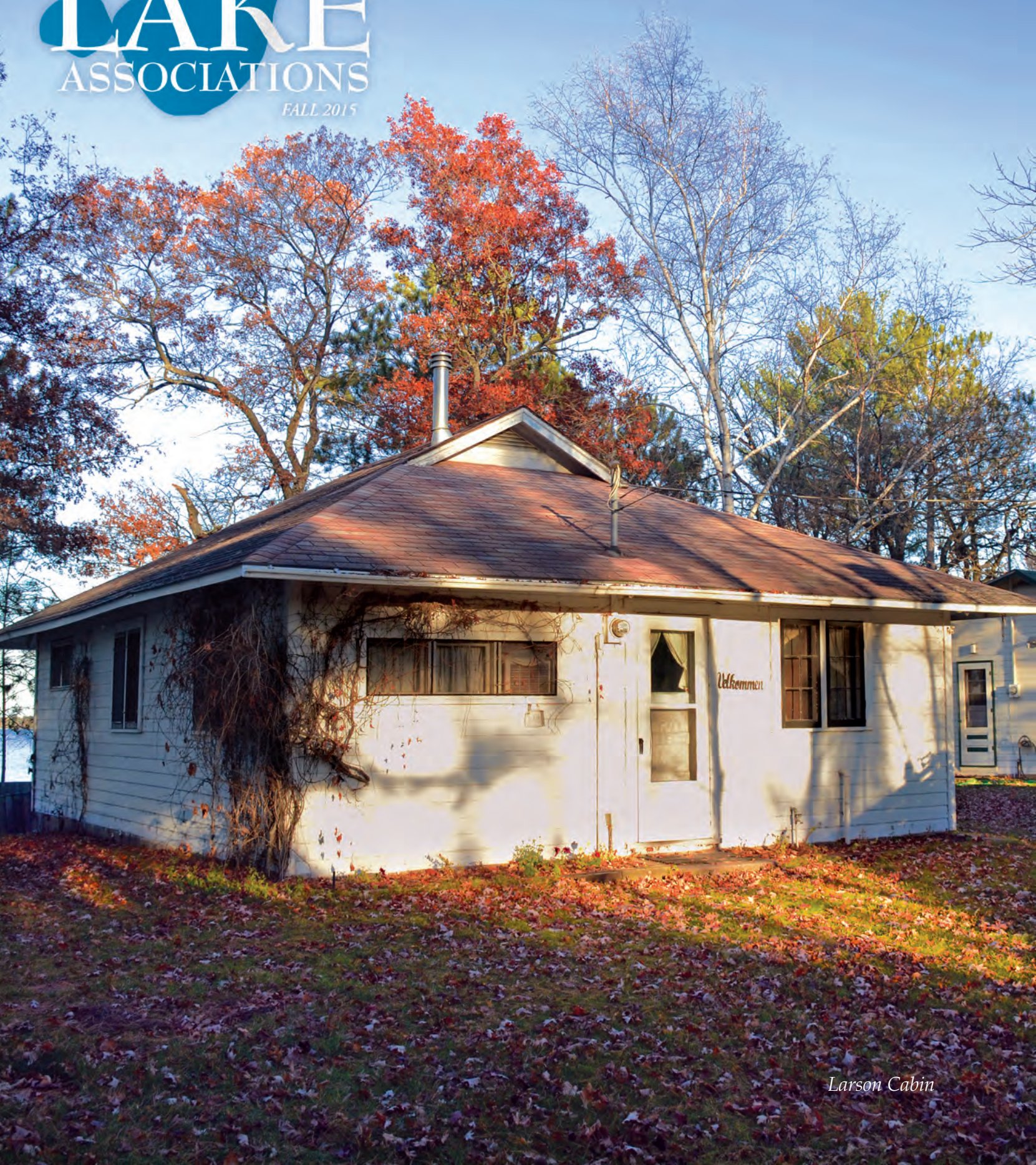


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FALL 2015



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Photo courtesy of Sandy Burton

President's Message | Round Lake



Round Lake Association

| Mark Parrish | President

Headline July 2025:
"Ten years after blowdown, lakes area still recovering".

The storm of 2015 affected virtually every association member. Neighbors helped neighbors and some of us even met a couple of con artists that attempted to take advantage of the situation. However, the cleanup continues. Even though there has been a dramatic change and I have heard time and again "it will never be the same", the natural beauty of the area still prevails. It might not be the same; however it's still a place of awesome beauty to live. I do have a hunch that we'll be seeing logging trucks and construction vehicles for months to come.

With the exception of the storm it has been a fairly quiet year for association business. There were 55 acres of curly leaf pond weed treated this year and once again, due to the proliferation of zebra mussels, there was a tremendous bloom


of native weeds later in the year. The association plans to discuss with the DNR any possible remedies for slowing down the growth of native weeds in the coming years. Crow Wing County again had inspectors on hand at the public access over the course of the summer checking boats and educating people on invasive species. The depth of water for navigation in Bishops Creek seems to be satisfactory, so the funds set aside for future dredging can remain in the bank for the foreseeable future.

Regarding funds, please take note of the Round Lake financials in this edition of the newsletter. Both the RLID and RLIA are in good financial shape. Being financially solvent gives us the opportunity to fund projects such as the shoreline restoration project that was accomplished with cooperation between the association, Crow Wing County and the city of Nisswa (see Stormwater article on Page 14). A big thank you goes to Darren Mayers, District Technician with the Crow Wing County Soil & Water District, for pushing this project through when it got "stuck".

If there are any questions regarding association business or if you would like to get involved, please contact any board member either by phone or email.



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President's Message | North Long Lake



North Long Lake Association

| Bill Schmidt | President

Greetings to all the property owners of North Long Lake and friends. I am so proud of all of you

for being the good neighbors that you are - as we are still repairing, rebuilding, fixing, and cleaning up after the storm in mid July. It was heartwarming to see neighbors and friends coming together to help one another after such a devastating disaster. We are truly blessed that no one was seriously hurt during that time. Thank you for being that good neighbor.

Two of our board members, who have provided excellent service over the past several years, have decided not to run for re-election this year. Deb Johnson has done an excellent job serving the association as board member and secretary. Deb, along with Fran Cronin, has managed the clothing ordering and sales for several years. She has also been the leader in organizing the door prizes, silent auction, and clothing sales at our annual meeting and picnic and always has a very positive attitude.

Jeff Weaver has also done an excellent job serving the association. Jeff has been our go-to guy when we needed correspondence with our Legislative agencies. Jeff is very connected to Capitol Hill in Saint Paul. Jeff also has a long standing history of our lake. He was one of our cooks for the annual meeting/picnic, and a good cook is hard to replace.

Again, I want to thank both Deb and Jeff for their years of outstanding service.

I also want to welcome our new Board member, Jim Voiss, to the Board. Jim has already been involved in several activities and we look forward to his continued leadership with the Board. Harris Goldstein, our newsletter editor, was also elected to fill a vacant position on the board earlier this year. At our October board meeting, Jim was elected Treasurer and Lynn Hopkins was elected Secretary.

There have been several changes that have taken place on our lake this past year.

First, we are seeing zebra mussels showing up everywhere. Unfortunately they are with us for the long haul. We as an association will continue to follow up on ways to live with them the best we can and we will pass the information to you.

Second, we have installed cameras on the public accesses on 371 Bay and Merrifield Bay. The purpose of the cameras is several fold. They serve as an education to all those who use our lake to remove all AIS from equipment before and after using our lake. Also by reviewing the slides we will know if someone enters our lake and has AIS on their equipment and can immediately watch for its growth and remove it before it spreads. Finally, all violators will be reported to the authorities and hopefully learn the importance of protecting our lakes.

Third, we have seen an increasing number of cormorants on our lake. Even though they are a Federal protected bird we have to pay attention to the increases we are seeing. If their numbers get too large they can severely destroy nesting areas, eat a lot of our game and forage fish, and transmit swimmer's itch. We are working with our local Government agencies and other lake associations to find a solution.

Fourth, we have also seen our membership grow significantly. We believe this is very important because the association can only be as good as its members and as an association we want to work with all the property owners in listening to their view points and direction for the future.

As we move through the fall season and into the winter season many of our members will be heading to a warmer climate - to you safe travels and we will see you next spring. Those who remain here - enjoy the beauty that comes with the fall season and the activities that winter will bring.

Your association has an excellent Board that is very committed to keeping our lake the great lake that it is. I also want to thank all of the members for their continued support and dedication to keeping North Long Lake great.

