6.8" and 7.3." Only 15% were 8" or larger. Bluegill numbers were average for lakes of this class (23.4/GN), but still the lowest to date on North Long Lake. While a few of the bluegills were as long as 9.4," the average length was only 5.5;" 16% of these fish were 7" or larger.

All in all, walleye numbers from the survey are concurrent with the reports of some anglers and bear watching. The next survey will occur in 2015 with results available about 6 months later.

Round Lake

Walleye pike. Round Lake is stocked with over 600,000 fry each year. Gill net surveys of Round Lake have produced catch rates from 2.9/GN (2004) to 14.1/GN (1991). The 2013 catch rate was 7.3/GN, up from 3.3/GN in 2010. Average size

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The Path to the Lake

...through the garden gate...

By Judy DuBois, U of M Extension Master Gardener, Crow Wing County

I came across this quotation one day: "Gardening is cheaper than therapy and...you get tomatoes!" (Author Unknown) Those of you who have a vegetable garden can identify with this I'm sure. I can even handle weeding in my garden when I can do it while mulling over a problem or difficult situation on a cool summer morning.

Tomatoes are one of the most popular vegetables grown in gardens or sometimes even in a pot on the patio or deck. Gardeners can think of nothing better than going out and eating one fresh off the vine or bringing some in for a meal. What could be better? The nutritional benefit from garden to table is at its absolute peak! Tomatoes are particularly high in Vitamin C and, while you're outside caring for or harvesting them, you're getting natural Vitamin D from the sun, fresh air, and exercise.

"Determinate or Indeterminate, that is the question" (to paraphrase another famous author). When looking at seed catalogues, or shopping at one of our local garden centers, you might see one of these terms in the description for a particular variety of tomato. What do they mean?"Determinate" plants grow to a certain size, set fruit, and start to decline. "Indeterminate" plants continue to grow until frost or disease does them in. They will continue to produce fruit as long as conditions are right. If it doesn't say either, it

is usually "indeterminate" but may mean the plant needs some pruning of nonflower-producing branches to keep them under control.

Tomatoes come in all different shapes, sizes, and colors. Plum, or Roma, are better for sauces and salsas because of their relative lack of seeds and juice, and their flesh is solid. Beefsteak tomatoes are one of the largest types often weighing in at a pound or more. They have a rich flavor that is best enjoyed raw. Hollow these big boys out and use them as a bowl for a summer meal of chicken or tuna salad. Heirloom tomatoes are generally considered to be a variety passed down through several generations because of valued characteristics, not the least of which is their superior flavor. They make a beautiful and delicious salad all on their own with a drizzle of olive oil, a splash of balsamic vinegar, perhaps a sprinkling of a fresh garden herb like basil, and salt and pepper. Cherry or grape tomatoes are the sweetest of all. Kids (like my 3-year-old grandson, Thomas, shown in the accompanying photo) will eat these by the handful right off the vine — as will many adults! My daughter has suggested to me to try roasting these to intensify their flavor. All you have to do is toss them with olive oil and a little salt and pepper; place in a 400 degree oven until they burst and collapse. They're great tossed with pasta; added in to your other favorite toppings for pizza; or, just used as a side dish.

Give the following recipe a try when the harvest comes!

Spaghetti with Tomatoes, Olives, and Feta - Serves 4



Ingredients

3 ½ c chopped, seeded, vine-ripened tomatoes, (about 7), divided ½ c dry white wine 2 garlic cloves, chopped ½ c extra virgin olive oil ½ c pitted Kalamata olives, chopped ¾ pound pasta ½ c coarsely chopped fresh herbs (parsley and/or chives) ½ c coarsely chopped fresh basil 1 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar 1 ½ c feta cheese, divided

Directions: Puree 2 ½ c tomatoes, wine and garlic in blender. Heat olive oil in heavy large skillet over medium heat. Add tomato puree and olives. Cook until sauce begins to thicken, stirring often, about 6 minutes. Meanwhile, cook pasta just until tender but firm. Drain, reserving ½ c cooking water. Add pasta, herbs and vinegar to sauce in skillet. Toss over medium-high heat until sauce coats pasta, adding reserved cooking liquid by 1/4 c if dry, for about 3minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Mix in remaining tomatoes and half of cheese. Mound onto serving dish or bowl. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Serve with toasted garlic bread. Bon Appetit!

No Silver Bullet

for Aquatic Invasive Species

| By Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates |

In March the New York Times published a story called "Science Takes on Silent Invader," a version of which was reprinted in the Star Tribune. The article seems to indicate that scientists are closing in on a "silver bullet" solution, something that can be safely added to lakes that will kill zebra mussels and nothing else. Unfortunately the article is misleading and the hope it generates unfounded. The article outlines the work of Dr. Dan Malloy with *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, a naturally occurring bacterium that kills zebra mussels. The bacterium is being marketed under the name Zequanox.

The public is justifiably excited about this discovery. Zebra mussels can threaten fisheries, lake ecology, and Minnesota's \$4 billion annual recreation-based economy, Mille Lacs being the most recent and painful example. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) can lower property tax base and destroy public infrastructure like dams and water intake pipes at drinking water and hydroelectric facilities.

While the blogosphere and many newspapers have recently declared the war on zebra mussels to be won, sadly these reports are grossly and sadly premature. Yes, Zequanox can kill zebra mussels without harming other life, but it has an insurmountable obstacle of scale. There is simply no viable open water application. Zequanox will kill ZMs in a pipe or tank with better than 90% effectiveness, and does not harm other creatures. But Zequanox is not a live bacterium, and so

must be reapplied, which is cost prohibitive. If an inexpensive method of synthesizing Zequanox were to be developed, it would still be impossible to get concentrations high enough to treat even a small open water lake with

currents, wind, and waves.

Dr. Malloy is actively seeking funding of research building on his earlier work with Pseudomonas fluorescens. The new work will emphasize finding a live organism that is self-replicating, can get federal approval, and will not harm any other aquatic life in the system. Dr. Malloy recognizes that while his work to create Zequanox is like looking for a "needle in a haystack," finding a similar live organism for open water treatments is like initiating a moon shot. He predicts an open water solution will take decades, if one can be found. Said Dr. Peter Sorensen, the Chair of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (University of Minnesota), "As we look for solutions to the state's AIS problems we need to recognize that a combination of approaches that includes prevention and short-term fixes, as well as new science that aims for fundamental change with long-lasting effects is needed. This will take sustained effort and time."

There may never be a "cure" for the common cold or zebra mussels, but that doesn't mean our lakes have to get sick.

enlist an array of strategies, behavior changes, tools, and laws to continually lower the risk of transmission. Controlling AIS is about controlling the pathways on which they travel from one lake to another. The good news/bad news is that the great majority of these pathways rely on humans. We do have a certain amount of control. Zequanox may well play a role in this work, for instance, as a treatment for ballast water tanks in wakeboard boats or in live wells and bilges, but Zequanox is no silver bullet.

Instead we need to



The Round Lake Improvement Association A Brief History

| By Chuck Jorgensen |

In the 1960s, a group of Round Lake residents got together at the Snuggle Inn to discuss forming a lake association to encourage the use and enjoyment of the lake. This organization was a loose knit group of neighbors whose goal was to promote neighborhood camaraderie through social activities, such as picnics, sailing regattas, and winter ice fishing, and in the mean time, possibly put together some projects to improve the lake. This organization did not have any officers, charge dues or record minutes; that probably explains why the information from that time is quite sketchy. Participation in the group tapered off significantly in the mid 1970s.

A CATALYST

The Public Access. This situation changed in 1978 when the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced plans to buy "Land of Lakes Resort" and build a public access on the site. That announcement was the catalyst that breathed new life into the Round Lake Association. Iven Hudalla, Jim Halloran, and Dick Ostlund were responsible for marshaling the forces to get the association up and running. Several other members of the neighborhood helped set up a membership drive to solicit new members and collect dues of \$5.00. They were well rewarded for their efforts when 137 property owners, who were all probably concerned about the public access, signed up.

While the public access controversy raged, there were other things that the association became involved in promoting. Their annual meeting was a picnic with games for the kids, a sailing regatta, a motorboat

parade, and fishing contest. They did Christmas Parties, Christmas caroling and a February winter classic party with an ice fishing contest, Bingo, and a Clam Chowder dinner.

