

# The Chatty Loon

Upper South Long Lake Improvement Assn. Newsletter  
P.O. Box 201, Brainerd, MN 56401

October, 2016  
Edited by Dan Martonik



## In this issue:

Page 1:  
Assn.  
President's  
Message

Water  
Quality  
Summary

Memorial

BOD List

Page 2:  
LID  
President's  
Message

AIS Article

Page 3:  
New BOD  
Member

Membership  
Article

Page 4:  
Ole & Lena

New "Little  
Free Library"

Page 5:  
Understand-  
ing Loons  
Article

Page 6:  
Water  
Quality  
Testing

Bear  
Sightings

Another AIS  
Concern

Page 7:  
Lake  
Learning  
Article

## President's Message



Greetings to the USLL Community. I hope that everyone has had a wonderful summer, filled with lasting memories with friends and families.

The heavy and seemingly unrelenting rains were a challenge for us this summer with water levels remaining high even as we prepare for winter.

Dealing with high water restrictions was a huge challenge to balance personal desires to enjoy the whole lake while respecting the need to support neighbors' needs to prevent shoreline erosion. Thanks for understanding and complying.

We have continued to aggressively treat for curly leaf pondweed, stepped up our AIS inspection programs and continued our water testing programs (water clarity, chemicals, zebra mussels).

The prevention of various forms of Aquatic Invasive Species continues to be a major focus for the USLLIA and USLL LID board members and we continue to actively participate in county and state programs aimed at accomplishing this.

Thanks for your ongoing support and lake stewardship!

*Ron Trowig*, BOD President

## Water Report - Summer 2016 Summary



Secchi readings for 2016:

May	7.5'	August	4.5'
June	10.0'	Sept	5.5'
July	7.0'		

Previous results can be viewed in detail by going online to [www.rmbel.info](http://www.rmbel.info)

The acreage treated for curly leaf pondweed in 2016 was 30.0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Daniel J. Martonik*, Water Committee Chair

## USLLIA Honors Don Crust



Carol Crust admires the newly installed sign that honors her late husband Don.

On August 27, 2016, the Lake Association membership honored our long-time friend and lake advocate Donald E. Crust. We erected a sign and dedicated it in his honor. The sign briefly tells his story of lake stewardship. We placed it at the intersection of Crust Road and Leisure Lane. For those of you that are unaware, this is the area where Don spent most of his childhood, growing up on the Crust family farm. Crust Road is named after Don's grandfather.



Shelly Stanley • John Lonsky  
516 C St. NE. Brainerd, MN 56401  
•218-829-5436 • fax: 218-828-2045

## Association Board of Directors

Ron Trosvig, President  
Dan Martonik, VP  
Randy Peterson, Treasurer  
John Pietruzewski, Secretary  
Terry Lahti, Past Pres.  
Jeff Gans

Chuck Yancey  
Gerald Spande  
John Bettencourt  
Blaine Hakomaki  
Mike Simmons  
Ben Platter



## From the LID President



At the 2016 annual meeting Ruth, Mary and Mike were re-elected to serve another two year term.

The LID board is comprised of:  
Mike Simons, President  
Ruth Naber, Vice President  
Gary Hopping, Treasurer  
Mary Reetz, Secretary  
Chris Psocka  
Alan Steif  
Steve Bardolph

Highlights of the year include:

- The purchase and installing of zebra mussel traps.
- The purchase of "No Wake High Water" signs.
- A speaker at the association meeting talking about invasive species.
- Water testing.
- A well-attended annual meeting.
- The successful control of curly leaf.
- Boat inspections at the access.

The board is now doing the work that no one on the lake sees but is necessary for the continuation of our LID. We need to compile a complete report of this year's activities and the certification of 2017 LID property taxes.

Planning for 2017 includes:

- Setting a water level that calls for no wake on the lake and removing that restriction.
- Weed control.
- Water testing.
- Boat inspections.

We invite anyone who wants us to look at other projects to contact any board member.