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Aquatic Invasive Species - A New Invasive Arrives - Starry Stonewort

| By Jeff Forrester, Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates
www.mnlakesandrivers.org

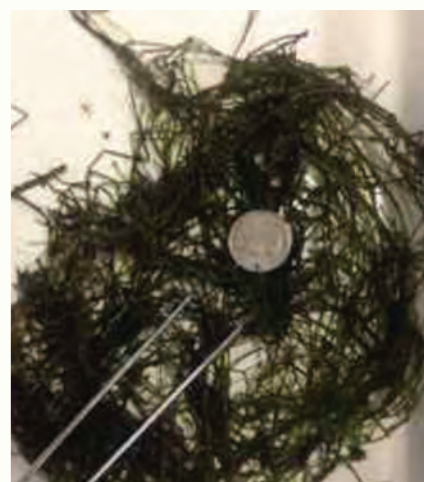
In late August the MN DNR listed two connected lakes in Stearns County, Lake Koronis and Mud Lake, as infested with a new aquatic invasive species, Starry Stonewort. It is perhaps the most destructive "plant" now in the state. Starry stonewort is actually an algae, and grows in thick stringy mats in depths from 2 feet to 20 feet. It will overpower even eurasian water-milfoil, fills in bass and panfish spawning beds, and makes it nearly impossible to use a lake recreationally - boats have a hard time getting through the stringy mats.

Even small fragments of the plant can start an infestation elsewhere, and the starry stonewort was growing all around the DNR access on Lake Koronis. It is impossible to get a boat in or out of the lake without churning through this pest, picking up these fragments. MLR immediately called for closure of this access site, but the MN DNR stalled, claiming that Minnesota has a long history of providing lake access.

The central question became what is the resource that the MN DNR must protect, access to lakes or the health of those lakes

- the resource. The Stearns County Commissioners, the local lake association, and even a local resort owner all called for closure of the access until a mitigation plan could be executed. MLR urged closure at the AIS Advisory Committee meeting. Finally the MN DNR decided to close the access, and try to treat the infestation to reduce the risk of spread.

MLR advocacy combined with local civic action gets results. It is a model that will improve the water quality and health of our lakes and rivers in Minnesota.



Should You Test Your Well Water?

Safe drinking water is essential to our health and well-being, yet it is something that we often take for granted. Cities and municipalities check their water for safety on a regular basis; however, if you have your own well it's up to you to make sure your water is safe for drinking. The Minnesota Department of Health recommends testing for total coliform bacteria annually, nitrates every 2-3 years, and arsenic at least once during the life of your well.

A standard safe drinking water test includes analysis for total coliform bacteria, nitrates and arsenic. Total coliform is a family of bacteria that includes E. coli and can cause gastrointestinal illness. Coliform bacteria are commonly found in the soil at the surface of the ground but not more than a few feet deep. At high concentrations nitrates can be harmful to young children and infants. Sources of nitrate contamination include animal waste,

fertilizers, and sewage. Arsenic is a naturally occurring carcinogen that has been found in the ground water around North Long Lake and Round Lake, particularly along Ojibwa Road and in the Merrifield area.

A.W. Research Laboratories, who does our lake water testing for both Round and North Long, is offering well water testing at a discounted rate to all residents of North Long Lake and Round Lake through December 31, 2015. Residents can purchase a prepaid sampling kit from the lab for \$48. The kit includes all bottles needed to collect the samples, instructions on how to take the samples, and a sheet to fill out and bring back with your samples. The price includes analysis for total coliform bacteria, nitrates, and arsenic. Please contact A.W. Research Laboratories at 218-829-7974 for more information and to order your kit.

The Do's and Don'ts of Dealing with Storm Damaged Trees

| Courtesy of MN DNR

What you do with your trees after the storm will impact your safety and the survival of your trees. Here are some do's and don'ts from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

1. Do inspect trees for damage. Broken and down trees are easy to identify. Standing trees with other types of damage require careful inspection on all sides of the tree. Deal with hazardous trees first. Hazardous trees are those that have an injury or defect and also have a target – something that will be damaged if the tree or part of the tree falls. Targets include people, buildings, cars, etc. Trees that won't damage something when they fall can wait until hazardous trees have been dealt with.

2. Do seek professional help if available when deciding which trees to remove. However, severely damaged trees are obvious.

- ♦ If a large branch has been pulled out or split out of the tree the tree should be removed.
- ♦ If more than 50% of the live branches in a tree crown have been broken or gone, the tree should be removed.
- ♦ Leaning trees with evidence of recent root lifting, breakage or soil movement should be removed.
- ♦ Trees with cracks that affect 50% or more of the main stem should be removed. Trees with less damage may also need to be removed especially if they also have columns of decay, cankers or other defects. A professional can help you decide whether to try and save a tree.

More information can be found in Chapter 3 of the publication found at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/utrm/index.htm>.

3. Do watch for detached branches that are hanging in the tree, loosely attached branches and split or cracked trunks. These should be taken care of quickly to avoid injury or damage. Broken but firmly attached branches that pose no immediate danger can be pruned later. Trunks split down the middle or with horizontal cracks should be removed as soon as possible.

4. Don't try to save or repair the fork of a tree that has split or a branch that has partially pulled out of a tree. Do not try to tape, wrap, and wire or bolt the split together. This injury will never heal and the attachment will always be weak. Also decay will eventually enter at this location and further weaken the tree. If the fork or branch are small enough you can try pruning them out, but if it leaves too large a wound or has damaged too much of the trunk, remove the entire tree. Cabling or bracing is usually not recommended and should only be done on very valuable trees and must always be done by a professional arborist and inspected annually.

5. Do use proper pruning techniques. Do not flush cut branches. Prune to preserve the branch collar, the swollen area at the base of a branch. Do not leave stubs. A publication called How to Prune Trees can be found at <http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/howto.shtm>. Limit pruning at this time to making the tree safe while keeping as many live branches in the crown as possible. Removing branches creates wounds and you want to create as few wounds as possible while the tree is under stress.

6. Don't top trees. A topped tree looks like it got a butcher haircut. Topping removes a large portion of the leaves the tree needs to produce food. Topped trees are more susceptible to insect and disease pests. Branches left after topping easily become decayed and create future hazards. Branches that develop after topping are often weakly attached and easily break off during winds.

7. Don't panic and remove all your living healthy trees. Following storms there is a tendency to see every tree as a danger. Many of the pines that went down in this storm were well over 100 years old and have withstood many storms. These trees can't be replaced. Consider the value of these trees for aesthetics, property values and cooling shade. Tree removal of healthy non-injured trees should be a last resort. If you really want to remove them, perhaps waiting a few weeks or months after the storm will change your mind and also get you a lower price when tree removal isn't in such high demand.

8. Don't be rushed by bargains. Anyone with a chainsaw and a pickup can cut a tree down. Just because someone works for a tree removal company doesn't mean they will be good at helping you decide which trees to remove and which to leave. It also doesn't mean they will use proper pruning techniques or understand insect and disease issues that exist now or may develop as a result of injuries from the storm.

9. Don't allow the use of climbing spikes on a tree you want to save. Climbing spikes damage the tree and make it more susceptible to insect and disease problems, especially decay.

10. Don't try to save a leaning tree, especially if you see the soil has been raised on the side of the tree opposite the lean. It most likely has broken roots and is just waiting to fall over. However, very young trees, less than 15 feet tall that are leaning or bent over may survive if they are gently pulled back into their vertical positions. Be sure to press out air spaces in the loosened soil, water the entire root system twice each week in the

Continued on Pg. 8

The Do's and Don'ts of Dealing with Storm Damaged Trees | Continued from Pg. 7

absence of rain. Cover the root area with two to four inches of wood chip mulch. Stake the tree for the first year to prevent it from falling again. Tree staking is usually not recommended when planting trees but is of value for a tree that has bent or blown over.

11. Do not leave pine logs, or branches in your yard if there are any live pine trees nearby. Bark beetles will invade the fresh inner bark of the down wood and lay eggs. In as little as four weeks in the summer, the next much larger generation of bark beetles will emerge from this wood and may attack and kill nearby live pine trees on your property or your neighbor's.

12. Don't use rope, or wire in a garden hose or any narrow band of material when staking a tree. These will injure the trunk and could kill the tree. Use instead a broad strap or other fabric at least one inch wide. Date the staking and remember to take it down next year.

13. Don't fertilize damaged trees. Fertilizer can inhibit a tree's ability to recover. It creates a fast growing green tree with lots of leaves, but if the tree's roots have been damaged, the root system may not be able to support the extra growth. A fertilized tree may be more susceptible to drought.

14. Don't use paint or wound dressing to cover wounds. These materials may actually interfere with the natural wound sealing process. However, in central and southern parts of Minnesota with oak wilt, a latex-based paint is recommended for wounds or pruning cuts on oak trees during May, June and July to prevent oak wilt infection.