The controversy with the DNR regarding the public access went on for about 3 years with the association retaining a law firm to represent them at a significant cost. The association argued that the lake was too shallow, that Ojibwa Road could not handle the increased traffic, and that there would be no law enforcement monitoring nighttime parties at the access. The association even convinced Crow Wing County that they were the governing authority over the placement of public accesses on lakes in the county. So, the County brought suit against the state of Minnesota contesting the right of the state to issue permits authorizing construction on and in lakes with its borders. Well, we all know how it turned out.

During those turbulent years the officers of the association thought it would be a good idea to make the association a formal organization so they petitioned the state to incorporate the "Round Lake Improvement Association, Inc." which was granted on January 16, 1981. The incorporators were Ivan Hudalla, Robert Krell, James Halloran, and Gary Dvojack. The purpose of the corporation was to: stimulate the use and enjoyment of Round Lake, to propagate and encourage planting of fish therein, and to take any steps necessary to preserve and enhance the environment of the lake and surrounding property. So, officially, the Round Lake Improvement Association, Inc. is celebrating its 33rd anniversary.

BISHOP'S CREEK AND WALLEYE STOCKING

At about the same time (1982) as the lake access conflict was going on, the association and its members decided it would be a good time to approach the DNR with a plan to improve the navigability of Bishop's Creek and make it more permanent. It seemed the sand on the Gull Lake side always washed into the creek. In order to keep the creek open, Round Lake residents actually had to shovel the sand and debris out of the creek. The association submitted a proposal to install a rock wing dam on the Gull Lake side and riprap the north and south shorelines of the creek to prevent the sand from washing back in the creek.

The DNR's response to the request to improve Bishop's Creek was to say that they would have to survey the creek to see if it was suitable for development. In the meantime, the association contacted the US Corp of Engineers. Their response was they had to send the request up the bureaucratic ladder because there was some question if Bishop's Creek could be designed as a navigable waterway.

The association then started a letter writing campaign. Letters went out to the Governor, the area's state and federal representatives, the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Director of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The property owners adjacent to the creek, Boberg and Interlocken Resort, also received letters to request their approval of the project. After several go rounds the DNR finally agreed to do the project and it was completed in late spring of 1985.

Through much of the 80s and 90s the RLIA worked with the DNR Fish and Game Department to encourage their stocking of walleyes in Round Lake. Back then, the DNR was stocking about 650,000 walleye fry per year. The DNR figures about a 3% survival rate so, at that rate, we're talking about 20,000 fish a year. No wonder the walleye fishing on Round Lake was so good back then!

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

About this same time a "Neighborhood Watch" program was setup. Signs were printed for lake residents to display on their property. The lake was divided into 8 sections, each with a captain, so if anyone saw anything suspicious it could be reported to the Sheriff as quickly as possible. The RLIA also managed to talk the Sheriff's department into donating 3 buoys to be used to mark the rock pile in the lake. At the same time Essers donated 6 plastic kegs that could also be used for buoys to mark other hazards in the lake.

In 1984, the RLIA asked Crow Wing County if they would resurface CR 115. They also asked if the county could add a 2' to 4' shoulder along the Round Lake side of the road for walking and biking. The county said that CR 115 was not scheduled to be resurfaced until 1985 and if the residents wanted a 2' to 4' shoulder added they would have to petition the county to show them that there was enough interest by the residents of Round Lake to consider the addition. The petition never got off the ground; residents were concerned about the loss of trees and property with an addition of a 4' shoulder. CR 115 was then resurfaced in the summer of 1985.

In 1986, the RLIA came up with the idea of having multiple garage sales around the lake and calling it the "Sale Around Round." It has since become one of the most popular events of spring; people from all around our area look forward to this sale.

INVASIVE SPECIES

In the 1990s the RLIA organized an Ecology Committee to monitor the lake for Eurasian Watermilfoil. Volunteers were recruited and trained to identify the plants. Again, the lake was divided into 8 sections and each section was assigned a group of volunteers to monitor it. This approach must have worked pretty well because no Eurasian Watermilfoil has been found in the lake.

In 2000, the RLIA discovered that the growth of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP), which had been in the lake probably since the '40's, was starting to get out of control. Large mats of CLP were starting to float up on shore causing all kinds of problems. Property owners began asking if anything could be done so the RLIA solicited the help of Lakes Restoration, Inc. They recommended that the lake be treated to control the CLP growth and submitted an estimate of how much it would cost. For the next several years the RLIA collected money from lake residents on a volunteer basis to treat the CLP. It soon became apparent that the treatment of CLP was going to be much more expensive than was expected, and that if the treatment of CLP was to be successful, all of the residents on the lake would have to participate.

CREATION OF A LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

In 2004, the RLIA circulated a petition around the lake for property owners to approve the formation of a "Lake Improvement District" with a tax levy of \$62.00 per property per year. The petition was successful with the majority of the property owners signing. The petition was then presented to the Crow Wing County for approval. On November 9, 2004 the county approved the request to form a lake district and the "Round Lake Improvement District" (RLID) was formed. The district would exist for 5 years and then be reviewed by the county prior to extension.

During the next 5 years, the area of CLP being treated actually grew, along with the cost of treating it. In addition, several other concerns related to water quality surfaced. Why were the phosphorus, nitrogen, and chloride levels in the lake increasing? How much nutrient loading was Round Lake getting from Sugar Bush Creek and what could be done about it? What was the status of the septic systems around the lake and how much would it cost to test them? The cost to try to find answers to these and other issues was putting a strain on the RLID's budget.

In 2007, due to a drought and low lake water levels, it became harder and harder to navigate through Bishop's Creek. It finally got to the point that it was almost impossible to get through the creek to Gull Lake. Several Round Lake residents suggested to the RLIA that Bishop's Creek should be dredged. A call went out to lake residents requesting donations to dredge Bishop's Creek and in less than 6 weeks there was more than enough money to do the job, with a significant sum left over. The project was completed in a timely fashion thanks to the hard work of Rick Besmehn. At the following annual meeting the RLIA membership voted to have the association set aside the remaining funds for the next time the creek has to be dredged.

In 2009, the RLID had to apply to the county for renewal of the lake district, but if the RLID was going to address all the water quality issues and treat CLP, the tax assessment would have to be increased. The board of directors laid out a proposal showing the cost to address the water quality issues and treat CLP. The total came to \$132.00 per property per year. This proposal was then presented to property owners at the annual RLID meeting and was accepted. The board of directors then presented the proposal to the county board. After a review of the

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RLID's activities over the last 5 years, the county board voted unanimously to extend the RLID's charter for another 5 years with the increased tax levy.

SUGAR BUSH CREEK

A study was done also in 2009 on Sugar Bush Creek to determine how many nutrients were flowing into Round Lake. It was discovered that a considerable amount of phosphorus, nitrogen, and several other nutrients were flowing into the lake. The reason for this is that the flow of the creek is restricted by 2 or 3 beaver dams along its route. When these dams get too big, the wetlands tend to flood causing problems for the adjacent property owners. The property owners' solution to this problem has been to destroy the dams which allows all the nutrients trapped behind the Beaver Dams to flow into Round Lake.

To solve this problem the RLID added Clemson Levelers to the Beaver Dams. These devices act like bathtub overflows, allowing the water to flow over the dams at a fixed height while holding back the nutrients and controlling the height of the water. The only maintenance required

is to pump out the sediment behind the Beaver Dams every couple of years. This significantly reduced the amount of nutrients entering Round Lake.

RECENT PROJECTS

In 2010, it was discovered that Round Lake had an extremely high level of chloride, about 10 times what other lakes in the area had. The RLID did a 2 year study to determine where the chloride was coming from. It was suggested that water softeners could be a contributing factor. It was recommended to install iron filters and replace salt water softeners with those that do not use any chemicals.

The latest project that the RLIA has been involved in is the resurfacing and repair of CR 115 (see separate article). What started out to be a simple project has morphed into a major reconstruction of the roadway and caused great controversy.

In 2014, the RLID is required to renew its charter with the county. It's hard to guess what will be in the new proposal but, due to the continuing threat of new invasive species, the RLID has to be prepared for anything. We're hopeful that the county will see fit to renew the RLID for another 5 years.

As mentioned in the beginning, since its inception the RLIA has been the sponsor and/or supporter of several fun social activities over the years. Now, the annual picnic and meeting the last weekend in June is about the only social gathering that is left. The RLIA continues tree plantings and provide trees for members to plant in their yard. Just this spring a group of volunteers planted 125 pine trees at the boat landing.

RLIA volunteer Dave Ubl puts out the hazard markers in spring and retrieves them in the fall and maintains and stores them during the winter. Also John Just puts out the buoys guiding the boats through Bishop's Creek. To encourage the increase in the Loon population on the lake the RLIA provided 4 new Loon nesting platforms, also done by volunteers. Over the years the RLIA has done many things, but your help is needed to make it even better.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL PICNIC / MEETING JUNE 28TH!

