

In this issue:

Page 1:

Association
President's
Message

Page 2:

LID
President's
Message

LID, call for
nominees

Page 3:

Weather
Data

USLLIA BOD

2023 Secchi
readings

Pages 4, 5, &
6:

Lake
Learning:

Lake Water
Quality

Page 7:

Recreation:

Walleye
stocking

Ice fishing
tips

Page 8:

Some jokes
that are okay
to print

The Chatty Loon



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

December, 2023
Edited by Dan Martonik

President's Message



Hello to all of you Upper South Long Lakers then.

We just had the warmest December on record, so the lake is taking it's time to freeze over.

After my boatlift was pulled out, I checked for zebra mussel's and there were

plenty.

I still need to scrape them off into a bucket or rake them off the ground and then dispose of them properly in the trash. It's a new and inconvenient chore for all of us, but it needs to be done. I don't think you want you or your family to step on them when the summer gets here.

Our LID will continue the battle with Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed and zebra mussels. Ruth Naber and her group are doing a great job. The LID could use a couple of extra people to help out, please consider nominating yourself or someone you know for the LID BOD. See page 2 for further information.

Remember to check out our Website (<http://usllia.org>) which is updated as needed. We would love to have more pictures and family stories posted on the site. We are also on facebook!

We are always looking for volunteers to serve on our boards and committees so please consider volunteering your talents and energy, (you don't have to be a board member to volunteer your time and talents).

Thanks for your ongoing lake stewardship and support.

Dan Martonik, President

In case of an emergency, there are two **AED's** (Automated External Defibrillator) nearby, Located at the Paradise Resort Bar & Grill, **218-764-2328**, and at the home of Sandy & Ray Sickler, 16326 Palomino Ln., **320-247-2992**

STEFFEN

TREE SERVICE INC.

FULLY INSURED, EQUIPPED AND EXPERIENCED

Removal - Trimming - Lot Clearing
Brush Chipping - Stump Grinding - Storm Damage

ISA
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE

AFRICAN NATIONAL ARBORIST ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION

www.steffentreeservice.com

1505 State 210 SW, Brainerd, MN
Quality Service Since 1978

218-829-0133

Wild Bird llc
STORE

At Little Farm Market

Dion & Gwen Lybeck
516 C St. NE. Brainerd, MN 56401
•218-829-5436• fax: 218-828-2045

ARROW
management
residential/commercial

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

From the LID President

Another open water season is now behind us and some of us are impatiently awaiting ice fishing while others are heading to warmer climates to escape the Minnesota winters. During the “down season” for the LID, a few tasks must be completed. Some of these items are: submission of Annual Report to county; membership verification for purposes of tax assessment; wrap up of Starry Stonewort search (none found, thankfully); procurement of required insurance; planning 2024 water quality testing; grant applications; signing of contracts with aquatic invasive treatment providers; etc. Various LID board members assist with these tasks. The LID board also greatly appreciates the individuals on the lake association’s board of directors who often volunteer to help when needed.

During 2023 areas of Upper South Long were chemically treated for Curlyleaf Pondweed (1 acre) and Eurasian Watermilfoil (5 acres) with a cost of \$13,018. There is still no viable treatment for Zebra Mussels. At the annual meeting in July the LID membership approved another year of a tax of \$150 per assessed owner so funds should be available in 2024 to treat whatever beds of CLP and EWM are discovered.

For the 2024 season, the state of Minnesota is providing \$472,580 to Crow Wing County to aid with the prevention of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The county, along with input from various stakeholders, has recently posted the 2024 AIS Prevention Plan. It is similar to the plan from 2023 with the majority of those funds being used for inspections at 43 of the county’s public accesses. Upper South Long Lake, being one of the high-risk accesses, is proposed to have the access staffed Friday through Sunday beginning on fishing opener and ending on Labor Day weekend. County residents/property owners can view and submit public comments on the plan through December 31st. You can locate the complete document on the county’s website.

