

The Chatty Loon

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

August, 2015
Edited by Dan Martonik



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President's Message



Greetings to the USLL Community and I hope that everyone has had a fun summer!
We have continued to aggressively treat for curly leaf pondweed, stepped up our AIS inspection program and continued our water testing programs. In 2015 we

also introduced a new Zebra Mussel detection program.

The threat of various forms of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is pervasive in our state so with your support we continue to have programs in place to manage our ecosystem. The USLLIA and USLL LID board members continue to provide the leadership to manage these threats.

I would like to recognize and thank two Board members:

Don Crust along with his wife Carol have tirelessly supported the lake and Nokasippi watershed for many decades. Don recently informed me that our association has reached an all time high in membership! We are the envy of other lake associations and have a very strong and supportive lake community due to these efforts.

Bruce Dybvig with the support of his wife Joanie has served as President of the Lake Improvement District (LID) from its inception has stepped down this summer.

Forming the LID, receiving approval from the county and the USLL community, recruiting board members, defining policies and by-laws and executing programs has been a monumental challenge and Bruce has led us through it all.

Thanks for your ongoing support and lake stewardship!

Ron Trosvig, BOD President

Water Report - Summer 2015



1. We continued testing water samples with RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc.

2. Secchi readings for 2015:

May	7.0'	August	N/A
June	8.5'	Sept	N/A
July	7.0'		

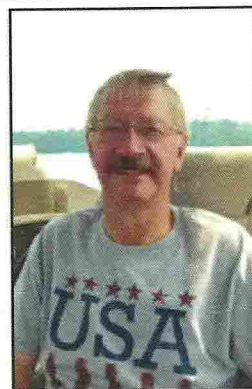
3. Previous results can be viewed in detail by going online to www.rmbel.info

4. We contracted with Professional Lake Management, Inc. (PLM) to treat curly leaf pondweed. They treat with Aquathol K, and depending on the size and location of the weed bed, the rate of application ranges from .5 to 1.5 ppm. This is within the guidelines as set forth by the DNR.

5. The acreage treated in 2015 was 30.25.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Martonik, Committee Chair



**The USLLIA Board welcomes
new board member Blaine
Hakomaki.**

Association Board of Directors

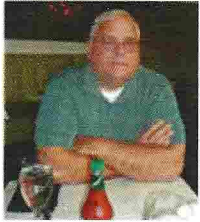
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From the LID President



It was wonderful to have so many people at the LID annual meeting. We want to give thanks to Bruce Dybvig for his leadership of LID for its first five years. This year is an important year as we have to renew LID and set the assessment dollar amount.

On the LID board is: Gary Hopping, Chris Psootka, Alan Steif, Steve Bardolph, Ruth Naber, Mary Reetz and Mike Simons. The board held a short meeting after the annual meeting to elect officers for the coming year. Gary Hopping was re-elected treasurer. Ruth Naber is the new vice president. Mary Reetz is secretary. Mike Simons was elected president.



L to R, Mike Simons, Mary Reetz, Chris Psootka, Bruce Dybvig, Gary Hopping, Ruth Naber and Steve Bardolph. Not present: Alan Steif.

Over the next several months we will be working on water testing, boat inspections and putting together an expanded year-end report. This report is to summarize our last five years and get us approved for five more years. We will be working closely with the lake association board. You can follow our results on the association web site.

Mike Simons, LID President

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New Sign



Steve Naber and Don Crust pose in front of the sign that they just installed, with a little help from Dan Martonik, (somebody had to take the picture).

The sign "Protect Our Lakes", located off CR 23 just north of the public access, was a combined effort by both Upper and Lower Lake Associations and LID's, with support from Crow Wing County.

The lower lake has the same sign at CR 22 and Paradise Beach Road.

Thanks!!

We wish to give a big big thank you to **Char's Bar** for hosting our annual LID meeting and the following picnic. Everyone was impressed with the design and appearance of the "Event Center". Her professional and courteous staff provided us with excellent food! **It was a huge success!**

We also want to give another big "thank you" to everyone that attended both the meeting and picnic. You made the meeting more interesting with your questions and comments. We hope next year's LID meeting will have the same attendance.

Attendance at the LID meeting:
Approx. 60

Attendance at the picnic:
Approx. 125

Everyone had a great time!