NOTICE TO ALL HOMEOWNERS:

CURRENT REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT, WHEN BOAT LIFTS AND DOCKS ARE REMOVED FROM THE WATER, THEY MUST REMAIN ONSHORE FOR A MINIMUM OF 21 DAYS BEFORE REINSTALLATION IN ANY MINNESOTA LAKE OR RIVER.

The delay is necessary for any zebra mussel (larvae or adult) or other invasive species to die before the lift or dock is reinstalled.

The North Long Lake Association A Brief History

| By Willard Hartup |

On April 3, 2014, the North Long Lake Association (NLLA) observed its 55th anniversary. On that date in 1959, "several persons" met at Svendson's Tavern in Merrifield to formalize the creation of the organization. Articles of incorporation were executed by the Minnesota Secretary of State on April 16th and regular meetings began on April 24, 1959. A membership drive was organized that yielded 107 members by the end of September, with each member paying annual dues of \$10.



Leo Turcotte, First president of the Association

The first board consisted of six men. headed by Leo Turcotte, the President: it included three officers and one representative from each of the lake's three bays. During the early days, the Board of Directors held one or two private meetings, usually in winter spring, and with monthly meetings

scheduled during the four months of high season to which all members of the Association were invited. Sometimes as many as 40 or 50 persons would attend these meetings, at other times, only 8 to 10. Meetings were held at taverns, resorts, outdoors, and in homes. Programs usually included a speaker and a busy agenda of projects was also begun.

THE STOCKING POND

Establishing a stocking pond for walleye fry and fingerlings was suggested at the second general meeting in 1959. A num-

ber of these ponds were functioning around the state and the Board inquired about the use of an old one near Lake Edward. Deciding that this would be inadequate, the Board took the decision to construct one on property owned by Ann Villwock on the 371 Bay (called Sunset or West Bay at various times), who offered a five-year lease to the Association for construction of such a pond. The agreement called for a plot 150 ft. x 300 ft. (later extended to 3 ½ acres) not far from the lake shore to be financed as follows: Mrs. Villwock would receive a \$50 per year rental fee to be offset by sale of the black dirt excavated from the pond site. That is, she would sell the dirt and return \$50 annually to the Association from the proceeds.

The pond itself was nine feet deep with a shallow end; water was pumped into it through pipes from the lake (see photograph). The Association supervised the excavation, paid for the pump and other fittings, built a pump house and pump pit, and installed lights over the pond in order to attract insects which, when dropped into the water, would feed the fish. The shallow end of the pond facilitated seining of the fingerlings which were then deposited in the lake. A gravel bottom was installed to minimize silt levels and make seining easier. 90,000 walleye fry were released into the pond in May, 1960 by representatives from the Conservation Department (now the Department of Natural Resources). These fry had grown to fingerling size by July and approximately 30,000 were transferred to the lake. The pond was closed in fall and winter.

The pond required considerable attention and maintenance over the 24 years of its existence. Periodic cleaning and dredging were required; intakes, pump, and drainage needed regular attention and some of these projects were relatively expensive. Volunteers were generally available for these tasks. Stocking numbers varied but were substantial with between 20,000 and 50,000 fingerlings released into the lake each year. Both supplying the fry and release of the fingerlings was done by crews from the Minnesota Department of Conservation.

By the early 1980s, state officials were favoring the rearing of walleye fry and fingerlings in "natural ponds." This policy change plus the need for nearly \$1,000 in pond repairs led to a membership decision on June 23, 1984 to "let the pond rest for awhile." The "rest" has been permanent. Overall, though, the stocking pond project must be regarded as a major achievement. The Association provided what the state, at the time, could not provide and the walleye catch in North Long Lake improved dramatically.

Continued on page 14



PRESIDENTS OF THE NORTH LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION

1959 – 1961 Leo Turcotte

1961 – 1965 Jack Seifert

1965 – 1969 Howard Ashley

1969 – 1970 Ralph Larson

1970 – Ray Knott

RECORDS LOST

1981 — 1985 Gus Schlick

1985 – 1991 Ralston DuBois

1991 – 1992 Charles Bartles

1992 – 1993 William Bryan

1993 – 1994 - Gary Villwock

1994 – 1996 Martha Peisch

1996 – 1997 Gus Schlick

1997 – 2001 Tom Holbrook

2001 – 2004 Charles Bartles

2004 – 2006 Clyde Campbell

2006 – 2011 Kristl McDonald

2011 – Kay Hondo

Note: Records from the 1970s have been lost. If anyone knows who the presidents were in that decade, please contact the author (hartup@umn.edu). Thanks.

Continued from Page 13

SUGAR BUSH CREEK

Concerns with Sugar Bush Creek over the years have been almost entirely related to the water level of the lake. As the only outlet from North Long Lake, this creek tends to run dry during droughts and to flood during wet periods. Homeowners, however, have not been content to live within natural fluctuations in the lake's water level and have attempted over and over again to squeeze these fluctuations into a smaller range than nature does. The general idea has been to place dams or weirs into the creek to hold in water during droughts and to install culverts to speed the outward course of water during wetter periods. These efforts have not been entirely successful (at least to everyone's satisfaction).

In 1961, permission was sought from the Minnesota Department of Conservation to install a set of metal pilings at the creek outlet that would maintain the lake at 1196 ft. above sea level. The Round Lake Association objected to the plan but the "dam" was installed and remained in place until 2012. Over the years, both natural and illegal man-made manipulations have been tried to maintain high lake levels. Sometimes, without permission, homeowners have thrown up sand and earth to augment the metal dam; ice ridges have occasionally done the same thing. Such efforts have raised water levels but damaged the shoreline. Therefore, the DNR decided in 2012 to remove all such obstructions so that Sugar Bush Creek now runs"naturally."

When the organization was incorporated in 1959, effort had already been made to create better outflow conditions: three culverts had been inserted into the little creek. In 1960, however, Mr. Gunnard Larson, the owner of the land on both sides of the creek, became concerned about his legal liability when the creek flooded. After discussion with the Board of Directors, he proposed a transfer to the Association of the deed for a parcel running from the outlet to CR27 (10 feet on either side of the creek). The transfer (for \$1) was approved that year and responsibility for taxes and maintenance have remained with the Association ever since. Taxes were reduced during the 1980s to \$5.61 but the county has never been warm to the idea of waiving taxes entirely. The Association attempted to have ownership transferred to the DNR in 1988 without success. A transfer to Thirty Lakes Watershed District was proposed in 2007, again without success. Recent Boards, however, have decided that this tax (\$30.98 in 2013) is a small expense to exchange for control over the outlet. The organization has also pressured the county over the years to improve drainage by installing larger and more numerous culverts under CR 27 (now CR 127).

BRAINERD INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY

Originating as the Donnybrooke Speedway in 1963, the Brainerd International Raceway (BIR) lies one-half mile south of the 371 Bay of North Long Lake. At first, the raceway consisted of a single 3.1 mile course but during the 1970s was expanded into a three-course facility. A grandstand that can hold 20,000 was built in the early 1980s along with a campground, concessions, and other facilities. The first mention in Association records of the aggravation caused by the racetrack was on August 24, 1968 when a motion was passed "to morally assist the Birchdale area." Exactly what this meant is unknown.

Prior to its expansion, the Minnesota Legislature exempted race tracks from existing regulations on noise and traffic. Although Board meeting minutes from the 1970s have been lost, some homeowners remember the attempts of the Association in that decade to thwart the development of the enlarged facility. Matters came to a head between 1981 and 1983 when lobbying efforts led by Gus Schlick, Lee Norwood, and Steve Hofsted were directed to city and county commissioners as well as the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The majority of the Board's time during these years was given over to discussing issues of noise abatement, crowding, and unruly behavior at the BIR as well as strategies for dealing with them. A "stipulation agreement" with the race track and the MPCA dealing with noise and crowd control was sought again and again but our records do not show that one was ever made.

In the process, three law firms were engaged to explore legal issues with the MPCA but these firms were dismissed one after the other when they could not deliver. In 1981, the Board was shocked to receive a large bill from the last firm that worked on this problem. Special do-

nations could not supply the necessary funds to pay it and so the Association's reserves were used to pay the bill, leaving the treasury with \$32.19. The Board then voted to restrict further efforts with the BIR to voluntary ones; no further funding for this cause was to be supplied by the NLLA. Gus Schlick remained on a Brainerd task force which studied problems with track noise but concluded in 1984 that most of the commissioners "don't really want to know."