*Mike Simons*, LID President

# STEFFEN

## TREE SERVICE INC.

FULLY INSURED, EQUIPPED AND EXPERIENCED  
Removal - Trimming - Lot Clearing  
Brush Chipping - Stump Grinding - Storm Damage

[www.steffentreeservice.com](http://www.steffentreeservice.com)  
1505 State 210 SW, Brainerd, MN  
Quality Service Since 1978

# 218-829-0133

## Best Way to Fight Aquatic Invaders – "Join a Lake Association"

By Bonnie Marten, USLLIA member



In August, Jeff Forester, Executive Director of MN Lakes & River Advocates was interviewed on FOX 9's, *The Buzz* regarding aquatic invaders and how difficult they are to fight.

Minnesota has almost 900,000 registered watercraft and 13,000 lakes. And, there is a real ethic about unfettered 24/7 access to our lakes and that's how aquatic invaders are spread. There is tension between needing to protect the lakes and providing access. Six new lakes in MN were infested just this season. (Turtle Lake has starry stonewort)

Treatment options are not effective; it is better to prevent the spread. For zebra mussels, the treatment has to be put in the water and chemicals have to be at concentration for 3-4 hours for the zebra mussels to absorb the chemical. The mussels tend to clam up and not absorb the chemical.

The good news is that the Great Lakes have had no new infestations since 2006. If we stop infested boats, we stop the spread.

2014 legislation put funding toward local county efforts. Counties have local efforts driven by lake associations and watershed districts. Jeff was asked about the best way an individual could help in this effort. His answer was "to join a lake association; there are 500 in the state". Lake Associations have 10s of 1000s of members and are putting in lots of volunteer time working with local resource managers and soil and water districts.

Jeff's key points:

- The challenge is providing access to lakes, while protecting resources.
- The currency is the lake association.
- Lots of innovation is going on in MN on this issue.

To learn more about this issue, attend the Annual Aquatic Invaders Summit. (The 2nd Annual Summit was held in St. Cloud on October 5-6, 2016).

## Herget Building Inc

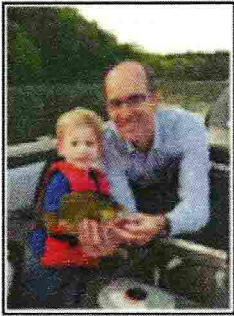
New construction for: Cabins, Porches, Decks & Garages. Remodeling Interior & Exterior.  
Installation of New Windows & Siding.  
Minnkota Window Dealer.

For Quality Work call Joe at: 218-764-3554  
10064 Leisure Ln, Brainerd, MN, 56401  
MN Lic. #20238723  
[joe.herget@hergetbuilding.com](mailto:joe.herget@hergetbuilding.com)



## New Assn. Board Member

### Meet Ben Platter



It was a pleasure to meet all of you at the Annual Spring Meeting.

A mention of willingness to volunteer turned into a quick vote, and here I am as the newest Board member.

I'm hoping to work for the newsletter, as requested.

This is a photo of me with my grandson Oliver.

My wife Rochelle and I purchased our cabin on Rognaldson Road in September 2015 and we are grateful it's built for year round living. We've been up every month since we took ownership.

I first started coming to Upper South Long Lake in 1970 with my cousins Tom Cardle and Kitty Yancey (née Cardle), and my uncle & aunt Jim & Carolyn Cardle.

My primary interest is with fishing and boating. I'm learning more about the lake structure and shallow spots with our new boat.

I look forward to keeping in touch with USLL developments.

*Ben Platter*, Board Member



Paradise Resort  
Bar and Grill  
10067 Leisure Lane  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
(218) 764-2328

## Membership Committee



As we wind down the 2016 summer season, would like to thank the 160 owners who have paid their dues. This works out to be about 80% of our lake. A pretty impressive number! How do you think the elected representatives in Washington would feel if they ever came close to an 80% approval rating? Not only do these owners pay the \$25.00 annual dues, many of them also make a tax deductible contribution on top of it. Special thanks to those who went above and beyond the \$25.00 annual dues.

Based on a request from our members, we will be offering an electronic option for membership payments for 2017. You will still be able to write a check, but will have another option to pay your bill electronically, if desired. We will put a link on our web page to support electronic payments.