15. Do water stressed and damaged trees. If conditions become dry, trees will need $\frac{1}{2}$

to 1 inch of water per week during the growing season. Be careful not to over-water trees, especially on heavy clay soils. Check the soil under the trees. Water only if the soil is dry. Watering will help trees repair and rebuild and will help them defend themselves from insect and disease pests that attack damaged trees.

16. Do use mulch. Mulch can help stressed trees by helping to conserve water in the soil, keep the soil cool, prevent soil compaction, and encourage more root growth. Wood or bark chips make the best mulch and should cover an area at least 2 to 3 feet in diameter around small trees (larger area for larger trees) with a depth of 2 to 4 inches. Pull the mulch back at least 4 inches from the trunk.

Mulch pushed up against the trunk encourages rodents chewing on the bark and can also encourage stem decay.

More information on proper care of trees can be obtained from the Tree Care-storm damage, or your local DNR or county extension offices.



Muskie Stocking in Gull Lake

The Minnesota DNR is proposing to stock Muskies in Gull Lake. There is significant support in the Muskie fishing community, but lake residents do have concerns about the potential impact on Northern Pike and Walleye whether by direct predation or competition for their food fish. Round, with a navigable channel to Gull, will be more directly impacted.

Some association members have voiced concerns and the Round Lake board plans to discuss this at a future meeting. The North Long Lake board is also looking into the issue as fish can migrate through the channel between Round and North Long. If you have comments, please contact your association president.

Ditch 13 Public Hearing

Ditch 13 is a drainage ditch – created in 1907 - that drains into Lake Edward. It proceeds from Lake Edward and Mollie Lake (via a spur) to Merrifield Bay on North Long. It serves to drain Lake Edward and Mollie Lake, as well as properties directly along the ditch.

In 2014, a Lake Edward property owner started a petition to have the county maintain the ditch contending that, over time, the ditch has lost its ability to serve as drainage for Lake Edward and that as a result water levels in Lake Edward were high. Sediment, deadfalls, and beaver dams were cited as the cause. She requested the county investigate.

There would be a direct impact on the 730 parcels that “benefit” from the drainage provided by Ditch 13. Properties that benefit are defined by a map created in 1907. Minnesota State Statute 103E prohibits the use of general property tax revenue to fund County Ditch Improvements or repairs. These actions are to be funded by revenue collected from the properties benefitting from the drainage feature.

Crow Wing County conducted a hearing on October 27. A NLLA member attended the hearing and reported back:

The Crow Wing County Commissioners held a public hearing today on the Ditch 13 petition and proposed a property tax increase for the Beneficiaries of the ditch as outlined in 1907 regulations. People presented comments both in support of the county ditch maintenance changes and tax increase and those opposed to them.

The comments in support included concerns about the water level in Lake Edward, the stagnation of water flow in Lake Edward and the loss of land due to the high water. Those opposed outlined concerns of damage to wetlands, damage to property, that the 1907 legislation is outdated and not relevant to the 2015 situation of the lakes and property use along the ditch and that the ditch does work properly now and needs no real repairs. There were more comments in opposition than in support.

After the public comments the Commissioners voted 5-0 for the ditch repairs and maintenance and a property tax increase on the 730 properties noted as benefitting from the ditch. The tax increase will raise \$14,201.25 annually going into effect on 2016 property tax statements. The Commissioners indicated they had little choice based on Minnesota Ditch Law.

An additional one time property tax increase to pay for the cost to the County for responding to the petition was removed from the legislation because the 30 Lakes Watershed District presented Crow Wing County with a \$6,000 grant to pay those costs.

According to a map provided by Crow Wing County, there are no other county ditches that connect with North Long or Round Lake. More information can be found at <http://crowwing.us/1350/County-Ditches>



**Have an idea for a story?
Have a photo to share?**

This is your newsletter and we want your material. We can help with editing and do the layout. Please contact the editor at hmgolds@gmail.com or 612-803-1850

Two families have kept Round Lake's oldest cabins

| By Kris McGrath

It was a 2 ½ horsepower Johnson motor. Yvonne Norquist, who had trained as a nurse cadet during World War II and had a new job as a nurse after the war, used her first paycheck to borrow money from the credit union to buy the motor for her family's cabin on Round Lake. They put the motor on their old cedar boat, "and we could easily take a tour around the whole lake," Yvonne said recently.

Yvonne had spent idyllic summer days at the lake since she was an infant. Yvonne's father Roy and his brother Bert had built the first two cabins on Round Lake in 1920.

The land on the west side of Round Lake and the Cinosam area on the other side of what was then a dirt road and is now Hwy. 371 originally belonged to the Ojibwe tribe. According to the deed now held by Yvonne and her husband Wayne Larson, on Nov. 13, 1915, Ignatius Hoole in the day (aka Chief Hole in the Day) sold the land to a John Bishop. The land changed hands a few times, but on July 12, 1920, Henrietta Peterson, a widow, bought the land on the Round Lake side and platted a development called "Peterson Playground."



The Norquist brothers bought two lots there and soon built their cabins. The building materials for the cabins were hauled across North Long Lake over the ice during the winter because the road which is now Hwy. 371 was "hardly passable," according to Wayne. Both brothers lived in Brainerd, but they made the considerable trek to the lake (given the cars and roads at the time) as often as they could during the summer.

Yvonne was born in Brainerd in 1926. Summers at the lake for her have always been a non-stop family reunion. When she was young, the cabin had a hand pump in the kitchen, an ice box with ice hauled out of the lake during the winter and preserved in sawdust, and an outhouse. The children swam and fished off the dock or from the cedar boat. There was always family nearby.

All of that changed in 1941 when Yvonne's father Roy, who was an electrician for the city of Brainerd, was accidentally electrocuted. Yvonne's mother was determined to hold on to the cabin, but it was difficult. During the summer, she rented out the cabin for between \$25 and \$30 a week. Yvonne, then a teenager, rode her bike from their home in Northeast Brainerd to the lake in order to clean the cabin between renters. Things became a little easier after the war when Yvonne and her brother could help with the family finances. Yvonne had

graduated from Brainerd High School in 1944 before she trained as a nurse cadet.

After the war, Yvonne worked as a nurse in Fergus Falls. Eventually she also taught nursing and was the principal negotiator for the nurses' association regarding pay and benefits for nurses in a large portion of rural Minnesota. She met her husband Wayne, a native of South Dakota, and they were married in 1957. They moved to Brainerd in 1962 and have lived there ever since. Wayne's career was as Director of Social Service for the Crow Wing County Health Department.

Yvonne and Wayne eventually inherited the lake cabin. They had three sons, and the Norquist cousins who had inherited the other cabin also had three sons. While they were growing up, the two cabins in the summer were bursting with them and their friends from Brainerd. The Larsons eventually bought other boats, including a Falls Flyer, behind which their sons and friends water-skied all summer.

The cabin is in many ways unchanged. The kitchen is updated, but the only bathroom (now a modern one) is in the garage, which doubles as a guest cabin. The cabin can't expand its footprint under current regulations, and Yvonne said she didn't want to take up space by putting in a bathroom. Canvas dividers have been replaced by walls, but the outside walls in the two bedrooms are still single-sided, so you look at the same boards from both inside and outside. The front porch has been enclosed.

Fourth of July was always special, with a huge gathering of family and friends. They have always grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for the event, but the menu has become somewhat more innovative in recent years because their son Andy, a financial advisor in Brainerd whose office is in the old Brainerd Public Library, is also a gourmet cook. "It has always been and still is a family gathering place," Wayne said.



North Long Lake Access Cameras

In our Spring issue, we told you about the I-Lids (Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor) cameras for the public access ramps on 371 and Merrifield Bays. If you've used either of those boat ramps, you know they're there. No doubt you've seen the R2D2-like camera and heard the recorded message.

The cameras are motion activated and take high resolution video that is uploaded to the vendor's computers in real-time. Videos are stored until we delete them and can be saved and forwarded to the boat owner or DNR as necessary. Videos can be halted and the picture zoomed in to verify whether a suspicious object is a weed or not.

Our goal is prevention. The signs and recorded message are a constant reminder to boaters entering or leaving our lake. But it's good to know that the DNR can – and has – issued citations based on camera footage at other lakes. To date this season, over 20,000 video clips have been captured for both access ramps.

We are happy to say that we have not had to report any boats to the DNR.

We had three volunteers reviewing video this past season. We do need additional volunteers to review video next season. This can be from your home computer done over the internet. Please contact Bill Schmidt at 612-309-6361 or island45@aol.com if you'd like to volunteer.