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

The first mention of aquatic invasive species in the Association's records was on August 10, 1988 when one Board member described the growing threat of purple loosestrife. The news that beetles had been introduced as natural controls of the weed finally came in 2004.

Although North Long Lake continues to escape infestation with Eurasian water milfoil, the Association was very active through the 1990s in publicizing the threat this species represents. Brochures were printed, meeting time devoted to discussion, and encouragement given to homeowners to inspect weed growth in the lake adjacent to their properties. Boat inspections were also conducted with Board volunteers during several summers but only during the fishing opener, holidays, and a few weekends. Although the threat from this species is as close as Upper Mission Lake, other invasives have consumed more attention in recent years than milfoil. Curly leaf pondweed was discovered in Merrifield Bay by the DNR in 2009. Fortunately, the infestation has been kept under control by chemical treatment funded by the Association (with assistance from the DNR) in 2010, 2012, and 2013. Status at the present time is uncertain.

By far the most feared invasive species is zebra mussels which have entered many nearby water bodies, including Gull and Round Lake, Mille Lacs, and the Mississippi River. Given that there are no known chemical shields to protect North Long Lake from zebra mussels or milfoil, the Board uses the only preventive method known - inspections of boats entering and leaving the lake at the public accesses. Volunteer inspections were resumed in 2007 and continued until 2009. Inspectors funded by the Association and grants from the DNR began in 2010; the Association fended for itself in 2011 but had assistance again from the DNR in 2012 and 2013. These inspections, which account for weekends (including the fishing opener), holidays, and a few other days, have been helpful but no one really knows the extent to which they have shielded us from the scourge. Closed circuit television was tried as a monitoring method at the Merrifield Public Access in 2011 and 2012 but proved unsatisfactory.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

A considerable number of recurring activities have been supported over the years by the Association. Several relate to water quality: Regular water testing in the three bays began in 1984 with the purchase of Secchi disks to determine clarity, with testing for phosphorous and chlorophyll added in the 1990s. Septic systems have received attention since the 1970s with detailed surveys accomplished about once a decade ever since. Dredging projects have been proposed, especially between the Big Lake and 371 Bay during periods of low water, but these have not been approved - either by the Board or the DNR. The Board gave input during the 1980s when construction of the public accesses occurred although DNR planning drove both the early installation of these facilities and their later expansion.

The Board became interested in expanding the loon population in the early 1980s and installed the first three nesting platforms in spring, 1992. Up to five installa-

tions have been installed at various times and results have produced a small number of chicks each year. This program continues. Channel buoys assisting navigation between the Big Lake and 371 Bay were installed beginning in 1990. The Association has participated in Minnesota's Adopt-a-Highway system for trash pick up since 1996, serving both former SH 25 and HW 371N for some years and only the latter now. Pickup covers the mileage between the BIR and CR115.

Community-oriented services sponsored by the NLLA include participating in the activities of various Minnesota organizations dealing with water issues: Crow Wing Coalition of Lake Associations (now LARA) and Minnesota Waters (now defunct) from the 1970s, and the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (currently very active). Scholarships (\$300 each) were given for three years in the early 1990s to students majoring in natural resources at the Brainerd Technical College. More recently, the Association has provided two scholarships each year for younger students attending School Patrol training camp at Legionville. The Association keeps abreast of issues coming before the Planning and Zoning Commission and boat safety classes have been conducted from time to time. Finally, the Association's Newsletter has been published continuously since 1992 (see Q&A in this issue).

Membership now stands at approximately 300 households and the Board works diligently to underwrite a wide range of activities. The organization has thus morphed into a relatively large working body just as Svendson's Tavern in Merrifield has morphed into Harpo's.

—Note. The assistance in the preparation of this article by Judy and Ralston Dubois, Doug Hohman, Charles Bartels, and Richard Turcotte is much appreciated.



for Round Lake / North Long Lake Homeowners

Q. Why two lakes and one Newsletter?

A. The history of this publication goes back 6 years when it was suggested by Mark Ulm (Round Lake Association) and Kevin Thesing (Lakes Printing) that a better and more efficiently-produced Newsletter might emerge from cooperation between the two lake associations than by going it alone.

Q. Are dues and donations to the two lake associations tax deductible?

A. Donations are deductible because both organizations are registered with the Internal Revenue Service as 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. Dues are not.

Q. Charges have appeared on my yearly statement for a "special taxing district." What does this mean?

A. For Round Lake homeowners, this amount is your contribution to the Round Lake Improvement District. For North Long Lake homeowners, this amount (now very small) is for the Thirty Lakes Watershed District.

Q. How big are these lakes and how deep?

A. Round Lake covers 1,650 acres and its maximum depth is 51 feet. North Long Lake is 6,144 acres and its maximum is 97 feet. Both are considered "shallow lakes."

Q. Who keeps track of water quality? How clear was it last year?

A. Water sampling is done monthly from May through October, mainly by volunteers on both lakes (see Fall Newsletter). Assays are then performed by accredited laboratories. Water testing is also done by the DNR Department of Fisheries every third year and occasionally by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Using Secchi disk records, the DNR states that average clarity in both lakes was 12 feet last year during July.

Q. Where are the public accesses on these lakes? Who looks after them?

A. One public concrete access is available on Round Lake. It is located on the south shore of the lake, off CR 115, and is maintained by the DNR. Four public accesses exist on North Long Lake: The largest is a concrete access located in the

northeast corner of Merrifield Bay and is owned by the DNR. Another concrete access is located at the northwest corner of 371 Bay, off the highway, and is owned by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. A third access, earthen construction, is located to the south of the narrows between the Big Lake and 371 Bay, just off the point. This access is owned by Crow Wing County. A fourth access (earthen) is located on the north shore of 371 Bay, off CR 115 and is owned by Crow Wing County (conditions here are primitive).

Q. Where can I obtain a map of either lake?

A. Minnesota Book Store, 660 Olive Street, St. Paul, MN 55155 or call (800)657-3757.

Q. Where is food available on the lakes?

A. No commercial eating establishment exists on Round Lake. The only one on North Long Lake is Iven's-on-the-Bay at the southwest corner of 371 Bay.

Q. What do I do about swimmers itch?

A. Swimmers itch is caused by parasites that infest snails in the lakes. A permit from the DNR is required for treatment. These may be obtained at the Brainerd offices of the Department of Natural Resources, 1601 Minnesota Drive, Brainerd. Copper sulfate, the usual chemical used to control swimmers itch, can then be purchased at several locations in Brainerd. Permits are needed for any chemical treatment of either plants or animals in the water.

Some precautions may eliminate or reduce the effects of swimmers itch. 1. Caution is urged when swimming along or close to the shoreline, especially when the wind is blowing into shore. 2. Rinse with clean water and towel dry as soon as you leave the lake. 3. DO NOT FEED THE DUCKS! They are a contributing factor to the cause of swimmers itch.

Q. Is Round Lake part of the Gull Lake chain of lakes?

A. Yes, Round Lake is connected to Gull Lake through Bishops Creek on the west end of the lake which is a navigable waterway and is maintained by the RLIA. North Long Lake is not part of this chain.

Q. How is the water level in Round Lake maintained?

A. The water level of Round Lake, and the level of all the lakes in the Gull Lake chain, is controlled by a dam on the Gull River.

Minnesota Bans Use of Coal-Tar Based Sealants

By Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

The Minnesota Legislature banned the sale and use of coal tar-based sealants on January 1, 2014. These products were commonly applied to asphalt driveways, parking lots, and some recreational trails to protect the underlying asphalt. However, these sealants contain high concentrations of chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), some of which are classified as probable or possible human carcinogens. PAHs in coal tar-

based sealants are released into the environment through volatilization into the air and as dust when the sealant breaks up over time. This dust can be tracked into homes or transported to nearby soils and waters via storm water runoff. An MPCA study found that about 67% of total PAHs in the sediments of 15 metroarea storm water ponds were from coal tar-based sealants. In several cases, high concentrations of PAHs have accumu-

lated in storm water ponds. This is a concern for local governments responsible for managing storm water ponds and disposing of sediments that have been excavated from them. Alternatives to coal tar-based sealants, such as asphalt-based sealants, are available that have far lower levels of PAHs.

Status of the Fisheries By Willard Hartup

Continued from page 7

was 13.4 inches and 1.1 pounds; fish up to 26.3 inches were captured. Two-year old fish (stocked in 2011) made up about 50% of the catch. The status of the walleye population in Round Lake thus looks relatively good.