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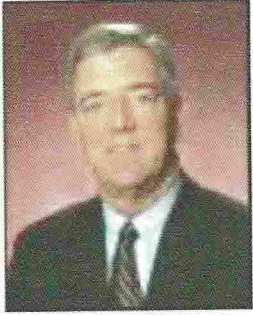
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Retiring Words



"The LID is in good hands!"

In July, the Upper South Long Lake Improvement District membership showed up at our 2015 Membership Meeting at Paradise Shores Resort in record numbers to welcome the newly elected board.....Mike Simons, President; Ruth Naber, Vice President; Gary Hopping, Treasurer; Mary Reetz, Secretary; & board members Chris Psocka, Al Steiff (newly elected), & Steve Bardolph (newly elected).

In addition to the board's "annual chores" of funding invasive species treatment, water testing, educational inspections at our public landing, membership verification for funding assessments, & lake related education, this year will require the LID board to file an extensive renewal application with the Crow Wing County Commissioners by November 1, requesting another five years of existence.

It's been my great honor to serve as a member of this board for the past five years, and I've so appreciated the board members' dedication and hard work, all for the benefit of our beautiful lake. I've also appreciated our strong working relationship with the lake association board who work so diligently on your behalf. Please join me in supporting these two entities as we move forward together!

Bruce Dylvig, retiring LID President

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.

Membership Committee

USLLIA Membership at Record Levels!



We're up from the 130s a few years ago to 173 members at this writing. It's fantastic. How did it happen? What makes it work?

Randy Peterson, the guy who installed all the membership signs, says our new signs had to have been a major factor. Ron Trosvig, our venerable president, says it could be the effective programs the Association conducts. Treasurer and Membership chair Don Crust says it is the continuing and

persistent contact with potential and new members. Jack Rolfs swears it's the meticulous work keeping the directory up to date. We do know stuffing Dan Martonik's spring newsletter with return envelopes really works. Ruth Naber can point to the LID's terrific job keeping the lake pristine.

Whatever the reasons, our lake association is blessed to have a record-setting number of paid-up members. That's over 75% of riparian lake landowners! Few lake associations can boast such a majority. Few lake associations can claim that so many have a serious and sincere interest in their lakes.

"One thing for sure," says Trosvig, "communication with and among members and the lake leadership team play a major role in forming a strong organization. Work in our partnership with LID enhances effectiveness of both groups. And, we must admit, the county has done a great job promoting and supporting our combined efforts."

So, what about our membership drive in 2016 – a half year away? Should we shoot for 180, 190 or 200 members? Crust thinks we're nearing the saturation point but is willing to keep up the pressure. The recent "picnic" when the Association hosted a party for everyone on the lake is bound to result in more new members.

What new ideas and programs and events should we strive for? Can we increase using our email network? Should we do a mid-summer news flash mailing? Maybe we could combine our next spring business meeting with another freebie feed or barbeque. Let your ideas and thoughts be known to a board member. Your participation is really what makes USLLIA so unusually great. Whatever the reasons for our growth, it's measured by each and every one of you who join.

Thanks much.

Don Crust, Committee Chair

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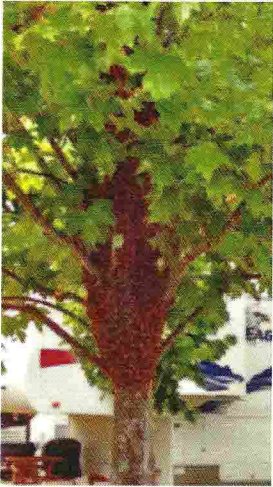
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Bees Rescued

A Bee's Life

By Bill Kronstedt
Maple Grove Township Supervisor



Last June, I was visiting with the owner of "The Harbor on Crescent Bay" (the RV park on LSSL), about some township issues. When we were done he asked me if I knew anyone who deals with Honey Bees. I mentioned that I did and he showed me a large swarm of bees in a small Maple tree just outside a camper. These bees just showed up the night before and, understandably, he wanted them out of there.

It seems that sometimes, the Queen bee of a hive gets a "bee in her bonnet" to move on, so she lays 6 or 7 eggs and takes off, only to be followed by about half of her loyal subjects, in search for a new home. She happened to stop at this tree because there was a hummingbird feeder in that tree and was attracted to the sugar.

Meanwhile, back at the hive, the eggs the Queen laid would hatch and those chosen bees would fight it out to the death for the new crown.

I contacted a friend who is a beekeeper and he came over with two hive boxes with some honey inside. Within an hour, all but 100 or so bees followed their queen into the boxes – their new home. And by dusk, the rest of the bees were in the hives and safely removed from the campsite. Bees are very valuable in our food society.