The camera housings will be removed and stored for the winter. The internal electronics will be returned to the vendor for preventive maintenance and software updates.



Photo by access camera



371 Bay



Merrifield Bay



Highway 371 Stormwater Basin on Round Lake

| By Darren Mayers, Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District

In 2013, an issue was brought to the attention of the Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District's attention by Al Cibuzar. Al was a long time Round Lake resident and had a very strong interest in water quality. Stormwater from a culvert across the Highway 371 corridor on the northwest corner of Round Lake had eroded the ice ridge and was flowing directly into the lake without being filtered. Large amounts of sediment, roadway pollutants and winter salt entering the lake were decreasing the water quality of Round Lake.



Before

Upon investigating the issue, it was determined that the city of Nisswa was the property owner. The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District partnered with the Round Lake Association, the Initiative Foundation and the city of Nisswa in developing a storm water catch basin for drainage off of Highway 371 into Round Lake to alleviate the runoff problem. Grant funds were sought after and awarded from the MN

Department of Natural Resources Shoreline Habitat Grant program and the Initiative Program – Crow Wing County Lakes and River Alliance (LARA), Crow Wing Environment Protection Advised (CWEPA) Fund grant.

Grant funds were far short of the needed monies to complete the project. The Crow Wing SWCD reached out to the Round Lake Improvement District for financial assistance. The project was installed this summer by Hutchison Excavating and the Crow Wing SWCD. The project included installation of a 600 ft² catch basin and a new inlet and overflow armored with tied concrete



After

block mats. In addition, the basin was seeded and planted with native vegetation to mitigate future erosion. The ice ridge blocking the direct route of stormwater was also repaired. The basin is designed to handle the larger rain events that are occurring more often; holding the water from heavy rains and filtering silt and residue before runoff enters the lake. Crow Wing County SWCD will remove the accumulated sediment on an as needed basis.

The Crow Wing SWCD would like to thank the MNDNR and LARA and the Initiative Foundation for the Grant funds and the City of Nisswa for allowing the project to occur on their land. However, without the generous donation from the Round Lake Improvement District the project would have not been completed.



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Path to the Lake

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

Summer – and gardening time – come and go all too quickly here in lake country! We had a little extension this past September and early October but now we're reminded not to allow ourselves to be fooled. The approaching winter months, however, offer us a great opportunity to ponder and plan for what we'd like to accomplish next summer. I've come up with a to-do list for myself that I thought I'd share with you in the hopes it will prompt you to use it or create one of your own.

#1: If you haven't already done so, and weather conditions will permit, rake up any organic matter lying along your shore. It makes great garden mulch which can be worked into the soil next spring to enrich your bed.

#2: Don't worry about evergreen trees or shrubs that may be losing their innermost needles. This is normal in the fall. These oldest needles turn yellow or rust-colored and consequently drop to the ground creating natural mulch. The plant is healthy and you should see new needles develop at the branch tips next spring.

#3: Any young fruit trees planted this year will need protection over the winter. The bark is thin and rabbits, mice, and other animals like to gnaw on it when their normal food sources are not available. Surround the trunk with a metal hardware cloth cylinder several inches wider than the tree and push it a couple of inches down into the soil.

#4: Now is the time to give your houseplants some well-deserved attention. Clean stems and large leaves with a moist, soft cloth. Spray plants with many leaves with barely lukewarm water. Or, cover the soil surface with foil and turn the plant upside down, swishing it through water to which a couple drops of mild dishwashing detergent have been added. This will keep insects under control, maximize light exposure and help the plant look its best.

#5: Gardening books are always great Christmas gifts for gardeners. Minnesota gardeners would particularly appreciate a book specific to northern climates. Another idea is a membership in the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. The \$60 annual fee includes a subscription to Northern Gardener Magazine as well as a variety of discounts to nurseries and classes across the state and free tickets to some events. If you would like more information go to www.northerngardener.org.

#6: Let your ice ridge become your friend this winter if it hasn't already. Unless it is an impediment to your lake use or dock, just leave the ice ridge alone. It will protect the lake from runoff. The nutrients that collect behind it will provide a fertile soil for trees or other plants whose roots will help hold the soil in place. Removing any of it requires a permit from the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District. Their phone number is 828-6197. An ice ridge cannot be altered if it is older than one year.

#7: Come January and February, curl up with a cup of hot coffee, tea, or cocoa and those seed catalogues that have come in your mail. Read them or any gardening magazines you may have at home. They often suggest new ideas and will help in your planning for the gardening season to come. Look for plants with disease resistance, quick maturity, and perennials hardy to zone 3. For those of you who enjoy cooking garden produce for your dinner table, check out www.cooksgarden.com. It will definitely inspire you.

#8: Make it a point to start using natural, non-toxic, phosphorous-free products in your household cleaning. Local stores are carrying more of these products. As I tell my grandchildren "Just put your 'lookers' on!" and you will find them.

#9: If you do have any products around the house that are flammable, poisonous, corrosive, or that can't be mixed with other chemicals, please remember to dispose of them properly. They are household hazardous waste. To find out how to do this, go to the Crow Wing County hazardous waste website: <http://crowwing.us/229/Hazardous-Waste>. Our hazardous waste facility is located at the county landfill and is free to county residents. Winter hours are by appointment only at (218) 824-1290.

#10: Last, but never least, take advantage of the Master Gardener Help Line here in Crow Wing County. The number is (218) 824-1000; Ext. 4040. Just leave a message with your gardening question and phone number. A Master Gardener will call you back with an answer within just a few days.

Keep warm this winter and enjoy all the opportunities it has to offer here in lake country!

- Due to storm cleanup efforts, this issue's Path to the Lake column is a reprint from 2009.

2016 Crow Wing County AIS Plan

| Courtesy of Mitch Brinks, Crow Wing County

Mission:

To provide leadership in preventing the introduction and limiting the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Crow Wing County by coordinating inspection, decontamination, targeted treatment, and education efforts.

Partners:

Crow Wing County has developed a network of public, private, state and local partners that enables a strategic use and prioritization of resources to combat the spread of AIS in our waters. This plan will continue to build upon this network to increase awareness of AIS and limit their spread.

Public Input:

This plan was developed with the input of lake associations at the 2nd annual AIS Roundtable which was cohosted with the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) on October 2nd as well as via a public comment period for concerned citizens and other stakeholders from Oct. 2 to November 30, 2015.



Curly Leaf Pondweed: Courtesy of Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, Bugwood.org

Plan Activities & Budget:

The 2016 allocation of State AIS funds (~\$450,000 + carry over from 2015) is proposed as follows:

- **\$313,473 = Watercraft Inspections** using DNR trained Level I inspectors (provided by Brainerd's Employment Resource Center)

Risk Level	# of Landings (suitable for boats)	General Risk Basis	2016 Plan
Very High	29 (+3 from 2015)	Large, heavily used landings on or very near infested waters	County-provided inspectors; 400 hours per landing
High	24	Well used landings on mid-sized lakes, further away from infested waters	County-provided inspectors; 200 hours per landing
Moderate	40 (-3 from 2015)	Public landings with sporadic use	Generally no county inspectors; reliance on volunteers & education / awareness
Low	90	Little used public or private landings	Education / awareness only; training offered for private landing operators

Watercraft inspection hours are allocated based on the risk classification map, which was developed based on each access' overall usage, proximity to AIS infested waters, and infested status. Carry-in accesses are not identified in this plan. Local associations and others are charged with identifying and managing these landings. If desired, lakes can install electronic monitoring systems in lieu of inspection hours.



Zebra Mussel Courtesy of Randy Westbrooks, Invasive Plant Control, Inc., Bugwood.org

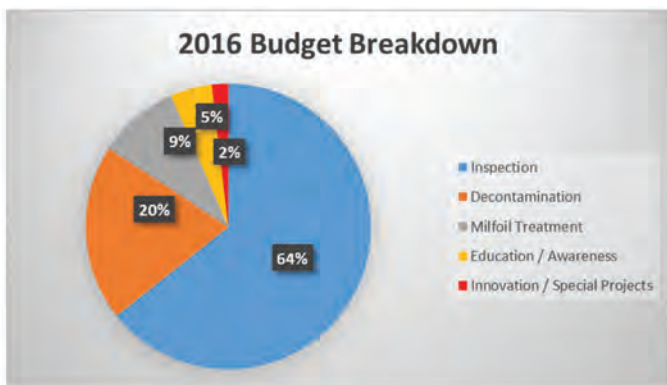
- **\$97,000 = Decontamination Station** in Crosslake to Remove Zebra Mussels using DNR trained Level II inspectors (provided by Brainerd' Employment Resource Center).