Northern pike. The northern pike gill net catch of 13.3/GN was above average, the highest to date. Average length was 24" while average weight was 3.2 pounds. Fish at least 24"long accounted for 40% of the catch; 10% were 30" or greater (largest caught in the survey was 37.4"). These are impressive figures, undoubtedly reflecting the 30-inch limit that has been established on the lake for this species.

Largemouth bass. Although difficult to sample with gill and trap nets, electrofishing revealed that about 102 were caught per hour of running time, a figure that is considered good. Their average length was 12.6."

Panfish. Black crappies were caught in low numbers by gill netting (.20/GN). Bluegills were caught in average numbers (12.3/TN) with an average length of 5.1." Most of the perch caught were too small to be of interest to anglers, having an average length of 6.9." A few larger ones were caught with the

largest measuring 9.8." Yellow perch are an important prey species, especially for walleye and northern pike.

Overall, the status of the Round Lake fishery is very good, especially if one's interests are in walleye and northern pike. The DNR urges anglers to catch-and-release as much as possible and will continue stocking the lake with walleye fry. The next survey of the Round Lake fishery will occur in 2016.



CR 115 (Ojibwa/Nashway) Improvement Project Update | By Dick Sobiech |



The Fall 2013 Newsletter summarized activities associated with the CR 115 project through the Open House held on October 24th. The County Highway Department (CHD) and Task Force members held a final meeting on December 19, 2013 to review results of the second survey taken about this project and the Open House.

At this meeting, it was pointed out that the Task Force is not a decision making group and it will have no vote on the final outcome. Rather, it is a way for the CHD to connect with the community and affected stakeholders, to get feedback, to keep the public informed, and to produce an open public planning process. Crow Wing County (the road authority for CR115) will make the final decision based on all applicable data, heavily weighted by the recommendations of the CHD.

Attendance was about the same as that at the June 6th meeting— a total of about 43 people for both morning and afternoon sessions. The discussion of the project was not very productive. People

were having trouble understanding how this grew into such a big project when all they really wanted was to have their road repaved.

Approximately 456 surveys were mailed out to properties affected by the CR 115 project with 203 responses. About half of the respondents indicated "No Build" while the other half indicated they would like to see some type of improvement. There was considerable discussion within the Task Force reviewing the comments submitted and the several options presented by the CHD. In the end, it was decided to complete the scoping process using the latest survey to narrow the alternatives to the "No Build" option and a "minimum invasive rural section," that is, Alternative Revised A (11' lanes and 4'shoulders).

Although there are differing opinions on the Task Force about what steps to take next and what alternatives to evaluate, the CHD will complete the scoping document with the narrower selection of alternatives. Another Open House will be scheduled in mid-summer (2014) to receive comments on a draft of the Final Scoping Document. These comments would then be inserted in the final version of the document and that would finish the first stage of the planning process.

Readers should know, too, that a group of concerned property owners met in January 2014 to determine whether any action could be taken to stop the project being proposed by the CHD. It concluded that

the CHD will continue to develop reconstruction plans for the road that, in the opinion of the group, will destroy the scenic beauty of the road, dramatically increase traffic volumes/safety issues, have a severe impact on a number of properties as a result of eminent domain expansions, and other factors. This group was especially concerned because the results of the last survey clearly indicated that the property owners have no desire for such a re-construction.

A number of strategies were discussed as a result of this meeting that would bring the group's concerns to the attention of the County Commissioners: (a) a"Guest Column" in local newspapers; (b) a petition to the County Board focused on stopping the re-construction proposal and supporting a "mill and overlay" project; (c) a request to the Lake Edward Township Board to reconsider their resolution supporting the CHD's"Revised Alternative A" and amending it to support the "mill and overlay" proposal; and (d) preparation of graphic depictions of the re-construction's impact on private properties resulting from the county's alternative. This group is expected to begin contacting property owners this spring or early summer.

Additional information will also be presented at the annual meetings of both the Round Lake and North Long Lake Associations. For information related to the CR 115 project to date consult: www.crowwing.uslindex.asx?NID=696

Loans to Replace Failing Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS)

| By Jeff Forester |

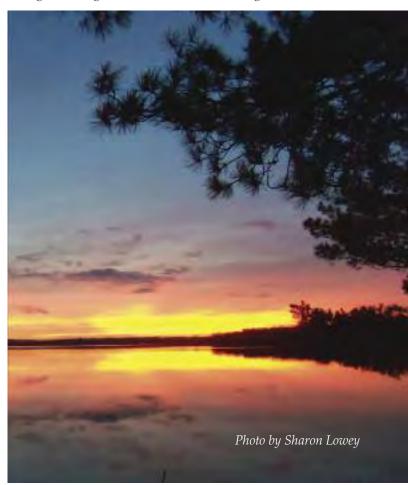
Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) are a lot like boats, a hole into which the owner pours... ah money, along with many other things. Failure of SSTS are a major source of water pollution in our lakes. Last year the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency put into place new minimum standards for SSTS that may mean owners will have to upgrade or replace their septic systems. This can be a heavy burden for a property owner, but there are funds that can be made available to help owners obtain low or no interest loans. Lake Associations can play a critical role in securing funding for these loans by partnering with local governmental units. Lake advocates can make lawmakers aware of this need and encourage them to set aside additional funding for this work.

In 2009, the Minnesota Legislature asked the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to study SSTS and report back their findings. The results were sobering. In 2002, there were an estimated 470,600 SSTS in Minnesota, and a full 27% (124,770) that failed to protect groundwater. Nine percent (42,520) posed Imminent Threats to Public Health (ITPH). By 2009, that number had dropped, but remained unacceptably high with 521,320 SSTS in the state, 22% failed to protect groundwater and 6% (37,880) posing ITPH.

In March of 2011, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency changed the State code on new SSTS. By February 4, 2014, counties and local units of government had to update their local ordinances to reflect the changes to the statewide rules.

Older systems are still legal as long as they are not posing a risk to groundwater, lakes, or public health. Still, there will be many systems that will need to be upgraded and the cost of even the most simple gravity septic system can be tens of thousands of dollars. While a few counties and local governments have taken on the task of surveying the septic systems in their area, most systems are only inspected when a building permit is pulled, a property is sold or a lot is subdivided. This means that many failing systems may not be discovered for years.

Lake Associations are often the first and best lake protectors, and there are steps they can take to help property owners improve the SSTS in their area. Lake Associations can work with their local units of government, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, (SWCD) Watershed Districts, townships, cities or counties, to encourage them to begin an inventory of the SSTS within their service areas AND to seek out grants to provide property owners with low or no interest loans to do this work. The Minnesota Legislature made some money available to counties last session to provide low or no interest loans to low income applicants. The USDA has a Best Management Practice loan that typically flows through a SWCS to property owners to provide low/no interest loans for people to upgrade failing SSTS. By working with counties and encouraging them to take on this work, Lake Associations can decrease the amount of sewage entering their watershed from failing SSTS.



2014 Minnesota Legislative Report:

Looking Good By Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

Continued from page 6

strictive and places too much liability on the counties. We have assisted in adjusting this language to provide greater comfort for the county attorneys. The new language is in the DNR Policy Bill which has now been approved by the Legislature.

Fourth, the Lessard-Samms Outdoor Heritage Council recommended a \$4.2 million investment for pilot projects to control the spread of AIS across Minnesota. This allocation was requested originally by the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations with funding to be provided by the State Outdoor Heritage Funds. This pilot project is an effort, probably occurring on one lake, to develop a comprehensive model for AIS control based on education, inspection, lake access control, and decontamination. By law, Heritage Council requests must be approved by the Legislature which, in due course, it did.

Fifth, we worked to secure bonding funds for re-construction at the new Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Center at the University of Minnesota. Originally funded in 2012, the Center has made some appointments but legislative committees did not recommend funding for lab re-construction. But the Director of the Center, Dr. Peter Sorenson said that this year was "do or die" for this issue. In the end, \$6 million for this project was included in the bonding bill and Dr. Sorenson said, "Special thanks to Jeff Forester and the members of the MLRA and StopCarp.org coaltion for your extra efforts". Construction will begin by years end.