Currently the LID Board of Directors consists of: Steve Bardolph, Gary Hopping, Ruth Naber, Chris Pstoka, Ray Sickler, and Al Steiff.

Submitted by: *Ruth Naber*, LID President

SEEKING NOMINEES FOR THE LID BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each year, the opportunity arises for interested individuals to be placed on the ballot for becoming a board member of the LID (Lake Improvement District). The LID board is responsible for making decisions affecting the health of Upper South Long Lake. It is funded by the tax assessment which you can find on your property tax statement. Most of those funds are currently spent on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control (specifically Eurasian Watermilfoil, Zebra Mussels, and Curlyleaf Pondweed).

If you wish to be placed on the ballot for a two year term which would run from August 1, 2024 until July 31, 2026, contact any current LID board member or email president, Ruth Naber, at rnabsnab@aol.com. You may also nominate someone else, but they will not be placed on the ballot until they have been contacted and agreed to be added to the ballot.

Thank you, *Ruth Naber*, LID President

**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

**Hillman Welding and
Sandblasting**

Nick 218-820-7273
or
Greg 218-820-7192

Railings, Gates, Repairs, Glassblasting,
Portable Welding and Sandblasting
10568 County Road 23 • Brainerd MN 56041

Summer at the Lake

The lake level of Upper South Long on 5/12/2023 was 9.36 inches higher than on 9/30/2022. The summer was dry and windy so that the lake lost water and the lowest lake level was a drop of 16.44 inches drop from 5/12. Precipitation increased in September and the lake level rose 2.88 inches by 9/29/2023. The lake was down by 13.56 inches from the first measurement. The lake level stayed above the height of the dam by 0.96 inches at the lowest level. The difference between 9/30/2022 and 9/29/2023 is 4.2 inches, so the last measurement of 2023 was lower than at the end of 2022.

Precipitation amounted to 9.15 inches from May through September. Precipitation for May was 0.77 inches, June 2.16 inches, July 0.23 inches, August 2.5 inches and September 3.48 inches. We received 3.74 inches in October. Precipitation for May – September 2022 was 20.41 inches.

On 9/3/2023, a temperature of 101.1°F was recorded. This was the highest temperature recorded in the past five years. The previous recorded high temperature was 97.9°F in 2022. We had five days with temperatures of 90°F or greater.

John Pietruszewski
Secretary/Treasurer

Lake Association Board of Directors

- Dan Martonik, President
- Jeff Gans, Vice President
- John Pietruszewski, Secretary/Treasurer
- Ron Trosvig, Past President
- Terry Lahti
- Chuck Yancey
- Blaine Hakomaki
- Randy Peterson
- Jerry Buettner

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for all of the things they do to make our lake the best it can be.

Dan Martonik, President

Secchi readings (water clarity) 2023



These readings are for the 2023 summer season.

All Secchi readings are taken at primary site 101:

May, 21	7.0'	August, 20	11.5'
June, 18	11.5'	Sept, 17	15.0' (new record!)
July, 17	10.0'		

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

Daniel J. Martonik, Water Committee Chair



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

Lake Learning

Lake Water Quality: the natural factors and the human factors

There are many factors that contribute to a lake's current condition, including natural factors and human factors. Once these factors are understood, a better understanding of past, present and future lake water quality is possible.

Most of the lakes in Minnesota were formed as glaciers receded during the last ice age. Approximately 15,000 years ago to about 9,000 years ago, glaciers alternately retreated and advanced over the landscape, carving out holes and leaving behind ice chunks. As these ice chunks melted in the holes left behind, lakes were formed. Northern Minnesota was scraped fairly clean down to the bedrock, with boulders, sand and clay left behind, while southern Minnesota was left with a rich, fine prairie (now agricultural) soil.