E-mail is fast and easy way for the board to connect with everyone. We only use it for delivering important news that we feel everyone should know. During the past year, we have used email to inform everyone about safety issues, power outages, bear sightings and high water warnings.

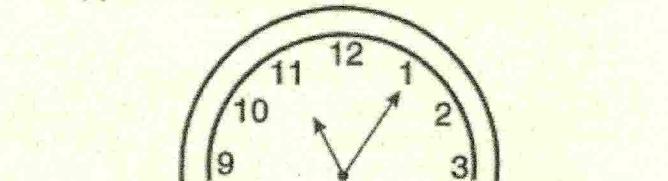
If you do not have e-mail, you might want to ask a family member or a trusted friend to let you use their address and convey any messages that we might send out. We do not use this information for advertising and your email address will only be used by USLLA. If we do not have a current e-mail address for you - please forward this information to either Dan Martonik or myself so that we can update our master file.

For those of you that close up your property for the winter, we wish you the best this winter and we look forward to seeing you next spring. For the rest, we hope to see you snowmobiling, fishing or just enjoying the crisp fall and winter weather. Thanks for the great year!

*Randy Peterson*, Membership Committee Chair

### NABERHOOD CLOCK DOC

*If your clock doesn't TICK-TOCK to the clock Doc.*



- REPAIRING ALL TYPES OF CLOCKS AND WATCHES
- COMPLETE LINE OF BATTERY & ELEC. REPLACEMENT MOVEMENTS
- HOUSE CALLS FOR GRANDFATHER CLOCKS • FREE ESTIMATES
- MN CERTIFIED WATCH AND CLOCK MAKER • OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE

**STEPHEN J. NABER, OWNER**

10741 GRAFF PARK RD • BRAINERD, MN 56401 • 218-764-3423



## SOME GROANERS

Sven was standing on the street corner one day when Ole drove up in a new car. Sven asked, "Ole, where did you get the new car?" Ole answered, "I was out parking in the toolies with Lena, and she took off all her clothes and told me I could have whatever I wanted - so I took the car." Sven answered, "Well I think you made a wise choice, the clothes probably wouldn't have fit you anyway."

Sven, Ole, and Lena got invitations to go to this party. The invitation said that they must dress up as an emotion. So Sven goes to his house, and Ole and Lena go to theirs.

Lena goes upstairs to change, she comes downstairs all dressed in red. Ole asks Lena, "Vut are yew supposed ta be?" Lena says, "I'm red with fury."

So Ole goes upstairs to change, he comes downstairs all dressed in green. Lena asks Ole, "Vut are yew supposed to be?" Ole says, "I'm green with envy."

Ole and Lena get a knock on their front door, so Ole answers it. There is Sven standing butt-naked with a tire around his waist! Ole says, "Vut in da world are yew supposed ta be?" Sven says, "I'm in da spare!"

Ole and Sven had a good idea for a simple mouse trap:

1. Get a 5 gallon bucket
2. Fill bucket with 4-5 inches of gasoline
3. Build a ramp for the mouse to climb to the top of bucket

When the mouse gets to the top, the fumes will cause dizziness, the mouse will fall in and swim around until he runs out of gas.

Google "NEXTDOOR" for lake information

NEXTDOOR is our very own lake social media.

You can buy and sell, send out alerts, pass on news and announce events to our USLLIA neighbors. You have to join to participate. It's safe. It's useful. It's fun. Thirty-one have already joined. An area near Garrison already has over 100 members from their lake!

Give it a try.