Sixth, MLR's goal in AIS has always been to provide ongoing, reliable, and adequate funding for AIS work at the local level to sustain a comprehensive statewide plan for Minnesota. So, at the beginning of the session, we submitted a proposal for a symposium at the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference which will be held next October in Duluth. The idea is to bring together all the players across the state who manage AIS, and have a full day's worth of presentations on what is being done successfully in other areas of the country. On day two, we would have presentations from some of the programs in Minnesota, including the DNR, and during the afternoon, facilitated workshops. In the latter, we would use a "straw-man plan" (which we will write) as a starting point for all players to make additions, changes, and improvements, thus creating a Local AIS Action Framework (LAAF) that will enhance consistency of effort across the state. We will also create a communications network among the attendees so that this group can continue to meet and improve the LAAF in the future.

One important note: As this issue of the Round and North Long Lake Newsletter goes to press, these bills have been approved by the Legislature and await Governor Dayton's signature. All indications are that he will sign them. So, for the first time, funds have become available directly to local units of government for AIS control across the entire state and other measures friendly to lake associations have been approved.



Walk Right In.

When the unexpected happens, we're here with you 7 days-a-week

UrgentCare

Essentia Health – St. Joseph's Baxter Clinic 13060 Isle Drive, Baxter MN 56425 EssentiaHealth.org/BaxterClinicUrgentCare

ConvenientCare

Essentia Health – Convenient Care
Baxter Cub Foods
14133 Edgewood Drive, Baxter, MN 56425
EssentiaHealth.org/ConvenientCare

Emergency Department

Essentia Health – St. Joseph's Medical Center 523 N. Third Street, Brainerd, MN 56401 EssentiaHealth.org/BrainerdER

Current Walk-in Wait Time

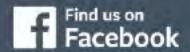
00:11

nouns minutes

As of 7/2/2012 7:04:57 PM

Walt times are approximate and provided for informational purposes only if you are having a medical emergency, call 911

VISIT US ONLINE View current wait times for each location





CROW WING COUNTY 2013-2023 WATER PLAN

A Watershed Protection Approach to Local Water Management



LAND SERVICES DEPT.

Make a difference for your lake

4 Simple Things you can do

1 Manage runoff from impervious surfaces

Impervious surfaces are anything that prevents water from soaking into the soil.

Since most of the unwanted sediment, nutrients, and contaminants is found in the first 1° of runoff from impervious surfaces, simply landscaping your property to direct this first flush of starmwater to rain gardens, berms, or natural depressions will make a huge difference for the water quality of our surface waters.

2 Preserve vegetated shorelines and slopes

Not only ab vegetated slopes and shoreline outfers prevent erosion from runoff and wave action, they also add value for fish and wildlife. Butters can be as simple as a na-mow/maintenance butter or planted with native grasses, widflawers, shrubs, and trees from a local vendor or the Crow Wing Sail & Water Conservation District

3 Maintain your septic system

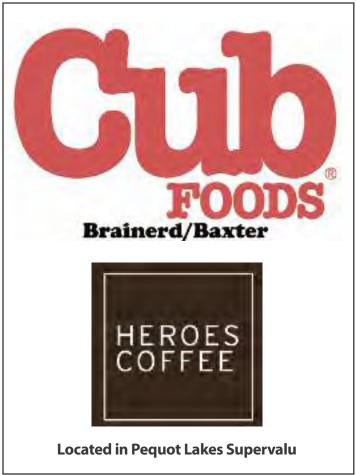
Routine maintenance for a septic system can not only protect our groundwater, but it can also extend the life of the system. Crow Wing County recommends having your septic tank pumped every three years and inspected periodically to ensure that it is functioning as designed.

(4) Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS)



More information can be found online at www.crowwing.us (Go to the Land Services Department, then to Environmental Services, then to Water & Wellands)











Annual Meeting and Summer Picnic

Bring the family – Bring your grandchildren.
Meet your Neighbors! Great Bar-B-Que!
Please bring a dish to pass around!
Don't forget to bring your lawn chair!

Saturday, June 28 • Starting at 12:00 noon

At the home of Bernice Slupe 5446 Ojibwa Road

SALE AROUND ROUND

Saturday, June 7, 2014

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 (RLIA). 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 30, 2014 to: RLIA, PO Box 378, Nisswa, MN 56468

Name		
Lake Address		
Lake Phone	Cell Phone	









Round Lake Board Vacancies

This year the Round Lake Improvement Association/District has four board openings: Linda Esser, Dave Leary, Mike Niebur, and Pat Neinen have completed their terms. The RLIA/RLID would like to thank each of them for their commitment to the organization and all of their hard work and wish them all the best in the future. The RLIA/RLID is also happy to announce that Linda Esser, Mike Niebur, and Pat Heinen have agreed to accept nominations for another three year term.

It should be pointed out that the Annual Picnic/Meeting on June 28, 2014 is for both the RLIA and the RLID. In accordance with Minnesota statures, 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. Candi-

dates 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-IN BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 20th.

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 4)	Write-In Candidate(s)			
Voter's Name				
Lake Address				
Phone:Signature:				
Mail to: Round Lake Ballot P.O. Box 378 · Nisswa, MN 56468				



Membership Renewal

It is that time of the year again to renew your membership in the RLIA. Since our fiscal year for the association runs from July 1st to June 30th we are encouraging all our members to renew their membership in June, or better yet at the picnic this year on June 28th. In the past, some members renewed in December and January on a calendar year basis. Any member that renews at this time will be credited with renewing on July 1st. This simplifies our recordkeeping and eliminates any confusion as to when your membership should be renewed. Again, all contributions will be acknowledged in our fall newsletter. If you have any question regarding your membership payment, please call Linda Esser at 963-2752.

Our membership categories are as follows:

Owl \$25.00 - \$49.99 Hawk \$50.00 - \$74.99 Osprey \$75.00 - \$99.99 Eagle \$100.00 or more

RLIA - WORKING FOR YOU - FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

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

Name			
Lake Address			
Other Address	City, State, Zip)	
Home Phone :	Lake Phone:	Cell:	
Email Address:			

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY: 11/6/13 THRU 4/26/14

Owl (\$20.00 - \$49.99)

Parks Family Robert Von Fischer Donald & Mary Kay Woessner

Hawk (\$50.00 – 74.99)

John & Susan Bell Dennis & Janelle Jarabek John & Laurie Majka Bob & Pam Musielewicz Michael & Susan Niebur Todd & Debra Ruedisili

Eagle (\$100.00 or more)

Corey & Nicole Anderson John & Lourdes Moore Ray & Janice Richter

ATTENTION ALL ROUND LAKE RESIDENTS

We maintain an email list of Round Lake residents to keep you informed of important lake and community issues that may be of interest to you. To check to see who is on our email list, an email will be sent out the second week in June to all the addresses on our email list. If you receive the email you need do nothing, if you do not receive the email and you want to be on the list send an email to essersplace@charter.net . You do not need to be a member of the RLIA to be on this list.



ROUND LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD OF 1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013

AMOUNT	DECCRIPTION	VENDOR	CHECV #	DATE
AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	VENDOR	CHECK#	DATE
\$63,038.42				
213.28 19,654.97	Jan 25 Tax settlement July 3 Tax settlement CLIPICAL FACTORING CRAIN	NT 9/20		1/31/2013 7/31/2013 9/20/2013
420.00 15,690.09		2013 MCIT DIVIDENT ROUND LAKE MINNESOTA COUNTIES INTERGOVERNMENT TRUS		12/2/2013 12/31/2013
45,079.34				
250.00	2013 LID ANNUAL ADMIN FEE		J/E	1/31/2013
480.95	Sediment Rmvl 1-9-13	AW Research Laboratories Inc	353,987	2/26/2013
254.36	Rd Lk Aquathol Super K	Lake Restoration, Inc	354,007	2/26/2013
319.69			354,163	3/26/2013
			354,575	6/11/2013
			,	7/23/2013
				8/6/2013
,			,	9/10/2013
			355,589	11/19/2013
	2270018711	Westfield Insurance	355,823	12/31/2013
\$50,294.95				
\$57,822.81				
	213.28 19,654.97 9,101.00 420.00 15,690.09 45,079.34 250.00 480.95 254.36 319.69 90.00 210.00 46,157.45 1,237.50 710.00 585.00 \$50,294.95	\$63,038.42 213.28	\$63,038.42 213.28 19,654.97 9,101.00 420.00 15,690.09 45,079.34 250.00 2013 LID ANNUAL ADMIN FEE 480.95 Sediment Rmvl 1-9-13 A W Research Laboratories Inc 254.36 Rd Lk Aquathol Super K 319.69 Round Lk Watercraft Inspect. 90.00 Rd Lake Workshop 4-6-13 A W Research Laboratories Inc 210.00 Rd Lk Summer TSI'13 A W Research Laboratories Inc 210.00 Rd Lk Mgmt fee 1,237.50 Rd Lk Curly Leaf Flight 710.00 Rd Lk Winter sampling \$50,294.95 \$50,294.95	\$63,038.42 213.28