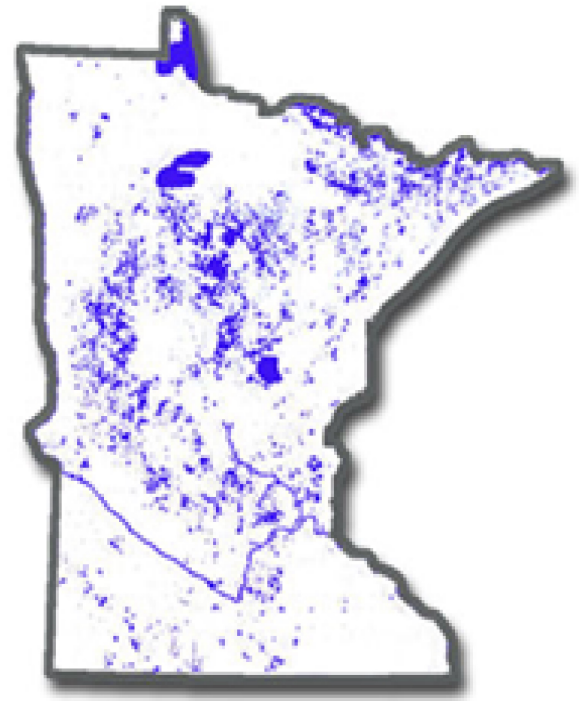
The first thing that goes into understanding a lake is what sort of geological area it is in. Northern Minnesota lakes are commonly very deep, rocky lakes in forested areas. These lakes have very clear water and characteristically low phosphorus and algae concentrations due to the abundance of sandy, relatively infertile soil. The lakes in southwestern Minnesota are shallower prairie lakes surrounded by fertile soil. Lakes in this area tend to have more nutrients available for plants and algae to grow, and therefore get "greener" in the summer.

The geology and glacial formation of a lake usually determines its shape, size and depth. These factors contribute to nearly all physical, chemical and biological properties of a lake. Lake users such as fishermen are probably aware of these characteristics already because they also determine where the fish are. A lake that is one large round hole is different than a lake that has a lot of bays, points and bottom structure. A long narrow lake is more affected by wind (which mixes the lake) than a round lake. Deep lakes have different dynamics than shallow lakes, and most of all, deep lakes have more water. The more water a lake has (volume), the better it is able to dilute what runs into it.


Shallow lakes are lakes where the sunlight can reach the entire bottom. Generally, this corresponds to about 15 feet deep or less. Since the sunlight can reach the bottom, aquatic plants are able to grow there. In deep lakes, the bottom does not receive sunlight, so no plants grow there and it stays dark and cold.

Another major factor affecting lake condition is the size of its watershed and where the lake sits within the watershed. A watershed is an area of land where all the water drains into the same river system. These watershed areas are defined by topography, or ridges of elevation. Therefore, watersheds are mainly driven by gravity – water runs down hill.

Continued on page 5



PALOMINO



<p>Tank Maintenance Septic Pumping Pipe Thawing & Cleaning Septic System Installation</p>	<p>Steve Fleischhacker Office • 218.828.3389 Cell • 218.821.2070 palominosewer@gmail.com</p>
---	---

SEWER SERVICE

Continued from page 4

If a lake has a very small watershed or is at the top of a watershed (in topography terms), the lake usually has better water clarity than a lake at the bottom of a large watershed. As water flows downhill through a watershed it picks up sediment from erosion and nutrients from runoff. This sediment and nutrients can feed algae and cause the lake to become "greener".