This also includes subsidizing private party decontaminations as well as providing up to 200 hours of Level II inspection for other DNR approved, public decontamination stations in Crow Wing County.

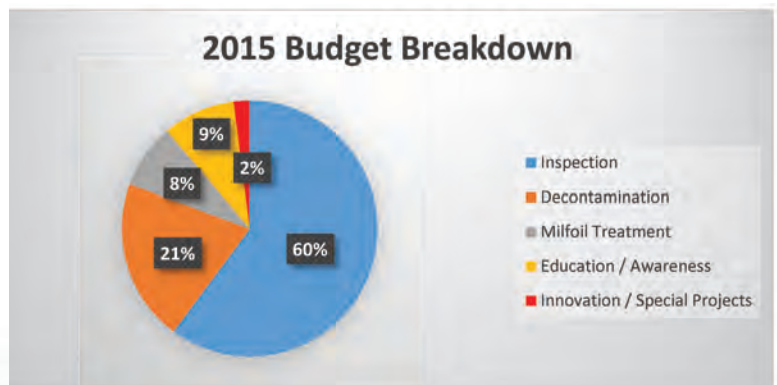


- \$23,000 = Education & Awareness for lake association public awareness campaigns (\$250 per lake with a boat landing), signage at non-DNR landings, print media (Rack cards, newspaper ads, stickers, posters, etc.) and targeted advertising (TV, theaters, online, billboards/outdoor signage, banner ads, and/or radio PSAs)
- \$45,000 = Milfoil Treatment for treatment and related surveys for control of milfoil on infested lakes with a public access
- \$9,000 = Innovation / Special Projects including zebra mussel veliger sampling (CWC to pay for lab costs, lake associations to conduct sampling), pilot & special projects, such as boat tagging system, electronic entry, etc., and rapid response (treatment for infestations, etc.)

Proposed 2016 Budget:



Approved 2015 Budget:



Other activities not mentioned above may be undertaken to prevent the introduction of AIS or to limit their spread at the discretion of the Crow Wing County Land Services Department.

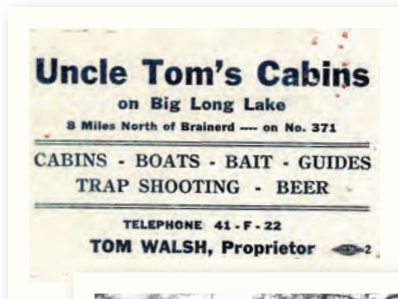


North Long Lake History

| By Diane Gaulke Zelenak as told to Sue Kumpula

My parents, Harold and Cres Gaulke purchased the property on Birchdale Road in August of 1944. Birchdale Road did not have a name at the time, probably was a Rural Route number from the post office. I remember the road being a bumpy, gravel road. It ended a few properties past the current Reel Livin resort, which at the time was Bacon's resort run by Bill and Lil Bacon. Many things have changed since then. I was pretty young at the time, but I do remember it seemed to take forever riding to get there. We lived in North Minneapolis.

My parents originally rented cabins at Uncle Tom's Resort, owned by Tom and Blanch Walsh. The cabins were all named and we stayed at the Shamrock. Fishing was good and they had a tavern, beer, pop and ice cream at the resort.



Dad, Mom, and I at Uncle Tom's Cabins

My parents decided to buy property in the area and Tom knew that his neighbor, Florence Blair, wanted to sell. He gave her name to my dad and they reached an agreement to purchase price of \$375. When I see photos of what they purchased, I am surprised my mother agreed to the purchase. She did enjoy catching those big fish though. There was another small log building on the property.

The following summer was busy. My dad and grandpa raised the roof by adding wood above the logs and enclosing the screen porch. No electricity, so my dad ran lights off the car battery. We bought ice from Kenny Brackner for the ice box; we passed his place on the way to ours.

Part of the yard was fenced off and Tom Walsh's horse "King" was the lawn mower when we weren't there. "Uncle



Original Log Buildings

Tom" was a fun and good neighbor. Saturday nights were always busy at his tavern and pretty loud at times. He was very well known, enjoyed people and had fun playing jokes on them.



1945 Renovation

Sunday afternoon there was always trap shooting at their place. Clay pigeons went into the lake. We would look for the ones that were missed and pick those up, but had to be careful not to step on the broken ones. We were not allowed in the water/area when they were shooting.

During the winter of 1948/49 my dad and grandpa built the "new cabin" in sections in our basement in Minneapolis. Many trips were made with a little car and trailer to get those sections up there. The move in was the summer of 1949, and in the mid 50's a porch was added - we waited till 1970's for a bathroom to be added.

I have a lot of fond memories of the cabin and the area. It was my second home; we spent every other weekend, at least up there. Also the 2 weeks of vacation time my dad had were spent there. Some of the summers my mom and I stayed during the week. Many of those times I was able to bring my cousin or a friend along, they also have good memories of the lake.



New Cabin in 1949

After I married, my husband and I spent time there and as our family increased we were there as often as we could be. Our 5 children enjoyed it and it became part of their fun and growing

up years. Our 4 older grandsons have been able to spend some of their growing up years having fun and making memories there. We have a new grandson and hopefully he will be able to experience time there also.

My parents are deceased, my mom in 1972, my dad in 1996. My dad eventually remarried after my mom died, his second wife enjoyed going there and catching and eating sunfish of all sizes. Over the years many have enjoyed time at "the cabin". We still are using that small "new cabin built in 1949.



Present Cabin

SWCD Tree and Shrub Sale

Each year, the Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District conducts a Tree and Plant Sale. This is a great opportunity to begin the restoration process after this summer's big storm.

All trees and shrubs are bare root and offered in bundles of 25. In almost all cases, the plants are native to this area. Prices typically range from \$20 to \$33 per bundle of 25 for trees and shrubs. In the past they've offered:

- ◆ 6-12" Fir, Pine, and Spruce Seedlings
- ◆ 12-18" Cedar, Pine, and Spruce Transplants
- ◆ 12-18" Oak, Maple, Birch and other trees
- ◆ 12-18" Cranberry, Dogwood, Elderberry and other shrubs
- ◆ Native flowers and grasses (including wild flowers and erosion control)

They will also be selling tree tubes and native seeds.

The order process will begin in January and information can be found on the SWCD website: <http://crowwingswcd.org/annual-tree-plant-sale/>. Pickup will be in early May at the Northland

Arboretum. In addition, the SWCD will be holding an open house in February. For more information, or to be placed on their distribution list, please contact Tasha Lauer at tasha.lauer@crowwingswcd.org or 218-828-6197.



“I take
whatever
comes
my way,
and I stay
positive.”

– Ramona B., Brainerd



Early detection has helped Ramona survive not one, but two cancers. Like most people diagnosed with lung cancer, the tumor in Ramona’s left lung was discovered when she had an X-ray for another condition.

Until recently, there was no screening test for lung cancer. Low-dose CT scans are now being offered for people ages 55-77 who are long-time smokers and therefore at high risk for developing lung cancer.

To schedule a lung cancer screening, you need to first meet with your primary care physician to determine if you meet the criteria and to discuss the risks and benefits of a low-dose CT scan. To make an appointment with your primary care provider, call **218.828.2880**.

Essentia Health’s cancer experts are here to make sure that the best care is available close to home, family and friends.