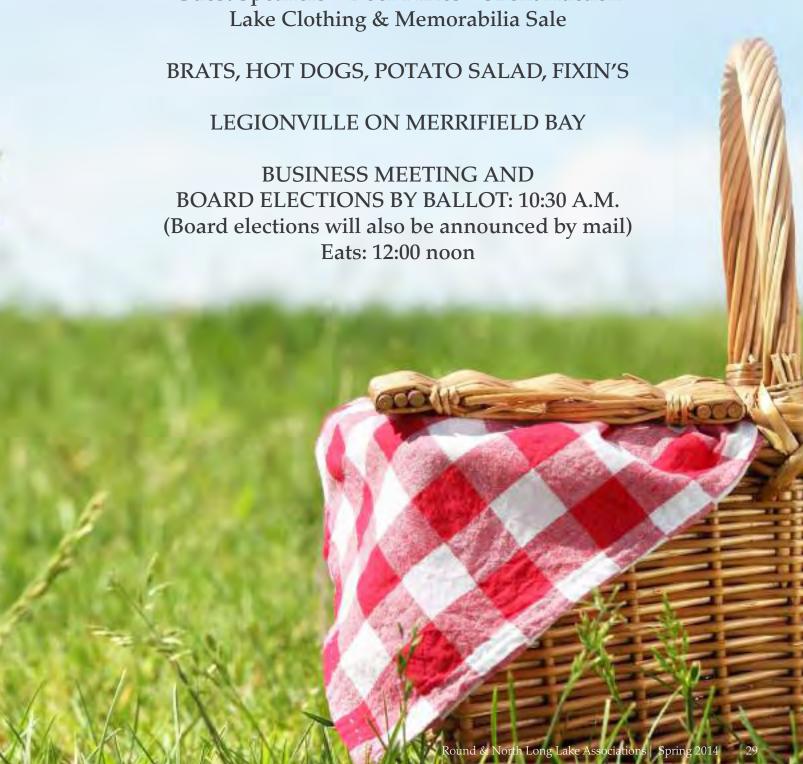
2014 TAX & SPECIAL ASSESSMENT SETTLEMENT DATES: JANUARY 24, 2014 (THE BALANCE OF PRIORYEAR COLLECTIONS NOT PREVIOUSLY PAID) JULY 4, 2014 (1ST HALF TAXES) DECEMBER 22, 2014 (2ND HALF TAXES)

Auditor-Treasurer's Office 1/10/2014

ROUND LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION Net Worth - As of 4/28/2014				
Account	6/29/2013 Balance	12/31/2013 Balance	4/28/2014 Balance	
ASSETS				
Cash and Bank Accounts				
CD BlackRidge	0.00	15,000.00	15,022.68	
CD Designated Funds Dredging	29,244.78	29,348.07	29,399.85	
Checking	5,616.41	6,382.00	6,231.37	
Savings	15,522.39	6,989.92	6,991.61	
Special Projects Checking	777.05	0.00	0.00	
Svngs Dredging Funds	100.52	100.52	100.52	
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	51,261.15	57,820.51	57,746.03	
Other Assets				
Accounts Receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL Other Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL ASSETS	51,261.15	57,820.51	57,746.03	
LIABILITIES				
Other Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL Other Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	
OVERALLTOTAL	51,261.15	57,820.51	57,746.03	

ROUND LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION			
Banking Summary 7/1/20	113 through 4/28/2014		
Category	7/1/2013-4/28/2014		
INCOME			
Interest Inc	37.26		
Dredging Funds	155.07		
TOTAL Interest Inc	192.33		
Meat From Picnic	51.00		
Membership Dues	7,471.		
TOTAL INCOME	7,714.		
EXPENSES			
Insurance	450.00		
Mailbox fee	44.00		
Misc	25.00		
Picnic 2013	222.06		
Professional Fees	190.00		
Stamps	15.97		
Trees To Plant Around L	ake 270.00		
Website Expense	12.42		
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,229.		
OVERALL TOTAL	6,484.88		





NEWS & NOTES North Long Lake Association to Revise By-Laws

A revision of the By-laws for the North Long Lake Association is being proposed by the Board of Directors. Approval by the membership is scheduled for the Annual Meeting, July 19th, at Legionville on Merrifield Bay. **This revision contains no substantive changes from the previous By-laws.** The revision is being made solely to simplify the language in which the document is written, thereby increasing its readability. Members are urged to read the revision prior to the meeting. — Bill Schmidt, Vice-President.

North Long Lake Association By-Laws

Article 1

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the North Long Lake Association.

Section 2: Registered Address. North Long Lake Association, 417 Laurel Street, P.O. Box 624, Brainerd, MN. 56401. The office of William D. O'Hara, Jr., LTD.

Article 2

Section 1: Vision. To preserve the quality of the water and the North Long Lake ecosystem as well as promote responsible use of these waters by residents and others through community involvement.

Section 2: Mission. To work with our State and Local Governments, other lake associations and private enterprise to obtain expert knowledge on all issues that endanger our water, land, fish, fun and environment for the best resolve. We will keep all residents informed and encourage all residents to be members of NLLA for strength in numbers.

Section 3: Values. This organization values professional and responsible management, studiousness with respect to decision-making, effective communication among stakeholders, a proactive stance in dealing with issues, and a results-oriented approach to making decisions.

Article 3

Membership

Section 1: Membership is open to owners of shore land property on North Long Lake.

Section 2: Voting privileges extend only to members whose dues are current.

Section 3: Each member household shall have only one vote in organization balloting.

Section 4: Membership dues are payable on an annual basis. The membership year begins on the first of January and ends on the 31st of December.

Section 5: Associate Membership. Anyone not owning property on North Long Lake may be granted membership status by Board approval and by paying dues.

Article 4

Board of Directors

Section 1: The property and business of this Association shall be managed by a Board of Directors of not less than six (6) or more than twelve (12) persons who must be members of the Association in good standing. Board members must be property owners on North Long Lake. They shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the membership by a majority vote. Each director shall serve for three (3) years.

Section 2: Any vacancy in the Board of Directors may be filled by affirmative vote of the majority of the remaining members of the Board or by election at a meeting of the membership. A director who is elected to fill a vacancy shall serve for the un-expired term of his/her predecessor.

Section 3: The Board of Directors shall have the power to do all lawful acts necessary and expedient to conduct the business of the Association.

Section 4: The Board of Directors shall meet within thirty (30) days following the Annual Meeting of the membership to elect the officers for the ensuing year.

Article 5

Officers

Section 1: At its first meeting after each Annual Meeting of the membership the Board of Directors shall elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, from its own number each of whom must be a member of the Association.

Section 2: The Board of Directors may appoint other officers from Association members as necessary. These officers will exercise powers and perform duties as determined by the Board.

Section 3: The officers of the Association shall hold office for one year or until qualified successors are chosen. Any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed, with or without cause, by the affirmative written vote of a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 4: If any office becomes vacant by reasons of death, resignation, retirement, removal from office, or otherwise, the Board of Directors, by majority vote, may chose a successor who shall hold office for the un-expired term of the preceding officer.

Article 6 Meetings

Section 1: Place. All meetings shall be held at the location designated by the President and/ or the Board.

Section 2: Monthly Meetings. The Board shall meet each month from April through November with dates established by the Board. The Board may call for additional meetings anytime throughout the year.

Section 3: Annual Meeting. There shall be an annual meeting called by the Board of Directors during the period June through August of each year. Notice of the meeting shall be sent to each member by regular mail at the last address on record at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

Section 4: Special Meetings. Special meetings of the membership may be called at any time at the request of the President, Vice President, and majority of the Board or upon written request of at least twenty (20) percent of the membership of the Association. The notice of the meeting shall be the same as the annual meeting.

Section 5: Actions of the majority of members present and voting at any meeting shall constitute actions of the membership as a whole. This rule also applies to the Board of Directors.

Section 6: Voting by the membership may be conducted by either voice vote or written ballot at the Annual Meeting or in writing at other times. This rule also applies to voting by the Board of Directors.

Article 7

Funding

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall determine the membership dues on an annual basis.

Section 2: The Board of Directors may also solicit contributions from members and others if special needs for additional funds arise.

Section 3: The Board of Directors may accept gifts or grants on behalf of the Association from private or public sources. The Board of Directors may not accept gifts for personal use.