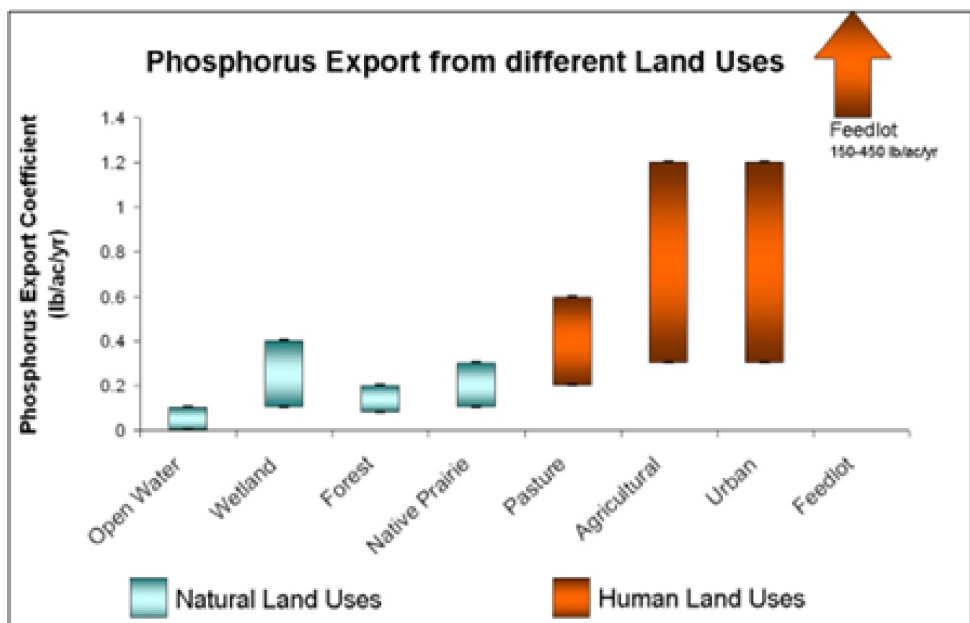
Lakes go through a natural ageing process where they gradually receive nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) and sediment from erosion in the surrounding watershed and become more fertile and shallow. This process is called eutrophication. Eutrophication is a natural process that a lake goes through over thousands of years.

Humans can speed up the process of eutrophication by adding excess nutrients and sediment quickly, where the lake will change trophic states in a matter of decades instead of centuries. This type of eutrophication is called cultural eutrophication because humans cause it. We have changed the landscape around lakes, which changes their water quality and speeds up eutrophication.

Around lakes, we have added a lot of impervious surface. Impervious surface is any surface on land that is impenetrable to water and prevents its absorption into the ground. Examples include rooftops, sidewalks, parking lots, and roads. The more impervious surface in a concentrated area, the less



Continued on page 6



Continued from page 5

surface there is for rain to be absorbed into the ground. Instead, it ends up running into lakes and streams and carrying nutrients and sediment from the land it flows over.

Land practices such as urban areas, factories, agriculture, animal feedlots contain very concentrated amounts of nutrients. These nutrients wash into lakes and streams during heavy rains or through storm sewers. The additional nutrients that run into lakes and streams cause algal blooms and additional plant growth.

When erosion occurs along a lakeshore or a stream bank of a lake inlet, that extra soil can get washed into the lake. The extra soil particles cause cloudier water and eventually settle on the bottom of the lake making it mucky and less stable. The soil also carries with it nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen.

Eutrophication can be slowed if the inputs of nutrients (especially phosphorus) and sediment are slowed. Creating natural vegetation buffers along lakeshores and streams soak up nutrients and filter runoff. When planning new construction near water, make sure erosion is prevented by silt fences and minimize creating more impervious surface.

So how can one tell if the lake's water quality is declining or improving? The best way to determine long-term trends is to have 8-10 years of lake water quality data such as clarity (secchi disk), phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a (algae concentration). Only short-term trends can be determined with just a few years of data, because there can be different wet years, dry years, weather, water levels, etc. that affect the water quality naturally. The data needs to be analyzed with a statistical test (i.e.: Mann Kendall Trend Analysis) to be confident in a true trend.

In summary, lakes start out with a certain natural condition that depends on their location, their watershed size, and their area, depth and shape. Then we humans add to that by what type of land practices we implement near the lake and upstream from the lake. Lakes that are in more heavily populated areas usually have had more cultural eutrophication than lakes that are in sparsely populated areas.

When it comes to protecting our lakes, stewardship is an attitude. It is the understanding that what we do on land and in the water affects the lake. It is recognition that lakes are vulnerable and that in order to make them thrive, citizens, both individually and collectively, must assume responsibility for their care. Once you learn more about all the factors that potentially affect your lake, you can practice preventative care of your lake, and hopefully avoid costly problems.