**HWY 18  
COLLISION CENTER, INC.**  
218-828-0181

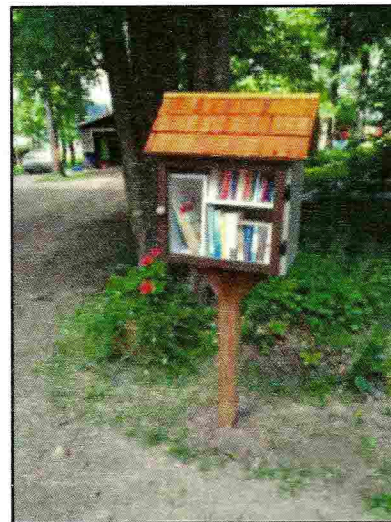
**Mike Abrahamson**

Fax - 218-822-4014  
Cell - 218-270-0284  
Email - hwy18@brainerd.net

24 HOUR TOWING - LOW COST LOANERS  
Building A Reputation One Satisfied Customer At A Time

Specializing in repairs to RVs, campers and boats  
(inside and outside)  
3 mechanics on duty  
We do everything from A to Z

## Check it out! USLL has a new "Little Free Library"



Announcing Upper South Long Lake's **Little Free Library** at 17386 Paradise Shores Road, the home of Paul and Sue Olson.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that supports the worldwide movement to offer free books housed in small containers to members of the local community.

The idea started when Todd Bol mounted a wooden container designed to look like a school house on a post as a tribute to his mother, who was a book lover and school teacher. The concept caught on and there are now over 15,000 Little Libraries worldwide. Owners register their libraries and they are listed in a worldwide directory that people can search ([www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org))

You are encouraged to visit our Little Free Library and bring your families and visitors. Please take a book even if you don't have one to donate and maybe at a later date you can bring it back or donate another book.

There are children's, teen, and adult books. There is also a little notebook on the top shelf that invites you to share your favorite book and your name when you visit.

Happy Reading!

*Sue and Paul Olson*, USLLIA members

Our thanks to Paul Olson for constructing and installing the Library.



weekly mowing • spring and fall clean ups • landscaping  
snow plowing/blowing • gutter cleaning • irrigation  
dock and lift service

**Zach McKay**

218.838.2947 zachwitharrowmanagement@gmail.com  
PO Box 308 Nisswa, MN 56468



# Understanding Loons: Learn to Read the Signs

Provided by "The Loon Guys"  
Steve Bardoph and Alan Steif

Save this page for future reference

## Relaxed loons

## Concerned loons

## Stressed loons



A relaxed loon (holding its head up while on the nest) is able to incubate and hatch its eggs successfully.

Loons may show stress in subtle ways. Be alert for changes in head and neck posture that may tell you a loon is feeling threatened.



A nervous loon will often raise the feathers on its forehead to give this "squared-off" look.



When loons feel threatened while on the nest, they will put their heads down. This position indicates the loon may leave the nest

and leave the eggs to overheat, chill, or be taken by a predator.

This loon is calm and able to carry out normal behaviors to care for itself and its family.



This loon is aware of a potential threat and is stretching its neck to evaluate the situation.



If you see a loon on a nest with its head down, please back away immediately!

Enjoy watching loons in these positions!



Flapping their wings is a normal part of preening and bathing for loons.



This loon is watching a possible threat while trying to appear inconspicuous.



If a boat is too close, a loon may become upset and perform a distraction display called a "penguin dance" – rearing

up in the water with its wings either spread out or clasped against its body and rapidly paddling its feet in the water.

If you see this display, please leave the area immediately!

Loons also flap their wings to send warning signals to an approaching threat.

Boaters who see this behavior not associated with preening or bathing should back way from the loon.

If you see a loon in these positions, please back away and allow the loon to resume normal behavior.

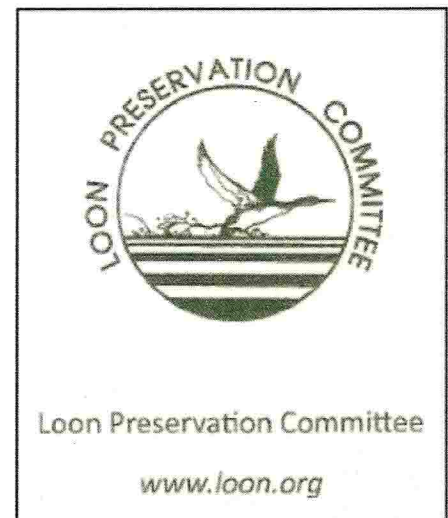
Any vocalization given when you are close to or approaching a loon can indicate distress. Please back away!