There is a beekeeper in the area who has over 1000 hives and transports them to other parts of the country to work the crops in our off season. Smaller beekeeping operations or hobbyists keep their hive going through the winter by retaining some of the honey in the hive and supplementing it with concentrated sugar water.

There is a good article about bees in the July-August issue of the "Minnesota Conservation Volunteer" magazine, put out by the DNR.

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Jet Skiers, please abide by the DNR's Rules

Personal Watercraft Laws
In summary, the law requires that:

- Anyone operating or riding on a personal watercraft must wear a U.S.Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III or V life jacket.
- **Personal watercraft must travel at slow no-wake speed (5mph or less) within 150 feet of nonmotorized boats, shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any moored or anchored boat.**
- Operation of personal watercraft is allowed only from 9:30 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset.
- If you tow a person on water skis, or any other device, there must be an additional person on board the personal watercraft to act as an observer. (The observer does not have to be facing backward.)
- The skier/knee-boarder etc. must also be wearing a life jacket or there must be one on board the personal watercraft for the skier.
- Factory installed or factory specified wide-field rearview mirrors are allowed instead of an observer when pulling a skier or other device (tube, kneeboard, etc.).
- The mirrors must be specified by the personal watercraft manufacturer. After market mirrors, stick-on mirrors, motorcycle mirrors, etc. do not qualify for the observer exemption.
- If the machine is equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch, it must be attached to the person, life jacket or clothing of the operator when underway.
- You may not operate a personal watercraft if any part of the spring-loaded throttle system has been removed or tampered with so it interferes with the return-to-idle system.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT



- You may not chase or harass wildlife.
- You may not travel through emergent or floating vegetation at greater than slow no-wake speed.
- You may not operate a personal watercraft in a manner that unreasonably or unnecessarily endangers life, limb or property.
- **You may not weave through congested watercraft traffic, or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of the other watercraft. This includes other personal watercraft.**
- A personal watercraft rules decal issued by the DNR needs to be on the craft in full view of the operator.
- You may not operate a personal watercraft while facing backward.
- **It is unlawful for the owner of the personal watercraft to permit its operation in violation of the age restrictions. See personal watercraft operator age chart below.**
- Some lakes have additional restrictions, see mndnr.gov/boatingsafety and click on local water restrictions.

Note: We have had numerous complaints from around the lake that some jet skiers are not following these rules, especially when it comes to speeding too close to docks and other boats.

The above rule summary for Jet Skis was copied directly from the DNR's booklet "Minnesota Boating Guide 2015".

Please consult the actual guide for more rules and the age restriction chart.

A reminder that the Association's Late Summer Meeting will be held August 29th, 10am at Char's Bar Event Center.

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July 4th, 2015 Boat Parade

Smoke from Canadian forest fires made for hazy sunshine, otherwise it was a beautiful day for the parade. The best attended and the most fun in recent memory!
The bottom right photo shows a very crowded sand bar party with 15 boats pulled up and +- 75 happy people.



On the hunt for Zebra Mussels

Zebra Mussel Update by Chuck Yancey

Zebra Mussels are an invasive species that have been spreading slowly through the lakes and streams of Minnesota since they were first detected in Duluth harbor in 1989.

Currently 68 lakes in Minnesota are infested. Mille Lacs, Gull and the Whitefish chain are examples of lakes in our area that are infested.



Zebra mussels are small (fingernail sized) mussels that are striped and attach themselves to any hard surface, such as docks, boat lifts and other native clamshells. Female Zebra Mussels produce eggs which turn into larvae called Veligers, which float freely in the water in the summer, with a peak concentration in late June and early July.

The only way to find out if your lake is infested is to find the animals as adults or as Veligers. So far we have not had any reports of adult Zebra Mussels found in our lake. In late June of this year volunteers took samples in three locations on our lake to try and detect Veligers and sent them to RMB labs for testing. Our LID is paying for the tests and the materials used to collect the samples. **The results are in and our lake is zebra mussel free, but come to the lake association meeting August 29 to get the full report.**

For more information on Zebra Mussels you can go to this link: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramusssel/index.html> or for a list of infested waters go to <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html> and use the Excel spreadsheet to sort for what you are looking for.

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Spring 2015 water inlet testing



The LID continues to monitor the water quality of the four main inlets to Upper South Long Lake. Since this winter was lacking in snow and had virtually no spring run-off, the results in April were interesting.