Dr. Laura Joque



Dr. Anusha Madadi



Dr. Aby Philip



Jessica Nybakken,
AOCNP



Erin Kennedy, RN,
Clinical Patient
Navigator



Missy Laposky,
RN, BA, OCN
Clinical Patient
Navigator

EssentiaHealth.org/BrainerdCancerCenter



Essentia Health
Here with you

NEWS & NOTES

Round Lake

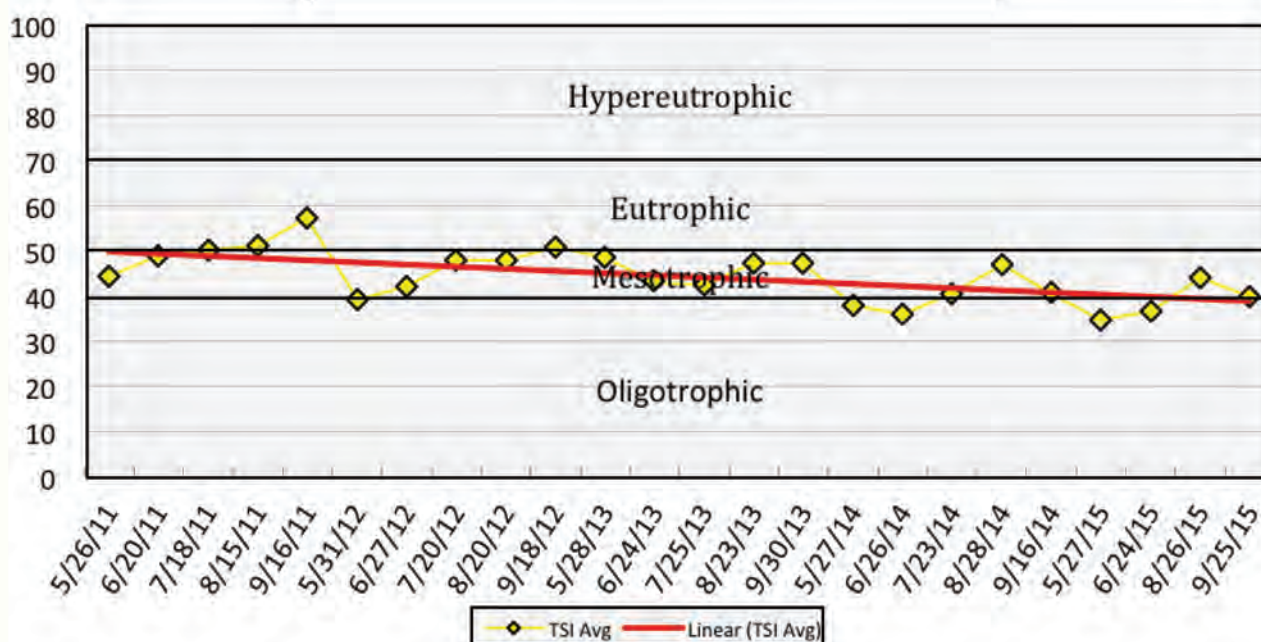
Round Lake Water Quality Update

| By Sarah Fogderud, A.W. Research Laboratories

In 2015 the water quality of Round Lake continued to improve. The graph below shows the average Trophic Status Index for Round Lake for the past five years. The five-year trend line (shown in red) indicates a significant decrease in Trophic Status Index (an increase in water quality) over time. Secchi disk readings, a measure of water clarity, were significantly deeper this year including a record reading of 25.5 feet in May. The zebra mussel infestation in Round Lake is a likely cause of this

dramatic increase in water clarity. As filter feeders, zebra mussels can have a significant impact on the food web of a lake. One adult zebra mussel can filter up to a liter of water every day. This increase in water clarity may lead to an increase in the curly leaf pondweed population in Round Lake. Continued sampling over the next several years will allow us to better evaluate the effects of zebra mussels on water quality.

Trophic Status Index - Round Lake, 2011-2015



	Phosphorus (ppb)	Chlorophyll a (ppb)	Secchi (ft)	TSI (P)	TSI (Chla)	TSI (S)	Average TSI
Historic Average	21.05	6.49	10.37	46.40	46.84	43.98	44.21
2013 Average	15.00	7.40	9.30	43.06	48.86	45.22	45.71
2014 Average	12.60	4.20	16.10	40.06	43.56	37.60	40.41
2015 Average	12.75	3.25	19.13	39.63	41.65	35.08	38.78

The 2015 averages were lower than the historic averages and the 2013 averages indicating an improvement in the water clarity and nutrient concentrations in Round Lake.

NEWS & NOTES

Round Lake

ROUND LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD OF 1/1/2015 - 10/1/2015

	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	VENDOR	CHECK #	DATE
CASH BALANCE AS OF 1/1/2015	\$59,143.91				
REVENUES:					
	399.19	Jan 23 2015 Settlement			1/31/2015
	20,554.42	July 3 2015 Settlement			
TOTAL REVENUES:\$	\$20,953.61				
EXPENDITURES:					
	250.00	2015 LID ANNUAL ADMIN FEE	CWC	0	1/31/2015
	1,000.00	Rd Lk contrib to 371 runoff	Crow Wing SWCD	358186	4/14/2015
	210.00	Rd Lk '15 TSI analysis	A W Research Laboratories Inc	258448	6/2/2015
	23,922.22	Rd Lk Treatment	Lake Restoration Inc	358487	6/2/2015
	2,500.00	Rd Lk Stormwater	Crow Wing SWCD	1007	7/1/2015
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$27,882.22				
CASH BALANCE AS OF 10/1/2015	\$52,215.30				

2015 TAX & SPECIAL ASSESSMENT SETTLEMENT DATES:
 JANUARY 23, 2015 (THE BALANCE OF PRIORYEAR COLLECTIONS NOT PREVIOUSLY PAID)
 JULY 2, 2015 (1ST HALF TAXES)
 DECEMBER 2, 2015 (2ND HALF TAXES)

Auditor-Treasurer's Office 10/2/2015

ROUND LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION ACCOUNT BALANCES | As of 6/30/2015

Bank Accounts	Balance
CD BlackRidge	15,135.13
CD Designated Funds Dredging	29,627.13
Checking	4,920.56
Savings	17,005.46
Special Projects Checking	0.00
Svngs Dredging Funds	100.52
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$66,788.80
Asset Accounts	
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
TOTAL Asset Accounts	\$0.00
Liability Accounts	
Accounts Payable	\$0.00
TOTAL Liability Accounts	\$0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$66,788.80

ROUND LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION BANKING SUMMARY | 7/1/2014 through 6/30/2015

INCOME	
Interest Inc	106.87
Dredging Funds	177.10
TOTAL Interest Inc	283.97
Meat From Picnic	
2015	35.00
TOTAL Meat From Picnic	35.00
Membership Dues	8,205.00
Rummage Sale Income	150.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$8,673.97
EXPENSES	
Uncategorized	0.00
Bank Charge	31.39
Buoys	789.13
Insurance	450.00
mailbox fee	48.00
Misc	25.00
Picnic	
2014	514.97
2015	890.86
TOTAL Picnic	1,405.83
Professional Fees	190.00
Sale Around Round Exp	48.04
Stamps	6.70
Website Expense	24.84
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,018.93
OVERALL TOTAL	\$5,655.04

ROUND LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

| Contributions Received 4/2/15 through 10/20/2015

OWL (\$25.00 - \$49.99)

Chuck Balzer
Rick Besmehn
Tom & Alice Breitholtz
Chuck & Sandy Burton
Shellie Cibuzar
Dick & Lynn Crail/Parker
Cyril & Lynn Durrenberger
Paul & Mary Ezzell
Scott & Sue Fisher
Jake & Angela Frie
6GS of Helen Gautschi
Cal & Marty Gegner
Nick & Pat Heinen
Dave & Kathleen Hennes
Laurie Hennes
Dennis & Karen Holmen
Bill and Barbara Howard
John & Nancy Jacks
John & Laurie Majka
Mary McGuire
DeLos & Karen Olson
Charles & JoAnn Reisinger
Jay & Carol Simon

Dean & Paula Trocke
John & Elsa Windh
Roger & Karen Yundak

HAWK (\$50.00 - \$74.99)

Jo & Nan Bonestroo/Morain
Steve & Linda Esser
Dale & Debra Gatz
Marjorie Holmstrom
Paul & Bethany Husby
Chuck & Marie Jorgensen
Jim & Ann Kalgren
Dan & Sarah Keller
Chuck & Laurie Larson
Wayne & Yvonne Larson
Dave & Deb Leary
John Meyer
Joseph & Sheila Nadeau
Ken & Donis Smith
Dick & Marilyn Sobiech
John & Vivian Swanson
Kevin & Kathy Wernberg
Mike & Ruth Zauhar

OSPREY (\$75.00 - \$99.99)

Laurel Baxter
Chad & Kacie Wottreng

EAGLE (\$100.00 or more)

Wes & Lorrie Anderson
Bill & Peg Baker
Galen Bottemiller
Steven & Joanne Carfrae
Eric & Julie Davidge
Bill & Elaine Lancaster
Walter Leonard
Bill & Kris McGrath
Mike & Susan Niebur
Mark & Paula Parrish
Raford & Janice Richter
Scott & Phyllis Trcka
Sebago Resort
Jim Storm



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2015 North Long Lake Association Annual Meeting and Picnic



Is it a picnic if held indoors? For the North Long Lake Association, the answer is yes. Our annual meeting and picnic this year was held indoors in a new, large building at Legionville. In spite of being postponed due to the big storm, it was well attended and came off without a hitch. 119 people registered at the event.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30am by Bill Schmidt, NLLA President. By plan, the meeting was to be kept short and to-the-point to allow members to enjoy lunch and socialize with their association neighbors.