## Tips for Viewing Loons

- You can observe fascinating behaviors by maintaining a respectful distance and allowing loons to focus on taking care of themselves and their chicks.
- Boat slowly in the vicinity of loons and stop at least 150 feet away. The loons may come closer or they may move away; always let them decide how close they wish to be. Please do not pursue a loon or loon family for a closer view.
- Use binoculars to observe loons without getting too close.

By following these tips, you can get wonderful insights into loons' daily lives!

**Enjoy watching the loons!**





## 2016 LID Water Quality Testing



In spite of the high water conditions in the lake this summer, water quality testing did not indicate anything of concern. The Silver Bay Road inlet was tested in April and again in late August. The other inlets

were tested only once - late August. A more complete summary of the testing will be available on the USLLIA website under the LID portion.

Submitted by Ruth Naber, LID Vice-President

Ruth Naber, LID Vice-President / Water Quality Specialist



This last spring and summer saw many black bear sightings around the lake.

The main evidence was mangled bird feeders. The bear came almost exclusively at night. But someone had a motion light turn on and got a picture of the bear as it ripped apart a bird feeder. Unfortunately, the cell phone picture was part of a video and couldn't be captured for printing; take it from me, it was a full size adult bear.

Since the sightings were so widespread, we think more than one bear was roaming around.

Dan Mastomik, Cub Reporter

### STEVE FLEISCHACKER

(218) 828-3389  
(218) 821-2070

16207 Palomino Lane  
Brainerd, MN 56401

#### ***SOUTH LONG LAKE EXCAVATING***

Landscaping . Basements . Stump Removal . Black Dirt  
Class #5 . Fill Dirt . Snow Plowing and Removal  
Septic System Installation



### INDEPENDENT COUNSELING SERVICE

Ron Brusven, MN.L.A.D.C. #300413  
10298 County Road 23, Brainerd, MN 56401  
Office: 218-828-7736

#### Services provided:

DWI Chemical Use Assessments  
1<sup>st</sup> Offence Education Program, 8-hrs  
Drug/DWI Program, 12-hrs  
DWI/Repeat Offenders Program 16-hrs  
Relapse Prevention Program, 24-62-hrs

## Another AIS Concern

Starry Stonewort discovered in more Minnesota lakes



In August of this year, an invasive algae was discovered in several northern Minnesota lakes. These lakes, mostly in Beltrami, Itasca, and Cass counties, were in addition to the first Minnesota discovery in August of 2015 in Stearns County. These new infestations are believed to have gone undiscovered/unreported for a few years so some are well established already which makes treatment more difficult.

The invasive is starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) which is of European and Asian origin. It was first found in the United States in 1978 and until 2015 was mostly found in Michigan (2006) and New York. It appears that only male specimens have been found so it is most likely spreading through fragmentation (pieces being carried from place to place).

The algae which is described as bright green, smooth, and grass-like can form mats that grow mostly in 1-6 meter depths, but can form dense mats on the bottom sediments as well as floating on the surface. The dense mats interfere with watercraft motors, complicate boats entering and leaving lifts, choke out native plants, and disturb spawning beds.

It gets its name from a star-shaped structure called a bulbil that appears in late summer on the colorless, root-like rhizoids. Like the turions of the curly leaf pondweed, which we currently treat in our lake, the bulbils can remain dormant for years and then begin developing a new algae.

Treatments are being researched, but early detection is important. Some success is reached on smaller areas with herbicide treatments. Large beds can be physically removed, but something like a weed cutter may just create more fragments that can relocate in the body of water compounding the problem.

As lake owners, be vigilant and observant. Watch for any changes in the vegetation near your shoreline. Observe and practice the aquatic invasive species control measures and encourage any guests who bring watercraft into our lake to be "clean" before entering. Your enjoyment of the lake and your property values are at stake.