“In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we have been taught.” - Baba Dioum, a Senegalese ecologist.

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.

STEVE FLEISCHHACKER

(218) 828-3389 16207 Palomino Lane
(218) 821-2070 Brainerd, MN 56401

SOUTH LONG LAKE EXCAVATING

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

**Donna's Hosta World**

**Call for hours
218-232-3146**



Donna's Hosta World

13483 Ossipee Road
Merrifield MN 56465

Unique & Hard to Find Hostas

donna@donnashostaworld.com
www.donnashostaworld.com

Fish Stocking 2023

The MN DNR stocks walleye in Upper South Long Lake on the odd years. This fall they stocked 283 pounds of walleye fingerlings that averaged 21 fingerlings per pound. That is over 5,900 walleyes stocked this year. They were stocked on 9/29, 10/2, and 10/17.

Ice safety tips

When is ice safe?

There really is no sure answer. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors -- plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.

For new, clear ice only

- UNDER 4" - STAY OFF
- 4" - Ice fishing or other activities on foot
- 5" - 7" - Snowmobile or small ATV
- 7" - 8" - larger side-by-side ATV
- 9" - 12" - Car or small pickup
- 12" - 15" solid ice - medium truck and fish house

General ice safety guidelines From MN DNR

No ice can ever be considered "safe ice," but following these guidelines (mndnr.gov/safety/ice/thickness.html) can help minimize the risk:

- Always wear a life jacket or float coat on the ice (except when in a vehicle).
- Carry ice picks, rope, an ice chisel, and tape measure.
- Check ice thickness at regular intervals; conditions can change quickly.
- Bring a cell phone or personal locator beacon.
- Don't go out alone; let someone know about trip plans and expected return time.
- Before heading out, inquire about conditions and known hazards with local experts.
- Parents and guardians should talk with their children and neighborhood children about staying away from the ice unless there's adult supervision. This includes lakes and rivers, as well as neighborhood ponds, retention ponds and anywhere ice forms.

Old Jokes That Are Okay To Print

1. I have an inferiority complex, but it's not a very good one.
2. I told my doctor that I broke my arm in two places. He told me to stop going to those places.
3. What vegetable is cool, but not that cool? Rad-ish.
4. I was wondering why the baseball kept getting bigger and bigger, and then it hit me.
5. Why did the employee get fired from the calendar factory? She took a day off.
6. Worrying works! Case in point: 90% of the things I worry about never happen.
7. My teachers told me I'd never amount to much because I procrastinate. I told them, "Just you wait!"
8. Why do seagulls fly over the sea? If they flew over the bay, they would be bagels.
9. I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I'll let you know which comes first.
10. I can't take my dog to the pond anymore because the ducks keep attacking him. That's what I get for buying a pure bread dog.
11. I broke my finger last week. On the other hand, I am OK.
12. I went to the doctor with a suspicious-looking mole. He told me they all look that way and I should have left it in the garden.
13. Two men are on opposite sides of the river. The first man shouts, "How do I get to the other side of the river?" The other man yells, "You are on the other side of the river!"
14. Why would a pig dressed in black never get bullied? Because Batman has sworn to protect Goth-ham.
15. Every morning, I announce that I'm going running, but then I don't. It's a running joke.
16. Why is a swordfish's nose 11 inches long? Because if it were 12 inches, it would be a foot.
17. What state is known for its small drinks? Minnesota.
18. What do you call a line of men waiting to get haircuts? A barberqueue.
19. I was going to tell a time-traveling joke, but you didn't like it.
20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
21. I finally decided to sell my vacuum cleaner. All it was doing was gathering dust.
22. "God, how long is a million years?"
"To me, it's about a minute."
"God, how much is a million dollars?"
"To me, it's a penny."
"God, may I have a penny?"
"Wait a minute."

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
1st Offence Education Program, 8-hrs
Drug/DWI Program, 12-hrs
DWI/Repeat Offenders Program 16-hrs
Relapse Prevention Program, 24-62-hrs