An election of board members was conducted with one vote per property. Two current board members, Kay Hondo and Sandy Loney were standing for reelection. One member, Jim Voiss, had been nominated previously. Bill asked for nominations from the floor (three times per our association by-laws) but there were none. Ballots were distributed and, after voting, collected and tabulated. Kay and Sandy were

reelected and Jim was elected. There were no write-in candidates.

Bill presented the financial report and printed copies were made available. Fiscal year 2014 income for our association was \$20,703 and expenses were \$18,040, resulting in a net gain of \$2,600. For 2015 year to date, the association has income of \$22,642 and expenses of \$20,600, resulting in a gain of \$1900. Bill said there will be more expenses for NLLA for the balance of 2015. Our total reserve balance is \$44,000.

Kay Hondo, Membership Chair, gave a brief membership report. Kay said that membership is the best it's ever been as a result of the membership sign-up letter that was sent out earlier in the year. It was a very successful campaign. To date NLLA has 343 members with 10 additional members registering at the picnic.

A number of topics of interest impacted our lake and our members were presented and discussed:

Bill discussed the impact of the storm on the residents of NLLA. He said this is something that would affect the area for years to come. Bill said that with all the damage and clean up, it was a miracle that there was not one severe injury. He said the clean-up is still ongoing and that he saw neighborhoods pull together and help each other.

Ditch 13, a drainage ditch that runs between Lake Edward and North Long Lake, had been a hot topic for a period but that the storm had put it on a back burner. A petition – initiated by Lake Edward residents – was circulated last year asking the County to deepen it, widen it or clean it so that more water could leave Lake Edward and come into North Long Lake. Bill noted that several years ago the ditch was cleaned and a quantity of silt and other issues came in with the water. The Association is concerned as to the impact this would have on North Long Lake should the ditch be deepened/widened/cleaned again. To date, nothing has been done by the County to Ditch 13 primarily due to the storm damage. Currently the plan by the County (verbally) is to maintain the ditch and not deepen or widen it. Property owners that are directly affected by Ditch 13 will be assessed the fees for maintaining it.

Large flocks of cormorants have been appearing on the big lake. Cormorants are great fisherman and are detrimental to the fishery. They also carry swimmer's itch. Bill informed the members that cormorants are federally protected birds and regulated by the USDA. He has spoken with several people with the DNR and other lake associations regarding the cormorants. Most of the birds are nesting on Pelican Island (in Pelican Lake) which is owned by a private individual. The owner is in communication with the USDA; they have verbally committed to allow removal of the birds from the island next year. The North Long Lake Association has agreed to provide support where needed – financial or otherwise.

Bill discussed the high rate of swimmer's itch on North Long this year. It is thought it is because of the cormorants. It was noted that it helps to dry off immediately after coming out of the water. Also, there are topical creams that can prevent swimmer's itch.

Minnesota DNR plans to stock Muskies in Gull Lake was discussed. Bill said that there are members that are for and those that are against the stocking of Muskie's into Gull. It should be noted that Muskies in Gull will be able to make their way into Round Lake and from there into North Long. At this point, the board is collecting necessary facts to make an informed decision.

Zebra Mussels are in North Long Lake. Bill feels this unfortunate but that they will continue to get worse and this is something the association will have to adjust to. The DNR tried an experiment to eradicate them in Christmas Lake but was unsuccessful.

The Association had cameras installed at the boat launches at Merrifield and 371. The cameras not only educate the public to inspect their boats and trailers for invasive species but also provide the means to monitor compliance. We have the ability to see if boats or trailers are carrying weeds and to record the license plate on the boat or vehicle. This information can be supplied to the DNR who can choose to take action, including fines. Bill asked for member assistance in reviewing the videos, which can be done via the internet. In response to a question about the boat access on the southwest shore of the big lake, Bill said that at this time there is no monitoring taking place, no inspections and no cameras at that access.



Bill opened the floor to questions and answers.

A member noticed the curly leaf pond weed in Merrifield Bay is worse this year. Bill spoke with the DNR's Dan Swanson who found that there is about 7 acres of curly leaf as opposed to about 4 acres in past years. It is not known why the treatment was not more effective but the Board is following up with PLM (the company that treats the lake for curly leaf pondweed) for resolution. When asked how many areas on North Long had curly leaf, Bill said that only Merrifield Bay between Ditch 13 and the public access.

A member commented on the poor cleanliness of the landing on 371. Bill said that the Association had no control over how the landings were maintained and that the highway department was responsible for upkeep and that we would need to work with them.

In response to a question about the number of homes on North Long, Bill said there are about 600.

A member asked about the landing off of Birchdale being private land or county land. Bill said the landing was on county land.

Another member commented that the County had not maintained the damage sustained due to the ice ridge that formed in the winter but that, after complaining, the county had begun mowing and better managing the property. Bill thanked him for making the call and reminded the members that there is strength in numbers and that our voices can be heard.

A member asked how much money was generated through grants for AIS. The Board applied for a grant for curly leaf for approximately \$3,000.00. The Board also applied for a grant for boat inspectors but ultimately declined the funds as we would have to match funds and we were not guaranteed, and had no control over, the dates and times the inspectors would be available.

A member asked about the project that had begun for collecting the history on North Long Lake. Bill turned the question over to Harris Goldstein. Harris has been working with Sue Kumpala and Kay Hondo to publish the stories collected in the bi-annual newsletter. At one point there had been some discussion about having a book put together, but at this point in time the information will be published in the newsletter periodically.

A member asked about the Ditch 13 assessment and who will be impacted. Bill said the assessment would be levied on properties connected to Ditch 13, including all Lake Edward properties. Bill said the assessment rate has not yet been determined. Another member said that the assessment will affect about 5 to 10 people on Merrifield Bay. The member went on to say that she felt it was unfair that a single person could create a petition and cause assessments for the few people affected by Ditch 13. She felt all of North Long Lake should be assessed.

A member asked if there was anything that could be done to North Long to treat swimmer's itch. There are products that can be applied to people to reduce the risk but there is not anything that can currently eradicate it from the lake.

A member brought up the topic of moving bogs. He had been fined by the DNR for moving a bog off his dock after a storm. He warned members that if reported to the DNR a fine can be issued. The DNR regulations state the bog should be returned to its original location or removed from the lake. A permit is required by the DNR to move/remove bogs.

A long-standing member let the Board know that she found records from board meetings her husband had kept from years past. Bill thanked her for bringing this to his attention.

A drawing was held for the many prizes donated by local businesses. Bill adjourned the meeting at 11:17 AM and lunch was served.

2015 NLLA Silent Auction and Raffle

Each year, local businesses and organizations generously donate valuable merchandise for our silent auction and our raffle prize drawing. This year was no exception.

Silent auction items were donated by:

Adams Pest Control
DH Docks & Tracks
Fun Sisters
Landsburg Nursery
Power Lodge
Jim Voiss

And raffle prizes were donated by:

Affordable Auto Repair
Black Bear Lodge
Blakeman Septic Service
Boulder Tap House
Carlson Hardware of Nisswa
Ernie's On Gull
Grandview Lodge
Green Porch
Half Moon Saloon
Harpo's
Ivens on the Bay
K and J Small Engine Repair
Lakeside Acres Resort
Loides Oils & Vinegars
Nisswa Automotive
Old Waterfall Inn
People's Security
Poncho and Lefty's
R.W. Jewelers
Train Bell Resort
Valeri Ann's Family Foods
Woodland Meadows

Our thanks to all who donated.



NEWS & NOTES

North Long Lake

2015 Fall NLLA Membership Report

| By Kay Hondo, Membership Chair

Our 2015 membership is at an all-time high with 350 paying members/households. This year we have 10 brand new households plus 38 households who may have paid in past years but not in 2014. In 2014, we had 301 households and in 2013 we had 310. According to the county auditor, there are 727 parcels around the lake. In many cases, one "property owner" may have more than one "parcel".

Your annual NLLA membership coincides with the calendar year. If you did not pay dues for 2015, there still is time. You can go to our web site (www.northlong.com) for a membership form or use the form in this newsletter. Keep in mind that we always have the calendar year in which you last paid dues in the upper right hand corner of your address label on our mailing. This should be helpful if you aren't sure if you paid for the current year or not.

Our 2016 membership drive will begin early in the new year with a mailing to all of our property owners which will include your "invoice" for dues and donations.

Your NLLA Board of Directors sends a big thank you to all our loyal members who consistently pay dues and AIS donations. You are the backbone of our membership and make it possible for us to continue our battle against Invasive Species. We also want to especially thank our new members and welcome back our returning members.

Enjoy the approaching holidays. I hope this winter will be kind to you!



North Long Lake Residents and Friends: This is a final reminder for 2015 dues.

A statement for 2016 dues will be mailed in January.