Submitted by Ruth Naber, LID Vice-President

### Donna's Hosta World

Call for hours  
218-232-3146

13483 Ossipee Road  
Merrifield MN 56465

Unique & Hard to Find Hostas

donna@donnashostaworld.com  
www.donnashostaworld.com





## Lake Learning

### Water transparency translates to lake condition

Did you know that the easiest, most inexpensive way to monitor water quality in a lake is with a simple white disk? This measurement tool is called a Secchi disk. It is a metal disk, 8 inches in diameter that has a cord attached to the middle. This cord has 6 inch increments marked on it. Each foot is marked in black, while each half foot is marked in red. The way to take a Secchi disk reading is to lower the disk on the cord into the water until you can't see it anymore. Then, you slowly pull it back up until you see it again. You average these two depths from the surface of the water to the disk and that is called the Secchi depth.

A Secchi disk is named after Fr. Pietro Angelo Secchi, an astrophysicist and scientific advisor to the Pope in the mid-1800s. He was requested to measure transparency in the Mediterranean Sea, and he did so using white disks. Since then, we have used the same concept to tell us about a lake's condition.

I have been asked at some lake monitoring training sessions why in this day and age we don't use something fancier like a laser for this measurement. The reason we still use a Secchi disk is because of its ease, low cost and accessibility. Also, since we have so many years of data from Secchi disk readings, we can continue to compare measurements using the same technique. The Pollution Control Agency gives Secchi disks out for free when you sign up for their Citizens Lake Monitoring Program <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp.html>.

A Secchi disk measures water transparency. Transparency is how easily light can pass through a substance. In lakes this means how deep sunlight penetrates through the water. Plants and algae need sunlight to grow, so they are only able to grow in areas of lakes where the sun penetrates. The top section of the lake that sunlight penetrates is called the Euphotic zone.



Water transparency depends on the amount of particles in the water. These particles can be algae or sediment from erosion, the more particles - the less water transparency. In other words, when the water is murky or cloudy and contains a lot of particles, the light cannot penetrate as deeply into the water column.

Taking weekly Secchi readings will tell you a lot about the dynamics going on in a lake. Some lakes vary greatly over the ice-out season, while other lakes stay relatively the same. Most lakes have high transparency in the early spring, decreased transparency in late spring, a rebound in transparency in mid-summer, and another decrease in late summer. These dynamics are mostly based on algae growth cycles.

Most lakes will experience increased boat activity on weekends and holidays. Taking Secchi readings on Mondays and the day following a holiday, and comparing these readings with other readings at other times may reveal the effect of boating activity on transparency depths. Boats can churn up the bottom of the lake, re-suspending sediment that contains nutrients. These nutrients feed algae and plants and can cause an algae bloom.

Significant storm events within the watershed with the resultant stormwater runoff can also cause lower Secchi disk readings. Comparing Secchi disk readings immediately after a storm with readings between storms may suggest that runoff is decreasing water clarity. Runoff carries phosphorus and eroded particles into the water which can feed an algae bloom and cause the transparency to decrease.

Good water transparency in a lake is beneficial to the fish and other animals living in the lake. Plants and algae produce oxygen as a by-product of photosynthesis, and fish, and other aquatic organisms need oxygen to survive. When the euphotic zone is deep, oxygen is being produced in a large area of the vertical water column. When the euphotic zone is shallow, there is no new oxygen being produced deeper in the water column. This has implications for animals living there and other dynamics occurring at the bottom of the lake.

To look up individual lake data, you can visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp.html>. If your lake is not there, you should consider starting to monitor water transparency. You can receive a free Secchi disk when you sign up for the MPCA's Citizens Lake Monitoring Program.

Enjoy the lakes! This article was written and shared by Moriya Rufer at RMB Environmental Laboratories as part of continuing education for their Lakes Monitoring Program (218-846-1465, [lakes@rmbel.info](mailto:lakes@rmbel.info)). To learn more, visit [www.rmbel.info](http://www.rmbel.info).

**PALOMINO**  
Steve Fleischacker 218-828-3369  
Brainerd 218-821-2070 Cell  
Pipe Thawing  
Septic Pumping Tank Maintenance  
**SEWER SERVICE**

**Whoa! It's the Law**  
Clean  
Drain  
Dry  
**ARREST THE SPREAD**  
OF INVASIVE SPECIES!  
New Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance  
[www.wingcountylakes.org/LARA](http://www.wingcountylakes.org/LARA)