Section 4: The Association may, subject to applicable laws and regulations, own, lease, or sell property, real or personal, in order to carry out its objectives.

Section 5: Membership shall be permitted to inspect the books of the Association at all reasonable times.

Section 6: All checks and notes of the Association shall be signed by persons as designated by resolution of the Board of Directors.

Section 7: An audit of the Association's financial operations shall be conducted annually by a committee appointed by the President.

Article 8

Fiscal year

The Fiscal year shall be the same as the calendar year commencing on January First (1).

Article 9

Annual Statement

The President at each Annual meeting shall present a statement of the financial condition of the Association and a summary report of its activities during the preceding year.

Article 10

Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by a vote of the majority of members attending the Annual Meeting.

Board Election:

The annual election of members of the NLLA Board of Directors will take place at the Annual Meeting, July 19, 2014. James Cook has served one three-year term and will stand for re-election. Greg Davis has completed a one-year term created by a resignation and will now stand for a three-year term. Two vacancies will be created: Joe Laudenbach has chosen not to run after serving for three years and Bill Hartup will leave the Board after seven years of service as Secretary and Newsletter Co-editor.

NEWS & NOTES NEWS & NOTES NEWS & NOTES Lake 2014 Spring NLLA Membership Report | By Kay Hondo |

Our membership enrollment and donations are behind last year. Could it be that the "long" winter has delayed some of our thoughts of summer and caring for our beautiful lake? As of Apr. 15th, we have 54 paying members who have submitted \$1425 in dues and \$1930 donations for Invasive Species for a total of \$3350. Last spring, we had 76 members who had paid \$1875 in dues and \$3365 for Invasive Species for a total of \$5260. (Eventually, the number of 2013 members exceeded 300). Being behind in membership now is especially concerning as we are aware that our expenses to continue our battle against Aquatic Invasive Species will increase this year by almost \$6000. (Please see the President's message for more details).

Ultimately, we believe that our membership will step up and generously fund our projects. If you have already paid your dues

for this year, thank you! If not, please use the membership dues statement within this newsletter (or find one via our web site at: www.northlong.com). As usual, in the upper right hand corner of your address label on this newsletter, you should see the last year in which dues were received from you. If there is no year, this should indicate that you haven't paid dues in the last several years.

We are so appreciative of our membership support which has grown over the years. However, we still don't have every property owner involved in helping to protect our lake and we feel strongly that we need everyone! When you pay your "dues and donations", keep in mind that donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your commitment!

NORTH LONG LAKE 2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

With this issue of the Newsletter, the NLLA Board of Directors hopes to convince you that investment in a membership in the North Long Lake Association is a good deal. So far, our organization has successfully warded off extensive invasion by non-native species and provides a number of other services. The more members we enroll, the better positioned we are to continue these efforts. NO OTHER ORGANIZATION IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELFARE OF NORTH LONG LAKE. Please join us so the Association represents everyone on the lake. Spring is budget-making time, so we need to hear from you!

Please be as generous as you can with contributions to the Invasive Species Fund. This is the only resource we have currently to use in requesting "in kind" support for boat inspections and treatment control of these species. Remember that we are a 501(3)c organization so that your donations (not your dues) are TAX DEDUCTIBLE! *Thank you!!*

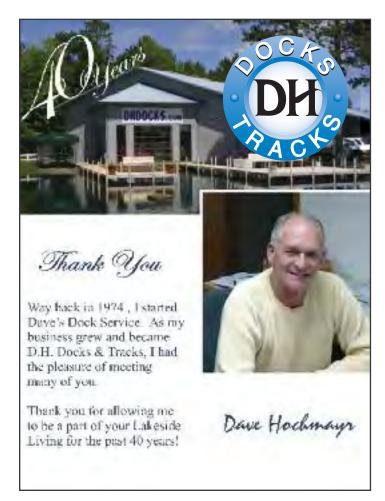
Name:		
Mailing address:		Lake address:
		Lake Phone:
Tionic Thoric.		bake I Horie.
Email address:		Cell Phone:
2014 dues:	\$25.00	Please make checks payable to:
+ Invasive Species Fund	l	North Long Lake Association
= Total Contribution:		P.O. Box 54 Merrifield, MN 56465

NEWS & NOTES NEWS & NOTES Clothing for Sale | By Fran Cronin |

North Long

Lake is a wonderful place to spend our summers. We always try to keep our residents looking good,, in North Long Lake style! We have planned a new t-shirt for this year's picnic and we hope that you like it. It will be screen printed this year. The back of the men's shirt will feature a scene from North Long Lake...of course, the ladies can wear this shirt as well if they wish! And there will be a ladies' shirt that features the Minnesota State Flower – the pink lady slipper. These shirts are different from those we have done in the past. Any of our other clothing is always available. We are very lucky to have a logo clothing supplier that will do small jobs for us on special orders. We hope to see you at the picnic, and hope that you will enjoy wearing our new shirts. As usual, all proceeds from our sales will go to fight AIS. See you in July!







NEWS & NOTES

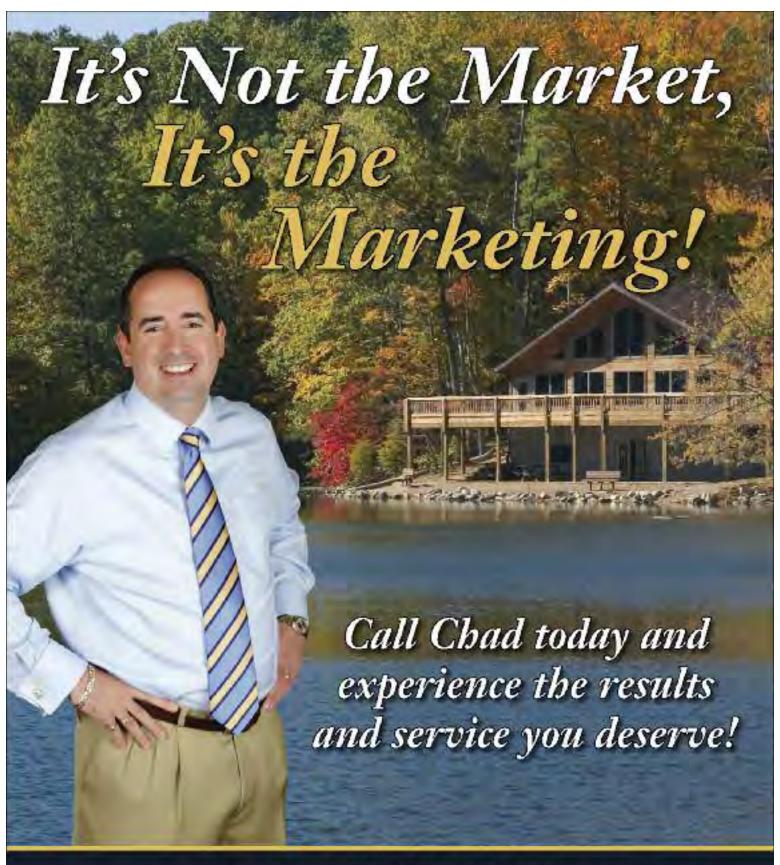
North Long Lake

North Long Lake Association **Banking Summary** 1/1/2013 through 12/31/2013

	Checking		Şavings
Beginning Balance §	10,495.10	\$	17,061.10
INCOME			
AIS \$	8,240.00	S	
Clothing \$	2,940.55	S	
Interest Inc \$	1.49	\$	8.63
Membership \$	7,845.00	S	
Other Inc \$	2.376.00	S	
TOTAL INCOME \$	21,403.04	\$	8.63
EXPENSES Comics of	35.00		
Copies \$	25.00	S	
Legionville scholarships \$		S	
Lake Health \$		S	
Liability Insurance \$		S	
Loon Nests \$		S	
Dues: LARA & MLRA \$	350.00	S	
Printing/Postage \$	596.89	S	
Picnic \$	1,215.57		
Newsletter forwarding \$	75.51	S	
Property tax \$	30.98	S	
Water Testing \$	1,392.00	S	
Curly leaf Treatment \$	2,805.00	S	
Watercraft Inspection \$	1,496.00	S	
Website \$	465.00	S	
TOTAL EXPENSES §	9,536.95	\$	

Ending Balance 22,361.11 17,069.73

Total Assets 39,430,84





218-831-4663 (HOME)

www.Homes1234.com Chad@UpNorthEmail.com



PRSRT STD U.S. Postage PAID Brainerd, MN Permit No. 471





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