July samples have been submitted, but results are not in yet and samples will also be taken in September.

In April, many of the tested parameters were elevated and a few were above the acceptable benchmarks.

Areas of concern are total phosphorus, total suspended solids, and conductivity.

Although this may be an anomaly due to the low water level this spring, there are still things that lake residents can do to help care for our lake.

Algae and plant growth is directly related to the amount of phosphorus in the water.

You may not be able to affect what enters from these streams/sources, but you can reduce what you ADD to that.

1. Make sure any fertilizer you add to your property is phosphorus-free, but **BETTER YET, DON'T FERTILIZE!**

2. Be sure you have a significant buffer area along your shoreline - preferably with native grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs. Are you guilty of mowing within a few feet of the water?

3. Has your septic system been inspected? Is it operating properly?

4. Clean up any plant debris that drifts onto your shoreline and dispose of it well beyond the shore area so its nutrients do not get back into the lake.

This fall RMB Labs will be compiling a comprehensive report analyzing the results from the data we've collected. After it is complete, it will be posted on the LID link of the USLLIA website.

In the meantime, if you wish more information on the parameters that the LID is testing, there are documents explaining them on that same link.

Submitted by,

Ruth Naber, LID Vice-President

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Lake Learning

Abundant Fall Bugs – Lady Beetles and Bees

Have you noticed there seems to be a lot more lady beetles (also known as ladybugs) and bees out lately? This is a common occurrence on sunny fall days. Today I'll explain why they are out in such numbers at this time of year, and what you can do to avoid them.

We'll start with lady beetles, which are little round beetles with a mustard-color, orange or pink back with black spots. The type that occurs in such large numbers is usually the multicolored Asian Lady beetle. These beetles are beneficial insects and were first imported from Asia and released in attempts to naturally control certain insect pests. They are an effective, natural control for harmful plant pests such as aphids, scale and other soft-bodied arthropods. Still, its tendency to overwinter in homes and other buildings, sometimes in large numbers, may make them a nuisance to many people.

Lady beetles enter your home in the fall to find a warm protected place to overwinter. They usually stay in small cracks and the walls, but some may become active on warm days in late winter or early spring and move into living areas searching for a way out. The best way to prevent them entering your house is to caulk exterior cracks and crevices before fall.

Lady beetles are not structure-damaging pests, unlike insects such as termites and carpenter ants. Lady beetles do not chew or bore holes in walls or eat carpet or furniture. They do not lay their eggs in homes and are generally harmless.

The only thing that really could damage a home is if they are agitated or squashed, the beetles may exhibit a defensive reaction known as "reflex bleeding," in which a yellow fluid with an unpleasant odor is released from leg joints. This reaction generally prevents predators, such as birds, from eating lady beetles. But in the home, the fluid may stain walls and fabrics.

The most effective way to remove Lady beetles from your home is to vacuum them. Once they are in your vacuum bag, they die because their breathing pores (spiracles) get clogged with dust. It is only a myth that they go on living and breeding in your vacuum!

Now on to yellow jackets and bees, which are out in force looking for food at this time of year. This isn't the only time that bees are foraging for food, but it is the time that people are most likely to encounter them. As we're enjoying the last nice days of late summer and fall outside, bees are out looking for proteins and sugars, and that's primarily what we use as refreshments, so they will swarm around your pop or your hamburger. The way to avoid bees and wasps is to remove what is attracting them, which is food, beverages and garbage. This is the time of the year that wasp and bee colonies are at their peak. They have been working all summer long, the queen has been reproducing, and the colonies have been growing. Some yellow jacket colonies have several thousand individuals at this point in time.

Bees and wasps are beneficial insects, but if you have a nest in your house, that is a different story. A bee nest must be taken out by a professional, because even if you kill the bees with pesticide, the honey is still in the wall. When this honey ferments, it can seep through your wall and attract other bugs.

Yellow jackets are actually wasps, and their nests are less messy. They will not re-use it the following year, so if you can wait until the first or second good solid freeze, the wasps will disappear on their own.

A lot of people mistake yellow jackets for honey bees. There are a couple of ways homeowners can tell them apart. Wasps generally do not have a hairy abdomen, bees generally do. Yellow jackets often have a little more distinct separation between the blacks and the yellows - the stripes are more defined. If you're not sure, collect one and take it to a county Extension office.



Lady Beetle



Honey Bee



Wasp

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). To learn more, visit www.rmbel.info.

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