NORTH LONG LAKE 2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT



The NLLA Board of Directors trust that you find your contribution to the association a worthy investment. Our organization leads the effort to control and limit non-native species, we monitor lake water quality, and we represent you – the North Long Lake resident – with regulatory bodies that impact our lake. The more members we enroll, the better we can 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. Dues are on a calendar year basis – January through December.

And please be as generous as you can with contributions to the Invasive Species Fund. This is the only resource we have for "in kind" support for boat inspections and invasive species treatment. Remember that we are a 501(3)c organization; your invasive species donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE (however dues are not)! *Thank you!!*

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email address: _____

2015 dues: \$35.00

+ Invasive Species Fund _____

= Total Contribution: _____

Lake address: _____

Lake Phone: _____

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P.O. Box 54
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North Long Lake Membership Roster

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NEWS & NOTES

North Long Lake

North Long Lake Water Quality Update

| By Sarah Fogderud, A.W. Research Laboratories

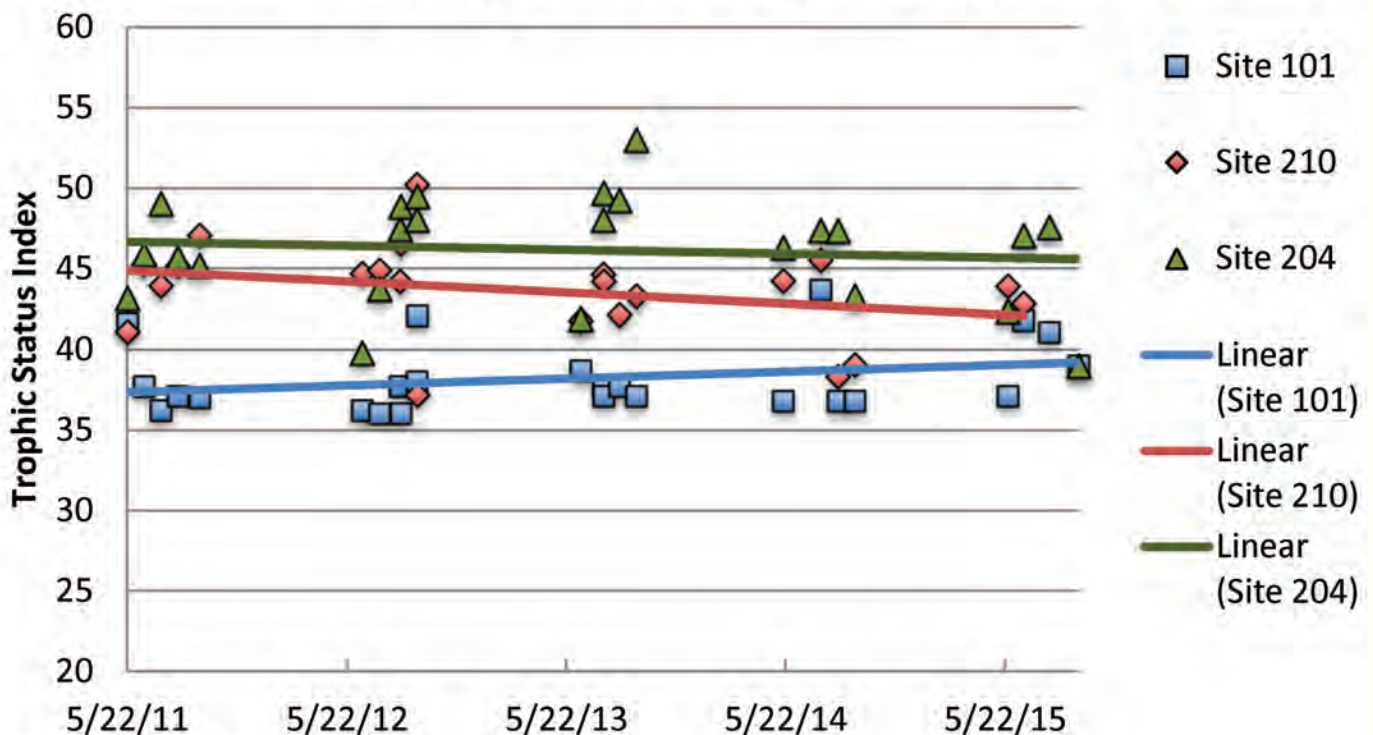
We sampled three sites on North Long Lake monthly from May through September in 2015, one in each of the three bays. Water samples were analyzed for total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a by our certified laboratory. In addition to the water samples, a Secchi disk reading was taken at each site. These three measurements were used to calculate the Trophic Status Index (TSI) for each bay of the lake.

The graph below shows the five-year average TSI trend for each of the three sites. The average TSI of Site 101 (Merrifield Bay)

has increased from 2011 to 2015. This means that the water quality is declining over time. Site 210 (Big Lake) has a slightly decreasing TSI trend indicating a slight improvement in water quality over the last 5 years, while Site 204 (371 Bay) is remaining steady over time.

The zebra mussel infestation in North Long Lake is likely to have an effect on the water quality of the lake. Continued sampling over the next several years will allow us to evaluate any effect of zebra mussels on water quality.

North Long Lake Average TSI, 2011-2015



NEWS & NOTES

North Long Lake

Loon Nest Available for North Long Lake



The North Long Lake Association has a loon nest available. As you may know, we have a number of successful nests on the lake. This is a great opportunity to help this wonderful bird, which is still recovering from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico (where the birds winter).

The nest comes with a bonus: there is nothing as enchanting as sitting on your deck or porch in the evening and hearing the loon's haunting call.

Loon nests require some care. They must be anchored (cement block and cable provided) in about 3-8 feet of water and about 30 feet from shore to discourage predators. They should be put in the water within 2-3 weeks of ice out and it helps to add rushes to the nest. A somewhat protected and secluded spot is best, but loons on our lake are used to human activity. Depending on location, you might want to have a warning buoy to keep curious boaters from getting too close.

Loons like their space, so it may not work if a close neighbor has a nest. But there should be good locations on both bays and – especially – the big lake. If interested, please contact Doug Hohman at doughohman@hotmail.com.



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NEWS & NOTES

North Long Lake

Clothing for Sale | By Fran Cronin



The clothing table at the picnic this year was quite busy. Our tee shirts, both regular and digital print (pictured), were very popular. The North Long Lake can koozies (5 for \$10) also sold well. All proceeds from the sales go to our AIS fund.

As we head into winter, you may want to keep in mind that all our products make wonderful Christmas presents. We have jackets and sweatshirts for those of us unfortunate enough to have to stay in Minnesota during those cold months. For the lucky ones who will be traveling to warmer climates, consider a t-shirt, visor, or polo shirt with one of our North Long Lake logos. Keep in mind that we can wear our gifts year-round at the lake too.

For Christmas orders, please call no later than November 30th to ensure that you get the product in time for the holidays. I will be happy to answer your questions and help you with suggestions and prices.

See you at the lake!!

Fran Cronin: (home) 763-427-5636 or (cell) 763-360-5734.

2 New Board Members

Jim Voiss



Jim Voiss was elected to the North Long Lake Association Board at the annual meeting in August. Jim has lived on the west side of Merrifield Bay since 1993. He is the Chief Financial Officer for ATEK Companies, Inc. headquartered in Eden Prairie, MN. ATEK has a manufacturing facility in Brainerd, thus allowing Jim to spend a couple days a week in Eden Prairie and the balance of his time in the Brainerd area. Jim has spent his working career in finance and accounting and has been a Certified Public Accountant since 1978.

Jim has experience on non-profit boards where he served as the president of a newly formed homeowner association in the 1980's and, more recently, served for ten years on the Board of Kinship Partners, a Brainerd area youth mentoring organization. Jim recently began a transition from full time work to retirement, providing him with added time for other interests, such as the NLLA board as well as landscaping and gardening projects around his Merrifield Bay home.

Jim was also elected as association Treasurer at the October Board meeting.

Harris Goldstein



Harris Goldstein was elected to fill a vacant board position in May. He has been an association member for a number of years and newsletter editor since 2014.

He has lived on the north side of Merrifield Bay since 2000. Harris is retired, having spent 20 years as a management consultant for IBM and Computer Sciences Corporation. Prior to that, his career focus was information technology and electronic commerce with General Mills and Honeywell. Harris also served many years as a scout leader, both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Harris and his wife split their time between the lake and Minneapolis. They both particularly enjoy hearing the loons in the evening and seeing the eagles during the day. His interests are grandkids, photography, cooking, and fishing. And the newsletter of course.

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– Barbara Corcoran, *ABC's Shark Tank*



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- Barbara Corcoran - ABC's Shark Tank

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